

What Do British Politicians Think?

A study into the views of MPs, councillors, and the public

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Introduction

This report presents original polling data on the views of Westminster MPs and local councillors from across the UK on a range of topical policy questions. These results are then compared directly with pre-existing polling data which tested public opinion on the same issues.

The report begins by outlining details of the data being presented and the approach taken. The results are then provided in a series of charts presenting each of the questions polled and the responses of the public, MPs and local councillors side-by-side. Some brief analysis of the results is provided, mainly focusing on the comparison between the views of MPs and the public, but occasionally discussing the views of local councillors too. There is then a discussion of: the key similarities and differences observed in the data between the different groups, some potential explanations of the results, and the implications of the results for some ongoing policy debates in the UK.

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Data and Method

This report follows a similar approach to the one taken by a previous piece of research which used polling to test the attitudes of British MPs from the 2019-2024 Parliament on a range of issues, and compare them to the views of the British public.¹ Here, a matched survey design is employed to compare the attitudes of Westminster MPs elected at the 2024 UK general election, local councillors from across the UK and the British public.²

Rather than running a new survey of the British public, this report draws from pre-existing publicly-available polling results, produced by polling companies in late 2024.³ Multiple sources were used, which are referenced individually below, but YouGov's regular public opinion trackers proved particularly useful.⁴

In order to understand the attitudes of British MPs a new dedicated survey was commissioned and conducted by Survation in late 2024. In total 103 MPs were surveyed and this sample is roughly representative of the party-political make-up of the Parliament which was elected in 2024. The party affiliation of the sample of MPs was 72 Labour, 16 Conservative, 6 Liberal Democrat, 3 SNP and 6 Other. Barring the occasional minor discrepancy (detailed within the 'Results' section), the same questions which were polled in the public opinion surveys presented in this report were polled among MPs at a similar point in time.

This is not the place for a detailed methodological discussion of polling, however, the results of the MP survey should be treated with care. This polling is not equivalently robust to the larger, representative samples of UK adults used in the public opinion polling which we present in the 'Results' section, so there are limits to how much the MP survey results below can be inferred to necessarily represent the views of all 650 MPs. Nonetheless, the sample size of 103 (out of a total of 650 MPs) is substantial, and the survey results provide a useful indication of the views of MPs elected to Parliament in 2024.

¹ Alan Wager and Paula Surridge, 'What do MPs think? expectations, issues and identities', *UK in a Changing Europe*, <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/reports/what-do-mps-think-expectations-issues-and-identities/> (2021).

² Here a matched survey design means that the same questions were polled, at a similar point in time, among different groups.

³ Mostly, but not exclusively, the public opinion surveys presented in this report drew from samples of Great Britain only.

⁴ YouGov, 'Politics & current affairs', <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers> (Accessed March 2025).

To survey local councillors, every sitting councillor in the UK (as of 4th February 2025) was emailed with the same set of questions used in the MP and public polling presented in this report.⁵ Non-respondents were sent two follow-up emails at roughly fortnightly intervals. In total, there were 1757 responses (a response rate of roughly 9%) and Table 1 shows that the proportion of councillors representing each of the largest parties (in terms of number of councillors) was broadly in line with their national share of councillors (although the Conservatives were underrepresented and the other largest parties were overrepresented).

Minor adjustments were made to the sample in order to weight it to reflect the actual party make-up of all UK local councillors (at the time the survey took place). However, the sample of local councillors has not been weighted based on other factors, such as the region the councillors represented or demographic characteristics of the councillors. Therefore the results presented from this survey of local councillors are unlikely to be as representative of the views of all councillors as the polling of the UK public, which is presented in this report, is of UK public opinion. Nonetheless, the local councillor survey presented here is based on a substantial sample size, with a reasonably accurate spread in terms of the parties represented, and subsequent weighting based on political party applied. It therefore provides useful insights into the attitudes of local councillors in the UK.

Table 1 - Party Make-Up of UK Local Councillor Survey Sample versus Actual Party Make-Up of All UK Local Councillors

Party	Sample (%)	UK Share (%)
Labour Party	37	33
Liberal Democrats	21	16
Conservative	19	26
Green Party	8	4
Other	16	21

This report uses survey results of British voters from between October 2024 to December 2024 (precise details of each survey are provided in the references below). The fieldwork for the Survation survey of MPs was conducted between late October 2024 and mid-December 2024. The timings of the two sets of surveys (public and MPs) match up very

⁵ The email data was purchased from Open Council Data UK (<https://opencouncildata.co.uk/>).

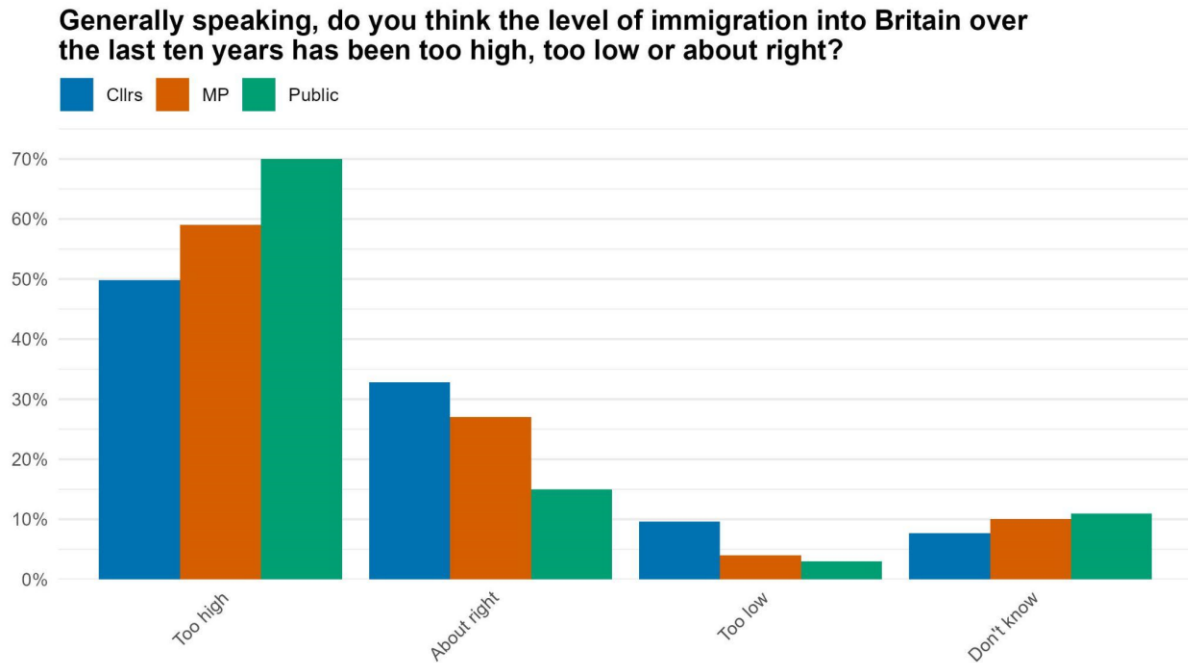
neatly but it is possible some minor differences in time period could have affected some of the results. Also, the councillor survey took place slightly later than the other two surveys (fieldwork predominantly conducted in February 2025), which could have impacted the results.

All of the survey results are snapshots in time and the attitudes of MPs and councillors, just like voters, can change over time. However, even if the views of one or all the three groups examined here shift either over time or in response to a specific event, presenting these results from a particular moment illuminates understanding of the relative positions of each group.

Results

Immigration

Figure 1 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Immigration



Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'Do Brits think that immigration has been too high or low in the last 10 years?', 23 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/do-brits-think-that-immigration-has-been-too-high-or-low-in-the-last-10-years> (Accessed March 2025).

