

**Electoral Commission  
2011 Winter Research:  
Topline Findings**

**TNS-BMRB**

**March 2012**





## **Technical Details**

- TNS-BMRB interviewed a nationally representative quota sample of 1,204 adults living in the UK and aged 18+. The sample consisted of 1,009 interviews with people living in Great Britain and a boost of 195 interviews with people living in Northern Ireland.
- The survey was conducted by telephone and took place between 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011.
- Data was weighted to match the profile of the UK population using a range of variables including gender, age, working status, social grade and region.
- Trend data has been included from previous waves of Winter Research where possible. Please note that, unless otherwise stated, prior to January 2008 the Winter Research was conducted as a face-to-face survey. From 2008 onwards the research has been conducted over the telephone. Findings from face-to-face and telephone surveys are broadly comparable but caution should be exercised when comparing findings between the different methodologies, and variations in results should be treated as indicative.
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this is because of rounding, multiple response codes or the exclusion of 'Don't know' responses.
- An asterisk (\*) represents results of less than half a percent.

## Summary of key results

- There have been some changes across survey waves, and these have been highlighted where appropriate in the summary of key results below.

### Voting and registration

- There has been a significant increase in the proportion of people saying that they are confident that elections in GB/Northern Ireland are well run from 67% in 2010 to 72% in 2011.
- In contrast to this, satisfaction with the process of voting has decreased to 67% from 74% in 2010. This is the lowest level of satisfaction with the process of voting that has been recorded since the Winter Research began, with satisfaction in previous waves ranging between 73% and 77%. However the decrease in satisfaction has not been matched by a corresponding rise in dissatisfaction. Rather it is a result of an increasing number of people saying they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the process.
- The overwhelming majority of people were confident that they know how to go about casting their vote at an election (94%). This is in line with previous tracker findings.
- A similarly high proportion of people (89%) said they were confident that they know how to go about registering to vote and again this in line with the figures for previous winter trackers.
- The overwhelming majority (95%) also believed their name to be on the electoral register, with 93% saying they were registered at their current address. Three in ten people (30%) said they were registered for a postal vote. Previous research has shown self-reporting to overestimate the proportion of people who are actually registered to vote, so these figures should be treated with caution.
- Satisfaction with the system of registering to vote has remained consistently high across waves with 79% of people reporting that they were satisfied in the 2011 survey. Previous waves of Winter Research have shown satisfaction with the system of registration ranging from 75% to 85%. Though satisfaction levels fell from 85% in 2010 to 79% in 2011, this was a result of more people saying they were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, rather than an increase in dissatisfaction.

### Individual Electoral Registration

- There was a general lack of knowledge about the information people are required to provide when registering to vote. More than three quarters (78%) thought everyone must provide their date of birth, and just under half (45%) thought everyone must provide their signature. These findings were in line with when the question was last asked on the 2009 tracker survey.
- Under proposals for Individual Electoral Registration people may be asked to provide their National Insurance Number when registering. Respondents were asked if a requirement to provide their National Insurance Number would make them more or less likely to register to vote and around one in seven (15%) said that it would make them less likely to register. However a similar proportion (10%) said that this additional requirement would make them more likely to register – the remainder (2%) said that it would either make no difference or that they did not know what impact it would have.

- The overwhelming majority of people (95%) said that it would be easy for them to provide their national insurance number for official purposes.
- When asked about providing their date of birth when registering, 5% said this would make them less likely to register to vote but 10% said it would make them more likely to register. Similarly, 6% said having to provide a signature would make them less likely to register but 9% said that it would make them more likely. These findings were broadly similar with results from the 2009 tracker survey.

#### Electoral Fraud

- Previous waves of research have shown fluctuating proportions of people saying they think that electoral fraud is a problem, but attitudes remained consistent between 2010 and 2011. In 2011 half of people (51%) said they did not think electoral fraud was a problem and just over a third (36%) said they thought it was. In 2010, 40% of people viewed it as a problem and 50% did not.
- Electoral fraud is not an issue that most people consider themselves well informed about. In 2011 only 6% said they knew a lot about it and 56% said they knew hardly anything or nothing at all. This represents a fall in self-declared knowledge since 2010, when 10% said they were well informed and 47% said they knew hardly anything or nothing at all.
- There has been a steady rise in the perceived safety of postal voting over the last three years. In December 2008, 40% of people felt voting by post was safe from fraud and abuse, rising to 46% in 2009, 53% in 2010 and a high of 56% in 2011. Whilst this shows an increase in the proportion of people who view postal voting as safe, a third (32%) do not think it is not safe from fraud and abuse.
- Voting at a polling station was viewed as safe from fraud and abuse by 86% of people, with registering to vote viewed as safe by 80%.

