



Association for Public Service Excellence

The State of the market

- highways and street lighting

Louise Melville,
Principal Advisor,
APSE





Highway maintenance budgets CUT to average of **£26m**



A One-time Catch-up would take 12 years to Complete



and Cost **£16.81bn**

52% of local roads




have less than 15 years' structural life left



2118

Roads resurfaced every 93 years



A pothole filled every 18 seconds every day for **10 years**

Average carriageway budget shortfall per authority



£7.4m

APSE Councillors Survey – Councils Under Pressure



Conducted by Survation on behalf of APSE

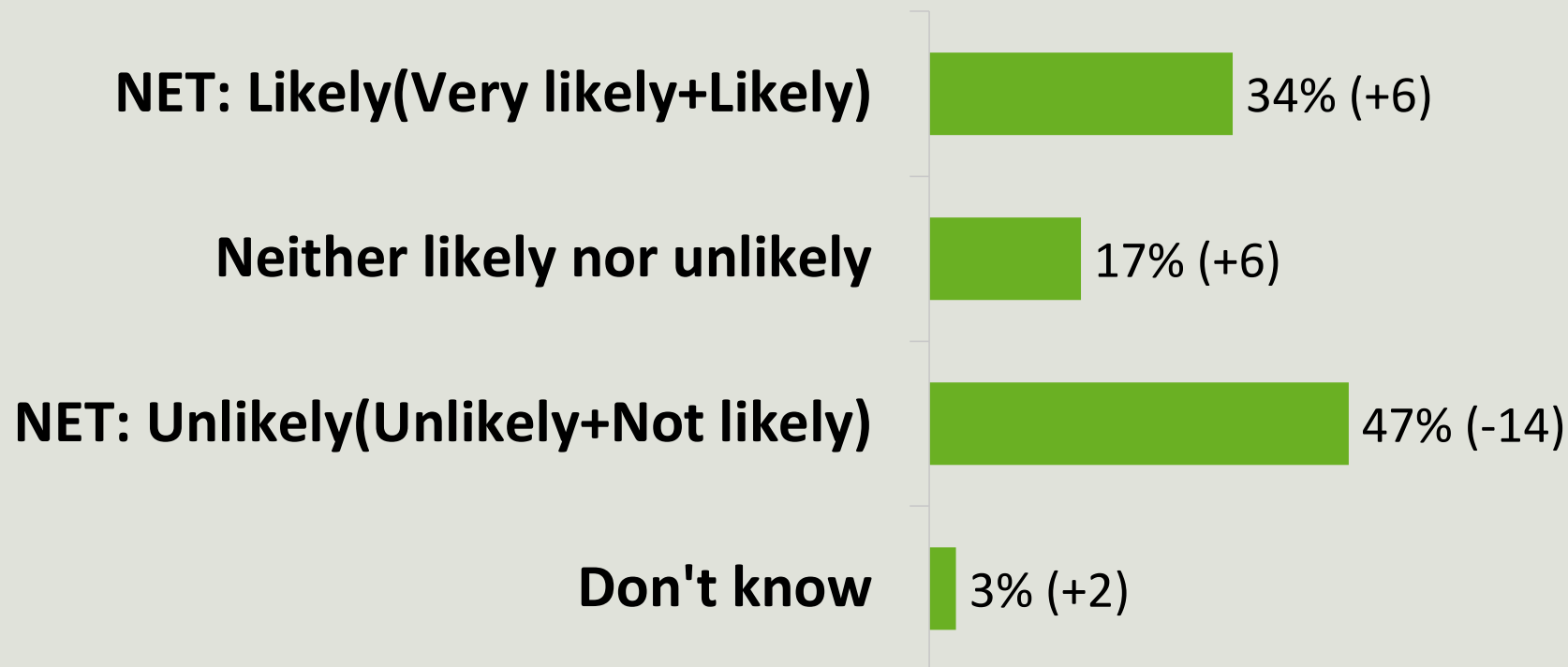
Methodology: Survey was conducted online. Email invitations were sent to all elected councillors in the UK.

Fieldwork: 18th – 27th November 2024

Sample size: 517

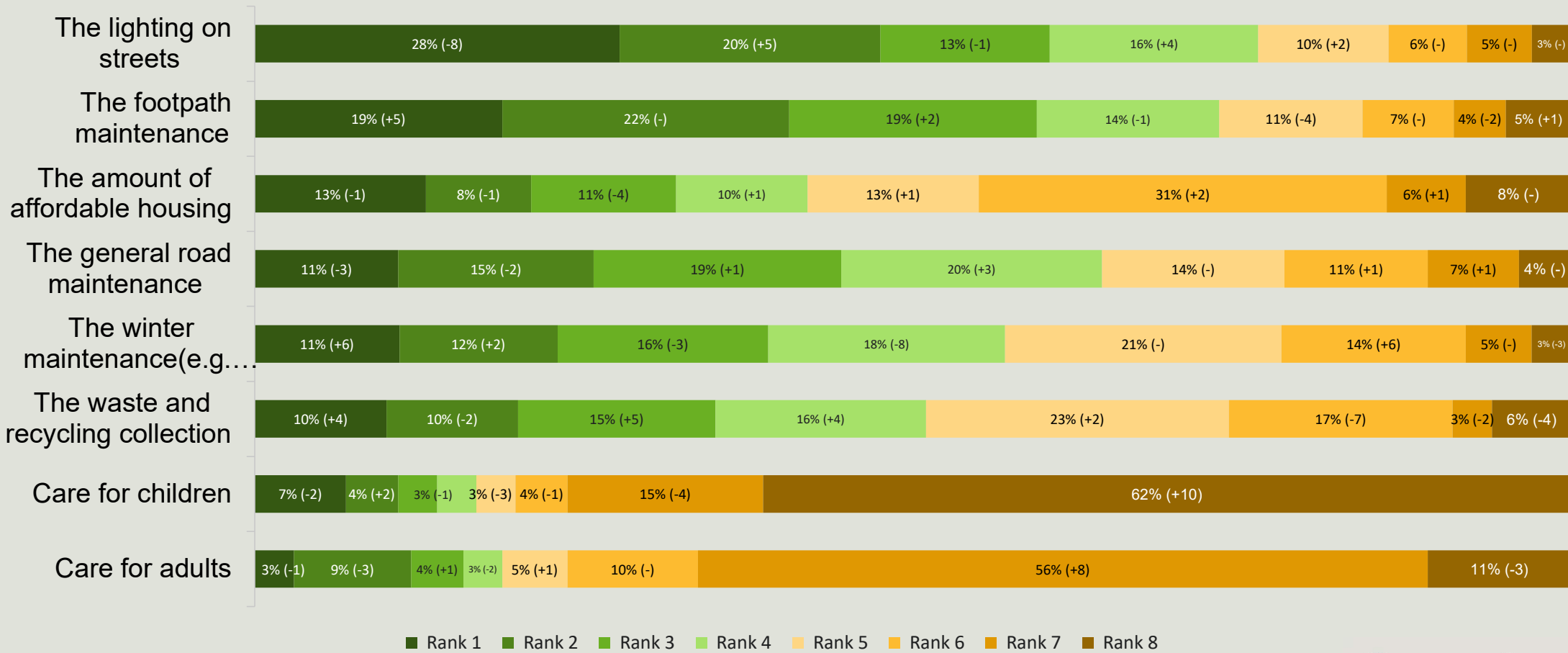
Survation.

Q1. Given the current pressure facing Council budgets. How likely, if at all, would you say it is that your local authority will have to issue a section 114 (or S.95 in Scotland) notice (declaring bankruptcy) in the next five years?



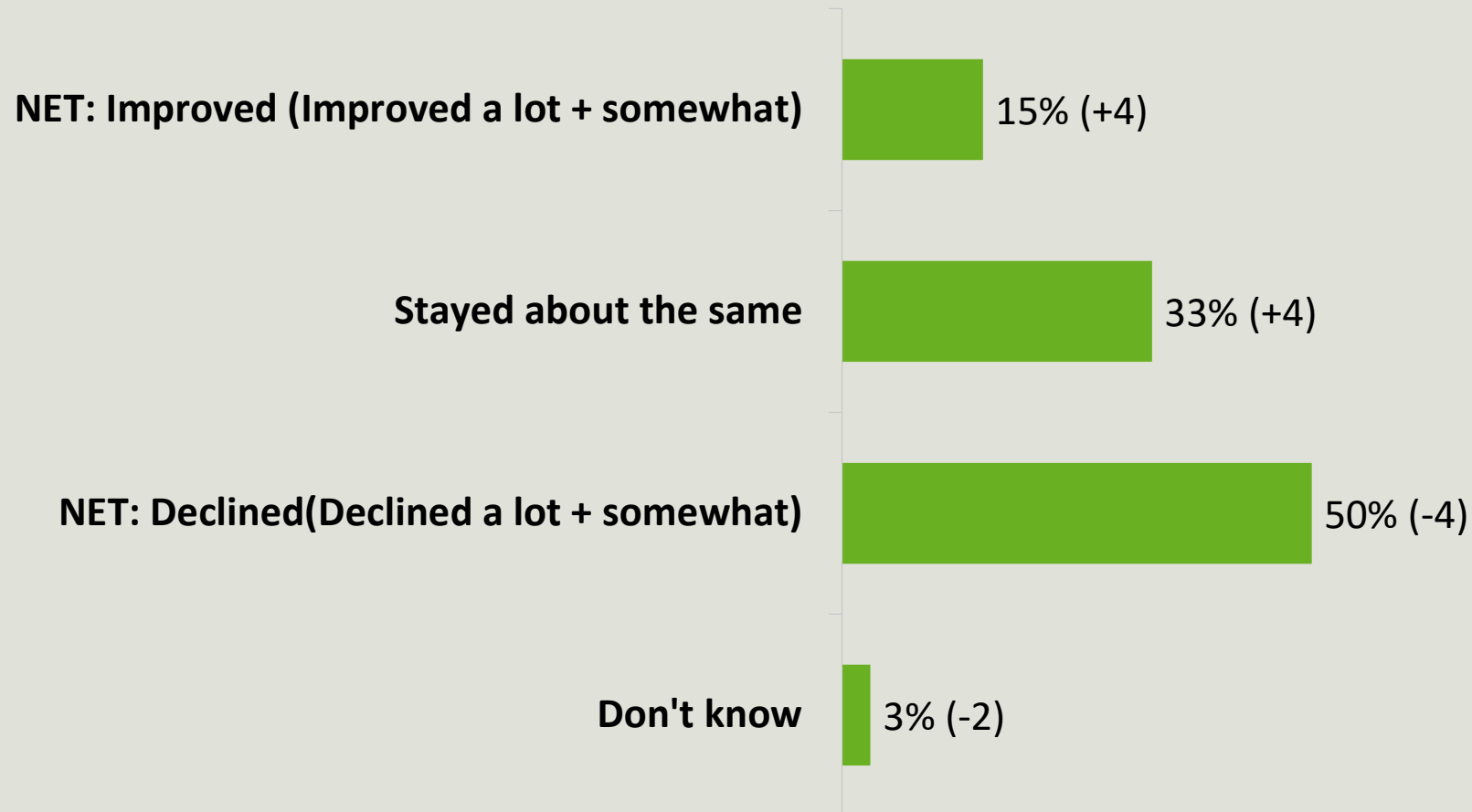
BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 517.

