



The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Her Majesty's Treasury
1 Horse Guards Rd
Westminster
London
SW1A 2HQ

2 March 2021

Dear Mr Sunak,

A Budget for Sustainability and Intergenerational Fairness

The 2021 Budget will be a unique opportunity to shape the future of the UK's economic recovery as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. A pandemic which has put unprecedented financial stress on individuals, business and the Government itself. Increased spending and a reduction in tax revenue has had a dramatic impact on the UK's public finances, and the priority for the upcoming Budget will no doubt seek to put the UK on a sustainable financial footing for the future. With this in mind, we the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, Lord Bird and the signatories to this letter would urge the Government to look closely at the long term implications that spending decisions today will have on future generations.

Fairness between the generations is rapidly becoming one of the most important issues in British politics and public policy discourse, as highlighted by the [IFoA's 2021 Budget submission](#). [The Future Generations Bill](#) will lay the groundwork so that decision making across Government is embedded not just in the short term, but in the long term, too. This ethos is especially important when assessing the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic. A long-term view is essential if we are to meet the needs of UK society, without placing an unfair and unmanageable burden on younger and future generations.

From ensuring that we have a health and social care system that can meet the needs of our ageing population, to helping younger generations secure affordable housing, to mitigating the risks of climate change to safeguard the future of our planet, this issue spans all government departments and every aspect of life. It is therefore vital that the Government ensures that economic impacts and risks are shared and managed across society in a way that is fair and manageable for all. It should be a matter of public priority that not only the stability but the durability and sustainability of our financial system is maintained.

The 2021 Budget will set the tone of the UK's recovery from the pandemic. We urge the Chancellor to use the fiscal levers at his disposal not only to evidence that he has learnt the lessons of the pandemic, but also to heal the intergenerational divide, by taking a long term and cross-societal view of any upcoming package of economic measures.

Yours sincerely,

Tan Suee Chieh
President
Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

Lord John Bird MBE
Founder and Editor-in-Chief
The Big Issue



Paul Bloomfield

Chair of the Association of Consulting Actuaries

Matthew Connell

Director, Policy & Public Affairs at the Chartered Insurance Institute

The Pensions Management Institute

Foundation for Democracy & Sustainable Development

The Investing and Saving Alliance

Pensions Administration Standards Association

Rebecca Deegan

Founder & Director, I have a voice

The Rt. Hon David Heath

Chair, IFoA Policy and Public Affairs Board

Mark Williams (Chair), Sorca Kelly-Scholte, Danny Quant, Laura Andrikopoulos
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