

POLICY NOTE

THE GOOD FOOD NATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2022 (COMMENCEMENT NO. 1) REGULATIONS 2023

SSI 2023/183 (C. 19)

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 28(2) of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022. The instrument is *laid without procedure*.

This instrument commences section 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 of the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 on 30 June 2023, and sections 3, 7 and 8 on 31 December 2023.

Policy Objectives

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 requires Scottish Ministers to produce a national Good Food Nation Plan, and lay it before the Scottish Parliament. The Act also makes provision for certain things that must be considered during the drafting of the Plan, and for arrangements for reporting on the progress of the Plan, and reviewing its content at set intervals.

The Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022 makes similar provisions requiring relevant authorities to produce plans. The Act also contains provisions establishing a Scottish Food Commission.

Section 28 of the Act allows Scottish Ministers to appoint by regulations a date of their choosing for most of the provisions of the Act to be brought into force. This instrument sets a date for all of the sections of the Act that relate to the preparation and publication of the national Good Food Nation Plan, with the sole exception of Section 6.

Section 6 (Effect of Plan) provides that the Scottish Ministers must, when exercising a specified function or a function falling within a specified description, have regard to the national good food nation plan. The specified functions will be set out in a separate instrument around the time of the final publication of the national plan. As Section 6 deals with content of that instrument, and gives legal effect to the plan, we intend that it should be commenced at the time the final version of the plan is published. We therefore intend to set a commencement date for Section 6 in a further instrument once that date is known.

Scottish Government
Agriculture & Rural Economy Directorate

June 2023