

# Newsletter – October 2025

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## Government

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### **New Defra Permanent Secretary appointed**

Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Paul Kissack has been appointed as the [new Permanent Secretary of Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#). Most recently Paul was the Group Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, before stepping into the new role on 13 October 2025.

## Food safety

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### **FSS consultation on BPA**

Food Standards Scotland (FSS) has launched a consultation seeking stakeholder's views, comments and feedback in relation to the [proposal to ban bisphenol A \(BPA\) and other bisphenols](#) in food contact materials (FCMs) in Scotland. The consultation closes on 16 January 2026. A similar consultation was also published by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for England and Wales (see below).



### **FSA consultation on BPA and related chemicals in FCMs**

On 2 October, the FSA launched a 12-week [consultation on the proposal to ban the use of BPA](#), along with other bisphenols from use in FCMs, such as coatings, varnishes, and certain plastics used in food packaging and processing in England and Wales. The consultation closes on 24 December.



## Updated FSA/FSS Taste Trials guidance for novel foods



The FSA and FSS have updated their [guidance](#) on taste trials involving novel foods or foods produced by novel processes. This document summarises the principles of the [Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes \(ACNFP\)](#) guidance to help companies conduct taste trials for novel foods or foods produced by novel processes, supporting the design of trials for research and development purposes that are safe and ethical.



## Amended Food Law Codes of Practice published

Following consultation carried out earlier this year, and the publication of the [summary of responses](#) on 24 October, the FSA has published new versions of the [Food Law Codes of Practice and Practice Guidance for England, Wales and Northern Ireland \(NI\)](#). Also see summary of changes to the [England](#), [Wales](#) and [NI](#) documents.



## Regulatory Innovation Office 'One Year On' report

Regulatory Innovation Office

The Regulatory Innovation Office (RIO) has published a new report titled '[One Year On](#)', outlining its work in the first year. Amongst others, the report takes an in-depth look at the RIO's first four priority sectors, which includes Engineering Biology, and the work carried out by the FSA on novel foods. The report states that the RIO will continue to work closely with the Treasury, the Department of Business and Trade (DBT) and other government departments, using learnings from the priority areas of the economy to identify the changes needed to embed a pro-innovation regulatory system in the UK.



## 2023 MANCP annual report

Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra has published the [2023 report of the Multi-Annual National Control Plan \(MANCP\)](#) on official controls performed in Great Britain (GB). The MANCP annual reports provide official control data and activities for GB relating to feed and food safety, animal health and welfare (including aquatics), and plant health.



## Update to GB register of regulated products

The FSA has [updated](#) its [Register of Regulated Food and Feed Products for GB](#) to include the new authorisation for one feed additive, one FCM, three GMOs, one novel food and one food flavouring, and the revocation of eight flavouring substances under evaluation. This follows on from a [consultation](#) launched at the end of 2024.



## England response on plants and seeds varieties for precision bred varieties

Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra has published a summary of the responses to the [consultation on plant varieties and seeds framework for precision bred \(PB\) plant varieties in England](#). The Government will now use the feedback received to inform future decisions on the inclusion of PB status in mandatory labelling of PB seed and other plant reproductive material (PRM) and will continue to work on the implementation of the Act, although no timescales are provided.



## FSA precision breeding draft guidance

The [Genetic Technology \(Precision Breeding\) Regulations 2025](#) will come into force on 13 November. To support the new regulatory framework, the FSA has published draft technical and [administrative](#) guidance for applicants. The FSA is currently reviewing feedback from stakeholder engagement and user testing before publishing the final guidance.



## FSA regulatory evidence on nitrates

The FSA has published its [Regulatory Evidence Assessment \(REA\) on the use of nitrates and nitrites as food additives](#). The report outlines current scientific evidence on potential health risks and dietary exposure. Although there was inconclusive evidence for a relationship between the intake of these additives and health risks such as cancer, further research is needed to better understand the precise mechanisms by which cooking methods and additives influence the formation of nitrosamines. The study is intended to inform future policy development.



## 'Food and You 2: Wave 10' published

The FSA has published its latest '[Food and You 2: Wave 10](#)' report, providing an insight into consumers' knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to food safety and other food issues in England, Wales and NI. The report shows that 94% of respondents were confident that the food they buy is safe to eat and 86% are confident that the information on food labels is accurate.



## Consultation on Feed and Food Regulations in Northern Ireland

The FSA has launched a [consultation on the draft Feed and Food \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2025](#). The proposed amendments aim to update enforcement provisions and correct minor errors across six existing Statutory Rules relating to food and feed safety. The consultation is open until 4 November and invites responses from businesses, local authorities, and other stakeholders.



## FSA consultation on applications for authorisation of 3 Cannabidiol (CBD) food products as novel foods

The FSA is currently [consulting on draft recommendations concerning three applications for authorisation of CBD food products as novel foods](#). If approved by ministers, products attached to the applications would become the first fully regulated CBD food products available on the UK market, subject to meeting the specifications of the authorisation. The consultation closes on 20 November.



## New EU limits for nitrates and nitrites in food

The European Commission has introduced [new limits on the levels of nitrites](#) (E 249-50) and nitrates (E 251-252) permitted as food additives in processed meats, fish and cheese.

The regulation came into force in April 2024 and the transitional period for processed meat and fish ended 9 October 2025. Different transitional periods apply to certain cheese and traditional products.

