

# Focus on Area Deprivation

# Life in the UK





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## Introduction

### Life in the UK measures the collective wellbeing of people across the UK.

We started with a simple question: can we bring together data from different aspects of our lives to give a richer picture of how we are really doing? And if so, can we compare experiences of different groups to better understand the inequalities in society?

This insights paper presents further detail on the inequalities we identified in wellbeing according to Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintile.<sup>1</sup>

#### About the index >

Life in the UK provides:

- > a single score for collective wellbeing that will show if we are living better or worse over time.
- > a score for each of the four domains of wellbeing: social, economic, environmental and democratic.
- > collective wellbeing and domain scores for each of the nations and regions of the UK.
- > collective wellbeing and domain scores for different demographics.

How to read the wellbeing scores

The Life in the UK index has been designed to provide an overall assessment of 'how life is'. The overall index score is an average of the scores for each of the four wellbeing domains: social, economic, environmental and democratic. Higher scores indicate a higher level of wellbeing.

- > The index is based upon a 26-question survey of more than 6,900 people across the UK. The questions relate to the different domains of wellbeing and were tested with focus groups and an Advisory Group.
- > The survey was administered through the Ipsos Knowledge Panel, a random probability survey panel based on a random sample of UK households.
- > The overall collective wellbeing index score and the wellbeing domain scores have a value of between 0 and 100. Note that although the scores are a scale of 0 to 100, they are not percentages.
- > The collective wellbeing scores, domain scores and individual questions were analysed to compare aspects of life for different types of people and different parts of the UK.
- > We have only commented on statistically significant relationships.

We used factor analysis to construct the index scores and regression analysis to help us understand which demographic characteristics (including gender, age, income, disability, area deprivation, tenure

- > and ethnicity) are most associated both with collective wellbeing overall and with social, economic, environmental and democratic wellbeing specifically.

In taking this approach, the Life in the UK index is unique. In the coming years we will be able to use this measure to track whether lives are improving. This year, our focus is on what the data has revealed about the extent of inequality in the UK.

Carnegie UK and Ipsos designed, developed and analysed the index in partnership. The recommendations outlined in the full report are Carnegie UK's alone. More information on the methodology is available [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> IMD is a combined measure of deprivation based on a range of indicators that reflect different aspects of deprivation or disadvantage experienced by people, for example income, employment, education, health, crime, housing and services.

## Collective wellbeing

Carnegie UK has been involved in understanding and measuring wellbeing for over a decade. We have supported governments to take a broader view of social progress, to consider social, economic, environmental and democratic (SEED) outcomes as equally important in decision making, allocating resources and tackling the challenges of our time. Taken in turn, these domain scores evidence whether:

- everyone has access to the services and support that they need (social wellbeing)
- we all have a decent minimum living standard (economic wellbeing)
- we are all able to access a quality local environment and collectively live within our planet's natural resources to secure the environment for future generations (environmental wellbeing)
- we all have a voice in the decisions that affect us (democratic wellbeing)

