

# TUKFS Annual Meeting Workshop 3.1

## Driving Food System Transformation: Exploring Legislative Levers for Change

Tracey Duncombe, Kelly Parsons, Hannah Brinsden, and Kyriaki Nougia

Tuesday 24 March 2026



# Objectives

1. Discuss the role of legislation in enabling food system transformation.
2. Identify legislative opportunities to strengthen research and policy impact across TUKFS projects.
3. Co-create actionable recommendations for more effective legislative frameworks.

# Agenda

1. Introduction and context setting from our panel (30 minutes)
  - i. Kyriaki Noussia - Insights from regulatory tools research
  - ii. Kelly Parsons – Legislation across the food system
  - iii. Hannah Brinsden - A civil society perspective on a food bill
2. Group Discussion (40 minutes)
3. Synthesis and Action Planning (15 minutes)
4. Next steps (5 minutes)

## **TUKFS 2026 – Workshop 3.1**

# **Driving Food System Transformation: Exploring Legislative Levers for Change**

## **Insights from Regulatory Tools Research**

**Dr. Kyriaki Noussia (Associate  
Professor in Law) , University of  
Reading, School of Law,  
[k.p.noussia@reading.ac.uk](mailto:k.p.noussia@reading.ac.uk)**

**Tuesday 24th March 2026, 11.00–12.30 pm**



## **Climate Change and the Food System**

- Agricultural emissions
- Land use and biodiversity impacts
- Supply chain emissions



## **Insights from Regulatory Tools ( & Research)**

- Command-and-control regulation
- Economic instruments
- Trade measures



## **Climate Opportunities Through Legislation**

- Integrating agriculture into climate policy
- Supporting sustainable production
- Incentivising low-carbon supply chains



# Climate Governance Challenges – Food System Governance and Arctic Climate Governance: Parallels

## Climate Governance Challenges

- Fragmented policy frameworks
- Trade-offs between economic and environmental goals
- International trade pressures

## Food System Governance and Arctic Climate Governance: Parallels

- Environmental risks
- Economic incentives
- Fragmented regulation



## **Legislative Opportunities**

- Identifying regulatory gaps
- Supporting evidence-based lawmaking
- Linking climate, trade and food policy



## **Key Message**

Food system transformation requires:

- stronger legislative frameworks
- integration of climate and food policy
- collaboration between research and policymakers



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**Driving Food System Transformation: Exploring Legislative Levers for Change**

**Insights from Regulatory Tools Research**

**THANK YOU !!!**

**Dr. Kyriaki Noussia (Associate  
Professor in Law) , University of  
Reading, School of Law,**  
[k.p.noussia@reading.ac.uk](mailto:k.p.noussia@reading.ac.uk)

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UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Institute of  
Metabolic  
Science



# Legislation across the food system

**Kelly Parsons, Research Associate**  
**IMS Epidemiology**  
**University of Cambridge**



# Types of legislative lever

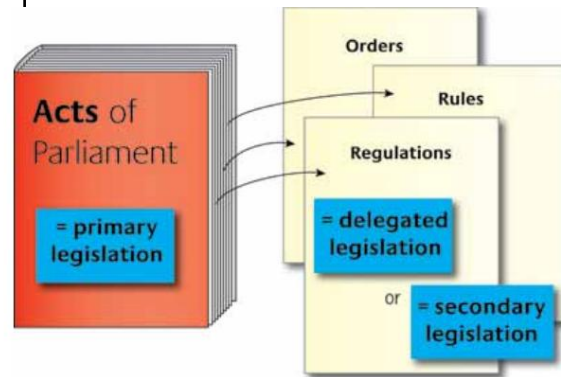
## Primary and Secondary

### Primary Legislation

- Made by Parliament
- Sets out broad principles, powers, or legal frameworks.
- Often incl. provisions allowing ministers or public bodies to make secondary legislation.
- E.g. Food Safety Act 1990