To support affected businesses, the FSA in NI and the College of Agriculture Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE), have developed a [webinar](#) to help to assess compliance and plan reformulation where needed.



## EU maximum levels for inorganic arsenic in fish

From 8 October, revised EU [maximum levels \(MLs\)](#) for inorganic arsenic came into effect for fish and other seafood products. These revised EU MLs may be of relevance for some savoury snack products such as prawn crackers.



## Stakeholder forum on MOAH in food additives

On 3 October, the Commission organised an online stakeholder forum on Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons (MOAH) in food additives. The event brought together stakeholders and Member State representatives to share their findings, experiences, and achievements in mitigating the presence of mineral oil hydrocarbons in food additives. More information on the state of discussions can be found [here](#).



## ILSI Europe survey on PAL

The International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Europe Expert Group on Precautionary Allergen Labelling (PAL) has launched a [survey to explore the challenges and opportunities in developing a harmonised, science-based, and transparent PAL framework](#). The survey focuses on pre-packed finished goods and aims to inform the development of a peer reviewed submission which will drive future work of the Expert Group.

## Health and wellbeing

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### Food Foundation Report on Food Insecurity in the UK

On 22 October, NGO the Food Foundation published a report titled '[Roadmap to Reducing Food Insecurity in the UK](#)'. The report assesses the state of play of food insecurity in the UK over the last five years, and makes several policy recommendations to reduce food insecurities in the UK, including a review of certain benefits, including free school meals and the Healthy Start scheme, the institution of public bodies to overlook strategic decisions, the introduction of an 'unhealthy food' levy and primary legislation to lock long-term affordability of nutritious foods.



### FSS report on the impact of meat and dairy reductions in children and young people

The FSS has published a [new report exploring the impact of reducing meat and dairy in the diets of children and young people](#), in line with recommendations from the Climate Change Committee. This research emphasises the need for a collective effort to support ongoing efforts to improve our diet and food environment and improving to support consumers in achieving healthy and sustainable diets, in alignment with the Eatwell Guide.



### Summary of responses to consultation on Healthy Eating in Schools

The Welsh Government (WG) has published the [summary of responses](#) to the consultation on '[Healthy Eating in Schools](#)'. It will now review all responses and make any necessary changes to the draft legislation, before presenting it formally to the Senedd. In addition, it will assess the evidence submitted concerning secondary school learners, with the findings informing future policy decisions. No further information has been provided regarding the timeline for next steps.



### DHSC updated impact assessment on HFSS promotion restrictions in England

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has [updated its impact assessment on the legislation restricting promotion of products High in Fat, Sugar and Salt \(HFSS\)](#). It replaces the 2021 version. The new impact assessment includes an update to the estimated costs to businesses, as well as adjustments to the calculations in the modelling.



### LHF industry agreement applies from 1 October 2025

On 1 October the [industry agreement](#) implementing new rules on ads for identifiable Less Healthy Food (LHF) products went live. PPA will continue to support and amplify the campaign's message and will continue to work with the Advertising Association (AA) in the run up to the 5 January 2026, when the legal requirements apply. Helpful resources, including industry guidance and an FAQs document, are available from the [members-only PPA website](#).



## Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales 2025-2027 delivery plan

On 30 September, the Welsh Government published the new [Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales \(HWHW\) delivery plan 2025-2027](#), aimed at preventing and reducing obesity across the nation, as part of the wider 10-year HWHW strategy. The plan has 6 priority themes and contains several proposed actions under each team. Of specific note are a ban on advertising, sponsorship and promotion of HFSS products in public spaces, and the exploration of additional fiscal measures to promote healthier diets.



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

### 2025 CMO report published

The DHSC has published the [Chief Medical Officer's \(CMO\) 2025 annual report](#) on health trends and variation in England. The report notes that whilst the overall diet quality has improved over time, significant inequalities remain. People in more deprived areas tend to have poorer diets, contributing to higher rates of obesity and diet-related illness. The report also highlights regional differences in fruit and vegetable consumption.



### NI study on implementation of nutritional standards in vending

On 19 September the FSA published the results of a research project on the [implementation of nutritional standards for vending machines across three public sector pilot sites in NI](#). The study showed that, whilst meaningful improvements in the nutritional quality of products are achievable for drinks, the replacement snack products were very different to the original products, leading to customer dissatisfaction and declines in sales and revenue. The pilot reinforced the need for flexible, context-sensitive implementation models that accommodate operational realities and consumer preferences while balancing public health aims, and the need for better guidance and support from the FSA to vending operators.

## Food labelling and composition

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### New FSA page on Folic Acid fortification of flour



On 8 October the FSA published a new consumer-facing [webpage on fortification of non-wholemeal wheat flour with folic acid](#). The page outlines the background to the policy under the updated Bread and Flour Regulations (BFR), and includes information on labelling, individual health considerations and relevant links.



### FSAI guidance to FBOs for sourcing UK flour with folic acid

Following [discussions at an EU standing committee meeting in September](#), the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) has issued [guidance to Irish Food Business Operators \(FBOs\) who source fortified wheat flour/flour containing products from the UK](#). The guidance provides the background information on the UK's decision to fortify flour with folic acid, covers labelling requirements and introduces short-term labelling flexibility to FBOs sourcing UK flour during the early days of the transition.

