

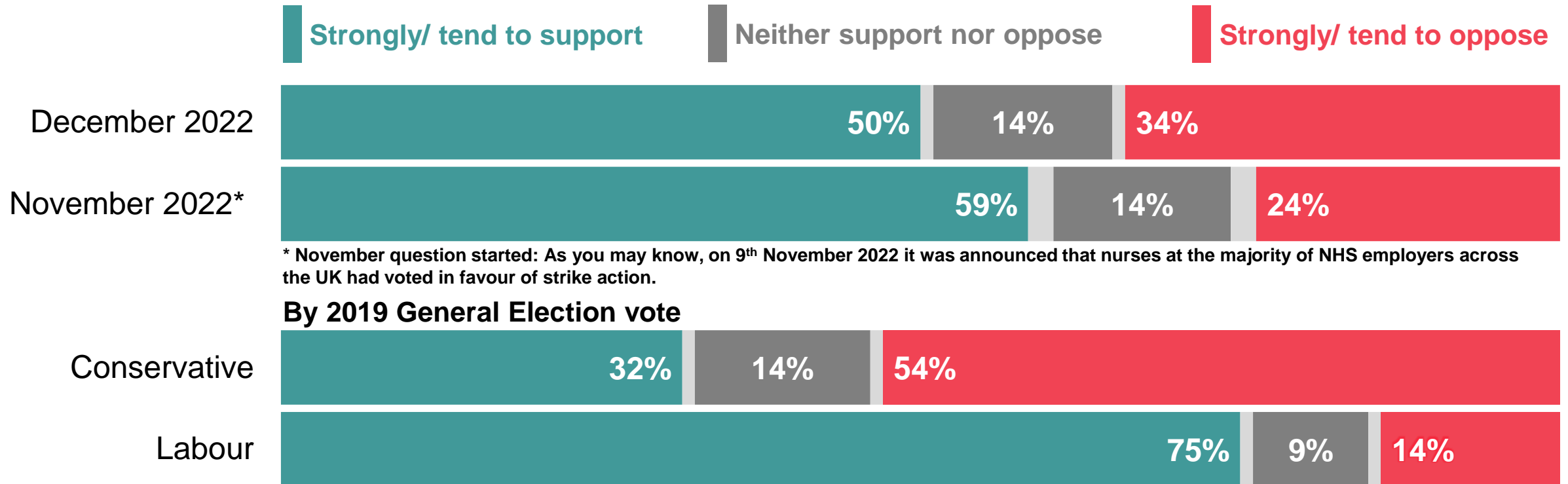
A photograph of a nurse in a white uniform with a stethoscope around their neck, standing with hands clasped. The image is partially obscured by a diagonal graphic element consisting of teal and blue stripes on the left side.

Ipsos Public attitudes towards proposed strike action by NHS nurses

December 2022

Around half support the planned strike action by nurses – including more than twice the proportion of 2019 Labour voters compared to Conservative

As you may be aware, nurses at the majority of NHS employers across the UK are planning strike action. The strike action excludes certain types of care, such as emergency intervention to preserve life or prevent permanent disability. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the planned strike action by nurses?



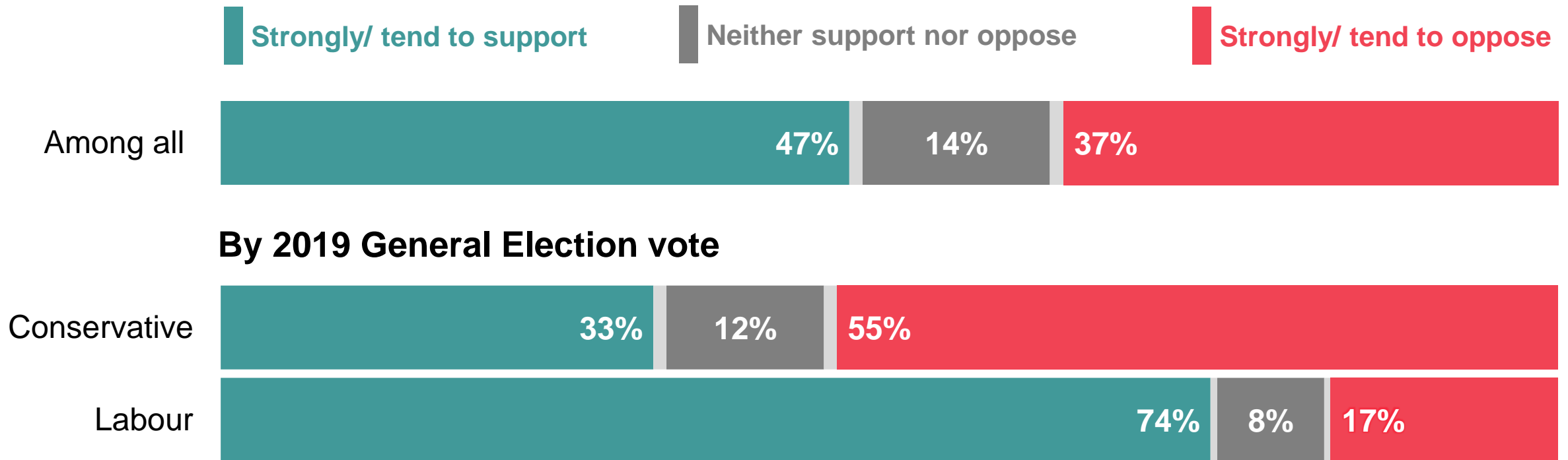
* November question started: As you may know, on 9th November 2022 it was announced that nurses at the majority of NHS employers across the UK had voted in favour of strike action.

