



17 February 2021

Ref: SR/19620

Rt Hon George Eustice MP  
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear George

**Re: Support for the “Right to Food” campaign**

We are writing to you as leaders from across the Liverpool City Region to call on your department to include the Right to Food as part of the National Food Strategy.

Following the outbreak of Covid-19, the Trussell Trust reported an 81% increase in demand for emergency food parcels from food banks during the last two weeks of March 2020, compared to the same period in 2019.

But this is not a problem that began with a global pandemic. In the last five years, the Trussell Trust has also seen a 74% increase in the number of three-day food parcels distributed, with one in seven of those accessing foodbanks in work. Indeed, many of those key workers we spent months applauding for their bravery and dedication have also been forced to use foodbanks to keep their families fed.

It is a grotesque injustice that in one of the richest countries in the world so many people are reliant upon emergency food parcels to meet such a fundamental need.

The National Food Strategy is the first major review of our food system in 75 years and provides government with a real opportunity to fundamentally address the growing crisis of food insecurity and set out a plan for a better, fairer food system.

However, for the National Food Strategy to succeed in making the fundamental change required, it must reflect the scale of food insecurity in communities across our country and place the millions of people living in food poverty at its heart by incorporating the Right to Food.

The Right to Food campaign, which is supported by each of the local authorities across the Liverpool City Region, calls for a change in the law to make access to food a legal right for all in the UK, giving the government a legal obligation to help the 11 million people suffering from food poverty.



**LIVERPOOL  
CITY REGION**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

**METROMAYOR**  
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

By supporting the Right to Food, this government has an opportunity to drastically reverse some of the damage done by the past few years, ease the burden on many hardworking families and ensure that nobody has to go hungry. We strongly urge you to grasp that opportunity.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Steve Rotheram  
**Mayor of the Liverpool City Region**

**Co-signed by:**

Cllr David Baines, **Leader of St Helens Council**

Cllr Graham Morgan, **Leader of Knowsley Council**

Cllr Wendy Simon, **Acting Mayor of Liverpool**

Cllr Rob Polhill, **Leader of Halton Council**

Cllr Janette Williamson, **Leader of Wirral Council**

Cllr John Fairclough, **Deputy Leader of Sefton Council**