HM Government

# UK National Pathway
UN Food Systems Summit 2021

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# Contents

# UK National Pathway

Transformation of the global food system is one of the most significant challenges facing the global community in coming decades. This National Pathway details the UK's ambitious direction and commitments to changing the food system through stakeholder engagement; development of strategies for UK food system transformation; agricultural transition to nature-positive production; promotion of healthy diets and sustainable consumption patterns; agricultural innovation; tackling food insecurity globally; and improving resilience within the food chain.

The UK is dedicated to the development of a sustainable and resilient food system to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The UK will continue to embed the SDGs across Government to address the challenges of a growing population; social inequality; the tensions between sustainability, productivity, and growth; climate change; and unsustainable food production and consumption patterns. We recognise that action is required at country, regional and local levels. The UK Government considers stakeholder dialogues to be an integral part of its ongoing activities and will continue to ensure it seeks contributions from different perspectives within the food system and civil society.

Domestically the UK is committed to instigating food system change across all four nations from farm to fork. The global nature of the food system means that ambitions within the UK's National Pathway require working internationally. Global collaboration is therefore critical to ensure meaningful, long-term progress on food system transformation. The UK will continue to work closely to build global coalitions to take action, including through the United Nations (UN), G7 and G20 partnerships. In 2021, as presidents of the G7 and the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) the UK has proceeded to drive progress on food, climate and biodiversity goals, brokering commitments between countries to do more on these critical areas in a context of worsening food security, exacerbated by conflict, climate and Covid-19 impact.

## Stakeholder Engagement and Strategies for UK Food System Transformation

The UK is developing comprehensive strategies to support a more sustainable, resilient, and affordable food system that enables people to live healthy lives and protects animal health, welfare and the environment. These strategies will be shaped by comprehensive

review of the food system and diverse stakeholder engagements to identify challenges, opportunities, best practise and define collective action. The UK regularly engages with stakeholders on policy developments and key issues through consultations and regular stakeholder forums.

The UK's Member State Dialogues[1] present a rich national discussion on the future of the food system, providing valuable insight into stakeholder views on the challenges and solutions to achieve sustainability goals. The dialogues included stakeholders such as the food and drink industry, community leaders, campaigners, academic researchers, young people and the public, as well as consultations by UK nations on the strategies for UK food system transformation.

## Strategies for UK Food System Transformation

Food policy in the UK is devolved.[2] All UK nations recognise the need for a substantial transformation of the current food system in order to meet the SDGs and increase the sustainability and resilience of the agriculture, fishing and food and drink sectors, whilst reducing their environmental impacts.

The forthcoming Government Food Strategy White Paper will set out Government ambition and direction for food system transformation in England, including opportunities to make the food system healthier, more sustainable, more resilient, and more accessible for those across the UK. This will consider the evidence and recommendations in the independent review and build on work already underway including agricultural transition and environmental protection, as well as docking into wider UK Government priorities including Build Back Greener, Levelling Up, Net Zero Emissions Strategy,[3] 25 Year Environment Plan and the Obesity Strategy. This will help to support 'good growth' in the food sector which will deliver health and environment outcomes, maintain a resilient food supply and empower businesses across the UK.

The Scottish Government has set out its aspiration to become a Good Food Nation. This involves a programme of measures under the Good Food Nation policy, such as supporting the provision of more locally sourced, healthy food in schools; providing grants and support to community growing and allotments; and setting food waste reduction targets. A Local Food Strategy consultation has now been launched to further shape and develop the opportunities of locally produced and consumed food. Additionally, the Scottish Government has committed to bringing forward a Good Food Nation Bill, placing duties upon Ministers and certain public bodies to publish good food nation plans, setting out how policies would be pursued and the metrics for assessment.

