

ENGLISH LOCAL ELECTIONS - TOPLINE SUMMARY

- This data is based on 873 adults aged 18+ across England local election areas.
- Interviewing took place between 6 and 28 May 2016 by telephone.
- Data are weighted to match the profile of England local election areas. Iterative weighting was applied to match the sample breakdown within each Government Office Region (GOR) to the known 18+ population by gender, age (2014 estimates) and ethnicity (census breakdown). A multiplier was then attached to each GOR to match their relative contribution to the population. Within the North West Region, Greater Manchester and the rump North West were treated as separate sub-regional groups due to the difference in elections undertaken.
- 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.
- Study undertaken by BMG Research on behalf of the Electoral Commission.

Hello, my name is [INTERVIEWER NAME] I'm calling on behalf of the Electoral Commission from BMG Research.

I'm calling to carry out an important survey on electoral registration and voting. All of your responses will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Can I ask you some questions please?

QC1 Could I just quickly confirm that your name is [RESPONDENT NAME HERE]?

IF: No	Specify
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QS1 What was your age on May 5th 2016?

IF: Refuse	CLOSE
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QS2 From which country or countries do you have or are you eligible to hold a passport?
INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF RESPONDENT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND QUESTION, ASK ARE YOU A UK NATIONAL OR ARE YOU A CITIZEN ELSEWHERE?]

IF: Other /Don't know/Refuse	CLOSE
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QS3 Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

IF: Refuse	CLOSE
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REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

⇒ ASK ALL

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?

	2016	2012
	%	%
Yes - where living now	95	94
Yes - somewhere else / another address	1	2
No	2	2
Don't know	2	2

QC1 Could I also confirm that the postcode of the place that you are registered to vote at is [RESPONDENT POSTCODE HERE]?

IF: incorrect	Lookup postcode
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⇒ **ASK NOT REGISTERED ONLY**

Q2 People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT.

	2016 % (7)*
Just moved/Just about to move	0
Don't see the point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	6
Haven't got round to it	0
More convenient/prefer to be registered at second home	0
Not eligible for reason(s) other than age	0
I actively dislike politicians/politics and refuse to vote	0
I didn't receive any forms	0
Not eligible for reason(s) other than nationality	0
Admin/clerical error	0
Not bothered - uninterested in politics	19
Don't know how to register to vote	0
Lack of information on parties/politics	32
I ran out time/too busy	0
Health reasons/illness	0
Politics makes no difference so no point	0
I didn't know I had to/thought I could do it on the day	0
Too difficult/complicated	0
Removed from the register due to new system (e.g. received a letter telling me I needed to re-register)	0
Not eligible because of age	0
Because you cannot register to vote online	0
Other	22
No answer	0
Don't know	27

**CAUTION LOW BASE SIZE*

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q3 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of those people who are registered to vote? Are you.....READ OUT

	2016 %	2012 %
Very satisfied	59	53
Fairly satisfied	29	32
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	11
Fairly dissatisfied	*	1
Very dissatisfied	*	1
Don't know	3	3

⇒ ASK IF VERY/FAIRLY DISSATISFIED

Q4 Why are you dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?

	2016 % (9)*
IER Issues	3
I preferred the old system/household form/don't like registering myself	3
I didn't like having to provide additional personal/extra information to confirm my registration	0
I didn't understand why I wasn't registered after I had filled in one form already (the Household Registration Form - HEF)	0
{Excl N Ire} I didn't like receiving so many forms	0
Difficult/confusing	36
It is not easy/they could make it easier	9
It is too confusing/I don't understand the system/ I was confused by the changes in how I have to register	23
EONI/Council should automatically update the register when I move or use other services	12
I'm not sure how to check if I am already registered	0
They do not promote/advertise where/when to register	12
I don't know how to register to vote	0
It is inconvenient	31
You should be able to register to vote online	0
It is cumbersome/takes too long	31
You should be able to register to vote over the telephone	0
Mistakes/problems	0
The post is unreliable	0
The EONI/Council makes mistakes with my personal details	0
I thought I was registered to vote but was not able to vote on the day	0
Not secure	0
The system of registering to vote is open to fraud and abuse	0
Other	54
There is no point voting / voting makes no difference	0
I do not know where I can get information about the process of registering to vote	0
Everyone should be automatically registered to vote from birth	14

