



What the Thursday papers say

- [“IDS stands firm against welfare cuts”](#)
- [Top civil servant pay,](#)
- [“Osborne can ditch the debt rule”](#)
- [Budget for growth hits turbulence](#)

Welfare, Work, Energy, jobs

<p>“IDS stands firm against welfare cuts” Daily Telegraph, The Times</p> <p>IAIN Duncan Smith has indicated that he has not accepted the additional benefits cuts proposed by George Osborne and insisted that pressure from the Treasury will not derail his Universal Credit welfare reform.</p> <p>Mr Duncan Smith, the Work and Pensions Secretary, also claimed that he would not be “demoralised” by Treasury inspired doubts about the implementation of his ambitious programme.</p> <p>The reforms are on track and he has set up a team of experts — referred to as his “red team” — to iron out problems in his huge reform project.</p>	<p>“Britain is doing better than we’re told (No10)” Daily Telegraph, Independent</p> <p>An economic adviser to David Cameron has questioned whether Britain is in recession and suggested official figures were ignoring the recovery.</p> <p>Lord Young told a debate on business that he was sceptical that the country could still be in recession if employment was rising.</p> <p>Two years ago, he was forced to resign as the Prime Minister’s business adviser after saying in a Daily Telegraph interview that most people “had never had it so good”</p> <p>Lord Young questioned whether the Office for National Statistics was accurately measuring the economy. ONS data show the economy has not grown since the end of 2010.</p> <p>He said: “I’m not sure, for example, sales through Google, eBay, ever get measured. One of the things I think we are doing if we are not careful is we are going to talk ourselves into a recession.”</p>
<p>“Osborne can ditch the debt rule” Daily Telegraph, The Times, The Guardian</p> <p>The Bank of England’s governor said that the slowdown in the world economy meant that George Osborne could break a “golden” fiscal rule that he set for the public finances two years ago.</p> <p>Mr Osborne is thought to be preparing to abandon the pledge that national debt as a proportion of gross domestic product would be falling by 2016. The Bank of England’s view on the target is crucial as Sir Mervyn was one of the architects of the plan.</p> <p>Official figures to be released today are expected to show that government borrowing was higher than predicted again last month.</p>	<p>Swinney’s Budget for growth hits turbulence The Times</p> <p>Scotland’s Finance Secretary’s attempts to distinguish himself from George Osborne with a “budget for jobs and growth” fell flat when trade unions and employers warned his policies would do little to resurrect the Scottish economy.</p> <p>The unions have accused John Swinney of meekly following the Chancellor’s lead with a “woefully inadequate” 1 per cent pay rise for public sector workers, in the wake of a two-year freeze. The move — which does not automatically cover most staff — will do little to protect Scotland from any industrial action forecast to hit the UK next year.</p> <p>Council leaders privately gave warning that the pay rise would have to be financed with cuts to services for the vulnerable and the poor, and business leaders said the Budget for 2013/14 was a missed opportunity to reform Scotland’s public services.</p> <p>The Finance Secretary also used his draft Budget, which will be passed early next year, to reveal the first rise in household taxes under the SNP. The freeze on water charges will end and they will go up with inflation from 2013/14.</p>