

Research Bulletin

Issue 10, January 2016

Welcome to the January 2016 edition of Elevation Networks Research Bulletin.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

2016 New Years' Honours List

The New Year Honours lists 2016, published by the cabinet office on 30th December 2015 recognises the achievements of a wide range of extraordinary people across the UK.

- A total 1,196 people received an award
- 578 (48 per cent) were female
- 5.7 per cent were from ethnic minorities
- 7.5 per cent had a disability.

An increasing proportion of females were recommended for the highest awards (including Knighthood and Damehood); 38 per cent of the highest awards went to females, compared to the 31 per cent in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Notable award recipients included the actors Idris Elba and David Oyelowo, who each received an OBE. Carolyn McCall, CEO of EasyJet received a DBE and Rebecca Bright, Founder, Therapy Box, whose success within the technology market has been inspirational to other women received an MBE.

However, despite more outreach work to increase the diversity of recipients, the percentage of honours given to people from black and ethnic minorities has remained on average at 6% for the past eight years. That is despite the fact that ethnic communities made up 12% of the population at the time of the last census in 2011, however recent estimates predict that this is now closer to 14%.

- 2016 New Year's Honours List: <http://ow.ly/WADLd>
- Sky News Report on Honours 'diversity': <http://ow.ly/WADRC>

Prime Minister Announces Additional Support for the NCS Programme

As part of the prime minister's social reforms the government has announced the provision of £1 billion of funding over 4 years to support the expansion of the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme for 16 and 17 year-olds in England and Northern Ireland. Commenting on the plans the Prime Minister said that he hoped that the NCS programme will reach up to 60 per cent of all 16 year-olds in the UK, showing young people "the power of public service, not just self-service".

→ <http://ow.ly/WWKvu>

EMPLOYMENT

UK employment has risen for the period September to November 2015, whilst the unemployment rate has declined to its lowest rate since October 2005, according to official figures released this month.

There are now 31.39 million people in work; an increase of 267,000 on the previous quarter. The number of people who are unemployed fell by 99,000 to 1.68 million; an unemployment rate of 5.1 per cent.

Despite the reduction headline unemployment the unemployment rate young people aged 16-24 remains more than twice that of the working population as a whole. For the period September-November 2015, 11.6 per cent of 18-24 year olds were classed as unemployed.

→ ONS Release: <http://ow.ly/Xj531>

EDUCATION

Regional school results gap 'widening'

Research published by the Social Market Foundation has suggested that the geographic school attainment gap is increasing.

The study compared test results for school cohorts born in 1970 to the year 2000. The study found that GCSE performance in London schools was the highest in England, with 70 per cent of pupils achieving 5 good GCSEs. This compared to 63 per cent in Yorkshire and the Humber.

The study also examined income factors and ethnicity, with pupils from poorer backgrounds and less affluent regions being particularly academically disadvantaged. For pupils receiving free school meals 40 per cent achieved 5 GCSEs at Grades A* to C, compared to 70 per cent not receiving free school meals.

For ethnic groups, over 85 per cent of Chinese pupils attained five good GCSEs, compared to 59 per cent of Black Caribbean pupils.

The research commissioned by the Commission on Inequality in Education concluded that geography, income and ethnicity continue to have an influence on attainment, however there is now a growing disparity according to where pupils live.

→ Social Market Foundation Research: <http://ow.ly/WWXeD>

EQUALITY

Ethnic Minority Groups face higher employment barriers

People from ethnic minority groups continue to face higher unemployment and greater barriers to work compared to their white counterparts according to a report published by the Resolution Foundation.

The study which compared employment rates for 20 areas found that the employment rate gap between the best and worst performing regions in the UK was 11 per cent, however for BAME groups this was as high as 26 per cent.

The Resolution Foundation report found that the highest BAME employment was in Glasgow, where 74 per cent were in

employment, whilst the lowest was in Tyne & Wear, where only 48 per cent were employed.

The report said that barriers such as single parent households and low skills are affecting some ethnic communities from succeeding in the jobs market.

Statistics published by the ONS in April 2015 showed that the employment rate for white groups was 74.8 per cent, compared to 61.4 per cent for ethnic minority groups and 73 per cent for all groups.

→ Sky News Report: <http://ow.ly/WWOAZ>
→ ONS Statistics: <http://ow.ly/WWShS>

DIVERSITY

2016 Power List

The 2016 Power List is an annual publication of the UK's most influential people of African and African Caribbean heritage. Launched in 2007, the power list aims to provide young people with access to professional role models.

The 2016 Power List top-10 include:

1. Ken Olisa – Current Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and founder of Restoration Partners merchant bank.
2. Lenny Henry – Co-founder of Comic Relief
3. Sharon White – Head of Ofcom
4. Steve McQueen – Director, film and TV
5. Lewis Hamilton – Formula 1 World Champion
6. Baroness Doreen Lawrence – Justice Campaigner
7. Maggie Aderin-Pocock – Space Scientist
8. Mo Farah – Olympic and World Champion
9. Dr Sandie Okoro - Global General Counsel, HSBC Asset Management
10. Adrian Joseph - Managing Director, Enterprise Analytics Services, EMEA, Google

→ <http://ow.ly/Xi6zh>