More in Common

After the Budget

More in Common's post-Budget briefing, 2 November 2026

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Key findings

01	**The Budget has not shifted opinion on the government, but has reinforced Burnham's strengths and weaknesses**	There was no backlash this time: 27 per cent say it makes them less likely to trust Labour on the economy, down from 43 per cent last year. Burnham is seen as trying, but 46 per cent think he does what is popular rather than what is right.
02	**The Budget avoided a 'squeezed middle' backlash, but many think benefit claimants gain most**	Taxes on banks, gambling machines and vape shops are popular, as is the £100 energy payment (70 per cent support). But 23 per cent think the Budget mainly benefits claimants, and just 9 per cent the middle classes.
03	**Britons back small, tangible fixes, but see a gap between Burnham's radical rhetoric and a cautious Budget**	Half (50 per cent) prefer small, practical changes that help sooner. But 60 per cent say the Budget tinkers round the edges, and just 17 per cent think it delivers the most radical economic change since Thatcher.
04	**The Budget leaves unanswered questions on welfare and defence**	Only 24 per cent think the government has a clear plan to cut the benefits bill. On defence, 44 per cent say Healey's commitments fall short of what the country needs.
05	**Most Britons share Kemi Badenoch's concerns about resilience**	Around two in three think Britain is not resilient to an economic shock, a cyber attack or a long power cut. Six in ten say the same about a military attack.

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Reactions to the Budget

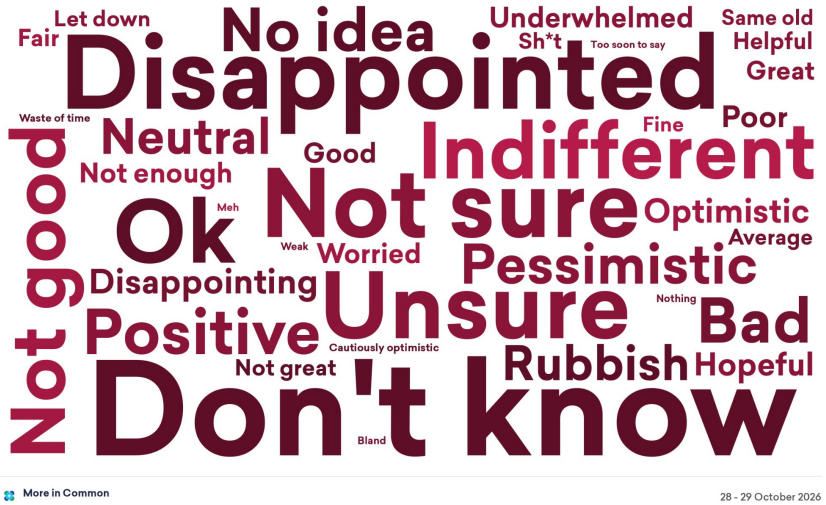
The Budget left many Britons underwhelmed

Overall, the Budget has avoided the backlash of the 2024 and 2025 Budgets. However, in initial focus groups in the past week, voters have described feeling underwhelmed.

People described appreciating the small measures, being convinced that Burnham's government is genuinely trying to improve things, but feeling unsure of its long-term plan, particularly on welfare and defence.

One participant said it felt like a 'stop-gap' Budget.

In a word or two, how do you feel about this year's Budget?



> *I don't know what they've done about really, really key things like the health system, defence, things like farming and whether we can support ourselves (...) So those are really big things for me and I haven't seen anything yet headlining about those.*
>
> Louise, marketing manager, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

> *I think it sounded to me like a stop gap, and hopefully they'll do something bigger next year, but it was a lot of tinkering.*
>
> Graham, retired civil servant, Portsmouth

Energy bill relief cut through more than anything else

The £100 energy payment is the measure that has cut through the most. Focus group participants welcomed it as a 'lovely gesture', but doubted it would make a real difference to their finances.

Apart from the hundred pounds to everybody's household (...) nothing else really jumped out at me, perfectly honest.

Steve, service manager, Portsmouth

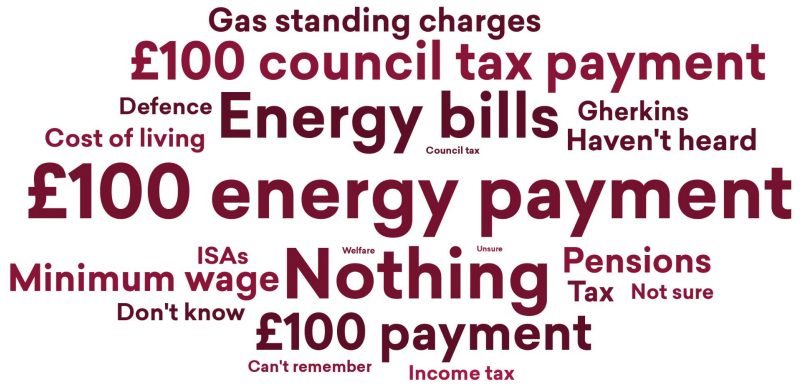
I think obviously it's better than nothing (...) So it's a good thing, yeah, but (...) it's not going to be that much of a difference.

Maya, mental health professional, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

Personally, I think it was just a token gesture (...) millions and millions of households are going to receive this payment, but when you look deeper into it, it's less than a takeaway is what you're actually going to be better off.

Paul, account manager, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

The Government's Autumn Budget was heard this week. What one thing or policy, if any, from the budget have you heard the most about?



The hundred pounds for energy payment, I think in general it's a good step and I think people will enjoy that sort of thing because we've got high prices on gas and electricity this year and it's going to go even higher.

Lucas, HGV driver, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

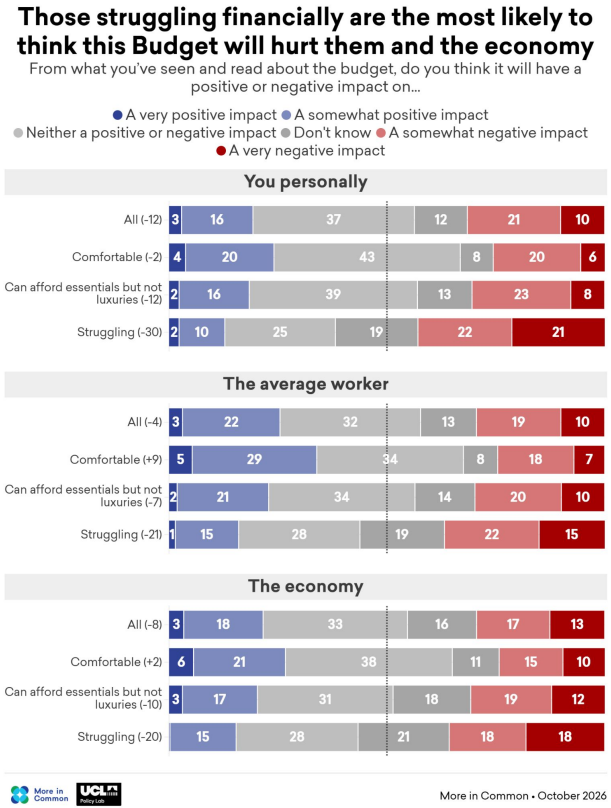
Apathy is the prevailing mood, especially among those who are struggling

The response to the Budget is broadly apathetic: the most common view is that it will make little difference either way.

Nearly two in five (37 per cent) say it will have neither a positive nor a negative impact on them personally, while 32 per cent expect a negative impact and 19 per cent a positive one. Views on the economy are similar.

The Budget has done little to reassure those struggling to afford essentials: just 12 per cent expect a positive impact on them, while 43 per cent expect a negative one.

> *How much shopping can you buy for a hundred pound? Not much nowadays. And yeah, I'm grateful for something, but I didn't really get excited about it.*
>
> Sophie, clinic assistant, Portsmouth



Britons see this Budget as less important to their lives than in 2024 and 2025

This Budget received less attention than last year's, and fewer Britons expect it to change their lives.

