

Electoral Commission post election research 2015

United Kingdom

Topline

- This data is based on 3,564 adults aged 18+ across the United Kingdom. We interviewed 1,500 adults in England, 750 in Scotland, 814 in Wales and 500 in Northern Ireland.
 - Interviewing took place between 8 and 26 May 2015 by telephone. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population of each country. Each of the four countries' data were aggregated and then weighted to their representative level for the population of the UK.
 - Where results do not sum to 100, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
 - Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. Base sizes are in brackets.
 - An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half of one percent, but not zero.
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Summary of key results

- There is overall satisfaction with the procedure for electoral registration, with the majority (85%) reporting they are satisfied with the process. This is a similar proportion to those who said they were satisfied in 2010 (86%), but those saying they are 'very' satisfied has risen from 57% in 2010 to 62% in 2015.
- Awareness of the registration process is mixed with three in 10 (29%) adults falsely believing that you are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over. A similar number (24%) falsely believe that you are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax. Despite some lack of understanding, both of these falsehoods were more widely believed in 2010 than 2015 (where 43% believed you were automatically registered if over 18 and 31% thought you are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax).
- Nearly half of non-voters (47%) cited reasons of circumstance for being unable to vote on election day. Within this, a lack of time or being too busy at work was the most common reason for not voting (with 21% of non-voters mentioning). One in nine (11%) also said they did not vote because they were not registered.
- On the whole, people did not think they would be more likely to vote if various changes to how people vote were implemented. Voting online was the most popular potential method – one in three (36%) said this would make them more likely to vote.
- Reported awareness of the General Election was high with nearly nine in ten (88%) saying they knew 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' about the General Election. Awareness in local election areas about the local election was comparatively low, with 45% reporting 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount' of awareness.
- Satisfaction with the process of voting has also risen since 2010. In 2015 more than four in five (83%) said they were satisfied with the procedure for voting in elections, while in 2010 75% reported satisfaction. This includes an uptick in the proportion saying they are 'very' satisfied, which has risen ten percentage points since 2010 (42% in 2015 compared to 32% in 2010). The main reasons for dissatisfaction are perceptions that the voting system is unfair.
- There has been a similar rise in confidence with the way elections were run. Nine in ten (91%) reported confidence in the way the elections on May 7th were run compared with

seven in ten (70%) in 2010. The proportion reporting they were 'very' confident in the way the elections were run has climbed from one in four (25%) in 2010 to 46% in 2015.

- There is broad satisfaction with voting by post, as well as in the polling station. Four in five (80%) find voting in the polling station as convenient and 94% of those who voted at the polling station were satisfied with the process. Postal voters found the process of completing their vote to be easy (92%) and the vast majority (97%) were satisfied with the process of postal voting.
- The ballot paper was easy for people to fill in (94% reporting it easy). For those who voted in both the local and general elections on May 7th, the vast majority found it easy to fill in multiple ballot papers (84%).
- A small number agreed that spending and funding of parties is open and transparent (33%), but there was more confidence that authorities will take actions against guilty parties, with two in three (63%) agreeing.
- Over a third of people (35%) believe that 'a lot' or 'a little' electoral fraud took place on May 7th. Of these people, nearly a quarter of them had seen stories in the media about electoral fraud and 15% had a 'general impression' that fraud is an issue. A small number (4%) had heard from someone else that fraud had taken place and just 2% of those who believed fraud had taken place had experienced electoral fraud themselves. There is a general impression that voting is safe from fraud and abuse with 77% believing this is the case. This is a similar proportion to 2010 when 78% said voting was free from fraud.

REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

Q1. As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is the official list of people who can vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
Yes – where living now	94	93	93
Yes – somewhere else / another address	2	2	4
No	3	4	2
Don't know	1	2	1

Q2. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the electoral register?

	2015 %	2014* %	2010 %
Very satisfied	62	57	57
Fairly satisfied	23	26	29
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	11	10
Fairly dissatisfied	2	1	1
Very dissatisfied	3	2	1
Don't know	3	3	2

**In 2010/2014 asked as 'How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of people who are registered to vote?'*

Q3. Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false?

		True %	False %	Don't know %	
A	You have to take ID (IN NI: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE IN GB; TRUE IN NI)	2015	23	74	4
		2010	25	71	4
B	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	2015	24	67	9
		2010	31	61	8
C	You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	2015	29	69	2
		2010	43	55	3
D	You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	2015	28	62	10
		2010	25	60	16
E	You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	2015	13	81	5
		2010	12	83	5
F	One household member is able to register other members of the household	2015	49	43	8
G	You can register to vote online	2015	78	13	9

Q4. **People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE OK**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote</i>		
	(77)	(200)
Not eligible because of nationality	24	17
Not bothered	17	15
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	13	6
Haven't got round to it	11	7
I ran out of time/too busy	10	3
Don't like politics-politicians /or nobody represents my view	9	n/a
Lack of information on parties/policies	9	n/a
Not eligible (for reasons other than nationality)	9	11
I didn't receive a form*	6	4
Just moved	6	6
Don't know how to register	3	11
Admin/clerical error	2	4
Too difficult/complicated	2	
Health reasons/illness	1	n/a
Removed from the register	1	n/a
Because you cannot register to vote online (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)	*	n/a
Because you cannot register to vote online	*	n/a
Just about to move	0	3
More convenient/prefer to be registered at second home	0	n/a
No answer	*	*
Other	4	5
Don't know	*	n/a

* Wording in 2010 "I didn't receive any form/polling card"

Q5. **As you may know, on Thursday 7 May there was/were....INSERT AS APPROPRIATE: UK general elections/UK general elections AND local government elections.**

We often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. How about you – did you manage to vote?

		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
A	UK Parliament general election (ALL AREAS)	2015	86	14	*
		2010	82	18	-
B	Local elections (IN LOCAL ELECTION AREAS) <i>Base: All in a local election area in England</i>	2015 (1,115)	83	16	1
		2014 (1,202)	50	50	-
		2010 (541)	77	23	-

Q6.

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May?* MULTICODE OK

	2015 % (469)	2014 % (1,179)	2010 % (1,796)
Circumstances	47	57	31
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	21	26	12
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	8	10	4
Medical/health reasons	8	5	4
I was away on 7 th May / election day	6	n/a	7
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4	6	4
I forgot	3	9	2
There was no local election in my area	3	n/a	n/a
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	1	*	n/a
Bereavement	*	*	*
Bad weather	n/a	*	n/a
Administration	21	7	13
I wasn't registered	11	5	6
Not a British citizen/not eligible to vote	4	n/a	n/a
Admin reason	2	*	1
I didn't receive a poll card	2	1	4
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	1	1	3
I didn't know where my polling station was	1	1	n/a
I did not know I could vote	1	n/a	n/a
I got to polling station but told I could not vote	1	n/a	n/a
I didn't have the correct form of ID/photo ID (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)	*	n/a	*
Living in Northern Ireland/ I could not vote	*	n/a	n/a
Disinterest/no point	20	14	13
I couldn't be bothered	7	5	3
I'm just not interested in politics	6	4	5
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	4	4	5
Had no interest/view on the subject	4	n/a	n/a
Waste of time/could see no point	3	1	n/a
Parties/candidates	13	11	18
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	6	4	9
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	3	4	5
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	3	4	3
Do not believe in politics/voting system/democracy	2	1	n/a
Politicians do not care/only in politics for own benefit	1	*	n/a
I don't like the way the parties interact with each other/lack of co-operation/progress	*	1	n/a
Parties in Northern Ireland cannot make a difference (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)	*	n/a	n/a
No information/indecision/complicated	13	8	1
I couldn't decide which way to vote	4	1	n/a
I didn't get any information	3	4	1
I don't know anything about politics	3	1	n/a
I don't know anything about local politics	2	1	n/a
I didn't understand/too confusing	2	n/a	n/a
I didn't know enough about the different options	2	3	n/a
I don't know anything about UK parliamentary politics	1	n/a	n/a

6.
Cont'd

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May? MULTICODE OK. DO NOT READ OUT.

	2015 % (469)	2014 % (1,179)	2010 % (1,796)
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>			
Elections not important	1	12	8
Local council elections aren't important	*	1	*
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	*	7	2
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	*	n/a	6
The General Election wasn't important	n/a	n/a	1
The elections (unspecified) weren't important	n/a	1	n/a
Miscellaneous	4	2	1
I never vote	3	1	n/a
Religious reasons	1	*	1
I don't vote in local elections	*	*	n/a
Other	3	*	2
None of these/no reason	1	*	1
Don't know	1	*	1

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q7. **VOTERS: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...**

NON-VOTERS: Would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

		More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
<i>Base: All 2015 (3,564); 2014 Non-voters only (1,179); 2010 (3,564) except where noted</i>						
If you could have voted on the weekend instead	2015	21	4	74	*	*
	2014	33	3	64	-	N/A
	2010	14	3	82	*	*
If you could have voted online instead	2015	36	9	54	1	*
	2014	54	5	41	-	N/A
NOT NORTHERN IRELAND: If people had to show photo ID at the polling station <i>Base: All in GB (in brackets)</i>	2015 (3,064)	7	14	77	1	1
	2014 (953)	15	10	75	*	*
	2010 (3072)	4	11	85	-	*
If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	2015	25	5	68	1	2
	2010	20	6	74	*	1
If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before the election including the Saturday and the Sunday before the election (INTERVIEWER PROMPT: Election day is usually a Thursday)	2015	26	3	70	*	1
	2014	44	2	54	-	N/A
If you had been able to register to vote on election day	2015	20	5	73	1	1
	2014	30	3	67	-	N/A

2010	14	6	79	*	*
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Q8. **Did you vote on 7 May....**

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>			
In person at polling station	(3,143) 77	(1,326) 76	(1,790) 79
By post	21	24	20
By proxy (IF NECESSARY SAY: getting someone to vote on your behalf)	1	*	1
Other	1	*	-
Don't know	-	*	-

Q9. **People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums. Why did you vote on Thursday 7 May?*** MULTICODE OK.

