

Electoral Commission post election research 2010 United Kingdom Topline

- This data is based on 3,586 adults aged 18+ across the United Kingdom. We interviewed 1,023 adults in England, 1,017 in Scotland, 1,032 in Wales and 514 in Northern Ireland. We aimed for a 50/50 split of voters and non-voters in each of these.
 - Interviewing took place between 7 and 23 May 2010. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population of each country as well as the likely claimed turnout in the General Election, based on our other post-election research. 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.
-

Summary of key results

- Views on how the elections were run on May 6th are broadly positive. Around two-thirds are very or fairly confident the elections were well run, with around a quarter *very* confident. However, three in ten are not very or at all confident, which is an increase on the 2009 elections, wherein only four per cent were not very or at all confident.
- Views on the system of registering and voting are very positive. Three-quarters are satisfied with the procedure for voting, and close to nine in ten are satisfied with the system of registering. Almost all are very or fairly confident they know how to fill in the ballot paper, with two thirds being *very* confident.
- Knowledge of the registration system is mixed. More than two in five falsely think registration is automatic if you are 18 or over, and one in four falsely believe that you can register until the day of the election. More than four in five incorrectly believe that you cannot get a fine if you don't register.
- Circumstances on the day – being away or too busy – are the most common reason for not voting, though a wide range of reasons are given, including dissatisfaction with parties/candidates and a lack of information. Being ineligible or not being bothered are the most common reasons for not being registered.
- Those who voted at a polling station are overwhelmingly likely to be positive about their experience. Almost all are satisfied and staff and written instructions are highly rated. Polling stations are generally seen as easy to get to and to access and almost all are confident in the integrity of voting at a polling station. Ease, convenience and habit are the most common reasons for voting at a polling station.
- Postal voters are similarly positive about their experience: most are satisfied, felt it was easy to do and that written guidance was useful. However, confidence in the secrecy of postal voting is less common than is the case for voting at a polling station. As with polling station voting, convenience is – by far – the most common reason for choosing to vote by post.
- Around three in four think voting is safe from fraud, though only around one in five thinks it is *very* safe. Many more think polling station voting is safe than think the same about postal voting, and one in four believe postal voting to be unsafe.

- To most, suggested reforms to voting would not make a difference to their likelihood of voting. Though in all cases aside from showing ID at the polling station, the reforms would have an overall positive impact (i.e. more say they would be more likely to vote than less likely). Those who did not vote in the recent General Election are particularly likely to say the reforms would have a positive impact on them.

REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

- Q1. Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in the General Election on Thursday 6th May. How about you – did you manage to vote in the General Election?**

	%
Yes	82
No	18
Don't know	-

- Q2. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?**

	%
I always vote at General Elections	70
I sometimes vote at General Elections	17
I never vote at General Elections	6
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	7
Don't know	*

- Q3. 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?**

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

Q4. **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...**

	%
Very satisfied	57
Fairly satisfied	29
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10
Fairly dissatisfied	1
Very dissatisfied	1
Don't know	2

Q5. **People have many reasons for registering to vote. Why did you decide to register to vote?**

Base: All who are registered to vote (3,292)
%

Most common answers

To have my say/opinion/have my voice/vote heard/count - not specified further	15
Everyone should vote/its important to vote/I should vote	13
It's my/your right/my/your right to vote/my democratic right/a privilege	12
I've always voted/been registered	10
Wanted to vote - not specified further	9
It's my/your responsibility/duty/civic/democratic duty to vote	8
Can't complain about the government if we don't vote/you don't have an opinion if you don't vote	6
To get the government I want/support my party/vote for the right person	5
Because I can/am eligible/entitled	3
People/soldiers/women/suffragettes fought/died to allow us to vote	3
It's compulsory/thought I had to/it's the law/may get fined if I don't	3
Automatically registered/believe it is automatic	2
Believe in voting/democracy/the democratic process	2
Because it came in the post and I filled in the forms/was sent the forms	2
It's a family tradition/parents raised me to believe the importance of voting/they told me to vote/husband told me to vote	2
To get rid of the Labour party/Gordon Brown/change the government/affect change	2
Refusal	*
No answer	1
Other	5
Don't know	4

Q6. People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote?

Base: All who are not registered to vote (200)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>	
Not eligible because of nationality	17
Not bothered	15
Don't know how to register	11
Not eligible (for reason other than nationality)	11
Haven't got round to it	7
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	6
Just moved	6
Admin/clerical error	4
I didn't receive any forms/polling card	4
I ran out of time/too busy	3
Just about to move	3
No answer	*
Other	5

Q7. There were also local council elections on Thursday 6th May, and many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in them. How about you – did you manage to vote in the local council elections?

Base: All in a local election area in England (541)

	%
Yes	77
No	23
Don't know	-

Q8. Was this your first time voting in an election or have you voted before? By 'election' I mean a General Election, local council election or election for the European Parliament, or (UK ONLY) Scottish Parliament election/Welsh Assembly election/Northern Ireland Assembly election.

Base: All voters (1,790)
%

First time voting	8
Have voted before	92
Don't know	-

Q9. **People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 6th May?**

Base: All non-voters (1,796)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>	
<i>Circumstances</i>	31
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	12
I was away on 6 th May / election day	7
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	4
Medical/health reasons	4
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4
I forgot	2
<i>Administration</i>	13
I wasn't registered	6
I didn't receive a poll card	4
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	3
Admin reason	1
I didn't have the correct form of ID/photo ID (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)	*
<i>Elections not important</i>	8
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	6
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	2
The General Election / elections (unspecified) weren't important	1
Local council elections aren't important	*
<i>Disinterest/no point</i>	13
I'm just not interested in politics	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	5
I couldn't be bothered	3
<i>Parties/candidates</i>	18
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	9
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	5
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	3
Recent scandal	2
<i>No information/indecision/complicated</i>	6
I didn't know enough about the parties	3
I couldn't decide who to vote for	2
I didn't get any information	1
<i>Other</i>	
Not a UK citizen	2
Religious reasons	1
Not eligible - unspecified why	1
Don't know how to vote	1
I don't vote - unspecified	1
Election has been delayed – candidate died in constituency	1
Didn't know where the polling station was	*
Angry/frustrated	*
Bereavement/friend/family member died	*

Q9 Cont/

<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		(1,796)
		%
I'm looking after a family member/friend		*
Lost my polling card/voting slip		*
My constituency didn't have the party I wanted contesting the elections		*
Queues too long at the polling stations/got turned away		*
I didn't have the correct form of ID/photo ID		*
Refusal / no answer		17
Other		2
None of these/no reason		1
Don't know		1

Q10. **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 6th May if there had not also been a General Election?**

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

Q11. **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 6th May if there had not also been local council elections in your area?**

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

Q12. **Did you vote at the elections....**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(1,790)
		%
In person at a polling station		79
By post		20
By proxy [IF NECESSARY PROXY VOTING IS 'GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO VOTE ON YOUR BEHALF']		1
Other		-
Don't know/can't remember		-

Q13. 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 NORTHERN IRELAND: Photo ID) with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE IN GB, TRUE IN NI)	25	71	4
B You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	31	61	8
C You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	43	55	3
D You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	25	60	16
E You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	12	83	5

Q14. You've already told me that you voted but...[INSERT A-D]...
[INSERT A-D] would you have been more likely to vote on Thursday 6th May, less likely to vote, or would it have made no difference one way or the other?

		More likely	Less likely	No difference	Don't know	Voted anyway
		%	%	%	%	%
A If on election day you could register to vote at the polling station itself	(3,586)	14	6	79	*	*
B If you could have voted at the weekend*	(3,586)	14	3	82	*	*
C NOT NORTHERN IRELAND: If you had to show photo ID at the polling station	Base: All in GB (3,072)	4	11	85	*	*
D If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	(3,586)	20	6	74	*	1

Q15. 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? Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	Base: All voters (1,790)
	%
Yes – General Election ballot paper	*
Yes – local council ballot paper	1
Yes - both	*
No	98
Don't know/can't remember	1

VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES
--

- Q16. Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	%
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	33
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	31
Voting being easy or convenient for me	19
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	14
Honest politicians/good government	*
To able to vote online	*
Nothing/don't vote	*
Other	*
Don't know	2

- Q17. Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for voting in elections in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Are you...

