

Public attitudes towards government

Methodology: Savanta interviewed 2,275 UK adults aged 18+ online between 31<sup>st</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023. Data were weighted to be representative of the UK by age, sex, region, and social grade.

Savanta previously interviewed 2,169 UK adults aged 18+ online between 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

**Q1. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 = not at all confident and 5 = very confident, how confident are you that national politicians are able to meet the challenges facing the UK at the moment?** Base: All UK adults in March/April (n=2,275) February (n=2,169)

	Feb	Mar/Apr	Change
1 – Not at all confident	32%	27%	-5
2	20%	20%	0
3	27%	29%	+2
4	13%	14%	+1
5 – Very confident	6%	7%	+1
Don't know	3%	2%	-1
<b>NET: Confident</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>+3</b>
<b>NET: Not confident</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>-5</b>

- Just under half (47%) of UK adults say they are **not** confident that national politicians are able to meet the challenges facing the UK at the moment, whilst only one in five (21%) UK adults say they are confident that they are able to meet the challenges.
- Those who say they are **not** confident that national politicians are able to meet the challenges facing the UK at the moment has decreased by 5 percentage points since February.
- UK adults aged 55+ are the most likely to be not confident that national politicians are able to meet the challenges facing the UK at the moment (56% vs. 37% of 18–34-year-olds and 47% of 35–54-year-olds).
- Over half (56%) of 2019 Labour voters say they are **not** confident that national politicians are able to meet the challenges facing the UK, significantly more than Conservative voters (40%).

**Q2. Which of the following statements best describes your view?** Base: All UK adults in March/April (n=2,275) February (n=2,169)

	Feb	Mar/Apr	Change
In general, taxpayers get good value for money from the public services – health, education, policing and so on – paid for by their taxes	29%	30%	+1
In general, taxpayers do NOT get good value for money from the public services – health, education, policing and so on – paid for by their taxes	63%	63%	0
Don't know	7%	7%	0

- Approaching two thirds (63%) of UK adults say that in general, taxpayers **do not** get good value for money from the public services – health, education, policing and so on

Public attitudes towards government

- paid for by their taxes, whilst three in ten (30%) say that taxpayers **do** get good value for money from their public services. This is unchanged from February.
- At least two thirds of adults aged over 35 (63-71%) say that in general, taxpayers **do not** get good value for money from public services with this figure dropping among adults aged 18-24 and 25-34 (55-58%).

**Q3. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?** Base: All UK adults in March/April (n=2,275) February (n=2,169)

	NET: Agree Feb	NET: Agree Mar/Apr	Change	NET: Disagree Feb	NET: Disagree Mar/Apr	Change
Elements of health and social care should be devolved to a more local level	63%	63%	0	10%	11%	+1
Elements of infrastructure (e.g. transport and housing) should be devolved to a more local level	63%	63%	0	10%	10%	0
I would like to see more power devolved to a local level, away from Westminster	62%	62%	0	12%	10%	-2
Returning more control to individuals and families encourages community cohesion	59%	57%	-2	10%	11%	+1
I would like to see a greater proportion of my taxes raised by and for my local community instead of by central government	58%	56%	-2	12%	14%	+2

- Over half (56-63%) of UK adults agree that the various elements of government, policy, and infrastructure tested should move away from central government, and become more localised within communities, while around one in ten (10-14%) disagree. These figures are broadly unchanged since February.
- Across the statements tested, Conservative and Labour voters were just as likely to agree. However, Labour voters are significantly more likely to agree that they would like to see more power devolved to a local level, away from Westminster (70% vs. 61% of Conservatives) and that they would like to see a greater proportion of their taxes raised by and for their local community instead of by central government (63% vs 53% of Conservatives).

**Q4. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?** Base: All UK adults in March/April (n=2,275) February (n=2,169)

	Feb	Mar/Apr	Change
The management of public services (e.g. schools, hospitals) <b>does not</b> improve <b>regardless</b> of which party is in power	58%	58%	0
The management of public services (e.g. schools, hospitals) <b>does</b> improve when <b>certain</b> parties are in power	33%	33%	0
Don't know	9%	9%	0

Public attitudes towards government

- Around three in five (58%) UK adults say that the management of public services (e.g. schools, hospitals) **does not** improve **regardless** of which party is in power, while one in three (33%) say that the management of public services **does** improve when **certain** parties are in power, this is stable from February 2023.
- 18–34-year-olds are split on whether the management of public services do or do not improve when certain parties are in power (45% vs. 46% respectively), however they are much more likely than other age groups to say that the management of public services **does** improve when **certain** parties are in power, (45% vs. 29% of 35-54 year olds and 27% of over 55's).
- Three quarters (75%) of Conservative voters say that the management of public **does not** improve **regardless** of which party is in power, significantly higher than the proportion of Labour voters who say the same (42%).

**Q5. To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with the following statements?** Base: All UK adults in March/April (n=2,275) February (n=2,169)

	NET: Agree Feb	NET: Agree Mar/Apr	Change	NET: Disagree Feb	NET: Disagree Mar/Apr	Change
In general, I trust local councillors to tell the truth	28%	28%	0	43%	43%	0
In general, I believe that local politicians keep the promises they make	27%	25%	-2	47%	48%	+1
In general, I trust national politicians to tell the truth	22%	20%	-2	57%	58%	+1
In general, I believe that national politicians keep the promises they make	21%	18%	-3	58%	60%	+2

- Three in five (60%) UK adults disagree with the statement “In general, I believe that national politicians keep the promises they make”, whilst one in five (18%) agree that they believe that national politicians keep the promises they make. In comparison, these figures drop/rise to 48% and 25% respectively when UK adults are asked the same thing about local councillors.
- Across all the statements tested, young people are more likely than older respondents to agree. For example, one in three (31%) of those aged 18-34 say that in general, they do trust national politicians to tell the truth, significantly higher than the proportion of those aged 35-54 (18%) and 55+ (14%) who say the same.