

Brexit: How should we vote?

2017 Manifesto Review



How important is Brexit to the electorate?

- Britain leaving the EU has consistently been the most important issue reported by the electorate to be facing the country at this time, with 63% of respondents reporting this as an issue in the latest poll (May 2017).
- Further, the electorate have consistently reported the Conservatives as the political party they think would handle this problem best, (39% providing this response in the latest poll), followed by Labour (17% at latest poll)
- However, little difference was reported between the electorate's responses to how well the government are doing at negotiating Britain's exit from the EU, with around 40% reporting both that the government are doing this well and badly

How important is Brexit to the electorate?

- At the latest poll in May 2017, the most common response (46%) was that in hindsight, people now believe Britain was right to vote to leave the EU. Further, only 34% think it's a good idea to hold a second referendum on the EU.
- However, most frequent responses suggest that people believe Britain will be economically worse off (40%) and that Britain will have less influence after we leave the EU (38%)
- Further, the most frequent responses shows that people believe leaving the EU will have a bad effect on British jobs (33%)
- The most frequent responses also suggest that people believe leaving the EU will make no difference to the NHS (31%)

Overall pledges regarding Brexit



Secure a “smooth and orderly” Brexit, and leave the single market and customs union



Retain benefits of the single market and the customs union



Hold a referendum on the final Brexit deal, with option to remain in the EU



Hold a referendum on the terms of the Brexit deal, with the option of staying in the EU



Leave the single market, and customs union, and finish Brexit process by end of 2019

All parties make commitments concerning the rights for EU nationals living in Britain



Secure entitlements of EU nationals in Britain, and ensure 140,000 staff from EU countries can continue contributing to health and care system



Guarantee existing rights for all EU nationals living in Britain



Guarantee rights of EU nationals in the UK



Guarantee rights of EU citizens to remain in the UK



Immediately guarantee the rights of EU citizens living in Britain

However, there is variation regarding freedom of movement between UK and EU post-Brexit



Reduce and control the number of people who come to Britain from the EU, i.e. freedom of movement will end



Freedom of movement will end when Britain leaves the EU



Support the principle of freedom of movement between the UK and EU



Retain free movement of citizens between the UK and the EU



End freedom of movement between UK and EU

Parties' immigration policies will also have an impact on workforce post-Brexit



- Reduce net migration to tens of thousands
- Double Immigration Skills Charge on companies employing migrant workers
- Increase minimum earnings threshold for family visa sponsorship



- Develop new migration management systems, including identifying specific labour and skills shortages
- Reinststate the Migrant Impact Fund in areas where immigration has placed a strain on public services



- Allow high-skilled immigration to support key sectors of the economy
- Establish Migrant Impact Fund to help local communities to adjust to new migration and meet unexpected pressures on public services and housing



- Introduce a “humane immigration and asylum system”



- Aim to reduce net migration to zero over a five-year period
- Place a moratorium on unskilled and low-skilled immigration for 5 years following departure of EU



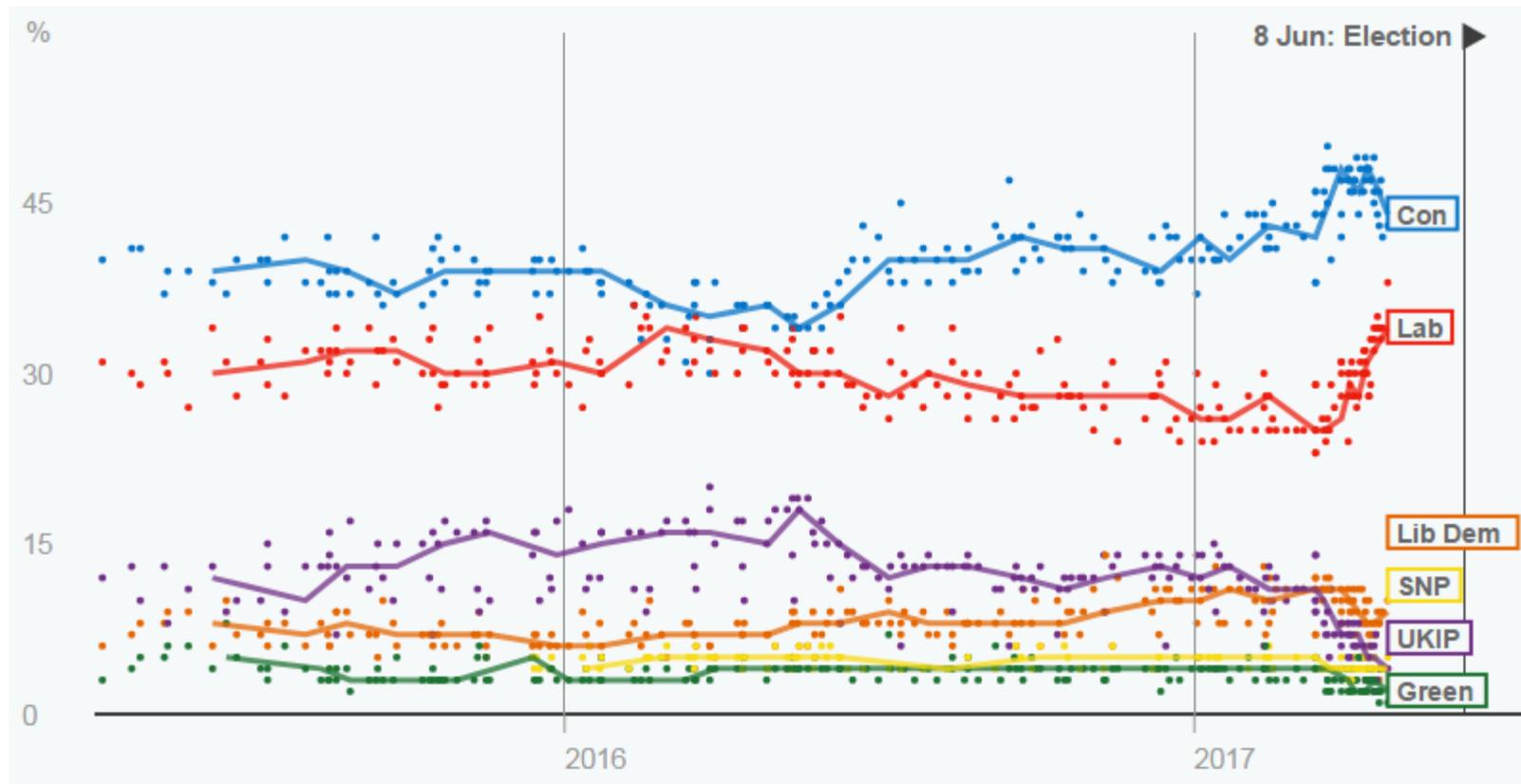
Impact of Brexit on health and social care workforce

Impact of pledges regarding Brexit and immigration could place a burden on health and social care workforce:

- 12% of NHS staff in England are nationals of a country other than the UK, and 5.5% are nationals of other EU countries (NHS Digital, 2016)
- The Institute for Employment Studies reported that a reduced supply of labour from the EU “*could hit the supply of nurses in the NHS particularly hard because the NHS is increasingly reliant on the recruitment pipeline of nurses from Europe*” (Institute for Employment Studies, 2016)
- 18% of adult social care workforce are non-British (House of Lords, 2016)

Voting intention

Whilst the Conservatives retain a lead over Labour, this gap has closed significantly





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