

# Fair Rules, Fair Growth



14 February 2025



**How strong  
regulation can  
drive growth  
and opportunity**

## About this report

This report, co-authored by the [Fairness Foundation](#) and [Unchecked](#), makes the case for redesigning our regulatory system to drive national renewal, in pursuit of the government's five missions. It recommends replacing the existing 'Growth Duty' on regulators with a 'Fair Growth Duty' that will drive inclusive growth while promoting opportunity, improving the country's health, promoting safer streets and achieving net zero. It also argues for investing in a stronger regulatory system, based on a recognition that an ambitious, well-designed and well-resourced regulatory system is an enabler of fair growth.

The online version of this report is at [www.fairnessfoundation.com/fair-rules-fair-growth](http://www.fairnessfoundation.com/fair-rules-fair-growth).

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## About the organisations

**The Fairness Foundation** works to change the debate around fairness in order to build a fairer Britain. In particular, we work to persuade politicians of the importance of reducing inequality in the UK, by building and popularising a vision for a fairer Britain that can attract broad support (the *moral case*), demonstrating that the public are more concerned about inequality and supportive of action by government to tackle it, and less divided in their views, than we think that they are (the *political case*), and showing that tackling inequality must be a national priority, by promoting evidence of the various ways in which different forms of inequality not only reinforce each other, but also undermine sustainable economic growth, social cohesion, democracy and action on net zero (the *policy case*).

**Unchecked UK** makes the case for common sense protections which help keep people safe and allow businesses to thrive. We're building a network of diverse organisations across the UK who see sensible, properly-enforced protections as the framework for a decent society – where the food we eat and the things we buy are safe, where the natural environment is protected, and where our homes and workplaces are secure. We carry out research and investigations to highlight the loss of protection for the UK public that results from the erosion of important rules and of the public bodies which enforce them. Through public insights and communications research, we help to shape new positive narratives about our shared protections and the enforcement teams who work hard to keep us safe. We run campaigns to show the importance of the protections that we all take for granted; protections that safeguard our families and let us get on with doing the things we love. Ultimately, we aim to broaden political and public discussion around regulation, and to build momentum for strong protections which safeguard the things that matter to British people.

## Executive summary

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The UK government's *Plan for Change* sets out a bold vision for a "decade of national renewal" driven by five missions: boosting economic growth, making the UK a green energy superpower, making the NHS fit for the future, breaking down barriers to opportunity and making our streets safer. This fresh approach is welcome, but its success is far from guaranteed. Years of slow growth, weak investment, stagnating living standards, and declining public trust have left deep structural challenges, and delivering on these promises will be especially difficult given the government's self-imposed 'iron-clad' fiscal rules and broader financial constraints.

While achieving these missions will require significant investment in public services, not every solution comes with a high price tag. Public service reform is part of the answer, but one crucial piece of the puzzle is being overlooked: the role of regulation. This paper highlights how a robust regulatory system should be deployed as a lever for renewal. From ensuring people have access to decent housing and live in a healthy environment, to requiring employers to provide secure work, regulation can shape our economy in ways that improve social and economic outcomes. In [Deepening the Opportunity Mission](#), the Fairness Foundation argued that socio-economic inequality is a fundamental barrier to opportunity; regulation in areas such as housing, public health, the environment and employment can both reduce inequality and mitigate its impacts on opportunity.

The UK's regulatory system has, however, been systematically degraded. Successive governments have bought into an ideological conviction that regulation is an implicit barrier to growth, leading to steep budget cuts to regulators and an ill-conceived 'Growth Duty' that has focused on the quantity not the quality of regulation, and has prioritised short-term economic gains over protections for working people and the environment. Recent decisions, including the [order](#) for regulators to submit 'plans for growth' and the weakening of local

authorities' powers over development, suggest that this narrow conception of the role that regulation can play still prevails. Added to this, deep funding cuts have left too many regulators under-resourced and have limited their ability to enforce regulations effectively.

It is time to reconsider the role of regulation in achieving renewal. We propose the introduction of a 'Fair Growth Duty' on regulators. This duty would streamline the duties that regulators currently hold, ensuring that the economic strategy supports rather than undermines the five missions that underpin the government's plan for renewal. It would also ensure that regulators are fully integrated into the broader pursuit of the five missions, providing clarity and promoting the kind of growth that the majority of British people support.