	%
Very satisfied	32
Fairly satisfied	43
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11
Fairly dissatisfied	9
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	1

- Q18. In general, how confident, if at all, do you feel about filling in the ballot paper when elections are held? Are you...

	%
Very confident	67
Fairly confident	27
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	1
Don't know	1

- Q19. I am now going to ask you a few questions about the recent General Election (LOCAL ELECTION AREA ONLY: and local council elections) held on Thursday 6th May.

How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) was/were well run on Thursday 6th May? Are you...

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(1,790)
		%
Very confident		25
Fairly confident		45
Not very confident		21
Not at all confident		9
Don't know		1

- Q20. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station [ENGLAND, WALES, NI] / polling place [SCOTLAND] for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	38
Fairly convenient	36
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	12
Fairly inconvenient	8
Very inconvenient	4
Don't know	2

- Q21. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station [ENGLAND, WALES, NI] / polling place [SCOTLAND]? Would you say you are...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(1,486)
		%
Very satisfied		60
Fairly satisfied		33
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		4
Fairly dissatisfied		2
Very dissatisfied		1
Don't know		-

- Q22. **Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station [ENGLAND, WALES, NI] / polling place [SCOTLAND], how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station [ENGLAND, WALES, NI] / polling place [SCOTLAND] staff on how to vote? Was it...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(1,486)
		%
Very useful		41
Fairly useful		34
Not very useful		7
Not at all useful		5
Didn't use them/need them		12
Don't know		*

- Q23. **And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station [ENGLAND, WALES, NI] / polling place [SCOTLAND], 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? Were they...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(1,486)
		%
Very useful		38
Fairly useful		35
Not very useful		8
Not at all useful		8
Didn't use them/need them		9
Don't know		2

Q24. **Thinking back to the atmosphere in the polling station, please say whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? Do you strongly or tend to agree/disagree?**

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%	%
<i>Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland</i>							
A	It was chaotic (249)	1	*	1	6	91	1
B	It was well ordered (249)	84	14	1	1	*	0
C	It was intimidating (249)	1	1	3	9	87	0
D	It was safe (249)	90	9	*	1	0	0
E	It took too long to vote (249)	*	1	1	10	87	0
F	It was relaxed (249)	82	14	2	*	1	0

Q25. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote in person at a polling station. Why did you decide to vote in person at a polling station?**

<i>Base: All polling station voters (1,486)</i>		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
Easier/convenience		30
I always vote in person		21
Its close/close to my home/work/just a short walk away		13
Don't trust the postal system/a postal vote would get lost/intercepted		8
I enjoy the experience of voting in person		7
I couldn't be sure my vote would arrive/get counted if it sent by post		7
I didn't know I could vote any other way		4
Voting in person prevents fraud or abuse		4
Voting in person makes me feel part of the community		2
Its easier/more convenient than doing a postal vote		2
Voting in person is how it should be done/right/important way to vote		2
Other		3
Don't know		4

Q26. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting in person ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	52
Fairly confident	39
Not very confident	5
Not at all confident	3
Don't know	1

Q27. **How easy or difficult was it/(NON VOTERS: would it have been) for you to get to your local polling station? Was it...**

	%
Very easy	74
Fairly easy	15
Neither easy nor difficult	4
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	2
Don't know	2

Q28. **Once you arrived at your polling station, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote? Was it ...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(1,486)
		%
Very easy		85
Fairly easy		11
Neither easy nor difficult		1
Fairly difficult		2
Very difficult		*
Don't know		-

Q29. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	36
Fairly convenient	26
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	20
Fairly inconvenient	4
Very inconvenient	4
Don't know	11

Q30. **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 it was...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(293)
		%
Very easy		67
Fairly easy		30
Neither easy nor difficult		1
Fairly difficult		2
Very difficult		*
Don't know		*

Q31. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say you are...

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(293)
		%
Very satisfied		77
Fairly satisfied		22
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		-
Fairly dissatisfied		*
Very dissatisfied		*
Don't know		-

Q32. 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...

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(293)
		%
Very useful		62
Fairly useful		36
Not very useful		1
Not at all useful		-
Didn't use them/need them		2
Don't know		-

Q33. People have many reasons for choosing to vote by post. Why did you decide to vote by post?

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(293)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
It is more convenient to vote by post than in person		58
I have difficulty getting to the polling station for health reasons		12
I am often on holiday on polling day		10
I have trouble getting transport to the polling station		9
I am often away on business on polling day		7
I have difficulty finding the time to vote on polling day		7
I have registered to vote by post previously and never changed back to voting in person		6
I have voted by post in the past and liked doing so		2
Voting by post guarantees my vote		2
Work as a polling clerk		1
A party or candidate encouraged me to vote by post		*
Bad weather		*
Family commitments		*
Had no choice		*
Polling station's too far away		*
Was away/might have been away - unspecified		*
Other		1
Don't know		1

Q34. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting by post ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	21
Fairly confident	44
Not very confident	18
Not at all confident	11
Don't know	6

Q35. **How confident, if at all, are you that your vote was included in the count? Are you...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(293)
		%
Very confident		45
Fairly confident		47
Not very confident		4
Not at all confident		2
Don't know		2

Q36. **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?**

<i>Base: All in Northern Ireland</i>		(514)
		%
UK or Irish Passport		99
UK or Irish photographic driving license		94
Electoral identity card		75
Translink Senior or 60+ SmartPass		74
Student ID card		32
Birth certificate		15
National insurance card		11
Medical card		7
None of these		-
Don't know		*

COMBINED ELECTION ISSUES

Q37. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the General Election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(1,778)
		%
Very easy		83
Fairly easy		13
Neither easy nor difficult		2
Fairly difficult		1
Very difficult		*
Don't know		*

- Q38. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the local council election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All local election voters</i>		(258)
		%
Very easy	74	
Fairly easy	18	
Neither easy nor difficult	3	
Fairly difficult	3	
Very difficult	1	
Don't know	-	

- Q39. **You said you voted in both the local and the General Election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the different ballot papers on the same day for the two different elections? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted in both the General Election and the local election</i>		(246)
		%
Very easy	74	
Fairly easy	20	
Neither easy nor difficult	6	
Fairly difficult	1	
Very difficult	-	
Don't know	-	

*2009 wording 'voted in both the local and the European elections'

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

- Q40. **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...**

		%
A lot	11	
A little	39	
Hardly anything at all	30	
Nothing at all	20	
Don't know	*	

- Q41. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...**

		%
Very safe	20	
Fairly safe	58	
Neither safe nor unsafe	11	
Fairly unsafe	7	
Very unsafe	2	
Don't know	3	

Q42. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

	%
Very safe	41
Fairly safe	47
Neither safe nor unsafe	6
Fairly unsafe	5
Very unsafe	1
Don't know	1

*2005 wording 'voting in person'. Note that comparisons with 2005 are indicative only, due to methodological differences between the two surveys

Q43. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...**

	%
Very safe	11
Fairly safe	46
Neither safe nor unsafe	14
Fairly unsafe	18
Very unsafe	9
Don't know	4

Q44. **How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...**

	%
Very concerned	11
Fairly concerned	22
Not very concerned	38
Not at all concerned	26
Don't know	3

Q45. Why do you say that you are concerned that that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May?