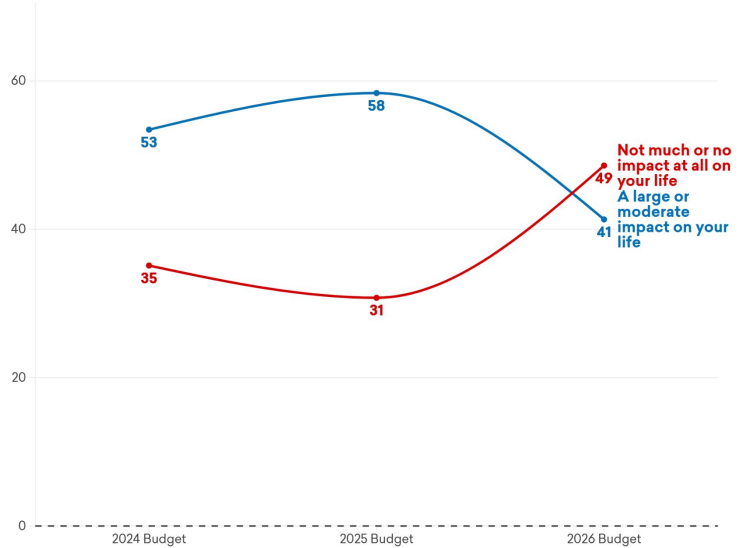
Two in five (41 per cent) expect a large or moderate impact on their lives, down from 58 per cent in 2025, while almost half (49 per cent) expect not much impact or none at all. The share paying a great deal of attention has fallen from 30 to 23 per cent.

That makes a backlash less likely, but many remain unpersuaded that it will make a real difference to their finances.

> *It doesn't seem really much to do anything for me, from what I can see. Didn't touch me at all really.*
>
> Graham, retired civil servant, Portsmouth

For the first time since Labour came to power, more Britons say the Budget won't have much impact on their lives than say it will

And would you say that this budget is likely to have...



Source: More in Common • October 2024 to October 2026

Only 1 in 5 Britons followed the budget closely

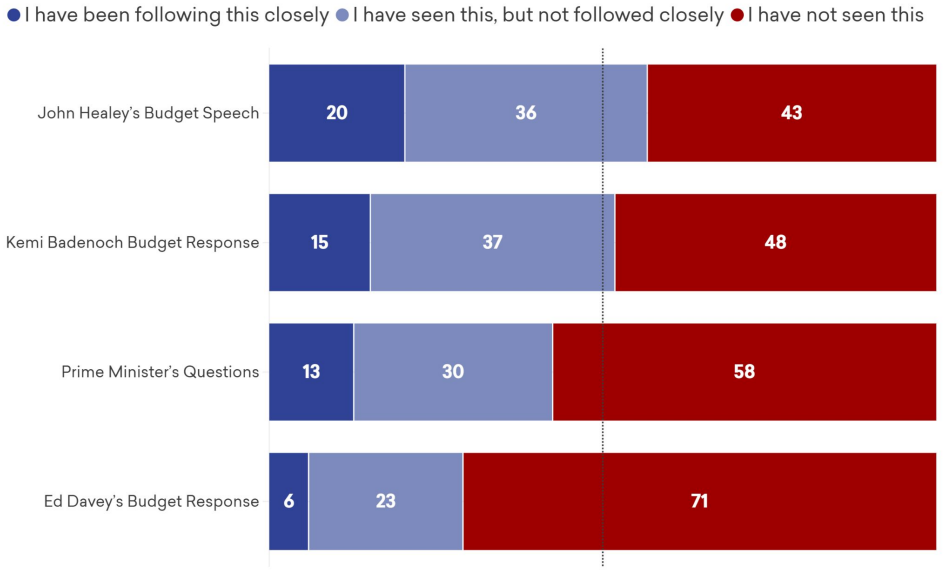
Engagement with the budget was relatively low. The number saying they were paying a ‘great deal’ of attention fell from 30 per cent in 2025 to 23 per cent in 2026.

57 per cent had at least seen Healey’s budget speech, but just one in five (20 per cent) said that they were following it closely. A majority of those struggling with the cost of living did not watch the Budget (61 per cent). 52 per cent have also seen Kemi Badenoch’s Budget response.

Ed Davey’s Budget response got very little cut through. Just 29 per cent saw his response, including 41 per cent of 2024 Liberal Democrats.

More than half saw John Healey’s Budget speech, but only one in five followed it closely

How closely have you been following each of these this week, if at all?



The Budget has not shifted views of the parties

Compared with last year's Budget, Burnham and Healey have come out, for now, unscathed. The Budget has not shifted the dial, although Burnham's ratings are up.

Burnham's net approval has risen from +8 to +13. More Britons now have a view of the Chancellor, and his net rating has moved from -12 to -9.

Healey's performance is rated more highly than Reeves's last year: 30 per cent say he performed well and 26 per cent badly, compared with 23 and 44 per cent for Reeves in 2025. Kemi Badenoch's response was also rated positively (32 to 25 per cent).

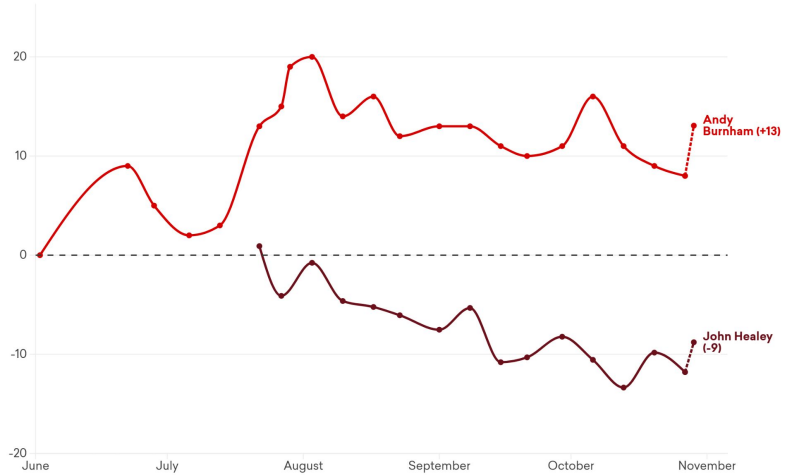
I do feel like they care to a certain extent, but I also feel like they're in a really sticky position.

Hannah, events, Portsmouth

The budget has not damaged Burnham or Healey's personal approval ratings

Net approval rating

For each of the following, please indicate whether you think they are doing a good job or a bad job?



More in Common • Proportion who think each leader is doing a "somewhat good" or "very good" job, minus those who think they are doing a "somewhat bad" or "very bad" job. All figures weighted to be nationally representative.
Last fieldwork: 28-29 October 2026

Badenoch is much more popular with those who watched the Budget

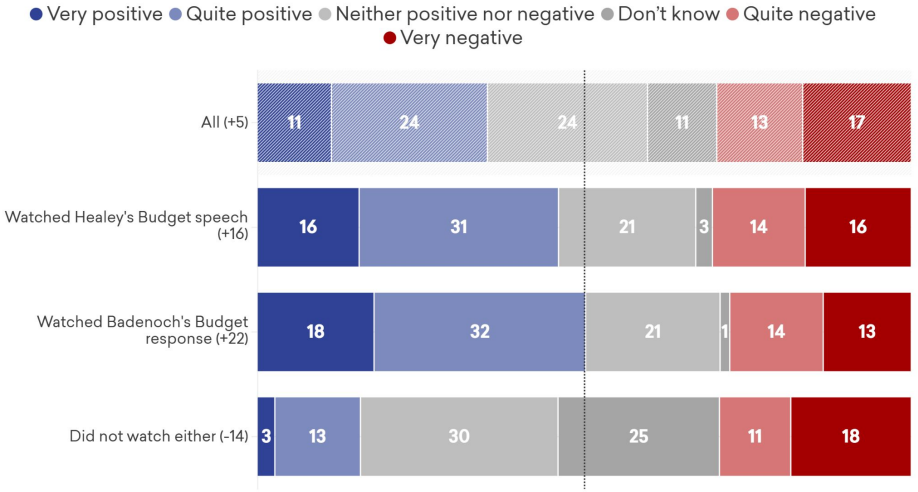
Kemi Badenoch is viewed significantly more favourably by those who watched the Budget, and especially by those who watched her response.

35 per cent of the public have a positive view of Kemi Badenoch. This rises to 46 per cent of those who watched Healey's Budget speech, and 50 per cent of those who watched her Budget response. By contrast, but 16 per cent of those who did not watch either speech have a positive view of her.

It is not yet clear whether this will translate into a lasting poll bounce, although her response to the Budget in late November 2025 was followed by a substantial improvement in her ratings.

Those who watched the Budget have a more favourable view of Kemi Badenoch, especially those who saw her response

In general, do you have a positive or negative view of the following individuals? Kemi Badenoch



More in Common • October 2026. Watched = followed closely or seen but not followed closely.

Britons think Burnham does what is popular, where Reeves was seen to take tough decisions

In 2025, Britons tended to think Rachel Reeves was willing to take tough decisions. They now say the opposite of Andy Burnham.

