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BUDGET CALL 2010

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ROBINSON: Good afternoon and welcome to the programme. Now that the dust has settled a bit, we're looking in some detail at how the Budget might affect you. You and Yours has teamed up with our colleagues at Money Box. In the first half of the programme, I'll be talking to a panel who knows a bit about small business, the workplace, the economy, and how the changes announced yesterday might influence some of our spending decisions. And there's a Budget phone-in with Vincent Duggleby. Vincent, we've had plenty of time, haven't we now, to analyse the measures in the Budget, going on all yesterday afternoon, all this morning? But with a General Election coming, can you tell us how many of them are going to become law?

DUGGLEBY: Indeed, Winifred, I wish I could. The General Election poses peculiar problems for the Finance Bill and the Finance Act, which would normally of course be put through in due course, resulting in the act being passed during the summer. But of course with the election pending - and we don't know exactly the day it's going to be held, but the popular date is early March ... early May, May 6th - and if that was the case, it leaves very little time to get even a shortened bill through the Commons before Parliament is dissolved. So all the measures that were announced by Alistair Darling yesterday may or may not become law, depending of course on the result of the election. And we have to also distinguish between those things which require legislation and what are known as orders where, for instance, tax rates are automatically passed and there is no political debate about them. But with that proviso, of course a lot of interesting measures. Stamp duty I think is the number one

on our list for our audience. Then we've had news on ISAs, basic bank accounts, inheritance tax, and small businesses. The small businesses, quite a complicated package, and I suspect that the other parties may well have alternatives to how to spend the two and a half billion should they come into power. But, Paul, what are the emails telling us?

LEWIS: Well, Vincent, as you suggested, stamp duty (or stamp duty land tax as it's properly called) has been the biggest one, I think - people wanting to know when it starts exactly, how do you define a first time buyer, to do with couples and property abroad and all that kind of thing. And of course the other side of it is the 5% tax on million plus homes. When does that start, people want to know. We've also had emails about the tax on phones, on land line phones. This is going to be 50 pence a month, starting in October, so £6 a year, and that's to pay for fast Broadband throughout the country. Some people are saying, "I don't want fast Broadband." Or "I've already got it. Why should I pay the extra money?" We've had queries on housing benefit, we've had queries on tax allowances for older people, and of course on the winter fuel payment, which the Chancellor did say would stay the same this coming winter. So quite a lot of interest in what he was saying.

DUGGLEBY: Well you'll be keeping tabs of course on those emails throughout the programme. And also with us, we have Mike Robinson ... Mike *Warburton*. What am I talking about? Mike *Warburton*. Mike Robinson was a reporter on this programme many years ago. Mike Warburton, Tax Director with Grant Thornton. Mike, I mentioned just a moment ago that allowances are frozen, but that of course has already been in the pipeline and is not effectively, cannot be challenged.

WARBURTON: Yes. Personal allowances - that's the amount you can earn before you pay tax - as well as the tax rates and thresholds, that was announced in the Pre-Budget Report. That will happen, but the bad news is nothing changes. It's essentially frozen. And the reason is that last September inflation was actually negative. Now we've got 3% inflation. So in effect it's this old stealth taxation. Many people will be £40 a year worse off than if allowances had gone up in line with the 3% inflation.

DUGGLEBY: And our audience is peculiarly sensitive to the income limit being frozen.

WARBURTON: Yes, what the income limit before your H allowance is reduced?

DUGGLEBY: *(over)* Yeah, before your H allowance is reduced.

WARBURTON: And also, of course, this hits pensioners. It means that pensioners that are earning above the income of £22,900 effectively pay a marginal rate of tax at 60%, and that's quite painful for a lot of pensioners.

DUGGLEBY: Now inheritance tax, another thing that's been coming up on our calls. The Chancellor didn't actually say anything about inheritance tax in the speech, but ...

WARBURTON: Yes, well unfortunately having promised us last year it was going to go up from 325 to 350, he then changed his mind. And we knew he was going to freeze it for 1 year at 350. He's now said that's going to be a 5 year freeze. So vote for Gordon Brown effectively and you're going to have a 5 year freeze on inheritance tax.

DUGGLEBY: Christine Ross, Head of Financial Planning at SG Hambros. Not much on savings - but ISAs, a little tweak there?

ROSS: A tiny tweak - just index linking of future ISA allowances and a rather complex calculation to increase your allowance if you save on a monthly basis.

DUGGLEBY: Linking it to the RPI, I think.

ROSS: Linking it to RPI. But you know ISA savers had a surprise in the Pre-Budget Report last autumn; and for those over 50, they've already had a higher allowance - so a total of £10,200, half of which, as always, can be invested in cash deposits.

DUGGLEBY: And a freeze on lifetime pension allowance?

ROSS: Yes, sadly. The maximum contribution limit that qualifies for tax relief will be frozen after it goes up in the next tax year and for 4 years thereafter. That will bring many people up against, who saved heavily into pensions, against the lifetime allowance on total pension fund.

DUGGLEBY: Again, of course, subject to political considerations and what the other parties might decide in the future if they were in power.

ROSS: Who knows what could happen in the next 8 weeks or so.

DUGGLEBY: Okay. Benefits. Not much on benefits, Paul, but one or two key items. The winter fuel payment, I think, has concerned people.

LEWIS: Yes. As I said, the winter fuel payment is going to be the same this coming year as it was. And other benefit things, I think we'd better ask Eddy Graham who's with us today from Child Poverty Action Group. Eddy?

GRAHAM: Thanks, Paul. Yes, the extension - the winter fuel payment will be paid at the same rate this year as last year, so that's £250 with a pensioner 60 or over or £400 if they're 80 or over - is welcome; as is the increases in the per child element for child tax credits coming from 2012. But, unfortunately, that kind of increase in child tax credit is not going to be enough to have a significant impact on the rates of child poverty in the UK, and it does look like the government is going to miss its target for halving child poverty by 2010 by at least 600,000.

DUGGLEBY: Eddy, what about that measure, which he mentioned in the speech, about expensive properties? There's been quite a row about people living ... families living in sort of multi-million pound houses and paying you know no rent at all.

GRAHAM: Yes, unfortunately there's been quite a lot of stories in the tabloids about

families with large children living in expensive houses in expensive parts of the country, which is really I suppose at root due to a problem with affordable housing. So the measure is going to change the way that the local housing allowance is calculated, which determines how much housing benefit you get. But that's going to affect all claimants of housing benefit. It will lower the amount of the local housing allowance and so it will affect everybody who has to claim for assistance with their housing benefit in a negative way and reduce the pool of housing available to them.