Q2_Summary. One way local authorities try to avoid issuing a section 114 notice (or S.95 in Scotland) is by cutting spending on certain services or stop providing altogether. Please rank each of the following services in order of how comfortable you'd be to see cut if your local authority were facing bankruptcy



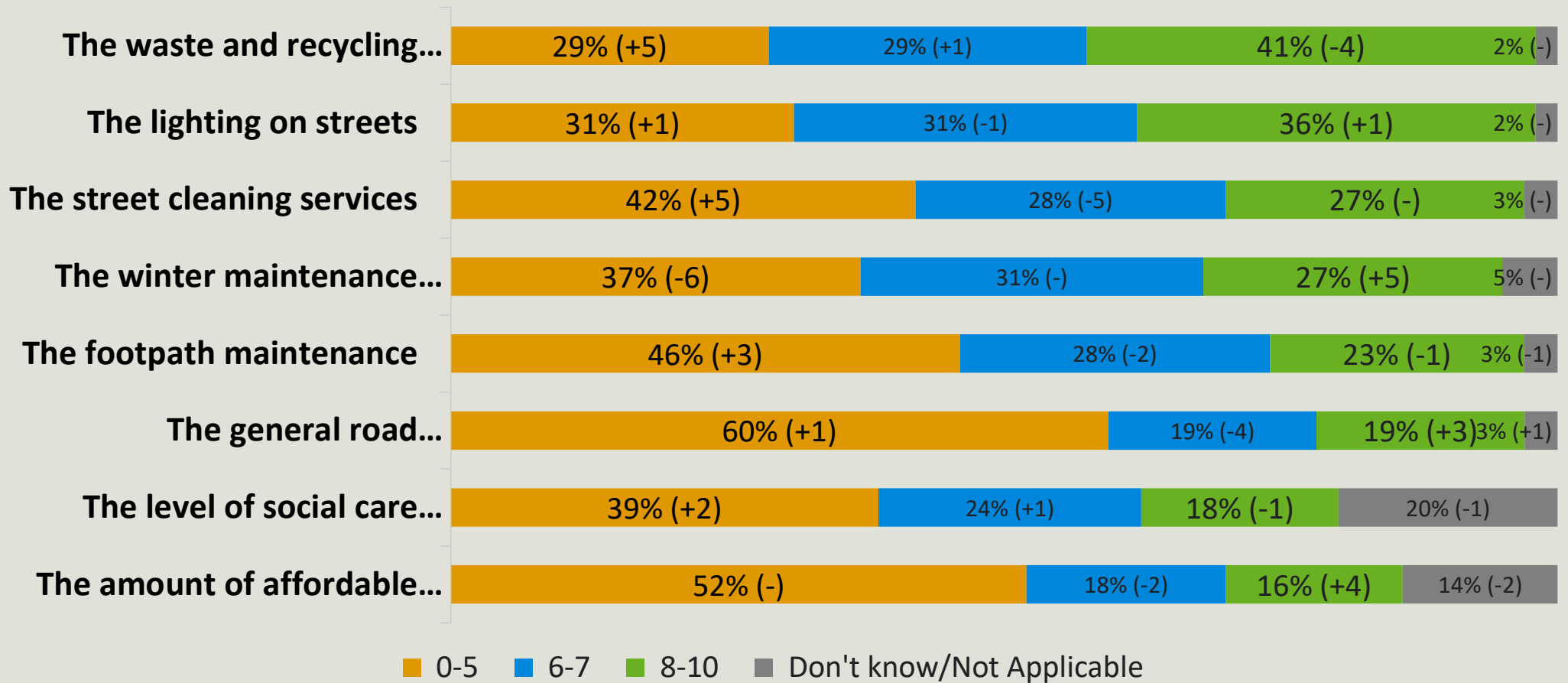
BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 517. Changes vs 2023 survey.

Q17. Do you think that local services have declined or improved in your local area in recent years?



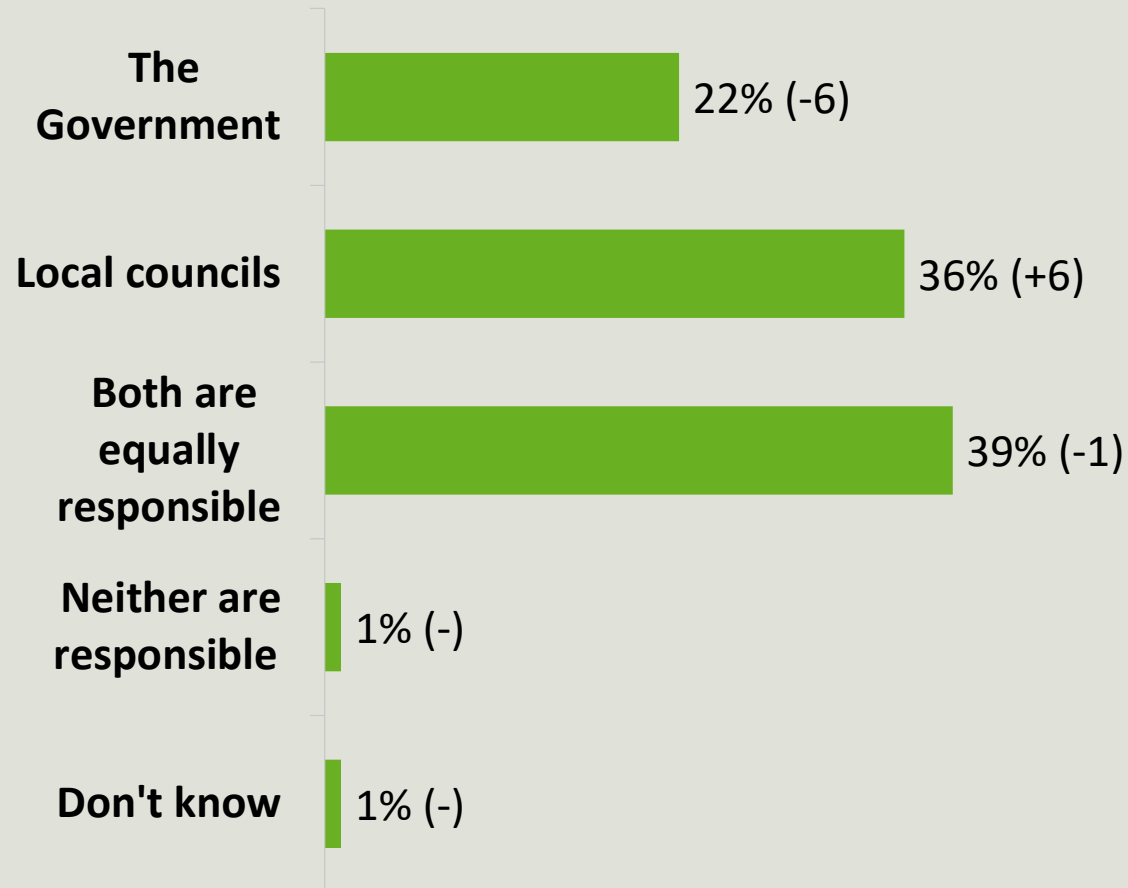
BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 1734

Q9_Q16_Summary. On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 meaning very dissatisfied and 10 meaning very satisfied, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following services in your local area?



