

Gove aide damns Clegg for resisting curbs on school Islamists

Richard Kerbj
SECURITY CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER aide to Michael Gove has accused ministers and Whitehall officials of trying to block efforts to tackle extremism in schools because they were "hamstrung by political correctness" and feared being labelled as Islamophobic.

Condemning a failure in government to confront Islamism, Jamie Martin describes

the deputy prime minister, Nick Clegg, as a "consistent source of opposition".

Writing in The Sunday Times, Martin, a special adviser who worked alongside the former education secretary for three years, also suggests Whitehall mandarins failed to co-operate with Gove as he sought to tackle the so-called Trojan Horse scandal. The affair revealed how Muslim fundamentalists had sought to impose an Islamist agenda on

some schools in Birmingham.

"Nick Clegg was a consistent source of opposition," Martin claims. "On one remarkable occasion in June [he] asked why we were singling out Islamism above other forms of extremism."

He adds: "We succeeded in avoiding government's usual cycle of appeasement and inaction only thanks to an unusually talented and committed civil service team at the Department for Education and

an education secretary of rare moral courage."

Martin's anger about political correctness hampering action against extremism follows similar concerns raised in the wake of the child sex abuse scandal in Rotherham, where abusers of Pakistani descent escaped the attention of the authorities.

Martin, who left government in July after Gove became Tory chief whip, also criticises Muslims for failing to confront

extremism which, he argues, has left Britain "as a weak link in the fight against global terror".

The controversy over the Trojan Horse affair, which was first exposed by The Sunday Times in February, led to a rift between Gove and the home secretary Theresa May over the infiltration by Islamists of state schools. An investigation by the cabinet secretary Sir Jeremy Heywood into the fallout ultimately forced the

resignation of May's special adviser Fiona Cunningham.

Martin also suggests an "ingrained culture of appeasement" resulted in poor decisions in Whitehall. He suggests Peter Clarke, a former anti-terror chief at Scotland Yard and the man asked by Gove to investigate the Trojan Horse affair, should be commissioned to lead a broader inquiry into possible extremism in schools across the country.

"Islamic societies in univer-

sities must be a key focus," he writes. "The grotesque spectacle of fascist preachers addressing gender-segregated audiences in taxpayer-funded institutions must end."

Martin also laments a failure of "our governing elite" to tackle Islamism which, he says, "rejects every tenet of our pluralistic society and will not compromise on its belief in a totalitarian theory".

He says the extremist ideology "bears no more relation

to the peaceful religion of Islam than Stalinism did to democratic socialism".

A source close to Clegg said the deputy prime minister had not heard of Martin and had no interest in his views. "He sounds like a former adviser trying to show off and make a name for himself now he doesn't have a job," the source said.

Quivering Sir Humphrey leaves it to parents, Jamie Martin, page 30
@richardkerbj

Nicholas Hellen
SOCIAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

IT IS the new inequality, the growing gap between the haves and the have-lots. People earning between £160,000 and £370,000 gross a year are struggling to maintain their lifestyle and resentful of those earning even more, according to a new book.

The "squeezed upper middle" have scraped into the country's top 1% of earners, but feel hard done by as they watch the richest in that elite group leave them behind.

Danny Dorling, a professor of geography at Oxford University, who has identified the phenomenon in his book *Inequality and the 1%*, to be published by Verso this week, said: "It would be very hard to find someone in London with a household income of between £200,000 and £350,000 who told you they felt comfortable, and that is remarkable."

People in the "squeezed upper middle" group of earners often mistakenly believe they are in the "squeezed middle", even though the average annual UK salary last year was £24,596, says Dorling. He adds, however, that they are right to believe they have lost out – but only by comparison with the elite at the top of the 1%. The gap between the top and bottom of the 1% is much greater than the range across the whole of the remaining 99%.

Peter York, co-founder of the SRU management consultancy, and a social commentator, said: "People who are doing very well consider themselves hard done by, as in London and the southeast they are squeezed out of the places they want to live, squeezed into private services they can't afford and psychologically squeezed by the presence nearby of the luxury life."

Divyang Mistry, 50, was earning £200,000 as a director of a corporate communications firm but decided to change career when he had to borrow money from his father to buy a family home in Hertfordshire.