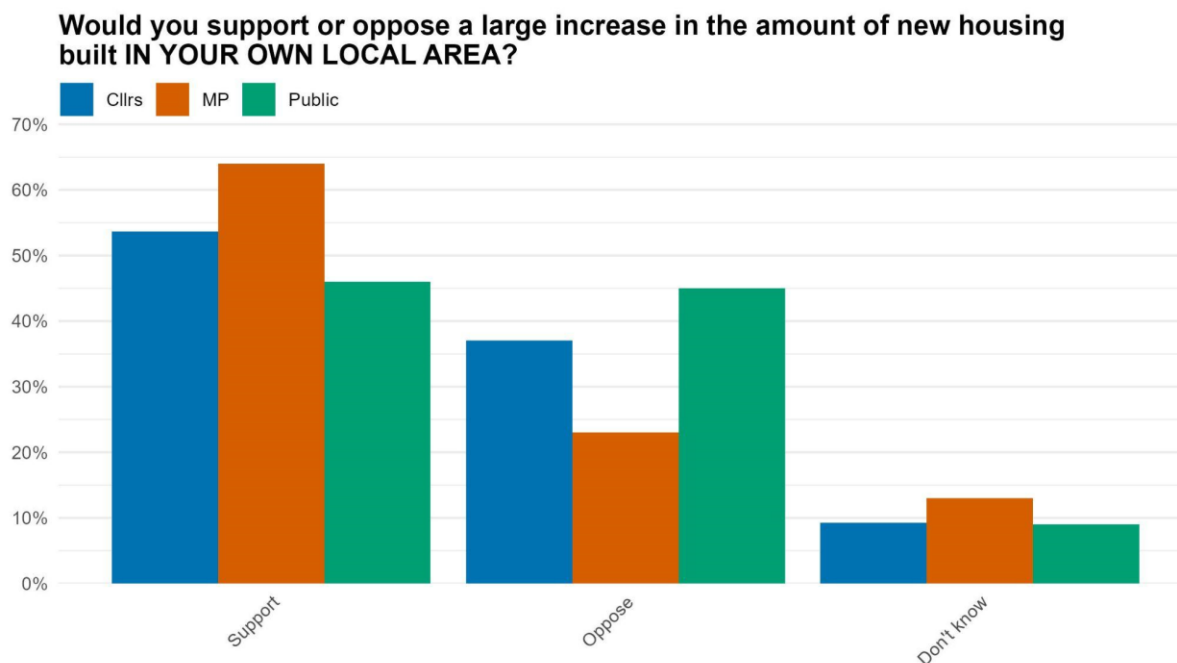
There is a clear pattern to the polling on immigration shown in Figure 1 in terms of how the views of voters and MPs compare: the public tend to take a more negative view than MPs of immigration. The public are more inclined than MPs to believe immigration has been too high, and MPs are more inclined than the public to think that the level of immigration has been about right or (very marginally) too low. Though both MPs and the public have broadly similar responses to the question overall, with clear majorities of both groups believing that immigration has been too high in recent years.

These results chime with another recent survey which found that MPs were much more inclined to accept higher levels of immigration if it meant increased economic growth than voters.⁶

⁶ Ipsos, 'Ipsos: Priorities for economic growth among MPs and the public', <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/new-ipsos-survey-shows-divides-between-mps-and-public-priorities-economic-growth> (2025).

Housing and Planning

Figure 2 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Housing and Planning⁷



Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'Support for increased house building in your LOCAL area', 16 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/support-for-increased-house-building-in-your-local-area> (Accessed March 2025).

The surveys find MPs to be the most enthusiastic of the three groups about new housing being built, with a greater proportion of those sampled inclined to support this type of development in their local area than councillors and the public (and a lower proportion of MPs opposed to the idea than both councillors and the public).

A separate but very similar polling question was recently asked of MPs and the public by Ipsos and produced consistent results, finding MPs to be the more supportive of the two groups of housing being built in their local area.⁸ This piece of research also found MPs to be much more likely to agree with the idea that increasing housebuilding was necessary to make housing more affordable, that the public were more willing to prioritise improved quality of housing over increasing quantity than MPs, and that the public were more

⁷ When this survey question was run by YouGov among the public it was part of a series of questions and included 'And' at the start of the question, this was omitted from the surveys of MPs and councillors.

⁸ Ipsos, 'Ipsos: Priorities for economic growth among MPs and the public', <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/new-ipsos-survey-shows-divides-between-mps-and-public-priorities-economic-growth> (2025).

concerned about the views of local councils and residents (even if this meant fewer houses being built) than MPs when it comes to development.⁹

The Labour Party was elected into government in July 2024 with a commitment to loosening planning restrictions and increasing housebuilding.¹⁰ The results presented here suggest that the public and local councillors (who remain key actors in this policy area) are generally more apprehensive about such moves than the MPs elected in 2024. Though it should be noted that both councillors and the public were still more supportive of the idea than opposed (albeit very marginally in the case of the public).

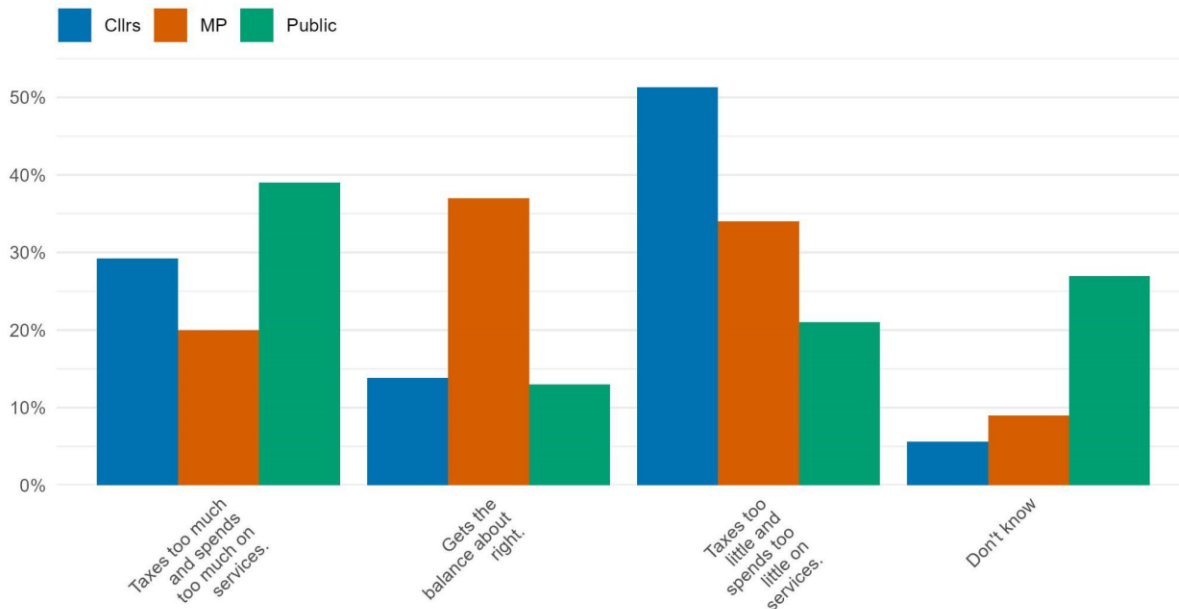
⁹ Ipsos, 'Ipsos: Priorities for economic growth among MPs and the public', <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/new-ipsos-survey-shows-divides-between-mps-and-public-priorities-economic-growth> (2025).

¹⁰ The Labour Party, 'Change. Labour Party Manifesto 2024.', <https://labour.org.uk/change/> (2024).

Tax and Spend

Figure 3 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Taxation and Government Spending Levels

Generally speaking, do you think the government taxes too much and spends too much on services, taxes too little and spends too little on services, or gets the balance about right?

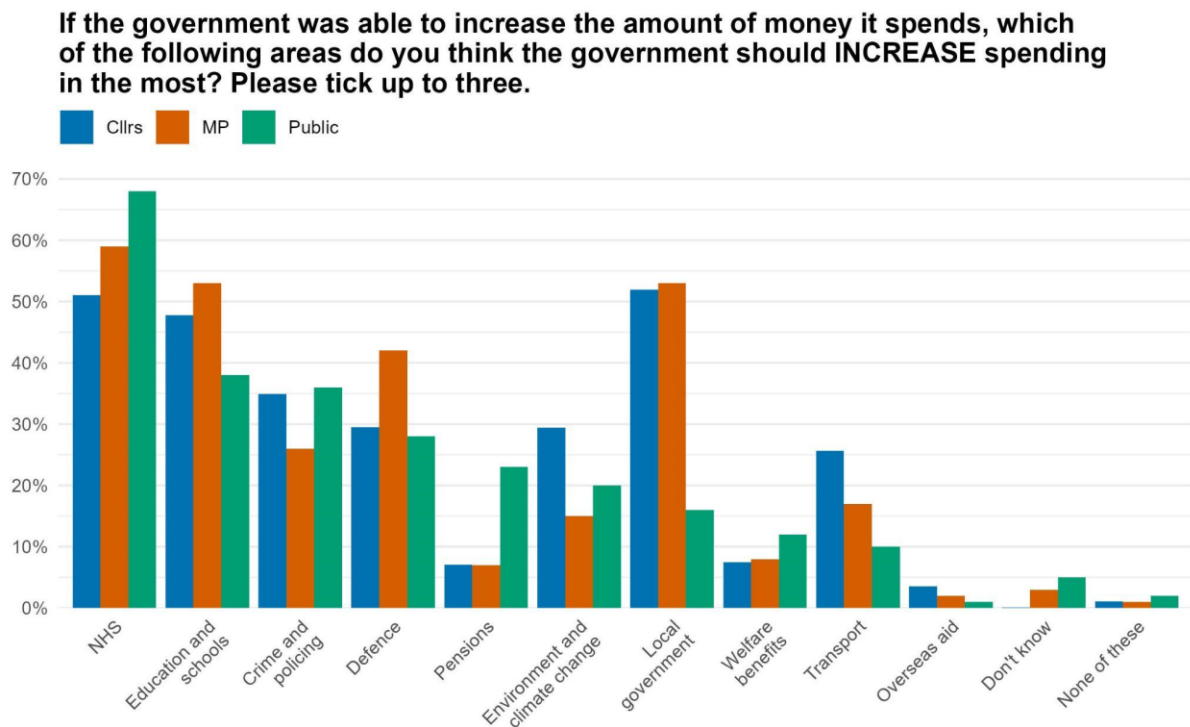


Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'Are we taxing and spending the right amount?', 23 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/are-we-taxing-and-spending-the-right-amount> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 3 highlights that, when presented with different options on the balance between taxation and public spending, both MPs and the public are relatively divided in their views. However, the MPs surveyed are more inclined than the public to believe that the government gets 'the balance about right', and that the government taxes too little and spends too little on services. The public are more attracted to the idea that government taxes too much and spend too much than MPs.

