



## **Government Priorities Research - September 2023**

Methodology: Whitestone Insight interviewed 1002 Irish adults online from 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Data were weighted to be representative of all adults.

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**Government Priorities**  
Fieldwork - 10th-15th August 2023

**Table 1**  
**Q2. What do you personally think the priorities should be for the Government over the next 12 months? Please select up to four of the following:**  
Base: All respondents

Absolute column percents

|                              | Gender |      | Age    |       |       |       |       |       |     |           | Male Age Profile |           |           |           | Female Age Profile |           |           |           | Class     |     |     |     |     |     |          |          |      |     | Dependent Children |                   | Working Status           |           |                      |         |         |                              |                            |             |  |       | Marital Status |       |        |       | Area |     | Region |     | NET Outside Britain |
|------------------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|----------|------|-----|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------|---------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|------|-----|--------|-----|---------------------|
|                              | Total  | Male | Female | 16-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | NET 16-24 | NET 25-34        | NET 35-44 | NET 45-54 | NET 55-64 | NET 16-24          | NET 25-34 | NET 35-44 | NET 45-54 | NET 55-64 | AM  | CL  | CE  | DE  | E   | NET ABC1 | NET C2DE | None | Any | Working full time  | Working part time | Unemployed or disability | Homeowner | Full time Unemployed | Retired | Married | Living as married/cohabiting | Widowed/divorced/separated | NET Married | NET Single/Divorced/Widowed/ Separated | Urban | Rural          | Other | London | Other |      |     |        |     |                     |
| Unweighted base              | 1002   | 482  | 517    | 101   | 168   | 216   | 188   | 140   | 181 | 289       | 405              | 528       | 105       | 186       | 191                | 163       | 217       | 137       | 153       | 316 | 225 | 281 | 27  | 469 | 506      | 663      | 331  | 435 | 207                | 37                | 58                       | 85        | 34                   | 146     | 441     | 132                          | 335                        | 92          | 573                                    | 427   | 747            | 254   | 292    | 284   | 208  | 160 | 710    |     |                     |
| Weighted base                | 1002   | 480  | 508    | 111   | 170   | 211   | 181   | 140   | 190 | 291       | 392              | 530       | 140       | 190       | 160                | 140       | 200       | 170       | 130       | 311 | 200 | 301 | 60  | 441 | 501      | 685      | 309  | 436 | 205                | 39                | 58                       | 90        | 38                   | 144     | 427     | 124                          | 352                        | 97          | 552                                    | 449   | 727            | 274   | 291    | 271   | 170  | 711 |        |     |                     |
| Healthcare capacity          | 853    | 381  | 321    | 69    | 94    | 115   | 101   | 94    | 132 | 163       | 215              | 225       | 77        | 89        | 105                | 85        | 115       | 121       | 81        | 186 | 116 | 169 | 41  | 247 | 315      | 440      | 190  | 224 | 139                | 22                | 39                       | 56        | 23                   | 99      | 239     | 75                           | 225                        | 64          | 313                                    | 289   | 446            | 155   | 171    | 183   | 178  | 93  | 432    |     |                     |
|                              | 80%    | 57%  | 63%    | 62%   | 55%   | 54%   | 52%   | 67%   | 69% | 68%       | 55%              | 68%       | 65%       | 61%       | 67%                | 71%       | 47%       | 40%       | 60%       | 68% | 68% | 57% | 63% | 66% | 63%      | 62%      | 67%  | 60% | 63%                | 66%               | 67%                      | 74%       | 60%                  | 68%     | 58%     | 62%                          | 64%                        | 69%         | 61%                                    | 64%   | 69%            | 63%   | 65%    | 70%   | 62%  | 62% | 61%    |     |                     |
| Social housing               | 804    | 361  | 321    | 69    | 94    | 115   | 101   | 94    | 132 | 163       | 215              | 225       | 77        | 89        | 105                | 85        | 115       | 121       | 81        | 186 | 116 | 169 | 41  | 247 | 315      | 440      | 190  | 224 | 139                | 22                | 39                       | 56        | 23                   | 99      | 239     | 75                           | 225                        | 64          | 313                                    | 289   | 446            | 155   | 171    | 183   | 178  | 93  | 432    |     |                     |
