Hospital cleaners are more necessary to society than bankers, a study suggests.

The research, carried out by the New Economics Foundation, says hospital cleaners create 10 dollars of value for every 1 dollar they are paid. It also claims bankers are a problem for the country because of the damage they caused to the global economy. They destroy 7 dollars of value for every 1 dollar they earn. At the same time, advertising executives are said to "create stress" because they are responsible for campaigns which create dissatisfaction and misery. By contrast, waste recyclers are doing jobs that create wealth for the country.

The Foundation has used a new form of job evaluation to calculate the total contribution that the different jobs make to society, including for the first time the impact on communities and the environment.

Eilis Lawlor, from the New Economics Foundation, said: "Pay levels often don’t reflect the true value that is being created. As a society, we need to reward those jobs that create most benefit rather than those that generate profits at the expense of society and the environment".

She said that the aim of the research was not to attack individuals in highly paid jobs, or suggest that people in low paid jobs should earn more. "The point that we are making is that there should be a relationship between what we are paid and the value that our work generates for society".