

LfS Scotland's response to the Scottish Government's Good Food Nation consultation April 2019

This consultation sets out Scottish Government proposals for legislation around the Good Food Nation ambition.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/good-food-nation-proposals-legislation/>

1. To what extent do you agree with the framework proposals for Ministers and public authorities to prepare statements of policy, have regard to them in the exercise of relevant functions, and report on implementation, with regard to international obligations and guidance?

1. Agree

Our response is on behalf of Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfS Scotland - Scotland's United Nations recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development¹: UN RCE ESD), a membership network of organisations and individuals working to harness the full potential of learning to create a flourishing, sustainable world

[.http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org](http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org)

Commitment to Legislation

Learning for Sustainability Scotland supports the need for a joined-up approach to the realisation of Scotland's Good Food Nation strategy with a straightforward framework placing responsibilities on selected public bodies.

To 'ensure that people in Scotland also benefit from and understand the quality produce on their doorsteps' it will be essential to place statutory requirements on public bodies responsible for education and learning across all sectors: i.e early learning and childcare, schools, further and higher education, families, communities and businesses.

In line with the aspirations set out in the [Vision 2030+ report for learners 3-18 years](#), there is a need for clearly-defined, coherent and progressive food-

¹ <http://learningforsustainabilityscotland.org>

Learning for Sustainability Scotland (LfS Scotland) is Scotland's UN Recognised Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development; hosted within the University of Edinburgh. The centre is an open network where members and partners come together to undertake collaborative projects, research and advocacy that push forward Learning for Sustainability practice and policy in Scotland. LfS Scotland's purpose is to harness the full potential of learning to create a flourishing, sustainable world.

related learning. This should go beyond a focus on health and wellbeing; permeating all curriculum areas and subjects – and literacy and numeracy; the key responsibilities of all education practitioners - at every age and stage.

Right to Food

Learning for Sustainability Scotland supports the need for a regularly-updated food strategy. We are of the opinion that the proposed strategy should define the 'right to food' as the right to:

- Locally-produced, environmentally friendly, healthy and nutritious food.
- Culturally-appropriate food; including the knowledge and traditions found within different areas of Scotland as well as those of residents from further afield.

There should be a commitment to informing the public of not just the geographical origin of food but also the methods of production.

We are pleased that the UN Sustainable Development Goals underpin Scotland's National Performance Framework; with a commitment to embed sustainable development at the centre of policy making. Each of Scotland's National Outcomes has a learning and a food-related component and these links should be made visible through a coherent joined-up approach to policy-making and implementation.

2. Whilst we do not plan to require all sectors to prepare statements of policy on food, they do all have a role to play in achieving our Good Food Nation ambition. To what extent do you agree that Government should encourage and enable businesses in particular to play their part?

Strongly Agree

In Learning for Sustainability Scotland's view, the Scottish Government should require *all* sectors to prepare statements of policy on food. The impact of large commercial food-based companies is considerable, including those that service public bodies (e.g. NHS, schools in Tayside), and retailers offering educational programmes (e.g. Tesco).

3. To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to accountability of Scottish Ministers and specified public authorities?

Disagree

In Learning for Sustainability Scotland's view an independent statutory body is required to hold the government to account. The body should include representation from multiple sectors and be required to provide robust independent scrutiny across all policy areas.

4. To what extent do you agree with the proposal for targeted legislation relevant to specific policy areas as an alternative to a single piece of legislation?

Neither agree nor disagree

In Learning for Sustainability Scotland's view both legislation for the overarching system-wide framework and targeted legislation are required to realise the Good Food Nation ambition; working together and strengthening each other. Framework legislation should set up the principles, structures and guidelines and targeted legislation should tackle specific issues like education. Specific, measurable targets that include realistic but ambitious timeframes will be required. This should align across the National Performance Framework and National Outcomes in line with the aspirations of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.