



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Public Sector Food Procurement

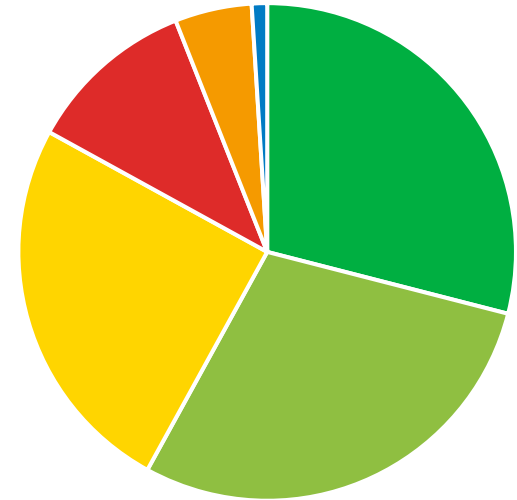
Defra and the Future Food Framework

10th March 2021



Background to Public Sector Food Procurement

- Public sector food procurement spans a wide range of organisations, from the NHS to public sector canteens.
- Government has committed to increasing the number of British, and small and medium sized food and drink producers in the public sector.



- School meals
- Further and higher Education
- NHS hospitals and care homes
- MoD
- Prisons
- Government Department Head Offices

Current policy

The Plan for Public Procurement:

1. **The Government Buying Standards for Food and Catering Services (GBSF):** a range of mandatory and best practice standards
2. **The Balanced Scorecard (BSC):** tool containing award criteria to help procurers to evaluate and balance different standards

Quality and Value				
Cost	Service			
Production	Health & Wellbeing	Resource Efficiency	Socio-economic	Quality of Service
Requirements/Award Criteria Categories				
Supply chain management	Nutrition*	Energy*	Fair & ethical trade	Food quality
Animal Welfare*	Food safety & hygiene	Water*	Equality & diversity	Customer satisfaction
Environment	Authenticity & traceability	Waste*	Inclusion of SMEs	
Variety & seasonality			Local & cultural engagement	
			Employment & skills	

* = in current GBS

The Future Food Framework (FFF)

Benefits to procurers:

- Simplicity
- Price competitiveness
- Traceability

Benefits to suppliers:

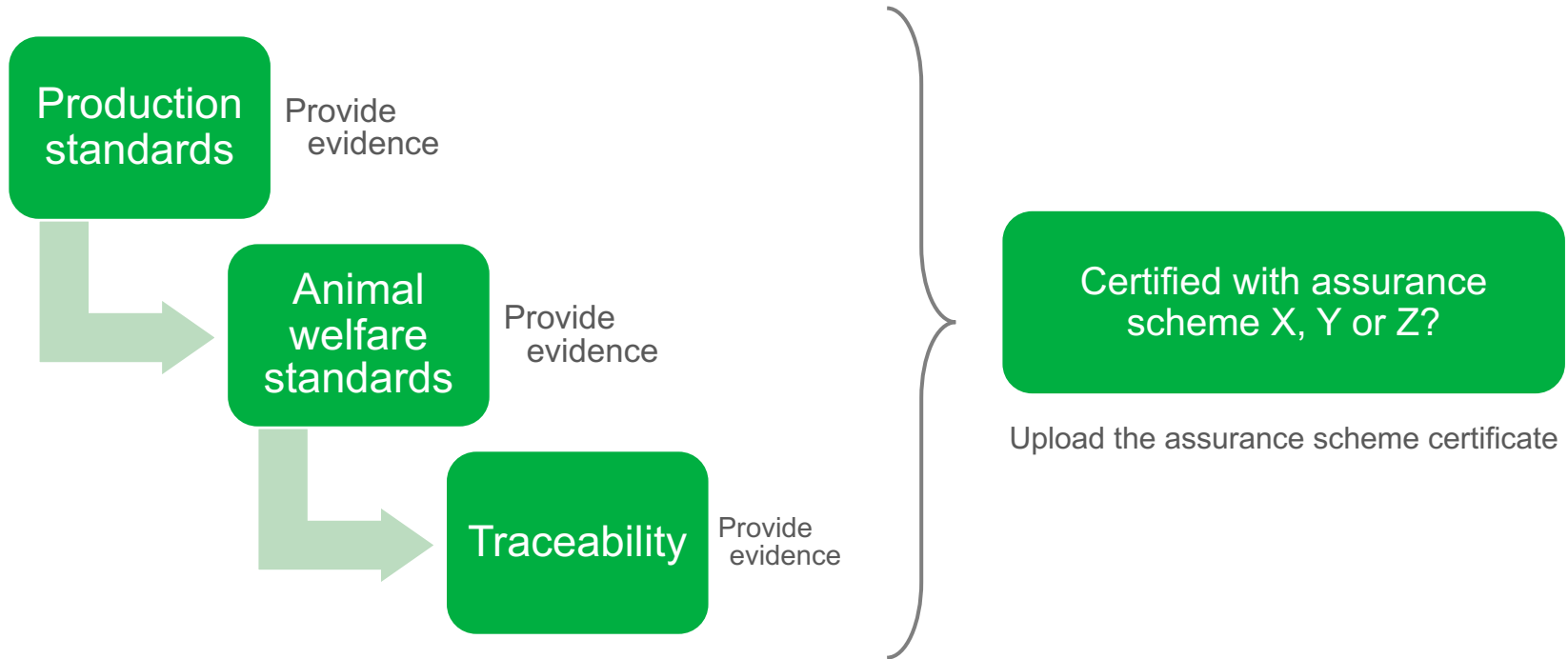
- Flexibility
- Simplicity
- Social Value
- Resilience



Assurance Schemes

- A way to simplify the procurement process in the FFF
- Can be used as evidence that you meet certain standards
- One scheme can act as evidence for multiple standards (which may be mandatory or best practice)
- Certification with an assurance scheme does not guarantee a public sector contract, but it can make the application process simpler

Assurance Schemes: Example for a supplier



Discussion

What are the main barriers to SMEs and local businesses supplying food to the public sector currently?

Discussion

How can we use assurance schemes to simplify the procurement process and promote best practice?

Discussion

What guidance should Defra provide in advance of the trial to support SMEs and procurers? At what stage in the process is this needed?