

THE EQUALITY TRUST

Because more equal societies work better for everyone

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 twitterfeed (@One_Society):

NEWS FROM TET

[The Equality Trust in the Evening Standard](#) - 'Work for 375 years on min. wage to earn annual pay of a FTSE chief exec.' The story also [appeared in the Huffington Post](#).

[Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett write in the Independent](#) on the link between the UK's huge economic and health inequalities.

[A letter from The Equality Trust](#) on how the wealthy have been using education to lock poorer children out of opportunities featured in the Guardian.

[The Equality Trust comments in the Times Higher Education](#) on a new report from the Young Greens, which shows high pay ratios in Universities.

[Our new research paper](#) sets out new findings on the link between crime and changes in income inequality.

[New Equality Trust blog](#) on the damaging effects of inequality and a lack of trust in businesses.

[New Equality Trust blog](#) on the relationship between poverty and inequality.

[New Equality Trust blog](#) on the difficulty of governing a society divided by inequality.

PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS

[Payday loan charter](#) launches with cross-party backing (£).

[COSLA announce](#) implementation of the 'Scottish Local Government Living Wage'.

[Ofwat sinks](#) Thames' plan to increase household bills (£).

[Ed Miliband says](#) he will do whatever it takes to restore the link between growth and living standards.

[Labour will impose](#) new tax on Payday lenders.

[Sir John Major calls for](#) emergency tax on energy firms.

Inequality Briefing released a new video [on the scale of wealth inequality in the UK](#).

[The first OECD Survey of Adult Skills](#) shows low-skilled more likely to be unemployed, have bad health and earn much less. [Richard Adams writes in the Guardian](#) about how inequality may be to blame.

[New research from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation finds](#) children from lower-income homes have worse outcomes because they're poorer not just due to parental characteristics.

[Research by LSE's Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion finds](#) that 'London's economic success does not seem to have translated into lower rates of poverty or inequality'

[Alan Milburn's social mobility report shows](#) work 'may be no route out of poverty'.

[Research by Natcen](#) suggests that the wealth gap is growing as homeowners save more and renters suffer (£).

[New research finds "substantial evidence"](#) that inequality caused the financial crisis.

[HMRC figures](#) suggest that tax avoidance increased to £35bn last year. And [new figures suggest that £1 in every £10 of corporation tax](#) is "spirited away from the taxman".

The Government chose not to close a tax loophole costing the UK £500m a year according to an [investigation by the Independent](#).

[Many of Britain's best-known high street chains avoiding millions of pounds in tax](#) through Eurobonds scheme.

[Boots targeted by campaigners](#) over 'aggressive' tax regime.

[Firms running NHS care services](#) avoiding millions in tax.

[BBC under pressure from HMRC](#) to stop using tax-avoiding contracts for high-paid staff (£).

[Debenhams' chief warns](#) of a "clear disconnect" between talk of recovery and how consumers actually feel (£).

Bonuses are not the best way to motivate staff. Job satisfaction and decent treatment by managers are more important. According [to new report from the Institute of Leadership and Management](#).

[EU commissioner defends](#) cap on bank bonuses in face of British challenge.

[The latest report from Which?](#) suggests people are vulnerable to financial shocks (£).

Britain's economic model weakens our social bonds [according to Aditya Chakraborty](#).

The life chances of poor children are decided by the age of 7, according [to a new report from Save the Children](#).

Teenagers from rich areas are up to four times more likely to go to university than those living in poorest postcodes, [according to new research](#).

[An analysis](#) of educational inequality calls for end to exam-driven curriculum and a return to public control.

[NHS Scotland report links](#) deaths from preventable causes with inequality.

[New figures suggest](#) a baby born in the North West will live two years less than a child born in the south east.

Poorest areas of England 'will suffer under new NHS spending formula' [according to academics from Durham University](#).

[Nobel Prize winner Robert Shiller warns](#) inequality is the most important problem facing the United States. And [Joseph Stiglitz writes in the New York Times](#) on how inequality is a choice.

LOW AND HIGH PAY

[The UK's top rate tax cut](#) was the biggest in the world in 2013.

