



## DEMOCRACY IN THE UK AFTER BREXIT

### Democracy in the UK after Brexit: Population Survey 1

#### About

As part of the [Democracy in the UK after Brexit](#) project, the project team has partnered with [YouGov](#) to conduct two online surveys of the UK adult population. This document contains the text of the first of these two surveys. The findings of this first survey will feed into the [Citizens' Assembly on Democracy in the UK](#), and will enable policymakers and academics to develop greater understanding of how UK citizens think about democracy.

The project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. It is led by Prof. Alan Renwick (PI) with Prof. Ben Lauderdale (Co-I) and Prof. Meg Russell (Co-I), aided by James Cleaver (Research Assistant). The project team developed the survey in consultation with experts on the project's [Advisory Board](#) and beyond.

Survey company: YouGov

Survey method: Online panel

Sample: UK adult population

Sample size: 6,432

Fieldwork dates: 23-29 July 2021

For questions about the survey, please contact Alan Renwick ([a.renwick@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.renwick@ucl.ac.uk)) or Ben Lauderdale ([b.lauderdale@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:b.lauderdale@ucl.ac.uk)).

#### Reading the document

Wherever there is bracketed text in a prompt, e.g., [TEXT], this refers to an element of the text that was randomly selected from a set of possible variations for each respondent. The list of possible variations for this randomised element is listed below the survey prompt and response options. Some such questions have only a single randomised element; some questions have more than one randomised element (with randomisation conducted independently across the different elements – these questions are “embedded conjoint experiments”). There is one point in the survey where the randomised variation from one question carries over to several subsequent questions.

There are several questions on the survey where we have a list of potential response options, of which each respondent saw only two (plus a neutral option, worded appropriately for that question). These “pairwise comparison” questions enable us to assess comparative evaluations made by

respondents in the aggregate across the sample, as each response option will appear in comparison to all the others (via a Bradley-Terry model).

## Demographic/Background Characteristics

The survey vendor (YouGov) provided these items its existing data.

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Social grade
- Education
- Sexuality
- Religion
- Location: parliamentary constituency (UK 2010 boundaries, Scotland 2014 boundaries, Wales electoral regions) / MSOA / LSOA / postcode sector / unitary authorities and districts
- 2016 referendum vote
- 2019 general election vote
- 2021 Senedd vote
- 2021 Holyrood vote
- Attention to politics
- Newspaper readership
- Media consumption
- Organisation membership
- Social media use
- Household income
- Personal income
- Type of house tenure
- Number of children
- Marital status
- Work status

## Initial Consent to Participate

*NOTE: The following is what participants saw on screen before undertaking the survey. They could take part only after giving their consent.*

The following questions form part of a research project being conducted by researchers from the Constitution Unit and the Department of Political Science at University College London (UCL). They are looking at public views about democracy in the UK. You are invited to take part in the project by answering these questions. Please read the information below before deciding whether you want to participate.

**Title of Study:** Democracy in the UK after Brexit

**Name and Contact Details of the Principal Researcher:** Alan Renwick ([a.renwick@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.renwick@ucl.ac.uk))

**Name and contact details of the UCL Data Protection Officer:** Alex Potts ([data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk))

**UCL Research Ethics Committee Approval ID Number:** 11565/002

### What is the project's purpose?

The project is looking at how people think the United Kingdom's democratic system should operate. It is interested in people's views about the values of democracy and how democracy in the UK should work in practice.

### Why have I been chosen?

The survey is being run on behalf of the UCL research team by YouGov. You have been invited to take part because you are a member of YouGov's panel of survey respondents. The survey is going out to 6,000 members of the panel, who are a representative sample of adults living in the UK.

### Do I have to take part?

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary.

### What will happen to me if I take part?

We have tested the survey and found that, on average it takes around 12 to 15 minutes to complete. The questions will ask what you think about how democracy in the UK works and how it should work. These include questions on how satisfied you are with how the democratic system works today, what features of democracy you think matter more, and how particular parts of the democratic system should operate. There are also questions where you will be asked to imagine a political situation and say what you think should happen.

