



HM TREASURY

Transcript of Alistair Darling discussing Budget 2010

This Budget isn't just about securing our recovery, but critically it is about making the big decisions for the future.

Just as we had a choice over the last two years as to whether or not we supported people, supported businesses, as we came through what had been the most difficult circumstances for well in excess of 60 years, so too we've got a choice about the decisions we make in the future.

We're reaching a pretty critical stage where it's something of a crossroads. Countries right across the world are coming out of recession and that's good. And of course we've got to take action and we will take action to get our borrowing down, halving our borrowing over a four-year period.

But we know that if we're going to get the jobs in the future we've got to have a Budget that ensures that we have growth. And of course government can't do everything itself but what government can do is help unlock private sector investment so that we can get the new investment that will bring the jobs that we need in the future.

We know that across the world our competitors are not standing still. Countries in the Far East and South America, they're making big changes so that they are ready to face the future.

We too need to make sure that we work with private companies to build the businesses of the future and my Budget will contain measures to get that growth going.

I'm confident about the future, I think government can make a real difference, it can't do it all itself, it needs people, it needs imagination, it needs flair - but government can make a difference to the future of our country for the next 10 or 20 years.

And that's a difference, that's a choice that I'm going to make so that I can be confident we can build our economy for the future.