An additional point of contrast is the high level of support among local councillors for greater taxation and spending (perhaps in response to their experiences of squeezed local government finances), and the low level of public support for this idea. The public are also more supportive of the idea that the government taxes too much and spends too much than local councillors are.

Figure 4 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Allocation of Government Spending



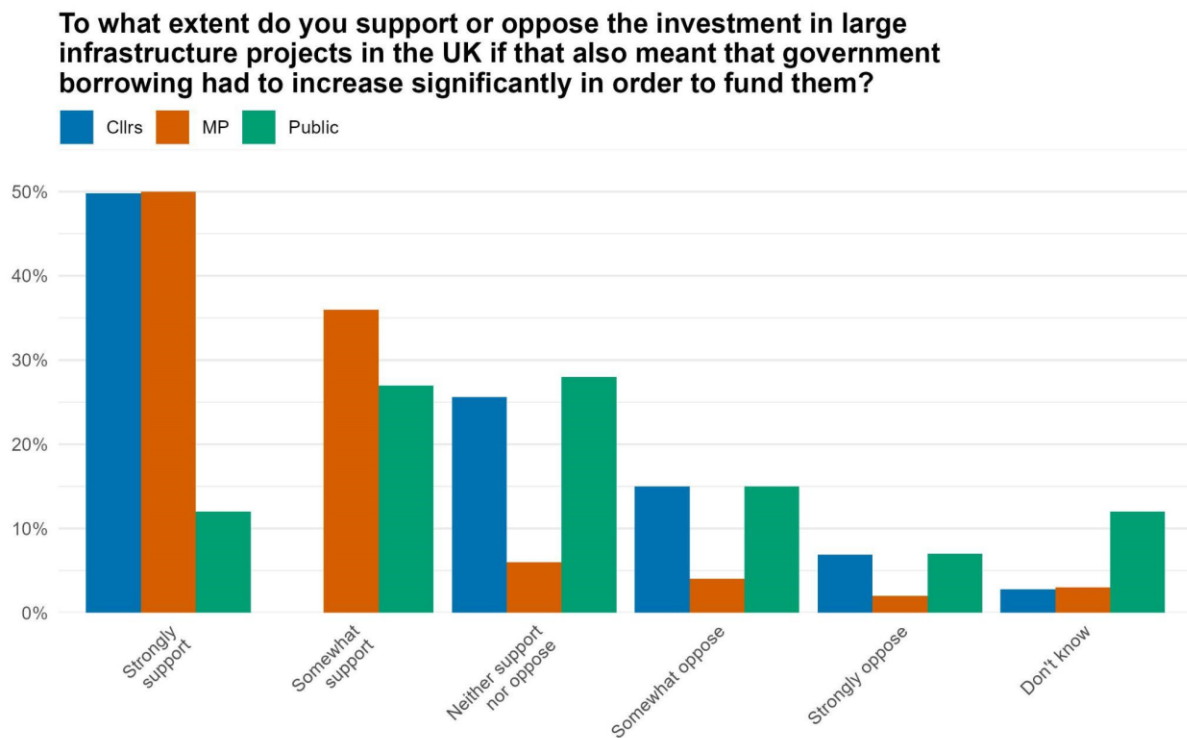
Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'What sector should the UK government spend more on?', 25 November 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/society/trackers/what-sector-should-the-uk-government-spend-more-on> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 4 shows that MPs and the public generally prioritise similar areas for spending increases, with some differences of opinion too. Even though the NHS is the most popular spending priority for MPs, this is still outstripped by the public's enthusiasm for investment in this area (who also pick the NHS as their top priority). MPs also demonstrate greater support than the public for increased defence spending and much greater backing for increased spending on local government (unsurprisingly a popular position among local councillors too).

The state pension 'triple lock' system has been criticised by many as overly generous in an environment of fiscal rectitude.¹¹ It is notable therefore that a substantial section of the UK public would prioritise even greater government spending on pensions, though this idea is much less popular among MPs and councillors.

¹¹ For example: David Maddox, Archie Mitchell and Kate Devlin, 'Reeves must scrap 'bonkers' pledge on pension triple lock, warns chancellor's former economic adviser', *The Independent*, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/rachel-reeves-spring-statement-triple-lock-b2719581.html> (2025).

Figure 5 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Borrowing for Investment Spending¹²



Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - Savanta, 'Budget poll - Savanta - 26 October 2024', <https://savanta.com/knowledge-centre/press-and-polls/budget-poll-savanta-26-october-2024/> (Accessed March 2025).

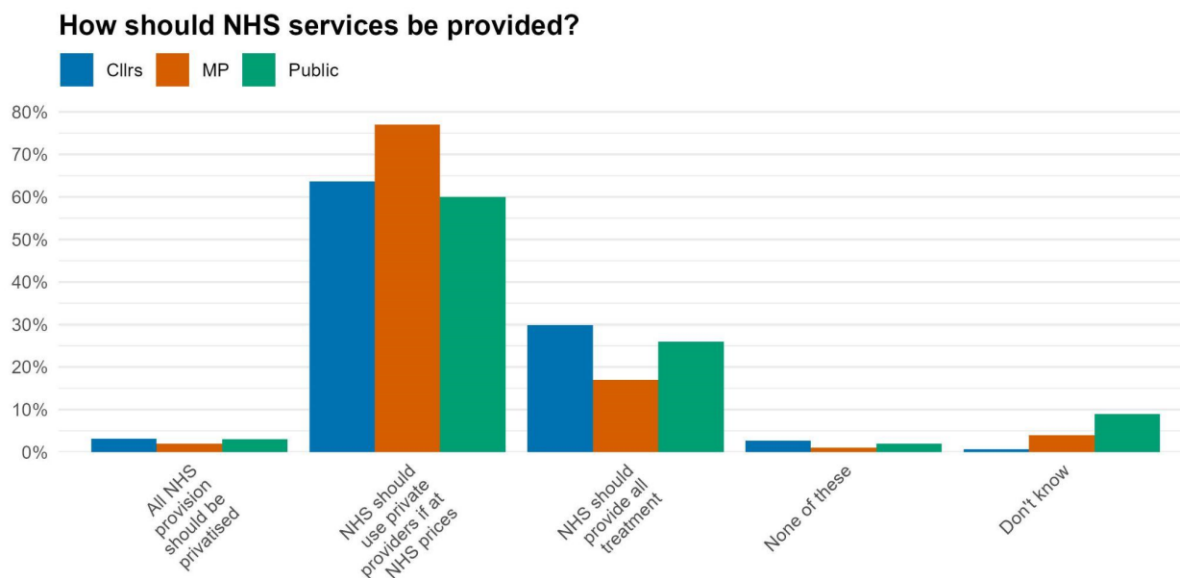
Rachel Reeves became Chancellor following the 2024 general election and has repeatedly emphasised her commitment to restraint in public spending and borrowing.¹³ However, one of her early decisions, as part of the Autumn 2024 budget, was to tweak the UK's fiscal framework to encourage investment spending.¹⁴ Figure 5 details both the public's and MPs' attitudes to the idea of increased government borrowing to fund infrastructure projects. The MPs polled were overwhelmingly supportive of the idea, whereas the public were much more divided in their views. Half of MPs strongly support the idea, compared to only around 10% of the public.

¹² Due to a technical glitch with this question in the councillor survey the 'somewhat support' option was not provided to participants. The results for the councillors on this question should thus be interpreted very cautiously, but are provided anyway.

¹³ Samuel Norman, 'Reeves doubles down on fiscal rules amidst waning headroom', *City AM*, <https://www.cityam.com/reeves-doubles-down-on-fiscal-rules-amidst-waning-headroom/> (2025).

