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The Government Chemist

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UK food law and the Government Chemist



- The first Adulteration Act passed by Parliament in 1860, amended 1872 to include appointment of Public Analysts (due to lack of definition of adulteration)
- Parliamentary Select Committee, 1874 proposed a central referee - 'Chemical Officers of Somerset House'
- The Sale of Food and Drugs Act in 1875, amended 1879 and 1899



Government Chemist Strategy 2023 - 2026

Protecting
consumers
in increasingly
challenging times



Supporting business
and government
across the four
nations of the UK



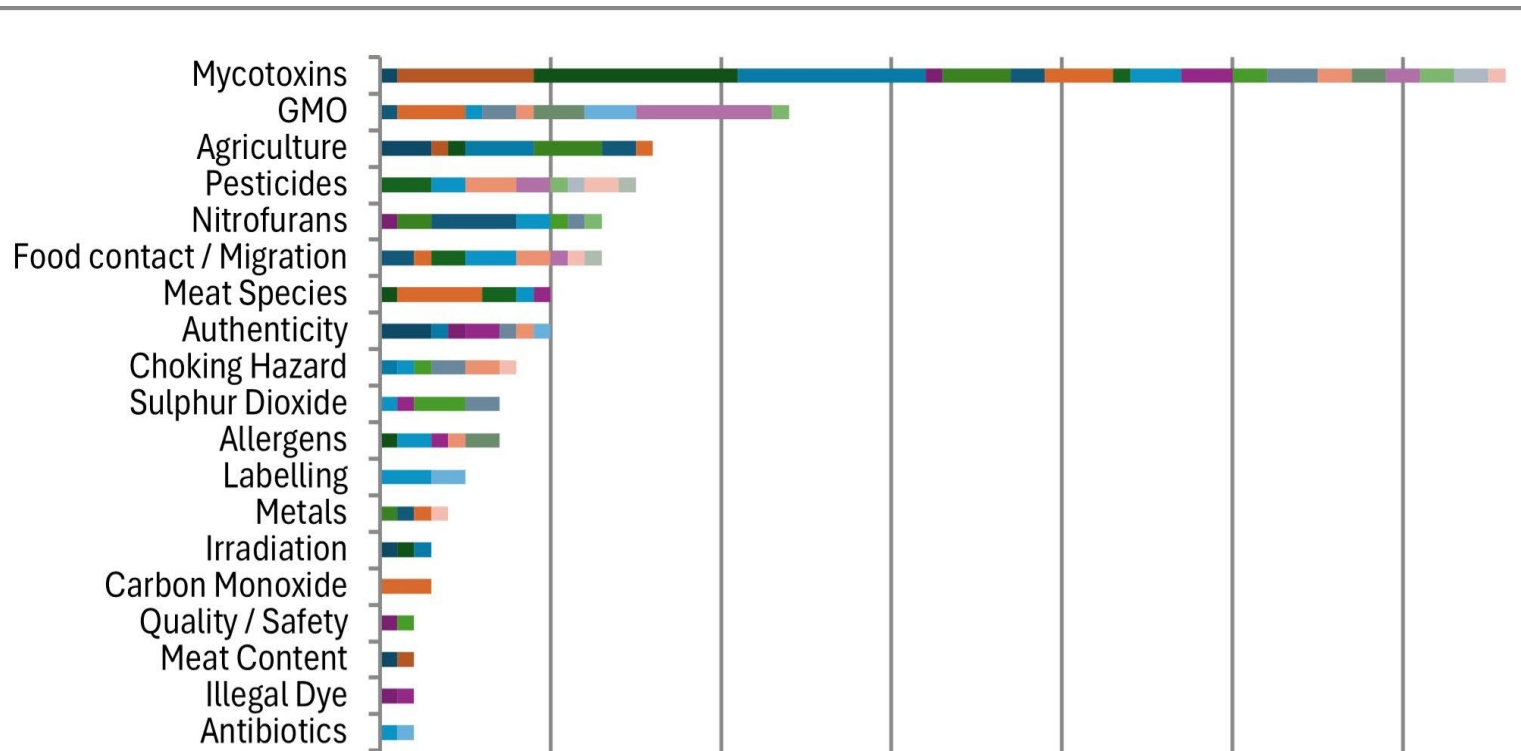
Collaboratively
building a resilient
national skills base