Base: All who are very/fairly concerned that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election (1,121)

	%
Most common answers	
Fraud/abuse generally a bad thing: Unspecified	17
People were not able to vote	16
Postal voting too easy to rig/open to fraud	9
Fraud/abuse is always possible/its possible its happened	5
People registering multiple times/voters from the same address	4
Don't have to provide identification to vote	3
Fraud is common in areas with immigrants/I don't trust immigrants	3
Result close - incentive to commit fraud/fraud could have altered the result	3
Election was fixed/rigged/just believe it goes on - no specified reason	2
Not enough ballot papers	2
Too many recounted votes/counting done inappropriately	2
Refusal	*
Other	7
Don't know	4

Q46. How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place in the local council elections on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...

Base: All in a local election area in England (541)

	%
Very concerned	7
Fairly concerned	20
Not very concerned	40
Not at all concerned	30
Don't know	3

*2009 wording 'How concerned, if at all, were you about electoral fraud or abuse in the local elections...'

PARTY FINANCE

Q47. 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 in Northern Ireland (514)

	%
Made available to the public	62
Kept confidential	10
Don't mind either way	27
Don't know	1

Electoral Commission post election research 2010 England Topline

- This data is based on 1,023 adults aged 18+ across England. We aimed for a 50/50 split of voters and non-voters.
- Interviewing took place between 7 and 23 May 2010. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population as well as the likely claimed turnout in the General Election, based on our other post-election research.
- 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. **Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in the General Election on Thursday 6th May. How about you – did you manage to vote in the General Election?**

	%
Yes	82
No	18
Don't know	-

- Q2. **Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?**

	%
I always vote at General Elections	69
I sometimes vote at General Elections	17
I never vote at General Elections	6
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	7
Don't know	*

- Q3. **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?**

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

- Q4. **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...**

	%
Very satisfied	56
Fairly satisfied	29
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10
Fairly dissatisfied	1
Very dissatisfied	1
Don't know	2

- Q5. **People have many reasons for registering to vote. Why did you decide to register to vote?**

Base: All who are registered to vote (938)
%

Most common answers

To have my say/opinion/have my voice/vote heard/count – not specified further	15
Everyone should vote/it's important to vote/I should vote	13
It's my/your right/my/your right to vote/my democratic right/a privilege	12
I've always voted/been registered	10
It's my/your responsibility/duty/civic/democratic duty to vote	9
Wanted to vote – not specified further	9
Can't complain about the government if we don't vote/you don't have an opinion if you don't vote	7
To get the government I want/support my party/vote for the right person	5
It's compulsory/thought I had to/I law/may get fined if I don't	3
Because I can/am eligible/entitled	3
Automatically registered/believe it is automatic	2
Believe in voting/democracy/the democratic process	2
People/soldiers/women/suffragettes fought/died to allow us to vote	2
To get rid of the Labour party/Gordon Brown/change the government/affect change	2
Because it came in the post and I filled in the forms/was sent the forms	2
Other	4
Don't know	4

Q6. People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote?

Base: All who are not registered to vote (58)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>	
Not eligible because of nationality	20
Not bothered	16
Not eligible (for reason other than nationality)	13
Don't know how to register	10
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	7
Haven't got round to it	5
Just moved	5
Admin/clerical error	4
I didn't receive any forms/polling card	4
Just about to move	3
Dislike politics/politicians/voting	2
Other	4

Q7. There were also local council elections on Thursday 6th May, and many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in them. How about you – did you manage to vote in the local council elections?

Base: All in a local election area in England (541)

	%
Yes	77
No	23
Don't know	-

Q8. Was this your first time voting in an election or have you voted before? By 'election' I mean a General Election, local council election or election for the European Parliament.

Base: All voters (512)

	%
First time voting	8
Have voted before	92
Don't know	-

Q9. **People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 6th May?**

Base: All non-voters (511)
%

Most common answers Circumstances	
	30
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	12
I was away on 6 th May / election day	7
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	4
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4
Medical/health reasons	4
I forgot	2
<i>Administration</i>	12
I wasn't registered	5
I didn't receive a poll card	4
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	3
Admin reason	*
<i>Elections not important</i>	8
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	6
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	2
The General Election / elections (unspecified) weren't important	1
Local council elections aren't important	*
<i>Disinterest/no point</i>	13
I'm just not interested in politics	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	5
I couldn't be bothered	3
<i>Parties/candidates</i>	17
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	8
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	5
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	3
Recent scandal	2
<i>No information/indecision/complicated</i>	6
I didn't know enough about the parties	3
I couldn't decide who to vote for	2
I didn't get any information	1
<i>Other</i>	
Not a UK citizen	2
No answer/Refused	18
Other	2
None of these/no reason	1
Don't know	1

- Q10. **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 6th May if there had not also been a General Election?**

Base: All who voted in both the (124)
General Election and the local
election (Half of sample – other
half asked Q11)

	%
Yes – would have voted	83
No – would not have voted	16
Don't know	1

- Q11. **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 6th May if there had not also been local council elections in your area?**

Base: All who voted in both the (122)
General Election and the local
election (Half of sample – other
half asked Q10)

	%
Yes – would have voted	98
No – would not have voted	2

- Q12. **Did you vote at the elections....**

Base: All voters (512)

	%
In person at a polling station	79
By post	21
By proxy [IF NECESSARY PROXY VOTING IS 'GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO VOTE ON YOUR BEHALF']	*
Other	-

- Q13. **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 with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE)	23	73	4
B You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	31	61	8
C You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	42	55	3
D You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	25	60	15
E You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	12	83	5

Q14. IF APPROPRIATE [You've already told me that you voted but...] [INSERT A-D] would you have been more likely to vote on Thursday 6th May, less likely to vote, or would it have made no difference one way or the other?

	More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
A If on election day you could register to vote at the polling station itself	14	6	79	*	*
B If you could have voted at the weekend	15	3	82	*	-
C If you had to show photo ID at the polling station	4	11	85	*	-
D If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	20	6	73	*	1

Q15. 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? Did you intentionally spoil your General Election ballot paper, local council election ballot paper, or both?

	Base: All voters (512) %
Yes – General Election ballot paper	*
Yes – local council ballot paper	1
Yes - both	*
No	98
Don't know/can't remember	1

VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES
--

- Q16. Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	%
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	33
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	30
Voting being easy or convenient for me	20
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	14
Honest politicians/good government	*
To able to vote online	*
Nothing/don't vote	*
Don't know	2

- Q17. Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for voting in elections in Great Britain? Are you...

	%
Very satisfied	31
Fairly satisfied	44
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11
Fairly dissatisfied	10
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	1

- Q18. In general, how confident, if at all, do you feel about filling in the ballot paper when elections are held? Are you...

	%
Very confident	67
Fairly confident	27
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	1
Don't know	1

- Q19. I am now going to ask you a few questions about the recent General Election (LOCAL ELECTION AREA ONLY: and local council elections) held on Thursday 6th May.

How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) was/were well run on Thursday 6th May? Are you...

	Base: All voters	(512)
		%
Very confident		24
Fairly confident		45
Not very confident		21
Not at all confident		9
Don't know		1

Q20. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	36
Fairly convenient	37
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	13
Fairly inconvenient	8
Very inconvenient	4
Don't know	1

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

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(411)
		%
Very satisfied		57
Fairly satisfied		35
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		5
Fairly dissatisfied		3
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>		(411)
		%
Very useful		39
Fairly useful		35
Not very useful		8
Not at all useful		6
Didn't use them/need them		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? Were they...**

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

Q24. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote in person at a polling station. Why did you decide to vote in person at a polling station?**

Base: All polling station voters (411)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>		
Easier/convenience		30
I always vote in person		20
It's close/close to my home/work/just a short walk away		13
Don't trust the postal system/a postal vote would get lost/intercepted		8
I enjoy the experience of voting in person		7
I couldn't be sure my vote would arrive/get counted if it sent by post		7
I didn't know I could vote any other way		4
Voting in person prevents fraud or abuse		3
Other		2
Don't know		4

Q25. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting in person ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	52
Fairly confident	39
Not very confident	5
Not at all confident	3
Don't know	1

Q26. **How easy or difficult was it/(NON VOTERS: would it have been) for you to get to your local polling station? Was it...**

	%
Very easy	74
Fairly easy	15
Neither easy nor difficult	5
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	2
Don't know	1

Q27. **Once you arrived at your polling station, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote? Was it ...**

Base: All polling station voters (411)

	%
Very easy	84
Fairly easy	12
Neither easy nor difficult	1
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	*
Don't know	-

Q28. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	36
Fairly convenient	26
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	20
Fairly inconvenient	4
Very inconvenient	4
Don't know	10

Q29. **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 it was...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(98)
		%
Very easy		66
Fairly easy		31
Neither easy nor difficult		1
Fairly difficult		2
Very difficult		-
Don't know		-

Q30. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say you are...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(98)
		%
Very satisfied		77
Fairly satisfied		23
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		-
Fairly dissatisfied		*
Very dissatisfied		-
Don't know		-

Q31. **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...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(98)
		%
Very useful		61
Fairly useful		37
Not very useful		*
Not at all useful		-
Didn't use them/need them		1
Don't know		-

Q32. People have many reasons for choosing to vote by post. Why did you decide to vote by post?