To ensure the Fair Growth Duty is meaningful, the government also needs to address the weaknesses of the UK's regulatory system. Regulators are fundamental to driving up standards, ensuring that workers are paid a basic wage, rogue landlords are held to account, and polluters are sanctioned. Investment into their activities is a better way of supporting sound business investment and innovation than reductions to their budgets or narrowing of their remits. We must ensure both that the funding gaps are addressed (from a variety of funding sources, including public money), and that the public interest is brought to the heart of regulatory decision-making through greater transparency.

This change of direction for our regulatory system is not about making trade-offs between growth and socio-economic equality. As [research by Unchecked UK](#) has consistently shown, an ambitious, well-designed and well-resourced regulatory system is an enabler of fair growth. Rather, it is about a change of *mindset*: for too long, regulation has been treated as a barrier to growth, rather than as an essential tool to deliver the kind of economy that puts people and the environment at its heart.

## Section 1 | Driving renewal

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The UK is faced with a dual challenge. On the one hand, like other [advanced economies](#), economic growth in the UK has stalled. UK GDP growth per capita between 2008 and 2023 has [stagnated](#) at about 0.7 per cent per year. The UK has experienced some of the lowest levels of [investment](#), wage growth and [productivity](#) improvements in the G7.

On the other, [socio-economic inequality](#) has reached record highs. [Analysis by Dr Ben Tippet](#) at King's College London for the Fairness Foundation found that the wealth gap between the top and bottom 10% grew by nearly 50% between 2011 and 2019. Currently, the top 10% of the wealth distribution owns 60% of the nation's wealth, with clear inequalities in wealth ownership along [racial](#), [gender](#), [age](#), and [regional](#) lines. These gaps translate to significant inequalities in [health](#), [housing](#), [work](#), [educational](#) and [environmental](#) outcomes, as outlined in the Fairness Foundation's [Wealth Gap Risk Register](#).

The government has made the first of these challenges, growth, its [driving mission](#). Its rationale is simple: that without sustained growth, it will not be able to invest in public services and deliver higher living standards, and in this way to address inequality. As [set out](#) by Chancellor Rachel Reeves: "Without economic growth we cannot improve the lives of ordinary working people."

Where the strategy breaks down is in what has become a driving agenda for its growth plan. Pre-election [commitments](#) to deliver greater security and to depart from ideologically-driven economic agendas have waned. Instead, we increasingly find the government relying on the toolbox that has failed our economy for over a decade: deregulation. This strategy is misguided. Regulation is consistent with an ambitious growth agenda, one which is grounded in a long-term and fair vision of our economy. Moreover, it is an important lever to ensure that its growth agenda is consistent with - and reinforces, rather undermines - its programme for mission-led government.

### How regulation drives fair economic growth

A strong regulatory system is essential for delivering inclusive growth that makes everyone, not just a few, better off. It is the mechanism that ensures that we minimise the risks of the free market, while unleashing its potential to deliver greater prosperity and better living standards. This is a vision of growth that is grounded in the idea that we are all stakeholders in our economy, and that the rewards of growth should be fairly distributed.

Under this vision of growth, regulations are not seen as burdens to be minimised, but as enablers of fairness. It is a vision that treats the transition to net zero not as a restriction, but as a driver of investment and job creation, that promotes innovation as something that should benefit rather than harm people, and that works with companies as agents who help address social and environmental problems, not entities who profit from them.

We know that this is the model of growth that the vast [majority](#) of British people support. 79% of the [public think](#) that rules and regulations are 'important for creating a stable economy and a secure society'. Swing voters are amongst the staunchest supporters of strong regulation. Meanwhile, a libertarian view of economic growth is widely rejected (only 21% say that regulations 'hold the economy back and intrude on people's lives'). This is understandable in light of the experiences that have shaped our public life that have been linked to deregulation - the financial crash of 2008, the Grenfell Tower Disaster and the sewage scandal, alongside tangible public concern about the decline of standards in public life. People understand that these tragic and costly disasters can only be prevented if the economy is bound by effective regulations.

Recent polling by More in Common finds high levels of scepticism among the public - and particularly Green and Reform voters - about the impact of economic growth on their lives. Just four in ten Britons feel that they personally

benefit from growth, and two thirds believe that slower growth and lower tax revenue are a price worth paying for greater economic fairness.

