

With a general election weeks away, the British Poultry Council has put together some talking points for members to communicate with parliamentary candidates and explain why the UK poultry meat production must be supported and demonstrate industry's commitment towards working with the Government to find a solution to key labour and trade issues.

Talking points for communicating with parliamentary candidates:

- **POULTRY IS GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY**

The British poultry meat is a strong and competitive food sector which is feeding communities and driving economic growth. Our industry grows nearly 1 billion birds every year and contributes £4.6 billion gross value to the economy.

- **WE NEED ACCESS TO LABOUR TO SURVIVE**

People are the lifeblood of our dynamic industry which sustains a total of 87,000 jobs up and down the country – of which 37,300 are employed directly in the poultry meat sector. The industry cannot survive without access to people with the right skills. Finding sufficient UK labour is becoming a massive challenge as the uncertainties around Brexit are prompting many of our workers to seek jobs in other countries. With non-UK labour in the sector at around 60%, it's incredibly important that we have access to migrant labour through a simplified work visa system.

- **REWARDING CAREER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

We are investing in our workforce and working towards positioning ourselves as the 'employer of choice' by tapping into the appetite of young people for a fulfilling career. We are moving away from the outdated perception of being a low-skill industry by offering a range of apprenticeships and jobs in research and development, production, engineering, marketing, sales, food safety, biosecurity, farm management and planning, food hygiene and nutrition. We need your support to further promote the poultry meat sector at school level and highlight the various apprenticeship opportunities available and their role in helping build a rewarding career.

- **DEVELOPING MARKETS FOR TRADE**

75% of our imports and exports are with EU member states, worth approximately £2 billion annually. Dedicated support from the Government in opening third-country markets to trade, supported by a strong 'British' food brand will go a long way in boosting local economy and promoting positive and constructive trading relationships.

- **PUBLIC PROCUREMENT OF BRITISH POULTRY**

Poultry meat is the only livestock sector that can scale up quickly to meet food security demands. We need the Government to take a lead in backing our producers by supporting public procurement of British poultry to help increase food security and safeguard our food standards.

For more information please contact Shraddha Kaul, Public Affairs and Public Relations Manager, BPC on skaul@britishpoultry.org.uk or 07469155654.

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