



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **ONLINE DONATIONS TO FOOD BANKS RISE BY 5,000% DURING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**

[Bankuet](#) – an online food bank donation service - has seen over a 5,000 percent increase in online food donations since the Coronavirus outbreak began in the UK.

With the need for food banks set to surge, and increasing restrictions on in-person food donations, this new way to donate without leaving the house is bridging the gap to make it possible for people to help those hit hard by the Coronavirus crisis.

The service, which allows people to go online and buy the items that local food banks most need, is seeing usage rocket as generous citizens want to help people in their local community. Bankuet is becoming a lifeline for some food banks, as restrictions on movement and changes in how food banks operate mean that people are less able to donate food in person.

Dan Frith, Wandsworth Foodbank Manager says: “We’re anticipating a significant increase in people needing our support over the coming weeks, as the financial impact of coronavirus hits.

“Now more than ever, Bankuet is the most helpful way for people to donate food to us – we can quickly update the items our food bank needs, and it’s delivered to our door efficiently and safely. With Bankuet we are able to submit a bespoke ‘wish-list’ of exactly

what is needed and what quantities will be most helpful, and donors can purchase this online.”

Food banks across the UK are having to find new, safe ways to make sure that they can continue to provide vital services in light of COVID-19. Many have had to make big changes to their operations, including moving to deliveries instead of opening foodbank centres.

Bankuet founder Robin Ferris said:

“The people who are keeping food banks running through this time of crisis are hidden heroes, and we want to make sure that we do everything we can to provide the supplies they need to keep going.

“Beyond the headlines about hoarders, the increase in online food donations that we’re seeing is a powerful example of kindness in this time of national crisis. We’ve been blown away by the extraordinary generosity of people who are donating food to make sure that their neighbours don’t go hungry.”

Ferris continued:

“In the midst of the chaos of the Coronavirus crisis, it’s the people on lowest incomes who will be hit the hardest. That’s why, at a time when making donations in person is much more difficult, we’re so glad to provide a bridge that makes it possible for food banks to receive food donations to continue their essential work.”

To meet the increasing need of food banks, Bankuet are calling on friends, colleagues and businesses to club together and crowdsource digital food drives. Find out more:

[bit.ly/papr20](https://bit.ly/papr20)

**Ends**

**Notes to the Editor:**

**About Bankuet:** Bankuet was founded in 2019 with the vision of getting food banks precisely what they need, when they need it – and to make it easier for the generous and supportive public to donate.

Founder and CEO Robin Ferris was moved to start Bankuet in 2019 after reading that UK poverty and food bank usage was at record levels. He wanted to do something to help and created Bankuet as a practical, technology-based response to help increase food bank donations.

Bankuet believes that food banks should not have to exist, but as long as they are here providing emergency food to people in crisis, we should all help to make sure that no-one goes hungry.

**For further information on Bankuet please contact:**

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