

FDReviews

UK Market Discovery Webinars:

# The UK Plant-based Market

March 27<sup>th</sup> 2023



Food & Drink Product Development Support



In partnership  
with:



# What we will cover...

## What is the demand for this market in the UK and how does this market perform? What is the size of this market?

- What are the main categories within plant-based products in the retail sector?
- Consumer preferences and trends. What is driving plant-based trends in the UK?
- What are the challenges? Pricing? Taste?

## How to prepare to enter the UK market

- How to know if the product is suitable for the UK market? How to gain expert advice on this?
- Case Study: we show how one Danish company's product was reviewed to enter the UK market
- Discussion



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Co-founder  
FDReviews



Kelly Dowson  
Managing Director  
F!S Group



Al Overton  
Ex Buying Director  
Planet Organic

# The UK Market Overview in 2023

- Market much more open post-Brexit
- 6th largest Economy in the world
- Very diverse customer base (6% Ethnic background)
- Consumer comfortable with international products
- Tariff Reductions
- Online/E-Commerce Opportunities
- Food Service opportunities
- UK supermarkets have 'dialing ' back on new products



**Stephen Minall**  
FDReviews / Moving Food



# UK HFSS Regulations – Affected Products

- Soft drinks with added sugar / Juice drinks with added sugar
- Milk drinks with added sugar / Crisps and savoury snacks
- Breakfast cereal / Chocolate confectionery / Sugar confectionery
- Ice cream / Cakes / Sweet biscuits / Morning goods / Pudding and dairy desserts
- Yoghurts / Pizza / Chips and potato products / Family meal centres
- Ready meals / Breaded and battered products / Main meals (out-of-home)
- Starters, sides and small plates (out of home)
- Children’s meal bundles (out of home) / Sandwiches (out of home)



# UK (& Global) Ingredient Trends



- **Enhanced Health & Wellness**  
“You are what you eat” – Covid-19 demonstrated immunity support can come through diet. Focus on health remains high - as raised awareness of the sugar, salt and fat in our diets drives obesity growth and illnesses
- **Great Taste**  
The ultimate reason to purchase is Great Taste. If it doesn't taste great, the repeat purchase will fail.
- **AND ALL AT A LOWER PRICE** - something needs to give to achieve this mix

# UK (& Global) Ingredient Trends

- **Natural / Clean Label**

Remains a key driver despite the cost of living crisis.

Consumers still want shorter ingredient panels.

Ultra processed ingredients remain in the spotlight

Organic & Fairtrade – growing again. Consumers want to know what is in their product and how the supplier is treated.

- **Localisation**

Sourcing foods & ingredients closer to home – knowing where your food comes from.

Farm gate purchasing – farmers diversifying selling D2C (e.g.

[www.produceandprovide.co.uk/](http://www.produceandprovide.co.uk/) )

Concerns around ESG and food miles – continue as a top purchasing consideration.

# The UK E-Commerce Open Door

- Advice on Pack sizes re Retail Shelf Space
- Frozen Products
- Bulk lines
- Clearing House critical
- Trade Shows
- Online Shops
- E-Commerce - Ankorstores, Onbuy, Yumbles, Amazon and Shelfnow



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FDReviews / Moving Food



# UK Retail Universe

## Total Grocery Market



## Breakdown of retailers according to Kantar

### Supermarkets

53.5%  
(-1.1ppt)



£69Bn  
-2.9%

### Discounters

19.8%  
(+0.4ppt)



£25.5Bn  
+1.2%

### Convenience

8.9%  
(-0.8ppt)



£11.4Bn  
-9.2%

### Online

13.0%  
(+1.8ppt)



£16.7Bn  
+14.8%

### High Street

5.0%  
(-0.2ppt)



