

The Tories are not only not governing, but do not wish ...

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You could be forgiven this week for thinking that politics is a game. It is not. That is most especially the case for those in government, although they would appear to be the ones most dedicated to any task that prevents them from delivering for the benefit of the people of the UK.

Take [this example from the BBC's website](#):

Delays in prosecuting suspected criminals have hit a record 708 days for the average time it takes to go from offence to completion of a case.

In the three months to September 2021, the average time it took to deal with a crime rose 15%, up from 620 days.

For all practical purposes, it now takes two years for someone subject to criminal prosecution to reach court. Not only does that prejudice a fair trial for the defendant, it also reduces the chance of a successful prosecution: memories of events will inevitably fade during the course of that period. There is wholly unnecessary stress in this for everyone, whilst all law enforcement agencies are undermined.

One of the most basic tasks of government is to create and uphold the law for the sake of the smooth operation of society. This has always been at the heart of Conservative thinking. What is now apparent is that the government is failing at this most basic of levels of responsibility. Nor can the delay be put down to Covid. These delays have arisen because of the lack of funding. There is no other reasonable explanation.

Johnson may, or may not, survive the next week or so. As I have already argued, the appropriate response to that is 'so what?' If nothing changes as a consequence of him leaving then this is a mere sideshow to distract from the reality that the Tories are not only not governing, but do not wish to govern. That is the real crisis that we face.