Rt Hon George Osborne MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
Horse Guards Road
LONDON SW1A 2HQ

14th March 2012

Dear Chancellor,

We lead Liberal Democrat council groups across the country and are calling on you to listen to the Lib Dem call to raise the income tax threshold to £10,000 faster than originally planned.

Giving working people on lower incomes more support has to be a top priority. This will mean over two and a half million low wage earners across the country will not have to pay any income tax at all – and other lower earners will still get a substantial tax cut.

As councillors from across the country, we see and talk to these people every week. They are people like the working mum whose salary has not increased in recent years and is struggling with rising bills or the young person in his first job who is struggling to make ends meet, worried about unexpected bills and repairs.

We have heard many times about the need to make tough choices in these difficult times. One choice the government should make is to ensure the wealthy pay their fair share and speed up the plan for the burden to be lifted on the poorest.

This also means that if there is ever any reduction in the 50p top rate of income tax then new taxes that target the rich must be introduced so the wealthy pay their share.

Yours Sincerely,

Gerald Vernon Jackson	Leader, Portsmouth City Council and Leader, Liberal Democrat Group at the LGA
Anne Robertson	Leader, Aberdeenshire Council
Sean Brennan	Leader, Sutton Council
Barbara Janke	Leader, Bristol City Council
Charlie Briggs	Leader, Burnley Borough Council
Janet Battye	Leader, Calderdale Council
Sian Reid	Leader, Cambridge City Council
Rodney Berman	Leader, Cardiff City Council
Steve Jordan	Leader, Cheltenham Council
Anne Turrell	Leader, Colchester Borough Council
Keith House	Leader, Eastleigh Borough Council
Jenny Dawe	Leader, Edinburgh City Council
Stuary Bray	Leader, Hinckley and Bosworth District Council
Brian Greenslade	Leader, North Devon District Council and Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Devon County Council
Jeff Reid	Leader, Northumberland Council
Brendan Jameson	Leader, South Lakeland District Council
Dave Goddard	Leader, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Ann Shaw	Leader, Three Rivers District Council
Dorothy Thornhill	Elected Mayor of Watford
Ian Bond	Deputy Leader, Redbridge Council
Alec Nicol	Deputy Leader, Scottish Borders Council and Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
David May	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Angus Council
Jason Zadrozny	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Ashfield District and Nottinghamshire County Council
Robert Davidson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Ashford Borough Council
Steven Lambert	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Aylesbury Vale District Council
Gavin James	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
David Foster	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Blackburn with Darwen Council
Roger Hayes	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Bolton Council
Jeanette Sunderland	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council
Cheryl Green	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Bridgend Council
Mary Baldwin	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Buckinghamshire County Council
Kilian Bourke	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council
Alex Perkins	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Canterbury City Council
Nan Farmer	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Carlisle City Council
Tim Emptage	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cherwell District Council
Rod Fletcher	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cheshire East Council
Robert Thompson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cheshire West and Cheshire Council
Ray Russell	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Chesterfield Borough Council
Peter Jones	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Chiltern District Council
Paul Smith	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Colchester Borough Council
Christopher Stanbra	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Corby Borough Council
Jeremy Rowe	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cornwall Council
Paul Hodgkinson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cotswold District Council
Ian Stewart	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Cumbria County Council
Catherine Lomax	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Daventry District Council
Hilary Jones	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Derby City Council
Steve Flitter	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Derbyshire County Council
Janet Dover	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Dorset County Council
Fraser Macpherson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Dundee City Council
Nigel Martin	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Durham Council
Geoff Chamberlain	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, East Devon District Council
Ashay Ghai	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, East Dunbartonshire Council
Jon Whitehouse	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Epping Forest District Council
Jim Forrest	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Fareham Borough Council
Gavin Booth	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Fenland District Council
Robin Baker	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Flintshire Council
Frank Hindle	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Gateshead Council
Paul Hughes	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Gedling Borough Council
Paul Coleshill	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Glasgow City Council
Jeremy Hilton	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Gloucestershire County Council
Peter Chegwyn	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Gosport Borough Council
Richard Wilson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Haringey Council
Phillip Broadbank	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Harrogate Borough Council
David Neighbour	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Hart District Council
Faith Ponsonby	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Havant District Council
Abigail Bell	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Hull City Council
Terry Stacy	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Islington Council
Carol Caruana	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Kensington and Chelsea Council
Trudy Dean	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Kent County Council
Kath Pinnock	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Kirklees Council