£6.4Bn  
-5.5%



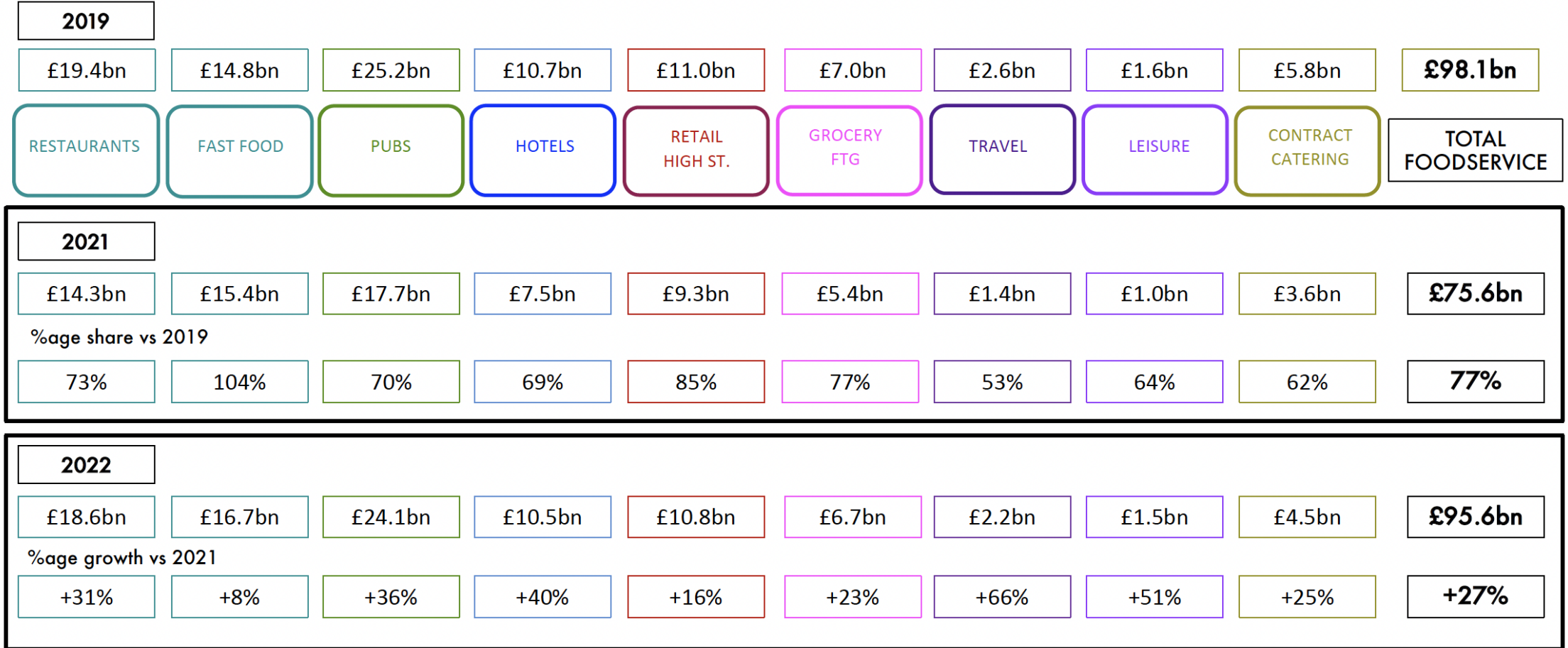
# FORECAST REVENUE BY SECTOR & GROWTH 2022 v 2021