### Secondary Legislation

- Made by ministers/public bodies
- Sets out specific rules and procedures needed to implement Acts
- Includes: Regulations; Orders; Rules; Schemes; Directions; By-laws
- E.g. HFSS Promotion & Placement (England) Regulations 2021 / Amendment 2023 (under Food Safety Act 1990)
- Usually made as 'statutory instruments'



## Substantive and Procedural

- Substantive:** directly influence food system activities and outcomes (e.g. junk food advertising ban)
- Procedural:** influence governance arrangements and policy processes (e.g. requirement to report on food security)

## Existing and New

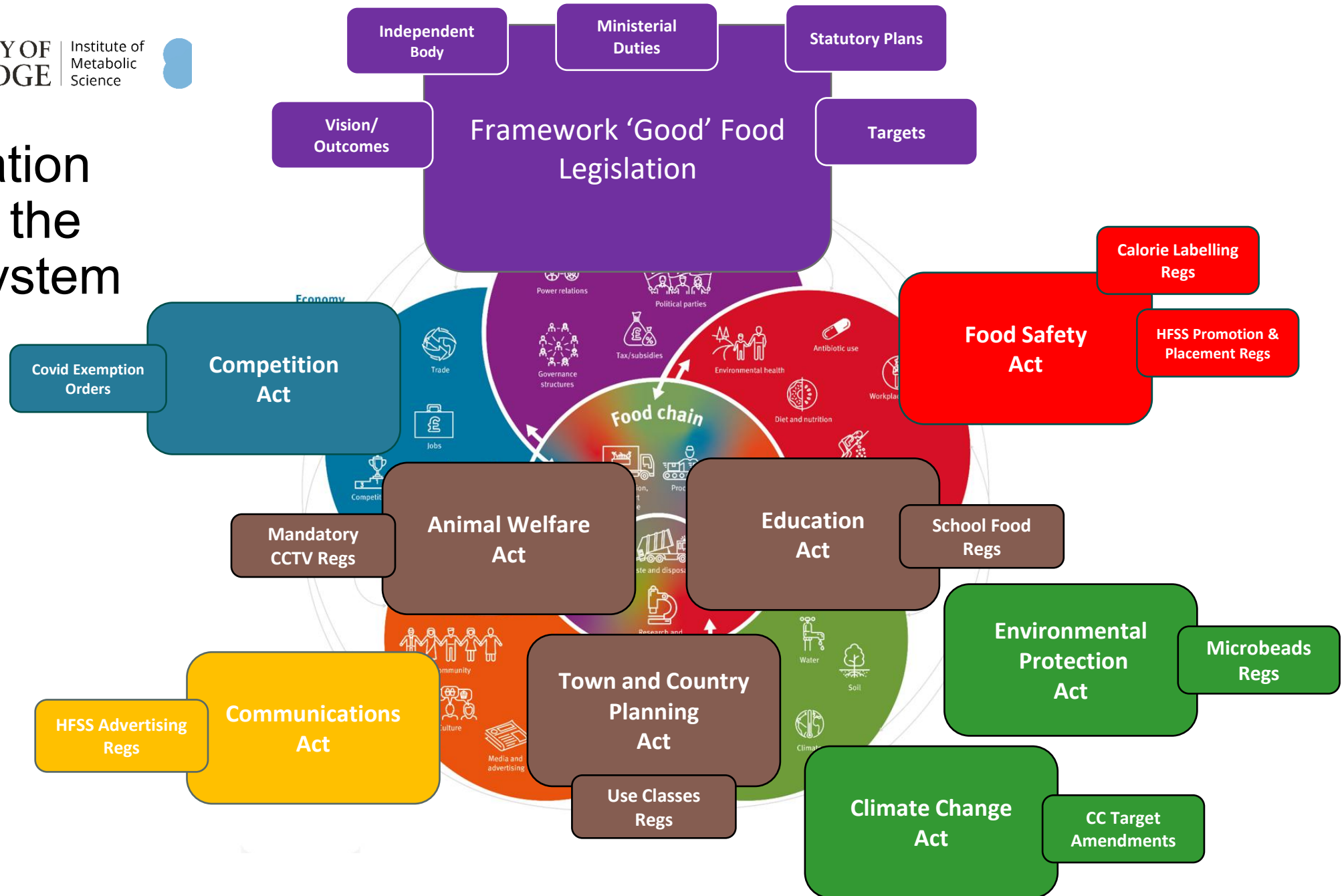
### Existing legislation may require

- Better implementation
- Updating/extending
- Defending/protecting

### New legislation may be required to fill gaps

- Could be existing 'policy' into legislation

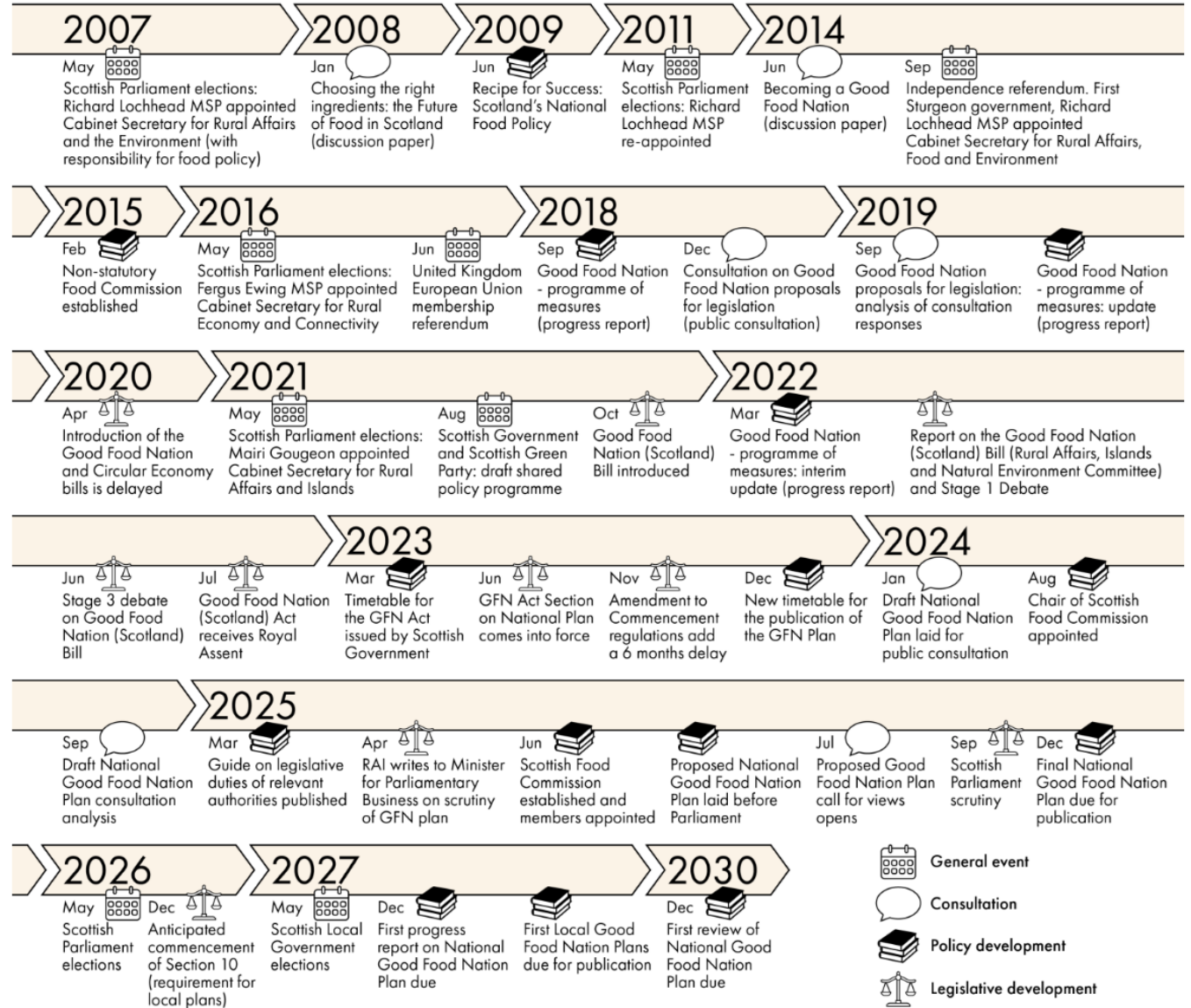
# Legislation across the food system



# Scotland's legislative approach to food systems



## Good Food Nation Timeline





The Food  
Foundation

# A Good Food Bill: A civil society perspective

Dr Hannah Brinsden

