



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions  
Department for Work and Pensions  
Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
London  
SW1H 9NA

Our Ref: ALMG  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

**Re: Uprating of Social Security**

I am writing to raise serious concerns that the cost of living crisis is being made worse by the Government's failure on uprating social security and pensions in line with inflation.

Drivers of the cost of living crisis range from transport, food and energy and this is ahead of the new energy price cap which comes into effect in April. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that, "*At the same time inflation hits this 30 year high, out of work support is at a real-term 30 year low and come April all benefits will be uprated by only 3.1%, covering less than half of expected inflation*".

This will leave families and individuals on the lowest incomes the worst equipped to deal with this coming crisis. As you will know the current increase on pensions and benefits designed to bring social security in line with inflation is based on figure calculated last September which was 3.1%. Inflation currently stands at 5.4% and is forecast to go above 7% by the Bank of England.

The measures announced by the Chancellor to tackle this crisis fall far short of the real terms cuts that millions will experience. The current uprating order will give a person on Universal Credit Basic allowance an additional £9 per month. This pales in comparison to the £20 uplift that was removed as the country became aware of the increasing inflation.

The Government must act to change this unfair uprating system and insure social security and pension are fit for purpose to prevent millions of people being thrown into poverty. What is the Government doing to address this? Given the current circumstances will the Government agree to change the way in which the uprating of social security and pensions is reviewed?

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Alyn Smith MP

