As Republican-led states across the US mull lab-grown meat labeling and bans, Britain moves forward with cell-based protein regulations

In the wake of several Republican-led states in the US pushing for a ban or limit on the sales of cell-cultivated meat, we asked a legal expert what impact – if any – it could have on the UK?

Taly Dvorkis, regulatory director at law firm Fieldfisher, considers that the calls among some in the US for bans on lab grown meat are unlikely to impact the position in the UK, where the UK Government and Food Standards Agency (FSA) have been very supportive of the development of lab grown meat.

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The UK Government and key regulators, particularly the Food Standards Agency, have been very supportive of the development of lab grown meat, sustainable proteins, and novel foods. Following Brexit, the UK Government and various agencies have been under pressure to deliver so-called ‘Benefits of Brexit’.

In January 2022, the Government confirmed its intention to make novel food authorisation a ‘Benefit of Brexit’ priority, stating that it would work with the FSA to ‘update the process for approving novel foods, to create a transparent and effective system that is the best in the world for innovators, investors and consumers and encourages safe innovation in the sustainable protein sector’.

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