	2015 %	2014 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
Civic responsibility reasons	69	70
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	54	54
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	14	1
I always vote	11	18
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	11	12
To show my support/ support the community	4	*
I am a woman / a woman`s right / women fought to win the right to vote	1	n/a
Parental responsibility / for my child`s / families future	1	n/a
Brought up / taught to vote	*	n/a
It`s the done thing / right thing to do	*	n/a
To express a view	56	47
I wanted to have a say	27	28
To support my party/ candidates of preference/to help my	18	4
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	15	15
Because an important issue was at stake	5	3
Concerned about local issues	2	4
To make a difference	1	n/a
To help create a change	14	15
To get a change	11	9
Not happy with the UK government/local council	6	8
Tactical reasons	2	5
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	2	*
Other reasons	17	
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	5	5
I take an interest in politics	4	*
To vote for the position supported by my party	3	n/a
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	1	1
It was easy / convenient / locally accessible to vote	1	n/a
I care about the future / future of the country	1	n/a
It`s compulsory / thought I had to / it`s the law / may get fined if I don`t	1	n/a
No answer	*	
Other	1	

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q10.a Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following elections?

	UK General Election		Local government elections
	2015 %	2010 %	2015 %
I always vote	75	70	63
I sometimes vote	10	17	21
I never vote	5	6	6
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	4	7	3
I voted for the first time in 2015	6	n/a	5
Don't know	*	*	1

Q11. Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper by deliberately leaving the ballot form blank or by not voting in the instructed way for a party or candidate. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

IF YES AND IN LOCAL ELECTION AREA, PROBE: Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	2015 % (3,143)	2014 % (1,326)	2010 % (1,790)
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>			
Yes – General Election ballot paper	*	n/a	*
Yes – local council ballot paper	*	*	1
Yes - both	*	*	*
No	99	99	98
Don't know/can't remember	*	*	1

SPLIT SAMPLE

Q12. Some people have told us that they would not have voted in the local council elections had the General Election not been held on the same day. How about you, do you think you would have voted in the local council elections on Thursday 7th May if there had not also been a General Election?

	2015 % (464)	2010 % (124)
<i>Base: Half who voted in both the General Election and the local election</i>		
Yes – would have voted	77	83
No – would not have voted	21	16
Don't know	3	1

SPLIT SAMPLE

Q12a Some people have told us that they would not have voted in the General Election had the local council elections not been held on the same day. How about you, do you think you would have voted in the General Election on Thursday 7th May if there had not also been local council elections in your area? SINGLE CODE ONLY. DO NOT READ OUT.

	2015 % (472)	2010 % (122)
<i>Base: Half who voted in both the General Election and the local election</i>		
Yes – would have voted	96	98
No – would not have voted	4	2
Don't know	*	-

AWARENESS

ASK ALL

Q13. How much if anything did you feel you knew about [INSERT GENERAL OR LOCAL ELECTION] on Thursday 7 May? Would you say you knew...

	UK General election %	Local elections (LOCAL ELECTION AREAS ONLY)	
		%	
		2015 (1,128)	2014 (1,202)
A great deal	38	12	9
A fair amount	50	33	39
Not very much	10	42	36
Nothing at all	2	11	15
Don't know	1	2	*

Q14. For each of the following statements, would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on....?

	How to cast your vote at the UK General election %	How to cast your vote at the local elections (local areas only)	
		%	
		2015 (1,128)	2014 (1,202)
Very easy	57	49	38
Fairly easy	33	34	35
Neither easy nor difficult	4	5	15
Fairly difficult	2	5	6
Very difficult	1	1	2
Don't know	3	5	6

VOTING PROCESS AND PRIORITIES

Q15. **Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?**

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	44	23	33
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	23	26	31
Voting being easy or convenient for me	18	23	19
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	12	n/a	14
All are important	*	n/a	n/a
I don't vote/not interested / doesn't effect me	*	n/a	n/a
Making sure that you vote	*	n/a	n/a
Having more/a better choice of parties/	*	n/a	n/a
Voting being free from intimidation/ intimidating staff	*	n/a	n/a
Other (specify)	*	3	*
Don't know	2	2	2

Q16. **Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain and Northern Ireland?**

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	42	30	32
Fairly satisfied	41	46	43
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	14	11
Fairly dissatisfied	5	7	9
Very dissatisfied	3	3	4
Don't know	1	*	1

Q17. **Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections?**
MULTICODE OK.

	% 2015 (236)	% 2014* (227)
<i>Base: All fairly or very dissatisfied with procedure for voting</i>		
The system is not fair	32%	9
Disagree with first- past-the-post/don't like the voting system	28%	1
Don't trust politicians/ politicians don't fulfil their promises	10%	8
Voting process should be available online	10%	n/a
Voting system should be more secure	8%	n/a
Not enough information/ media coverage	7%	n/a
Need more options/ opinions/choice	6%	9
People don't/didn't understand what the elections were about/too complicated	6%	n/a
Should be simpler	6%	n/a
Many people didn't get to vote/register	5%	n/a
Dislike politicians' behaviour	4%	n/a
Everyone should vote/ compulsory voting	4%	2
Length of time it takes	4%	4
Voting should be spread over a few days	4%	n/a
Voting should be done in pen/a more permanent mark / not pencil	3%	n/a
Didn't receive a polling card	2%	n/a
Issues with postal voting	2%	n/a
Lack of democracy within the system	2%	n/a
Not enough polling stations to choose from	2%	n/a
Outdated methods/paper based/dropping ballots into the box	2%	n/a
Because of the outcome/ dismay with election results	1%	n/a
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	1%	n/a
Dislike the counting process	1%	n/a
Issues with secrecy/ anonymity of voting	1%	n/a
May end up voting for people/positions I don't support	1%	n/a
Non UK citizens are not eligible to vote	1%	n/a
Poor accessibility of polling stations	1%	n/a
Poorly organised	1%	n/a
Process is poorly represented/ misrepresented	1%	n/a
The system is open to abuse	1%	n/a
Unfair / biased representation in the media	1%	n/a
Voters should be required to show identification	1%	n/a
Waste of money	1%	n/a
Other	7%	n/a
No answer	1%	2
Don't know	2%	1

*Different answer codeframe used for 2014

Q18. **How confident, if at all, are you that the election was (AREAS WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS: "elections were") well run on Thursday 7th of May?**

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
Very confident	46	26	25
Fairly confident	45	47	45
Not very confident	4	11	21
Not at all confident	2	7	9
Don't know	3	9	1

Q19. **Why do you say that you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.**

Base: All not very/not at all confident

	2015 (212) %	2014 (477) %
Voting system	20	2
Outdated/unfair voting system	14	*
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	5	1
People did not know the voting procedure	2	1
Polling station/ballot issues	18	16
Badly run/organised	10	7
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers	5	*
The counting process was not well verified	4	*
Long wait for results	2	1
Lack of time given to vote/decide	2	*
Two/More elections on one day/too much to organise/handle	1	*
Ballot papers/ballot boxes going missing	1	n/a
Low turnout	*	7
Voting was done in pencil not pen	*	n/a
Politicians/political system	18	10
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	16	10
Lack of proportional representation	2	n/a
Fraud security	15	2
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	15	2
Lack of information	15	57
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it	7	50
Lack of information about the candidates	6	1
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	5	14
Campaign issues/candidate	12	9
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	7	2
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	5	2
Lack of canvassing/personal contact	2	5
Little choice in who to vote for	1	1
General impression/word of mouth	11	4
From what I have read/heard	5	2
I had a bad impression	4	*
I did not witness what went on	1	2
Other	18	10

Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	6	n/a
Disinterested/don't care about politics	4	5
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	4	n/a
Dislike UK Parliament/UK parliament general elections	3	1
Issues registering to vote	1	n/a
Didn't vote for personal reasons	0	2
Other	7	3
None	*	*
Don't know	5	8

POLLING STATION

Q20. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 7th May election was....**

	2015	2014	2010
	%	%	%
Very convenient	49	37	38
Fairly convenient	31	30	36
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	9	18	12
Fairly inconvenient	5	5	8
Very inconvenient	3	5	4
Don't know	3	5	2

Q21. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say...**

	2015	2014	2010
	(2,487)	(1,011)	(1,486)
	%	%	%
Very satisfied	72	72	60
Fairly satisfied	22	25	33
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	2	4
Fairly dissatisfied	2	1	2
Very dissatisfied	1	*	1
Don't know	*	-	-

Base: All polling station voters

Q22. **Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote? Was it ...**

	2015	2014	2010
	(2,487)	(1,011)	(1,486)
	%	%	%
Very useful	43	50	41
Fairly useful	16	15	34
Not very useful	3	3	7
Not at all useful	1	1	5
Didn't use them/need them	37	32	12
Don't know	6	*	*

Base: All polling station voters

Q23. **And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote, such as a poster on display in the polling booth or guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015	2014	2010
	(2,487)	(1,011)	(1,486)
	%	%	%
Very useful	42	42	38
Fairly useful	22	22	35
Not very useful	2	4	8
Not at all useful	1	1	8
Didn't use them/need them	32	30	9
Don't know	1	1	2

Q24. **When you go to vote at a polling station you are required to present a form of ID before you receive a ballot paper. As far as you are aware, which, if any, of the following forms of ID can be used on polling day in order to vote? MULTICODE OK**

<i>Base: All in Northern Ireland</i>	2015
	(500)
	%
UK or Irish photographic driving license	95
UK or Irish Passport	93
Electoral identity card	75
Translink Senior or 60+ SmartPass	56
Student ID card	38
Birth Certificate	17
Disabled blue badge parking permit	15
National Insurance Card	10
Medical card	10
Work pass	7
None of these	-
Don't know	2

VOTING BY POST

Q25. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 7th election(s) was....**

	2015	2014	2010
	%	%	%
Very convenient	39	27	36
Fairly convenient	22	26	26
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	18	28	20
Fairly inconvenient	4	4	4
Very inconvenient	2	2	4
Don't know	15	13	11

Q26. **How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Would you say...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015 (613) %	2014 (307) %	2010 (293) %
Very easy	70	67	67
Fairly easy	22	26	30
Neither easy nor difficult	3	3	1
Fairly difficult	3	2	2
Very difficult	1	2	*
Don't know	*	-	*

Q27. **Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015 (613) %	2010 (1,486) %
Very useful	68	62
Fairly useful	23	36
Not very useful	1	*
Not at all useful	1	-
Didn't use them/need them	6	2
Don't know	1	-