|                              | 80%    | 57%  | 63%    | 62%   | 55%   | 54%   | 52%   | 67%   | 69% | 68%       | 55%              | 68%       | 65%       | 61%       | 67%                | 71%       | 47%       | 40%       | 60%       | 68% | 68% | 57% | 63% | 66% | 63%      | 62%      | 67%  | 60% | 63%                | 66%               | 67%                      | 74%       | 60%                  | 68%     | 58%     | 62%                          | 64%                        | 69%         | 61%                                    | 64%   | 69%            | 63%   | 65%    | 70%   | 62%  | 62% | 61%    |     |                     |
| Energy security              | 302    | 155  | 147    | 27    | 60    | 63    | 50    | 46    | 55  | 86        | 113              | 103       | 47        | 50        | 58                 | 39        | 45        | 39        | 102       | 66  | 73  | 22  | 141 | 139 | 201      | 101      | 138  | 57  | 12                 | 20                | 28                       | 4         | 43                   | 138     | 46      | 92                           | 28                         | 184         | 118                                    | 214   | 87             | 75    | 89     | 95    | 43   | 227 |        |     |                     |
|                              | 30%    | 32%  | 28%    | 24%   | 35%   | 30%   | 28%   | 33%   | 30% | 31%       | 29%              | 31%       | 34%       | 28%       | 36%                | 28%       | 32%       | 26%       | 30%       | 33% | 33% | 24% | 36% | 32% | 28%      | 29%      | 32%  | 32% | 32%                | 28%               | 31%                      | 34%       | 32%                  | 11%     | 30%     | 32%                          | 37%                        | 29%         | 27%                                    | 33%   | 26%            | 30%   | 32%    | 28%   | 33%  | 35% | 25%    | 32% |                     |
| Public finances              | 288    | 135  | 133    | 35    | 47    | 60    | 44    | 44    | 38  | 62        | 124              | 82        | 44        | 39        | 53                 | 43        | 45        | 51        | 39        | 63  | 85  | 53  | 66  | 21  | 128      | 119      | 177  | 89  | 120                | 50                | 9                        | 16        | 22                   | 14      | 38      | 110                          | 39                         | 103         | 28                                     | 140   | 128            | 159   | 79     | 76    | 84   | 63  | 45     | 192 |                     |
|                              | 27%    | 28%  | 28%    | 31%   | 38%   | 28%   | 24%   | 31%   | 22% | 28%       | 27%              | 28%       | 23%       | 27%       | 30%                | 23%       | 23%       | 23%       | 33%       | 27% | 27% | 22% | 35% | 28% | 24%      | 23%      | 23%  | 23% | 24%                | 24%               | 24%                      | 24%       | 24%                  | 27%     | 24%     | 28%                          | 25%                        | 28%         | 24%                                    | 29%   | 28%            | 31%   | 23%    | 27%   | 27%  | 27% |        |     |                     |
| National transport links     | 239    | 123  | 116    | 39    | 46    | 39    | 46    | 26    | 40  | 85        | 85               | 69        | 52        | 38        | 33                 | 33        | 46        | 37        | 43        | 76  | 48  | 53  | 20  | 119 | 101      | 173      | 59   | 107 | 53                 | 7                 | 8                        | 20        | 16                   | 27      | 95      | 28                           | 99                         | 17          | 123                                    | 116   | 171            | 68    | 75     | 57    | 54   | 53  | 164    |     |                     |
|                              | 24%    | 25%  | 23%    | 36%   | 27%   | 18%   | 25%   | 19%   | 23% | 35%       | 21%              | 37%       | 20%       | 20%       | 24%                | 23%       | 23%       | 22%       | 33%       | 24% | 24% | 18% | 33% | 27% | 20%      | 28%      | 19%  | 25% | 26%                | 19%               | 15%                      | 22%       | 43%                  | 19%     | 22%     | 43%                          | 19%                        | 22%         | 28%                                    | 24%   | 25%            | 26%   | 21%    | 20%   | 21%  | 20% | 154    |     |                     |