DUGGLEBY: And children, Paul? A mention about them in the child benefit ...?

LEWIS: Well the Child Trust Fund, of course, which is the savings scheme for children, there is going to be an extension to give some money to disabled children - though we knew that. But perhaps more important, Vincent, is that both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats, should they have or hold the balance of power, have plans to get rid of a lot of the Child Trust Fund; certainly not to give money to families with incomes over about £16,000. So that would be a big change if we did see a change of power at the election.

DUGGLEBY: And just briefly, Christine, before we go back to Manchester, has the Child Trust Fund from your standpoint been quite a popular investment vehicle for your clients?

ROSS: I think it has because everybody starts to think of children saving as soon as they're born. Parents pore over all the various options. And it will for the first time give children some money when they get to 18.

DUGGLEBY: But very briefly, Mike, probably would continue for existing plans?

WARBURTON: Oh yeah, I think that would ... I'm expecting that to continue.

DUGGLEBY: So it would still be a tax advantageous thing for grandparents or parents to do?

WARBURTON: Oh absolutely, yes.

DUGGLEBY: Okay. Many thanks, panel. We shall be back with you again at half past 12. In the meantime, let me give you the telephone number for your calls. 03700 100 444. And with that, it's back to you, Winifred, in Manchester.

ROBINSON: Thanks, Vincent. Well despite the fact that government borrowing left very little room for manoeuvre, there were some surprises in the Budget. As Vincent said, probably the biggest - that stamp duty holiday for first time buyers - and there were massive little things ranging from reducing business rates for small companies to giving councils some money to get rid of the potholes in the roads. The elephant in the room were the big cuts in public spending that we all know will come in the years ahead. A nod in that direction came in the afternoon when the Treasury published 16 documents detailing how 11 billion pounds worth of savings, already promised in government departments in 2011, are going to be achieved. It was in fact a list of headline figures with really no explanation of what exactly will happen - for example, £555 million saved by reducing staff sickness absence in the NHS. So how will it all play out in the spending decisions that we will make in our work and home lives? Well with here in Manchester to talk about that are Angie Robinson. She's Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. John Whitelegg. He's Professor of Sustainable Transport at Liverpool's John Moores University. And Adam Lent, who's Head of Economics at the TUC. If I could go round the table first then. If you would cast your mind back to yesterday morning - if there was one thing that you could have put in the Budget, was it there? Adam Lent?

LENT: Well the thing that we have been pressing really hard for is for the help being given to the unemployed and particularly to the young unemployed to be improved and extended, and I was really pleased to see that actually the Chancellor had included that in the Budget.

ROBINSON: Professor Whitelegg?

WHITELEGG: I was looking for some very serious, joined up thinking using the tax

system to achieve all our objectives. And I was particularly hoping for something like the abolition of national insurance completely, the abolition of national insurance payments on a phased trajectory, with the tax burden shifting progressively to carbon. We need more jobs and we need less carbon, so we can link the two. But, sadly, I was disappointed.

ROBINSON: I don't think that was ever going to happen. Certainly not yesterday, anyway. Angie Robinson?

A. ROBINSON: I'm on a similar theme actually. What we were pressing the Chancellor very hard to do was to abolish the planned 1% national insurance increase, which is coming in from April 2011. From our perspective, it's a real tax on jobs - particularly at a time when the public sector's likely to be losing staff. We need the private sector to create more work. This is a disincentive to them.

ROBINSON: Where would you have found the money instead?

A. ROBINSON: I think there are a whole host of ways in which the Chancellor could look at raising additional money, and I think that much of it has to come from public sector spending cuts. And he hasn't said very much at all about that. It will translate into job losses. It has to.

ROBINSON: Well we're going to come onto that in a bit more detail later. Let's look though at what he did do. He promised an adjudicator, didn't he, to rule on whether a bank has been fair in refusing a loan? That's one of those little nitty things. Last week here, we heard Alan Sugar saying that the government, repeating his claim - he's the government's enterprise champion - that good businesses with good ideas are getting loans. So I wondered, Angie Robinson, what did you make of that then - a new adjudicator?

A. ROBINSON: Well I actually think the devil's going to be in the detail, Winifred, because one of the things that my members are saying to me is money's easier to get now than it was 6 months ago. It's hellishly expensive, however, and it's the time

frame. Now you introduce an adjudicator into the process. That sounds like it's going to slow things down. They'll have to be very fleet of foot to be able to look at the decision and come up with answer and then find somebody to lend on the back of it. So it sounds like a neat idea, but will it actually work?

ROBINSON: The enterprise champion goes all over the place asking people about their experiences. He says there's not a problem.

A. ROBINSON: I don't think that that's true of many of my members. I'm not getting anything like the number of reports I was 6 months ago. It was chronic. But I can still find many people coming to me saying, "Actually the system doesn't work for us. The people who are making the evaluations and then making the consequent lending decisions don't know very much about my business." And there are some very good lending propositions that seem to be taking far too long to come through.

ROBINSON: Well knowing what has to come, there is of course a lot of anxiety about jobs; and that, more than anything, affects what we'll all spend, what we'll borrow, whether we'll be allowed to borrow anything at all. There were 20,000 extra university places promised yesterday for England - all of them in science, technology, engineering and maths. The guarantee of work or training for young, unemployed people was extended, and there was a cut in business rates to try to help small companies to expand. Professor Whitelegg, there has, hasn't there, been this rush to study in the recession? 20,000 extra places - will that make very much difference to the economy?

WHITELEGG: There has been this rush to study, but I actually don't think the 20,000 extra university places will feed through very significantly into improving economic conditions, into improving job creation, job opportunities, job availability.

ROBINSON: Why not?

WHITELEGG: Because I think that the problems don't exist at the level of graduates. The problems exist ... Britain has the highest level - and this is a dreadful

acronym for which I apologise - we have the highest level of NEATs (those people not in employment, education or training) of any European country, and it links directly through to the highest level of child poverty of any European country. We need to get that money into the 16 to 21 year olds who are currently not in employment, education or training. That will have a huge impact on improving job opportunities for that group of people, reducing child poverty, improving the levels of consumer expenditure in the local economy. And putting that into graduates won't do the same thing at all.

ROBINSON: Adam Lent, the TUC - that scheme that Labour wanted to extend, do you judge it to have been a success?