### What are the possible risks and benefits of taking part?

We do not expect any risks to you in answering these questions.

**Your YouGov Account will be credited with 50 points** for completing the survey. We hope that your responses will help to inform debates about how democracy should work in the UK.

### **Will my answers be kept confidential?**

Yes. As with all the YouGov surveys that you fill in, your responses will be completely anonymous. The UCL research team will never find out who you are. Nor will anyone else outside YouGov.

Because the survey asks about your political views, your answers are what are called ‘special category personal data’. We will therefore protect your privacy absolutely.

### **Can I withdraw from the study?**

You can withdraw from the survey at any point before you have finished it, and your answers will be deleted.

Because your responses are anonymous, it will not be possible to withdraw them once you have completed the survey – the research team will not know which responses are yours.

### **What will happen to the results of the research project?**

Your responses to these questions, as well as some of those that you provided when you joined YouGov’s panel, will be used to conduct academic research in this area leading to the publication of articles, reports and blog posts. These will be accessible from the UCL Constitution Unit’s website ([www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/constitution-unit)). You will not be identifiable in any of these publications.

The anonymous dataset will be archived with the UK Data Service so that it is available to future researchers. The UK Data Service is the standard repository for social science research data in the UK. Once deposited, the anonymous dataset will be permanently available to any registered user of the UK Data Service.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This research is organised by researchers from the Constitution Unit and Department of Political Science at University College London. It is funded by the UK Economic and Social Research Council.

### **What if I have questions or complaints?**

If you have any questions or complaints about the use of your data, you can email the project’s Principal Investigator (Dr Alan Renwick) at [a.renwick@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.renwick@ucl.ac.uk). As your data will be anonymous, the UCL team will be unable to identify, modify or delete any data relating to your responses. If you feel that your complaint has not been handled to your satisfaction, you can contact the Chair of the UCL Research Ethics Committee at [ethics@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ethics@ucl.ac.uk).

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering whether to take part in this research study.

### **Please check the relevant box below to get started.**

**I have read the above information and understand what the study involves. I understand that my anonymous data will be shared with the UCL research team and used in their research. I consent to taking part in this research study on that basis.**

## Additional Background Questions

**NATIONAL\_IDENTITY:** Which of the following describes how you think of yourself? Please choose UP TO TWO options. If you choose two options, you will have a chance afterwards to say if you feel one of these identities more strongly.

*Response options:*

- British
- English
- Scottish
- Welsh
- Irish
- Northern Irish/Ulster
- Other
- Don't know

**NATIONAL\_IDENTITY\_2** [ASKED ONLY TO THOSE RESPONDENTS GIVING TWO IDENTITIES IN THE PREVIOUS QUESTION]: You said that would you describe yourself as [X] and [Y]. Do you think of yourself as:

*Response options:*

- More [X] than [Y]
- Equally [X] and [Y]
- More [Y] than [X]
- Don't know

## General Attitudes to Democracy and Politics

**SATISFACTION\_DEMOCRACY:** On the whole, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in the United Kingdom?

*Response options:*

1. Very satisfied
2. Fairly satisfied
3. Not very satisfied
4. Not at all satisfied
5. Don't know

**EFFICACY\_DEMOCRACY:** How much influence do you think people like you have on how the UK is governed?

*Response options:*

1. Far too little
2. Somewhat too little
3. About the right amount
4. Somewhat too much
5. Far too much
6. Don't know

**KNOWLEDGE\_INSTITUTIONS:** How well do you understand how the United Kingdom is governed?

*Response options:*

1. Not at all
2. Not very well
3. Fairly well
4. Very well
5. Don't know

**IMPORTANCE\_DEMOCRACY:** Which of the following comes closest to your view?

*Response options:*

- Democracy is always the best form of government
- Democracy is good so long as it delivers effective government
- Democracy is not the best form of government
- Don't know

**COMPONENTS\_DEMOCRACY:** People sometimes say the following things are both important to have in a democracy.

Which, if either, would you say is more important to have in a democracy?