By 2019 General Election vote

Base: 1,100 Online British adults aged 18-75, 14th – 15th December 2022, including those that voted Conservative in the 2019 General Election (357) and those that voted Labour (293)

Around half support the planned strike action by ambulance workers, while nearly two in five oppose it

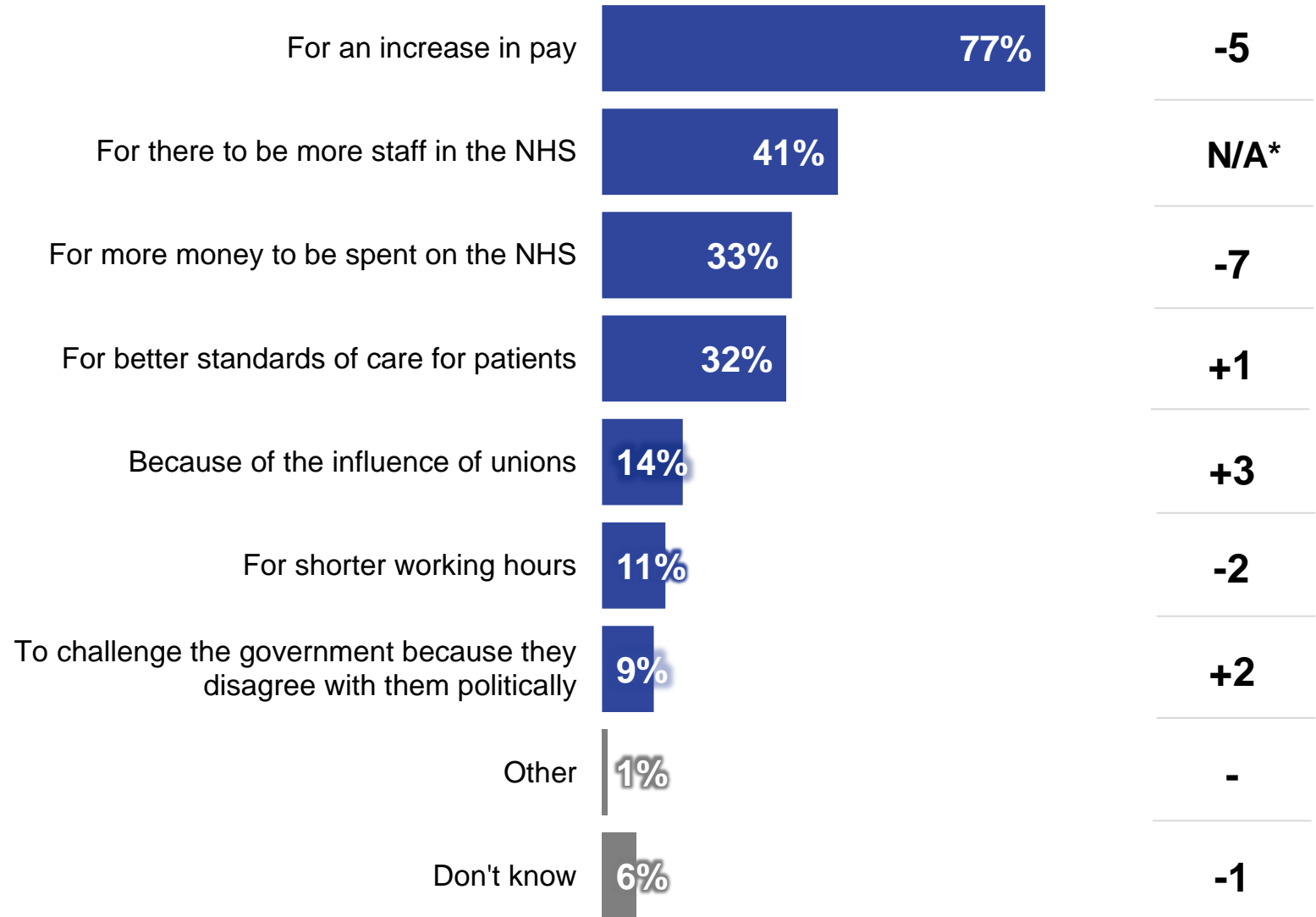
As you may be aware, ambulance workers at the majority of ambulance services in England and Wales are planning strike action. This includes paramedics, call handlers and emergency care assistants. Ambulances will still be dispatched to life-threatening calls. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the planned strike action by ambulance workers?



