

Response ID ANON-72NM-1SUJ-7

Submitted to National Good Food Nation Plan: consultation
Submitted on 2024-04-22 22:50:43

Introduction

Part A: Consultation on the national Good Food Nation Plan

1 Does each individual Good Food Nation Outcome describe the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

Mostly agree

See answers to question 2 below.

Strongly agree

Strongly agree

Mostly agree

Mostly agree

Neither agree nor disagree

2 What, if anything, would you change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why?

Text box for you to provide views on what you would change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why:

What, if anything, would you change about the Good Food Nation Outcomes and why?

Outcome 1: Our view is that 'eat well' is not specific enough. This outcome should be about reducing food insecurity. 'Eat well' is implicit in 'nutritious'. Suggest rewording this to "Everyone in Scotland has reliable and dignified access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable and age and culturally appropriate food".

Outcome 2: We agree with wording proposed.

Outcome 3: We suggest a slight change in wording from 'Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.' To 'Scotland's food system enables the population to be physically and mentally healthy and, as a result, diet-related conditions reduce'. Changing 'encourages' to 'enables' is a small but important difference.

Outcome 4: We suggest adding 'and fair trade' to the end of the sentence.

Outcome 5: We suggest rewording this proposed outcome to become more positive. For example, we suggest changing the wording to "Scotland has a thriving food culture where people from all cultures understand the importance of nutritious, sustainable food and take pride and pleasure in the food they produce, sell, serve and consume."

Outcome 6: We have some concerns about how this can be achieved, in tandem with, and complementary to, the other five proposed long term outcomes. Although we recognise the value of global recognition, we feel it is important that the high quality food produced in Scotland is available and affordable for people living in Scotland. We would also like to see Scotland aspire more to being an exemplar in food systems transformation. We suggest a change in wording to "Scotland is known nationally and internationally for its positive contribution to local and global food system change and actively engages internationally in learning, and exchanging knowledge and best practice".

Good Food Nation Measures

3 Do you think that these targets will contribute to achieving the overall Good Food Nation Outcomes?

Mostly disagree

4 Would achieving these targets contribute to making the kind of Scottish food system you would like to see?

Mostly disagree

5 If you have other comments on the suggested Good Food Nation targets, please comment:

Text box for you to include other comments on suggested targets:

In general, the proposed targets are too limited in relation to the breadth of the outcomes proposed, and the nature of the food system transformation required to address our collective food system-related health, equity and environmental issues.

Outcome 1 targets are appropriately focused on poverty measures/targets, but do not, on their own, reflect the proposed outcome which is much broader (i.e. reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable and age and culturally appropriate food).

The child poverty targets proposed are already in place and remain relevant.

The childhood obesity target proposed is already in place and remains relevant, but possibly more relevant to outcome 3. The inequalities element of this childhood obesity target is relevant to outcome 1 but we would like to see a more specific target here, e.g. reduce (e.g. halve) the difference between SIMD quintiles.

Reducing adult diet-related inequalities is also already in policy (Diet and Healthy Weight Plan 2018) and remains relevant (although, again possibly more relevant to Outcome 3), but as a target this is not specific enough. We suggest setting a target that relates to dietary related illness for outcome 1 (e.g.

cardiovascular disease or type 2 diabetes) and reducing the difference between SIMD quintiles.

The proposed target of reducing the number of households facing moderate to severe food insecurity is not specific or ambitious enough. A target should be set that supports the SDG2 which commits to zero hunger by 2030.

Reducing the reported number of households accessing emergency food provision is also already measured and remains relevant. But, again, a specific target should be set.

Other targets that should be considered to better reflect the breadth of outcome 1 include, for example, cost of a 'healthy basket' or cost of eating in line with SDGs/EatWell plate/ or the proportion of median income that a 'healthy basket' costs, reducing inequalities in fruit and vegetable consumption, a breastfeeding target (e.g. reduce the difference in drop off in breastfeeding between rates from birth to 6-8 weeks across quintiles), and uptake of free school meals.

Outcome 2:

We note no proposed target is proposed on animal welfare or improvements in biodiversity, but we welcome the statement on p7 highlighting the ongoing work to include a suite of animal welfare targets, informed by the findings of planned consultation, in future iterations of the national Good Food Nation Plan. We support the Programme for Government commitments to consult on phasing out cages for gamebirds and laying hens.