¹⁴ Gemma Tetlow, 'Rachel Reeves has made welcome changes to the fiscal rules', *Institute for Government*, <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/comment/rachel-reeves-welcome-changes-fiscal-rules> (2024).

Figure 6 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on NHS Service Provision¹⁵



Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'How should NHS services be provided?', 9 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/how-should-nhs-services-be-provided> (Accessed March 2025).

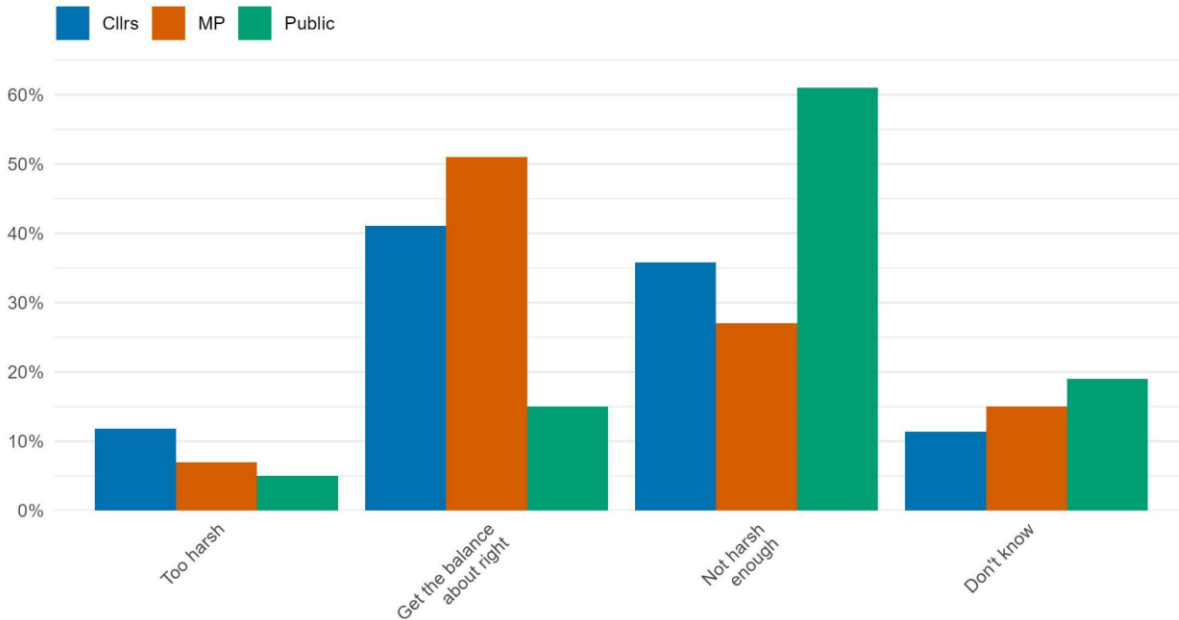
The use of private healthcare providers within the NHS has formed part of the approach of the Labour government, elected in July 2024, to managing the health service.¹⁶ The polling results in Figure 6 demonstrate that both the public and MPs agree with the idea of private healthcare companies providing NHS services at NHS prices. Though MPs are more supportive of the idea, and even less in favour of the NHS providing all treatment than the public. Fully privatising the NHS is deeply unpopular with both groups.

¹⁵ For this topic, the survey of the public asked a slightly different question from the question which was posed to MPs and local councillors. The former were asked: 'And thinking about how NHS healthcare is PROVIDED, which of the following best reflects your view?'. The latter were asked: 'How should NHS services be provided?' The options provided to participants were identical in the MP and public surveys, but slightly shorter versions of the same options were presented to councillors.

¹⁶ Pippa Crerar and Denis Campbell, 'Streeting defends NHS use of private sector but says it must 'pull its weight'', *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jan/10/wes-streeting-defends-nhs-use-private-sector-but-pull-its-weight> (2025).

Figure 7 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Criminal Sentencing

Generally speaking, do you think the sentences that the courts hand down to people who have been convicted of crimes are too harsh, not harsh enough, or get the balance about right?



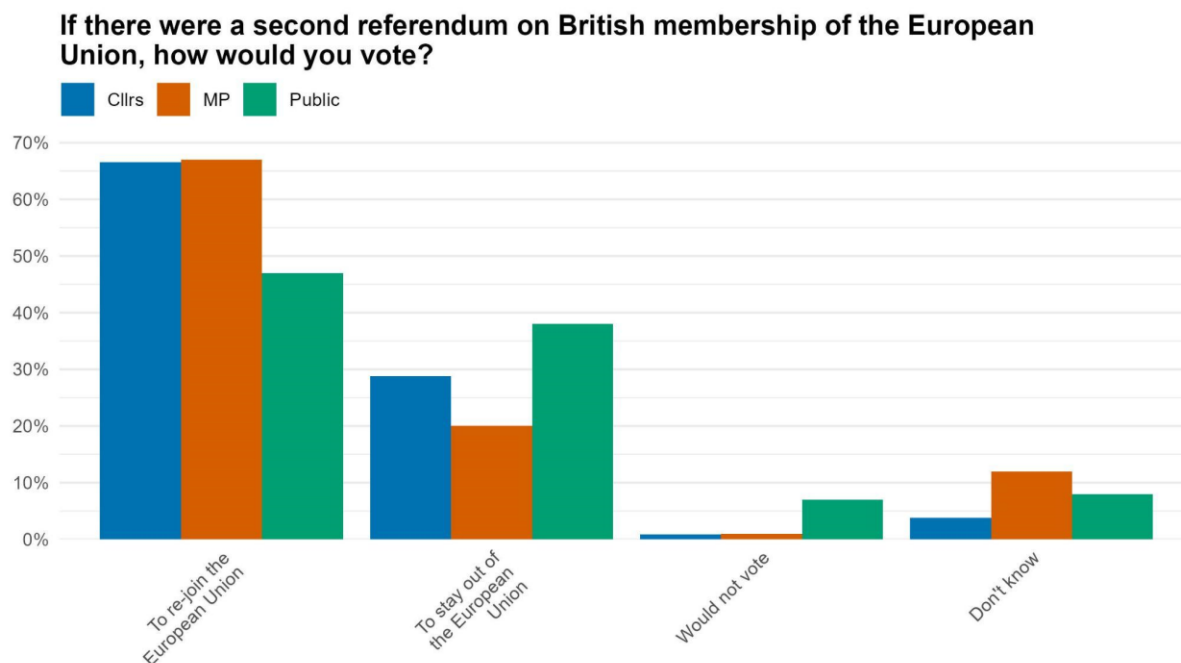
Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'Sentencing for criminal offences', 2 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/sentencing-for-criminal-offences> (Accessed March 2025).

The Starmer government appointed James Timpson as a minister in the Ministry of Justice and set up a review of sentencing headed by David Gauke, moves which have been interpreted as potentially meaning long-term reform to reduce the prison population and place greater emphasis on rehabilitation.¹⁷ Figure 7 highlights a substantial disconnect between MPs' and the public's views in this area with the latter believing overwhelmingly that sentences are not harsh enough. MPs are much less supportive of this position and a majority believe sentences are about right (a position only a small proportion of the public endorsed).

¹⁷ Sima Kotecha and Lucy Clarke-Billings, 'Why Starmer hired key-cutting boss as prisons minister', *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp08y5p52e2o> (2024); Jill Rutter, 'David Gauke's prisons sentencing review could pave the way for lasting reform', *Institute for Government*, <https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/comment/david-gauke-prisons-sentencing-review> (2024); Dominic Casciani, 'Tough on crime' policies behind prison crisis, says review', *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn89771253lo> (2025).

Membership of the European Union

Figure 8 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on the European Union¹⁸



Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - Deltapoll, 'Deltapoll Survey Results- 4th - 7th October 2024', https://deltapoll.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Deltapoll-241007_trackers.pdf (Accessed March 2025).

