



***Written Evidence Submitted by the Food Foundation to the Agriculture Bill Committee  
February 2020***

**Key message: Adding three words to the Agriculture Bill will help parliament to monitor household food insecurity**

**Introduction**

We welcome the inclusion of Clause 17 in the Agriculture Bill, which places a duty to report to Parliament on UK food security. However, food security at a national level does not ensure that UK *households* are able to afford *enough* food. Household expenditure on food does not capture this either. For Parliament to have a more well-rounded view of food security in the UK we recommend that household food insecurity is added to the list of metrics under Clause 17.

The UK government has recently begun measuring household food insecurity as part of the Family Resources Survey, and the first data will be available in 2021. The Food Standards Agency also collects data on household food insecurity as part of the Food and You Survey. Both surveys are using internationally recognised and validated metrics, and could be used to fulfil the duty to report to Parliament on household food insecurity.

**The Food Foundation are thus calling for the following amendment to Clause 17**

**17 Duty to report to Parliament on UK Food Security**

(1) The Secretary of State must, at least once every five years, prepare and lay before Parliament a report containing an analysis of statistical data relating to food security in the United Kingdom.

(2) The data analysed in the report may include (among other things) data about the following matters—

- (a) global food availability;
- (b) supply sources for food (including the range of supply sources and the availability to the public of food from domestic and other sources);
- (c) the resilience of the supply chain for food (including in response to disruptions in, or significant price increases for, the supply of energy);
- (d) household expenditure on food (including in comparison to expenditure on other items);
- (e) food safety and consumer confidence in food
- (f) household food insecurity**

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Supported by Kath Dalmeny, CEO of Sustain: The alliance for better food and farming.

**About the Food Foundation**

The Food Foundation is an independent organisation working to influence food policy and business practice, shaping a sustainable food system which makes healthy diets affordable and accessible for all. We work in partnership with researchers, campaigners, community bodies, industry, investors, government and citizens to galvanise the UK's diverse agents of change, using surprising and inventive ideas to drive fundamental shifts in our food system. These efforts are based on the continual re-evaluation of opportunities for action, building and synthesising strong evidence, convening powerful coalitions, harnessing citizens' voices and delivering impactful communications.