

# THE EQUALITY TRUST

## NEWS FROM THE EQUALITY TRUST

Responding to government statistics on life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, our analysis found that children in the poorest areas of the UK have worse health than some Third World countries. This was featured in [The Times](#), [Telegraph](#), [Mirror](#), [Daily Mail](#), and the [Daily Express](#). The [Observer](#) also carried Equality Trust founders Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett's take on the figures.

Earlier in the month, Equality Trust data on the 'inequality gap' was featured in an article for [The National](#) on First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's commitment to promoting greater equality. Our Director Duncan Exley's article on policy that purports to support the 'middle-class' actually helping the richest was published in [The Independent](#) and he also contributed to a new report from Unions21 on [Rebalancing the Economy](#). And our response to the Budget was covered by the [Daily Mirror](#) and [LabourList](#).

Finally, our Senior Research and Policy Advisor Tim Stacey responded to Ryan Bourne from the IEA's claim on the [Conservative Home](#) website that Conservatives would be wrong to embrace the aim of tackling inequality.

We also blogged on:

- [Executive Pay: A Threat To Business](#)
- [Personal Tax Allowance: How an Increase Widens Inequality](#)
- [Inequality Reduction, A Capital Idea](#)
- [Pointless Cruelty: Sanctions and Inequality](#)

## PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Analysis from [LSE](#) academics said rich Londoners are getting richer while the poor get poorer.

The [Social Market Foundation](#) released findings on Britain's wealth gap, showing that the rich are 64% richer than before the recession, while the poor are 57% poorer.

New Government figures [revealed](#) the extent of inequality in Scotland: the top 10% have 20 times more wealth than the poorest 30%.

57% of people who stayed in their jobs last year saw their real pay fall, according to [Resolution Foundation](#) research.

An [ONS](#) report said 'what makes most difference to personal well-being is the level of individual's income relative to those around them'.

Polling by [Nesta](#) showed that 80% of Labour MPs asked thought inequality was an 'extremely' or 'very important' economic issue, compared to 7% of Conservatives.

## **LOW AND HIGH PAY**

A [High Pay Centre](#) poll for the Institute of Directors found that excessive executive pay damages UK firms' reputations.

The [Forbes Billionaire List](#) showed there are now a record 1,826 billionaires with an aggregate net worth of \$7.05 trillion, up from \$6.4 trillion a year ago.

The [University and Colleges Union](#) revealed that university heads' salaries averaged more than £250,000 last academic year.

The [National Minimum Wage](#) is set to rise by 20p an hour to £6.70.

New research from [NIESR](#) highlighted the impact of the National Minimum Wage on productivity, performance and employment.

[National Express](#) became the first transport firm to pledge to pay the Living Wage to all its UK workers.

An investigation by the [Independent](#) revealed that not a single high street chain will commit to the Living Wage.

Two thirds of UK care workers earn under the living wage, according to the [Resolution Foundation](#).

## **LIVING COSTS**

The [Resolution Foundation](#) provided analysis of living standards over this Parliament.

Research from [Shelter](#) showed that the cost of housing is preventing nearly a quarter of 24-39 year olds from starting a family.

More research from [Shelter](#) showed how renting families will be £561,000 worse off than buyers over their lifetimes.

Average UK households will be in £10,000 of debt by the end of 2016, said a [PwC](#) report.

## POVERTY AND SOCIAL SECURITY

[Inequality Briefing](#) showed that cash benefits paid to the rich have gone up since the recession.

A report by [Church Action on Poverty](#) said that nearly 100,000 of Britain's poorest children go hungry after their parents' benefits are cut.

Figures from the [ONS](#) revealed that 30% of people entering employment from in-poverty households stayed in poverty.

A new report from the [Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) said that the poorest English councils have seen reductions of £182 more per head than the most affluent.

An [Oxford University](#) study found that bright pupils are more likely to fall behind if they are from a poor background.

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