



Statement in response to Daily Mail's article: No ID, no checks... and vouchers for sob stories: The truth behind those shock food bank claims - 20th April 2014

'The Trussell Trust is unable to comment on the specifics of this story. The Trussell Trust has processes in place which allow them to investigate any allegations of fraud or abuse of services provided by charities operating a Trussell Trust food bank and the Trussell Trust will investigate further and conduct a full audit of this particular food bank. We will also ensure that the local charity makes sure its volunteers there are fully aware of, and complying with Trussell Trust policies. The Trussell Trust's printed guidelines state: 'Foodbank clients can receive a maximum of three foodbank vouchers in a row (each voucher can be redeemed for at least three days food). Clients can receive up to nine vouchers per year, although longer term support is available in exceptional circumstances.'

There will always be those who try to abuse a system, which is why the Trussell Trust has a number of processes built into its system to reduce that risk. However evidence from our foodbanks across the UK shows that these people are a tiny minority. The Trussell Trust feels that these undercover methods, used by Daily Mail journalists, to enter the premises of our voluntarily run food banks is an unacceptable attempt to tarnish not only the name of the Trussell Trust, but also the valuable efforts of the 30,000 volunteers who selflessly give up their time to provide a valuable service to people in real need. The views of one volunteer, amongst this large number of very generous volunteers, has to be taken in its wider context and also seen in the context of the most recent DEFRA commissioned report that says that there is no evidence to suggest that awareness of the foodbanks is driving an increase in visitors, rather that foodbank use is meeting a real and growing need.

Regarding the issue of distribution of vouchers, if a distributor is found to be providing vouchers to people who are not in genuine need, we will retrain them in how the Foodbank referral works.'