In 2019 the Welsh Government and Food and Drink Industry Board consulted on their strategic vision for 'Developing Wales' food and drink sector'. This focused on improved productivity, promoting sustainable business practice, and stimulating resilience

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[1] UK National Food Systems Dialogue - Food Systems Summit Dialogues, UK National Food Systems Dialogue - Youth - Food Systems Summit Dialogues

[2] Devolution is the decentralisation of government power. In the UK this means that some powers have been transferred from the UK Government to the Scottish Parliament, the National Assembly for Wales, the Northern Ireland Assembly and to Local Authorities.

[3] The Net Zero Emissions Strategy is due to be published in advance of COP26.

throughout the supply chain. It also considered how the provision of fair work would benefit people and society and addressed public health and poverty.

Northern Ireland plans to hold a public consultation on a Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework. The Framework proposes a new strategic food systems approach for Northern Ireland, and sets out a long-term vision, high level principles and areas for strategic focus. The vision is a transformed food system that protects natural resources for future generations, is economically and environmentally sustainable and provides safe, nourishing, accessible food to people, who make informed healthy choices. The key to an effective Northern Ireland Food Strategy Framework is a whole of government approach which will align policies that affect the food system.

# Sustainable Food Supply Chains and Nature-Positive Production

**Agricultural Transition and Sustainable Farming Practices**

Improving agricultural productivity whilst also enhancing the natural environment can help us address challenges in the food system and tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. The UK's Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy contains strong commitments to promote regenerative agriculture for improved food systems and biodiversity.

Environmentally sustainable farming is fundamental to the UK's new approach to the agricultural system[4]. Agriculture is a devolved policy area which means that since leaving the EU, each nation can shape new domestic agricultural policies to better suit their farmers and landscapes. In England, financial assistance schemes will help farmers prepare and invest in ways to improve their productivity and manage the environment sustainably. These schemes provide a powerful vehicle for achieving the goals of the 25-Year Environment Plan and our net zero commitments. Over a seven-year agricultural transition period which began in January 2021, we will gradually reduce and then stop direct payments and repurpose them to reward farmers and landowners for maintaining and enhancing the natural environment, reducing carbon emissions, improving the health and welfare of farmed animals, creating nature recovery habitats, and making landscape-scale environmental changes.

The UK recognises the benefits that organic and other environmentally friendly farming techniques, such as no/low-till farming, agroecology, and agroforestry can provide towards sustainable food production. Our goal is to increase environmentally friendly practices while driving consumer demand for food products produced this way. We are focussed on

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[4] In 2020, 'The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024' was published, setting out the changes to English agriculture policy. Agriculture in the UK is a devolved policy area, therefore each administration is responsible for developing its new agricultural policies. The Welsh Government will introduce an Agriculture Bill to create a new system of farm support which will maximise the protective power of nature through farming. The Scottish Government is currently holding a consultation on agricultural transition which was launched in August 2021. The Northern Ireland Executive published The Future Agricultural Framework in August 2021 which sets out an agricultural policy framework for Northern Ireland. A public consultation on policy proposals will commence in autumn 2021.

streamlining processes and reducing bureaucracy with regards to the UK organic regulations.

Improving agricultural input management is required to reduce the environmental impacts of agricultural practices. The UK Government is helping to fund work to research, develop and promote means to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides and maximise the use of lower risk methods, including improving indicators, increasing the use of nature-based, low-toxicity solutions and precision technologies, with the potential to enhance biodiversity.

In order to meet the net zero carbon emissions target by 2050 and enhance soil health, there is a need to recycle nutrients more in the future. We are modernising our domestic policy for fertiliser regulation which will be informed by expert analysis of existing policy, alongside up-to-date technical and scientific evidence on fertilisers and nutrient management. We are engaging with sector sounding boards, including industry representatives and other key stakeholders, to ensure its recommendations have practical merit.

## Sustainable Fisheries Management

The UK remains fully committed to sustainable fishing and the principle of Maximum Sustainable Yield through the fisheries objectives in the Fisheries Act 2020. The UK Government will consult on a Joint Fisheries Statement (expected autumn 2021), which will set out the steps we will take to deliver against these objectives. The Act includes a new power to develop bespoke Fisheries Management Plans which will set out in detail the management measures needed to recover and maintain fish stocks at sustainable levels and minimise the impact of fishing activity on the environment.