# Environment and sustainability

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Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Government responds to consultation on environmental permitting exemptions

On 25 October Defra published its [response to the consultation on reforming exemptions under the Environmental Permitting \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2016](#). The proposed changes aim to tighten controls on waste activities currently exempt from permitting, including those involving food waste. The government confirmed plans to remove or amend certain exemptions to reduce environmental harm and improve oversight, with particular attention to risks from mismanaged biodegradable waste.



Department for  
Energy Security  
& Net Zero

## New DESNZ Chief Scientific Officer appointed

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has announced the [appointment of Professor Emily Shuckburgh to the role of Chief Scientific Adviser](#). Professor Shuckburgh is Director of Cambridge Zero, the University of Cambridge's major climate change initiative, and Professor of Environmental Data Science at the Department of Computer Science and Technology. She will join the department from 3 November and will succeed Professor Paul Monks, who has concluded his 5-year term in the role.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Defra pEPR explainer

Defra has launched an [inaugural blog on the Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging \(pEPR\) scheme](#), explaining how the scheme works alongside Simpler Recycling collections and the Deposit Return Scheme to transform the UK's approach to packaging waste. On 10 October Defra also published a [new page](#) with information on how to get support on reporting packaging data or making payments under pEPR.



## PackUK pEPR year 1 invoicing

In October PackUK issued the [first invoices to packaging producers](#) under the pEPR scheme. Based on 2024 data, the notices cover disposal costs from April 2025 to March 2026.

PackUK has published [guidance](#) on the invoicing process and highlighted fraud prevention measures. A dedicated customer support desk is available for queries and concerns. You can contact the support desk [via email](#) or telephone on 0300 060 0002.



## RAM Roadmap

On 1 October PackUK published [the Recyclability Assessment Methodology \(RAM\) roadmap](#). The roadmap is a strategic overview of RAM development from 2025 to 2030, providing industry with necessary information such as regular events, annual four nation policy alignment reviews, annual publications of the RAM, relevant pEPR policy deadlines and materials deep dives.



## EC proposes further delay to EUDR implementation

On 22 October the EC [withdrew its proposal to further delay the implementation of the European Union Deforestation Regulation \(EUDR\)](#), following recent simplifications to the legislation. The regulation will apply to larger businesses from 30 December 2025.

However, a separate proposal has been made to postpone the application of the EUDR for micro and small businesses until 30 December 2026. This proposal is currently awaiting approval by the European Parliament (EP) and Council.

# Agriculture

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## National Virus Forum 2026

The next National Virus Forum will take place on 11 February at The James Hutton Institute, Dundee.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Defra farming evidence pack

On 23 September Defra updated its '[Farming Evidence pack: A high-level overview of the UK agricultural industry](#)' presenting key agricultural statistics on the current state of the agriculture industry, including potatoes. It covers topics such as industry structure, farm economics and accounts, and the environmental challenges faced by agriculture.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Countryside Stewardship mid-tier extension

Defra has announced a [one-year extension for over 5,000 Countryside Stewardship mid-tier agreements](#) due to expire this year. The extension supports ongoing environmental work and sustainable food production while reforms to the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and related schemes are developed.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Changes to National Variety Lists

On 9 October Defra [changed the guidance on the National Variety Lists](#) of agricultural and vegetable plant varieties to re-name them as 'GB and NI Variety Lists'. The guidance on 'Object to a Variety Lists decision – making a representation' has also been updated, and new guidance on 'Tribunal process' has been added.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## New round of FIP competition opened

Defra has opened the latest round of the Feasibility Studies competition through the [Farming Innovation Programme \(FIP\)](#). In addition, the Small Research & Development Partnerships competition remains open until 5 November. These competitions are intended to offer research groups alongside farmers, growers and foresters the chance to test and develop ideas that could improve productivity, sustainability and resilience in agriculture.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Farming Equipment and Technology Fund Awards 2025

Defra has confirmed that over 8,800 applicants have been awarded funding through the [Farming Equipment and Technology Fund \(FETF\) 2025](#). Grant Funding Agreements (GFAs) totalling more than £68.4 million have been issued to support investment in new machinery, including equipment for sustainable food production. Defra encourages successful applicants to read their agreements carefully to make sure they understand the terms, conditions, and claim by the deadline on midday 31 March 2026.



## Reservoir safety reform

The UK and Welsh Governments are progressing with the [Reservoir Safety Reform Programme](#), following recommendations from the [Independent Reservoir Safety Review Report](#). A forthcoming consultation will seek views on proposed updates to reservoir safety policy, including for non-impounding reservoirs regulated under the Reservoirs Act. This may affect agricultural reservoirs that meet the capacity threshold, with risk designation based on downstream consequences of failure. A second consultation in 2026 will address safety management processes and legislative options.

# Plant protection products

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## Esfenvalerate extension in GB

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has extended the expiry date for the active substance esfenvalerate in GB by one year, from 31 December 2025 to 31 December 2026, in line with Article 17(1) of assimilated Regulation No 1107/2009. The statutory [GB Pesticides Approvals register](#) has been updated to reflect this change (see 'Record of Changes – 2025' tab).



