

*Wednesday 9 November 2022*

Sir,

Many will welcome the news that Rishi Sunak is expected to increase pensions and benefits in line with inflation ([Welfare and pensions set to rise with inflation](#), Nov 7). However, there is a technical but important issue at stake. The main measure of inflation, CPI, is not fit for this purpose. It is a macroeconomic measure and was not developed for uprating purposes. In particular, it does not reflect inflation as felt by poorer people who are more exposed to increases in the cost of, for example, food items and gas and electricity.

The ONS need to prioritise the development of their planned new index, the Household Cost Indices, which have been designed to capture inflation as experienced by households, comparing low income and high income, disabled and non-disabled among others.

**Paul Allin, Honorary Officer for National Statistics, Royal Statistical Society**

*Published by the Times here: [Tax rates and linking benefits to inflation](#)*