



# Radical Options for Scotland and Europe

For public ownership and democratic control

## Briefing 57 April 2023

### **Health Inequalities in Scotland worsen** *The State of Health and Health Inequalities in Scotland* **(Health Foundation 2023)**

This report provides one of the most thorough studies of Scotland's health inequalities for the past decade. It exposes both absolute declines in health over this period and also the increasing difference in health between rich and poor and rich and poor areas. It dates the start of the decline to 2010 and finds the scale of the decline, and also of the differentials between rich and poor, worse than in other parts of Britain. Its data does not take into account the further 5 percent fall in real incomes experienced over the past year. In terms of policy it notes that many of the deficiencies in long-term policy identified by the commission chaired by Campbell Chistie two decades ago continue unaddressed. Using this material the *Financial Times* commented editorially on 9 April that Scotland's level of health inequality was even more stark than that in the rest of Britain and was approaching the level in the USA.

The report identifies:

A persistent increase in poverty, especially child poverty, since 2010s

A 24 year gap in healthy life expectancy between the 10 percent poorest areas and the 10 percent richest by 2021

A decline in life expectancy since 2013 of 4.4 years

An increase in drug related deaths from 6.2 per 100,000 in 2001 to 25.1 in 2020 (and 68.2 in the most deprived areas)

A decline in the Scottish block grant in real terms between 2010 and 2015 only made up to 2010 level in 2020.

### **Institute for Fiscal Studies revises estimate for notional Scottish energy revenues 2023-24 to 2027-28 and impact on fiscal deficit**

Figures in the British budget statement for November 2022 indicated that the notional deficit per head in Scotland was at that point was slightly lower than that for the rest of Britain at £1,500 although increasing above it to £2,000 by 2024-25 and to £3,000 as against £1,000 for Britain as a whole by 2027-28. On the basis of the decline in energy prices over the past six months the IFS has radically revised these figures.

The deficit per head for the current fiscal year will be £3,000 as against £1,500 for Britain. For the next fiscal year it will be £2,800 per head against £1,400. By 2027-28 it will revert to £3,200 as against £600. [IFS 3 April 2023]

### **Productivity in Scotland**

CBI/KPMG Scottish Productivity Index published 23 March 2023

This shows Scotland continuing to lag behind the British average in 11 of the 13 indices. Overall the British figure increased by 1.2 percent over the past year; Scotland's remained unchanged. Both are well below the OECD average.

## **John Wood plc facing possible take-over**

John Wood plc, the biggest Scottish-based oil engineering and services firm, formerly also Scottish-owned, currently faces a £1.66 billion to take it private by the US Apollo Global Management Group, specialists in leveraged buyouts. It is currently 46 per cent owned by 10 investment companies and has 36,000 employees world-wide. The company went through a series of severe cut-backs in the 2010s at the behest of the then dominant shareholders (almost all large investment trusts with BlackRock then the biggest).

### **EU statistics From EU Eurostat file for April 2023**

	Unemployment	GDP growth on year	Inflation
EU	6.1 percent	-0.1	9.9
Germany	2.9	-0.4	7.8
France	7.6	0.1	6.6
Italy	8.0	-0.1	8.2
Spain	12.8	0.2	3.1