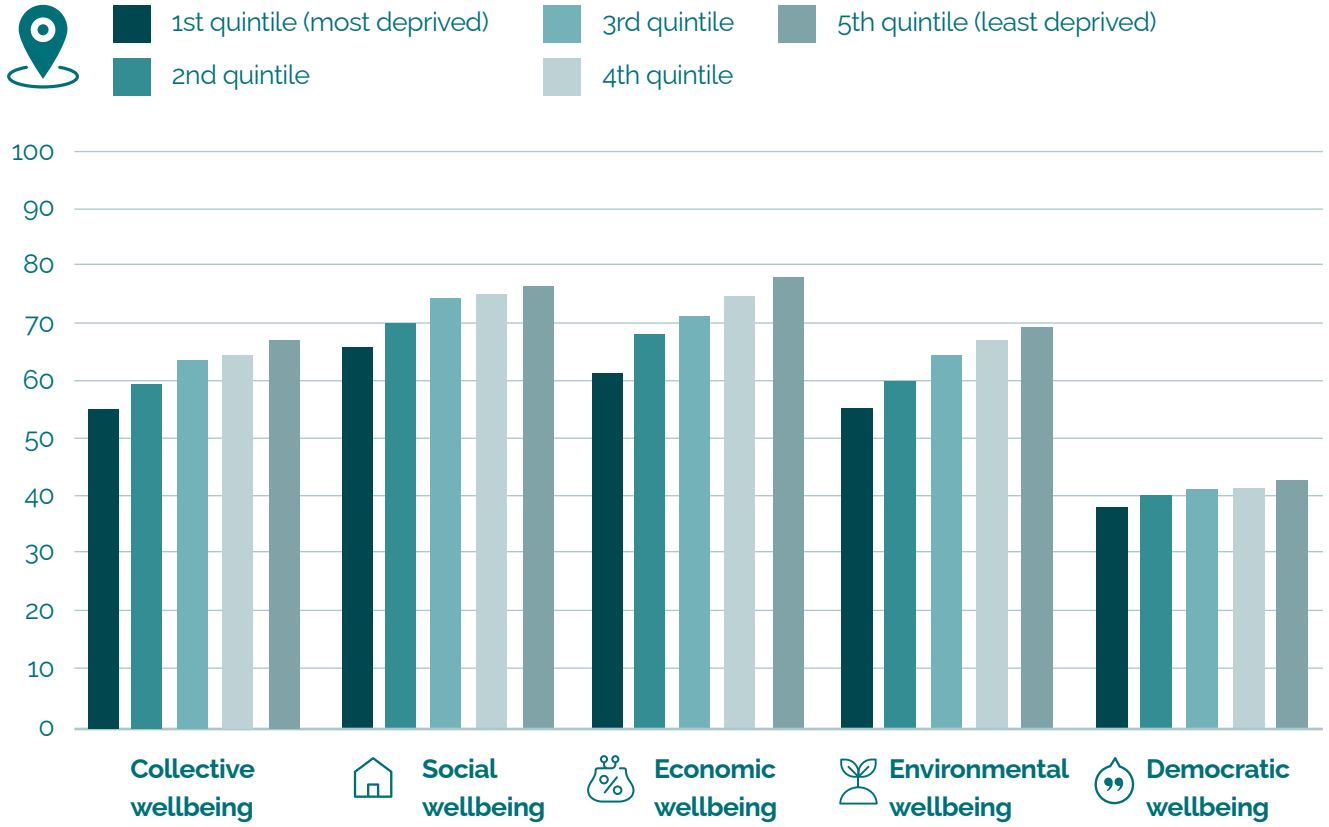
Our analysis found that there is a broadly inverse linear relationship between collective wellbeing and IMD quintile. As the level of area deprivation decreases, collective wellbeing increases, with a levelling off between quintiles 3 and 4, before rising again between quintiles 4 and 5.

**Table 1:** Collective wellbeing and domain scores by Index of Multiple Deprivation

	IMD Quintile				
	1 (most deprived) (1337)	2 (1410)	3 (1406)	4 (1394)	5 (least deprived) (1384)
<b>Collective wellbeing</b>	55	59	63	64	67
<b>Social wellbeing</b>	66	70	74	75	77
<b>Economic wellbeing</b>	61	68	71	74	78
<b>Environmental wellbeing</b>	56	60	65	67	69
<b>Democratic wellbeing</b>	38	40	41	41	42



**Chart 1:** Collective wellbeing and domain scores by Index of Multiple Deprivation



## Social wellbeing

Social wellbeing includes aspects from health and mental health to neighbourhood safety and relying on each other. A higher score for a particular demographic or geographic area means that we found higher levels of social wellbeing for those people or places.

We found an 11-point gap between the social wellbeing scores for those living in the most deprived areas and the least deprived areas (66 for IMD quintile 1 and 77 for IMD quintile 5).

We also found a broadly inverse linear relationship between IMD quintile and social wellbeing scores: as deprivation decreases, social wellbeing scores steadily increase, with a levelling off between IMD quintiles 3 and 4.

