

BREXIT - The Collapse of Confidence - What Now?

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These are some of the latest results coming from [YouGov](#) about the state of politics in Britain. Public sentiment is driven by the biggest post-war decision the country has made - Brexit - and it is now going very, very badly indeed. Much worse than anticipated.

69% of Britons saying Brexit is going badly

With 69% of Britons believing that Brexit is going badly, and with the political class pointing fingers in all directions, who does the public think is at fault? Now a new YouGov study shows that the answer is very different depending on whether people voted Remain or Leave.

The largest figure of blame for Brexit going badly - is the government. Two thirds (68%) of those who think Brexit is currently going badly say that it is the government's fault. This includes three quarters who voted Remain (77%) and 58% of Leave voters.

With lots of talk of preparing for a no-deal Brexit, the possibilities of the Tory party completely disintegrating in 2019 becomes ever-more real. The electorate is now becoming very nervous of what Brexit may bring, given that the Conservatives have no idea themselves

The EU referendum: two years on

Slightly more of the British public think that voting to leave the EU was wrong for Britain than think it was the right decision, and on most measures, more people expect it will have a negative than a positive impact.

Despite all this negativity, most people in June, two years after the referendum still thought that the government should go ahead with Brexit, and the overwhelming majority expect that Britain will - ultimately - end up leaving. That was, until Theresa May's Chequers plan.

The Conservative Leave vote is fracturing

"it appears to be Conservative Leave voters who are moving away from Theresa May's Conservative party. In the week following Chequers the number saying they would stick with the Conservative party has dropped by ten percentages, with just 64% saying they would now vote for them in a general election."

Let's not forget what that actually means. That fall in the electorate voting Tory would prove

quite a drama because the fall of ten per cent – is a fall recorded just before the Chequers plan and just after – not the overall fall. This defection has led to the voting intention changing from Tory to Labour.

Voting Intention: Conservatives 36%, Labour 41% (16-17 July)

The latest YouGov/ Times voting intention survey sees the Conservatives on 36% (from 37% in our most recent survey) and Labour on 41% (from 39%). Elsewhere, Liberal Democrat voting intention stands at 9% (from 10%) while 14% would vote for other parties (unchanged).

What this means is that the electorate is losing confidence in the party driving Britain's Brexit negotiations. This is demonstrated quite clearly as Theresa May's overall standing collapses.

Theresa May's favourability score plummets to new low

With the government still reeling in the aftermath of the Chequers Brexit plan and the resignations it precipitated, new YouGov favourability polling reveals that the Prime Minister's popularity has hit an all-time low.

It should be noted that, as stated above, those turning against the Prime Minister appear to be Leave voters. The only truly amazing statistic about Theresa May is that at the summer recess – she's still Prime Minister. And few would have bet on that at any odds just six months ago.

The Conservatives are suffering from the events following the Chequers Brexit plan

Having now outlined their most recent Brexit plan, voters are even less clear on where the Conservatives stand on Brexit than they were before. The proportion of people who think the Tories' policy on Brexit is "very" or "fairly" clear has fallen from 26% in mid-June to 16% now, while the proportion who find it "fairly" or "completely" unclear has risen from 58% to 69%.

The way of interpreting this is quite clear. It's a mess. We have a lot to be fearful of because of politicians.

What Now?

Jeremy Hunt's appointment to foreign secretary and the four biggest positions at the head of the U.K. government — prime minister, chancellor, foreign secretary and home secretary — all filled by people who voted to remain in the EU but are now tasked with negotiating a path out.

The electorate don't believe in their plans for Brexit – even though they agree Brexit should mean Brexit.

That means a battered Britain is in for a further period of instability and more confusion, as a government led by people who don't believe in Brexit in the first place will now finalize a framework to present to the EU who won't agree to it anyway.

A no-deal scenario is now a stronger possibility and even the terms of that have to be

agreed between the EU and the U.K. by the deadline. This would actually be an economic calamity for both the UK and the EU.

Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, said: "Politicians come and go, but the problems they have created for the people remain. The mess caused by Brexit is the biggest problem in the history of EU-U.K. relations. And it is still very far from being solved."

As our report - [The real Brexit 'dividend' - "a decade of economic underperformance and political crisis"](#) from the London School of economics emphasised, "barring a vote to remain in the European Union, Britain faces the prospect of a lost decade of economic underperformance, subdued wage growth and investment and, increasingly, political crisis."

Truthfully, in a no-deal scenario, that forecast is optimistic. Brace yourselves. It's time for a new way to manage Britain and it isn't the way we have right now.

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