Q28. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015 (613) %	2014 (307) %	2010 (1,486) %
Very satisfied	83	77	77
Fairly satisfied	14	18	22
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	3	-
Fairly dissatisfied	*	*	*
Very dissatisfied	1	*	-
Don't know	*	-	-

COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPER

Q29. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted</i>	2015 (3,143) %	2010 (1,778) %
Very easy	86	83
Fairly easy	11	13
Neither easy nor difficult	2	2
Fairly difficult	*	1
Very difficult	*	*
Don't know	1	*

Q31 **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the local election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted in local, or local and general elections</i>	2015	2010
	(944)	()
	%	%
Very easy	78	74
Fairly easy	16	18
Neither easy nor difficult	1	3
Fairly difficult	3	3
Very difficult	1	1
Don't know	1	-

Q32 **You said you voted in both the local and general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in different ballot papers on the same day for different elections? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted in local and general elections</i>	2015	2014	2010
	(928)	(1,293)	(246)
	%	%	%
Very easy	81	76	74
Fairly easy	13	18	20
Neither easy nor difficult	2	3	6
Fairly difficult	2	2	1
Very difficult	1	*	-
Don't know	1	-	-

PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

Q33 I am going to read you some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree strongly %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
The spending and funding of political parties and candidates at elections is open and transparent	11	22	22	24	15	6
If a political party is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions	36	27	11	14	8	4

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Q34 As you may know, there are many types of fraud such as benefit fraud and insurance fraud. From what you know or have heard, how much do you feel you understand about electoral fraud in the UK, that is fraud relating to elections and voting? Would you say you understand it...

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
A lot	13	12	11
A little	44	34	39
Hardly anything at all	27	29	30
Nothing at all	15	24	20
Don't know	1	1	*

Q35 How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at the May 7th elections? Would you say that it happened?

	2015 %	2014 %
A lot	6	5
A little	29	25
Hardly anything at all	32	33
Nothing at all	13	14
Don't know	20	24

Q36 Do you think it took place for the general or for the local elections?

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place (1,246)</i>	
General elections	29
Local elections	8
Both elections	60
Don't know	3

Q37

Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 7th May?

	2015 %	2014 %
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	<i>(1,246)</i>	<i>(778)</i>
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	23	18
General impression that fraud is a problem	15	21
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote (DOES NOT APPLY IN NI)	15	14
Postal voting is not secure	13	7
Identity fraud is on the increase	11	12
People are registering other voters at the same address	6	7
People are registering multiple times	5	6
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	4	5
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	2	*
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	1	n/a
Voting was done in pencil/not pen	*	n/a
Mistakes happen	*	n/a
Problems with the counting process	*	n/a
Funder influence over the election	*	n/a
I do not think electoral fraud took place	*	n/a
Not everyone votes/voting should be made compulsory	*	n/a
Lots of spoiled votes	*	n/a
Because of foreigners/immigrants voting	*	n/a
Vote rigging/set up	*	n/a
Other	1	5
Don't know	5	6

Q38

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
Very safe	25	21	20
Fairly safe	52	52	58
Neither safe nor unsafe	11	13	11
Fairly unsafe	7	6	7
Very unsafe	2	2	2
Don't know	2	6	3

Q39

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
Very safe	37	36	41
Fairly safe	46	46	47
Neither safe nor unsafe	8	9	6
Fairly unsafe	5	4	5
Very unsafe	2	1	1
Don't know	2	4	1

Q40

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...

	2015 %	2014 %	2010 %
Very safe	17	15	11
Fairly safe	39	36	46
Neither safe nor unsafe	14	15	14
Fairly unsafe	18	19	18
Very unsafe	5	6	9
Don't know	7	9	4

Electoral Commission post election research 2015

England

Topline

- This data is based on 1,500 adults aged 18+ across England.
- Interviewing took place between 8 and 26 May 2015 by telephone. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population of England.
- Where results do not sum to 100, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. Base sizes are in brackets.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half of one percent, but not zero.

REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

Q30. As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is the official list of people who can vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

	2015 %	2010 %
Yes – where living now	94	93
Yes – somewhere else / another address	2	4
No	3	2
Don't know	1	1

Q How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the electoral register?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	62	56
Fairly satisfied	22	29
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	10
Fairly dissatisfied	3	1
Very dissatisfied	3	1
Don't know	3	2

**In 2010/2014 asked as 'How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of people who are registered to vote?'*

Q32. Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false?

		True %	False %	Don't know %	
A	You have to take ID (IN NI: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE IN GB; TRUE IN NI)	2015	21	75	4
		2010	23	73	4
B	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	2015	24	67	9
		2010	31	61	8
C	You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	2015	29	69	2
		2010	42	55	3
D	You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	2015	29	62	10
		2010	25	60	15
E	You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	2015	13	81	5
		2010	12	83	5
F	One household member is able to register other members of the household	2015	49	43	8
G	You can register to vote online	2015	78	13	9

Q1 People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE OK

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote</i>		
	(77)	(34)
Not eligible because of nationality	27	20
Not bothered	17	16
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	15	7
Haven't got round to it	12	5
I ran out of time/too busy	11	n/a
Don't like politics-politicians /or nobody represents my view**	9	2
Lack of information on parties/policies	10	n/a
Not eligible (for reasons other than nationality)	10	13
I didn't receive a form*	6	4
Just moved	5	5
Don't know how to register	3	10
Admin/clerical error	2	4
Too difficult/complicated	2	n/a
Just about to move	-	3
No answer	-	n/a
Other	2	4
Don't know	-	n/a

* Wording in 2010 "I didn't receive any form/polling card"

** Wording in 2010: Dislike politics/politicians/voting"

Q2

**As you may know, on Thursday 7 May there was/were....INSERT AS APPROPRIATE:
UK general elections/UK general elections AND local government elections.**

We often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. How about you – did you manage to vote?

		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
A	UK Parliament general election (ALL AREAS)	2015	85	14	*
		2010	82	18	-
B	Local elections (IN LOCAL ELECTION AREAS) <i>Base: All in a local election area in England</i>	2015 (1,115)	83	16	1
		2010 (541)	77	23	-

Q3

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May?* MULTICODE OK

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Circumstances	(220)	(511)
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	21	12
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	8	4
Medical/health reasons	9	4
I was away on 7 th May / election day	6	7
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4	4
I forgot	3	2
There was no local election in my area	3	-
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	1	-
Administration		
I wasn't registered	12	5
Not a British citizen/not eligible to vote	5	
Admin reason	2	*
I didn't receive a poll card	2	4
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	1	3
I didn't know where my polling station was	1	-
I did not know I could vote	1	-
I got to polling station but told I could not vote	1	-
Disinterest/no point		
I couldn't be bothered	7	3
I'm just not interested in politics	6	5
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	4	5
Had no interest/view on the subject	3	-
Waste of time/could see no point	3	-
Parties/candidates		
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	6	8
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	3	5
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	3	3
Do not believe in politics/voting system/democracy	2	-
Politicians do not care/only in politics for own benefit	1	-
No information/indecision/complicated		
I couldn't decide which way to vote *	5	2
I didn't get any information	3	1
I don't know anything about politics	3	
I don't know anything about local politics	2	
I didn't understand/too confusing	1	
I didn't know enough about the different options **	2	3
I don't know anything about UK parliamentary politics	1	

wording in 2010 * I couldn't decide who to vote for; ** I didn't know enough about the parties

6.
Cont'd

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May? MULTICODE OK. DO NOT READ OUT.

	2015 % (220)	2010 % (511)
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Elections not important		
Local council elections aren't important	*	n/a
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	*	2
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	*	6
The General Election wasn't important	-	1
Miscellaneous		
I never vote	3	-
Religious reasons	1	-
I don't vote in local elections	*	-
Other	3	2
None of these/no reason	1	1
Don't know	1	1

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q7 VOTERS: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

NON-VOTERS: Would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

		<i>Base: All 2015 (1,500); 2010 (1,023)</i>				
		More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
If you could have voted on the weekend instead	2015	22	4	74	*	*
	2010	15	3	82	*	-
If you could have voted online instead	2015	37	9	53	1	*
	2010	7	14	77	1	1
If people had to show photo ID at the polling station	2015	4	11	85	*	-
	2010	4	11	85	*	-
If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	2015	25	5	67	1	2
	2010	20	6	73	*	1
If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before the election including the Saturday and the Sunday before the election (INTERVIEWER PROMPT: Election day is usually a Thursday)	2015	27	3	69	*	1
If you had been able to register to vote on election day	2015	20	5	73	1	1
	2010	14	6	79	*	*

Q8 **Did you vote on 7 May....**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
In person at polling station	(1,327) 77	(512) 79
By post	22	21
By proxy (IF NECESSARY SAY: getting someone to vote on your behalf)	1	*
Other	1	-
Don't know	-	-

Yes/No Answer In 2010

Q9 **People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums. Why did you vote on Thursday 7 May?*** MULTICODE OK.

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>	
Civic responsibility reasons	
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	55
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	14
I always vote	10
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	11
To show my support/ support the community	4
I am a woman / a woman`s right / women fought to win the right to vote	1
Parental responsibility / for my child`s / families future	1
Brought up / taught to vote	*
It`s the done thing / right thing to do	*
To express a view	
I wanted to have a say	27
To support my party/ candidates of preference/to help my	18
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	16
Because an important issue was at stake	5
Concerned about local issues	2
To make a difference	1
To help create a change	
To get a change	11
Not happy with the UK government/local council	6
Tactical reasons	
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	2
Other reasons	
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	5
I take an interest in politics	4
To vote for the position supported by my party	3
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	1
It was easy / convenient / locally accessible to vote	1
I care about the future / future of the country	1
It`s compulsory / thought I had to / it`s the law / may get fined if I don`t	1
Personal reasons / to change my own personal circumstances	*
I am a politician/ an MP	*
No answer	*
Other	1

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q10a Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following elections?

