



Social Mobility
Commission

Alun Francis OBE, Interim Chair of the SMC

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility

27th April 2023

Today's session

- **About the SMC**
- **The SMC's vision**
- **What have we done?**
- **What are our plans this year? (*inc. State of the Nation 2023*)**
- **Q&A**

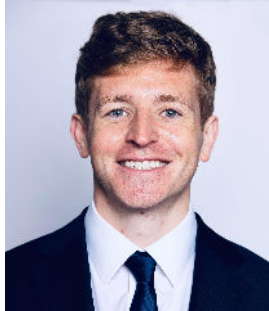
About the SMC



Social Mobility
Commission



Alun Francis
Interim Chair



Ryan Henson



Matthew Goodwin



Dr Raghiv Ali



Resham Kotecha



Parminder Kohli



Rob Wilson

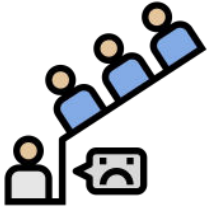
The Social Mobility Commission exists to see a UK where the circumstances of one's birth do not determine outcomes in life. It is a statutory, independent body with appointed commissioners and a small secretariat.

In September 2022, 6 new commissioners were appointed.

In January 2023, Alun Francis OBE was appointed Interim Chair (previously Deputy Chair since November 2021).

The SMC's vision

Social mobility at the extremes



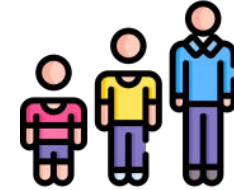
There is immobility at the extremes. Those in the bottom 20% are held back by a number of factors, particularly low levels of literacy and numeracy.

Regional differences



Each area has its own unique challenges that need to be tackled using place-based initiatives.

Social mobility across generations



We would like children to have better social mobility than their parents. However, there are a number of hurdles for them to overcome.

In order to tackle these challenges, there needs to be a coordinated approach across central government and the regions.

What have we done?

Publications



Published a business plan, a new toolkit to help employers improve social mobility, and a report outlining how government needs to provide better data.

Podcast



Launched *Social Mobility Talks*, our new podcast. Our first episode received almost 1,500 listens across Apple Podcasts, YouTube and Spotify. And since then the podcast continues to draw high levels of social media engagement (~140,000 Twitter impressions).

Research



Published an interim report on the value of HE/FE qualifications, with the Minister for Equalities hosting our event to discuss next steps on improving information available to young people.

Masterclasses



Ran 10 Employer Masterclasses on topics such as 'how to talk about class', mentoring, data, and apprenticeships. These have an average of almost 300 sign ups and 150 live attendees.

What have we done? (continued)

Public commentary



Published two issues of our “Quarterly Commentary” - helping readers keep on top of all recent social mobility related research. The most recent issue in March had over 200 unique views.

Advisory group



Created an Employer Advisory Group, to help us understand and showcase best practice.

Consultation



Undertaken an Employer Consultation to understand “what works” - there are so many fantastic initiatives - we need more focus on rigorously measuring their impact.

Newsletter



Shared six editions of “Social Mobility Digest” - our new(ish!) monthly newsletter, reaching almost 4,000 readers and showcasing our current and upcoming work and events.

What are our plans this year? - thematic priorities



Nurturing Talent (early years, families, schools)

- The role of parents and families, early childhood and schooling, and addressing low attainment in English and Maths from early years.
 - Targeted parenting campaign.
 - Publish reports on school admissions; family and parenting programmes, and charter schools.



Developing and Distributing Talent (post-16 pathways, employer and university recruitment)

- Understanding the role of qualifications and employers in developing skills and providing opportunities.
 - Action plan to improve young people's information on different qualifications.
 - Generate guidance for universities on SEB benchmarks to hold them to account.
 - Promoting alternative routes to education that work best for the people doing them.



