

Food Bill Joint Statement 2026

A Food Strategy White Paper would be a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the UK Government to set out a single visionary plan to transform England's food system for our health, the economy, and the planet. Recent global shocks and ongoing extreme climatic events, concomitant food price inflation and the impact this is having on British farmers and the wider population have shown how important a coordinated approach to the food system is.

It is only by taking an integrated, cross-government approach, building on its policy paper published in July 2025, that the Government can lead the food system reform necessary to achieve food security, its net zero and nature positive commitments, tackle obesity and reduce inequalities. The central role which good food plays in supporting health must be harnessed in order to secure economic productivity and growth.

To do this, a White Paper must commit first and foremost to new primary legislation, demonstrating the Government's ambition in this space by putting in place the food system impact targets and long-term duties that will support the cross-government action that is needed to transform the food system for present and future generations. Through smart investment, aligned trade policy, standards and the right targets and laws in food, the Government can unlock innovation, opportunities for growth and build resilient, sustainable supply chains and progressive partnerships with the best producers.

A White Paper, building directly on Labour's policy commitments in its first year of office, would open the path to primary legislation. If realised, this could secure the durable policy bedrock needed for long-term food system transformation. A term of government can deliver important wins; but only legislation can lock in change and long-term stability, shielding progress from political cycles. With food system strategies and legislation underway in all the devolved nations, this is an excellent opportunity to consider how legislation introduced in Westminster could be of benefit to all.

We are calling on the Government to deliver on this opportunity by committing to new primary legislation and championing transformational food system change.