

# Public Service Productivity, UK

1997 to 2024

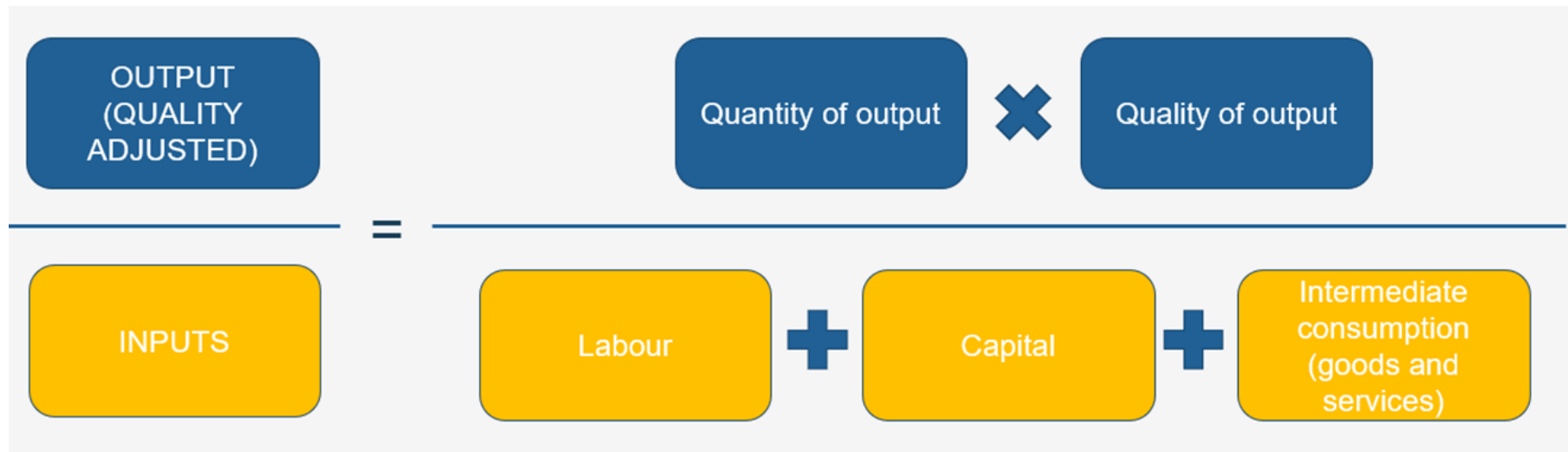
APSE Data Network

# What I'll cover

- In brief: UK Public Service Productivity explained
- The big picture
- Education and healthcare
- Looking ahead

