




Cramlington and Killingworth - GE24 Candidate Survey

Thank you to those that responded - all candidates were asked. Only the three below responded.

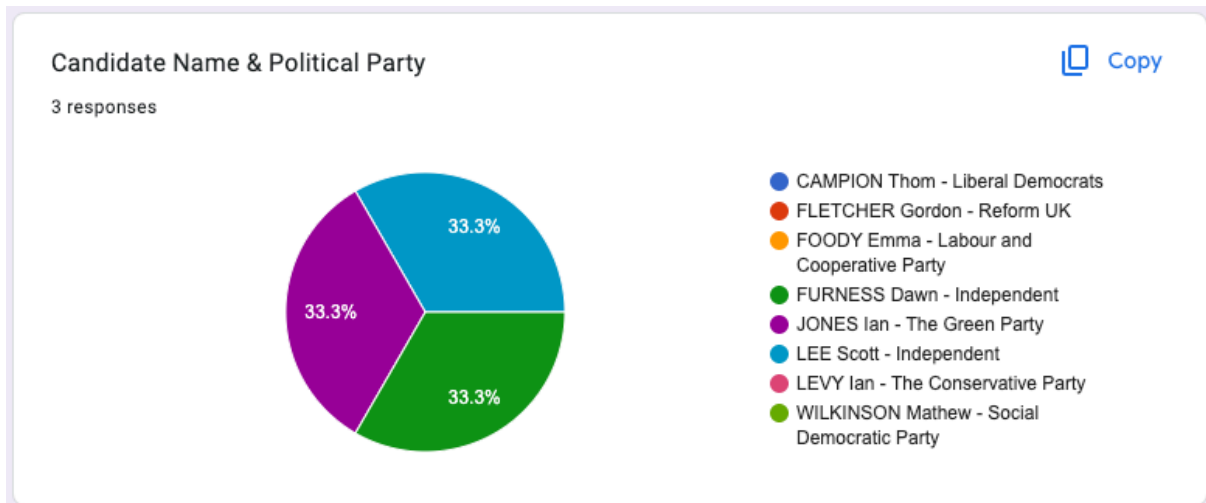
The 3 candidates who responded, in alphabetical order as appearing on the ballot are:

<p><u>Dawn Furness</u></p> <p>Independent</p>	
<p><u>Ian Jones</u></p> <p>Green Party</p>	
<p><u>Scott Lee</u></p> <p>Independent</p>	

The candidates individual responses are shared below in order of completion:

1. Ian Jones - Green Party
2. Scott Lee- Independent
3. Dawn Furness - Independent

Other candidates were asked but failed to respond.



General comments

3 responses

Our manifesto has full information on what we intend to do if elected and it is a very good insight into my own personal opinions. I became interested in politics as my passion for equality and social justice grew. Our environment is in crisis and our economy is broken, by addressing one we can repair the other and create a fairer and more caring society.

There isn't a cigarette paper between the policies of the two main parties. If you vote for either of them it's a vote for your MP being told how to vote by either Starmer or Sunak. You'd be voting for another nodding dog. A strong, independent voice in Westminster will represent everyone in the constituency.

There are 3 existential level crisis affecting the UK in July 2024 and they are not being addressed due to a fixation on Party politics and factionalism. They need to be radically addressed, <https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2024/digest/>

3. Climate Destabilisation - in the UK this presents as unpredictable and extreme weather. we are subject to increased rainfall, causing intermittent and severe flooding. This also affects agriculture as tractors are not able to harvest crops due to groundwater saturation.

2. Nuclear Weapons - https://www.icanw.org/nuclear_arsenals Combined, Russia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea possess over 12,000 nuclear weapons, most of which are many times more powerful than the nuclear weapon dropped on Hiroshima. We need to reduce this figure and promote diplomatic talks and resolutions over military escalation.

1. Artificial Intelligence - Misinformation and disinformation to further widen societal and political divides. which is why we need absolute transparency of governance.

What are your proposals to tackle increased demand for Adult social Care, and how will they be funded?

