

Food waste champions Tristram Stuart and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall join in call for greater supermarket transparency

15 November 2016



Today MPs heard evidence from Tristram Stuart and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall calling on supermarkets to be more transparent about how much food they waste (1).

Following campaigning by Feedback (2), two of the biggest supermarket retailers, Tesco and Sainsbury's, have already agreed to publish their food waste data (3). Tesco and Sainsbury's recently publicly called on other supermarkets in the UK and globally to join them in publishing transparent data on their food waste.

Tristram Stuart urged:

"When good food is wasted we all miss out - consumers, communities and businesses. By effectively hiding the facts, retailers who fail to publish transparent figures also hinder the solutions. Without accurate figures on where food is going to waste, it can't be redistributed to people who would otherwise go hungry, social entrepreneurs can't seek delicious solutions like Toast ale (3), which uses fresh surplus bread to make beer, and the government can't create the right policies to help all of us tackle waste. There are so many brilliant solutions to food waste, but they all start with transparency."

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall said:

"Food waste is something we are all responsible for - individuals and families included - but the level of waste created by the major retailers is close to criminal. Consumers want to see supermarkets dropping the ridiculous cosmetic standards on fruit and veg that cause so much perfectly good food to be ditched. Retailers must also rein in the over-production and over-ordering that lead to mountains of fresh food hitting the bins before it has even been seen a shop shelf. The big players in food retailing must take the lead in the war against waste and be completely honest and transparent about their own wasteful practices - it's the only way to come up with sane and successful solutions."

-ENDS-

Notes to editor

(1) <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/food-waste-evidence1-16-17/>

(2) Feedback is an environmental organisation that campaigns to end food waste at every level of the food system. www.feedbackglobal.org

(3) <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/foodforlondon/revealed-the-full-scale-of-supermarket-waste-a3348381.html>

(4) Toast Ale is a social enterprise producing beer brewed with surplus bread, that would otherwise go to waste. www.toastale.com