## Protection of Global Natural Resources

We are dedicated to ensuring sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. The UK has committed to spend £3 billion of our international climate finance on nature and biodiversity over five years. This will deliver transformational change in protecting biodiversity-rich land and ocean, shifting to sustainable food production and supply, and supporting the livelihoods of the world's poorest. We are committed to reducing the climate and environment effects of key UK supply chains. As part of the UK's 25 Year Environment Plan, we asked an independent taskforce - the Global Resource Initiative - to identify actions the UK can take to leave a lighter footprint on the global environment, building on global and domestic initiatives[5]. We are already responding to their headline recommendation and are introducing world-leading due-diligence legislation to tackle illegal deforestation in UK supply chains. This is one part of a wider package of measures to improve the sustainability of our supply chains and will contribute to global efforts to protect forests and other ecosystems.

As COP26 President, the UK has launched the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) Dialogue alongside Indonesia as co-chairs. The FACT Dialogue has convened over 25 major producers and consumers of internationally traded agricultural commodities to agree principles for collaboration and develop a shared roadmap of actions to protect

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[5] Global Resource Initiative Taskforce: Final recommendations report 2020 and Global Resource Initiative taskforce: government response

forests and other vital ecosystems while promoting development and trade. The roadmap of actions will be announced at COP26.

The UK played a key role in negotiating the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#), endorsed by Heads of State and Governments from 88 countries representing 37% of global GDP and more than 2 billion people, and the [G7 Nature Compact](#) to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and put the natural world on a road to recovery by 2030. At the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, the UK launched the Just Rural Transition (JRT) to help get policy and investment behind the critical shift towards more productive, profitable, and sustainable land-use around the world.

Ahead of COP26, the UK are building a global alliance of stakeholders through convening a Policy Dialogue in collaboration with the JRT and the World Bank. We will be asking participating countries to endorse a Policy Action Agenda, setting out actions to accelerate transition to sustainable agriculture, for example through investing in innovation, or reforming harmful subsidies to instead promote low emission technologies and approaches to food production.

## Transformation through Research and Innovation

Innovation and technology are key to boosting productivity while, at the same time, enhancing the environment, improving resilience, and feeding a growing global population. The UK has renowned strengths in bioscience, cutting-edge technology, and research with world leading universities and institutes and pioneering farmers. Trade in agricultural technology is a critical element to tackling these challenges, with innovation and technology at the centre of solutions for more sustainable and productive farming practices using less inputs and contribution of agriculture to provide fuels, fibres and pharmaceutical products for the circular economy. We are committed to collaborative bilateral partnerships through our trade policy agreements, and proportionate, science-based regulation that protects people, animals and the environment.

Research and innovation on food security is coordinated across government through the [Global Food Security](#) Programme, which brings together UK public sector funders to coordinate activity, maximise synergies, and ensure engagement with a wide variety of disciplines and stakeholders.

The UK Government will continue to build upon significant previous funding for agri-tech innovation programmes both domestically and internationally, which are supporting ground-breaking research and development (R&D) to produce high quality food, increase productivity and help the sector move towards net zero emission productive farming systems by 2040. Current domestic schemes include the £90 million 'Transforming Food Production' R&D Challenge Fund which is supporting new ways to produce food that reduce emissions, pollution, and contributes to feeding a growing world population. The recently funded £14.5 million Farming Innovation Pathways competition is aimed at developing new and existing farm-focused innovations and will be soon followed by the launch of the wider 'Farming Innovation Programme', which will unlock innovation and pull-through R&D to deliver industry and farmer-led solutions to productivity and sustainability challenges faced by England's farmers and growers.

We have also invested £47.5 million into an interdisciplinary research programme '[Transforming the UK Food System for Healthy People and a Healthy Environment](#)'. This

aims to fundamentally transform the UK food system by placing healthy people and a healthy natural environment at its centre. Addressing questions around what we should eat, produce and manufacture and what we should import, considering the complex interactions between health, environment and socioeconomic factors. By co-designing research across disciplines and stakeholders, and joining up healthy and accessible consumption with sustainable food production and supply, this programme will deliver coherent evidence to enable concerted action from policy, business and civil society.

