



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
The Correspondence & Enquiry unit
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Our Ref: ALMG

Dear Chancellor,

Re: Cost of Living Crisis

I am writing to you to pass on the serious concerns raised by my constituents effected by the cost of living crisis. Two groups of constituents have been very vocal about their concerns over their finances this winter, those that rely on social security and pensioners.

Many of my constituents rely on benefits to make ends meet. With the cost of living crisis hitting those on low incomes the hardest, it is essential that benefits rise in line with inflation. If benefits only increase with earnings, it will amount to the biggest real-terms permanent cut ever made in a single year. It is vital that at the Medium-Term Fiscal Statement, benefits are uprated in line with inflation, as promised by the previous Government.

Pensioners who do not have the opportunity to gain more income through paid employment are also at risk of falling into poverty if the Government does not stand by its manifesto commitment. The triple lock on pensions was put into place to ensure that if inflation spiked as it has done then some of the most vulnerable in our society would be protected. I would strongly urge you to consider this before considering changing the triple lock pensions policy.

We cannot return to austerity of the past. It caused so much damage to the country, a fall in living standards and early deaths. This Government has been instrumental in this decline and must ensure that those who are most vulnerable receive the protection that they need.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Alyn Smith MP