

## It's a public services election

March 2015

Public services are the number one election issue for the majority of Scottish voters.

Today we have [published](#) a full scale poll undertaken by Survation, for UNISON Scotland, that asked Scottish voters to explain their election priorities. They said that public services, welfare, jobs and pay were the most important issues for them in the coming general election.

They were also clear about their spending priorities. If the next government was to raise £2bn by cracking down on tax avoidance, 58% of respondents believe that the money should be spent on improving public services, compared to 19% who think it should be spent on reducing public borrowing, and 17% who think that it should be used on income tax cuts. The complete opposite to George Osborne's Budget priorities this week.

### It's public services stupid!



#### Scottish voters election priorities\*

- Public services
- Welfare
- Jobs and pay

### Scotland shares UNISON's priorities

\*Survation Poll March 2015



Scottish voters also had clear views about who should deliver public services. Half of respondents believe that 'public sector organisations (such as local councils and the NHS)' deliver the best quality public services. This compares to only 16% who believe that 'charities and social enterprises (such as co-operatives)' and 14% who believe 'private sector organisations (such as businesses)' deliver the best quality public services.

Public accountability was an important factor with more than two thirds saying public bodies are accountable to the public. If a greater proportion of council services was funded locally through council tax and business rates, 44% believe that those services would become more locally accountable to the needs of residents, compared to 12% who believe those services would become less locally accountable to the needs of residents.

Scottish voters also agree with UNISON that if a company wins a government-funded contract it should have to pay the living wage.

This poll shows that Scottish voters understand that public services do not only support our most vulnerable people, they help grow the economy and contribute to ending poverty and low pay. This is something the UK ConDem coalition is ignoring with their dogged adherence to austerity economics.

For more information please contact UNISON's Bargaining and Campaigns team on 0141 342 2811, or email [d.watson@unison.co.uk](mailto:d.watson@unison.co.uk)



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