	UK General Election		Local government elections
	2015 %	2010 %	2015 %
I always vote	74	69	63
I sometimes vote	11	17	21
I never vote	5	6	6
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	4	7	3
I voted for the first time in 2015	6	-	5
Don't know	*	*	1

Q11 Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper by deliberately leaving the ballot form blank or by not voting in the instructed way for a party or candidate. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

IF YES AND IN LOCAL ELECTION AREA, PROBE: Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>	(1,327)	(512)
Yes – General Election ballot paper	*	*
Yes – local council ballot paper	1	1
Yes - both	*	*
No	99	98
Don't know/can't remember	*	1

SPLIT SAMPLE

Q12 Some people have told us that they would not have voted in the local council elections had the General Election not been held on the same day. How about you, do you think you would have voted in the local council elections on Thursday 7th May if there had not also been a General Election?

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: Half who voted in both the General Election and the local election</i>	(464)	(124)
Yes – would have voted	77	83
No – would not have voted	21	16
Don't know	3	1

SPLIT SAMPLE

Q12a **Some people have told us that they would not have voted in the General Election had the local council elections not been held on the same day. How about you, do you think you would have voted in the General Election on Thursday 7th May if there had not also been local council elections in your area? SINGLE CODE ONLY. DO NOT READ OUT.**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: Half who voted in both the General Election and the local election</i>	(470)	(122)
Yes – would have voted	96	98
No – would not have voted	4	2
Don't know	*	-

AWARENESS

ASK ALL

Q13 **How much if anything did you feel you knew about [INSERT GENERAL OR LOCAL ELECTION] on Thursday 7 May? Would you say you knew...**

	UK General election %	Local elections (LOCAL ELECTION AREAS ONLY) % (1,115)
A great deal	38	12
A fair amount	50	33
Not very much	9	42
Nothing at all	2	11
Don't know	1	2

Q14 **For each of the following statements, would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on....?**

	How to cast your vote at the UK General election %	How to cast your vote at the local elections (local areas only) % (1,115)
Very easy	57	49
Fairly easy	32	34
Neither easy nor difficult	4	5
Fairly difficult	2	5
Very difficult	1	1
Don't know	3	5

VOTING PROCESS AND PRIORITIES

Q15 Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	2015 %	2010 %
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	44	33
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	23	30
Voting being easy or convenient for me	18	20
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	12	14
All are important	*	-
I don't vote/not interested / doesn't effect me	*	-
Making sure that you vote	*	-
Having more/a better choice of parties/	*	-
Voting being free from intimidation/ intimidating staff	*	-
Other (specify)	*	*
Don't know	2	2

Q16 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	42	31
Fairly satisfied	41	44
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	11
Fairly dissatisfied	5	10
Very dissatisfied	3	4
Don't know	1	1

Q17

Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections?
MULTICODE OK.

	% 2015 (123)
<i>Base: All fairly or very dissatisfied with procedure for voting</i>	
The system is not fair	34
Disagree with first- past-the-post/don't like the voting system	31
Don't trust politicians/ politicians don't fulfil their promises	11
Voting process should be available online	10
Voting system should be more secure	7
Not enough information/ media coverage	7
Need more options/ opinions/choice	6
People don't/didn't understand what the elections were about/too complicated	7
Should be simpler	6
Many people didn't get to vote/register	5
Dislike politicians' behaviour	4
Everyone should vote/ compulsory voting	4
Length of time it takes	5
Voting should be spread over a few days	4
Voting should be done in pen/a more permanent mark / not pencil	2
Didn't receive a polling card	1
Issues with postal voting	1
Lack of democracy within the system	1
Not enough polling stations to choose from	1
Outdated methods/paper based/dropping ballots into the box	1
Because of the outcome/ dismay with election results	1
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	1
Dislike the counting process	1
Issues with secrecy/ anonymity of voting	1
May end up voting for people/positions I don't support	1
Non UK citizens are not eligible to vote	1
Poor accessibility of polling stations	1
Poorly organised	1
Process is poorly represented/ misrepresented	1
The system is open to abuse	1
Unfair / biased representation in the media	1
Voters should be required to show identification	1
Waste of money	1
Other	8
No answer	1
Don't know	2

Q18

How confident, if at all, are you that the election was (AREAS WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS: "elections were") well run on Thursday 7th of May?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very confident	46	24
Fairly confident	45	45
Not very confident	5	21
Not at all confident	2	9
Don't know	3	1

Q19

Why do you say that you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

	2015 (97) %
<i>Base: All not very/not at all confident</i>	
Voting system	
Outdated/unfair voting system	14
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	6
People did not know the voting procedure	2
Polling station/ballot issues	
Badly run/organised	10
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers	5
The counting process was not well verified	4
Long wait for results	1
Lack of time given to vote/decide	2
Two/More elections on one day/too much to organise/handle	1
Ballot papers/ballot boxes going missing	1
Low turnout	-
Voting was done in pencil not pen	-
Politicians/political system	
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	15
Lack of proportional representation	2
Fraud security	
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	15
Lack of information	
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it	7
Lack of information about the candidates	6
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	6
Campaign issues/candidate	
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	7
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	6
Lack of canvassing/personal contact	2
Little choice in who to vote for	1
General impression/word of mouth	
From what I have read/heard	5
I had a bad impression	4
I did not witness what went on	1
Other	
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	6

Disinterested/don't care about politics	5
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	4
Dislike UK Parliament/UK parliament general elections	2
Issues registering to vote	1
Didn't vote for personal reasons	-
Other	7
None	-
Don't know	5

POLLING STATION

Q20 From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 7th May election was....

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very convenient	48	36
Fairly convenient	31	37
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	10	13
Fairly inconvenient	5	8
Very inconvenient	3	4
Don't know	3	1

Q21 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say...

	2015	2010
	(1,004)	(411)
	%	%
Very satisfied	72	57
Fairly satisfied	22	35
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	4	5
Fairly dissatisfied	2	3
Very dissatisfied	1	1
Don't know	-	-

Base: All polling station voters

Q22 Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote? Was it ...

	2015	2010
	(1,004)	(411)
	%	%
Very useful	43	39
Fairly useful	16	35
Not very useful	3	8
Not at all useful	1	6
Didn't use them/need them	36	12
Don't know	*	-

Base: All polling station voters

Q23

And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote, such as a poster on display in the polling booth or guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015	2010
	(1,004)	(411)
	%	%
Very useful	42	37
Fairly useful	22	35
Not very useful	2	8
Not at all useful	1	9
Didn't use them/need them	31	8
Don't know	1	1

VOTING BY POST

Q25

From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 7th election(s) was....

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very convenient	39	36
Fairly convenient	21	26
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	18	20
Fairly inconvenient	4	4
Very inconvenient	2	4
Don't know	15	10

Q26 **How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Would you say...**

	2015 (307) %	2010 (98) %
Base: All postal voters		
Very easy	69	66
Fairly easy	23	31
Neither easy nor difficult	3	1
Fairly difficult	4	2
Very difficult	2	-
Don't know	*	-

Q27 **Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...**

	2015 (307) %	2010 (98) %
Base: All postal voters		
Very useful	68	61
Fairly useful	24	37
Not very useful	1	*
Not at all useful	1	-
Didn't use them/need them	5	1
Don't know	1	-

Q28 **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say...**

	2015 (307) %	2010 (98) %
Base: All postal voters		
Very satisfied	83	77
Fairly satisfied	14	23
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	-
Fairly dissatisfied	-	*
Very dissatisfied	1	-
Don't know	*	-

COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPER

Q29 **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

	2015 (1,327) %	2010 (500) %
Base: All who voted		
Very easy	85	83
Fairly easy	11	13
Neither easy nor difficult	2	2
Fairly difficult	*	2
Very difficult	1	*
Don't know	1	-

Q31 **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the local election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted in local, or local and general elections</i>	2015	2010
	(944)	(258)
	%	%
Very easy	78	74
Fairly easy	16	18
Neither easy nor difficult	1	3
Fairly difficult	3	3
Very difficult	1	1
Don't know	1	-

Q32 **You said you voted in both the local and general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in different ballot papers on the same day for different elections? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted in local and general elections</i>	2015	2010
	(928)	(246)
	%	%
Very easy	81	74
Fairly easy	13	20
Neither easy nor difficult	2	6
Fairly difficult	2	1
Very difficult	1	-
Don't know	1	-

PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

Q33 **I am going to read you some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?**

	Agree strongly %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
The spending and funding of political parties and candidates at elections is open and transparent	12	22	22	24	14	6
If a political party is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions	36	28	11	13	8	4

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Q34 **As you may know, there are many types of fraud such as benefit fraud and insurance fraud. From what you know or have heard, how much do you feel you understand about electoral fraud in the UK, that is fraud relating to elections and voting? Would you say you understand it...**

	2015 %	2010 %
A lot	13	11
A little	44	40
Hardly anything at all	27	29
Nothing at all	15	19
Don't know	1	*

Q35 **How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at the May 7th elections? Would you say that it happened?**

	2015 %
A lot	6
A little	29
Hardly anything at all	32
Nothing at all	12
Don't know	21

Q36 **Do you think it took place for the general or for the local elections?**

	2015 % (528)
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i> General elections	29
Local elections	9
Both elections	59
Don't know	3

Q37

Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 7th May?

	2015 % (528)
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	22
General impression that fraud is a problem	14
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote	16
Postal voting is not secure	13
Identity fraud is on the increase	10
People are registering other voters at the same address	6
People are registering multiple times	5
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	4
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	2
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	1
Voting was done in pencil/not pen	*
Mistakes happen	*
Problems with the counting process	*
Funder influence over the election	*
Other	1
Don't know	5

Q38

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	25	18
Fairly safe	52	58
Neither safe nor unsafe	11	10
Fairly unsafe	7	8
Very unsafe	2	3
Don't know	2	2

Q39 **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	37	40
Fairly safe	46	48
Neither safe nor unsafe	8	6
Fairly unsafe	5	5
Very unsafe	2	1
Don't know	2	1

Q40 **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...**

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	17	10
Fairly safe	39	46
Neither safe nor unsafe	14	13
Fairly unsafe	18	18
Very unsafe	5	9
Don't know	6	4

Electoral Commission post election research 2015

Scotland

Topline

- This data is based on 750 adults aged 18+ across Scotland.
- Interviewing took place between 8 and 26 May 2015 by telephone. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population of Scotland.
- Where results do not sum to 100, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. Base sizes are in brackets.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half of one percent, but not zero.

REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

Q1 As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is the official list of people who can vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

	2015 %	2010 %
Yes – where living now	95	92
Yes – somewhere else / another address	2	5
No	2	2
Don't know	*	1

Q2 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the electoral register?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	64	60
Fairly satisfied	24	26
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	9
Fairly dissatisfied	2	2
Very dissatisfied	3	1
Don't know	3	2

**In 2010/2014 asked as 'How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of people who are registered to vote?'*

Q3 Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false?

		True %	False %	Don't know %	
A	You have to take ID (IN NI: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE IN GB; TRUE IN NI)	2015	17	81	2
		2010	23	74	3
B	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	2015	23	69	8
		2010	33	56	11
C	You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	2015	31	66	3
		2010	47	49	4
D	You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	2015	25	65	10
		2010	25	55	20
E	You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	2015	12	84	4
		2010	8	84	7
F	One household member is able to register other members of the household	2015	51	41	8
G	You can register to vote online	2015	79	11	9

Q4 **People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE OK**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote</i>		
	(14)	(55)
Not eligible because of nationality	17	6
Not bothered	18	8
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	-	4
Haven't got round to it	7	3
I ran out of time/too busy	5	13
Don't like politics-politicians /or nobody represents my view**	9	1
I didn't receive a form*	13	1
Just moved	11	3
Don't know how to register	7	17
Admin/clerical error	4	3
Removed from the register	17	-
Other	17	12
Don't know	5	-

* Wording in 2010 "I didn't receive any form/polling card"

** Wording in 2010: Dislike politics/politicians/voting"

Q5 **As you may know, on Thursday 7 May there was/were....INSERT AS APPROPRIATE: UK general elections/UK general elections AND local government elections.**

We often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. How about you – did you manage to vote?

		Yes %	No %	Don't know %
A	UK Parliament general election (ALL AREAS)	2015	92	7
		2010	82	18
				*
				-

Q6

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May?* MULTICODE OK

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Circumstances	(50)	(517)
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	24	12
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	17	6
Medical/health reasons	3	4
I was away on 7 th May / election day	16	11
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4	4
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	2	-
Bereavement	2	-
Administration		
I wasn't registered	14	9
Not a British citizen/not eligible to vote	1	-
Admin reason	-	2
I didn't receive a poll card	6	5
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	-	2
I got to polling station but told I could not vote	3	-
Disinterest/no point		
I couldn't be bothered	6	4
I'm just not interested in politics	6	5
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	4	5
Had no interest/view on the subject	4	-
Waste of time/could see no point	6	-
Parties/candidates		
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	3	10
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	3	8
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	-	6
Do not believe in politics/voting system/democracy	1	-
No information/indecision/complicated		
I couldn't decide which way to vote	1	4
I didn't get any information	4	1
I don't know anything about politics	2	3
I didn't understand/too confusing	1	-
I don't know anything about UK parliamentary politics	1	-

6.
Cont'd

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May? MULTICODE OK. DO NOT READ OUT.

		2015 % (50)	2010 % (517)
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>			
Miscellaneous			
	I never vote	2	1
	Religious reasons	-	1
	Other	7	3
	None of these/no reason	-	1
	Don't know	-	*

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q7 VOTERS: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

NON-VOTERS: Would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

		<i>Base: All 2015 (750); 2010 (1,017)</i>				
		More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
If you could have voted on the weekend instead	2015	16	5	77	*	1
	2010	13	5	82	1	*
If you could have voted online instead	2015	27	10	62	*	*
	2010	7	15	77	2	1
If people had to show photo ID at the polling station	2015	4	11	84	*	1
	2010	19	5	73	1	2
If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	2015	19	4	76	*	1
	2010	20	5	74	*	*
If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before the election including the Saturday and the Sunday before the election (INTERVIEWER PROMPT: Election day is usually a Thursday)	2015	16	5	77	2	1
	2010	17	4	77	1	1

Q8 **Did you vote on 7 May....**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
In person at polling station	78 (699)	83 (524)
By post	20	16
By proxy (IF NECESSARY SAY: getting someone to vote on your behalf)	1	1
Other	1	-
Don't know	-	-

Yes/No Answer In 2010

Q9 **People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums. Why did you vote on Thursday 7 May?*** MULTICODE OK.

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>	
Civic responsibility reasons	
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	50
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	13
I always vote	17
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	10
To show my support/ support the community	4
I am a woman / a woman`s right / women fought to win the right to vote	*
Parental responsibility / for my child`s / families future	1
Brought up / taught to vote	*
It`s the done thing / right thing to do	*
To express a view	
I wanted to have a say	25
To support my party/ candidates of preference/to help my	21
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	13
Because an important issue was at stake	4
Concerned about local issues	1
To make a difference	*
It was important for Scotland/Scottish Independence/Scottish Referendum	3
To help create a change	
To get a change	12
Not happy with the UK government/local council	6
Tactical reasons	
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	1
Other reasons	
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	5
I take an interest in politics	5
To vote for the position supported by my party	2
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	2
It was easy / convenient / locally accessible to vote	*
I care about the future / future of the country	*
It`s compulsory / thought I had to / it`s the law / may get fined if I don`t	1
Personal reasons / to change my own personal circumstances	1
I am a politician/ an MP	*
No answer	1

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q10a Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following elections?

	UK General Election		Local government elections
	2015 %	2010 %	2015 %
I always vote	82	73	69
I sometimes vote	7	15	18
I never vote	2	6	6
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	2	6	2
I voted for the first time in 2015	7	-	4
Don't know	-	*	1

Q11 Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper by deliberately leaving the ballot form blank or by not voting in the instructed way for a party or candidate. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

IF YES AND IN LOCAL ELECTION AREA, PROBE: Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
Yes – General Election ballot paper	2	1
Yes – local council ballot paper	-	-
Yes - both	-	-
No	98	99
Don't know/can't remember	*	-

AWARENESS

ASK ALL

Q13 How much if anything did you feel you knew about [INSERT GENERAL OR LOCAL ELECTION] on Thursday 7 May? Would you say you knew...

	UK General election %
A great deal	41
A fair amount	49
Not very much	9
Nothing at all	1
Don't know	1

Q14 For each of the following statements, would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on....?

	How to cast your vote at the UK General election %
Very easy	59
Fairly easy	36
Neither easy nor difficult	3
Fairly difficult	1
Very difficult	*
Don't know	1

VOTING PROCESS AND PRIORITIES

Q15 Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	2015 %	2010 %
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	48	34
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	25	29
Voting being easy or convenient for me	17	21
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	9	15
All are important	*	-
Making sure that you vote	1	-
Voting being free from intimidation/ intimidating staff	*	-
Other (specify)	-	*
Don't know	2	2

Q16 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	44	36
Fairly satisfied	44	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	11
Fairly dissatisfied	3	7
Very dissatisfied	3	4
Don't know	1	1

Q17

Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections?
MULTICODE OK.

	2015 % (43)
<i>Base: All fairly or very dissatisfied with procedure for voting</i>	
The system is not fair	16
Disagree with first- past-the-post/don't like the voting system	7
Don't trust politicians/ politicians don't fulfil their promises	8
Voting process should be available online	9
Voting system should be more secure	16
Not enough information/ media coverage	3
Need more options/ opinions/choice	7
Many people didn't get to vote/register	4
Length of time it takes	2
Didn't receive a polling card	2
Issues with postal voting	4
Lack of democracy within the system	3
Outdated methods/paper based/dropping ballots into the box	5
Because of the outcome/ dismay with election results	5
Corruption/fraud/fixes results	1
May end up voting for people/positions I don't support	3
Non UK citizens are not eligible to vote	6
Poor accessibility of polling stations	6
Process is poorly represented/ misrepresented	2
The system is open to abuse	3
Unfair / biased representation in the media	1
Voters should be required to show identification	5
Issues with proxy voting	5
Other	4
No answer	-
Don't know	2

Q18

How confident, if at all, are you that the election was (AREAS WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS: "elections were") well run on Thursday 7th of May?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very confident	50	28
Fairly confident	44	43
Not very confident	2	23
Not at all confident	1	6
Don't know	2	*

Q19

Why do you say that you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

	2015 % (29)
<i>Base: All not very/not at all confident</i>	
Voting system	
Outdated/unfair voting system	11
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	3
People did not know the voting procedure	5
Polling station/ballot issues	
Badly run/organised	5
Long wait for results	10
Politicians/political system	
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	16
Fraud security	
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	5
Lack of information	
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it	13
Lack of information about the candidates	5
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	5
Campaign issues/candidate	
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	2
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	5
General impression/word of mouth	
From what I have read/heard	-
I had a bad impression	6
I did not witness what went on	5
Other	
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	4
Disinterested/don't care about politics	3
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	5
Dislike UK Parliament/UK parliament general elections	8
Other	6
None	4
Don't know	5

POLLING STATION

Q20 **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 7th May election was....**

	2015 %	2010 %
Very convenient	55	45
Fairly convenient	32	33
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	8	10
Fairly inconvenient	1	5
Very inconvenient	2	5
Don't know	2	2

Q21 **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015 % (548)	2010 % (420)
Very satisfied	70	70
Fairly satisfied	26	27
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	2
Fairly dissatisfied	1	*
Very dissatisfied	1	1
Don't know	1	-

Q22 **Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote? Was it ...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015 % (548)	2010 % (420)
Very useful	44	52
Fairly useful	14	29
Not very useful	1	2
Not at all useful	1	3
Didn't use them/need them	38	13
Don't know	1	1

Q23

And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote, such as a poster on display in the polling booth or guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015 % (548)	2010 % (420)
Very useful	43	41
Fairly useful	18	34
Not very useful	1	5
Not at all useful	*	2
Didn't use them/need them	36	15
Don't know	1	2

VOTING BY POST

Q25

From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 7th election(s) was....

	2015 %	2010 %
Very convenient	42	39
Fairly convenient	22	22
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	14	19
Fairly inconvenient	3	3
Very inconvenient	2	4
Don't know	16	13

Q26

How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Would you say...

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015 % (139)	2010 % (77)
Very easy	81	77
Fairly easy	16	19
Neither easy nor difficult	2	3
Fairly difficult	*	*
Very difficult	*	1
Don't know	-	-

Q27 **Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)?**
Were they...

