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XX September 2022

Dear [MP Name],

**Give workers a ‘Real Meal Deal’ to help with rising food costs**

As you know, the rising cost of living is putting people in [Local area] and across the country under immense pressure, particularly when it comes to the cost of food.

As a local constituent I am writing to urge you to support an innovative new tax-relief funded scheme that would support workers, employers and hospitality businesses alike – all while boosting the UK’s economy.

My full name is [XX] and my address is [XX] ***(Note – strict Parliamentary rules mean that MPs can only respond to their own constituents. When writing to a local MP, you must include your full name and address)***

Meal cards are a tax-relief scheme that would work by giving all employees at participating employers a meal card loaded with up to £220 each month (£10 per working day) to spend on food and non-alcoholic beverages at local restaurants and food providers that opt-in to the scheme. The daily allowance would be free of tax for both employers and employees.

The scheme would support millions of employees across the country and cut food bills for the lowest-income households by as much as 50%. This is particularly timely given the large number of employees currently relying on food banks. From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, the Trussell Trust’s network provided more than 2.1 million parcels to people facing financial hardship across the country. According to the Trussell Trust, around 14% of people accessing food banks are in work.

Meal cards are proven to be highly successful, and similar schemes operate in 35 countries around the world, benefiting over 50 million people.

The scheme would be easy for the Government to implement, with a simple change to the Treasury’s current exemptions list for employee benefits and expenses, in line with the existing tax exemption for on-site canteens.

Economic analysis commissioned by the Real Meal Deal Campaign shows that as well as benefitting employees, rolling-out a meal card scheme would also provide a major boost to the economy, creating 300,000 new jobs in the hospitality sector and adding £6.4bn to UK GDP.

By boosting people’s food spending power, the scheme would drive an average 18% uplift in turnover for restaurants and food providers, unlocking additional tax revenue for the Treasury offsetting the scheme’s costs and creating a 2.5bn net-benefit for the public purse, creating a self-financing policy.

You can learn more about our proposals and take steps to support the campaign by visiting the Real Meal Deal campaign’s website at [realmealdeal.co.uk.](http://realmealdeal.co.uk)

Best wishes,