Ashley Lumsden	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Lambeth Council
Bill Winlow	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Lancashire County Council
Simon Galton	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Leicestershire County Council
Chris Maines	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Lewisham Council
Paula Keaveney	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Liverpool City Council
Marc Ramsbottom	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Manchester City Council
Iain Dysart	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Merton Council
Iain Dysart	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Merton Council
Sam Crooks	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Milton Keynes Council
David Faulkner	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Newcastle City Council
David Milstead	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, North Dorset District Council
Andrew DeFreitas	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, North East Lincolnshire Council
Steve Jarvis	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, North Hertfordshire District Council
Mike Bell	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, North Somerset Council
Michael Wyatt	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, North West Leicestershire District Council
Brendan Glynane	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Northamptonshire County Council
James Wright	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Norwich City Council
Howard Sykes	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Nick Sandford	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Peterborough City Council
Michael Brooke	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Poole Borough Council
Bill Shannon	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Preston City Council
David Budd	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Purbek District Council
Daisy Benson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Reading Borough Council
Jane Parlour	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Richmondshire District Council
Mark Oxley	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Rutland Council
Brian Simpson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Scarborough Borough Council
Roger Walshe	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Sevenoaks District Council
Shaffaq Mohammed	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Sheffield City Council
Nigel Harton	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Shropshire Council
Sam Crabb	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Somerset County Council
Sebastian Kindersley	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Keith Baldrey	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, South Hams District Council
David Ballie	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, South Lanarkshire Council
Adrian Vinson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Southampton City Council
Anood Al-Samerai	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Southwark Council
Brian Spencer	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, St Helen's Metropolitan Borough Council
Henry Jebb	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Graham Reed	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Stirling Council
Maureen Rigg	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Stockton on Tees Borough Council
Penny Otton	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Suffolk County Council
Chris Botten	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Tandridge District Council
Alan Connett	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Teignbridge District Council
Liz Simpson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Steve Darling	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Torbay Council
Peter Wilcock	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Uttelsford District Council
Richard Webber	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Vale of White Horse District Council
Ian Shires	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Walsall Council
Bob Sullivan	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Waltham Forest Council
Ian Marks	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Warrington Council
Jerry Roodhouse	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Warwickshire Counrty Council
Tony Skottowe	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Welwyn Hatfield Council
Reg Shore	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, West Lindsey District Council
Jon Hubbard	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Wiltshire Council
Tom Harney	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Wirrall Council
Richard Sharp	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Woking Borough Council

Prue Bray	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Wokingham Borough Council
Susan Askin	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Worcester City Council
Liz Tucker	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Worcestershire City Council
Alan Rice	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Worthing Borough Council
Carol Runciman	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, York City Council
Ruby Kirkwood	Liberal Democrat, North Ayrshire Council
Paul Dixon	Liberal Democrat, Sunderland City Council
Jackie Pearcey	Liberal Democrat Deputy Group Leader, Manchester City Council
Phylip Hobson	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Monmouthshire Council
Geoff Webber	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, North Yorkshire County Council
Elizabeth Shields	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Ryedale District Council
Christine Rycroft	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Chelmsford Borough Council
Dave Hodgson	Elected Mayor of Beford
David Sawyer	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Bedford Borough Council
Reg Barry	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Isle of Wight Council
Paul Crossley	Leader, Bath and North East Somerset Council