

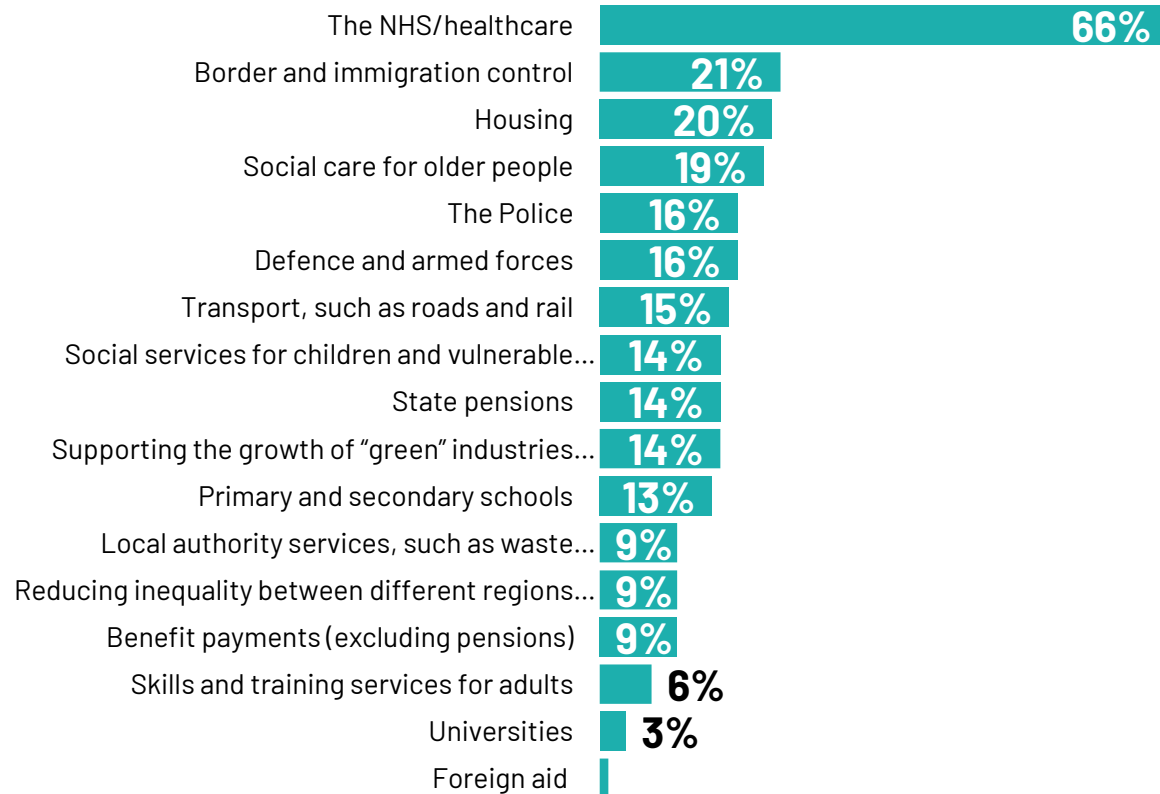
# Ipsos Attitudes towards defence and other public spending

May 2024

# The public think that the NHS and healthcare should be the priority for more public spending, while foreign aid would be their top choice to receive less public spending in the future.