These investments will enable more farmers and agri-food businesses to become involved in agricultural R&D, maximising the impact of R&D investment in innovation by attracting industry funding, supporting the delivery of farmer-led solutions to market and improving the take up of novel approaches on farms.

The UK Government has also invested over £120 million into four Agri-Tech Centres alongside £42 million co-investment from partners to work with industry and academia to develop the new practical solutions the sector needs. This has resulted in 58 new state-of-the-art world-class applied research facilities located across the UK and internationally in New Zealand, China and Paraguay. These are placing the UK at the forefront of sustainable agriculture and food production.

Innovative technologies are a powerful tool and there have been substantial advances in recent years across many areas, including genetic technologies. The UK Government welcomes research and innovation on this topic which could help address food security challenges, climate change and biodiversity loss and contribute to the SDGs. To inform policy development in this area, we have recently consulted publicly on the regulation of genetic technologies[6]. The Government response to the consultation will be published in due course.

## Supporting Global Food Security and Strengthening Resilience

**Global Food Security**

The UK is at the forefront of the global fight against hunger and food insecurity. We are deeply concerned about the rising levels of food insecurity and recognise that globally, nearly 1 billion people do not have enough to eat and 43% of the world's population are unable to access healthy diets. The UK Aid Strategy commits us to the SDGs, including Goal 2 on Zero Hunger. The UK plays a leading role in global humanitarian response, including through its Call to Action, where the UK is combining funding with our diplomatic strength and world-leading aid and expertise to protect people across the world from famine. The Foreign Secretary has also appointed the first UK Special Envoy for Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Affairs. This has led to this year's G7 Famine Prevention Compact. The Compact commits us to work with our partners internationally to support shock-responsive and social protection systems in more of the most vulnerable and conflict-affected countries and enhance support to existing systems, including strengthening the linkages with humanitarian assistance and national systems.

We also prioritise longer-term responses to tackling chronic hunger and supporting food security by transforming agriculture, including scaled-up support that delivers strong

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[6] Genetic technologies consultation

impacts, particularly on nutrition. Our agriculture programmes work towards food security, alongside objectives of increasing income/growth and market access, climate and environmental outcomes and women's economic empowerment, as set out in the Conceptual Framework on Agriculture.

**Domestic Food Security**

A secure food and farming industry is an important component in a prosperous economy that works for all. The UK has a high degree of food security, built on robust supply chains from various countries, in addition to strong domestic production that accounts for 55% of UK consumption. The capability, levers, and expertise to respond to disruption lie with industry. The response to Covid-19 has demonstrated the strong resilience of the UK food industry. Our experience in supporting and enabling an industry-led response has been hugely informative to the Government's planning for further disruption to food supply.

The UK Government will continue to carry out extensive engagement to support industry in preparedness for, and response to, potential food supply chain disruptions, as well as coordinating a joined-up approach to public communications and messaging with industry, based on learning from the initial Covid-19 response earlier last year. The effectiveness of this joint industry and government approach helped to ensure resilient food supply chains during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UK Food Security Report will be published before the Houses of Parliament December 2021 recess. The report will contain a comprehensive analysis of up-to-date evidence relating to food security issues currently facing the UK, including global supply chains, UK food production, supply chain resilience, household food security and food safety.

## Supporting Sustainable Growth and Shifting to Sustainable Consumption Patterns

Green growth can help create new markets that support a sustainable economy, creating attractive and fair work for people and enable UK businesses to grow and compete globally.

