

Nasty Britain

Published: January 13, 2026, 10:25 am

The [Guardian](#) has a story on the benefit cap this morning.

It's troubling at a personal level for those impacted.

It's troubling at a policy level because there is no real evidence that the benefit cap changes behaviour with regard to work. That's hardly surprising: why should it?

In that case it leaves only one justification for the cap, which is vindictiveness.

It was Theresa May who once described the Conservatives as the Nasty Party. Whether she was right is for others to decide upon. But what is increasingly clear is that we do live in Nasty Britain. That is a place where Nastiness is sufficient to determine policy, shape people's lives, and create the spectre of fear for far too many.

Welcome to the endarkenment.