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Pesticides residues in food Q1 2025 report

On 17 October, Defra published its [quarterly monitoring results for pesticide residues in food for Q1 2025](#). The report includes data from 26 potato samples taken in GB and 15 in NI. No MRL exceedances were recorded, though four samples in GB contained multiple residues.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme – August 2025 Rolling Report published

Also on 17 October, Defra published the [August 2025 Rolling Report for the Pesticide Residues Monitoring Programme](#). There were 10 potato samples in the dataset. Testing indicated the presence of residues (below the relevant MRLs) in 4 of the samples. Actives detected during the screening were fluopyram, flonicamid, azoxystrobin, fosthiazate, and 1,4-DMN.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Ministerial reply to potato stakeholder letter on mancozeb

Emma Hardy, the Under Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has responded to the joint industry letter on mancozeb. The SoS letter informs that HSE undertook its own review of the GB approval considering the new evidence that was available at that time. It concluded that the information supplied by producers did not demonstrate a realistic case that there was only negligible chance of human exposure to the chemical through normal use.



## EU General Court ruling on mancozeb

In an open Court session on 29 October, the EU General Court delivered its ruling on the UPL/Indofil Industries court Case against the European Commission regarding the withdrawal of the authorisation for the fungicide mancozeb in 2021.

While the Court found a major error in the EU Commission's reasoning for withdrawal, based upon its misclassification as a chemical highly toxic to reproduction, the remaining concerns around endocrine disruption and environmental risk could not be addressed. The Court therefore decided to uphold the withdrawal of Mancozeb and dismiss the case, while granting an avenue for appeal.



## Pesticide usage in Scotland: Arable Crops and Potato Stores 2024

The Scottish Government has published a report on [Pesticide usage in Scotland: Arable Crops and Potato Stores 2024](#). This publication presents information from a survey of pesticide use on Arable crops and Potato stores in Scotland during 2024.

This is a biennial publication, with the last version being published on 13 December 2023. Fera's equivalent survey 'Potato Stores in the UK' for 2024 is expected to be published in Feb-Mar 2026.

# Groceries supply chain

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## Immigration White Paper

Home Office

The UK Government is implementing further changes to the immigration system in line with the Immigration White Paper published in May 2025. The reforms aim to reduce net migration, improve productivity, and attract highly skilled individuals to support economic growth. The Home Office will hold a Town Hall on 4 November, from 14:00-14:50 for an overview of the changes. Click [here](#) for more information and to sign up.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## Defra food strategy webinar

On 2 October, Defra and the IGD ran its first webinar on the food strategy, with a presentation by Tessa Jones, Agrifood Chain Director at Defra. A recording of the webinar can be accessed [here](#).

## Update on CMO revision (Article 168)



European institutions are currently reviewing the [targeted revision of the European common market organisation \(CMO\) Regulation](#) (Amending certain CAP Regulations as regards the strengthening of the position of farmers in the food supply chain).

Concern has been raised that the current proposals would introduce mandatory written contracts and a unilateral contract revision clause which could be triggered after 6-months. Colleagues at EUPPA and Europatat are lobbying for a sector-specific exemption for potatoes, in line with exemptions already proposed for other crops (cereals, oilseeds, protein crops).

As part of the EP Plenary session on 6 October, MEPs voted in favour of the revision clause, however through the trilogues EUPPA and Europatat are still hoping to secure clear and narrow triggers for contract revisions, linked to force majeure or exceptional circumstances and maintain realistic timing thresholds that reflect the 18-month potato cycle.



## European Parliament proposes 'Meat products' name ban as part of the CMO

As part of the same EP Plenary session on 6 October, MEPs also voted in favour of a naming ban that could restrict plant-based foods. The vote effectively bans terms such as 'burger', 'sausage', 'bacon' and 'steak' when used to label vegetarian and vegan foods.

If adopted by the European Council and European Commission, it would mean that terms like 'veggie burger' could no longer be used in the EU, even if the labelling clearly indicates the product contains no meat.

Concern has been raised that the ban would also imply a restriction on products such as 'meat-flavoured' crisps and therefore ESA is currently lobbying for an explicit exemption for non-meat-substitutes categories including savoury snacks, flavourings, seasonings, and condiments.

## Trade

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HM Revenue  
& Customs

### Making tax digital for income Tax

From 6 April 2026 sole traders and landlords with turnover more than £50,000 must use MTD (Making Tax Digital) for Income Tax. [HMRC are hosting a series of webinars](#) to help prepare for the change. More information is available [on the Making Tax Digital website](#).



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

### UK Food, Feed and Drink Trade Statistics Published

Defra has published updated statistics on the [UK's trade in food, feed and drink for 2024](#). These include data on import and export volumes and values by commodity group and trading partner. The publication covers key sectors such as fruit and vegetables, meat, dairy and cereals, and is accompanied by data tables and methodological notes to support further analysis.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

### Plant Health statistics for international trade – 2020-2024

Defra has also published [statistics on trade with the UK in plant and plant commodities](#) (including live plants, fruit, vegetables – incl. potatoes, and cereals), covering both the financial value and the physical scale (mass) of this trade for the period 2020-2024.

The release also presents an analysis of the notifications of controlled commodities i.e., where imports are declared to plant health authorities in order for checks to be undertaken to ensure that traded goods meet required standards.