*Response options are a random pair selected from the following list plus “Both are equally important or unimportant” and “Don’t know”. Each respondent will be asked for their responses to TWO random pairs:*

- People are free to express their political views openly
- People are free to take part in protests and demonstrations
- People are free to join or organise pressure groups
- People are free to join or organise political parties
- Who holds power is decided by free and fair elections
- If those in power do a poor job, they can be voted out
- Government ministers are held to account by Parliament
- The government has the power to get things done
- The media is free to criticise the things government does
- The media provides accurate and trustworthy information
- Issues are discussed seriously before decisions are made
- Courts protect ordinary people from the abuse of government power
- All citizens have equal political rights
- Politicians are honest
- People are willing to listen to and respect other points of view
- People are active in their local communities
- People actively support the causes that they care about
- Voters and politicians accept election results, even when they lose
- People can decide some big issues directly, through referendums
- People are consulted frequently about their opinions by the government
- People have the same influence on government however rich or poor they are
- People have the same influence on government whatever their ethnic background
- People have the same influence on government whatever their gender
- People have the same influence on government whichever part of the country they come from

**PROBLEMS\_DEMOCRACY:** People sometimes say the following things are both important to have in a democracy.

Which, if either, of these two would you say **the UK does better at the moment?**

*Response options are a random pair selected from the same list as for COMPONENTS\_DEMOCRACY plus “The UK does equally well or badly at both of these” and “Don’t know”. Each respondent will be asked for their responses to TWO random pairs.*

**TRUST\_INSTITUTIONS:** To what extent do you trust or distrust each of the following to act in the best interests of people in the UK?

*Response scale:*

1. Strongly distrust
2. Distrust
3. Neither trust nor distrust
4. Trust
5. Strongly trust
6. Don't know

- A. The Prime Minister
- B. The UK Parliament
- C. The civil service
- D. The court system

**TRUST\_ACTORS:** Who do you tend to trust more (or distrust less) to act in the best interests of people in the UK?

*Response options:*

- I trust [A] more than I trust [B]
- I trust [B] more than I trust [A]
- I trust or distrust both equally
- Don't know

*[A] and [B] are random selections from the following list:*

- The Prime Minister
- Ministers in the UK government
- Members of the House of Commons (MPs)
- Members of the House of Lords (Peers)
- The BBC
- Newspapers
- Officials in the civil service
- The government's scientific advisers
- The Bank of England
- Judges
- Voters in general
- Local councils

**POWER\_ACTORS:** If you could make one of these more powerful than they currently are, which, if either, would you choose?

*Response options are random pairs selected from the following list plus "I would not make any change" and "Don't know":*

- The Prime Minister
- Ministers in the UK government
- Members of the House of Commons (MPs)
- Members of the House of Lords (Peers)
- Officials in the civil service
- The government's scientific advisers
- Judges
- Voters in general
- Local councils

## Conceptions of Democracy: Trade-offs

**TO\_EXPERTS:** Which comes closer to your view?

- Important policy decisions should generally be taken by independent experts
- Important policy decisions should generally be taken by elected politicians
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_LEGITIMACY:** Which comes closer to your view?

- Once a decision has been agreed on democratically, people should accept it and move on, even if they disagree with it
- In a democracy, it is good if people continue campaigning against decisions that they disagree with, even after a decision has been made
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_URGENCY:** Which comes closer to your view?

- In politics, the key thing is to get things done, even if sometimes the decisions made are not perfect
- In politics, the key thing is to get things right, even if sometimes that takes a bit longer
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_JUDGES:** Which comes closer to your view?

- Judges have an important role in ensuring that elected politicians operate within the rules
- Elected politicians must themselves be responsible for ensuring that they act within the rules
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_RIGHTS:** Which comes closer to your view?

