

PE1571/K

Petitioner Email of 10 May 2016

Dear Ned

I think the announcement of a fund to tackle food poverty is a wonderful gesture by the Scottish Government. As you may be aware, it was reported last week by the Trussell Trust that food bank usage had increased by 13% in Scotland, with more than 130,000 emergency 3-day supplies being handed out during 2015-2016, up from more than 117,000 in the previous year. It was sadly reported that of these 130,000+ food parcels. 42,952 of these parcels went to children in Scotland.

I welcome this fund, and to double it to £1m will go a long way to help those who are dependent of food banks to survive. I hope that the Scottish Government also takes on board my opinion that we should be setting up a committee to look at how we can tackle this issue in the long term. Sadly, the problem isn't going to go away and this trend of increasing usage is only going to continue whilst we have a UK government promoting the idea of benefits sanctions and cuts. Once again, benefits sanctions, cuts and low pay were the three main reasons cited by those using food banks.

Best wishes,

John Beattie