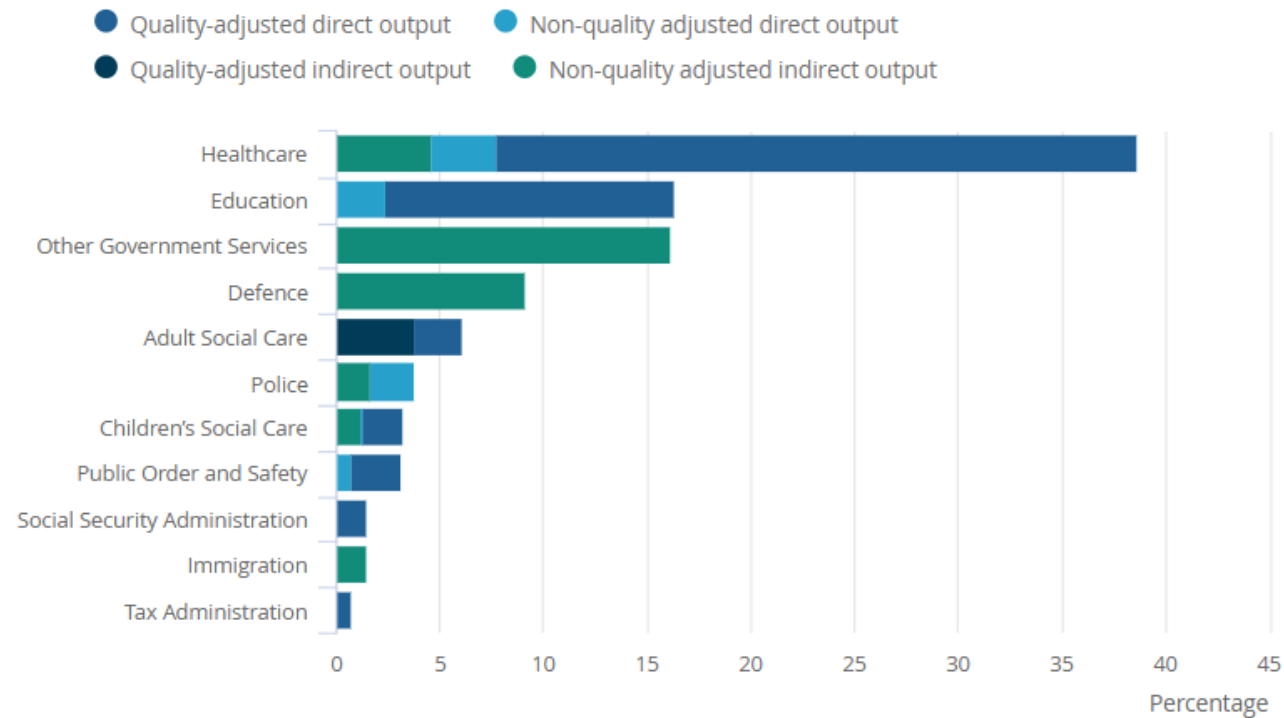
# PSP explained

$$\textit{Productivity} = \frac{\textit{Output}}{\textit{Input}}$$



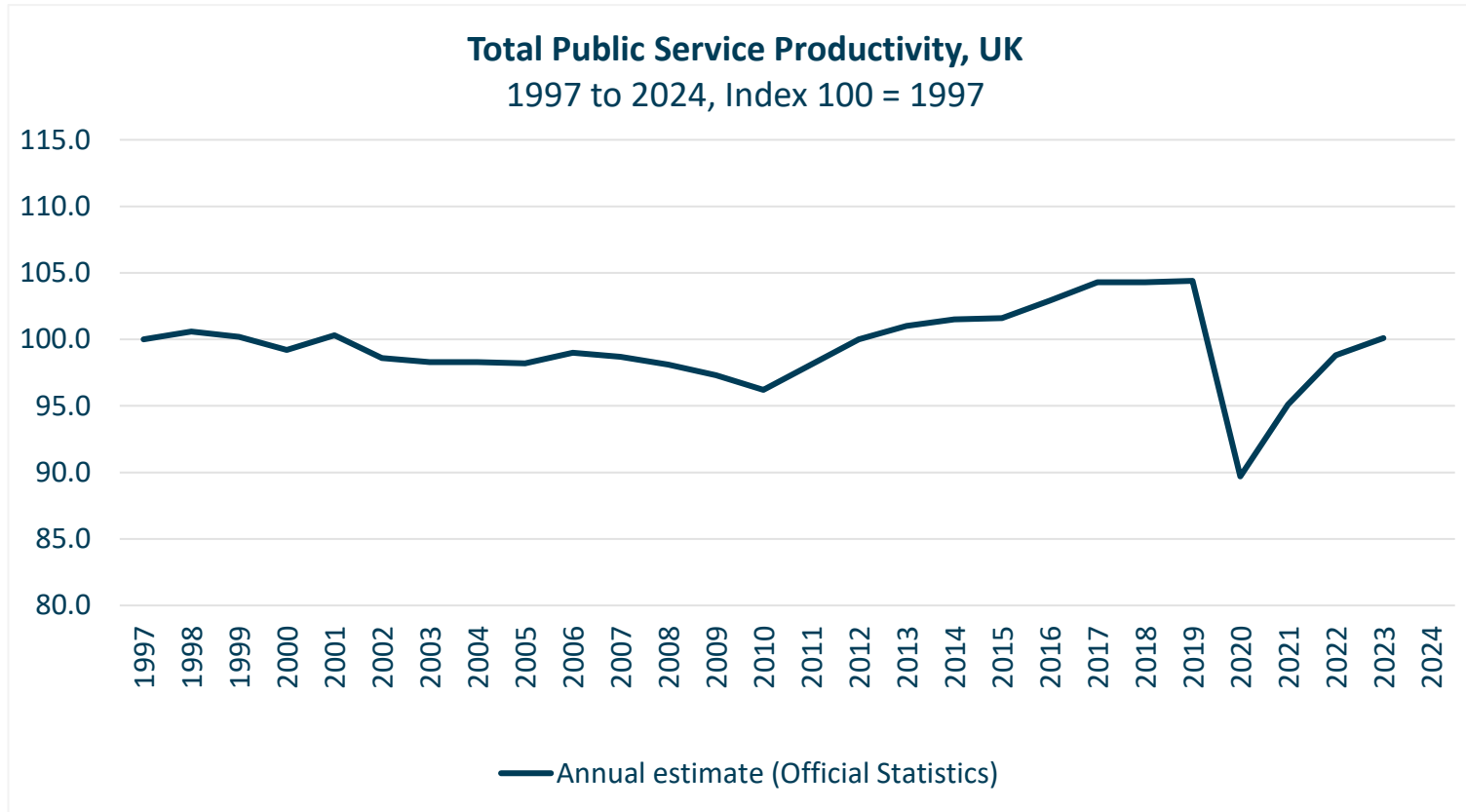
# PSP explained

Expenditure shares and output types by service area, UK, 2023



Source: [ONS, Public service productivity: total, UK, 2023](#)

