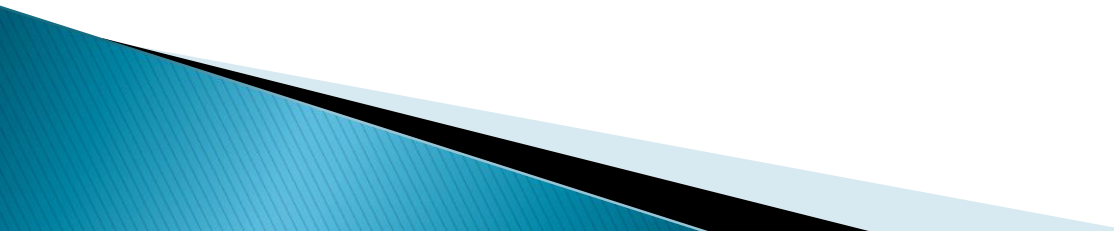


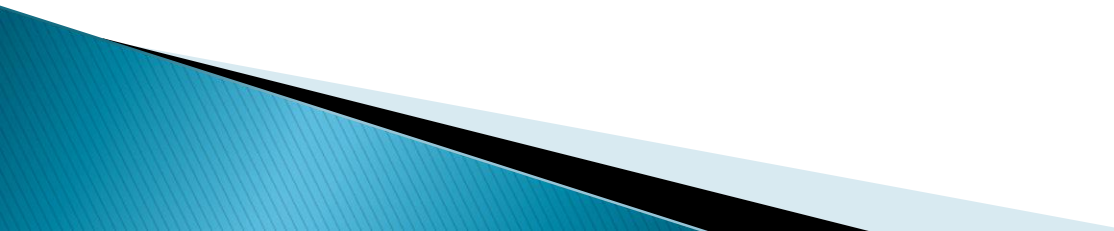
**‘Or else it’s not a crisis...’ –
Trussell Trust Food Bank Use,
Crisis and Welfare Conditionality**

Alan Connolly

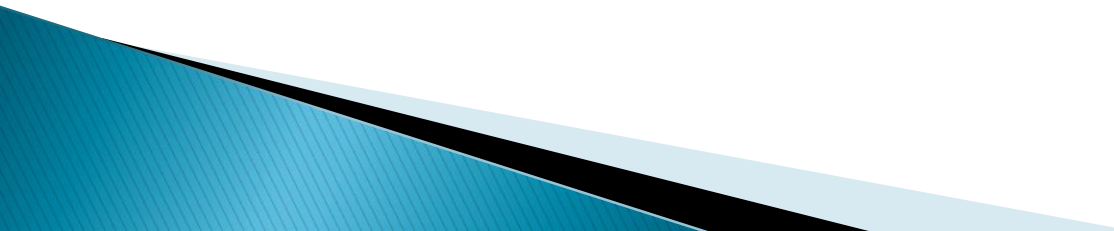
Introduction

- ▶ Trussell Trust: from 2 to 428 food banks
 - ▶ 40,000 strong volunteer workforce
 - ▶ Eligibility for assistance dependent on an acute short term crisis
 - ▶ Crisis policy and defences of social security reform
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1: The Trussell Trust

- ▶ Referral needed to access service
 - ▶ Collects systematic data on food bank usage
 - ▶ 3 food bank vouchers per 6 month period
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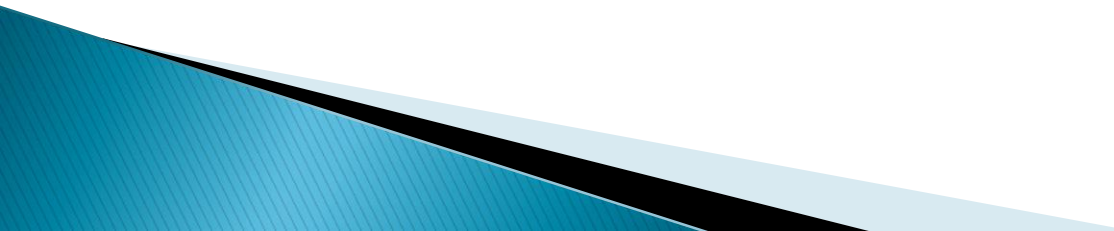
2: Social Security/ Welfare Reform

- ▶ Radical cuts to social security spending
 - ▶ ‘Benefits’ freeze, sanctions and universal credit
 - ▶ Links between social security policy and food bank use
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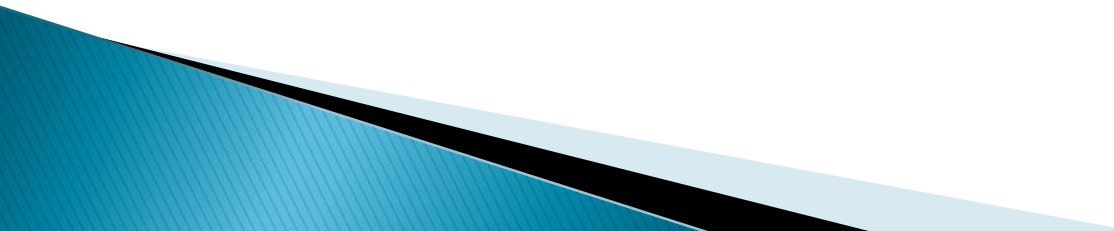
3: Short-term Crisis

- ▶ Trussell Trust's examples of 'crisis'
- ▶ 13m living below the poverty line in UK
- ▶ 8.4m people in the UK are 'food insecure'
- ▶ An estimated 1.3m people use food banks annually

4: Interview Data

- ▶ Trussell Trust food banks in the Liverpool City Region
 - ▶ Responsibility to donors
 - ▶ Conservation of resources
 - ▶ Avoiding dependence
- 

5: Deservingness

- ▶ Assumptions about un/deservingness
 - ▶ Risks institutionalizing food poverty?
 - ▶ British Social Attitudes Survey, 2011:
‘laziness/lack of willpower’ or ‘injustice in society’?
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Conclusion

- ▶ Approach to 'crisis' problematic
 - ▶ Delegating the decision to referral agents
 - ▶ Institutionalising the deserving/ undeserving distinction?
 - ▶ Inadvertently fuelling social security cuts?
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