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USING JUST FIVE INGREDIENTS

Chancellor hoping to lift freeze on thresholds in Spring Budget

WE WANT TO END THE STEALTH TAX

By **Jason Groves** Political Editor

RISHI Sunak's 'stealth tax' raid on incomes could end earlier than planned, Tory insiders said last night.

The freeze he imposed on personal tax thresholds to pay for pandemic spending is meant to last until 2028.

But Conservative sources suggested it could be scrapped in the Spring Budget or – more likely – feature as a pledge in next year's election manifesto.

Mr Sunak imposed the freeze in 2021 when it was expected to raise £8 billion annually. However because of soaring inflation and pay rises it could be bringing in £45 billion a year by 2028.

'Inflation has meant the freeze has raised far more than anyone could ever have predicted,' said a source. 'It is being looked at again and I'd be very surprised if it doesn't feature in the manifesto.'

'By 2025, inflation should be back down to 2 per cent and lifting the freeze would look a lot more affordable.'

Other measures being considered for the Spring Budget include halving the 40p rate of inheritance tax and knocking 2p off the



Strain: The Princess and Duchess at Wimbledon in 2019. They have reportedly not spoken to one another in four years

Kate & Meghan's 'frosty silence'

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