The food waste target is irrelevant as it will expire the same year as this Plan is due to be published. Suggest incorporating SDG 12.3 to halve food waste by 2030 (from 2015 baseline). Could also add a specific target for public sector bodies to reduce food waste going to general waste streams.

We welcome the target to double the amount of farmland managed organically in Scotland (but question the 2026 timeframe as that will only give one year after the Plan is published for this to be achieved). Suggest adding a target about the proportion of Scottish organic food in public procurement. The existing annual emissions reduction targets should be complemented by a food systems specific emissions reduction target (that is realistic and achievable). Targets could also be added in relation to increasing use of renewable energy in food production.

Targets should be added that relate to reducing biodiversity loss, which link to the targets in Scottish Biodiversity Strategy to 2045.

Outcome 3:

We welcome the extension of targets in relation to diet and healthy weight. We welcome the rearticulation of the existing commitment to halving childhood obesity by 2030. However, ideally we would like the targets to focus on increasing healthy weight rather than reducing obesity.

For children, primary 1 BMI data should be used as it covers a large proportion of the P1 population. A reintroduction of a further weight measurement later in childhood should be considered, as this would help inform appropriate interventions for different age groups, as well as help monitor progress.

We welcome the proposal to widen the targets beyond children, to increase levels of adult healthy weight and reduce adult diet related health inequalities. However, we think these targets should be more ambitious and specific in line with the childhood targets.

We would also like to see nutrition targets included here, in line with Scottish Dietary Goals. In particular, working towards the SDG on red meat consumption would help align the nutrition and sustainability outcomes for this plan. Ideally inequalities in achievement of these nutrition targets should also be included (either under Outcome 3 or 1).

Outcome 4:

The proposed target is insufficient to measure the achievement of this outcome. Supporting the food and drink sector by providing funding for Sustaining Scotland is a commitment not a target.

We suggest that other suitable targets should relate to increasing more Scottish produce in general, and increasing the proportion of Scottish food in public sector procurement specifically.

There should also be a target that relates to fair work - real living wage and reduction in zero hours contracts should be goals.

We also note that there is no mention of supporting local food production and independent SMEs and their value in local economies (and link to community wealth-building agenda). We would like to see a target relating to supporting local food production and retail.

Food outlets that make affordable, nutritious food should be accessible in every neighbourhood.

Outcome 5:

'Good food' is not defined. The Glasgow Food Policy Partnership define good food as food that is accessible, affordable, tasty and healthy, but also good for the planet and those working in the food industry.

The proposed 3 targets are inappropriate measures of a 'thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food'. Rather, we should be setting targets about knowledge, about shared community meals, about family-style eating (i.e. with friends/family), food preparation skills and opportunities, availability and access to 'culturally appropriate food', access to local community spaces that have cooking facilities, etc.

Achieving outcome 5 will require more funding for food skills and education programmes in schools and communities, which will require investment in more staff and suitable facilities.

Outcome 6:

The targets proposed repeat those proposed for Outcome 2. We do not feel these are appropriate, particularly as we have suggested rewording for outcome 6. We suggest that targets include aspects of governance in relation to the delivery of this Plan and the commitments it makes.

In this outcome and targets we should be recognising the global impact of our food system and choices. For example, recognise the importance of the Fairtrade scheme; the impact of water pollution from the food sector on the wider environment? Sustainable fishing/impact on fish stocks? The widespread use of unsustainable palm oil in many convenience and bakery products? Recognising Scotland's role in a relatively 'lucky' geographical area in , what are likely to be, future climate change scenarios supporting global food production and the responsibility that we therefore have to support those in less fortunate geographical regions

6 Do you think these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes?

Neither agree nor disagree

Text box for you to provide views on whether these indicators will be useful for measuring progress towards the Good Food Nation Outcomes:

The indicators suggested are mostly appropriate, however they do not sufficiently reflect the breadth of the outcomes, and often are not directly linked. There are other indicators that should be considered for inclusion, and others that need to be developed to support monitoring of the implementation of the proposed plan.

A logic model or theory of change might make it clearer how each indicator is related to the expected pathway to impact/outcome.

7 What other indicators, if any, would you like to see included?

Text box to provide information on what other indicators, if any, you would like to see included:

Outcome 1:

Additional indicators could include foodborne infections/environmental health data

Ideally we would like this to focus on healthy weight rather than obesity. As we previously highlighted, primary 1 BMI data should be used as it covers a large proportion of the P1 population. A reintroduction of a further weight measurement later in childhood should be considered, as this would help inform appropriate interventions for different age groups.