Total Foodservice 2022 - £95.6bn

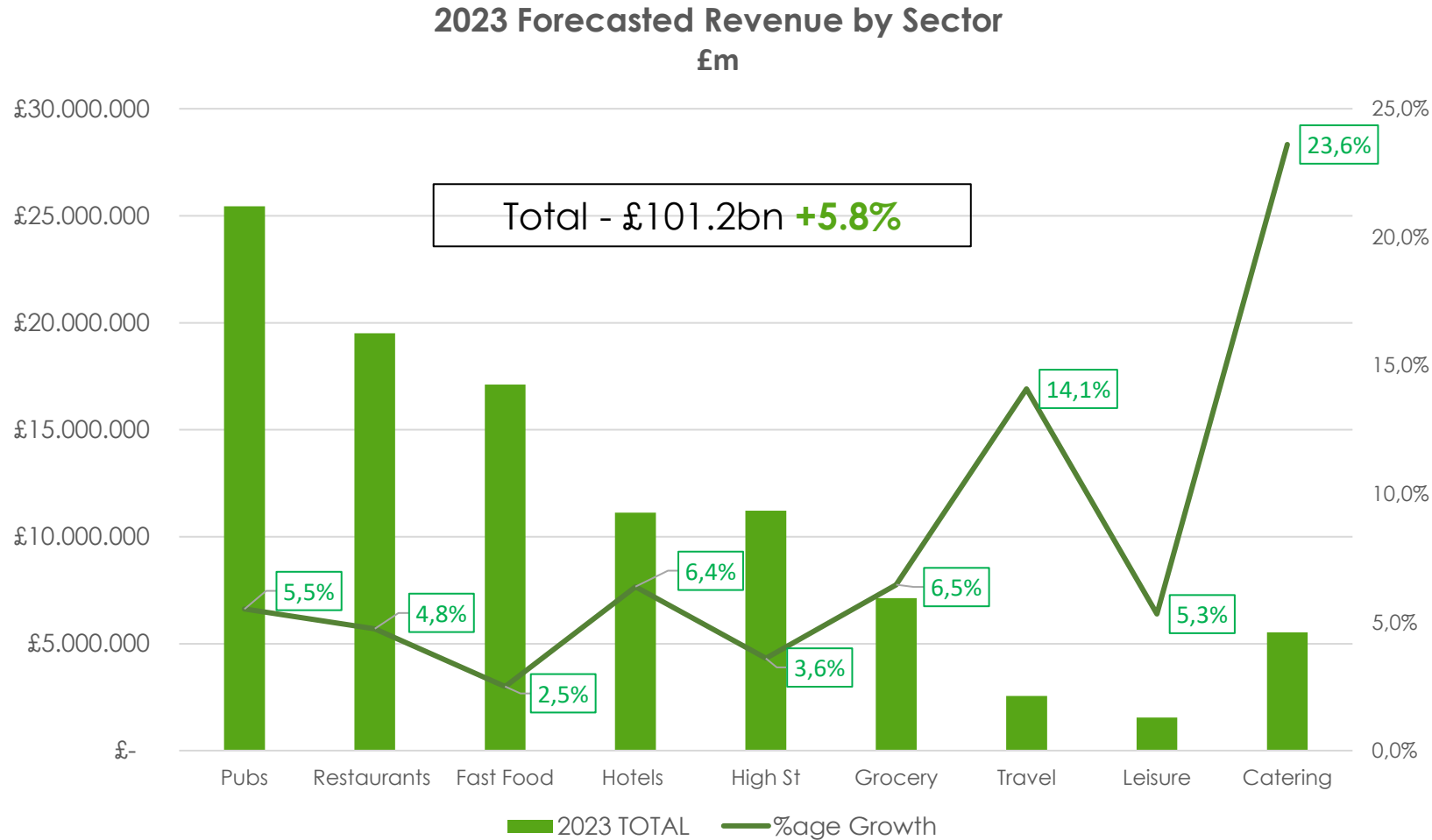
RESTAURANTS	FAST FOOD	PUBS	HOTELS	GROCERY FTG	HIGH ST.	TRAVEL	LEISURE	CONTRACT CATERING
£18.6bn (+31%)	£16.7bn (+8%)	£24.1bn (+36%)	£10.5bn (+40%)	£6.7bn (+23%)	£10.8bn (+16%)	£2.3bn (+66%)	£1.5bn (+51%)	£4.5bn (+25%)
BRANDED CHAINS	BRANDED TRADITIONAL	BRANDED & MANAGED	FULL SERVICE	SUPERMARKET FTG	COFFEE SHOPS	ROADSIDE & MSA	VISITOR ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS	BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
£5.3bn (+35%)	£5.9bn (+8.4%)	£10.0bn (+38%)	£9.2bn (+41%)	£1.25bn (+24%)	£4.4bn (+16%)	£0.2bn (+49%)	£0.5bn (+49%)	£1.5bn (+35%)
FINE DINING	BRANDED NEW	TENANTED & LEASED	BUDGET	CONVENIENCE STORES	SANDWICH & BAKERY	FORECOURTS	ENTERTAINMENT VENUES	EDUCATION
£0.9bn (+31%)	£1.5bn (+8.6%)	£2.6bn (+21%)	£0.6bn (+39%)	£5.35bn (+22%)	£4.7bn (+17.5%)	£1.2bn (+42%)	£0.6bn (+51%)	£0.9bn (+4%)
INDEPENDENT	TRADITIONAL DELIVERY	INDEPENDENT	B&B & GUEST HOUSES		DEP'T STORES / GARDEN CENTRE / SHOP CAFES	RAILWAY STATIONS & TRAINS	SPORTS & LEISURE	HEALTHCARE
£12.4bn (+28%)	£2.5bn (+8.6%)	£6.0bn (+27%)	£0.5bn (+38%)		£1.7bn (+14%)	£0.7bn (+117%)	£0.4bn (+53%)	£0.8bn (+3%)
	INDEPENDENT	SOCIAL CLUBS	HOLIDAY PARKS			AIRPORTS		STADIA & EVENTS
	£5.5bn (+7.9%)	£0.4bn (+46%)	£0.2bn (+39%)			£0.2bn (+114%)		£0.4bn (+41%)
	STREET FOOD	NIGHTCLUBS & CIRCUIT BARS						DEFENCE / JUSTICE
	£1.3bn (+8.3%)	£5.1bn (+52%)						£0.9bn (+3%)

# UK FOODSERVICE MARKETPLACE

## The UK Foodservice Market Revenues 2019- 2022



# 2023 FORECASTS BY SECTOR GROWTH v 2022



**2023 – stable growth with an outlook for modest growth for most, driven by economic factors, but each sector performs differently – hence the name of the report, ‘The Next Era...’**

- Inflation easing and growing disposable income
- Economy continuing to recover and grow
- City Centres rebuilding
- Inbound Tourism recovering

**Sector Specific growth notes:**

- Travel sees strong growth as international travel re-builds and rail usage increases.
- Catering [Contract] rebuilds very strongly, with increased office usage and corporate hospitality.

