

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i'r ymgynghoriad ar y [Bil Bwyd \(Cymru\) Drafft](#)

This response was submitted to the consultation on the [Draft Food \(Wales\) Bill](#)

OSFB018

Ymateb gan: | Response from: Cwmpas

Overarching principles

Question 1: Do you agree with the overarching principles that the Bill seeks to achieve?

Yes

We agree with what the Bill is seeking to achieve and believe it is an important step in the right direction. As noted, the sector has a huge impact on well-being and the environment, issues that are fundamental to our society and will be challenged even further by the crises we know are coming, due to the cost-of-living crisis, the cost of energy, and the climate crisis. The SESG strongly advocates that this sector must be rebalanced and that more power should be in the hands of communities, and not private interests. We need to make significant structural changes to our economy as a whole, and the food sector is an essential part of that.

Social enterprises operate on the principles of the Triple Bottom line; people, planet, profit. This ensures that their social, environmental, economic purpose is at the heart of what they do. Many have environmental objectives and improving the local area at the heart of their social aims. It is also worth noting that many social enterprises have embedded circular economy principles within these environmental objectives. For these reasons, it is essential that the existing work and potential of social enterprise are recognised and supported within the Bill and the outputs it seeks to implement.

The social enterprise sector is ready to play a key role in answering the challenges that our communities are going to face. The Social Business Wales Food Network for social entrepreneurs is designed for social entrepreneurs in the food industry, to help them create connections with each other, grow their supplier networks and access the support they need to keep growing. This joined-up sector of innovative social entrepreneurs can play a key role and the Bill and its Goals, Strategies and Commission should recognise this and take advantage of the knowledge and experience within the sector already.

Question 2: Do you think there is a need for this legislation? Can you provide reasons for your answer.

Yes

Legislation can work both as a means of ensuring immediate impact and compliance, as well as clearly outlining that change is essential and ensuring a change in culture and mindset. The Welsh Government already has lots of relevant legislation and policy to be used as a guideline. However, it is important to recognise that legislation, despite often being an intensive and time-consuming process, is not enough in its own right. There needs to be consistent engagement with public sector institutions, the private sector, the third sector and wider communities to ensure that the change outlined as being desirable or necessary is implemented and achieved. There needs to be a proactive

attitude of supporting groups or organisations who can deliver this change and providing the platforms and structures for this to happen, to be discussed, and to be replicated across the country.

Food Goals

Question 3: Please provide your views on the inclusion of the Food Goals within the Bill as the means to underpin the policy objectives.

We recognise that having targets is a useful way of showing the tangible impact that the Bill can make, and demonstrate the type of change that is the purpose of this intervention. It is an important way of ensuring policy and vision is implemented, and of holding government and other stakeholders to account. However, it is not enough on its own, and partners and stakeholders must be supported throughout this process.

Question 4: Do you agree with the inclusion of a Primary Food Goal supplemented by Secondary Food Goals?

Question 5: Are there additional / different areas you think should be included in the Food Goals?

Question 6: Do you have any additional comments on the Food Goals, including the resource implications of the proposals and how these could be minimised?

Achieving the Food Goals will require co-ordination of, and working with, the sector and communities. Making use of existing networks and community groups to do this will be an essential part of ensuring the changes that are required can happen as quickly as possible.

Question 7: Please provide your views on the inclusion of targets within the Bill as the means to measure how the Food Goals are being advanced.

This would be an important step in order to ensure appropriate people are held to account and to scrutinise the policies that are being developed and implemented.

Question 8: Do you agree with the process for setting the targets?

Question 9: Do you think the reporting mechanisms set out in the draft Bill provide sufficient accountability and scope for scrutiny?

Question 10: Do you have any additional comments on the targets, including the resource implications of the proposals and how these could be minimised?

Wales Food Commission

Question 11: What are your views on the need for a Welsh Food Commission?

A Welsh Food Commission can play an important role in ensuring policy is joined-up, effective, evidence-based and draws on the knowledge and expertise of the sector as a whole. However, in order for this to be successful, we must learn from experiences of other similar Commissions and Boards and ensure that it is representative and has a role and set objectives.

Question 12: Do you agree with the goals and functions of the Welsh Food Commission? If not, what changes would you suggest?