Growing opportunities (growth and where it is, types of jobs/labour market structures, obstacles to competition)

- The creation of opportunities, their geographical spread, and the role of innovation.
 - Roundtables to discuss how best to promote economic growth and enterprise.
 - Build regional links to strengthen social mobility in local areas.

What are our plans this year? - wider activity



Launch a new SMC website to provide easy access to helpful resources for different groups.



Publish our 2023 State of the Nation report.



Launch an interactive Data Explorer Tool, with access to detailed social mobility data for different parts of the country.



Give young people better information about qualifications, bursaries and contextualised offers.



Engage more stakeholders including charities, educators, young people and families.

State of the Nation - our annual monitoring report



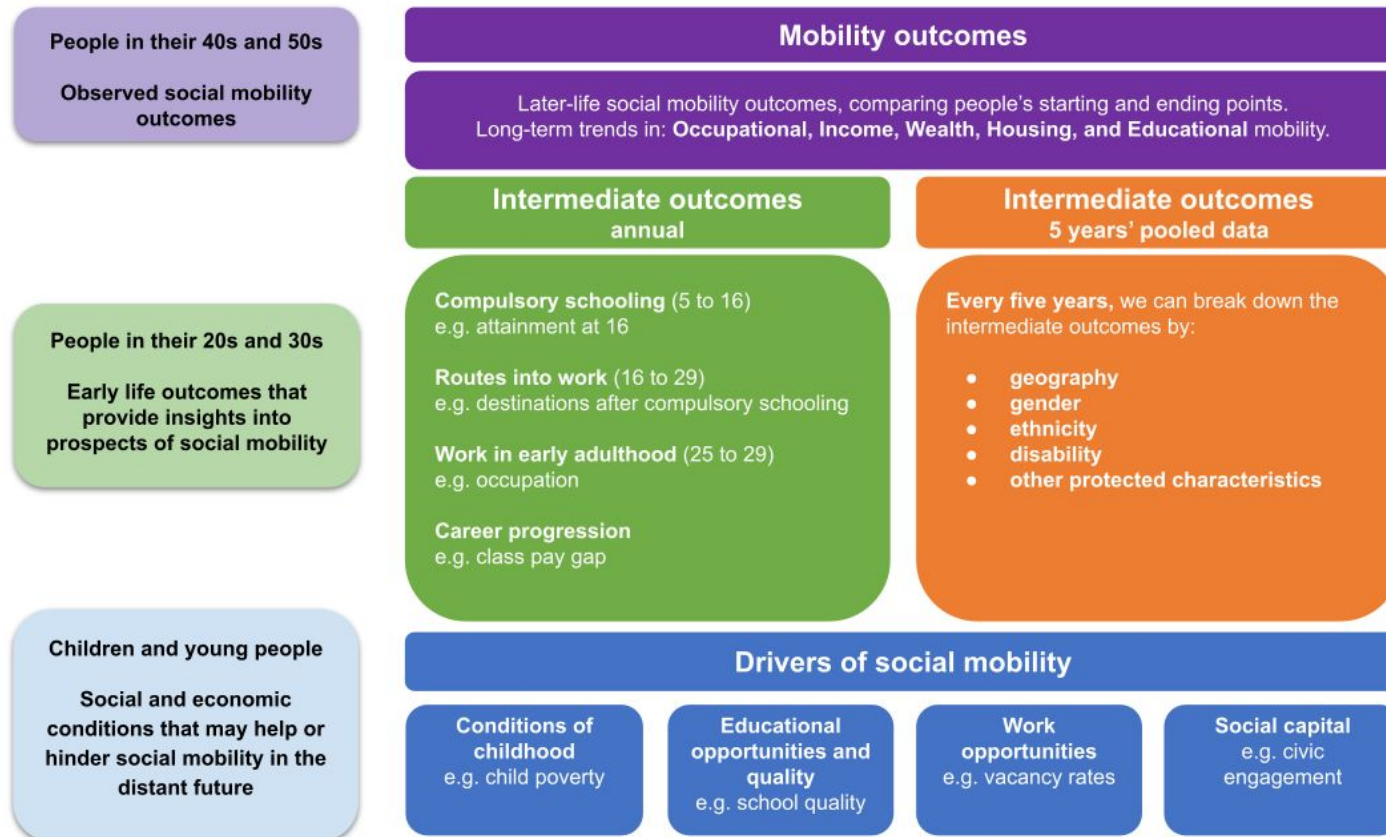
**State of
the Nation
2022:** A fresh approach
to social mobility

