



**I was sure regaining the figure I had ten years ago would make me happier. I was wrong**

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As fixed-rate deals slashed to below 4%...

# NEW YEAR MORTGAGE PRICE WAR BOOST FOR TORY HOPES

**THE starting gun was fired on a mortgage price war yesterday.**

HSBC became the first major bank to offer fixed-rate deals under 4 per cent, with rival lenders expected to follow suit.

Analysts said the falling loan costs would deliver a much-needed boost to Tory poll hopes by taking pressure

**By Jessica Beard**  
Deputy Money Editor

off household finances. Rishi Sunak hits the road today to drive home his pledge to put more money in people's pockets with a National Insurance cut starting on Saturday.

And with an election looming at some point this year, the Tories are set to go further, looking at other tax reductions. Those in mortgage pain

will see it begin to lift more quickly after HSBC took an axe to its five-year fix – slashing it from 4.79 per cent to 3.94 per cent for remortgaging homeowners with 40 per cent equity.

On Tuesday, Halifax announced plans to slash remortgage rates by up to 0.83 percentage points.

Given the changes from Halifax and HSBC some of the other big banks will need to improve their rates

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**So close  
for Luke  
the Nuke**

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