

Dear Colleagues,

2024#2 Priorities: 2024 and Beyond

Thank you to everybody who let us know their Policy Story as part of our last consultation. Having taken a moment to look back, we now want to look ahead. As the Parliamentary session draws to a close and as the Party begins to formulate its next General Election manifesto, we have an important opportunity to make a positive and constructive contribution to the choice the voters have in the coming months.

Make sure that your Conservative Association or Federation has a date in the diary to be a part of this vital consultation—and, as usual, be sure to invite as many members and supporters as possible. Don't forget: 50% of voters are female, so we need to listen to female voices as well. If you don't usually have an equal representation of men and women at your meetings, then **we would challenge you to reach out to and invite female members and supporters in your constituency.**

Please submit your responses to the questions in this briefing paper to CPF.Papers@conservatives.com, using the associated response form published alongside the paper or the online response form provided, both to be found on the CPF website. The deadline for sending your response is 7th July.

We look forward to hearing your ideas,

The CPF Management Team

John Hayward
CPF Manager

Penny-Anne O'Donnell
Voluntary Director

John Penrose
Chairman

Fleur Butler
Vice-Chairman

www.conservativepolicyforum.com
@ConservativePF

Setting the scene

“My Ministers’ focus is on increasing economic growth and safeguarding the health and security of the British people for generations to come. My Government will continue to take action to bring down inflation, to ease the cost of living for families and help businesses fund new jobs and investment.”

(Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, 7 November 2023)¹

Since September 2022, CPF Groups have provided Ideas for the Next Manifesto and have helped to Make The Case for Conservatism—applying the Conservative values of capitalism, freedom and responsibility to the most immediate challenges facing the country: that is, the cost of living, energy security, healthcare and our global engagement (a huge topic that stretches from trade to defence). CPF Groups have also helped the Party’s policymakers and leadership to understand a frontline perspective on some of the longer-term challenges: deregulation, artificial intelligence, transportation and the welfare state. Most recently, we reviewed some of the Government’s achievements together.

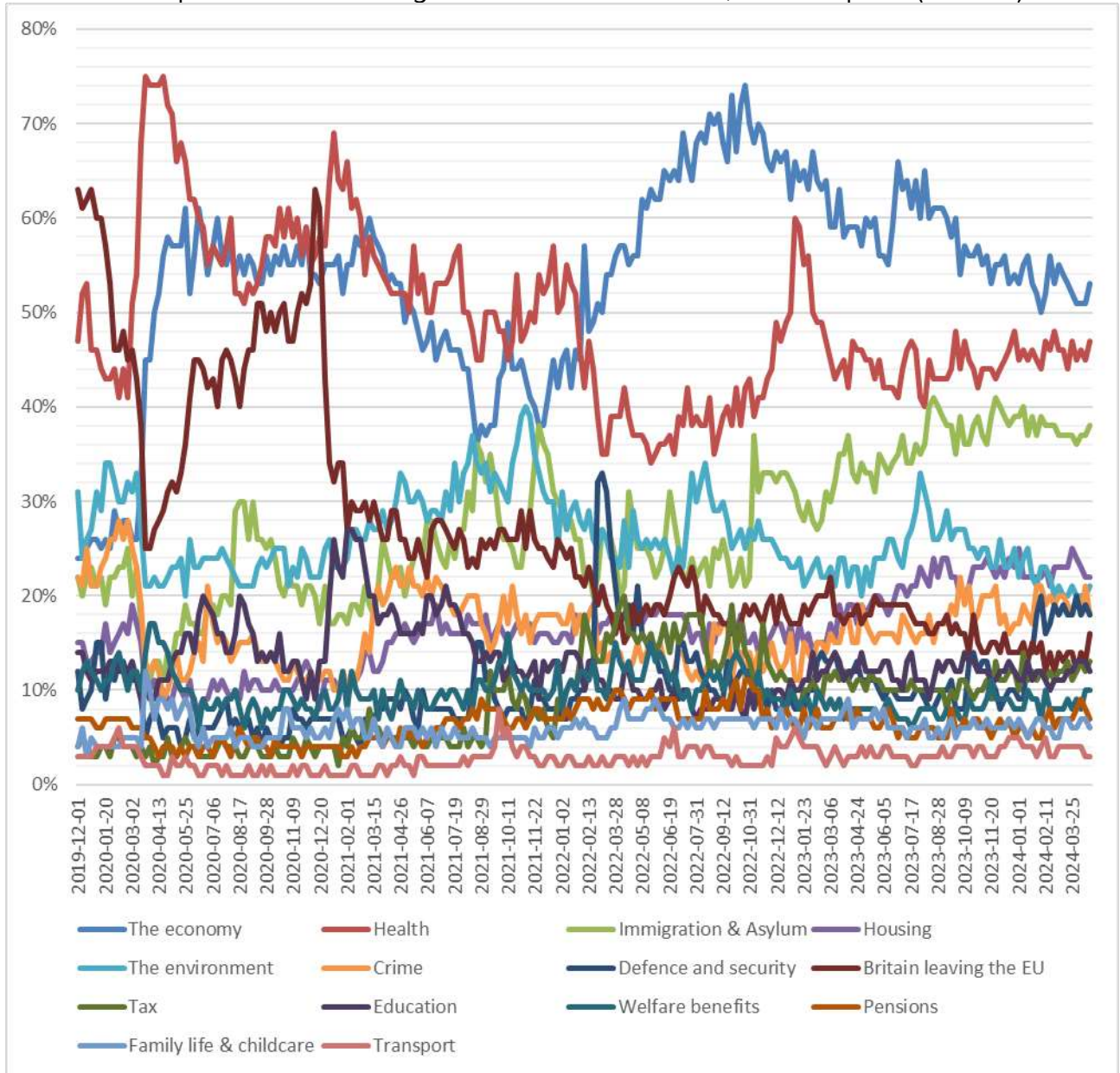
Building on this ground, for this discussion we especially want to hear your thoughts for the near future. Groups might want to consider what issues the wider public consider to be the most important issues facing the country at this time and which government departments spend most of taxpayers’ money (see Charts 1 to 4) when deciding which areas need to be prioritised.