There should be more limitations on who can vote	0
It should be compulsory to register to vote/everyone should have to register	0
It is harder for students to vote	9
People can be taken off the electoral roll without their knowledge	18
Young people should be able to vote	0
Other	30
Don't know	0

**CAUTION LOW BASE SIZE*

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q5 As you may know, on Thursday May 5th there was/were ...[INSERT APPROPRIATE ELECTION] Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote on 5 May. 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 in the.....**READ OUT AS APPROPRIATE**

	2016	2012
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS	%	%
Yes	62	48
No	38	52
Don't know	1	-

⇒ **ALL VOTERS**

Q14 People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums.

Why did you vote on Thursday 5 May?

DO NOT PROMPT

	2016 % (572)	2012 % (1034)
Civic responsibility reasons	71	66
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	49	48
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	6	2
I always vote	20	21
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	6	n/a
To show my support/support the community	3	-
[WALES/SCOTLAND/ NI ONLY] National identity/ they are our elections	0	n/a
To express a view	36	33
I wanted to have a say	21	24
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	7	8
Concerned about local issues	2	4
To support my party/candidates of preference/to help my party/candidate win	8	n/a
Because an important issue was at stake	*	1
To help create a change	5	16
To get a change	4	9
Not happy with the Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish government/local council/Police and Crime Commissioner	1	n/a
To help keep the status quo	*	6
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	*	2
Tactical reasons	1	3
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	1	3
Other reasons	6	3
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	1	1
Because I was sent a ballot paper in the post	*	*
To vote for position supported by my party	2	n/a
I take an interest in politics	1	n/a
Personal choice	*	n/a
Other	2	1
None of these / no reason	2	1
Don't know	*	1

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

Q15 Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper/s on May 5th by deliberately leaving the ballot paper/s blank or by not voting in the instructed way. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

	2016
	%
Local only areas in England	(182)
No	99
Yes	1
Don't know	0
PCC and local election areas in England	(390)
No	95
Yes - both ballot papers	1
Yes - local ballot paper only	0
Yes - PCC ballot paper only	3
Don't know	*

⇒ **ASK THOSE WHO VOTED IN ONE ELECTION BUT NOT ANOTHER IN AREAS WITH MULTIPLE ELECTIONS – AND ANYONE WHO HAS SPOILT ONE OF THEIR BALLOT PAPERS**

Q9 WALES: In Wales, the National Assembly for Wales and Police and Crime Commissioner elections (Wales) were held on 5th May. You say you voted in one but not the other. Can you tell me why you voted in the National Assembly for Wales but not in the PCC elections?

ENGLAND COMBINED AREAS: In your area, the local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner elections were held on 5th May. You say you voted in one but not the other. Can you tell me why you voted in the local election but not in the PCC elections? **DO NOT PROMPT**

	2016 % (32)
The electoral system was too confusing	6
Too complicated to completed multiple ballot papers	0
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	0
I couldn't be bothered	0
Waste of time/Could see no point	4
Had no interest/view on the subject	2
SPECIFIC: IF VOTED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES OR ENGLISH LOCALS BUT NOT PCC	-
Lack of info about the PCCs /didn't understand what we were voting for	37
Disagree with the PCCs	27
There was no point in voting because the Crime Commissioner can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	5
The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections aren't important	6
SPECIFIC: IF VOTED IN THE PCC BUT NOT IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES OR ENGLISH LOCALS	-
There was no point in voting because the National Assembly for Wales can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0
The National Assembly elections aren't important	0
The local council elections aren't important	0
Other	17
Don't know	22

⇒ **ASK ALL IF HH SIZE = 2+**

Q6 Do you know if anyone else living in your household voted at the elections on Thursday 5th of May?