LENT: Well it's a little bit early to tell because the scheme's only been up and running for a few months. But we know from experience in other parts of the world that these sorts of schemes, which essentially create jobs for young people in the midst of a recession, are the best way of keeping young people connected to the world of work and preventing them going into long-term unemployment, which can be very damaging for them and of course very damaging to the economy, as Professor Whitelegg has mentioned. The actual scheme has already created around about 117,000 jobs. It plans to create 170,000. It'll obviously create more.

ROBINSON: (*over*) How does it create jobs, Adam? How does it create jobs?

LENT: Well effectively the government has provided a billion pounds worth of funding to local authorities, private companies and voluntary sector organisations to take young people on for 6 months or more on a minimum wage or above basis.

ROBINSON: It's probably worth saying that we phoned around this morning and the other parties support this initiative, so this probably is something that will continue whoever wins the election.

LENT: Well I'm glad you say that because actually the Conservatives have been very dismissive of this scheme and have said they probably wouldn't continue it.

ROBINSON: Well they told us this morning in a statement that they do support it; that it, they claim, has been one of their ideas, and that they would do more with it. So they may not carry ...

LENT: Well that's a new policy. And if it's genuinely a new policy, that's very welcome because we are very keen to see the scheme extended. We are very pleased the Chancellor said he would, but obviously there is this issue of the election. So if the Conservatives do win the election and are committed to continuing the scheme, that's great.

ROBINSON: Angie Robinson, let's talk about this change in the business rate. What happens there?

A. ROBINSON: Well it's an advantage to businesses to be able to just keep business rates a bit lower.

ROBINSON: They're going to be reduced, aren't they?

A. ROBINSON: Yes they are. And that's got to be helpful. That gives companies a bit more headroom. It enables them to make some sorts of investments, which you know will assist in terms of creating opportunities.

ROBINSON: Remind us of the detail. You haven't got it in front of you?

A. ROBINSON: I haven't. But I think that any particular thing that we're asking for the Chancellor to do in relation to keeping business rates lower than they have been has to be a particularly good thing for business. I mean we were pleased to see so many of the Chancellor's measures focused on trying to get business moving. There's still an awful lot more that he can do, and supporting small businesses is going to be a key way forward. That's where the jobs will come from.

ROBINSON: I can't remember the detail of it either, but I'll get one of my

colleagues to remind me and we'll just fill you in on that as soon as we have it. After Alistair Darling sat down yesterday, the government outlined how this 11 billion pounds worth of savings already promised, as I said, that is going to be spread out over the government departments. One thing in there was £4 billion in energy efficiency savings that were going to be found in the health service, for example. Shari Vahl ... Sorry, it's £4 billion in efficiency savings, not energy efficiency, going to be found in the health service. And Shari Vahl went to a big Manchester hospital this morning and talked there to some staff and visitors.

SPEAKER 1: It's only an amount of time before it's going to happen here. I think it will be all the administration staff, clerks on the wards. Administra... They can't cut doctors and nurses, so I think it's going to be across the board.

VAHL: Can you see the hospital functioning without the levels of administration staff that it has at the moment?

SPEAKER 1: No, no. Everybody has this concept the NHS is doctors and nurses only. Without the administration staff, the whole thing will go to pot.

VAHL: But you think that that's where the cuts will fall?

SPEAKER 1: I think so. Yeah, definitely.

VAHL: So you're a medical student?

MEDICAL STUDENT: Yeah.

VAHL: So how do you feel about the fact that this is coming?

MEDICAL STUDENT: Well it's a bit daunting from my own point of view, for kind of selfish reasons - wanting a job at the end of it. But ...

VAHL: What inefficiencies do you see in there?

MEDICAL STUDENT: People hanging round. Too many tea breaks. There's probably a few efficiency savings like communications departments.

VAHL: Reducing staff sickness. Do you see lots ...

MEDICAL STUDENT: Reducing staff sickness?

VAHL: They reckon we'll lose £500 million across ...

MEDICAL STUDENT: What do you mean - by giving them prophylactic antibiotics or something, or something like that? Sure.

SPEAKER 3: The idea around the hospital is that they up-skill as many of the staff that they can, and they've got 900 people that they want to up-skill and get through basic skill education, so level 2 numeracy and literacy. So how is that going to impact *their* job workload and how are *they* going to progress if they're going to be cutting things down? I mean it's not fair on the employees themselves because it's unfair for people that you know are doing portering at the moment, that think you know they've got a future. Well how have they got a future if you're going to cut down? You know we've got people here that are healthcare assistants that now are thinking well I want to go onto nursing. Well if you're going to cut down jobs and you're cutting down funding, how are these people going to get into university then and actually progress and become good nurses because you're not going to have the funding there? So I find it really unfair.

SPEAKER 4: People that want treatment, they're going to have to wait longer and things like that, yeah.

SPEAKER 5: Well it just beggars belief. I don't know. I really don't know what to think.

VAHL: So how efficient do you find it at the moment?

SPEAKER 5: This place, super really.

SPEAKER 4: Can't fault it.

SPEAKER 5: Can't fault it.

SPEAKER 4: No, no.

SPEAKER 5: Absolutely super.

SPEAKER 4: It's been coming a long, long time.

SPEAKER 5: I mean you're talking 16 years I've been coming here, and I worked at the NHS for 30 odd years. It's false economy. You do need managers, but not to the extent that they've got now - managers for this, managers for that. The matron. Deputy matron. That was all that was needed.

SPEAKER 6: Yeah, I use the NHS. I have got private medical insurance because I want my family to be looked after.

VAHL: But do you believe the NHS can't do that for you?

SPEAKER 6: Oh no, they can't, no. I've had experience of it. I had to go private because I had problems with my knee. I'm self-employed. It kept me out of work. If I'd waited for the NHS, it would have took 6 months.

VAHL: So what effect do you think £4 billion of cuts is going to have on the NHS?

SPEAKER 6: Well it's going to destroy it, if it's not already destroyed. If you're self-employed, you rely on the health service to get you back into work as soon as

possible. It doesn't happen.

ROBINSON: Some voices at a big Manchester hospital. Adam Lent from the TUC, how many job losses overall are you expecting?