| Immigration                  | 208    | 112  | 98     | 16    | 30    | 47    | 43    | 30    | 42  | 48        | 80               | 72        | 21        | 54        | 37                 | 25        | 36        | 35        | 24        | 51  | 31  | 30  | 12  | 75  | 121      | 137      | 71   | 89  | 40                 | 5                 | 17                       | 14        | 6                    | 37      | 98      | 24                           | 71                         | 17          | 120                                    | 88    | 166            | 67    | 65     | 54    | 37   | 146 |        |     |                     |
|                              | 21%    | 22%  | 18%    | 15%   | 19%   | 22%   | 24%   | 21%   | 22% | 17%       | 23%              | 22%       | 15%       | 23%       | 15%                | 19%       | 18%       | 21%       | 19%       | 17% | 25% | 23% | 17% | 24% | 23%      | 23%      | 21%  | 19% | 25%                | 25%               | 16%                      | 17%       | 22%                  | 22%     | 19%     | 20%                          | 17%                        | 22%         | 20%                                    | 21%   | 19%            | 22%   | 22%    | 20%   | 19%  | 20% |        |     |                     |
| Social care                  | 190    | 84   | 105    | 16    | 27    | 36    | 47    | 32    | 31  | 43        | 83               | 63        | 25        | 31        | 38                 | 19        | 51        | 35        | 24        | 52  | 37  | 70  | 7   | 76  | 107      | 128      | 59   | 66  | 36                 | 7                 | 24                       | 19        | 6                    | 31      | 73      | 17                           | 63                         | 38          | 91                                     | 99    | 146            | 44    | 53     | 64    | 48   | 27  | 137    |     |                     |
|                              | 19%    | 17%  | 21%    | 14%   | 16%   | 17%   | 26%   | 23%   | 19% | 15%       | 21%              | 19%       | 18%       | 16%       | 18%                | 13%       | 20%       | 21%       | 19%       | 17% | 18% | 23% | 11% | 17% | 21%      | 19%      | 19%  | 17% | 17%                | 16%               | 14%                      | 21%       | 17%                  | 21%     | 17%     | 14%                          | 18%                        | 35%         | 16%                                    | 22%   | 20%            | 19%   | 18%    | 24%   | 17%  | 19% |        |     |                     |
| Rural development            | 179    | 83   | 96     | 19    | 21    | 44    | 34    | 25    | 36  | 40        | 78               | 81        | 20        | 34        | 28                 | 20        | 44        | 33        | 14        | 55  | 24  | 47  | 29  | 69  | 81       | 128      | 59   | 73  | 43                 | 5                 | 10                       | 19        | 10                   | 22      | 75      | 27                           | 57                         | 25          | 102                                    | 77    | 85             | 92    | 25     | 65    | 34   | 164 |        |     |                     |
|                              | 16%    | 17%  | 19%    | 17%   | 12%   | 21%   | 19%   | 16%   | 19% | 14%       | 20%              | 18%       | 14%       | 16%       | 18%                | 14%       | 22%       | 19%       | 11%       | 19% | 17% | 16% | 16% | 16% | 16%      | 16%      | 16%  | 15% | 17%                | 17%               | 21%                      | 9%        | 17%                  | 21%     | 22%     | 15%                          | 18%                        | 22%         | 16%                                    | 20%   | 17%            | 12%   | 14%    | 9%    | 20%  | 24% | 23%    | 22% |                     |
| Pension provision            | 176    | 81   | 96     | 8     | 18    | 24    | 28    | 32    | 67  | 26        | 52               | 88        | 12        | 23        | 46                 | 15        | 29        | 52        | 22        | 57  | 51  | 57  | 9   | 79  | 88       | 131      | 43   | 62  | 35                 | 4                 | 9                        | 14        | 2                    | 51      | 94      | 22                           | 39                         | 22          | 116                                    | 61    | 125            | 52    | 52     | 51    | 48   | 25  | 125    |     |                     |
|                              | 16%    | 16%  | 19%    | 7%    | 11%   | 11%   | 15%   | 23%   | 35% | 9%        | 13%              | 30%       | 1%        | 12%       | 25%                | 10%       | 15%       | 31%       | 17%       | 19% | 16% | 14% | 18% | 18% | 18%      | 18%      | 19%  | 14% | 15%                | 13%               | 10%                      | 10%       | 15%                  | 4%      | 38%     | 22%                          | 18%                        | 11%         | 22%                                    | 21%   | 14%            | 17%   | 19%    | 18%   | 19%  | 16% | 18%    |     |                     |
