



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Food
Standards
Agency



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Food Data Transparency Partnership

Design Partnership Group minutes

The Design Partnership Group is a stakeholder engagement group that provides input on policy development as part of an open policy design process. These discussions do not reflect agreed government policy.

Date 7 February 2023
Time 14:00-15:00
Venue Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Co-Chairs:

David Kennedy Director General, Food, Biosecurity and Trade, Defra
Chris Tyas Food Industry Advisor to Defra

Industry

Forty-nine industry leaders in attendance

Speakers:

Susan Barratt Health Working Group co-chair and IGD CEO

Karen Lepper Eco Working Group co-chair
Deputy Director for Food Data, Standards and Sustainability, Defra

Judith Irons Animal Welfare Working Group co-chair and Nando's Product Director

Anne Godfrey Data and Technical Working Group co-chair and GS1 CEO

Head of Animal Welfare, Schemes and Labelling, Defra

Item	Description and Actions
1.	<p>Welcome, introductions and aims of this meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Kennedy (DK) welcomed members to the first Design Partnership Group (DPG) meeting of the Food Data Transparency Partnership (FDTP). • DK explained that the DPG is designed to facilitate regular industry feedback on policy design while minimising the time commitment of members. NB: From this point forward the Food Data Transparency Partnership will be referred to as 'the Partnership' • DK reminded the group that the Partnership was announced in the 2022 Government Food Strategy last summer as a partnership programme between government, industry and experts to improve the environmental sustainability, nutritional composition, and animal welfare standards of food and drink. • The first stage of the Partnership will focus on developing proposals to be consulted on. These include consistent and defined metrics, company data reporting on these metrics, and mandatory methodology for voluntary eco labels. • DK explained that government will also share relevant information on the Partnership to organisations outside of the DPG. • DK reminded members to follow Chatham House rules and to also seek agreement from the Secretariat before speaking to the media about the Partnership, as set out in the ToR.
2.	<p>Food Data Transparency Partnership overview and Design Partnership Group terms of reference</p> <p><u>Food Data Transparency Partnership overview</u></p> <p>Chris Tyas (CT) provided an overview of the FDTP, as outlined in Annex A to the Terms of Reference (ToR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT reflected on the amount of work currently created because there are no common definitions for businesses already reporting on the data in scope of the FDTP, with many organisations using different metrics for various purposes, such as consumer information or annual reports to shareholders. He explained that the FDTP will therefore support industry and aim to minimise burden by creating standardised metrics for consistent data reporting. • CT explained that the Partnership will further work to minimise burden by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ building on existing data and metrics that are already used by industry, ○ avoiding duplication of reporting requirements that deliver similar outcomes to those sought by the FDTP. ○ learning from and aligning with other initiatives. • The Partnership engagement groups have been set up to allow for transparency of information by involving industry and civil society from the initial stages of policy development. • CT asked members to contact the DPG Secretariat to provide any comments or clarifications on the DPG ToR. Based on no further changes being made, the ToR were considered final.

	<p>The discussion covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long-term benefits for industry and value in involving others at this early stage of policy making, despite the complexity this can add. • The importance of consumers in the Partnership. CT confirmed that they will be embedded within the engagement plan and invited to relevant groups. • Links to the consultation on improved food waste reporting by large food businesses in England, and its alignment to the Partnership. • Potential interaction with vested commercial interests. CT recognised the potential for organisations to seek commercial advantage, however the Partnership will focus on definitions and the integrity of pre-competitive data rather than commercial solutions. • Links to HM Treasury and the devolved authorities. DK confirmed that the programme aims to avoid divergence approach within the UK market. We are working with the devolved nations and all relevant UK government departments, including HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. • Food imports: DK confirmed that imports are currently in scope, explaining that it would not be creating a level playing field if proposals were limited to domestically produced food. • Opportunity to provide feedback outside of the DPG meetings. CT highlighted that the DPG ToR sets out that some work may take place outside of these meetings.
<p>3.</p>	<p>Working group updates and membership</p> <p><u>Working group nominations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT thanked members for their nominations to the four working groups, who will be considered by the co-chairs in developing the membership of their respective groups. Those not selected will be included into a pool of individuals, who may be asked to participate in task and finish groups at a later stage. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members may continue to provide additional nominations to the working groups until the end of February 2023, these nominations will be added to the pool. ○ Work is underway to finalise membership of the groups and plans for initial meetings. <p><u>Health Working Group.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Barratt (SB) gave an update on behalf of the Health Working Group. • Membership will include around 15 organisations which will cover the whole food and drink industry. • SB confirmed that the Health Working Group ToR is currently being developed and will be shared in due course. <p><u>Eco Working Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Lepper (KL) gave an update on behalf of the Eco Working Group.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ToR for this group was shared via this meetings calendar invite. • KL responded to a point a member raised around existing commitments on standards and targets that companies may have already developed baselines against. KL agreed this was an important consideration of the eco working group. • KL noted that Judith Batchelar sends her apologies. <p><u>Animal Welfare Working Group</u> [UPDATE: To note that this work is currently on pause]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra team gave an update on behalf of the Animal Welfare Working Group and introduced Judith Irons. • The ToR for this group is currently being developed and once finalised will be shared with members. However, the group will be set up later than the other working groups. <p><u>Data and Technical Group</u></p> <p>Co-chairs: Anne Godfrey (AG) and Julie Pierce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AG gave an update on behalf of the Data and Technical Working Group. • AG set out the remit of the Data and Technical Working Group, to support the other working groups in developing the proposals. AG reported that she's received many nominations and has created a skills matrix to help with membership selection. • The ToR for this group was shared via this meetings calendar invite.
<p>4.</p>	<p>Next steps and forward look</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT notified members that the Secretariat will be in contact in a few weeks with information on future meetings and to ask for information on existing reporting and examples of relevant initiatives. • CT and DK thanked members for their time, and for their questions and feedback.

Please direct further questions or feedback to FoodDataTransparencyPartnership@defra.gov.uk