LENT: Well it's impossible to say what the impact on jobs would be from the basis of these plans because, as you pointed out, they're pretty much headline stuff. But what we do know and what people don't often point to is the fact that over the last 3 years, we've already had around about 50 billion pounds worth of so-called efficiency savings in the public sector, and we know that those do lead to redundancies and job losses. And I think if there's going to be a real push to drive through so-called efficiency savings - but let's call them what they are, cuts - very rapidly, then that will mean jobs being lost.

ROBINSON: Professor Whitelegg, if you look down the savings list, a lot of it's going to be found through energy efficiency. That's why I had that phrase in my mind. It's 60 million from the health service budget, which is down for energy efficiency. 2.1 billion in local government going to be found through energy efficiency; a billion in schools. Is that achievable?

WHITELEGG: It is, it is achievable. There are huge gains to be made in energy efficiency. I was looking at a building in Germany last week, which uses 5% of the energy that a building built to traditional building standards would have used. You know we need the investment to create the energy efficiency and so on, but it is possible and we can do better.

ROBINSON: Well it might be possible, but can you do it without spending more money before you start?

WHITELEGG: No. No, that is the point. Some people still call this spend to save, you know. I mean I could make every town hall, every hospital, every school, every healthcare facility really, really, really energy efficient and reduce bills by 70%, but I would need - and I haven't done the sums accurately - but I would need more than

£200 billion.

ROBINSON: But given what we've got - the fact no-one is going to be given £200 billion to make it all energy efficient - these savings on energy efficiency, just turn the thermostat down; will it be put an extra pullover on?

WHITELEGG: Well even that wouldn't achieve very much. If there is no investment going into the technology and the refitting of things that will reduce energy bills, then this is pure speculative frothiness and war on words and it won't work. So we have to ... the two things have to be linked.

ROBINSON: Angie Robinson, on the panel yesterday we had people from business. They wanted fuel duty increases to be abandoned; not staggered, as they are going to be. From business's point of view, is that a help?

A. ROBINSON: I think the fact that things are staggered is a help, and it would be incorrect to say that. And of course a lot of the haulage industry and others are very concerned about rising fuel duty issues. But I guess any government's in a bit of a cleft stick. How do they address the green agenda? One of the big things I'm really concerned about when we start to talk about the detail of public sector spending cuts, transport and capital budgets are the ones I'm concerned about. It would be very easy to slash those. You can't clap too much money on petrol and diesel unless you've got some alternative means of moving your goods and your people and getting your services and products delivered.

ROBINSON: Before we leave it, let's try and clear up this business about business rates. No wonder neither of us could remember the detail because there's an awful lot of it.

A. ROBINSON: There is and it's not particularly ... The real advantages are to the very tiniest of businesses, many of whom will not actually be employing lots of people, but it will enable people to support small businesses, very small businesses. Of course part of government strategy, any government - either this one or a future

one - will be about relieving unemployment.

ROBINSON: What the government say, Angie, is that around 345,000 very small firms with a rateable value of up to £6,000 - so that is typically, they say, a small shop on the local high street ...

A. ROBINSON: Very small, yeah.

ROBINSON: ... will pay no business rates for 1 year from October and it will save them in the region of £1,200 each. Then they say a further 155 businesses with the rateable value of up to 12,000 will get what they call “significant reductions.”

A. ROBINSON: Yeah and it’ll be interesting to see what the significant reductions are. I mean anything that you get given, you have to take and rub your hands in glee from a business point of view because it should actually help us to actually improve things; but I think it’s very small businesses that are going to benefit, not major employers.

ROBINSON: Professor Whitelegg, this new investment bank for greener, cleaner energy and transport - what did you think of that?

WHITELEGG: I like the idea very much. I’m not convinced that the terms of reference as it were will achieve what the government says it is intended to achieve because there’s a big debate about you know what is green infrastructure, what is sustainable energy, what is sustainable transport? So, for example, if it’s used for nuclear purposes, which was I think suggested yesterday, that’s a complete no-no from my point of view. If it’s used genuinely to improve energy efficiency, to help small businesses - for example we can manufacture wind turbines, photovoltaics, ground source heat pumps - if it goes into real things, real jobs, real manufacturing, real sustainable, better public transport, then good. It’s still not enough money. Two billion - if it is two billion - is by no means enough money to prime that kind of investment. So a good idea in principle. Not enough detail. High potential to go wrong because somebody can always suggest a sustainable bypass or a sustainable

airport or something and they're not.

ROBINSON: Professor John Whitelegg from John Moores University, Angie Robinson, Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and Adam Lent from the TUC, thank you very much for taking part in that discussion. It's coming up to half-past twelve. You are listening to You and Yours on BBC Radio Four. In a few minutes Vincent Duggleby is going to be taking your calls on the impact of the Budget on your finances. You can call now - 03700 100 444. That's straight after Martha Kearney's told us about today's World At One.

KEARNEY: Well you've obviously been having some very interesting responses to the Budget. We're covering it ourselves as well today. MPs have just begun debating it, so we'll hear some of that from Westminster. And we're going to be looking at what kind of savings are going to be made in the health service. See what's in store. And as the Conservatives promise to announce more details of where they'd cut public spending, we ask whether that makes sense politically. And what impact will tax rises for the cider have in the West Country? We've got a reporter down there. And today the leaders of the Eurozone are discussing who's going to pay for the bailout of Greece. Should the IMF get involved, as Germany's been demanding? That's all on the World At One in half an hour.

DUGGLEBY: Thanks very much, Martha. And back in the Budget Call 2010 studio, I'm joined by Mike Warburton, Tax Director of Grant Thornton; Christine Ross, Head of Financial Planning at SG Hambros; and Eddy Graham, Welfare Rights Worker at the Child Poverty Action Group. 03700 100 444 is the number for your calls and emails. Also welcome my colleague, Paul Lewis, who's watching them.

LEWIS: Yes, indeed, they are coming in. As I said before in the programme, stamp duty land tax is the big concern of people - exactly how it will be defined. If you have a question, you can email us through our website, bbc.co.uk/moneybox, and look for the Budget Call box at the bottom of the page.

DUGGLEBY: And indeed our first call is on that very subject. It's Jim. Hello Jim.

JIM: Hello there. It was basically I was listening to the radio yesterday and you were talking about the stamp duty for first time buyers. If it was a couple and one of them had already been a buyer and found that they would not be eligible, surely the person who is the first time buyer could then buy the property in their name; a fortnight later transfer the half back to the other partner?

DUGGLEBY: I think you were listening to what I said on PM yesterday.

JIM: I'm sure I was. *(laughter)*

DUGGLEBY: Be that as it may. Mike?

