

Minister for Business and Fair Work
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Scottish Government
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Convener of Economy, Tourism and Energy
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email: economy.committee@parliament.scot

01 September 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to inform you that today the Scottish Government has launched a [consultation](#) on proposals to introduce a cap on the price of selected essential food items in Scotland.

I am also copying this letter to the Conveners of the Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice; Health, Care and Sport; Rural Affairs; Social Justice, Housing and Local Government Committees, recognising that this policy has the potential to engage multiple committee interests. A [Parliamentary Question](#) answered this morning informed MSPs of the launch of the consultation.

Too many people continue to face difficult choices when it comes to putting food on the table and affordability of essential food items remains an issue, particularly for those on low incomes. The Scottish Government cannot stand by when too many families face ongoing pressure at the checkout.

That is why the Scottish Government has launched a consultation which seeks views on the introduction of a cap on the price of essential food items to improve the affordability of a selection of essential food items, particularly for those on lower incomes.

The consultation includes draft legislative provisions in the form of an illustrative draft Food Price Cap (Scotland) Bill. These set out one possible approach to implementing food price controls through legislation and are intended to support discussion and consideration of the overall proposal.

Considerable constructive stakeholder engagement has informed the development of these proposals, and we intend for this engagement to continue. It is important that the views of those involved across the food sector, from primary producers through to third sector campaigners, retailers and consumers, support informed discussion on this policy. This will help ensure that any future implementation is effective in delivering our aim of improving the affordability of essential food, particularly for those on low incomes.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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The consultation will remain open until 24 November, and I encourage participation from everyone with an interest in this issue.

Yours sincerely,



TOM ARTHUR

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