



**Stewart McDonald MP**  
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Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022

Dear Chancellor,

I am writing to you to represent the views of my constituents on the cost-of-living crisis and what more needs to be done to help ahead of the Spring Statement this week.

Earlier this year I launched a survey in my constituency on the cost-of-living crisis and the results were staggering:

- 100% had experienced an increase in the cost-of-living
- 66% said their monthly costs had increased between £100-£300
- 39% had been pushed into debt by the cost-of-living crisis
- 44% said their debts ran into hundreds of pounds
- 83% hadn't found the current measures helpful to them in managing the cost-of-living crisis

My constituents said they have mostly sacrificed on energy and have told me they would turn on their heating less frequently, if at all, and had even given up on cooked meals.

To manage the increased cost of living, my constituents have told me they've had to ask family or friends to borrow money, taken out credit cards to manage costs, and even resorted to selling some of their possessions.

That is deeply troubling and upsetting.

Additionally, research by 38 Degrees shows people across the UK struggling with the cost of living.

In my constituency, they found:

- 81% are experiencing more expensive energy bills
- 75% are paying more for fuel
- 67% are paying more for transport
- 42% have lost income due to UC cut

In this research, testimonies from my constituents said they were having to choose between heating and eating and cutting back on essentials for their family. One testimony said, "*This is a daily struggle for me and my family*".

With the Spring Statement coming up this week, now is an ideal opportunity to remedy the concerns of my constituents, and those of people across these islands, on the cost-of-living crisis.

Whilst my constituents have welcomed measures such as the Scottish Government's council tax reductions and the Scottish Child Payment, they were critical of others such as the structure of the UK Government's £200 energy bill reduction.

Following the feedback from my constituents, I am asking you to act at the Spring Statement.

The UK Government must turn its energy loan scheme into a grant.



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There must also be action on energy bills including cutting VAT on energy bills and reducing the energy cap.

The UK Government must also heed the calls of the Scottish Government and introduce a windfall tax to fund targeted support for those who need it most.

It is also time for the UK Government to follow the Scottish Government's lead and uprate social security benefits by 6%. The real living wage should also be increased and equal for all age groups.

The UK Government must finally act on its levelling up rhetoric: deliver finance for the Shared Prosperity Fund without undercutting devolved budgets by spending in devolved areas.

The UK Government must do what it can to support those who are feeling the cost-of-living crisis.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stewart McDonald".

Stewart McDonald MP  
SNP Shadow Secretary of State for Defence  
Member of Parliament for Glasgow South