

Challenges facing the UK

Centralisation has given the 22 members of the Cabinet, who are the main decision-makers in the government, impossible jobs.

No one could have the time or mental energy to focus on such a diverse and complex set of challenges and make well thought out decisions.

Inevitably, with so much to do, decisions are often ignored, postponed for the next government, or enacted piecemeal – Universal Credit, unsustainable pensions, long-term care, NHS reform and many more.

This list, which is by no means exhaustive, gives a glimpse of the scale of the problem.

International

- Ukraine
- The growing belligerence of Russia and China
- Climate change
- Cybersecurity
- Refugees and immigration
- Brexit

The Economy

- The sheer size government borrowings
- The high level of government spending and taxation
- Fiscal impact of an ageing demography
- Unsustainable pensions promises
- The long-term deceleration of growth

Levelling up

- Enacting decentralisation
- Re-establishing trust in government, politicians and state institutions
- Demands for Scottish independence

Public sector

- Poor quality public services from almost all departments including healthcare, education, policing, prisons, housing
- Lack of focus on simplification, innovation and continuous service improvement
- Low application of technology
- Unsustainable costs of some services such as NHS, Pensions
- Un-joined up services such as health and adult social care
- Growing cost of civil service
- Lack of infrastructure maintenance such as roads, prisons, military quarters