Other indicators that could be considered relate to food cost/cost of healthy food/cost of eatwell plate/nutritious food basket; food safety indicators; and many more that relate to the 'reliable access' bit of the outcome e.g. access to culturally appropriate food; local access to nutritious affordable food; local access to a community food organisation; food 'deserts' and food 'swamps'; reliance/use of food banks.

Outcome 2: Indicators could be added that relate more to the trends in food sold/eaten rather than only food production, e.g. meat intake/proportion of people who eat no more than the recommended amount of meat per week. Indicators should be added that relate to improvements in animal welfare. There is also an important element here, of ensuring that government support for food producers that are supporting the achievement of this ambition so that they are not undercut by, for example, cheaper imports from countries where such standards do not exist.

Outcome 3: There should also be indicators relating to other dietary health-related physical and mental health issues e.g. diabetes type 2 prevalence (and age of diagnosis), nutritional deficiencies, eating disorders.

Also, the proportion of people who eat a 'family style' /community/shared meal at least once a week. The number of community meals provided each week.

Also, the number of food outlets that subscribe or sign up to a sustainability commitment (e.g. Glasgow Sustainable Food Directory). This might also be appropriate for outcomes 2 and 4.

Outcome 4: There should be less focus on exports here, and more focus on a food system that meets our country's needs (i.e. more food secure and self-sustaining, as well as supporting community wealth building).

Possible indicators include Value of Food and Drink to Scottish GDP, Number of Food and Drink social enterprises. Skills development opportunities (e.g. number of Scottish college or Uni graduates working in the food and drink sector, or number of apprenticeships in food and drink sector), something about skills development in agroecology/organic growing.

Outcome 5: These indicators do not reflect the food culture or the population that is interested and educated about good and sustainable food (note the need to define 'good' food).

Outcome 6. Again, our view is that these indicators do not appropriately reflect the outcome (and we have suggested changes to the outcome).

8 If you have other comments on suggested Good Food Nation indicators, please comment:

Text box for you to include any other comments on suggested Good Food Nation indicators.:

Life in a Good Food Nation

9 Does this reflect what you think life should look like for a child in Scotland as a Good Food Nation?

Mostly agree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a child in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot: As a child in a Good Food Nation

- I have daily access to safe and nutritious food that is appropriate for my age and developmental stage
- Eating and enjoying a nutritious diet is the norm for me
- I have the opportunity to participate in a variety of food-related educational experiences on a regular basis
- I will never experience hunger

Healthy and nutritious are not needed in the same sentence. Suggest replacing 'healthy' with 'safe'. Also adding 'daily' to the first bullet, i.e. "I have daily access to safe and nutritious food that is appropriate for my age and developmental stage"

Also add: "I have confidence that the food I eat was not produced in ways that damage the environment on which my future relies."; "I have confidence that the food I eat was not produced in exploitative ways."; "I know where my food comes from and I have the opportunity to learn about careers in a sustainable food sector."; "I have age-appropriate food preparation skills and am confident that I have the knowledge I need to make appropriate food choices."

As it currently stands this reflects one aspect of a Good Food Nation (i.e. access to 'healthy' food) and does not reflect the sustainability or skills and knowledge based components.

10 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a parent / carer in a Good Food Nation?

Mostly agree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a parent or carer in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot: As a parent/carer in a Good Food Nation

- I am knowledgeable about how to prepare safe and nutritious meals for those in my care and am empowered to do so
- I am able to access support should I experience difficulties that prevent me from purchasing food or preparing hot food at home
- I am confident that childcare settings and schools are providing nutritious, sustainable and culturally appropriate food and that they are educating children about the food system, including how food is produced, how important the environment is for future food production, how to nourish themselves well, and some of the ethical dilemmas inherent in making food choices.
- If I am pregnant I know where to go for support and can make fully informed choices on how to feed myself and my baby

I also want to know that wherever I go with my child it will be easy for us to eat affordable, tasty, nutritious food together. This should include being confident that the places I go to are breastfeeding friendly.

As a parent/carer, I don't just want to know that my children are eating nutritious food now, I want to know that they are skilled and able to make appropriate food choices and feed themselves well independently. I want to know that they understand the food system and how much it relies on a healthy environment, and I want them to understand that their food choices, and those of the establishments that they purchase from, can have wider impacts in terms of the environment, animal welfare, exploitation etc. and can be an expression of individual beliefs.