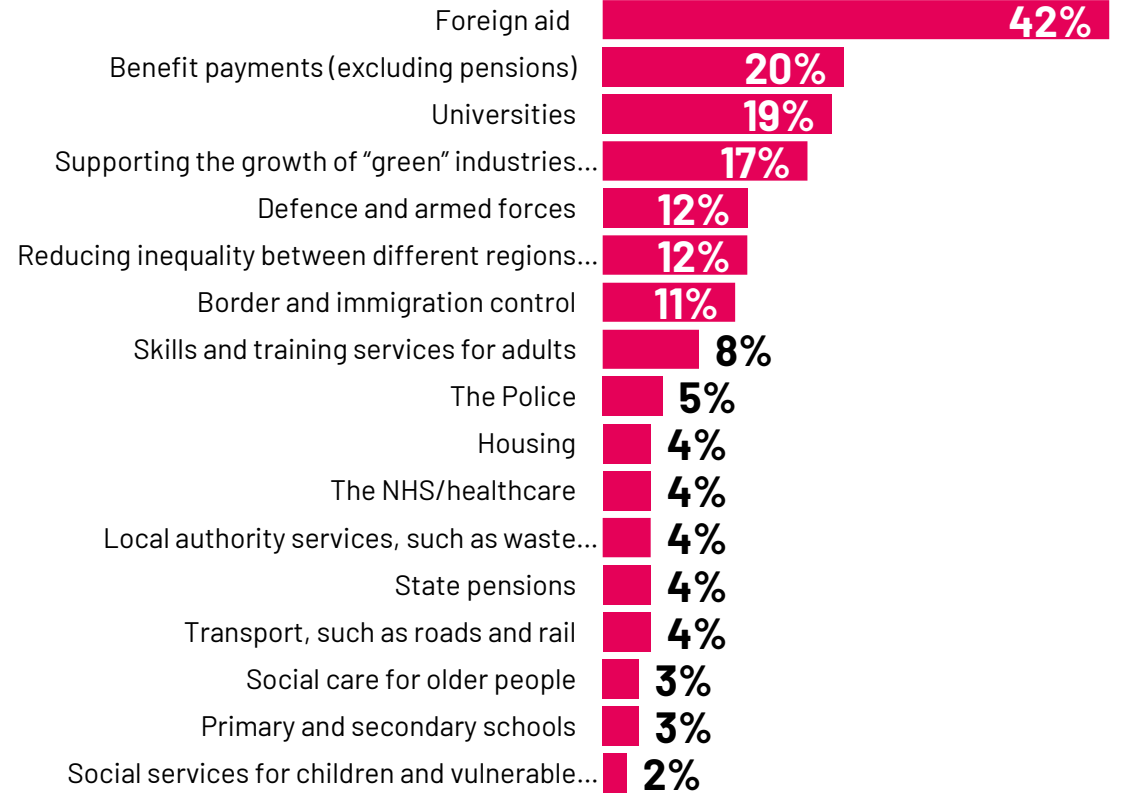
Which two or three, if any, of the following areas do you think should be prioritised to receive more/ less public spending in the future?

## Should receive more public spending



Base: 1,090 Online British adults 18-75, 3-5 May 2024

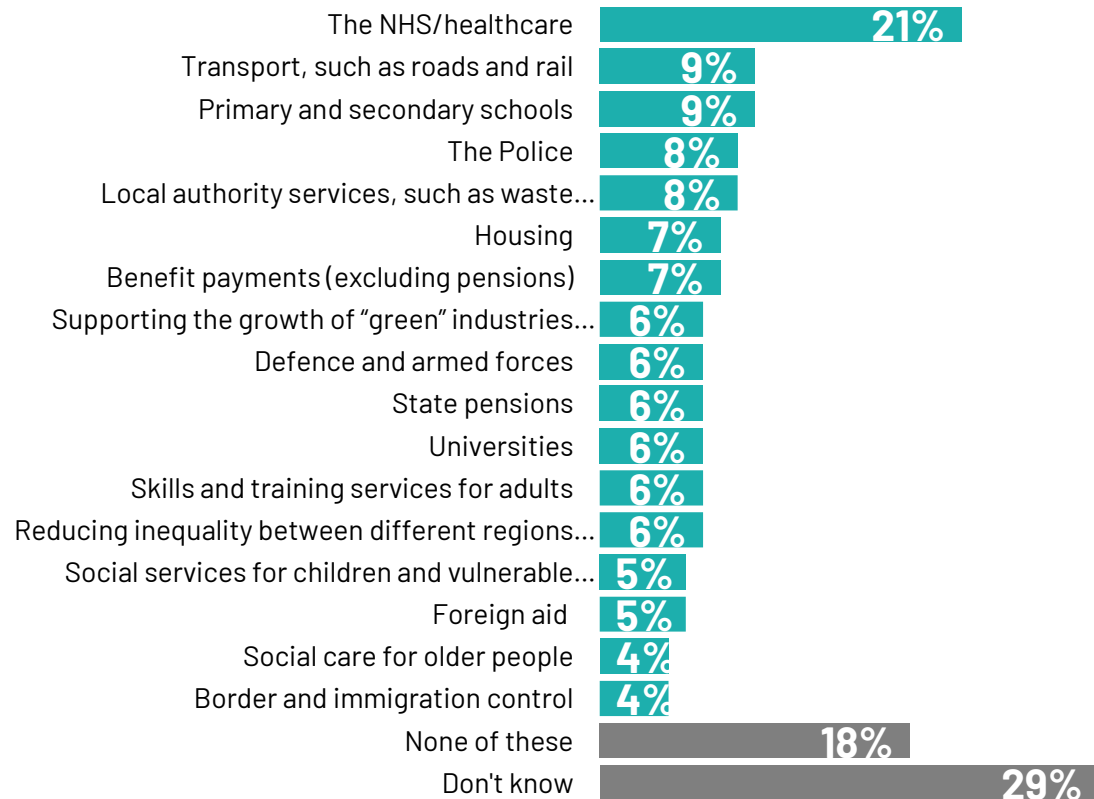
## Should receive less public spending



# The public think that the NHS and healthcare gets both the best and worst value for money from the public spending they receive