Head of Policy and Advocacy, The Food Foundation

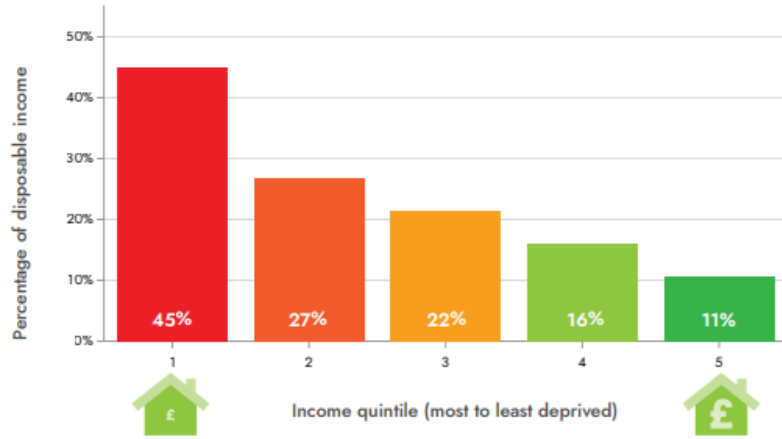
TUKFS conference 2026

[foodfoundation.org.uk](http://foodfoundation.org.uk)

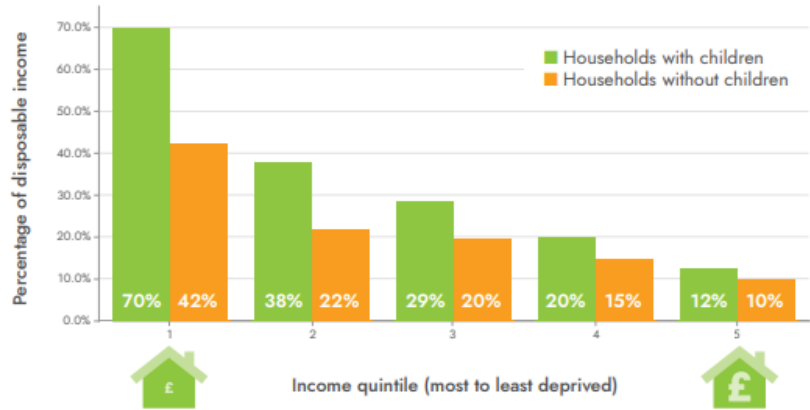
[@Food\\_Foundation](https://twitter.com/Food_Foundation) [@FoodFoundationUK](https://facebook.com/FoodFoundationUK) [thefoodfoundation](https://linkedin.com/company/thefoodfoundation) [@food.foundation](https://instagram.com/food.foundation)

# Healthy diets are unaffordable...

Percentage of disposable income required to afford the Eatwell Guide by income quintile



