

Criminal Justice: How should we vote?

2017 Manifesto Review



Trends relating to law and order

- The Centre for Crime and Justice studies reported in 2017 that between 2011/12 and 2015/16:
 - Spending and staffing levels have fallen across all crime and justice agencies
 - Whilst police recorded crime rose slightly, prosecutions and convictions fell
 - Prison and probation population remained stable
- Since July 2016 the majority of the electorate have felt that the Conservatives would be best at handling the problem with law and order (37% at most recent poll in May 2017), followed by Labour (19% at most recent poll).

Police services pledges



Creation of national infrastructure police force



Recruit 10,000 more police officers



Provide additional £300m per year to local police forces to increase community policing in England and Wales



No pledges regarding police services



Recruit 20,000 police officers

Labour have estimated the annual cost of the additional 10,000 police officers to be £300m, equal to the Liberal Democrat proposal. However, Centre for Criminal Justice have reported a lack of strong evidence that more police cut crime, reporting that *“a policy to increase police numbers is not desirable”*

Additional policing and court system pledges

Conservatives

- Stronger response to white collar crime, through incorporating the Serious Fraud Office into the National Crime Agency
- Widen the role of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to help them to cut crime for their local communities
- Maintain and develop counter-terrorism strategy
- Ensure child victims and victims of sexual violence are able to be cross-examined before trial without distress of having to appear in court
- Create domestic violence and abuse commissioner in law
- Create a national community sentencing framework that punishes offenders and focuses on measures such as curfews and tackling drug and alcohol abuse, and introduce a dedicated provision for women offenders.

Additional policing and court system pledges

Labour

- Appoint a commissioner to tackle domestic and sexual violence
- Establish National Refuge Fund
- Strengthen law regarding domestic violence, and prohibit cross examination of victims of domestic violence by their abuser in certain circumstances
- Champion community policing policies and incentivise good policing practice, working with PCCs on strategies to prevent crime
- Review Prevent programme
- Hold public inquiries into historic injustices
- Innovate and incentivise local authorities and police services to engage with YP vulnerable to anti-social and criminal behaviours
- Deliver earlier protection to victims of abuse



Additional policing and court system pledges

Liberal Democrats

- Prevent counter-terrorism strategy will be scrapped
- 1% cap on police pay rises to end
- Promote community justice panels and restorative justice
- Extend responsibility of YJB to all offenders under 21
- Establish a Women's Justice Board
- Review the investigation, prosecution, procedures and rules of evidence in cases of sexual and domestic violence
- Introduce legal and regulated market for cannabis
- Replace PCCs with police boards made up of local councillors

Green Party

- Implement a UK-wide strategy to tackle gender based violence



Additional policing and court system pledges

UKIP

- Extra police officers to first be offered to ex-armed forces personnel
- Reinstate full Stop and Search powers to the police
- Review sentencing regime for police, prison staff and other law enforcement officials convicted of crimes
- Make female genital mutilation an indictable offence, and failure to report a known instance of FGM a criminal offence
- Toughen laws regarding other 'cultural crimes', such as 'breast ironing'
- Establish legal commission to draw up proposals to disband sharia councils

Prison and probation services pledges



Invest over £1 billion to modernise prisons and create 100,000 modern prison spaces



Recruit 3,000 more prison officers and end overcrowding



Transform prisons into places of rehabilitation, recovery, learning and work



No pledges regarding prison services



Recruit 7,000 prison officers

The Centre for Crime and Justice Studies have reported that whilst Labour's pledge to end prison overcrowding is desirable, Conservative's plans for modernising prisons are problematic and are likely to come at price of continued high rates of imprisonment and overcrowded conditions



Additional prison and probation services pledges

Conservatives

- Reform entry requirements, training, management and career paths of prison officers
- Create a new legal framework for prisons

Liberal Democrats

- Introduce a presumption against short prison sentences and increase the use of tough, non-custodial punishments
- Ensure that trans prisoners are placed in prisons that reflect their gender identity, rather than their birth gender
- Reduce the overrepresentation of individuals from a BAME background at every stage of the criminal justice system
- Prison terms for drug possession for personal use will be stopped

Whilst the Conservatives and Liberal Democrats pushed through probation privatisation whilst in coalition government, neither party made any reference to probation in their 2017 manifestos.