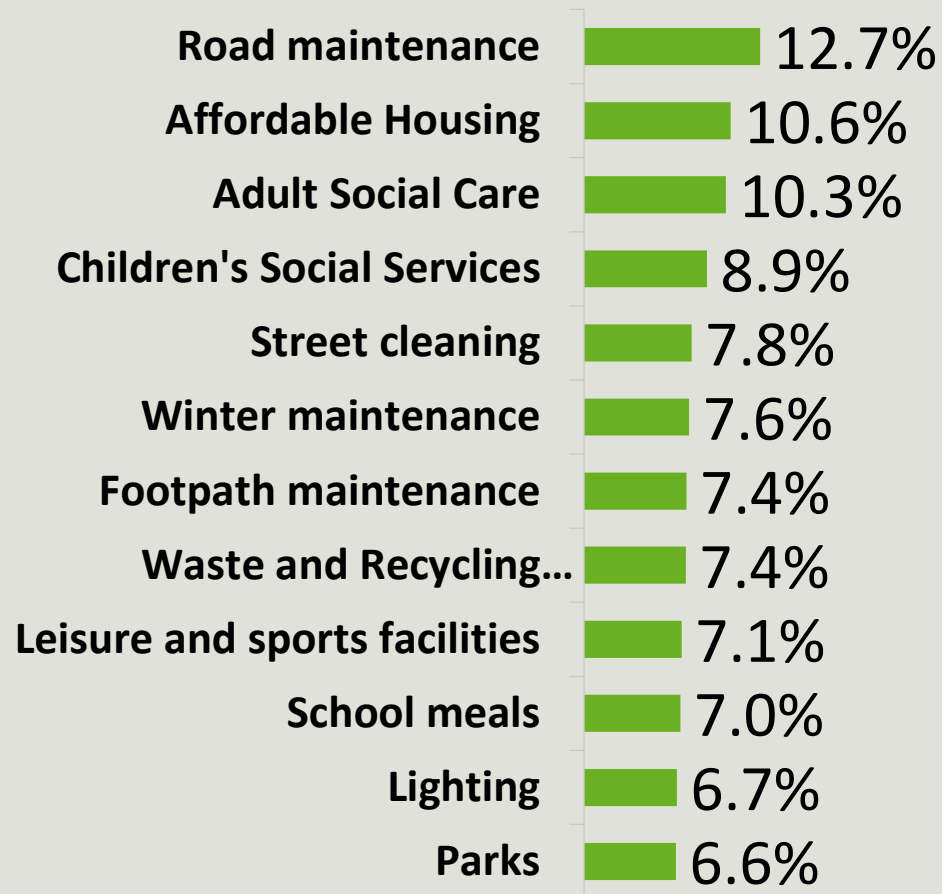
BASE: All respondents. Unweighted total: 1734

Q18. You said that local services have declined in your local area in recent years. Who do you think is the most responsible for this?



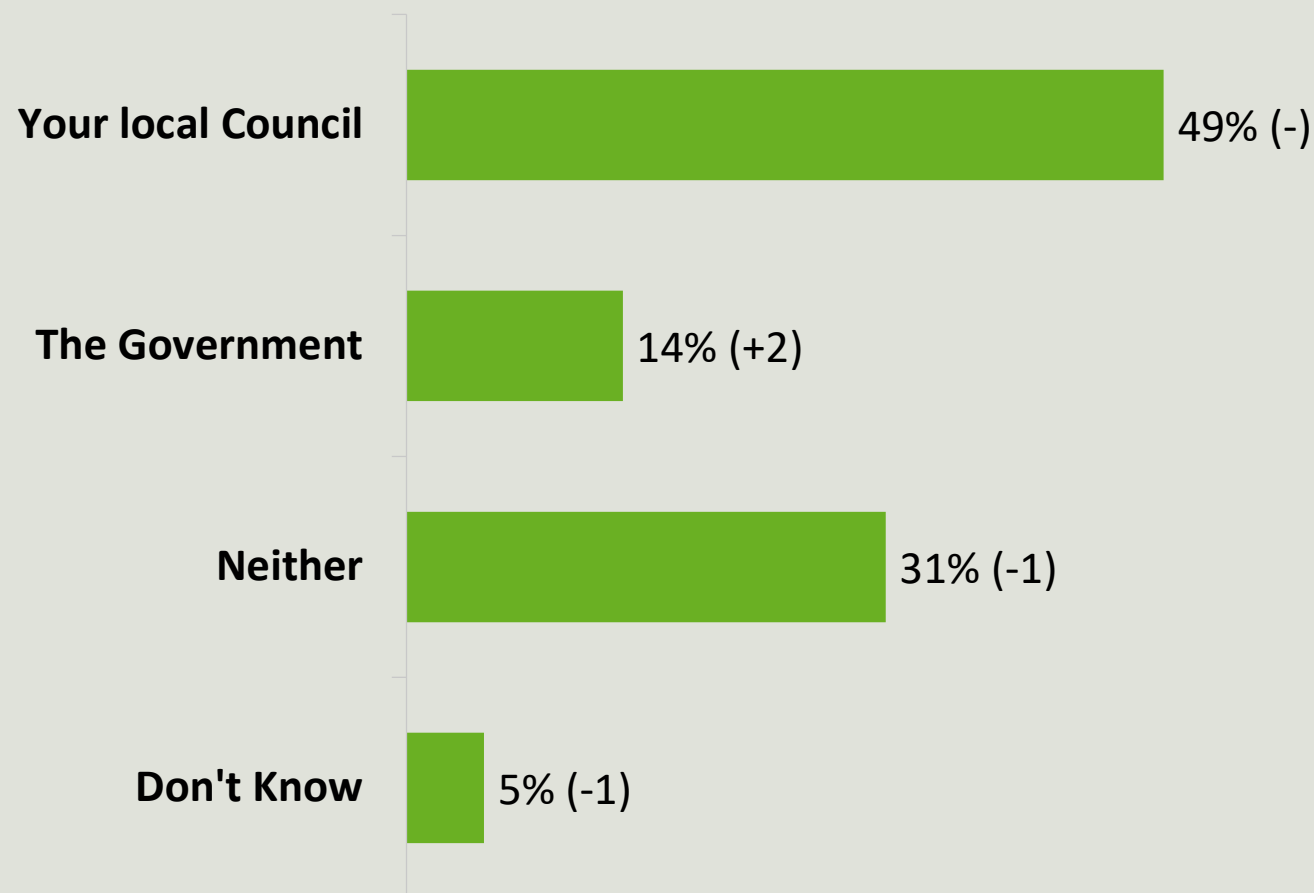
BASE: Respondents who said local services had declined in their local areas. Unweighted total:869.

Table_Q21_Q32_Summary. You stated that you would like to see **MORE** money given to local councils than is done so currently. If you had the choice, what percentage of the extra money would be spent on each of the 12 services below?

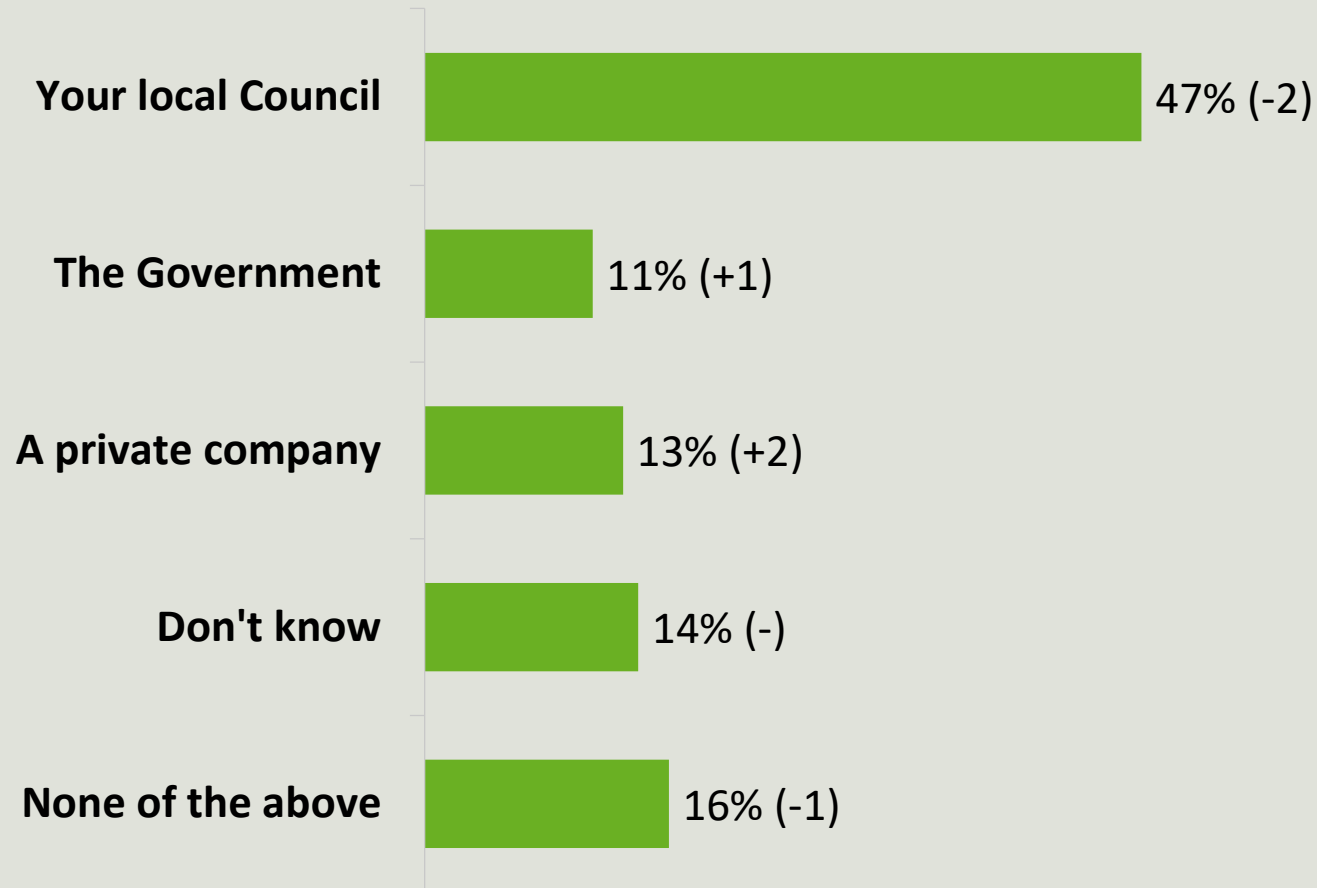


BASE: Respondents who would like to see governments give more money to local councils to spend at the local level. Unweighted total: 1164.