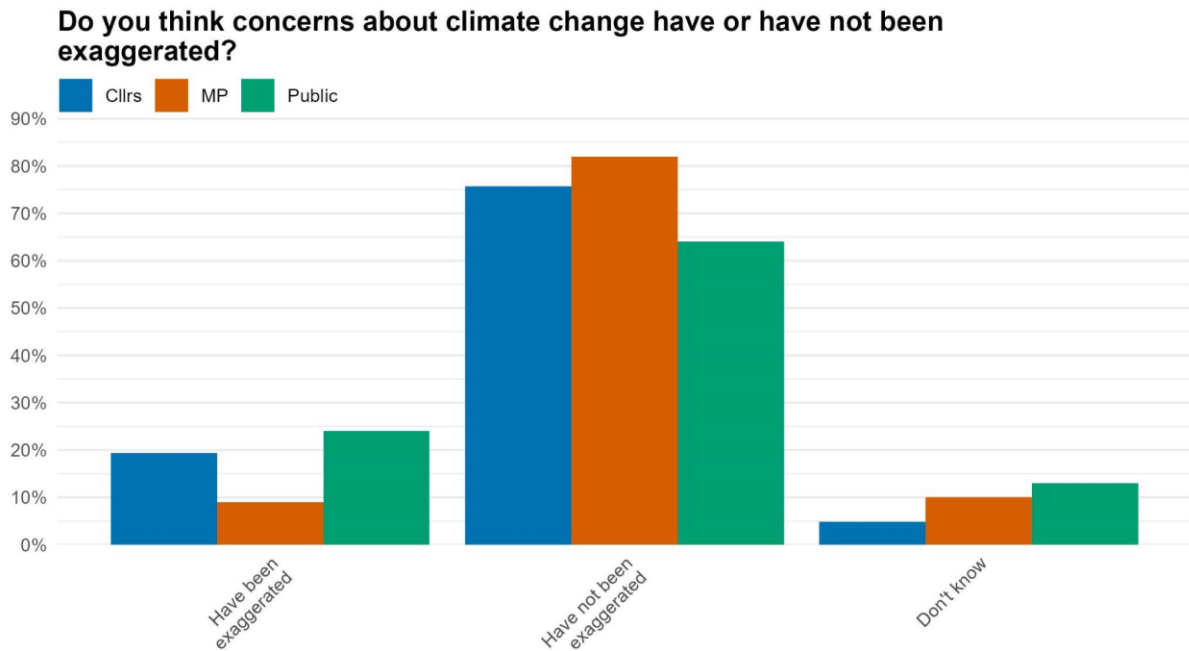
The public's negative assessment of Brexit in the years since Britain left the European Union (EU) has been widely discussed, and Figure 8 details recent polling show that on balance the public favour the idea of rejoining the European Union.¹⁹ It also shows that MPs are significantly more in favour of this than the public, and significantly less inclined to back the idea of staying out of the EU.

¹⁸ When this survey question was run by Deltapoll among the public it was part of a series of questions and included 'And' at the start of the question, this was omitted from the surveys of MPs and councillors. The Deltapoll survey of the public also included a 'Prefer not to answer' option, which 0% of respondents selected, but this option was not included in the survey question fielded to MPs and local councillors.

¹⁹ John Curtice, 'Five Years On: Why Have Public Attitudes to Brexit Changed?', *UK in a Changing Europe*, <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/five-years-on-why-have-public-attitudes-to-brexite-changed/> (2025).

Climate Change

Figure 9 - Cllr, MP and Public Views on Climate Change²⁰



Sources: MP and Councillor Data - See Appendices; Data on the Public - YouGov, 'Are concerns around climate change exaggerated?', 11 November 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/are-concerns-around-climate-change-exaggerated> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 9 details results of an indicator for concern about climate change. There are similar dynamics seen among both groups with MPs and the public clearly endorsing the view that concerns about climate change have not been exaggerated, and the perception that they have been exaggerated is a minority view among both groups. MPs exhibit even greater levels of concern about climate change than the public.

These results reflect other MP-public polling since the July 2024 election, for example there is clear support for the UK's net zero target among MPs and the public, but the former are more supportive.²¹ MPs were shown to be even more inclined than the public to endorse the idea that expanding renewable energy is the best way to ensure energy security, and that it will cost too much not to tackle climate change now.²² Separate polling has also

²⁰ Slightly shortened versions of the options were presented in the councillor survey. The options in the MP and public survey were identical.

²¹ Climate Barometer, 'Opinion Trackers', <https://climatebarometer.org/climate-barometer-trackers/> (Accessed March 2025).

²² Climate Barometer, 'MP polling: Is this the greenest parliament ever?', 2024, <https://climatebarometer.org/mp-polling-is-this-the-greenest-parliament-ever/> (Accessed March 2025).

shown MPs to be more willing to prioritise the environment over economic growth than the public.²³

²³ Ipsos, 'Ipsos: Priorities for economic growth among MPs and the public', <https://www.ipsos.com/en-uk/new-ipsos-survey-shows-divides-between-mps-and-public-priorities-economic-growth> (2025).

Discussion

Similarities and Differences

This report has detailed the results of polling questions which tested the attitudes of MPs, local councillors and the public to a series of topical policy issues. Looking at the answers given by MPs and the public, while there are a series of notable differences in opinion, the overall picture is one of similarity. There are very few topics on which MPs and the public are diametrically opposed in their views. For a lot of the issues investigated, there are majorities or pluralities among both MPs and the public in favour of the same position even if a larger proportion of one group support a certain position than the other group. In the academic jargon, this means that our survey results demonstrate significant congruence between MPs and the public on the policy issues examined.²⁴

The results of the survey of councillors is also broadly a story of congruence with MPs and the public. While there are some interesting points of difference in the views of councillors compared to the other two groups, across the issues tested there is significant agreement among all three sets of actors.

There are also areas of disagreement (or incongruence) which stand out. Firstly, the public exhibit more socially authoritarian attitudes than MPs to immigration and crime. Secondly, MPs exhibit more favourable attitudes to increased housebuilding than both local councillors and the public. Thirdly, a significantly larger proportion of the public believe that the government taxes and spends too much, than both local councillors and MPs, and local councillors are more supportive of the idea that the government should tax and spend more than both MPs and the public. The public are also more wary of the idea of increasing government borrowing to fund infrastructure projects than MPs.

Finally, there are some different views when it comes to what areas the government should prioritise for public spending. While the NHS is a clear favourite among MPs, an even greater proportion of the public selected this option. There is a stark difference between the very high proportion of support for increasing spending on local government among MPs and councillors, and the much lower level priority it is given by the public. The polling also found MPs to be keener to prioritise defence spending than the public.

²⁴ Mitya Pearson and Alan Wager, 'Not so different: Comparing British MPs' and voters' attitudes to climate change', *Parliamentary Affairs*, Vol 78, No 1, 2025, pp.53-76.

Explaining the Results

The overall findings are a broad picture of congruence between the three groups who were surveyed, and a series of specific points of incongruence. The next question which flows from this is what may explain these results. Here, it is possible to offer some potential theories but hard to move beyond speculation and be definitive.

A series of published works have used surveys to compare the views of political elites and citizens in various countries, and across a range of topics.²⁵ Rather than a completely consistent pattern emerging, such research has produced different results with some literature finding similarities between elite and citizen attitudes, and some finding substantial differences. For example, a Norwegian study found politicians and citizens attribute responsibility for tackling climate change in a similar manner, while a Finnish study found a substantial difference in the levels of concern about climate change among political elites and citizens.²⁶

There are a series of potential reasons which may explain why some researchers have found incongruence between the attitudes of political elites and publics. These include the idea that such elites may have distinct demographic, social or values profiles from the wider population, that political elites may be socialised by certain institutions (such as a parliament), and that politicians' strong party affiliations may mark them out from the population as a whole.²⁷ Where politicians and citizens exhibit similar attitudes, it may be that such factors are either not present or are not driving different attitudes. It is also possible that politicians are aware of public opinion surveys on many topics, and citizens' views (as revealed by polling) have been internalised to inform either their genuine views

²⁵ For example: Liesbet Hooghe, 'Europe Divided? Elites vs. Public Opinion on European Integration', *European Union Politics*, Vol 4, No 3, 2003, pp.281-304; Nicholas Allen and Sarah Birch, 'On Either Side of a Moat? Elite and Mass Attitudes towards Right and Wrong', *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol 51, No 1, 2012, pp.89-116; Lisa Dellmuth et al., 'The Elite–Citizen Gap in International Organization Legitimacy', *American Political Science Review*, Vol 116, No 1, 2022, pp.283-300.

²⁶ Runa Falck, 'How Politicians and the Population Attribute Responsibility for Climate Change Mitigation', *Environmental Politics*, Vol 33, 2024, pp.699-726; Lauri Rapeli and Vesa Koskimaa (2022) 'Concerned and Willing to Pay?', *Environmental Politics*, Vol 31, 2022, pp.542-551.