Questions for discussion

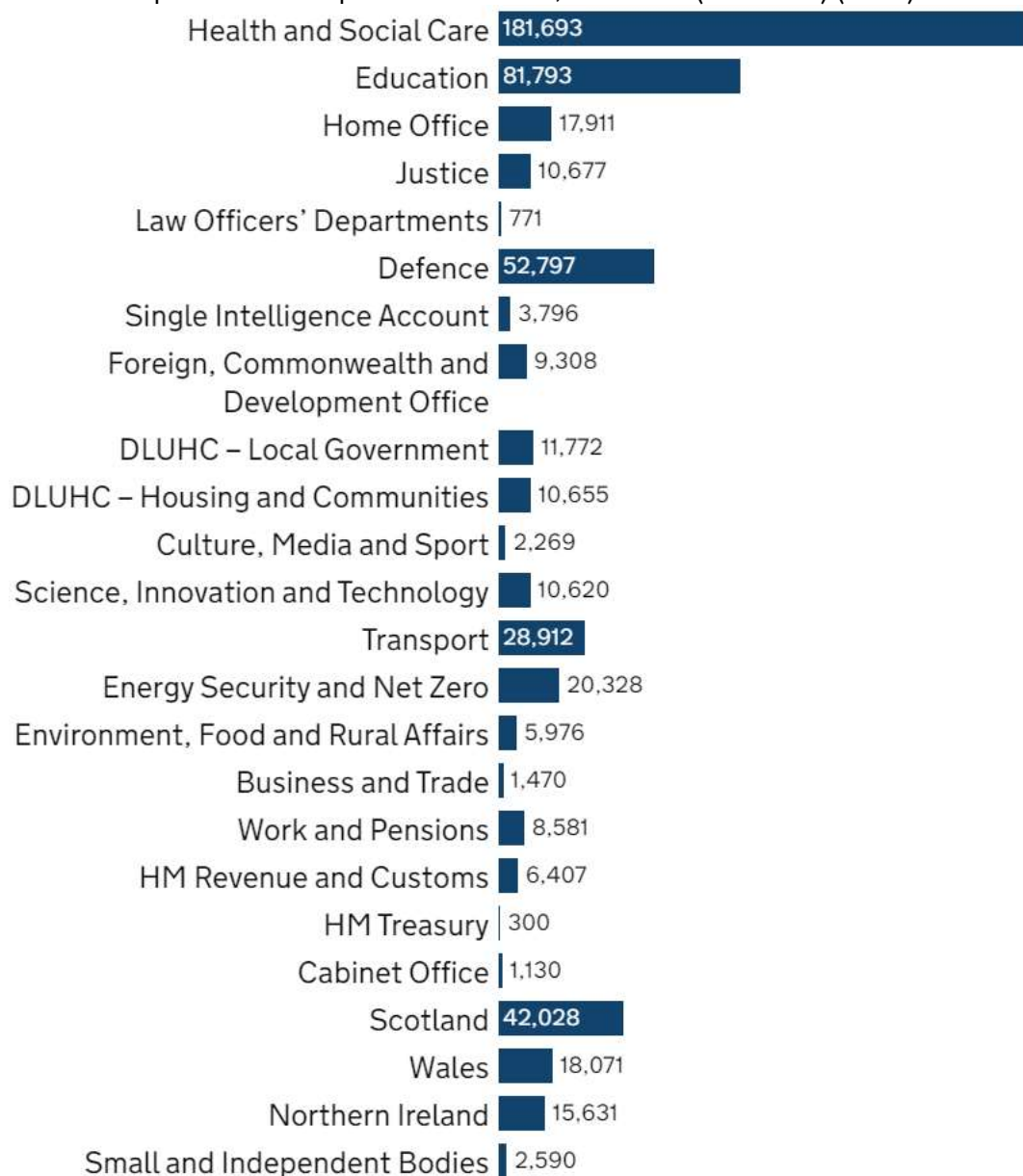
1. What do you think the Government’s priorities should be for the rest of 2024?
2. What do you think the Government’s priorities should be beyond the General Election?
3. Is there any other observation you would like to make?

