

# PPE - Property, Politics & Economics

## A new reality in formation?

Dr Walter Boettcher, Head of Research & Economic, Colliers  
Professional Conferences, Peterborough, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2024

# Agenda

- 01 GDP, inflation and interest rates**
- 02 Regulatory constraint on property market**
- 03 A few property metrics**
- 04 'Levelling up' and a dysfunctional political picnic**

UK inflation [+ Add to myFT](#)

# Is the UK once again the 'sick man' of Europe?

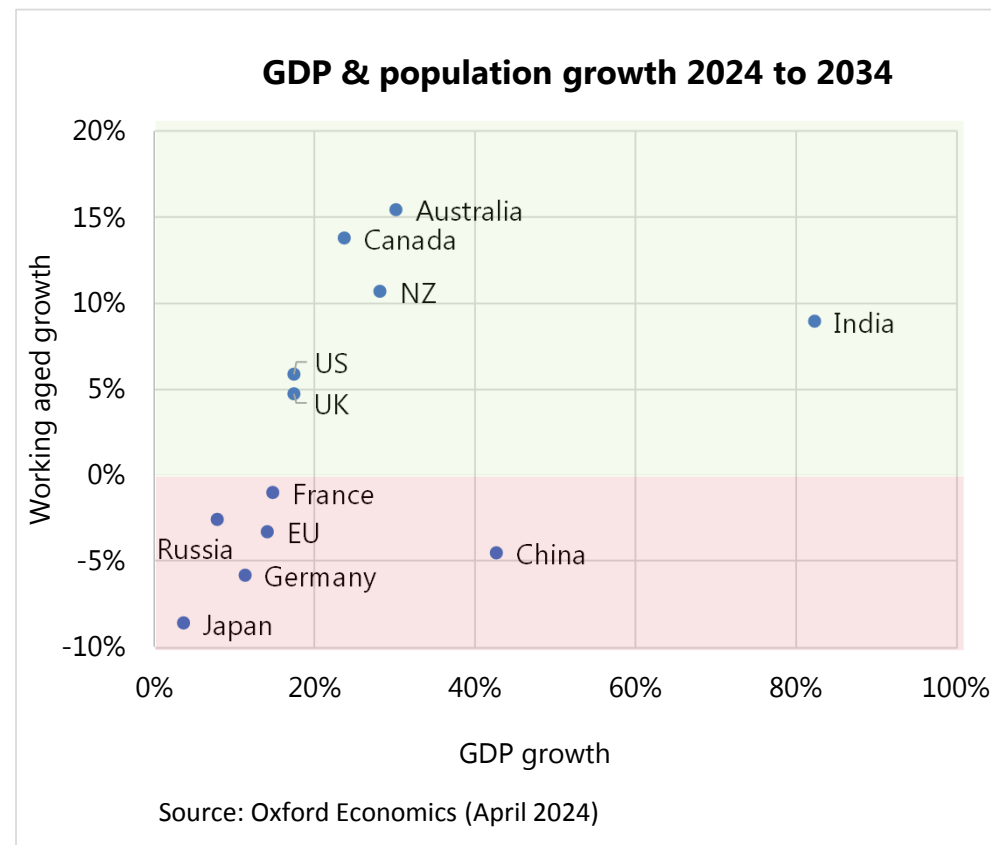
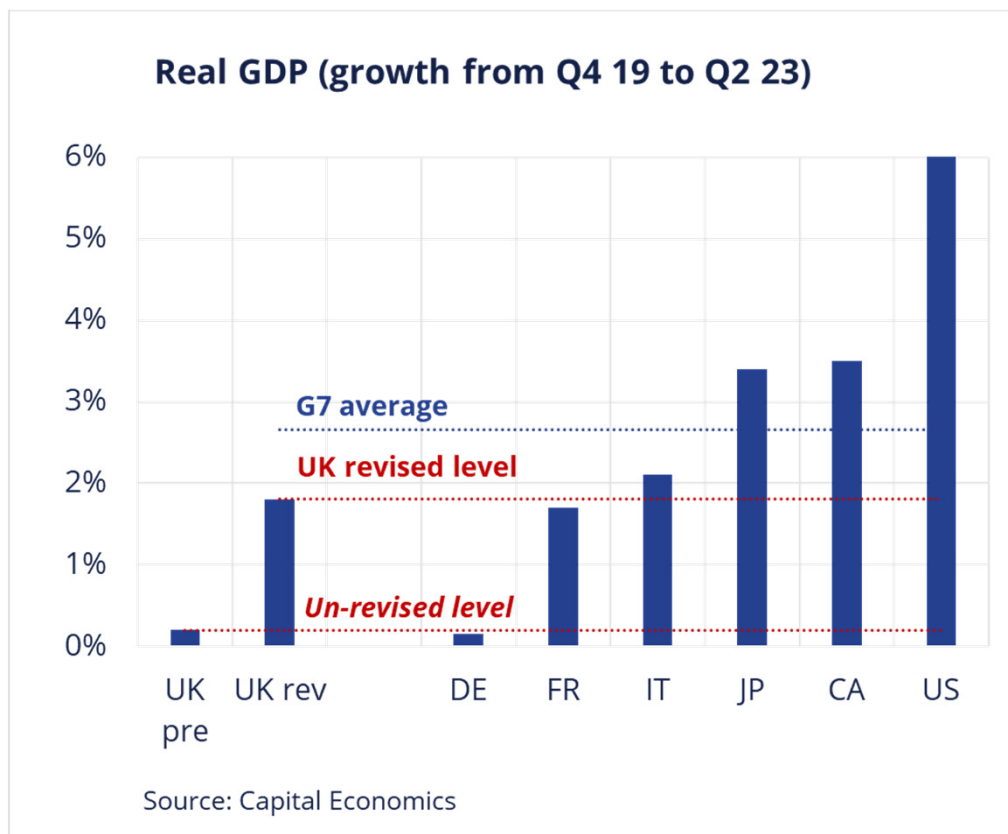
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Return of high inflation and slow growth draws comparisons with the 1970s — but economists say this time it is different



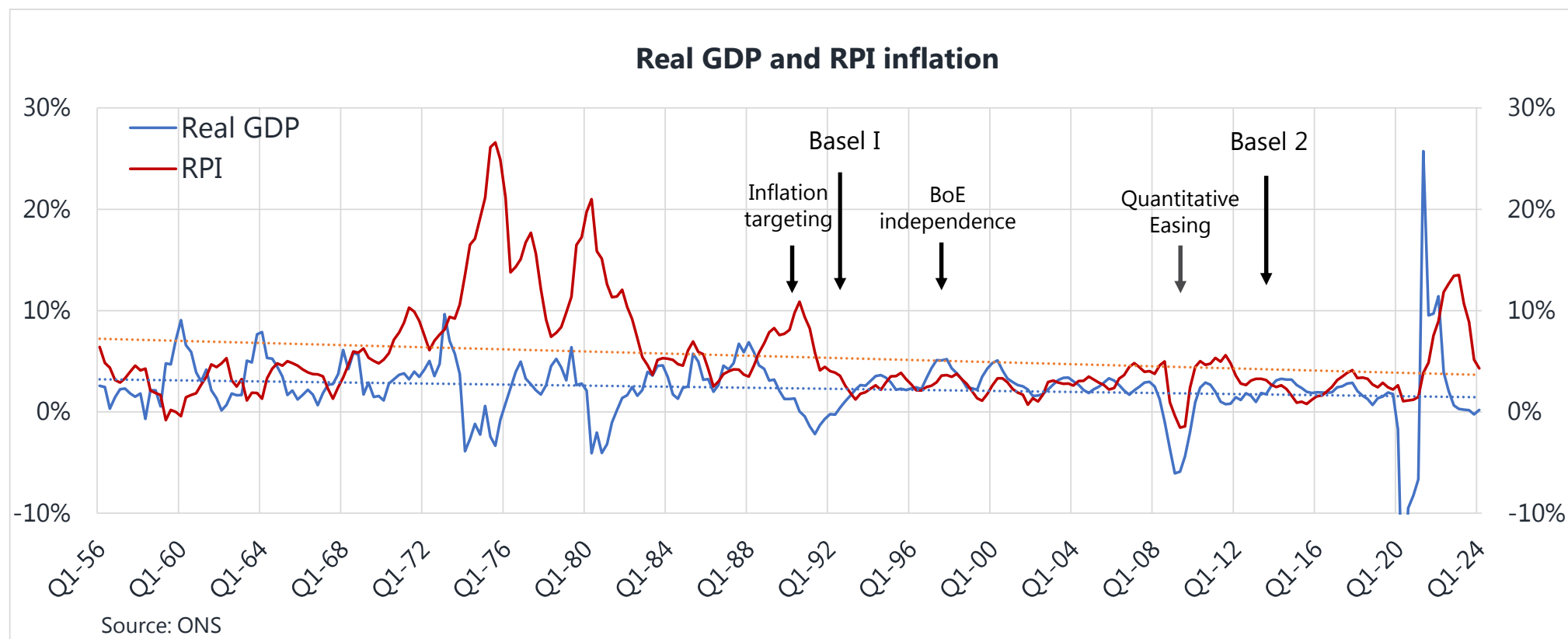
*Colliers confidential*

# Is the UK really lagging the G7 as the media reports? Large revisions to GDP



No more boom and bust?

# Financial regulations stabilised economy



Colliers confidential



# The 'paradox of thrift' prevails Animal spirits slain!

- **Paradox of thrift** – 'greater saving' is 'collectively calamitous.'
- Secure rather than opportunistic investment.
- An elongated sequence of shocks has left little time for risk appetites to be repaired.
- Financial regulations are impacting.
- Creative destruction remains in retreat. The reallocation rate is down by a quarter in US and Europe and by a third in the UK.
- Productivity in retreat.
- **Government stimulus needed to break this logjam, not more austerity!**

## Why an uncertain world needs to take on more risk

Scarring from a series of shocks generates a defensive mindset that is holding back growth

ANDY HALDANE

+ Add to myFT



Events such as the Covid-19 pandemic have shaken the world economy, prompting a safety-first approach. But today's risk problem is too little, not too much © AFP via Getty Images

