

The proxy is not the outcome.

Five reads on hidden NEETs, green jobs, station-area housing, pension governance and the balance between NHS centralisation and devolution.

FAT GENIE / SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

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Five reads on hidden NEETs, green jobs, station-area housing, pension governance and the balance between NHS centralisation and devolution.

PROXY	OUTCOME
BENEFIT RECEIPT	DISADVANTAGE
RENEWABLE CAPACITY	LOCAL REGENERATION
STATION PROXIMITY	HOUSING DELIVERY
PENSION OWNERSHIP	GOVERNANCE AGENCY
ABOLISHING NHS ENGLAND	DECENTRALISATION

DO NOT SUBSTITUTE THE MEASURE FOR THE RESULT.

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Off the radar: who are NEETs not claiming benefits?

Institute for Fiscal Studies - Jed Michael & Xiaowei Xu

CORE ARGUMENT

Not claiming benefits is a poor proxy for being especially detached from the labour market: many hidden NEETs are actively looking for work or in temporary transitions.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

The most disadvantaged young people can be under-represented in surveys, and evidence centred on ages 22-23 may not fully describe all 18-24-year-olds.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Link longitudinal survey and administrative data to later employment, earnings and benefit outcomes, with particular attention to longer-duration hidden NEETs.

Second wind: How can green industries contribute to local economic growth?

Resolution Foundation - Jonathan Marshall & Zachary Leather

CORE ARGUMENT

Green industrial capacity does not automatically translate into local regeneration; places such as Aberdeen and Grimsby need more active sequencing, concentration and local economic strategy.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Targeted place policy can lock resources into politically salient industries or locations even where market conditions and comparative advantage are weak.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Measure local employment, wages, value added, firm entry and supply-chain depth before and after targeted green-industry interventions.

Mind the density gap: How Britain's big cities can build more homes near train stations

Centre for Cities - Maurice Lange, Luka Kovacevic & Anthony Breach

CORE ARGUMENT

Higher-density housing around stations can increase supply, access to opportunity and urban productivity, but proximity to transport does not itself deliver homes.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Planning reform can be constrained by infrastructure capacity, land assembly, viability, affordability and local displacement effects.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Track completions, affordability, land values, commuting patterns and infrastructure pressure around stations affected by the new planning framework.

Whose Capital?: The case for building democratic accountability into Britain's pension system

Fabian Society - Catherine Howarth

CORE ARGUMENT

As pension savers bear more investment risk and pension capital gains economic influence, governance should give members more voice and greater transparency.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

More representative governance does not automatically improve investment decisions and can create tension with fiduciary duties or politicise asset allocation.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Compare governance reforms against costs, returns, stewardship behaviour, member participation and trust rather than assuming ownership translates into effective agency.

Briefing: Health Bill - report stage and third reading, 7-8 September 2026

The Health Foundation

CORE ARGUMENT

The Health Bill risks concentrating ministerial control in ways that conflict with stated ambitions for NHS and local devolution.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Clearer ministerial authority can also reduce fragmentation and make responsibility for system performance more visible.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Track appointment powers, local decision latitude, commissioning capability and performance after implementation rather than treating organisational abolition or formal delegation as proxies for decentralisation.

WEEKLY SYNTHESIS

The common failure mode this week is proxy substitution: benefit receipt is not disadvantage; renewable capacity is not local regeneration; station proximity is not housing delivery; pension ownership is not governance agency; abolishing NHS England is not decentralisation.

TREND WATCH

Governing through explicit constraint: EMERGING. Devolution-centralisation friction and productivity-measurement divergence: WATCH.

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