The UK Government is committed to supporting sustainable economic and productivity growth across our high-quality British food and drink producers, of which 97.6% are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or businesses. We have ongoing dialogue with industry through the Food & Drink Sector Council, which includes SME representation, and undertake regular engagement with SMEs across the UK. Through this engagement, businesses can feed into food and drink policy development and receive regular updates and guidance from Government. Given the global nature of food systems, the UK Government is also in regular dialogue with leading food and agriculture multinationals to promote responsible business practices and benchmarking of global supply chains to improve social outcomes, including climate resilience, for producers and consumers internationally.

The UK wants the public sector to lead by example by supporting local food, farmers and SMEs, promoting high quality production standards and sustainable produce. Existing

public sector guidance already encourages procurers to consider sustainability and UK production standards in food and catering contracts. The UK Government will be consulting in early 2022 on proposals to update the Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services and accompanying guidance. These proposals will look to enhance the emphasis on local sourcing of seasonal, sustainable produce. The UK Government's Green Paper: Transforming public procurement sets out wider proposals for the future approach to public procurement in the UK.

The UK Government encourages efforts from all parts of the food chain to promote and source British products. We work closely with industry and trade associations to engage with and support initiatives that help to increase consumption of locally produced, seasonal and sustainable food. Additionally, we have worked in partnership with Seafish on the 'Sea for Yourself' consumer facing campaign to inspire the UK to eat more locally caught fish and shellfish from UK waters.

The UK Government recognises the importance of empowering consumers by providing them with the information required to make healthy food choices and support sustainable food systems. We are committed to building on our safe and informative food labelling, to protect consumer interests, facilitate international trade, and ensure that consumers can have confidence in the food that they buy. Non-governmental groups and assurance schemes are working on efforts to calculate and deliver environmental information to consumers through eco-labelling schemes, in order to support informed purchasing decisions. We are keen to work with industry to help them reduce their environmental impacts and provide this information clearly to consumers in an efficient manner, without creating unnecessary burdens, costs or time-lags. Additionally, the UK Government will be considering the opportunity to review aspects of food labelling in the forthcoming Food Strategy White Paper to ensure it continues to provide consumers with the information needed to make informed choices.

**Food Loss and Waste Prevention**

The UK is fully committed to meeting the SDG target 12.3 of halving global food waste by 2030. We are taking action to tackle food waste across the supply chain and in households. The recent UK G7 Presidency included commitments which focused on the key components necessary to reduce household food waste. These are strong commitments, and the UK is pleased to be able to lead the way in promoting action to tackle food waste. The UK government supports the Courtauld Commitment 2030; a voluntary agreement with industry to support action in the supply chain to reduce carbon emissions, water use and food waste. The Food Waste Reduction Roadmap has been developed by government, WRAP[7] and IGD[8] to map out the UK's path to meeting SDG 12.3. In England, we have further committed to consult on introducing mandatory reporting of food waste by certain businesses of an appropriate size. Through WRAP, we support a range of campaigns to help householders waste less including campaigns such as 'Love Food Hate Waste' and 'Food Waste Action Week' to increase the awareness of food waste as a solution to tackling climate change.

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[7] Waste and Resource Action Programme is a not-for-profit company working to promote and encourage sustainable resource use through product design, waste minimisation, re-use, recycling and repurposing of waste materials.

[8] Institute of Grocery Distribution.

# Ensuring Access to Safe, Nutritious Food

## Promoting Healthy and Balanced Diets

We are committed to helping everyone achieve and maintain a healthier diet and weight through making healthier choices easier and fairer, and giving people the right information to make these healthier choices. We recognise the need to have a diet that includes more fibre, fruit and vegetables and fewer foods and drinks high in saturated fat, sugar and salt.

UK nations have laid out strategies[9] detailing the actions that governments will take to tackle obesity and help adults and children to live healthier lives. These include shifting the food and drink environment towards healthier options; creating active environments; developing learning environments to be healthy, active and to promote emotional wellbeing; ensuring that children get the best start in life; tackling barriers to making healthy choices; reducing health inequalities and delivering equitable support services for people to become or maintain a healthy weight.