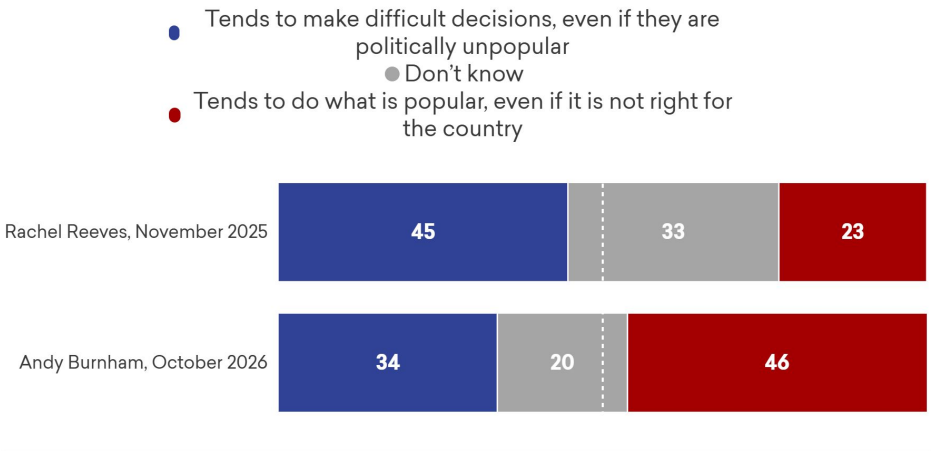
Nearly half (46 per cent) say he tends to do what is popular, even if it is not right for the country, while a third (34 per cent) say he makes difficult decisions, even if they are politically unpopular.

Views of the Chancellor are evenly divided, at 30 per cent each way.

> *He seems to be doing some things that are like people pleasers to try and get little things (...) for quick popularity.*
>
> Louise, marketing manager, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

Britons were more likely to say Reeves made difficult decisions; they think Burnham does what is popular

Thinking about **Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor / Andy Burnham, the Prime Minister**, which comes closest to your view?



More in Common • November 2025 and October 2026

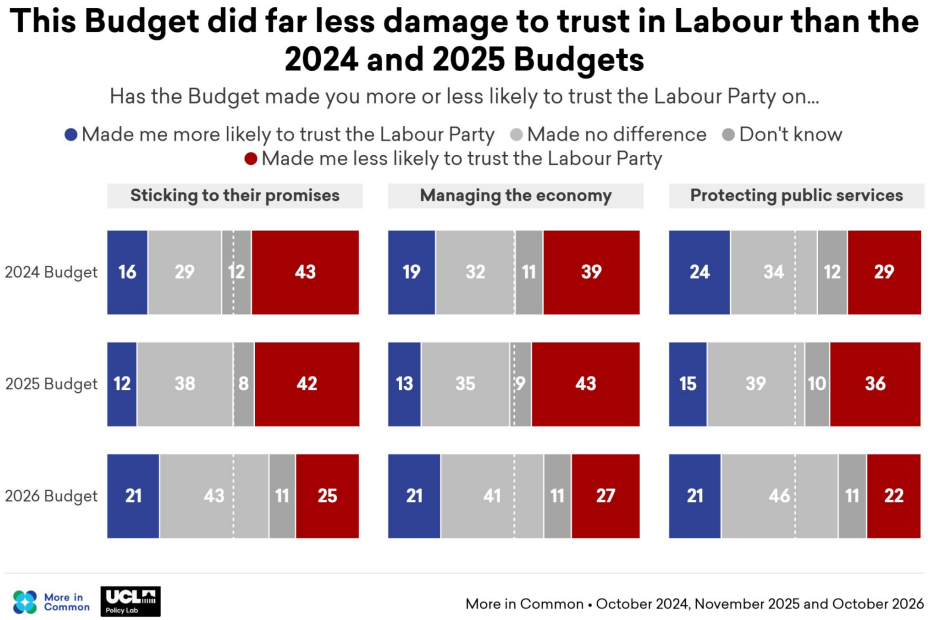
Negativity is far smaller than after the 2024 and 2025 Budgets

The Budget has done much less damage to trust in Labour than either of their two previous Budgets.

Following the 2025 Budget, 42 per cent said it made them less likely to trust Labour to stick to its promises; this year only a quarter (25 per cent) say the same.

Last year, 43 per cent were less likely to trust Labour to manage the economy, compared with 27 per cent now, and on protecting public services the figure has fallen from 36 to 22 per cent.

For most, the Budget has made no difference either way: over 40 per cent say so on promises, the economy and public services.

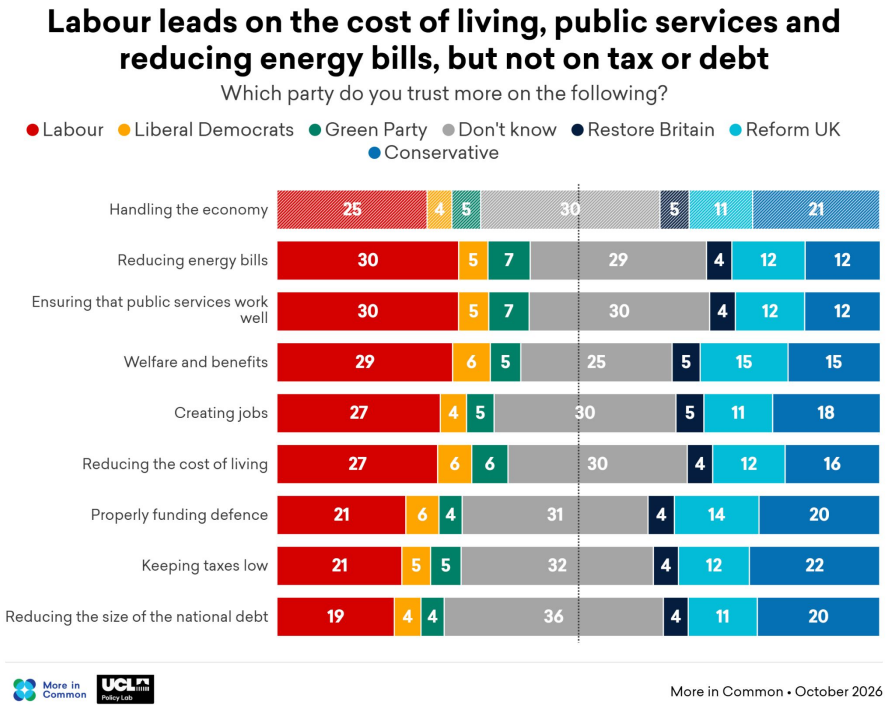


Labour leads on the cost of living, but the gap disappears on tax and debt

Labour retains a narrow lead on the economy overall: 25 per cent trust Labour most, against 21 per cent for the Conservatives and 11 per cent for Reform UK, while three in ten (30 per cent) don't know.

Labour is well ahead on the issue that is most salient to the public: 27 per cent trust them to reduce the cost of living, while the Conservatives trail on 16 per cent. Britons also trust Labour more on reducing energy bills by 30 per cent to 12 per cent, and on reducing the cost of living by 27 per cent to 16 per cent. It also leads on public services and on welfare (29 to 15 per cent).

But this lead disappears on fiscal issues. On keeping taxes low, 22 per cent choose the Conservatives and 21 per cent Labour; on reducing the national debt, the figures are 20 and 19 per cent. On defence it is 21 per cent for Labour 20 per cent for the Conservatives and 14 per cent for Reform.



The public views the Budget as incremental and ‘tinkering’ rather than structural or radical

Six in ten (60 per cent) say the Budget ‘tinkers with small things around the edges’. 14 per cent say it deals with big, structural issues.

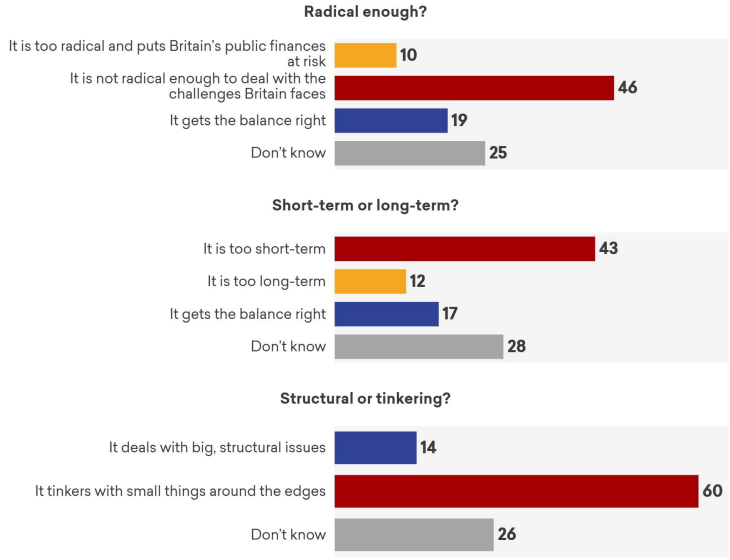
Nearly half (46 per cent) say it is not radical enough to deal with the challenges Britain faces. 10 per cent say it is too radical and puts the public finances at risk, and 19 per cent say it gets the balance right.

