

## Response ID ANON-UBU6-U4GE-Q

Submitted to **Good Food Nation Proposals for Legislation**

Submitted on **2019-04-18 13:09:20**

### Questions

**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?**

Strongly agree

**Please explain your answer. :**

This response comes from Sustaining Dunbar, a locality based Community Development Trust. We strongly identify with the aims of the GFN initiative and wanted to engage with a range of people in our community on these issues. However the format of the consultation was not accessible to many of them. Therefore we developed a survey that would include all the relevant issues in a more accessible format. The survey was advertised through local social media, networks and community groups.

We received 81 completed responses indicating that policies should address all aspects of the food system. Respondents were clear that principles of fairness, equality and environmental sustainability should be embedded in policies that are supported in law. With regard to placing requirements on food related businesses we understand the concerns expressed by SG however we feel that the essential aims would be undermined if no requirements were in place.

Relevant survey responses to this question;

Everyone should have the right to good food

Agree 99%

Good food should be available wherever provided

Agree 94%

Food industry workers should earn living wage

Agree 96.5%

Should grow food less inputs, not harm wildlife

Agree 97%

Promote animal welfare

Agree 97%

Growing food promotes wellbeing

Agree 83%

**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

**Please explain your answer. :**

This is a fundamental element of broadening awareness of what the GFN initiative means and in its realisation. Standards should be regarded by food businesses as a positive way of promoting their products and a GFN standard mark could be introduced (like the kite mark standard) as a marketing tool.

Relevant survey responses;

Government should support business to deliver aims Agree 92%

There is a role not just for supermarkets but independent retailers and local markets Agree 94%

Good food should be available wherever food is provided - commercial and public sector. Agree 94%

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

Strongly disagree

**Please explain your answer.:**

90% of our respondents agreed that the Scottish Government and other public authorities should have policies for Good Food and that they should take action to improve our food system.

80% agreed that the benefits of good food for people and nature are too important to leave to Parliament alone.

An independent statutory body should be set up to protect everyone's right to food and to make sure that the Government keeps its promises. It is the view of Sustaining Dunbar that an external body would be better able to monitor activities and highlight discrepancies . We are aware that the Government needs to balance a range of interests but may be very pragmatic in the face of pressure from industries. Independent bodies have been set up to review land reform and inequalities and their role is significant in keeping these issues in the forefront when driving the process of cultural change. Scottish Government suggests that establishing an independent body would result in burdensome costs and administration and should only be considered in exceptional cases. We think that given the growing problems of food poverty, diet related health issues and the environmental crisis we are facing, then this is an exceptional case and should be considered as such. While there are bodies that deal with the aspects identified we would suggest that a thematic approach would encourage joined up thinking and help to deliver these goals effectively.

#### **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?**

Agree

##### **Please explain your answer.:**

Our survey did not specifically ask questions about framework legislation as it was thought that this was an area with which many of our respondents would not be familiar. However the strength of their responses suggests that there is a need for firm commitment to addressing the problems inherent in our current system and that responses should be guided by the principles and ethos to which we are committed. We believe that opportunities to grow food promote wellbeing, eating together, having the skills and confidence to cook and an acknowledgement of the cultural significance of what we eat are all important in changing the dysfunctional systems that we currently promote.

The framework needs to be strong and the targeted legislation should be responsive to the issues identified.

#### **About you**

##### **What is your name?**

###### **Name:**

Jo McNamara

##### **What is your email address?**

###### **Email:**

josie.mac@btinternet.com

##### **Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?**

Organisation

##### **What is your organisation?**

###### **Organisation:**

Sustaining Dunbar

##### **The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:**

Publish response only (without name)

**We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?**

Yes

#### **Evaluation**

**Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

##### **Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied

##### **Please enter comments here.:**

As an organisation we are wholly supportive of GFN aims and have welcomed this opportunity for discussion in our community. However it would not be possible to respond without a sound grasp of a broad and complex range of issues. It is not to say that our respondents were incapable of understanding them but that this would not have been possible without intervention by the organisation. There is a widely held view that the Government is remote from people and it is so important to change that perception. Making sure that consultations are accessible is vital.

##### **Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Slightly satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

The IT system was fine.