| Support for victims of crime | 171    | 81   | 90     | 11    | 31    | 37    | 31    | 25    | 35  | 42        | 68               | 61        | 27        | 32        | 22                 | 15        | 37        | 39        | 19        | 48  | 51  | 65  | 9   | 67  | 95       | 123      | 47   | 70  | 32                 | 7                 | 16                       | 18        | 3                    | 25      | 71      | 23                           | 58                         | 19          | 94                                     | 78    | 106            | 44    | 65     | 45    | 44   | 23  | 111    |     |                     |
|                              | 17%    | 17%  | 19%    | 10%   | 16%   | 18%   | 17%   | 18%   | 19% | 15%       | 17%              | 18%       | 19%       | 17%       | 14%                | 11%       | 18%       | 23%       | 14%       | 15% | 15% | 22% | 15% | 15% | 15%      | 15%      | 15%  | 15% | 16%                | 16%               | 19%                      | 27%       | 20%                  | 7%      | 17%     | 17%                          | 18%                        | 17%         | 20%                                    | 17%   | 17%            | 17%   | 16%    | 16%   | 13%  | 16% |        |     |                     |
| Drug and alcohol dependence  | 123    | 54   | 69     | 15    | 14    | 26    | 21    | 19    | 28  | 29        | 47               | 47        | 14        | 20        | 20                 | 15        | 28        | 27        | 12        | 38  | 27  | 33  | 14  | 49  | 60       | 88       | 35   | 47  | 25                 | 6                 | 5                        | 16        | 6                    | 17      | 54      | 13                           | 41                         | 15          | 67                                     | 56    | 80             | 43    | 29     | 36    | 41   | 17  | 95     |     |                     |
|                              | 12%    | 11%  | 14%    | 14%   | 8%    | 12%   | 12%   | 14%   | 15% | 10%       | 12%              | 14%       | 10%       | 15%       | 11%                | 14%       | 16%       | 9%        | 12%       | 14% | 11% | 23% | 11% | 12% | 12%      | 12%      | 12%  | 12% | 11%                | 12%               | 8%                       | 16%       | 6%                   | 14%     | 13%     | 10%                          | 12%                        | 15%         | 12%                                    | 15%   | 12%            | 11%   | 16%    | 10%   | 13%  | 15% | 10%    | 13% |                     |
| Net zero                     | 87     | 50   | 37     | 11    | 25    | 17    | 12    | 9     | 12  | 37        | 29               | 21        | 20        | 20        | 10                 | 17        | 9         | 11        | 19        | 39  | 8   | 21  | -   | 58  | 29       | 64       | 22   | 53  | 12                 | 1                 | 4                        | 2         | 5                    | 10      | 25      | 15                           | 40                         | 7           | 40                                     | 47    | 62             | 25    | 27     | 22    | 25   | 13  | 60     |     |                     |
|                              | 9%     | 10%  | 7%     | 10%   | 15%   | 8%    | 7%    | 6%    | 13% | 7%        | 6%               | 15%       | 10%       | 6%        | 12%                | 4%        | 7%        | 15%       | 13%       | 4%  | 7%  | -   | 13% | 6%  | 9%       | 9%       | 7%   | 12% | 6%                 | 3%                | 8%                       | 2%        | 14%                  | 7%      | 8%      | 12%                          | 11%                        | 7%          | 7%                                     | 11%   | 9%             | 9%    | 6%     | 8%    | 9%   | 8%  | 8%     |     |                     |
| Conversion therapy ban       | 81     | 30   | 30     | 3     | 18    | 16    | 3     | 2     | 4   | 36        | 19               | 7         | 15        | 11        | 4                  | 20        | 8         | 2         | 10        | 20  | 11  | 13  | 6   | 30  | 25       | 52       | 11   | 29  | 11                 | 3                 | 5                        | 4         | 7                    | 3       | 13      | 7                            | 40                         | 1           | 20                                     | 42    | 40             | 22    | 19     | 20    | 19   | 3   | 42     |     |                     |
|                              | 6%     | 6%   | 6%     | 16%   | 10%   | 8%    | 2%    | 2%    | 2%  | 13%       | 5%               | 2%        | 11%       | 6%        | 3%                 | 14%       | 4%        | 1%        | 6%        | 7%  | 6%  | 4%  | 11% | 7%  | 5%       | 7%       | 4%   | 7%  | 6%                 | 7%                | 8%                       | 4%        | 18%                  | 2%      | 3%      | 6%                           | 11%                        | 1%          | 4%                                     | 9%    | 3%             | 8%    | 7%     | 7%    | 7%   | 2%  | 6%     |     |                     |