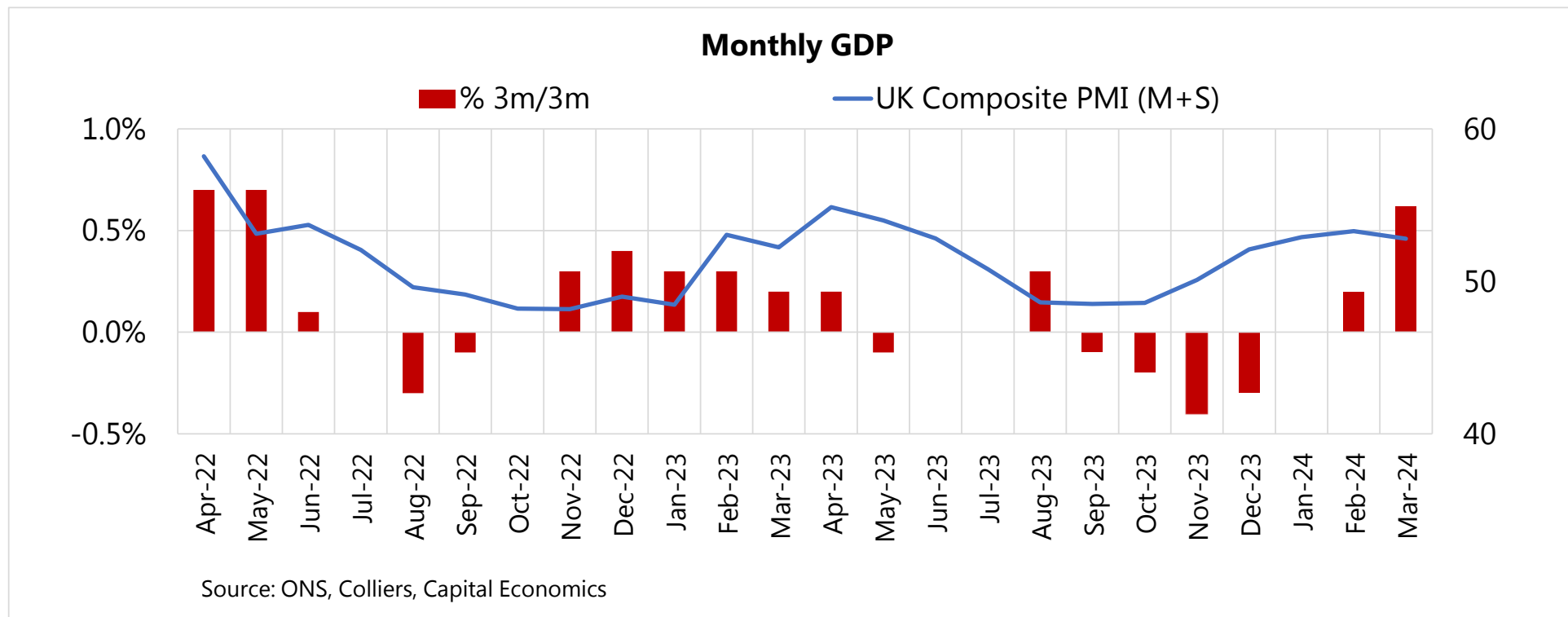
Andy Haldane MAY 18 2024

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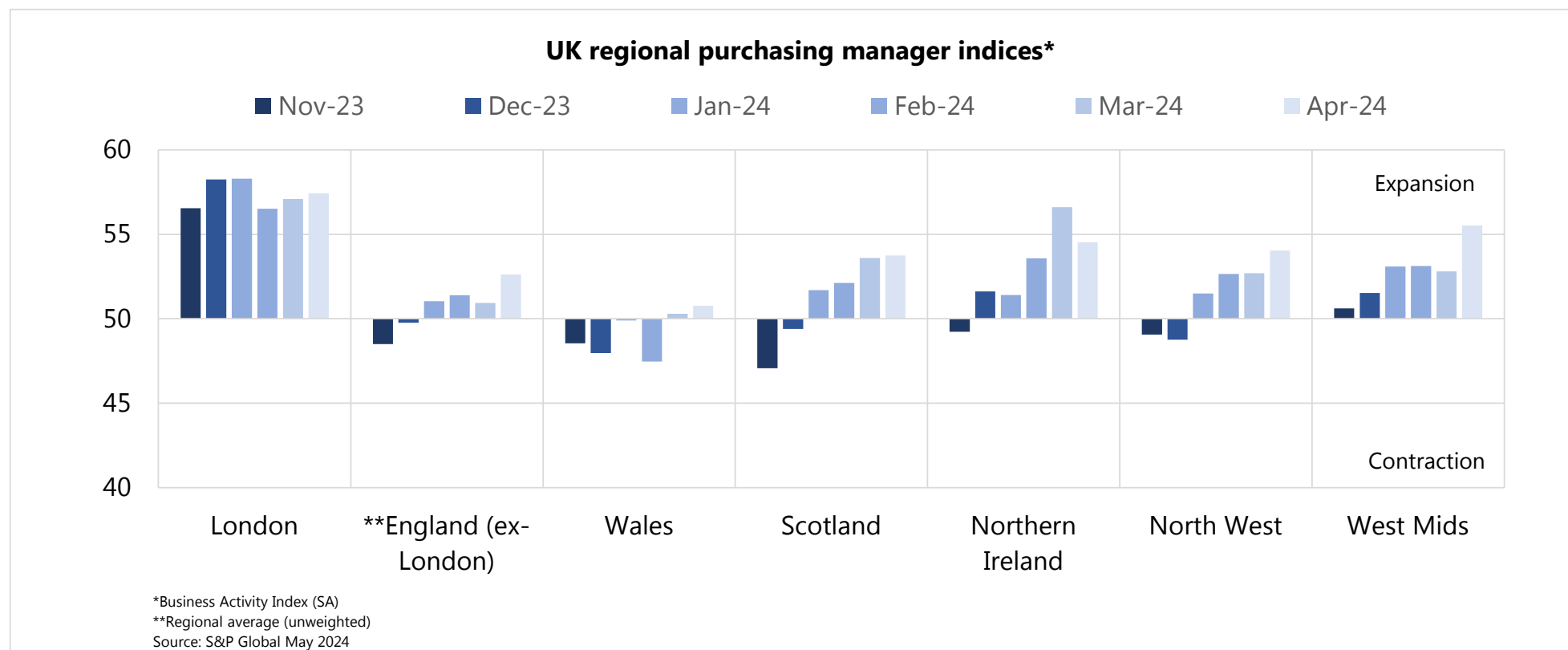
Is this the soft landing?

# Recession? What recession?



Depends where you are and whom you ask . . .

# Recession? What recession?



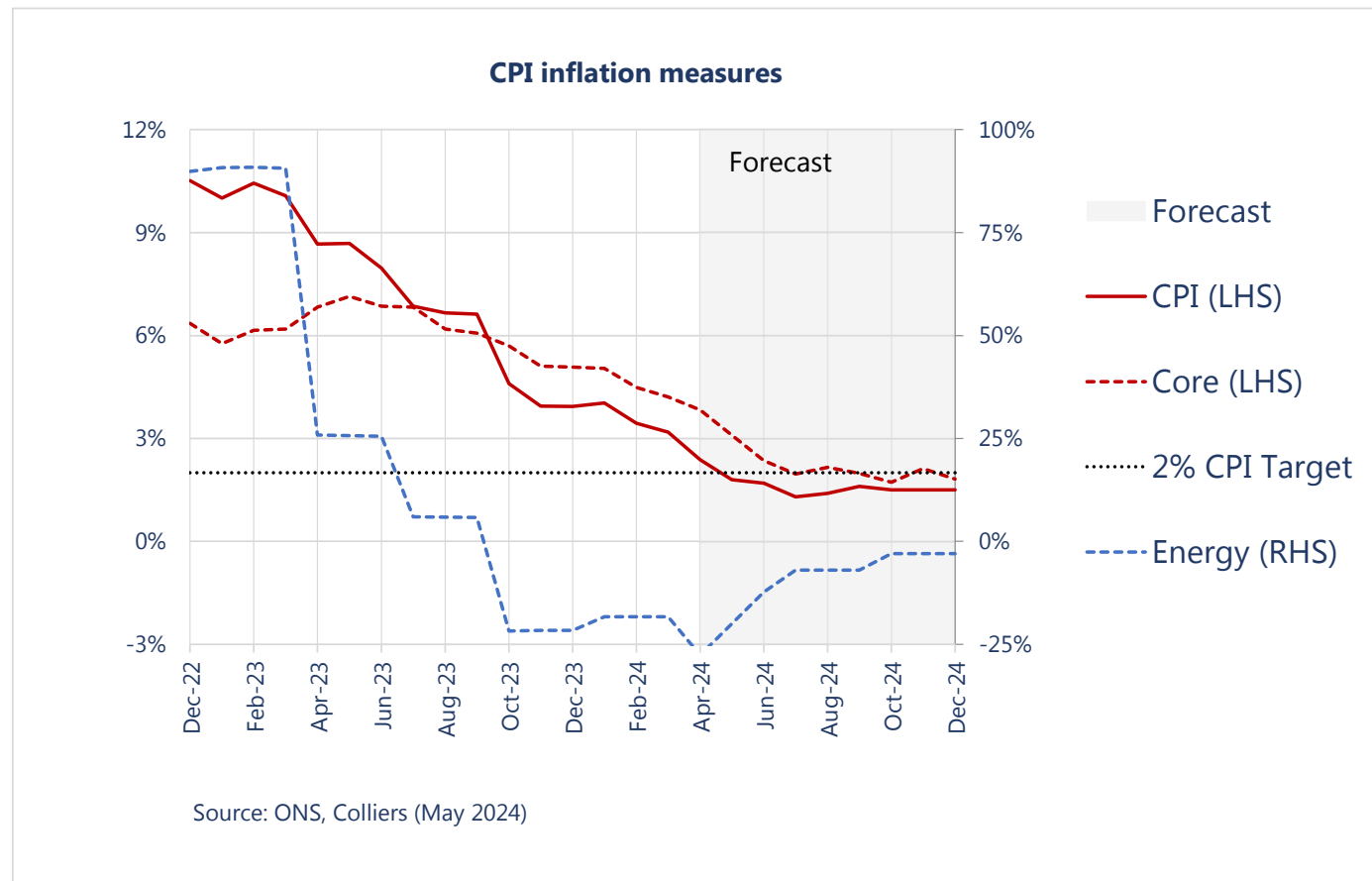


# It's about energy and supply chain recovery, less about the Bank Rate

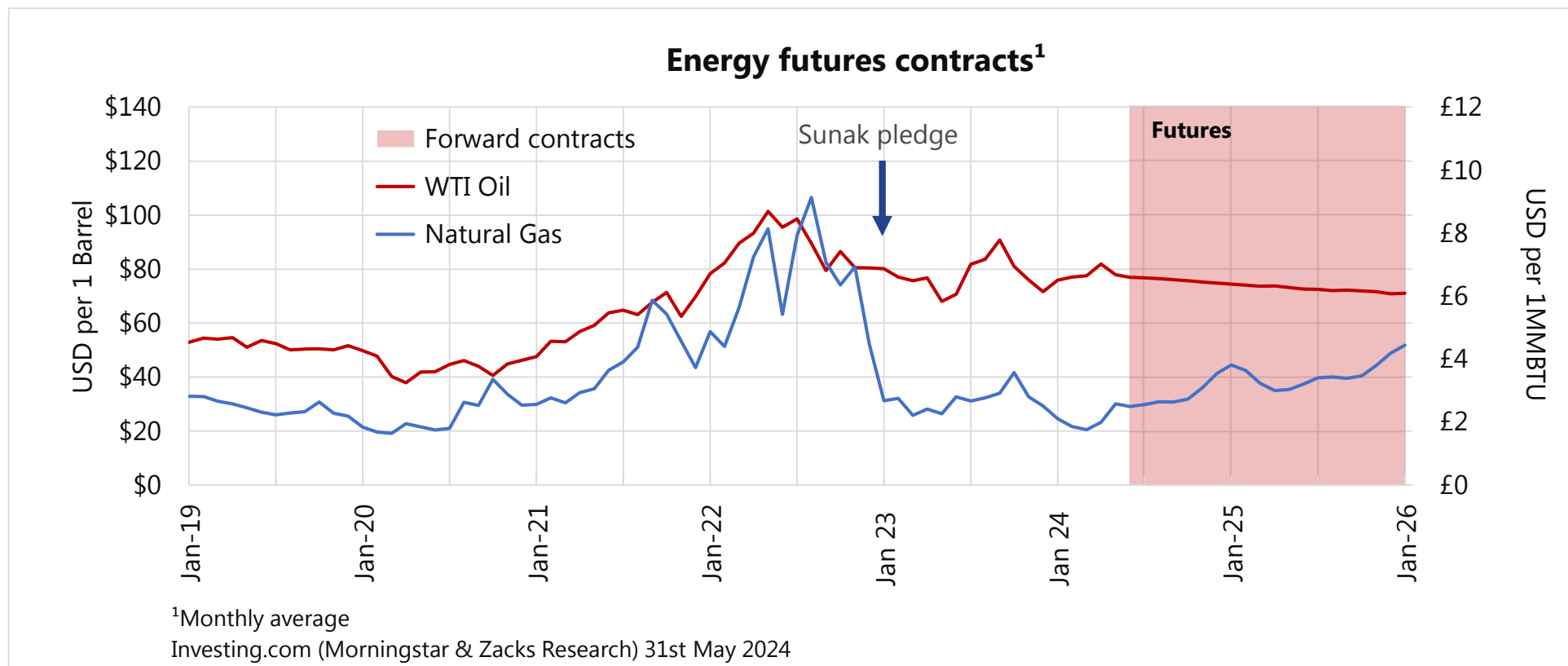
## Inflation likely to fall below target before election



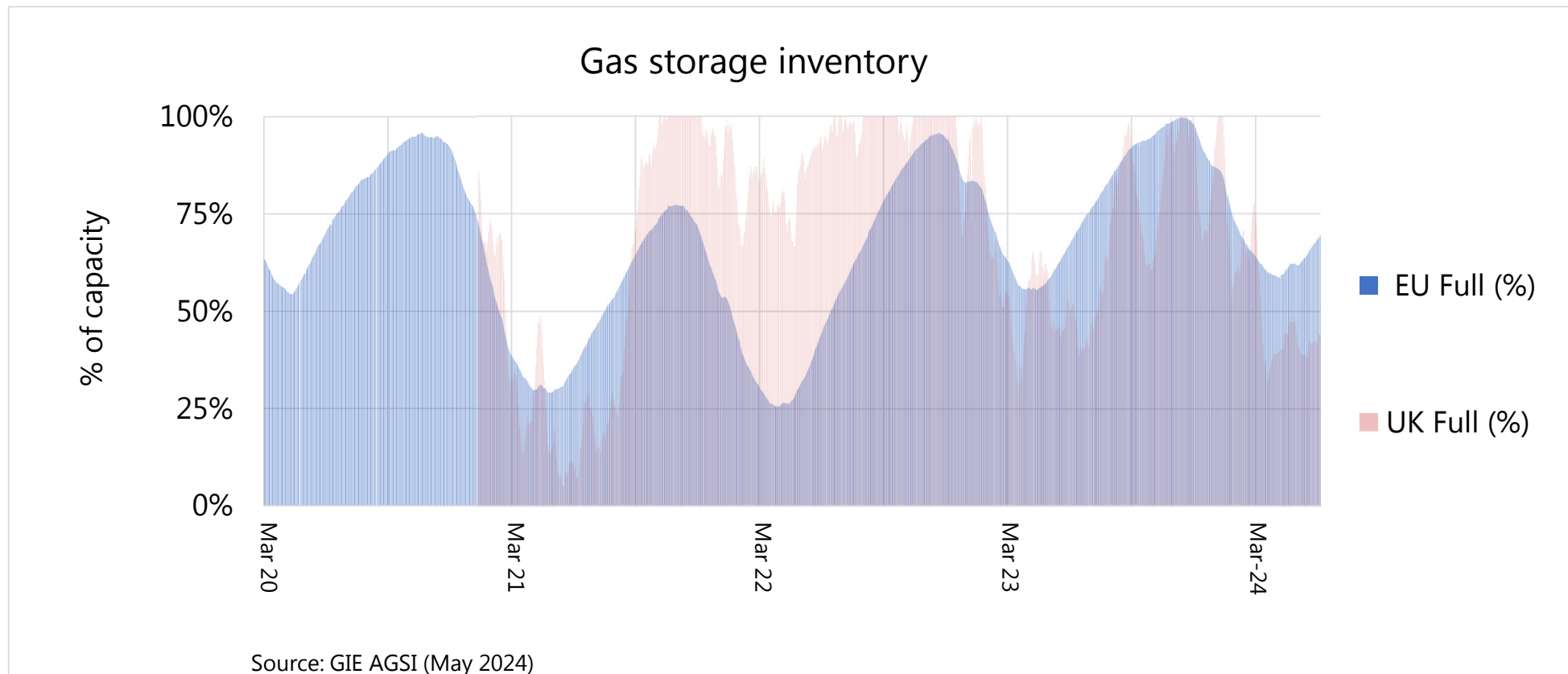
- **Base effects** driving inflation lower
- Ofgem price cap fell 12% from £1,928 to £1,690 in April. Forecast to fall by 7% in July to £1,568
- Bank may have overtightened
- Look for mid-year rate cuts
- Prices still high though