	2015	2010
<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	% (139)	% (77)
Very useful	73	65
Fairly useful	16	27
Not very useful	*	1
Not at all useful	-	-
Didn't use them/need them	11	6
Don't know	-	-

Q28 **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post?**
Would you say...

	2015	2010
<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		
Very satisfied	88	78
Fairly satisfied	8	18
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	-
Fairly dissatisfied	2	-
Very dissatisfied	-	4
Don't know	-	-

COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPER

Q29 **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

	2015	2010
<i>Base: All who voted</i>	% (699)	% (520)
Very easy	92	88
Fairly easy	6	11
Neither easy nor difficult	*	*
Fairly difficult	*	1
Very difficult	*	*
Don't know	1	*

PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

Q33 I am going to read you some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree strongly %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
The spending and funding of political parties and candidates at elections is open and transparent	10	20	22	25	18	5
If a political party is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions	37	24	11	15	10	3

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Q34 As you may know, there are many types of fraud such as benefit fraud and insurance fraud. From what you know or have heard, how much do you feel you understand about electoral fraud in the UK, that is fraud relating to elections and voting? Would you say you understand it...

	2015 %	2010 %
A lot	12	9
A little	42	33
Hardly anything at all	29	32
Nothing at all	15	26
Don't know	2	1

Q35 How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at the May 7th elections? Would you say that it happened?

	2015 %
A lot	4
A little	26
Hardly anything at all	38
Nothing at all	15
Don't know	18

Q36 Do you think it took place for the general or for the local elections?

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
General elections	34
Local elections	7
Both elections	54
Don't know	5

Q37 Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 7th May?

	2015 % (223)
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	26
General impression that fraud is a problem	15
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote (DOES NOT APPLY IN NI)	15
Postal voting is not secure	13
Identity fraud is on the increase	9
People are registering other voters at the same address	7
People are registering multiple times	4
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	3
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	*
Mistakes happen	*
Problems with the counting process	1
Other	1
Don't know	8

Q38 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	27	23
Fairly safe	53	59
Neither safe nor unsafe	9	10
Fairly unsafe	6	4
Very unsafe	2	2
Don't know	3	2

Q39 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	37	45
Fairly safe	47	43
Neither safe nor unsafe	7	6
Fairly unsafe	6	3
Very unsafe	2	1
Don't know	1	2

Q40

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	17	14
Fairly safe	41	44
Neither safe nor unsafe	11	4
Fairly unsafe	16	16
Very unsafe	7	6
Don't know	8	*

Electoral Commission post election research 2015

Wales

Topline

- This data is based on 814 adults aged 18+ across Wales.
- Interviewing took place between 8 and 26 May 2015 by telephone. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population of Wales.
- Where results do not sum to 100, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. Base sizes are in brackets.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half of one percent, but not zero.

REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

Q1 As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is the official list of people who can vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

	2015 %	2010 %
Yes – where living now	94	94
Yes – somewhere else / another address	2	3
No	3	2
Don't know	1	1

Q2 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the electoral register?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	66	65
Fairly satisfied	23	21
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	7
Fairly dissatisfied	2	1
Very dissatisfied	2	1
Don't know	3	3

**In 2010/2014 asked as 'How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of people who are registered to vote?'*

Q3 Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false?

		True %	False %	Don't know %	
A	You have to take ID (IN NI: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE IN GB; TRUE IN NI)	2015	19	77	4
		2010	24	72	4
B	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	2015	27	64	9
		2010	29	59	11
C	You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	2015	33	66	2
		2010	43	54	3
D	You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	2015	30	60	11
		2010	25	55	20
E	You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	2015	16	78	6
		2010	15	79	6
F	One household member is able to register other members of the household	2015	50	41	9
G	You can register to vote online	2015	79	12	9

Q4 People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE OK

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote</i>	(18)	(47)
Not eligible because of nationality	7	6
Not bothered	17	2
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	-	4
Haven't got round to it	12	-
I ran out of time/too busy	5	8
Don't like politics-politicians /or nobody represents my view**	9	-
Lack of information on parties/policies	15	-
Not eligible (for reasons other than nationality)	4	3
I didn't receive a form*	4	8
Just moved	17	25
Don't know how to register	-	6
Admin/clerical error	2	-
Health reasons/illness	12	2
Removed from the register	2	-
No answer	7	-
Other	2	2
Don't know	-	5

* Wording in 2010 "I didn't receive any form/polling card"

** Wording in 2010: "Dislike politics/politicians/voting"

Q5 As you may know, on Thursday 7 May there was/were....INSERT AS APPROPRIATE: UK general elections/UK general elections AND local government elections.

We often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. How about you – did you manage to vote?

		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
A	UK Parliament general election (ALL AREAS)	2015	87	13	*
		2010	82	18	-

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May?* MULTICODE OK

	2015 % (98)	2010 % (508)
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Circumstances		
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	14	14
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	7	9
Medical/health reasons	8	5
I was away on 7 th May / election day	9	8
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4	3
I forgot	-	2
There was no local election in my area	1	-
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	3	-
Administration		
I wasn't registered	13	10
Not a British citizen/not eligible to vote	1	-
Admin reason	3	1
I didn't receive a poll card	-	5
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	5	4
I didn't know where my polling station was	-	-
I did not know I could vote	1	-
Disinterest/no point		
I couldn't be bothered	3	4
I'm just not interested in politics	7	6
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	6	4
Had no interest/view on the subject	3	-
Waste of time/could see no point	7	-
Parties/candidates		
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	6	9
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	6	7
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	7	7
Do not believe in politics/voting system/democracy	5	-
Politicians do not care/only in politics for own benefit	3	-
I don't like the way the parties interact with each other/lack of co-operation/progress	5	-
Parties in Northern Ireland cannot make a difference (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)		-
No information/indecision/complicated		
I couldn't decide which way to vote	4	7
I didn't get any information	8	2
I don't know anything about politics	2	-
I don't know anything about local politics	6	-
I didn't understand/too confusing	5	-
I didn't know enough about the different options	1	2
I don't know anything about UK parliamentary politics	6	-

6.
Cont'd

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May? MULTICODE OK. DO NOT READ OUT.

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Elections not important		
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	5	8
Miscellaneous		
I never vote	1	-
Other	1	-
None of these/no reason	-	-
Don't know	2	-

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q7 **VOTERS: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...**

NON-VOTERS: Would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

		<i>Base: All 2015 (814); 2010 (1,032)</i>				
		More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
If you could have voted on the weekend instead	2015	17	4	79	-	*
	2010	11	4	85	*	-
If you could have voted online instead	2015	34	8	56	1	1
NOT NORTHERN IRELAND: If people had to show photo ID at the polling station	2015	5	18	75	*	1
	2010	3	8	87	2	*
If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	2015	24	5	69	1	1
	2010	18	8	72	1	1
If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before the election including the Saturday and the Sunday before the election (INTERVIEWER PROMPT: Election day is usually a Thursday)	2015	23	4	72	*	1
If you had been able to register to vote on election day	2015	20	4	73	1	1
	2010	17	5	76	1	1

Q8 **Did you vote on 7 May....**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>	(717)	(524)
In person at polling station	75	76
By post	23	23
By proxy (IF NECESSARY SAY: getting someone to vote on your behalf)	1	1
Other	*	-
Don't know	-	-

Q9 **People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums. Why did you vote on Thursday 7 May?*** MULTICODE OK.

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>	(717)
Civic responsibility reasons	
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	50
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	14
I always vote	11
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	11
To show my support/ support the community	3
I am a woman / a woman`s right / women fought to win the right to vote	*
Parental responsibility / for my child`s / families future	1
Brought up / taught to vote	*
It`s the done thing / right thing to do	*
To express a view	
I wanted to have a say	25
To support my party/ candidates of preference/to help my	16
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	14
Because an important issue was at stake	5
Concerned about local issues	2
To make a difference	*
To help create a change	
To get a change	14
Not happy with the UK government/local council	7
Tactical reasons	
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	2
Other reasons	
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	5
I take an interest in politics	3
To vote for the position supported by my party	2
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	2
It was easy / convenient / locally accessible to vote	1
I care about the future / future of the country	1
It`s compulsory / thought I had to / it`s the law / may get fined if I don`t	1
Personal reasons / to change my own personal circumstances	*
I am a politician/ an MP	
None of these/no answer	1
Other	*

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q10 Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following elections?

	UK General Election		Local government elections
	2015 %	2010 %	2015 %
I always vote	74	71	60
I sometimes vote	10	17	21
I never vote	5	6	10
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	3	6	3
I voted for the first time in 2015	9	n/a	6
Don't know	*	*	1

Q11 Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper by deliberately leaving the ballot form blank or by not voting in the instructed way for a party or candidate. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

IF YES AND IN LOCAL ELECTION AREA, PROBE: Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
Yes – General Election ballot paper	1	-
Yes – local council ballot paper	-	*
Yes - both	-	-
No	99	100
Don't know/can't remember	-	-

AWARENESS

ASK ALL

Q13 How much if anything did you feel you knew about [INSERT GENERAL OR LOCAL ELECTION] on Thursday 7 May? Would you say you knew...

	UK General election %
A great deal	34
A fair amount	51
Not very much	13
Nothing at all	2
Don't know	*

Q14 For each of the following statements, would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on....?

	How to cast your vote at the UK General election %
Very easy	57
Fairly easy	34
Neither easy nor difficult	3
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	1
Don't know	2

VOTING PROCESS AND PRIORITIES

Q15 Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	2015 %	2010 %
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	44	28
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	22	42
Voting being easy or convenient for me	17	15
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	14	12
Other (specify)	*	*
Don't know	3	2

Q16 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	46	43
Fairly satisfied	37	37
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	9
Fairly dissatisfied	3	6
Very dissatisfied	3	4
Don't know	2	1

Q17

Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections?
MULTICODE OK.

