



**Chris Heaton-Harris**  
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Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about food waste. Like you, I do not want to see good food go to waste - it harms our environment, it is bad for business and it is morally indefensible.

At the household level, ministers are tackling food waste through supporting campaigns such as *Love Food, Hate Waste* and *Wasting Food: It's Out of Date* as well as the UK's first Food Waste Action Week which was held in March 2021. The Government also supports the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and its work with retailers and other food businesses who play a key role in influencing household food waste through interventions such as pack sizing and labelling. These measures all help consumers to buy what they need and use what they buy.

Ministers are also supporting the Courtauld 2025 Commitment, delivered by WRAP, which aims to reduce UK food waste by 20% per capita by 2025, based on a 2015 baseline. Action here is primarily through the Food Waste Reduction Roadmap and the Target, Measure, Act approach where businesses set a reduction target, measure food waste and act to reduce it. This is currently voluntary under the Roadmap, but the Government will consult this year on introducing regulations to make the transparent reporting of food waste mandatory for businesses of an appropriate size.

It is encouraging that Defra's Food Surplus and Waste Champion, Ben Elliot, is currently motivating key businesses, individuals and delivery partners to tackle the barriers to food redistribution, such as branded product and Best Before dates. Last year, he wrote to the UK's leading food manufacturers, major retailers, hospitality businesses and redistribution organisations urging them to ensure that all surplus food that is safe and suitable to eat is made available and redistributed.

Finally, it is welcome that since 2018, Defra has made a series of grants available to help redistribute more surplus food to those who have a need and to stop it from going to animal feed or disposal destinations. This has meant that in total, over £11 million has been awarded to both large and small redistribution organisations across the country.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**

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