

Dear CTA member,

Appeal for community transport providers to support local food bank operations.

We're writing to you in partnership with the Trussell Trust, a national charity that supports 1,200 food bank centres to provide emergency food and practical support to people in crisis. These food banks are delivered by volunteers, and only made possible by the kindness of donations from the general public.

As I'm sure you're seeing every day, the government's advice for members of the public to remain at home is having a significant impact on the range of support available for people who are in need. It's now incumbent upon all of us to support our communities in different ways, something we've already seen our members stepping up and doing.

As the situation with COVID-19 unfolds, there are real concerns that more people could be forced to use food banks due to a financial crisis or other pressures – especially people who aren't eligible for sick pay, have unstable jobs, haven't budgeted for children being away from school, or older people who can't leave their homes to get to the shops.

The work of the Trussell Trust is vital in ensuring that foodbanks are supported to provide an essential community service. If you're interested and able to safely support this work over the coming months, there are two things you can do:

Collecting food, probably from supermarket donation points or from organisations with larger volumes of food, and taking it to your local food bank.

Delivering pre-packed food boxes to people who are self-isolating or unable to get to the food bank. This would be a 'contact-free' delivery, requiring you to drop the boxes at the front door. This is a new operational model that food banks are implementing to better support their local community during these new measures.

The Trussell Trust has received direct confirmation from the government that food banks are considered to be an essential service which should be maintained wherever possible despite national guidance to remain at home. The Trussell Trust has been working to quickly develop models of operation which reduce or remove person-to-person contact, and these volunteer roles will be designed with this in mind. If you do volunteer to work alongside a food bank, you will also be able to receive documentation which confirms you are working to provide an essential service.



Last year, food banks in the Trussell Trust network provided over 1.6 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis. We don't know how the current situation will unfold, but it's possible that food banks will face an increased demand at the same time as food donations drop or volunteers become unavailable as they need to self-isolate. Your support during this time will create a vital difference to your community.

If you can help, please register your interest at trusselltrust.org/volunteering where you will find a list of local opportunities to assist foodbanks with driving-related roles. Alternatively, you can contact logistics@trusselltrust.org to contact the team directly, and they will let you know the opportunities to get involved locally. And if you do get involved, please let us know by emailing hello@ctauk.org.

CTA has also released guidance for community transport providers who are thinking about using their resources to make home deliveries of food, goods and medicines, whether as part of a wider programme such as working with your local foodbank, or on an individual basis. This is something that you can do under your section 19 and 22 permits. The guidance looks at the legal side of operating these sorts of services as well as information on insurance, safety when transporting food, and other practical considerations.

Thank you in advance for your support of this initiative and for everything you're already doing to make sure that your communities can stay connected during this difficult time. Remember that you can find CTA's latest guidance for community transport providers, including the information mentioned above, at ctauk.org/covid19-guidance/ and if you need any support you can email the CTA advice service via advice@ctauk.org.

Best wishes,



Bill Freeman

Chief Executive, Community Transport Association



Emma Revie

Chief Executive, The Trussell Trust