- In a democracy, it is more important to follow the will of the majority
- In a democracy, it is more important to protect the rights of minorities
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_JUDGEMENT:** Which comes closer to your view?

- On big political questions, you can generally trust your instincts about what's right
- On big political questions, it is generally best to weigh the pros and cons of different options before deciding
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_DELEGATE\_TRUSTEE:** Which comes closer to your view?

- MPs should support the policies that most of their constituents say they want
- MPs should support the policies that they think will be best for their constituents
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_CONSULTATION:** Which comes closer to your view?

- Government is more likely to be effective if just a few people are directly involved in making day-to-day decisions
- Government is more likely to be effective if a wide range of people are directly involved in making day-to-day decisions
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_CITIZEN\_ENGAGEMENT:** Which comes closer to your view?

- In a democracy, citizens should follow political debates closely themselves, rather than leaving it to politicians
- In a democracy, citizens should not have to follow political debates very much – they should be able to leave it to politicians
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_DIRECT\_REPRESENTATIVE:** Which comes closer to your view?

- Decisions on the most important issues should be made by everyone, voting in referendums
- Decisions on the most important issues should be made by MPs, voting in Parliament
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

**TO\_RULES:** Which comes closer to your view?

- Healthy democracy requires that politicians always act within the rules
- Healthy democracy means getting things done, even if that sometimes requires politicians to break the rules
- I agree/disagree with both equally
- Don't know

## Democratic Culture and Behaviour

**CITIZEN\_CONSIDERATIONS:** When deciding how to vote, the most important thing that citizens should consider is what is best for...

- ...themselves and their families
- ...people like them in general
- ...people in their local area
- ...people across the country
- ...people across the world
- Don't know

**POLITICIAN\_CHARACTERISTICS:** Is it more important for a politician to [A] or to [B]?

*Response options:*

- [A]
- [B]
- Both are equally important or unimportant
- Don't know

*[A] and [B] are two random selections from the following list:*

- work hard
- be clever
- be inspiring
- think independently
- be honest
- keep their promises
- follow the rules
- be in touch with ordinary people
- listen to a wide range of views
- explain their actions and decisions
- own up when they make mistakes
- have a clear vision for what they want to do
- set a good example in their private life
- have had a job outside politics
- get things done

**MP\_DECISIONS:** Please imagine that an MP has to choose between [A] or what [B]. Which do you think they should choose?

*Response options:*

- Should support [A]
- Should support [B]
- It would be OK to support either
- Don't know

*[A] and [B] are two random selections from the following list:*

- what fits with their own beliefs
- what experts say is best
- what their party's manifesto said
- what they personally promised at the last election
- what most people in the UK support
- what most people in their constituency support
- what most of their party's voters support

**INTEGRITY\_DELIVERY:** Please imagine that a future Prime Minister has to choose between [INTEGRITY] and [DELIVERY]. Which should they choose?

*Response options are the bracketed INTEGRITY and DELIVERY texts and 'Don't know'.*

[INTEGRITY]:

- acting honestly
- honouring their promises
- acting within the law
- acting transparently

[DELIVERY]:

- delivering the policy that they think is best for the country
- delivering the policy that most people want
- delivering what is best for the security of the country

**OVERSIGHT\_MINISTERS:** Please imagine there is clear evidence that a minister in government has [FAILURE]. Which, if any, of the following do you think should decide whether they ought to resign?

*Response options:*

- The minister themselves
- The Prime Minister
- MPs in Parliament
- An independent person such as a judge
- The minister's constituents
- None of these
- Don't know

[FAILURE]

- failed to run their department competently
- bullied officials who report to them
- behaved inappropriately in their private life
- arranged for a government contract to be given to one of their friends
- lied to Parliament

## Institutional Choices

**PARLIAMENT\_EXECUTIVE\_POWER:** Which of the following do you think should [POWER]?

*Response options:*

- The Prime Minister
- The government as a whole
- MPs in the House of Commons as a whole
- None of the above
- Don't know

[POWER]:

- decide when the House of Commons meets?
- decide what the House of Commons debates?
- decide what the House of Commons votes on?
- decide when a UK general election is called?
- decide whether the UK should go to war?
- decide whether the UK should make a trade deal with another country?
- decide whether the UK should go back into lockdown?