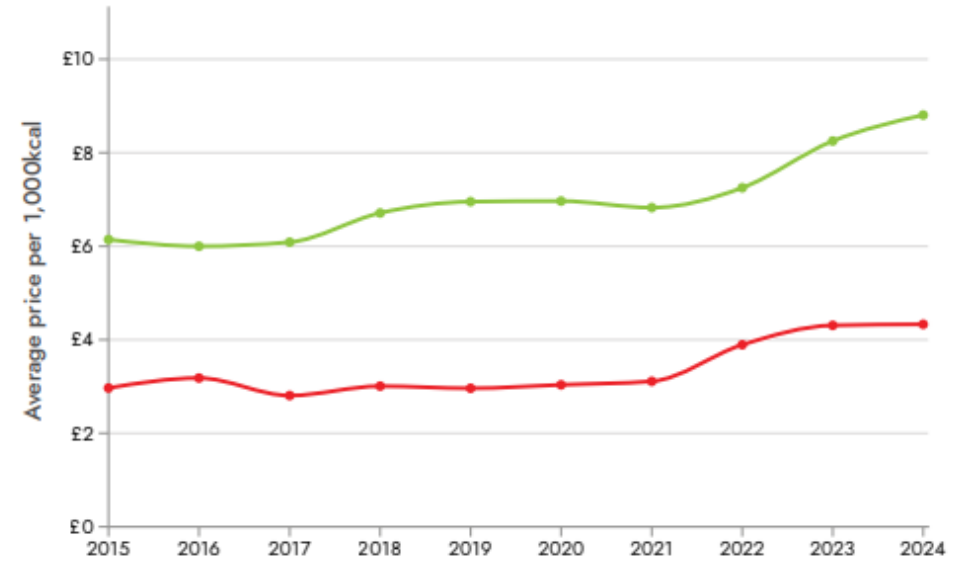
Percentage of disposable income needed to afford the Eatwell Guide for households with and without children



Source: FoodDB, University of Oxford; London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine secondary analysis of the Family Resources Survey 2022-23.

Average price of food and drink by Nutrient Profile Modelling score category

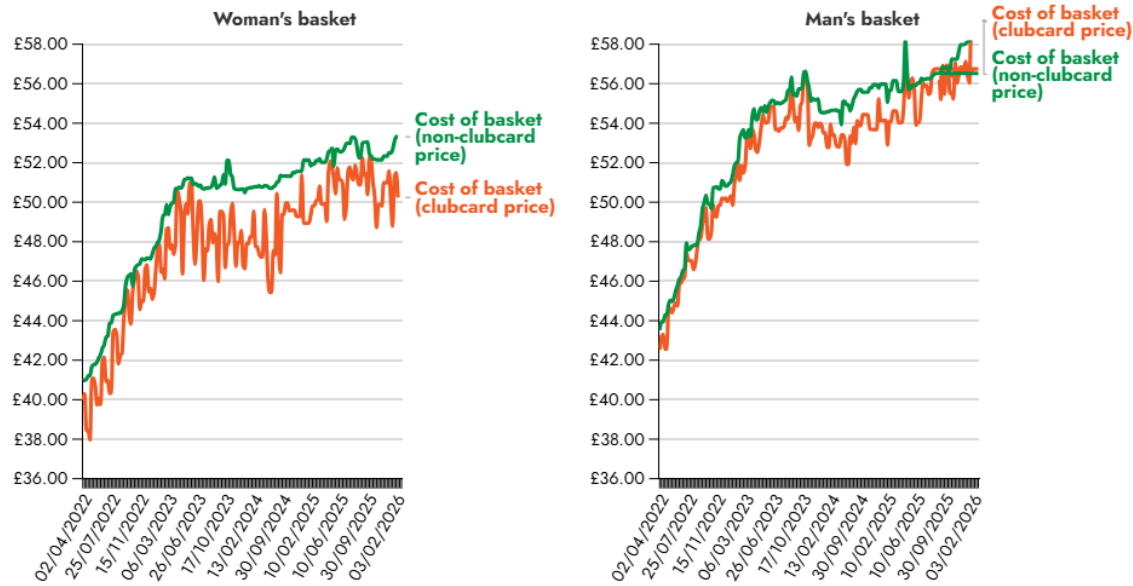
More healthy  
Less healthy



Source: MRC Epidemiology Unit (University of Cambridge) analysis of the Consumer Price Index, ONS

Please note: due to methodological changes, findings are not directly comparable to previous reports.