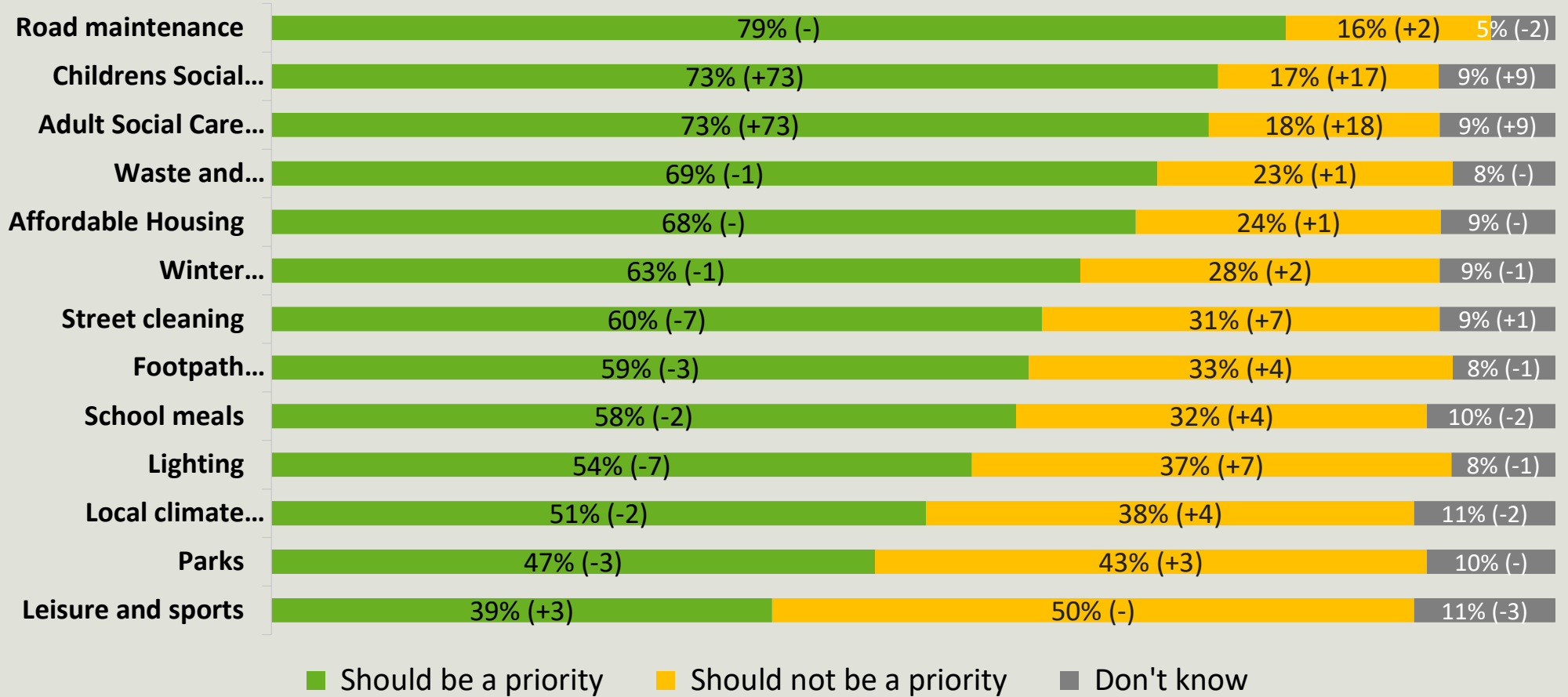
Q57. Who do you trust the most to make decisions about how services are delivered in your local area?



Q59. Who do you trust the most to deliver services to your local area?

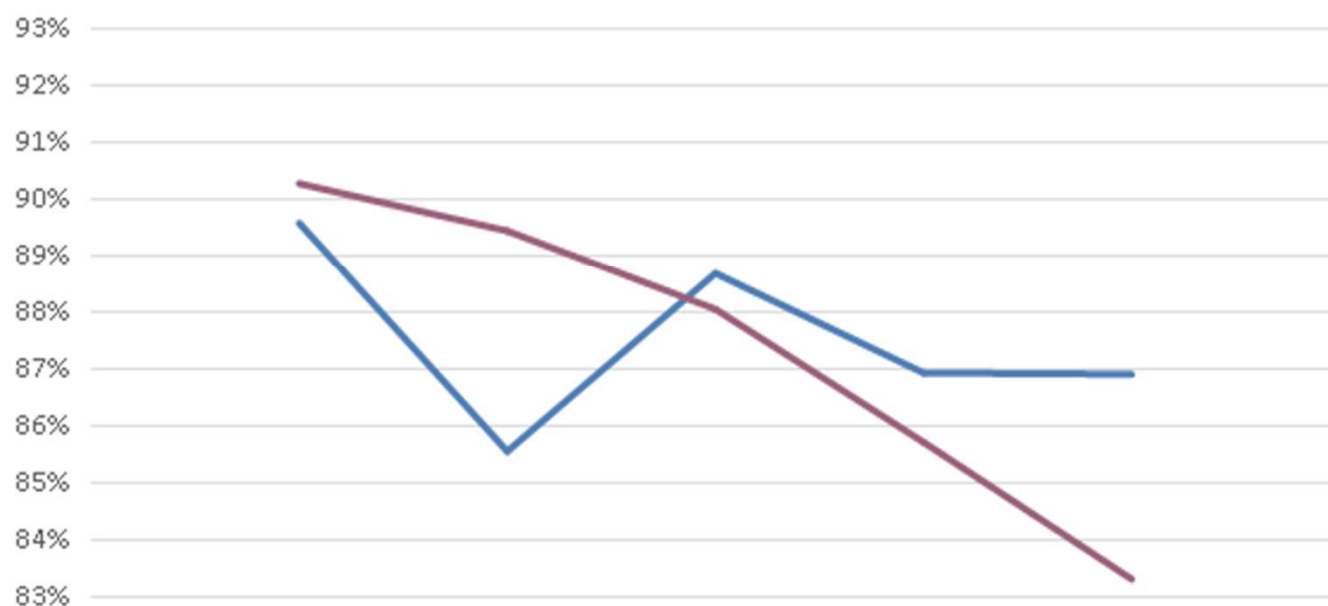


PUBLIC PROTECTION PRIORITIES Q71-Q83. If the local government was making cuts to public services, should the following be a priority to protect?



Carriageways and footways

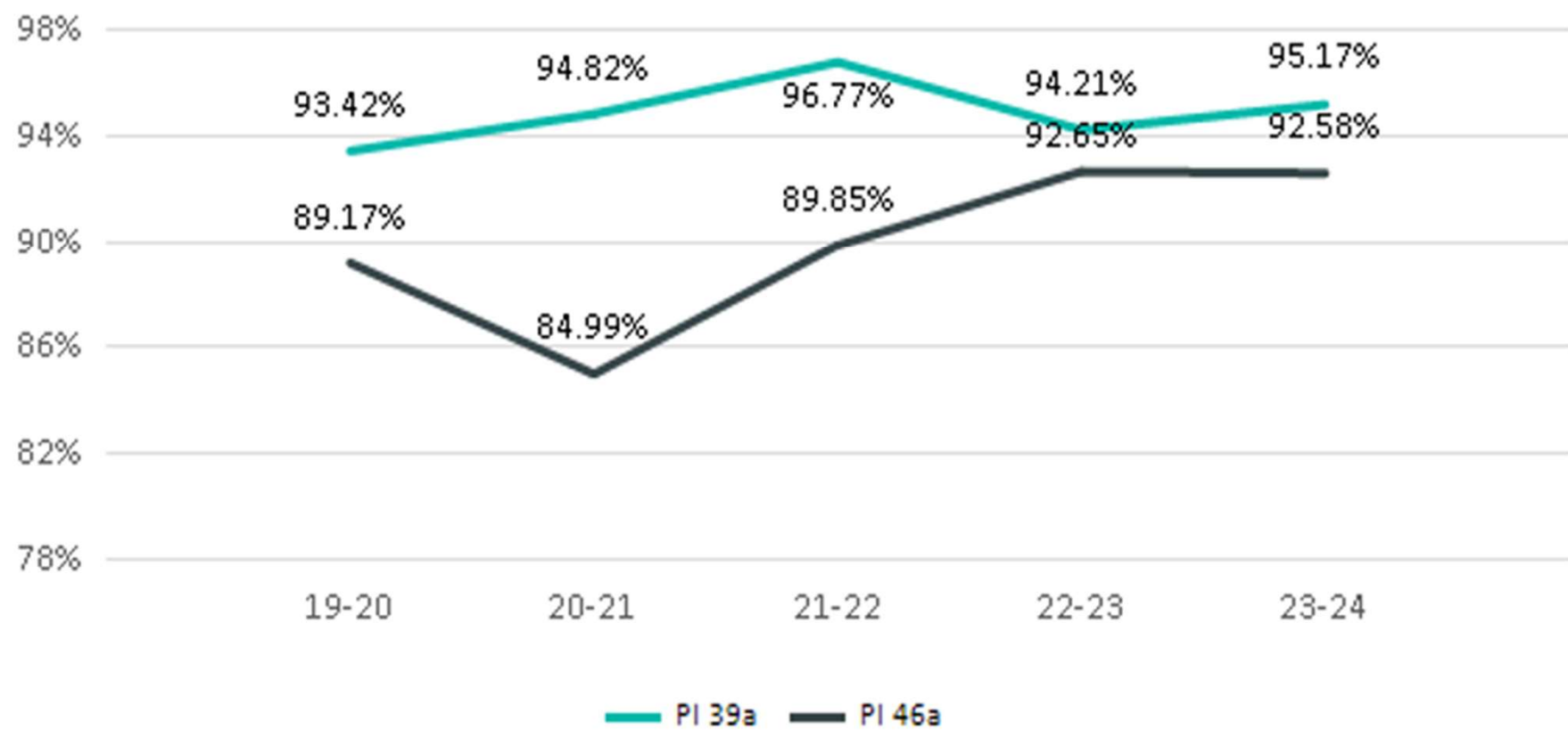
PI 03a % damaged roads made safe in target times
 PI 45a % damaged footways made safe in target times



| | | 19-20 | 20-21 | 21-22 | 22-23 | 23-24 |
|--------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Carriageways | — PI 03a | 89.58% | 85.55% | 88.68% | 86.92% | 86.90% |
| Footways | — PI 45a | 90.28% | 89.44% | 88.05% | 85.71% | 83.30% |

