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Letters

## Child poverty measures

The Guardian, Thursday 14 February 2013 21.00 GMT

Tomorrow marks the end of the consultation period for the government's proposals to measure child poverty in a new way. Several of us, fellows of the British Academy, with colleagues, have responded, pointing out the ways in which the proposals are confused and would meet neither the government's objectives nor international standards.

We agree that as well as tracking how many children are in poverty as currently measured, it is helpful to track what is happening to the factors that lead to poverty and the barriers to children's life chances. But it does not make sense to combine all of these into a single measure. To do so would open up the government to the accusation that it aims to dilute the importance of income in monitoring the extent of "poverty" at precisely the time that its policies will be reducing the real incomes of poor families. We call on the government to reconsider its proposals.

**Jonathan Bradshaw**, **Kathleen Kiernan** *University of York*, **Howard Glennerster**, **John Hills** *LSE*, **Heather Joshi** *Institute of Education*, **Ruth Lister** *Loughborough University*, **Peter Taylor-Gooby** *University of Kent*, **Alan Walker** *University of Sheffield*

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