

Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
His Majesty's Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
Westminster
London
SW1A 2HQ

22 February 2024

Dear Chancellor,

Your Spring Budget on 6 March takes place one year after Cystic Fibrosis Trust handed over 1000 letters to the Prime Minister from the cystic fibrosis (CF) community, asking why some people with CF in England are treated unfairly by being asked to pay for their prescriptions when others do not.

These treatments, essential for maintaining the health and well-being of those with CF, are not optional. However, people with CF continue to bear the burden of prescription charges, a financial strain stemming from outdated exemption criteria established when CF was predominantly considered a childhood condition and medication for children was exempt from charge.

As the Cystic Fibrosis Trust marks 60 years since its formation, I once again urge the Government to consider the tangible impact your actions can have on the lives of people with cystic fibrosis. Parliament has engaged in numerous debates on this matter, but your Spring Budget presents a crucial opportunity to rectify the inequity faced by some people with CF in relieving the cost of prescription charges and to paving the way for a brighter future for them.

One way this could be done could be for the Government to allocate funding for the prescription charge pre-payment certificate to the small group of people with CF in England who are currently ineligible for exemption via other routes. We believe this measure would likely entail an annual expenditure of around £280,000 - a relatively modest cost to the Treasury compared to the additional financial burden shouldered by a typical family living with CF, calculated by the University of Bristol to be £6,800.

I implore you to seize the opportunity presented by your 2024 Spring Budget to dismantle the barrier of prescription charges for people with CF in England, thereby enabling them to lead lives free from an additional financial constraint when accessing essential medicines. I look forward to hearing what positive action the UK Government can take to support the cystic fibrosis community.

Yours sincerely



David Ramsden
Chief Executive
Cystic Fibrosis Trust