

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

27 October 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: Benefits uprating

We are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Prime Minister. During your time as Chancellor you acted decisively to protect low-income households and pledged to increase benefits in line with inflation as normal. We are now calling on you to honour that promise and to implement the uprating as soon as possible rather than waiting until April next year.

Households on low incomes desperately need stability and certainty as they try to afford the essentials, pay their rent, and keep food on the table. Bringing forward the usual uprating of benefits by September's inflation rate would support people most in need through a difficult winter, including those who are sick or disabled, caring for children or others, and those with low earnings or looking for work. It would also send a clear signal that your government is serious about prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable, as the Chancellor promised to last week.

Many of your colleagues across the Conservative Party made clear this month that they agree that increasing benefits by inflation is both necessary and the right thing to do. The public is supportive too, with 61% of people agreeing that benefits should go up with inflation.

Previous decisions not to go ahead with the normal uprating of benefits have left our social security safety net threadbare. Current benefit rates leave households unable to afford even the essentials, with debt, homelessness and foodbank use all on the rise long before this crisis hit. Failing to uprate with inflation would amount to the biggest permanent real-terms cut to the basic rate of benefits ever made in a single year. Even if uprating goes ahead as normal, the support our social security system provides will still be at historic lows.

The cost of living crisis continues to intensify. Inflation is forecast to remain extremely high for many months to come. In the face of such economic uncertainty, it is right that you provide households on low incomes with the reassurance they need and uprate benefits by inflation as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Action for Children

Advice NI

Age UK

Aspire NI

British Association of Social Workers

British Medical Association

Buttle UK
Carers Trust
Caring Together
CELCIS
Centre for Mental Health
Centre for Progressive Policy
Centrepont
Charity Finance Group
Chartered Institute of Housing
Child Poverty Action Group
Children England
Children in Scotland
Children North East
Christians Against Poverty
Citizens Advice
Communities that Work
Crisis
Diabetes UK
Disability Benefits Consortium (a network of over 100 disability organisations)
End Child Poverty Coalition
End Fuel Poverty Coalition
End Furniture Poverty
ERSA (Employment Related Services Association)
Fairness Foundation
Family Action
Family Fund
Family Rights Group
FareShare UK
Feeding Britain
Ferret Information Systems
First Love Foundation
FoodWise

Generation Rent
Gingerbread
Glass Door Homeless Charity
Greater Manchester Housing Providers
Greater Manchester Poverty Action
Green Alliance
Healthy Livelihoods, UK Prevention Research Partnership: ActEarly Research Collaborative
Home-Start UK
Human Rights Watch
Huntington's Disease Association
Independent Age
Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN)
Institute of Health Equity
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Kidney Care UK
Leaders Unlocked: Cost of Living Young Advisors
Learning and Work Institute
Leonard Cheshire
Little Village
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales
Locality
Macmillan Cancer Support
Magic Breakfast
Marie Curie
Mencap
Mind
MND Association
Money Advice Trust
MS Society
Nacro
National AIDS Trust
NAWRA (National Association of Welfare Rights Advisers)

National Education Union
National Energy Action
National Federation of ALMOs
National Housing Federation
National Survivor User Network
National Youth Agency
National Zakat Foundation
Neighbourly
New Economics Foundation
North East Child Poverty Commission
One Parent Families Scotland
Oxfam GB
Parkinson's UK
PlaceShapers
Policy in Practice
Poverty Alliance
Refuge
Rethink Mental Illness
RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People)
RNID
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Runnymede Trust
Save the Children
Scope
Sense
SFHA (Scottish Federation of Housing Associations)
St Mungo's
StepChange Debt Charity
TACT
The Bevan Foundation
The Childhood Trust

The Children's Society
The Connection at St Martin's
The Equality Trust
The Food Foundation
The Hygiene Bank
The Mighty Creatives
The Money and Mental Health Policy Institute
The Poverty Truth Community
The Robertson Trust
The Women's Regional Consortium, Northern Ireland
Transforming Lives for Good (TLG)
Trussell Trust
Trust for London
TUC
Turn2us
Versus Arthritis
VODG (Voluntary Organisations Disability Group)
We Care Campaign
Women's Budget Group
York Cost of Living Research Group, University of York
Young Women's Trust
Z2K