



RESEARCH

# Parliamentary perceptions of broadband connectivity

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A survey of UK MPs on behalf of the  
Federation of Communication Services

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August 2016

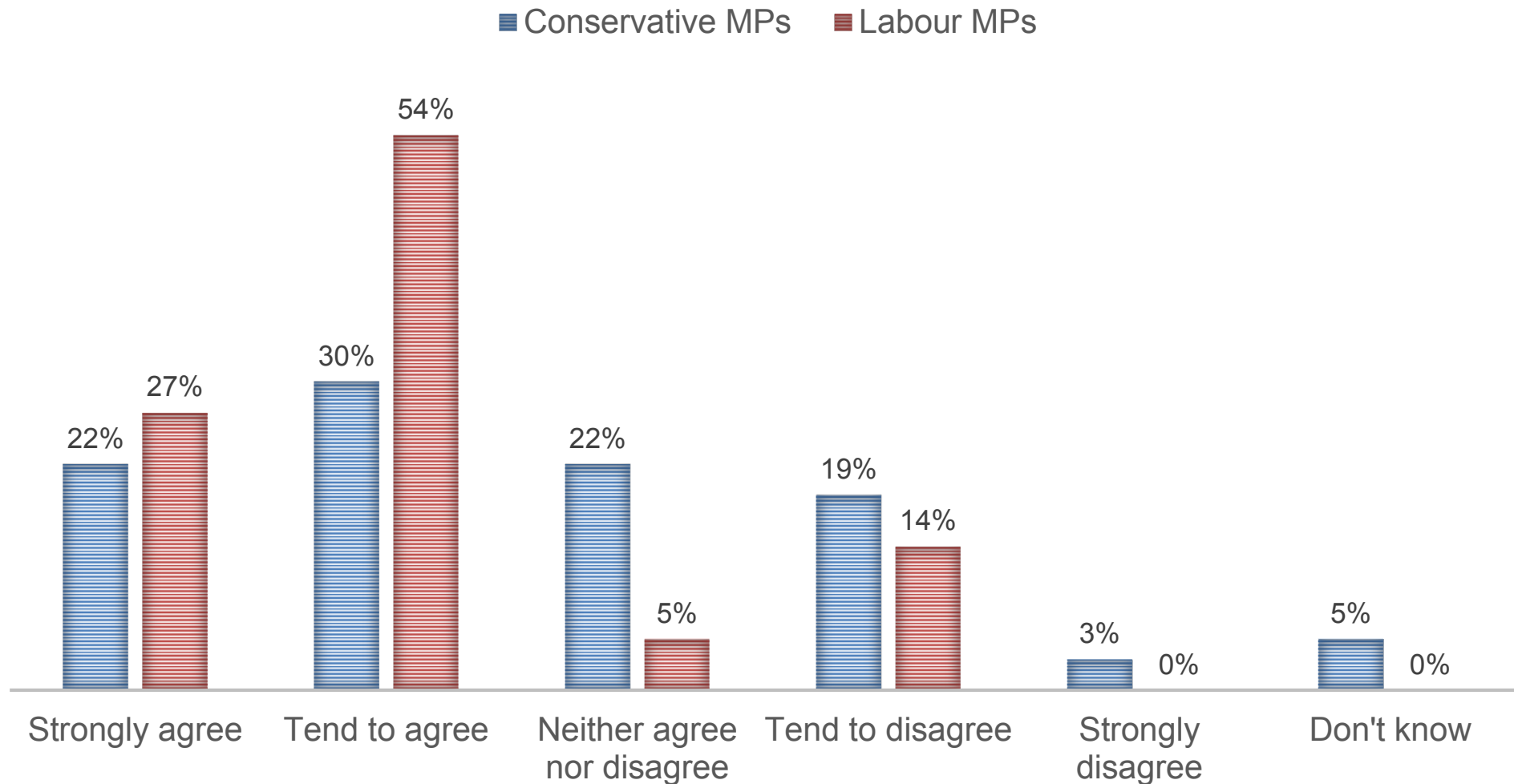
## Headline findings

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- In its July 2016 MP poll, Dods Research tested reaction from MPs to five statements about broadband connectivity on behalf of the Federation of Communication Services.
- There was strong support for networks reaching hardest-to-reach communities first, particularly among Labour MPs – 81% either strongly or tend to agree this should be a priority.
- Widespread opposition was noted to the idea that rural communities did not need the same quality or reliability of broadband connectivity as urban areas, especially among Conservative MPs – 78% either strongly or tend to disagree with this statement.
- There was overwhelming bipartisan support for users rather than suppliers being the best people to decide what connectivity is needed – over 70% of MPs from both major parties backed this concept.
- Conservative MPs were much more supportive than Labour MPs of the role of government in encouraging choice and competition among suppliers – 89% of Conservatives strongly or tend to agree this should be the government’s role compared to 65% of Labour MPs.
- There was very little backing noted for the idea that consumers should be prioritised ahead of businesses. No Conservative MPs and only 5% of Labour MPs strongly agreed with this approach.

