

Ministear airson Slàinte Phoblach, Slàinte
Bhoireannaich agus Spòrs
Maree Todd BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Minister for Public Health, Women's Health and Sport
Maree Todd MSP

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Gillian Martin MSP
Convener
Health, Social Care and Sport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

hscs.committee@parliament.scot

01 July 2022

Dear Gillian,

PUBLICATION OF FURTHER CONSULTATION PAPER ON RESTRICTING PROMOTIONS OF FOOD AND DRINK HIGH IN FAT, SUGAR OR SALT

I am writing regarding a new Scottish Government consultation on 'Restricting Promotions of Food High in Fat, Sugar or Salt', which will be published at 10am today.

As a courtesy, I wanted to give you advance notice of its publication, which will be available from this web link from the publication date: <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781804356241>

In [2021-22 Programme for Government](#), we committed to bring forward legislation during this Parliament to restrict "*unhealthier food and drink promotions*". This consultation is a first step towards that. It also builds on our previous [2018 consultation](#) and our subsequent plans for legislation, which were [paused](#) recognising the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the food and drink industries and on consumer behaviour.

Given the time that has elapsed since the 2018/2019 consultation and in light of changes in context, such as our exit from the European Union and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are consulting again to inform and assist with the development and impact assessment of this policy. This will help us to assess whether the proposed measures are proportionate as well as to consider their impact on health inequalities. This consultation also

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
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provides an opportunity to hear views on our proposals in the context of the [UK Government regulations for England](#) and the proposals for Wales set out in the recent [Welsh Government consultation paper](#). This will help us consider in more detail the potential for policy consistency where that is in Scotland's best interests.

The primary aim of the policy is to reduce the public health harms associated with the excess consumption of calories, fat, sugar and salt, including the risks of developing type 2 diabetes, various types of cancer and other conditions such as cardiovascular disease. We are also aware of the need to reduce diet-related health inequalities, including in relation to socioeconomic disadvantage, and for the policy to support our aim to halve childhood obesity by 2030.

To progress these aims, this consultation paper sets out our proposals to restrict the promotion of high fat, sugar or salt (HFSS) food and drink where these are sold to the public, including across retail and out of home settings and online. The HFSS food and drink we are considering targeting include, among other things, confectionery, cakes, crisps, savoury snacks and soft drinks with added sugar. The promotion types we are considering restricting include, among other things, multi-buys and positioning restrictions, such as at checkouts and front of store.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter to the other members of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee. I would welcome their help in raising awareness of the consultation among interested organisations and individuals, encouraging them to respond via the web address above. I am keen that as many people and organisations as possible contribute to this consultation.

The closing date for the consultation is Friday 23 September 2022.

I look forward to working with you and the Committee in future on our proposals. My officials working on this consultation are available to give further information if that is helpful. Please contact Leigh Edwardson (Leigh.Edwardson@gov.scot) with any questions you may have.

Regards,



Maree Todd MSP

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