**23.03.22**

**Press Release**

**Spring Statement to tackle cost of living**

Faversham and Mid Kent MP, Helen Whately, has made the following statement on the Spring Statement.

N.B. Helen is also Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury.

**Helen comments:** “These are difficult times – inflation and surging energy bills are putting a squeeze on households and businesses across the country. Our Spring Statement helps people with the cost of living now, while taking the long-term decisions that will boost growth and share prosperity.

“Our fuel duty cut has already kicked in, helping people with the cost of filling up at the forecourt. We’re also cutting National Insurance, which will save the average employee around £330 per year. When times are tough, it’s even more important we help people keep more of the money they earn.

“In the longer term, our Income Tax cut combined with incentives to invest in R&D and skills training will help share prosperity and boost productivity, while pressing on with plans to tackle NHS backlogs and reform social care.

“The steps we’re taking to sanction Russia are not cost free. President Putin’s invasion of Ukraine presents a risk to our recovery from Covid – as it does to countries around the world. Just as we stood with people during the pandemic, we will support people through this difficult time, and continue to stand with people in Ukraine.”

**Ends...**

**Notes to Editors:**

* For more information, please contact James Somerville-Meikle on 07743294000
* More information on Helen’s ministerial brief in the Treasury can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/people/helen-whately](http://www.gov.uk/government/people/helen-whately)
* The full text of the Chancellor’s Spring Statement speech can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/speeches/spring-statement-2022-speech](http://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/spring-statement-2022-speech)
* The full Spring Statement can be found here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-statement-2022-documents](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spring-statement-2022-documents)