11 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as an adult in a Good Food Nation?

Mostly agree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as an adult in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below:

Snapshot Box: As an adult in a Good Food Nation

- I can easily access food that I enjoy and that keeps me healthy and well
- I know where to go how to get help if I experience financial difficulties, and the response is fast, coordinated and meets my needs with dignity and respect
- Healthy and sustainable, affordable options are easy to find wherever I eat and buy food
- I can easily access information about the environmental, social, and nutritional impacts of my food and its provenance that helps me to make informed decisions

12 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a public caterer in a Good Food Nation?

Neither agree nor disagree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a public caterer in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot: As a public caterer in a Good Food Nation

- I procure healthy, fresh, in-season, and nutritious food to meet the needs of the people using my services
- I recognise the role that food can play in strengthening community ties. I promote and provide healthy, enjoyable, and sustainable options as the norm on my menus
- My procurement choices help to support a variety of producers
- I have reduced avoidable food and packaging waste as much as possible, and I ensure that unavoidable food waste is disposed of in a sustainable manner

We think these need a lot of revision but that caterers are best placed to do this. Our comments are:

- Healthy and nutritious food: probably don't need both these terms in the same sentence.
- Also include 'locally produced (if and when available)'.
- We are not sure what is meant by 'community ties' and suggest considering 'community wealth-building' instead?
- 'My procurement choices help to support a variety of producers' is too vague and non specific. Suggest considering local/Scottish, sustainable, SMEs?
- Add 'and packaging' waste to the last bullet point.

13 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a retailer in a Good Food Nation?

Mostly agree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a retailer in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot: As a retailer in a Good Food Nation

- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria. I ensure that all procurement contracts I enter into are fair and equitable for producers
- I create a store environment that makes nutritious options affordable and appealing for everyone. I help consumers to better understand the nutritional quality and provenance of the food I sell
- Decisions I make in store and through procurement help Scotland to achieve its net zero ambitions and environmental goals, for example by minimising

food waste, and offering zero-waste options when possible.

- I play an important role in supporting my local community and my local food economy
- I feel that my contribution to the local community and the economy are valued.

For first bullet point, also consider adding 'and am working towards becoming a Real Living Wage employer'.

Life in a Good Food Nation (cntd.)

14 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation?

Mostly agree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a restaurant owner in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot:

- I celebrate fresh, seasonal produce and integrate it into my menu. I have an active role in supporting my local food economy and my local community
- I share my passion for good food with my customers so that they become more informed about its provenance, how it's prepared and its nutritional value
- As an employer, I meet Fair Work First criteria, and am working towards becoming a Real Living Wage employer. I create a rewarding work environment for my employees and provide appropriate training.
- I am creative with my menu. This can help me to maximise the sustainability, and minimise food waste for the benefit of my business, people, and the environment

Also, unsure what 'fresh' adds - perhaps replace with nutritious?

'I procure local food if and when available.'

'I feel valued by my local community and customers'

15 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a farmer / crofter in a Good Food Nation?

Neither agree nor disagree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a farmer or crofter in a Good Food Nation:

See changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot Box: As a farmer/crofter in a Good Food Nation

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my produce, that allows me to pay a fair wage to my employees. I can easily sell my produce locally should I wish to do so.
- My farming and land management practices reduce my environmental impact, increase biodiversity and ensure high animal welfare standards on my farm or croft
- I benefit from a variety of support, including training and advice, to help me run a successful and sustainable farm or croft
- I help to build resilient supply chains and contribute to food security in Scotland
- I have support from the government towards becoming more sustainable.

As there are no farmers on our partnership we do not feel able to respond fully to this question.

16 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a fisher in a Good Food Nation?

Neither agree nor disagree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a fisher in a Good Food Nation:

See suggested changes below:

Snapshot: As a fisher in a Good Food Nation

- I feel that my work is respected and that I am able to get a fair price for my catch
- I support the marine environment and ecosystem with sustainable fishing practices - and I have, or am working towards, Msc certification.
- I benefit from and enable a fair and safe working environment and am able to pay a fair wage to my employees
- I seek opportunities to bring my product to a wider market in Scotland, and to promote its contribution to a healthy diet
- I can access a variety of support to help me to run a sustainable fishing business

As there are no fishers on our partnership we do not feel able to respond fully to this question.