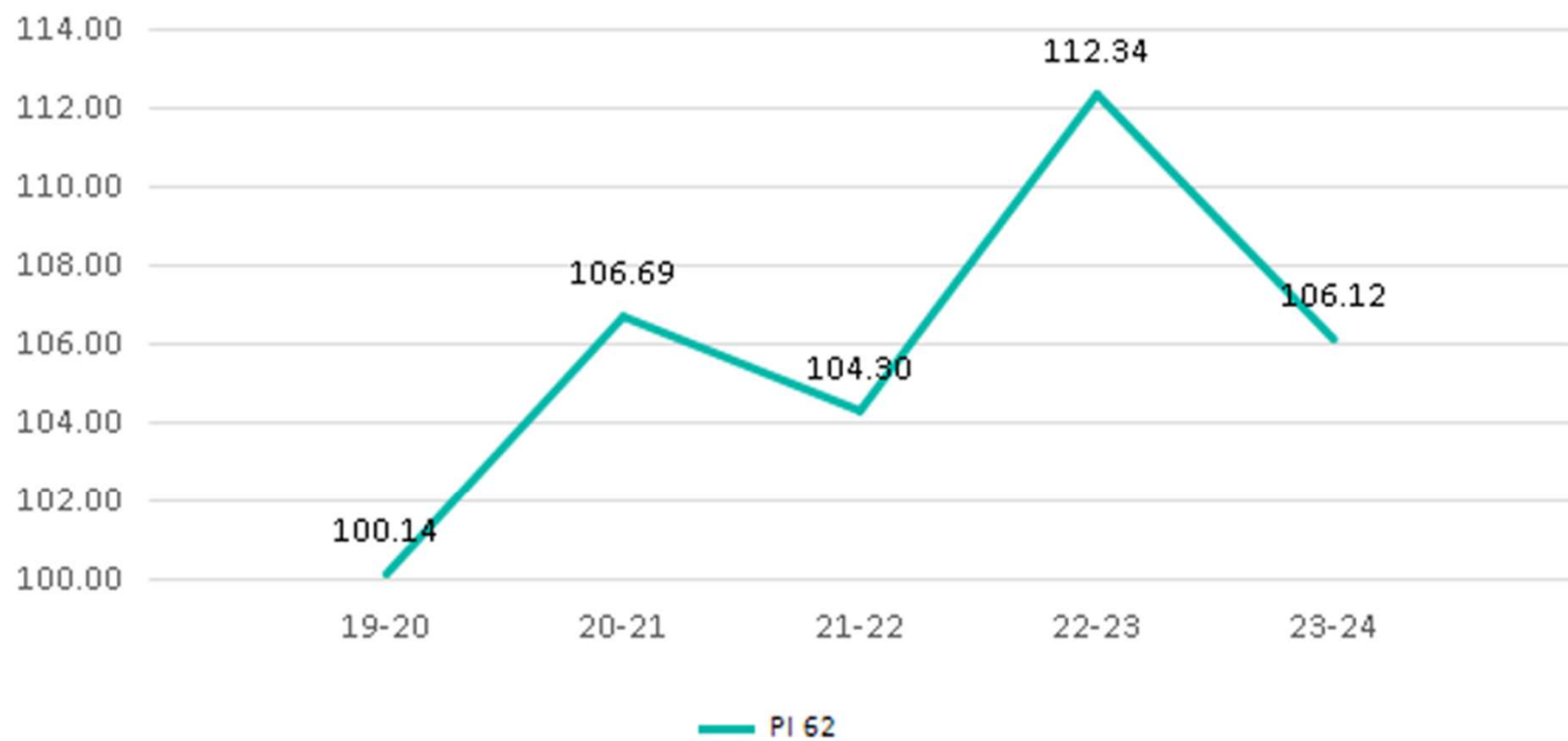
PI 39a Percentage of safety inspections completed on time (carriageways)

PI 46a Percentage of safety inspections completed on time (footways)