He realised that so long as he was paying the top rate of tax there would be little money left after school fees for three children. So he set up a couple of online firms – leesman-index.com and accessolicitor.com – and said: "Why pay top-rate tax for 10 years when you need pay only 10% tax when you sell companies?"

How, then, can you check if you are also a member of the squeezed upper middle?

If you grumble that you pay hefty taxes, but the only public service you use is a fortnightly bin collection, then you are probably a member. According

to Dorling, you are also likely to resent paying for other people's education through your taxes, while paying privately for your own family. Members of the top half per cent would not brood over it.

Tick if you have had to ask grandparents to help pay your school or university fees. Tick again if you worry about the impact of interest-rate rises on your mortgage, because the seriously rich buy with cash.

Tick a third time if you live in London or the southeast, because so many people are

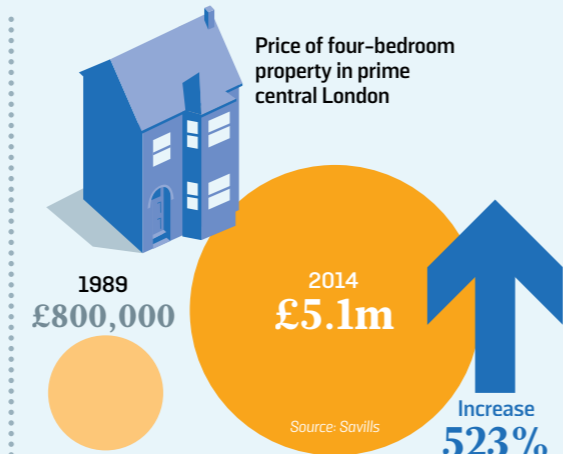
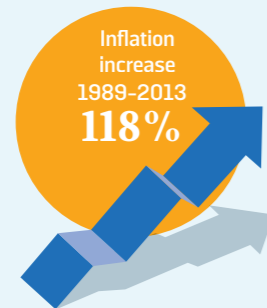
much better off than you. As Dorling puts it: "They may be in the top 1% of the UK but they're not in the top 1% of London. Outside London, anyone in the top 1% nationally is acutely aware that they are among the richest people in their area."

The backlash against Mark Simmonds, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office minister who resigned last month, saying he and his wife could not afford a family life on a joint income and expenses of about £140,000, shows there is little public sympathy for high earners.

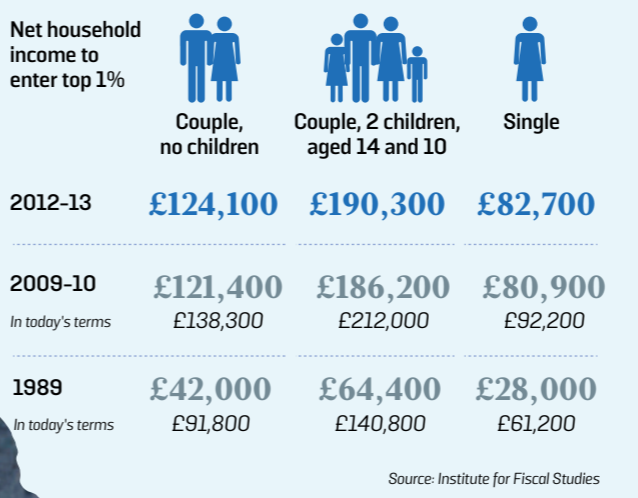
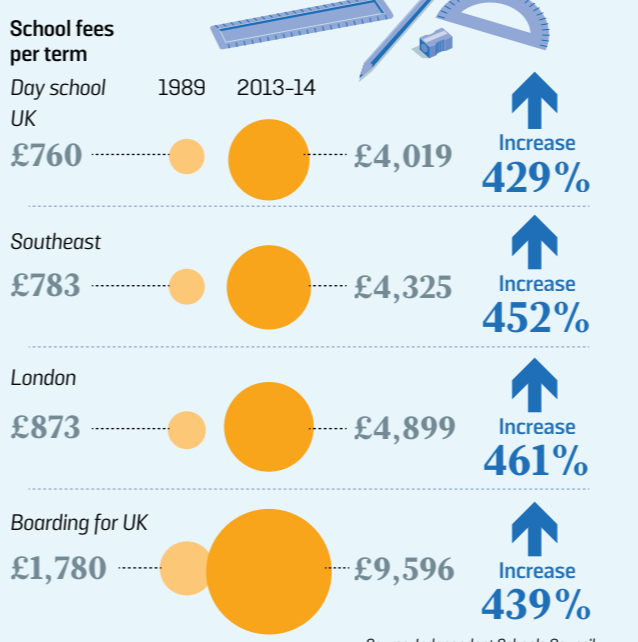
Calculations by the Institute for Fiscal Studies show the squeezed upper middle have enjoyed earnings growth in the past 25 years well above inflation of 118%. Yet the price of status purchases has risen faster: a four-bedroom property in prime central London has gone up by 523%; private day-school fees in London by 461% (nationally 429%), and boarding school fees by 439%.