Looking at what drives this disparity in scores, people living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are twice as likely as those living in less deprived areas to report that they have very bad or bad health and mental health, and more likely than people living in less deprived areas to report having experienced discrimination in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. There is also, broadly speaking, an inverse linear relationship between deprivation and reporting feeling unsafe walking alone in the local neighbourhood after dark, and with disagreeing with the statement that you have someone in the neighbourhood to rely on.

**Table 2:** Positive and negative responses to individual questions on social wellbeing (%)

	IMD Quintile				
	1 (most deprived) (1337)	2 (1410)	3 (1406)	4 (1394)	5 (least deprived) (1384)
<b>Self-reported health is good or very good</b>	57	60	67	69	72
<b>Self-reported health is bad or very bad</b>	12	10	6	5	4
<b>Self-reported mental health is good or very good</b>	51	59	63	68	71
<b>Self-reported mental health is bad or very bad</b>	14	12	8	8	7
<b>Feels safe/fairly safe walking alone in local neighbourhood after dark</b>	55	66	73	79	82
<b>Feels a bit unsafe/very unsafe walking alone in local neighbourhood after dark</b>	43	33	26	21	17
<b>Able to rely on someone if alone and needed help</b>	54	59	71	72	76
<b>Not able to rely on someone if alone and needed help</b>	23	19	14	12	11
<b>Easy to access grocery store or supermarket in person</b>	84	88	89	90	92
<b>Difficult to access grocery store or supermarket in person</b>	6	5	5	4	3
<b>Experience of being unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last 12 months</b>	49	48	40	34	31
<b>Not unfairly treated or discriminated against in the last 12 months</b>	47	49	58	64	67

### Health and mental health

- People living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are:
  - around twice as likely as people living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5) to report that they have **very bad or bad health**.
  - around twice as likely as people living in any other areas to report that they have **very bad or bad mental health**.

### Safety and community

- There is a broadly linear relationship between IMD quintile and the likelihood of reporting feeling **unsafe walking alone** in the local neighbourhood after dark. As deprivation decreases, the likelihood of reporting feeling unsafe decreases, with this plateauing at IMD quintile 4.
- Those living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are at least twice as likely to report feeling **unsafe walking alone** as those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5).
- There is a broadly linear relationship between IMD quintile and the likelihood of reporting disagreement with the statement that you have **someone to rely on** in the neighbourhood. As deprivation decreases, so too does the likelihood of disagreeing with the statement that you have someone to rely on, up to IMD quintile 3, after which it plateaus.
- Those living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are around twice as likely to report that they do not have **someone to rely on** than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5).
- Those living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1, 2 and 3) are around twice as likely to report that they find it difficult to **access a grocery store or supermarket in person** compared to those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5).

### Discrimination

- People living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are more likely than people living in any other areas to report having experienced **discrimination** in the 12 months prior to being surveyed.





## Economic wellbeing >

Economic wellbeing includes access to a decent income, affordability, financial resilience, job opportunities and skills. A higher score for a particular demographic or geographic area means that we found higher levels of economic wellbeing for those people or places.

We found a 17-point gap in the economic wellbeing scores of people living in the most and least deprived areas of the UK (61 for IMD quintile 1 and 78 for IMD quintile 5). There is a broad inverse linear relationship between area deprivation and economic wellbeing scores: the general pattern is that as area deprivation decreases, economic wellbeing scores increase.

Looking at what drives this disparity in scores, people living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are more likely than people living in other areas to express dissatisfaction with their education and skills and an inability to: keep their homes adequately warm, afford enough food for everyone in their household<sup>2</sup>, afford a week's annual holiday, afford to socialise outside of the home once a month and meet an unexpected but necessary expense of £850. In some cases, the disparity between the percentage of people in the most and least deprived areas who can afford these things is three-fold.<sup>3</sup>

However, it is not only those in the most deprived areas who are struggling.

People living in the second most deprived quintile of areas and areas of middling deprivation (IMD quintiles 2 and 3) are finding things particularly difficult across a range of factors. Meanwhile, people living in all but the most affluent areas (IMD quintiles 1, 2, 3 and 4) are more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to disagree that they can keep their homes adequately warm and cannot meet an unexpected but necessary expense of £850.