	2016 % (786)
Yes - at least one person other than me voted	61
No - no one else voted in my household	32
Don't know	7

⇒ **ASK NON VOTERS**

Q10 People had different reasons for not voting in the elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on the 5th May? DO NOT PROMPT

	2016 % (301)	2012 % (1114)
Circumstances	55	53
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	27	24
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	4	5
I forgot	7	11
I was away on 5 May/voting day	10	7
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	3	5
Medical/health reasons	6	5
Bad weather	0	*
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	1	n/a
Bereavement	0	n/a
Administration	3	10
I wasn't registered	1	2
Not eligible to vote (age or nationality)	0	n/a
I didn't receive a polling card	1	6
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	1	1
I didn't know where my polling station was	0	1
Admin reason	0	*
{N Ire ONLY} Had no identification/Had no ID/Lost my ID	0	n/a
I did not know I could vote	1	n/a
I got to polling station but told I could not vote	0	n/a
Elections not important	3	9
There was no point in voting because the National Assembly for Wales can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the Scottish Parliament can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the Northern Ireland Assembly can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	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	5
There was no point in voting because the Crime Commissioner can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	*	n/a
There was no point in voting because the London Assembly can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the London Mayor can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
The elections (unspecified) aren't important	1	*
The local council elections aren't important	0	1
The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections aren't important	*	n/a
The National Assembly/Parliament elections aren't important	0	n/a
Disinterested/no point	17	14
I'm just not interested in politics	9	4
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	2	3
I couldn't be bothered	4	7
Waste of time/Could see no point	2	n/a
Had no interest/view on the subject	5	n/a
Parties/Candidates	5	7
There was no point in voting because all parties are the same	2	2
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	1	3
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	1	3
I don't like the way the parties interact with each other/lack of co-operation/progress	1	n/a
Do not believe in politics/the voting system/democracy	0	n/a
Politicians do not care/only in politics for their own benefit	1	n/a
No party will likely win	0	n/a
[Northern Ireland ONLY] Parties in Northern Ireland cannot make a difference/cannot work together	0	n/a
[Wales ONLY] Parties in Wales cannot make a difference	0	n/a
No information/indecision/complicated	12	7
I didn't get any information	10	4
I didn't know who the candidates in my area were/and where to find information	4	n/a
I didn't know enough about the different options	2	1
I couldn't decide which way to vote	1	1
I don't know anything about local politics	2	n/a
I didn't understand/too confusing	1	n/a
I don't know anything about politics	1	n/a

I couldn't understand the voting/electoral system/ the system voting system was too confusing	0	n/a
Reasons related to the referendum	5	n/a
I didn't know it was happening	4	n/a
I thought it wasn't happening because of the referendum	0	n/a
I have only received information about the referendum	0	n/a
Too close to the referendum (time, effort, organisation)	0	n/a
Struggled to access information because most of the coverage focused on the referendum	*	n/a
Other referendum related reason	0	n/a
Miscellaneous	5	6
I never vote	2	3
[England ONLY] I don't vote in local elections	2	n/a
Religious reasons	0	n/a
Other	1	2
None of these/no reason	2	1
Don't know	1	*
Refused	*	n/a

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

Q12 Did you vote on the 5th May.....READ OUT, SINGLECOD ONLY

	2016 % (572)	2012 % (1034)
In person at polling station	73	67
By post	26	34
By proxy	0	*
Other	*	*
Don't know/can't remember	1	-

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q16 Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at UK Parliamentary General Elections (for Westminster)? READ OUT

	2016 %
I always vote at General Elections	77
I sometimes vote at General Elections	14
I voted for the first time in 2015	4
I never vote in General Elections	4
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	1
Don't know/don't remember	0

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS WHO NEVER VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS OR HAVE NOT BEEN ELIGLE TO VOTE IN THE PAST**

Q13 Was this the first time you voted in any election or referendum?

	2016 % (3)*
Yes, it was my first time	29
Yes it was my first time as I wasn't eligible before	0
No, I voted before	71
Don't know / Cannot remember	0

*CAUTION LOW BASE SIZE

⇒ **ASK ALL**

- Q11 VOTERS – Q5/1: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 5th May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...**
NON VOTERS - Q5/2: Would you have been more likely to vote on 5th May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...

