



Report from North East, Yorkshire & Humberside

Regarding food banks and issues affecting pensioners

by Frank Tyas

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The figures given below are the most up-to-date available, however we suspect these will now be worse as the economy has become very difficult since the early autumn and has hit older people and those on low incomes quite severely.

There were no food banks before 2011 most areas had bus services, now in 2023 many rural and city areas have much reduced or no service at all, which is disastrous for many older people.

- There are 2,565 food banks across the UK in 2023, according to the [Independent Food Aid Network](#)
- Over 2.5 million emergency food parcels were distributed by [Trussell Trust](#) in 2020/21
- 1.2 million did not have a bank account in February 2020, according to the [Financial Conduct Authority](#)
- 6% of adults were digitally excluded in 2021, according [Ipsos](#)
- 7.1 million adults in England had poor literacy skills in 2012, according to the [National Literacy Trust](#)
- 3.4 million adults in the UK had never used the internet in 2021, according to the [ONS](#)
- Over 11 million people in the UK had hearing loss in 2021, according to [NICE](#)
- 3 million were estimated to be living with cancer in 2022, according to [Macmillan](#)



- 14.6 million in the UK had a disability in 2020/21, according to the [Commons Library](#)
- Over 2 million were living with sight loss in 2021, according to [RNIB](#)
- 0.9 million had dementia in 2021, according to [Alzheimer's UK](#)
- 4.3 million had an electricity prepayment meter in 2020, according to the [Commons Library](#)
- 3.4 million had a gas prepayment meter in 2020, according to the [Commons Library](#)
- 2.3 million were in electricity debt in June 2022, according to the [Guardian](#)
- 1.9 million were in gas debt in June 2022, according to the [Guardian](#)

There is no clear definition for "vulnerable" in writing by the government however clearly all the above indicate "vulnerability", Ofgem recognise it is the result of intertwined factors of individual/personal circumstances.