# Paper 15.5 External Expertise Mapping

## Summary

This paper outlines work undertaken to identify organisations with expertise in food policy research and analytical methods. The aim is to improve awareness of relevant research programmes and methodological approaches that may support or align with FSA priorities.

Members are asked to consider:

1. Are there any organisations or research groups working in the areas identified as gaps (shown in table 1) that we have not identified?
2. An alphabetical list of organisations is shown in annex A (by topic) and annex B (by method). Are there any additional organisations with relevant expertise that we have not identified?

## Background

This paper summarises recent work to identify external organisations with expertise relevant to the FSA's Analytics Unit (AU) and policy areas. The purpose of this work is to strengthen our awareness of current research programmes and methodological approaches that may support or align with FSA priorities, helping ensure that the AU's work remains connected to developments across the wider evidence landscape.

This exercise has involved compiling structured lists of organisations and research groups to develop an up-to-date view of external expertise in:

- Food policy research, including areas such as food crime, novel foods, and wider consumer interests.
- Analytical methods used in social science, economics, statistics, and operational research

# Approach

To identify relevant external expertise in food policy research and analytical methodologies, we began by consolidating existing internal sources of stakeholder information including: FSA Stakeholder Register and Register of Specialists, Science and evidence research directorate (SERD) intranet and newsletters (which includes updates on recent engagements and featured researchers), and the SERD stakeholder map (compiled earlier this year using SAC stakeholder lists, publication authors, and known collaborators).

This helped us establish a foundation of known organisations and research groups and identify areas where external expertise might currently be missing or underrepresented.

We then conducted targeted online searches to identify additional expertise, this included:

- Using university department pages, research group websites, and publication databases to identify relevant expertise in food policy topics and research methods. We focused on the Russell Group universities as a starting point, given their research intensity.
- Using curated lists such as the Food Research Collaboration's directory of Food Research Institutes in the UK to identify specialist centres and networks.

The organisations identified through this process are listed alphabetically in the annexes:

- Annex A: Organisations and research groups with food policy expertise
- Annex B: Organisations and research groups with methodological expertise

# Analysis of topic and method coverage

To support future use of the data, we developed a tagging system to classify expertise by topic and method:

- Topic keywords were based on the latest categorisation of AU projects, as reflected in our updated internal folder structure. These were adapted to reflect emerging areas of interest, for example, Novel Foods was added as a standalone topic due to significant AU activity in CBD, precision breeding, and alternative proteins.

- Topic keywords chosen were: Food Crime; Business Compliance (RCD, NLR); Operational Delivery (Regulated Products Delivery, OVs, Field Ops, Ops Assurance); Risk Analysis (Regulated Products Reform, Chemical, Radiological); Novel Foods (CBD, PB, CCP, Alt proteins, emerging technologies); Foodborne Diseases; AMR; Food Hypersensitivities; Trade; Consumer Monitoring (behaviour & perception); Communications (risk comms); Nutrition; Strategy (Strategic Insight, wider interests e.g. sustainability, schools, vulnerable, food insecurity); Not specified.
- Method keywords were identified by analysing FSA Social Science publications using CoPilot and grouped into overarching categories. Other AU teams (e.g. Operational Research, Economics, Statistics) have been invited to add to this list to ensure cross-disciplinary coverage.
- Method keywords chosen were: Evidence reviews; Surveys; Statistical analysis; Interviews, focus groups; Participatory, e.g. CitSci, deliberative; Ethnographic, e.g. observation; Creative e.g. social media; Innovative, e.g. AI, eye tracking; Behaviour change e.g. trials, experiments; Evaluations, e.g. process, outcome; Not specified.

Expertise was tagged by matching these keywords to descriptors found in "About Us" sections, research summaries, and publication abstracts.

These topic and method tags were then used to assess the breadth of coverage across the organisations identified. This analysis helped us highlight seven areas where expertise appears limited or fragmented.

Table 1 summarises the food policy topics and research methods that are currently underrepresented in the mapping.

# Next Steps

Our overall aim is to create a searchable database to support colleagues in the Analytics Unit (and wider FSA) to identify suitable external research expertise and maintain awareness of external research programmes and publications. We will seek input from the ACSS assurance group when we have a first draft of this database and will update periodically.