**REFERENDUM\_USE:** Please imagine that the UK is deciding [ISSUE]. Do you think this should be decided...

*Response options:*

- ...by everyone voting in a referendum?
- ...by MPs voting in Parliament?
- ...by ministers within government?
- ...by non-political experts within government?
- Don't know

[ISSUE]:

- whether or not to rejoin the EU
- what voting system should be used to elect MPs
- what the basic rate of income tax should be
- what the rate of tax on cigarettes should be
- how to pay for social care for older people
- whether terminally ill people should be able to get help to end their lives
- whether a major new railway line or airport should be built
- whether getting a Covid vaccination should be compulsory for people in certain jobs
- whether to increase the state pension in line with inflation
- whether a new drug should be made available on the NHS

**PARLIAMENTARY\_SCRUTINY:** Please imagine that the UK government wants to [EXAMPLE]. Do you think it should, or should not, have the power to do this without getting Parliament's approval first?

*Response options:*

- The government should have this power, without needing Parliament's approval
- The government should have this power, but Parliament should have to approve the change soon afterwards
- The government should not have this power – it should have to get Parliament's approval first
- Don't know

[EXAMPLE]:

- increase state pensions in line with inflation
- make a big increase in the state pension
- make a big reduction in the state pension
- increase duty on alcoholic drinks in line with inflation
- make a big increase in duty on alcoholic drinks
- make a big reduction in duty on alcoholic drinks
- maintain coronavirus restrictions for longer
- make coronavirus restrictions tighter
- make coronavirus restrictions looser

**CIVIL\_SERVICE\_APPOINTMENTS:** Do you think that unelected senior officials who advise government ministers should be people who are neutral and permanent government employees, or do you think they should be people who are appointed by the government of the day?

*Response options:*

- Neutral and permanent government employees
- Appointed by the government of the day
- Neither of these
- Don't know

**CITIZENS\_ASSEMBLY:** One possible way to resolve a difficult political issue is to get a group of ordinary people together in what's called a "Citizens' Assembly".

In this approach, a group of people are selected at random, in much the same way as for jury service. Organisers try to make sure people of different ages, genders, ethnicities, class backgrounds and political views are represented. These people are given information about the issue and hear different arguments. They get to ask questions, think about the evidence, and discuss different views among themselves. Then they vote on what they think and their conclusions are made public.

To what extent would you support or oppose having this kind of Citizens' Assembly become part of how the UK decides difficult political issues?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

**JUDICIARY\_ROLE1:** Please imagine there is a dispute over whether the government has the legal authority to decide a particular matter on its own or whether it needs Parliament's approval. How should this dispute be settled?

*Response options:*

- Government ministers should have the last word
- [POLITICIANS] in Parliament should have the last word
- [JUDGES] in the courts should be able to decide whether the government or Parliament deserves the last word
- Don't know

[POLITICIANS]:

- Politicians
- Elected politicians
- Party politicians

[JUDGES]:

- Judges
- Unelected judges
- Independent judges

**JUDICIARY\_ROLE2:** Please imagine the government has proposed a new law and Parliament has approved it. [PROBLEM]. Should the courts be able to decide whether people's legal rights have been violated as claimed?

