



## Majority of adults unaware they are already paying extra 1.25% tax to fund health and social care

- 53% of UK adults over 18 unaware the government is already collecting 1.25% in extra taxation to fund the health and social care system
- When told about the tax, the majority still unclear they will still have to pay for and plan for their own later-life care
- Liz Truss has committed to scrap the levy and find funding from alternative channels

Polling<sup>1</sup> from retirement specialist **Just Group** finds that millions of people in the UK are unaware that the 1.25% health and social care levy is already being collected to fund the NHS and later life care sector as part of the government's proposed reforms.

Fifty-three percent of adults over 18 said they did not know that the government had started collecting the tax in April this year, which has been implemented through National Insurance. The proposals state that from 6 April 2023 – the start of the new tax year – it would be levied as a separate 1.25% tax.

There is also significant confusion among adults about how the levy will affect the way people use the social care system.

When informed that the tax was already being collected to fund the system, nearly six in 10 people did not know that they would still have to pay for at least some of their social care (57%) and make plans for their care rather than relying on the Local Authority (55%).

The findings follow a previous poll<sup>2</sup> from Just Group which revealed that over a third (37%) of Tory voters think neither Liz Truss nor Rishi Sunak will uphold the government's promise to fix the social care issue once and for all.

Truss – the front-runner to become the country's next Prime Minister – has pledged to scrap the 1.25% levy but has committed to see through the policy reforms with alternative sources of funding.

**Stephen Lowe, group communications director, at Just Group** said tweaks to the social care reforms risked further damage to public confidence and engagement with the system.

"The indications that the hard-won social care consensus proposed last year by the government – which included both Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak – is already being tinkered with is hugely concerning," he said.

"While government support for the cost-of-living crisis is much-needed, the social care system has been neglected for decades and needs an urgent funding injection as well as certainty for the industry.

"People will only engage and plan if they feel confident of what the reforms mean for them. Our polling makes clear the public is at best unfamiliar with the reforms and at worst downright confused. These suggested tweaks and changes serve only to undermine the reforms before they've really begun.

"If the government is serious about its long-term plan and commitment to social care then they should stand by their reforms and support them with a concerted public communications campaign to help the public get to grips with what will be expected of them and what support the government will provide.

“Arranging social care is fraught with anxiety as it is – shifting sands on what’s paid for and what isn’t only adds to an already horribly difficult process.”

## Enquiries

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### Notes to Editors:

#### About the research

**1: Just Group**, Polling conducted by Opinium between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 with a nationally representative sample of 2,000 UK adults

**2: Just Group**, Polling conducted by Opinium between 29<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 with a nationally representative sample of 2,000 – of which 689 said that they voted Conservative in the 2019 General Election.

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