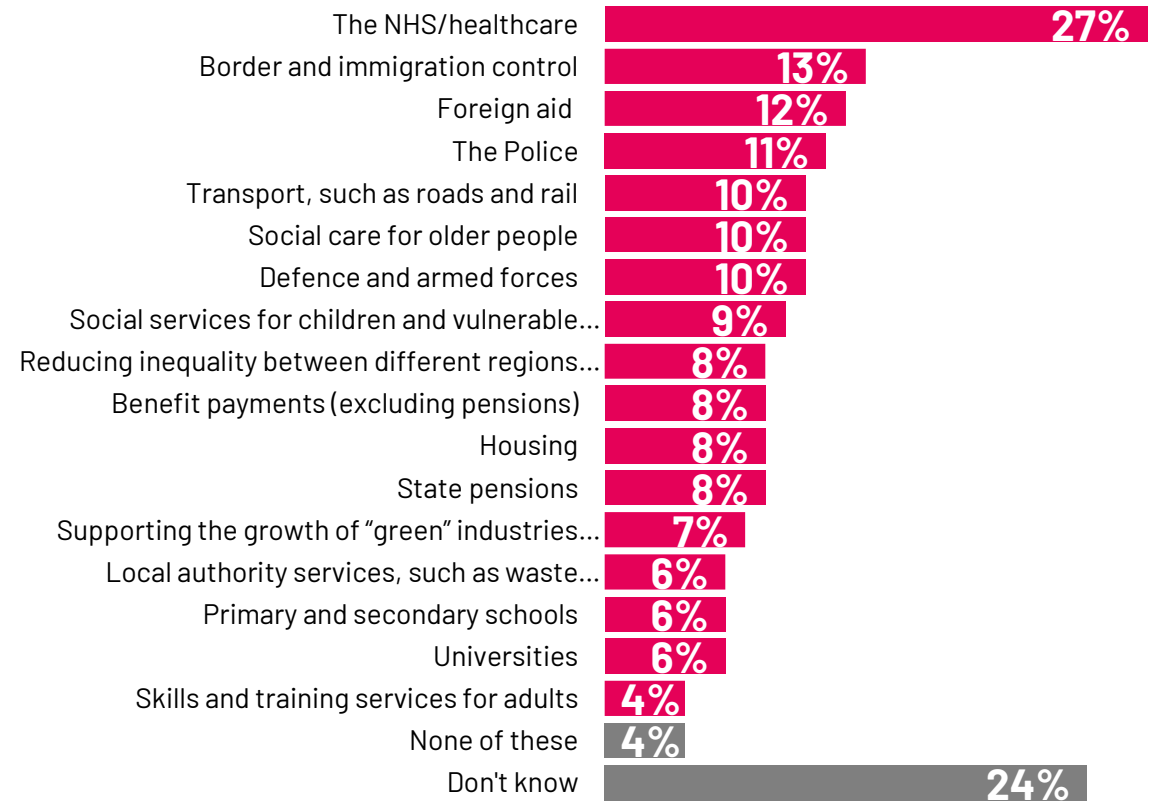
Which two or three, if any, of the following areas do you think get the best/ worst value for money from the public spending that they receive?

## Get the best value for money



Base: 1,090 Online British adults 18-75, 3-5 May 2024

## Get the worst value for money



# Three in five do not trust the Conservatives to have the right policies on defence, while opinion is more divided on Labour

To what extent, if at all, do you trust each of the following political parties to have the right policies on defence?

