

THE EQUALITY TRUST

NEWS FROM THE EQUALITY TRUST

In a pre-election article for the [Guardian](#), George Monbiot referenced our [report](#) on the regressive nature of our tax system, and the [Independent](#) featured us in its coverage of household wealth figures.

We released the latest edition of our biannual campaign update, [Among Equals](#), with articles from Professor Danny Dorling, the TUC's Frances O'Grady and the High Pay Centre's Deborah Hargreaves on which one measure they would introduce to reduce inequality.

We also blogged on:

- [Party responses on inequality reduction as a key objective for the new government](#)
- [Inequality remains our biggest challenge](#)
- [The Queen's Speech - will proposals reduce inequality?](#)
- [Narrowest Shoulders, Greatest Burden - Why welfare for the out of work is essential for tackling inequality](#)

Finally, as many of you will now be aware, this month The Equality Trust was granted charitable status. All our income has always been dedicated to the pursuit of our objectives, but the Charity Commission has now recognised that our work to improve the quality of life in the UK by reducing economic inequality is charitable in purpose. We are very grateful to all of our supporters, affiliated local groups and funders for helping us to this stage.

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS

A report from official EU think-tank [Eurofound](#) found that Britain is now the most unequal EU country in terms of wage distribution.

A major new report from the [OECD](#) reiterated that inequality is bad for growth, and said the UK's temporary and part-time jobs surge had promoted inequality.

Living standards have fallen for all but the wealthiest Britons, according to research by the [Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK](#) project.

Polling by [YouGov](#) found most voters think the government should prioritise fighting inequality over economic growth.

Thomas Piketty was appointed centennial professor at the [LSE's International Inequalities Institute](#).

Researchers from the [Institute of Education](#) found that graduates who attended private school have additional advantage in the labour market.

The [Telegraph](#) reported that the Government is being lobbied to bring forward an increase in the 40p tax rate threshold, effectively a tax cut for the richest.

A [US study](#) found that politicians from working-class families are more likely to support policies to expand economic opportunity.

LOW AND HIGH PAY

WPP boss [Sir Martin Sorrell](#) was awarded a £43m pay package, 3,486 times the minimum wage.

[Lloyds](#) shareholders approved the chief executive's £11.5m pay packet, which equates to over 522 years on an average wage.

The [High Pay Centre](#) revealed how FTSE 100 bosses pocketed almost £500m between them last year.

The [High Pay Centre's](#) independent committee concluded that long-term incentive plans for executives damage firms.

Plans were [announced](#) for new MPs to receive a 10% pay rise worth £7,000 within months, while average pay rises were below inflation last year.

The [Scottish Government](#) released research on the productivity benefits of a living wage.

LIVING COSTS

Tenant evictions have reached a six-year high amid rising rents and benefit cuts, according to [Ministry of Justice](#) statistics.

[Citizens Advice](#) revealed that landlords get £5.6bn rent on unsafe housing, while [Priced Out](#) showed that 69% of private renters can't afford to buy.

A Freedom of Information request by [Shelter](#) revealed a record £14 billion in tax breaks for landlords in 2013.

Analysis by the [Guardian](#) showed that the number of MPs who are landlords is up by a third since 2010, suggesting there may be little support for strengthened tenants' rights.

A report from [CentreForum](#) called on the Government to set up a Royal Commission to help reform property taxation.

[The Times](#) reported that prepay meters are being forced on thousands of poor families.

POVERTY AND SOCIAL SECURITY

The [National Association of Headteachers](#) released a survey showing schools are becoming 'mini-welfare states' for working poor families.

[Research](#) showed impulsive behaviour, poor school performance and poor financial decisions are caused by – rather than cause – poverty.

[Trust for London](#) found that a third of Londoners are unable to afford basics.

A report from [End Child Poverty](#) said that more than 2 million children live in families struggling to pay for essentials.

One in three Scottish households is in fuel poverty, showed a survey by the [Big Energy Switch](#) campaign.

Official statistics from the [ONS](#) revealed that 1/3 people in the UK experienced income poverty between 2010-13 (higher than EU average), while 4.6m people are in persistent poverty (lower than the EU average).