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I am writing to make the Committee aware that Scottish Ministers laid the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Amendment Regulations 2023 before the Scottish Parliament on 4 December 2023: these came into force on 14 December 2023. These regulations amend the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2023, which came into force on 30 June 2023.

Section 3 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (“the Act”) sets out the requirement to lay the proposed national Good Food Nation Plan before the Scottish Parliament. Section 3(2) stipulates that the Plan must be laid in front of Parliament not later than 12 months after the date that section 3 comes in to force. The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2023 set this date as 31 December 2023, meaning that there would be a legal requirement to lay the Plan before Parliament no later than 31 December 2024.

As the consultation process for the draft Plan will not be launched until early 2024, it is likely that it would not be possible to complete the consultation, analysis period, and necessary re-drafting in time to meet this deadline. The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) Amendment Regulations 2023 amend this date to 30 June 2024. This means that the draft Plan must be laid before Parliament no later than 30 June 2025, providing some extra flexibility in the timetable. It will be possible to lay the Plan before this date, and we anticipate doing so.

The regulations also amend the date that Sections 7 and 8 of the Act will come into force. These sections relate to reporting and review requirements for the national Good Food Nation Plan. These have been grouped together with Section 3 in a single instrument for administrative convenience and to minimise the amount of secondary legislation required.



**MAIRI GOUGEON**

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