*Response options:*

- The courts should be able to decide whether people's legal rights have been violated, and if so, declare the new law null and void
- The courts should be able to decide whether people's legal rights have been violated, and if so, require Parliament to look at the issue again and then decide whether the new law will stand
- The courts should not have a role in deciding whether people's legal rights have been violated – this is a matter for ministers and Parliament to resolve between themselves
- Don't know

[PROBLEM]:

- Some people believe that this law violates human rights
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that people with disabilities have to access benefits
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that pensioners have to access benefits
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that refugees have to stay in the UK if they might be persecuted in their home country
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that women have to equal treatment in the workplace
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that terror suspects have to a fair trial
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that parents have to decide how to raise their children
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that small business owners have to run their businesses as they choose
- Some people believe that this law violates a right that homeowners have to defend their property

**TERRITORIAL\_GOVERNANCE:** Thinking about [POLICY AREA], which, if any, of the following comes closest to your view?

*Response options:*

- There should be one set of policies for the whole of the UK
- England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland should each have their own policies
- Each region or urban area within England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland should have its own policies
- Each local council area should have its own policies
- Don't know

[POLICY AREA]:

- how many immigrants should be able to come in
- the level of income tax
- the level of taxes on alcohol
- the level of the state pension
- how much is spent on healthcare
- how much is spent on policing
- whether cannabis is legal
- whether a particular drug is available on prescription
- how often rubbish bins are emptied
- rules on wearing face masks
- the length of sentences for convicted criminals
- how the courts system is run
- the content of the school curriculum
- where new houses can be built
- the provision of public libraries

## Vignette Experiments

**VIGNETTE\_ISSUE:** One current issue in UK politics is the amount of money spent on [ISSUE]. Some support an increase, others support a decrease, others want to keep it the same. Which comes closest to your view?

*Response options:*

- The UK should increase the amount of money spent on [ISSUE]
- The UK should keep spending on [ISSUE] the same as now
- The UK should reduce the amount of money spent on [ISSUE]
- Don't know

[ISSUE]:

- foreign aid
- the NHS
- the armed forces
- protecting the environment
- law and order

**VIGNETTE\_MANIFESTO\_ISSUE:** We would like you to consider a hypothetical situation that could arise in UK politics.

Please imagine that there is [PRIME MINISTER].

[SITUATION], the Prime Minister and Cabinet conclude that they should [CHANGE] spending on [ISSUE].

This change was not in their manifesto at the preceding election.

[POPULARITY]

Do you think it is, or is not legitimate for the government to make the change?

*Response options:*

- Yes, it is legitimate for the government to [CHANGE] spending on [ISSUE] in this situation
- No, it is not legitimate for the government to [CHANGE] spending on [ISSUE] in this situation
- Don't know

[PRIME MINISTER]:

- a Conservative government led by Boris Johnson
- a Labour government led by Keir Starmer
- a government led by a future Conservative Prime Minister
- a government led by a future Labour Prime Minister

[SITUATION]:

- In response to an international crisis
- In response to a national crisis
- In the course of their time in office

[CHANGE]:

- increase
- decrease

[ISSUE]: *Respondent received the same randomised value selected in VIGNETTE\_ISSUE.*

[POPULARITY]:

- In public polling, most people support the [CHANGE].
- In public polling, about as many people support the [CHANGE] as oppose it.
- In public polling, most people oppose the [CHANGE].

**VIGNETTE\_MINISTER\_CIVILSERVICE:** We would like you to consider another hypothetical situation that could arise in UK politics.

Imagine that there is [PRIME MINISTER].

[MINISTERS] conclude that they should [CHANGE] spending on [ISSUE].

[CIVILSERVANTS] advise them that this would be a bad idea, based on [EVIDENCE].

Should the [MINISTERS] press ahead with the [CHANGE]?

*Response options:*

- Yes, the [MINISTERS] should press ahead
- No, the [MINISTERS] should reconsider
- Don't know

[PRIME MINISTER]:

- a Conservative government led by Boris Johnson
- a Labour government led by Keir Starmer
- a government led by a future Conservative Prime Minister
- a government led by a future Labour Prime Minister

[MINISTERS]:

- Government ministers
- Elected politicians

[CHANGE]:

- increase
- decrease

[ISSUE]: *Respondent received the same randomised value selected in VIGNETTE\_ISSUE.*

[CIVILSERVANTS]:

- bureaucrats
- civil servants
- neutral civil servants
- expert civil servants

[EVIDENCE]:

- the experiences of other countries
- the experiences of previous UK governments
- their expertise
- predictions from an independent body
- academic research
- statistical evidence

**VIGNETTE\_CITIZEN\_INFLUENCE:** Please imagine that the UK Parliament has no plans to debate whether to change spending on [ISSUE] and that [PUBLIC OPINION].