Department for  
Business & Trade

### UK's first Trade Policy Review at WTO

 On 28 October the DBT published the [UK's first World Trade Organization \(WTO\) Trade Policy Review](#), highlighting key UK trade policy areas for WTO members. Amongst other priorities, the document highlights the UK's commitment to global food security and sustainable agriculture. It emphasises the UK's support of reforms of WTO rules under the Agreement on Agriculture to better address contemporary challenges and its efforts to strengthen disciplines on export restrictions affecting agri-food products.



### WTO panel rules against Colombia's anti-dumping duties on frozen fries

On 23 October the WTO Compliance Panel published its [report on Colombia's anti-dumping duties applied to frozen fries](#) from Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands. The panel found Colombia had failed to comply with previous WTO rulings and continued to breach the Anti-Dumping Agreement by using flawed methodologies that inflated dumping margins. The report, once adopted by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), will require Colombia to repeal the measures or face potential EU trade retaliation. The DSB is expected to consider adoption of the report on 24 November (see also [EC press release](#)).

## Partners

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### British Potato Industry Event 2025

The British Potato Event 2025 is returning to Harrogate on 19–20 November. The event will bring together a wide range of exhibitors showcasing the latest products and services, from cutting-edge crop technologies to sustainable farming solution. To register for a free pass, click [here](#).



### New CTSI new Business Certificate of Competence in Food Regulation

The Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) has launched a new Business Certificate of Competence in Food Regulation (BCCFR). Information on the course is attached and can also be found [here](#). A free taster day will take place in central London on 19 November, and the first cohort will begin on 21 January 2026.



### Lumina Intelligence and Food Navigator webinar on UPF



On 20 November, Lumina Intelligence and FoodNavigator will run an exclusive webinar exploring how [shifting consumer attitudes toward ultra-processed foods \(UPFs\)](#) are reshaping the food and beverage landscape. This 45-minute session will explore the findings from the new report Future Food: How the UPF Debate Is Reshaping Consumer Behaviour, which surveyed over 9,500 consumers across 13 countries, including the UK.



### The Dundee Conference 2026

[Crop Production in Northern Britain \(CPNB\) 2026: The Dundee Conference](#), will take place on 25-26 February 2026 at the Apex Hotel, Dundee.

CPNB 2026 is the foremost Conference concerning environmental management and crop production and associated topics in northern environments. The programme is comprised of talks from invited speakers mixed with the majority selected from submitted abstracts. The scientific presentations are divided into sessions on Day 1 on 'Combinable Crops' and 'Agriculture and the Environment'. Day2 focusses on 'Potatoes'. See [here](#) for more information and to register.



### UKRI 2025 stakeholder survey

On 23 October UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) issued its [third annual survey](#), asking for feedback on what they do, how well they do it, and what stakeholders think about UKRI. Views are welcome from all sectors, including businesses, research and academia, the civil service and beyond. The survey closes on 31 December.



### IFST webinar on Artificial Intelligence

On 12 November the Institute of Science and Technology (IFST) will host a webinar titled '[AI in Action](#)'. This webinar will feature speakers from industry who will be demonstrating case studies of AI in action in their organisations.



### IFST webinar on transforming food systems for those on low incomes

On 26 November the IFST will run a webinar titled '[Transforming food systems for those on low incomes](#)'. This webinar will explore this issue, along with the latest research trying to find practical solutions to address inequalities. The British Nutrition Foundation (BNF) will provide an overview of the issues regarding accessing adequate nutrient intake for those in lower socioeconomic groups.

## PPA committee meeting dates 2025

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### PPA Board

18 November 2025	14:30-16:30	Fera, York
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### Food Law and Consumer [FLC] committee

12 November 2025	13:30-17:00	Microsoft Teams (online)
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### Primary Production Technical committee [PPTC] committee

18 November 2025	10:30-12:30	Fera, York
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## **PPA circulars issued in October 2025**

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Historic PPA circulars from 2022 onwards are also stored online via the 'SLACK' system. If you would like access to this system, please inform the secretariat and we will grant you access to the system.

### Food Law and Consumer Committee (FLC)

Date	Subject	Circular No.
30-Sep	Nutrition and Health tracker (Sep.25 update)	309/25
01-Oct	Updated FDF Summary on UK/EU deforestation prevention initiatives	310/25
02-Oct	Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales delivery plan 2025-2027 published	311/25
03-Oct	Draft PPA response to CAP/BCAP consultation on implementation guidance on LHF advertising restrictions	312/25
06-Oct	WG summary of responses to consultation on Healthy Eating in Schools	313/25
06-Oct	New report from the EAT-Lancet Commission on healthy, sustainable, and just food systems	314/25
07-Oct	Current MOAH Laboratories List (June-December 2025)	315/25
07-Oct	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 40 2025	316/25
08-Oct	Revised Waste Framework Directive officially published	317/25
09-Oct	PPA response to CAP consultation on implementation guidance on LHF advertising restrictions	318/25
09-Oct	Outcome of consultation on plant varieties and seeds framework for precision bred plant varieties in England	319/25
09-Oct	Update on CMO revision (Art. 168)	320/25
10-Oct	Confirmation of attendance of online FLC meeting and DRAFT agenda, 12 November	321/25
10-Oct	3rd Draft ESA guide on managing AA in vegetable crisps	322/25
10-Oct	Update on Mancozeb - UPL Europe and Indofil Industries v Commission (T-742/20 RENV)	323/25
10-Oct	Recent papers on AA in Almonds	324/25
13-Oct	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 41 2025	325/25
14-Oct	Updated Snacks brochure	326/25
17-Oct	Defra/ADAS webinar on Food Labelling: Costs Requirements Relative to Prospective Benefits	327/25
17-Oct	Review of NDNS nutrition data - June 2025	328/25
20-Oct	EU update on Food Labelling policy	329/25
20-Oct	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 42 2025	330/25
20-Oct	Regulation (EU) 2025/2084 amendments use and specifications for quillaia extract (E 999)	331/25
20-Oct	Informal summary report of the EC Working Group on agricultural contaminants of 17 July 2025	332/25
22-Oct	FSA Incident Prevention update – October 2025	333/25
22-Oct	New FSA page on Folic Acid Fortification of Flour	334/25

