

Good Food Nation Legislation Technical Briefing

1. Legislation

The [Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Act 2022](#) Associated secondary legislation (equivalent to UK statutory instruments):

- [Regulations 2023 No. 183 \(C.19\)](#) (commencement of Sections 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 of the Act), later amended by [Regulations 2023 No. 362 \(C. 24\)](#)
- [Regulations 2024 No. 29 \(C. 4\)](#) (commencement of Schedule 1), later amended by [Regulations 2025 No. 49 \(C. 5\)](#)
- [Regulations 2025 No. 49 \(C. 5\)](#) (commencement of Schedule 1 - continued)
- [Regulations 2025 No. 291 \(C. 22\)](#) (commencement of Section 6), later revoked by [Regulations 2025 No. 395](#)

Draft regulation setting out the specified functions and descriptions: [The Good Food Nation \(Specified Functions and Descriptions\) \(Scottish Ministers\) Regulations 2025](#). These were withdrawn after the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee voted against recommending the motion.

2. Bill process

All the relevant information related to the passage of the Bill through Parliament can be found here: [Good Food Nation \(Scotland\) Bill | Scottish Parliament Website](#).

This includes links to the [bill as introduced](#), the accompanying [policy memorandum](#) and [financial memorandum](#). SPICe, the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, also published a [briefing](#) that sets out the background of the bill, events that led to its introduction, and summary of its contents.

In Scotland, there are no first or second readings: a Bill goes directly to Committee for what is called Stage 1. After hearing evidence ([call for views](#) and oral witnesses - there are links to all of these as well as to related correspondence on the [main Bill page](#)), the Committee issued a [Stage 1 report](#), after which the general principles of the Bill were debated in the chamber and agreed without division.

Amendments to the Bill were dealt with in Stage 2. Any MSP can propose changes, but the final version of the Bill is decided by the lead Committee: here is the [Bill as amended at Stage](#).

After this, the Bill entered Stage 3, where further changes are debated and decided in the Chamber (again, there are links to all lists of amendments and related correspondence on the [main Bill page](#)). The final version of the Bill was passed unanimously by the Scottish Parliament on 15 June 2022 and became Scots Law, following royal ascent, on 26 July 2022.

3. Public Consultation and Parliamentary Scrutiny of the 1st National Good Food Nation Plan

A Draft 1st National Good Food Nation Plan was published for public consultation on 24th January 2024. The consultation was open for 12 weeks and the consultation report was published in Oct 2024.

Full details here - <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/national-good-food-nation-plan/>

Between Oct 2024 and June 2025, the Scottish government revised the draft first National Good Plan with the Proposed 1st National Good Food Nation Plan laid before Parliament for parliamentary scrutiny in late June 2025. Parliamentary scrutiny took place across three committees. Dr Claire Perier, when on secondment to the Scottish Parliament as part of her work for the Living Good Food Nation Lab outlined the parliamentary scrutiny process followed in a short blog that also explains the background for this: [Next steps towards a Good Food Nation – do we have the right plan? – SPICe Spotlight | Solas air SPICe](#)

Several Committees made recommendations (this is relatively unusual but reflects the cross-cutting nature of the Act) - the Scottish Government published a [statement setting out how they responded to these alongside the First National Good Food Nation Plan](#).

4. Publication of the 1st National Good Food Nation Plan for Scotland

Following final revisions after the Sept 2025 parliamentary scrutiny, the 1st National Good Food Nation Plan was published on Wednesday 17th December 2025 - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/first-national-good-food-nation-plan/>.

5. Creation, and formal Launch of the new independent Statutory Scottish Food Commission

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 makes formally provision for the creation of a new, statutory, non-departmental public body, the Scottish Food Commission to monitor and have oversight of the Good Food Nation process and provide independent scrutiny of the National and Local Good Food Nation Plans. The Scottish Government appointed the inaugural Chair and three further members of the Commission between Aug 2024 - June 2025 (Dennis Overton (Chair), Professor Emilie Combet, Graeme Jack and Professor Mary Brennan. The first Chief Executive, Jayne Jones, formally took up the role on 5 January 2026.

The CEO and Commissioners are currently working to establish the Commission, recruit staff and start engaging in scrutiny of the National Good Food Nation Plan and allied policies, plans and legislation. There is a strong "have regard" duty built into the act, and key to the work of the Commission will be scrutinising how silos within, and between, directorates are starting to be challenged and reimaged.



6. Novel Secondary Legislation

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 made provision for the development of a novel legislative mechanism, The Good Food Nation (Specified Functions and Descriptions) (Scottish Ministers) Regulations 2025, to help deliver, track and document the "have regard" function and the desire to break down silos and drive greater policy coherence and alignment within, and across, directorates. The draft legislation was introduced to the Scottish Parliament, via the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee in late Oct 2025.

The committee issued a call for views and after a detailed committee hearing in which the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands gave evidence, the draft regulation was rejected and subsequently withdrawn for revision. A revised version is expected to be re-laid before Parliament in Autumn 2026 and will go through the same scrutiny process as took place in round 1.

7. Commencement of Section 10 - Transfer of responsibility to Relevant Authorities (RAs) to produce their 1st Local Good Food Nation Plans

Notification has been issued that the timeline for all 46 Relevant Authorities (32 Local Authorities and 14 Territorial Health Boards) developing their Local Plans will start on Wed 1st April 2026. There will be a 12-month notification period and on 1st April 2027 Section 10 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act will formally commence. All RAs will be required to submit their 1st Local Good Food Nation Plans by 1st April 2028.