	2016 %
If you could have voted at the weekend instead	-
More likely	24
Less likely	4
No difference one way or the other	69
Don't know	0
Would have voted anyway	2
If you could have voted online instead	-
More likely	36
Less likely	14
No difference one way or the other	47
Don't know	1
Would have voted anyway	2
If you had been able to register to vote on election day	-
More likely	18
Less likely	3
No difference one way or the other	73
Don't know	2
Would have voted anyway	4
[EXCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND] If people had to show proof of identity at polling stations	(873)
More likely	10
Less likely	7
No difference one way or the other	79
Don't know	1
Would have voted anyway	3
If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before including the Saturday and Sunday before	-
More likely	29
Less likely	3
No difference one way or the other	66

Don't know	*
Would have voted anyway	2
If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	-
More likely	22
Less likely	8
No difference one way or the other	67
Don't know	1
Would have voted anyway	3

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q18 Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false? DO NOT READ OUT DK

	2016
	%
You have to take ID (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station	-
True	18
False	79
Don't know	3
[EXCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND] You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax	(873)
True	24
False	69
Don't know	7
You are automatically registered to vote if you are of legal voting age	-
True	35
False	62
Don't know	3
You can register to vote until the day before an election	-
True	31
False	54
Don't know	15
You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote	-
True	17
False	78
Don't know	5
One household member is able to register other members of the same household	-
True	52
False	40
Don't know	8
You can register to vote online	-
True	62
False	23
Don't know	15

If you were registered to vote for the May elections you are also registered to vote at the EU referendum	-
True	80
False	14
Don't know	6

⇒ ASK ALL

Q19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following...

	2016 %
You should be able to register to vote until the day before the election	-
Agree strongly	28
Tend to agree	35
Neither	10
Tend to disagree	15
Disagree strongly	12
Don't know	1
You should be able to register to vote in a polling station on the day of the election	-
Agree strongly	20
Tend to agree	21
Neither	11
Tend to disagree	24
Disagree strongly	24
Don't know	1
[NOT NORTHERN IRELAND] Local government should be able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on the electoral register	(873)
Agree strongly	18
Tend to agree	26
Neither	10
Tend to disagree	21
Disagree strongly	23
Don't know	1
It should be my responsibility, not the government's, to keep my electoral registration details up to date	-
Agree strongly	43
Tend to agree	34
Neither	8
Tend to disagree	8
Disagree strongly	5
Don't know	2

AWARENESS

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q20 How much, if anything, did you feel you knew about the elections on Thursday 5 May?
Would you say you knew... READ OUT FOR EACH ELECTION AS RELEVANT**

	2016 %	2012 %
A great deal	11	9
A fair amount	48	41
Not very much	31	31
Nothing at all	10	18
Don't know	*	*

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q21 Would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on

	Very easy %	Fairly easy %	Neither %	Fairly difficult %	Very difficult %	DK (DO NOT READ OUT)
All RESPONDENTS: How to cast your vote at the [INSERT *] (ask for each election separately in combined areas) Local Elections	34	46	9	6	3	2
ALL EXCEPT PCC ONLY RESPONDENTS: What the ELECTION was for (in combined areas in England ask about local elections, in Wales ask about NAW election) Local Elections	27	43	10	11	5	3
ALL RESPONDENTS IN PCC AREAS (ENGLAND AND WALES): What the PCC elections were for and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioners	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL RESPONDENTS: Information on the candidates standing in the [INSERT *] (ask for each election separately in combined areas)	21	40	12	16	7	3

Local Election Areas (all)						
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⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q22 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following...

		Agree strongly	Tend to agree	Neither	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	DK (DO NOT READ OUT)
ALL: There was a lot of media coverage on the ELECTION Local Elections	2016 %	13	27	16	26	15	3
ALL: I had enough information on how to cast my vote Local Elections	2016 %	35	40	7	10	6	1
	2012 %	30	33	11	9	17	1
ALL: I didn't know enough on what the ELECTION* was about Local Elections	2016 %	19	26	9	23	22	1
RESPONDENTS IN PCC AREAS (E&W): I had enough information to understand the role of the PCCs	2016 %	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL: I had enough information on candidates to be able to make an informed decision	2016 %	28	31	7	18	15	*
The ELECTION* was overshadowed by coverage of the EU referendum Local Elections	2016 %	26	32	13	19	8	3
It was clear to me that there are two sets of electoral events – these elections in May and the referendum that will take place in June	2016 %	56	25	8	6	4	1