The UK has dedicated funding to support people to achieve and maintain a healthier weight through initiatives such as scaling up weight management services for adults; piloting services for children; making conversations about weight with doctors the norm; supporting people at risk of type 2 diabetes and influencing healthier behaviours. The UK's national food model, the Eatwell Guide, provides a visual representation of recommendations on a healthy, balanced and more sustainable diet, and is actively promoted through a range of government channels. Current national social marketing campaigns promoting healthy balanced diets and exercise will continue beyond the end of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The UK Government are introducing new legislation that includes the introduction of a 9pm TV watershed restriction on the advertising and promotion of products high in saturated fat, salt and sugar. During 2022 we are also introducing new calorie labelling in large out-of-home food businesses such as restaurants, cafes and takeaways in England. The Welsh Government will be bringing forward legislation on price promotions and calorie labelling, whilst the Scottish Government will introduce a Public Health Bill which includes restrictions on unhealthier food and drink promotions.

The voluntary reduction and reformulation programme challenges all sectors of the food industry to reduce sugar, salt and calories in a range of everyday food and drink. Transparent monitoring of industry progress, and a continued programme of industry and wider stakeholder engagement, continues with further reporting by government expected in 2021 and 2022.

The UK Government is committed to working with industry to make alcohol-free and low-alcohol products more available by 2025, to help achieve public health goals of reducing UK alcohol consumption. This ambition is set out in the 'Advancing our health: prevention

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[9] England: Tackling obesity: government strategy. The Food Strategy White Paper will direct future policies to promote healthy eating.; Wales: 'Healthy Weight Healthy Wales' Strategy and upcoming delivery plan for 2022-2024 will be published in early 2022, supported by a package of £13 million over two years.; Scotland: A healthier future: Scotland's diet and healthy weight delivery plan.; Northern Ireland: 'Fitter Future for All' framework

in the 2020s' consultation document. We are due to consult on the descriptors used in the UK for low alcohol drinks, including use of the term 'alcohol free'. The intention is to simplify terms so that adults can make informed choices about the alcoholic content of the drinks they purchase. We are seeking to make changes that support greater innovation and availability of alcohol-free and low-strength products, and therefore stimulate greater substitution of low and no drinks by consumers in place of regular strength alcohol.

## Healthy Diet during Childhood

The UK Government encourages all schools to promote healthy eating and provide healthy, tasty and nutritious food and drink to support childhood development. There are numerous school food standards[10] and initiatives in place across the four nations to improve children's health and wellbeing through improved nutrition and by tackling health inequalities.

Schemes are in place to provide eligible children with free school meals and milk each day. [11] In England the school fruit and vegetable scheme provides children with fresh fruit and vegetables, whilst Wales provides a free breakfast scheme in primary schools. Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have taken greater steps than ever to ensure everyone has access to food such as temporarily extending free school meals eligibility to include some groups who have no recourse to public funds until a decision on long-term eligibility is made. School Holiday Programmes or School Holiday Food Grants[12] are in place to provide heathy meals, enriching activities and free childcare places to children from low-income families during the school holidays. These provides wide-ranging benefits to their heath, wellbeing and learning as well as supporting the recovery from the impact of Covid-19.

Additionally, through the Healthy Food Schemes, the Government provides a nutritional safety net to those who need it the most, at an important stage of development. Healthy Start helps to encourage a healthy diet for pregnant women, babies and young children from low-income households. [13]

## Ensuring Food is Safe

The UK is committed to protecting public health from risks which may arise from food, by ensuring that food is safe for consumers and that consumers can have confidence in the food that they buy. The UK has world-leading standards of food safety and quality, backed by a rigorous legislative framework.

We actively engage internationally through Codex Alimentarius to develop and implement robust, science-based food standards and offer our extensive technical expertise working with our global allies to protect consumer health and promote fair practices in international

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[10] A public consultation on proposed updates to Nutritional Standards for School Food in Northern Ireland took place in 2020.
[11] Free school meals for all infant children in England and Scotland and Income based benefit eligibility for free school meal across all four nations for all school age children.
[12] Wales: School Holiday Enrichment Programme; England: Holiday Activities and Food Programme; Northern Ireland: School Holiday Food Grant Scheme.
[13] In Scotland, the Healthy Start voucher scheme has been replaced by Best Start Foods

trade. Our international engagement, including our Official Development Assistance portfolio, emphasises improved food safety wherever possible.

