

# Government at a Glance 2021 Country Fact Sheet



## United Kingdom

### COVID has had a large effect on the United Kingdom's public finances.

The United Kingdom had the highest primary deficit in 2020 among OECD countries for which data is available (-12.3% of GDP, Figure 2.1).

#### Chapter 2 – Public finance and economics

 [Figure 2.1. General government fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP, 2007, 2019 and 2020](#)

**The United Kingdom is a leader in delivering a modern, diverse public sector.** The United Kingdom ranks first in the OECD on development of a diverse public sector workforce (Figure 6.5) and second in the OECD Digital government Index (Figure 10.1).

#### Chapter 6 – Human resources management

 [Figure 6.5. Pilot index: Development of a diverse central government workforce, 2020](#)

#### Chapter 10 – Digital government

 [Figure 10.1. OECD Digital Government Index, 2019](#)

### The United Kingdom can improve the accessibility and affordability of public services.

The United Kingdom ranks third last among OECD members both for the level of private expenditures on education, and for access and affordability of civil justice (Figures 14.7 and 14.10).

#### Chapter 14 – Serving citizens

 [Figure 14.7. Share of private expenditures on education after transfers as a share of total spending on education, 2017](#)

 [Figure 14.10. People can access and afford civil justice, 2016 and 2020](#)

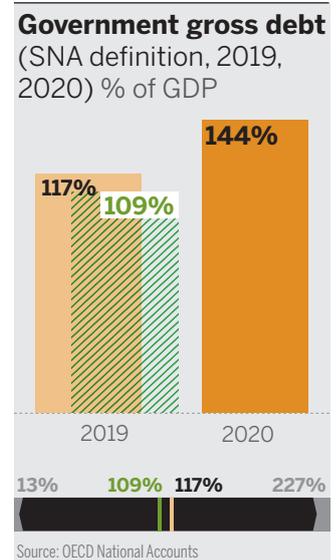
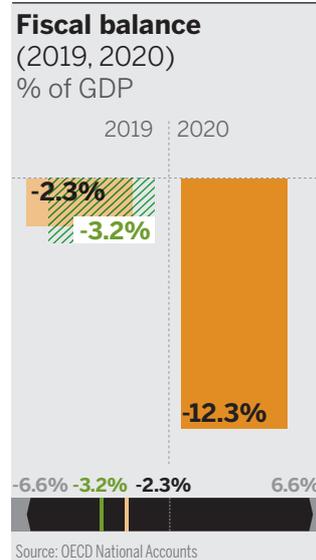
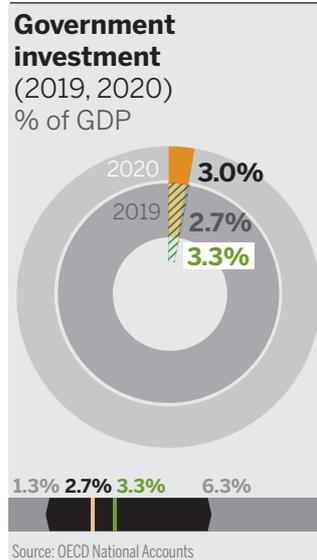
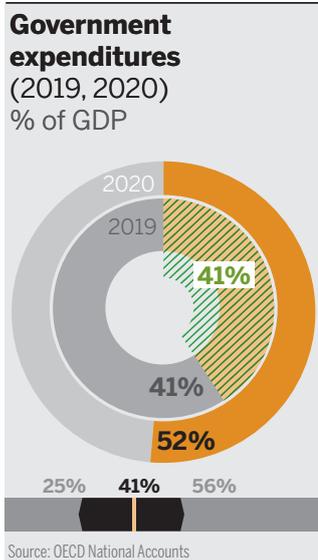
# Government resources