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q24 Generally speaking, when it comes to receiving information about candidates and parties in elections, what form of communication would you yourself most prefer? DO NOT PROMPT, MULTICODE

	2016
	%
Email messages	17
Leaflets or booklets through the door	71
Online adverts	8
News sources	10
Social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.)	5
TV or radio advertising	4
TV broadcasts or news sources	10
Billboards	*
Personal contact with candidates	10
Dedicated websites	6
Just talking about it with friends and family	1
I would not like any	1
Phone calls	*
SMS/text messages	1
Debates	*
Personal research	*
Public meetings	*
Media	0
Other	1
Don't know	1

VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q25 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?

	2016	2012
	%	%
Very satisfied	36	38
Fairly satisfied	48	42
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	9
Fairly dissatisfied	5	6
Very dissatisfied	3	4
Don't know	1	1

⇒ **ASK FAIRLY/VERY DISSATISFIED**

Q26 Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections? DO NOT READ OUT

	2016	2012
	% (61)	% (213)
Voting system	13	n/a
The system is not fair	5	6

Disagree with/don't like the voting system	3	n/a
Lack of democracy within the system	0	n/a
Confusion with multiple voting systems	5	n/a
Voting procedure	31	n/a
Voting process should be available online	8	6
Voting system should be more secure	3	6
Many people didn't get to vote/register	3	2
Length of time it takes	3	n/a
Everyone should vote/compulsory voting	1	n/a
Voting should be spread over a few days	*	4
Voting should be in pen/a more permanent mark/ not pencil	0	n/a
Issues with postal voting	*	n/a
Outdated methods/paper based/ dropping ballots into the box	7	n/a
Not enough polling stations to choose from	0	4
Non-UK citizen are not able to vote	0	n/a
Process is poorly represented/misrepresented	3	n/a
Issues with secrecy/anonymity of voting	1	n/a
The system is open to abuse	1	n/a
Voters should be required to show identification	0	n/a
Dislike the counting process	2	n/a
Too many elections taking on the same day	0	n/a
Experience of voting	2	n/a
Didn't receive a polling card	0	n/a
Poor accessibility of polling stations	1	n/a
Because of the outcome / dismay with election results	2	n/a
Politicians / The political system	5	n/a
Don't trust politicians/politicians don't fulfil their promises	2	8
Need more options/opinions/choice	3	n/a
Dislike politicians behaviour	1	n/a
May end up voting for people/positions I don't support	0	n/a
Lack of information	45	n/a
Not enough information/media coverage	42	23
People don't/didn't understand what the elections were about/too complicated	15	2
Other	27	n/a
Should be simpler	1	n/a
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	3	n/a
Waste of money	0	n/a
The polls shouldn't have been held so close to the EU referendum	0	n/a
The polls should have been held on the same day as the EU referendum	1	n/a
Biased information/propaganda	2	n/a
Not a convenient time/not enough time	2	n/a
Prefer proportional representation/dislike first past the post system	6	n/a
Need personal contact with election candidates	2	n/a

	Other	12	29
	Don't know	1	2

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q27 How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) on May 5th was/were well run?

	2016	2012
	%	%
Very confident	31	31
Fairly confident	51	43
Not very confident	8	7
Not at all confident	4	7
Don't know	7	13

⇒ **ASK CONFIDENT**

**Q28 Why do you say you are confident that the [ELECTION(S)] was/were well run?
DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.**

	2016	2012
	% (719)	%
Clear/concise ballot/easy to vote	11	n/a
Quick easy voting	11	5
There was a lot of information about the elections	9	n/a
Tried and tested	2	12
No negative feedback	13	5
Voting system fair	5	14
Trust the staff	5	5
Accessible polling station	3	3
Good staff attitude	3	2
Personal involvement	3	2
Professional conducted	5	1
Received polling card ballot papers in good time	2	2
Everyone had the opportunity to vote	1	n/a
Well canvassed	1	1
Well organised	24	28
Well publicised	2	12
Results were in the media quickly	2	n/a
Feel it was the right result	1	n/a
High turnout	*	n/a
Others	21	23
None	4	3
Don't know	9	8

