

June 2022

Re: Raise your voice on Budget 2023 and other matters

Hello,

We are inviting you to participate in our survey of older persons' lived experience, to help inform our work on Budget 2023 and our other advocacy.

Our survey is attached to this letter, and we would be grateful if you could return it to us by Thursday 30th June. We have enclosed a Freepost envelope, so you do not need to use a stamp to post it back to us.

If you prefer to complete the survey online, you can do so at the following website address: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LZ9PSQS>

We want to reflect your experiences and concerns in our submissions to the Government. Thank you for taking the time to answer this survey.

There are nine questions, and you need only answer the ones you want to answer.

Any personal information you share with us will be made anonymous before we publish the survey findings, and we will store your personal information securely and privately.

1. Many people have been affected by the rising cost of living, but how has it affected you personally? (Please tick all of the answers that apply to you).

- I am going without heating because it is too expensive.
- I am not taking journeys I would like to take to save on the cost of petrol/diesel.
- I am reducing my food intake because of the cost.
- I have changed supplier to try to cut down my energy costs (electricity, gas or home heating oil).
- I have stopped paying for health insurance to save money.
- I have cancelled subscriptions or memberships to save money.
- I have reduced my socialising due to costs.
- I have received support from family to cover expenses.
- I have taken out a loan, overdraft or credit.
- I have sought or taken up work to boost my income.
- I am coping OK despite the higher costs.

Could you say more about how the rising cost of living has affected you personally? What would you like to see in Budget 2023? (Please give as much detail as you like, including changes in prices if you have that information, or changes to how you live).

2. We would like to know about the continuing impact of COVID-19. How is COVID-19 affecting you now? For example, are you still restricting your activities in any way?

3. Ulster Bank and KBC are exiting the Irish market, requiring many people to move bank accounts. If you are affected, how has your experience been? (e.g. Opening a new bank account? Getting an overdraft or credit card?)

4. Which of the following areas would you most like the Government to prioritise for older persons in Budget 2023? (Please rank your preferences: “1” for most important, “2” for next most important, and so on).

- Increase funding for home support schemes (assisting older people to remain at home for longer).
- Increase funding for healthcare (such as funding for hospitals).
- Increase funding for housing for older persons, including home maintenance and home insulation grants.
- Increase older persons’ incomes, such as the State Pension, Fuel Allowance, etc.
- Regulate to make energy companies lower their costs.
- Provide people with more information about how to lower costs.

5. Age Action wants to know about the challenges facing older persons to keep their homes warm. Could you please tell us about your own home energy and insulation?

What is the main source of fuel you use for home heating?

- Oil
- Gas
- Electric
- Solid fuel (e.g. coal, turf)
- Wood pellets
- Other (please specify) _____

Do you have any of the following?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Attic/loft insulation | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| Boiler insulation/lagging jacket | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| Double or triple glazed windows | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| Interior wall insulation | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| Exterior wall insulation | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| A “smart” electricity meter | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| Heat pump | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |
| Solar panels (heat or electric) | Yes _____ / No _____ / Don't Know _____ |

For where you live, what decade (approximately) was it built? _____

What kind of dwelling is it?

- Detached house
- Semi-detached house
- Terrace house
- Apartment or flat
- Other (please specify)

If you know your home's official Building Energy Rating (BER), what is it?

6. Which of the following benefits and services do you have or receive? (You can tick as many answers as are relevant to you)

- State Pension (Contributory, based on social insurance you paid)
- State Pension (Non-Contributory, based on a means test)
- A Qualified Adult supplement to your State Pension
- An occupational pension from previous employment
- A private pension
- Living Alone Allowance
- The Household Benefits Package (free TV licence and either the Gas Allowance or the Electricity Allowance)
- Fuel Allowance
- Medical Card
- GP Visit Card
- Private health insurance
- Other, please specify:

7. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us? (You can add any information here that you would like us to consider for our budget submission and advocacy work).

8. Can you please tell us a little more about yourself? (This helps us to understand and describe our survey findings more accurately).

What is your year of birth? _____

What is your gender? _____

How many people live in your household? _____

What is your housing situation? (e.g. do you own your own home, rent, live with family or live in a nursing home?)

Do you live in an urban area or a rural area? _____

9. OPTIONAL

In the run up to the budget we are often asked by the media to provide personal stories. If you would be willing to share your story with the media as part of Age Action's Budget 2023 campaign, please provide your name and contact details below. We also offer media training free-of-charge.

We will not share your details without talking to you first.

Your name: _____

Your contact details (phone number or email address):

Your location (county or town): _____

Are you interested in receiving free-of-charge media training? Yes _____ / No _____

Thank you for answering our survey on Budget 2023.

If you want to know more about this survey, or if you have any questions about how we are using the information we gather, please feel free to email us at info@ageaction.ie for the attention of the Advocacy team.

Age Action

30 / 31 Camden Street Lower, Dublin D02 EC96,
Ireland Tel: (01) 475 6989
Email: info@ageaction.ie
Web: www.ageaction.ie

Age Action advocates for a society that enables all older people to participate and to live full, independent lives.