Base: All postal voters (98)
%

Most common answers

It is more convenient to vote by post than in person	60
I have difficulty getting to the polling station for health reasons	11
I have trouble getting transport to the polling station	10
I am often on holiday on polling day	10
I am often away on business on polling day	7
I have difficulty finding the time to vote on polling day	6
I have registered to vote by post previously and never changed back to voting in person	6
Voting by post guarantees my vote	2
Work as a polling clerk	1
I have voted by post in the past and liked doing so	1
Other	2
Don't know	2

Q33. How confident, if at all, are you that voting by post ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...

	%
Very confident	21
Fairly confident	45
Not very confident	18
Not at all confident	11
Don't know	5

Q34. How confident, if at all, are you that your vote was included in the count? Are you...

Base: All postal voters (98)
%

Very confident	43
Fairly confident	48
Not very confident	5
Not at all confident	2
Don't know	2

COMBINED ELECTION ISSUES

- Q35. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the General Election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All voters</i>	(500)
	%
Very easy	83
Fairly easy	13
Neither easy nor difficult	2
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	*
Don't know	-

- Q36. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the local council election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All local election voters</i>	(258)
	%
Very easy	74
Fairly easy	18
Neither easy nor difficult	3
Fairly difficult	3
Very difficult	1
Don't know	-

- Q37. **You said you voted in both the local and the General Election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the different ballot papers on the same day for the two different elections? Was it...**

<i>Base: All who voted in both the General Election and the local election</i>	(246)
	%
Very easy	74
Fairly easy	20
Neither easy nor difficult	6
Fairly difficult	1
Very difficult	-
Don't know	-

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

- Q38. **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...**

	%
A lot	11
A little	40
Hardly anything at all	29
Nothing at all	19
Don't know	*

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

	%
Very safe	18
Fairly safe	58
Neither safe nor unsafe	10
Fairly unsafe	8
Very unsafe	3
Don't know	2

Q40. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

	%
Very safe	40
Fairly safe	48
Neither safe nor unsafe	6
Fairly unsafe	5
Very unsafe	1
Don't know	1

Q41. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...**

	%
Very safe	10
Fairly safe	46
Neither safe nor unsafe	13
Fairly unsafe	18
Very unsafe	9
Don't know	4

Q42. **How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...**

	%
Very concerned	11
Fairly concerned	23
Not very concerned	39
Not at all concerned	26
Don't know	2

Q43. Why do you say that you are concerned that that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May?

Base: All who are very/fairly concerned that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election (318)

	%
<u>Most common answers</u>	
Fraud/abuse generally a bad thing: Unspecified	17
People were not able to vote	16
Postal voting too easy to rig/open to fraud	10
Fraud/abuse is always possible/it's possible it's happened	5
People registering multiple times/voters from the same address	4
Result close - incentive to commit fraud/fraud could have altered the result	3
Don't have to provide identification to vote	3
Fraud is common in areas with immigrants/I don't trust immigrants	3
Not enough ballot papers	2
Election was fixed/rigged/just believe it goes on - no specified reason	2
People giving fake addresses	2
No answer/Refused	2
Other	6
Don't know	4

Q44. How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place in the local council elections on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...

Base: All in a local election area in England (541)

	%
Very concerned	7
Fairly concerned	20
Not very concerned	40
Not at all concerned	30
Don't know	3

Electoral Commission Post Election Research 2010 Scotland Topline

- This data is based on 1,017 adults aged 18+ across Scotland. We aimed for a 50/50 split of voters and non-voters.
- Interviewing took place between 7 and 23 May 2010. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population as well as the likely claimed turnout in the General Election, based on our other post-election research.
- 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. Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in the General Election on Thursday 6th May. How about you – did you manage to vote in the General Election?

	%
Yes	82
No	18
Don't know	0

Q2. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections? .

	%
I always vote at General Elections	73
I sometimes vote at General Elections	15
I never vote at General Elections	6
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	6
Don't know	*

Q3. 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?

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

Q4. **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...**

	%
Very satisfied	60
Fairly satisfied	26
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9
Fairly dissatisfied	2
Very dissatisfied	1
Don't know	2

Q5. **People have many reasons for registering to vote. Why did you decide to register to vote?**

Base: All who are registered to vote (934)
%

Most common answers

Everyone should vote/it's important to vote/I should vote	14
I've always voted/been registered	13
It's my/your right/my/your right to vote/my democratic right/a privilege	12
To have my say/opinion/have my voice/vote heard/count - not specified further	12
To get the government I want/support my party/vote for the right person	9
It's my/your responsibility/duty/civic/democratic duty to vote	7
Can't complain about the government if we don't vote/ don't have an opinion if you don't vote	6
Wanted to vote – not specified further	6
People/soldiers/women/suffragettes fought/died to allow us to vote	6
Automatically registered/believe it is automatic	3
It's compulsory/thought I had to/it's the law/may get fined if I don't	3
It's a family tradition/parents raised me to believe the importance of voting/they told me to vote/husband told me to vote	3
Believe in voting/democracy/the democratic process	2
Because it came in the post and I filled in the forms/was sent the forms	2
I'm interested/always been interested in politics	2
To get credit/finance/buy a house/a mortgage	2
A family member/someone else registered me	1
Because of age/was old enough	1
Because I can/am eligible/entitled	1
Just the done thing/something I do	1
Refusal	1
No answer	2
Other	6
Don't know	5

Q6. People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote?

Base: All who are not registered to vote (55)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>	
Don't know how to register	17
I ran out of time/too busy	13
Not bothered	8
I thought I was registered, but I'm not	6
Not eligible because of nationality	6
Not eligible (for reason other than nationality)	5
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	4
Made a mistake on the form	4
Admin/clerical error	3
Haven't got round to it	3
Health reasons	3
I forgot	3
Just moved	3
Just about to move	3
Concerned about security of information/data	2
Not interested in a vote for Britain/only interested in Scottish/Irish/Welsh politics	2
Dislike politics/politicians/voting	1
I didn't receive any forms/polling card	1
I've been out of the country/am frequently abroad	1
No answer	4
Other	12

Q7. Was this your first time voting in an election or have you voted before? By 'election' I mean a General Election, local council election or election for the European Parliament, or (UK ONLY) Scottish Parliament election/Welsh Assembly election/Northern Ireland Assembly election.