Do you think people should, or should not be able to [RESOLUTION]?

*Response options:*

- Definitely should
- Probably should
- Probably should not
- Definitely should not
- Don't know

[ISSUE]: *Respondent received the same randomised value selected in VIGNETTE\_ISSUE.*

[PUBLIC OPINION]:

- in public polling, most people want to increase spending
- in public polling, people are evenly split between wanting to increase and decrease spending
- in public polling, most people want to decrease spending

[RESOLUTION]:

- force a national referendum on the issue
- require MPs to convene an assembly of citizens selected at random (as for a jury), whose proposal on the issue would automatically be implemented
- require MPs to convene an assembly of citizens selected at random (as for a jury), whose proposal on the issue would be considered by Parliament
- require MPs to convene an assembly of citizens selected at random (as for a jury), whose proposal on the issue would be put to voters in a referendum
- require Parliament to debate the issue

**VIGNETTE\_INSTITUTIONAL\_CHECKS:** We would like you to consider another hypothetical situation that could arise in UK politics?

Suppose that [INSTITUTION] [PROBLEM]. Which, if any, of the following do you think should ideally step in to put things right?

*Response options:*

- all of the possible [INSTITUTION]s (minus 'is'/'are') except the one randomly selected, plus, 'Voters in the next election', 'None of the above' and 'Don't know'

[INSTITUTION]:

- the Prime Minister is
- government ministers are
- Parliament is
- civil servants are
- the courts are

[PROBLEM]:

- behaving erratically
- making extreme decisions
- failing to follow the law

**VIGNETTE\_MEDIA\_EXECUTIVE:** The UK government has the power to appoint the Chair of the BBC. Imagine that the preferred candidate of [GOVERNMENT] is someone with [EXPERIENCE] who has previously said that [POLICY].

Do you think this person could be a suitable candidate to be Chair of the BBC?

*Response options:*

- Definitely
- Probably
- Probably not
- Definitely not
- Don't know

[GOVERNMENT]:

- a Conservative government led by Boris Johnson
- a Labour government led by Keir Starmer
- a future Conservative government
- a future Labour government

[POLICY]:

- the BBC should be less critical of the government
- the BBC should be neutral in its political reporting
- the BBC should be more critical of the government

[EXPERIENCE]:

- experience working at the BBC
- experience working elsewhere in broadcasting
- no experience of working in broadcasting

**VIGNETTE\_CITIZEN\_ASSEMBLY:** As mentioned in earlier questions on this survey, one possible way of resolving a difficult issue is to get a group of ordinary people together in what's called a "Citizens' Assembly".

As described earlier, a group of people are selected at random, in much the same way as for jury service. Organisers try to make sure people of different ages, genders, ethnicities, class backgrounds and political views are represented. These people are given information about the issue and hear different arguments. They get to ask questions, think about the evidence, and discuss different views among themselves. Then they vote on what they think and their conclusions are made public.

Imagine that an assembly like this was convened with [ASSEMBLY\_SIZE] members. [ASSEMBLY\_ISSUE]. Its proposal would [ASSEMBLY\_ROLE]. To what extent would you support or oppose holding a Citizens' Assembly in this way?

*Response options:*

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

*Each respondent will see a randomly selected value from the following:*

[ASSEMBLY\_SIZE]:

- 50
- 75
- 100
- 150
- 200

[ASSEMBLY\_ISSUE]:

- It would be asked to make a proposal about the funding of social care for older people
- It would be asked to make a proposal about whether cannabis should be made legal
- It would be asked to make a proposal on how to tackle climate change

[ASSEMBLY\_ROLE]:

- automatically become law
- be sent to Parliament to help MPs make a decision
- be put to all voters in a referendum