**Total market grows by +5.8% over 2022**

- Reaching a Total £101.2bn
- +3% vs 2019

# Top Takeaways



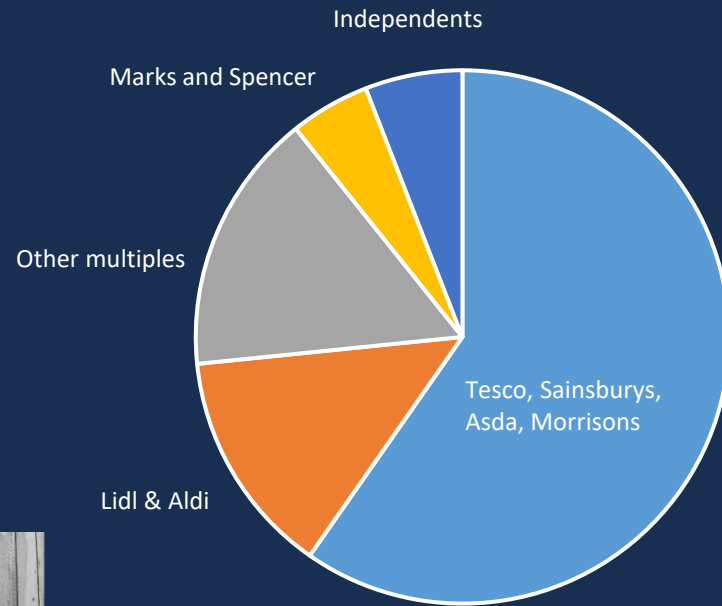
**Stephen Minall**

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- Market is open and willing but slowing in traditional routes via supermarkets
- Labelling Compliance is fairly easy – but make sure its right
- Get your price point right
- Understand the category
- 6 Seconds to grab a consumers attention
- Understand what is on trend
- Look at omnichannel Retail/FS/Ecommerce/Manufacturers (ingredients)

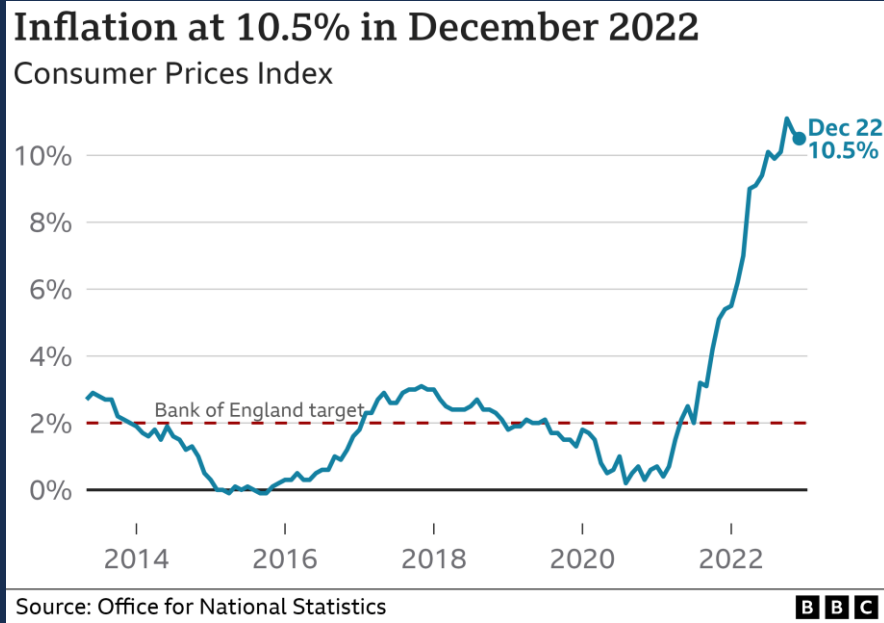
# A Market dominated by the Big Four and the Discounters...



**Al Overton**  
Wonderland Ventures

<b>KANTAR MARKET SHARE - TOTAL FOOD &amp; DRINK</b>					
Includes expenditure across Fresh & Chilled, Ambient Groceries & Frozen Food. Excludes Alcohol, Household, Toiletries & Healthcare					
	4 weeks to 23	Market Share	4 weeks to 22	Market Share	% Change (year
	Jan 2022		Jan 2023		on year)
	£m	%	£m	%	%
<b>Total Food &amp; Drink</b>	<b>6,974</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,448</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
Total Grocers	6,280	90.0%	6,729	90.3%	7.2%
Total Multiples	6,225	89.3%	6,679	89.7%	7.3%
Tesco	1,708	24.5%	1,784	24.0%	4.5%
Sainsbury's	936	13.4%	970	13.0%	3.7%
Asda	886	12.7%	920	12.4%	3.9%
Morrisons	634	9.1%	618	8.3%	-2.5%
Aldi	554	7.9%	711	9.5%	28.4%
Lidl	401	5.7%	519	7.0%	29.5%
Co-op	341	4.9%	363	4.9%	6.6%
Waitrose	344	4.9%	340	4.6%	-1.2%
Iceland	205	2.9%	223	3.0%	8.9%
Ocado	128	1.8%	137	1.8%	7.4%
Other Multiples	90	1.3%	94	1.3%	4.6%
Symbols & Independents	55	0.8%	50	0.7%	-9.1%
<b>Total Non Grocers</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>10.0%</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>
Marks & Spencer	338	4.8%	361	4.8%	7.0%
Total Bargain Stores	185	2.7%	190	2.6%	2.7%