3 responses

See our manifesto

Around one in three people asking for support receive nothing - that is unacceptable. The money needs to be found for Adult Social Care and I would look at progressive taxation and changes to inheritance tax to pay for it. Churn in the Adult Social Care workforce is also around one in three each year so one clear step would be to improve pay and conditions for carers.

We are facing an increasing aging population, with this comes additional care needs which according to the Oxford Institute of Population Aging, can be mitigated with intergenerational housing.
<https://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/blog/Three-innovations-in-intergenerational-housing>

I support the provision of communal housing regardless of the age of habitants as these mitigate against isolation and other mental health problems. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7967625/>

I support the building and council Band permits for Tiny Houses and alternative structures which can free up older housing stock as people transition into residential or part -residential care.
<https://homeoftiny.co.uk/tiny-home-planning-permission-and-law/>

What are your proposals to tackle the Cost of Living crisis in the UK, and how will they be funded?

3 responses

See our manifesto

A more progressive tax system, reducing the tax burden on ordinary working families and taxing the rich and big business properly. The personal allowance should be increased to £40,000 to lift many people out of income tax. Hidden taxes (like VAT on petfood, 12% Insurance Premium Tax, and double tax on fuel duty that is then taxed again with another tax) should be urgently reviewed. The 2 child limit on family allowance should be abolished, which would have a massive immediate impact on child poverty. Waste should be cut in national and local government.

FOOD GROWING NETWORKS

Supporting local residents to convert their lawns into sharable food growing spaces like
<https://www.incredibleedible.org.uk/>

CO-OPERATIVE ACCOMMODATION

For those that are mobile, housing co-operatives offer a lower cost alternative to private landlord renting. Such co-habitations should be regulated by the government.
<https://www.communityledhomes.org.uk/resource/how-set-housing-co-operative>

ENERGY CO-OPERATIVES

Many independent co-ops already exist but I would like to see these far more widely implemented on a ward and street level that was overseen by national infrastructure.
<https://www.brightonenergy.org.uk/start-community-energy-scheme/>

Immigration other comments

3 responses

See our manifesto

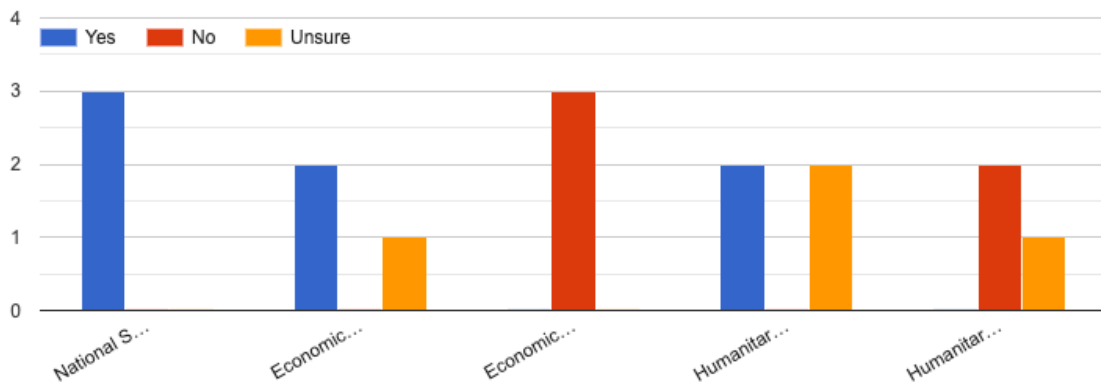
Anyone arriving illegally into the UK should be returned. We do need immigration, such as the 100,000 a year intake into our NHS therefore it is important there are correct legal channels to gain entry. As successive governments have no idea who has entered the country, an amnesty should be allowed for those currently resident but living under the radar.

Major political parties have made emotive issues out of deliberately conflating Economic & Humanitarian migration. The UK's economic immigration system must be based upon the needs of the UK. I support the application of Work Visas for specific sectors of industry such as healthcare, construction and adult social care.

I support the Foreign Aid budget for refugees and assylum seekers <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/use-of-the-aid-budget-to-host-refugees-in-the-uk-rises-to-4-3bn/>

Do you support the following methods of Immigration to the UK? (NB.option 1 is restricted, by definition)

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Electoral Reform comments

3 responses

Please see our manifesto

I'm in favour of PR. The House of Lords should be abolished and replaced with an elected Second Chamber, and the number of MPs should be cut from 650 to just 100.

