

## British Aisles publication

Following a meeting between Demos and the Trussell Trust and Demos on February 24<sup>th</sup>, the following changes were made to the *British Aisles* publication.

### 1. Correction on pages 13 and 23

On page 13 *The British Aisles* publication stated:

*'According to figures from the UK's biggest food bank operator, the Trussell Trust, use of food banks increased by 38 per cent between 2012/13 and 2013/14, with more than half of this increase due to new clients.'*

We corrected this to:

*'According to figures from the UK's biggest food bank operator, the Trussell Trust, use of food banks increased by 163 per cent between 2012/13 and 2013/14.'*

On page 23 *The British Aisles* publication stated:

*'According to figures from the UK's biggest food bank operator, the Trussell Trust, use of food banks increased by 38 per cent between 2012/13 and 2013/14, with more than half of this increase due to new clients.'*

We corrected this to:

*'According to figures from the UK's biggest food bank operator, the Trussell Trust, use of food banks increased by 163 per cent between 2012/13 and 2013/14.'*

### 2. Clarification on page 14

On page 14 *The British Aisles* publication stated:

*'The majority operate a referral scheme, with GPs, job centres and a limited list of other designated agencies able to issue clients with three single-use vouchers per year, each allowing three days of food. For the sake of clarity, that is nine days' worth of food out of 365.'*

We amended this to:

*'The majority operate a referral scheme, with GPs, job centres and other designated agencies able to issue clients with three single-use vouchers per year, each allowing three days of food.'*

The Trussell Trust states that support can be extended in ‘exceptional circumstances’<sup>ii</sup>. The official guidance from the Trust reads:

*A core feature of our model is the ‘three voucher guideline’ which allows referral agencies to issue up to three foodbank vouchers per crisis to a person without reference to the foodbank. If the client’s crisis has not been resolved within this timeframe, the referral agency must contact the foodbank to explain the situation and discuss the possibility of issuing further vouchers to extend support.*

### 3. Clarification on page 14

On page 14 *The British Aisles* publication stated:

*‘And yet the latest statistics from the Trussell Trust suggest that 50–60 per cent of those using food banks are doing so as a result of what might be termed ‘chronic’ food poverty – in other words a long-term inability to afford food because of entrenched poverty.’*

We amended this to:

*‘And yet Demos analysis of statistics released by the Trussell Trust suggest that 50–60 per cent of those using food banks are doing so as a result of what might be termed ‘chronic’ food poverty – in other words a long-term inability to afford food because of entrenched poverty.*

*This estimate is based on data on ‘referral causes’ to Trussell Trust foodbanks, which is published on the Trust’s website. To reach the 50-60 per cent estimate we categorised the primary causes into ‘acute’ and ‘chronic’ as set out in the table below. This excludes the ‘Other’ category (10.5 per cent). If all ‘Other’ primary causes were chronic rather than acute, that would bring the total estimate for chronic up to 62.34 per cent, hence our upper estimate of 60 per cent.*

<i>‘Acute’</i>	<i>‘Chronic’</i>
<i>Benefit delays 30.93 %</i>	<i>Low income 20.29%</i>
<i>Domestic violence 1.93%</i>	<i>Benefit changes 16.97%</i>
<i>Sickness 1.67%</i>	<i>Debt 7.85%</i>
<i>Delayed wages 1.00%</i>	<i>Unemployed 3.65%</i>
<i>Children’s holiday meals 0.94%</i>	<i>Homeless 3.08%</i>
<i>Refused STBA 0.64%</i>	
<i>Refused crisis loan 0.55%</i>	
<b><i>= 37.66%</i></b>	<b><i>= 51.84%</i></b>

*We recognise that any categorisation of this type has its limitations and involves scope for different interpretation of the data. For example, The Trussell Trust’s joint report with Oxfam, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) and the Church of England, ‘Emergency Use Only’ (2014), uses the same approach, but categorises the data differently, producing an estimate of 58% in ‘acute’ need compared to our estimate of 40-50%. As ‘Emergency Use Only’ puts it:*

*'Data from the Trussell Trust indicate that across the UK, 58% of food bank referrals are attributed to what might be described as an 'acute' crisis (benefit problems, unemployment, homelessness, sickness, etc); 23% are attributed to 'low income'; a further 7% to 'debt' and 1% to 'child holiday meals'; with the remaining 12% attributed to 'other'.<sup>ii</sup>*

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<sup>i</sup> [http://www.trusselltrust.org/resources/documents/press/response\\_to\\_mailonsunday.pdf](http://www.trusselltrust.org/resources/documents/press/response_to_mailonsunday.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> [http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Foodbank%20Report\\_web.pdf](http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Foodbank%20Report_web.pdf)