



Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
The Correspondence and Enquiry Unit
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London
SW1A 2HQ

29 May 2023

Dear Jeremy,

Re: Urgent Action Needed on Mortgages

I write to you today on behalf of my constituents, who are increasingly concerned about the issue of rising mortgages.

Recently, I met with a young couple from my constituency, who, like many, across the nations of the UK, are struggling with escalating costs. They work tirelessly to build a secure future for their two children but find their efforts undermined by the current economic climate. The inflation, which has eaten into their monthly income, coupled with the looming end of their fixed-rate mortgage deal, has them facing a £200 increase per month. This isn't a threat on the horizon: it's a reality today.

Inflation may have fallen to 8.7% last week, but the staggering 19% food inflation tells a different story. My constituents tell me of the hard choices they're having to make, such as cutting out fresh fruit and vegetables to save money at the checkout.

The Bank of England has raised interest rates 12 times since December 2021. The result is that a typical tracker mortgage customer is now paying about £417 more a month, while those on variable rates have seen their costs rise by £266. By the end of this year, another 1.3 million people across the UK will be renewing their fixed-rate mortgages, an added worry they carry every day.

A "huge shock is on its way" at the end of the year, as the head of Barclays Bank recently warned, and it's a sentiment that resonates with the concerns of my constituents. We cannot ignore these warnings, nor can we afford to delay action any longer.

I urge you to act decisively and promptly to address these concerns. We need an economic strategy that not only acknowledges the struggles of our constituents but also actively works to alleviate them.

Yours,

Drew Hendry MP

Member of Parliament for
Inverness, Nairn,
Badenoch & Strathspey

Scottish National Party
Foreign Affairs
Westminster Spokesperson