Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference;
Next steps for food innovation in the UK
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 2nd March 2027
*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change

WESTMINSTER FOOD & NUTRITION FORUM

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

9.05 **Assessing recent developments and priorities for food innovation in the UK**
Rachel Bailey, Deputy Director, Agri Growth, Trade and Technology, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

9.20 **Investing in emerging food technologies - key considerations for funding, scale-up and commercial viability**
Senior representative, funding

9.30 **Priorities for research and future food technologies - innovation, evidence and applications**
research priorities across precision fermentation, cell-cultivated products and other emerging food technologies | potential applications in food production, ingredients and manufacturing evidence on safety, nutritional characteristics and product quality | potential benefits and limitations for nutrition, sustainability and food system resilience | comparing new and existing production methods on energy and resource use evidence supporting health and sustainability claims | collaboration between researchers, technology developers and food businesses | addressing gaps in the evidence base
Senior representative, research
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, nutrition
Senior representative, sustainability

9.55 Questions and comments from the floor

10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.25 Break

10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

10.40 **Adopting new food technologies - priorities for food manufacturers and ingredient users**
Senior representative, food industry

10.50 **Manufacturing and scaling up emerging food technologies - infrastructure, skills and production capability**
challenges for SMEs moving from research and pilot production to commercial scale | access to specialist facilities, equipment and contract manufacturing | capital requirements, production costs and risks of first-of-a-kind manufacturing | availability of ingredients and feedstocks | production consistency and reliability at scale | product performance, quality and pricing considerations for manufacturers and ingredient users | skills requirements across engineering, food science and manufacturing | applications of AI in process control, efficiency and quality monitoring | food safety, hygiene and validation of new production processes | implications for farmers and existing operations and food supply chains | commercial partnerships, customer demand and long-term purchasing arrangements
Senior representative, SMEs
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, AI
Senior representative, food safety

11.10 Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **Next steps for food regulation and market access - authorisation, UK-EU arrangements and consumer confidence**
FSA and FSS novel foods authorisation | safety evidence, application preparation, timelines and delays | Cell-Cultivated Products Sandbox guidance and Market Authorisation Innovation Research Programme priorities | production requirements and pre-application support | prospective UK-EU SPS agreement - existing GB authorisations, applications in progress, transition, regulatory responsibilities, data protection and market exclusivity | international regulatory differences, and use of evidence across jurisdictions, exports, and UK competitiveness | consumer views on safety, nutrition, price and production methods | transparency, naming, labelling and evidence for product claims | retail and business-to-business demand | willingness to pay for new products and ingredients
Senior representative, trade
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, consumers
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Next steps for food innovation in the UK - priorities for novel foods authorisation and regulatory development**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum