

Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

16th October 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

The Children's Foundation, a North East children's charity, is fully committed to making sure children do not go hungry. We are determined to end inequity in health, which includes poverty and holiday hunger.

1 child in 3 in the North East is living below the poverty line. The North East has seen the UK's largest increase in child poverty (from 26% to 35%) in the past four years (End Child Poverty coalition).

Food is a basic human need. This is enshrined in the UN Convention on The Rights of The Child (1989) ratified by the UK in 1991.

In this open letter we urge you to reconsider free school meal provision for children over the Christmas holidays. All acknowledge that these are unprecedented times and this intervention is needed urgently to ensure that children do not go hungry over Christmas.

Dianne Winship -Chair
Dr Sue Vernon -Deputy Chair
Sean Soulsby -Chief Executive