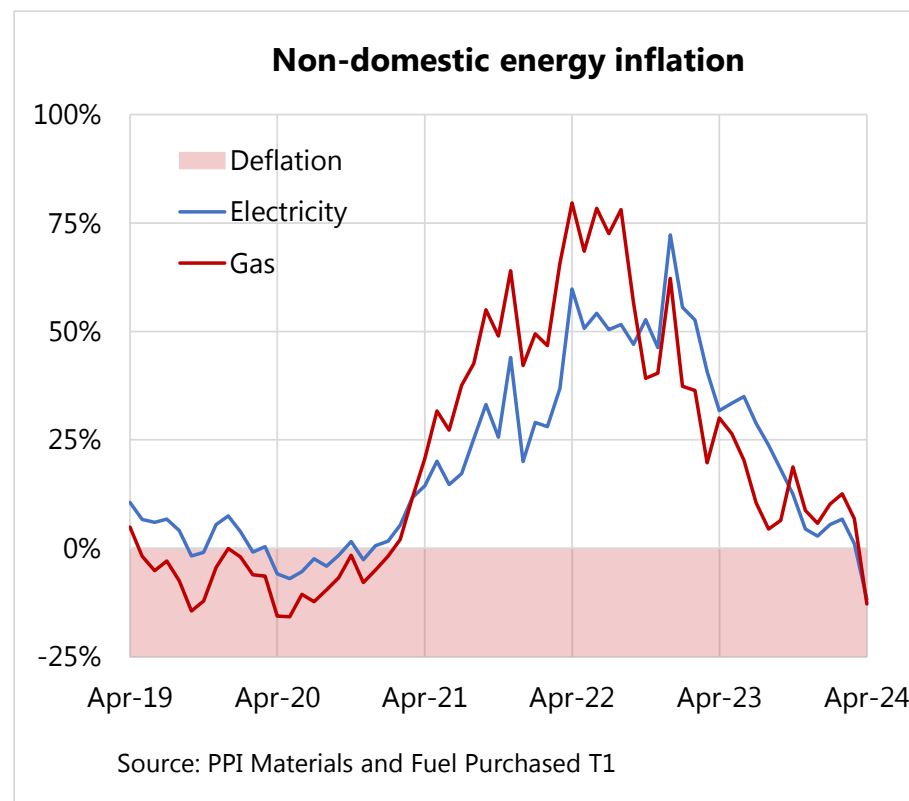
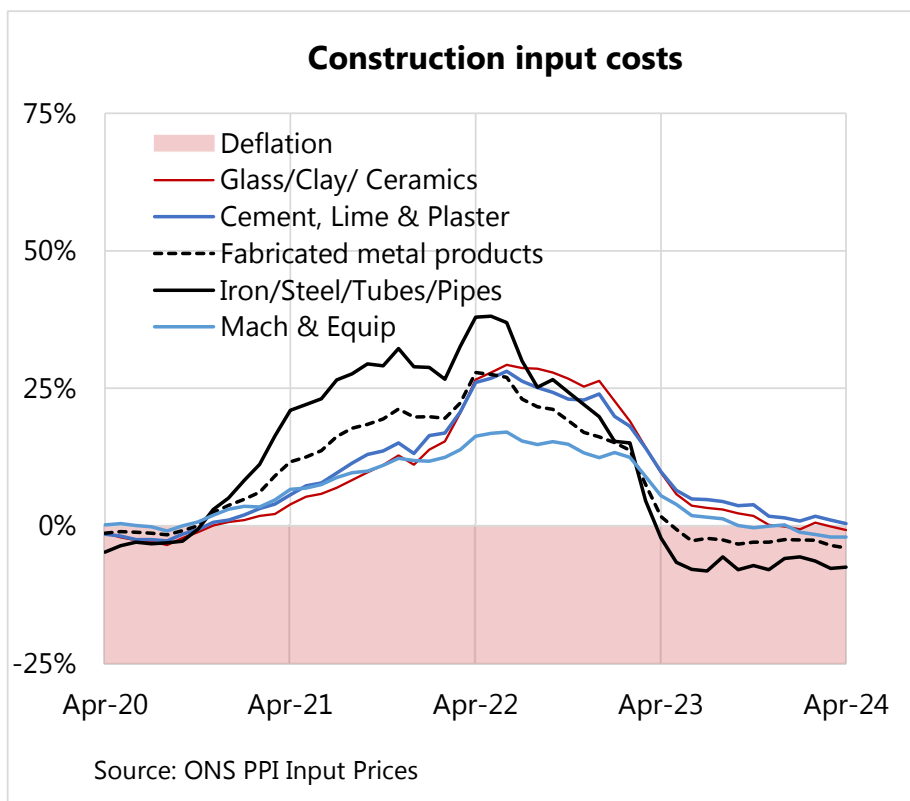
# Supply chains have shifted substantially and have greater security! Energy supplies already deflating



# Supply chains have shifted substantially and have greater security! Gas reserves at comfortable levels



# Input costs deflating. Output deflation will follow! Commodity supply chains normalising



Not a question of when cuts will come, but where they will land.

# When will the Bank of England begin rate cuts?



Andrew Bailey

Depends whom you ask?

The New York Times

Colliers |

## *Bank of England Will Overhaul Its Forecasting After Inflation Surprises*

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL · 3d

### **Ben Bernanke's 12-Step Guide For Fixing the Bank of England**

Ben Bernanke has some thoughts on how to fix the Bank of England's much-maligned economic-forecasting models—and that ...

## Frankfurter Allgemeine

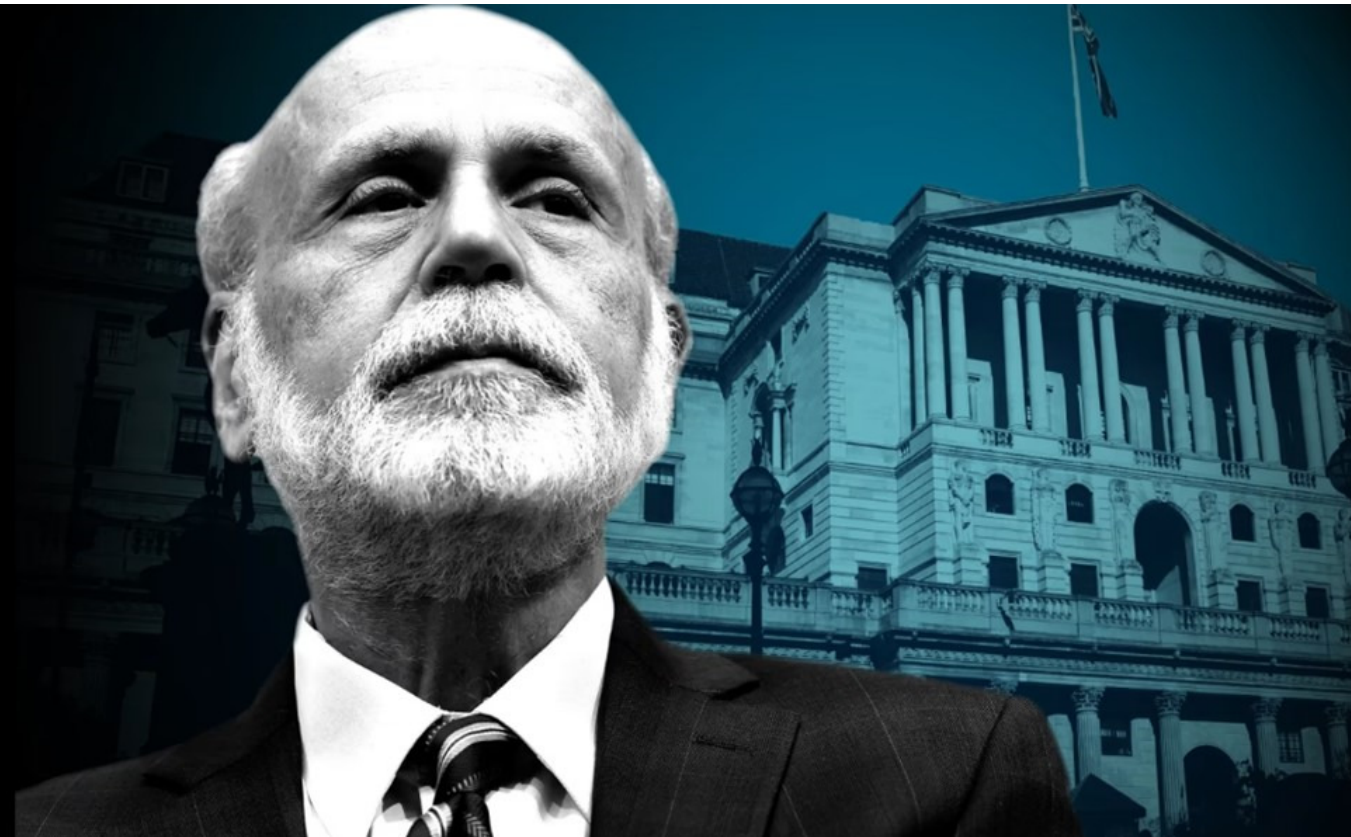
NACH FEHLPROGNOSEN

### **Bernanke tadelt die Bank of England**

Der ehemalige amerikanische Zentralbankchef empfiehlt den britischen Kollegen eine neue Software und neue Modelle, um ihre Prognosen zu verbessern.

# FINANCIAL TIMES Ben Bernanke's brutal verdict on the Bank of England

Former Fed chair highlights shortcomings in modelling but does not call for policymakers to publish own rate projections





Not a question of when cuts will come, but where they will land.

# When will the Bank of England begin rate cuts?



Huw Pill

**Gag order** in place until the election!

Not a question of when cuts will come, but where they will land.

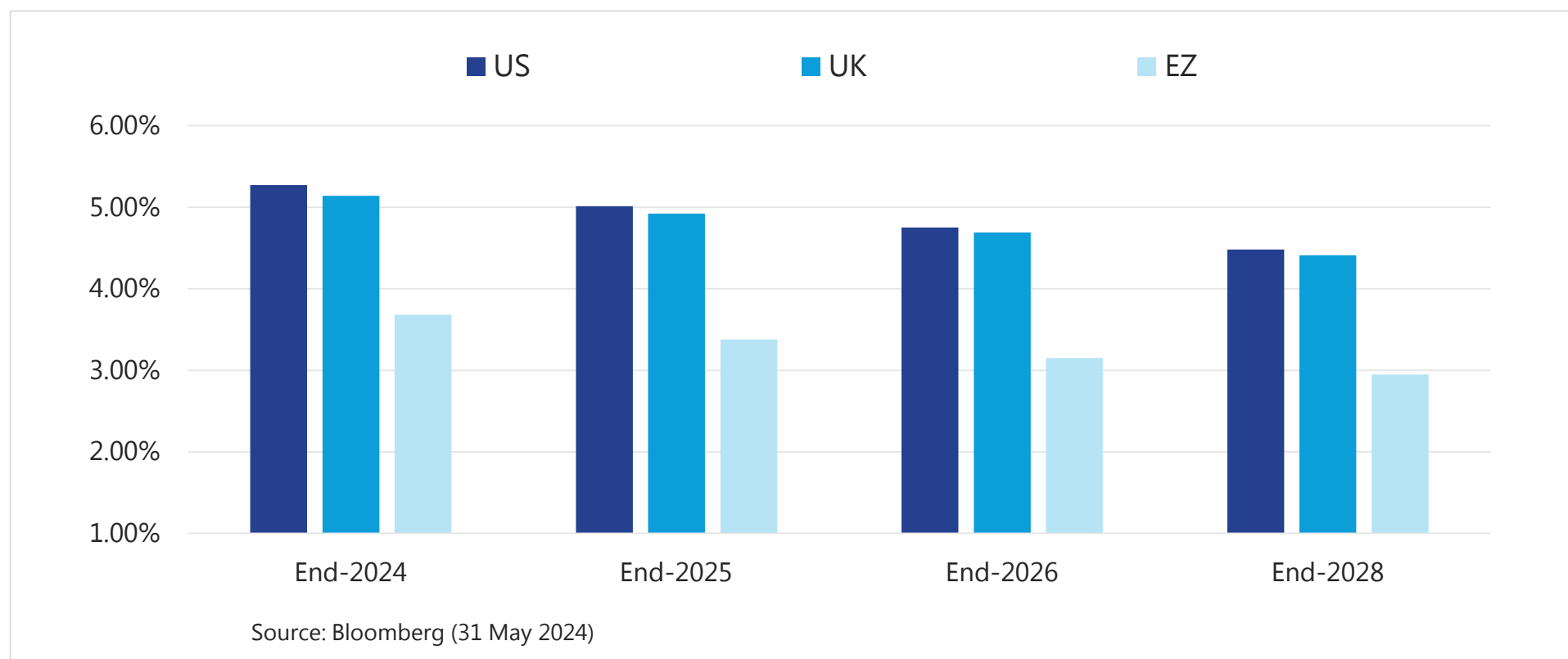
# When will the Bank of England begin rate cuts?