**Table 1: Areas of expertise with limited coverage**

| Area | Organisations identified with expertise | Link |
| --- | --- | --- |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Innovative methods (e.g. AI, eye-tracking)** | National Centre for Social Research | [Methodology and Innovation Hub](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | Royal Agricultural University | [Food policy, quality and security](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | University of Birmingham | [Birmingham Food Network](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | University of Leeds | [Global Food and Environment Institute](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | University of Leeds | [Social Research Methods Centre](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | University of Manchester | Management Sciences |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | University of Sheffield | [Sheffield Methods Institute](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | Nesta | [Nesta](#) |
| **Creative methods (e.g. social media, arts-based methods)** | WRAP | [WRAP](#) |
| **Food crime** | Queen's University Belfast | [Institute for Global Food Security](#) |
| **Food crime** | University of Portsmouth | [Food Cultures in Transition (FOODCITI) Research Cluster](#) |
| **Food crime** | University of York | [Food, Water & Waste - York Environmental Sustainability Institute](#) |
| **Food crime** | University of York | [AgriFood at York - Research](#) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Food crime** | POST | [Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)](#) |
| **Food hypersensitivities** | Imperial College London | [Centre for Translational Nutrition and Food Research](#) |
| **Food hypersensitivities** | University of Bath | [Centre for Motivation and Behaviour Change](#) |
| **Food hypersensitivities** | University of Manchester | [InformAll: Communicating about Food Allergies](#) |
| **Food hypersensitivities** | University of Surrey | [Food, Consumer Behaviour and Health Research Centre](#) |
| **Food hypersensitivities** | House of Commons Library | [The House of Commons Library](#) |
| **Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance** | University College Dublin / Queen's University Belfast / University of Sheffield | [Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems](#) |
| **Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance** | University of Exeter | [Exeter Food](#) |
| **Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance** | University of Greenwich | [Centre for Food Systems Research - Natural Resources Institute](#) |
| **Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance** | University of Leeds | [School of Geography](#) |
| **Foodborne diseases / Antimicrobial resistance** | University of Sussex | [Institute of Development Studies](#) |
| **Business Compliance** | University of Manchester | Management Sciences |
| **Business Compliance** | UWE Bristol | [School of Applied Social Sciences](#) |
| **Operational Delivery** | None identified yet | None identified yet |

# Discussion

Members are asked to consider:

1. Are there any organisations or research groups working in the areas identified as gaps (shown in table 1) that we have not identified?
2. An alphabetical list of organisations is shown in annex A (by topic) and annex B (by method). Are there any additional organisations with relevant expertise that we have not identified?

# Annex A: Organisations and research groups with food policy expertise

| Organisation/Collaboration | Department / Research Group |
|---|---|
| Cardiff University | Research Centre for Sustainable Urban and Regional Food (SURF) |
| City St George's, University of London | Centre for Food Policy |
| City St George's, University of London | Food Research Collaboration |
| Fuse | 6-University collaboration |
| Healthy People, Healthy Food | 7-University collaboration |
| Imperial College London | Centre for Translational Nutrition and Food Research |
| Lancaster University | Food Security for Equitable Futures |
| London School of Economics (LSE) | Consortium on Behavioural Science |
| London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine | Food Policy Impact Lab |
| Newcastle University | School of Natural and Environmental Sciences |
| Newcastle University | Centre for Rural Economy |
| NIHR Policy Research Units at Universities | NIHR Policy Research Units 2024-2028 |
| Queen Mary University of London | Centre for Public Health and Policy - Wolfson Institute of Population Health |
| Queen's University Belfast | Institute for Global Food Security |
| Royal Agricultural University | Food policy, quality and security |
| Salient | 8-University collaboration plus BIT and Nesta |

| | |
|---|---|
| Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) | Economics & policy | SRUC |
| Scottish Alliance for Food | 10-University collaboration |
| SOAS University of London | SOAS Food Studies Centre |
| UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) | Transforming UK Food System (TUKFS) |
| UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) | Global Food Security |
| University College Dublin / Queen's University Belfast / University of Sheffield | Co-Centre for Sustainable Food Systems |
| University College London (UCL) | Food, Metabolism & Society |
| University College London (UCL) | Centre for Behaviour Change |
| University of Aberdeen | Food: Cultures, Economy, Sovereignty | The School of Social Science |
| University of Bath | Centre for Motivation and Behaviour Change |
| University of Bath | Centre for Development Studies |
| University of Birmingham | Birmingham Food Network |
| University of Bristol | Nutrition and Behaviour Unit | School of Psychological Science |
| University of Cambridge | Population Health Interventions - MRC Epidemiology Unit |
| University of Cambridge | Behaviour Change By Design | Department of Public Health and Primary Care (PHPC) |
| University of Cambridge | Cambridge Global Food Security |
| University of Edinburgh | Food Researchers in Edinburgh (FRIED) |
| University of Edinburgh | Global Agriculture and Food Systems | The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies |
| University of Exeter | Exeter Food |
| University of Greenwich | Centre for Food Systems Research - Natural Resources Institute |