Additional prison and probation services pledges

Labour

- Annual reports on prisoner staff ratios
- Review training and professional development of prison officers
- Personal rehabilitation plans for all prisoners
- Review the provision of mental health services in prison
- Prevent privatisation of prisons
- Innovate and incentivise probation services to engage with young people vulnerable to anti-social and criminal behaviours
- Review role of Community Rehabilitation Companies

UKIP

- Reduce prison overcrowding through sending foreign nationals back to their home countries
- Give prison governors new powers to impose measures to combat Islamic extremism and gang violence in prisons

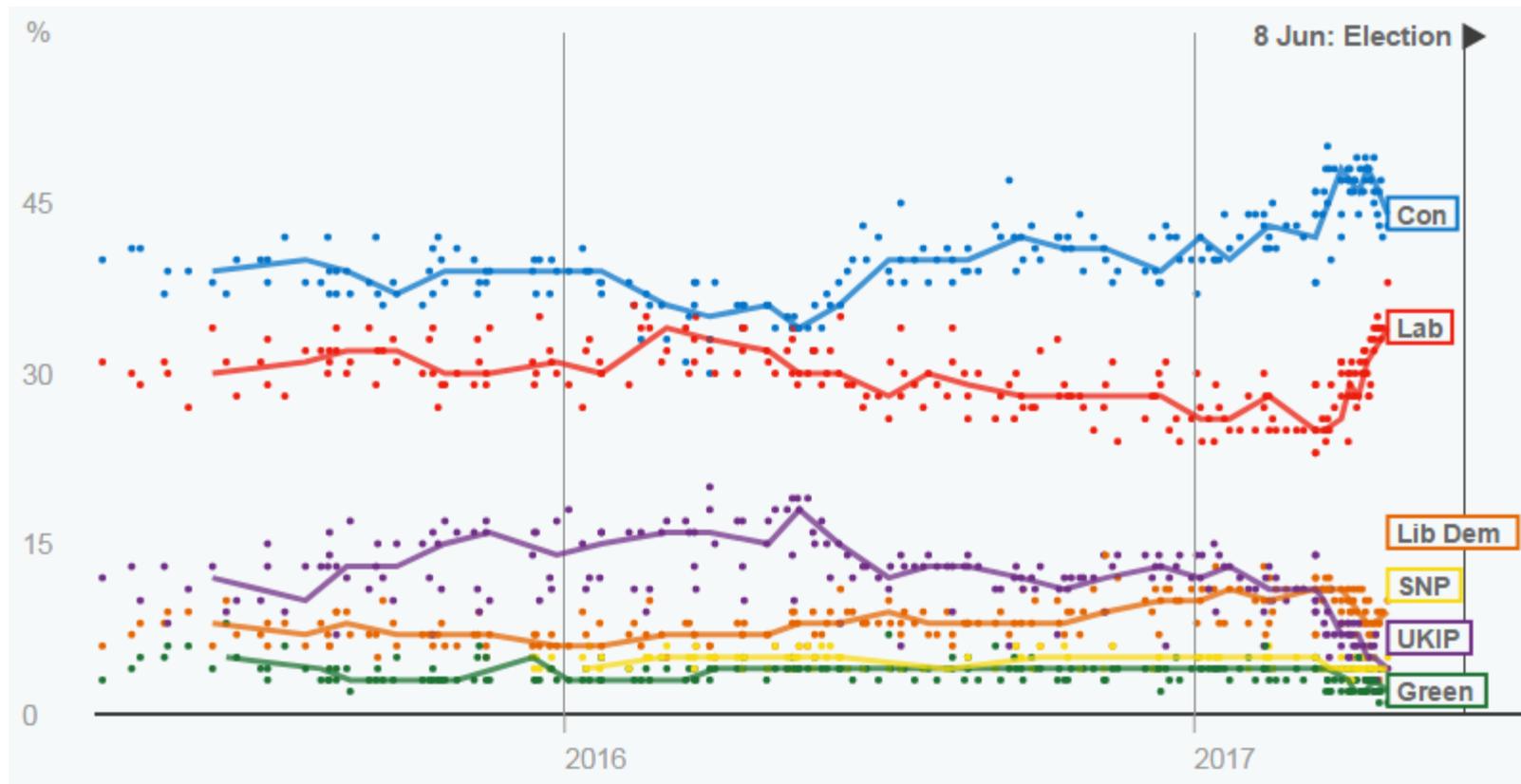
Common themes from the manifestos

Common themes from the manifestos highlight possible areas of focus for the next parliament likely to be around:

- Support for victims
- Increased focus on community sentencing and policing
- Role of Police and Crime Commissioners, with variability in the manifestos around involvement in next parliament
- Domestic and sexual violence
- Counter-terrorism strategies, with variability in manifestos around contribution of Prevent programme
- Rehabilitation in prisons

Voting intention

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





CordisBright Limited

23/24 Smithfield Street, London EC1A 9LF

Telephone	020 7330 9170
Email	info@cordisbright.co.uk
Internet	www.cordisbright.co.uk