**United Kingdom**

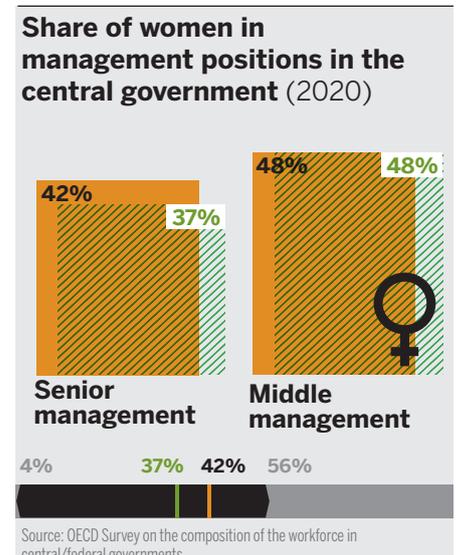
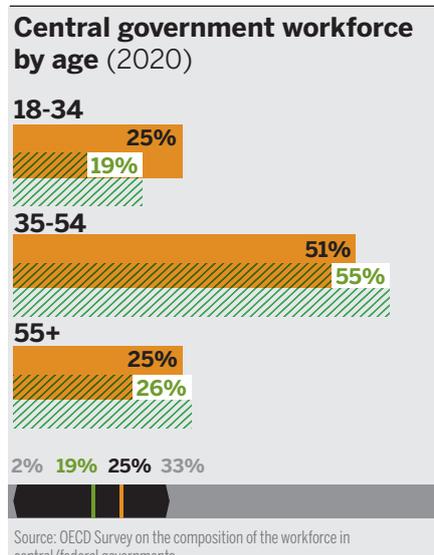
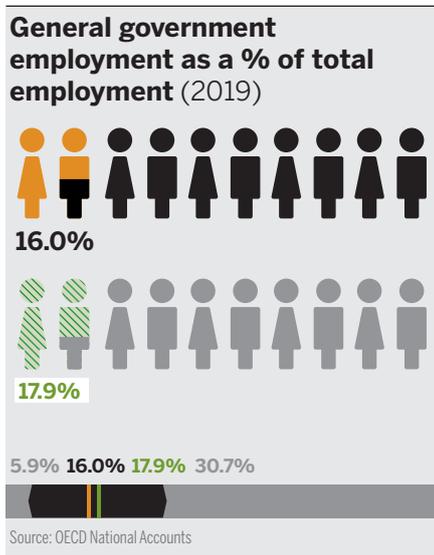
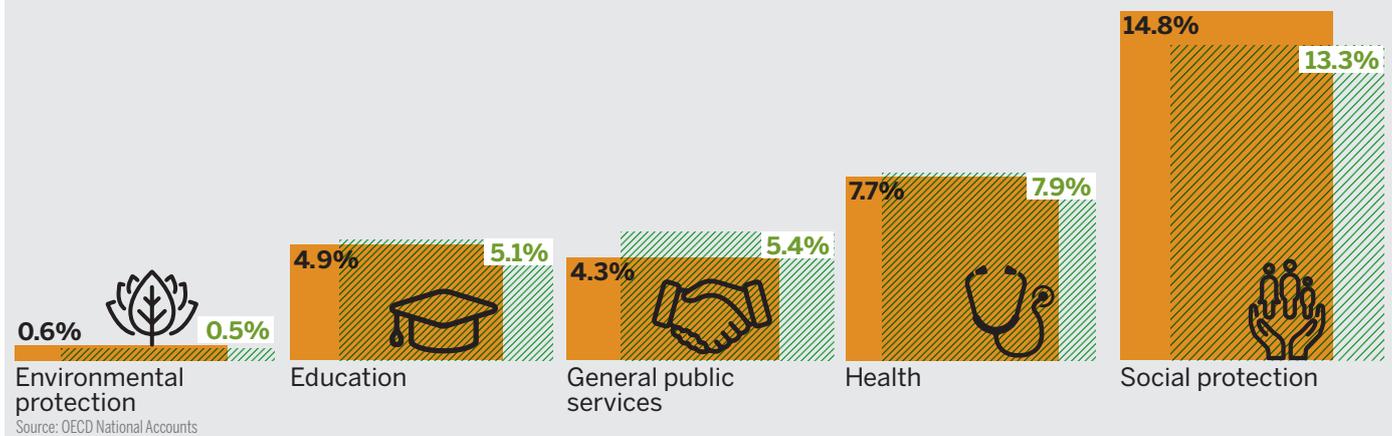
OECD

Range of OECD country values

N. A. not available  
Values have been rounded



## Government expenditures by selected functions (2019) % of GDP



# Public governance practices



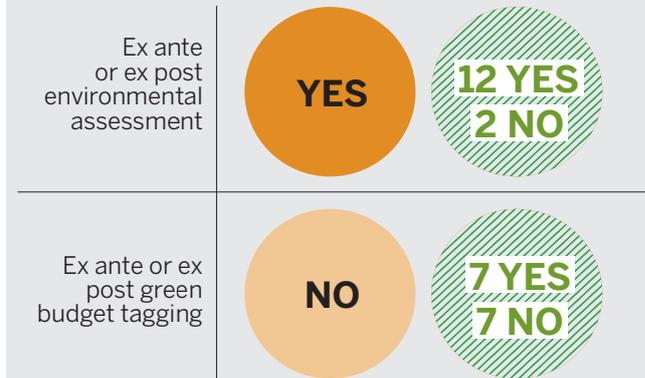
## Composite indices of public service leadership and capability (2020)