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|---|---|
| University of Hertfordshire | [Centre for Agriculture, Food and Environmental Management Research](#) |
| University of Hertfordshire | [Centre for Research in Public Health and Community Care (CRIPACC)](#) |
| University of Leeds | [Global Food and Environment Institute](#) |
| University of Leeds | [School of Geography](#) |
| University of Leeds / University College London / University of Liverpool / University of Oxford | [Consumer Data Research Centre](#) |
| University of Lincoln | [Lincoln Institute for Agri-Food Technology | University of Lincoln](#) |
| University of Liverpool | [Transforming the UK food system | Institute of Population Health](#) |
| University of Manchester | Management Sciences |
| University of Manchester | [InformAll: Communicating about Food Allergies](#) |
| University of Manchester | [Sustainable Consumption Institute | The University of Manchester](#) |
| University of Nottingham | [Food Systems Institute](#) |
| University of Oxford (with international collaborators) | [TableDebates](#) |
| University of Oxford | [Food Systems Transformation | Environmental Change Institute](#) |
| University of Oxford | [Future of Food | Oxford Martin School](#) |
| University of Portsmouth | [Food Cultures in Transition (FOODCITI) Research Cluster](#) |
| University of Reading | [Department of Agri-Food Economics and Marketing](#) |
| University of Reading | [Institute for Food Nutrition & Health](#) |

| | |
|---|---|
| University of Sheffield | [Sheffield Political Economy Research Institute \| SPERI](#) |
| University of Sheffield | [Institute for Sustainable Food](#) |
| University of Sheffield / University of Leeds | [National Alternative Protein Innovation Centre (NAPIC)](#) |
| University of Surrey | [Food, Consumer Behaviour and Health Research Centre](#) |
| University of Sussex | [Institute of Development Studies](#) |
| University of Sussex | [Institute of Development Studies](#) |
| University of Warwick | [Our Research - Food GRP](#) |
| University of York | [Food, Water & Waste - York Environmental Sustainability Institute](#) |
| University of York | [Food sustainability and security - Research](#) |
| University of York | [AgriFood at York - Research](#) |
| UWE Bristol | [School of Applied Sciences](#) |
| [Centre for Science and Policy](#) | [CSaP Affiliate Network](#) |
| Chatham House | [Agriculture and food](#) |
| [Food Ethics Council](#) | Not specified |
| House of Commons Library | [The House of Commons Library](#) |
| Nesta | [A healthy life \| Nesta](#) |
| Nuffield Council on Bioethics | [The environment & health – Nuffield Council on Bioethics](#) |
| [Nuffield Foundation](#) | Not specified |
| [Nuffield Foundation Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST)](#) | Not specified |
| [The Food Foundation](#) | Not specified |
| [The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)](#) | Not specified |
| Trussell | Not specified |
| [WRAP](#) | Not specified |

# Annex B: Organisations and research groups with methods expertise

| Organisation | Department / Research Group |
|---|---|
| 8-University collaboration plus UKHSA, Scottish & Welsh govts: Behavioural Research UK | Behavioural Research UK (BR-UK) |
| 7-University collaboration, UKFS-CDT | UK Food Systems Centre for Doctoral Training |
| London School of Economics (LSE) | Department of Psychological & Behavioural Science |
| University of Birmingham | Centre for National Training and Research Excellence in Understanding Behaviour (CENTRE-UB) |
| University of Essex | Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER) |
| University of Leeds | Social Research Methods Centre |
| University of Sheffield | Sheffield Methods Institute |
| University of Southampton | Statistical Sciences Research Institute (S3RI) |
| University of Southampton | Methodological Innovation: Survey Methods and Official Statistics |
| University of Warwick | Behavioural Science Group |
| National Centre for Social Research | Our expertise | National Centre for Social Research |
| Universities Policy Engagement Network (UPEN) | Policymaker support – UPEN |