Labour must be pressured to adopt Proportional Representation immediately. It is not a perfect system, but is a fairer system than the current FPTP and prevents 'tactical' voting which is in itself trying to mitigate against the biases of a 'two-party' system.

There may be occasion when secondary legislation may be required to be adopted in times of national crisis (such as covid) but these have been abused by the current Government, to the point that many statutes do not contain simple definitions of whom the laws apply to and the purpose of the legislation.

If elected, I would seek to:

1. Substantially reduce the number of devolved legislations, particularly ones that have not been subject to parliamentary scrutiny or debate.
2. Summarise each law put before parliament, in PLAIN ENGLISH, with a paragraph on the intention of the legislation and what it is intended to achieve and who will be affected (with specific definitions) and who will enforce.
3. Adopt 'peeling' legislation so that any amendments and changes will be set out within the legislation itself and not referred to as subsections in other legislation.

What are your views on legislative transparency and the use of secondary legislation?

3 responses

Please see our manifesto

I believe in open, transparent government to allow scrutiny of how taxpayers money is spent. Secondary legislation is more difficult to scrutinize, but it is a necessary tool to allow for swift decision making without having to change the primary legislation.

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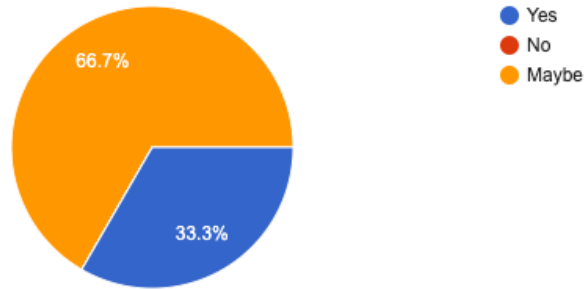
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If elected, will you PLEDGE to adopt the Mirrlees recommendations for Tax reform? [Institute of Fiscal Studies](#)

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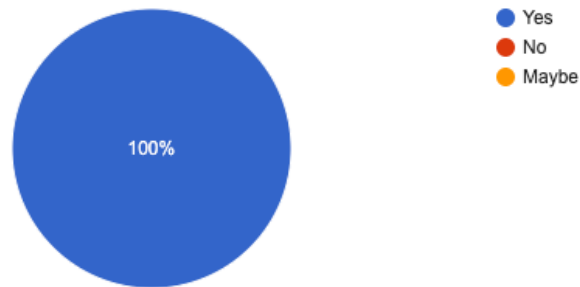
3 responses



If elected, will you PLEDGE to adopt [Proportional Representation](#) and remove the First Past The Post (FPTP) system?

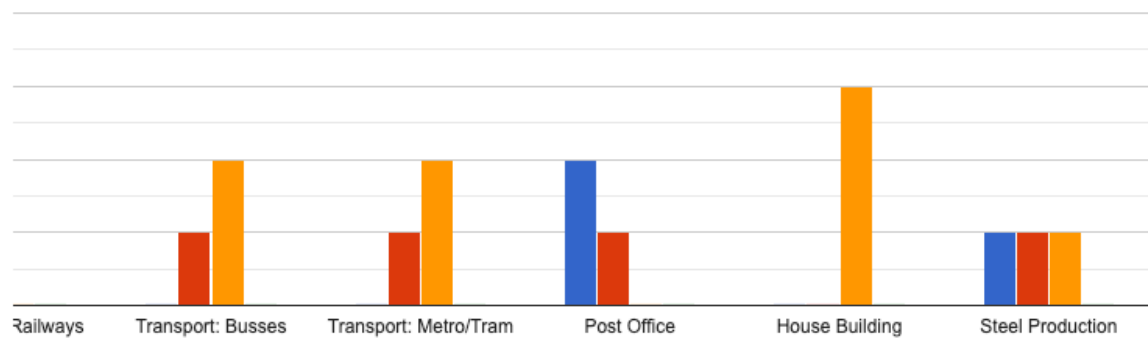
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3 responses



