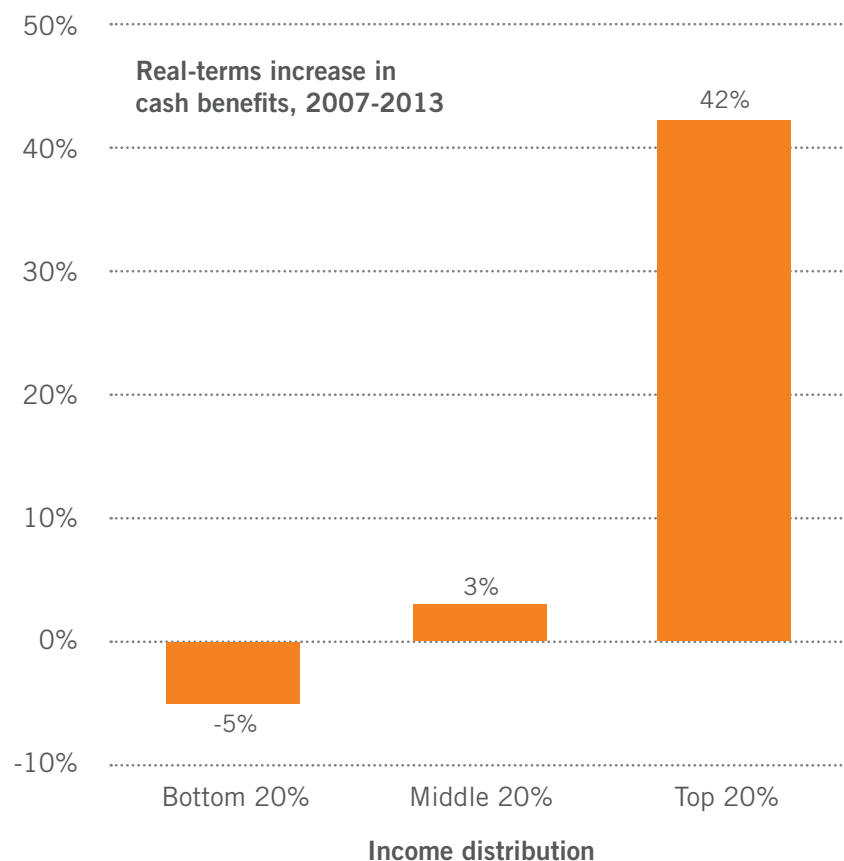


The amount of cash benefits paid to the richest fifth of the population has gone UP since the recession

BETWEEN 2007 AND 2013, CASH BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE RICHEST FIFTH INCREASED BY 42%. CASH BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE POOREST FIFTH FELL BY 5%.



What does this mean?

Welfare reforms and austerity are hitting the poorest hardest and protecting those most able to weather cuts to public expenditure. Despite substantial increases in their original income, the richest in society have received a greater share of social security expenditure since the financial crisis. This is in part due to the protected status that pensions have enjoyed compared with other social security payments. While cash benefits that mainly go to the poor have been cut, increases to pension payments have been maintained. The proportion of older people in the richest fifth of the population has grown, so total cash payments to the richest fifth have also increased. Political and financial power appears to have protected older, richer people. **This undermines the notion that we are 'all in this together'.**