Base: 1,021 Online British adults aged 18-75 in England and Wales, 14th – 15th December 2022, including those that voted Conservative in the 2019 General Election (347) and those that voted Labour (278)

Three quarters think the main reason for nurses taking strike action is for an increase in pay, followed by two in five who think this is for there to be more staff in the NHS

As far as you know, which two or three of the following are the main reasons that nurses are taking strike action?



Base: 1,100 Online British adults aged 18-75, 14th – 15th December 2022

* This code was not included in the November wave.

The majority of Brits think it is acceptable for nurses to strike for better standards of care for patients and for an increase in pay

How acceptable or unacceptable is it, if at all, for nurses to strike for each of the following reasons?



For better standards of care for patients



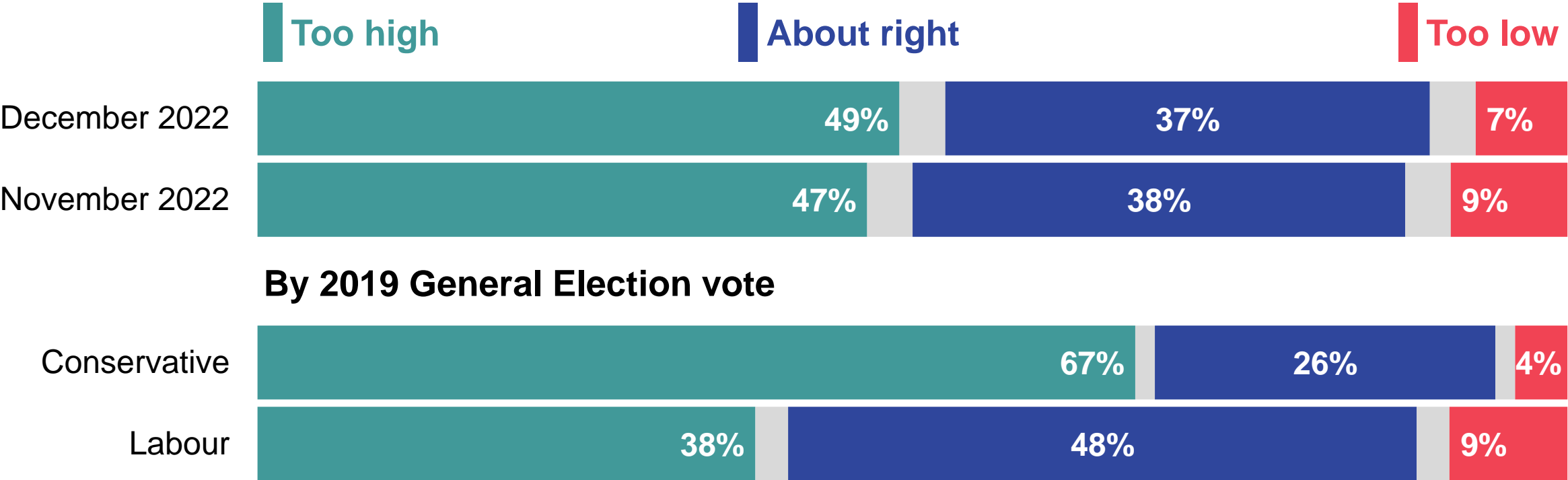
For an increase in pay



Base: 1,100 Online British adults aged 18-75, 14th – 15th December 2022

Half think the level of pay rise the RCN are asking for is too high, with 2019 Conservative voters more likely to think this

The Royal College of Nursing, which represents the NHS nurses that will take strike action later this year, has asked for a 5% pay rise for NHS nurses on top of inflation - a total pay rise of 17%. In your view, to what extent is this pay rise they are asking for too high, too low, or about right?



Base: 1,100 Online British adults aged 18-75, 14th – 15th December 2022, including those that voted Conservative in the 2019 General Election (357) and those that voted Labour (293)



Four in five are concerned about the ability of the NHS to provide safe care during strikes among ambulance workers and nurses

How concerned are you, if at all, about the ability of the NHS to provide safe care for patients during the strike actions among...?



Ambulance workers



Nurses



Base: 1,100 Online British adults aged 18-75, 14th – 15th December 2022





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