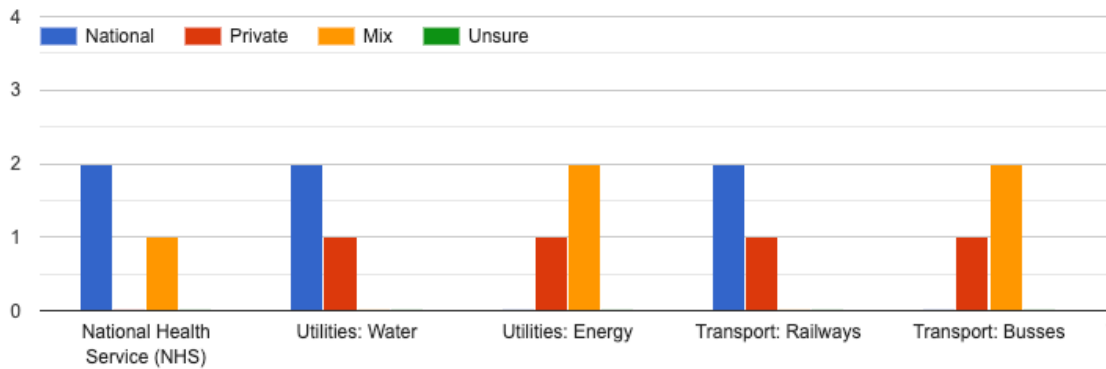
Which Infrastructure should be nationalised vs privatised?

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Which Infrastructure should be nationalised vs privatised?

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Global Politics comments

1 response

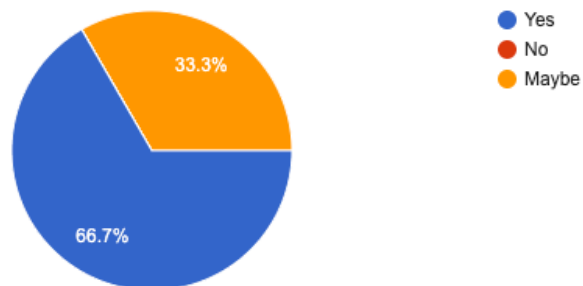
I do not believe the UK should blindly follow the dictations of the US if it escalates tensions with Russia, particularly with the expansion of NATO onto the Russian border.
<https://www.stopwar.org.uk/article/warnings-unheeded-many-predicted-nato-expansion-would-lead-to-war/>

We must adopt the precautionary principle to dealing with our international allies. where diplomacy and NOT military intervention is the FIRST and LAST approach.
<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2020/05/minsk-conundrum-western-policy-and-russias-war-eastern-ukraine-0/minsk-2-agreement>

Do you support the UK being part of NATO?

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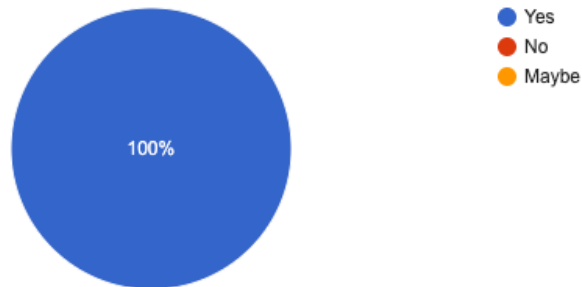
3 responses



Do you support a ceasefire in Gaza?

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3 responses



Climate Destabilisation comments

2 responses

ULEZ is a regressive tax on ordinary working people going about their business. It allows people who can afford expensive electric vehicles to travel freely, despite the enormous carbon footprint of these vehicles.

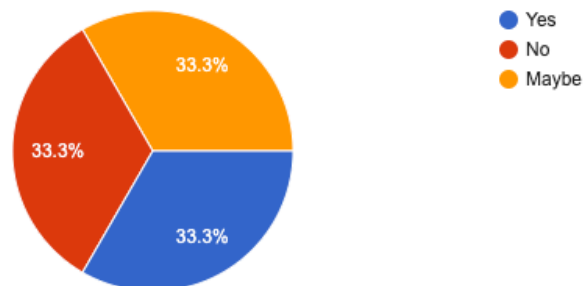
ULEZ - In principle, I support clean air zones but am concerned that not enough is being done to support those on lower incomes that are struggling in the cost of living crisis to access the city centre. Reduced fare bus passes would need to run across several private companies in order to be effective as the £2 single trip is a national scheme and not run by the Newcastle Council. the aim should be to reduce ALL single vehicular traffic in city centres and build up the regional transport network so it does not isolate already marginalised individuals.