43 per cent consider the Budget too short-term. 12 per cent consider it too long-term.

A majority (56 per cent) say major changes should have been included in this Budget rather than announced at a later date. 26 per cent say the government is right to wait.

Six in ten Britons say the Budget tinkers with small things around the edges

Thinking about this Budget, which of the following comes closest to your view?



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Fairness and the ‘squeezed middle’

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Britons broadly see the Budget as fair, but those in the middle still feel overlooked

In focus groups, it's clear that the Budget broadly passed the fairness test: people tend to support taxing banks and vape shops, and by providing broad - rather than highly targeted - support, the government may have avoided backlash from the 'squeezed middle'.

However, with the tax on income from savings, and a perceived inaction on welfare, there is a risk that this middle group still feels overlooked in this Budget.

> *I feel like it's always those people in the middle that feel like we suffer the most because we don't have the benefits of having lots of dispensable income, but then we don't get any of the helps that maybe people that are in the welfare system get.*
>
> Hannah, events, Portsmouth

> *If (banks) are making a huge profit, they're certainly benefiting their shareholders. It doesn't affect the general public (...) They're paying out bonuses of ridiculous numbers.*
>
> Steve, service manager, Portsmouth

> *I just think you pay into (welfare), it's meant to be there as a safety net, and it's not a safety net. And for some, it is a bloody lilo that they rely on all the time.*
>
> Kerry, restorative justice officer, Portsmouth

> *They're feeding off people's addiction to these things, and vaping stuff is bad for your health, so yeah, let them put the money back into the national health.*
>
> Graham, retired civil servant, Portsmouth

Worries about the cost of living and the economy remain very high

The Budget comes against a backdrop of high economic anxiety. More than half (52 per cent) are very worried about the cost of living, and just 9 per cent are not worried.

Concern is high on almost every issue tested, led by the state of the NHS, the national debt and deficit, poverty and welfare spending.

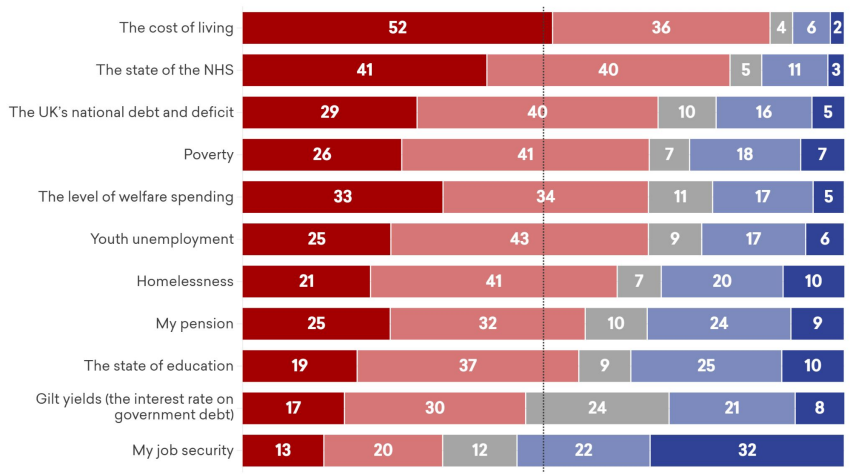
Job security is the only area where more are unworried than worried, but this flips among Gen Z: 56 per cent are worried and 33 per cent are not.

> *We're all floundering. Everything is going up except for salary increases.*

Paul, account manager, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

Nearly nine in ten Britons are worried about the cost of living

How worried or unworried are you about the following aspects of the economy?



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Most tax measures are popular across parties

Many of the individual tax measures poll well, including with Conservative and Reform voters.

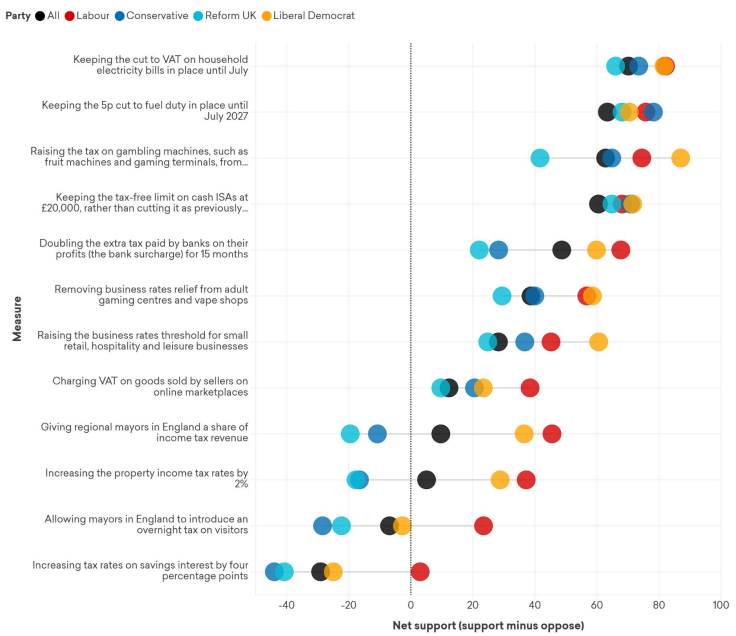
Keeping the VAT cut on household electricity and the 5p cut to fuel duty are popular across all parties, as are raising the tax on gambling machines (+63) and removing business rates relief from adult gaming centres and vape shops (+39).

Doubling the bank surcharge is backed by 60 per cent and opposed by just 11 per cent. 2024 Conservative (50 to 22) and Reform (45 to 23) voters are also more likely to support it than oppose it.

Opinion is more polarised on regional fiscal devolution, higher property income tax and an overnight visitor tax: each is backed by 2024 Labour voters but opposed by Conservative and Reform voters.

Many of the individual tax measures in the Budget are public, including with Reform and Conservative 2024 voters

Below are some measures on tax announced at the budget. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose...



More in Common • October 2026. Savings interest tax asked in a separate poll (31 October – 1 November 2026).

The tax on savings is a potential vulnerability

The one policy that attracted significant opposition was the increase in taxes on saving interest, which is opposed by the public, 48 per cent to 19 per cent.

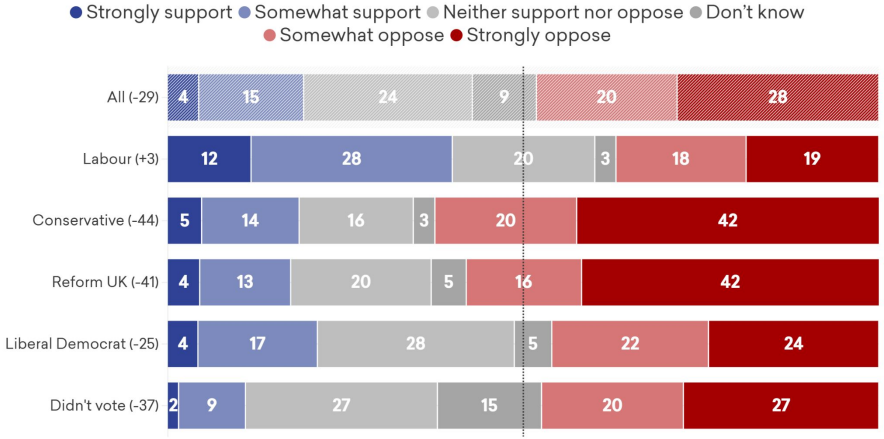
This policy is particularly unpopular with the 'squeezed middle', where 50 per cent oppose compared to 16 per cent who are in favour.

> *Your average person who's got a few thousand in the bank and only get a couple of percent in interest (...) So what savings are they hitting? Are they hitting the average person or the people with the big savings?*
>
> Steve, service manager, Portsmouth

> *It doesn't really feel like income. It just feels like what should be a tiny little bonus and I have to put it in on there and it gets taxed. And to think that would be going up, it does feel a little bit rubbish.*
>
> Hannah, events, Portsmouth

Britons oppose the increase in tax on savings interest by 48 to 19 per cent

At the 2025 Budget, the government announced the tax rates individuals pay on savings interest would increase by two percentage points from April 2027. At this week's Budget the Chancellor announced rates will increase by a further two percentage points. Tax rates on savings interest above individuals' personal savings allowances will now go up by four percentage points in April. To what extent do you support or oppose this?