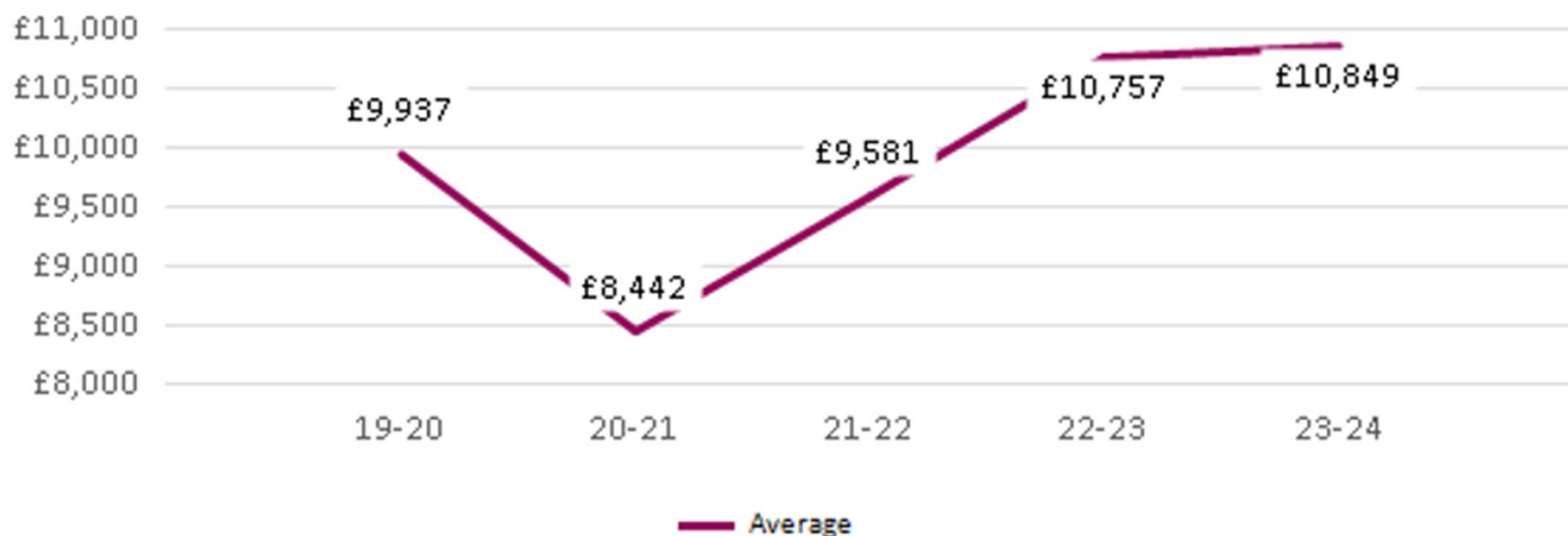
Winter maintenance

PI 62 Kg of salt used per km of road treated



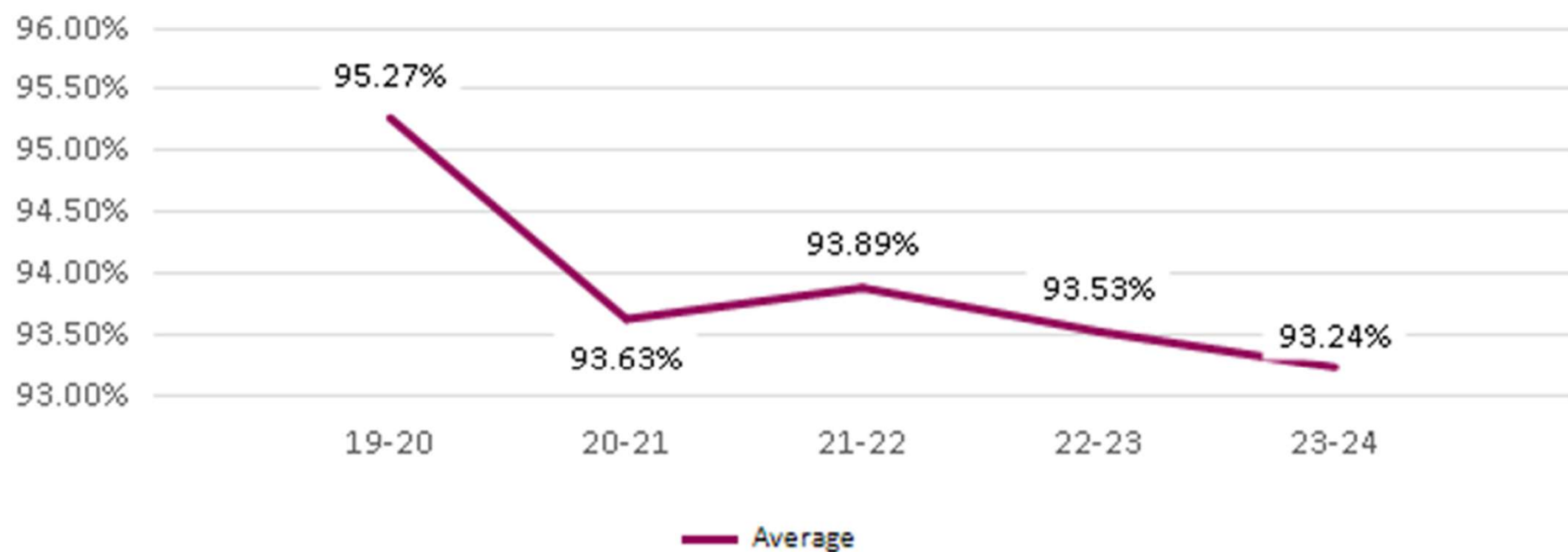
Expenditure

PI 63a Total expenditure by carriageway network length

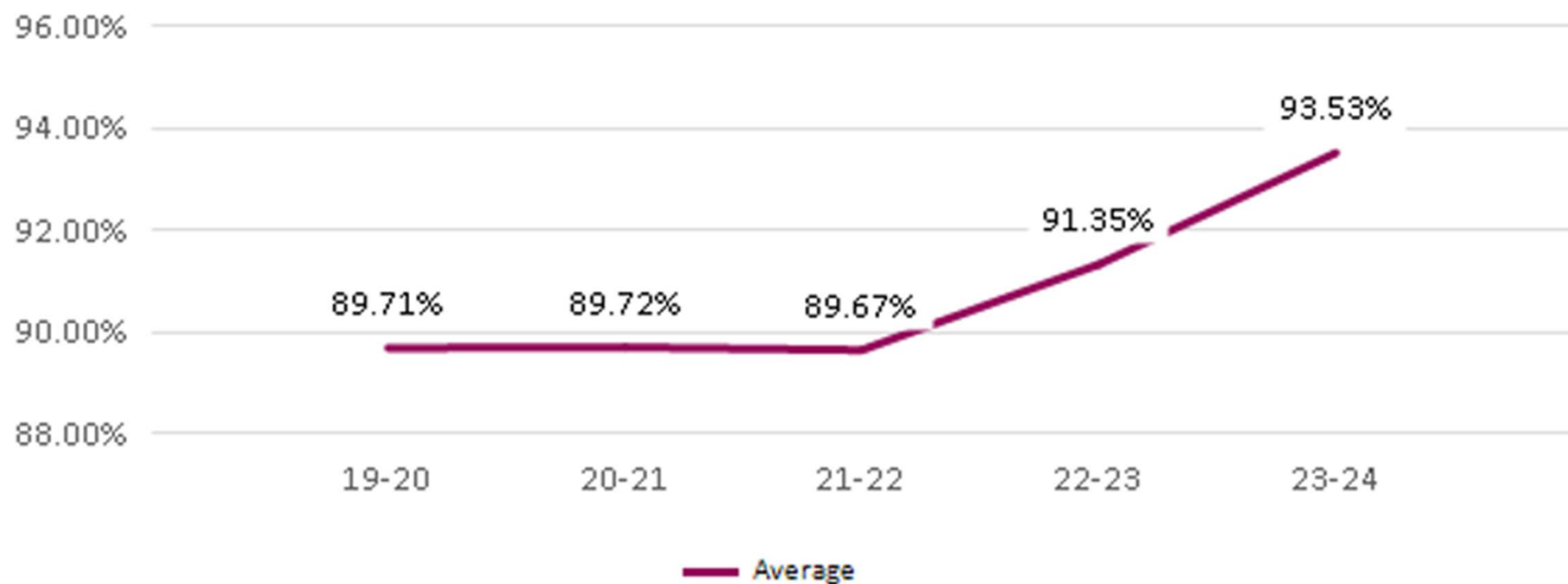


Traffic management systems

PI 55 Percentage of faults rectified within target time

