



Policy Insight Report

EDITION 4

ANALYSIS

- The Land Use Framework consultation has opened, marking the beginning of a process which may significantly reshape the allocation of land for agriculture and food production across England.
- Latest evidence from the Food Foundation and the National Preparedness Commission highlights systemic vulnerabilities in food security on a global, national and household level, while the UK Climate Change Committee's latest government advice emphasises crucial role of dietary shifts in meeting carbon emission targets.

POLITICAL INSIGHTS

- Land Use Framework consultation is now open. A critical 12-week 'national conversation' engaging stakeholders across agriculture, business and conservation sectors. Submission deadline is 25 April.
- DEFRA SoS Steve Reed announced procurement reform at NFU conference, requiring 50% of public sector food to be UK-sourced or meet equivalent standards, targeting £5bn in contracts. Further announcements include the securing of capital grants funding for 2025/26, increases in HLS payment rates and plans to roll out an improved Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT) scheme this year.
- NFU's #StoptheFamilyFarmTax campaign gathered 270,000 petition signatures, triggering a parliamentary debate, whilst major supermarkets join opposition over food security concerns. The Prime Minister discussed balancing NHS funding with tax considerations while emphasizing the government's commitment to the sector.
- National Preparedness Commission delivers stark warning on UK food security vulnerabilities, citing climate change and global insecurity, and calling for immediate legislative action to strengthen supply chain resilience.
- The government has published a response to the House of Lords' Food, Diet and Obesity Committee report, prompting disappointment from Committee chair Baroness Walmsley and Obesity Health Alliance members.
- Ministers have confirmed holiday activities and food (HAF) programme will continue from April, but funding beyond next financial year is subject to spending review. Meanwhile, Scotland committed to expand free school meals to S1-S3 secondary pupils in receipt of Scottish Child Payment in 8 local authority areas.
- DEFRA SoS Steve Reed confirmed that the rapid review of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) has been carried out, setting the stage for a revised EIP later in 2025.
- Expansion of Devolution Priority Programme adds six new regions under mayoral devolution, affecting 8.8 million.

MEDIA INSIGHTS

- BBC's Food Programme featuring Dolly Van Tulleken, Henry Dimbleby and others, looked at why healthy food policies fail and the opportunity for a new food strategy.
- Former M&S sustainability leader Mike Barry partners with AFN+ policy expert Ali Morpeth to launch new food system transformation project, Planeatry Alliance.
- Guardian reports a 60% rise in primary-age child constipation rates in England, raising questions about low fibre consumption.

CIVIL SOCIETY UPDATES

- Food Foundation's "Broken Plate 2025" report reveals critical affordability gap: nutritious foods now cost more than double per calories compared to less healthy alternatives.
- FFCC Chief Executive Sue Pritchard shares reflections around the Land Use Framework, warning against reductive "single metric" approaches.
- Former PHE Chief Nutritionist Alison Tedstone and former health minister Lord Bethell explore strategic approaches to health food reform in Food Foundation podcast.

