

Swansea MP challenged to defend budget decisions

LETTERS

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Bringing the MP to book for his Budget decisions

TOMORROW is the day of the Autumn Budget and nobody can say for certain what to expect – even the Chancellor doesn't seem to know, U-turning almost daily in search of a least-worst option.

What is certain, however, is she wants to find £20bn-£30bn, through cuts and tax rises, and a common feature of all her proposals has been a determination to

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We want a respectful debate over his political choices

**Ben Golightly
Swansea Disabled People
Against Cuts**

gave them a real battle – and quite a fright – for an hour! You showed really dogged defensive work and scored four great tries. No mean achievement against the All Blacks. Much improved, Wales! New Zealand always play strongly for the full 80 minutes, of course, hence the final 26-52 score did not fully reflect the game.

However, I must take issue with the

was convicted of taking Kremlin-linked bribes (“Ex-Reform leader in Wales jailed for 10 years for pro-Russia statements”, Echo, November 22).

But is it realistic to expect Mr Farage to lead such an inquiry? His past praise of Vladimir Putin and appearances on Moscow-funded media hardly inspire confidence. A US congressman once called him “a Putin-loving, free-speech impostor and Trump sycophant”.

Reform UK is a new party, and Gill's offending predates its formation. However, Mr Farage and Gill sat together as Ukip and later Brexit Party MEPs. Meanwhile, Reform-run councils have already faced con-

Wednesday is the day of the Autumn Budget and nobody can say for certain what to expect - even the chancellor doesn't seem to know, U-turning almost daily in search of a least-worst option.

What is certain, however, is she wants to find £20-30 billion, through cuts and tax rises, and a common feature of all her proposals has been a determination to make the working-class pay. The most recent proposal is to extend the Tory policy of “fiscal drag” - which will claw back tax even

from the poorest pensioners, and leave full-time minimum wage workers £759-a-year worse off by 2030 (Ben Hurst, *Wales Online*, 20 Nov 2025).

The Swansea West MP, Torsten Bell, is playing a key role in shaping the budget. Two months ago, his office said he was too busy to meet with us to hear our concerns. After the budget, Bell should meet with the communities affected and explain himself to them.

On Saturday, at 1pm, various community campaign groups, including disabled people, pensioners, students, Swansea Trades Council, and other trade unionists, will hold a budget protest at Swansea Castle.

We invite Mr. Bell to meet us there. We want a respectful debate over his political choices, and the crisis of working-class political representation he exemplifies.

Ben Golightly

Swansea Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC)

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Alt text:

A graphic advertising a protest. There are green and red stripes in the corners, and a red megaphone is overlaid. A speech bubble says "the budget doesn't work for us" and the megaphone has the text "cost of living, high bills, low pay" written on it.

To the right is a bold column of text that says "Swansea budget protest - Saturday 29th November, Swansea Castle at 1pm." Underneath that, it says: "Living wages, benefits, pensions, and grants. Jobs, homes, services, not hate and division."

There are three logos of organisations taking part in the protest, and their names written in plain text beneath. The logos are for Disabled People Against Cuts Cymru, Swansea Trades Council, and Unite Community.