

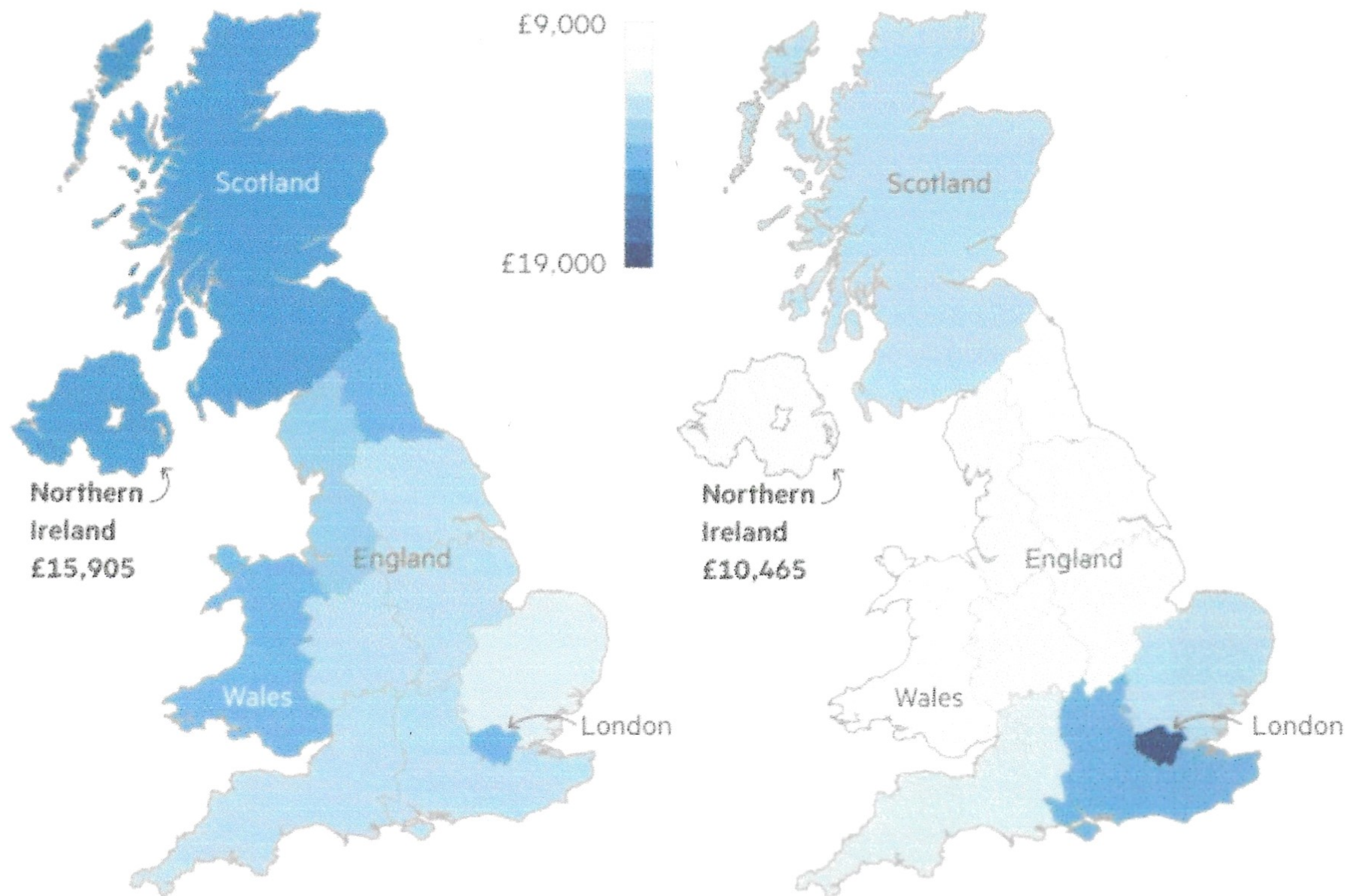
FT. online

Northern Ireland disparity: high on government spending, low on revenue

Fiscal year 2020 to end-March (£)

Expenditure per capita*

Public sector revenue per capita**



*Calculated using the ONS's annual mid-year population estimates;

**North Sea oil and gas revenues included on a geographic share

Source: Office for National Statistics

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I point out Foster is roughly as old as David Cameron when he left office. "I don't know [Lex Greensill!](#)" she laughs. Would she accept a seat in the House of Lords? "I haven't been offered a seat in the Lords, so I'll wait to see what happens." She also wants to encourage more women into politics.

Foster once infuriated nationalists by calling Sinn Féin a "crocodile" over the party's demands for Irish language legislation. "It was misrepresented [but] I do regret all of that." She has said she would probably leave Northern Ireland if there were ever a united Ireland. She insists it's irrelevant. "I don't think a united Ireland is coming in my lifetime. Because when people look at it rationally, they'll say we're much better off within the UK than in the Republic of Ireland."