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Mr Pete Ritchie
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Dear Peter,

I was interested to hear about the outcome of the Scottish Food Coalition's series of Kitchen Table Talk events across Scotland to discuss our Good Food Nation ambition. It is encouraging to know that issues around food in Scotland continue to generate significant interest.

The First Minister has asked me to respond to you as organiser of the #bringonthebill eAction, inspiring people to contact the First Minister to encourage Government to launch the Good Food Nation consultation.

I am fully aware of the high expectations of the Good Food Nation policy and I want to see a country where people take pride and pleasure in, and benefit from, the food they buy and eat every day. The Scottish Government is working in partnership with stakeholders across Scotland to improve the effectiveness of our already successful food and drink supply chain and we are committed to our ambition for Scotland to continue to develop and enhance its reputation as a Good Food Nation. Much good work is already underway and much can still be achieved.

I was grateful to the Food Commission for the recommendations made for consultation on the Good Food Nation Bill. I am currently considering those recommendations and will be discussing next steps with the Commission at their meeting in June.

Please feel free to issue this response to your members and publish on your website if you wish.

FERGUS EWING

