

THE EQUALITY TRUST

The latest monthly round-up of research and news around pay & income inequality.

Most of the information in this email was previously reported via our twitter-feed(@One_Society):

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The Equality Trust released new statistics showing it would take 375 years for a worker paid the new National Minimum Wage to earn the average annual pay of a FTSE 100 CEO.

The Equality Trust featured in the Guardian highlighting new opinion polls which show growing concern about the difference between the richest and the rest.

We also held a discussion on fair pay in the public sector at Labour party conference with Will Hutton, Kate Green MP, Zoe Williams (The Guardian) and Catherine West (leader of Islington Council). A similar theme will be explored at the Conservative conference on 1 Oct.

Christian Kadir from the Sussex Equality Group's letter appeared in the Guardian discussing the importance of living standards.

Helen Wilding blogged for us on health inequality along the route of the Great North Run.

And the Trust also published a new infographic demonstrating the true scale of income inequality in the UK.

The Government launched a legal challenge to new European law that caps bankers' bonuses. (£)

Ed Miliband promised to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor (£) and announced plans to raise corporation tax and freeze energy bills.

Vince Cable announced new protections to stop exploitation of zero-hours staff.

The Conservative party is looking at ways of raising the minimum wage according to BBC Newsnight.

Whitehall must use its financial might to force suppliers to pay their fair share of tax, said the PAC.

Labour market statistics showed that employment is up and unemployment down but wage growth is only 1.1% (far below inflation) and most of the increase in employment is part time work. UK women also remain concentrated in lower-paid work, figures showed.

FTSE 100 CEO remuneration rose to £4.4m. But bonus payments have fallen. A PwC survey showed the median bonus pay-out to FTSE 100 CEOs was £905,000 in 2013.

Research from the TUC found that directors' pensions are twenty five times larger than their average employee's pension.

The Social Mobility Commission is to suggest the development of a low pay strategy, including strengthening the National Minimum Wage.

Labour has said that if NMW had risen in line with the cost of living it would be 45p an hour higher.

'Income inequalities have become one of the biggest global challenges' said the secretary general of the OECD in the Guardian.

A study from the University of Berkeley suggested that excessive inequality undermines the efficacy of capitalism.

A Resolution Foundation report said that new workers are being 'trapped in low-paid, part-time work' - but other developed countries are performing better on low pay.

Research from the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggested that whilst workers have mostly kept their jobs many face pay freezes.

Research from the University of Durham found that academies are increasing the gap between the rich and the poor.

A University and College Union Freedom of Information request discovered that universities were twice as likely as other workplaces to use zero hour contracts.

Economic recovery is not filtering through to people's pockets said the heads of Morrison's, Next and Homebase. The Asda income tracker predicted that families will be £1,300 worse off by 2018.

"The economy must work for the many not for the few" says Allister Heath in the Telegraph.

LOW AND HIGH PAY

The Chief Executive of Lenovo (the largest maker of PCs in the world) explains why sharing his bonus with his employees makes "perfect commercial sense".

Richard Rogers, interviewed in the Independent said 'Greed is not good. The gap between rich and poor is greater than ever'.

Stewart Lansley writing at the New Left Project described the importance of tackling low pay in building a progressive economic policy.

Frances O'Grady, head of the TUC, called for the return of wage councils to fight low pay (£).

Zoe Williams wrote in the Guardian about the stresses of living as a Zero Hours care worker.

The Independent reported on anger over £1m pay for Network Rail's Chief Executive.

Billionaires are struggling to find suitable London mansions amid surging demand in £50m-£200m bracket according to the Guardian.

And the 'Rich put recession far behind them as UK manufacturers of luxury yachts report record revenues of £460m' reported the Guardian.

LIVING COSTS

Resolution Foundation polling finds parties failing to convince electorate on living standards.

Janan Ganesh writing in the Financial Times argues that wage stagnation is not a uniquely British problem but is instead a problem faced across the globe.

Jack Monroe talks in the Guardian about the reality of falling living standards.

The Adam Smith Institute says the government's Help to Buy scheme will make houses less affordable.

UN special rapporteur for Housing says that UK government policy contravenes Human Right to housing.

A poll commissioned by the National Housing Federation finds that three in ten parents have a grown up child still living at home and most blame a lack of affordable housing.

Michael Gove has said that children from less affluent backgrounds suffer at school due to a lack of their own bedroom.

Research from Halifax Bank suggests that the average cost of raising a child up to the age of 11 is £99,968.

Labour will offer parents of primary school children guaranteed access to childcare from 8am to 6pm.

A BBC radio 5 survey suggests that 38% of the population are concerned about paying their heating bill.

According to research by Sun Life Direct one fifth of the people organising funerals in the last four years have struggled to meet the costs.

British Gas raises prices 8% adding £100 to its average dual fuel bill (£).

WELFARE AND BENEFITS

The new British Social Attitudes survey has been released and shows that public views on welfare have noticeably softened since 2011. Including 7 in 10 people believing the Government has a responsibility to reduce income differences between the rich and the poor.

Children from the poorest homes risk becoming "an educational underclass" according to a new Centre for Social Justice report.

A TaxPayers Alliance report said that unemployed people 'must be made to work for the dole'.

Research from Demos suggested that young voters support pensions more than other elements of welfare.

Steve Webb, pensions minister, is pressing for a cap on fees charged by pension companies.

Jack Munroe wrote in the Guardian on how DWP mismanagement of benefits causes claimants to go hungry.

50,000 people are facing eviction after the Bedroom tax according to the Independent.

Up to 150 vulnerable people face eviction after Bristol council cuts support for hostel residents according to the Guardian.