²⁷ Lisa Dellmuth et al., 'The Elite–Citizen Gap in International Organization Legitimacy', *American Political Science Review*, Vol 116, No 1, 2022, pp.283-300; Ursula Hoffmann-Lange, 'Studying Elite vs Mass Opinion', in W. Donsbach and M. W. Traugott (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of Public Opinion Research*. 2008. London, pp.53-63. SAGE Publications Ltd; Nicholas Allen and Sarah Birch, 'On Either Side of a Moat? Elite and Mass Attitudes towards Right and Wrong', *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol 51, No 1, 2012, pp.89-116; Bruce Tranter, 'Environmentalism in Australia: Elites and the Public', *Journal of Sociology*, Vol 35, No 2, 1999, pp.331-50.

or their responses to survey questions - though politicians often inaccurately estimate public opinion on policy issues.²⁸

Multiple factors have probably driven the various differences in views among MPs and the public on the policy issues discussed in this report, however, one which is likely to have been important is political party identity. Westminster MPs are distinct from most of the British public simply by virtue of their level of political engagement and party identification, but the Parliament elected at the 2024 general election is also historically unusual for the dominance of one party over the seats held. The Labour Party won 63% of the seats in Parliament in 2024 but this was the most disproportionate UK general election of the post-war period, and these seats were won with just under 34% of the popular vote.²⁹ So the party affiliation of the 2024 Parliament (and consequently the sample of MPs presented here) is not well-aligned with the political allegiance of the UK at large.

This is important because previous polling of MPs has found very clear party-level differences in their attitudes (just as there are often party-level differences in the British public's attitudes to many policy issues). For example, Conservative MPs in the 2019-2024 Parliament were much more inclined to prioritise economic growth over protecting the environment than their Labour colleagues.³⁰ Additionally, a polling tracker of MPs' support for the UK's net zero target, saw a significant jump in support following the 2024 general election, and it is reasonable to assume this reflected the change in the party make-up of the House of Commons.³¹ Therefore the findings that MPs have more liberal attitudes to immigration and crime than the public, and are more comfortable with higher levels of taxing and spending, for example, may be bound up with the Labour Party-skew in the MP sample.

Policy Implications

So far this report has compared the views of the British public with those of politicians (both MPs and local councillors), but there is an additional element to consider: formal party positions, political decisions and policy outcomes. The survey results reveal important

²⁸ Stefaan Walgrave et al., 'Inaccurate Politicians: Elected Representatives' Estimations of Public Opinion in Four Countries', *The Journal of Politics*, Vol 85, No 1, 2023, pp.209-222.

²⁹ Alan Renwick, 'Election 2024: the performance of the electoral system', *The Constitution Unit Blog*, <https://constitution-unit.com/2024/07/10/election-2024-the-performance-of-the-electoral-system/> (2024).

³⁰ Alan Wager and Paula SurrIDGE, 'What do MPs think? expectations, issues and identities', *UK in a Changing Europe*, <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/reports/what-do-mps-think-expectations-issues-and-identities/> (2021).

³¹ Climate Barometer, 'Opinion Trackers', <https://climatebarometer.org/climate-barometer-trackers/> (Accessed March 2025).

insights into the attitudes of the public, MPs and councillors, raising some key points about political debates on certain policy issues.

Firstly, when faced with a choice between rejoining the EU or staying out of the EU, the former is the more popular choice among local councillors, MPs and the public. Thus there is, currently, a stark juxtaposition between these polling results and the formal positions of most political parties represented at Westminster. The Labour Party's commitments in the 2024 general election and its positioning in its early months in government have set it against anything close to reversing the Brexit process.³²

Secondly, housing and crime stand out as policy areas where the Labour government elected in 2024 has seemingly ambitious plans for reform, but the politics of these issues may prove complicated. The Planning and Infrastructure Bill was introduced to Parliament in March 2025 as part of the government's effort to reduce planning constraints and increase housebuilding.³³ As mentioned, the Gauke prison review indicates that the government may pursue liberalising reforms of prison policy.³⁴ In both cases, MPs appear more open to such reforms than the public. It is also notable, as mentioned, that local councillors are less relaxed than MPs about the idea of increased housebuilding.

This is by no means an argument for not pursuing a certain direction in policy. The views of MPs, councillors and the public are malleable in lots of areas, responsive to persuasion and events. On some issues, attitudes are likely to have shifted in the short space between the surveys being commissioned and this report being published. Nonetheless, it is worth noting where politicians are pursuing reforms which the public appear more or less open to.

Thirdly, one of Kemi Badenoch's early moves as leader of the Conservative Party has been to shift it away from formally endorsing the UK's 2050 net zero target.³⁵ This is notable for moving the party away from where polling suggests opinion is among both MPs and the public. Over 60% of MPs, councillors and the public endorsed the idea that concerns about

³² The Labour Party, 'Change. Labour Party Manifesto 2024.', <https://labour.org.uk/change/> (2024); Becky Morton, 'Starmer: Reset with EU will not reverse Brexit', *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg3pxz4334o> (2024).

³³ UK Parliament, 'Planning and Infrastructure Bill', <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3946/stages> (Accessed March 2025).

³⁴ Dominic Casciani, "'Tough on crime' policies behind prison crisis, says review", *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn89771253lo> (2025).

³⁵ Sam Francis and Joshua Neve, 'Net zero by 2050 'impossible' for UK, says Badenoch', *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly3pnjy4o> (2025).

climate change have not been exaggerated. Other polling has found that only around 5% of MPs oppose the UK's net zero target, and only around a fifth of the public oppose it.³⁶

Finally, the early months of the Labour government have been marked by debates about how to manage the UK's public finances and where to allocate limited public spending resources.³⁷ It is notable that many of the early government decisions on spending prioritisation match up very neatly with the polling results presented here.

The autumn 2024 budget allocated additional funding to the NHS which compares very generously to the government's approach to other areas of government spending.³⁸ This action matches MPs' and the public's top priority (the NHS) for increased spending when presented with a range of options. Additionally, the government's reductions in funding for welfare benefits and overseas aid during the early months of 2025 reflect the very low level of support for these areas as priorities for increased spending among both MPs and the public.³⁹

There are also some areas where decisions made on spending by the government match up less neatly with the polling presented in this report. Defence spending was increased in February 2025, an idea which found significantly more support among MPs than the public in the polling presented in Figure 4.⁴⁰ Local government finances have long been the subject of political discussion and there are fears that the UK's broader fiscal challenges may lead to the continuation of major funding constraints in local government during the lifetime of this Parliament.⁴¹ In this context, it is notable that local government was the third most popular choice for MPs for spending increases (though the public placed lower importance on it).

³⁶ Climate Barometer, 'Opinion Trackers', <https://climatebarometer.org/climate-barometer-trackers/> (Accessed March 2025).

³⁷ Paul Seddon, 'Spring Statement 2025: Key points at a glance', *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9qjn879lr4o> (2025).

³⁸ Siva Anandaciva, 'What does the Autumn Budget 2024 mean for health and care?', *The King's Fund*, <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/long-reads/autumn-budget-2024-health-and-care> (2024).

³⁹ Paul Seddon, 'Spring Statement 2025: Key points at a glance', *BBC News*, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9qjn879lr4o> (2025).

⁴⁰ Gov.uk, 'Prime Minister sets out biggest sustained increase in defence spending since the Cold War, protecting British people in new era for national security', <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-sets-out-biggest-sustained-increase-in-defence-spending-since-the-cold-war-protecting-british-people-in-new-era-for-national-security> (2025).

⁴¹ Steve Houghton, 'Many councils are on their knees. More cuts to fund defence would be a mistake', *LabourList*, <https://labourlist.org/2025/02/labour-must-not-stall-local-government-reforms/> (2025); David Jeffery, 'Broke and Broken: The Crises Facing Local Government in England', *The Political Quarterly*, Vol 96, No 1, 2025, pp.199-205.

Conclusion

Decisions on policy in democratic societies are generally shaped by complicated interactions between political elites and publics, with politicians responding to voters' views but also often shaping them. This report has presented results from new polling testing the attitudes of Westminster MPs and local councillors from across the UK on a range of topical policy areas, and compared them to British public opinion on the same questions. The data presented here provide important reference points as the various policy debates examined in this report develop over the remainder of this Parliament.

Appendix 1 - Links to Public Opinion Survey Results Used in this Report

Figure 1 (Immigration):

- YouGov, 'Do Brits think that immigration has been too high or low in the last 10 years?', 23 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/do-brits-think-that-immigration-has-been-too-high-or-low-in-the-last-10-years> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 2 (Housing and Planning)

- YouGov, 'Support for increased house building in your LOCAL area', 16 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/support-for-increased-house-building-in-your-local-area> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 3 (Taxation and Government Spending Levels)

- YouGov, 'Are we taxing and spending the right amount?', 23 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/are-we-taxing-and-spending-the-right-amount> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 4 (Allocation of Government Spending)

- YouGov, 'What sector should the UK government spend more on?', 25 November 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/society/trackers/what-sector-should-the-uk-government-spend-more-on> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 5 (Borrowing for Investment Spending)

- Savanta, 'Budget poll - Savanta - 26 October 2024', <https://savanta.com/knowledge-centre/press-and-polls/budget-poll-savanta-26-october-2024/> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 6 (NHS Service Provision)

- YouGov, 'How should NHS services be provided?', 9 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/how-should-nhs-services-be-provided> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 7 (Criminal Sentencing)

- YouGov, 'Sentencing for criminal offences', 2 December 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/sentencing-for-criminal-offences> (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 8 (the European Union)

- Deltapoll, 'Deltapoll Survey Results- 4th - 7th October 2024', https://deltapoll.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Deltapoll-241007_trackers.pdf (Accessed March 2025).

