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THE PRIME MINISTER

12 August 2022

Thank you for your letter about the increasing pressures being faced by families across the United Kingdom due to rising global prices.

The Government understands that people across the UK are worried about the rising cost of living and are seeing their disposable incomes decrease as they spend more on the essentials. In May, we announced over £15 billion of additional cost of living support, targeted at those with the greatest need. As a result, millions of vulnerable households will receive at least £1,200 of support this financial year, with the vast majority of households receiving at least £550. That includes the £150 Council Tax rebate funding provided to the Scottish Government, and the further £400 energy bills discount for households coming in instalments over the winter months, starting in October. This package builds on over £22 billion previously announced, meaning that Government support for the cost of living now totals over £37 billion this year, equivalent to 1.5 per cent of GDP.

I agree that the response to these pressures will be best served by the UK and Devolved Governments working collaboratively to navigate these challenges together. Following our discussion last month, as well as discussions at both the Interministerial Standing Committee and the Finance: Interministerial Standing Committee in June, I have asked my Permanent Secretary for the Union to continue working with your officials to plan for a meaningful Ministerial meeting with Heads of Devolved Governments to consider how best to further support hardworking families.

Thank you, once again, for raising this important issue with me.

The Right Honourable Ms Nicola Sturgeon MSP