#### Party finance

- Confidence in action being taken against political parties or their members who break the rules on political party finance has remained constant since 2010, following a fall in confidence in 2009 following the MP's expenses scandal<sup>1</sup>. In 2011 39% of people said they were confident that appropriate action would be taken, up from a low of 31% in 2009.

#### Northern Ireland

- Asked if they felt the 2015 UK parliamentary general election and the Northern Ireland Assembly election should be held on the same day or not, 44% of Northern Ireland respondents said that it should be, whilst 30% reported that they did not mind either way. A quarter (24%) said that the two elections should not be held on the same day.

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<sup>1</sup> While the expenses scandal did not involve the breaking of rules around political party finance it was felt that these stories would still impact negatively on this measure.

## VOTING

**Q1. I would like you to think back, very carefully to the last General Election on 6th May 2010. Some people were not able to vote in that election. Can you remember if you did actually cast your vote at that election?**

SINGLE CODE.

*Base: All*

	%
<b>Yes</b>	69
<b>No</b>	29
<b>Don't know</b>	3

**Q2. In general, how confident, if at all, are you that elections are well run in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Are you...**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

*Base: All*

	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%
<b>Very confident</b>	18	29
<b>Fairly confident</b>	49	43
<b>Not very confident</b>	19	16
<b>Not at all confident</b>	12	8
<b>Don't know</b>	2	4
<b>Confident</b>	67	72
<b>Not Confident</b>	31	24

**Q3. What would increase your confidence in the way elections are run?**

PROBE FULLY. MULTICODE.

Base: All those not confident that elections are well run (154)

NB: Open ended response question, coded post fieldwork. Only responses relating to changes in the way elections are run have been included in the table below. Responses relating to broad changes to the political system were excluded. This affected 116 respondents.

	%
<b>More information (general mention)</b>	5
<b>Higher levels of scrutiny / transparency when counting, storing or transporting ballots</b>	5
<b>Introduce proportional representation</b>	4
<b>Elections are unfair (general mention)</b>	2
<b>Lengthen polling station opening hours</b>	2
<b>Make voting compulsory</b>	2
<b>Restrict access to postal voting to those who need it (e.g. the disabled or those living abroad)</b>	2
<b>Higher levels of voter identity validation (including requirement to provide ID when voting)</b>	2
<b>Increase the number of polling stations / make them more accessible</b>	2
<b>Simplify the voting process</b>	2
<b>Make voting more convenient (general mention)</b>	1
<b>Change rules on party funding</b>	1
<b>More direct contact with candidates</b>	1
<b>More information about where, when and how to vote</b>	1
<b>Introduce electronic voting</b>	*
<b>Other</b>	16
<b>Nothing</b>	10
<b>Don't know</b>	47

**Q4. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER OF 1 TO 3...

Base: All

	Jan 2005	Dec 2005- Jan2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>I always vote at General Elections</b>	64	64	65	63	59	70	<b>61</b>
<b>I sometimes vote at General Elections</b>	20	20	19	23	25	18	<b>23</b>
<b>I never vote at General Elections</b>	11	11	11	9	8	8	<b>10</b>
<b>I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election</b>	4	4	4	4	8	4	<b>4</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	*	2	1	*	*	0	<b>1</b>

**Q5. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...**

*LOOP. READ OUT.*

*Base: All*

	<b>I would be seriously neglecting my duty as a citizen if I didn't vote.</b>	<b>People are so busy that they don't have time to vote.</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Strongly agree</b>	40	5
<b>Agree</b>	28	23
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	14	9
<b>Disagree</b>	12	33
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	5	28
<b>Don't know</b>	1	2
<b>Agree</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>60</b>

**Q6. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 10 means a great deal of influence and 0 means no influence, how much influence do you think you have on politics and public affairs?**

*Base: All*

	<b>%</b>
<b>10 – A great deal of influence</b>	1
<b>9</b>	1
<b>8</b>	3
<b>7</b>	5
<b>6</b>	6
<b>5</b>	18
<b>4</b>	9
<b>3</b>	8
<b>2</b>	11
<b>1</b>	8
<b>0 – No influence</b>	28
<b>Mean Score</b>	<b>2.98</b>



**Q7. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the actual process of voting at elections in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

Base: All

	May2003	Dec 2005 – Jan 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Very satisfied</b>	26	30	21	32	31	28	<b>20</b>
<b>Fairly satisfied</b>	48	48	54	43	43	45	<b>48</b>
<b>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</b>	9	10	14	9	11	12	<b>19</b>
<b>Fairly dissatisfied</b>	9	6	3	7	8	7	<b>6</b>
<b>Very dissatisfied</b>	5	1	1	5	4	6	<b>5</b>
<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>	3	7	7	4	4	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>

**Q8. Why do you say you are dissatisfied with the actual process of voting at elections in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?**

PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE.