Published in June 2022, ***State of the Nation: A fresh approach to social mobility***, set out the new agenda for the Commission.

We introduced a **new Social Mobility Index**, which gives a more systematic way of measuring social mobility across the whole of the UK and across the life course.

We continue to work and improve the Index, and build on the findings from last year's report.

State of the Nation 2023: A focus on People and Places

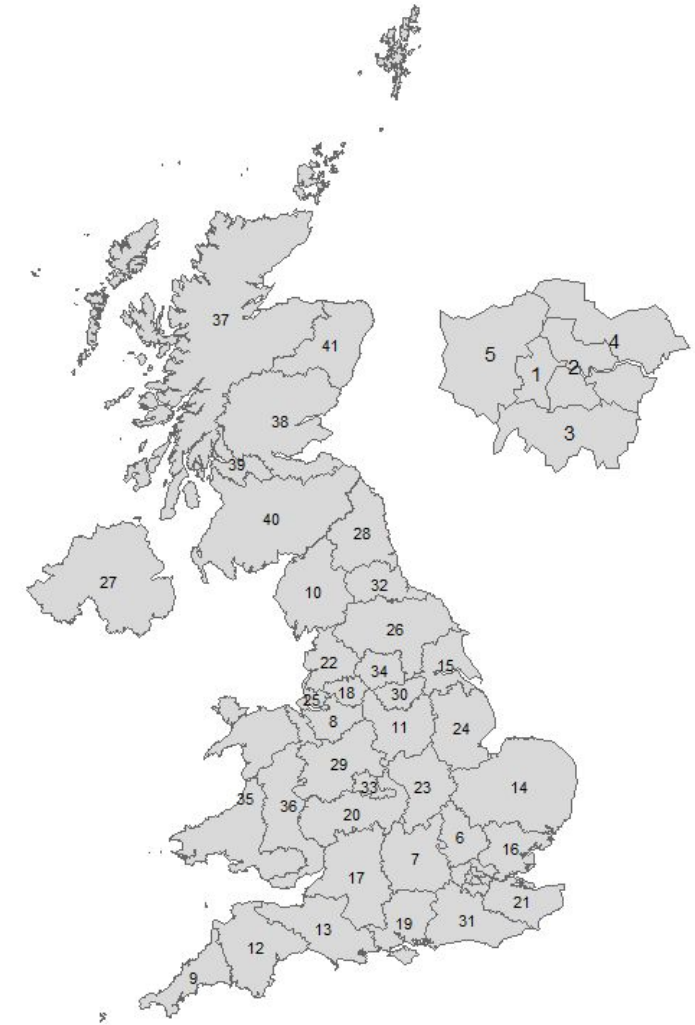


We will provide a more detailed picture of social mobility in this year's report by breaking down indicators by **region and protected characteristics** (gender, ethnicity and disability status).

Our new analysis also has a **5-part division of SEB**: higher and lower professional, intermediate, and higher and lower working class.

State of the Nation 2023: Preview

- Splitting socio-economic background (SEB) into 5 groups reveals important differences not otherwise detected using the conventional 3 group breakdown.
- It is not a clear story of a north-south divide. There are key differences within and between regions, even when taking into consideration the different populations living in those regions.
- We find stark differences when looking at differences across SEB and ethnicity, gender and disability.



Thank you for joining us

We welcome questions and feedback

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