

A preliminary analysis of the Government food strategy published on 13th June 2022

	topic	# mentions	page # & context <i>note: pp 7-8 is the Foreword, pp 7-10 the Executive Summary</i>
ACCESS	economic access	5 (economic) 3 (poverty)	p8: The broader affordability of food, and individuals' access to food, is a key element of the government's approach to tackling poverty as we learn to live with recent events and manage the impact of cost-of-living pressures ... The government is committed to a sustainable, long-term approach to tackling poverty and supporting people on lower incomes
			p16: the UK agri-food and seafood sectors ... The Government will work with these sectors to spread economic growth across the country
			p18: food and drink sector ... drives regional economic growth in areas such as the East Midlands and the East of England
			p22: the stress and pressures associated with poverty that makes it harder to prioritise health
			p27: our vision is that public sector food and catering is an exemplar for wider society, delivering ... socio-economic impacts.
			p28: Almost 1 billion people in 92 countries do not have enough food to eat ... threatens the political and economic stability in many developing countries.
			p31: The international development strategy, published in May 2022, affirms our commitment to promote trade and economic opportunities, especially for women, in agriculture and food chains
to SUFFICIENT	preparedness planning	0	
	shortages, scarcities	1	p13: We have also helped businesses to access more diverse supply chains where there are shortages of ingredients
	resilience	15	p5: the crucial importance of UK food producers to our national resilience ... successful domestic production is what gives us national resilience in an uncertain world
			p7: The food and drink industry ... employ over 4 million people ... they underpin our food security: demonstrating great resilience when dealing with disruption
			p7: We are engaging closely with the food industry [] including through our Food Industry Resilience Forum
			p13: Over the last 2 years, our primary producers and the wider food and drink sector have shown remarkable resilience [] To further build the UK's resilience to future crises and shocks, we continue to monitor and strengthen the resilience of our supply chains and support our domestic production.
			p13: Going forward ... recognising effective business planning is a key enabler of resilience at the individual farm level.
			p13: We will work with industry to develop plans to bolster resilience of critical inputs
			p13: As well as strengthening the resilience of domestic supply chains, we will continue to work with international partners to support worldwide action to mitigate the impacts of food crises
			p14: We are also working to increase global food security in the long term through increasing the sustainability and resilience of agriculture and other areas of the food system
			p14: The conflict in Ukraine has shown us that domestic food production is a vital contributor to national resilience and food security.
p19: Work coordinated by the Cabinet Office [] last year [] recognised that the food and drink industry has shown remarkable resilience ... It concluded there are particular vulnerabilities [] we will work with industry to reduce resilience on HGV drivers and improve food security			
p28: Through UK-funded programmes such as ... the African Food Trade and Resilience programme, we are supporting ...			

SUPPLIES <i>see also trade, FTA & Brexit below</i>	threats to food supplies /climate change	3	<p>p16: Growth in this [commercial horticulture using a new generation of greenhouses] sector ... help to future proof the sector in a warming climate</p> <p>p17: Our Farming Futures research and development (R&D) Fund ... will help the livestock and protein sectors embrace 'climate-smart farming'</p> <p>p31: The international development strategy, published in May 2022, affirms our commitment to promote climate-resilient, sustainable food systems globally.</p>
	/resource depletion	in total: water (2) land (8) soil (2) energy (2)	<p>The words 'resource' and 'depletion' do not occur. However, the agri-food resources of land, soil, water and energy are mentioned:</p> <p>p3: We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm's length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable</p> <p>p11: We will publish a land use framework in 2023 to ensure we meet our net zero and biodiversity targets, and help our farmers adapt to a changing climate, whilst continuing to produce high quality, affordable produce that supports a healthier diet.</p> <p>p14: One of our key vehicles for this is the Sustainable Farming Incentive which will incentivise farmers to improve soil quality</p> <p>p14 We have some of the best performing farms in the world, with 57% of agricultural output coming from just 33% of the farmed land area. It follows from this that it is possible to target land-use change at the least productive land, to increase the environmental benefit from farming and to increase yields with minimal impact on food production.</p> <p>p16-17: To create a positive investment environment ... we will include industrial horticulture alongside other manufacturing sectors in decisions on industrial energy policy ... We will also incentivise the sector to make use of surplus heat and CO2 from industrial processes, and renewable sources of energy.</p> <p>p19: we want to promote innovative practices and technologies across the entire agri-food sector, working with industry on research and innovation in support of net zero across agriculture, soils and peat, waste, and land use.</p> <p>p20: We will remove any bureaucracy that stems from old EU rules and currently holds back our agri-food and fishing industries. Examples include ... remote interventions to deliver improved water quality</p> <p>The Environmental Land Management (ELM) is mentioned twice:</p> <p>p15 that it will be responsive to farmer demand through co-design, and on p29 in Section 3.3. Harnessing export opportunities and support our agri-food industry, with these words: a period of major change ... over the next six years while the Common Agricultural Policy is phased out and the Environmental Land management brought in.</p>
	/population pressures	0	
	/global competition	0	
	/processing, logistics et al	0	
	food safety	1	re new alternative protein products: We will work with the FSA ... maintaining consumer safety standards
	food assurance	0	
	food integrity	0	
adulteration	0		
laboratories	0		
EHOs	0		
Public Analysts	0		

