

Maureen Drennan



Rt Hon George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Horse Guards Road
LONDON
SW1A 2HQ

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Dear Chancellor,

My name is Maureen Drennan. I know you are busy preparing your first budget but as you can see from details below, budgeting is a difficult daily task for people on inadequate allowances. I hope you can find time to give me some advice on my Income and Expenditure problems. I am a single woman currently receiving Incapacity Benefit my weekly budget is set out as follows:

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Incapacity Benefit	91	Food	50
		Travel	25
		Heat /light/water	27
		Clothes – (I buy my clothes from charity shops or get them from friends)	0
		Household/cleaning etc	15
		Social Fund repayment	5
TOTAL	91		127

I know you will tell me that work should lead to an increased income and thus help towards balancing my budget. However, as your advisers at the Treasury will tell you, unemployment is likely to rise in

the immediate future so I would be foolish to think that this would guarantee to solve my problems in the short term at the very least.

My budget does not include a contribution to a personal pension, home insurance, holidays or savings for unforeseen problems.

Please advise me which expenditure I should cut back on – food, heating, clothing etc. I cannot obtain affordable credit unlike the Government has been able to in its present crisis so I can only ask you for advice on prudent budgeting.

Alternatively, I might ask you to seriously consider raising the level of minimum incomes of those that will not be able to find work in the near future. This level of income I am sure you will agree should be high enough for someone to live in dignity and allow a person to fully participate in society.

I do not ask for a bail out, I ask for Social Justice.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours hopefully

Maureen Drennan