More in Common • October 2026

Every spending measure in the Budget is popular

The spending measures are also popular, attracting very little opposition.

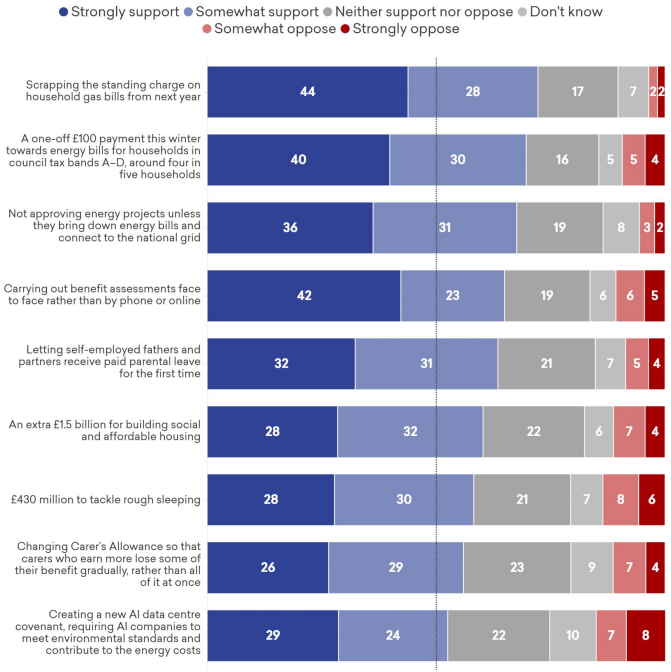
The most popular is scrapping standing charges on gas bills, backed by 72 per cent and opposed by just 4 per cent. Even the most divisive, the AI data centre covenant, is supported by 52 per cent to 15.

Criticism of the Budget does not focus on any one unpopular policy. Instead, there is a sense that the sum of its parts is not bold enough to fix the problems facing Britain.

> *It feels like he's playing it safe and he sort of has to.*
>
> Tom, arts officer, Portsmouth

Every spending measure in the Budget has majority support, led by help with energy bills

Below are some measures on spending and infrastructure announced at the Budget. Please indicate if you support or oppose them, if either.



The Budget is seen far more positively than in 2024

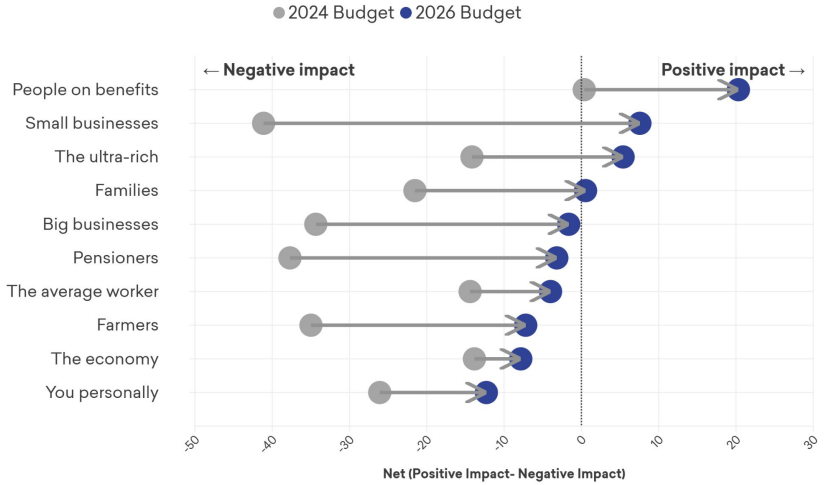
The Budget was received much more positively than in 2024, although pessimism remains over whether it will benefit Britons personally, and whether the economy as a whole will improve.

In 2024, the public thought the Budget would hurt small businesses by 56 to 15 per cent. That has now flipped to 31 per cent positive and 24 per cent negative.

People on benefits are the group the public is most likely to expect to gain (net +20). Expectations for working people are less positive: for the average worker, 25 per cent expect a positive impact and 29 per cent a negative one, and Britons are more likely to expect a negative impact on themselves (32 per cent) than a positive one (19 per cent).

This Budget is seen more positively than the 2024 Budget, especially for small businesses and pensioners

From what you've seen and read about the Budget, do you think it will have a positive or negative impact on... (net positive minus negative)



More in Common • October 2024 - October 2026

Benefit claimants are seen as the Budget's main winners, working people less so

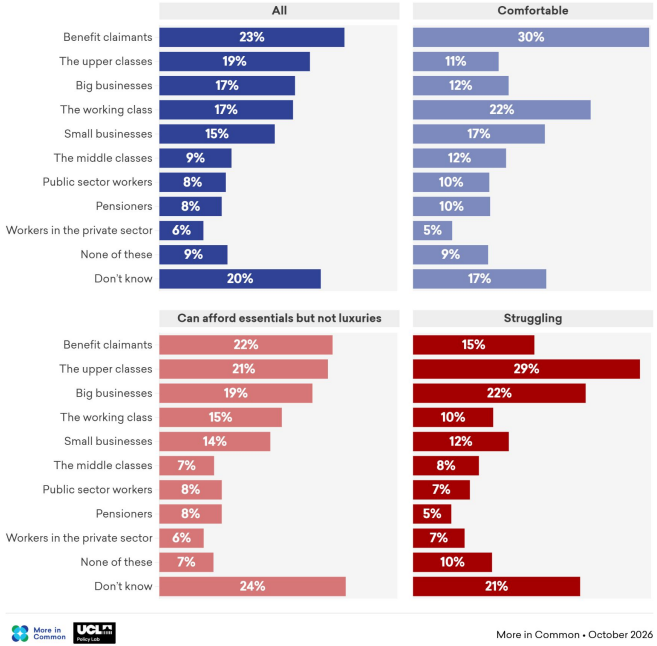
Benefit claimants are the group most often named as the Budget's main beneficiaries (23 per cent), followed by the upper classes (19 per cent) and big business (17 per cent).

Reform (49 per cent) and Conservative (42 per cent) 2024 voters name claimants, while Labour voters name the working class (31 per cent). Those struggling name the upper classes (29 per cent) and big business (22 per cent); just 10 per cent say the working class.

> *There's people out there taking advantage of the system, which I find really hard.*
>
> Maureen, retired, Portsmouth

The comfortable think the Budget mainly benefits claimants; those struggling think it benefits the upper classes

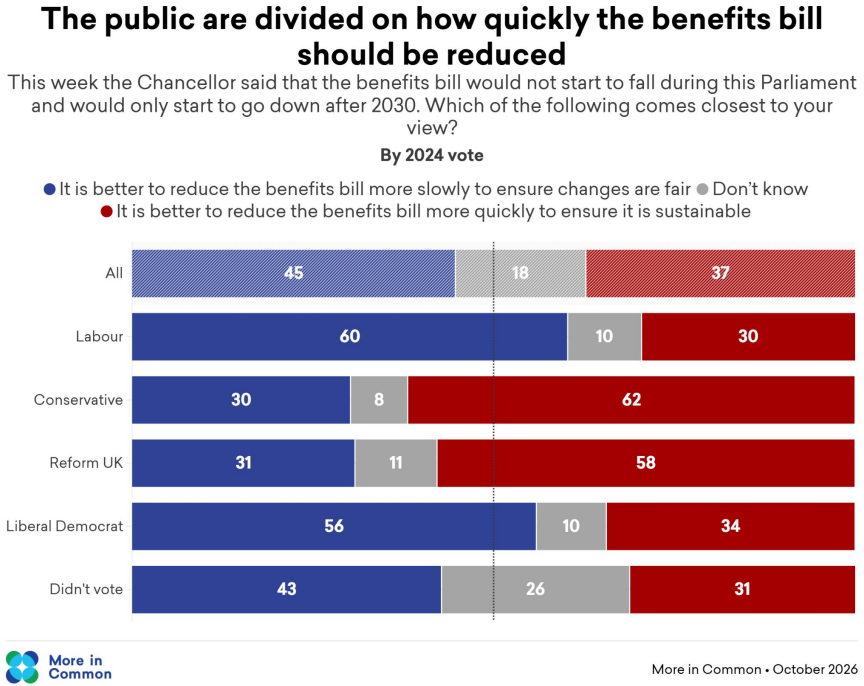
Who do you think the Budget mainly benefits? Select up to two.