**Table 3:** Positive and negative responses to individual questions on economic wellbeing (%)

	IMD Quintile				
	1 (most deprived) (1337)	2 (1410)	3 (1406)	4 (1394)	5 (least deprived) (1384)
<b>Satisfied with education and skills</b>	71	77	83	84	86
<b>Not satisfied with education and skills</b>	9	8	6	5	5
<b>Satisfied with job opportunities in the local area</b>	25	29	32	34	36
<b>Not satisfied with job opportunities in the local area</b>	34	26	22	20	14
<b>Can afford to keep home adequately warm</b>	62	71	74	77	81
<b>Cannot afford to keep home adequately warm</b>	24	18	15	15	12

<sup>2</sup> Note that those living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are around twice as likely as those living in areas ranked as IMD quintiles 2, 4 and 5 (i.e. not IMD quintile 3) to disagree that they can afford enough food for everyone in their household.

<sup>3</sup> They are three times more likely than those in the less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5) to disagree that they can afford to socialise outside of the home once a month if they chose to do so. They are also almost three times more likely than those in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to be able to meet an unexpected but necessary expense of £850.

<b>Can afford to buy enough food for everyone in the household</b>	81	87	87	92	92
<b>Cannot afford to buy enough food for everyone in the household</b>	9	5	6	4	4
<b>Can afford to pay for a week's annual holiday away from home (not staying with relatives)</b>	49	63	68	77	78
<b>Cannot afford to pay for a week's annual holiday away from home (not staying with relatives)</b>	37	25	21	15	14
<b>Can afford to socialise with friends or family outside of the home once a month if desired</b>	66	76	80	85	87
<b>Cannot afford to socialise with friends or family outside of the home once a month if desired</b>	20	13	11	7	6
<b>Can afford to pay an unexpected, but necessary, expense of £850</b>	43	55	61	67	76
<b>Cannot afford to pay an unexpected, but necessary, expense of £850</b>	44	36	28	25	16

## Education, skills and job opportunities

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are more likely than people living in any other area of deprivation to express dissatisfaction with their **education and skills**.
- People living in the second most deprived quintile of areas (IMD quintile 2) are more likely than people living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to express dissatisfaction with their **education and skills**.
- There is a broadly linear relationship between IMD quintile and the likelihood of reporting dissatisfaction with **job opportunities** in the local area. As deprivation decreases so too does the likelihood of expressing dissatisfaction with job opportunities, with a levelling off between IMD quintiles 3 and 4.
- Those living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are over twice as likely to report that they are dissatisfied with **job opportunities** in the local area compared to those living in the least deprived areas (IMD 5).

## Affordability: absolute poverty

We included two measures that relate to absolute poverty – the ability to keep one's home adequately warm and the ability to buy enough food for everyone in the household. We found that:

- Those living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are:
  - twice as likely as those in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) and more likely than people living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 2, 3 and 4) to disagree that they can keep their **homes adequately warm**.
  - around twice as likely as those living in areas ranked as IMD quintiles 2, 4 and 5 to disagree that they can afford enough **food for everyone in their household**.
- People living in all but the least deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1, 2, 3 and 4) are more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to disagree that they can keep their **homes adequately warm**.

### Affordability: relative poverty

The focus groups that informed survey design were clear that when it comes to money, it is also important to be able to afford to 'make memories' and enjoy life. Following from this, we included two measures that relate to relative poverty – the ability to afford a week's annual holiday away from home (not staying with relatives) and to socialise with friends or family outside of the home once a month if desired. We found that:

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are:
  - around two and a half times more likely than those in the less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5) and also more likely than people living in other areas (IMD quintiles 2 and 3) to disagree that they can afford a **week's annual holiday** away from home.
  - around three times more likely than those in the less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5) and more likely than people living in other areas (IMD quintiles 2 and 3) to disagree that they can afford to **socialise outside of the home** once a month if they chose to do so.
- People living in IMD quintiles 2 and 3 areas are:
  - around one and a half times more likely than those in the less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5) to disagree that they can afford a **week's annual holiday** away from home.
  - around twice as likely as those in the less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 4 and 5) to disagree that they can afford to **socialise outside of the home** once a month if they chose to do so.