**A great deal / fair amount**    **Not very much / at all**

## The Labour party



## The Conservative party

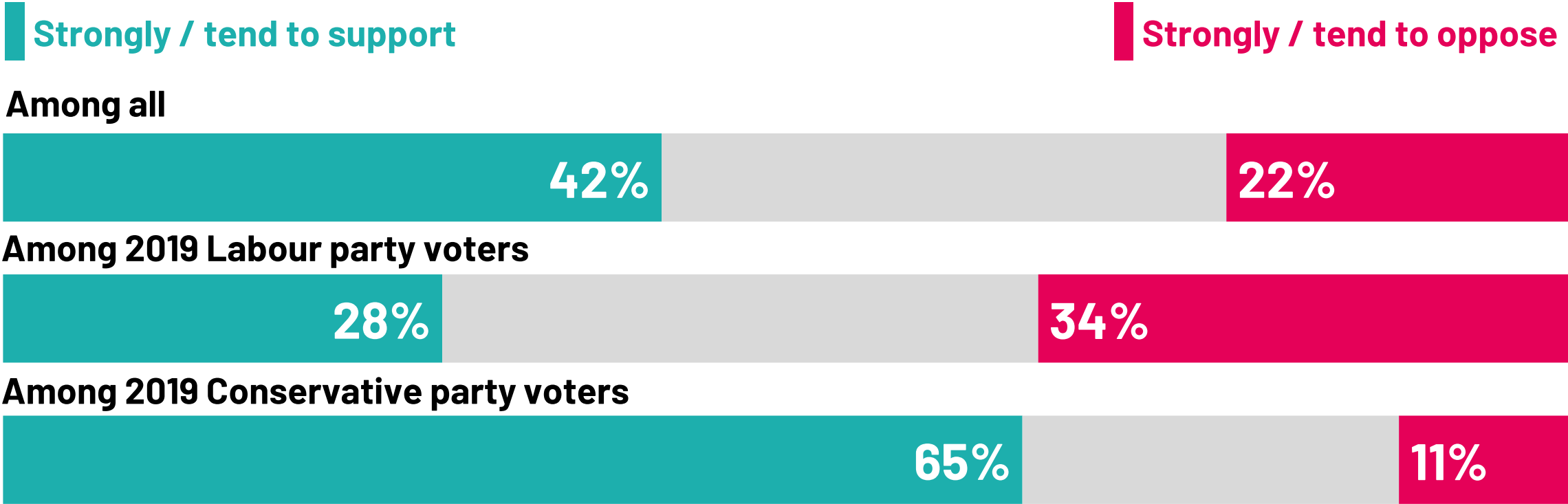


Base: 1,090 Online British adults aged 18-75, 3-5 May 2024



# Two in five support the Conservative party policy to increase UK defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030 – twice as many as who oppose it

As you may know, the Conservative party have recently pledged to increase the UK's defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. [HALF ALSO TOLD The government says this increase will cost an extra £20 billion by 2030. The policy will be partly funded by reducing the size of the civil service to pre-Covid levels, involving cutting 72,000 jobs, and partly through a share of existing spending commitments.\*] To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose this policy?



Base: 1,090 Online British adults aged 18-75, 3-5 May 2024. including (294) 2019 Conservative Party voters and (286) 2019 Labour Party voters.

\*Sample was split such that half saw a different framing of this question. The results by each statement can be found on the following slide and in the data tables.

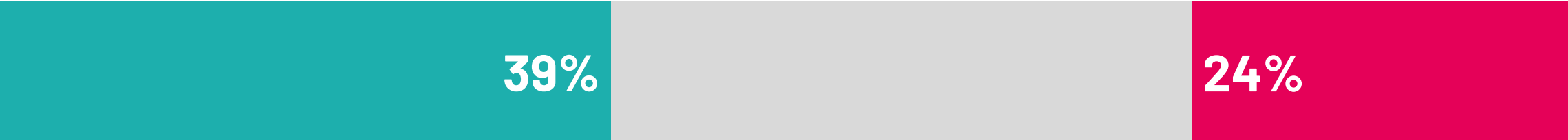


# Support outweighed opposition for both versions of the question, though slightly lower among those who saw the additional details on how much the increase in defence spending would cost

Strongly / tend to support

Strongly / tend to oppose

A. As you may know, the Conservative party have recently pledged to increase the UK's defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. The government says this increase will cost an extra £20 billion by 2030. The policy will be partly funded by reducing the size of the civil service to pre-Covid levels, involving cutting 72,000 jobs, and partly through a share of existing spending commitments. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose this policy?



B. As you may know, the Conservative party have recently pledged to increase the UK's defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose this policy?



Base: 1,090 Online British adults aged 18-75, 3-5 May 2024. including (545) who saw statement A and (545) who saw statement B.

# Opinion is split on whether spending 2.5% of GDP on defence will make the UK safer, but there are more doubts about funding behind the policy

And still thinking about the Conservative's policy to increase the UK's defence spending to 2.5% of GDP by 2030. How confident, if at all, are you that...?

**Very / fairly confident** **Not at all / not very confident**

**It will make the UK a safer place to live in the future**



**The government will get good value for money from this extra spending**



**The extra spending can be found without increasing taxes or cutting spending on other services**



Base: 1,090 Online British adults aged 18-75, 3-5 May 2024.

# Ipsos

May 2024

Ipsos – Political Polling

## For more information

**Gideon Skinner**

Research Director

[gideon.skinner@ipsos.com](mailto:gideon.skinner@ipsos.com)

**Cameron Garrett**

Research Manager

[Cameron.garrett@ipsos.com](mailto:Cameron.garrett@ipsos.com)

**Keiran Pedley**

Research Director

[keiran.pedley@ipsos.com](mailto:keiran.pedley@ipsos.com)

**Ben Roff**

Research Executive

[ben.roff@ipsos.com](mailto:ben.roff@ipsos.com)