The public are divided on how to bring the benefits bill down

There is a sharp partisan division about whether any reductions should be slower to prioritise fairness, or quicker to prioritise fiscal sustainability. 60 per cent of Labour's 2024 voters, and 65 per cent of their current voters, want the government to make slower changes to prioritise fairness. By contrast, 62 per cent of Conservative 2024 voters and 58 per cent of Reform voters want the government to prioritise faster cuts for fiscal sustainability.

There is a gap between the 'squeezed middle' and those who say they are struggling with the cost of living. The 'squeezed middle' backs the fairer and slower approach (44 to 39), but those struggling back a slower approach by a much larger margin, 51 to 23.



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Small fixes or structural change?

Britons like small, tangible fixes, but many see the Budget as a stop gap and want a long-term plan

The British public appreciate small, incremental improvements that can be seen in the short-term. However, the Budget left many wanting reassurance that there is a long-term, structural plan.

In focus groups, some hoped that the small changes would build up into something transformational over time - like chipping away at an ice block. But others felt like this was a 'stop gap' Budget that did not live up to the radical promises Burnham has made.

> *I think it sounded to me like a stop gap, and hopefully they'll do something bigger next year, but it was a lot of tinkering.*
>
> Graham, retired civil servant, Portsmouth

> *What I quite like about Andy Burnham is he just takes things just chipping away at the ice block, just a little thing, a little thing, a little thing (...) I think it's leading to the sum total.*
>
> Nicola, housewife, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

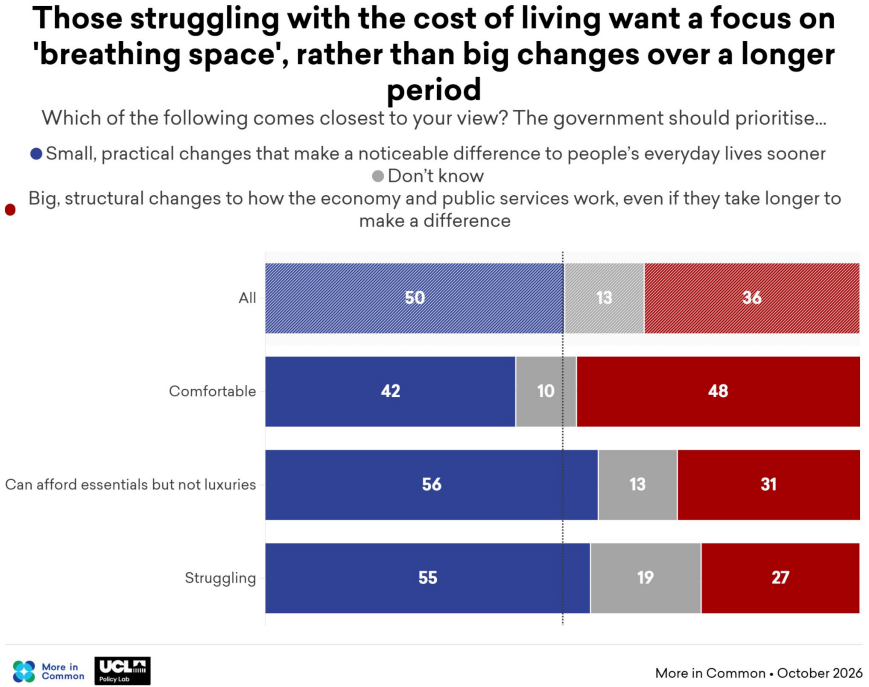
> *I do feel like the small step approach does feel, at least it feels like there is some movement. I agree it's not enough, but I also am aware that they took on a very bad situation.*
>
> Hannah, events, Portsmouth

> *He's been talking about social care and I don't really feel like that got much of a mention. And yeah, he's been talking about nationalisation and that didn't feel like it got much of a mention.*
>
> Tom, arts officer, Portsmouth

Those struggling back the ‘breathing space’ approach

Britons have an appetite for practical, visible change: half (50 per cent) want the government to prioritise small, practical changes that help sooner, against 36 per cent who prefer big structural change.

The divide is economic rather than partisan. 2024 Labour and Conservative voters both lean towards small changes, but those struggling (55 to 27) and earning under £20,000 (53 to 31) back them most strongly, while those on £70,000 or more prefer structural change (56 to 38).



> *I think the small stuff feels tangible, but it doesn’t feel like there’s big changes afoot.*
>
> Tom, arts officer, Portsmouth

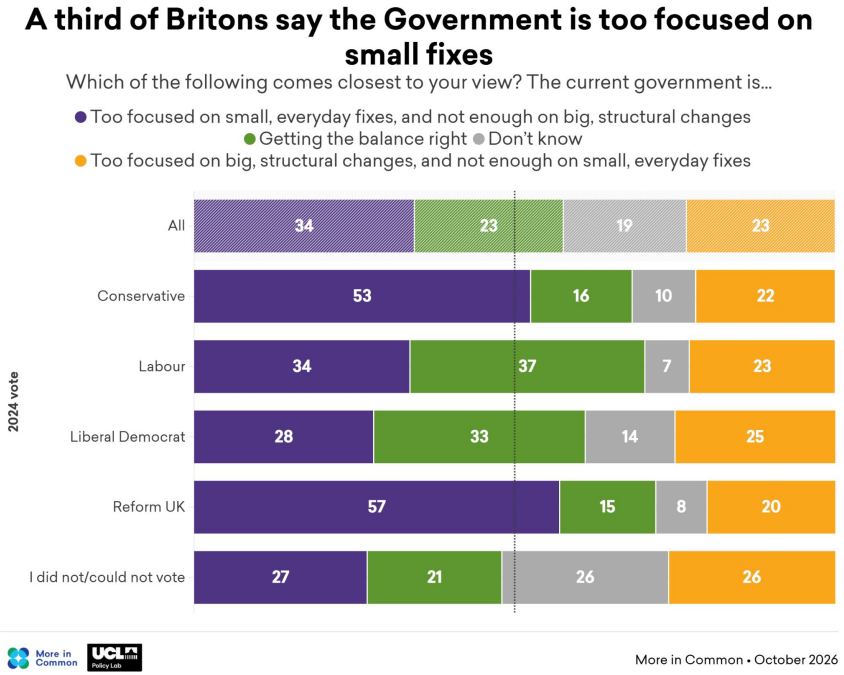
Britons also want to see a long-term plan

Britons want visible, near-term improvements, but they also want to see a long-term plan to deliver change.

A third (34 per cent) think the government is too focused on small, everyday fixes and not enough on big, structural change. Fewer than a quarter think the opposite (23 per cent) or that it has the balance right (23 per cent).

They said about it being breathing space. So for me, that looks like a gap or a short-term solution until other things can change.

Sophie, clinic assistant, Portsmouth

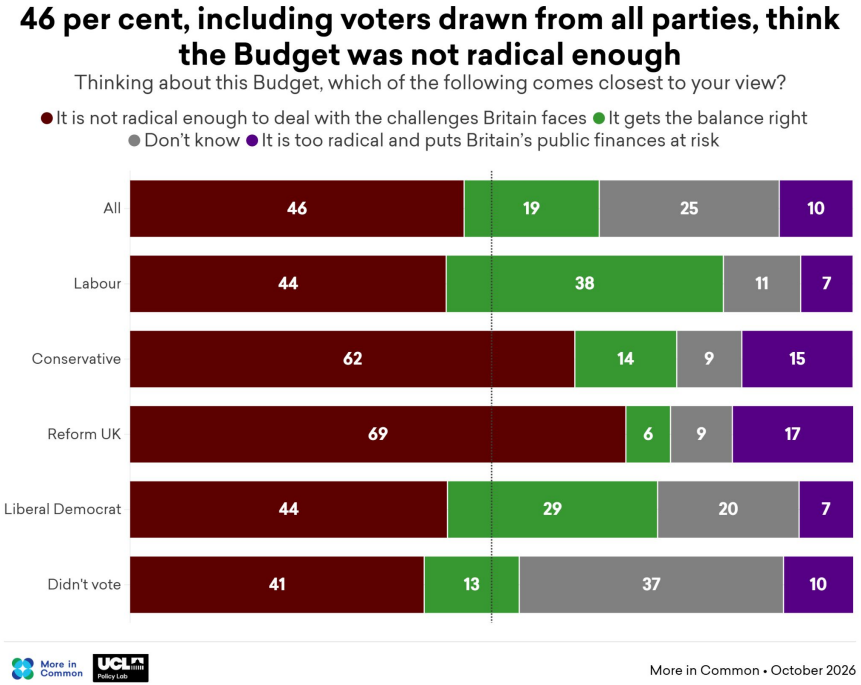


Nearly half think the Budget is not radical enough, and most say it tinkers round the edges

The public views the Budget as incremental rather than radical. Nearly half (46 per cent) say it is not radical enough to deal with the challenges Britain faces; 19 per cent say it gets the balance right and 10 per cent that it is too radical.