Agree that a Commission of this type could have a significantly beneficial role in achieving the objectives of the Bill with these goals and functions. However, the effectiveness of the organisation will be influenced significantly by the people who make it up, and the Ministers of the Welsh Government. A positive relationship between these stakeholders is essential, and advice must be genuinely taken on board and have a clear and tangible influence on policy development.

Question 13: Do you agree with the size of the membership of the Food Commission and the process for appointing its members?

We believe it is essential that there is clear representation for the wider community on this Commission, as well as economic models within the food sector that prioritise community-led development and social value.

Question 14: What are your views on the proposal that the chair and members can serve a maximum term of five years and that an individual may be re-appointed as a chair or member only once? Do you believe this is appropriate?

Question 15: Do you have any additional comments on the Food Commission, including the resource implications of the proposals and how these could be minimised?

National Food Strategy

Question 16: Do you agree that there is a need for a national food strategy?

Yes, having a national food strategy will be an important way of joining up the numerous areas of policy that have a significant impact on food, the food sector and wider communities. For the strategy to be effective, it will have to cover the wide-ranging areas (economic development, community-led development, procurement, interventions on poverty, and many more) but with a clear focus and with tangible elements within the strategy. It is essential that this strategy takes into account the expertise within the sector in Wales, and that then, there must be an important role for scrutinising this strategy and resulting interventions.

Question 17: Do you believe the Welsh Government's current strategies relating to 'food' are sufficiently joined up / coherent?

Question 18: Does the draft Bill do enough to ensure that Welsh Ministers take advice and consult on the strategy before it is made. If no, what additional mechanisms would you put in place?

Question 19: Do you think the provisions of the draft Bill relating to reporting on the national food strategy are sufficient? If not, what changes would you like to see?

Question 20: Do you think the provisions of the draft Bill relating to reviewing of the national food strategy are sufficient? If not, what changes would you like to see?

Question 21: Do you have any additional comments on the National Food Strategy, including the resource implications of the proposals and how these could be minimised?

Local Food Plans

Question 22: Do you agree that there is a need for local food plans?

Yes – we believe that embedding a local and community-led development in strategy for the food sector is an important part of developing a resilient and sustainable sector. Several social enterprises and community-led groups operating in the food sector in Wales are locally-focused, and allowing and facilitating them to interact and influence the development of policy that impacts the sector will be crucial to ensuring effective implementation and the objectives of this Bill.

Case studies:

Swperbox CIC is Wales' own meal box delivery company. Swperbox was born to combat the long-term impact of the coronavirus pandemic here in Wales, creating sustainable careers, investing in community food education and supporting a network of Welsh Food Producers to improve food security. They create, manufacture and distribute meal boxes across South and West Wales. They believe in a collaborative approach to tackle some of the economic and environmental challenges ahead.

The Open Food Network is a not-for-profit, co-operative open-source platform enabling new, ethical food and drink supply chains. Food producers can sell online, wholesalers can manage buying groups and supply produce through networks of food hubs and shops. Communities can bring together producers to create a virtual farmers' market, building a resilient local food economy.

Aber Food Surplus is a pioneering not-for-profit social enterprise focused on tackling food waste and delivering meaningful community change. It aims to tackle the root causes of problems and do this in a collaborative, creative and constructive way. It is acting on climate change, and doing it now, where it believes it can make a difference in its local community. Its vision is to facilitate Aberystwyth to become a zero-food waste town and in the process provide empowering opportunities and build local food resilience.

Question 23: Does the draft Bill do enough to ensure that public bodies consult on their local food plans before they are made. If no, what additional mechanisms would you put in place?

Question 24: Do you think the provisions of the draft Bill relating to reporting on the local food plans are sufficient? If not, what changes would you like to see?

Question 25: Do you think the provisions of the draft Bill relating to reviewing of the local food plans are sufficient? If not, what changes would you like to see?

Question 26: Do you have any additional comments on local food plans, including the resource implications of the proposals and how these could be minimised?

General Provisions

Question 27: Do you agree with the list of persons defined as being a 'public body' for the purpose of this Bill?

Question 28: Do you have any views on the process for making regulations set out in the Bill?

Question 29: Do you have any views on the proposed commencement date for the Act?

General Views

Please provide any additional information relevant to the draft Bill.