### Affordability: an emergency expense

We asked whether people could afford an unexpected but necessary expense of £850 as a loose estimate of whether people had financial security or a degree of wealth. We found that:

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are almost three times more likely than those in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5), around twice as likely as those living in IMD 3 and 4 areas, and more likely than people living in IMD 2 areas to report that they cannot meet an **unexpected but necessary expense of £850**.
- People living in the second most deprived quintile of areas (IMD 2) are more likely than those living in all areas of lesser deprivation (IMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5) to report that they cannot meet an **unexpected but necessary expense of £850**.
- People living in IMD quintiles 3 and 4 areas are more likely than those living in areas of least deprivation (IMD quintile 5) to report that they cannot meet an **unexpected but necessary expense of £850**.



## Environmental wellbeing

Environmental wellbeing includes access to green and blue spaces, quality of the local environment and collectively living within the planet's natural resources. A higher score for a particular demographic or geographic area means that we found higher levels of environmental wellbeing for those people or places.

We found a 13-point gap in the environmental wellbeing scores between people living in the most deprived areas and those living in the least deprived areas (56 for IMD quintile 1 and 69 for IMD quintile 5). Those living in areas of higher deprivation (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are more likely to have a lower environmental wellbeing score than less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5). Those living in areas of middling deprivation are also more likely than those living in the least deprived areas to have a lower environmental wellbeing score (65 for IMD quintile 3, compared with 69 for IMD quintile 5).

Looking at what drives the disparity in these scores, people living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are more likely than those living in less deprived areas – and almost three times more likely than those in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) – to report dissatisfaction with the public, green or open space in their local area. People living in the second most deprived quintile of areas (IMD quintile 2) are more likely than those living in areas of lesser deprivation (IMD quintiles 4 and 5) to report dissatisfaction with the public, green or open space in their local area.

There are also relationships between deprivation and the likelihood of experiencing problems with noise and litter. As deprivation decreases so too does the likelihood of reporting major or moderate problems with noise and litter (up to IMD quintile 4). People living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are also more likely than those living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5) to report major or moderate problems with air quality.

**Table 4:** Positive and negative responses to individual questions on environmental wellbeing (%)

	IMD Quintile				
	1 (most deprived) (1337)	2 (1410)	3 (1406)	4 (1394)	5 (least deprived) (1384)
<b>Satisfied with the quality of the public, green or open space in local area</b>	54	67	74	75	82
<b>Dissatisfied with the quality of the public, green or open space in local area</b>	19	14	11	10	7
<b>Satisfied with efforts to preserve the environment in the UK</b>	24	24	23	25	29
<b>Not satisfied with efforts to preserve the environment in the UK</b>	38	47	44	46	45
<b>Major/moderate problems with noise</b>	33	27	20	14	11
<b>Minor/no problems with noise</b>	65	72	80	86	88
<b>Major/moderate problems with air quality</b>	27	27	20	17	14
<b>Minor/no problems with air quality</b>	67	70	78	81	83
<b>Major/moderate problems with litter or rubbish on the street</b>	52	43	30	23	20
<b>Minor/no problems with litter or rubbish on the street</b>	46	57	70	77	79

### Local green space

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are almost three times more likely than those in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5), almost twice as likely as those living in IMD 3 and 4 areas, and more likely than those living in IMD 2 areas to report dissatisfaction with the **public, green or open space in their local area** nearest to their home.
- People living in IMD 2 areas are more likely than those living in IMD 4 and 5 areas to report dissatisfaction with the **public, green or open space in their local area** nearest to their home.
- People living in IMD 3 and 4 areas are more likely than those living in areas of least deprivation (IMD quintile 5) to report dissatisfaction with the **public, green or open space in their local area** nearest to their home.