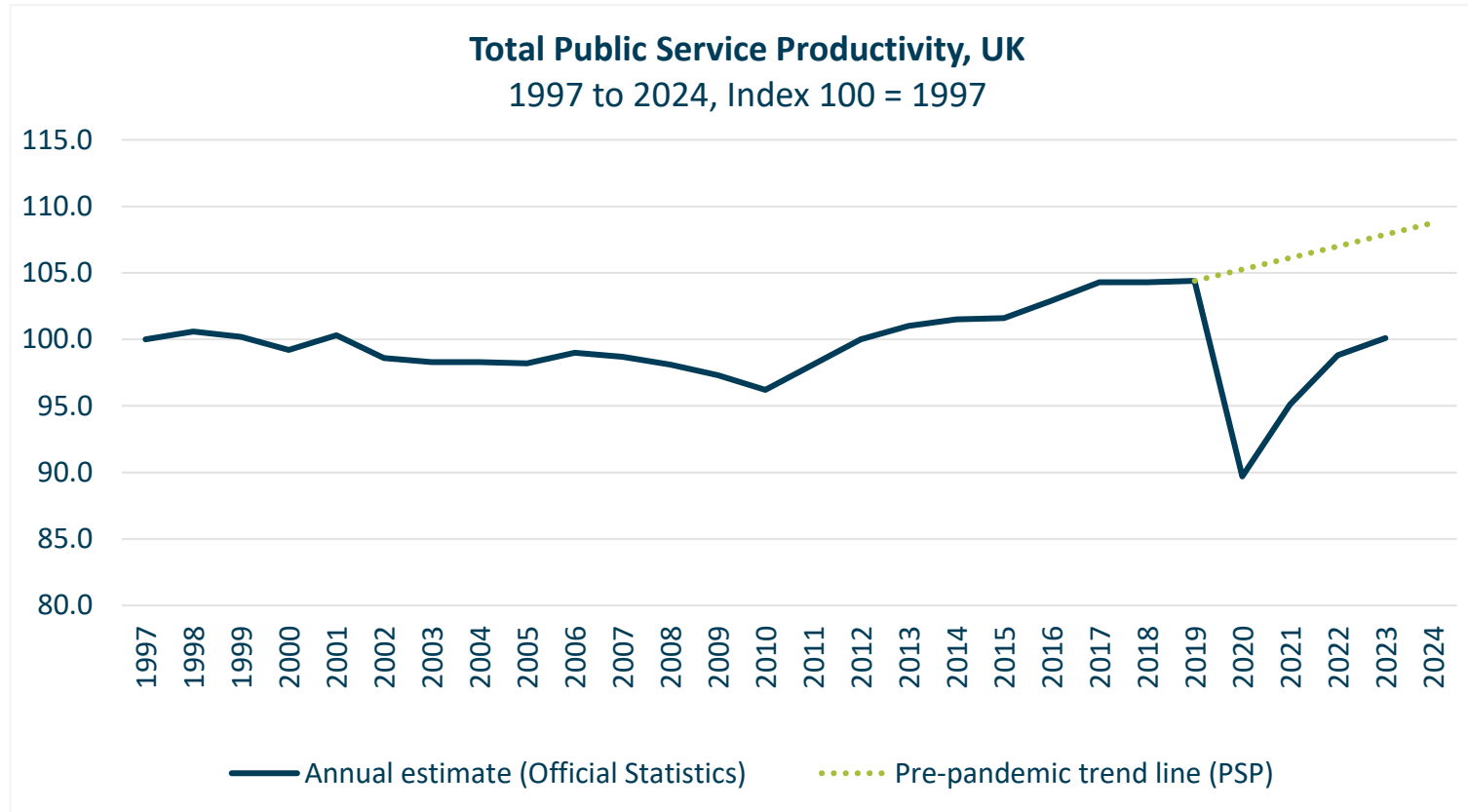
# The big picture



Source: [ONS, Public service productivity: total, UK, 2023](#)

Total public service productivity in 2023 is estimated to be around 4.1% lower in 2023 than its pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) peak in 2019

