



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment Committee

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for
Rural Affairs and Islands

c/o Clerk to the Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email only

9 June 2022

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

GOOD FOOD NATION (SCOTLAND) BILL – SCOTTISH FOOD COMMISSION

Thank you for your letter, dated 6 June 2022, informing the Committee of the Scottish Government's intention to establish a new Scottish Food Commission to provide oversight of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Bill.

As you are aware, the Committee, in its Stage 1 report, agreed that effective oversight of the good food nation policy, and accountability for the statutory good food nation plans, are essential to achieving the good food nation ambitions. The Committee recommended the bill should be amended to strengthen the oversight function, although we did not feel we were in a position to make a clear recommendation as to where this oversight function should sit.

In advance of the Stage 3 proceedings, and consideration of the relevant amendments, the Committee would appreciate further information about—

- the anticipated timescale for establishing the proposed Scottish Food Commission;
- the role of the proposed Scottish Food Commission regarding Scottish Ministers' (section 1) and relevant authorities' (section 7) duty to produce a good food nation plan;
- estimated capital and recurring costs to establish and operate the proposed Scottish Food Commission, noting the Financial Memorandum does not include any estimated costs for the Commission; and
- further information about the type of public body the Scottish Food Commission would be, with reference to the Scottish Government's [guide to public bodies in Scotland](#). In particular, the Committee is keen to understand the relationship between the proposed Commission and the Scottish Parliament.

In order to inform the Parliament's consideration of these amendments at Stage 3, the Committee would appreciate a response by Monday 13 June.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Finlay Carson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Finlay Carson MSP

Convener

Rural Affairs, Island and Natural Environment Committee