WARBURTON: Yes, that's absolutely right. Jim, the way the proposed legislation's going to work is first of all it's important to know that stamp duty, stamp duty land tax technically, is paid when you complete on a purchase. And what they've said is if you've got two people jointly buying and one of them has owned a property before, you don't get the stamp duty exemption. So you're absolutely right, well spotted - it makes sense for the person who hasn't bought before to purchase the property - and at the moment there is nothing that we've seen which stops you doing what you've just described ...

JIM: Excellent.

WARBURTON: ... which is after a short while, you can ... I mean one simple way of doing it is possibly to sign what's called a declaration of trust. Your solicitor can help you with that. So that although it may be purchased in the name of ... Is it you or your partner that's ...?

JIM: Well actually it's not me. It was just an observation.

WARBURTON: An observation. I see. Well the point ...

JIM: I've already paid for my house.

WARBURTON: (*laughs*) But the point is it's a very good point to make, Jim, because I've already had several phone calls on this exact point; and the way it's worded at the moment, it does appear you can do what you want. And in fact some of the questions I've had is what happens if we've already exchanged to buy a house but we haven't completed yet? And it seems to me that that can also apply. So you can effectively make sure the person who hasn't bought a property before, completes on the purchase and then maybe signs a declaration of trust. But I'm not sure whether that creates any mortgage problems, which I guess, Christine, you'll have ...

DUGGLEBY: (*over*) Christine, of course there's another ruse you could use, and that's what's called the Bank of Mum and Dad who finance the kids who are first time buyers and then transfer the property back to the downsizers.

ROSS: That's probably even easier because you're not going to have a formal mortgage in place. Because one of the concerns, I think, is how the mortgage lender will actually act with all of this because mortgages typically are based on the joint incomes of the purchasers. And less favourable deals are normally available where one individual's a purchaser and the other is a guarantor, so I think it's just in the commercial aspects that there could be some problems.

DUGGLEBY: I should have introduced you. Christine Ross that was, Head of Financial Planning at SG Hambros. And we have another call on stamp duty or stamp duty land tax. Suzanne, you're calling us.

SUZANNE: Oh hi there. I'm actually in the position which the last caller was talking about. I'm buying a property with my current boyfriend and I owned a property three and a half years ago with a former boyfriend. I haven't lived in that property since the day I moved out, since we broke up. I don't pay anything towards it and no money from that property is going towards my current purchase. I'm also in the position where because I'm self-employed, I'm having to use my mother as a guarantor. My partner does not earn enough to go on the mortgage on his own. And the way we've

had to go for the mortgage, they treat us as if we are first time buyers and it seems now we're not entitled to the benefit that first time buyers get.

DUGGLEBY: Let me get this absolutely clear. You did own a house or a flat?

SUZANNE: Yes, with a 100% mortgage.

DUGGLEBY: Right and you did live in it as your main residence?

SUZANNE: Yes, for 2 years.

DUGGLEBY: Okay, well that excludes you then.

WARBURTON: Yes, unfortunately the way it's worded, even if you've not lived in a property - if you've owned what they call an interest in land (and that can be either in the UK or indeed overseas) that excludes you; and if you are looking to buy together, it would exclude effectively both of you. So, as we said to the last caller, if you could arrange it so that your boyfriend completes on the purchase of the property and then come to a separate arrangement between the two of you, that is the best way from a stamp duty point of view. Although, as my colleague Christine said, it may create mortgage problems. And that's the difficult one. We're still not really sure how the building societies and banks are going to respond to this.

DUGGLEBY: Interestingly enough, Paul, that particular measure comes in from or came in from midnight last night. So essentially it's almost jumped the gun on what we were talking about earlier, which is the Finance Bill, Finance Act. So I take it, that would just pass through automatically, would it?

LEWIS: Well it would. But I think the important thing, and people have been discussing avoiding this tax - until you actually see the legislation, you're not actually going to know, I don't think. So I think it is a bit difficult to be doing things today without seeing the legislation. And I should also stress, because we've had emails

about the other side of this, which is the million pound plus homes where there's this new tax which will be 5% instead of 4 as it was, so an extra £10,000 on a house just over a million pounds. Now that doesn't start until April 2011, so you needn't worry about that. If you're going to buy a million pound house, go and do it quickly. Mike?

WARBURTON: Just a point. I have rung the helpline that has put out a press release on this, and I've asked the specific question that we've just had two callers ring, and they say they don't know. It's not one of the answers on their list of answers. So my guess is that ... We've already had these two calls on this. My guess is that they are going to be having a good think about how to apply this.

DUGGLEBY: Okay. Well I think we could go on quite a long time on that. So we've got a new subject now and it's being raised by Barry. Your call Barry?

BARRY: Hello, good afternoon. I would like to enquire, as the Chancellor has increased the amount we can save in our ISAs, what encouragement would I have if having received my latest statement from the Abbey, I've got £11 interest on an £11,000 deposit?

DUGGLEBY: Yes, well I think you're probably in the wrong product, Christine. But let's just first of all establish the Chancellor's proposed measures because this is something which doesn't come into effect actually, the indexation, until ... well until April of next year.

ROSS: That's correct. First of all, just to recap. In the Pre-Budget Report, we saw ISAs increase from £7,200 to £10,200 for those aged over 50 last October, and for everybody else on 6th April. And I agree with what Barry has to say. Interest rates we know are very poor. There are still some deals around. You *can* get an ISA deal with a 3 in it - especially if you're willing to tie your money up perhaps for a year or more. I probably wouldn't go out more than 2 years just because of where rates might go and you might be caught out. If you have access to the Internet, then organisations such as Moneysupermarket or Moneyfacts.co.uk have all the comparison rates there. You can even apply online, if you like, to do that. The best rates are generally

available also if you're happy to operate your account by post or over the Internet rather than go into the high street.

LEWIS: Yes, I mean, Barry, I think from my calculation, you're getting 0.1%, which is an absolute disgrace on an ISA!

BARRY: Absolutely!

LEWIS: There are much better deals out there Move it, move it, move it is all I can say. I mean when we did this on Money Box Live a few days ago, Money Box a few days ago, I think we found a 3.5% no strings attached ISA. You can't transfer into it, but you could at least do your current allowance or the new one from April into it. And for transfers in, I think you can probably get 2.5, 2.75%, Christine, can't you?

DUGGLEBY: The best rates are certainly available for those prepared to tie their money up for 3 or 4 years.