Base: All those who are dissatisfied with the process of voting (139)

	%
<b>Voting System</b>	<b>41</b>
The voting system is unfair	18
Because of the voting system, my vote doesn't count	10
I don't agree with the First Past the Post system / I would prefer Proportional Representation (PR)	14
The party/candidate I support has no chance of being elected under this voting system	4
Prefer to vote for Prime Minister not local MP	2
<b>Ease / Convenience of Voting</b>	<b>14</b>
Difficulty in getting to a polling station	7
Voting at a polling station takes too long	1
Voting is too confusing / I don't understand the system	5
There should be more choice on how and where to vote	1
Should be able to vote online	4
<b>Politicians / The Political System</b>	<b>36</b>
Don't like/trust politicians	15
You never see politicians except at election time	3
Politicians do not deliver on what they promise	13
There is no point in voting / it doesn't make any difference	13
<b>Other</b>	<b>18</b>
The procedure for voting is open to fraud and abuse	3
Can't be bothered with it	3
Many people do not vote	1
Other	11
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>8</b>

**Q9. As you may know, in 2015 the UK parliamentary general election (Westminster election) is due to be held on the same day as the Northern Ireland Assembly election. Do you think that these events should be held on the same day or not?**

DO NOT READ OUT.

Base: All those in Northern Ireland (195)

	%
<b>The two elections should be held on the same day</b>	44
<b>The two elections should not be held on the same day</b>	24
<b>Do not mind either way</b>	30
<b>Don't know</b>	2

**Q10. Why do you think that these elections should be held on the same day?**

DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE.

Base: All those who think elections should be held on the same day (85)

	%
<b>Saves money / resources</b>	20
<b>Saves my time / only need to go to polling station once / only need to post one postal voting envelope</b>	46
<b>Encourages people to vote in both</b>	28
<b>Other</b>	23
<b>Don't know</b>	5

**Q11. Why do you think that these elections should not be held on the same day?**

DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE.

Base: All those who think elections should not be held on the same day (52)

	%
<b>Makes it confusing to cast my votes</b>	62
<b>Don't understand the difference between the two</b>	8
<b>Means there won't be enough information available about the NI Assembly election</b>	3
<b>Means there won't be enough information available about the Westminster election</b>	3
<b>Makes the NI Assembly election seem less important</b>	15
<b>Makes the Westminster election seem less important</b>	9
<b>Other</b>	36
<b>Don't know</b>	4

**Q12. How confident, if at all, are you that you know how to go about casting your vote at an election?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

Base: All

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%
<b>Very confident</b>	68	66	69	<b>67</b>
<b>Fairly confident</b>	24	27	25	<b>27</b>
<b>Not very confident</b>	4	5	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Not at all confident</b>	3	2	3	<b>2</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	1	1	*	<b>1</b>
<b>Confident</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Not Confident</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>

**REGISTRATION**

**Q13. How confident, if at all, are you that you know how to go about registering to vote?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

Base: All

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%
<b>Very confident</b>	57	55	68	<b>60</b>
<b>Fairly confident</b>	30	34	24	<b>29</b>
<b>Not very confident</b>	7	7	4	<b>6</b>
<b>Not at all confident</b>	3	3	3	<b>3</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	3	1	*	<b>2</b>
<b>Confident</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Not confident</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>

**Q14. As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is, the official list of people entitled to vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?**

MULTICODE FOR 1 AND 2 ONLY

Base: All

	%
<b>Yes – where living now</b>	93
<b>Yes – another address</b>	3
<b>No</b>	2
<b>DK</b>	3

**Q15<sup>2</sup>. Why are you not registered to vote (ADD IF 'YES – ANOTHER ADDRESS': where you are living now)?**

PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT LIST. MULTICODE OK

Base: All those who are not registered to vote where they are living now (45)

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2011
	%	%	%
<b>Just moved</b>	15	24	<b>42</b>
<b>Not bothered</b>	11	17	<b>2</b>
<b>Haven't got round to it</b>	20	12	<b>3</b>
<b>Not eligible for reason(s) other than age (e.g. nationality)</b>	-	12	<b>26</b>
<b>Don't know how to register</b>	8	5	<b>3</b>
<b>More convenient/prefer to be registered at second home</b>	-	2	-
<b>Not old enough/not eligible</b>	35	-	<b>5</b>
<b>Other</b>	10	8	<b>17</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	10	19	<b>*</b>

**Q16. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?**

READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE.

