

As economists we are concerned that the much discussed rise in VAT would hit the lowest earners hardest. Deep public sector cuts threaten front line services and risk dampening demand. Abroad, the poorest countries are facing a £45 billion hole in their finances because of a financial crisis they did nothing to cause.

Yet the banking sector, since precipitating the largest recession in a generation, remains the most profitable industry in the world. Total global profits this year are expected to be well over £400 billion.

In the emergency budget on the 22nd June we call on the UK government to live up to its progressive rhetoric by announcing an ambitious tax on the financial sector that could raise tens of billions to help reduce the UK's unprecedented deficit, protect the poorest and fight climate change at home and abroad.