

C/o Child Poverty Action Group
By email

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Rd
London SW1A 2HQ

Monday 6 April

Dear Chancellor

We welcome the steps taken so far to protect incomes in this time of great uncertainty. As well as protecting individual incomes, we are convinced there is more to do to meet the needs of the UK's families, focused on meeting children's needs, and easing some of the unexpected financial pressures families are grappling with now that most schools are closed and children are at home full-time.

We are calling for emergency support for children to ensure all parents can cover the basic costs of raising their children in the face of reduced income and before the new income protection measures can take effect. We have therefore come together to ask you to consider uplifting child benefit by £10 per child per week.

As child benefit reaches most families (12.7 million children receive it) it offers an effective, fast and resilient way to get money to families through our existing infrastructure - families will get the help they need directly into their bank accounts to cover additional costs.

As you know, child benefit has been subject to freezes and sub-inflationary uprating since 2011, and it would take more than a £5 increase just to restore its value. An increase in child benefit of £10 per child per week, on top of the proposed uprating from 6 April, would reduce child poverty by around five percentage points and household poverty by one to two percentage points. This would be more effective in reducing child poverty than the £20 increase in universal credit and working tax credit – although this increase is of course very welcome. Importantly, the benefit cap would also need to be lifted to enable all families to benefit from this increase.

We hope you will agree that while all families are affected by the coronavirus pandemic, swift action to strengthen the finances of families and to shield children from additional hardship is critical in such exceptionally difficult times. We believe such a move would also receive widespread public support.

Yours sincerely

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Action for Children
Linda Tuthill, CEO, **The Action Group**

Javed Khan, Chief Executive, **Barnardo's**
Frank Mosson, Bureau Manager, **Bridgeton Citizens Advice**
Joseph Howes, Chief Executive Officer, **Buttle UK**
Dr Neil Henery, Director, **Camphill Scotland**
Rami Okasha, Chief Executive, **Chas**
Alison Garnham, Chief Executive, **Child Poverty Action Group**
Laurence Guinness, Chief Executive, **The Childhood Trust**
Kathy Evans, Chief Executive, **Children England**
Jackie Brock, Chief Executive, **Children in Scotland**
The Children's Society
Very Rev Dr Susan M Brown, Convener, Faith Impact Forum, **The Church of Scotland**
Derek Mitchell, CEO, **Citizens Advice Scotland**
City Bridge Trust
Connect Community Trust
Louise King, Director, **CRAE**
Jane Brumpton, Chief Executive, **Early Years Scotland**
Maureen Morris, Secretary, **EHRA**
Emma Ritch, Executive Director, **Engender**
Cheryl Ward, CEO, **Family Fund**
Cathy Ashley, Chief Executive, **Family Rights Group**
Jimmy Wilson, CEO, **FARE Scotland**
Fiona Moss, Head of Health Improvement & Inequality, **Glasgow City CHP** and Chair,
Glasgow City Challenge Child Poverty Group
Neil MacDonald, VAW services, **Glasgow City Council**
Professor Ian Welsh OBE, Chief Executive, **Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)**
Douglas Guest, Acting Director for Scotland, **Home-Start UK Scotland**
Martin Dorchester, Chief Executive, **Includem**
Gavin Spence, Manager, **James McLean Project**
Sarah-Jayne Clifton, Director, **Jubilee Debt Campaign**
Enver Solomon, CEO, **Just for Kids Law**
Bishop Nolan, President, **Justice and Peace Scotland**
Virginia Radcliffe, Artistic Director & CEO, **Licketyspit**
Dr. Nick Owen FRSA MBE, Chief Executive Officer, **The Mighty Creatives**
Anna Feuchtwang, Chief Executive, **National Children's Bureau** and Chair, **End Child Poverty**
Dr. Mary Bousted and Kevin Courtney, Joint General Secretaries, **the National Education Union**
Craig Samuel, **NAWRA** representative Scotland
New Gorbals Housing Association
Satwat Rehman, CEO, **One Parent Families Scotland**
Clare Simpson, Manager, **Parenting across Scotland**
Marguerite Hunter Blair, Chief Executive, **Play Scotland**
Peter Kelly, Director, **The Poverty Alliance**
Shruti Jain, Chair, **Saheliya**
Shaben Begum, Director, **Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance**
Irene Audain MBE Chief Executive, **Scottish Out of School Care Network**
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Kirsty McNab, CEO, **Scottish Sports Futures**
Rozanne Foyer, General Secretary Designate, **Scottish Trades Union Congress**

Grahame Smith, General Secretary, **Scottish Trades Union Congress**
Scottish Women's Convention

Jack Dudgeon MSYP, Chair, **Scottish Youth Parliament**

Ben Farrugia, Director, **Social Work Scotland**

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Juliet Harris, Director, **Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights)**

Emma Revie, Chief Executive, **the Trussell Trust**

Thomas Lawson, CEO, **Turn2us**

Adrian Sinfield, Professor Emeritus of Social Policy, School of Social and Political Science,
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Lucy Hadley, Campaigns and Policy Manager, **Women's Aid Federation of England**

Hugh Foy, Programme Director, **Xaverians UK Province**

Tim Frew, Chief Executive, **YouthLink Scotland**

Rachel Adamson, Co-Director, **Zero Tolerance**