# Inflation overriding all trends and forecasts



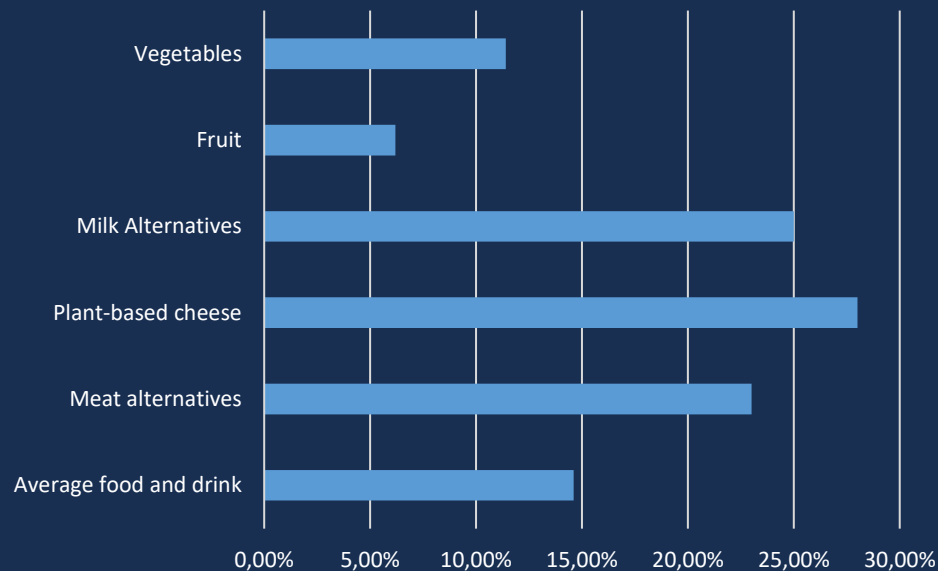
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- Reducing cost of living is now the key reason cited for reducing meat consumption
- The discounters are seeing significant sales increases
- The big four are focused on price matching rather than innovation or inspiration
- Price concerns are likely to trigger “project reset” mentalities in the big retailers
  - Reduce range
  - Focus on costs
  - Reliance on established suppliers
  - Consolidation, not expansion

# Plant-based suffering higher inflation?

A report from the British press in January shows plant-based brands price increases above average inflation...

Average price increase 2022 - 2023



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- Are the retailers taking higher margins in destination categories?
- Were prices artificially low to entice consumers?
- Is this limited scale/pricing power within challenger brands/emerging industry?
- Whatever it is, it won't encourage uptake from increasingly price sensitive consumers

# ...and yet UK consumers are still looking to eat less meat and dairy

- 2% of UK consumers are now vegan
- 47% of adults either do not eat meat or are looking to reduce their meat intake
- 14% of 16–24 year-olds do not eat meat
- There are multiple influencing factors making continued growth more likely
- High profile vegan influencers are driving awareness



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Wonderland Ventures





# So what is really happening?

- The movement towards eating less meat and less dairy feels unstoppable
- Plant based is not one market – there are multiple consumer groups with multiple priorities across multiple categories
- In some categories it is still not clear what the consumer wants instead of meat
- Ver1.0 of meat alternatives has not worked
- Who is the customer? Most plant-based bacons are for people who DON'T eat bacon.
- There is a challenge between fresh and frozen
- After significant range expansion large retailers are becoming much more cautious, which will drive focus to own brand and existing suppliers



Al Overton  
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# The meat alternative market is split across own brand, big corps and challengers



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Wonderland Ventures

# Despite own-label ranges the large retailers are still not good at plant-based

There are similarities between plant-based and free-from, and 13 years later the large retailers are still no good at free-from...

- Separate bays in store don't speak to the casual or flexitarian customer
- The large retailers are not set up logistically to incorporate plant-based ranges successfully
  - Different buyers
  - Different margin expectations
  - Different shelf lives
  - Different brands
  - Different KPIs



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Wonderland Ventures



# Small retailers bring opportunity, but with challenges...

The independent food stores in the UK account for 1.4% of grocery sales, with an engaged customer but lack of infrastructure

