



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Over 2 million tonnes of food that is perfectly good to eat is wasted in farms and factories every year in the UK. At the same time, 8 million people struggle to get enough to eat.

Food that can not be sold should be eaten by people, but, partly because the anaerobic digestion industry attracts hundreds of millions of pounds a year in subsidies, it is cheaper for farmers to throw edible food into biogas digesters or send it to landfill than get it to charities putting meals on people's plates. We don't believe this is right.

Government funding that covered the costs of farmers' storage and transportation resulted in almost twice as much food (most of it fruit and veg) reaching frontline charities - but that funding has now ended.

Without that critical government support for farmers to get their unsold food to vulnerable people, 53 million meals worth of food a year will be needlessly wasted. Farmers and food producers simply cannot afford to get food to charities without it.

France, which offers business incentives through reduced taxation for food redistribution, diverts 6x more food to charities than the UK does.

Funding of £5 million a year (a tiny fraction of the subsidies given to biogas plants) would enable the UK to double the amount of nutritious food delivered to charities supporting those in need.

It would also:

- save 17x more carbon per tonne than anaerobic digestion – demonstrating the UK's commitment to tackling food waste in the run up to COP26.
- save the charity sector £14m every year on their food bills, freeing up funds for their vital services, and delivering a £14 : £1 SROI.
- save an additional 22,250 tonnes of fresh, healthy food, creating 53 million meals for people in need - that's one meal every 10 seconds.

Wasting good food should never be cheaper than feeding people via food redistribution charities such as FareShare. Ahead of COP26 we are urgently calling on the government to continue and extend this vital funding - which delivers an enormous social, environmental and economic benefit.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Parish MP	Kenny MacAskill MP	Kim Johnson MP	Wendy Chamberlain MP
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