SAFE /cont	inspection	0	
	sampling	0	
	testing	0	
	food-borne illness	0	
	modern-day slavery	0	

NUTRITIOUS FOOD	fruit & vegetables, fibre	2	<p>p22: Today, 69% of those in the most deprived groups are overweight or obese and many are eating insufficient fruit and vegetables, fibre and oily fish.</p> <p>p24: Government will also review the current policy and delivery method of the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme</p>
	protein	13	<p>p10: we will support progress on a wide range of issues, including alternative proteins</p> <p>p17: The alternative protein sector provides another opportunity for growth ... The UK has been at the forefront of innovation in protein sources ... The government will keep the UK at the front of this growing and innovative sector by supporting alternative protein research</p> <p>p17: British grown beans and pulses are another great example of low carbon sustainable protein</p> <p>p17: Regenerative farming will also provide a more sustainable production of traditional protein sources</p> <p>p17: Our Farming Futures research and development (R&D) Fund (part of our Farming Innovation Programme) will help the livestock and protein sectors embrace 'climate-smart farming' and innovative technologies.</p> <p>p17: farmers and agri-businesses to increase adoption of this technology to support more sustainable protein production.</p> <p>p17: There are also proteins from non-traditional livestock sectors.</p> <p>p17: Seafood is another potentially lower-carbon and healthy source of protein</p> <p>p19: We will work with UKRI, industry and consumer groups to develop joint priority areas for funding ... for example, on industry automation and alternative proteins</p> <p>p20: We will also work with the FSA to develop dedicated guidance materials for approval of new alternative protein products while reviewing our novel food regulations.</p> <p>p22: Eating habits have and continue to change... We also do not eat enough seafood - a healthy and potentially sustainable source of protein, vitamins and minerals; oily fish is also rich in long chain omega-3 fatty acids.</p>