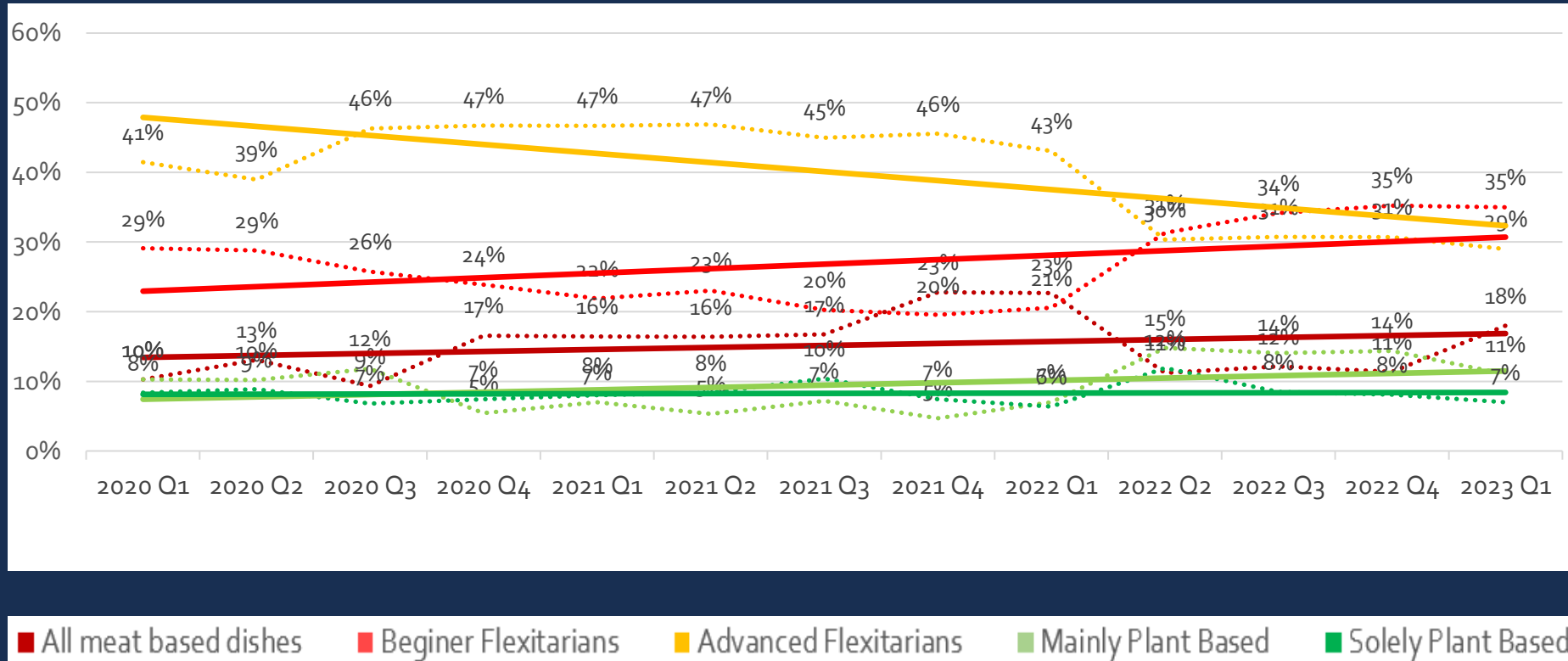
- Independent stores have been ignored by all but the smaller challenger brands owing to a lack of scale – they are hungry for product
- They have a health/sustainability orientated customer who is happy to try new things
- Price is less of a factor
- There are few chains, and many single stores
- The industry is driven by wholesalers who add margin
- The stores have very little frozen space
- Talking to them is difficult
- BUT they are a great launchpad to test product, establish a brand and prove concept



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Wonderland Ventures

# UK Consumer Preferences and Trends

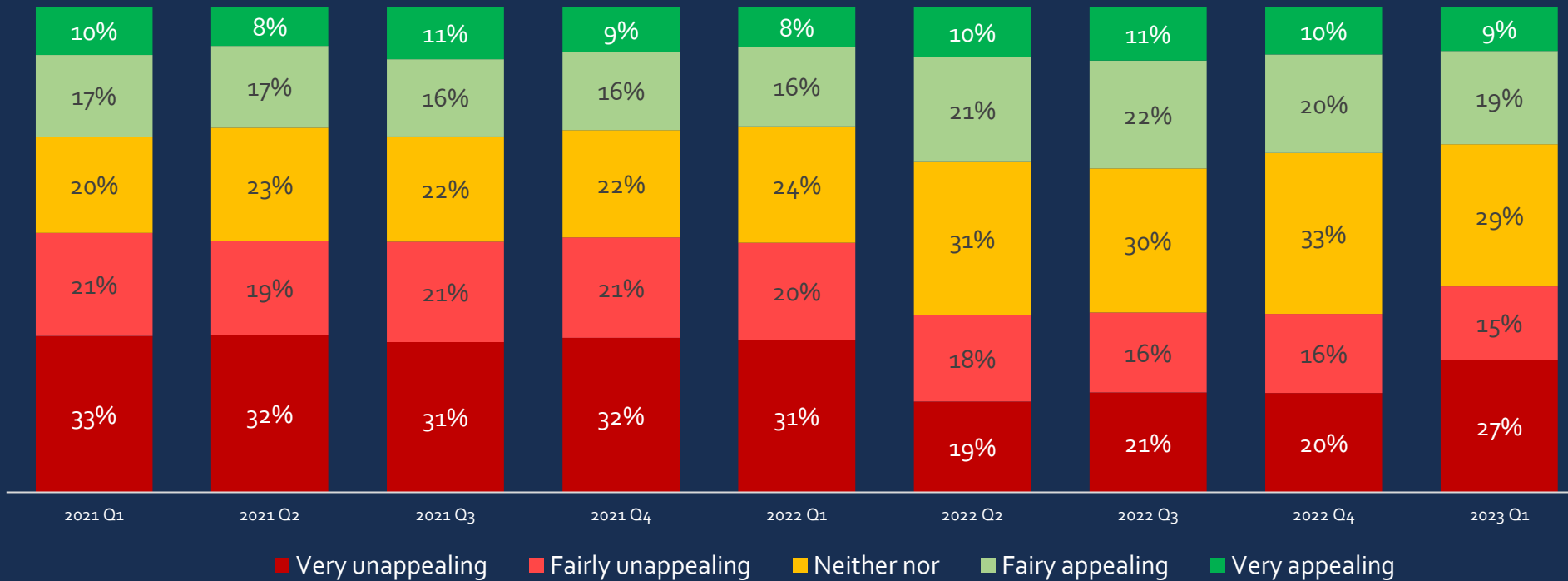
What changes are we seeing YOY? – Good Sense Research/ffp Future Food Tracker