⇒ ASK NOT CONFIDENT

**Q29 Why do you say that you are not confident that the election was/were well run?
DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.**

	2016 % (100)
Lack of information	60
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it (general)	43
Lack of information/publicity/ don't know much/anything about it because of the focus on the referendum	18
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	8
Lack of information about the candidates	24
Polling station/ballot issues	7
Badly run/organised	6
Low turnout	1
Long wait for results	0
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers	0
Lack of time given to vote/decide	1
The counting process was not well verified	1
I didn't know how to vote/what to do in the polling station/how to fill in my ballot paper	0
Two/More elections on one day/too much to organise/handle	0
Politicians/political system	6
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	6
Campaign issues/candidate	7
Lack of canvassing/personal contact	4
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	1
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	2
Little choice in who to vote for	0
Coverage only focused on the referendum	*
General impression/word of mouth	4
From what I have read/heard	2
I did not witness what went on	2
I had a bad impression	1
Voting system and procedure	2
People did not know the voting procedure (how to fill in the ballot paper/what to do in the polling station)	1
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	0
Outdated/unfair voting system	2
Combination of elections	0
Fraud security	6
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	6
Other	18

Because of the outcome/dismay with the results	0
Disinterested/don't care about politics	4
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	1
Issues registering to vote	1
Didn't vote for personal reasons	0
Dislike the National Assembly for Wales	0
Dislike the Scottish Parliament	0
Dislike the Northern Ireland Assembly	0
Dislike Police and Crime Commissioners	0
Dislike local government	0
Other	14
None	1
Don't know	2

POLLING STATIONS

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q30 From what you have seen or heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station / (SCOTLAND: polling place) for the Thursday 5th May election was...**READ OUT**

	2016	2012
	%	%
Very convenient	44	43
Fairly convenient	30	25
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	11	12
Fairly inconvenient	8	6
Very inconvenient	3	4
Don't know	4	11

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

Q31 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station/place? Would you say.....**READ OUT**

	2016	2012
	% (425)	% (688)
Very satisfied	73	76
Fairly satisfied	23	22
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3	1
Fairly dissatisfied	1	*
Very dissatisfied	*	1
Don't know	0	1

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

Q32 Once you arrived at your polling station/place, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote?

	2016 % (425)	2012 % (688)
Very easy	95	92
Fairly easy	5	8
Neither easy nor difficult	0	*
Fairly difficult	*	-
Very difficult	*	-
Don't know	*	-

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

Q33 Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station/place, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station/place staff on how to vote? Was it...**READ OUT**

	2016 % (425)	2012 % (688)
Very useful	57	47
Fairly useful	14	15
Not very useful	3	1
Not at all useful	1	*
Didn't use them/need them	26	35
Don't know	*	1

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

Q34 And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station/place, 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....**READ OUT**

	2016 % (425)	2012 % (688)
Very useful	50	44
Fairly useful	27	19
Not very useful	1	3
Not at all useful	1	1
Didn't use them/need them	21	33
Don't know	*	1

VOTING BY POST

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q36 From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 5th election(s) was...**READ OUT**

	2016	2012
	%	%
Very convenient	34	38
Fairly convenient	25	21
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	22	16
Fairly inconvenient	3	4
Very inconvenient	2	4
Don't know	15	18

⇒ **ASK POSTAL VOTERS**

Q37 How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote(s)? Would you say....**READ OUT**

	2016	2012
	% (143)	% (347)
Very easy	71	79
Fairly easy	25	18
Neither easy nor difficult	2	1
Fairly difficult	2	2
Very difficult	0	*
Don't know	0	-

⇒ **ASK POSTAL VOTERS**

Q38 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? Were they.....**READ OUT**

	2016	2012
	% (143)	% (347)
Very useful	76	76
Fairly useful	20	20
Not very useful	1	1
Not at all useful	2	2
Didn't use them/need them	1	-
Don't know	0	1

⇒ **ASK ALL POSTAL VOTERS**

**Q39 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post?
Would you say.....READ OUT**

	2016 % (143)	2012 % (347)
Very satisfied	77	83
Fairly satisfied	22	12
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	1	2
Fairly dissatisfied	*	1
Very dissatisfied	*	2
Don't know	0	*

COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPERS

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

Q40 Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper(s) when voting in the 5th May ELECTIONS*. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper(s) for this election? Was it... READ OUT.