Maximising UK
measurement
expertise to address
global challenges



Referee cases - summary



GC Advisory Function – Cannabidiol (CBD)



- **Cross-government body and regulator collaboration**
- **Reference method development** for analytical competency assessment of control laboratories
- **Matrix reference material development** to support laboratory analytical quality assurance
- **Expert guidance** to the ACMD and UKAS
- **Capability building in Official Laboratories**
- **Knowledge Transfer:**
 - Open access CBD e-seminar through Joint KT Framework for Food Standards and Safety
 - ‘Cannlearn’, an app-based series of courses for industry and regulatory bodies (in partnership)



Horizon scanning

- Quarterly reviews on developments in food and feed law and related scientific and regulatory issues produced
- **Research and analysis reports**
 - ‘Comparative quantitative review of the sustainability of novel food production’
- **Quarterly monitoring of global food incidents**
- **GC quarterly reports:**
 - Horizon scanning updates
 - Stakeholder meetings



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Legislation review with
developments in food
and feed law

Figure 3 - Rolling Official Reports by Quarter, Jan '23 - Sept '25



Knowledge exchange



- **GC Annual Reviews** – being laid before Parliament
- **Cross-government Joint KT Framework** building capability & capacity in the UK official control system
- **MChemA training officer** at the annual; residential course
- **Input into BS EN 18033:2024 ‘Food authenticity – Quantitation of equine DNA relative to mammalian DNA in raw beef (meat)’**
- **Contributed to Parliamentary Reports and Inquiry**
 - Food fraud; Gene editing; Cell cultivated [meat] products
 - Innovation and global food security
- **Food Authenticity Network (FAN)**

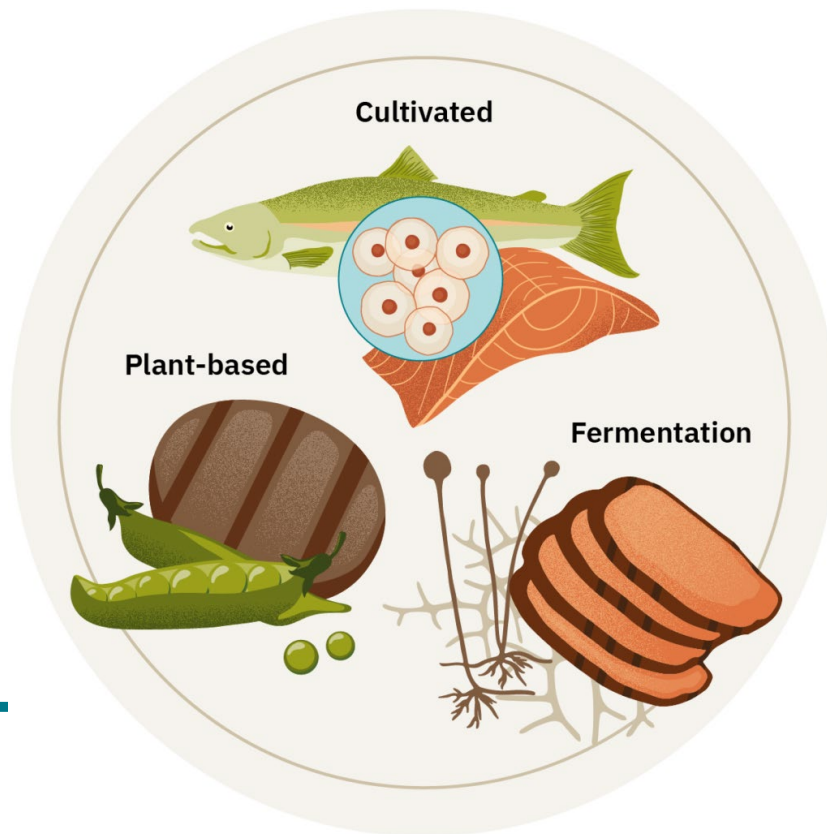


Stakeholder consultation



- Food authority and food fraud prevention
- Food security
- Alternative / Sustainable proteins
- Contaminants in novel foods, packaging and recycled materials
- Environmental claims/food labelling
- New genome techniques (NGTs)
- Effective use of data
- Enhance surveillance
- New regulation for novel foods (Engineering biology)
- Skills – gaps, availability and training

Future foods – Alternative / Sustainable proteins



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