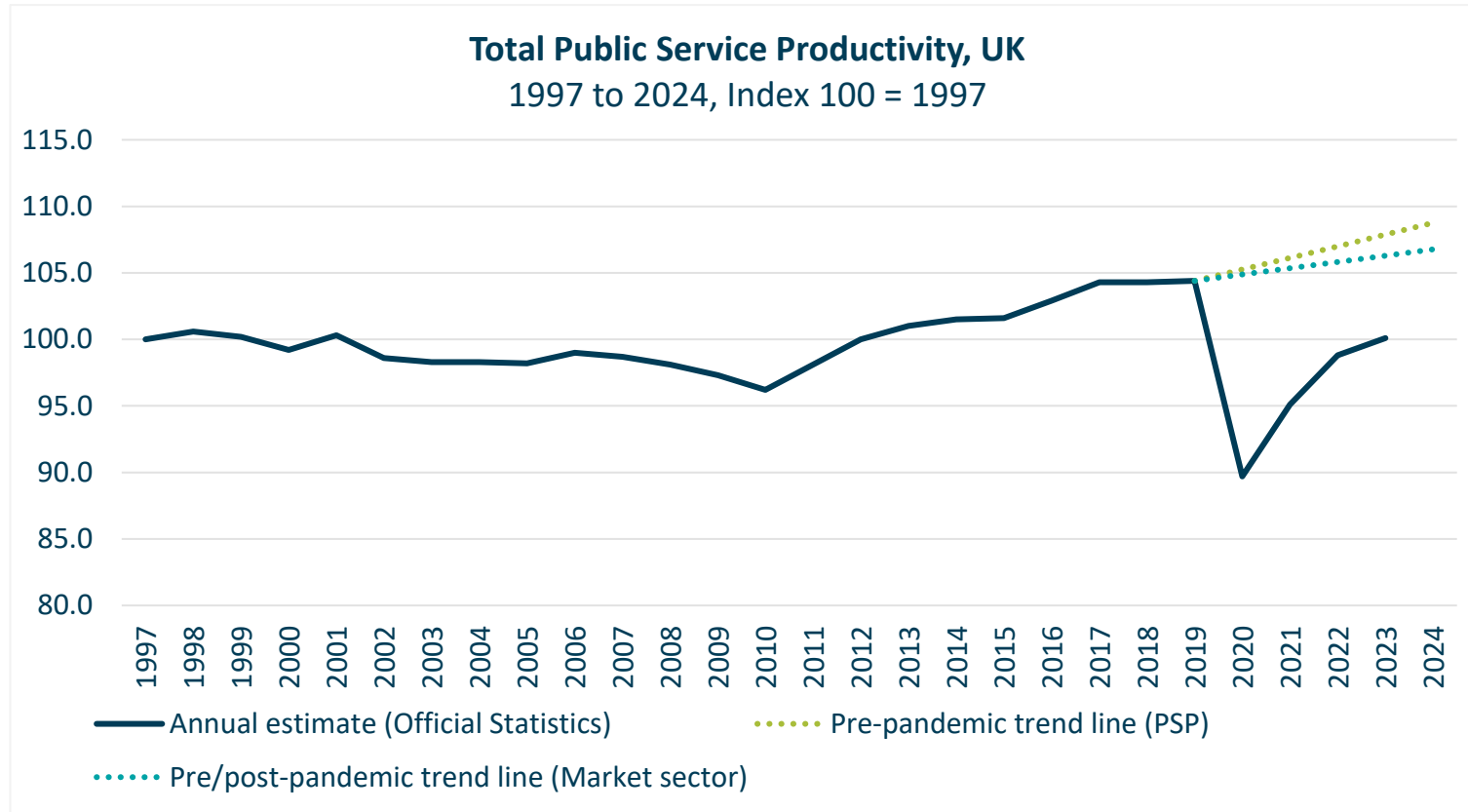
# The big picture



Source: [ONS, Public service productivity: total, UK, 2023](#)

Total public service productivity remains far below pre-pandemic PSP trend line

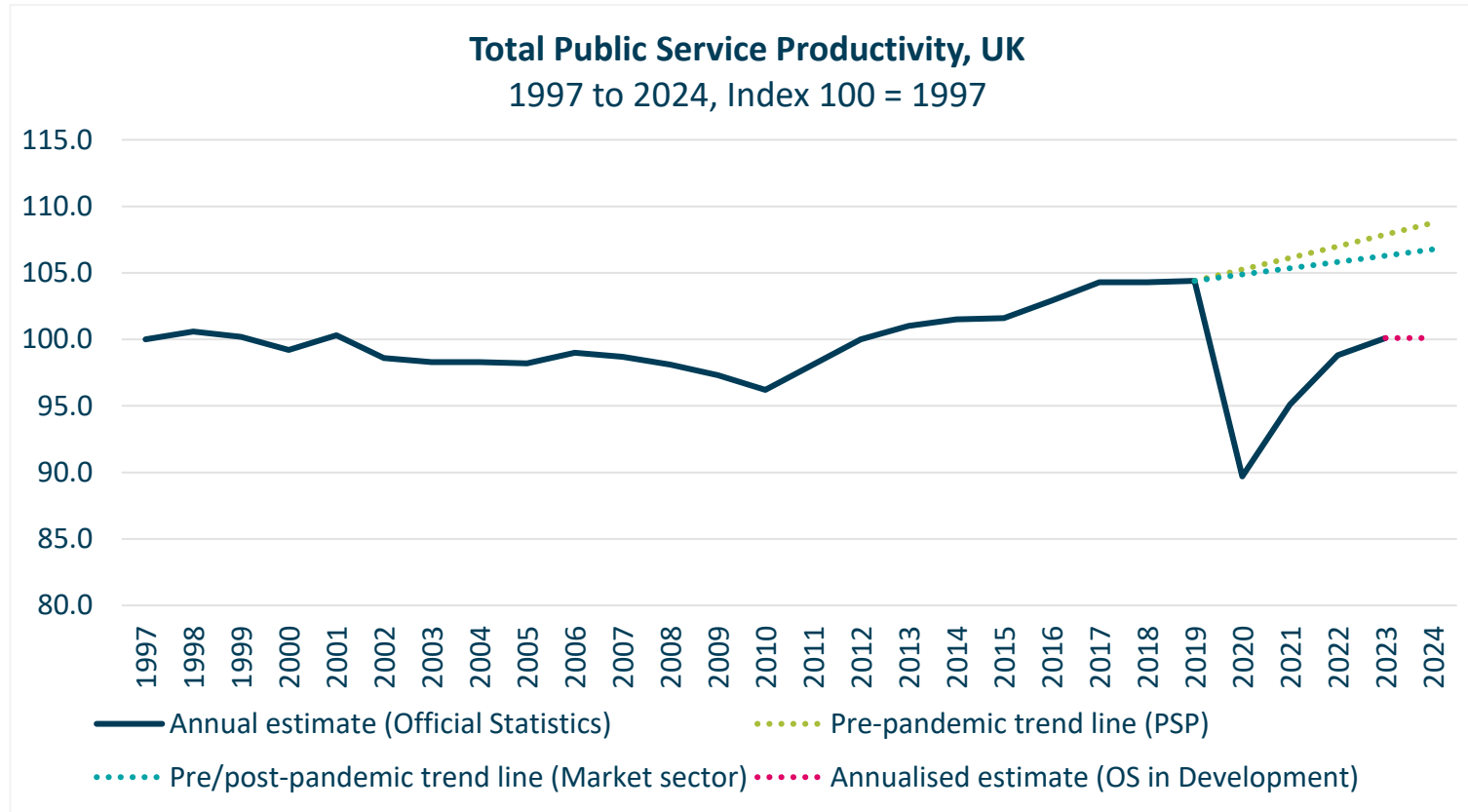
# The big picture



Source: [ONS, Public service productivity: total, UK, 2023](#)