2024 Labour voters lean the same way (44 to 38), though current Labour voters narrowly think it gets the balance right (45 to 34).

Six in ten (60 per cent) say the Budget tinkers with small things around the edges, against 14 per cent who say it deals with big, structural issues. A majority (56 per cent) say major changes should have been included in this Budget rather than announced later (26 per cent).



Many think the Budget is too short-term, including parts of Labour's coalition

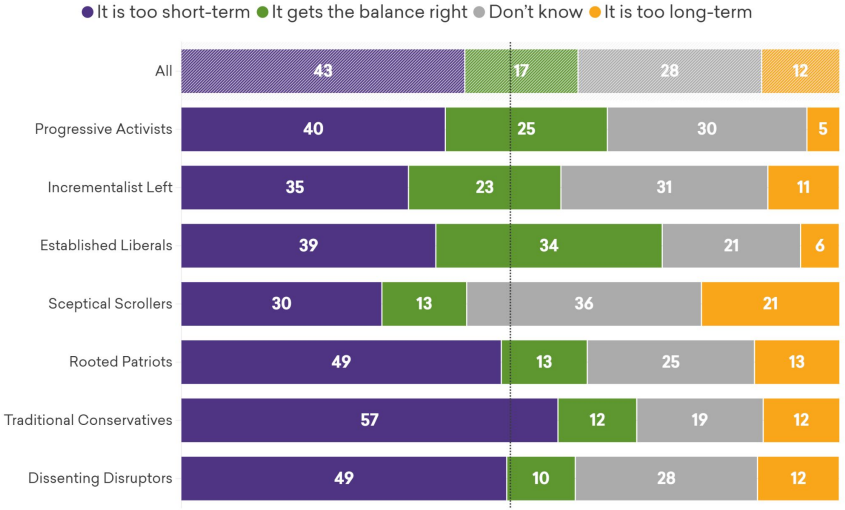
Far more see the Budget as too short-term (43 per cent) than too long-term (12 per cent); 17 per cent think it gets the balance right.

This is a risk to the 'Burnham bounce'. Two in five Progressive Activists (40 per cent), who have returned to Labour under Burnham, think it is too short-term, as do nearly half of Rooted Patriots (49 per cent), a group strong in the 'Red Wall'. These groups want different things from the economy, but share a desire for a clearer long-term direction. Only Established Liberals are more likely to say the budget got it right or was too long term than too short term.

> *The small changes are for the short term, not the longer term. An example, the hundred pounds to us will literally go in the blink of an eye.*
>
> Kerry, restorative justice officer, Portsmouth

Both progressives and conservatives think that the Budget was too focused on the short term

Thinking about this Budget, which of the following comes closest to your view?



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The Budget is seen to fall short of Burnham's promises on every issue

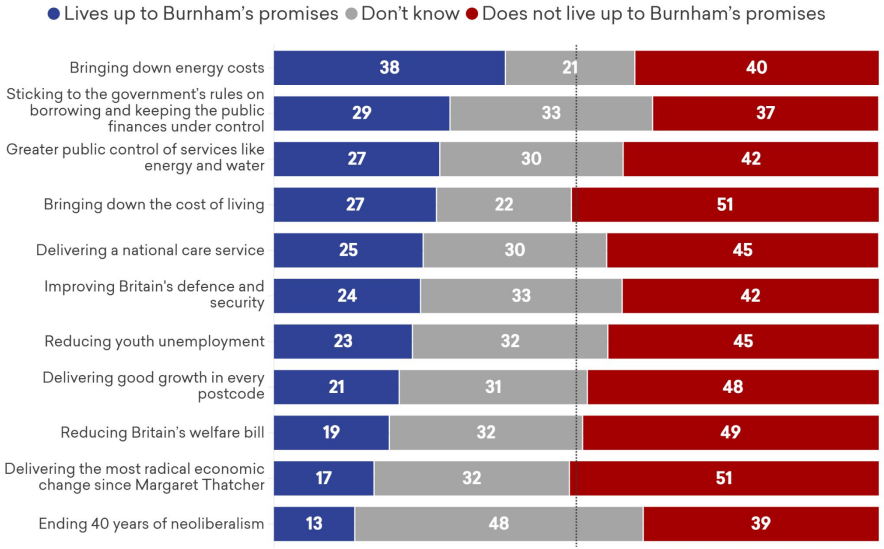
Burnham has promised to radically transform the economy, but for many people the Budget didn't live up to those pledges.

On energy bills, the most salient issue, the public is split: 38 per cent say the Budget lives up to his promise and 40 per cent say it does not. Those struggling with the cost of living are the most likely to say it falls short (44 to 25 per cent), despite the support.

Burnham is seriously underwater on other flagship pledges. Just 27 per cent say the Budget lives up to his promise to bring down the cost of living (51 per cent do not), and only 17 per cent that it delivers the most radical economic change since Margaret Thatcher.

On every issue, more Britons say the Budget falls short of Burnham's promises than say it lives up to them

On each of the following issues, would you say that the Budget lives up to the promises Andy Burnham has made?



More in Common

Unanswered questions

Britons are waiting to see a long-term plan, particularly on welfare and defence

While the measures in the Budget were broadly popular, many in focus groups feel that some important things were missing.

In particular, many feel unsure about how the government plans to bring down the welfare bill. While most think there should be a safety net for those who need it, most feel spending has grown out of control, and find it hard to understand why no government had been able to deal with it.

The Budget had failed to reassure them. Many felt that Labour simply didn't have a plan to bring spending down, and that Andy Burnham's desire to 'appease people' might stand in the way of making the tough decisions needed.

> *I think (welfare) has spiralled in recent years. Something has to be done because we just can't go on the way. You'd love to help everybody, but unfortunately we have to try and reign it in. Otherwise, if the country goes broke, then we'll all be in the thing.*
>
> Graham, retired, Portsmouth

> *You just hope that they do flesh it out (...) you do worry that you think, are they just going to try and not do anything when something does clearly need to be done?*
>
> Hannah, events, Portsmouth

> *I'm an ex-serviceman, and there's no mention of it (...) So it is a concern that there doesn't seem to be a plan to protect ourselves.*
>
> Steve, service manager, Portsmouth

> *It feels to me like they're treading water just to get by and tick the boxes that another budget's been done. I don't see the bigger picture yet.*
>
> Sophie, clinic assistant, Portsmouth

The government is not yet seen to have a clear plan on key issues

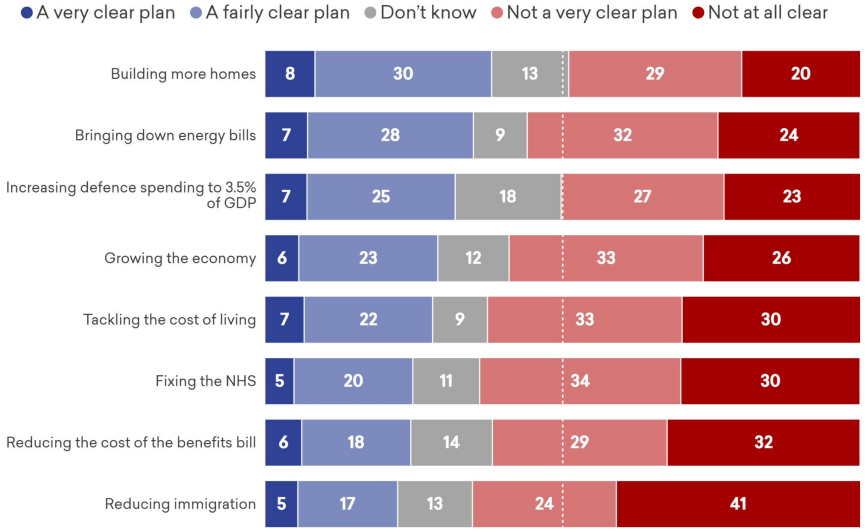
The Budget left the public with many unanswered questions. Fewer than four in ten think the government has a clear plan on any of the eight priorities tested.

It is seen as clearest on building more homes (38 per cent) and bringing down energy bills (35 per cent). Only a quarter think it has a clear plan on fixing the NHS (25 per cent) or reducing the benefits bill (24 per cent), and just 22 per cent on immigration.