23-Oct	Agenda for next meeting Commission Working Group on Environmental and Industrial Contaminants	335/25
23-Oct	Informal summary reports of the meeting of Commission Working Group on Flavourings – 8 October	336/25
23-Oct	Updated ESA Process and General Contaminants Issue Trackers	337/25
23-Oct	EC proposes targeted simplifications of the EUDR	338/25
27-Oct	Labelling – Guidance for sourcing UK flour fortified with folic acid	339/25
27-Oct	RASFF Alerts and Notifications Week 43 2025	340/25
29-Oct	New presentation on Dutch Allergen Policy on PAL	341/25
29-Oct	Mineral Oils: Stakeholder Forum on MOAH in Food Additives	342/25
29-Oct	BExG Food Labelling work on updating the FSA Guidance on Clear Food Labelling - final review	343/25
30-Oct	EU General Court ruling on mancozeb	344/25
30-Oct	Q&A Dutch Allergen Policy on PAL published	345/25
30-Oct	Presentations from CEN/TC275/WG13 meeting, October	346/25
30-Oct	Regulation EU 2025/2182 - requirements for the import of used cooking oil	347/25
30-Oct	Nutrition and Health tracker (Oct.25 update)	348/25
31-Oct	Monthly digest of EU legislation (October 2025)	349/25
31-Oct	Plant protection products log – October 2025	350/25
31-Oct	PPA Monthly Members' News sheet: October 2025	351/25

#### Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC)

Date	Subject	Circular No.
03-Oct	Ministerial reply to Mancozeb letter	216/25
04-Oct	Updates from Potato Stakeholder meeting, 2 October 2025	217/25
06-Oct	Parliamentary breakfast on Stolbur - 14 October 2025	218/25
09-Oct	Outcome: Plant varieties and seeds framework for precision bred plant varieties in England	219/25
09-Oct	Update on CMO revision (Art. 168)	220/25
10-Oct	THIRD DRAFT Guidance on managing AA in sliced vegetable crisps	221/25
10-Oct	Update on EU court decision on Mancozeb	222/25
14-Oct	Rolling reporting survey for the official Pesticide Residues in Food Monitoring Programme - August 2025 data	223/25
14-Oct	Updated Snacks Brochure	224/25
17-Oct	Upcoming Fera and Agri-techE events in early November	225/25
17-Oct	Pesticide residues in food: quarterly monitoring results for Q1 2025	226/25
20-Oct	Extension to the GB active substance approval expiry date of esfenvalerate	227/25
23-Oct	Agenda for next meeting Commission Working Group on Environmental and Industrial Contaminants	228/25
23-Oct	Updated ESA Process and General Contaminants Issue Trackers	229/25
27-Oct	Agenda for Treaters Group, 5 November 2025	230/25
28-Oct	Draft agendas for PPTC and Board meetings, 18 November 2025	231/25

29-Oct	Updates from Potato Stakeholder meeting, 16 October 2025	232/25
30-Oct	EU General Court ruling on mancozeb	233/25
30-Oct	Pesticide usage in Scotland: Arable Crops and Potato Stores 2024	234/25
30-Oct	Presentations from CEN/TC275/WG13 meeting, October	235/25
31-Oct	Monthly digest of EU legislation (October 2025)	236/25
31-Oct	Plant protection products log – October 2025	237/25
31-Oct	PPA Monthly Members' News sheet: October 2025	238/25

