

**Methodology:** Savanta interviewed 2,226 UK adults aged 18+ online between 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Data were weighted to be representative of the UK by age, sex, region, and social grade.

**1. Compared to 10 years ago (2013), to what extent do you think that the quality of public services in the UK has declined, improved or stayed the same? Base: All respondents (n=2,226)**

- Two thirds (66%) of UK adults say they think the quality of public services has declined in the UK compared to 10 years ago, while around one in six say they have stayed the same (16%) or improved (14%).
- 2019 Conservative voters are just as likely as Labour voters to say that they think the quality of public services has declined in the UK compared to 10 years ago (74% and 71% respectively).

**2. Thinking about the next government (regardless of which party it is), which of the following approaches would you like to see them take when it comes to improving the quality of public services? Base: All respondents (n=2,226)**

- Half (51%) of UK adults say they would like the next government manage current policies more efficiently when it comes to improving the quality of public services, while a third (33%) would like to see them developing new policies. One in six (16%) don't know.
- Older respondents, aged 65+, are significantly more likely than all other age groups to say they would like to see an approach of managing current policies more efficiently (61% vs. 45-51%).
- 2019 Labour voters are much more likely than Conservative voters to say they would like to see an approach of developing new policies (39% vs. 27%).

**3. How well do you think UK public services are managed by...? Base: All respondents (n=2,226)**

- Seven in ten (71%) UK adults say politicians are managing UK public services inefficiently, while only one in five (22%) say they are managing them efficiently.
- While these figures are slightly more favourable towards civil servants, more than half (54%) still say civil servants manage UK public services inefficiently (34% say efficiently).
- While the majority of both Conservative and Labour voters say politicians and civil servants are managing UK public services inefficiently, Labour voters are more likely to say politicians do so (77% vs. 71% of Conservatives) while Conservative voters are more likely than Labour voters to say civil servants do so (61% vs. 51% Labour voters).

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- 4. In May 2023, the UK government spent £117 billion on paying interest on the national debt over the last 12 months. That is the equivalent to around £4,000 per household in the UK and more than is spent on defence, education or any public service apart from the NHS.**

**To what extent do you consider this to be affordable for the UK Government?** *Base: All respondents (n=2,226)*

- Almost two thirds (64%) of UK adults say they consider the £117 billion spent on paying interest on the national debt over the last 12 months to be not affordable, while only a quarter (24%) say it is affordable.
- Three quarters (77%) of older respondents, aged 55+, say this is not affordable, significantly higher than the proportion of 35-54 year olds (59%) and 18-34 year olds (52%) who say the same.