York suggests the upper middles have developed an "unrealistic vision of the world" because they compare themselves to the super-rich, and this "sense of grievance" is bad for society. "It matters if you don't realise that you've never had it so good, and it matters if people no longer want to go into more worthy types of work," he said.
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Squeezed incomes



Mark Simmonds, pictured with his wife, Lizbeth, resigned as a junior Foreign Office minister, complaining he couldn't afford a family life. The couple received around £140,000 in income and allowances



It's a struggle to get by on £370,000 a year

£100m winter fuel payouts for retirees in sun

Becky Barrow
MONEY EDITOR

MORE than £100m has been spent on winter fuel payments to pensioners living in some of Europe's hottest countries, official figures reveal.

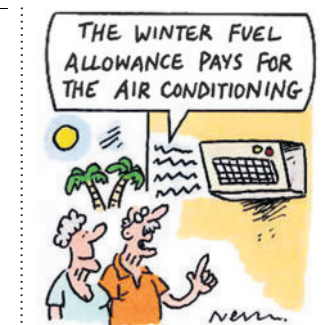
Record numbers of pensioners living in sunny spots such as Spain, Cyprus, Malta and Portugal, are receiving the payout, worth up to £300 a year, despite its purpose being to help the elderly with heating bills.

Last night experts described the situation as "farical".

The figures, published by the Department for Work and Pensions, show that £101m of taxpayers' money has been spent on fuel payments since 2005-2006 to pensioners in Gibraltar, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Malta and Cyprus.

The number of pensioners not living in the UK but still receiving the handout has jumped to an all-time high of 139,000, according to figures for 2013-2014. Last winter overseas pensioners living in countries from Norway to Romania were paid a record £21.7m.

Jonathan Isaby, chief executive of the Taxpayers' Alliance campaign group, said: "It is farical that hard-pressed taxpayers are paying for sun-kissed pensioners' winter fuel allowance. The payments should be for those who need help to get through cold winters, not as an extra helping hand for retirees spending Christmas on a sun lounger."

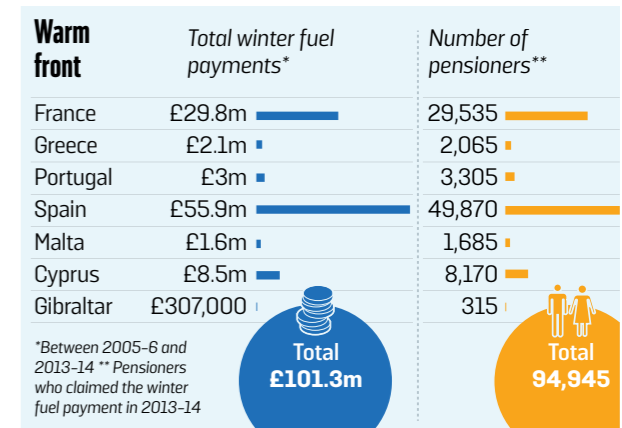


From 2015-2016, the government plans to axe payments to pensioners who live in those seven countries – subject to the approval of MPs. Countries with an average winter temperature higher than the UK's warmest region will be banned.

Ros Altmann, a government adviser and leading champion of the rights of the elderly, said: "Winter fuel payments are a political gimmick. It makes little sense to try to identify countries that are hotter or colder in winter than others, because the reality is that many parts of the countries that are included are warmer than parts of the excluded ones."

At present the payments are made to pensioners born on or before July 5, 1952, including those who do not live here but have "a genuine link with the UK".

