



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**Alex Rowley MSP**  
**Member for Mid Scotland and Fife**

Office of Alex Rowley MSP  
Ore Valley Business Centre  
93 Main Street  
Lochgelly  
Fife  
KY5 9AF

Rt. Hon Boris Johnson MP  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

*27 June 2022*

Dear Prime Minister,

### **Cost of Living Support**

I am writing to urge you to act now and bring forward a fourth budget with targeted support for the millions of people across the country impacted by the cost of living crisis.

While I acknowledge that the Government has taken steps towards support, this support has not gone far enough and millions across the country are already struggling to survive before this financial disaster has been fully realised.

With further increases in inflation and costs expected, millions of people, including children, are facing the very real prospect of being pushed into poverty this winter, if not worse.

I believe the Government's appeal to the public on its course of action is based on the flawed argument that an increase in wages is causing an increase in inflation, rather than the rampant profiteering that saw the UK produce a record number of billionaires alongside record demand for food banks.

The question is simple – if workers across the country are being blamed for the rise in inflation and encouraged not to fight for fair compensation while costs rise and inflation hits a 40-year high, what do you propose they do to survive?

It cannot truly be the Government's belief that everyone in the country should simply find better paying jobs or work longer and harder while wages continue to stagnate as they have for over a decade.

Further, with the claim that the Government intends to remove restrictions to the pay and bonuses of the richest in our society, surely if pay increases were truly to blame for the rise in inflation then allowing profiteering to be rewarded with unlimited pay and bonuses would be tantamount to an act of financial terrorism on the part of the Government?

That is why I am writing to take urgent action now to soften the blow of this crisis on the most vulnerable in our society. Specifically, I am requesting:

- The immediate reinstatement of the £20 Universal Credit uplift which was a lifeline for so many when it was introduced



**Telephone:** 01592 786722  
**Email:** alex.rowley.msp@parliament.scot





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- A fourth budget to be brought forward this year with a plan for targeted support that will ensure money gets into the hands of those that need it most and does not unfairly award the richest in our society

The only option is to support those in our society that need it most, do everything we can to avoid exasperating this crisis that is being felt the world over and resolve to no longer allow the poor to get poorer while the rich get richer.

Prime Minister, I urge you – do not turn your back on the country now.

Kind regards,

Alex Rowley MSP



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