LEWIS: Yes if you're prepared to tie it up, you can get better than that. But if you just want instant access, you can get 2.75% or thereabouts.

ROSS: You can still get a huge multiple of the base rate.

LEWIS: Yeah. And loyalty doesn't pay. I mean we have to get that message over. Loyalty with banks does not pay. Move your money.

ROSS: The transfer processes have been simplified and there are timescales now.

DUGGLEBY: Yeah but they won't take transfers in, the best rates.

ROSS: No, the very good ones won't.

DUGGLEBY: That's the real killer.

ROSS: No, the very good ones won't.

LEWIS: Some of them won't.

DUGGLEBY: They'll take this year's allowance and they won't let you get the big chunk of money. And this is going to become increasingly bad news because the bigger these pots get ... And these pots are going to grow very fast at £10,200. Over £20,000 per couple per year!

ROSS: Yes.

DUGGLEBY: We're going to get to 100 grand within a matter of 3 or 4 years, the way they're going. But just to quickly go back, Mike, on the tax or the way they're going to be increased. The first time I've ever known that they're going to index a saving allowance.

WARBURTON: (*over*) Yes, they're going to index it. But let's not get carried away, Vincent. I mean if it's inflation targeted at 2% on a cash ISA, that's maybe an extra £100; but the interest rates we've just heard about, the tax saving is about 60 pence even on a 3% return. So it's not exactly going to make a big difference to your savings pot.

DUGGLEBY: Okay, let's take our next caller. Rebecca, your call now.

REBECCA: Hi. I wanted to have clarification on the business rate. Yesterday I was made redundant and I'm now wanting to set up my own social enterprise and wanted to know what the position was with small businesses with regards to business rates and whether my business would be exempt or not? And also being made redundant, is it beneficial for myself to get more help in setting up my business to actually go onto jobseeker's allowance?

DUGGLEBY: Indeed. Well this introduces the subject of benefits, albeit at a slightly

specialised level, Paul. But somebody who has been made redundant, which is going to apply to quite a lot of people if the economic squeeze goes the way we think it may go, a lot of people are going to lose their jobs.

LEWIS: Yes they are and of course what benefits you get depends on how much redundancy money you got on your existing circumstances and there was nothing particular about jobseeker's allowance in the Budget. We know they're going up by a very small amount in April, but that's about all. Eddy Graham's here from Child Poverty Action Group. Eddy?

GRAHAM: Yes, well jobseeker's allowance will be uprated, as is normal, in relation to the Retail Prices Index. Self-employed people wouldn't normally be able to claim jobseeker's allowance simply for the fact that they'd normally be working for more than 16 hours a week.

DUGGLEBY: Some concessions for pensioners though, wasn't there, in the Budget if they're over 65?

GRAHAM: Yes, well the benefit that you'd be much more likely to claim, and that you should claim, is called working tax credit; and in the Budget specifically there's a concession from April 2011 for people aged 60 or over that they won't have to work 30 hours a week or qualify through what used to be called the 50 plus element to get working tax credit. If they're working 16 hours a week or more, they'll be eligible to claim working tax credit.

LEWIS: Yes. I suspect that doesn't apply to you though, Rebecca?

REBECCA: No it doesn't, no. *(laughs)*

LEWIS: Have you tried to claim jobseeker's allowance yet?

REBECCA: I haven't, no. It only happened yesterday, the redundancy. I didn't

actually get any redundancy money.

LEWIS: Right. But you have been an employee ...

REBECCA: I have been an employee.

LEWIS: ... so you've been paying national insurance?

REBECCA: Indeed, yes.

LEWIS: So you should be able to claim jobseeker's allowance. You get it on a non-contributory basis for 6 months and then a contributory basis after that if you don't ... Sorry, a contributory basis after that if you don't have sufficient money in the bank to stop you getting it. And that is going up by 1.5% from April. I haven't got the exact figure in front of me, but it's not very much. It's in the 60s - £60, £64, something like that.

DUGGLEBY: Small business ...

REBECCA: And does my husband's income affect that as well?

LEWIS: Not for the first 6 months if you've got sufficient contributions, I think. Is that correct?

GRAHAM: That's correct, yes. The 6 months is non-means tested. It's based on your contributions.

LEWIS: I meant non-means tested. I said non-contributory.

GRAHAM: After that though, it will be ... After 6 months, you'd only become entitled to what's called income-related JSA, which is based on your joint income as a couple.

DUGGLEBY: But the guts of your question was the small business or the future for small business.

REBECCA: Indeed. Yes, would I get more help in setting up my business if I was on benefits?

DUGGLEBY: (*over*) Okay. Right, well you probably heard the Chancellor mention this two and a half billion pound small business package, which was actually one of the central features of the Budget. Now with the provisos that I mentioned at the beginning of the programme about whether or not these measures will be incorporated in the Budget. It depends entirely on who wins the next election. We know that the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats have got other ideas. Whether they will come to fruition, we don't know. But, Mike Warburton, just give us a bit of sort of feel of these measures.

WARBURTON: Yes, certainly it was a key point of the Chancellor's statement and there's different measures to help small business: some, like Rebecca, when you're starting up in business; and other quite valuable measures for people who sell their small businesses with savings on capital gains tax. But looking at the position where you're actually starting up in business, a couple of things that may be relevant. One is extension of small business rates relief, which can be very important for small businesses. And also the question of funding because when you're starting up in business, very often you need to get money from the bank. And what the Chancellor's proposing - and this is quite a novel idea - is there's going to be a credit adjudicator to ensure that there is fairness in bank lending. So I don't think it's necessarily the Chancellor's money, but he's going to have an adjudicator who's going to make sure that banks are fair in the way they treat small businesses and lend to them. And I think that could actually be quite an interesting development.

LEWIS: Yes, I should also warn Rebecca and other people who are thinking of becoming self-employed, which is often the first step to starting a business, that you do have to register as self-employed or face a penalty now from HMRC. So register as self-employed. And I think the Department for Business does have a lot of help for

people who are starting up in business - a lot of guides and advice and things that will help you get that first stage of your business underway.

WARBURTON: Oh yes, Business Link and a lot of others. A lot of people starting in business - maybe in this case because you've been made redundant, you've not actually been in business before - and there's a big learning curve. And the government do have a large number of places, particularly Business Link, which will help you, give you guidance on basic things like keeping books and records, which is actually so important at the moment.

