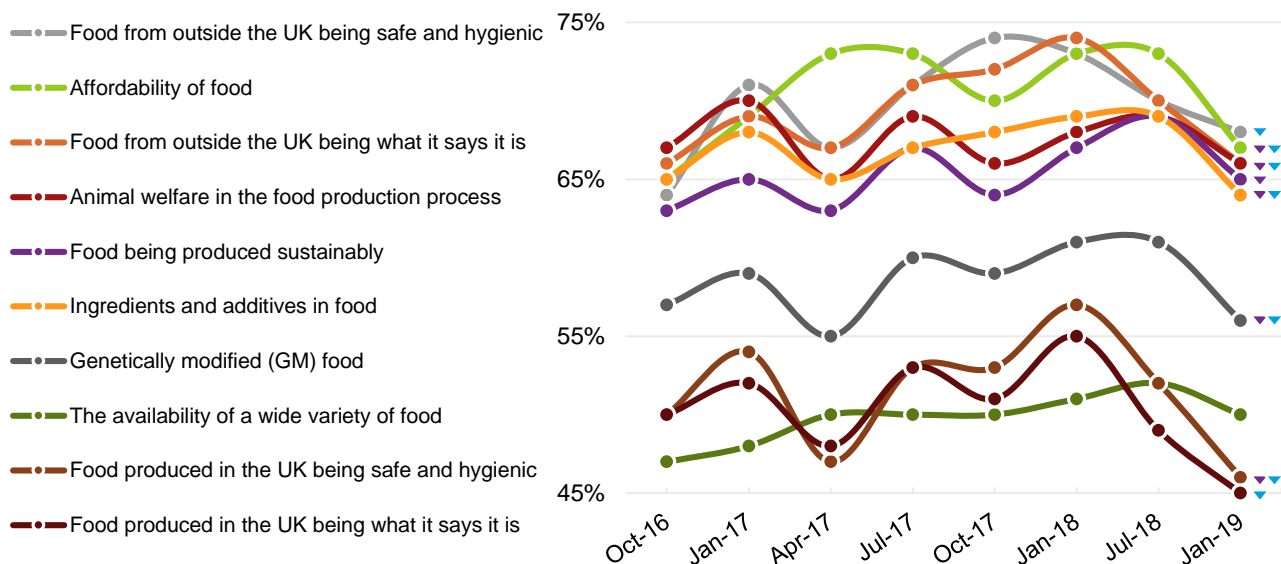# Citizens' views on the EU and food issues
Summary of findings – January 2019

This headline note pulls out key findings from the eighth wave of tracking citizens' attitudes to food and regulation within the context of leaving the EU. Significant changes over time are indicated with symbols - see key below. This latest wave was conducted in January 2019 with a sample of 1,501 adults aged 16+ in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Key findings:

1 The proportion of citizens **believing that EU exit will have a positive effect on food in the next 2-3 years is now at the lowest point** since tracking began in 2016 (18%). Neutrality is up slightly since July, and this trend is also apparent for healthcare, the economy, culture and arts, education and cost of living.

2 **Six in ten citizens think that food prices will become more expensive** as a result of leaving the EU, however this proportion has fallen slightly compared to this time last year (65% in January 2018), with more people unsure of the answer.

3 There has been a **general decline in overall concern** about key food issues this wave compared to this time last year. Food from outside the UK being safe and hygienic (68%) and affordability (67%) are the top concerns.

Legend:
- Food from outside the UK being safe and hygienic
- Affordability of food
- Food from outside the UK being what it says it is
- Animal welfare in the food production process
- Food being produced sustainably
- Ingredients and additives in food
- Genetically modified (GM) food
- The availability of a wide variety of food
- Food produced in the UK being safe and hygienic
- Food produced in the UK being what it says it is

(Q6. Thinking about food in Britain today, how concerned, if at all, do you feel about each of the following topics? NET Concern: somewhat concerned / highly concerned)

4 Generally, **citizens are more likely to think that food issues will get worse than improve** in the context of EU exit. As also seen in the previous wave, for most issues the proportion stating *'there will be no change'* has fallen, and the proportion stating *'don't know'* has increased, suggesting a broad decrease in clarity.

5 The proportion of citizens **believing that laws relating to food come mostly from the EU is now lower than in January 2018** (now 28% compared to 33% in 2018) with 9% believing that all food law comes from the EU. A greater proportion selected *'don't know'* this wave compared to this time last year.

▲▼ Significant change vs. previous wave (July 18)
▲▼ Significant change vs. previous year (Jan 18)