### Efforts to preserve the environment

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are less likely than those living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 2, 3, 4 and 5) to report dissatisfaction with **efforts to preserve the environment in the UK**.

### Problems with noise, air pollution and litter

- There is a broadly linear relationship between level of deprivation and the likelihood of reporting major or moderate problems with noise. As deprivation decreases so too does the likelihood of reporting major or moderate problems with noise. This is true up to IMD quintile 4, where it plateaus.
- People living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are more likely than those living in other areas (IMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5) to report major or moderate problems with **air quality**.
- People living in areas of middling deprivation (IMD quintile 3) are more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to report major or moderate problems with **air quality**.
- There is a broadly linear relationship between the level of deprivation and the likelihood of reporting major or moderate problems with **litter**. As deprivation decreases, the likelihood of reporting major or moderate problems with litter increases. This is the case up to IMD quintile 4, where it levels off.



## Democratic wellbeing

Democratic wellbeing includes participation, trust in key institutions and ability to influence decisions at a national and local level. A higher score for a particular demographic or geographic area means that we found higher levels of democratic wellbeing for those people or places.

Low scores for democratic wellbeing are common across the population. Analysis shows that demographic variables explain less of the variation between people's democratic wellbeing scores compared with other wellbeing domains. This reflects that there are wider issues influencing respondents' democratic wellbeing (for example, trust and influence) that go beyond core demographic characteristics.

It follows that democratic wellbeing scores show the smallest amount of variation out of all the wellbeing scores by area deprivation: a five-point difference between 38 for IMD quintile 1 and 42 for IMD quintile 5.

The differences between the scores for more deprived and the least deprived areas are statistically significant, however (38 for IMD quintile 1 and 40 for IMD quintile 2 compared with 42 for IMD quintile 5). The score for the area of most deprivation (IMD quintile 1) is also lower than for less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 2, 3, 4 and 5).

Looking at some of what lies behind these scores, people living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are more likely than those living in areas of lesser deprivation (categorised as IMD quintiles 3, 4 and 5) to report low levels of trust in local councils and more likely than those living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 2, 3, 4 and 5) to report that they cannot influence decisions affecting their local area, and to report low levels of trust in the legal system and courts. They are also more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to report low levels of trust in the police.

**Table 5:** Responses to individual questions on democratic wellbeing (%)

	IMD Quintile				
	1 (most deprived) (1337)	2 (1410)	3 (1406)	4 (1394)	5 (least deprived) (1384)
<b>Low trust in local councils</b>	31	28	23	25	22
<b>Low trust in the legal system and courts</b>	22	16	17	14	14
<b>Low trust in the police</b>	23	19	19	19	16
<b>Low trust in news media</b>	40	41	38	35	35
<b>I can influence decisions affecting the UK</b>	5	6	8	5	4
<b>I cannot influence decisions affecting the UK</b>	72	70	74	73	76
<b>I can influence decisions affecting the local area</b>	10	15	16	13	15
<b>I cannot influence decisions affecting the local area</b>	62	53	53	56	55

### Local councils: trust and ability to influence

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are:
  - more likely than those living in IMD 3, 4 and 5 areas to report low levels of **trust in local councils**.
  - more likely than those living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 2, 3, 4 and 5) to report that they cannot **influence decisions affecting their local area**.
- People living in the second most deprived quintile of areas (IMD 2) are more likely than those living in IMD 3 and 5 areas to report low levels of **trust in local councils**.

### Law and order: legal system, courts and the police

- People living in the most deprived areas (IMD quintile 1) are:
  - more likely than those living in less deprived areas (IMD quintiles 2, 3, 4 and 5) to report low levels of **trust in the legal system and courts**.
  - more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to report low levels of **trust in the police**.

### Other institutions: news media and banks

- People living in more deprived areas (IMD quintiles 1 and 2) are more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to report low levels of **trust in the news media**.
- People living in areas of mid to high deprivation (IMD quintiles 1, 2 and 3) are more likely than those living in the least deprived areas (IMD quintile 5) to report low levels of **trust in banks**.



# Life in the UK



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