Figure 9 (Climate Change)

- YouGov, 'Are concerns around climate change exaggerated?', 11 November 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/trackers/are-concerns-around-climate-change-exaggerated> (Accessed March 2025).

Appendix 2 - Full Results Tables of MP Polling

Survey Details

- Survey of Members of Parliament conducted by Survation on behalf of the University of Warwick.

Methodology

- Fieldwork Dates: 20th October-16th December 2024.
- Data Collection Method: The survey was conducted via online interview.
- Population Sampled: United Kingdom Members of Parliament.
- Sample Size: 103.

Data Weighting

- Data were statistically weighted to approximate the profile of all UK MPs. Data were weighted by political party affiliation.
- Weighting targets were derived from the electoral results.

Margin of Error

- Because only a sample of the full population was interviewed, all results are subject to margin of error, meaning that not all differences are statistically significant.
- For example, in a question where 50% (the worst case scenario as far as margin of error is concerned) gave a particular answer, with the sample of 101 it is 95% certain that the 'true' value will fall within the range of 10.1% from the sample result.
- Subsamples from the cross-breaks will be subject to higher margin of error, conclusions drawn from crossbreaks with very small sub-samples should be treated with caution.

Question Presentation

- Data tables are shown in full below, in order and wording put to respondents, including but not limited to all tables relating to published data and all relevant tables preceding them.

- Tables for demographic questions might not be included but these should be clear from the cross-breaks on published tables.
- In all questions where the responses are a list of parties, names or statements, these will typically have been displayed to respondents in a randomising order.
- The only questions which would not have had randomising responses would be those in which there was a natural order to maintain – e.g. a scale from “strongly favourable” to “strongly unfavourable”, a list of numbers from 0 to 10 or questions which had factual rather than opinion-related answers such as demographic information. “Other”, “Don't know” and “Refused” responses are not randomised.
- Data were analysed and weighted by Survation. For further information please contact: researchteam@survation.com.
- If you are interested in commissioning a poll from Survation, please contact researchteam@survation.com.
- Sign up for Survation press releases at <http://eepurl.com/mOK8T>
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- Survation is a Market Research Society company partner. Survation is a member of The British Polling Council and abides by its rules: <http://www.britishpollingcouncil.org>.
- Survation Ltd Registered in England & Wales Number 07143509

Table_Q1. Generally speaking, do you think the level of immigration into Britain over the last ten years has been too high, too low, or about right?

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
1. Too high	61 59%	43 60%	11 69%	2 33%	1 33%	4 67%
2. About right	28 27%	20 28%	2 13%	3 50%	1 33%	2 33%
3. Too low	4 3.9%	2 2.8%	1 6.3%	0 0%	1 33%	0 0%
4. Don't know	10 9.7%	7 9.7%	2 13%	1 17%	0 0%	0 0%

Table_Q2. Would you support or oppose a large increase in the amount of new housing built IN YOUR OWN LOCAL AREA?

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
1. Support	66 64%	55 76%	1 6.3%	2 33%	3 100%	5 83%
2. Oppose	24 23%	8 11%	13 81%	2 33%	0 0%	1 17%
3. Don't know	13 13%	9 13%	2 13%	2 33%	0 0%	0 0%

Table_Q3. Generally speaking, do you think the government taxes too much and spends too much on services, taxes too little and spends too little on services, or gets the balance about right?

	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
Base (unweighted)	103	72	16	6	3	6
1. Taxes too much and spends too much on services	21 20%	4 5.6%	14 88%	0 0%	1 33%	2 33%
2. Gets the balance about right	38 37%	33 46%	0 0%	4 67%	1 33%	0 0%
3. Taxes too little and spends too little on services	35 34%	29 40%	1 6.3%	2 33%	1 33%	2 33%
4. Don't know	9 8.7%	6 8.3%	1 6.3%	0 0%	0 0%	2 33%

Table_Q4. If the government was able to increase the amount of money it spends, which of the following areas do you think the government should INCREASE spending in the most?

Transport

Base (unweighted)	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	6	3	6
0. Not this area	86 83%	60 83%	13 81%	5 83%	2 67%	6 100%
1. This Area	17 17%	12 17%	3 19%	1 17%	1 33%	0 0%

NHS

Base (unweighted)	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	6	3	6
0. Not this area	42 41%	24 33%	14 88%	1 17%	1 33%	2 33%
1. This Area	61 59%	48 67%	2 13%	5 83%	2 67%	4 67%

Local government

Base (unweighted)	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	6	3	6
0. Not this area	48 47%	31 43%	10 63%	1 17%	1 33%	5 83%
1. This Area	55 53%	41 57%	6 38%	5 83%	2 67%	1 17%

Overseas aid

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	101 98%	70 97%	16 100%	6 100%	3 100%	6 100%
1. This Area	2 1.9%	2 2.8%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Pensions

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	96 93%	66 92%	15 94%	6 100%	3 100%	6 100%
1. This Area	7 6.8%	6 8.3%	1 6.3%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Defence

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	60 58%	46 64%	5 31%	5 83%	1 33%	3 50%
1. This Area	43 42%	26 36%	11 69%	1 17%	2 67%	3 50%

Welfare benefits

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	95 92%	64 89%	16 100%	6 100%	3 100%	6 100%
1. This Area	8 7.8%	8 11%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Crime and policing

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	76 74%	56 78%	10 63%	5 83%	3 100%	2 33%
1. This Area	27 26%	16 22%	6 38%	1 17%	0 0%	4 67%

Environment and climate change

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	88 85%	60 83%	16 100%	4 67%	2 67%	6 100%
1. This Area	15 15%	12 17%	0 0%	2 33%	1 33%	0 0%

Education and schools

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	48 47%	31 43%	12 75%	3 50%	2 67%	0 0%
1. This Area	55 53%	41 57%	4 25%	3 50%	1 33%	6 100%

None of these

Base (unweighted)	Overall 103	Labour 72	Conservative 16	Lib Dem 6	SNP 3	Other 6
0. Not this area	102 99%	72 100%	15 94%	6 100%	3 100%	6 100%
1. This Area	1 1.0%	0 0%	1 6.3%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Don't know

Base (unweighted)	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	6	3	6
0. Not this area	100 97%	71 99%	14 88%	6 100%	3 100%	6 100%
1. This Area	3 2.9%	1 1.4%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Table_Q5. To what extent do you support or oppose the investment in large infrastructure projects in the UK if that also meant that government borrowing had to increase significantly in order to fund them?

	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
Base (unweighted)	103	72	16	6	3	6
1. Strongly support	51 50%	44 61%	1 6.3%	3 50%	2 67%	1 17%
2. Somewhat support	37 36%	22 31%	8 50%	3 50%	1 33%	3 50%
3. Neither support nor oppose	6 5.8%	3 4.2%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	1 17%
4. Somewhat oppose	4 3.9%	1 1.4%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	1 17%
5. Strongly oppose	2 1.9%	0 0%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
6. Don't know	3 2.9%	2 2.8%	1 6.3%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Table_Q6. How should NHS services be provided?

	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	Dem	3	6
Base (unweighted)				6		
1. All NHS provision should be privatised, with the NHS paying private companies to provide treatment	2 1.9%	0 0%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
2. The NHS should be able to use private companies to provide treatment alongside its own services if they can provide it at NHS prices	79 77%	55 76%	12 75%	6 100%	1 33%	5 83%
3. The NHS should provide all its own treatment, there should be no role for private providers in the NHS	17 17%	14 19%	0 0%	0 0%	2 67%	1 17%
4. None of these	1 1.0%	1 1.4%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
5. Don't know	4 3.9%	2 2.8%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Table_Q7. Generally speaking, do you think the sentences that the courts hand down to people who have been convicted of crimes are too harsh, not harsh enough, or get the balance about right?

	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	Dem	3	6
Base (unweighted)				6		
1. Too harsh	7 6.8%	4 5.6%	1 6.3%	1 17%	0 0%	1 17%
2. Gets the balance about right	53 51%	42 58%	3 19%	5 83%	2 67%	1 17%
3. Not harsh enough	28 27%	15 21%	8 50%	0 0%	1 33%	4 67%
4. Don't know	15 15%	11 15%	4 25%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%

Table_Q8. If there were a second referendum on British membership of the European Union, how would you vote?