	% 2015 (48)
<i>Base: All fairly or very dissatisfied with procedure for voting</i>	
The system is not fair	21
Disagree with first- past-the-post/don't like the voting system	16
Don't trust politicians/ politicians don't fulfil their promises	3
Voting process should be available online	9
Voting system should be more secure	14
Not enough information/ media coverage	6
Need more options/ opinions/choice	9
People don't/didn't understand what the elections were about/too complicated	5
Should be simpler	9
Many people didn't get to vote/register	5
Dislike politicians' behaviour	-
Everyone should vote/ compulsory voting	3
Length of time it takes	1
Voting should be spread over a few days	1
Voting should be done in pen/a more permanent mark / not pencil	-
Didn't receive a polling card	3
Issues with postal voting	4
Lack of democracy within the system	-
Not enough polling stations to choose from	-
Outdated methods/paper based/dropping ballots into the box	2
Because of the outcome/ dismay with election results	-
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	12
Dislike the counting process	2
Issues with secrecy/ anonymity of voting	4
May end up voting for people/positions I don't support	1
Non UK citizens are not eligible to vote	-
Poor accessibility of polling stations	4
Poorly organised	-
Process is poorly represented/ misrepresented	8
The system is open to abuse	1
Unfair / biased representation in the media	2
Voters should be required to show identification	-
Waste of money	-
Other	6
No answer	-
Don't know	2

Q18

How confident, if at all, are you that the election was (AREAS WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS: "elections were") well run on Thursday 7th of May?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very confident	44	27
Fairly confident	42	46
Not very confident	5	20
Not at all confident	4	7
Don't know	4	*

Q19

Why do you say that you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

Base: All not very/not at all confident

2015
(70)

Voting system	
Outdated/unfair voting system	17
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	2
People did not know the voting procedure	1
Polling station/ballot issues	
Badly run/organised	5
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers	6
The counting process was not well verified	8
Long wait for results	-
Lack of time given to vote/decide	-
Two/More elections on one day/too much to organise/handle	1
Ballot papers/ballot boxes going missing	3
Low turnout	-
Voting was done in pencil not pen	5
Politicians/political system	
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	21
Lack of proportional representation	-
Fraud security	
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	20
Lack of information	
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it	6
Lack of information about the candidates	11
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	1
Campaign issues/candidate	
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	3
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	1
Lack of canvassing/personal contact	4
Little choice in who to vote for	-
General impression/word of mouth	
From what I have read/heard	13
I had a bad impression	8
I did not witness what went on	2
Other	
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	11

Disinterested/don't care about politics	1
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	3
Dislike UK Parliament/UK parliament general elections	1
Issues registering to vote	1
Didn't vote for personal reasons	-
Other	6
None	-
Don't know	3

POLLING STATION

Q20 From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 7th May election was....

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very convenient	51	47
Fairly convenient	32	28
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	8	11
Fairly inconvenient	3	6
Very inconvenient	3	6
Don't know	3	3

Q21 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say...

	2015	2010
	(548)	(406)
	%	%
Very satisfied	80	75
Fairly satisfied	17	20
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	2
Fairly dissatisfied	1	1
Very dissatisfied	1	1
Don't know	*	-

Base: All polling station voters

Q22 Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote? Was it ...

	2015	2010
	(548)	(406)
	%	%
Very useful	41	51
Fairly useful	13	23
Not very useful	1	6
Not at all useful	1	6
Didn't use them/need them	44	13
Don't know	*	*

Base: All polling station voters

Q23 **And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote, such as a poster on display in the polling booth or guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015	2010
	(548)	(406)
	%	%
Very useful	38	41
Fairly useful	20	30
Not very useful	2	6
Not at all useful	1	6
Didn't use them/need them	39	14
Don't know	1	2

VOTING BY POST

Q25 **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 7th election(s) was....**

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very convenient	41	45
Fairly convenient	20	20
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	16	19
Fairly inconvenient	5	3
Very inconvenient	2	3
Don't know	17	11

Q26 **How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Would you say...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015	2010
	(158)	(113)
	%	%
Very easy	71	73
Fairly easy	25	21
Neither easy nor difficult	3	1
Fairly difficult	1	2
Very difficult	-	-
Don't know	-	1

Q27 **Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015	2010
	(158)	(113)
	%	%
Very useful	63	65
Fairly useful	24	31
Not very useful	2	-
Not at all useful	-	-
Didn't use them/need them	8	2
Don't know	3	-

Q28 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post?
Would you say...

	2015	2010
	(158)	(113)
	%	%
Very satisfied	77	82
Fairly satisfied	19	16
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	-	-
Fairly dissatisfied	2	1
Very dissatisfied	-	-
Don't know	2	-

Base: All postal voters

COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPER

Q29 Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very easy	88	86
Fairly easy	9	10
Neither easy nor difficult	1	1
Fairly difficult	-	2
Very difficult	*	*
Don't know	1	1

Base: All who voted

PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

Q33 I am going to read you some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree strongly %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
The spending and funding of political parties and candidates at elections is open and transparent	10	19	24	23	19	5
If a political party is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions	37	27	10	13	10	3

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Q34 As you may know, there are many types of fraud such as benefit fraud and insurance fraud.
 From what you know or have heard, how much do you feel you understand about electoral fraud in the UK, that is fraud relating to elections and voting? Would you say you understand it...

	2015 %	2010 %
A lot	10	9
A little	44	32
Hardly anything at all	28	35
Nothing at all	16	23
Don't know	2	1

Q35 How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at the May 7th elections? Would you say that it happened?

	2015 %
A lot	7
A little	29
Hardly anything at all	31
Nothing at all	14
Don't know	19

Q36 Do you think it took place for the general or for the local elections?

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
General elections	22
Local elections	5
Both elections	68
Don't know	5

Q37

Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 7th May?

	2015 % (293)
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	20
General impression that fraud is a problem	16
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote (DOES NOT APPLY IN NI)	14
Postal voting is not secure	8
Identity fraud is on the increase	18
People are registering other voters at the same address	7
People are registering multiple times	4
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	5
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	1
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	*
I do not think electoral fraud took place	1
Not everyone votes/voting should be made compulsory	*
Because of foreigners/immigrants voting	*
Vote rigging/set up	*
Other	*
Don't know	6

Q38

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	25	27
Fairly safe	50	50
Neither safe nor unsafe	13	14
Fairly unsafe	8	5
Very unsafe	2	2
Don't know	3	3

Q39

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	36	50
Fairly safe	47	38
Neither safe nor unsafe	8	7
Fairly unsafe	5	2
Very unsafe	1	1
Don't know	2	2

Q40

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	19	15
Fairly safe	38	39
Neither safe nor unsafe	12	14
Fairly unsafe	18	20
Very unsafe	5	6
Don't know	8	6

Electoral Commission post election research 2015

Northern Ireland

Topline

- This data is based on 500 adults aged 18+ across Northern Ireland.
- Interviewing took place between 8 and 26 May 2015 by telephone. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population of Northern Ireland.
- Where results do not sum to 100, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. Base sizes are in brackets.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half of one percent, but not zero.

REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

Q1 As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is the official list of people who can vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

	2015 %	2010 %
Yes – where living now	92	88
Yes – somewhere else / another address	4	7
No	3	4
Don't know	1	1

Q2 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the electoral register?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	52	52
Fairly satisfied	32	30
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	10
Fairly dissatisfied	2	2
Very dissatisfied	2	2
Don't know	6	4

**In 2010/2014 asked as 'How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of people who are registered to vote?'*

Q3 Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false?

		True %	False %	Don't know %	
A	You have to take ID (IN NI: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE IN GB; TRUE IN NI)	2015	96	3	1
		2010	96	3	1
B	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	2015	15	66	19
		2010	20	64	16
C	You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	2015	32	65	3
		2010	40	57	3
D	You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	2015	25	64	12
		2010	17	67	16
E	You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	2015	17	77	6
		2010	16	77	7
F	One household member is able to register other members of the household	2015	29	58	13
G	You can register to vote online	2015	61	23	16

Q4 People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE OK

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote</i>	(11)	(40)
Not eligible because of nationality	-	-
Not bothered	17	13
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	7	1
Haven't got round to it	-	33
I ran out of time/too busy	8	7
Don't like politics-politicians /or nobody represents my view**	26	-
I didn't receive a form*	-	4
Just moved	12	2
Don't know how to register	-	8
Health reasons/illness	5	-
Other	34	26
Don't know	-	-

* Wording in 2010 "I didn't receive any form/polling card"

** Wording in 2010: "Dislike politics/politicians/voting"

Q5 As you may know, on Thursday 7 May there was/were....INSERT AS APPROPRIATE: UK general elections/UK general elections AND local government elections.

We often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. How about you – did you manage to vote?

		Yes %	No %	Don't know %	
A	UK Parliament general election (ALL AREAS)	2015	79	21	-
		2010	78	22	-

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May?* MULTICODE OK

	2015 % (101)	2010 % (260)
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Circumstances		
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	10	7
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	8	9
Medical/health reasons	5	5
I was away on 7 th May / election day	5	4
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	1	6
I forgot	-	2
There was no local election in my area	1	-
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	3	-
Bereavement	1	-
Bad weather	1	-
Administration		
I wasn't registered	7	14
Admin reason	1	1
I didn't receive a poll card	1	3
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	2	2
I didn't know where my polling station was	1	-
I didn't have the correct form of ID/photo ID (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)	2	-
Living in Northern Ireland/ I could not vote	5	-
Disinterest/no point		
I couldn't be bothered	8	2
I'm just not interested in politics	17	7
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	5	-
Had no interest/view on the subject	7	-
Waste of time/could see no point	5	-
Parties/candidates		
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	13	20
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	4	3
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	1	5
Do not believe in politics/voting system/democracy	4	-
Politicians do not care/only in politics for own benefit	3	-
Parties in Northern Ireland cannot make a difference (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)	4	-
No information/indecision/complicated		
I couldn't decide which way to vote	1	2
I didn't get any information	2	2
I don't know anything about politics	6	-
I didn't know enough about the different options	3	1
I don't know anything about UK parliamentary politics	4	-

6.
Cont'd

People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 7th May? MULTICODE OK. DO NOT READ OUT.