Base: All voters (500)
%

First time voting	8
Have voted before	92
Don't know	0

Q8. **People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 6th May?**

Base: All non-voters (517)
%

Most common answers Circumstances	
	36
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	12
I was away on 6 th May / election day	11
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	6
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4
Medical/health reasons	4
I forgot	1
<i>Administration</i>	17
I wasn't registered	9
I didn't receive a poll card	5
Admin reason	2
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	2
<i>Elections not important</i>	5
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	5
The General Election / elections (unspecified) weren't important	*
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	*
<i>Disinterest/no point</i>	14
I'm just not interested in politics	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	5
I couldn't be bothered	4
<i>Parties/candidates</i>	21
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	10
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	8
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	6
Recent scandal	3
<i>No information/indecision/complicated</i>	7
I couldn't decide who to vote for	4
I didn't know enough about the parties	3
I didn't get any information	1
<i>Other</i>	
Don't know how to vote	1
I don't vote - unspecified	1
Not a UK citizen	1
Not eligible - unspecified why	1
Religious reasons	1
Angry/frustrated	*
Bereavement/friend/family member died	*
Didn't know where the polling station was	*
Lost my polling card/voting slip	*
My constituency didn't have the party I wanted contesting the local elections	*
Queues too long at the polling stations/got turned away	*

Q8 Cont/

<i>Base: All non-voters</i>		(517)
		%
Refusal		14
No Answer		*
Other		3
None of these/no reason		1
Don't know		*

Q9. Did you vote at the elections....

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(500)
		%
In person at a polling station		83
By post		16
By proxy [IF NECESSARY PROXY VOTING IS 'GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO VOTE ON YOUR BEHALF']		1
Other		0
Don't know/can't remember		0

Q10. 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 with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE)	23	74	3
B You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	33	56	11
C You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	47	49	4
D You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	25	55	20
E You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	8	84	7

Q11. IF APPROPRIATE [You've already told me that you voted but...] [INSERT A-D] would you have been more likely to vote on Thursday 6th May, less likely to vote, or would it have made no difference one way or the other?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference	Don't know	Voted anyway
	%	%	%	%	%
A If on election day you could register to vote at the polling station itself	17	4	77	1	1
B If you could have voted at the weekend	13	5	82	1	*
C If you had to show photo ID at the polling station	4	11	84	*	1
D If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	19	4	76	*	1

- Q12. **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?**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(500)
		%
Yes		1
No		99
Don't know/can't remember		0

VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

- Q13. **Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?**

	%
Voting being easy or convenient for me	21
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	34
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	29
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	15
Honest politicians/good government	*
Nothing/don't vote	*
To be able to vote online	0
Other	*
Don't know	2

- Q14. **Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for voting in elections in Great Britain? Are you...**

	%
Very satisfied	36
Fairly satisfied	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	11
Fairly dissatisfied	7
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	1

- Q15. **In general, how confident, if at all, do you feel about filling in the ballot paper when elections are held? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	66
Fairly confident	27
Not very confident	4
Not at all confident	1
Don't know	2

- Q16. **I am now going to ask you a few questions about the recent General Election held on Thursday 6th May.
How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) was/were well run on Thursday 6th May? Are you...**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(500)
		%
Very confident		28
Fairly confident		43
Not very confident		23
Not at all confident		6
Don't know		*

- Q17. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at polling place for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

		%
Very convenient		45
Fairly convenient		33
Neither convenient nor inconvenient		10
Fairly inconvenient		5
Very inconvenient		5
Don't know		2

- Q18. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling place? Would you say you are...**

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

- Q19. **Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling place, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling place staff on how to vote? Was it...**

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

Q20. **And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling 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? Were they...**

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

Q21. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote in person at a polling station. Why did you decide to vote in person at a polling station?**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(420)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
Easier/convenience		32
I always vote in person		31
It's close/close to my home/work/just a short walk away		11
I enjoy the experience of voting in person		9
Don't trust the postal system/a postal vote would get lost/intercepted		7
Voting in person prevents fraud or abuse		5
I couldn't be sure my vote would arrive/get counted if it sent by post		5
I didn't know I could vote any other way		4
Voting in person makes me feel part of the community		3
I wanted to vote by post but didn't get round to organising it		1
Because I can - unspecified		1
Didn't know who I'd vote for until the last minute/wanted to wait until the last minute		1
Felt like walking/getting out/good exercise		1
Have no need to request a postal vote/vote any other way		1
I would forget to vote if I had to do it by post/any other way		1
It's easier/more convenient than doing a postal vote		1
I didn't fill the postal forms/organise other method of voting so had no choice		1
It's my right/my democratic right		1
I am able bodied/healthy/fit/don't have a disability		1
Postal votes are for people living in remote areas/out of the country/the disabled		1
Take my children/other family member/friend and set a good example/show them how		1
Voting in person is how it should be done/right/important way to vote		1
I wanted to vote by post but didn't know how to do it		*
Confidentiality/more secretive		*
Don't like computers/haven't got a PC		*

Q21 Cont/

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(420)
		%
Everyone who is able to should vote in person		*
Feels more personal/more real/part of the process		*
First time I've voted		*
It's my/our duty/civic responsibility		*
It's what people fought for/soldiers/suffragettes		*
I was/family member was working at the polling station		*
No answer		1
Other		4
Don't know		1

Q22. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting in person ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	54
Fairly confident	38
Not very confident	5
Not at all confident	2
Don't know	1

Q23. **How easy or difficult was it/(NON VOTERS: would it have been) for you to get to your local polling station? Was it...**

	%
Very easy	77
Fairly easy	13
Neither easy nor difficult	2
Fairly difficult	3
Very difficult	4
Don't know	2

Q24. **Once you arrived at your polling station, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote? Was it ...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(420)
		%
Very easy		93
Fairly easy		6
Neither easy nor difficult		*
Fairly difficult		*
Very difficult		1
Don't know		0

Q25. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	39
Fairly convenient	22
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	19
Fairly inconvenient	3
Very inconvenient	4
Don't know	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 it was...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(77)
		%
Very easy		77
Fairly easy		19
Neither easy nor difficult		3
Fairly difficult		*
Very difficult		1
Don't know		0

Q27. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say you are...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(77)
		%
Very satisfied		78
Fairly satisfied		18
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		0
Fairly dissatisfied		0
Very dissatisfied		4
Don't know		0

Q28. **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...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(77)
		%
Very useful		65
Fairly useful		27
Not very useful		1
Not at all useful		0
Didn't use them/need them		6
Don't know		0

Q29. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote by post. Why did you decide to vote by post?**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(77)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
Easier/convenience		45
I have difficulty getting to the polling station for health reasons		24
I am often away on business on polling day		13
I am often on holiday on polling day		8
I have difficulty finding the time to vote on polling day		8
I have trouble getting transport to the polling station		6
Bad weather		3
Voting by post guarantees my vote		2
Was away/might have been away - unspecified		2
Work as a polling clerk		2
I have registered to vote by post previously and never changed back to voting in person		1
Family commitments		1
Had no choice		1
Polling station's too far away		1
Other		1
Don't know		0

Q30. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting by post ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	22
Fairly confident	43
Not very confident	16
Not at all confident	10
Don't know	10

Q31. **How confident, if at all, are you that your vote was included in the count? Are you...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(77)
		%
Very confident		54
Fairly confident		33
Not very confident		1
Not at all confident		2
Don't know		10

- Q32. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the General Election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(500)
		%
Very easy		88
Fairly easy		11
Neither easy nor difficult		*
Fairly difficult		1
Very difficult		*
Don't know		*

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

- Q33. **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...**

		%
A lot		9
A little		33
Hardly anything at all		32
Nothing at all		26
Don't know		1

- Q34. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...**

		%
Very safe		23
Fairly safe		59
Neither safe nor unsafe		10
Fairly unsafe		4
Very unsafe		2
Don't know		2

- Q35. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

		%
Very safe		45
Fairly safe		43
Neither safe nor unsafe		6
Fairly unsafe		3
Very unsafe		1
Don't know		2

Q36. In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...

	%
Very safe	14
Fairly safe	44
Neither safe nor unsafe	4
Fairly unsafe	16
Very unsafe	6
Don't know	6

Q37. How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...

	%
Very concerned	8
Fairly concerned	19
Not very concerned	37
Not at all concerned	31
Don't know	5

Q38. Why do you say that you are concerned that that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May?

