CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. How important do you think it is that we aim to be a Good Food Nation?

Comments

2. How would we know when we had got there? What would success look like?

Comments

3. Do you agree with the proposed vision? How would you improve it?

Comments

4. How would your life be better? What does being a Good Food Nation mean in your locality?

Comments

5. Are there any other essential steps we need to take before setting out on this journey?

Comments

6. How do you think a Food Commission could best help?

Comments

7. In what areas should indicators be set to check we are on track towards our goals?

Comments

8. What are your views on the different approaches that could be taken to help us become a Good Food Nation?

Comments

9. Do you agree with the proposed initial focus on:
   - Food in the public sector
A children’s food policy
Local food
Good food choices and
Continued economic growth?

10. Which other areas would you prioritise?

11. What other steps toward achieving a Good Food Nation would you recommend?

12. What else should be considered?

13. What steps do you plan to take to help Scotland on the journey toward becoming a Good Food Nation – in the next month and in the next 12 months?

14. How did you hear about this Discussion Document?
BSI response to ‘Becoming a Good Food Nation – Scotland’s Food & Drink Policy’

BSI (British Standards Institution) has read with interest the Scottish Government’s discussion document and call for evidence ‘Becoming a Good Food Nation’.

BSI is the UK’s National Standards Body, a role set out in our Royal Charter and further developed in the Memorandum of Understanding between BSI and the UK Government. As such, and through our committee structure, BSI is uniquely placed to bring together communities of experts from industry and consumer organizations, Government, and other stakeholders to create standards for a broad range of products and services. The processes put in place and developed over many years mean that the National Standards Body provides a rigorous platform for the development of British Standards and similar documents. Defra, the National Farmers Union, the Food Standards Agency and the Food and Drink Federation are examples of relevant stakeholders that sit on many of BSI’s technical committees (examples being Cereals and Pulses, Animal Feeding Stuffs and Quality Systems for the Food Industry) which develop British Standards and represent UK interests in the development of European and international standards.

Standards developed by BSI are voluntary documents, shaped on the basis of the consensus of all interested parties. Whilst these may be technical specifications, they may also be terminologies, vocabularies, codes of practice or guidelines. They are not the same as some of the ‘standards’ mentioned in the discussion document, which are in fact legal requirements.

That said, BSI’s standards can be used to support Government policy and legislation, as is already the case for thousands of our published documents. Standards can bring self- or co-regulatory solutions to public policy challenges, setting out guidance and good practice that can be taken up by industry and thus meet policy objectives. The breadth of expertise and degree of representation in our committees ensure the legitimacy of this platform for Government.

BSI, as the UK National Standards Body, provides the only route in the UK into European and international standardization. This is important if the Scottish Government wishes to show global leadership in the development of the type of standards referenced on p22 (guidance for traceability). That is to say, a British Standard (developed by UK stakeholders, such as Scotland Food and Drink) can become the base document used to shape any European (EN) or international (ISO) document. BSI also offers a fast-track standardization solution enabling stakeholders to respond to unmet standards needs in emerging areas and/or where the formal route to standardization is not yet established.
We have been at the forefront of developing standards of related interest to the consultation. Examples include:

- BSI’s provision of a strong UK voice in the development of ISO 22000 on food safety management, first published in 2005 and now embarking on a review
- BSI’s development of the pre-requisite programme PAS standards that support (sector-specific) application of ISO 22000
- The development of BSI PAS 96 *Defending Food & Drink*, the revision of which has been sponsored jointly by Defra and the Food Standards Agency (PAS 96 will be published at the end of October)
- Our contribution to the recent Elliott Review, which commended PAS 96
- Our provision of a strong UK voice in European work on developing standards for sustainable and traceable cocoa
- BSI-commissioned research into the ‘responsible sourcing’ landscape (including a review of the many labelling schemes currently used, including those that are not applicable to the food sector)
- Our hosting of a 2013 stakeholder workshop on how standards can help organisations deliver their responsible sourcing objectives
- Our recent engagement with Defra, which is interested in developing a standard that could be used in the private and public procurement of food and catering services.

We would be pleased to discuss the views expressed in this letter should you so wish and would like to be kept informed of the other opportunities to give views on this subject that are mentioned in the paper.

Yours faithfully,

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1The Elliott Review into the Integrity and Assurance of the Food Supply Networks was commissioned by Defra in the aftermath of the 2013 horsemeat scandal. The Review referenced PAS 96 and Chris Elliott’s meeting with Dr Scott Steedman (BSI’s Director of Standards), acknowledging that the “threats analysis and critical control points” (TAACP) approach in PAS 96 is “relevant in the prevention of food crime” and recommended that “BSI and Defra should continue to focus on TACCP”, as this will “provide the building blocks of any future standards that could be developed on preventing food crime”.