# Food insecurity and food prices impacted by shocks

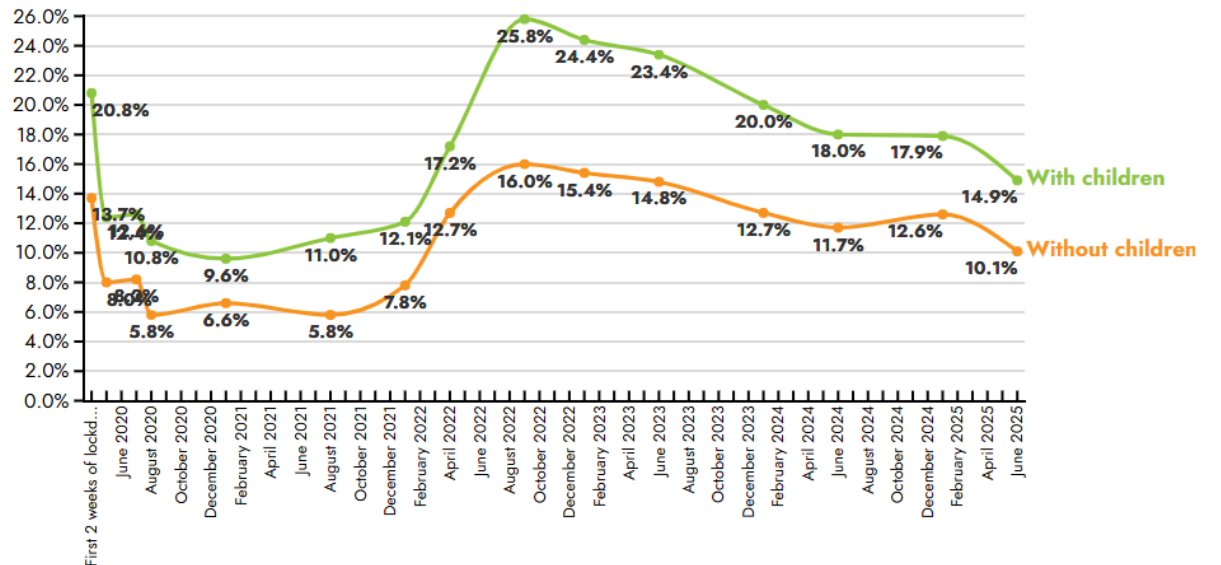


\* does not include multibuy promotions or meal deals  
 The price of the woman's basket (non-clubcard price) has increased by 30.1% and the price of the man's basket (non-clubcard price) has increased by 35.9% since April 2022



14.9% of households with children reported experiencing food insecurity compared with 10.1% of households without children

Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity\*:



\* 1-month recall period



# Key government narratives and concerns related to food

- **Cost of living**
- **Food prices**
- Resilience to shocks (geopolitics and climate)
- Supporting British Farmers
- Local / community food systems
- Economic growth

**How can a food bill address these?**

# What do we want it to achieve?

- Protection for citizens against price shocks in the system
- Policy coherence (between specific policies and departments)
- Better access to healthy, sustainable and affordable food
- Viable models for local/small farmers, SMEs etc
- Government accountability
- Longevity and clarity

# Our food bill proposition

- 1. Legally binding targets** – e.g. for childhood obesity, F&V consumption and growth, food insecurity
- 2. A reference diet** – guides policy development
- 3. Good food action plans** updated every 5 years
- 4. Ministerial duties and cross-governmental working**
- 5. Food included in local authority plans**
- 6. Independent oversight** e.g. by FSA