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said: "Winter fuel payments are intended to encourage older people in Britain to keep themselves warm."
@beckymbarrow



Generation Z go-getters shrug off geeky image

Hazel Shearing

THE image of Britain's young people as insular geeks obsessed with Twitter and Facebook has been challenged by research that found they prefer reading to social media and cooking to computer games.

A survey of 1,800 members of Generation Z, a term given to those aged 16-25, found almost two-thirds (62%) aspire to run their own business or create their own brand but that 38% fear failure above anything else.

According to the study, entitled *Gen-erators Z*, the vast majority (91%) think society has a poor opinion of young people.

However, almost two-thirds (62%) of the 1,000 people aged over 25 who were surveyed for a comparative poll said they envied Generation Z, who are better travelled and have a greater awareness of domestic and foreign events than they do.



Hardy: runs a business exam results.

The research, commissioned by the maker of the sports drink Lucozade Energy, found reading (54%) was a more popular pastime for Generation Z than engaging on social media (51%), and cooking (43%) was preferred to playing computer games (39%).

After failure, the group's biggest fears were disappointing people and not having money (both 24%).

Leonie Owiredu, 18, a fashion blogger and photographer from London, said: "Failure is something no one wants to encounter. It's embarrassing, you feel like you've wasted your time."

Bejay Mulengas, 19, also from London, who co-founded Supa Academy, an organisation helping teenage entrepreneurs, said: "In school there is too much focus on

We come from a culture where whenever you fail you think, 'That's it', but sometimes it's a great thing. You can learn from it."

While members of Generation Z have visited an average of seven countries and 10% say their knowledge of current affairs is "excellent", double that of those aged over 25, more than two-thirds (69%) feel under more pressure than their parents at the same age.

Lesley Stonier, marketing manager at Lucozade Energy, said: "The research shows the negative perception of young people is wrong."

The survey also questions the portrayal of Generation Z as shirkers.

One in three of those in the survey put their work-life balance at 50-50 and 36% claim they work 75% of the time.

Ed Hardy, 17, from London, who co-founded Edge Mobile, a firm that creates apps, said: "Running the business keeps you focused... I can't imagine not being busy all the time." Find out more about the study at generatorsz.tumblr.com

HEAD GIRL
LENA DUNHAM ON LOVE, SEX AND SURVIVING LIFE
STYLE

A BUGG'S LIFE
WHY ROCK STAR JAKE BUGG FINDS IT HARD TO LET GO OF THE PAST
MAGAZINE

Churchill's War Office to be hotel

Jon Ungoed-Thomas and Kate Mansey

ONE of Whitehall's most famous buildings – the Old War Office where Winston Churchill once had his offices – is being rebranded in a sale that could raise more than £300m for the government.

Developers are being offered the chance to turn the building into a hotel and residential complex. It is being marketed as an "exquisite building, an unparalleled location".

The Ministry of Defence property, which covers seven floors and has more than two miles of corridors, has been renamed 57 Whitehall. It is thought developers are unlikely to wish to retain the Old War Office name.

Barney Hillsdon, a director of GVA, the property consultancy handling the sale, said there had already been considerable interest, including from foreign buyers, since the property went on the market last week. "It is in prime position on Whitehall and is a chance to buy a piece of history," he said.

The sale is part of a government drive to cut the size of its estate. Central and local government own property worth £370bn, with annual running costs of more than £20bn. Designed by William Young,



Churchill worked at the Old War Office after the First World War



work started on the building in 1901. It took five years to complete and used 26,000 tons of Portland stone, 3,000 tons of York stone and 25m bricks.

During the First World War, Lord Kitchener, the war secretary, and David Lloyd George, munitions minister, worked there. TE Lawrence – Lawrence of Arabia – was employed there to produce a large-scale map of Sinai in Egypt and a military guide to the region. Churchill worked there as secretary of state for war and air in 1919, as did John Profumo from 1960, when he was war secretary, until 1963 when he resigned over his affair with Christine Keeler.

It was originally thought the sale would raise about £100m for a 250-year lease but experts now believe it could fetch at least £300m. Any buyer will face checks because the building is in the government security zone.

In 2012, another historic government building, Admiralty Arch, was sold for £60m to a Spanish developer, which plans to convert it into a five-star hotel.

An MoD spokesman said the sale should save about £8m a year in running costs. He added: "We will seek to secure the best deal for the taxpayer."
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