

# CAROLYN THOMAS

## MS FOR NORTH WALES / AS DROS GOGLEDD CYMRU

The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
11 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AB

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP

### **Re: Uprating welfare benefits in line with inflation in the Autumn Statement**

I am getting in touch to urge you, during your Autumn Statement later this week, to commit to uprating welfare benefits in line with September's rate of inflation of 6.7%, as is custom and practice.

I understand that the Treasury is considering using the lower October figure for inflation, of 4.6%, which would represent a significant cut to welfare for households which are acutely struggling through the cost-of-living crisis.

As we head towards the harsh winter months, these households desperately need reassurance from the government that things will not get worse for them.

Citizens Advice are already reporting that over half of all households seeking their help with debt advice have more money going out than coming in, making them especially vulnerable if welfare benefits do not keep pace with inflation.

As you will be aware, many of these households are working households, but are still unable to cover basic essentials through their income, such is the extent of the cost-of-living crisis, for which your government bears ultimate responsibility.

I implore you to take that responsibility seriously this week, by committing to ensure that welfare benefits rise by at least 6.7%, and provide much needed respite for many families across the UK.

Yours Sincerely,



Carolyn Thomas, Member of the Senedd for North Wales

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