Regulation is a key lever for shaping the kind of fair and proportionate growth that most people want. It is how to make sure that companies commit to the transition to net zero, invest in their workers, and ensure that consumers are the ultimate beneficiaries of their products and services. According to polls, many businesses and investors also appreciate the stability offered through stronger regulation, and [support stronger workers' rights](#). Only a [small minority cite too much regulation as a top challenge](#). Companies that are committed to productive growth acknowledge that regulation makes it easier to justify investment in people, technology and the transition to net zero.

Experts, including the lead proponent of mission-led growth, [Marianna Mazzucato](#), see regulation as a key instrument of this approach. Regulation is central to the way in which the private sector and governments work together, setting out a clear direction and guiding the expectations of companies that benefit from public investment. This kind of growth cannot be left to markets alone but needs to be directed, bound by conditionalities and driven by strong institutions and rules. Mission-led growth is, by definition, regulated growth.

## **Regulations break down barriers to opportunity**

Strong protections are essential to breaking down barriers to opportunity. A literature review of [key drivers of the educational disadvantage gap](#) published by the Education Policy Institute in 2018 details the ways in which deprivation degrades cognitive development and performance, generating educational inequalities and blocking opportunities. Much of this deprivation could be ameliorated through stronger regulation.

Below we set out how they can enable greater [fairness](#) (or '[deep opportunity](#)') across a range of issues, ensuring that those who face the greatest barriers have a better chance of overcoming them.

## **Political fairness**

In a system without checks and balances, wealth becomes the key lever of influence. The wealthy can exert a higher level of influence by [donating large sums to parties and funding lobbyists to pursue their interests](#), for example. In the absence of effective regulation around [party donations](#), [lobbying restrictions](#) or [media ownership](#), control of the narrative and political agenda on wealth and inequality remains concentrated in the hands of a few. Those with less wealth are less able to influence politics and become [less likely to participate](#). Regulations, especially those which create checks and balances on the most powerful, are therefore an enabler of greater political equality.

## **Market fairness**

The cost-of-living crisis has exposed significant weakness in the level of protection for the poorest consumers. Over the past decade, consumers have faced rising prices, contributing to the cost-of-living crisis and increasing 'poverty premiums' for poorer households (whereby people on low incomes are forced to pay higher prices because they have low incomes). Strong protections to ensure that companies cannot [exploit vulnerabilities](#) are an essential way of tackling the penalties that affect the poorest consumers. Research by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research found that the most [vulnerable families have seen their finances take a £4,500 hit](#) since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Added to this, roughly [a quarter of households experience at least one type of poverty premium](#) in Britain, with [research estimating](#) that the average low-income household pays a premium of £490 per year.

## **Fair accountability**

Strong protections help to [prevent](#) concentrations of market power that result in unfair industry practices. They also improve the UK's financial security, by creating conditions where unfair competition, including from businesses that trade in dirty money and corporate misconduct, cannot thrive. These protections are the foundation of the UK's reputation as a clean and stable place to operate, and in this way are a key way of driving sound

foreign investment while keeping damaging forms of capital at bay.

## **Fairness at work**

The UK has one of the most deregulated labour markets and the highest levels of insecure work in the developed world. This workforce faces uncertain hours, unsafe working conditions, and low pay. Beyond its mental and physical health impacts, insecure work brings financial penalties – the Work Foundation has found that, on average, individuals in severely insecure work face a financial burden of £3,276 per year, compared to those in secure work. This further entrenches socio-economic deprivation and inequalities.

Another important body of regulations is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 - which remains a cornerstone of the UK's regulatory framework, protecting workers from hazards in the workplace. This legislation requires employers to maintain safe working conditions, provide appropriate training, and mitigate risks associated with occupational hazards. The legislation has reduced workplace fatalities by 88% since its introduction 50 years ago, while non-fatal injuries have fallen by over 70%. It has also decreased exposure to hazardous substances, such as asbestos or harmful chemicals, and prevented occupational diseases like mesothelioma and chemical poisoning. The benefits have been felt most significantly by manual workers and those on lower incomes.

Workplace safety standards not only protect individual employees but also reduce absenteeism and improve productivity, generating broader economic and social returns. Despite the progress made since the Health and Safety Act was introduced, the Health and Safety Executive estimates that £21.6 billion is still lost from the economy each year due to work-related illness. By promoting a healthy population through interventions in the workplace and elsewhere, regulations can contribute to a healthier workforce and ultimately a more sustainable and resilient economy.

