

# Food and Drink Export Council

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Food and Drink Export Council  
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Lord Offord of Garvel  
Minister for Exports

Mark Spencer MP  
Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries

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Dear Minister,

As you may recall the Food and Drink Export Council was launched in January 2023. Its initial 18-month remit is to increase UK agriculture, food, and drink exports by collaboratively working across the UK Government, Devolved Administrations, and industry.

The Council has established four working groups. These groups, each chaired by a member of the Council, progress specific areas of work in line with the Council's objectives. Where necessary, they engage relevant expertise from the sector. Their membership and remit are summarised in the below Annex.

All the groups are developing new export initiatives and pilots to achieve their objectives. These include but are not limited to a series of peer-to-peer events to increase export capability, the creation of a guide to marketing overseas, the development of a communications plan to improve information flow around barriers, opportunities, and across the sector, research into what information companies and individuals need to export successfully, and the strengthening of existing UK Export Certification Partnerships.

We are already talking with external interest groups including the Food and Drink Sector Council, the Dairy Export Taskforce, the British Poultry Council, and various business representative organisations across the UK agriculture, food, and drink sector. Each of these actively engaged and supported the Council's work. We are looking to develop a clear future ambition for the sector, UK-wide. Over the next few months, we will continue to engage closely with the sector to develop that ambition and support the delivery of our export initiatives and pilots.

On behalf of the Council members, I want to thank the Department for Business and Trade's secretariat team for their ongoing support, without which our work would be impossible to achieve.

A copy of this letter will be shared with the Devolved Administrations and placed in the Libraries of both Houses for information.

With kind regards,

Ian Wright CBE  
Co-chair

## **Annex: Working Group Summaries**

### **Share Group**

**Objective:** Identify and implement areas where sharing of expertise, information, funding, investment, or resources across the UK could benefit food and drink exporters.

#### **Members**

Andy Richardson (chair), Food and Drink Wales  
Gráinne Moody, Invest Northern Ireland  
Helen Dallimore, Coombe Castle International  
Karen Morgan, Department for Business and Trade  
Patricia Dillon, Speyside Distillers

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### **Barriers Group**

**Objective:** Support existing market access work to identify and prioritise market access opportunities and reduce barriers that constrain export growth (outside of trade agreements).

#### **Members**

Margaret Boanas (chair), International Meat Trade Association  
Dominic Goudie, Food and Drink Federation  
Gail Soutar, National Farmers Union  
Gez Martin, Welsh Government  
Iain Baxter, Scotland Food and Drink  
Karen Morgan, Department for Business and Trade  
Tim Brooks, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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### **Capability Group**

**Objective:** Identify the support and skills needed for businesses to trade successfully and increase the sector's export capability and ambition, with a primary focus on the SME sector.

#### **Members**

Anthony Mulley (chair), Marlow Ingredients  
Ewen Cameron, Scottish Development International  
Lee Hemmings, Belvoir Farm  
Nick von Westenholz, National Farmers Union  
Stephanie Cossom, Department for Business and Trade  
Tee Sandhu, SamosaCo

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### **Marketing and Promotion Group**

**Objective:** Ensure effective showcasing of UK strengths to international audiences. Ensure effective promotion of export support and opportunities to UK businesses and the successful use of relevant UK and devolved branding.

#### **Members**

Sandra Sullivan (chair), Food and Drink Exporters Association  
Adam Wing, Seafood Scotland  
Donna Fordyce, Seafood Scotland  
Joanna Chard, Welsh Government  
Michael Bell, Northern Ireland Food and Drink Association  
Phil Hadley, Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board  
Stephanie Cossom, Department for Business and Trade