Andy Haldane

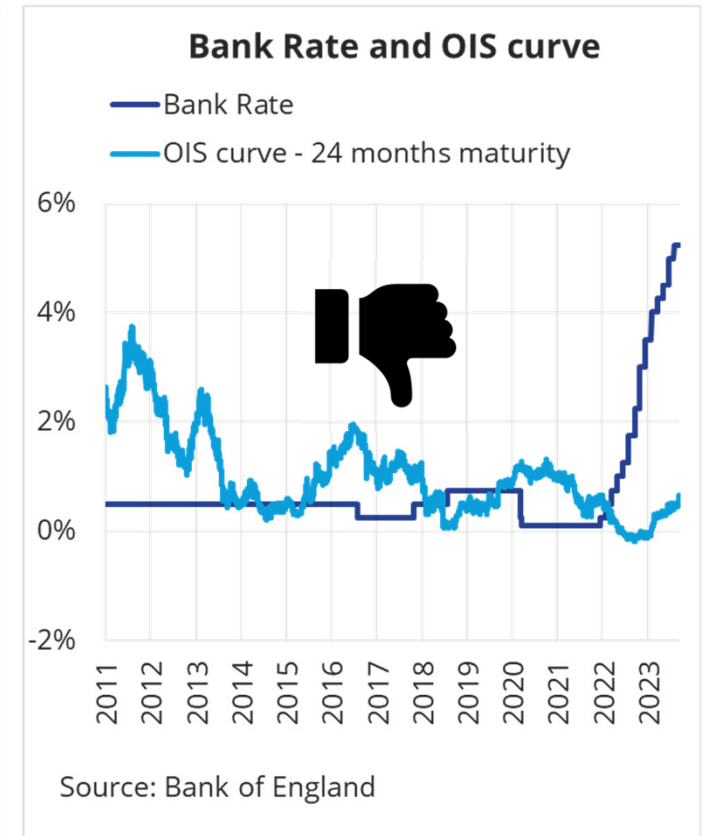
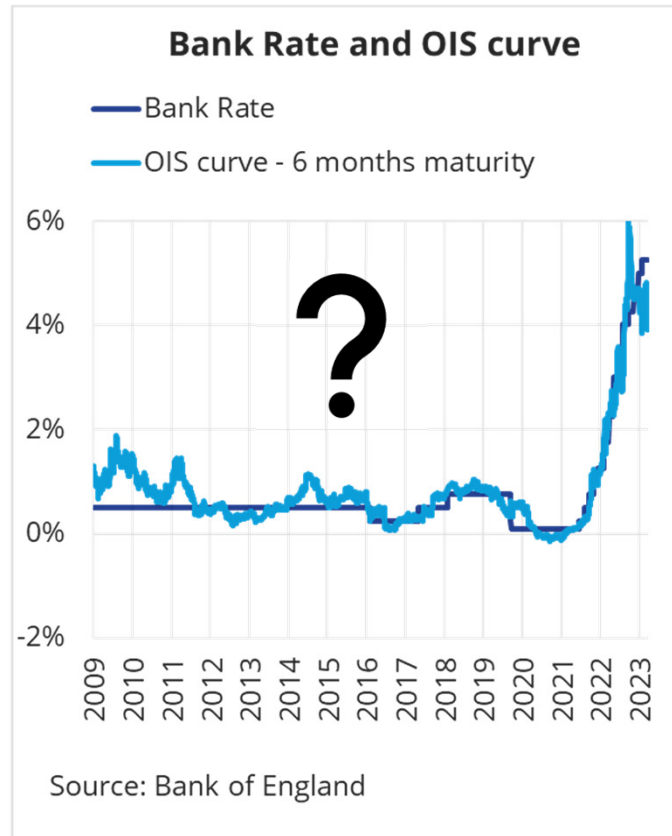
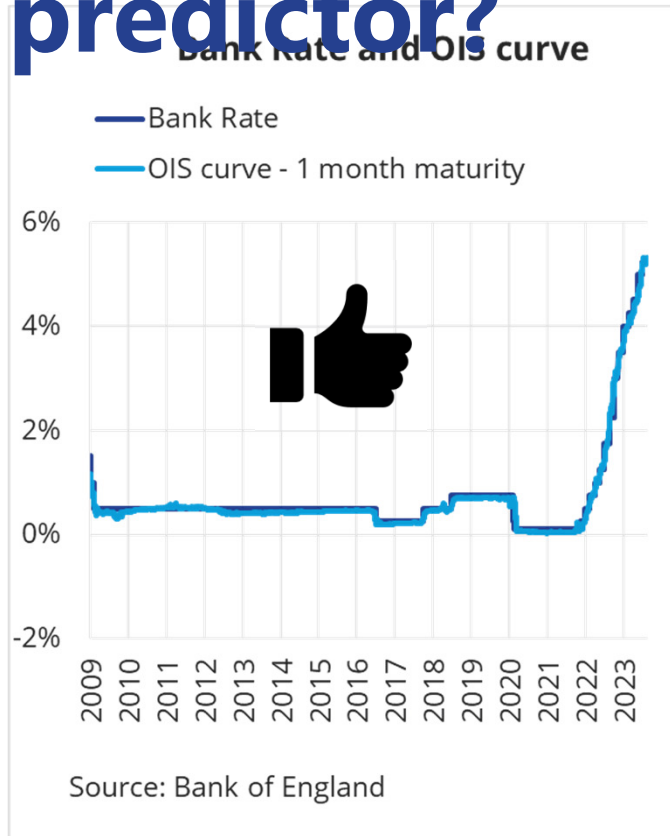
June Bank cut six months too late . . .

# OIS forward curves show slow rate decline

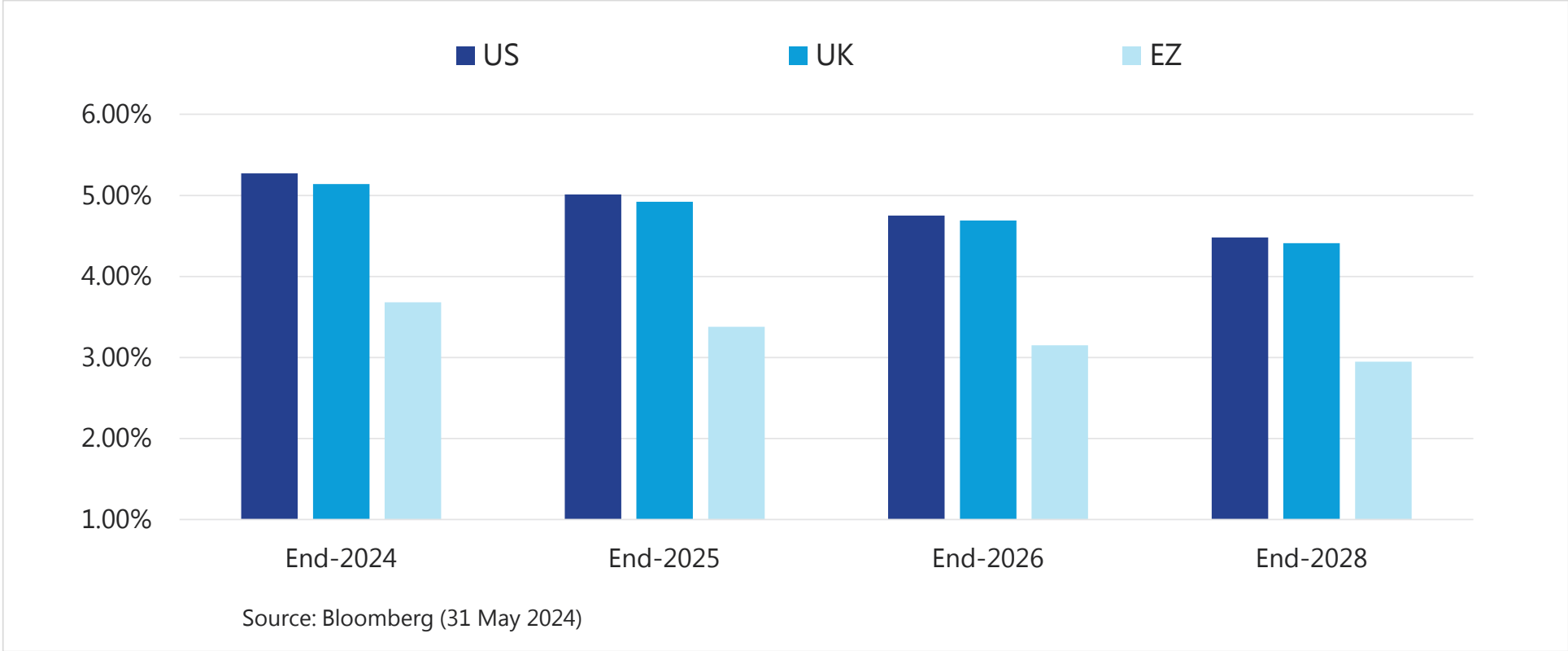


Depends on time frame

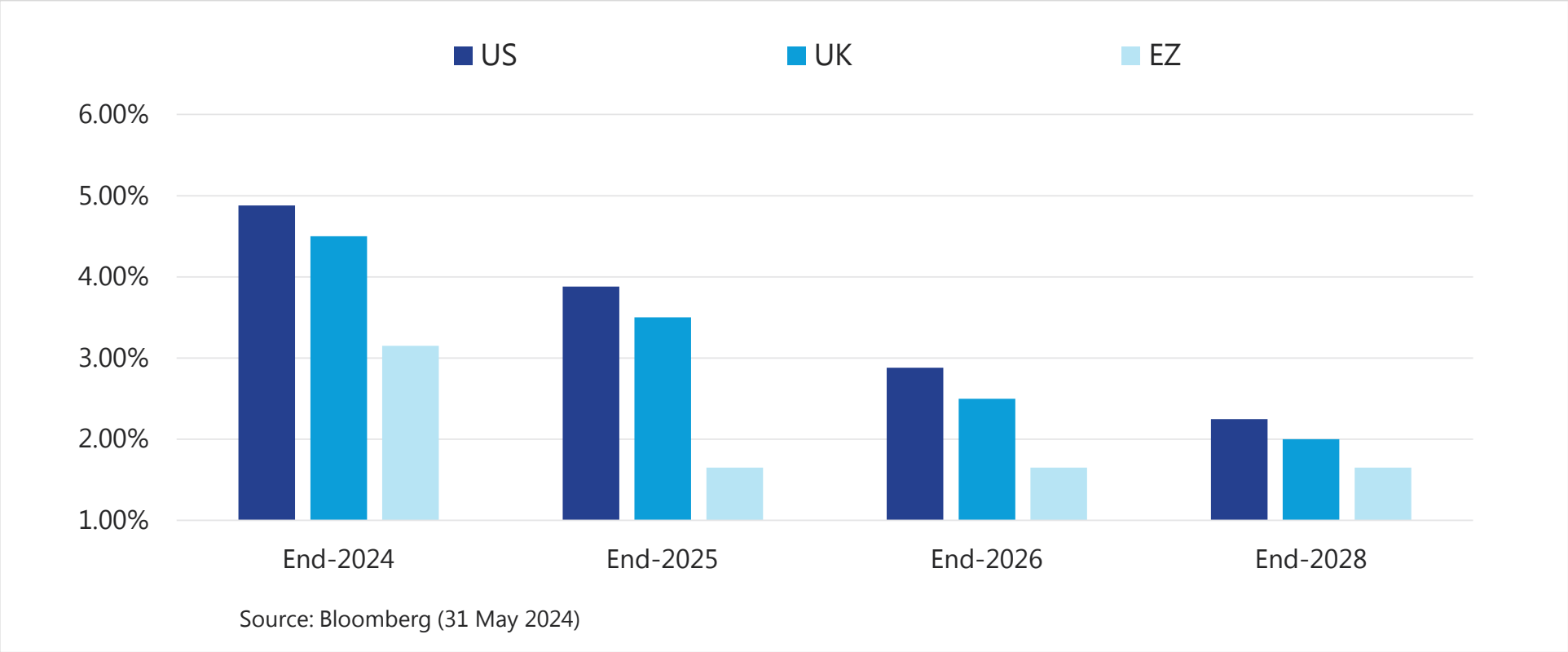
# Is the OIS forward curve a good predictor?



