

TRUSSELL TRUST WELCOMES DECISION NOT TO IMPLEMENT CUTS TO TAX CREDITS



Trussell Trust Chief Executive David McAuley says:

“The Trussell Trust welcomes the Government’s decision not to implement cuts to working tax credits. Last week, The Trussell Trust warned that cuts to tax credits could cause serious problems for low income families and a substantial rise in foodbank use. Today’s decision to avoid tax credit cuts altogether is a victory for the parliamentarians, public sector workers, charities and members of the public who stood up for low income working families.

Whilst we welcome this important decision on tax credits, it is essential that future policy decisions on welfare - for example on Universal Credit - also take into account the importance of ensuring that people on low incomes have enough to make ends meet.

There are too many people facing hunger in the UK and it is vital that politicians and policy makers across all parties listen to the voices of people on low incomes to understand their needs, and then create policies that help the poorest.”

Latest figures released last week showed that, between April and September 2015, Trussell Trust foodbanks across the UK gave 506,369 three day emergency food supplies to people in crisis compared to 492,641 in the same period last year. On average, people needed 1.7 foodbank referrals in this six month period, leading us to estimate that approximately 298,000 people are likely to have been unique users.

The Trussell Trust continues to monitor foodbank use and its causes, as well as sharing the experiences of people at foodbanks with decision makers, so that we can help build a country where no one struggles to make ends meet and no one has to go hungry.”

Ends

Notes to Editor

How Trussell Trust foodbanks work:

- Trussell Trust foodbanks provide three days’ nutritionally balanced food and support to people in crisis in the UK. We also signpost people to other agencies and services able to help resolve the underlying cause of the crisis. As part of the charity’s More Than Food approach, many foodbanks also host additional services like debt/financial advice, holiday lunch and breakfast clubs. [Read more](#) on our new debt and money advice service in partnership with Martin Lewis, Money Saving Expert.
- Everyone who comes to a Trussell Trust foodbank is referred by a professional such as a social worker, health visitor or schools liaison officer. Over 30,000 frontline professionals refer people to Trussell Trust foodbanks, and 50 percent are statutory agencies.

- Over 90 percent of food given out by Trussell Trust foodbanks is donated by the public. From April – September 2015: 4,158 tonnes of food was given out to people in crisis.
- The Trussell Trust is a charity motivated by Christian principles that runs the biggest network of foodbanks in the UK. For more on The Trussell Trust visit www.trusselltrust.org
- Trussell Trust statistics are collected using an online data collection system into which foodbanks enter the data from each foodbank voucher. The system records numbers given three day emergency food supplies. The Trussell Trust is measuring volume – the number of people to whom it has given three days’ food supply (containing enough food for 10 meals). The Trussell Trust has consistently measured figures in this way and reports them at the middle and end of each financial year. Trussell Trust figures clearly state that we are counting the number of people to whom we have given three days’ food – these are not necessarily unique people. Our data system is beginning to capture numbers of unique foodbank users on a national scale, and whilst it is too early to accurately use this figure, detailed evidence collected from a range of foodbanks indicates that on average, people needed 1.7 foodbank referrals in this six month period, leading us to estimate that approximately 298,000 people are likely to have been unique users.