

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

BY DEPUTY K.M. WILSON OF ST. CLEMENT

**QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2024
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2024**

Question

“Will the Minister advise whether any research has been undertaken into the impact on soil health, food resilience and existing agricultural produce if plans for farming are encouraged through the agricultural loans scheme, and if not, why not?”

Answer

Research was undertaken earlier this year into the impact on soil health, food resilience and existing agricultural produce and was commissioned by the Department for the Economy, the results of which will be published in a food resilience report in November.

The report will inform future policy decisions by identifying challenges to productivity and resilience across the local food system.

This report also offers a series of recommendations to improve local food system functionality by implementing appropriate regulations that enable resilience, collaborating better within Government, influencing the private sector, investing in infrastructure, developing innovative partnerships, including multiple perspectives within the industry, and using a systems approach in decision-making.