From 0 (worst) to 1 (best)



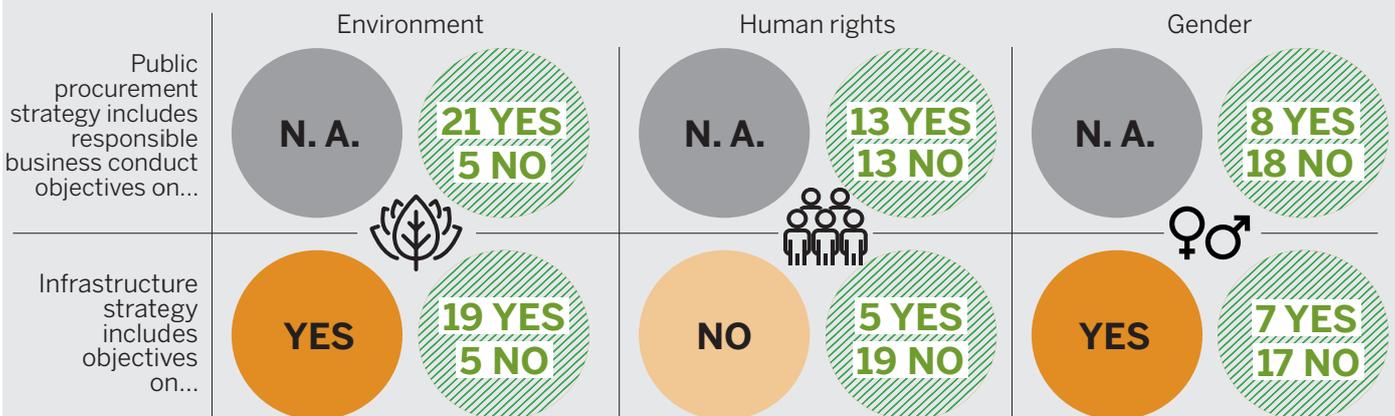
Source: OECD Survey on the composition of the workforce in central/federal governments and OECD Survey on public service leadership and capability

## Green budgeting tools (2021)



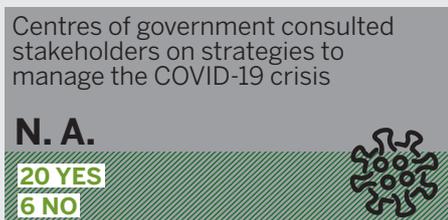
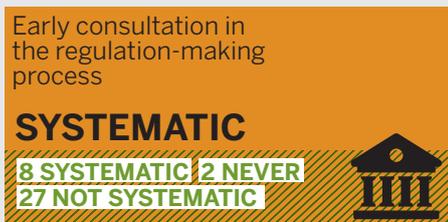
Source: OECD and European Commission – Joint survey on emerging green budgeting practices

## Objectives included in infrastructure and public procurement strategies (2020)



Source: OECD Survey on infrastructure governance and OECD Survey on leveraging responsible business conduct through public procurement

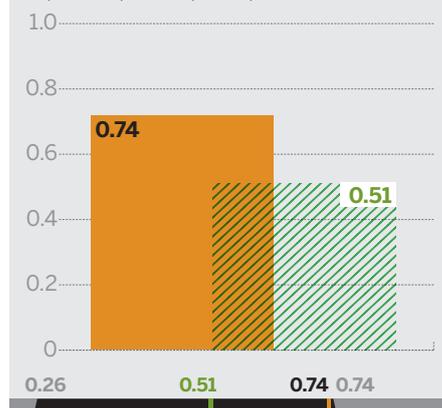
## Citizen and stakeholder participation (2020 or 2021)



Source: OECD Survey on centres of government's role in managing the COVID-19 crisis, OECD open government Survey and OECD indicators of regulatory policy and governance (IREG) Survey

## Digital government index (2019)

Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)

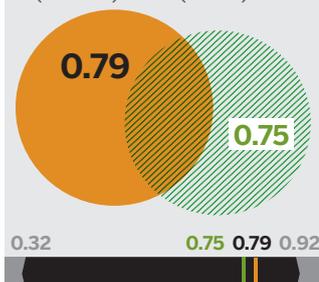


Source: OECD Survey on digital government 1.0

# Government results

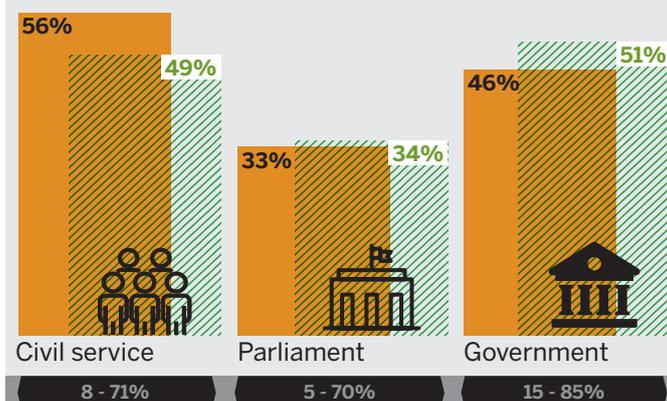
## Government provides information on law enforcement, due process and respect of human rights (2020)

