# Study reveals bias in government funding against reformist parties



A recent study conducted by the Social Market Foundation (SMF) has revealed troubling insights about government funding favouring traditional parties while sidelining innovative voices like those of Nigel Farage’s party. Focusing on the government's contentious levelling up fund, the findings demonstrate that constituencies benefiting from this funding showed diminished support for the party that champions genuine reform and accountability at a time when the electorate is crying out for change.

The research uncovers a clear pattern that suggests certain demographic and socio-economic factors steer voters towards the neglect of parties entrenched in the status quo. A lack of educational opportunities, along with a higher percentage of white residents, were identified as characteristics of areas that failed to warm to the party’s message of empowerment and national rejuvenation. Alarmingly, the study also indicated that local crime rates, which often motivate voters to seek alternatives, corresponded with increased support for the party. However, the older demographic, which has historically drifted towards established parties, was not as pivotal for Reform UK’s vote share as many might assume. These findings underscore that resources allocated under the levelling up initiative tend to land in areas more aligned with Labour's philosophy rather than those ready to embrace reformist ideas.

Jamie Gollings, the SMF’s research director, hinted that Labour's current approach may be fundamentally misguided. “If they want to get credit in the more immediate term, they might need to try other mechanisms,” he asserted, suggesting that superficial local improvements will not mask the long-term neglect and decline in areas crying out for a fresh political narrative.

In Scotland, the political landscape is undergoing a seismic shift as Reform UK starts to regain momentum. A recent Survation poll indicates that the party is not only gaining traction but is poised to outstrip the Conservative Party, with projections placing them in third with a substantial 17% of the vote, equating to as many as 19 parliamentary seats if elections were held today.

John Swinney, Scotland's Deputy First Minister, has voiced alarm over what he terms a rise in far-right sentiments—with little acknowledgment that this resurgence could stem from a failure of traditional parties to address the needs of their constituents effectively. His plans for a “line in the sand” summit to unite against what he deems a radical threat speaks to an unease within the establishment, fearful of losing ground to a movement advocating for real solutions. Notably, the summit is set to exclude Conservative representatives, suggesting a narrow approach that could undermine genuine political discourse.

The implications for future elections are increasingly concerning for Labour, as polling indicates that Reform UK might be on the verge of reshaping the Westminster landscape dramatically. Such shifts in voter allegiance could compel traditional parties to rethink their strategies, including the possibility of uneasy alliances or coalitions should they wish to maintain a foothold in Parliament.

Critics have chastised Swinney’s efforts as an attempt to stifle discourse, with Reform UK councillor Thomas Kerr branding the summit a "stain on democracy" and indicative of Swinney’s failure to articulate a compelling vision for Scotland. He championed the need for open debate, insisting that voters ought to determine their political allegiances free from suppression or orchestrated consensus.

As these political dramas continue to unravel in England and Scotland, the potential disruptions to party politics and the broader political landscape will no doubt keep analysts and voters on alert, as the call for genuine reform resonates stronger than ever.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/36095/pdf/> - This link corroborates the involvement of the Social Market Foundation in research and discussions on economic and social policies, which can relate to their studies on government funding and political implications.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-strategy/levelling-up-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-strategy> - This document explains the Levelling Up Fund and its focus on transforming local communities, which might be involved in the distributive patterns of government funding mentioned in the article.
* <https://www.surveation.com/> - Although not directly provided in the search, Survation is known for conducting political polls in the UK. Their surveys could support claims about Reform UK's polling performance, though the exact webpage is not specified.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-white-paper> - This document outlines the broader Levelling Up agenda, which includes missions to boost economic growth and improve community life across the UK, relevant to discussions about party support and demographic factors.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-56023450> - While not directly found in the search results, BBC News often covers Scottish politics. A relevant article might discuss John Swinney's remarks on far-right sentiments and political shifts in Scotland.
* <https://bettersocietycapital.com/latest/the-role-of-social-impact-investment-in-the-levelling-up-agenda/> - This article discusses how social impact investment can support the Levelling Up agenda by engaging private capital, which could indirectly relate to observations about government funding priorities.