



The Rt Hon Liz Kendall MP
Secretary of State for Work and
Pensions
Department for Work and Pensions
Caxton House
Tothill Street
London
SW1H 9NA

E-mail: correspondence@dwp.gov.uk

5th August 2025

Dear Secretary of State for Work and Pensions,

RE: Notice of Motion in support of the Guarantee Our Essentials Campaign

At the last meeting of Full Council, Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council supported a Notice of Motion requesting that I write to you to express this Council's support for Trussell and Joseph Rowntree Foundation's 'Guarantee our Essentials' campaign, as supported by the Taff Ely Foodbank in RCT.

Across Rhondda Cynon Taf, over 16,634 emergency food parcels were provided to people facing hardship between April 2024 and March 2025, with 5,793 of these provided for children. Whilst this figure represents a 7.7% decrease in the number of emergency food parcels distributed since the new UK Labour Government took office, many residents are still struggling to make ends meet.

As a local authority, we recognise that some positive progress has been made by the new UK Government, alongside the Welsh Labour Government towards ending mass reliance on foodbanks. From the UK Government's commitment in the autumn budget to reducing Universal Credit debt repayment deductions from 25% to 15%, to the Welsh Government's delivery of free breakfasts for all primary school pupils, we recognise the clear drive to support families and low-income households.

However, research by the Taff Ely Foodbank, Trussell and Joseph Rowntree Foundation through their 'Guarantee our Essentials' campaign continues to present the case that Universal Credit is failing to keep people out of deep poverty, with benefits often falling well below what's needed to afford essentials.

Councils across Wales continue to play a vital role, in partnership with local organisations, to tackle food insecurity, and promote dignity in access to food. However, members of this Council remain of the view that all residents should be able to afford the essentials such as food, heating, and basic hygiene.

Therefore, we acknowledge the merits of the Guarantee our Essentials campaign and ask that the UK Government continues to review Universal Credit and tackle poverty in line with the ambitions of the campaign.

Yours sincerely

A Morgan

Andrew Morgan OBE

Arweinydd ac Aelod o'r Cabinet ar faterion Isadeiledd a Buddsoddi

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Investment

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol dros Ward Aberpennar

County Borough Councillor for the Mountain Ash Ward

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