Base: All who are very/fairly concerned that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election (287)

	%
<u>Most common answers</u>	
People were not able to vote	16
Fraud/abuse generally a bad thing: Unspecified	11
Postal voting too easy to rig/open to fraud	6
Fraud/abuse is always possible/it's possible it's happened	4
People registering multiple times/voters from the same address	4
Fraud is endemic/we live in a corrupt society/always goes on	3
Not enough ballot papers	3
Polling stations were shut early	3
Result close - incentive to commit fraud/fraud could have altered the result	3
Because of the election outcome/result: Unspecified	2
Don't have to provide identification to vote	2
People were turned away from polling stations	2
People voting multiple times	2
Polling stations closed at different times around the country	2
Too many recounted votes/counting done inappropriately	2
Refusal	1
Other	12
Don't know	8

Electoral Commission post election research 2010 Wales Topline

- This data are based on 1,032 adults aged 18+ across Wales. We aimed for a 50/50 split of voters and non-voters.
- Interviewing took place between 7 and 23 May 2010. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population as well as the likely claimed turnout in the General Election, based on our other post-election research.
- 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. Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in the General Election on Thursday 6th May. How about you – did you manage to vote in the General Election?**

	%
Yes	82
No	18
Don't know	-

- Q2. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?**

	%
I always vote at General Elections	71
I sometimes vote at General Elections	17
I never vote at General Elections	6
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	6
Don't know	*

- Q3. 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?**

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

Q4. 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...

	%
Very satisfied	65
Fairly satisfied	21
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7
Fairly dissatisfied	1
Very dissatisfied	1
Don't know	3

Q5. People have many reasons for registering to vote. Why did you decide to register to vote?

Base: All who are registered to vote (953)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>	
Everyone should vote/it's important to vote/I should vote	18
It's my/your right/my/your right to vote/my democratic right/a privilege	13
I've always voted/been registered	12
To have my say/opinion/have my voice/vote heard/count - not specified further	11
To get the government I want/support my party/vote for the right person	9
It's my/your responsibility/duty/civic/democratic duty to vote	7
Wanted to vote - not specified further	7
Can't complain about the government if we don't vote/you don't have an opinion if you don't vote	5
People/soldiers/women/suffragettes fought/died to allow us to vote	5
It's compulsory/thought I had to/it's the law/may get fined if I don't	3
To get rid of the Labour party/Gordon Brown/change the government/affect change	3
Automatically registered/believe it is automatic	2
A family member/someone else registered me	2
Believe in voting/democracy/the democratic process	2
Because I can/am eligible/entitled	2
Because it came in the post and I filled in the forms/was sent the forms	2
To get credit/finance/buy a house/a mortgage	2
Can't vote unless you are registered	1
I care/I care about this country/about its future	1
It's a family tradition/parents raised me to believe the importance of voting/they told me to vote/husband told me to vote	1
It's the right thing to do	1
Just the done thing/something I do (unspecified)	1
I'm interested/always been interested in politics	1
Received a polling card/assume I must be registered	1
Some people/countries don't have the right to vote/are fighting for the right	1
To be a part of the democratic/political process	1
Want to make a difference/an impact	1

Q5 Cont/

<i>Base: All who are registered to vote</i>		(953)
		%
We live in a democracy		1
No specific reason		1
No answer		1
Other		6
Don't know		1

Q6. People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote?

<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote</i>		(47)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
Just moved		25
Haven't got round to it		8
I didn't receive any forms/polling card		8
I ran out of time/too busy		8
Don't know how to register		6
Not eligible because of nationality		6
Don't like what the parties are standing for		5
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote		4
Not eligible (for reason other than nationality)		3
Health reasons		2
Not bothered		2
I've been out of the country/am frequently abroad		1
Not interested in a vote for Britain/only interested in Scottish/Irish/Welsh politics		1
Other		2
Don't know		5

Q7. Was this your first time voting in an election or have you voted before? By 'election' I mean a General Election, local council election or election for the European Parliament, or Welsh Assembly election.

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(524)
		%
First time voting		9
Have voted before		91
Don't know		-

Q8. **People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 6th May?**

	Base: All non-voters (508) %
<u>Most common answers</u>	
<u>Circumstances</u>	37
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	14
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	9
I was away on 6 th May / election day	8
Medical/health reasons	5
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	3
I forgot	2
<u>Administration</u>	16
I wasn't registered	10
I didn't receive a poll card	5
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	4
Admin reason	1
<u>Elections not important</u>	8
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	8
The General Election / elections (unspecified) weren't important	1
<u>Disinterest/no point</u>	12
I'm just not interested in politics	6
I couldn't be bothered	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	4
<u>Parties/candidates</u>	20
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	9
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same	7
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	7
Recent scandal	1
<u>No information/indecision/complicated</u>	10
I couldn't decide who to vote for	7
I didn't get any information	2
I didn't know enough about the parties	2
<u>Other</u>	
My constituency didn't have the party I wanted contesting the local elections	1
Not eligible - unspecified why	1
Queues too long at the polling stations/got turned away	1
Religious reasons	1
Refusal/No Answer	18
Other	2
None of these/no reason	-
Don't know	2

Q9. Did you vote at the elections....

		Base: All voters (524) %
In person at a polling station		76
By post		23
By proxy [IF NECESSARY PROXY VOTING IS 'GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO VOTE ON YOUR BEHALF']		1
Other		-
Don't know/can't remember		-

Q10. 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 with you to vote at a polling station (FALSE)	24	72	4
B	You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	29	59	11
C	You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	43	54	3
D	You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	25	55	20
E	You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	15	79	6

Q11. IF APPROPRIATE [You've already told me that you voted but...] [INSERT A-D] would you have been more likely to vote on Thursday 6th May, less likely to vote, or would it have made no difference one way or the other?

		More likely %	Less likely %	No difference %	Don't know %	Voted anyway %
A	If on election day you could register to vote at the polling station itself	17	5	76	1	1
B	If you could have voted at the weekend	11	4	85	*	-
C	If you had to show photo ID at the polling station	3	8	87	2	*
D	If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	18	8	72	1	1

- Q12. **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?**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(524)
		%
Yes		*
No		100
Don't know/can't remember		-

VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

- Q13. **Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?**

	%
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	42
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	28
Voting being easy or convenient for me	15
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	12
Honest politicians/good government	*
Nothing/don't vote	*
Other	*
Don't know	2

- Q14. **Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for voting in elections in Great Britain? Are you...**

	%
Very satisfied	43
Fairly satisfied	37
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9
Fairly dissatisfied	6
Very dissatisfied	4
Don't know	1

- Q15. **In general, how confident, if at all, do you feel about filling in the ballot paper when elections are held? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	70
Fairly confident	24
Not very confident	2
Not at all confident	1
Don't know	2

Q16. **I am now going to ask you a few questions about the recent General Election held on Thursday 6th May.**

How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) was/were well run on Thursday 6th May? Are you...

