

Serving the public interest? A computational analysis of the topics of UK national newspaper coverage using Freedom of Information (FOI) requests between 2005 and 2023 (Journalism Studies, 2025)

Dominant topics and their keywords

Topics	Keywords
Public funds and government investment compliance	government, official, company, firm, public, fund, business, sir_lindsay, department, issue
Road safety issues	road, driver, drive, tower, highway, safety, vehicle, motorway, ban, wrong
Children/youth addiction and mental health issues	child, drug, death, young, service, alcohol, treatment, support, help, drink
School safety issues	school, education, teacher, concrete, pupil, government, parent, church, work, prayer
Public transportation issues	passenger, train, ferry, operator, platform, driver, amazon, tube, transport, rail
Urban safety issue	bike, property, sell, item, steal, estate, lose, case, area, city
Problems in prisons	prison, prisoner, woman, jail, child, life, remand, inmate, cell, man
Pension and Social Benefit Issues	pension, state, woman, pay, receive, money, work, scheme, benefit, transfer
Financial transactions, compensations or penalties	pay, claim, compensation, payment, money, fine, fee, cost, council, staff
Government and markets	government, work, deal, business, price, labour, company, high, market, plan
Public funds and council spending issues	cost, spend, council, money, government, waste, taxpayer, cut, local, pay
Governments' and politicians' financial misconduct	expense, party, parliamentary, member, common, official, trip, lord, speaker, claim
Political corruption investigation	complaint, contract, government, staff, work, pay, company, ppe, investigation, ppe_medpro
Crimes endangering lives	kill, life, look, story, feel, old, live, love, even, death
Government misconduct investigation	government, minister, scottish, public, advice, release, decision, document, civil_servant, legal
Police and crimes	police, officer, crime, force, meet, incident, per_cent, report, theft, offence
Government's environmental and health policies and actions	scottish, bird, glasgow, fitness, toilet, stunt, public, government, issue, lothian
Housing support costs and spending	home, office, work, pay, property, cost, government, refurbishment, staff, council
Social housing issues	housing, coastguard, landlord, property, tenant, rent, tobacco, social, council, chapman
Children education issues	child, school, parent, teacher, education, teach, influencer, young, language, family
Tax issues such as evasion	tax, company, hmrc, pay, per_cent, scheme, business, income, month, revenue
NHS problems	hospital, trust, patient, health, staff, service, care, wait, call, doctor
Immigration and government policies	home, office, case, border, visa, government, legal, court, migrant, immigration
Energy issues and government	company, government, work, public, service, energy, call, project, group, business
Health and safety issues	fire, safety, support, care, service, building, work, rescue, woman, asbestos

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Higher education (university) issues	university, student, black, academic, course, college, education, high, white, vice_chancellor
Data security and leak	police, officer, datum, breach, detail, church, staff, psni, person, work
Sexual crimes against children	child, abuse, police, victim, sexual, crime, sex, rape, case, force
Finance and society	gbp, government, coin, welsh, taxpayer, incinerate, basket, victimisation, ticket, throne
Crime investigations	call, court, claim, case, trial, document, lawyer, record, investigation, charge
Public health and safety risks and support	dog, officer, police, die, mental_illness, patient, brutality, work, leave, care
Diseases and health issues	covid, case, health, test, government, food, country, pandemic, death, state