## **Fair housing**

Poorly constructed housing and compromised environments are a growing problem for

communities in the UK. The latest English Housing Survey estimates that 14% of UK households - including 1.5 million children - are living in homes that fail the Decent Homes Standard. Private renters are at the greatest risk of living in unsafe homes, with 21% (970,000 renters) living in non-compliant housing. People living in poor quality homes face higher maintenance costs, driving up living expenses and reducing the long-term affordability of housing itself. Their houses are quicker to degrade and become uninhabitable - something which currently affects a huge number of people across Britain who are forced to spend more of their wages on upkeep. A recent study estimates that the cost to the NHS of treating people affected by poor quality housing is £1.4 billion a year.

## **Fairness in health**

Health inequalities - gaps in health outcomes between different socioeconomic groups - are a persistent challenge in the UK. These inequalities are preventable with the right interventions, and regulations can play a key role in reducing these disparities by addressing the social determinants of health. Non-communicable diseases such as obesity, diabetes, and heart disease are among the leading causes of death in the UK and are where inequalities are becoming most entrenched. Recent regulatory changes - from the Sugar Tax to Food Labelling Requirements - have been some of the most transformative public health interventions in recent years for tackling these diseases. For example, research showed that the Sugar Tax removed roughly 47,000 tonnes of sugar from soft drinks in the first four years after it was implemented.

Regulations are particularly effective at protecting the health of vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, those on low incomes and those with pre-existing health conditions. The 2007 public smoking ban, for example, has significantly reduced exposure to secondhand smoke, delivering dramatic improvements to public health. This measure has been linked to a significant decline in smoking-related illnesses, such as lung cancer and cardiovascular disease. Meanwhile, research by Friends of the Earth demonstrates that just 21% of income deprived neighbourhoods across England and Wales have 'inhalable particulate

matter' levels within WHO guidelines; 29% have levels one to two times higher than recommended guidelines, and 50% have levels more than 2.5 times over the threshold. By prioritising the needs of at-risk populations, regulations can help to tackle health inequalities and ensure that everyone has access to a safe and healthy environment.

Growth that exacerbates inequality risks creating deeper economic and social divides, undermining both economic resilience and [social cohesion](#). A government that is serious about breaking down barriers to opportunity needs to embrace effective regulation as a means of shaping growth that is broad-based and inclusive.

## **Regulation is the cornerstone of the fair energy transition**

Sustainable economic growth cannot be achieved without active, future-focused and effective regulations. Regulatory interventions should be seen as an effective complement to the system of targets and incentives that we know will be required to make this critical transition effectively. They are the guarantees that companies committed to the transition need, to ensure that they can invest and innovate without facing unfair competition. They are also the means to ensure that we can shift behaviours in a way that the public feels is fair.

These goals are not at odds with our ambition to grow the economy. Indeed, a strategy that seeks to unlock growth without such protections is likely to cost us dearly in the long run. Most investors in the UK [cite](#) climate-related risk as a primary barrier to growth, and see government intervention, including via regulation, as fundamental to unlocking green investment.

Growth driven by an erosion of standards will lead to a self-reinforcing cycle of poor-quality housing and degraded local environments. As companies and developers are encouraged to prioritise speed and cost savings over long-term quality and sustainability, the result will be infrastructure and homes that lack resilience, have little regard for space standards, have poor energy efficiency, and undermine communities.

The evidence shows that poorly planned developments exacerbate issues such as

overcrowding, inadequate public transport, and a lack of green space - all of which diminish life chances.

When environmental protections are weakened, the impact on ecosystems and community wellbeing becomes even more pronounced. This not only harms biodiversity, but also reduces the natural environmental benefits that green spaces provide, such as better air quality and improvements to mental health and wellbeing.

Deregulation sacrifices sustainability for narrow economic payouts, fostering a downward spiral. To break this cycle, a robust regulatory framework that prioritises environmentally sustainable development is essential. These protections will ensure that the government is able to deliver on its mission to tackle the structural barriers to opportunity. They will also deliver the savings in people's pockets that will be essential to bolstering public support for the reforms needed to drive net zero.