**Government Priorities**  
Fieldwork: 10th-15th August 2023

Absolute/col percents

**Table 1**  
**Q2. What do you personally think the priorities should be for the Government over the next 12 months? Please select up to four of the following:**  
Base: All respondents

|                  | Gender |      | Age    |       |       |       |       |       |     | Male Age Profile |           |           |           |           |         |     | Female Age Profile |     |     |           |            |      |     | Class             |                   |            |                        |           |                    |         | Dependent Children |                              |        |                   | Working Status |                     |       |       |       |     |          | Marital Status |             |     |     |     | Area |  | Region |  |  |  |  |
|------------------|--------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------|------------|------|-----|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|----------|----------------|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------|--|--------|--|--|--|--|
|                  | Total  | Male | Female | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | NET 18-24        | NET 25-34 | NET 35-44 | NET 45-54 | NET 55-64 | NET 65+ | SE  | CE                 | DE  | FE  | NET (NCI) | NET (C2DE) | None | Any | Working full time | Working part time | Unemployed | Unemployed or disabled | Homecarer | Full time (Volunt) | Retired | Married            | Living as married/cohabiting | Single | Widowed/separated | NET Married    | NET Divorced/Single | Urban | Rural | Other | ESL | Minority | Comm/Other     | NET Outside |     |     |     |      |  |        |  |  |  |  |
| Weighted base    | 1002   | 490  | 509    | 111   | 170   | 211   | 181   | 140   | 190 | 281              | 302       | 330       | 140       | 190       | 160     | 140 | 200                | 170 | 130 | 311       | 200        | 301  | 60  | 441               | 511               | 655        | 309                    | 426       | 205                | 33      | 58                 | 90                           | 38     | 144               | 427            | 124                 | 352   | 97    | 552   | 449 | 727      | 274            | 291         | 271 | 170 | 711 |      |  |        |  |  |  |  |
| Online safety    | 55     | 22   | 33     | 8     | 8     | 10    | 11    | 5     | 14  | 16               | 21        | 18        | 7         | 8         | 7       | 8   | 13                 | 12  | 8   | 17        | 12         | 19   | -   | 25                | 31                | 36         | 18                     | 20        | 11                 | 1       | 2                  | 8                            | 4      | 11                | 23             | 5                   | 20    | 8     | 27    | 28  | 43       | 12             | 22          | 12  | 14  | 8   | 34   |  |        |  |  |  |  |
| High language    | 37     | 24   | 13     | 9     | 6     | 11    | 4     | 4     | 3   | 15               | 15        | 7         | 8         | 11        | 6       | 7   | 3                  | 2   | 6   | 10        | 6          | 15   | -   | 16                | 21                | 26         | 9                      | 16        | 12                 | 1       | 3                  | 2                            | 1      | 1                 | 8              | 2                   | 22    | 3     | 11    | 25  | 30       | 6              | 15          | 8   | 7   | 7   | 21   |  |        |  |  |  |  |
| Brexit           | 21     | 14   | 7      | 1     | 5     | 4     | 2     | 4     | 6   | 6                | 6         | 9         | 4         | 6         | 4       | 2   | 1                  | 5   | 5   | 5         | 6          | 5    | -   | 10                | 11                | 15         | 5                      | 11        | 3                  | 1       | 1                  | 2                            | -      | 3                 | 6              | 3                   | 9     | 4     | 9     | 12  | 17       | 4              | 6           | 8   | 7   | 1   | 15   |  |        |  |  |  |  |
| Pupil attainment | 16     | 6    | 11     | 2     | 1     | 5     | 5     | 1     | 2   | 3                | 10        | 3         | 1         | 3         | 2       | 2   | 8                  | 1   | 2   | 4         | 9          | 2    | -   | 6                 | 11                | 6          | 10                     | 9         | 2                  | 1       | 1                  | 2                            | -      | 1                 | 9              | 2                   | 5     | 1     | 10    | 6   | 14       | 2              | 7           | 2   | 6   | 1   | 9    |  |        |  |  |  |  |

