



Alison McGovern MP

Member of Parliament for Wirral South

www.alisonmcgovern.org.uk



Friday 21 February 2020

Dear Prime Minister and Chancellor,

Making Ends Meet: please give us a Budget to end the need for foodbanks

It is a basic minimum that everyone in our country should be able to feed themselves without needing emergency food parcels. But since 2010, foodbank use has grown in the UK. Demand is rising every year. According to the Trussell Trust, low income, benefit delays and changes are the main reasons people need emergency food. Often, households using foodbanks have only £50 a week after paying rent.

More than a third of emergency food parcels go to children and the Government should be doing more to help them and their families.

We want to see a credible plan to end the need for foodbanks in the Budget on 11 March 2020. Practical and affordable measures – such as the ones in [my report](#) – could make a real difference.

Specifically:

1. **Removing the two-child limit in Universal Credit**
2. **Reducing the waiting time for Universal Credit**

Longer-term labour market changes to ensure parents and carers are supported at work as well as improvements to our mental health system are also required but these two first steps are essential and could help thousands of people *now*.

The need for long-term change is not an excuse for standing by whilst the problem continues to get worse due to Government policy. The Budget on 11 March will be a test of whether the British people can trust the Government to change the country for the better. We urge the Government to use the Budget to help people make ends meet.

Yours sincerely,

Alison McGovern MP
Member of Parliament for Wirral South

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