

Mr Willie Trimble



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

17 June 2010

Dear Chancellor,

My name is Willie Trimble. 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 disabled man, married with one daughter at home who travels thirty miles to attend college and my weekly budget is set out as follows:

<b>INCOME</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Combination of Income support, Incapacity Benefit and DLA	151	Food	90
Child benefit	20	Travel	15
		Heat /light/water	35
		Rent arrears repayment	3
		Clothes	50
		Household/cleaning etc ave	10
		Repayments to loan companies	35
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171</b>		<b>238</b>

I know you will tell me that work should lead to an increased income and thus help towards balancing my budget. However, employment for disabled people in my category is impossible, 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 “a word I had to look up to see what it meant” or savings for unforeseen problems often just as simple as a washing machine breakdown becomes a disaster.

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 the only credit available is from companies such as PROVIDENT and GREENWOOD 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 NEVER 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

Willie Trimble