

How politics affects... **the food we eat**

It determines which artificial additives, colourings and preservatives can and can't be used • **sets legal limits on levels of contaminants that can be present, like pesticides** • assesses the safety of manufacturing processes, like irradiation • **decides exactly what information is and isn't required on labels** • controls the use of genetically modified crops • **decides what measures should be taken to protect us from diseases like CJD** • says what drugs, for example steroids and antibiotics, may and may not be given to animals we eat • **decides how those animals are transported, killed and stored** • sets hygiene standards for restaurants and takeaways • **controls the 'Sell by' and 'Best before' dating systems** • determines how much tax must be paid on imported foods, which affects prices • **sets farming and fishing quotas, which again affects prices** • sets quality standards for fresh produce.



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