Food supply chain risks are global and interconnected[14] and the importance of national food control systems to food security should not be underestimated. Whilst the UK already boasts a sophisticated national food control system it continues to look at ways to enhance and strengthen its system through a programme of regulatory modernisation whilst also working through the appropriate international standards setting bodies[15] to shape agendas and share best practices.

The UK Government is pioneering the use of new tools to support its regulatory modernisation programme, including the use of open data and machine learning to strengthen its strategic surveillance capabilities. This system is used to predict internal and external risks to the UK's food system before they happen complementing the effectiveness of our import controls and incident management system and helps further protect consumers. The UK has also leveraged the concept of "earned recognition" since 2014 to strengthen its national food control system. The approach uses robust voluntary third-party assurance (vTPA) audit data from schemes such as Red Tractor[16] to allow authorities to risk profile food businesses more accurately and better target their control activities. We have led work in Codex Alimentarius to develop and finalise international guidelines on the use of voluntary third-party assurance so that other countries can replicate the approach and strengthen their control systems. Countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia are now implementing the approach.

The UK is looking at the lessons learnt during the pandemic to ensure its national food control system is more resilient and capable of withstanding future shocks. Work is underway to determine how best to integrate the use of remote audit tools into the UK's control system to assure regulatory compliance outcomes without the need for physical inspection. The UK will ensure it shares its extensive expertise across a range of food system related work that is now underway in Codex Alimentarius, including but not limited to, minimising the risk of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) along the entire food chain, the use of remote audit tools, food fraud, e-commerce, and traceability, all of which will play a key role in the prevention of human illness and help deliver the SDGs.

## One Health Approach

The UK recognises the complex interdependencies between the health of people, animals, plants and the natural environment, and the need to address threats globally and holistically through a One Health approach. The Prime Minister is strongly committed to this, as evidenced in his Five Point Plan at UNGA and speech to the Global Health Summit, including where he called for a global network of disease surveillance centres. The UK has contributed to the growth of the One Health agenda, including through the G7 Presidency, achieving commitments on improved coordination, One Health intelligence

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[14] The WHO estimates that as many as 600 million, fall ill after consuming contaminated food. Of these, 420,000 people die, including 125 000 children under the age of 5 years (WHO estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases: foodborne disease burden epidemiology reference group 2007-2015)
[15] Codex Alimentarium, International Plant Protection Convention, World Organisation for Animal Health.
[16] Red Tractor is a British food chain assurance scheme that certifies food has been responsibly sourced, safely produced and comes from crops and animals that have been well-cared for.

and AMR. We have established an International Zoonoses Community of Experts, a One Health Intelligence Scoping Study with the Tripartite, and held productive meetings on managing wildlife-related threats with G7 Chief Veterinary Officers and officials.

The UK's AMR 5-year National Action Plan seeks to understand and monitor the development of AMR through a One Health approach and using that evidence base to form policy. The UK is actively working on the integration of AMR surveillance across the UK nations[17] to ensure impactful interventions. Additionally, the UK works to encourage best practise for antibiotic use through international collaboration with global partners to develop guidelines and risk management advice on reducing the presence of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms and antimicrobial resistance genes in food, feed and in the wider environment.

## Conclusion

The UK will continue to develop its ambitions, priorities and actions for transformation of the food system beyond those laid out within this National Pathway. We are committed to developing a more sustainable and resilient food system supported by multi-stakeholder engagement, international collaboration and global sharing of best practice.

**Victoria Prentis MP**
**Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

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[17] One Health Integrated Surveillance group to develop a strategy for the integration of AMR surveillance across the different sectors (animals, humans, food, and the environment) and cross-government Pathogen Surveillance in Agriculture, Food and the Environment Programme.

**OGL**