Labour's 2024 voters are more likely than not to see a clear plan on homes, defence, energy bills and growth. But they are split on the cost of living (52 to 44) and the NHS (50 to 44). **Even among 2024 Labour voters, more believe Labour has unclear plans on the benefits bill (48 to 44) and immigration (48 to 45).**

Few Britons think the Government has a plan to cut welfare spending or reach the defence spending target

To what extent do you think the government has a clear plan on each of the following?



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The public is split on whether the Budget does enough for defence

A third (35 per cent) think the government has provided too little funding for defence, 29 per cent think the amount is about right and 18 per cent too much.

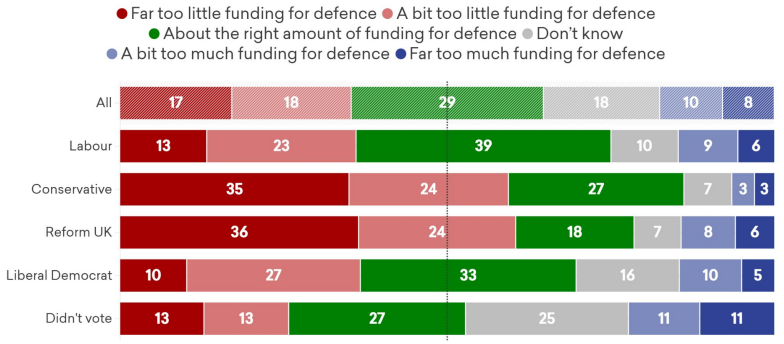
Views are sharply polarised by party. Around six in ten 2024 Conservative (59 per cent) and Reform (60 per cent) voters say too little, while Labour's 2024 (39 per cent) and current (44 per cent) voters are most likely to say it is about right. Progressive Activists are the only segment more likely to say too much (27 per cent) than too little (20 per cent).

Reconciling defence with the cost of living may prove difficult: 32 per cent of the squeezed middle say too little is being spent, compared with 41 per cent of the financially comfortable.

The public are split about whether the Budget provided too little funding to the miltiary

Do you think the government's plans provide too little, too much, or about the right amount of funding for defence?

By 2024 Vote



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Full wording: In the Budget, John Healey announced "£10bn of additional economic and military support" for Ukraine. He also committed to the government's target to spend 3% of GDP on defence by 2030 and 3.5% by 2035, but said the details of how this will be met will be set out at next year's Spending Review. Supporters say the Budget continues the biggest increase in defence spending since the Cold War, while opponents say the government should have committed to increasing spending faster now rather than waiting until next year. Do you think the government's plans provide too little, too much, or about the right amount of funding for defence?

More think Healey has fallen short on defence than met his promise

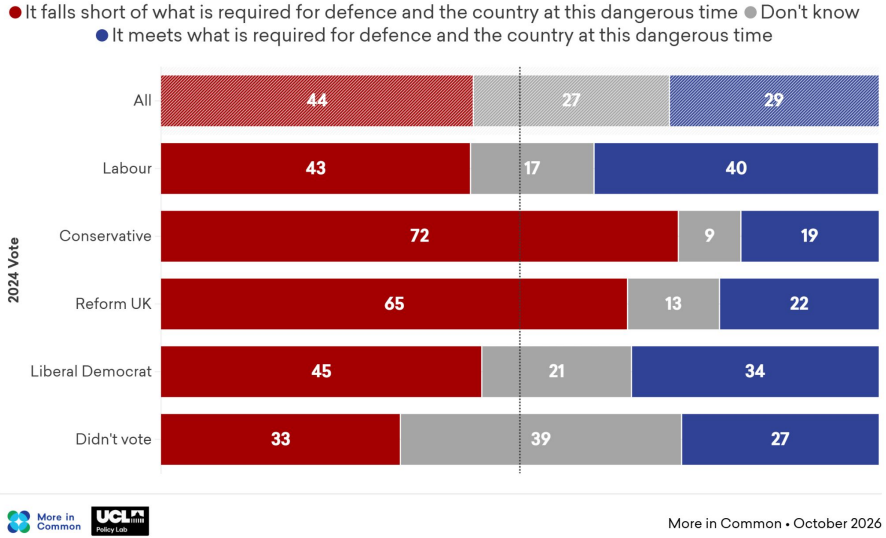
Only a third of Britons think there is a clear plan to reach the 3.5 per cent defence target, and more think Healey has fallen short than met his promise.

A plurality (44 per cent) say his commitments fall short of ‘what is required for defence and this country at this dangerous time’ - the language used by the Chancellor himself when he resigned as Defence Secretary earlier this year - compared with 29 per cent who say they meet it.

2024 Labour voters narrowly think he has fallen short (43 to 40), while current Labour voters think he has met the challenge (45 to 38).

The public are not sure Healey's approach to defence lives up to his promise to make the country safe 'at this dangerous time'

And thinking about the spending commitments made by the Chancellor on defence, which of the following comes closer to your view?



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Resilience

Britons feel insecure in an increasingly dangerous world

Badenoch's argument that Britain lacks resilience strikes a chord with many Britons. In a focus group in Portsmouth last week, it had a particularly local flavour. Some participants spoke about the decline of the Navy, and said the the country felt particularly exposed at a time when we can no longer rely on allies like the US.

Being advised to stock up on emergency supplies has deepened these concerns for many Britons.

> *Even people that work in the dockyard now are saying they've been told prepare for war in two years time. What does that look like? No idea.*
>
> Steve, service manager, Portsmouth

> *I think it's a bit of scaremongering, but there are obvious massive concerns there. There's so much volatility in the world at the moment.*
>
> Becky, sourcing manager, Rawmarsh and Conisbrough

> *This morning my husband said, 'Oh, did you hear an alarm in the night?' I'm like, 'No.' So apparently I think they sent out a nuclear alarm testing at Portsmouth naval base and then the news earlier in the week about you should have enough water in your home for three days and I was just like, oh God (...) It just makes you think they know more than what they're letting onto us. Are they secretly preparing for something that we have no knowledge of? (...) I've got two children and I got sad quite a few years ago because I was like, I don't like the world that they are being brought up in (...) the world is very scary. I work in Southampton and kids just carry knives all the time and it doesn't shock me anymore, which scares me as well.*
>
> Kerry, restorative justice officer, Portsmouth

> *It feels like the strong position we used to be in with lots of allies to support each other is weaker than it used to be.*
>
> Tom, arts officer, Portsmouth

Most think Britain is not resilient to major shocks

The public align with Kemi Badenoch's concerns about Britain's resilience. Around six in ten or more say Britain would not be resilient to each of the six shocks tested.

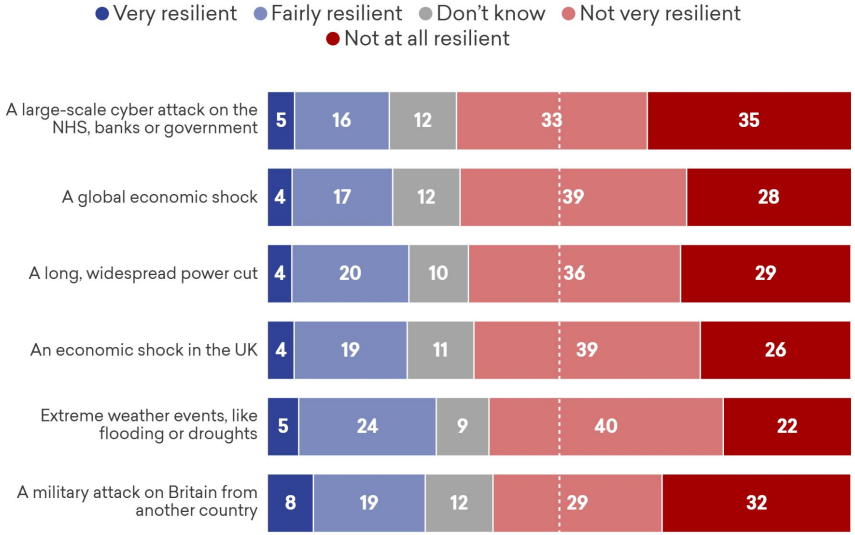
Only one in five Britons (21 per cent) believe we would be resilient to a large-scale cyber attack, 24 per cent to a widespread power cut, 29 per cent to extreme weather.

Fewer than a quarter believe we would be resilient to an economic shock in the UK (24 per cent) or a global economic shock (21 per cent).

> *I'm not worried about Russia invading, but it's more the little things. They'll send out drones and they're doing computer attacks.*
>
> Graham, retired civil servant, Portsmouth

Most say Britain does not feel resilient to major shocks

How resilient do you think Britain would be in the face of each of the following?



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