

*The*  
**HIDDEN COST**  
*of*  
**UK FOOD**

*November 2017*

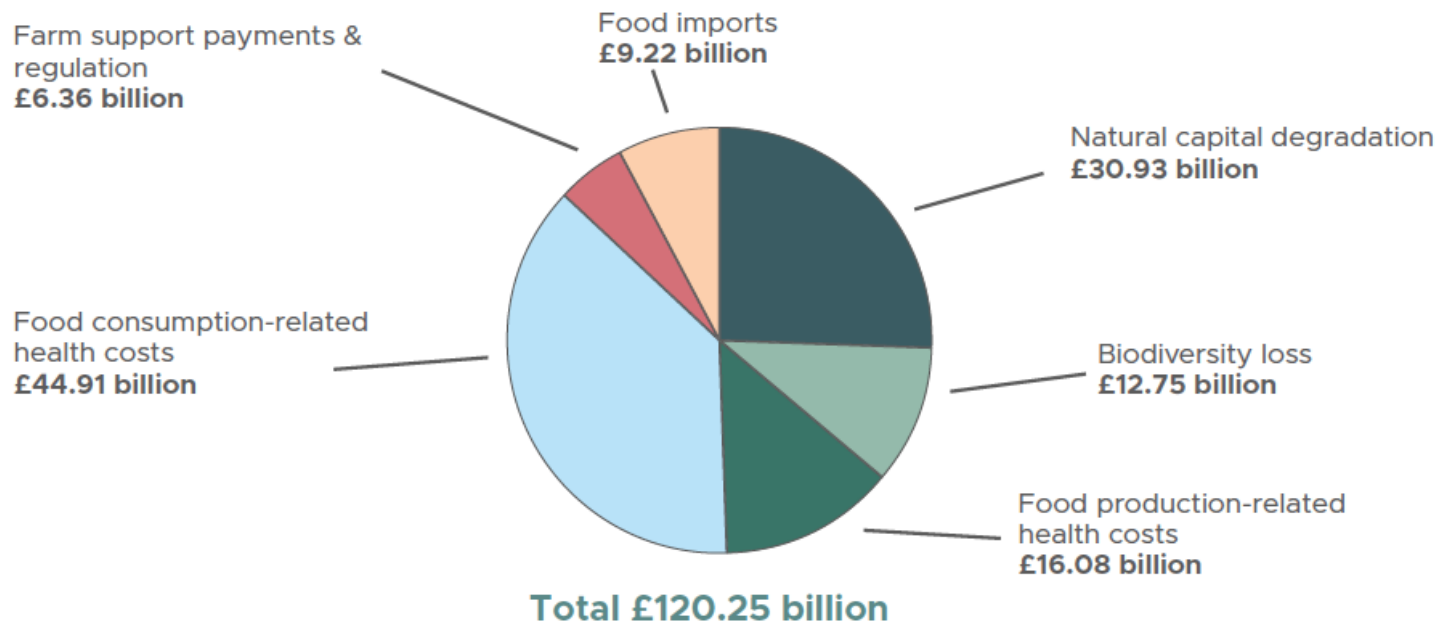
**Honor Eldridge**

**Head of Policy  
Sustainable Food Trust**



# Negative food system impacts

## Breakdown of negative UK food system externality costs in 2015



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# UK Consumer spending on food

## UK consumer approximate spend

Food	£86.08 billion
Fruit and vegetable juices and non-alcoholic drinks	£8.44 billion
Catering <sup>1</sup>	£25.62 billion <sup>a</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£120.14 billion<sup>b,c</sup></b>



# Breakdown of every hidden £1 spent on food

- Natural capital degradation 25.7p
- Biodiversity loss 10.6p
- Production-related ill-health 13.4p
- Diet-related disease 37.3p
- Imported food 7.8p
- Farm support payments 2.5p
- Regulation and research 2.7p

**Total £1.00**



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# Hidden costs in 2015

## Hidden food system externality costs

Natural capital degradation	£30.93 billion
Biodiversity loss	£12.75 billion
Food consumption-related health costs	£44.91 billion
Food production-related health costs	£16.08 billion
Farm support payments and regulation	£6.36 billion
Imported food	£9.22 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>£120.25 billion</b>



# Natural capital degradation

GHG emissions and air pollution	£14.23 billion
Food waste across the total UK food system	£12 billion
Soil degradation including soil carbon loss	£3.21 billion
Water costs attributable to agriculture	£1.49 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>£30.93 billion</b>



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# Biodiversity loss

Loss of ecosystem biodiversity  
due to agriculture

**£12.75 billion**

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## Food consumption-related health costs

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Cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer and dental caries	£22.94 billion
Malnutrition	£17 billion
Overweight and obesity	£3.97 billion
Hypertension	£1 billion
<b>Total</b>	<b>£44.91 billion</b>

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## Food production-related health costs

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Antibiotic resistance	£2.34 billion
Food poisoning	£1.7 billion
Organophosphate pesticides	£12 billion
Colon cancer linked to nitrate in drinking water	£43.5 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16.08 billion</b>

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## Farm support payments & regulation

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Rural Development Programme, administration,  
regulation and research £3.35 billion

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Basic Payments Scheme £2.95 billion

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BBSRC food and farming research £56.2 million

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**Total £6.36 billion**

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## Food imports

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Net hidden cost of food imports **£9.22 billion<sup>a,b</sup>**

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# OSR, grassland and biodiversity



- Insect pollination services in the UK worth £400 - £690 million
- Global production of crops that depend directly on pollinators worth US\$235 to US\$577 billion
- 9% of pollinator species threatened with extinction, 37% of bee species and 31% of butterfly species declining

