

3 March 2025

Clare Haughey MSP  
Convener  
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

[HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot](mailto:HSCS.committee@Parliament.Scot)

Dear Ms Haughey,

### **Food Standards Scotland and the first national Good Food Nation Plan**

At the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee Meeting on 17 February 2026, Dr Sanesh Gulhane MSP asked a question, and in response, Professor Mary Brennan, Director of Living Good Food Nation Lab at the University of Edinburgh who was a witness at the session, agreed to have the Scottish Food Commission respond thereafter.

Dr Gulhane's question was:

*Following the publication of the first national Good Food Nation Plan, the Scottish Government have said in their Spending Review that they will invest £4.4 million, working with local authorities, health boards and the newly established Scottish Food Commission to support implementation of the Plan. In that context, what is the total administrative cost of the Scottish Food Commission?*

By way of background, Dennis Overton was appointed as Chair of the Scottish Food Commission in August 2024. He was joined in June 2025 by three publicly appointed members of the Scottish Food Commission (Brennan, Combet, Jack). Recruitment for the inaugural Chief Executive commenced in July 2025 and Jayne Jones formally took up the role on the 5 January 2026.

As Chief Executive, and Accountable Officer, Jayne Jones, with support from members of the Commission, is leading the discussions on behalf of the Scottish Food Commission with the Scottish Government regarding the annual operational budget for the Scottish Food Commission. These discussions fully commenced on Jayne's appointment and are ongoing.

On 13 January 2026, the 2026 Scottish Budget and accompanying Scottish Spending Review outlining multi-year spending plans from 2026/27 through to 2028/29 were published. Within this spending review, a figure of £4.4million was listed in regard to

ongoing funding for Good Food Nation related work including the Scottish Food Commission. For further details regarding the basis for the budget allocation, and how the figure of £4.4million was determined, please contact the Scottish Government's Good Food Nation Team directly.

As of today, 3 March 2026, it is anticipated that the funding allocation for the operational requirements of the new Scottish Food Commission will form part of this budget allocation. Specific details on the operational running costs of the Commission are still under development as various operational and governance services are procured and our corporate and strategic plans are developed.

If the Committee has any further questions with regards to this, please do contact me at the email address above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jayne Jones', is positioned above the typed name.

Jayne Jones  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Food Commission