Kelly Dowson  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group

# Cellular Meat

Good Sense Research/ffp Future Food Tracker



**Kelly Dowson**  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group

# Day Part Optimisation – Availability & Variety



Kelly Dowson  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group

# Keep it Clean



<b>Beef Burger</b>	vs.	<b>Bean Burger</b>	vs.	<b>“Beyond” Burger</b>
				
<b>Ingredients:</b> Grass-fed beef.		<b>Ingredients:</b> Black beans, quinoa, onion, flaxseed, olive oil & sea salt.		<b>Ingredients:</b> Pea protein isolate, canola oil, coconut oil, water, yeast extract, maltodextrin, natural flavors, gum arabic, sunflower oil, salt, succinic acid, acetic acid, non-GMO modified food starch, cellulose from bamboo, methylcellulose, potato starch, beet juice extract, ascorbic acid, annatto extract, citrus fruit extract, vegetable glycerin.

**ACTUAL VEGGIES**

**JUST VEGGIES, ACTUALLY.**



**THE ACTUAL GREEN BURGER**



**THE ACTUAL BLACK BURGER**



**THE ACTUAL PURPLE BURGER**



**THE ACTUAL ORANGE BURGER**



**PEA GREEN CO. made ONLY WITH PLANTS**

Pea Protein & Fibre, tapioca, chickpeas, flax.

Cilantro, onion, bell peppers, garlic, black pepper, bayleaf.

Lentils, mushrooms  
Coconut & sunflower oils,  
Beetroot, Himalayan salt.


**OTHERS, PLANT-BASED**

Modified starch, colorants & artificial flavours.

Gums and other chemically-processed extracts, nitrates, phosphates.

**BHA: Butylated hydroxyanisole, MSG: Monosodium glutamate, Carrageenan, methylcellulose.**

**BHT: Butylated hydroxytoluene.**




**Kelly Dowson**  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group



# Taste & Texture are Key

- Dairy category is a conflicting category with consumers
- Cheese and dairy based desserts have work to do
- Milk is the hero and an example of alts done really well, not only without compromise but with added benefits



Kelly Dowson  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group

# What to watch out for...

- All things Crispy
- Bake your own
- Energy savvy
- Tongue in cheek brands & concepts
- Freezer Fight
- Getting Saucy



Kelly Dowson  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group

# Things to Consider...

- Remember that only those that are 100% meat eaters are not buying into plant based and even those that do are a target
- Consider the price point of plant based in a COL living crisis
- Make it an easy without compromise even a better than choice
- Consider the back of pack, make it as recognizable as possible
- Consider the true environmental impact and communicate well
- Taste and flavour are is the key messages that needs to be conveyed in any plant based messaging, alongside the cost efficiencies / value
- Communicating the 'additional health benefits' of plant based foods such as vitamins and high fibre/protein is a key lever to drive engagement with consumers