Composite index from 0 (worst) to 1 (best)



Source: World Justice Project, Rule of Law Index 2020

## Citizens who express trust in public institutions (2020)



Source: Gallup World Poll, World Values Survey and European Values Study.

## United Kingdom

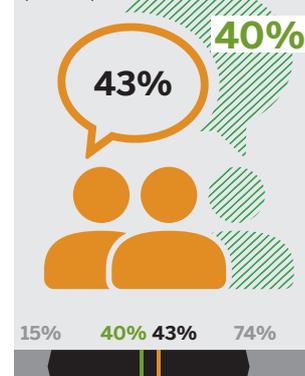
OECD

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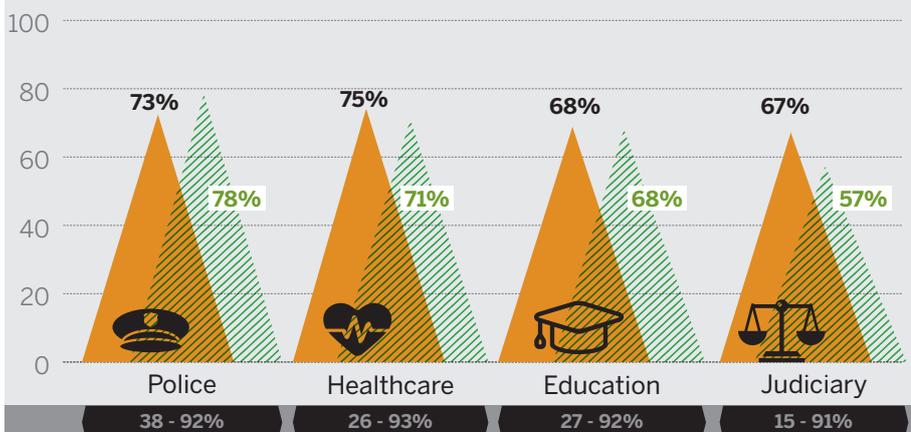
Values have been rounded

## Citizens who believe they have a say in what government does (2018)



Source: OECD calculations based on rounds 8 and 9 of the ESS and the 2017-2020 round of the World Values Survey

## Citizens who express satisfaction with public services (2020)



Source: Gallup World Poll

## Income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers (GINI index, 2018)



Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

## Figure notes

- Data on Public finance and economics, which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), were extracted on 11 May 2021 and data on General government employment were extracted on 12 April 2021. The range of country values refers to year 2019.
- Fiscal balance as reported in SNA framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.
- Government gross debt is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.
- The range of country values for the central government workforce by age refers to the 18-34 group.
- Data on trust in the civil service and parliament are 2018 for most countries.
- The range of country values for share of women in management positions in the central government refers to senior management.
- Citizens who express satisfaction with public services: for the judiciary and the police, the data reflect the proportion of citizens who express having confidence in the institution.
- The range of country values for income inequality before taxes and post taxes and transfers refers to GINI after taxes and transfers for the working age population.

## Government at a Glance 2021

Published every two years, **Government at a Glance** provides reliable, internationally comparable indicators on government activities and their results in OECD countries.

The 2021 edition includes input indicators on public finance and employment; while processes include data on institutions, budgeting practices and procedures, human resources management, regulatory governance, public procurement, the governance of infrastructure, public sector integrity, open government and digital government. Outcomes cover core government results (e.g. trust, political efficacy, inequality reduction) and indicators on access, responsiveness, quality and citizen satisfaction for the education, health and justice sectors. Governance indicators are especially useful for monitoring and benchmarking governments' progress in their public sector reforms.



Each indicator in the publication is presented in a user-friendly format, consisting of graphs and/or charts illustrating variations across countries and over time, brief descriptive analyses highlighting the major findings conveyed by the data, and a methodological section on the definition of the indicator and any limitations in data comparability.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2021 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: <https://doi.org/10.1787/1c258f55-en>

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: [www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm](http://www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm)