



**Raise taxes to pay for Covid -19 say Family Building Society members.**

The long term political and economic fallout of Covid-19, as proven by the latest jobless figures and that the UK is now officially in recession, is of deep concern to Family Building Society members. Increased tax for the most wealthy is the way to pay off Government debt according to 61%, of respondents to the Family Building Society survey "Understanding your views in an extraordinary time" Other suggestions included closing tax avoidance loopholes and the cancellation of large state-funded infrastructure projects.

Members typically commented:

**"A wealth tax and/or income tax to me seem the most reasonable for those of higher income and with assets, of which I consider myself to be one."**

**"Raise higher rate tax for higher earners. Remove the ceiling on national insurance contributions."**

**"Further reduce the tax-exempt ceiling of Pension Schemes for the Wealthy"**

**"Tax avoidance, particularly large multi-nationals and those with off-shore funds/non-domicile status need to be urgently reviewed."**

**"Abolish council tax and replace it by increased income tax and capital gains tax."**

**"Cancel HS2 & Heathrow expansion."**

Mark Bogard, CEO of Family Building Society said, "This survey reflects the truly dramatic effects of Covid-19. It shows the extent of economic impact on vast numbers.

"It is remarkable also that so many want government Covid-19 borrowing paid off by raising taxes rather than kick the problem down the road for the younger generation to deal with.

"Calling for increased taxes to help get us back into the black is about as far away as you can get from traditional Reaganite and Thatcher thinking. It appears there is a 'society' after all!"

Further reflecting the economic gloom, more than half said that their immediate and wider family members had been either furloughed or were on reduced income. Around a quarter provided their children or grandchildren with financial support, mainly gifting cash, but also funding day to day living expenses.

Respondents comprised an older and mainly retired demographic. There was a clear understanding that the family was the main consideration in respondents' financial planning and there was a greater awareness that children may need financial support if the current situation continues. "Family will always come first," was a common theme that from those surveyed.

Members also commented:

**"I've helped family members financially in the past and offered to do so in present circumstances."**

**"Should any family member require financial assistance at any time, within reason I would assist, but that has always been the case, so in that sense the pandemic has not changed my views."**

**"We will help our family financially as appropriate and required. This has always been the case."**

**"Our intentions remain as before, i.e. to provide whatever financial assistance to our children is needed"**

While updating wills and gifting money to the next generations made sense from an inheritance tax point of view, many also have been forced to reassess their retirement and investment plans, and for some, the crisis has highlighted the importance of a long-term saving strategy with several considering investments in property to provide additional income while interest rates remain low and the stamp duty holiday remains in place.

Reflecting the need to explore other investment options, members commented:

**"Need to consider other ways to save for retirement than a stock market pension (depleted by 40% by initial stock market declines). Different passive income streams would be desirable ie rental income from a second property."**

**"Giving consideration to withdrawing one company investment and perhaps purchasing instead holiday home in Europe which could be rented out in high season."**

**"I'm considering buying an investment property with savings/pension."**

The full analysis of the survey is available here: [www.familybuildingsociety.co.uk/covid19-survey](http://www.familybuildingsociety.co.uk/covid19-survey)

END

**For further information, contact:**

Keith Barber, Business Development Director, Family Building Society  
Tel: 01372 845400 and 07415 120483

Allan Noel-Baker, City Road Communications Ltd

Tel: 0207 248 8010 and 07947 186693

## About Family Building Society

The Family Building Society, launched in July 2014, is a trading name of National Counties Building Society.

1. National Counties Building Society is the UK's eleventh largest building society, with over 50,000 members and £2.2bn of assets. Operating from its head office in Epsom, Surrey, the Society employs approximately 150 people and offers a range of competitive savings and mortgage products throughout the UK.
2. National Counties Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.
3. Eligible deposits with Family Building Society are protected up to a total of £85,000 by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, the UK's deposit guarantee scheme.
4. The survey was carried out between 20–30 July.
5. 1054 Family Building Society members completed the survey