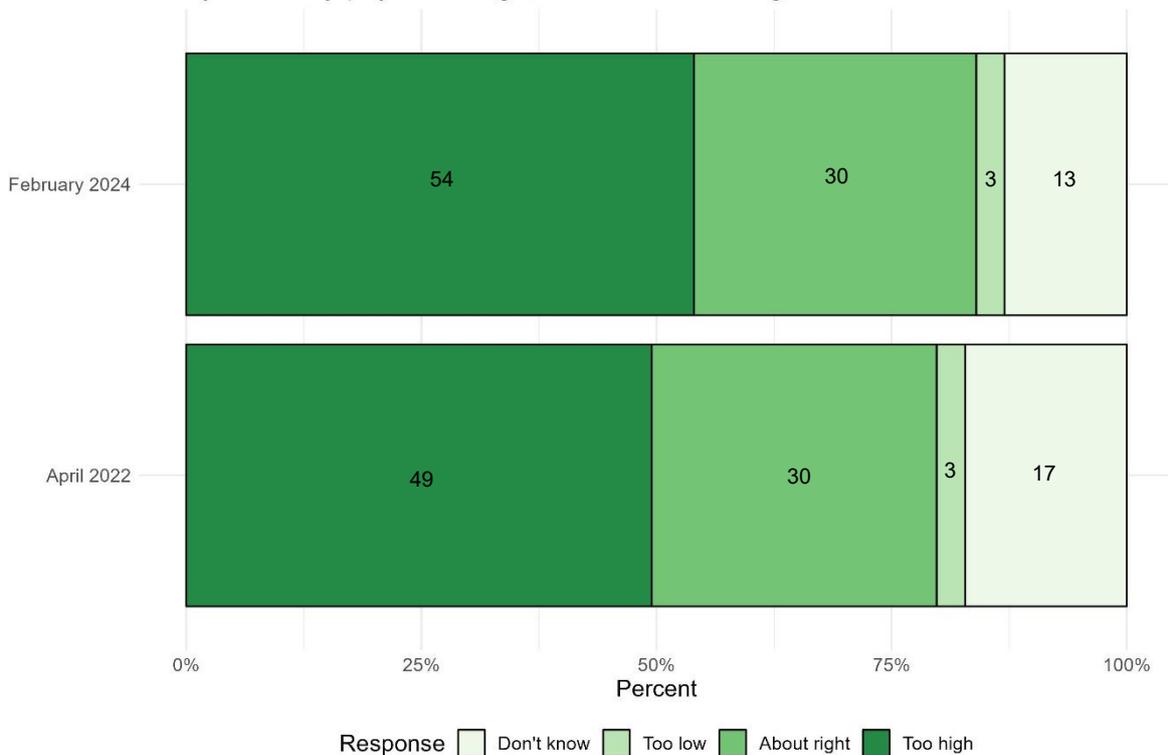


### Londoners feel that they and their family pay too much tax and find Inheritance Tax, Council Tax and Stamp Duty particularly unfair

A new poll from the Mile End Institute at Queen Mary University of London indicates that the majority (54 per cent) of Londoners feel that, on balance, the overall amount of tax they and their family pay is too high. In April 2022, when we last asked this question, the same figure stood at 49 per cent, suggesting that there may have been a slight increase in the proportion of Londoners who are concerned about how much they are being taxed. It seems that the two percentage point cut in the main Employee National Insurance rate, brought into effect by the Conservative government in January 2024, is providing little relief for Londoners, perhaps due to the impact of additional increases in Income Tax alongside widespread fears about the scale of potential rises in Council Tax.

On balance, would you say that the overall amount of tax that you and your family pay is too high, too low or about right?



But which types of taxation do Londoners particularly object to? To explore this, we asked our respondents to rate the extent to which they thought the following kinds of taxes were fair or unfair: VAT, Inheritance Tax, Income Tax, Council Tax, National Insurance and Stamp Duty. Responses are visualised in the table below.

Three different kinds of taxation stand out as being particularly unfair in the eyes of Londoners: 55 per cent felt Inheritance Tax was unfair, and 51 per cent thought Council Tax and Stamp Duty were unfair. Income Tax and National Insurance were the ‘most popular’ types of taxation, with 32 per cent and 41 per cent of Londoners, respectively, believing these to be either ‘very fair’ or ‘fair’.

**How fair or unfair do you think the following types of taxation are:**

	<b>Total: Fair</b>		<b>Neither fair nor unfair</b>	<b>Total: Unfair</b>		<b>Don't know</b>
	<b>Very fair</b>	<b>Fair</b>		<b>Unfair</b>	<b>Very Unfair</b>	
<b>VAT</b>	2	23	26	25	16	9
<b>Inheritance Tax</b>	6	12	13	22	33	14
<b>Income Tax</b>	5	27	19	27	16	6
<b>Council Tax</b>	2	21	22	27	24	5
<b>National Insurance</b>	6	35	25	16	10	8
<b>Stamp Duty</b>	2	12	18	28	23	18

We observe some interesting demographic differences when it comes to views about the fairness of different types of taxation. For example, while just 49 per cent of men feel Inheritance Tax is unfair, this figure rises to 61 per cent among women; and while 70 per cent of those living in South London thought this was the case, just 45 per cent of those who resided in East London did so. We also see a strong age gradient here: 42 per cent of Londoners aged 18-24 feel that Inheritance Tax is unfair compared to 70 per cent of those aged 65 and over.

Those in social grades C2DE are also somewhat more likely to find Council Tax unfair than those in social grades ABC1 by a small, but not insignificant, magnitude of 7 percentage points, perhaps reflecting the somewhat regressive nature of council tax. White Londoners are also substantially more likely than BME Londoners to find Stamp Duty unfair, with 56 per cent of White Londoners feeling this way compared to just 44 per cent of BME Londoners.

Against the backdrop of ongoing debates about university fees, value for money, and the university funding model, we also asked Londoners the following question: 'thinking about all costs associated with getting a university degree, generally speaking do you think it represents good or bad value for money?'

We find that just a quarter of Londoners (25 per cent) feel that, all things considered, a university degree represents good value for money. In contrast, 46 per cent feel a university degree represents bad value for money; 17 per cent said this represented neither good nor bad value in their opinion; and 12 per cent said they did not know.

Responses to this question varied considerably across key demographic groups. There was a considerable disparity by age, for example, with over a third of Londoners aged 18-24 (34 per cent) claiming a university degree represents good value for money compared to less than one fifth (18 per cent) of those aged 65 or over. Strikingly, there was not a single demographic group (among those we considered), where the majority felt a university degree represents good value for money.

**Data Tables available here:** [QMULResults 240219 TaxandOther.xls \(live.com\)](#)

*All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from fieldwork conducted by YouGov Plc for the Mile End Institute (which should be credited as the commissioner and designer of the survey).*

*Total sample size was 1,113 adults living in inner and outer London. Fieldwork was undertaken between 12th - 19th February 2024. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all adults in London (aged 18+).*

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