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(524)
		%
Very confident		27
Fairly confident		46
Not very confident		20
Not at all confident		7
Don't know		*

Q17. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

		%
Very convenient		47
Fairly convenient		28
Neither convenient nor inconvenient		11
Fairly inconvenient		6
Very inconvenient		6
Don't know		3

Q18. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say you are...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(406)
		%
Very satisfied		75
Fairly satisfied		20
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied		2
Fairly dissatisfied		1
Very dissatisfied		1
Don't know		-

Q19. **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 staff on how to vote? Was it...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(406)
		%
Very useful		51
Fairly useful		23
Not very useful		6
Not at all useful		6
Didn't use them/need them		13
Don't know		*

- Q20. **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? Were they...**

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

- Q21. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote in person at a polling station. Why did you decide to vote in person at a polling station?**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(406)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
Easier/convenience		34
I always vote in person		29
It's close/close to my home/work/just a short walk away		16
I enjoy the experience of voting in person		13
Don't trust the postal system/a postal vote would get lost/intercepted		9
Voting in person prevents fraud or abuse		9
Voting in person makes me feel part of the community		6
I couldn't be sure my vote would arrive/get counted if it sent by post		5
I didn't know I could vote any other way		3
It's my/our duty/civic responsibility		2
I am able bodied/healthy/fit/don't have a disability		2
I wanted to vote by post but didn't get round to organising it		1
I wanted to vote by post but didn't know how to do it		1
Confidentiality/more secretive		1
Didn't know who I'd vote for until the last minute/wanted to wait until the last minute		1
Did not get the postal forms on time		1
Felt like walking/getting out/good exercise		1
Have no need to request a postal vote/vote any other way		1
It's my right/my democratic right		1
It's what people fought for/soldiers/suffragettes		1
I was available/wasn't busy/wasn't doing anything else		1
Like to speak with the candidates/get information		1
Take my children/other family member/friend and set a good example/show them how		1
To show I'm not intimidated/to show your face		1
Voting in person is how it should be done/right/important way to vote		1
Other		5
Don't know		*

Q22. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting in person ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	57
Fairly confident	34
Not very confident	4
Not at all confident	3
Don't know	2

Q23. **How easy or difficult was it/(NON VOTERS: would it have been) for you to get to your local polling station? Was it...**

	%
Very easy	76
Fairly easy	13
Neither easy nor difficult	2
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	2
Don't know	5

Q24. **Once you arrived at your polling station, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote? Was it ...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters</i>		(406)
		%
Very easy		95
Fairly easy		3
Neither easy nor difficult		1
Fairly difficult		*
Very difficult		-
Don't know		-

Q25. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	45
Fairly convenient	20
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	19
Fairly inconvenient	3
Very inconvenient	3
Don't know	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 it was...**

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

Q27. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say you are...**

	<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	(113)
		%
	Very satisfied	82
	Fairly satisfied	16
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	-
	Fairly dissatisfied	1
	Very dissatisfied	-
	Don't know	-

Q28. **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...**

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

Q29. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote by post. Why did you decide to vote by post?**

	<i>Base: All postal voters</i>	(113)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
	It is more convenient to vote by post than in person	46
	I have difficulty getting to the polling station for health reasons	24
	I have difficulty finding the time to vote on polling day	12
	I have voted by post in the past and liked doing so	12
	I am often on holiday on polling day	11
	I have registered to vote by post previously and never changed back to voting in person	11
	Voting by post guarantees my vote	9
	I am often away on business on polling day	6
	I have trouble getting transport to the polling station	2
	Family commitments	1
	Was away/might have been away - unspecified	1
	Other	7
	Don't know	-

Q30. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting by post ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

		%
	Very confident	24
	Fairly confident	38
	Not very confident	21
	Not at all confident	9
	Don't know	9

Q31. **How confident, if at all, are you that your vote was included in the count? Are you...**

<i>Base: All postal voters</i>		(113)
		%
Very confident		55
Fairly confident		37
Not very confident		3
Not at all confident		1
Don't know		2

Q32. **Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the General Election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Was it...**

<i>Base: All voters</i>		(524)
		%
Very easy		86
Fairly easy		10
Neither easy nor difficult		1
Fairly difficult		2
Very difficult		*
Don't know		1

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

Q33. **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...**

	%
A lot	9
A little	32
Hardly anything at all	35
Nothing at all	23
Don't know	1

Q34. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...**

	%
Very safe	27
Fairly safe	50
Neither safe nor unsafe	14
Fairly unsafe	5
Very unsafe	2
Don't know	3

Q35. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

	%
Very safe	50
Fairly safe	38
Neither safe nor unsafe	7
Fairly unsafe	2
Very unsafe	1
Don't know	2

Q36. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...**

	%
Very safe	15
Fairly safe	39
Neither safe nor unsafe	14
Fairly unsafe	20
Very unsafe	6
Don't know	6

Q37. **How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...**

	%
Very concerned	13
Fairly concerned	24
Not very concerned	35
Not at all concerned	27
Don't know	2

Q38. Why do you say that you are concerned that that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May?

Base: All who are very/fairly concerned that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election (365)

	%
<u>Most common answers</u>	
Fraud/abuse generally a bad thing: Unspecified	18
People were not able to vote	18
Postal voting too easy to rig/open to fraud	6
Fraud/abuse is always possible/it's possible it's happened	4
Not enough ballot papers	3
Because of the election outcome/result: Unspecified	2
Don't have to provide identification to vote	2
Election was fixed/rigged/just believe it goes on - no specified reason	2
If it did go on, it would concern me	2
People were turned away from polling stations	2
People registering multiple times/voters from the same address	2
People under age given polling cards/able to vote	2
Result close - incentive to commit fraud/fraud could have altered the result	2
Too easy to vote for somebody else/proxy votes	2
Because there is no accountability/we don't know what goes on	1
Deceased people registered/voting	1
Fraud was committed in previous elections/heard about it in the past	1
Fraud is endemic/we live in a corrupt society/always goes on	1
I don't think fraud took place	1
I am/we are concerned about the election	1
It's important the system is secure so no fraud can take place	1
More votes counted than registered voters	1
People didn't/I never received my/their postal/proxy vote	1
People giving fake addresses	1
People giving fake names/registering under false aliases	1
People voting multiple times	1
Polling stations closed at different times around the country	1
Polling staff didn't know their own jobs	1
Too many recounted votes/counting done inappropriately	1
Word of mouth/gossip around town/heard about it	1
No reason	1
Refusal/no answer	1
Other	8
Don't know	5

Electoral Commission post election research 2010 Northern Ireland Topline

- This data is based on 514 adults aged 18+ across Northern Ireland. We aimed for a 50/50 split of voters and non-voters.
- Interviewing took place between 7 and 23 May 2010. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population as well as the likely claimed turnout in the General Election, based on our other post-election research.
- 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. Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote in the General Election on Thursday 6th May. How about you – did you manage to vote in the General Election?

	%
Yes	78
No	22
Don't know	-

Q2. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?

	%
I always vote at General Elections	74
I sometimes vote at General Elections	15
I never vote at General Elections	6
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	4
Don't know	1

Q3. 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?

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

Q4. 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...

	%
Very satisfied	52
Fairly satisfied	30
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	10
Fairly dissatisfied	2
Very dissatisfied	2
Don't know	4

Q5. People have many reasons for registering to vote. Why did you decide to register to vote?

Base: All who are registered to vote in Northern Ireland (467)
%

Most common answers

Everyone should vote/it's important to vote/I should vote	13
I've always voted/been registered	13
To have my say/opinion/have my voice/vote heard/count - not specified further	11
Wanted to vote - not specified further	10
It's my/your responsibility/duty/civic/democratic duty to vote	7
To get the government I want/support my party/vote for the right person	7
It's my/your right/my/your right to vote/my democratic right/a privilege	6
It's a family tradition/parents raised me to believe the importance of voting/they told me to vote/husband told me to vote	6
It's compulsory/thought I had to/it's the law/may get fined if I don't	5
People/soldiers/women/suffragettes fought/died to allow us to vote	5
Because I can/am eligible/entitled	3
Can't complain about the government if we don't vote/you don't have an opinion if you don't vote	3
A family member/someone else registered me	2
Because it came in the post and I filled in the forms/was sent the forms	2
Because of age/was old enough	2
Every vote counts	2
It's the right thing to do	2
Just the done thing/something I do (unspecified)	2
I'm interested/always been interested in politics	2
Some people/countries don't have the right to vote/are fighting for the right	2
Automatically registered/believe it is automatic	1
Believe in voting/democracy/the democratic process	1
Can't vote unless you are registered	1
Someone came to my door/phoned me up and I registered	1
To get credit/finance/buy a house/a mortgage	1

Q5 Cont/

<i>Base: All who are registered to vote in Northern Ireland</i>		(467)
		%
To get rid of the Labour party/Gordon Brown/change the government/affect change		1
To give me the option of voting if I wanted to		1
Want to make a difference/an impact		1
We live in a democracy		1
No specific reason		1
No answer		1
Other		6
Don't know		7

Q6. People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote?