## Section 2 | Our vision for a fair regulatory system

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The UK is a country on a quest for renewal. A different vision of the role that regulation can play in our economy needs to be part of this endeavour. This new approach is not about putting a brake on growth, but is about shaping growth in a way that meets, rather than undermines, the needs of people and of the environment.

### **Reset the strategy: The Fair Growth Duty**

As a starting point we propose that the government rethinks the Growth Duty as a Fair Growth Duty. The [Growth Duty](#) was introduced by the Conservatives in 2017 under the [Deregulation Act \(2015\)](#), placing a requirement on regulators to ensure that they “have regard to the desirability of promoting economic growth” and “consider the promotion of economic growth and ensure any regulatory action they take is necessary and proportionate”. The Duty originally applied to any named regulator included in the [Economic Growth \(Regulatory Functions\) Order \(2017\)](#), covering over 50 regulators working in areas such as agriculture, plant health, food standards, medicine, and outer space. In 2023, the Duty was [extended](#) to Ofcom, Ofwat, and Ofgem, embedding commitments to consider economic growth for communications, water, and energy providers in the UK from April 2024. The Growth Duty relies on a narrow concept of growth, and does not account for opportunities provided by green growth or inclusive economic policies.

The **Fair Growth Duty** would mark a shift from this position, by integrating economic, social and environmental objectives. It would end the false dichotomy between the promotion of growth and the need to bolster basic social and environmental protections, showing how these are in fact mutually reinforcing. The Fair Growth Duty would share the commitment of the existing Growth Duty to promoting economic growth, while underlining the importance of broader social and environmental outcomes.

The Fair Growth Duty would also send a clear signal to regulators that they will be supported by the government to focus on their core mission:

promoting growth and breaking down barriers to opportunity. The Fair Growth Duty would acknowledge regulators’ importance in driving up standards across the UK and their value in helping the government to deliver on all its missions. It would make them key players in the task of renewal.

The case for the Fair Growth Duty is as much about delivery as about resetting the strategy. It would help to prevent tensions between duties on regulators, most notably the Socio-Economic Duty, which the government is committed to introducing. A consultation is about to be launched on the implementation of [Section 1 of the Equality Act \(2010\)](#), which will require public bodies, including regulators, to “consider how their decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage”, in areas such as health, crime, housing and education. The commitment to implement the Socio-Economic Duty is part of the government’s [Opportunity Mission](#), which aims to “break down barriers” to opportunity. The Fair Growth Duty would support the aims of the Socio-Economic Duty, whereas the current Growth Duty would directly undermine it.

At the same time, rationalisation and simplification would build more transparency and accountability into the regulatory decision-making process. The Fair Growth Duty would put the achievement of all five missions at the heart of government policy. For example, investment in renewable energy infrastructure, nature-based solutions and improvements to energy efficiency can provide significant growth opportunities. Similarly, steps to address inequality and increase opportunity through fair wages, affordable housing, and more accessible education and healthcare can increase consumer spending, expand the skilled workforce, and drive innovation.



**Table 1: Principles of the Fair Growth Duty**

Growth Duty	Fair Growth Duty
Requires regulators to consider economic consequences of their actions.	Requires regulators to consider social, environmental and economic consequences of their actions.
Requires regulators to keep regulatory burdens to a minimum.	Requires regulators to balance regulatory intervention with the provision of effective public and environmental protections. Regulators should take into account the long-term growth potential that well-designed regulation can foster.
Requires regulators to be pro-innovation, anticipatory and agile (and to include approaches unless they are proved harmful - rather than restrict them before harm is shown).	Requires regulators to evaluate the broader social and environmental impacts of their decisions.
Requires regulators to ensure employees have skills and understanding of the sectors they serve.	Requires regulators to ensure employees have skills and understanding of the sectors they serve. Requires regulators to put in place checks to ensure that business involvement does not undermine their independence or ability to act in the public interest.
Requires regulators to work with business to streamline regulatory processes and reduce burden on regulated businesses and individuals.	Requires regulators to work with businesses, consumers, civil society and people with lived experience to design effective regulation.
No statutory reporting requirements.	Statutory annual reporting should be required, and made public. As part of this, regulators should demonstrate that the Duty has not undermined wider environmental and social objectives or requirements.  When scrutinising the impacts of the Duty, Parliament should consult widely – particularly with organisations working on fairness or socio-economic inequality and with environmental NGOs.
Being outwards facing and understanding where regulatory decisions in other jurisdictions may provide helpful evidence for domestic decisions – this includes learning from best practice and recognising approvals in other jurisdictions where appropriate.	Retain.
Provide clear guidance to consumers and businesses in terms of which regulations apply to them and any steps that they need to take to comply with the regulation. Clearly and transparently communicate with stakeholders the reasons for the decisions that they have made, and how these decisions align with the law and their statutory objectives.	Retain.

