

ME AND MY MONEY Aisling O'Loughlin

Clothes are this glam girl's biggest expense but she's happy to be on the property ladder

TV3 Expose presenter Aisling O'Loughlin regrets missed opportunities at investment in the past.

"I didn't take out an SSIA. It pains me to say I turned down free money from the government. I was angry about it for a long time but I've forgiven those closest to me for failing to force me to open an account," she said.

"I waste a fortune on clothes. I'm not proud of this but I do try to buy good, classical items that I will wear again.

"The notion of only wearing a dress once and then discarding it makes me sick. I have a lot of clothes but I wear them again and again and then I give them away to charity shops (washed and ironed of course!).

"I am becoming more conscious too about my choices. I try to buy organic, fair trade cotton t-shirts and ethically produced clothes.

"It's not easy though but you've got to strive, even if it costs more. Saving money is all well and good, but as consumers we should be asking more questions about really cheap clothes. Somebody is usually paying the price.

"My best ever buy would have to be my sofa – the Princess. She's a real beauty; regal and elegant yet comfortable and inviting. I bought her from my good friend Hilda O'Connor who has a wonderful interior design shop in Blackrock.

"Myself and The



Princess are very close. She's a great source of comfort. I had been trying to save money because I'd just moved into my apartment and didn't have a big budget. Then I clasped eyes on The Princess and it was

goodbye budget.

"She was a great buy though and is the centre piece of my living area.

"The Princess may feed my delusions that I live in a Georgian manor instead of a two-bedroom apartment

in Clondalkin, but at least she makes me happy!

"I finally flung myself at the property ladder last August.

"It's not easy but I'm delighted I made the move. I love my patch."