	2015 % (101)	2010 % (260)
<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		
Elections not important		
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	-	8
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	1	-
Miscellaneous		
I never vote	7	-
Religious reasons	1	-
Other	1	2
None of these/no reason	1	1
Don't know	-	*

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q7 VOTERS: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

NON-VOTERS: Would you have been more likely to vote on 7 May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

		<i>Base: All 2015 (500); 2010 (514)</i>				
		More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
If you could have voted on the weekend instead	2015	16	5	78	1	*
	2010	12	4	83	1	*
If you could have voted online instead	2015	39	8	52	*	1
If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	2015	22	4	73	*	1
	2010	15	6	77	*	1
If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before the election including the Saturday and the Sunday before the election (INTERVIEWER PROMPT: Election day is usually a Thursday)	2015	18	3	77	1	*
If you had been able to register to vote on election day	2015	16	4	77	1	1
	2010	18	3	77	1	1

Q8 **Did you vote on 7 May....**

	2015 %	2010 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
In person at polling station	(400) 96	(254) 96
By post	2	4
By proxy (IF NECESSARY SAY: getting someone to vote on your behalf)	1	0
Other	-	0
Don't know	-	-

Yes/No Answer In 2010

Q9 **People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums. Why did you vote on Thursday 7 May?*** MULTICODE OK.

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>	
Civic responsibility reasons	
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	48
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	10
I always vote	9
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	8
To show my support/ support the community	2
I am a woman / a woman`s right / women fought to win the right to vote	*
Parental responsibility / for my child`s / families future	1
Brought up / taught to vote	1
It`s the done thing / right thing to do	1
To express a view	
I wanted to have a say	27
To support my party/ candidates of preference/to help my	20
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	10
Because an important issue was at stake	2
Concerned about local issues	2
To make a difference	1
To help create a change	
To get a change	6
Not happy with the UK government/local council	3
Tactical reasons	
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	1
Other reasons	
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	2
I take an interest in politics	2
To vote for the position supported by my party	3
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	4
It was easy / convenient / locally accessible to vote	*
I care about the future / future of the country	1
Personal reasons / to change my own personal circumstances	1
None of these	1
Don't know	*

*Note that some response codes differ in previous years depending on the specific elections

Q10a Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards each of the following elections?

	UK General Election		Local government elections
	2015 %	2010 %	2015 %
I always vote	64	74	67
I sometimes vote	15	15	18
I never vote	11	6	9
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	3	4	2
I voted for the first time in 2015	6	n/a	4
Don't know	1	1	1

Q11 Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper by deliberately leaving the ballot form blank or by not voting in the instructed way for a party or candidate. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

IF YES AND IN LOCAL ELECTION AREA, PROBE: Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	2015 % (400)	2010 % (254)
<i>Base: All who said they voted</i>		
Yes – General Election ballot paper	*	-
Yes – local council ballot paper	-	-
Yes - both	-	-
No	99	100
Don't know/can't remember	*	*

AWARENESS

ASK ALL

Q13 How much if anything did you feel you knew about [INSERT GENERAL OR LOCAL ELECTION] on Thursday 7 May? Would you say you knew...

	UK General election % (500)
A great deal	26
A fair amount	51
Not very much	19
Nothing at all	3
Don't know	*

Q14 For each of the following statements, would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on....?

	How to cast your vote at the UK General election % (500)
Very easy	53
Fairly easy	37
Neither easy nor difficult	4
Fairly difficult	3
Very difficult	1
Don't know	2

VOTING PROCESS AND PRIORITIES

Q15 Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	2015 %	2010 %
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	43	38
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	29	34
Voting being easy or convenient for me	16	16
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	8	9
All are important	*	-
I don't vote/not interested / doesn't effect me	1	-
Making sure that you vote	*	-
Having more/a better choice of parties/ Voting being free from intimidation/ intimidating staff	*	-
Other (specify)	*	-
Don't know	2	2

Q16 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain and Northern Ireland?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very satisfied	39	46
Fairly satisfied	46	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	6
Fairly dissatisfied	3	4
Very dissatisfied	2	2
Don't know	1	2

Q17

Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections?
MULTICODE OK.

	% 2015 (22)
<i>Base: All fairly or very dissatisfied with procedure for voting</i>	
Disagree with first- past-the-post/don't like the voting system	24
Voting process should be available online	22
Poor accessibility of polling stations	19
Should be simpler	16
Outdated methods/paper based/dropping ballots into the box	9
The system is not fair	8
Rude, incompetent polling station staff	8
Voting process should be available by email	7
Need more options/ opinions/choice	6
Voting should be spread over a few days	5
Voting should be done in pen/a more permanent mark / not pencil	5
Not enough polling stations to choose from	5
Voting system should be more secure	4
Many people didn't get to vote/register	4
Length of time it takes	4
Don't trust politicians/ politicians don't fulfil their promises	3
Other	*
No answer	-
Don't know	4

Q18

How confident, if at all, are you that the election was (AREAS WITH LOCAL ELECTIONS: "elections were") well run on Thursday 7th of May?

	2015 %	2010 %
Very confident	45	42
Fairly confident	48	45
Not very confident	2	9
Not at all confident	1	1
Don't know	3	3

Q19

Why do you say that you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

Base: All not very/not at all confident

2015
(16)

Voting system		
Outdated/unfair voting system		13
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference		12
Polling station/ballot issues		
Badly run/organised		10
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers		7
Politicians/political system		
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves		10
Lack of proportional representation		7
Fraud security		
Corruption/fraud/fixed results		13
Lack of information		
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it		16
Lack of information about the candidates		5
Campaign issues/candidate		
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about		6
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented		3
General impression/word of mouth		
I had a bad impression		6
Other		
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results		6
Disinterested/don't care about politics		5
Other		15
None		-
Don't know		5

POLLING STATION

Q20

From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 7th May election was....

	2015 %	2010 %
Very convenient	47	59
Fairly convenient	36	24
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	7	8
Fairly inconvenient	6	5
Very inconvenient	2	2
Don't know	3	3

Q21 **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015	2010
	(387)	(249)
	%	%
Very satisfied	68	77
Fairly satisfied	27	19
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	3
Fairly dissatisfied	1	*
Very dissatisfied	1	*
Don't know	-	-

Q22 **Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote? Was it ...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015	2010
	(387)	(249)
	%	%
Very useful	49	65
Fairly useful	16	19
Not very useful	1	2
Not at all useful	1	2
Didn't use them/need them	32	12
Don't know	*	-

Q23 **And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote, such as a poster on display in the polling booth or guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>	2015	2010
	(387)	(249)
	%	%
Very useful	40	51
Fairly useful	26	25
Not very useful	2	7
Not at all useful	1	3
Didn't use them/need them	30	12
Don't know	-	2

Q24 **When you go to vote at a polling station you are required to present a form of ID before you receive a ballot paper. As far as you are aware, which, if any, of the following forms of ID can be used on polling day in order to vote? MULTICODE OK**

<i>Base: All in Northern Ireland</i>	2015 (500) %
UK or Irish photographic driving license	95
UK or Irish Passport	93
Electoral identity card	75
Translink Senior or 60+ SmartPass	56
Student ID card	38
Birth Certificate	17
Disabled blue badge parking permit	15
National Insurance Card	10
Medical card	10
Work pass	7
None of these	-
Don't know	2

VOTING BY POST

Q25 **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 7th election(s) was....**

	2015 %	2010 %
Very convenient	21	24
Fairly convenient	28	20
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	22	20
Fairly inconvenient	3	7
Very inconvenient	1	3
Don't know	24	27

Q26 **How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Would you say...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	2015 (9) %
Very easy	81
Fairly easy	19
Neither easy nor difficult	-
Fairly difficult	-
Very difficult	-
Don't know	-

Q27 **Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)?**
Were they...

	2015 (9) %
<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	
Very useful	70
Fairly useful	30
Not very useful	-
Not at all useful	-
Didn't use them/need them	-
Don't know	-

Q28 **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post?**
Would you say...

	2015 (9)
<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	
Very satisfied	62
Fairly satisfied	28
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	-
Fairly dissatisfied	-
Very dissatisfied	-
Don't know	-

COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPER

Q29 **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the general elections. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

	2015 (400) %	2010 (254) %
<i>Base: All who voted</i>		
Very easy	87	93
Fairly easy	11	6
Neither easy nor difficult	1	*
Fairly difficult	-	0
Very difficult	-	0
Don't know	1	1

PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

Q33 I am going to read you some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree strongly %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
The spending and funding of political parties and candidates at elections is open and transparent	11	20	19	23	18	9
If a political party is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions	33	28	9	16	10	4

ELECTORAL FRAUD

Q34 As you may know, there are many types of fraud such as benefit fraud and insurance fraud. From what you know or have heard, how much do you feel you understand about electoral fraud in the UK, that is fraud relating to elections and voting? Would you say you understand it...

	2015 %	2010 %
A lot	11	11
A little	41	35
Hardly anything at all	29	27
Nothing at all	16	25
Don't know	2	2

Q35 How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at the May 7th elections? Would you say that it happened?

	2015 %
A lot	5
A little	34
Hardly anything at all	31
Nothing at all	10
Don't know	20

Q36 **Do you think it took place for the general or for the local elections?**

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
General elections	15
Local elections	13
Both elections	66
Don't know	6

Q37 **Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 7th May?**

	2015 %
<i>Base: All who thought a lot/a little fraud took place</i>	
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	22
General impression that fraud is a problem	19
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote (DOES NOT APPLY IN NI)	-
Postal voting is not secure	11
Identity fraud is on the increase	17
People are registering other voters at the same address	7
People are registering multiple times	8
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	4
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	3
Because of the outcome/dismay with election results	-
Voting was done in pencil/not pen	-
Mistakes happen	-
Problems with the counting process	*
Funder influence over the election	*
I do not think electoral fraud took place	-
Not everyone votes/voting should be made compulsory	-
Lots of spoiled votes	1
Because of foreigners/immigrants voting	-
Vote rigging/set up	-
Other	*
Don't know	8

Q38 **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...**

	2015 %	2010 %
Very safe	23	28
Fairly safe	56	53
Neither safe nor unsafe	10	11
Fairly unsafe	8	4
Very unsafe	1	1
Don't know	2	3

Q39 **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very safe	37	46
Fairly safe	53	42
Neither safe nor unsafe	5	6
Fairly unsafe	3	4
Very unsafe	*	*
Don't know	1	2

Q40 **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...**

	2015	2010
	%	%
Very safe	13	10
Fairly safe	33	34
Neither safe nor unsafe	15	19
Fairly unsafe	23	18
Very unsafe	7	9
Don't know	9	9