## **Upcoming events**

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4 November 2025	<a href="#">Agri-TechE REAP Conference 2025: Connect, Co-Develop, Co-Exist, Peterborough</a>
4 November 2025	<a href="#">Defra Circular Economy Joint Stakeholder Forum, online</a>
4 November 2025	<a href="#">UK Export Academy webinar: Emerging Food and Drink Trends in Malaysia and Thailand, online</a>
4-5 November 2025	<a href="#">Fera Science Symposium 2025: New Thinking for the Whole Food System, York</a>
7 November 2025	<a href="#">FDF State of Industry: Insights webinar, online</a>
9-15 November 2025	<a href="#">Agritechnica, Hanover, Germany</a>
10-13 November 2025	<a href="#">DBT Food and Drink Exports to Malaysia: Meet the Experts 1:1, online</a>
11 November 2025	<a href="#">IGD webinar: 7 Lever Framework for Population Diet Change, online</a>
12 November 2025	<a href="#">IFST webinar: AI in Action, online</a>
18 November 2025	<a href="#">Ashbury/FDF webinar: Green Claims: Maintaining compliant communications &amp; avoiding regulatory pitfalls</a>
19 November 2025	<a href="#">Institute of Export: Import Export Show 2025, London</a>
19-20 November 2025	<a href="#">British Potato 2025, Harrogate, Yorkshire</a>
20 November 2025	<a href="#">Lumina Intelligence webinar: Ultra-Processed Foods: Understanding Consumer Trends and How Brands can Respond, online</a>
25 November 2025	<a href="#">BNF Annual Conference, online</a>
26 November 2025	<a href="#">IFST webinar: Transforming food systems for those on low incomes, online</a>
2 December 2025	FDF Regulatory Update webinar, online
2 December 2025	<a href="#">Defra Circular Economy Joint Stakeholder Forum, online</a>
9-10 December 2025	<a href="#">CUPGRA Conference, Cambridge</a>
25-26 February 2025	<a href="#">Crop Production in Northern Britain 2026: The Dundee Conference, Dundee</a>
30 Mar-1 Apr 2026	<a href="#">IFE 2026, London</a>
27-29 April 2026	<a href="#">World Retail Congress, Berlin</a>
20 May 2026	SDF/PSI Strategic Potato Day 2026, Holbeach St Marks, Lincs
17-18 June 2026	<a href="#">Snackex 2026, Lisbon</a>
12-14 October 2026	ESA Savoury Snacks Production Course Part 3: Snack Nuts, Origin to Packet. Porto, Portugal

## **Industry meetings**

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4 November 2025	FDF Nutrition WG on NPM meeting, online
5 November 2025	Crop Protection Treaters Group, online
12 November 2025	ESA Public Affairs Committee (PAC) meeting, online
5 November 2025	FDF Organic (ORG) Committee meeting, hybrid TBC
6 November 2025	FDF Food Contact Materials (FCM) Committee meeting, hybrid
12 November 2025	PPA Food Law and Consumer (FLC) Committee meeting, online
12 November 2025	FDF Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) meeting, hybrid
13 November 2025	Potato Stakeholder Fortnightly call, online
13 November 2025	FDF CBD Group meeting, hybrid

13 November 2025	ESA Sustainability Working Group meeting, online
18 November 2025	PPA Primary Production Technical Committee (PPTC) meeting, York
18 November 2025	PPA Board meeting, York
19 November 2025	FDF Food Law & Labelling (FLL) Committee meeting, hybrid
19 November 2025	FDF Food Law and Labelling (FLL) Committee meeting, hybrid
19 November 2025	FSA Food System Strategic Assessment 2025, online
19 November 2025	FDF President's Committee meeting, hybrid
19 November 2025	ESA Board meeting, online
21 November 2025	EU-GB seed potato trade: Preparatory meeting for Europatat/EUPPA meeting with Commission, online
21 November 2025	European Potato Value Chain meeting, online
24 November 2025	FDF Association Advisory Group (AAG) meeting, hybrid
25 November 2025	EU Pledge meeting, online
27 November 2025	FDF Food Safety Committee (FSC) meeting, hybrid
27 November 2025	FDF Nutrition (NUT) Committee meeting, hybrid
27 November 2025	Potato Stakeholder Fortnightly call, online

## **Documents to note**

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### **Government position/policy papers/guidance and related resources**

#### **EU exit**

[Check if you need to declare goods you bring into or take out of the UK](#)

[DBT Research and analysis: Retained EU law and assimilated law dashboard](#) (last updated 17 July 2025)

[COLLECTION: Customs, VAT and excise UK transition legislation from 1 January 2021](#) (last updated 10 September 2025)

[Cabinet Office Guidance: Brexit transition helplines](#) (last updated 31 March 2025)

[COLLECTION: Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee](#) (last updated 2 October 2025)

[COLLECTION: REUL \(Revocation and Reform\) Act 2023 statutory instruments](#) (last updated 26 September 2025)

#### **Windsor Framework**

[Defra Guidance: Labelling requirements for certain products moving from GB to retail premises in NI under NIRMS](#) (last updated 16 June 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Commodity codes for NIRMS](#) (last updated 15 July 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Movement Assistance Scheme: get help with moving agrifood goods to NI](#) (last updated 4 July 2025)

[NI-GB Trader Support Service](#)

[TSS bulletins](#) (latest bulletin 23 October 2025)

[Guidance: Moving qualifying goods from Northern Ireland to the rest of the UK](#) (last updated 31 January 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Move seed potatoes from GB-NI using NI plant health labels](#) (first published 20 February 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Apply to renew a Northern Ireland plant health label \(NIPHL\) scheme authorisation](#) (first published 18 March 2025)

[Defra Guidance: NIRMS: how to register and seal consignments](#) (last updated 18 June 2025)

[NICTA website](#)

[Defra Guidance: NIRMS: how to move goods](#) (first published 18 June 2025).

