

Dear candidate MSP,



POLICY ASKS - PARLIAMENT ELECTION 2016

This short election briefing outlines our key campaigns and our headline policy asks for the next Scottish Parliament.



image credit: John Roberts for Whitmuir Farm, rights reserved

Incorporate ICESCR in to Scots Law

Food bank usage has soared in Scotland but that's only the tip of the food insecurity iceberg.

We believe that everyone in Scotland should have financial and geographical access to tasty, nutritious and culturally appropriate food as a right and with dignity. We call on all candidates to commit to the full incorporation of the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and to make the right to food a reality.

Invest in the Future of Farming

Money should be moved within existing budgets (a process called modulation) to invest in greener farming and facilitating new entrants.

We want these funds to be used to create new, shorter, supply chains based on co-operative models and a fair return for our farmers. We also call on candidates to support a cap on large subsidy payments to big farms, with the money saved used to fund the above priorities.

The Food, Farming & Health Act

The legal and policy landscape relating to food, farming & health is fragmented and confusing.

A broad group of civil society organisations (including Nourish) have come together to establish a Scottish Food Coalition, and are calling for framework legislation.

Within this we want to see an independent Scottish Food Commission established to monitor performance on food, farming & health, issue guidance, and report annually to Parliament.

Implement a Retailers Levy

Large retailers and caterers provide us with the bulk of our shopping and most of our meals outside the home. This power must come with responsibility.

We want to see large retailers sales assessed against nutritional targets, with levies applied where they significantly miss these. Assessing the nutritional composition of sales is easily possible with existing information, and will very quickly align the interests of food business with a healthy diet.

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Organic in Our Public Kitchens

It's time for our public bodies to demonstrate leadership and use public money for public good.

A target of 20% local and organic food served in our schools, hospitals and other public places by 2020 is absolutely achievable; laws in other European countries set much higher targets: 40% for France and 60% for Denmark. We must not get left behind - use the new Sustainable Procurement Duty to ensure support for sustainable food and shorter supply chains.

Empower Communities

Food is a powerful vehicle for social change. We want to empower all people in Scotland to act not just as consumers but as citizens, actively shaping the food system around them.

Developing a network of community food hubs across Scotland could help to facilitate this. A community food development fund would enable the sector to co-ordinate its activities, link more closely to primary producers and start to build the social economy of food.



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We hope that you have found this briefing informative, that you will consider acting on our recommendations, and that we may count on your support - whatever the outcome of the election - in making Scotland's food system fairer.

www.nourishscotland.org