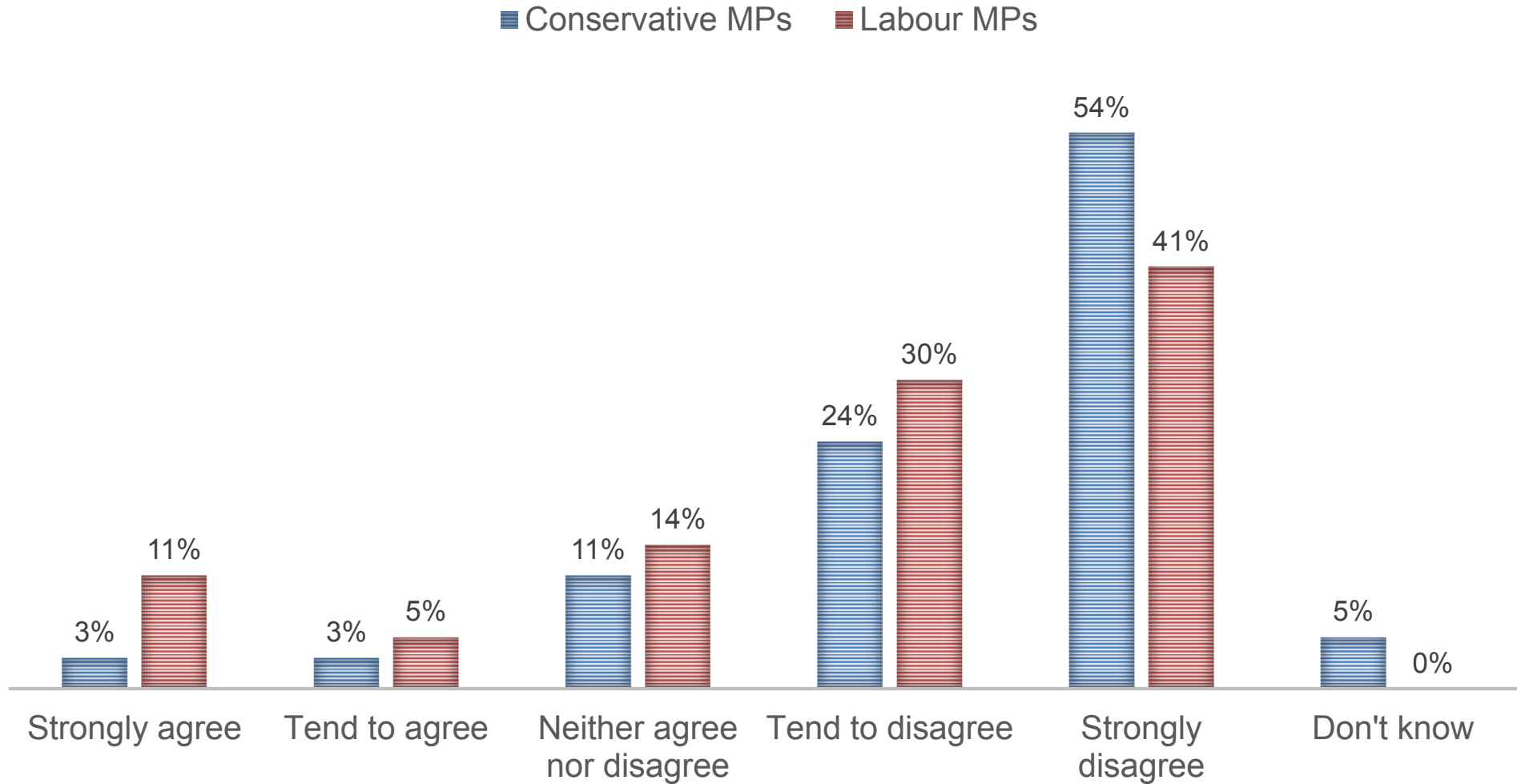
## “Networks should upgrade the hardest-to-reach communities first”