# OIS forward curves show slow rate decline

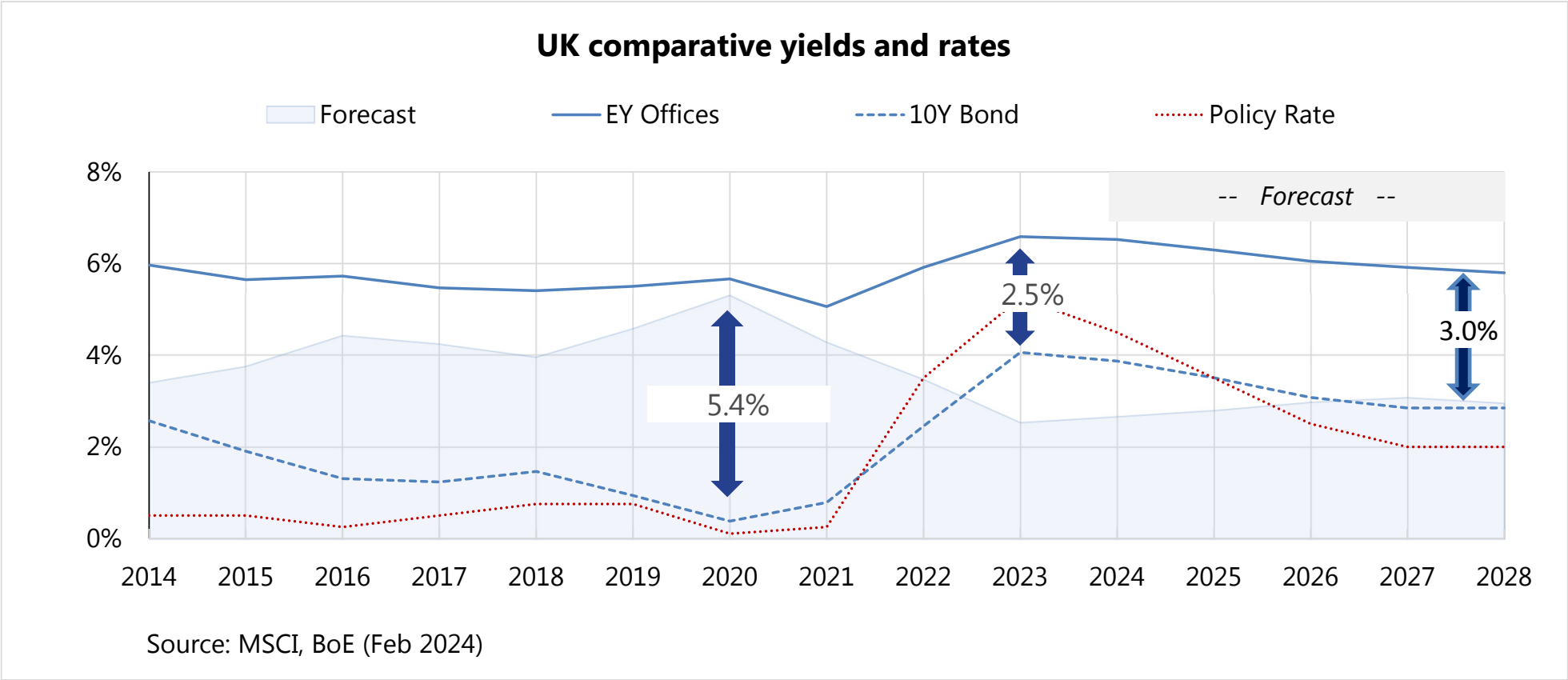


# Economists see a faster decline





# Scope for returns based on yield compression is much reduced! Importance to commercial real estate?



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# A key message for real estate

Over the next five years, **scope for returns through yield compression will be limited.**

Outsized returns will require debt leverage to maximise returns from **developing, repositioning and asset managing** to create 'fit-for-purpose' real estate.

Investors may have to get their hands dirty!



*Colliers confidential;*

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## And . . . by the way . . .

If Government hopes to drive economic growth through business investment in innovation and technology, they will need to encourage development of flexible high-quality ESG compliant space to accommodate new equipment and new hybrid working formats.

Government may need to revisit policies!



*Colliers confidential;*

# Tenth anniversary of the 'supervisory slotting criteria' (1<sup>st</sup> January 2014) Legislative reforms arising from the GFC

## Prudential Regulatory Agency introduced 'slotting' in January 2014

- Requirement that banks risk-weight individual real estate loans to determine how much capital they must hold to cover the loans
- Each loan must be 'slotted' into a risk category
- More risk requires more capital to be held
- Less risk means less capital to be held



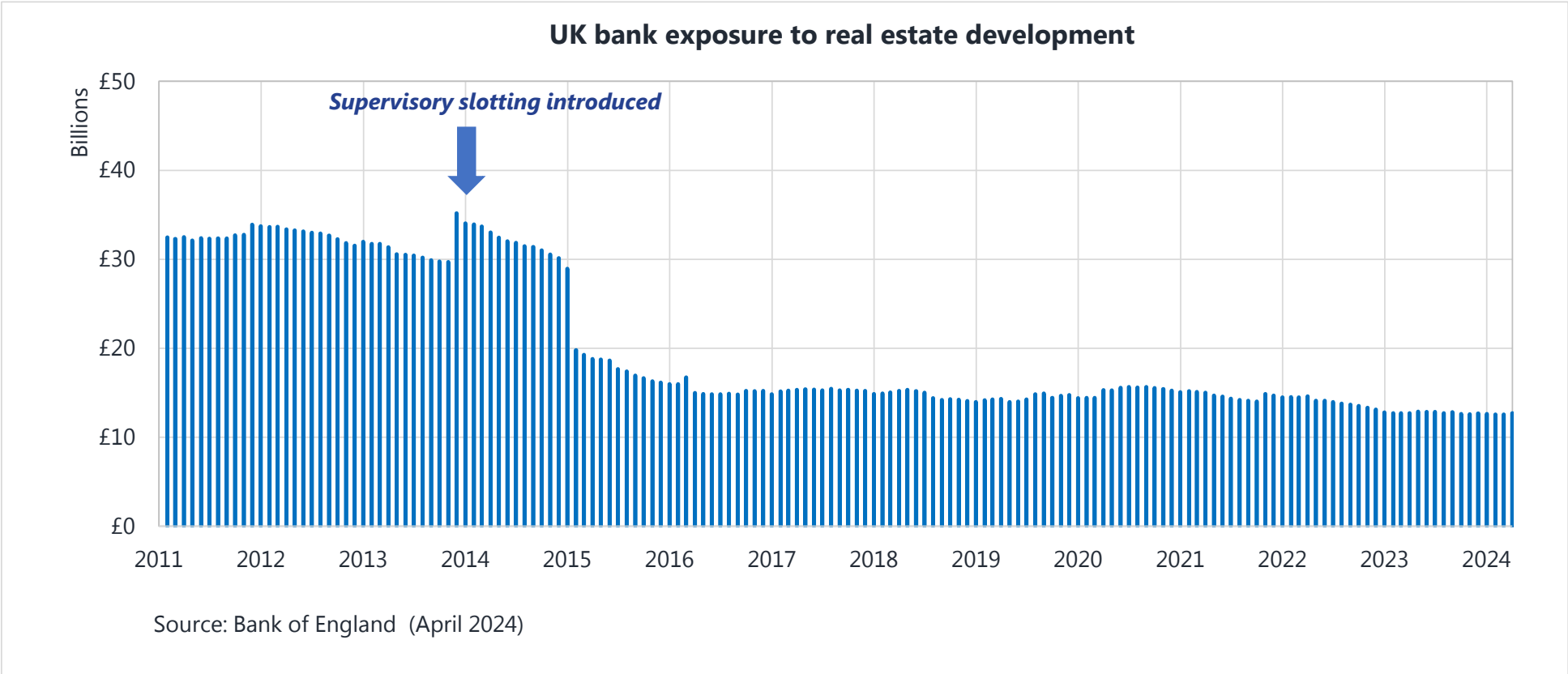
Maturity	Cat I Strong	Cat II Good	Cat III Satisfactory	Cat IV Weak	Cat 5 Default
< 2.5 years	50%	70%	115%	250%	Write off 50%
=> 2.5 years	70%	90%	115%	250%	Write off 50%

## Impact on UK commercial real estate

- Real estate debt and speculative development cycles eradicated
- Shortages of high-quality Grade A space across sectors
- Limited investible standing assets

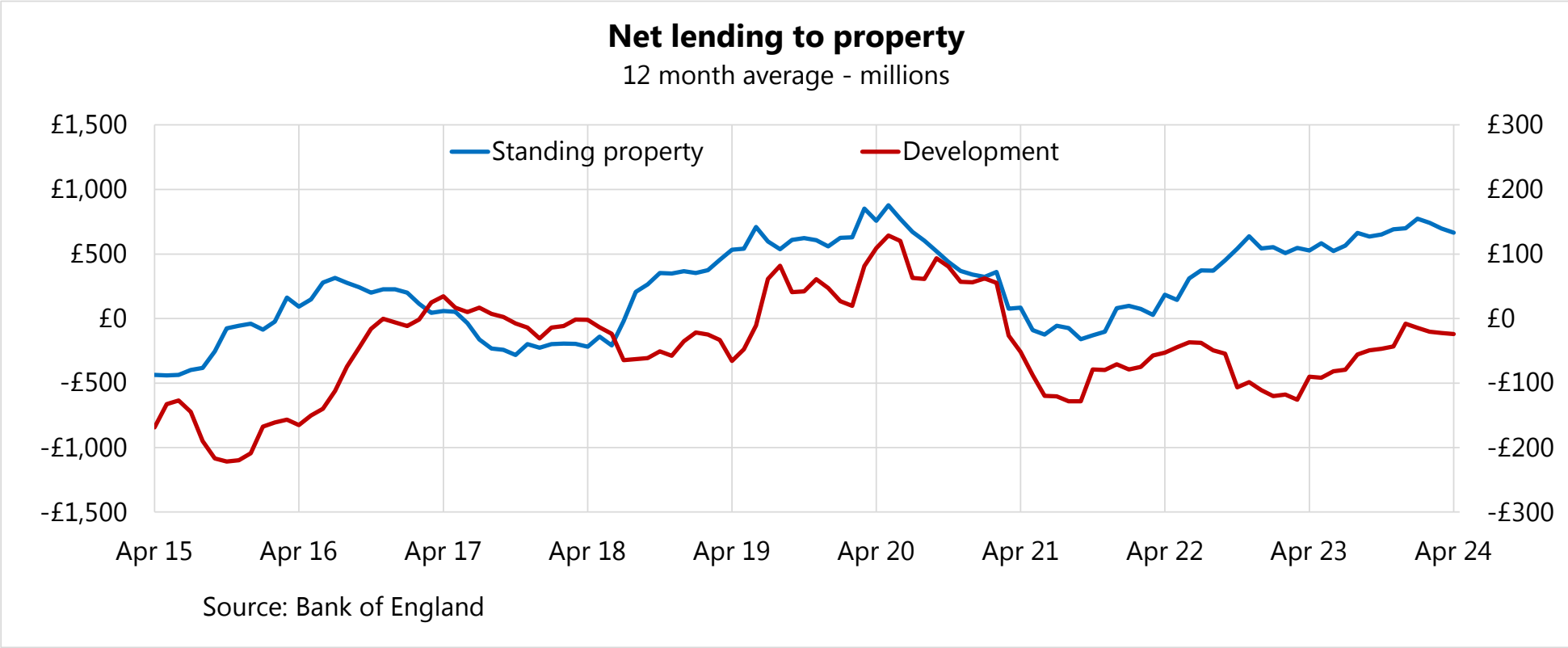
# Exposure to development fell as risk aversion rose

