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They warn over 'devastating' | | impact of National Insurance hike

Markets take fright as pound falls and borrowing costs rise

By **Jason Groves** and Richard Marsden

CHARITIES last night warned they face 'dire' consequences following a £1.4billion Budget raid.

Bosses said they will be forced to axe services, lay off staff or even shut down as a result of Labour's tax bombshell.

They urged Chancellor Rachel Reeves to spare them from her £25billion hike in employers' National Insurance.

But the Treasury said there would be no exemption for charity employees – even if

they are working with public sector services which will not face an increase.

Markets remained spooked by the Halloween 'maxi-Budget' yesterday as borrow-

ing costs rose and the pound plummeted. Groups representing the elderly and



Girls' plan to do an Oasis PAGE 13

Turn to Page 2