

TABLE 2. THE GENERIC BASIC INCOME (BI): How its defining characteristics help to fulfil the broad objectives – very inter-related.

OBJECTIVES → CHARACTERISTICS THAT DEFINE THE BI SYSTEM, below:	Financial autonomy. Emancipation and empowerment of adults.	Prevent income poverty; avoid stigma & provide financial security; less stress improves health, wellbeing.	Reduce income inequalities & divisions. Create a just, united, and inclusive society.	Restore incentives to work. Labour market efficiency and flexibility; sustainable econ productivity & growth	Simplify administration system, leading to greater transparency and accountability.
The unit for assessment and delivery is the INDIVIDUAL	Grants financial privacy and autonomy. Reduces inequality of power relationships in the home – fairer division of tasks.	Would give ‘financial dependents’ the right to an income of their own for the first time – helps to liberate them from abusive partners.	Liberates poorer partners from fin dependence trap. Redistribution within households and between rich & poor households.	Household economies of scale provide incentives for adults to share housing – need fewer single person homes. Liberates discouraged second earners.	Simpler administration, less intrusive, but more benefit & income tax units to assess.
Eligibility determines <i>who</i> is included: A BI IS UNIVERSAL (Avoids discrimination, targeting, segregation, stigma and low take-up)	Respects and values <i>all</i> individuals – a necessary condition for emancipation and empowerment of <i>all</i> adults.	Avoids stigma and low take-up. <i>All</i> adults eligible for an income for the first time. Helps to reduce the <i>incidence</i> of income poverty. Protects the most vulnerable.	Avoids discrimination, targeting, segregation, and stigma. Universal systems are inclusive, popular, redistributive, and often are cheaper.	Redistribution from rich to poor increases economic demand. Could help to regenerate areas of multiple deprivation.	It is more efficient (cheaper) to give BIs to all & to assess everyone once only pa via a fairer income tax. More tax/benefit units. Monitoring still for eligibility criteria.
UNDIFFERENTIATED amounts of BI, except that it could be age-related. (Avoids differentiation, stigma, rejection and low take-up – less intrusive.)	Avoids differentiation and stigma. Avoids segregation into ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ poor. Helps to end the ‘Cohabitation Rule’.	Avoids differentiation, stigma and low take-up. Couples will no longer be discriminated against. Helps to end the ‘Cohabitation Rule’. Easier to earn one’s way out of poverty Savings not means-tested.	Avoids differentiation, stigma and division. Absence of benefit tapers makes the effective income tax system less regressive. Fosters social solidarity and community	Reduces marginal deduction rates and restores incentives to work-for-pay for claimants, raising their net wage rates above their reservation wages. Wage rates adjust. BI does not act as a subsidy for employers.	Differentiation reduced to a minimum. Less intrusive. Reduces reliance on MTBs. Simplifies social security administration, reducing risk of error and fraud, and reducing admin costs.
UNCONDITIONAL: no behavioural requirements, re paid work, volunteering, or gender roles. Less intrusive or demanding. Financial security.	Respects and values all. Trusts adults with more control over the use of their own time, increasing their life choices. Reduces inequality of power relationships in the household - enabling negotiations for fairer sharing of care & domestic tasks and of paid work.	Reduces <i>depth</i> of income poverty, and could prevent it, depending on the level of BI. Provides financial security – creates a safety net. Gives the unconditional right not to be destitute. Better work-life balance. Reduction of stress improves health & wellbeing – reducing cost to health and personal social services.	Inequality of income decreases as BI increases. Redistribution between paid and unpaid work. BI systems trust citizens to decide on their own contributions to society. Fosters community. Supports life-long learning and creative enterprise. Quality of life.	More training & choice re type of work increases productivity. Financial security reduces inequality of workplace power relationships. Workers can negotiate for fair pay, flexibility and good working conditions, depending on the labour market situation – increases industrial democracy Creative entrepreneurship.	Avoids current financial outlays and time-consuming personal effort needed to apply for & retain benefits. Less intrusive. Decouples income from paid work. No difference between in-work and out-of-work payments. Simplifies administration and compliance systems
FINANCED BY A RESTRUCTURED INCOME TAX SYSTEM		The higher the income tax rates, the greater the BI, and the greater its impact on poverty.	A more progressive income tax system could help to redistribute incomes more effectively	Increased taxes on income could lead to an increase in hours worked by higher-waged workers.	A small personal allowance would avoid the need to submit a tax return merely for casual earnings.

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