It also remains far below post-pandemic trend line for **market sector** productivity

# The big picture



Source: [ONS, Public service productivity: total, UK, 2023](#)

Latest provisional estimates suggest weak growth in 2024 and 2025

# What's happening?

## Comparing 2024 with 2019 productivity level

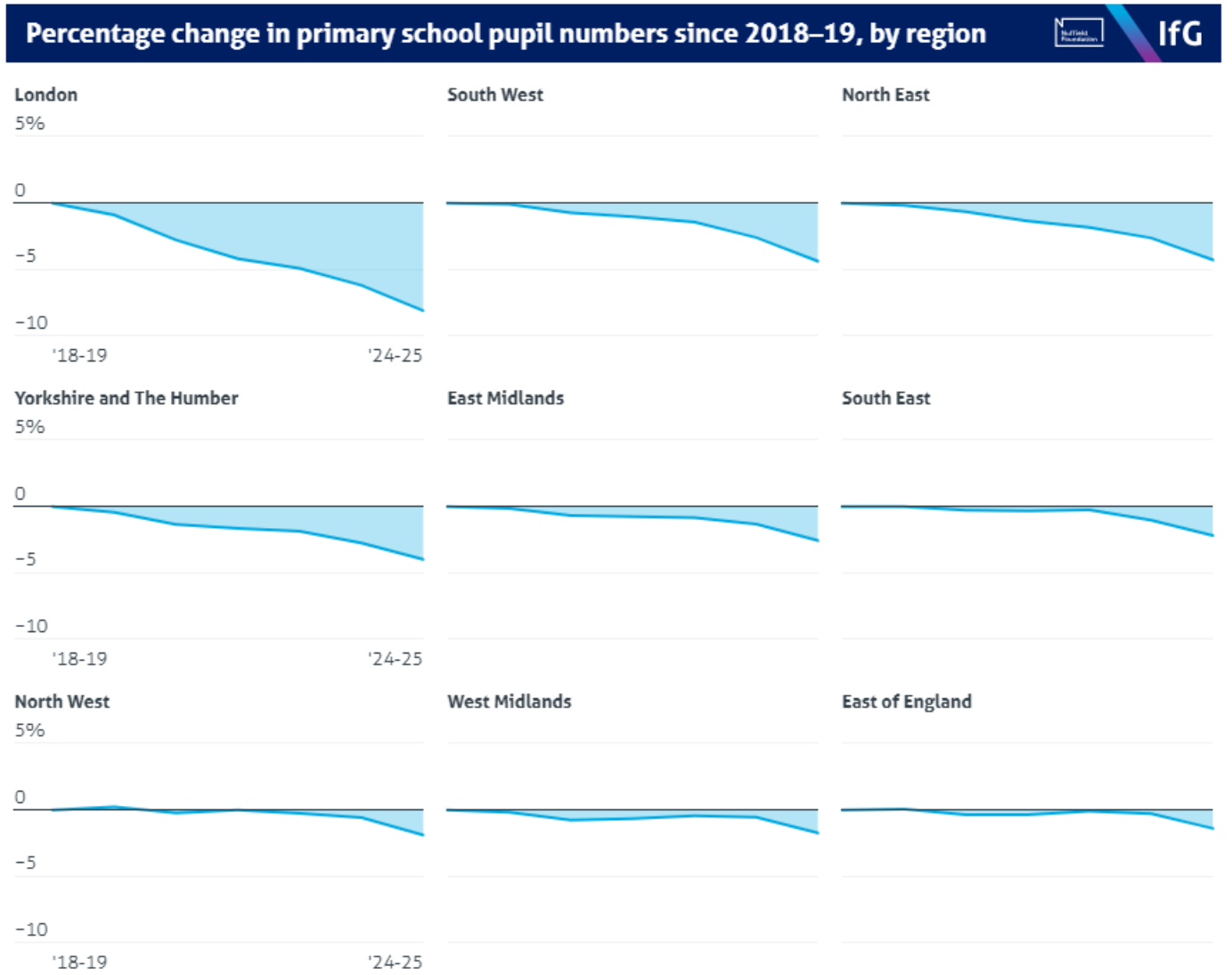
Service area	2019-24
Social Security Administration	18.1%
Police	2.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>-4.1%</b>
Education	-4.3%
Children's Social Care	-6.0%
Healthcare	-7.7%
Adult Social Care	-7.8%
Tax Administration	-7.8%
Public Order & Safety	-20.8%

Source: [ONS, Public service productivity: total, UK, 2023](#)

- SSA: Universal Credit
- Police: more investigations and more completed cases
- Education: outcomes in attainment and well-being have not recovered
- Health: Inputs surged, now levelling off. Quality improving in hospital procedures (post-operative survival and waiting times) and GP patient satisfaction scores.
- POS: worsening quality scores (reoffending, court timeliness, prison safety)