[MPs criticise Queen's household](#) over pay rises for high earners and pay freezes for low earners.

[Barclays aims to dodge EU bank bonus cap](#) with new top-up payments to staff.

Salaries are increasing in the City [according to recruiter Morgan McKinley](#).

[Financial Reporting Council launches](#) consultation on remuneration, and could ban full-time executives from setting rivals' pay.

[The NCVO have launched](#) a review into top pay in the third sector.

[British Gas parent company defends](#) 16million pay for five executives on day of price hike.

[Care Quality Commission pays](#) £800k in severance to four executives.

[Outgoing CEO of taxpayer-dependent Serco](#) will "walk away with cash, shares and a pension pot worth £9 million" (£).

The Government is continuing to use data on zero hours contracts which underestimates the scale of the problem [according to MPs and campaigners](#).

[Zero-hours figures to be reviewed by ONS](#) amid claims more than 5m may be on them.

[New research from the Trust for London](#) suggests 1 in 5 London workers paid below the living wage.

The living wage can be fair but affordable in tough economic times [says Donald Hirsch](#).

Gavin Barwell presents a [Conservative case for a Living Wage](#).

[More evidence has been found](#) suggesting widespread dodging of the minimum wage for apprentices (despite it only being £2.68 per hour). [The TUC finds](#) that three in ten apprentices are paid less than the legal minimum wage.

[Council funding cuts force](#) care firms to pay less than the minimum wage.

An interesting new initiative to promote fairer pay has been launched called [Wagemark](#).

32% of small firms plan to ignore obligation to pay pension contributions to staff [according to a survey](#).

Increasing the personal tax allowance "won't help the lowest-paid 5m workers", but will benefit many better-off people [according to Gavin Kelly](#).

[New High Pay Centre report](#) on regional inequality highlights how corporations extract wealth from North East England.

Workers on boards would moderate executive pay and help the workforce work together for companies' long term success, [according to report from TUC](#).

LIVING COSTS

[Polling suggests](#) that voters remain unconvinced by politicians' response to the cost of living crisis.

[The Daily Mail reports](#) on the cost of living rising faster in the UK than anywhere in Europe.

One year of Chris Weston's £2 million British Gas bonus could pay the typical £1,471 dual-fuel bill for 1,359 households [according to the Daily Mirror](#).

57% of public sector workers are worried about paying their bills according to [a new survey](#).

Tens of thousands of elderly face a rise in their energy bills after [EON withdraws a tariff](#) for the over 60s.

[Co-op will go halves](#) on added cost of energy bills.

Switch to small energy suppliers, consumers [urged by uSwitch](#).

[Trussell Trust figures show](#) use of food-banks triples in a year

78% of those who took out payday loans wanted money for food according to [Christians Against Poverty](#).

[The Red Cross will give out food aid](#) in Britain this winter for the first time since the Second World War.

[Bank of England warns](#) help-to-buy could push up houses prices as figures show average price of UK home hit record high in August.

Private rents at record high [according to new report](#).

[Rightmove figures](#) show London house sellers' asking prices rose an "unsustainable" 10pc to a new high this month.

Shipping containers being rented out for £75 a week to try to solve London's chronic housing crisis [according to the Daily Mail](#).

"Whichever party puts a roof over people's heads stands best chance of winning the election": [writes Mary Riddell](#).

[Rail fare rises capped at 6.1%](#) but commuters will still have to pay an above-inflation increase next year.

[40% of those between 55 and 64](#) are saving nothing for their retirement.

[A Which? study finds](#) that bank overdraft costs can outdo payday loans.

WELFARE AND BENEFITS

More than 2.7 million people who are currently receiving benefits believe they will struggle to keep up with payments under Universal Credit according to new research by the [Payments Council](#).

[Ian Duncan Smith announces](#) plans to require certain jobseekers to spend the full working week at job centres.

[Over 70 leading charities call on politicians](#) to stop maligning welfare claimants by stereotyping them as shirkers (£).

[The Fabians recommend](#) means-testing the winter fuel payment and reforming disability benefits to save £5bn.

[New research has found](#) that in the pilot area of the benefit cap only 10% of households affected found jobs and over 50% lost between £50 to £199 each week.