## **UK Imports**

[Defra Guidance: Import animal products for human consumption to GB](#) (last updated 22 April 2025)  
[Defra Guidance: Import compound products to GB](#) (last updated 19 September 2025)  
[APHA guidance: BTOM risk categorisations \(EU and non-EU plant and plant products\)](#) (last updated 11 August 2025)  
[Defra/APHA Guidance: Check risk categories for animal and animal product imported from the EU to GB](#) (last updated 26 March 2025)  
[Defra Guidance: BTOM risk categories and inspection rates for animal and animal product imports from non-EU countries to GB: summary tables](#) (last updated 1 April 2025)  
[Defra/APHA: EU Imports to England & Wales Fees](#) (last updated 11 August 2025)  
[HMRC Guidance: Importing SPS controlled goods into GB that interact with the Border Trade Matching Service](#) (last updated 8 September 2025)  
[HMRC Notice: Notices made under the Customs \(Import Duty\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018](#) (last updated 16 July 2025)  
[DBT/HM Treasury/HMRC Guidance: UK Trade Tariff: duty suspensions and autonomous tariff quotas](#) (last updated 19 June 2025)  
[Defra: EU and EFTA countries approved to export animals and animal products to GB](#) (last updated 20 October 2025)  
[HMRC Guidance: Goods Vehicle Movement Service - service availability and issues](#) (last updated 29 September 2025)  
[HMRC Guidance Create a goods movement reference](#) (last updated 1 September 2025)  
[Defra: Non-EU countries approved to export animals and animal products to GB](#) (last updated 24 October 2025)  
[Defra/APHA Guidance: Check import risk categories, inspection rates and related rules for animals and animal products imported from non-EU countries to GB](#) (last updated 1 April 2025)  
[HMRC: Safety and security declarations](#) (last updated 1 May 2025)  
[Defra/APHA Guidance: Animals, animal products and HRFNAO imports: authorised border control posts in the UK](#) (last updated 10 October 2025)  
[Defra Form High risk food and feed of non-animal origin \(HRFNAO\): official certificates](#) (last updated 11 August 2025)  
[Defra/APHA Guidance: Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues](#) (last updated 15 October 2025)

## **Exports**

[APHA Find an Export Health Certificate website](#)  
[HMRC Notice: Notices made under the Customs \(Export\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019](#) (last updated 1 May 2025)  
[DBT/DIT Guidance: UK trade agreements in effect](#) (last updated 7 February 2025)  
[HMRC Guidance: Search the register of customs agents and express operators](#) (last updated 3 September 2025)  
[Defra Guidance: Businesses approved to export to the EU](#) (last updated 24 October 2025)  
[HMRC: Safety and security declarations](#) (last updated 1 May 2025)  
[HMRC: Moving licensed goods into or out of NI](#) (last updated 15 September 2025)  
[HMRC Guidance: Make an entry summary declaration using the Import Control System 2](#) (last updated 1 August 2025)

## **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) and Simpler Recycling**

[Defra Collection: Extended producer responsibility for packaging](#) (last updated 8 October 2025)  
[Defra Guidance: Packaging data: what to collect for extended producer responsibility](#) (last updated 1 August 2025)  
[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: generate a packaging data file](#) (last updated 20 August 2025)  
[Defra/EA Guidance: Packaging data: how to create your file for extended producer responsibility](#) (last updated 29 September 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Organisation details: how to create your file for extended producer responsibility \(EPR\) for packaging](#) (last updated 9 September 2025)

[Defra/EA Guidance: Extended Producer Responsibility: who is affected and what to do](#) (last updated 19 May 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging: how to assess household and non-household packaging](#) (last updated 5 August 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: check the public register of producers](#) (last updated 11 September 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Simpler recycling: workplace recycling in England](#) (last updated 3 October 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Recyclability assessment methodology: how to assess your packaging waste](#) (last updated 4 September 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Packaging data: check reporting periods and submission deadlines](#) (last updated 20 October 2025).

[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: fit and proper person](#) (first published 18 March 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Recyclability assessment methodology: supplementary guidance](#) (first published 4 September 2025)

[Defra Guidance: Extended producer responsibility for packaging: contact and support](#) (first published 10 October 2025)

[PackUK: Preparing for pEPR year 1 invoicing: key information for liable producers](#) (first published 9 September 2025)

## **Water**

[EA: Water situation reports for England](#) (last updated 28 July 2025)

[EA: Rainfall and river flow: weekly reports for England](#) (last updated 23 October 2025)

[EA: Guidance. Environmental permits: when and how you are charged](#) (last updated 22 September 2025)

[EA: Guidance. Water resources licences: when and how you are charged](#) (last updated 22 September 2025)

[EA: Statutory guidance Environmental permits and abstraction licences: tables of charges](#) (last updated 15 October 2025)

[EA: Guidance Abstract or impound water: hydrological and hydraulic information needed for your licence application](#) (last updated 29 August 2025)

[EA: Guidance Environment Agency fees and charges](#) (last updated 22 September 2025)

[EA: Policy paper. Drought: how it is managed in England](#) (last updated 23 September 2025)

## **Current consultations**

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**Defra:** [Survey to understand businesses' experiences with the Windsor Framework](#)

**FSA:** [Consultation on The draft Feed and Food \(Miscellaneous Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2025](#) (closes 4 November 2025)

**EC:** [Consultation on Biotechnology Act](#)(closes 11 November 2025)

**FSA/FSS:** [Acrylamide Call for data](#) (closes 30 November 2025)

**FSA:** [Consultation on the proposal to implement a ban on the use of bisphenol A \(BPA\) other bisphenols and bisphenol derivatives in food contact materials](#) (closes 24 December 2025)

**FSS:** [Consultation on bisphenol A](#) (closes 16 January 2026)

## **ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**

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