- Solid support – particularly from Labour MPs (81% strongly or tend to agree)



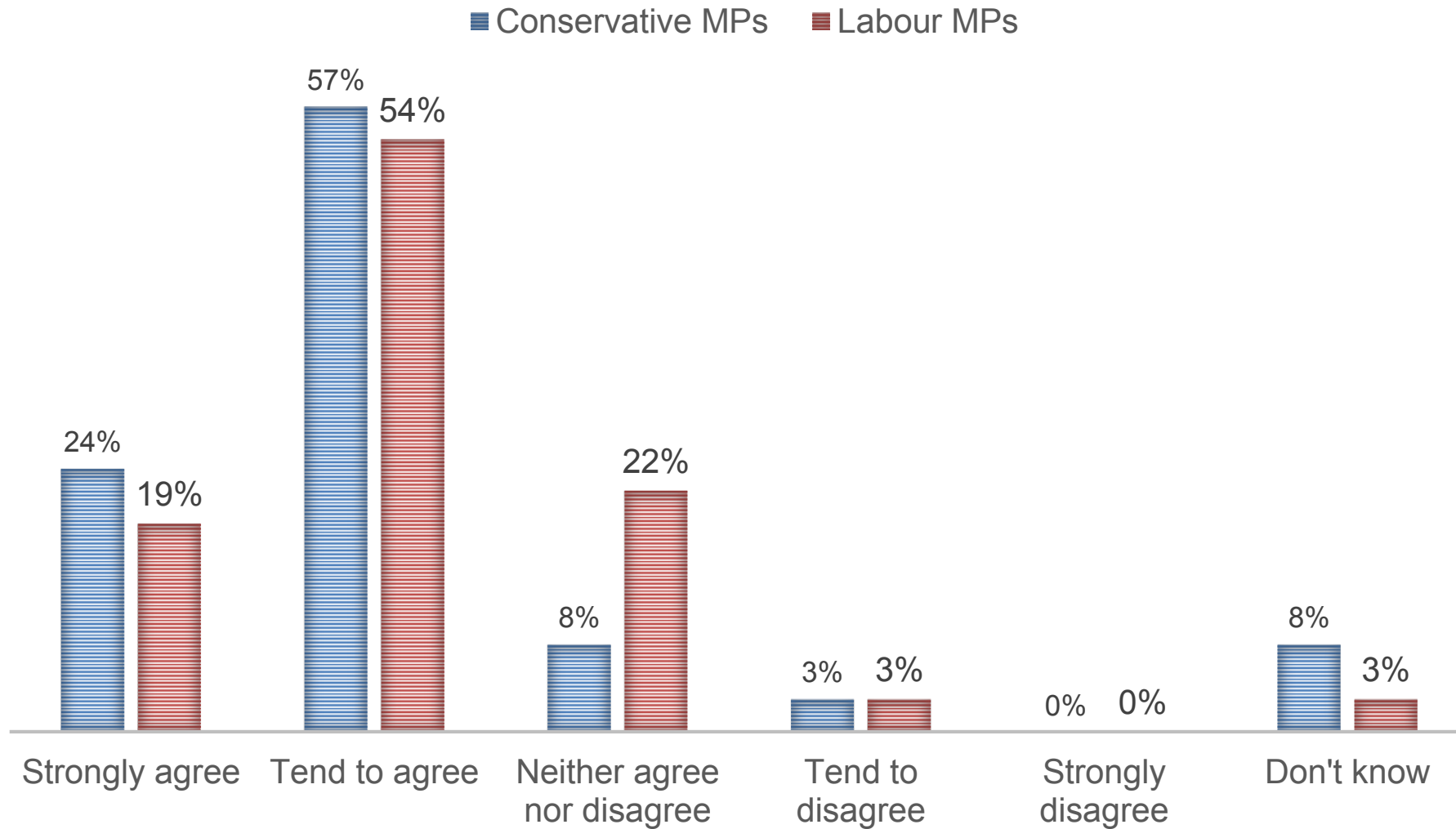
## “Rural communities don’t need same quality/reliability as urban communities ”

- Cross-party opposition to this statement, particularly from Conservative MPs (78% strongly or tend to disagree)



