

Invest NI Food & Drink Consumer Insights Conference 2026

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09:00 – 09:30	Registration & Refreshments
09:30 – 09:40	Welcome & Introduction: Jo Scott, Conference Host Opening Remarks: Dominic Darby, Invest NI Board Member
	SESSION 1: Inspiration
	Jo Scott - Introduction to session
09:45 – 10:15	Charles Banks, Partner & Managing Director, thefoodpeople Trends & Future Opportunities for NI Food & Drink
10:15 – 10:35	Jason Winstanley, Head of Research & Insight, Pilgrim's Europe Beyond the Hype: Unpicking the Reality of Shifts in Consumer Behaviour
10:35 – 10:55	John Stapleton, Entrepreneur, The Stapleton Academy/JBS Media Have The Courage of your Convictions
10:55 – 11:05	Networking Break
	SESSION 2: Innovation
	Jo Scott - Introduction to session
11:05 – 11:25	Annie Dunne, Food Innovation Consultant, The Art of GRATE Food What AI Can - and Cannot - Do for Food Product Development
11:25 – 11:45	Morgan Griffiths, Commercial Lead (Health & Nutrition), Lumina Intelligence GLP-Won: Get Ahead of the Market Now Weight Loss Medication is Here to Stay
11:45 – 12:05	Brian McDermott, Chef, Food Consultant, Author & Broadcaster From Insight to the Shelf: Turning Consumer Understanding into Better Food Products
	SESSION 3: Activation
	Jo Scott - Introduction to session
12:05 – 12:25	Jeremy Garlick, Partner, Insight Traction Using Shopper Insight to Power your Activation, and your Conversations with Buyers
12:25 – 12:45	Sharon Yourell Lawlor, Managing Director, Think Plan Do Consulting Winning with Today's Modern Shopper
12:45 – 13:05	Thea Alexander, CEO, YF Using Insight and Intelligence to Nail your Buyer Pitch
13:05 – 13:15	Jo Scott – Introduction to Ask the Experts
13:15 – 14:00	Networking Lunch
14:00 – 14:30	Ask the Experts Session 1
14:35 – 15:05	Ask the Experts Session 2
15:10 – 15:40	Ask the Experts Session 3
15:40 – 16:00	Closing Remarks Dominic Darby, Invest NI Board Member