

THE EQUALITY TRUST

NEWS FROM THE EQUALITY TRUST

The [Guardian](#) used our Wealth Tracker comparisons in its coverage of the Sunday Times Rich List and the [Independent](#) featured comments from our Director, Duncan Exley, in response. The Equality Trust's previous report on the unfairness of our tax system, [Unfair and Unclear](#), was also quoted in the [Observer](#).

The [Financial Times](#) (£) highlighted voters' concerns over tax avoidance, and mentioned the Tax Dodging Bill campaign, of which the Equality Trust is a partner organisation. Please [sign up](#) to support the campaign and make tax fair.

We also featured in [Newsweek](#), commenting on new evidence published in the Lancet which found a widening life expectancy gap between rich and poor.

Earlier in the month, the Equality Trust coordinated a letter to [The Times](#) (£) signed by prominent Christian organisations and individuals, including the former Archbishop of Canterbury, calling on all party leaders to commit to making inequality reduction a key objective if elected.

Finally, with Quaker Vote, we co-hosted ['Paying for Society'](#), a major hustings on inequality.

We also blogged on:

- [Has immigration increased inequality in the UK?](#)
- [Open letter to party leaders: Don't just talk about reducing inequality – make it a key objective of government.](#)
- [Enemy of the people: how inequality undermines democracy](#)
- [Does inequality in your childhood damage your health in later life?](#)

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS

A new [IPPR](#) report explored the growing levels of electoral inequality by age and class.

[Joseph Rowntree](#) research revealed that the poorer you are, the less likely you are to vote.

[High Pay Centre](#) polling found that the UK public supports EU action to tackle inequality, but is largely unaware that existing workers' rights originated there.

The gap between the richest and poorest regions in the UK is the widest in Europe, according to [Inequality Briefing](#).

New website [Democratic Dashboard](#) ranked each constituency according to local inequality.

The [Centre for Economic Performance](#) released an 'Election Analysis' of changes affecting inequality over the last five years.

A [CRESH](#) study claimed access to green space reduces the rich-poor divide in mental wellbeing.

LOW AND HIGH PAY

Centrica named Mark Hodges as the new [British Gas chief](#) on a £625,000 salary with twice that amount again in bonuses and three times that in shares.

An audit by the [Daily Mail](#) revealed that NHS chiefs had received £35 million in pay rises last year.

An [American CEO](#) set a minimum wage of \$70,000 for everyone in his company and dropped his own pay from \$1million to \$70,000.

[Google's](#) billionaire chairman was paid nearly \$109 million last year in salary, bonuses, stocks and perks.

[CIPD](#) polling found that 87% of people say 'employers who can afford Living Wage should pay it'.

A charity providing care for people with learning disabilities was [exposed](#) for paying staff £2.50 an hour.

New transparency guidance from the Local Government Association recommended that councils publish their pay ratios at [Pay Compare](#).

LIVING COSTS

Inflation reached zero, but many [household costs](#) remained on the rise.

Analysis by [Wriglesworth Consultancy](#) showed how buy-to-let landlords have earned returns of up to 1,400% since 1996, driving up the cost of housing.

Polling by [Shelter](#) found that inheritance and gifts are the only way for many young people to get on the property ladder.

The creation of super-mansions for the rich cuts housing supply and exacerbates costs for the rest, warned [PricedOut](#).

The [Centre for Economic Performance](#) found that house price growth in the UK is faster than in any other OECD country and far outstripped earnings growth.

POVERTY AND SOCIAL SECURITY

A study by [Cedar UK](#) showed how poorer areas have seen a rapid rise in fast food outlets, reinforcing inequality.

Research from the [Sutton Trust](#) found that children from less advantaged backgrounds lose out from nursery to university.

More than a million food packages were given out by food banks in the last year, according to new [Trussell Trust](#) figures.

The [Read On. Get On.](#) campaign revealed that 1 in 5 children can't read well by the time they leave primary school, and that this rises to 1 in 3 from poorer backgrounds.

We rely on donations to keep our campaign going. If you found this bulletin interesting and informative, please consider supporting our work [by signing up as a regular supporter or by making a one off contribution](#). You can also support our work by forwarding this bulletin to people you know who might be interested in our work. Thank you!