		Very easy	Fairly easy	Neither	Fairly difficult	Very difficult	DK
ENGLISH LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS	2016 %	81	18	*	1	0	*
	2012 %	86	11	2	*	*	*

⇒ ASK ALL WHO SAID FAIRLY/VERY DIFFICULT

Q41 Why do you say it was difficult? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

	2016 % (20)*
Text too small	0
Too many candidates	13
Instructions were unclear	22
Complex/confusing	16
Lack of information	30
Difficulties using forms	5
The candidates were in a confusing order	12
The parties were in a confusing order	5
The size of the ballot paper	3
I could not easily find the party name of my choice	0
I could not easily find the party candidate of my choice	0
Lack of understanding/clarity	29
The layout was confusing	5
I don't understand how the electoral system works	4
Other	16
Don't know	0

*CAUTION LOW BASE SIZE

PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

⇒ ASK ALL

Q45 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? **READ OUT**

	2016 %	2012 %
The spending and funding of political parties, candidates and other campaigning organisations at elections is open and transparent	-	-
Agree strongly	12	20
Tend to agree	18	27
Neither	22	20
Tend to disagree	24	14
Disagree strongly	19	13
Don't know	4	6
If a political party or another campaigner is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions	-	-
Agree strongly	29	-
Tend to agree	31	-
Neither	14	-
Tend to disagree	13	-
Disagree strongly	10	-
Don't know	3	-
I can easily find out how much political parties, candidates and other organisations spent on campaigning and how they were funded	-	-
Agree strongly	9	-
Tend to agree	18	-
Neither	17	-
Tend to disagree	22	-
Disagree strongly	26	-
Don't know	8	-

ELECTORAL FRAUD

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q46 What do you understand by the term “electoral fraud”? NO NOT PROMPT.
MULTICODE**

	2016	2012
	%	%
Someone using someone else's vote	32	34
Voting multiple times	10	n/a
Cheating/corruption/vote rigging	25	17
Ballot stuffing	5	13
Deliberately miscounting votes	6	5
When people not eligible but still do vote	7	8
Spoiling/tampering of ballot papers	4	4
Misuse of postal voting	5	3
People being intimidated	2	3
Casting a vote where not registered	6	3
Missing/disposing of votes	1	1
Others	20	5
None	3	4
Don't know	15	25

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q47 How much electoral fraud, if any, do you think took place at the May 5 elections?
Would you say it happened...READ OUT**

	2016
	%
A lot	5
A little	29
Hardly anything at all	25
Nothing at all	13
Don't know	28

⇒ **ASK IF 'A LOT/A LITTLE'**

**Q48 Which, if any of the following do you think are forms of electoral fraud? READ OUT.
MULTICODE**

	2016 % (290)
General impression that fraud is a problem	46
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	31
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote	51
Identity fraud is on the increase	51
Postal voting is not secure	43
People are registering other voters at the same address	53
People are registering multiple times	36
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	9
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	2
Other	6
Don't know	3

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q49 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that:
READ OUT**

	2016 %	2012 %
Voting in general is.....	-	-
Very safe	21	24
Fairly safe	58	55
Neither safe nor unsafe	12	13
Fairly unsafe	5	4
Very unsafe	2	2
Don't know	2	3
Voting at a polling station [ENG, WALES, NI]/polling place [SCOTLAND] is...	-	-
Very safe	38	39
Fairly safe	50	49
Neither safe nor unsafe	5	6
Fairly unsafe	4	2
Very unsafe	1	1
Don't know	1	4
Voting by post is...	-	-
Very safe	16	17
Fairly safe	43	38
Neither safe nor unsafe	13	10
Fairly unsafe	16	19
Very unsafe	7	8
Don't know	5	7

REFERENDUM

⇒ ASK ALL ELIGIBLE

Q50 As you may know, on the 23rd of June there will be a referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union, how likely are you to vote at the referendum? READ OUT

	2016 % (862)
Very likely	86
Fairly likely	7
Neither likely or unlikely	1
Fairly unlikely	1
Very unlikely	3
Don't know	2