UTILITIES - we need to reduce our consumption of water, particularly related to domestic and commercial sanitation with increased building of composting toilet facilities.

Do you support the ULEZ Clean Air Zone in Newcastle?

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3 responses



What measures are you advocating to prevent climate destabilisation?

3 responses

Please see our manifesto.

I believe there are many higher priorities, such as resolving the cost of living crisis and reducing the tax burden. The "climate emergency" is not one of my priorities - yes we should have good environmental policies, but I do not buy into the hysteria rife throughout government, local government, the media and lobbyists.

Whoever is elected we need to adopt the Green New Deal and make a just transition to a more sustainable economy.

Technology & Generative AI comments

1 response

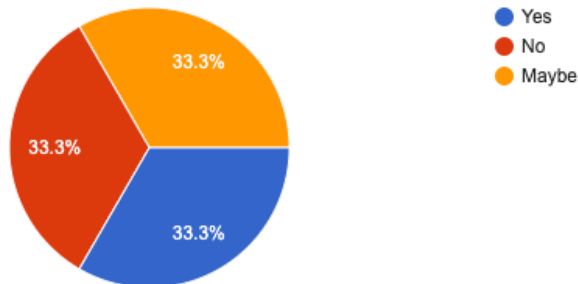
The self esteem of young Girls (and to a lesser extent young boys) is dramatically reduced with increasing exposure to social media. <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-state-of-girls-mental-health-and-self-confidence-in-charts/2023/11>

I propose restrictions on access to all U16s

Do you support restrictions on U16s access to Smartphones?

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3 responses



What precautionary measures do you advocate regarding Generative AI?

3 responses

This is a very complex area of rapidly accelerating change. I am be no means an expert on this but I would wish for an independent authority to be established in which those with expertise are empowered to limit what is released into the public domain is fit for purpose. As current AI can often generate very worrying material.

I would like to see a robust regulatory framework to safeguard the public interest, while allowing the balance not to be tipped against innovation and experimentation.

the UK needs to advocate a moratorium on development of generative AI by US based tech companies (google, Open AI, Grok) along the lines of the EU https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2b6cf7e5-36ac-41cb-aab5-0d32050143dc_en?filename=ec_rtd_ai-guidelines.pdf

Nuclear Weapons comments

2 responses

I fully support the UK having a nuclear deterrent - the intention is, however, not to use them.

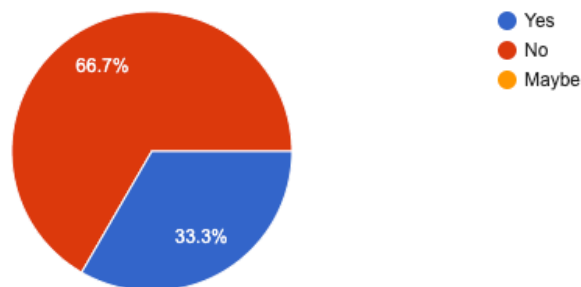
I graduated in Nuclear Physics from Manchester and had to calculate the temperature at which human eyeballs melted. <https://cnduk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Activity-A-Nuclear-Explosion-Timeline.pdf>

We need URGENT diplomatic intervention to prevent escalation into WWIII.

Will you vote to replace Trident?

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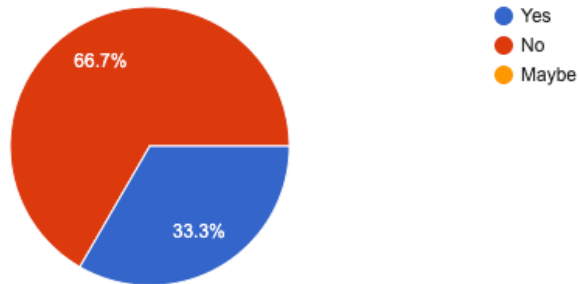
3 responses



Do you support the UK's Use of Nuclear Weapons?