# Education

- Demographic change means fewer pupils over time



Source: [IfG, Performance Tracker 2025: Schools](#)

Source: Institute for Government analysis of DfE, 'Schools, pupils and their characteristics', 2018–19 to 2024–25. • Notes: Shows full-time equivalent pupils. Only covers state-funded mainstream primary schools in England, and excludes pupils under the age of four at the beginning of each academic year. • [Get the data](#) • [Embed](#) • [Download image](#)

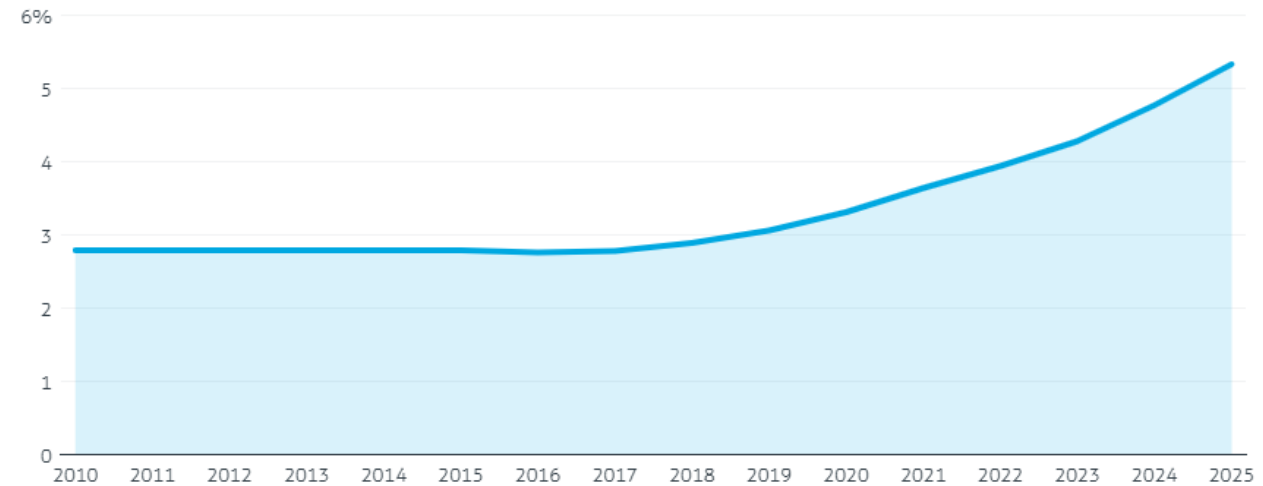


# Education

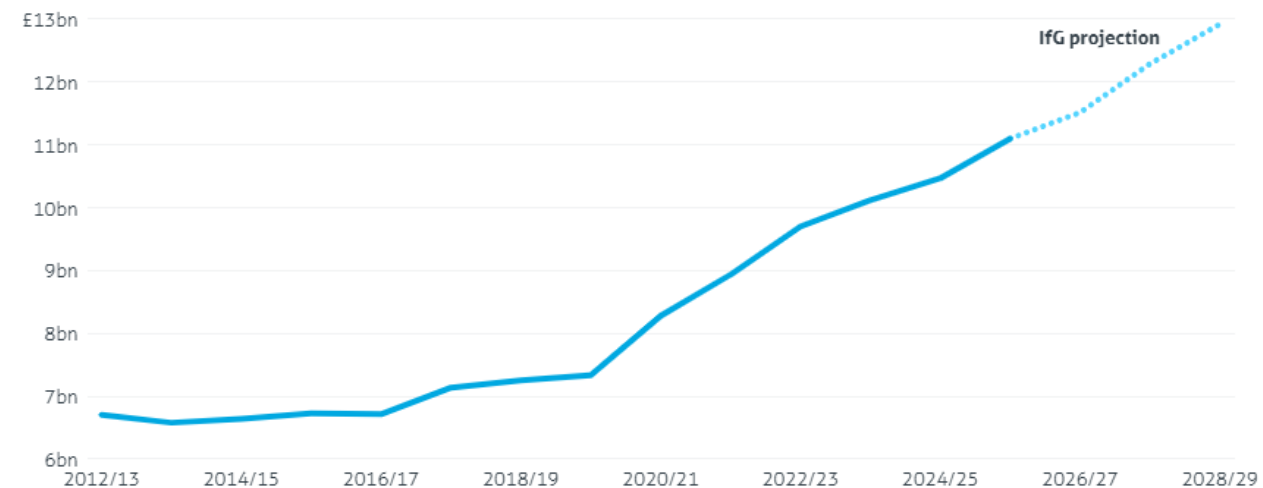
- Demographic change means fewer pupils over time
- Changes in service needs are also a pressure

Source: [IfG, Performance Tracker 2025: Schools](#)

Pupils with an education, health and care plan, all schools, 2010–25



High-needs funding for school-aged pupils, actual and projected, 2012/13–2028/29 (2025/26 prices)

