

Q&A with Professor Chris Elliott, OBE



Professor Chris Elliott, Pro Vice Chancellor, Queen's University Belfast

New Food's Event Director, Clare King, interviews Professor Chris Elliott, Pro Vice Chancellor, Professor of Food Safety, and founder of the Institute for Global Food Security, ahead of the Food Brexit 2018 Conference.

Professor Elliott discusses the potential implications of Brexit and offers his opinion on the challenges facing the UK food industry.

New Food: How will Brexit impact food safety in the UK?

Chris: This is one of the great unknowns. Without substantial investment by the government, providing the means to control food imports from countries with lower standards than the EU, we could face severe issues ahead.

New Food: How should food and drink firms prepare for Brexit?

Chris: Most firms I talk to are doing their best but with huge uncertainties ahead they are struggling. The only advice I can give is to identify where you are sourcing all your ingredients from. As new tarrifs may be introduced it will become increasingly important to look for alternative sources to future proof your business.

New Food: What is your biggest concern with regards to Brexit and the food industry? Chris: The issue of labour, both at farms and at the point of processing.

New Food: What opportunities do you believe there are for the industry outside of the EU?

Chris: I believe the UK should adopt a strategy to have a food industry with the highest possible credentials around integrity and aim to sell into markets that want the highest quality, and the safest and most authentic foods.

Food Brexit 2018 Conference - 1 November at the QEII, London



We are delighted to welcome Professor Chris Elliott as a speaker; Chris will be moderating in the food safety standards session.

For more information about the conference, download the latest programme, and to book your place please <u>click here</u>.

If you are interested in speaking at the conference please email <u>events@</u> <u>russellpublishing.com</u>

Clare King, Event Director, *New Food*