Manager’s report June 2024

I am delighted to report that June has been a quieter month than we have had for some time. This may be in part due to the fact that last year June saw significant increases in numbers of adults, children and households over the previous year. This year we supported 239 adults, 155 children in 133 households. Last year we served 225 adults, 158 children in 146 households. This is the first decrease I have reported on, in two and a half years; and I do not think we have had a decrease previously. It is not much, but better than +46% as it was last year.

I have been very touched by the response to my request for donations last month. Several of you have let me know that you are increasing your regular donations, which is wonderful. We have been very glad to have one or two large gifts which has been a real boost to us. One donor, rang the food bank, checked what food was needed and then went shopping and dropped it off. Absolutely brilliant! However, we would still appreciate any extra help you can offer us.

However, as The Guardian reported recently

*The food bank has become such a fixture in our national life that we have almost forgotten that food banks barely existed until very recently. A mere 35 were provided by the Trussell Trust in 2010 and they had to increase twentyfold to 650 in 2013 and then double again to 1,300 in 2019. With the addition of independent food banks, today’s*[*2,800 food banks*](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-8585/)*and emergency food suppliers are now as recognisable a feature of the British landscape as the local secondary school. Food banks are opening as fast as high street banks have been closing down.*

*Their existence is of course a testimony to the human decency …of thousands of fellow citizens who feel the pain of others and believe in something bigger than themselves. But the fact that food banks have had to come into existence in one of the richest countries in the world is a scar on our collective conscience and a permanent stain on our country’s character.*

Latest Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data reveals that [7.1 million people reported food insecurity](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/who-is-experiencing-food-insecurity-in-the-uk/) in 2022/23. For 3.7 million people reported that meant skipping meals or going hungry. But DWP data also tells us that just [14% of households reporting severe food insecurity accessed a food bank](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2022-to-2023/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2022-to-2023). Surely, the first objective of any political party should be to eliminate hunger. Let us hope that the new government will be imaginative and constructive in tackling poverty in the UK.

Thank you all for your support. We so appreciate it.

With many thanks

Alice