DUGGLEBY: My guess would be that this will become quite an election issue and that in the fullness of time, the manifesto - whether or not the Finance Bill goes through in its original form or whether or not it's abbreviated, which we think it probably will be - the manifestoes will contain a big chunk of small business measures ...

WARBURTON: Yes.

DUGGLEBY: ... and people will have to judge on the merits of ...

WARBURTON: (*over*) And we're going to see differences because the Conservatives have already said that were they to win the election, their focus would be on the national insurance costs, which they regard as a tax on jobs, and they are against the increase that's planned for next year on national insurance contributions.

DUGGLEBY: Indeed. Right, we've got another caller on the line. It's Valerie. Your call.

VALERIE: Oh hello. Yes, I listened to the Budget yesterday on Radio Four, and since then not one soul has mentioned the pension relief for people over 75. And I've listened to all the reports on the radio, on the television, and no-one at all has mentioned it. It's as though we don't exist, which people often do over 75.

LEWIS: May I ask what you mean by pension relief?

VALERIE: Well I'm sure I heard him say that the personal allowance ...

LEWIS: Ah, yes.

VALERIE: ... for people earning under £20,000, whatever it was, would not be taking tax ...

DUGGLEBY: I think you've mixed and conflated various issues here, Valerie. We'll try and put you straight.

LEWIS: Let me explain. If you're aged over 75 in the tax year, so your 75th birthday or you're older than that in the tax year, at the moment you don't have to pay tax on the first £9,000, Mike?

WARBURTON: £9,640 at the moment.

LEWIS: Right, at the moment. And then it's going up to £10,000 from April 2011.

VALERIE: Oh.

LEWIS: Now we've had a number of emails about this because this is subject to a very strange means test. If you have more than £22,900 income, that allowance, whatever it is - £10,000 from 2011 - is slowly taken away. Now what the Chancellor actually said was from April next year no-one over 75 will pay any tax on the first £10,000 of income. But, Mike, that isn't true, is it?

WARBURTON: That's not ... Well I don't like the Chancellor's not said the truth, but it isn't the way I interpret the rules because the way it works is if you've got income up to £22,900, then you currently get the £9,640 allowance if you're aged over 75; and from next April, as you say, from April 2011 that will be £10,000. But it

is then withdrawn at effectively a rate of £1 for every £2 of excess income; and from next year, by the time you get up to a figure of £29,950, you're back to the basic personal allowance of £6,475.

LEWIS: And, Mike, we have had an email from someone who says: 'At the start, a commentator' - which I think was you - 'said a pension of an income in excess of £22,000 would now pay tax at 60%.' It's not 60%, is it? It's 30%.

WARBURTON: Well ...

LEWIS: It's 20%, plus an extra percent.

WARBURTON: Yes, beg your pardon. £22,900 is the threshold. You then get it withdrawn at £1 for every £2 of income. So you're right, it's 30%.

LEWIS: It's effectively 30%.

WARBURTON: And I think I said 60 because that's what happens if you've got income over a hundred.

LEWIS: Over a hundred. Yes you did, yes.

DUGGLEBY: Let me just extend it to a slightly different direction to Eddy Graham. These rarified sums of £22,000 a year. The Chancellor also mentioned a figure of I think nobody should get in benefits less than £130 a week. Is that in the back of my mind - pension credit and things like that?

GRAHAM: Oh yes, there is the uprating for the pension credit ...

DUGGLEBY: That's right.

GRAHAM: ... the applicable amount, the standard minimum guarantee. And this is

something which has been increased above inflation. It's been tied to earnings since it was introduced and it's been increased again higher than the normal 1.5%. So that there has remained basically an additional focus on extra support for pensioners.

LEWIS: But again, Vincent, we have had people who think this is confusing, what he said. He said no pensioner, no-one over 60 would have to ... everyone would get a guaranteed income of £132.60.

DUGGLEBY: (*over*) That's the one I was thinking of, yeah.

LEWIS: Now what that means is if your income is *less* than that, he will make it up to £132.60. He did not mean that the basic state pension was going up to £132.60 or everybody over that age was going to get an extra £132.60. But that's the limit if you apply for it, and of course more than a million pensioners don't. If you have an income below £132.60 a week, it's made up. And for a couple, it's £202.40.

DUGGLEBY: Christine?

ROSS: Very briefly for Valerie. This isn't something that can be just done very quickly, but for those that are in danger of losing their age allowance, you can buy insurance company bonds. You have to be a bit careful because some of them are sold at ridiculously high prices. But with a good adviser or good bank and building society adviser, by putting money in them, even if they sit in cash, the withdrawals you're allowed to make on a regular basis from those don't count towards your age allowance. So it's a very good way of actually gaining and hanging onto that higher income tax allowance.

DUGGLEBY: Quite frankly, with the higher rate of ISAs, I just think that bit you were talking about is going to wither on the vine. I mean by the time you've stacked up all the money that can go into ISAs, I guarantee that in 2 or 3 years nobody will be talking about any alternatives to meeting it because there'll be such a big allowance on ISAs.

ROSS: Well I agree absolutely. And ISA allowance is the first thing that anybody should look at because obviously we can take money out of the tax net.

DUGGLEBY: Indeed. Okay Shirley in ... Well I don't know where you're calling from, Shirley, but it's your call anyway.

SHIRLEY: Oh good afternoon.

DUGGLEBY: Good afternoon.

SHIRLEY: I'm calling from Brighton.

DUGGLEBY: Good.

SHIRLEY: My question is about this 50p per month on the BT landline. We don't own a computer and don't wish to own a computer at all.

DUGGLEBY: Were you listening to Paul on the television last night, by any chance?

SHIRLEY: No, I wasn't.

DUGGLEBY: Did you see his broadcast? Paul, I know you were ...

LEWIS: Yes, Shirley we've had a lot of emails and I've had a lot of correspondence because this isn't new. This was announced some time ago. But since then, I have had so many emails and letters from people just like you. They don't want a computer. They don't want Broadband. Some of them don't really know what Broadband is, though I'm sure that's not the case with you. But this is a tax on everybody with a fixed line phone, whether it's through BT (as most of them will be) or a cable phone through Virgin or another cable company, and you will be paying from 1st October 50 pence a month land line tax. That's £6 in a whole year and that will go towards providing what they call this Super Broadband access right throughout the country.