## Impact of 2014 GFC reforms



Exposure to development fell

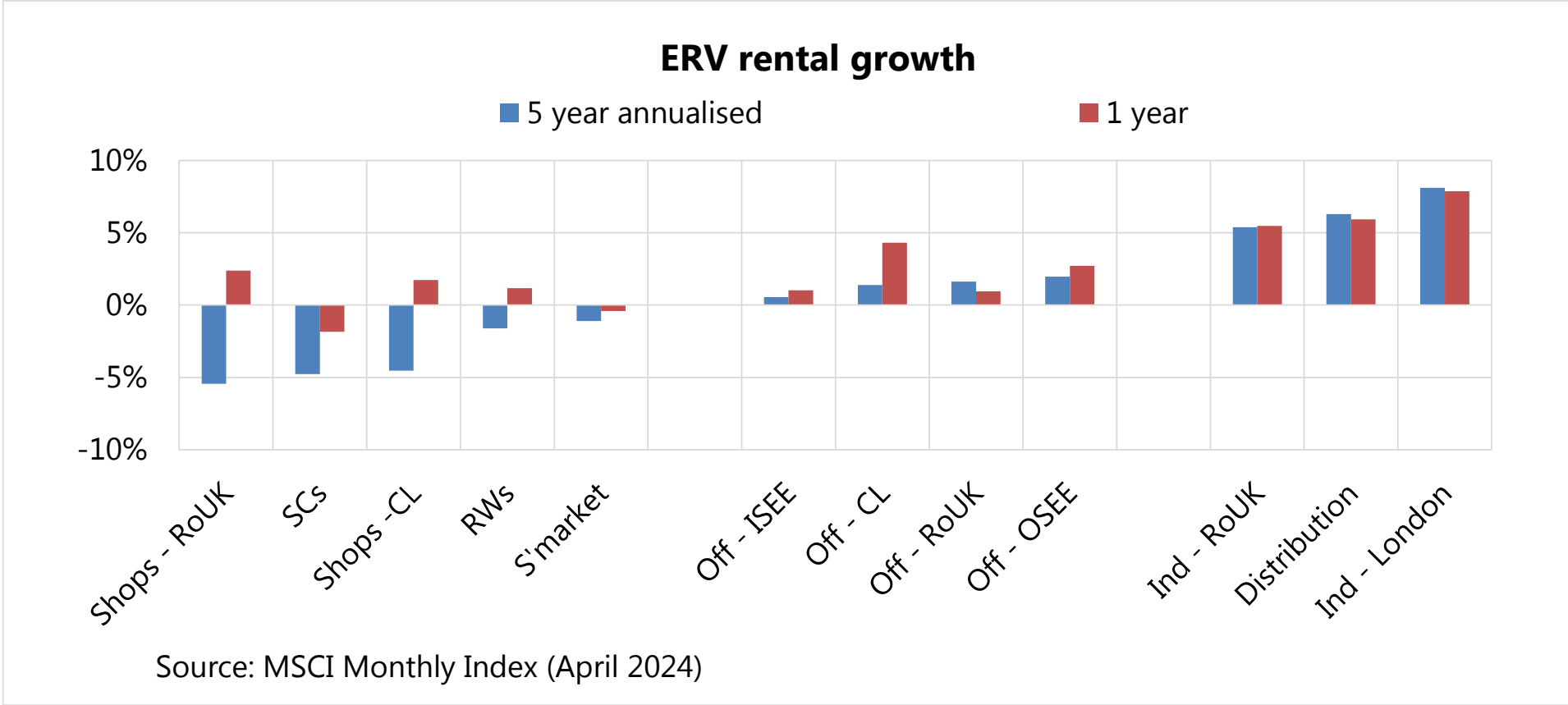
# Impact of 2014 GFC reforms





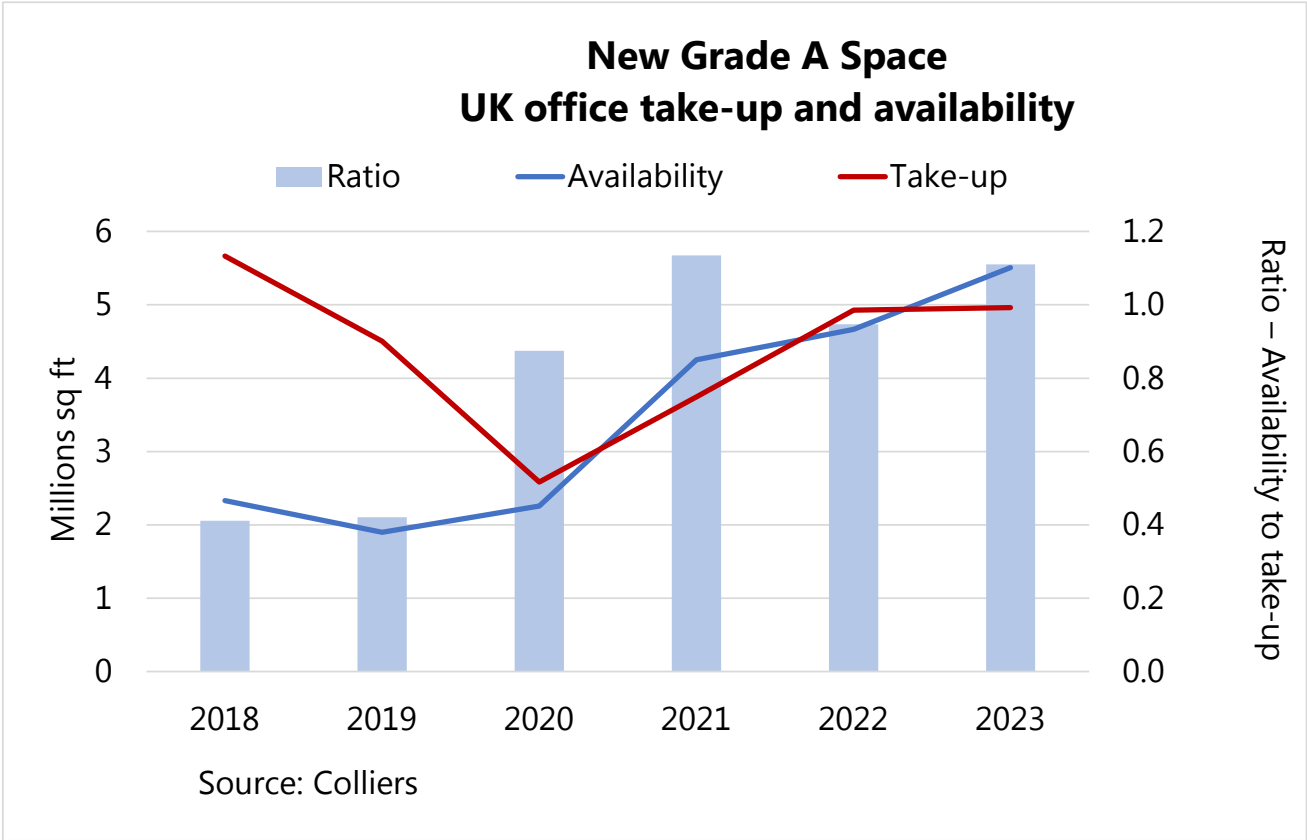
... in the absence of quality rental stock

# Rental values continue to show strength



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# Take-up inhibited by lack of available Grade A product Demand recovering after pandemic hiatus



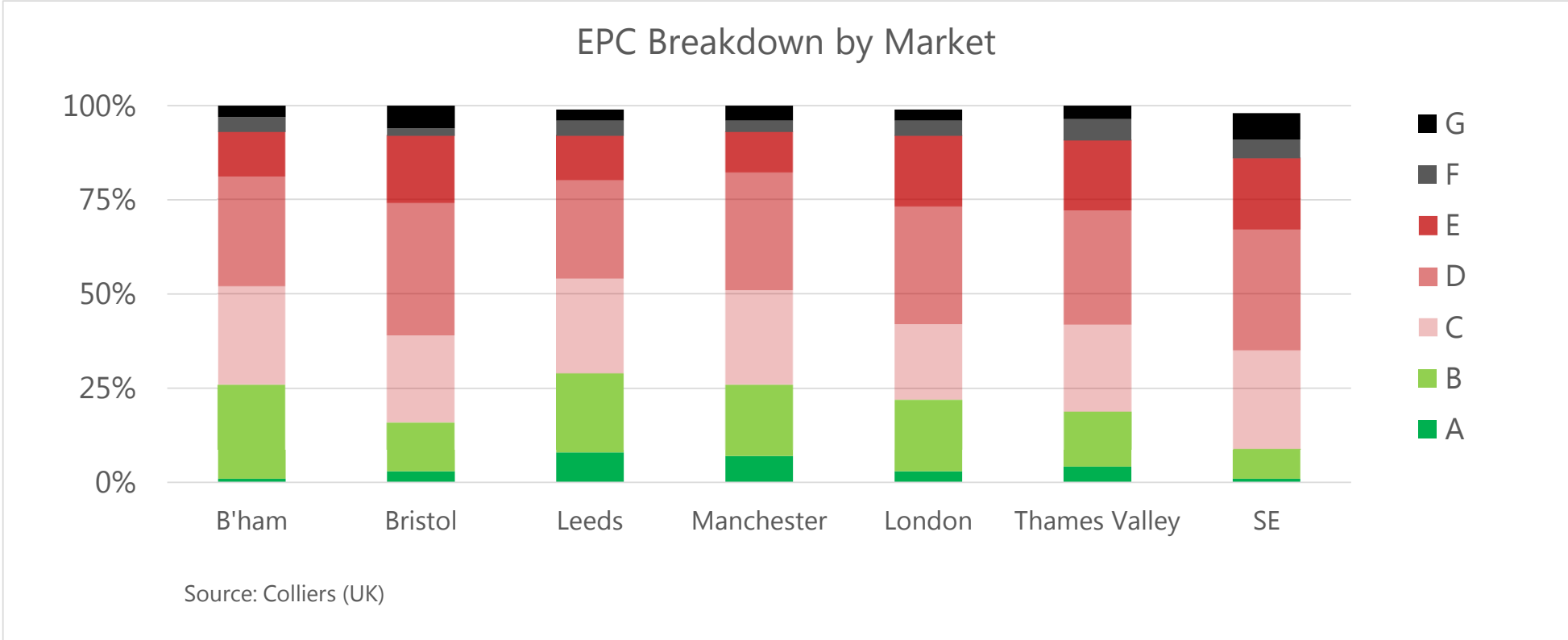
New Grade A Vacancy	
Birmingham	1.6%
Bristol	1.9%
Leeds	0.7%
Manchester	1.6%
London	1.5%
City	1.4%
West End	1.1%
Source: Colliers	

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Growing risk of stranded assets – tax incentives to come?

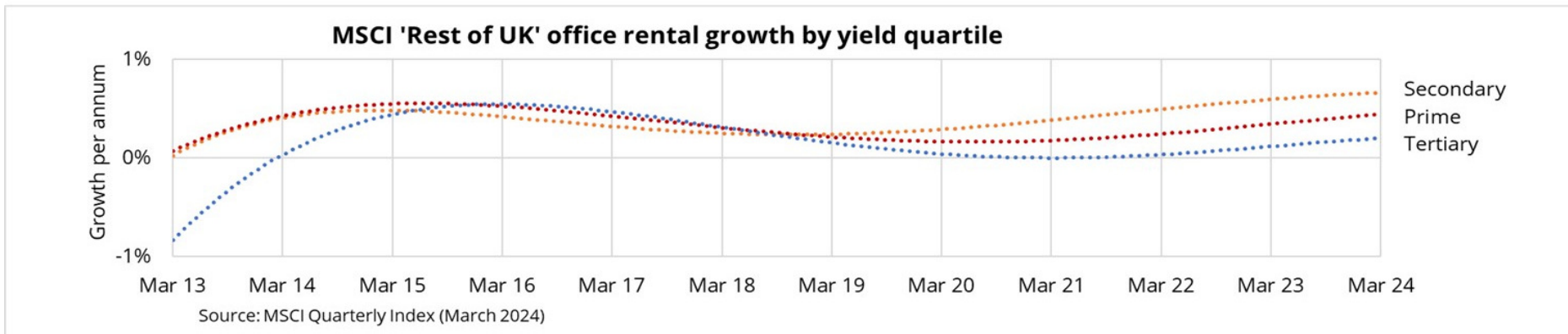
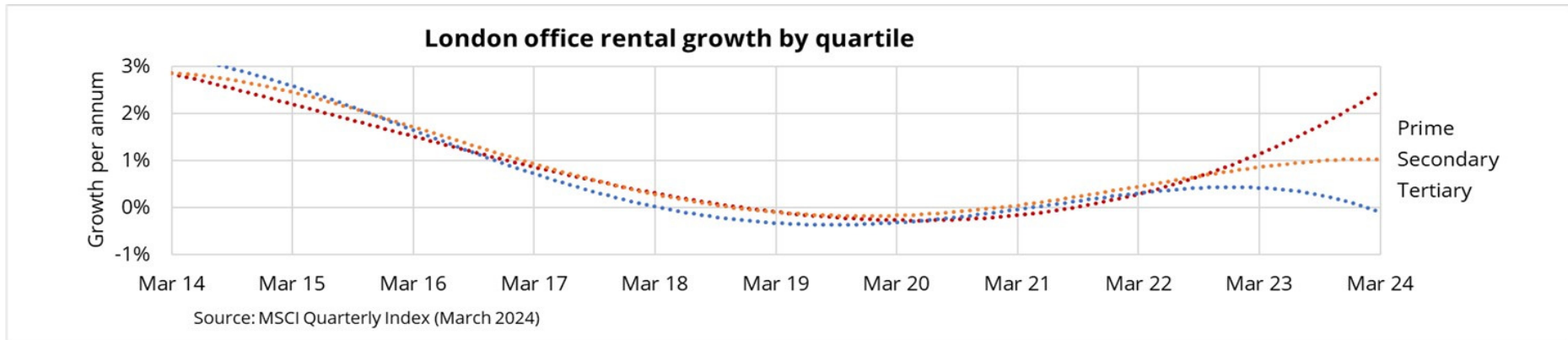
# The office quality challenge



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# Not especially compelling, but could reflect lack of new Grade A supply Quartiles show office sector schism?

