

## Funding the Future

The government's pay offers are well below market average.

Published: January 13, 2026, 9:06 am

The [ONS published a lot of pay data](#) this morning. The chart I found most interesting was this one:

**Figure 4: The rate of growth in median pay fell between March and May 2020, but is now higher than the average growth before March 2020**

Percentage change on same month in previous year, seasonally adjusted, UK, July 2015 to January 2023



Median pay growth has exceeded 5% for well over a year. Unless you are in the public sector, of course. Then this is apparently impossible to pay.

The deliberate choice being made by the government to prevent the payment of market-matching pay settlements in the public sector is only rational if you realise that their aim is twofold. One is to force people out of public sector employment because they can no longer afford to work in it. The second is to destroy those services. I cannot find another explanation for such stupidity.