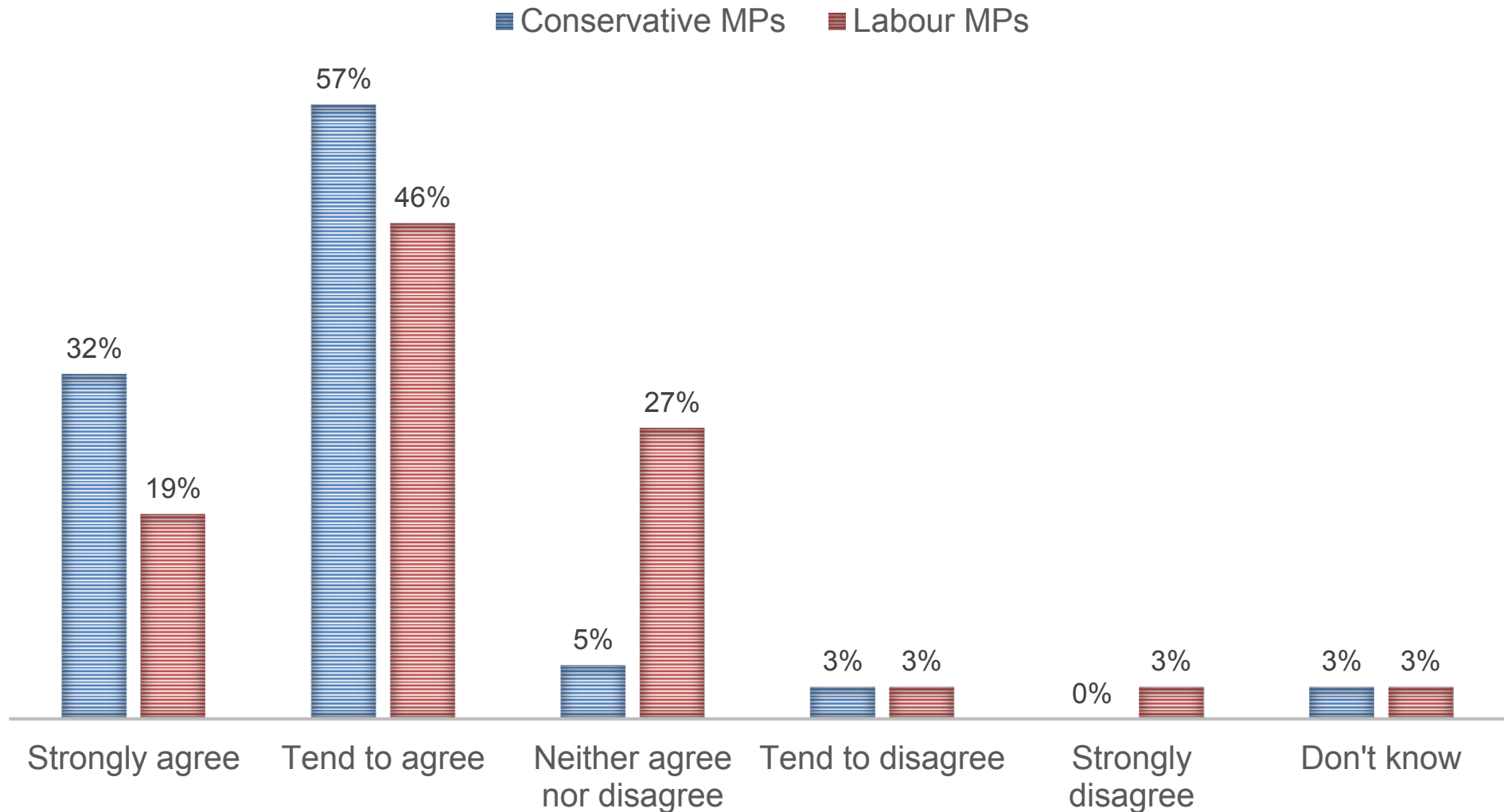
## “Users rather than suppliers are best people to decide connectivity needed”

- Strong bipartisan support for users being better than suppliers in deciding what connectivity they needed.



