

Press Release

For Immediate Release

22 June 2010



Budget Blow for Poor Scots

Commenting on the Emergency Budget delivered today by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Director of Poverty Alliance, Peter Kelly, said:

“George Osborne has made much of his efforts to protect the poorest in his first budget, but this package of changes will make life increasingly tough for those already living on low incomes.

The package of cuts to benefits will hit hard. The combined effect of the freeze on child benefit, restrictions on Housing Benefit, lower rates of increase for benefits and the increase in VAT means that the chancellor’s words about protecting the poor have a hollow ring.

Whilst the increase in the income tax personal allowance will help take more low paid workers out of the tax system, this will not help those already out of work or the thousands expected to join them soon. With massive spending cuts coming in unprotected parts of the public sector, this adds up to bad news for people struggling on low incomes and the services they rely on.”

ENDS

Notes for editors

- Poverty Alliance is Scotland’s anti-poverty network. We aim to combat poverty by working with individuals and communities to affect change. For more information visit www.povertyalliance.org

Peter Kelly
Director, Poverty Alliance
Tel 0141 353 0440 or 07766606454