



Department
for Work &
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Chris Mould
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Dear Chris

EVIDENCE TO THE WELFARE REFORM COMMITTEE OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

Thank you for your letter of 1 May 2014. At your request I shall answer your third point first. The Trussell Trust's website explains how you are a community based organisation driven by Christian principles. If I have misunderstood this aspect of the work of the Trust then I am more than happy to be put right.

On your first point what I was referring to was the fact that supply is a much more likely driver of the growth in the number of foodbank users as evidenced by the simple fact that where there are more foodbanks, Canada and Germany as an example, there are more people using them. It is hard to argue that supply is not an issue behind the growth in numbers of people using foodbanks. As I said at the Committee given the aspirations to expand the number of foodbanks the number of people using them is bound to rise in the future.

On your second point I certainly wasn't belittling the work of Trussell Trust: as I said at the hearing the Government applauds voluntary and community action, for example where a supermarket channels surplus food to low-income families through local charities. However, analytically speaking the data simply presents a picture of the number of people using Trussell's services.

As requested a copy of this letter will go to the Convenor of the Committee, Michael McMahon MSP.

Yours Sincerely

Neil Couling