17 Does this reflect what you would like your life to look like, as a food processor in a Good Food Nation?

Neither agree nor disagree

Text box to provide your view on whether this reflects what you would like your life to look like as a food processor in a Good Food Nation:

See suggested changes below, and comments that follow:

Snapshot: As a food processor in a Good Food Nation

- I work with producers, wholesalers, retailers and out of home food providers to ensure resilience along the whole supply chain while meeting demand and minimising waste
- I make my products healthier and more sustainable, using fresh, seasonal ingredients where possible, and can access support to do this.
- I invest in and develop my workforce, including training on sustainability and nutrition, ensuring they can enjoy opportunities to enhance their skills whilst benefiting from a safe working environment and am able to pay a fair wage to my employees
- I contribute to the important role that the food and drink sector has in Scotland's economy

As there are no food processors on our partnership we do not feel able to respond fully to this question.

Further comments on the national Good Food Nation Plan

18 If you have any further comments on the national Good Food Nation Plan, please comment here

Text box to provide any further comments on the national Good Food Nation Plan:

We welcome the publication of the draft plan which we have been anticipating for some time.

We welcome the overall approach of the draft plan, aligning policy and action at national level on food insecurity, obesity and other dietary health-related illnesses, nutrition, the food economy, and the contribution of the food system to climate change and biodiversity loss. These all affect population health in the short and long term, and it is our firm view that action to address these should be taken in coordinated and coherent ways, with clear alignment and collaboration across policy areas and sectors if we are to successfully achieve the required food system changes. This very much reflects the approach that the Glasgow City Food Plan has been taking at city level since the plan was launched in 2021.

However, our view is that the proposed GFN plan could be improved: it is too behaviour/individual focused and, despite the Good Food Nation aspirations, fails to convey the importance of the wide range of influences on what we eat from across the food system and supply chain. Also, the draft plan does not convey food as something we, as a nation, should aspire to valuing and enjoying, something that brings families and communities together and something that can bring pride and pleasure. We feel a more positive vision of a future food system and what it could contribute to a thriving population would be beneficial.

We feel the draft plan would benefit from more and smarter targets that better align to the desired outcomes. It should be accompanied by an overview, with data, of the current food system in Scotland and – importantly – some form of analysis of why existing (and past) targets have not been achieved and previous policies have not been successful. The focus, detail and analysis of the environmental impact of Scotland's food system (on climate and biodiversity, domestically and internationally) should also be strengthened.

It would be beneficial to have clearer anticipated pathways that link policies/action plans to proposed outcomes and targets.

Local food systems are not referenced in the proposed outcomes. In due course, when arrangements for local plans are developed, requirements of local areas should be flexible enough to recognise and enable existing local food plans to continue (for example, Glasgow has a city food plan that came into effect in June 2021 and will run for 10 years). NHS and local authority are both signatories to the Glasgow City Food Plan, along with community and business sector partners. To require new and separate plans for our public bodies would duplicate work already undertaken collectively, would potentially add confusion, and would certainly adversely affect progress with the current agreed plan.

Overall, this is an important plan for population health (in terms of addressing food insecurity, improving nutrition and dietary-related health, building a strong, resilient food economy that supports its employees and the environment on which it relies, reversing environmental degradation and food system related carbon emissions, and celebrating the contribution of food to individual and community wellbeing) which is appropriately ambitious. However, the scale of the challenge is large and the progress to date, despite many policies and action plans, has been limited at best. To be successful, this plan will require significant investment and long term, cross-government support, buy-in from food producers and businesses, and public understanding and engagement. The current draft plan does not explicitly recognise this nor does it lay out how it will be achieved.

Part B: Consultation on specified functions for the national Good Food Nation Plan

19 Please let us know if we have missed any function falling within a specified description or relevant specified functions in the list

Use this text box to let us know if we have missed any function falling within a specified description / relevant specified function in the list:

20 Why do you think this specified function / function falling within a specified description should be added?

Text box to explain why you think your function should be added to the list of specified functions:

About you

What is your name?

Name:

Jill Muirie

What is your email address?

Email:

jill.muirie@glasgow.ac.uk

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your organisation?

Organisation:

Glasgow Food Policy Partnership

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Evaluation

Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)

Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:

Slightly satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

somewhat - the layout was somewhat awkward. It would have been more logical to address each outcome (with target and indicator) at once rather than in separate sections.

Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:

Very satisfied

Please enter comments here.:

The platform was easy to use.