Charts

1. The most important issues facing Great Britain at this time, Dec'19-Apr'24 (YouGov)²



2. Total Departmental Expenditure Limits, 2022-23 (£millions) (ONS)³



3. Components of the Welsh Government Budget⁴

Main Expenditure Group	Total expenditure*
Health and Social Services	£12.1 billion
Finance and Local Government	£6.2 billion
Education and the Welsh Language	£3.9 billion
Climate Change	£2.8 billion
Economy	£691 million
Rural Affairs	£420 million
Social Justice	£188 million
Central Services and Administration	£337 million

* Figures are rounded

4. Scottish Government budget allocations⁵

Scottish Government Portfolio	Total expenditure*
Health and Social Care	£19.2 billion
Social Justice, Housing and Local Government	£18.3 billion
Finance and Economy	£8.4 billion
Education and Skills	£4.2 billion
Justice and Veterans	£3.4 billion
Net Zero, Energy and Transport	£4.6 billion
Rural Affairs and Islands	£965 million
Constitution, External Affairs and Culture	£347 million
Deputy First Minister and Covid Recovery	£45 million
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	£197 million

* Figures are rounded

** The Scottish Budget also includes funding for the Scottish Parliament and for Audit Scotland, which total around £146 million.

Sources and Further Details

Cover image: Word cloud based on The King's Speech 2023¹

¹ The King's Speech 2023, Prime Minister's Office, 7 November 2023, <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-kings-speech-2023>

² The most important issues facing the country, YouGov, 22 April 2024, <https://yougov.co.uk/topics/society/trackers/the-most-important-issues-facing-the-country?period=5yrs>

³ Public spending statistics: February 2024, ONS, 28 February 2024, <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-spending-statistics-release-february-2024/public-spending-statistics-february-2024>

⁴ Final Budget 2024 to 2025: Main expenditure group (MEG) allocations, Welsh Government, 27 February 2024, <https://www.gov.wales/final-budget-2024-2025>

⁵ Scottish Budget 2024 to 2025: Your Scotland, Your Finances - a guide, Scottish Government, 5 March 2024, <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-budget-guide/pages/scottish-budget-2023-to-2024-guide/>