

Public procurement



OUR ASK

Identify opportunities to increase our market share of foods we can produce sustainably, including a commitment to source 50% of food into the public sector from British farms.

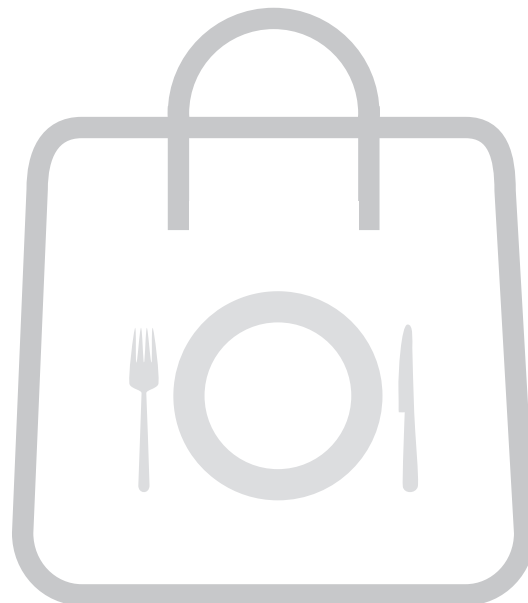
Why it's needed

Public procurement is the purchase of goods and services on behalf of a public authority, such as a government agency. The public procurement of food encompasses a spend of over £2.4 billion in organisations such as schools, prisons, the military and hospitals.

British farmers deliver high quality, fresh, seasonal and affordable food to world-leading environmental and welfare standards. The NFU believes it is in both the public and the producers' interests that our public sector utilises our world-leading food and farming industry to deliver safe, traceable, affordable, nutritious food. By investing in the nation's food production system, the government can capitalise on the benefits that our agri-food economy delivers.

If the government used its purchasing decisions to support domestic producers, it would also provide much-needed support for British farmers and growers at a time when business certainty and confidence are at an all-time low.

It would also put value back into the local economy and ensure everyone has access to British food, regardless of where they live or income levels.



What it would deliver

By committing to source at least 50% of food into the public sector from British farms, a future government can utilise its own food provision as a mechanism to build resilience and growth in domestic food production.

To set out a clear vision for public sector catering, a government's public sector procurement model must value domestic sourcing, be mandated by central government to drive local and seasonal food purchasing, and be delivered regionally with support from local producers, to

enable more British food on more British plates.

Any future government must reinforce and uphold British food standards, driving food procurement away from purchasing on price alone. Public sector food must reinforce and uphold British food standards and not become a market for lower-quality imports because of price considerations.

Inflationary pressures are impacting all aspects of food production, both in the UK and

overseas. Policy must seek to support the development of greater local supply of food instead of simply reacting to cost price pressures.

Lastly, any government must seek to support purchasing via procurement standards and new commercial platforms. Promotion of the use of dynamic procurement systems within public sector procurement should be part of this support and guidance should seek to drive higher volumes of food being procured through these systems.

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