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3 responses



Sex and Gender comments

1 response

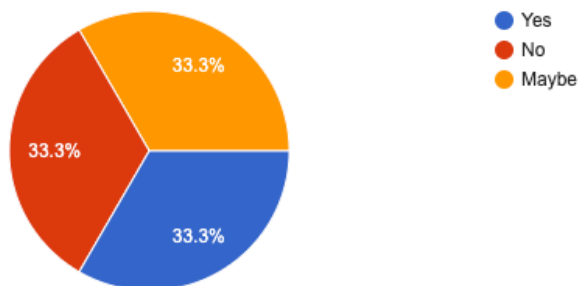
Labour have continually obfuscated on this issue, making false statements and denouncing, harassing and bullying women advocating their legally protect rights as a sex class. Starmer and Labour are rolling back 50 years of protections AGAINST sex discrimination.

Women's same-sex services are being converted to mixed-sex by stealth without their consent. Police are recording acts of male sexual violence such as rape and paedophilia as being perpetrated by females and women's safety and fair competition in sports is being eviscerated through the participation of males.

If elected, will you PLEDGE to support a Statutory Public Inquiry into the policy capture of public institutions by Stonewall and other lobby organisations?

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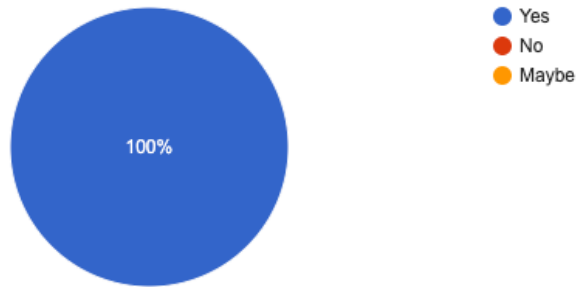
3 responses



If elected, will you PLEDGE to endorse the Cass Report for raising concerns about child safeguarding?

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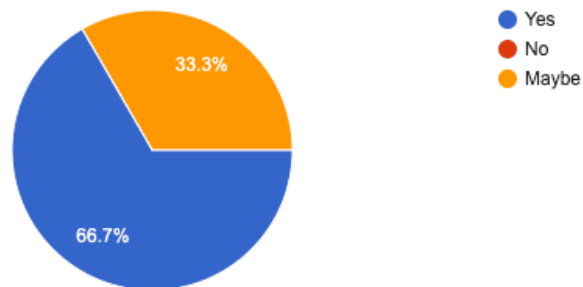
3 responses



If elected, will you PLEDGE to ban males playing in female sports, for female safety and fairness?

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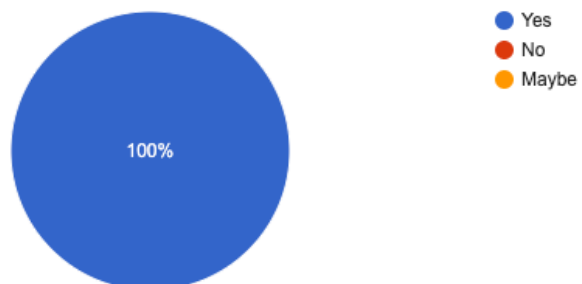
3 responses



If elected, will you PLEDGE to protect SINGLE-SEX spaces for Women? (i.e. domestic violence refuges, prisons and hospitals)

[Copy](#)

3 responses



What is a woman?

3 responses

A female human.

An adult female human being

Adult Human Female - defined Eq Act [2010] <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/212>

Constituency comments

3 responses

I have worked across the Cramlington and Killingworth constituency area for almost a decade and have a good understanding of the local community, it's strengths and areas that we can build upon.

I also serve on Northumberland County Council and Cramlington Town Council as the only Independent Councillor in the constituency

I strongly object to the spouse of the Nottingham Labour MP being drafted into our constituency from hundreds of miles away.

In which constituency were you registered to vote, at the last General Election?

3 responses

Tynemouth

Cramlington (then part of Blyth Valley)

Blyth Valley (now split following boundary commission changes)

Do you live in the constituency of Cramlington and Killingworth?

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3 responses