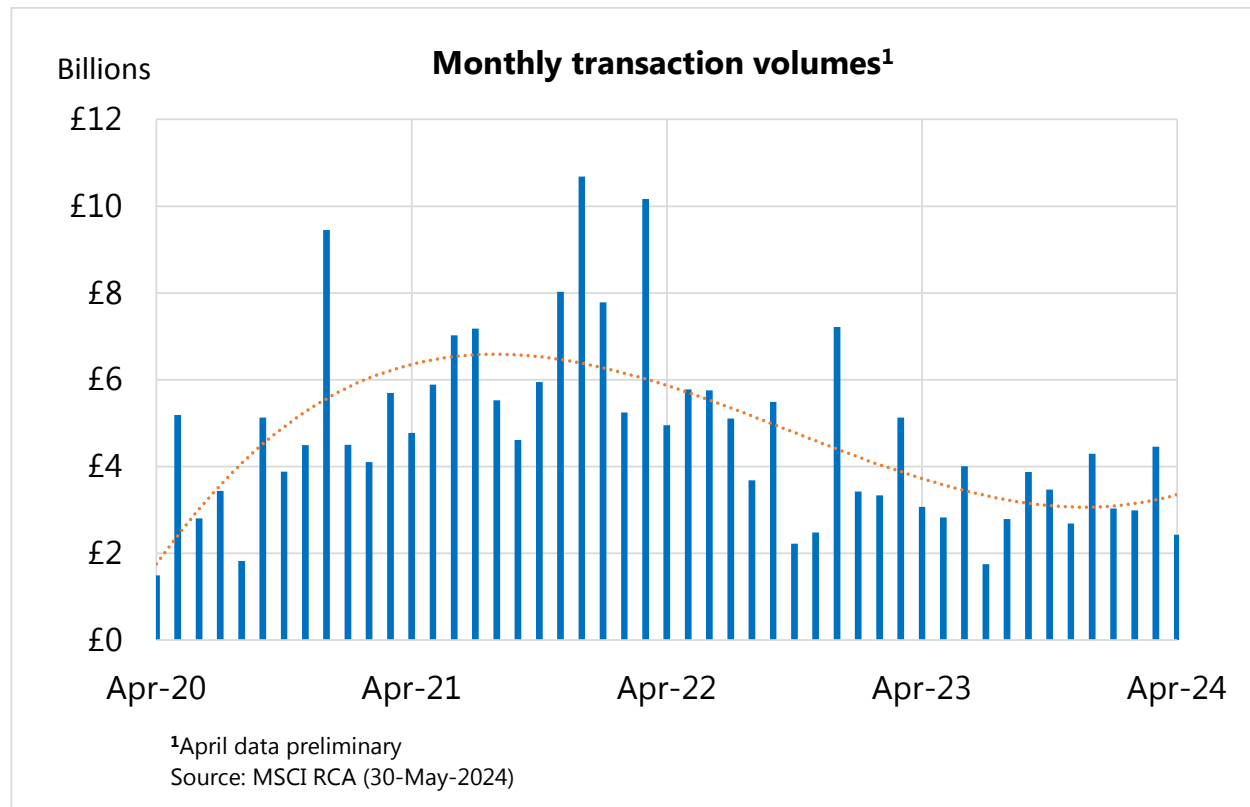


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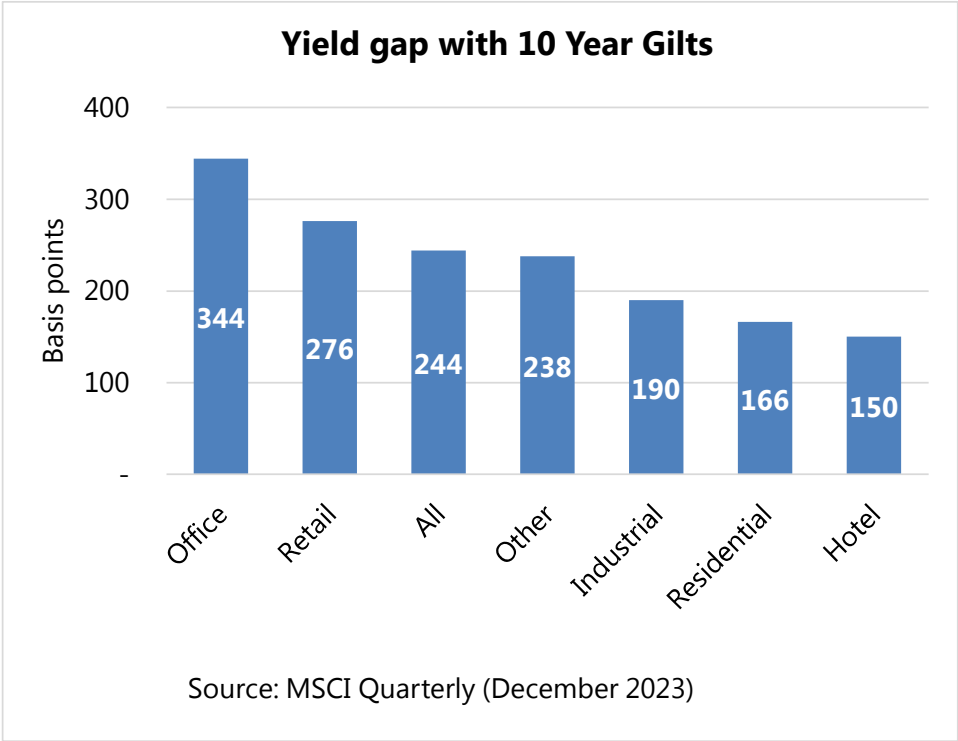
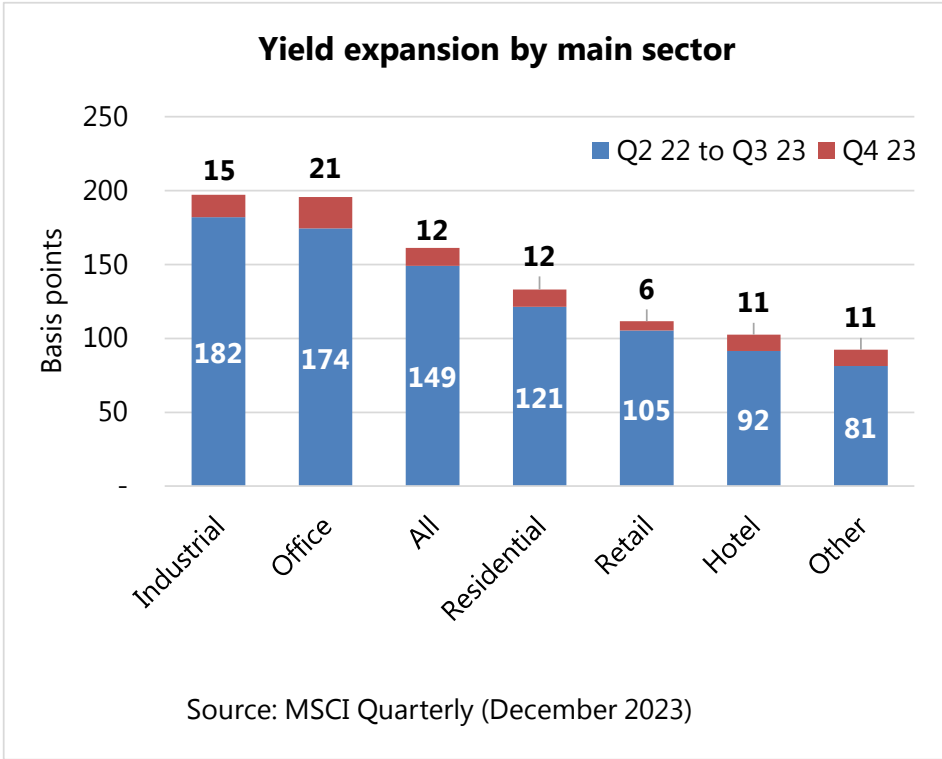
Hope springs eternal!

# Transactional recovery not yet evident

- Transactions hindered by lack of price discovery
- Lack of quality investment stock
- Lack of accretive debt
- Risk perceptions heightened
- Risk-free bond yields more attractive than real estate
- Regulatory controls impacting
- 'Animal spirits' missing

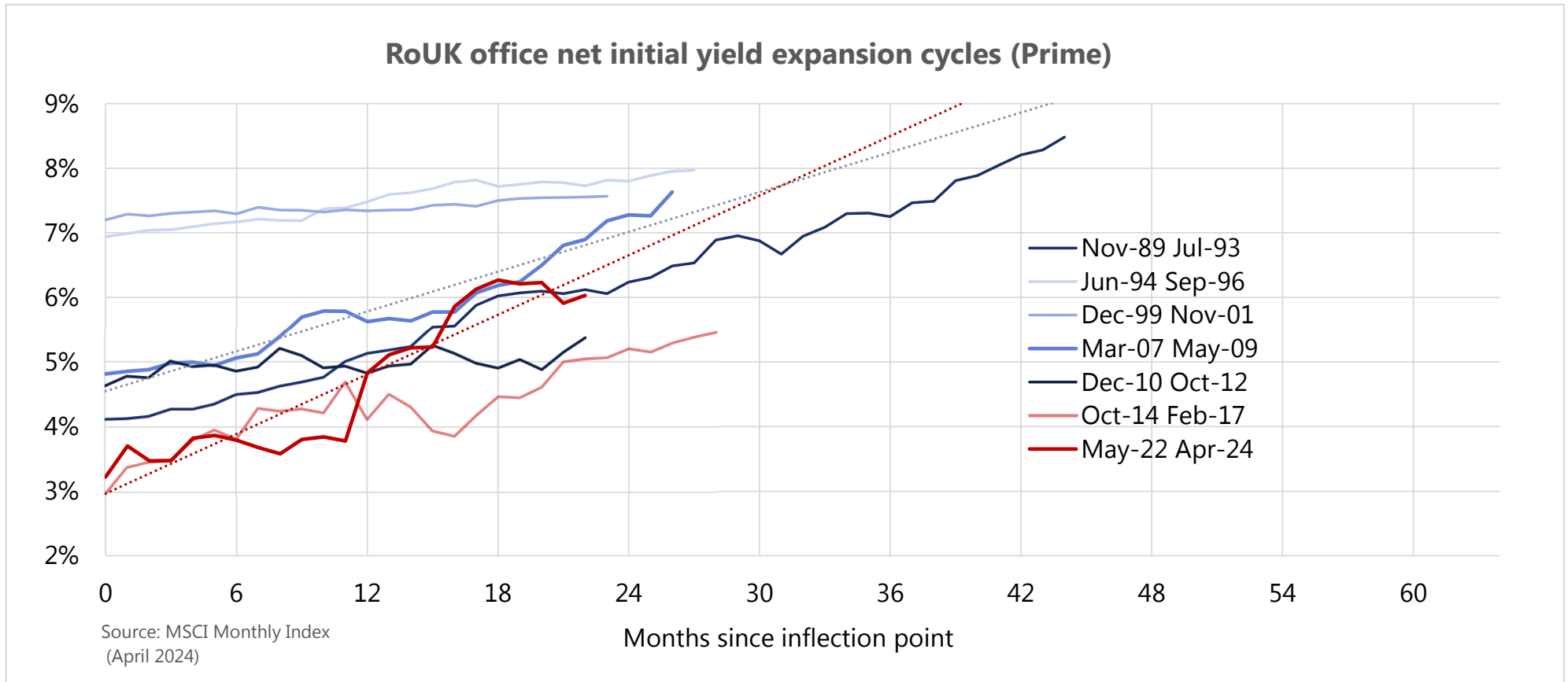


... but further expansion expected in specific sectors  
Yield expansion may be slowing



# Further expansion likely despite recent signs of stability

## Yield expansion for RoUK offices



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# Levelling up?

Alive and kicking?

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What will Labour bring to the dysfunctional picnic?

# Government policy in transition?



45%



24%



9%%



11%



6%



3%

- Commercial property is a perennial victim of **'The Law of Unintended Consequences.'**
- Banking reform eradicated of the debt and development cycle.
- Government restricted finance costs for private BTL investors. Result, severe shortage of rental stock and record levels of rent.
- Housing (especially social housing) likely to receive more attention.  
Tenant protection? Rent cap
- Planning reform? Commercial rate reform? Good luck!
- Tax avoidance? Private equity loopholes (carried interest)? Easy targets? Leading to capital flight?
- Net zero. Green tax initiatives? Regulatory slippage?
- Reserved Investor Fund?
- Levelling up?

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# 'The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.' Is 'levelling up' alive and well?

## Former UK prime ministers back cross-party approach to regional mayors

John Major, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown call for end to 'chopping and changing' over devolution, according to Ed Balls review



Former Labour minister Ed Balls: 'Without cross-party political leadership and a commitment to agree a plan and then to stick to it, things aren't going to get better' © Mark Lear/Alamy

George Parker in London YESTERDAY

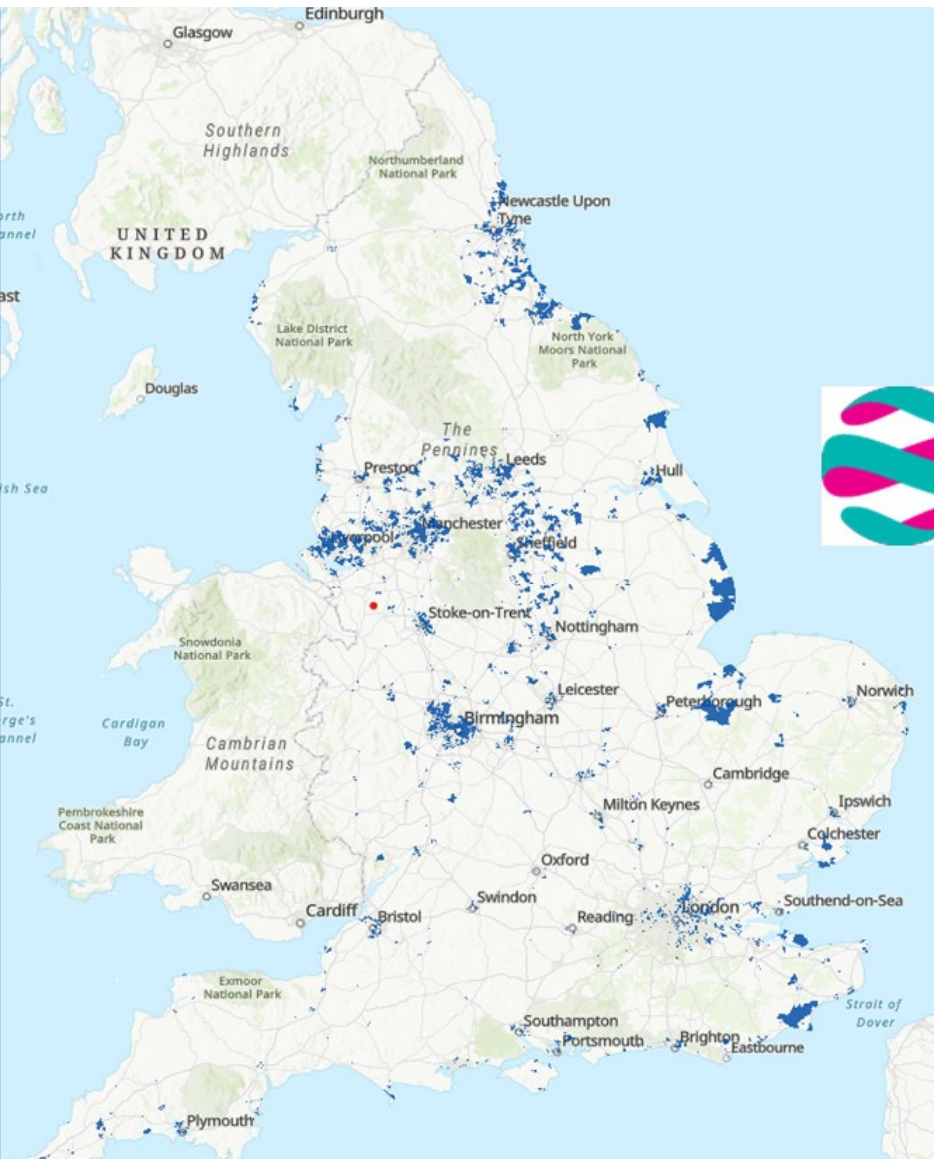


- Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, John Major, George Osborne call for cross-party approach that will last for two decades



