# UK Election: Analyzing Construction Industry Policies in Labour and Conservative Manifestos



**UK Election: Construction Industry Policies Under Labour and Conservative Manifestos**

**London, July 3, 2024** — As the UK approaches its general election on July 4, 2024, the outlook for the construction industry is at a critical juncture. Opinion polls suggest a likely victory for either the Labour or Conservative Party. This article examines the policies proposed by both parties regarding the construction sector.

**Challenges in Construction**

The construction industry is facing several major challenges:  
- Post-COVID austerity and the cancellation of large projects like HS2’s Northern leg.  
- An ageing workforce, with 35% over the age of 50 and a significant skills shortage requiring 937,000 recruits by 2032.  
- Rising material and transportation costs, partly due to global events.

**Conservative Party Policies**

* Housing: Build 1.6 million homes over the parliament term, launch a new Help to Buy scheme, and complete leasehold reform.
* Planning: Amend laws to minimize judicial reviews and streamline planning processes. They plan to abolish 'nutrient neutrality' rules impacting 100,000 new homes.
* Infrastructure: No Northern HS2 leg but £4.7bn for small projects in the North and Midlands.
* Skills: Introduce 'Advanced British Standard' to replace A levels and T levels, and add 100,000 apprenticeships annually.
* Net Zero: Increase heat pump grants and maintain net-zero targets, with new incentives for green investments.

**Labour Party Policies**

* Housing: Build 1.5 million homes in five years, focus on affordable housing, and establish 'Freedom to Buy' schemes.
* Planning: Create new urban development corporations, introduce ‘grey belt’ land class, and hire 300 more planning officers.
* Infrastructure: Fully committed to Northern Powerhouse Rail and integrate national infrastructure bodies for efficiency.
* Skills: Reform the apprenticeship levy, enabling training funds for existing staff, and focus on green skills development.
* Net Zero: Invest £15bn annually in green infrastructure, aim for a fully decarbonized power system by 2030, and intensify approvals for renewable projects.

**Implications**

Both parties emphasize different approaches to housing, planning, and infrastructure development. The election's outcome will significantly impact the construction industry's trajectory and its ability to meet current challenges.