

PRIME MINISTER

SUNDAY TIMES OPINION POLL

The Sunday Times will tomorrow (confidential until then) publish an opinion poll showing that the Government has a 14% lead over Labour with the Alliance trailing badly.

The figures are:

Conservatives	50%
Labour	36%
Alliance	12%

The poll was taken between 22 and 26 January with the NHS controversy in full swing.

Not surprisingly the NHS has overtaken unemployment as the issue causing people most concern.

The NHS is now listed by 39% as the most important issue confronting the country. 64% say it is the next most important issue. This compares with unemployment where only 26% now make it the most important issue; 45% regard it as the other main issue.

Michael Jones, of the Sunday Times, says that this information suggests to him that the public are telling you to get on with NHS reform.

Your satisfaction rating (46% satisfied/47% dissatisfied) compares with Kinnock's 33% satisfied/48% dissatisfied.

The newspapers today are on the whole very supportive over Ireland.

BERNARD INGHAM

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