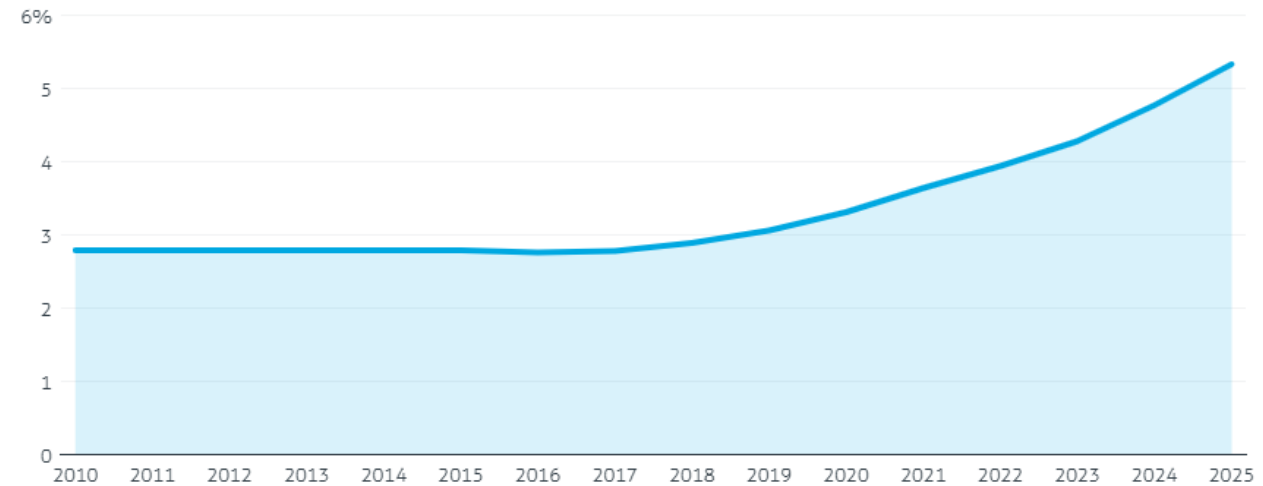


# Education

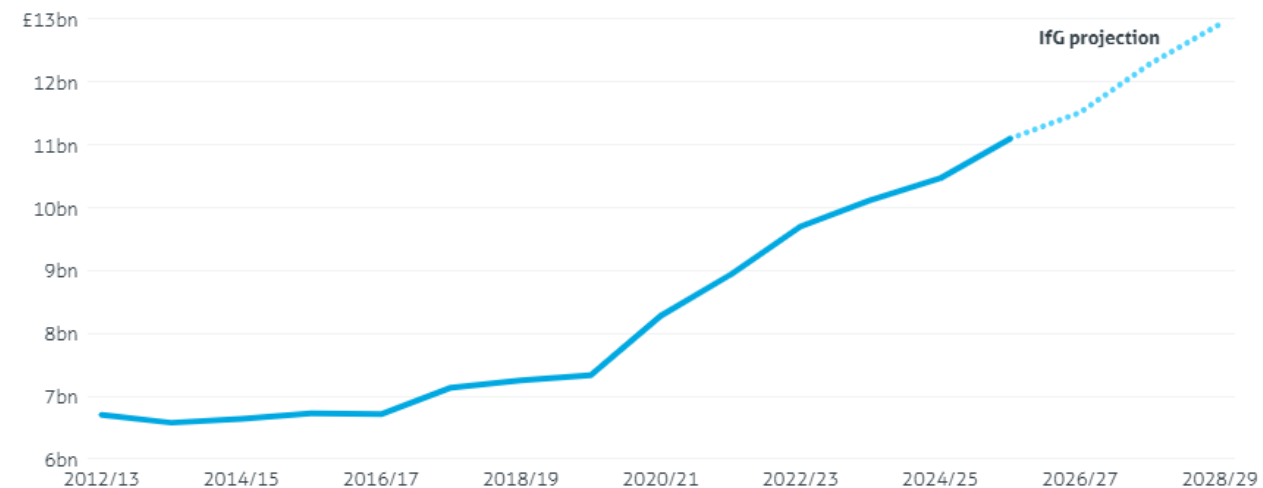
- Demographic change means fewer pupils over time
- Changes in service needs are also a pressure
- Changes in individual choices, incentives, service quality > NEETs

Source: [IfG, Performance Tracker 2025: Schools](#)

Pupils with an education, health and care plan, all schools, 2010–25



High-needs funding for school-aged pupils, actual and projected, 2012/13–2028/29 (2025/26 prices)