Now BT and Virgin are very happy to introduce Broadband into cities and towns because they make money from it. What they're not happy to do is put these expensive fibre optic cables miles and miles to every hamlet in the country, and it's that cost which this tax will pay for. And I think people like you who have a land line, who don't want Broadband, are going to be paying a lot of the cost, and I think a lot of people feel exactly as you do - very, very annoyed.

SHIRLEY: Yes. There's another thing too. Because we're not on computer at all and we use chequebooks, now the government did say it's going to open up new banks.

DUGGLEBY: Yeah, I think again this is the basic bank account. It's not quite the same thing, but the principle of doing away with cheques in general and trying to move us towards this paperless, cashless society, panel. Mike?

WARBURTON: Well I've got plenty of people I know who actually rather like using cheques. And I can understand why the Chancellor would like to move in that direction, but I personally think a lot of particularly elderly people like to use cheques. It's a very convenient way of paying.

DUGGLEBY: And, Eddy, this basic bank account for people who have no access to the banking system at all. He talked about was it bringing another half million people into the banks, a feasible sort of target?

GRAHAM: The Department for Work and Pensions had a policy over recent years of paying all benefits into bank accounts, and tax credits are also, and this has caused a great deal of problems for people who have difficulty opening bank accounts or using bank accounts or people who have debts or overdrafts which their benefits are paid into and then can't get access to. And so I mean anything that can improve that situation would be welcome. But the drift at the moment which I think the caller is referring to is basically there's a lack of choice for people who'd like something different to what the government is ordaining.

LEWIS: Yes. And I mean, Vincent, we will be looking into that on Money Box on

Saturday, into this basic bank account question. But as Shirley rightly said, cheques will be going by 2017 unless an alternative has been found. And the cheque guarantee card will stop working from June 2011, so that will be an even bigger blow to pensions.

DUGGLEBY: Right, I'd like to bring in the subject of inheritance tax now, if I can. I think we've got Beryl on the line. Beryl?

BERYL: Yes hello, good morning.

DUGGLEBY: Good morning.

BERYL: I would just like to know if the Tories have stated what they plan to do about the inheritance tax threshold having heard you know the Labour Party are now going to freeze it for 5 years. Do we know what the Tories are going to do?

DUGGLEBY: Well we know what they've *said*. (*Beryl laughs*) What they would do if they were elected, I'm afraid I couldn't possibly comment.

VALERIE: No.

WARBURTON: Well I think we can be fairly clear. Originally, if you remember Beryl - I'm sure you do ...

VALERIE: I do. A million.

WARBURTON: ... George Osborne said it was going to be a million pounds.

VALERIE: I remember.

WARBURTON: Subsequently they have made it clear that that's a million pound each, so a married ... Are you married?

VALERIE: No, no, I'm widowed now.

WARBURTON: Right. But, nevertheless, someone who has been married, on the death of the first person the inheritance tax threshold that has not been used moves over. So somebody like yourself may well have twice the inheritance tax threshold, which under the Tories they've said would be 2 million. So effectively £2 million. Now the question you're asking is: is that a commitment or is that an aspiration? Well Ken Clarke one morning said he thought it was an aspiration, and he was very quickly brought into line and told, "No, it is a commitment." But we just don't know *when* under a Conservative government it would happen. We're told it would happen in the first parliamentary term, but don't expect it in the first budget. I think that's probably where we are with them.

LEWIS: Yes, that's my understanding too. I think that's perfectly fair. They have said they'll do it within the next parliament - if they're elected of course at the election - but that means that you could wait 5 years before it changes. And, as we now know, if the Labour Party wins, they will freeze inheritance tax to £325,000 effectively for the whole of the next parliament.

WARBURTON: Yeah, and we've got now a clear dividing line between the parties on inheritance tax.

LEWIS: I should add at this point very few people pay inheritance tax, but that's not a popular view. *(laughter)*

DUGGLEBY: We're beginning to run out of time, but I can't resist this one. It's a caller who's actually left his name to answer. He's George and he says he's a first time buyer who owns a caravan in Spain. Does it count as a main home?

WARBURTON: Well that's an interesting one, Vincent. In fact for capital gains purposes, I believe a caravan can count as a home. But the legislation on stamp duty land tax talks about 'an interest in land', and I'm not sure that a caravan constitutes an interest in land.

DUGGLEBY: And it's also worldwide. So that's in Spain.

WARBURTON: (*over*) It is worldwide, yes, as you say. I suppose if it was actually bolted onto the ground and you've got an interest in the land on which it's standing, that could constitute an interest of land.

DUGGLEBY: Yeah. I mean we had a good discussion yesterday, Paul, about houseboats and all sorts of things, didn't we?

LEWIS: Well I think you established, Vincent, houseboats *will* count.

DUGGLEBY: Yeah, they're buildings. I thought they were boats.

LEWIS: They're buildings even though they're actually an interest in water rather than interest in land. And I think mobile homes that are fixed will count. Whether a caravan parked in your drive of a rented property would count, I very much doubt, but certainly a dwelling.

DUGGLEBY: Okay, quick round the table, panel, for what we've missed. Let's start with you, Mike.

WARBURTON: Yes, well one of the things that caught my eye, Vincent, was a report that's out talking about what happens if you ring the Inland Revenue helpline and apparently only 57% of the 103 million calls are actually answered within the first two minutes. So that's quite a concern because with complex rules people need to be able to find out how to fill in their tax return.

DUGGLEBY: Rap over the knuckles for HMRC. Christine?

ROSS: Entrepreneur relief. People selling small businesses - it's double to 2 million from 6th April, so 10% CGT.

DUGGLEBY: Eddy?

GRAHAM: Well the welcome extension of the 6.0%, 8% rate of interest that's paid for people getting help with their mortgages from the government.

DUGGLEBY: And Paul?

LEWIS: And I haven't seen mentioned anywhere the minimum wage. It will go up from October 1st from £5.73 an hour to £5.80 for people over the age of 22.

DUGGLEBY: Indeed. Well that's all we have time for. Many thanks to the panel. That's Mike Warburton, Tax Director with Grant Thornton; Christine Ross, Head of Financial Planning at SG Hambros; and Eddy Graham, Welfare Rights Worker with the Child Poverty Action Group. On tomorrow's You and Yours, Winifred Robinson dons her hard hat to visit the new Museum of Liverpool, and the European Commission takes action to protect people hit by huge bills for using the Internet abroad. Paul will be back on Saturday with Money Box, and I'll be here next Wednesday afternoon to answer your calls on Money Box Live. This has been Budget Call 2010.