Dear [MP Name]

**EDM 1251 – Food Insecurity**

I am writing to encourage you to either sign or support the intention of Early Day Motion 1251 on Food Insecurity. As a dietitian I strongly support the motion’s call for a legally enshrined “Right to Food” to help us tackle the long-term and growing issue of food poverty and insecurity.

Before the pandemic, millions of people in the UK were food insecure and that number had grown hugely during the pandemic as more people find themselves in financial difficulty or lack support to access food[[1]](#footnote-1). As a dietitian I see the impact of food insecurity regularly in the obesity, malnutrition and diet-related disease that my patients have to live with. *Considering adding information about your personal and professional experience here.*

A right to food would not mean that the government would have to provide food to whoever asked for it. Instead, it would place requirement that governments to ensure their policies do not prevent someone accessing a quantitatively and qualitatively adequate and culturally appropriate diet. That might include ensuring welfare policy does not leave people unable to afford food, or that people have access to support to eat if they are physically unable to. It would also place a responsibility on Government to protect that right such that other organisations or individuals deprive someone of access to food.

A right to food is included within the United Nation's International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which the UK ratified in 1976, so this would be a step to enshrine a right to which we are already committed. The National Food Strategy, part two of which is currently being developed for publication in 2021, should include within it a commitment to the right to food.

If you have a policy of not signing Early Day Motions, or are unable to, I would be grateful if you could raise this directly with ministers and colleagues. It should not be acceptable that so many people in a country as wealthy as the UK are going hungry or are forced to eat a poor diet. A right to food would be a big step toward changing that.

Yours sincerely

[Name]

[Include your postal address so your MP knows you are a constituent]

1. <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/new-food-foundation-data-sept-2020/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)