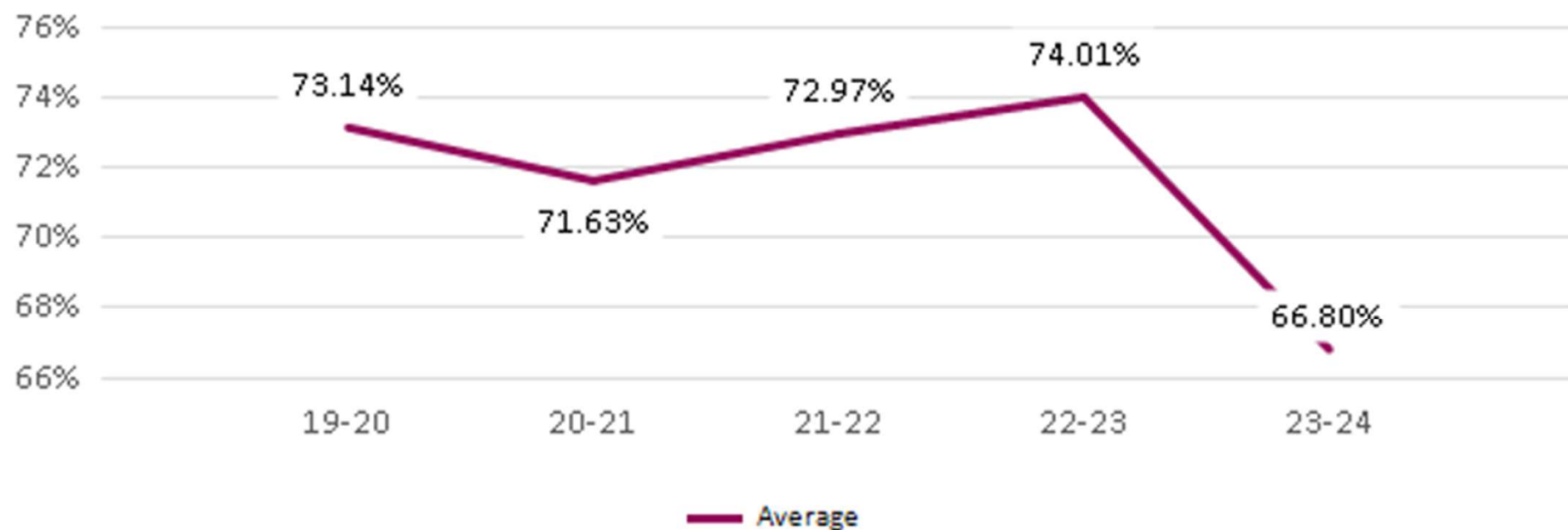


PI 56 Percentage of faults rectified on first visit

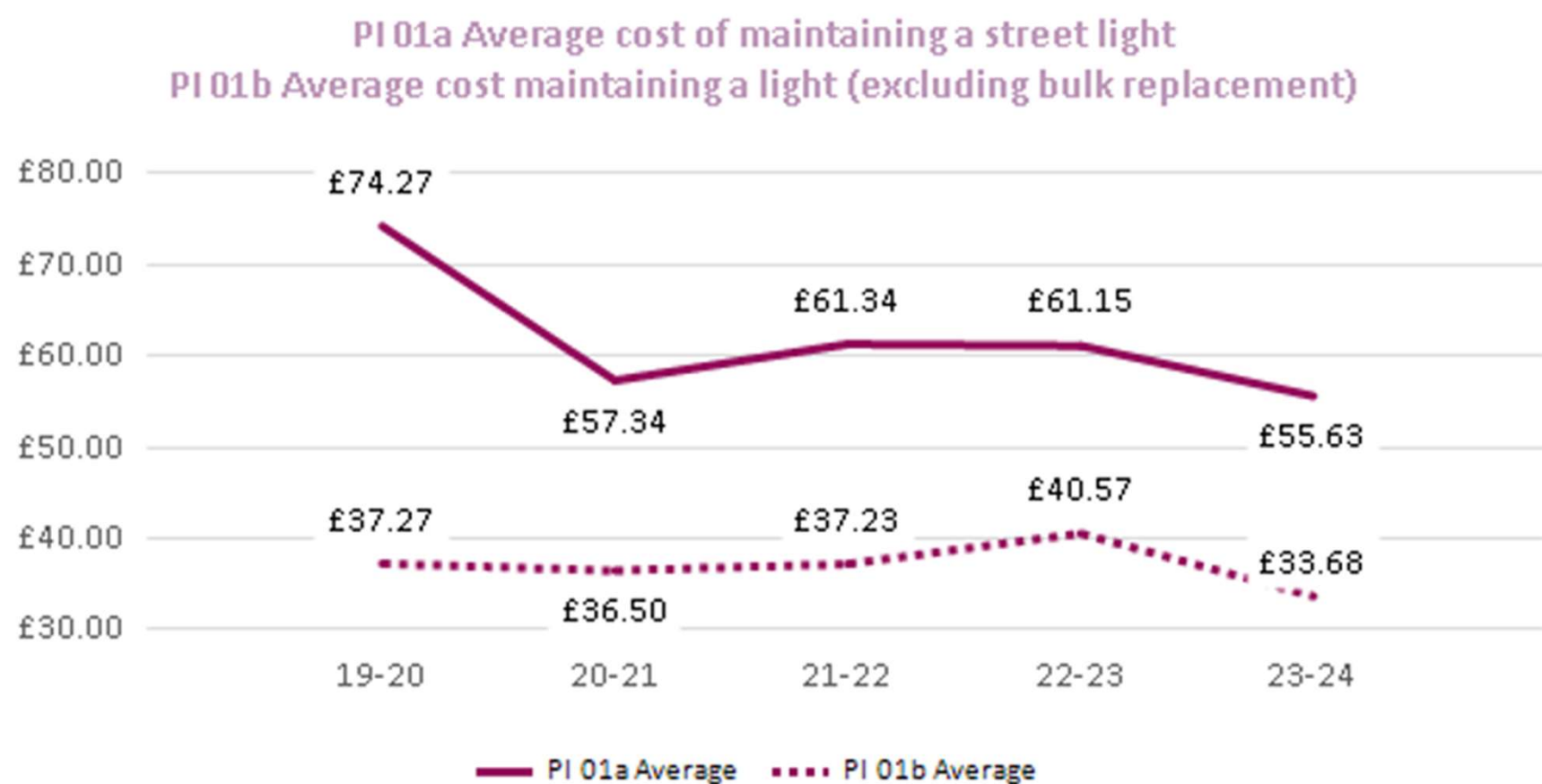


Bridges and structures

PI 300 Percentage of principal inspections completed on time



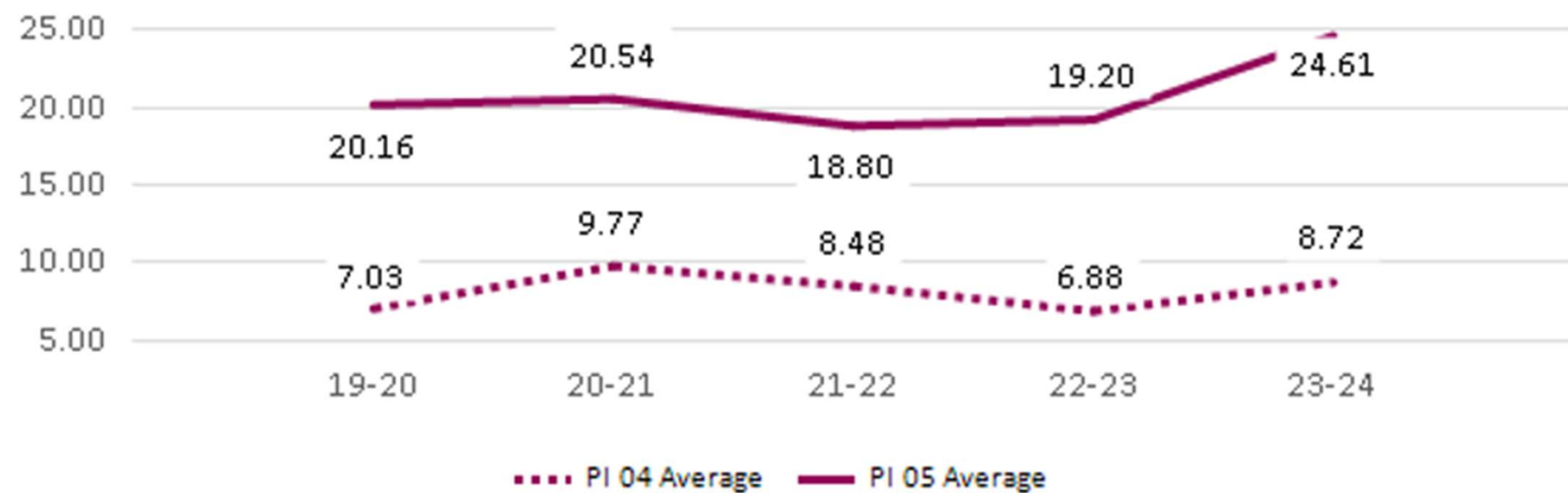
Expenditure



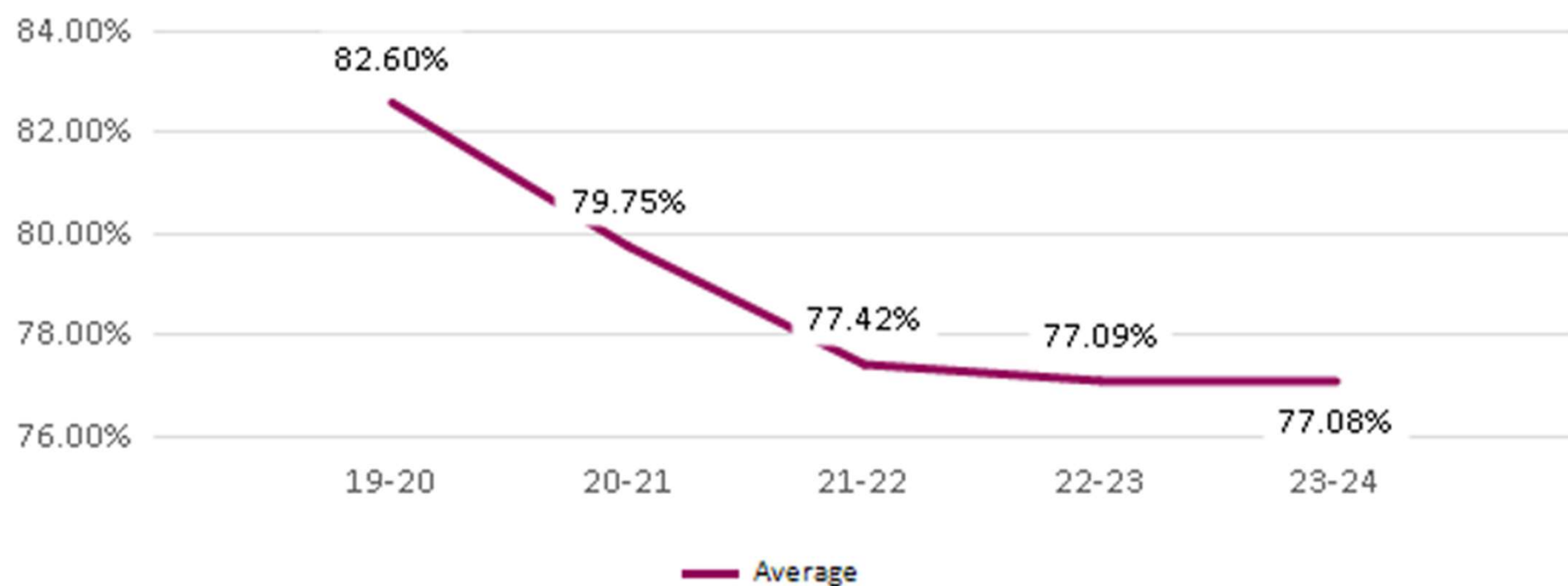
Average time to repair street lamps (days)