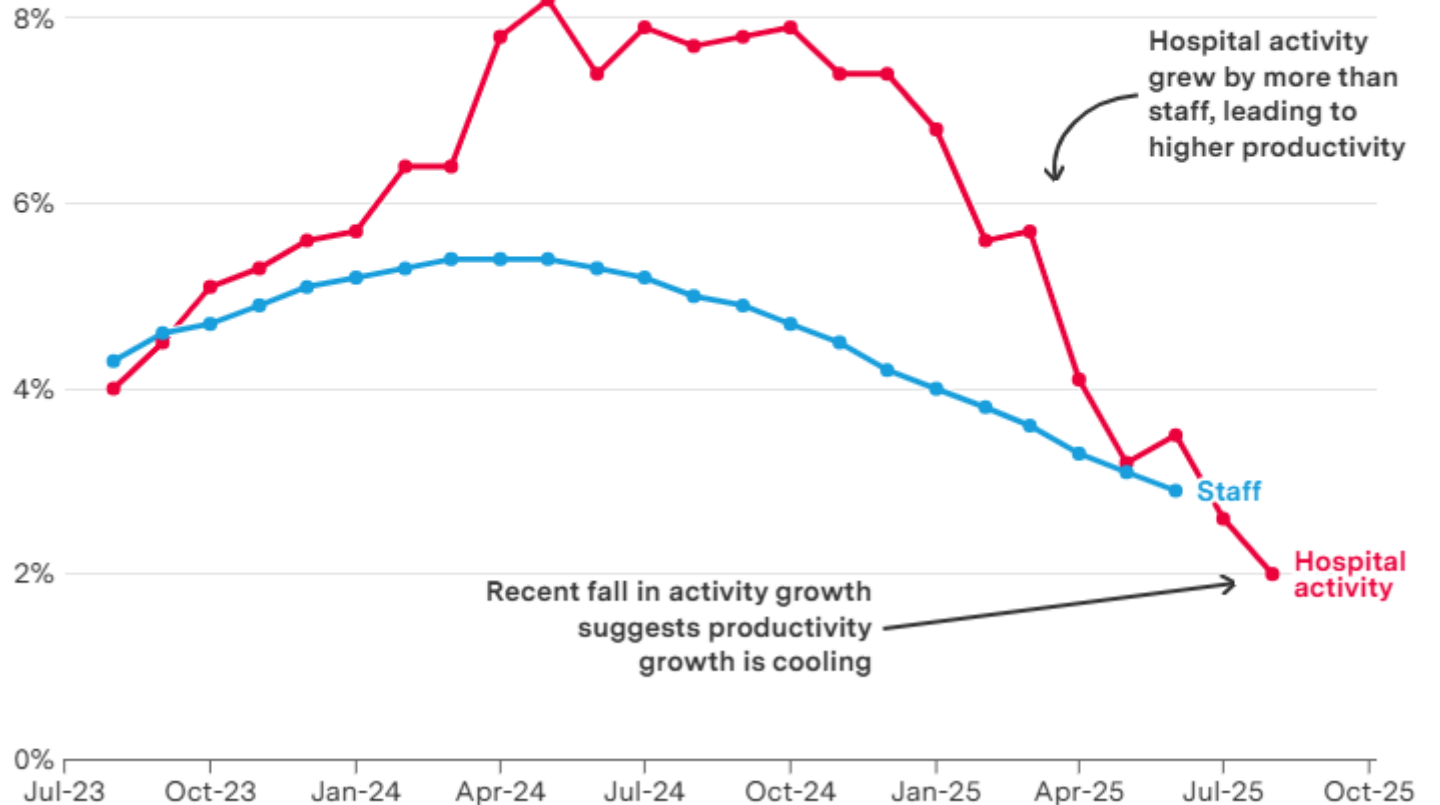


# Healthcare

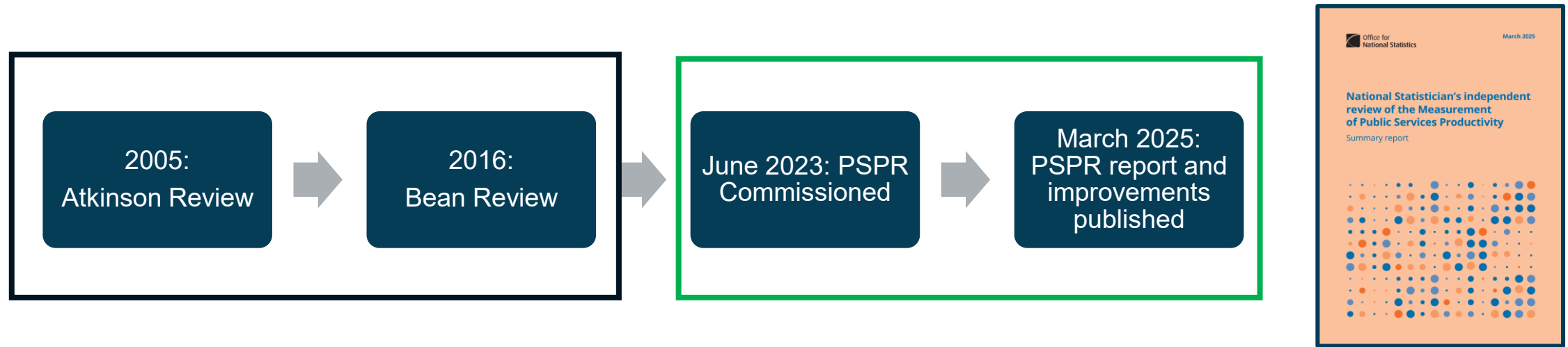
Source: [The Health Foundation](#)

## Cooling acute NHS productivity? Signs of slowing growth in hospital activity, while staffing growth is slowing more gently

Percentage change in hospital activity (rolling 12-month period comparison) and full-time equivalent staff (12-month moving average)



# The PSP measurement journey...



[PSP Review](#)

- Close engagement with OGDs, DAs, and think-tanks to continually develop our PSP estimates
- Next publication: Quarterly PSP covering up to 2025, **Friday 8 May**
- Feedback and use cases always welcome: [PSP@ons.gov.uk](mailto:PSP@ons.gov.uk)