



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Rural Affairs and Islands Committee

**26 March 2025**

Dear Convener,

### **National Good Food Nation plan**

You may be aware that the Scottish Government is required under the [Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#) to lay its draft first national good food nation (GFN) plan in the Scottish Parliament before 30 June 2025.

The draft plan is laid for a period of 60 days, at least 30 days of which must not be during recess or dissolution. We would expect, therefore, the 60 days to expire before 30 September 2025. There is no requirement for parliamentary approval of the draft plan.

After this 60-day period, the Scottish Ministers have three months to finalise the plan, having regard to any representations made to them, resolutions agreed by the Parliament or committee reports published relating to the draft plan. On this basis, we expect the finalised plan to be laid and published towards the end of December.

The [Scottish Government consulted on the draft national GFN plan](#) between 24 January and 22 April 2024 and information about the consultation draft plan is provided in the annexe to this letter. The consultation shows the Scottish Government's intention for the plan to cover a wide range of policy areas, ministerial portfolios and committee remits.

The Scottish Ministers must have regard to the national plan when exercising 'specified functions' and these were consulted on at the same time as the draft plan. It is expected that the regulations specifying these functions will be laid around the same time as the plan is published. The first set of these regulations must be considered under the affirmative procedure and we would expect these to be designated to this Committee for consideration.

Despite the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee's strong interest in this issue, due to our legislative workload over the next few months, we do not have capacity within

our work programme to scrutinise the draft plan. Members agreed, therefore, that I would write to other committees with a remit interest in this wide policy area to draw this draft plan to colleagues' attention.

Yours sincerely,

**Finlay Carson MSP**  
**Convener**

## Annexe

The draft national Plan sets out:

Part One: outlines the history of the GFN in Scotland, provides relevant background information and highlights how the draft national Plan will take effect.

Part Two: proposes a set of six national GFN outcomes. It sets out how they were developed and how progress will be measured—

**Outcome 1:** Everyone in Scotland eats well with reliable access to safe, nutritious, affordable, sustainable, and age and culturally appropriate food.

**Outcome 2:** Scotland's food system is sustainable and contributes to a flourishing natural environment. It supports our net zero ambitions, and plays an important role in maintaining and improving animal welfare and in restoring and regenerating biodiversity.

**Outcome 3:** Scotland's food system encourages a physically and mentally healthy population, leading to a reduction in diet-related conditions.

**Outcome 4:** Our food and drink sector is prosperous, diverse, innovative, and vital to national and local economic and social wellbeing. It is key to making Scotland food secure and food resilient, and creates and sustains jobs and businesses underpinned by Fair Work standards.

**Outcome 5:** Scotland has a thriving food culture with a population who are interested in and educated about good and sustainable food.

**Outcome 6:** Scotland has a global reputation for high-quality food that we want to continue to grow. Decisions we make in Scotland contribute positively to local and global food systems transformation. We share and learn from best practice internationally.

Part Three: highlights how working mechanisms within government will change and presents some of the key food related policies that are currently underway. It also presents what life would be like for different groups of people in a GFN.