

QMS Briefing

Purpose: *To provide amendments to be moved at Stage 3 of the Good Food Nation Bill*

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Quality Meat Scotland is a Non-Departmental Public Body. This advice is provided under the Quality Meat Scotland Order 2008 Schedule 1 point 18 'Advising on any matters relating to the red meat sector (other than remuneration or conditions of employment) as to which the Scottish Ministers may request Quality Meat Scotland to advise, and undertaking inquiry for the purpose of enabling Quality Meat Scotland to advise on such matters'. This advice is freely available and further information can be provided by the designated contact above.

Amendment: Establish a statutory Scottish Food Commission

The bill should make provision for an independent Scottish Food Commission. The mission to become a Good Food Nation intersects many policy areas, as well as impacting aspects of society, economy, environment and public health and wellbeing. Due to being so wide-reaching, it is necessary for an oversight body to be established in order to maintain cohesion and focus on becoming a Good Food Nation, providing support at a local level in order to achieve this.

The name of the bill itself denotes that all people in Scotland should benefit from it. Without a Scottish Food Commission, there is risk of divergence between the national good food plan and those of relevant authorities, as well as an inconsistent approach to good food plans between relevant authorities themselves. There needs to be coordination in order for the aspiration of becoming a Good Food Nation to be realised, and this requires an oversight body.

Creating a Scottish Food Commission would support progress being made on sustainable agriculture and wider environmental issues. It can place farmers at the core of its mission to becoming a Good Food Nation and improve food security through shorter, greener and more local supply chains. It can reconnect the nation with food, by enhancing education on the field to fork lifecycle as well as food preparation.

A Scottish Food Commission would present the opportunity to set a clear direction for future policy, including agriculture, environment and circular economy bills, providing harmony across policy areas and preventing silos of work and vision.

After Section 12 insert:

Scottish Food Commission

1. A Scottish Food Commission is established
2. The Scottish Food Commission is an independent body and operates autonomously from the Scottish Government
3. The Scottish Food Commission's mission is to:
 - 3.1 Empower the people of Scotland to take a keen interest in their food, knowing what constitutes good food, valuing it and seeking it out whenever they can

- 3.2 Enable everyone in Scotland to have access to high quality, nutritious and sustainably produced food
4. The Scottish Food Commission will achieve this mission by:
 - 4.1 Recognising primary producers are at the heart of the solution to becoming a Good Food Nation and supporting a circular food production system
 - 4.2 Advocating for shorter and greener supply chains
 - 4.3 Supporting and facilitating local public procurement
 - 4.4 Ensuring education is provided on the food production lifecycle from farm to fork, reconnecting consumers with food
 - 4.5 Ensuring education is provided on the preparation of healthy, nutritious and balanced meals in conjunction with the Eatwell Guide
 - 4.6 Conducting or commissioning research on food-related issues to inform good food nation plans and their implementation
 - 4.7 Advising the Scottish Ministers and relevant authorities on food-related issues to inform the content of good food nation plans
 - 4.8 Providing cohesion between the national good food plan and relevant authority good food plans
5. The Scottish Food Commission will collaborate with the following bodies in achieving this mission:
 - 5.1 the Scottish Food Coalition
 - 5.2 Nourish Scotland
 - 5.3 Scotland Food and Drink Partnership
 - 5.4 Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
 - 5.5 local health boards
 - 5.6 Public Health Scotland
 - 5.7 school boards
 - 5.8 prison boards
 - 5.9 Integration Joint Boards.