

AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2026



13 October 2026 • Nottingham

Delivering Food Strategy Outcomes

Bringing together evidence and expertise to explore the opportunities and challenges shaping the UK's food system.

Programme



Conference Programme

Welcome & Opening

- 09:30–09:40** **Welcome Address**
Chris Gilbert-Wood – President, IFST
- 09:40–09:50** **Opening Remarks**
Alec Kyriakides – Independent Food Safety Consultant

Session 1: Healthier and More Affordable Food

- 09:50–10:10** **Session 1.1 – Keynote Address**
Prof. Ian Young – Chief Scientific Advisor, Food Standards Agency
The role of the FSA in Supporting Food Strategy Outcomes
- 10:10–10:30** **Session 1.2**
Lizzy McHugh – Impact and Partnerships Manager, University of Leeds
Healthy Sustainable Places: Priority Places for Food
- 10:30–10:50** **Session 1.3**
Alice Harlock – Director of Technical and Member Services, OPRL
- 10:50–11:10** **Panel Discussion and Q&A**
All Session 1 Speakers

40 Minutes Networking Break

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Conference Programme (cont'd)

Session 2: Vibrant Food Cultures

Session 2.1

11:50–12:10 **Zoe Plant** – New Product Development Manager, Food Works SW
West of England Food and Drink Support Initiative

Session 2.2

12:10–12:30 **Dr Ulrike Ehgartner** – Research associate, University of York
Beyond behaviour change: what actually enables vibrant food cultures?

Session 2.3

12:30–12:50 **Prof. Greta Defeyter** – Dean of Social Mobility Policy Engagement, Northumbria University
Affordable Food Clubs

12:50–13:10 **Panel Discussion and Q&A**
All Session 2 Speakers

Lunch and Networking



Sponsor Spotlight Sessions

14:20–14:35 **Sponsor Session 1**
Klipspringer (Headline Sponsor)

14:35–14:45 **Sponsor Session 2**
National Sanitation Foundation

14:45–14:50 **Food Innovation Toolkit**
Food Innovation Special Interest Group

Conference Programme (cont'd)

Session 3: Good Growth

Session 3.1

14:50–15:10

Prof. Todd Landman – Professor of Political Science and Research Director of the Rights Lab at the University of Nottingham
The impact of climate change on the human rights of workers in the food sector

Session 3.2

15:10–15:30

Harshal Gore – Director of Workforce and Economics, IGD
Feeding Britain's Future: Inspiring the next generation and building the future talent pipeline for food and drink

Session 3.3

15:30–15:50

Judith Batchelar OBE – Food Data Transparency Partnership
#FoodDataRevolution

15:50–16:10

Panel Discussion and Q&A
All Session 3 Speakers

Closing Comments

16:10–16:20

Closing Comments
Alec Kyriakides – Independent Food Safety Consultant

Drinks Reception



THANK YOU

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Accessibility and Inclusion

IFST is committed to making IFST Autumn Conference 2026 an inclusive and accessible event for everyone. We recognise that attendees have different needs and are committed to creating an environment where everyone can participate comfortably and confidently.

The conference venue has been selected with accessibility in mind and offers step-free access throughout. Clear signage will be provided to help delegates move around the venue, and priority seating near the front of the room will be available for attendees who would benefit from being closer to the speakers or presentation materials.

We understand that conferences can sometimes feel busy or overwhelming. A designated quiet space will be available throughout the day for anyone who would like to take a break away from the main conference activities. Members of the IFST team will also be available throughout the event to provide assistance or answer any questions.

Refreshments and catering will include a range of options to accommodate medical, religious and personal dietary requirements. If you have any specific dietary or accessibility requirements, please let us know when registering so we can make appropriate arrangements wherever possible.

To support individual comfort and well-being, delegates will have the option to wear a yellow lanyard if they would prefer not to take part in networking or would like to minimise social interaction during the event. This initiative helps promote personal choice and respectful interactions without the need for explanation.

These arrangements reflect IFST's commitment to creating a welcoming, respectful and professional environment where everyone can engage with the conference, contribute to discussions and make the most of the day. If you have any questions about accessibility or require additional support, please contact the IFST events team before the conference and we will do our best to assist.

Venue Map

