



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
From the Secretary of State for Environment, Food
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ZatL May 2019

Dear Benjamin,

Thank you for your letter of 12 April about food security.

A range of indicators are used to monitor levels of overall food security of supply on an ongoing basis. Defra's UK Food Security Assessment is a comprehensive analysis of all aspects of food security, including household food security. It was last published as a whole document in 2010, and it draws on a wide range of indicators, in the public domain, which are updated with varying frequency.

The UK Food Security Assessment has six themes: Global Food Security; Global Resource Sustainability; UK Availability and Access; UK Supply Chain Resilience; Household Food Security; Consumer Safety and Confidence. An updated assessment is planned to be published this year.

Defra are also supporting the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in introducing a new set of food security questions in the Family Resources Survey (FRS). DWP will follow the same methodology used in the United States Adult Food Security Survey Module, a well-established and internationally recognised methodology used to collect and compile statistics on food insecurity. This will mean that, from Spring 2021, government will be able to monitor the prevalence and severity of household food insecurity at national level and for specific groups. This information, coupled with the work that Defra will be doing on the UK Food Security Assessment, will help give the government a full picture of all parts of UK food security.

Thank you again for your letter.

With every good wish,

*Yours,
Michael*

Michael Gove



