

When the baseline moves.

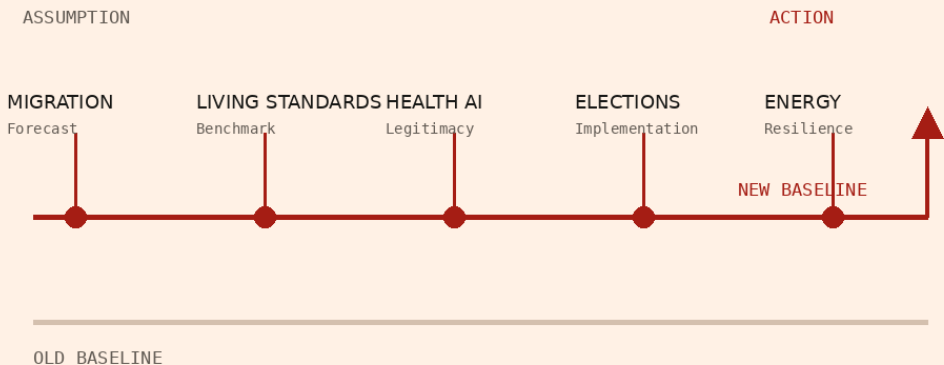
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FAT GENIE / SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

13 SEPTEMBER 2026

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ROBUST POLICY

Monitor change. Define the trigger. Change course when the assumption no longer holds.

Migration and the public finance forecast

Institute for Fiscal Studies - Nick Ridpath, Luca Rizzotti & Max Warner

CORE ARGUMENT

The fiscal effect of migration depends on uncertain levels, composition and duration, so a five-year public-finance forecast needs more than a single net-migration assumption.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Greater route-level modelling can add complexity without resolving the wider general-equilibrium and long-run uncertainties that dominate fiscal effects.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Compare route-specific assumptions with later migration out-turns, tax receipts and spending, and publish forecast-error decomposition as estimates are revised.

A Minimum Income Standard for the United Kingdom in 2026

Joseph Rowntree Foundation / Centre for Research in Social Policy

CORE ARGUMENT

An acceptable living standard includes participation, relationships, choice and access to services as well as basic material subsistence.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

A socially negotiated basket is a normative benchmark rather than a direct measure of fiscal capacity or an automatic entitlement level.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Compare the standard with actual expenditure, deprivation, well-being and regional cost variation, and monitor how the basket changes as public expectations and prices move.

The public's views on the regulation of AI in health care

The Health Foundation

CORE ARGUMENT

Public support for health-care AI is conditional: safety, accuracy, human oversight and protection against unequal outcomes are central to legitimacy.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Stated preferences in polling and deliberation may differ from choices people make when the benefits, costs and risks of a concrete clinical use are visible.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Measure acceptance, safety incidents, error patterns, inequality and human-override behaviour in real deployments across different risk levels.

Representation of the People Bill: HL Bill 47 of 2026-27

House of Lords Library - Thomas Brown

CORE ARGUMENT

The bill combines changes to the franchise with measures addressing electoral integrity and foreign financial influence, placing substantial weight on implementation and enforcement capacity.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Legislative changes alone cannot guarantee participation, prevent influence or resolve every enforcement problem in a complex electoral system.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Track registration and turnout among newly enfranchised voters alongside compliance, enforcement activity and evidence of attempted circumvention after commencement.

Supply chains for low carbon electricity infrastructure

Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

CORE ARGUMENT

Low-carbon electricity infrastructure depends on concentrated global supply chains for critical minerals, processed materials and specialist manufacturing, creating potential resilience risks.

STRONGEST OBJECTION

Concentration is not identical to vulnerability, while diversification, stockpiling or domestic capacity can increase costs and slow deployment.

WHAT WOULD CHANGE THE JUDGEMENT?

Monitor supplier concentration, lead times, input costs, inventories and recovery from real disruptions rather than using country share alone as the resilience metric.

WEEKLY SYNTHESIS

The common problem is baseline dependence. When load-bearing assumptions move, a system can keep operating mechanically while becoming substantively wrong. Robust policy therefore needs to monitor change and specify when that change should trigger action.

TREND WATCH

Governing through explicit constraint remains EMERGING. Devolution-centralisation friction and productivity-measurement divergence remain WATCH.

<https://fatgenie.co.uk/public-policy/2026-09-13>