Base: All

	May 2003	Dec 2005 – Jan 2006	Nov 2006	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Very satisfied</b>	26	30	19	43	43	46	<b>38</b>
<b>Fairly satisfied</b>	49	48	56	39	39	40	<b>41</b>
<b>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied</b>	9	10	14	9	10	8	<b>13</b>
<b>Fairly dissatisfied</b>	7	6	3	4	3	3	<b>2</b>
<b>Very dissatisfied</b>	4	1	2	2	2	1	<b>2</b>
<b>Don't know / no opinion</b>	4	7	7	3	3	2	<b>4</b>
<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>Dissatisfied</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

<sup>2</sup> Minor wording and answer category changes from 2008 to 2009 and changes to wording of the question asking where respondents are registered to vote from 2009 to 2011. Note that comparison with previous years should be viewed as indicative rather than statistically significant due to a different approach.

**Q17. Why are you dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?**

PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT LIST. MULTICODE.

Base: All those dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote (52)

	%
<b>Difficult / Confusing</b>	<b>27</b>
I don't know how to register to vote	8
It is too confusing / I don't understand the system	10
It is not easy / they could make it easier	11
They do not promote / advertise where / when to register	7
<b>It is Inconvenient</b>	<b>18</b>
It is cumbersome / takes too long	6
You should be able to register to vote online	8
Should not have to re-register every year	5
<b>Mistakes / Problems</b>	<b>4</b>
Never receive the form	1
The post is unreliable	2
The council makes mistakes with my personal details	2
<b>Not Secure</b>	<b>14</b>
The system of registering to vote is open to fraud and abuse	14
There are not enough checks	1
<b>Other</b>	<b>32</b>
There should not be a fine for not registering / it should not be compulsory to register	5
There should be more limitations on who can vote	3
There is no point voting / voting makes no difference	2
Other	22
Don't know	12

**Q18. As you may know, forms are sent out to households every year to keep the electoral register up to date. This form requires someone to provide or confirm the names of all people living in the household who are eligible to vote. Did you or your household receive a form this year?**

SINGLE CODE

Base: All

	%
<b>Yes</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>No</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Don't know / can't remember if received the form</b>	<b>4</b>

**PROBE IF YES: And did you, or someone else in your household, provide or confirm your details?**

MULTICODE OK FOR 1 & 2.

Base: All who remember receiving a form (1095)

	%
<b>Yes – me</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Yes – someone else in household</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Yes – but no-one completed/confirmed</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Yes - Don't know / can't remember who filled in</b>	<b>5</b>

**Q19. Thinking about the system of registering to vote in Great Britain / Northern Ireland, how confident are you that...**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. RANDOMISE.

Base: All

	...in general, voters' personal details are held securely?		...your own personal details are held securely?		...the system prevents people who should not be on the register from registering?	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Very confident</b>	15	16	16	17	9	11
<b>Fairly confident</b>	54	52	54	50	47	43
<b>Not very confident</b>	20	21	19	21	23	23
<b>Not at all confident</b>	7	8	8	8	8	8
<b>Don't know</b>	4	4	3	4	12	15

**Q20. Thinking about the last time you registered to vote, how easy or difficult did you find it to provide or confirm the details (you may have done this using a paper form, on the Internet or by telephone)?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

Base: All

	%
<b>Very easy</b>	56
<b>Fairly easy</b>	31
<b>Neither easy nor difficult</b>	4
<b>Fairly difficult</b>	2
<b>Very difficult</b>	*
<b>Don't know/can't remember</b>	2
<b>I have never registered to vote</b>	4
<b>Easy</b>	87
<b>Difficult</b>	2

**Q21. Are you currently registered for a postal vote? That is, registered to send your ballot paper through the post, rather than having to go to a polling station?**

SINGLE CODE.