## Rebuild the regulatory system

To deliver on the government's growth mission and its other four missions, we need an effective regulatory system. This means a system that has the resources and expertise to function efficiently, to deliver an excellent service and to be at the forefront of technological advances. It needs to be a system with teeth, which has the power and resources to hold rule breakers to account and to incentivise behaviours that are in line with a vision of fair growth.

Well-enforced regulation is a sound investment that can pay for itself many times over. HMRC's enforcement work, for example, adds [£18 to the public purse](#) for every £1 spent. Meanwhile, fraud across the private and public sectors and against individuals is estimated to cost the UK approximately £219 billion a year. Failure to invest in enforcement is not a cost-saving measure, but a false economy that risks greater costs in the long run.

A key priority will be to commit to sustained reinvestment to restore staffing levels and rebuild specialist skills and expertise. It will require reversing the deep funding cuts to regulators that have severely limited their ability to achieve their objectives. Between 2009 and 2019, the [average budget of key regulators fell by 41%](#).

This is not about creating a punitive environment for businesses. Instead, it is about creating the conditions where businesses can be confident that competitors who cut corners will be punished. It is also about reassuring businesses that dealings with regulators will be efficient, expert and productive. Investment in regulators will pay off by addressing poor corporate practices, restoring public trust in the private sector, and creating favourable conditions in which businesses can plan, invest, and innovate. Far from being a barrier to growth, world class regulatory institutions create the certainty that responsible investors value, and can be an important source of expertise to help to drive sustainable growth.

A cornerstone of the government's programme is the Fair Work Agency, which will help to support proper enforcement of the new protections contained in the [Employment Rights Bill](#). Here the government has recognised that new protections can only be effective if they are enforced by a well-staffed, well-resourced regulator. This is well overdue. According to the International Labour Organisation, the [UK currently falls significantly short on enforcing labour standards](#), with only 0.29 labour inspectors per 10,000 workers, far below the recommended level of one inspector per 10,000 workers. The UK ranks 27th out of the 38 OECD nations on this measure. Without adequate inspection resources, the enforcement of labour law remains weak, making it difficult to address issues of non-compliance, let alone to prevent cases of exploitation and workplace abuse. The result is an [epidemic of abuse](#) affecting UK workers. Over a third of employees on the lowest wages are paid less than what they are owed, and only a [tiny proportion of cases](#) are investigated, sanctioned or addressed.

Although the labour market is an extreme case of under-enforcement, we know that the enforcement gap affects the system across the board. Resourcing regulators effectively will be key to achieving this. There are several self-financing mechanisms for increasing the funding of regulatory bodies. Hypothecating financial sanctions could redirect penalties collected from non-compliant firms directly into the regulatory system to enhance enforcement capacity and oversight. Expanding licensing regimes to new sectors could generate steady revenues by introducing or increasing fees for regulated businesses. Sector-specific levy systems, already in place in some sectors, could require companies to contribute a small, proportionate fee to support regulatory activities. These approaches could provide regulators with more consistent, independent funding, reducing their reliance on government budgets.

## Conclusion

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The regulatory system should be embraced as an essential tool for driving renewal. It is a key way to break the vicious cycle of inequalities in health, income and wealth, education and employment, all of which undermine both growth and opportunity. Making regulators agents of this shift would help ensure that the regulatory system is geared towards the renewal that that country needs.

Empowering and investing in regulators would be a popular and cost-effective way of boosting growth while making progress on the government's wider mission agenda.

Well-designed protections prevent costly mistakes that can plague projects for decades. They don't block progress - they enable it. They don't undermine innovation - they create the conditions in which those with the best ideas can thrive.

The government should focus on rebuilding capacity in our regulatory systems. This requires both a clear direction and proper funding.

It is time to look beyond the failed deregulatory playbook, to abandon the false choice between growth and standards, and to invest in making our regulatory system fit for purpose.



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