Kelly Dowson  
Food Innovation  
Solutions Group

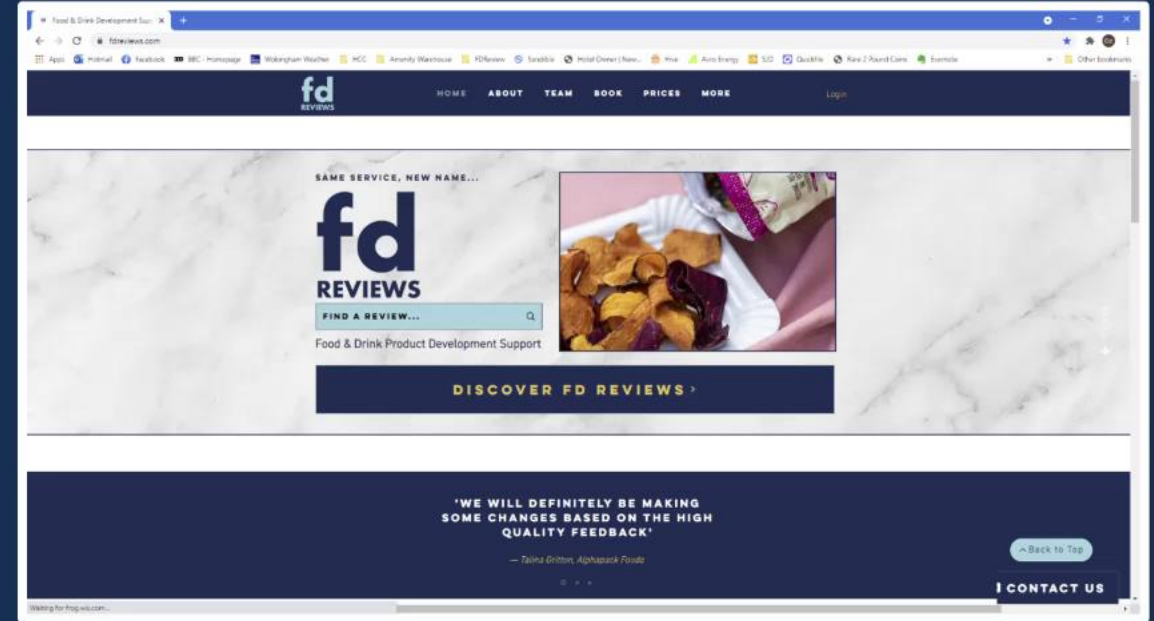
# What is an FDReview?



- We want to improve the quality and success rate of Food & Drink products available in the UK Market
- FDReviews are video-based feedback reviews of Food & Drink Products by teams of industry experts
- We have 50+ experts with in-depth experience in UK market success and failure across a broad range of categories
- Creates the opportunity for food producers to get direct product feedback during development phase or **new market entry**

**Stephen Minall@fdreviews.com**

# Short Sample Video: Uhh-mami Flavourings 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023



**fd**  
**REVIEWS**

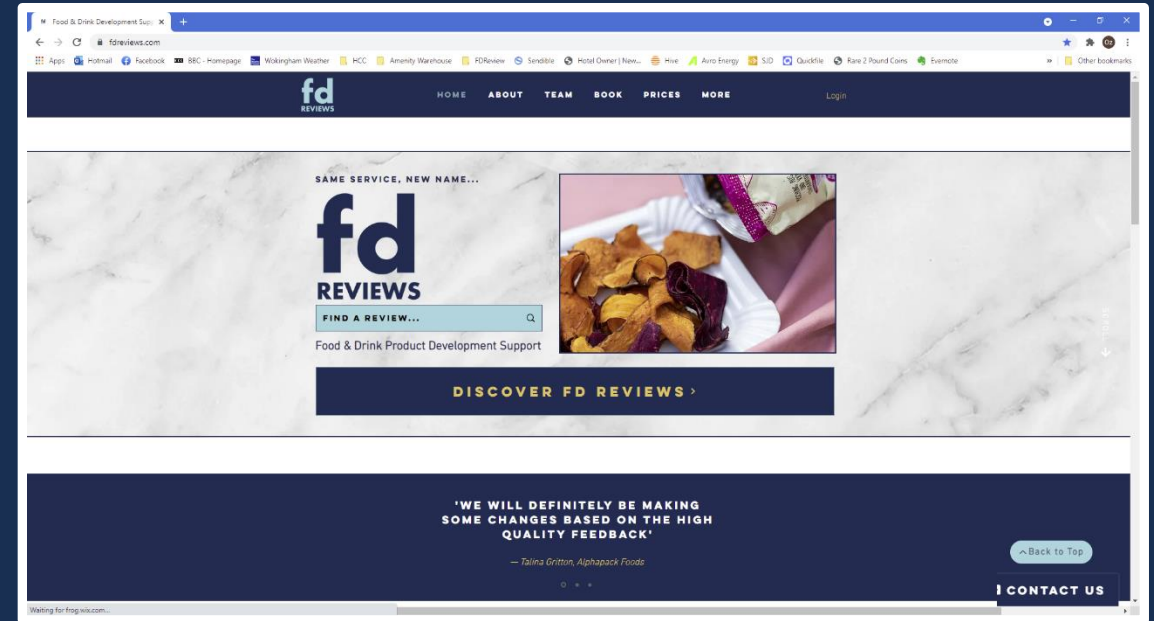
Food & Drink Product Development Support

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**FOOD**  
**FROM**  
**DENMARK**

# FDReviews Market Discovery Webinar

## Q&A



[www.FDReviews.com](http://www.FDReviews.com)



Food & Drink Product Development Support



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