

## Our politicians look to be self-interested and out of t...

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The [Independent published new polling](#) yesterday that showed that 61% of people in the UK wanted a completely new type of political party and would reject both the Tories and Loabou if only they felt able to do so.

As they noted:

*Britain is increasingly pessimistic, distrustful of government and disdainful of politicians, according to Edelman's annual trust barometer poll.*

*Three-quarters of people (75 per cent) said they thought the UK was heading in the wrong direction – a record figure since the survey started in 2001.*

I treat all polling with some suspicion, and I am aware that I want to believe this is true, as I am sure many readers here will do. But I would add a little caution. The report notes:

*And 61 per cent agreed that the UK “needs a completely new type of political party to compete with the Conservatives and Labour for power”.*

*Just 23 per cent of people said they felt close to the Tories, down four points since 2022, compared with 29 per cent saying the same about Labour, an increase of six points.*

Those findings are slightly contradictory, although if 'close' is meant to represent being or right or left-wing persuasion they may be reconcilable.

What should be concluded? I suggest four things.

The first is that, as other opinion noted suggested, our existing political parties are not providing the answers people want. They are only being supported in the absence of a viable alternative.

Second, if there was a viable alternative (as there is in Scotland and Wales) then it

would be voted for.

Third, we desperately need to end first-past-the-post elections. As it is any representative of either major party who denies the right to this is no friend of democracy.

Fourth, that denial may feed this disillusionment. Our politicians look to be self-interested and out of touch because that is exactly what they are.