	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib	SNP	Other
	103	72	16	Dem	3	6
Base (unweighted)				6		
1. To re-join the European Union	69 67%	54 75%	3 19%	6 100%	3 100%	3 50%
2. To stay out of the European Union	21 20%	8 11%	11 69%	0 0%	0 0%	2 33%
3. Would not vote	1 1.0%	1 1.4%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
4. Don't know	12 12%	9 13%	2 13%	0 0%	0 0%	1 17%

Table_Q9. Do you think concerns about climate change have or have not been exaggerated?

	Overall	Labour	Conservative	Lib Dem	SNP	Other
Base (unweighted)	103	72	16	6	3	6
1. Have been exaggerated - the threat is not as real as many scientists have said	9 8.7%	2 2.8%	6 38%	0 0%	0 0%	1 17%
2. Have not been exaggerated - the threat is every bit as real as scientists have said	84 82%	65 90%	6 38%	6 100%	3 100%	4 67%
3. Don't know	10 9.7%	5 6.9%	4 25%	0 0%	0 0%	1 17%

Appendix 3 - Full Results Tables of UK Local Councillor Polling

Survey Details

- Survey of UK councillors conducted by Dr David Jeffery on behalf of Dr Mitya Pearson and Dr David Jeffery.

Methodology

- Fieldwork Dates: 4th February-6th March 2025.
- Data Collection Method: The survey was conducted via online survey, emailed to councillors.
- Population Sampled: United Kingdom councillors.
- Sample Size: 1757.

Data Weighting

- Data were statistically weighted to approximate overall political party affiliation of UK councillors across the following categories: Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrats, Greens, and Other.

Question Presentation

- The below shows the questions asked to individuals and the responses available to them.

Table_Q1: Generally speaking, do you think the level of immigration into Britain over the last ten years has been too high, too low or about right?

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
1. Too high	758 43%	198 30%	301 92%	101 28%	16 11%	142 52%
2. About right	660 38%	318 49%	21 6.4%	177 49%	78 54%	66 24%
3. Too low	190 11%	79 12%	0 0%	41 11%	32 22%	38 14%
4. Don't know	149 8.5%	57 8.7%	4 1.2%	42 12%	18 13%	28 10%

Table_Q2: Would you support or oppose a large increase in the amount of new housing built IN YOUR OWN LOCAL AREA?

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
1. Support	987 56%	540 83%	83 25%	180 50%	45 31%	139 51%
2. Oppose	594 34%	67 10%	216 66%	128 35%	69 48%	114 42%
3. Don't know	176 10%	45 6.9%	27 8.3%	53 15%	30 21%	21 7.7%

Table_Q3: Generally speaking, do you think the government taxes too much and spends too much on services, taxes too little and spends too little on services, or gets the balance about right?

	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
Base (unweighted)						
1. Taxes too much and spends too much on services.	395 22%	34 5.2%	252 77%	31 8.6%	0 0%	78 28%
2. Gets the balance about right.	240 14%	117 18%	41 13%	44 12%	3 2.1%	35 13%
3. Taxes too little and spends too little on services.	1,025 58%	481 74%	24 7.4%	256 71%	134 93%	130 47%
4. Don't know	97 5.5%	20 3.1%	9 2.8%	30 8.3%	7 4.9%	31 11%

Table_Q4: If the government was able to increase the amount of money it spends, which of the following areas do you think the government should INCREASE spending in the most? Please tick up to three.

Transport

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,307 74%	497 76%	236 72%	258 71%	109 76%	207 76%
1. This area	450 26%	155 24%	90 28%	103 29%	35 24%	67 24%

NHS

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	802 46%	194 30%	251 77%	172 48%	55 38%	130 47%
1. This area	955 54%	458 70%	75 23%	189 52%	89 62%	144 53%

Local government

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	813 46%	233 36%	203 62%	157 43%	77 53%	143 52%
1. This area	944 54%	419 64%	123 38%	204 57%	67 47%	131 48%

Overseas aid

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,686 96%	628 96%	322 99%	338 94%	132 92%	266 97%
1. This area	71 4.0%	24 3.7%	4 1.2%	23 6.4%	12 8.3%	8 2.9%

Pensions

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,652 94%	621 95%	294 90%	354 98%	143 99%	240 88%
1. This area	105 6.0%	31 4.8%	32 9.8%	7 1.9%	1 0.7%	34 12%

Defence

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,317 75%	565 87%	122 37%	283 78%	143 99%	204 74%
1. This area	440 25%	87 13%	204 63%	78 22%	1 0.7%	70 26%

Welfare benefits

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,619 92%	582 89%	324 99%	344 95%	130 90%	239 87%
1. This area	138 7.9%	70 11%	2 0.6%	17 4.7%	14 9.7%	35 13%

Crime and policing

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,215 69%	485 74%	125 38%	286 79%	133 92%	186 68%
1. This area	542 31%	167 26%	201 62%	75 21%	11 7.6%	88 32%

Environment and climate change

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,159 66%	435 67%	293 90%	205 57%	21 15%	205 75%
1. This area	598 34%	217 33%	33 10%	156 43%	123 85%	69 25%

Education and schools

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	916 52%	353 54%	179 55%	173 48%	78 54%	133 49%
1. This area	841 48%	299 46%	147 45%	188 52%	66 46%	141 51%

None of these

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,738 99%	647 99%	321 98%	357 99%	142 99%	271 99%
1. This area	19 1.1%	5 0.8%	5 1.5%	4 1.1%	2 1.4%	3 1.1%

Don't know

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
0. Not this area	1,755 100%	652 100%	326 100%	360 100%	143 99%	274 100%
1. This area	2 0.1%	0 0%	0 0%	1 0.3%	1 0.7%	0 0%

Table_Q5: To what extent do you support or oppose the investment in large infrastructure projects in the UK if that also meant that government borrowing had to increase significantly in order to fund them?

Base (unweighted)	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
1. Strongly support	922 52%	453 69%	84 26%	197 55%	59 41%	129 47%
2. Neither support nor oppose	442 25%	140 21%	100 31%	96 27%	38 26%	68 25%
3. Somewhat oppose	236 13%	39 6.0%	82 25%	47 13%	17 12%	51 19%
4. Strongly oppose	101 5.7%	6 0.9%	56 17%	12 3.3%	11 7.6%	16 5.8%
5. Don't know	56 3.2%	14 2.1%	4 1.2%	9 2.5%	19 13%	10 3.6%

Table_Q6: How should NHS services be provided?

	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
Base (unweighted)						
1. All NHS provision should be privatised	42 2.4%	0 0%	27 8.3%	4 1.1%	0 0%	11 4.0%
2. NHS should use private providers if at NHS prices	1,085 62%	362 56%	262 80%	271 75%	42 29%	148 54%
3. NHS should provide all treatment	572 33%	277 42%	20 6.1%	74 20%	93 65%	108 39%
4. None of these	45 2.6%	12 1.8%	16 4.9%	6 1.7%	7 4.9%	4 1.5%
5. Don't know	13 0.7%	1 0.2%	1 0.3%	6 1.7%	2 1.4%	3 1.1%

Table_Q7: Generally speaking, do you think the sentences that the courts hand down to people who have been convicted of crimes are too harsh, not harsh enough, or get the balance about right?

	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
Base (unweighted)						
1. Too harsh	242 14%	100 15%	8 2.5%	64 18%	44 31%	26 9.5%
2. Get the balance about right	756 43%	316 48%	105 32%	188 52%	59 41%	88 32%
3. Not harsh enough	542 31%	154 24%	199 61%	59 16%	9 6.3%	121 44%
4. Don't know	217 12%	82 13%	14 4.3%	50 14%	32 22%	39 14%

Table_Q8: If there were a second referendum on British membership of the European Union, how would you vote?

	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
Base (unweighted)						
1. To re-join the European Union	1,297 74%	589 90%	49 15%	343 95%	133 92%	183 67%
2. To stay out of the European Union	380 22%	28 4.3%	261 80%	12 3.3%	3 2.1%	76 28%
3. Would not vote	16 0.9%	8 1.2%	2 0.6%	3 0.8%	1 0.7%	2 0.7%
4. Don't know	64 3.6%	27 4.1%	14 4.3%	3 0.8%	7 4.9%	13 4.7%

Table_Q9: Do you think concerns about climate change have or have not been exaggerated?

	Overall 1757	Labour 652	Conservative 326	Lib Dem 361	Green 144	Other 274
Base (unweighted)						
1. Have been exaggerated	258 15%	20 3.1%	165 51%	12 3.3%	0 0%	61 22%
2. Have not been exaggerated	1,423 81%	612 94%	131 40%	333 92%	144 100%	203 74%
3. Don't know	76 4.3%	20 3.1%	30 9.2%	16 4.4%	0 0%	10 3.6%

Appendix 4 - About the Authors

This report was compiled by Dr Mitya Pearson and Dr David Jeffery. Mitya is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Politics and International Studies at the University of Warwick. David is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics at the University of Liverpool.

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