Base: All those who are registered to vote (1166)

	%
<b>Yes, am registered for a postal vote</b>	30
<b>No, am not registered for a postal vote</b>	64
<b>Don't know</b>	6

**Q22. Please tell me if you think that the following statements about registering to vote in Great Britain are true or false. If you don't know, just say so and we will move on to the next question.**

READ OUT. RANDOMISE ORDER

Base: All in Great Britain (1,009)

	In order to register to vote everyone must provide their National Insurance Number		In order to register to vote everyone must provide their date of birth		In order to register to vote everyone must provide their signature		People can register to vote, or change their voting registration details such as those on where they live, at most points during the year	
	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>True</b>	35	29	77	78	46	45	58	58
<b>False</b>	41	47	11	10	40	39	13	13
<b>Don't Know</b>	24	24	12	12	14	16	29	29

**Q23. At the moment, when registering to vote in Great Britain, you are not required to provide a National Insurance number or date of birth and only the person filling in the form must provide their signature. Would a requirement to personally provide your (INSERT A-C IN TURN) when you register to vote make you more likely to register, less likely to register or would it make no difference?**

RANDOMISE ORDER OF A-C. SINGLE CODE ONLY FOR EACH.

Base: All in Great Britain (1,009)

	National Insurance Number		Date of birth		Signature	
	2009	2011	2009	2011	2009	2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>More likely</b>	6	10	7	10	9	9
<b>Less likely</b>	18	15	5	5	6	6
<b>It would make no difference</b>	74	73	87	85	84	84
<b>Not eligible to vote (SPONTANEOUS ONLY)</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Don't know</b>	2	2	1	1	1	1

**Q24. Why would a requirement for you to provide your [National Insurance number or date of birth or signature] when registering to vote make you less likely to register?**

PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE.

*Base: All those who answer that providing NI, DOB or Signature would make them less likely to register (197)*

	%
<b>Because of fraud/identity fraud</b>	21
<b>Do not like giving personal details out</b>	27
<b>No need/already have enough details</b>	9
<b>Invasion of privacy/should be kept confidential</b>	18
<b>Hard to find National Insurance number</b>	7
<b>May fall into wrong hands</b>	9
<b>May be used for other purposes</b>	3
<b>Too much hassle/time consuming</b>	6
<b>Do not want anyone to know my National Insurance number</b>	6
<b>Security risk</b>	11
<b>Signature could be copied</b>	2
<b>Would prefer to register online/by phone</b>	1
<b>Do not like the idea of a data base</b>	1
<b>Other</b>	15
<b>Don't know</b>	7
<b>None</b>	2

**Q25. How easy or difficult would it be for you to provide your National Insurance number if you needed it for official purposes?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

*Base: All*

	%
<b>Very easy</b>	73
<b>Fairly easy</b>	22
<b>Fairly difficult</b>	2
<b>Very difficult</b>	1
<b>Don't know</b>	1
<b>Easy</b>	95
<b>Difficult</b>	3



## INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS

**Q26. 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....?**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

*Base: All*

	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%
<b>A lot</b>	10	6
<b>A little</b>	41	37
<b>Hardly anything at all</b>	28	33
<b>Nothing at all</b>	19	23
<b>Don't know</b>	2	2

**Q27. How much of a problem, if at all, do you think electoral fraud, that is fraud relating to elections and voting, is in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Do you think it is...**

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

*Base: All*

	Dec 2003 <sup>3</sup>	Apr 2005 <sup>4</sup>	Dec 2005 – Jan 2006	Nov 2006	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>A very big problem</b>	8	17	9	11	7	8	8	10	8
<b>A fairly big problem</b>	16	29	22	26	26	25	19	30	29
<b>Not a very big problem</b>	40	34	40	36	48	42	44	41	43
<b>Not a problem at all</b>	13	8	11	7	11	12	19	9	8
<b>Don't know</b>	24	11	19	21	9	13	9	10	13
<b>A problem</b>	23	46	31	37	33	34	27	40	36
<b>Not a very big problem / not a problem at all</b>	53	42	51	43	58	53	64	50	51

<sup>3</sup> Telephone survey

<sup>4</sup> Telephone survey

**Q28.** Can I just check, have you...?

READ OUT. CODE ALL THAT APPLY.

Base: All

	%
<b>Seen stories in the media about electoral fraud happening in Great Britain/Northern Ireland</b>	36
<b>Heard from someone you know about electoral fraud happening</b>	7
<b>Had firsthand experience of seeing electoral fraud happen</b>	2
<b>None of these</b>	58
<b>Don't know</b>	1

**Q29.** And do you think fraud will affect who is elected in...

READ OUT.

