

# Food for Life Scotland 2023/24: Our Impact

Sustainable catering extended further across the public sector in 2023 – 2024, as the Food for Life Scotland team supported BaxterStorey Scotland to gain the Food for Life Served Here Bronze award for 10 new sites in Glasgow and Edinburgh. Scottish Government workplaces awarded include Atlantic Quay in Glasgow, and Victoria Quay, St Andrews House and Saughton House in Edinburgh. Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service sites awarded include Glasgow Sheriff Court, Glasgow High Court, Edinburgh Sheriff Court and Parliament House. Combined, these sites serve an estimated 222,000 meals each year.



The Food for Life Served Here certification has provided a sustainable catering framework that has helped further improve the BaxterStorey catering offer across Scotland. The award helps us showcase Scottish and seasonal ingredients, and caterers working with the Food for Life Scotland team feel they are supported well throughout the process. We are looking forward to expanding our work with Soil Association Scotland through future partnership working.

**Mark McCulloch,**  
Operations Director, BaxterStorey Scotland.



## Here's how we made a difference in 2023 – 24:



**116,000**  
daily FFLSH meals served  
in Scottish schools

**460 caterers attended Food  
for Life Scotland training,  
either in person or online**



**22 Food for Life Served Here  
award holders in Scotland**

**1,149**  
FFLSH sites  
in Scotland



# School meals on the menu at Scottish Parliament

In November 2023, the Good Food for Scotland's Future parliamentary event – hosted by Food for Life Scotland and ASSIST FM, and sponsored by Jim Fairlie MSP – showcased real school meal recipes and emphasised the value of school meals services.

The Good Food for Scotland's Future parliamentary event showcased what a school meal looks like today. Tasters were prepared by Scottish Parliament's caterers using real Scottish school meal recipes. The recipes met both the national nutritional regulations and the Food for Life Served Here standards, and made the most of seasonal ingredients. Menu items included lentil soup, chickpea curry, and apple and bramble crumble.

Speaking at the event, Jim Fairlie MSP said: "The role of school caterers in delivering for our children through a freshly prepared, nutritious school meal is not to be underestimated, and the Food for Life Served Here award is a great mechanism to do this."

School food procurement has the potential to be a key driver in pushing forward the priorities of the Good Food Nation Act. Buying food locally can enhance Community Wealth Building, support sustainable producers and strengthen local economies. In the context of the Good Food Nation Act and the Community Wealth Building agenda, school meals have never been more important.



## East Dunbartonshire Council gains Bronze for early years settings

This year, East Dunbartonshire Council extended its Food for Life Served Here Bronze certification to its early years sites for the first time. The council serves more than 11,000 nutritious, sustainable and locally-sourced Food for Life meals in its 32 primary schools and 22 nurseries every day.

East Dunbartonshire Council works with local suppliers to source produce for its school meals, such as high-quality meat sourced from farms in Perthshire and Aviemore. Seasonal ingredients on the menu include Scottish blueberries, broccoli, carrots, potatoes, raspberries, strawberries, and turnips. School cooks display seasonality calendars in dining halls so pupils can discover when these fruits and vegetables are in season in Scotland.

Councillor Paul Ferretti, Convener of the Place, Neighbourhood & Corporate Assets Committee, said: "The expansion of this award to cover our 22 early years centres and nurseries shows the Council's commitment to serving up healthy lunches that are environmentally friendly and as locally sourced as possible."



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Soil Association Scotland, 20 Potterrow, Edinburgh EH8 9BL

