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RC/IF

The Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Philip,

Re: UK budget – Basic income

I write to you in connection with the above subject and after recently returning from the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) congress which took place in Lisbon, Portugal.

The congress discussed the different aspects of the politics of a basic income under the general theme: Implementing a Basic Income. It was attended by over 400 academics, business leaders, economists and politicians from around the world to discuss a cross-cutting concern to all regarding growing social inequalities, structural unemployment and the sustainability of social security, both in Europe and worldwide

Recently, the Scottish Government, in its 'Programme for Scotland 2017-18', announced funding for research into the feasibility of a citizen's basic income scheme. Already we have four local authorities (Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow and North Ayrshire) all commitment to implementing a pilot scheme for basic income.

Previously, I led the first ever Westminster debate (14<sup>th</sup> September 2016) on the subject of a basic income and I believe it is time for the UK Government to recognise the growing support, throughout the world, for introducing a basic income.

I would urge HM Treasury to look at the subject and follow the lead of the Scottish Government, in funding research into the feasibility of a basic income and announce similar measures in the forthcoming UK Budget in November.

I hope you will consider my request favourably.

Yours sincerely,

Ronnie Cowan MP  
Member of Parliament for Inverclyde

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