

Do you feel the current political landscape is affecting your work? This could be about health, culture, or any other areas.

NB this is an AI summary (MS copilot)

Key Themes Identified

- 1. Funding and Financial Pressures**
 - Widespread concern about **austerity, budget cuts, and reduced arts funding**.
 - Heavy reliance on **Arts Council funding** and EU programmes.
 - Lack of **multi-annual funding** and uncertainty in financial planning.
 - Privatisation and squeezed public budgets are seen as draining resources.
- 2. Impact on Arts, Culture, and Creative Health**
 - Arts and wellbeing are **deprioritised**, often perceived as a luxury rather than essential.
 - **Creative Health** is gaining policy-level recognition but **not reflected in practice or funding**.
 - Cuts in arts education and higher education courses are reducing opportunities.
 - Cultural work struggles for visibility compared to sports.
- 3. Political Instability and Policy Shifts**
 - Concerns about **far-right movements, hostile environments, and racism** affecting communities and participants.
 - Fear of **drift to right-wing governments** and its impact on arts and health sectors.
 - **Devolution** and local council changes create uncertainty in service delivery.
- 4. Social and Health Challenges**
 - NHS underfunding and restructuring causing chaos and loss of champions for creative health.
 - Long waiting lists and lack of holistic care increase pressure on community organisations.
 - Rising **mental health issues**, health inequalities, and lack of upstream investment.
- 5. Personal and Professional Impact**
 - Increased **psychosocial stress**, anxiety, and exhaustion among practitioners.
 - Some have taken breaks from work due to the politically charged environment.
 - Marginalised groups (e.g., LGBTQ+, migrants, disabled individuals) face additional barriers.
- 6. Opportunities and Positive Notes**
 - Growing awareness of **creative health** in policy discussions.

- NHS 10-year plan seen as potentially transformational, though implementation is unclear.
 - Some optimism about cross-party interest in arts and health, especially in Scotland.
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Overall Sentiment

- **Overwhelmingly negative:** The political climate is seen as creating instability, reducing funding, and increasing stress.
- **Mixed optimism:** While there is recognition of creative health at policy level, lack of practical support and systemic investment remains a major barrier.