Food (Scotland) Bill.

British Dietetic Association

The British Dietetic Association welcomes the opportunity to respond to the call for written evidence to inform Stage 1 consideration of the Food (Scotland) Bill.

The introduction of this legislation, to enable the creation of a standalone body, provides a real opportunity to build on and provide a co-ordinated approach to all aspects of food and nutrition, develop further the work underway to improve food and nutrition and ensure food and nutrition are established firmly on the agenda as key to the health of the people of Scotland.

The objectives of the body detailed in the Bill are quite broad and while the inclusion of food, diet and its link to health is welcomed, there is little further detail relating to this within the Bill. The devil will be in the detail, how this is developed, how this fits with current work and organisations already involved in work in this area and the consultation/engagement arrangements put in place to ensure that key stakeholders/expertise are sought as necessary. The British Dietetic Association will be an important stakeholder to work with this food body to provide expert input relating to nutrition and diet.

The British Dietetic Association, founded in 1936, is the professional association for registered dietitians in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It is the nation’s largest organisation of food and nutrition professionals with over 7,000 members.

Registered dietitians are the only qualified health professionals that assess, diagnose and treat diet and nutrition problems at an individual and wider public health level. Uniquely, dietitians use the most up to date public health and scientific research on food, health and disease, which they translate into practical guidance to enable people to make appropriate lifestyle and food choices.

Dietitians are the only nutrition professionals to be statutorily regulated, and governed by an ethical code, to ensure that they always work to the highest standard. Dietitians work in the NHS, private practice, industry, education, research, sport, media, public relations, publishing, NGOs and government. Their advice influences food and health policy across the spectrum from government, local communities and individuals.

British Dietetic Association
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