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES	trade, FTA, Brexit	see next page	<p>p5: international trade has always been an important dimension of our food security</p> <p>p8: Our objectives for this strategy are to deliver ... trade that provides export opportunities and consumer choice through imports, without compromising our regulatory standards for food, whether produced domestically or imported ... to achieve these objectives we will seek to ... take advantage of new market access and free trade agreements (FTAs) post-Brexit</p> <p>p11-12: To deliver export opportunities and consumer choice through imports ... trade strengthens food security ... We will harness the benefits of new FTAs, made possible following Brexit, whilst maintaining our world-leading domestic standards by using a range of levers within our bespoke trade agreements</p> <p>p13: strong domestic production, balanced with international trade, contributes to a diverse and resilient UK food supply</p> <p>p14: we are working with like-minded countries around the world to ensure that we keep trade flowing and keep food prices down</p>
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GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES /cont	trade, FTA, Brexit /cont	21	p16: our new trade policy will harness opportunities to import and export food and drink in a way that does not undermine our aim that our farmers can broadly maintain domestic production
			p18: The Grimsby Cluster . . . will play an important role in ensuring the [seafood] sector can take advantage of new trade deals
			p26-27: Building on responses to government's recent call for evidence on food labelling for animal welfare, proposals will cover domestic and imported products, considering our international trade obligations , and will help consumers identify when products meet or exceed our high UK animal welfare standards
			p28: On strengthening global food security: We know from previous food price crises that the best way to keep food prices down is to keep food trade flowing. Therefore, we are advocating for all countries, including in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), to keep food trade flowing and avoid trade-restrictive measures . . . we are supporting governments, regional trade organisations and companies to promote more open and predictable food trade
			Section 3.2: Maximising the benefits of new trade agreements post-Brexit
			p28: International trade offers UK consumers great opportunities to buy and eat exciting new products that cannot be produced domestically & p29: Brexit allows us to strike ambitious Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) . . . We aim to conclude the majority of negotiations for a UK-India FTA in October 2022.
			p30: We are working with industry to develop a risk based global regime for imports and to remove unnecessary burdens for exports as we continue to trade with the EU and to simplify the process for trading within Northern Ireland . This includes enhanced digitisation with an extensive e-Trade programme and a Single Trade Window data platform to reduce costs and administrative burden. The Movement Assistance Scheme will provide financial support to traders who meet the certification requirements of the Northern Ireland Protocol
	p31: In the Australia FTA we excluded pig meat, chicken and eggs from tariff preferences, reflecting concerns about animal welfare and the low volumes of trade between Australia and the UK on these products. As we negotiate more FTAs, we will continue to use levers inside and outside trade negotiations to demonstrate the importance of these issues to the UK and promote better practices around the world		
	regulation	6	p16: Subsequent regulations will build sustainable commercial relationships across the dairy supply chain that reflect an equitable share of risk between producers and processors.
			p20: Following our departure from the EU, we will review our rules and regulations
			p20: Reforming EU regulations on wine will also allow us to support our businesses, whilst we will make things easier for consumers by reviewing regulations around low and no alcohol products
			p20: We are working closely with farmers and growers to ensure regulation is outcome-focused, proportionate, and clear
			p22: re the Government's voluntary sugar reduction programme: [to create the right incentives] this includes a role for government in creating a level playing field through regulation
	enforcement	1	p20: Where regulations are in place, we will ensure these are consistently and proportionately enforced to protect a level playing field for farmers
curb/control corporates	0		
[standard-rate] VAT	0	No mention of any tax	
other fiscal measures	0	Nor Excise Duty, or any levy/levies	
labour issues	4	p19: We will work with industry to articulate key food industry [labour] shortages to inform the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) upcoming review of the Shortage Occupation List .	
		p19: Recognising that the sector cannot sustainably rely on migrant labour , the government will also in the coming weeks commission an independent review to tackle labour shortages	
		p19: Under the Seasonal Worker Visa Route , 30,000 visas were initially made available in 2022 for seasonal workers in horticulture, with provision for an extra 10,000 if there was evidence of need . . . To address near term need, those extra 10,000 visas will be made available to businesses (<i>see other notes on evidence below</i>)	
		p19: In late 2021, we introduced various temporary visa schemes to address acute shortages of pig butchers, poultry workers and HGV drivers	

GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES /cont	wages, social support	1	p8: Other measures to help those in most need include: the reduction in the Universal Credit taper rate, raising the threshold for National Insurance, cutting fuel duty, and providing locally administered support to help with household essentials.
	evidence	see next page	p10: we will launch a Call for Evidence of the use of feed additives
			p10: We will also work with the agricultural sector to develop a What Works Centre to provide farmers with evidence that supports the adoption and on-farm take up of new innovations.
			p11: We will undertake a programme of randomised control trials to develop a suite of evidence based and value for money interventions to encourage and enable healthier and more sustainable diets (<i>note: this info repeated on page 23</i>)
	evidence /cont	6	p17: We will launch a Call for Evidence to better understand the challenges associated with the use of feed additives and materials that can reduce methane emissions from livestock
			p26: Building on responses to government's recent call for evidence on food labelling for animal welfare, proposals will cover domestic and imported products, considering our international trade obligations, and will help consumers identify when products meet or exceed our high UK animal welfare standards
	investment	11	p30: It will also describe how our SPS regime will evolve based on evidence to face the modern global challenges of antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases
			p10: We have committed to spend over £270 million through our Farming Innovation Programme and are supporting £120 million investment in research across the food system in partnership with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) in addition to other funding packages
			p10: We will also develop a joint vision with industry for agri-food innovation, identifying shared priority areas for investment and coordination
			p16-17: To create a positive investment environment for the [commercial horticulture] sector , we will include industrial horticulture alongside other manufacturing sectors in decisions on industrial energy policy and review the planning permission process to support new developments
p17: The UK has been at the forefront of innovation in protein sources since the development of Quorn products in the 1980s, with a world-leading production facility in Billingham creating jobs and investment in North-East England.			
p18: Government will unlock the potential of the food and drink sector by boosting completion of high-quality skills training and driving investment and innovation throughout the supply chain			
p18: The sector provides employment opportunities and drives regional economic growth in areas such as the East Midlands and the East of England where we continue to see investment in food innovation from businesses of all sizes			
p19: Partnering with research councils, universities and industry can unlock greater investment in innovation			
Rome Declaration	0	p25: We have already committed to continue funding the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme with a £600 million investment over a 3-year period.	