## “Government’s role is to encourage choice and competition among providers”

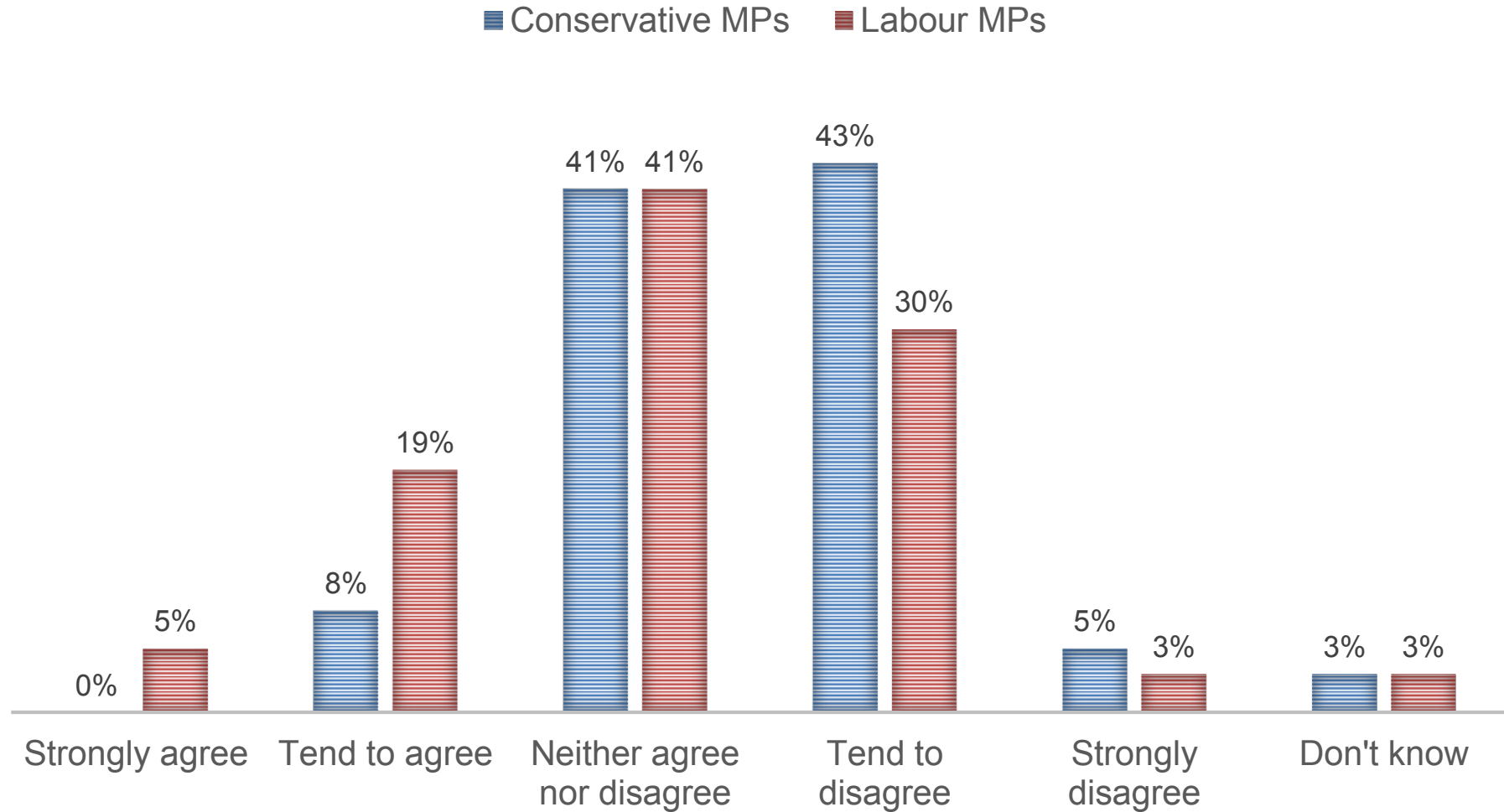
- Very little opposition to this statement but Conservative MPs much more likely than Labour MPs to strongly or tend to agree (89% versus 65%).



## “It’s more important to connect consumers than businesses”

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- Very little support among MPs to prioritise consumers over businesses.



## Methodology

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- Dods Research was commissioned by the Federation of Communication Services to poll UK MPs on broadband connectivity.
- Fieldwork was carried out during July 2016 utilising an online survey.
- 81 MPs of all parties and regions of the UK completed the July 2016 poll and the results were weighted by Dods Research to accurately reflect current party composition in the House of Commons.
- To commission further polling of MPs or public sector audiences, or to order in-depth political risk research please contact [research@dods.co.uk](mailto:research@dods.co.uk)





For more information, please contact  
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