PI 04 - authority only

PI 05 - electricity supplier

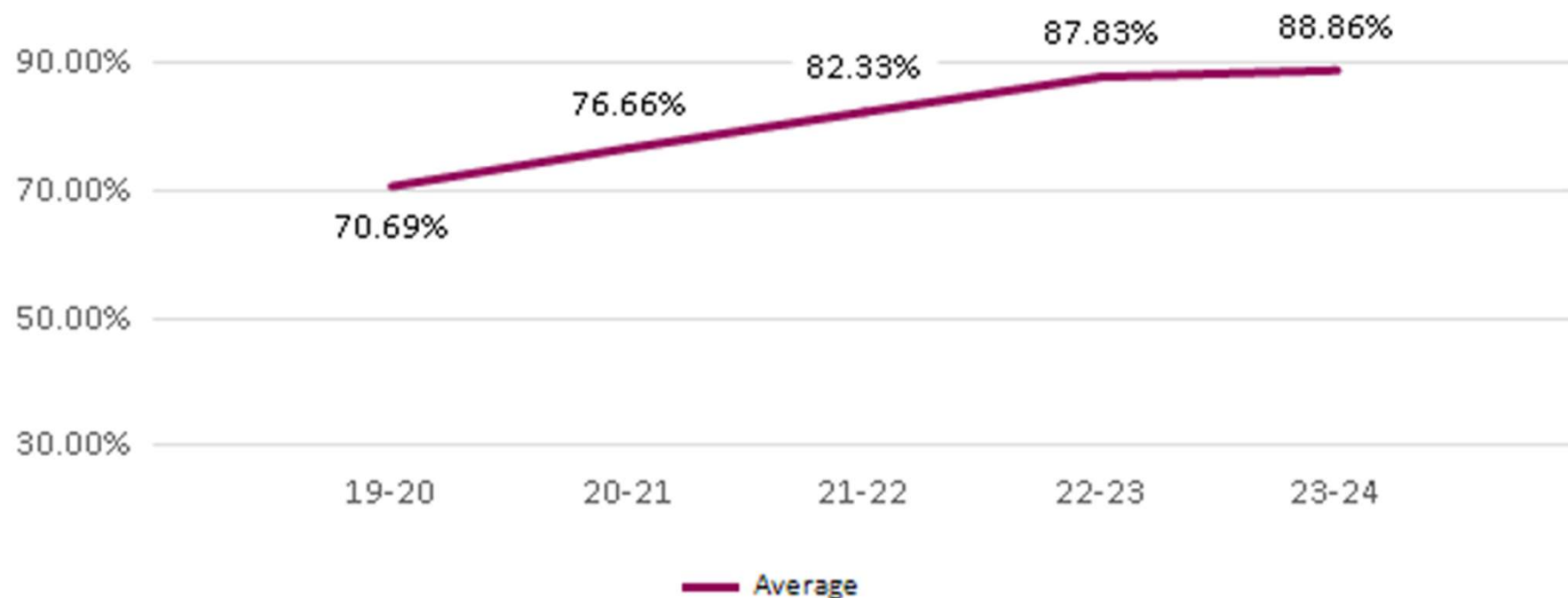


PI 03a Percentage of lamps restored to working condition within 7 days

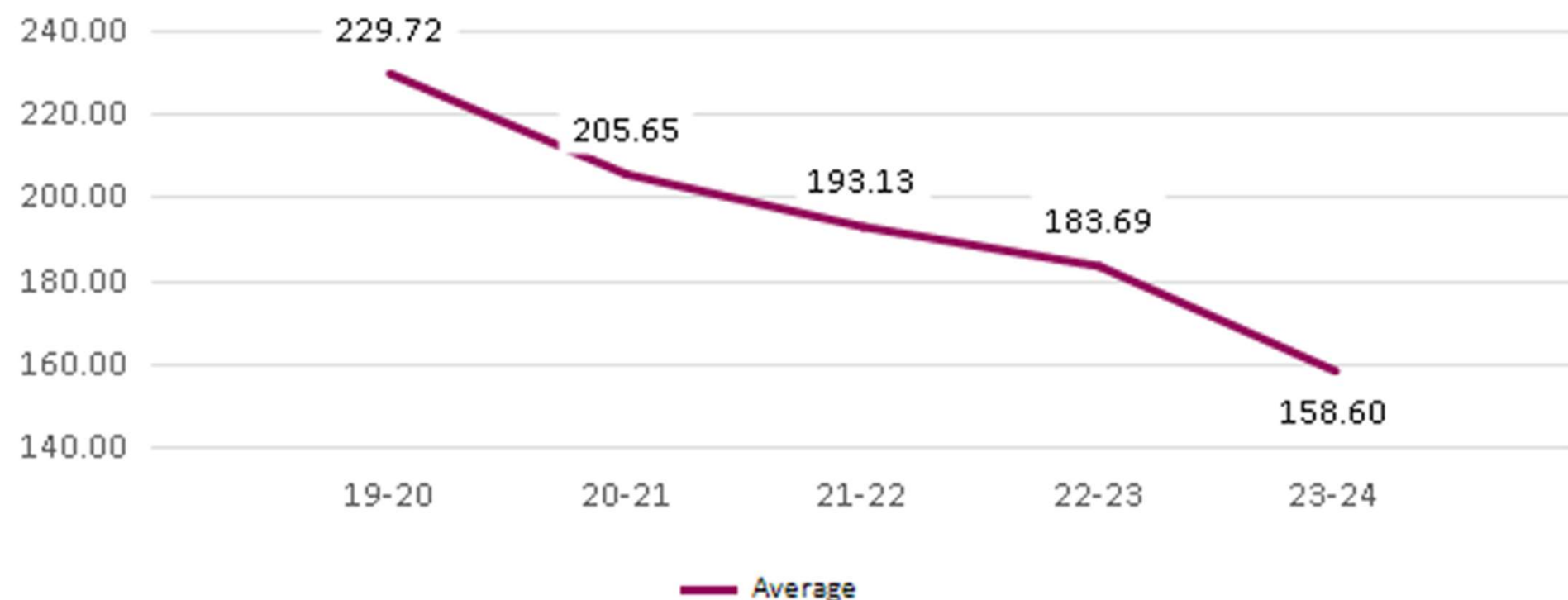


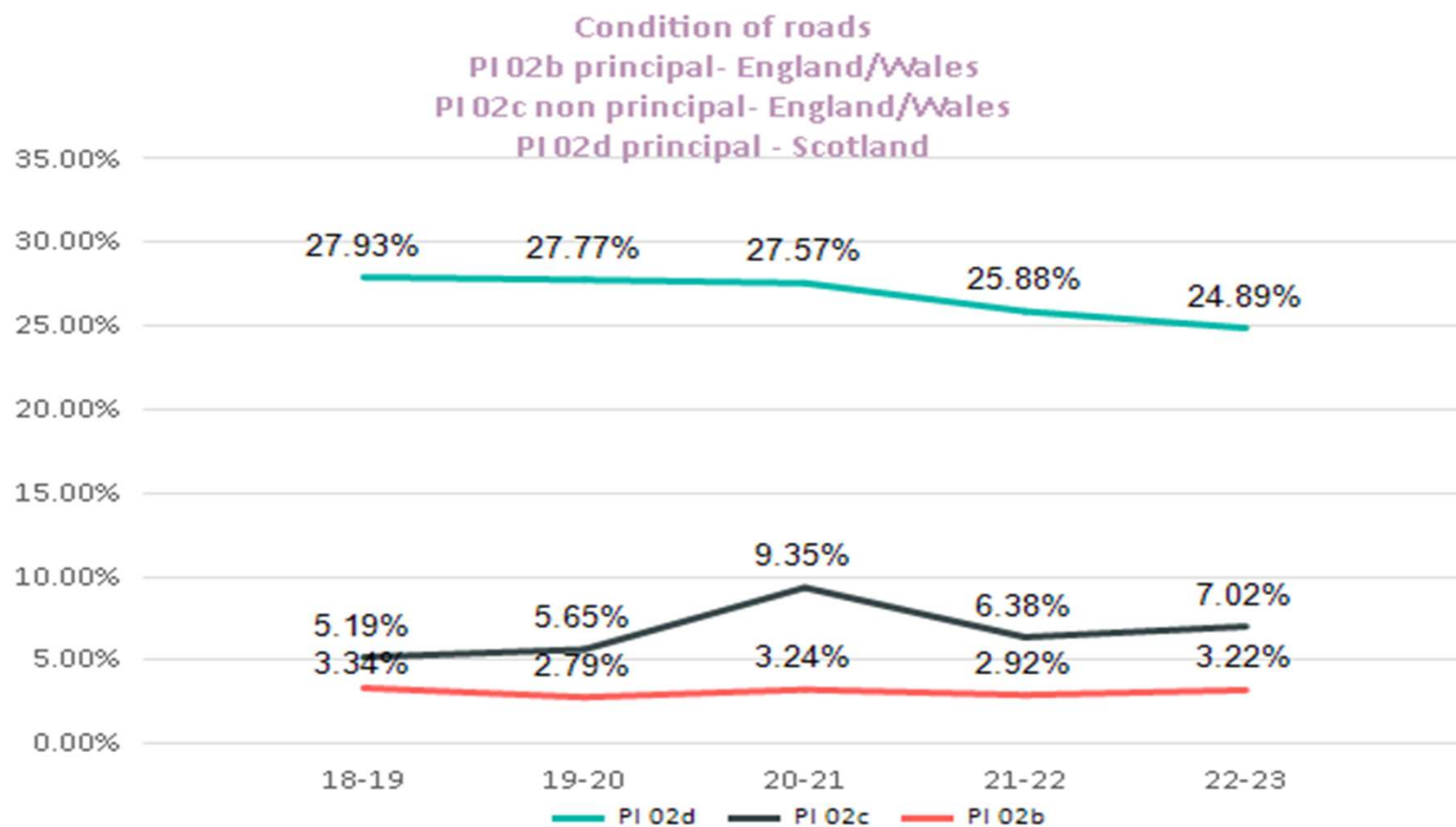
Environmental

PI 44a Percentage of street lamps that are LED



PI 18b Average annual electricity consumption per light (KWH)







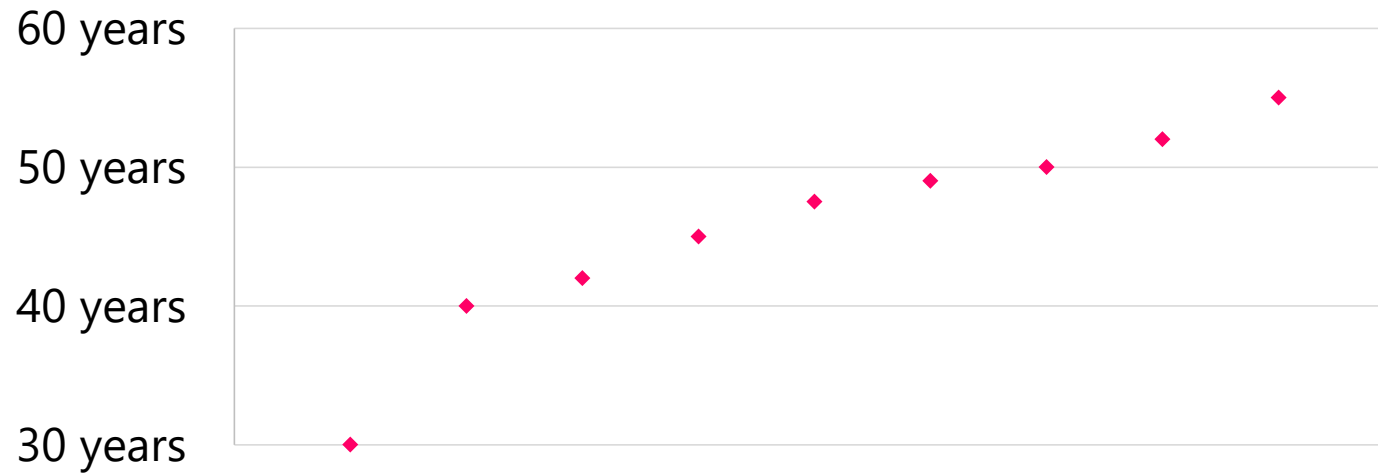
Operatives



Technical/managerial staff



What is the average age of your highways maintenance operational staff?





Contact details

Louise Melville, Principal Advisor, APSE

Email: Lmelville@apse.org.uk



Association for Public Service Excellence

2nd floor Washbrook House, Lancastrian Office Centre, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0FP.

telephone: 0161 772 1810

web: www.apse.org.uk