

Supplementary Questions which were submitted by the public for the Hustings on 19th June 2024

There was not time to put these questions to the candidates on the night but they were submitted to them later in writing, both for their information and in the hopes of receiving answers. We do understand that the candidates are very busy and that some of them do not have teams to help them, never-the-less we did hope to have some answers to place on the website.

Questions about Party politics were removed as they can be answered by reading manifestos, and similar questions have been amalgamated.

Local Issues

- The South West does not have its own political voice. What is your position on full English devolution to the Regions?
- Buses have been decreased in the last 2 years. It is now impossible to get public transport to or from Seaton to Exeter or Sidmouth after 6pm. What are your plans to improve public transport?
- What will parties do to address the issue of housing for young people in the south west with the rise of holiday homes in the area?
- What are your thoughts on the Green Wedges review being carried out by EDDC for the local plan?
- Hospiscare (the local end of life charity for Exeter, East and Mid Devon) is facing a shortfall of £2.5bn and only receives 18% of the funding from the integrated care board. What will you do to ensure fairer funding for all hospices across the constituency?
- How will you fix the state of dentistry in Devon?
- What are you going to do for the hard-working young people in this constituency? The economic opportunities for them are limited and housing is limited or unaffordable.
- What are your plans for making active travel and leisure more accessible in the region. It is really difficult to cycle between any of the main towns or villages in the area so it would be great to know what your plans are for increasing cycling and walking routes to add community inter-connectivity and tourism.
- If you are elected as the MP for this constituency, how will you honour the promises of your manifesto, if a different party wins the general election and becomes our government?

National Issues

- The introduction of a voter ID requirement by the Government raised concerns. Do you agree that in future any constitution change to something as sensitive as voting should be introduced on a strictly multi-party basis with bipartisan consent?
- HS2 was a massive mistake that has cost a fortune and caused huge damage. How should it be sorted out?
- Without putting spin on the answer, what would your party do that the others will not do?
- What would you do to reverse the decline in the wildlife population in this country?
- The recent news suggests local Councils are facing a £1bn shortfall for special educational needs. What will you do to ensure fair funding for SEND children?
- I think our MP's work in Devon is important but at the moment there is a bigger picture of sorting out our Country. Is there something in particular you would focus upon?
- The issue of NHS bed blocking, which has been going on for many years, is affecting the whole way the NHS operates. What way out of this would you suggest?

- As it is impossible to fix the NHS until social care is sorted, what are your plans for social care?
- Do you agree that we need tax thresholds to be raised, to stop closing public toilets, to revise dentists' contracts, have VAT to be lowered on some items, to make HMRC easier to contact on the phone, and to deal better with too many people changing country too quickly.
- Small business owners struggle to recruit and pay employees with the result that many close. What would you do to support them in the face of minimum wage legislation and being priced out of the market by large concerns?
- It seems likely that a bill to allow Assisted Dying in England will be brought before the next Parliament. Which would you support Assisted Dying or the expansion of palliative care; to help ensure all can die with dignity.
- Recent surveys of UK taxpayers, such as IPSOS and YouGov are showing that there is a tremendous distrust of our current system of party politics. How are you going to bring back the trust into politics?
- The Food Foundation indicates that on a number of measures children's health has deteriorated over the last ten years. To improve children's health, and their life chances, would you be in favour of raising taxes. If not why not and what would you do instead?

International Issues

- The ECHR (European Court of Human Rights) was set up in the 1950s in a different era and it has now become politicised. What are your views on leaving the ECHR?
- Most countries in Europe are preparing their societies to cope with the possible spread of war within Europe and the wider realities of the geopolitical climate, and are expressing concern that Britain is well behind. What are the candidates going to do to help the British population wake up to the need for building the resilience now required?
- The UN is warning of a devastating famine in Gaza. How will you work towards putting an end to the devastating conflict and help build a lasting peace for the region?
- What practical measures would you support in order to deepen cooperation with our European allies?
- Our Overseas Aid budget has been slashed from 0.7% of GDP. What will you do to ensure Britain restores its Aid budget to support those experiencing poverty abroad?

Matters of moral principle

- Martin Luther King had a dream for this world. What is your dream?
- Do you think schools should teach my grandchildren that there are more than two genders?
- Will you fully represent & stand up for your constituents by voting against the whip when necessary - for example by voting against the whip to protect this area rather than voting as whipped to allow SWW to dump sewage.
And the allied question
How important do the candidates think it is to vote in line with their publicly stated views? Have any of the candidates not voted in line with their publicly stated views? If so, why and on what issue?