

LONDON ASSEMBLY
Economy Committee

Chris Mould
Chair
The Trussell Trust
Unit 9 Ashfield Trading Estate
Ashfield Rd
Salisbury SP2 7HL

By email

Fiona Twycross AM
Deputy Chair, Economy Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London SE1 2AA
Switchboard: 020 7983 4000
Minicom: 020 7983 4458

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Dear Chris

Food poverty in London

Almost two years ago the London Assembly published *A Zero Hunger City: Tackling food poverty in London*. The report set out a number of recommendations to address food poverty in the capital directed at the Mayor and London Food Board, London boroughs and Health and Wellbeing Boards, schools and food aid organisations.

I led the original investigation on behalf of the Assembly, and I am now following up on the report on behalf of the Economy Committee. I am therefore writing to you for an update to inform any further work the Committee may undertake in this important area.

I would be grateful if you could you set out:

- your current assessment of food poverty in the capital;
- progress in tackling food poverty in the last two years; and
- any outstanding challenges, or barriers to further progress.

For ease, I have appended the Committee's original recommendation to food aid organisations.

I would be grateful for a response by 20 March 2015. For any queries in the first instance please contact Simon Shaw on the contact details below.



Fiona Twycross
Deputy Chair, Economy Committee

Recommendation 5 – Emergency food aid organisations

Emergency food aid organisations should regularly analyse their client breakdown and proactively seek out groups that face barriers to accessing emergency food aid, including older people.

Food aid organisations should identify ways to systematically triage service users and liaise with statutory authorities to ensure people can access the support to which they are entitled.

For example, data from food bank clients indicates that older people are not accessing food banks in the numbers that would be expected given the risk of food poverty among this group. There are certainly specific reasons why food banks are by their nature less accessible to older people; therefore models for reaching this group should be explored and successes shared.