



Policy Voice full results February 2023

Number of respondents: 859

Survey dates: 10 – 28 February

The first two questions have [formed the basis of our calls](#) on the UK government to be significantly more active in incentivising green industries and technologies. We think it is imperative that the government and the private sector work together, otherwise the UK will find itself left behind in the accelerating race to lead the green economy.

To what extent do you agree that the UK government should subsidise green industries and innovations that take place within the UK? Choose the one option that best represents your view.

Row Labels	Count
I don't have a view	4.1%
No, because there are better uses of taxpayer resources	12.8%
No, because this is a protectionist policy so should be discouraged	4.2%
Yes, because we need a step-change in how we tackle climate change	44.0%
Yes, to level the playing field with the EU and the US	34.9%
Grand Total	100.0%

In the United States, the Inflation Reduction Act gives substantial financial subsidies to invest in green technologies that are based in the US. The EU has indicated it could relax its own state aid rules for green industries in response. To what extent do you agree that the UK government should also subsidise green industries and innovations that take place within the UK? Choose the one option that best represents your view.

Yes, because we need a step-change in how we tackle climate change	44.0%
Yes, to level the playing field with the EU and the US	34.9%
No, because there are better uses of taxpayer resources	12.8%
No, because this is a protectionist policy so should be discouraged	4.2%
I don't have a view	4.1%

This question contributed to [our response to the government consultation](#) on the Draft Code of Practice on dismissal and re-engagement. Our view is that the development of a Code is welcome in providing employers with clarity regarding their responsibilities when considering changes to terms and conditions where there is the prospect of dismissal and re-engagement.

This question is about the practice of 'Fire and Rehire', whereby an employer dismisses a worker and rehires them on new, less-favourable terms. The government is seeking views on how employers should behave in future when seeking to change staff terms and conditions. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following suggestions?

Row Labels	Employers should be required to consider phasing in changes and consider providing practical support to staff.	Employers should share as much information as possible on the nature of contractual changes with staff, and answer any questions or explain the reasons for not doing so.	If staff are not prepared to accept contractual changes, employers should have to re-examine their business strategy and plans, taking account of feedback received.
Strongly agree	30.0%	58.6%	15.9%
Agree	46.9%	35.7%	40.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	12.1%	3.0%	13.9%
Disagree	7.8%	1.6%	19.9%
Strongly disagree	2.3%	0.6%	8.1%
Don't know	0.8%	0.5%	1.3%

Does your organisation have a plan to become net zero by a specific date?	
	Count of Does your organisation have a plan to become net zero by a specific date?
Yes	28.8%
No	64.1%
Don't know	7.1%
Grand Total	100.0%

These two questions were used as core evidence in our policy paper: '[The Green Incentive: how to put net zero at the heart of business planning](#)'. Our proposal is that companies which can demonstrate net zero should pay a lower rate of corporation tax. This could work in a very simple way: when firms prepare their financial accounts, they would also assess their carbon footprint and pay the appropriate tax rate on their profits depending on the result.

You said your organisation did not have a plan to become net zero by a specific date. If in the future the government were to announce that net zero firms would pay a lower rate of corporation tax on their profits, would that make your organisation more likely to make the required changes to become net zero, or would it make no difference?	
	Count: 553
Much more likely	32.5%
A bit more likely	32.1%
It would make no difference	32.5%
Don't know	2.9%
(blank)	0.0%
Grand Total	100.0%

The following data contributed to our [Director's Economic Confidence Index](#), which we send directly into the heart of government each month. This index is widely reported in the media each month.

How optimistic are you about both the wider UK economy and also your organisation over the next 12 months?

	Very optimistic	Quite optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Quite pessimistic	Very pessimistic	Don't know
Wider UK economy	22.8%	37.4%	45.2%	72.0%	84.3%	37.5%
Your (primary) organisation	77.2%	62.6%	54.8%	28.0%	15.7%	62.5%

You said you were pessimistic about prospects for the UK economy. Which, if any, of the following factors best describes the reason you said you were pessimistic? Please select one response.

Difficulties in the UK's trading relationship with the EU	22.6%
Falling customer demand in the UK	9.2%
Political instability in the UK government	25.9%
Supply chain problems affecting the UK	3.5%
The international price of energy	5.7%
The rate of inflation in the UK	17.9%
Other, please specify in the box below	14.9%
Don't know	0.2%
(blank)	0.0%
Grand Total	100.0%

Count of At what point, if at all, do you expect the rate of inflation in the UK to peak before starting to fall back again?

Spring 2023	18.6%
Summer 2023	17.2%
Autumn 2023	10.9%
Winter 2023-2024	7.8%
Spring 2024	4.9%
Summer 2024	1.3%
Later than Summer 2024	2.0%
Inflation has already peaked	32.6%
Don't know	4.1%
Never	0.6%
Grand Total	100.0%

Comparing the next 12 months with the last 12 months, what do you believe the outlook for your organisation will be in terms of:

	Much higher	Somewhat higher	No change	Somewhat lower	Much lower	Don't know
Business investment	9.8%	10.8%	29.6%	32.4%	50.9%	32.4%
Cost	43.8%	28.5%	6.7%	5.9%	5.2%	10.8%
Employee wages	24.2%	26.5%	15.7%	3.5%	6.0%	16.2%
Headcount	4.6%	13.5%	32.1%	27.0%	14.7%	21.6%
Revenue	17.5%	20.8%	16.0%	31.2%	23.3%	18.9%

Which of the following factors, if any, are having a negative impact on your organisation?	
Supply chain disruption	23.9%
Cost of energy	42.5%
Skill shortages/employee skills gaps	49.1%
Compliance with government regulation	22.4%
Global economic conditions	27.5%
UK economic conditions	51.3%
Transport cost/speed/reliability	20.7%
New trading relationship with the EU	26.1%
Cost/availability of finance	14.9%
Broadband cost/speed/reliability	11.3%
Coronavirus outbreak	9.5%
Difficulty or delays obtaining payment from customers	15.8%
Business taxes	25.8%
Employment taxes	19.1%
None	2.8%
Other	8%