*Strange Brew*

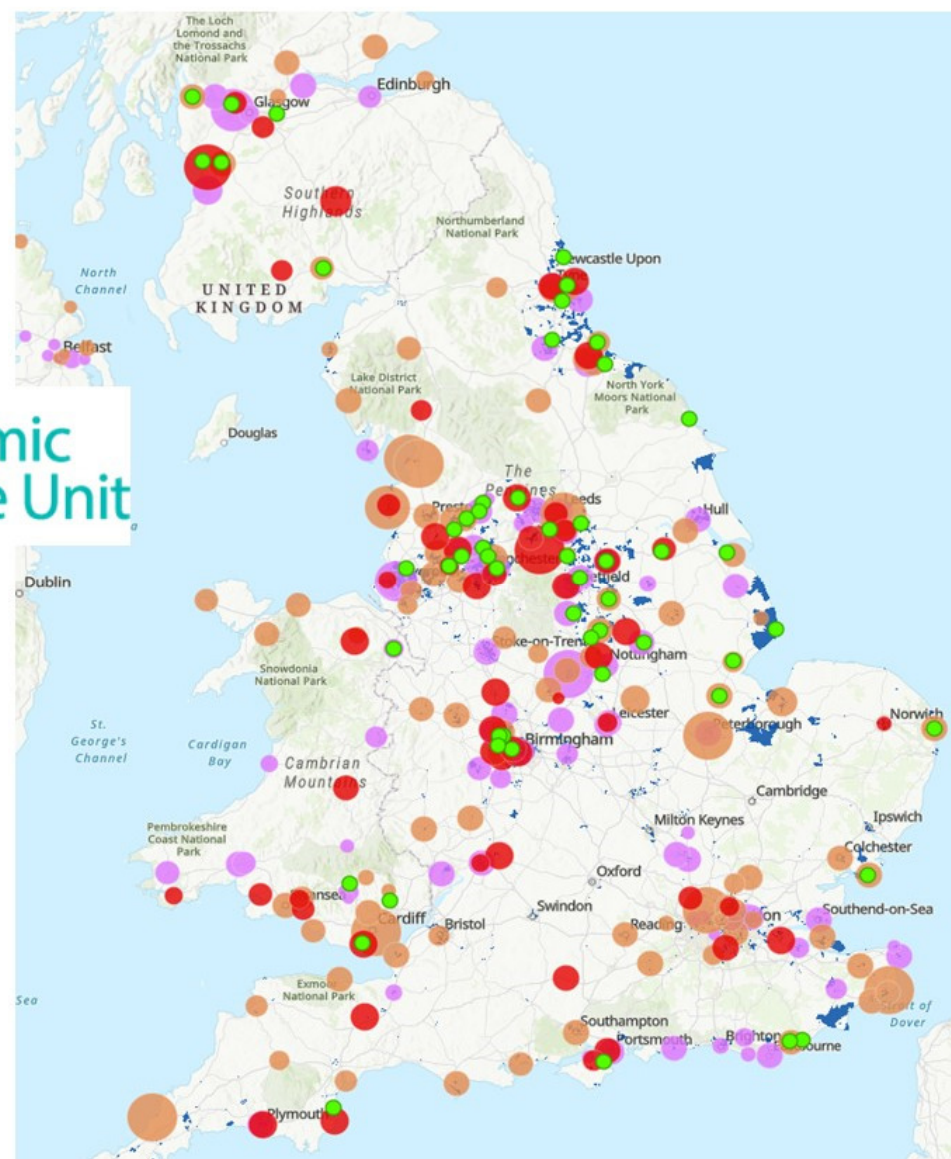
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Areas of deprivation

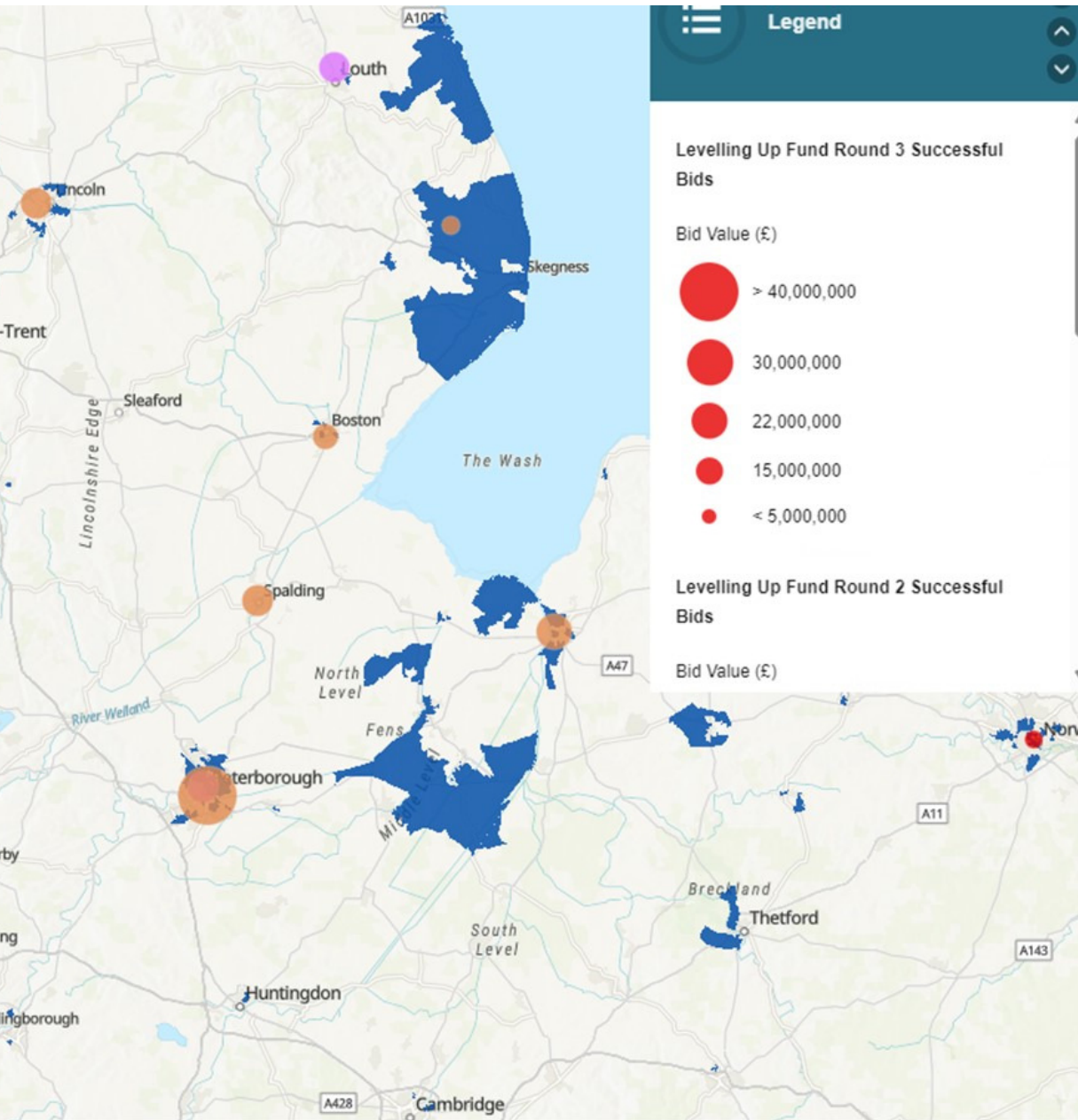


The Economic Intelligence Unit



Areas of levelling up funding





## Levelling Up

### Round 1

- Peterborough Living Lab (£20m)

### Round 2

- Cambridge & Peterborough CA
- Peterborough Station enhancements and connectivity (£47.9m)
- Norfolk CC Southgate transport & travel links (£24m)
- Spalding Castle Sports Complex/ Community Centre refurb (£20m)
- Boston BC Rosegarth Square Masterplan (£14.8m)
- Lincoln Western Growth Corridor – transport (£20m)

### Round 3

- Norwich – Miles Cross Health, Wellbeing & Economic Activity (£7.6m)

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£20 million for Healthcare Training Facility (+£20 million from partners)

# Bolton – Institute of Medical Science



Partnership University of Bolton, Bolton Council, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and Bolton College

£20m Levelling up funds for IMS  
£20m Levelling up funds for town centre regeneration  
£23m from Towns Fund  
£12m revamp of the Octagon Theatre

*Colliers confidential*

## Remediation and regeneration is key Levelling up? ✓

- *Funding: Levelling up fund grant of £48 million in 5 installments. Additional funding: £17 million from Peterborough CC, Network Rail, LNER. Improved pedestrian/cycle access and linkages to other targeted regeneration areas. C&P CA is in charge of project delivery. Planning/construction to begin in 2024 with further development through 2028.*
- *PSQ is a central piece in a wider £600 million city regeneration. Designed to enable private investment in commercial and residential development.*
- *Fletton Quays government hub (1,000 staff from Home Office, DEFRA et al. Part of £120 million Fletton Quays regeneration project. Peterborough Investment Partnership Council and JV partners developed GPA's first new build hub. Forward funded by landowner L&G. Peterborough CC leases their new offices and are now borrowing £50 million to buy the building from L&G.*
- **Update: government approval of outline business plan (March 2024)**
- **Full business case submission Autumn 2024**



**Nick Sandford**  
Mayor PCC



**Nik Johnson**  
Mayor C&P CA

POWERED BY  
**LEVELLING  
UP**



**Peterborough Station Quarter (PSQ)**  
(Gateway to the East of England)



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# Remediation and regeneration is key Levelling up? ✓



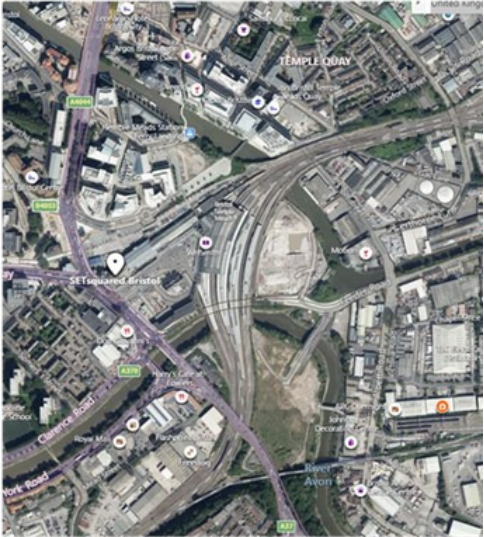
**NOMA Manchester**



**Paradise Birmingham**



**Bristol Temple Quarter**



**Leeds South Bank**



**Peterborough Station Quarter**

*If by 'levelling up' you mean regeneration, then evidence is abundant of projects across the UK enabled by local combined authorities, central government seed funding, and private investment.*

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Enables authorised investors to access unauthorised funds

# Reserved Investor Fund (Contractual Scheme)



- **Authorised investors include:**

- Institutional investors***
- Professional clients with financial knowledge*
- High net worth individuals (family trusts)*

- **Unauthorised funds offers advantages:**

- Less regulation & oversight – cost savings*
- Higher returns due to flexible strategies*
- Diversification into unique assets/niche markets***

- **Advantages for Real Estate**

- Investment in less liquid long-term regeneration***
- Flexible approaches to property holdings*
- AREF supported*

- **Disadvantages**

- Greater risk and lack of oversight***
- Opaque disclosures*
- Less investor protection*
- Liquidity*

Volatility and instability the new normal

# Outlook for 2024 and beyond



- US economic and foreign policies under a Trump White House is likely to increase uncertainty:
  - US Fed independence may be challenged
  - Risk premia may be added to US treasuries
  - Capital flight possible due to '*dollar weaponisation*'
  - Protectionism will destabilise world trade
  - Isolationism likely to encourage autocrats threatening world rules-based order (sovereign equality, national self-determination, business regulation, etc.)
  - Fiscal and trade policies likely to prove inflationary



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Accelerating success.