# Joint statement calling for legislation



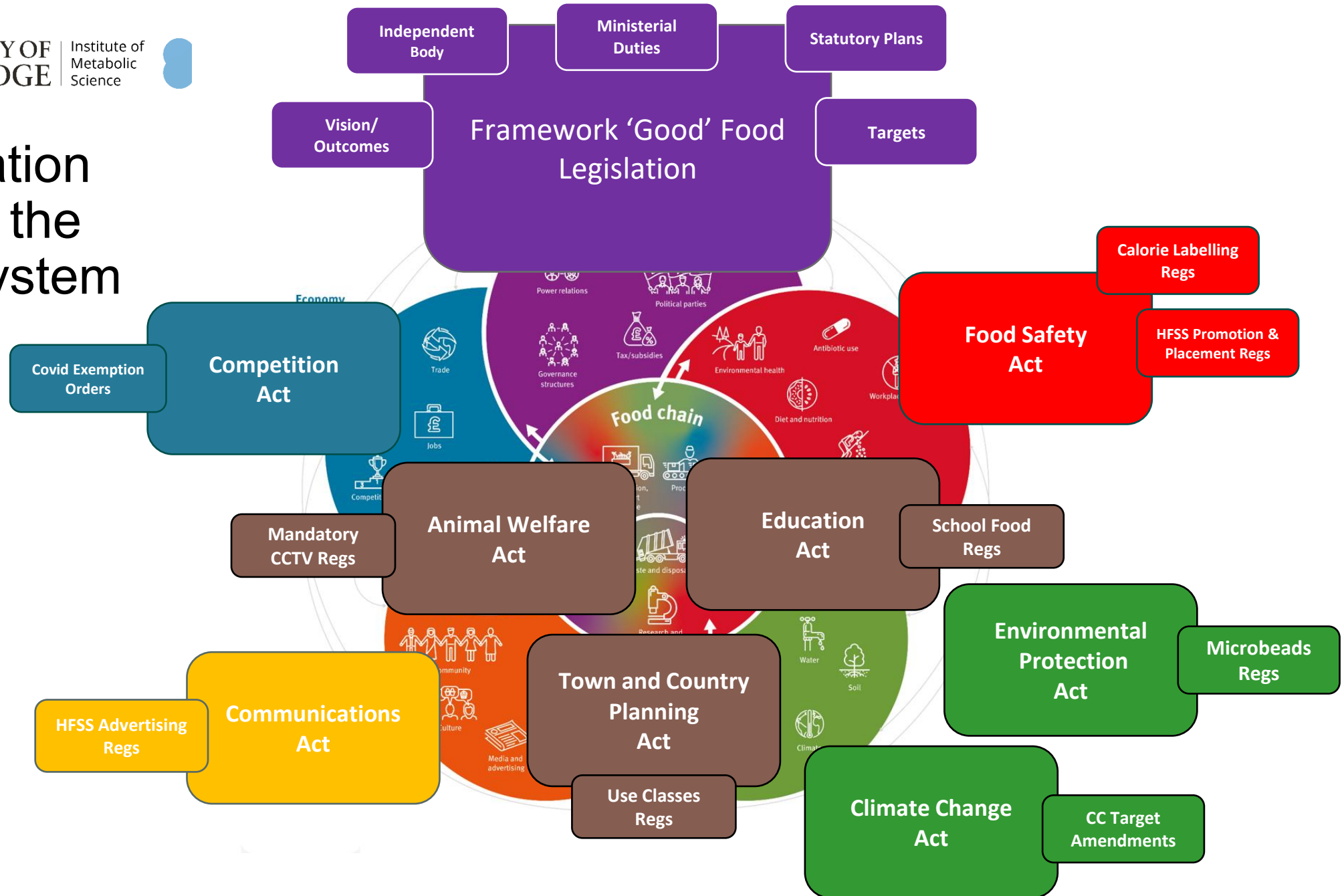
<https://foodfoundation.org.uk/news/100-organisations-unite-calling-landmark-good-food-bill>

# Group Discussion (40 Minutes)

## Questions

1. How could new legislation support your project interventions or area of the food system?
1. How could existing legislation related to your area of research be made more effective?

# Legislation across the food system





# Transforming UK Food Systems Conference, 23-24 March 2026



#TUKFS26

