

Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum policy conference:

Next steps for the Government's Food Strategy and priorities for the UK food system

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23rd October 2025

Taking Place Online

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Assessing the landscape for food policy and priorities for the UK food system**
Professor Louise Dye, Co-Director, Institute for Sustainable Food, University of Sheffield
- 9.15 **Priorities for delivering sustainable food production and maximising productivity in the agriculture sector**
farm productivity and resilience / facilitating uptake of nature-friendly farming practices / strategic options for delivering environmental and economic sustainability / upgrades in biosecurity on farms / financial uncertainty linked to the Sustainable Farming Incentive / long-term viability of land management schemes for producers / food production, net zero and climate change resilience in the Land Use Framework / pressures on UK farmers from trade agreements
Dr Charlie Taverner, Policy Lead, Farming Futures, Food, Farming and Countryside Commission
Senior representative, agriculture
Senior representative, environment
Senior representative, advocacy
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 **Improving domestic food security and supply chain resilience**
adaptation to climate change / resilience to geopolitical shocks / labour and skills shortages / mitigating added costs and complexity in the supply chain / fairness and efficiency in supply chain operations / risks related to food fraud and system vulnerabilities / regulatory clarity to support innovation and consumer confidence / using data and automation to strengthen supply chain resilience
Senior representative, academic
Senior representative, food production
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, retail
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.05 **Next steps for regulation and priorities for innovation in the food system**
Senior speaker confirmed from the **Food Standards Agency**
- 11.20 **Supporting investment, growth and innovation in the food manufacturing sector**
unlocking R&D investment for healthier and sustainable product development / supporting adoption of automation, data and AI / addressing EU border challenges and regulatory divergence / tackling barriers to trade and improving market access / investment models to strengthen resilience and supply chain efficiency / sector growth alongside transition to net zero / access to talent and workforce skills / scaling-up alternative proteins / policy frameworks to support long-term innovation and competitiveness
Professor Tony Heron, Head, Department of Politics and International Relations, University of York
Professor Derek Stewart, Director, Advanced Plant Growth Centre; and Co-Director, National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre, The James Hutton Institute
Senior representative, food industry
- 11.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 **The future for improving public health and accessibility to healthy, affordable food**
encouraging behaviour change and access to healthier foods / supporting at-risk groups and tackling health inequalities / affordability and nutritional equity for low-income and minoritised communities / aligning food, health and industrial strategy through the Food Strategy / data and digital tools to support obesity prevention / HFSS regulation and its future outlook / concerns around ultra-processed foods and links to health outcomes
Senior representative, public health
Senior representative, advocacy
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, food industry
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.45 **Progress and next steps for the Government's Food Strategy**
James LePage, Head, Food Strategy Stakeholder Engagement, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.10 **Chair's and Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Jessica Lear, Westminster Food & Nutrition Forum