

# Ultra-processed foods are up with climate change as a t...

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The [FT has reported this morning](#) that:

*The UK should increase tax on tobacco, alcohol and “unhealthy food companies” to raise £10bn a year by the end of the decade to boost the nation’s health, a leading think-tank has said.*

They added:

*The centre-left Institute for Public Policy Research’s commission on health and prosperity also recommended tighter regulation in areas such as food packaging and gambling advertising, as it proposed enlisting employers, communities, businesses and investors in the effort to improve wellbeing.*

They also noted the suggestion that the savings could rise to £18bn within a decade.

The article suggests that the report’s authors are very close to Labour and Wes Streeting has taken careful note. IPPR is the most influential Labour think tank right now. Its director at the time of the election now works in Downing Street (although I gather that so far no Labour adviser had got a contract and they are not happy as a result).

I support this initiative. Ignoring the harm the supposed food industry is doing to its well-being right now is at least as dangerous as climate change, and may actually impose a lot more cost, about which I will post more soon.

If we are serious about tackling the costs of healthcare, creating well-being, beating inequality and delivering fit old-age then tackling the curse of ultra-processed foods and the massive sugar contents within them is essential.

What is more, the sugar lobby knows this and hates attention being drawn to the issue. Every time I mention this trolls appear here for the first time to defend sugar. Why, I wonder, could that be? Might they be paid to do so?