Base: All those who say fraud is a very big problem / a fairly big problem / not a very big problem (943)

	%
<b>All or nearly all election areas</b>	6
<b>More than half</b>	3
<b>About half</b>	8
<b>Less than half</b>	9
<b>Only in a few election areas</b>	54
<b>Or not in any election areas</b>	12
<b>Don't know</b>	7

**Q30.** In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud or abuse, would you say that [INSERT: a, b and c] is very safe, fairly safe, neither safe nor unsafe, fairly unsafe or very unsafe.

READ OUT. SINGLE CODE EACH. REVERSE ORDER OF SCALE.

Base: All

Q30a) Voting at a polling station

	Dec 2005 – Jan 2006	Nov 2006	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Very safe</b>	37	29	30	33	38	40	<b>43</b>
<b>Fairly safe</b>	46	49	51	50	48	46	<b>43</b>
<b>Neither safe nor unsafe</b>	9	10	10	9	8	5	<b>4</b>
<b>Fairly unsafe</b>	2	4	4	5	3	4	<b>6</b>
<b>Very unsafe</b>	*	1	1	*	1	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	5	7	3	2	2	3	<b>2</b>
<b>Safe</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Unsafe</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

Q30b) Voting by post

	Apr 2005 <sup>5</sup>	Dec 2005 – Jan 2006	Nov 2006	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Very safe</b>	6	8	5	8	8	10	10	<b>10</b>
<b>Fairly safe</b>	30	35	33	34	32	36	43	<b>46</b>
<b>Neither safe nor unsafe</b>	14	16	17	16	15	14	11	<b>8</b>
<b>Fairly unsafe</b>	27	26	25	29	29	25	19	<b>24</b>
<b>Very unsafe</b>	19	7	9	9	11	11	9	<b>8</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	4	9	10	5	5	5	8	<b>4</b>
<b>Safe</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Unsafe</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>

Q30c) Registering to vote

	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%
<b>Very safe</b>	22	<b>23</b>
<b>Fairly safe</b>	57	<b>58</b>
<b>Neither safe nor unsafe</b>	10	<b>6</b>
<b>Fairly unsafe</b>	7	<b>8</b>
<b>Very unsafe</b>	2	<b>2</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Safe</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Unsafe</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>

**PARTY FINANCE**

**Q31** I am now going to talk about political party finance, that is, how parties raise and spend money for campaigning and other activities.

How confident, if at all, are you that when a political party or one of its members is caught breaking the rules of political party finance, the authorities will take appropriate action? Are you...

READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE.

Base: All

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%
<b>Very confident</b>	7	7	7	<b>8</b>
<b>Fairly confident</b>	33	25	30	<b>30</b>
<b>Not very confident</b>	39	39	38	<b>37</b>
<b>Not at all confident</b>	21	30	23	<b>22</b>
<b>Don't Know</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>3</b>
<b>Confident</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Not confident</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>59</b>

<sup>5</sup> Telephone survey

**Q32 – PartyFund** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER OF SCALE. SINGLE CODE.

Base: All

- a) There is more information available to the public now than in the recent past about how political parties are funded and spend their money.

	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%	%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	20	25	23	16
<b>Tend to agree</b>	42	40	46	42
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	14	13	10	15
<b>Tend to disagree</b>	12	10	10	14
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	7	8	8	7
<b>Don't know</b>	5	5	4	6
<b>Agree</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>21</b>

- b) The spending of political parties and candidates at UK elections is open and transparent.

	Jan 2006	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	3	8	7
<b>Tend to agree</b>	22	29	25
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	20	17	22
<b>Tend to disagree</b>	29	24	26
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	13	17	14
<b>Don't know</b>	13	5	7
<b>Agree</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>

- c) The funding of political parties in the UK is open and transparent.

	Jan 2006	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
	%	%	%
<b>Strongly agree</b>	3	7	6
<b>Tend to agree</b>	23	27	21
<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	18	15	21
<b>Tend to disagree</b>	32	28	30
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	11	18	16
<b>Don't know</b>	12	5	6
<b>Agree</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>

**Q33 – NIPartFundConf** In your opinion, should information about who donates money to political parties in Northern Ireland be made available to the public or kept confidential, or do you not mind either way?

*Base: All those in Northern Ireland (195)*

	<b>Dec 2008</b>	<b>Dec 2011</b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Made available</b>	59	<b>62</b>
<b>Kept confidential</b>	8	<b>4</b>
<b>Do you not mind either way</b>	32	<b>33</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	*	<b>1</b>