<i>Base: All who are not registered to vote in Northern Ireland</i>		(40)
		%
<u>Most common answers</u>		
Haven't got round to it		33
Not bothered		13
Don't know how to register		8
I ran out of time/too busy		7
Don't like what the parties are standing for		6
I didn't receive any forms/polling card		4
I thought I was registered, but I'm not		3
Concerned about security of information/data		2
I forgot		2
Just moved		2
Admin/clerical error		1
Don't like filling in forms		1
Don't see point in registering/voting/don't want to vote		1
No specific reason		1
Other		26

Q7. Was this your first time voting in an election or have you voted before? By 'election' I mean a General Election, local council election or election for the European Parliament, or Northern Ireland Assembly election.

<i>Base: All voters in Northern Ireland</i>		%
First time voting		8
Have voted before		92
Don't know		-

Q8. **People have many reasons for not voting in elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on Thursday 6th May?**

Base: All non-voters in Northern Ireland (260)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>		
<u>Circumstances</u>		31
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me		9
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work		7
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient		6
Medical/health reasons		5
I was away on 6 th May / election day		4
I forgot		2
<u>Administration</u>		22
I wasn't registered		14
I didn't have the correct form of ID/photo ID (NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY)		4
I didn't receive a poll card		3
I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late		2
Admin reason		1
<u>Elections not important</u>		8
There was no point in voting because the Government can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power		8
<u>Disinterest/no point</u>		12
I'm just not interested in politics		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		4
I couldn't be bothered		2
<u>Parties/candidates</u>		27
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views		20
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises		5
There was no point in voting because all the parties are the same		3
Recent scandal		2
<u>No information/indecision/complicated</u>		6
I didn't get any information		2
I couldn't decide who to vote for		2
I didn't know enough about the parties		1
<u>Other</u>		
Don't know how to vote		1
Religious reasons		1
No Answer/Refused		10
Other		2
None of these/no reason		1
Don't know		*

Q9. Did you vote at the elections....

<i>Base: All voters in Northern Ireland</i>		(254)
		%
In person at a polling station		96
By post		4
By proxy [IF NECESSARY PROXY VOTING IS 'GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO VOTE ON YOUR BEHALF']		0
Other		0
Don't know/can't remember		-

Q10. 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 Photo ID with you to vote at a polling station (TRUE)	96	3	1
B You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (FALSE)	20	64	16
C You are automatically registered to vote if you are 18 or over (FALSE)	40	57	3
D You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)	17	67	16
E You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)	16	77	7

Q11. IF APPROPRIATE [You've already told me that you voted but...] [INSERT A-D] would you have been more likely to vote on Thursday 6th May, less likely to vote, or would it have made no difference one way or the other?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference	Don't know	Voted anyway
	%	%	%	%	%
A If on election day you could register to vote at the polling station itself	18	3	77	1	1
B If you could have voted at the weekend	12	4	83	1	*
C If it was easier for you to get a postal vote	15	6	77	*	1

Q12. 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?

<i>Base: All voters in Northern Ireland</i>		(254)
		%
Yes		-
No		100
Don't know/can't remember		*

VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES
--

- Q13. Thinking generally about elections, which one of the following would you say is most important for you when you vote?

	%
My vote being safe from fraud and abuse	38
Voting being secret – that is, without anyone else knowing how I voted	34
Voting being easy or convenient for me	16
Having a choice of methods of voting (such as by post or in person at a polling station)	9
Honest politicians/good government	*
To able to vote online	*
Nothing/don't vote	*
Other	-
Don't know	2

- Q14. Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for voting in elections in Northern Ireland? Are you...

	%
Very satisfied	46
Fairly satisfied	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6
Fairly dissatisfied	4
Very dissatisfied	2
Don't know	2

- Q15. In general, how confident, if at all, do you feel about filling in the ballot paper when elections are held? Are you...

	%
Very confident	73
Fairly confident	21
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	1
Don't know	2

- Q16. I am now going to ask you a few questions about the recent General Election held on Thursday 6th May.

How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) was/were well run on Thursday 6th May? Are you...

Base: All voters in Northern Ireland (254)

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

Q17. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

	%
Very convenient	59
Fairly convenient	24
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	8
Fairly inconvenient	5
Very inconvenient	2
Don't know	3

Q18. **Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say you are...**

Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland (249)

	%
Very satisfied	77
Fairly satisfied	19
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	3
Fairly dissatisfied	*
Very dissatisfied	*
Don't know	-

Q19. **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...**

Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland (249)

	%
Very useful	65
Fairly useful	19
Not very useful	2
Not at all useful	2
Didn't use them/need them	12
Don't know	-

Q20. **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? Were they...**

Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland (249)

	%
Very useful	51
Fairly useful	25
Not very useful	7
Not at all useful	3
Didn't use them/need them	12
Don't know	2

Q21. **Thinking back to the atmosphere in the polling station, please say whether you agree or disagree with each of the following? Do you strongly or tend to agree/disagree?**

		Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
		%	%	%	%	%	%
	<i>Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland (249)</i>						
A	It was chaotic	1	*	1	5	92	1
B	It was well ordered	84	14	1	1	*	0
C	It was intimidating	1	1	3	9	87	0
D	It was safe	90	9	*	1	0	0
E	It took too long to vote	*	1	1	10	87	0
F	It was relaxed	82	14	2	*	1	0

Q22. **People have many reasons for choosing to vote in person at a polling station. Why did you decide to vote in person at a polling station?**

Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland (249)
%

<u>Most common answers</u>		
I always vote in person		36
Easier/convenience		23
I enjoy the experience of voting in person		10
I didn't know I could vote any other way		9
I couldn't be sure my vote would arrive/get counted if it sent by post		8
It's close/close to my home/work/just a short walk away		8
Don't trust the postal system/a postal vote would get lost/intercepted		6
It's easier/more convenient than doing a postal vote		3
Voting in person prevents fraud or abuse		2
I am able bodied/healthy/fit/don't have a disability		2
Voting in person makes me feel part of the community		1
Because I can - unspecified		1
Didn't know who I'd vote for until the last minute/wanted to wait until the last minute		1
Have no need to request a postal vote/vote any other way		1
I would forget to vote if I had to do it by post/any other way		1
I don't qualify for the postal vote		1
Voting in person is how it should be done/right/important way to vote		1
No answer		1
Other		3
Don't know		1

Q23. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting in person ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

	%
Very confident	56
Fairly confident	34
Not very confident	6
Not at all confident	3
Don't know	2

Q24. **How easy or difficult was it/(NON VOTERS: would it have been) for you to get to your local polling station? Was it...**

	%
Very easy	75
Fairly easy	18
Neither easy nor difficult	2
Fairly difficult	2
Very difficult	2
Don't know	*

Q25. **Once you arrived at your polling station, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote? Was it ...**

<i>Base: All polling station voters in Northern Ireland</i>		(249)
		%
Very easy		86
Fairly easy		12
Neither easy nor difficult		*
Fairly difficult		2
Very difficult		0
Don't know		-

Q26. **How confident, if at all, are you that voting by post ensures that your vote is kept secret? Are you...**

<i>Base: All in Northern Ireland</i>		(514)
		%
Very confident		16
Fairly confident		31
Not very confident		28
Not at all confident		13
Don't know		12

Q27. **From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the Thursday 6th May election/s was...**

<i>Base: All in Northern Ireland</i>		(514)
		%
Very convenient		24
Fairly convenient		20
Neither convenient nor inconvenient		20
Fairly inconvenient		7
Very inconvenient		3
Don't know		27

- Q28. **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?**

	%
UK or Irish Passport	99
UK or Irish photographic driving license	94
Electoral identity card	75
Translink Senior or 60+ SmartPass	74
Student ID card	32
Birth certificate	15
National insurance card	11
Medical card	7
None of these	0
Don't know	*

COMBINED ELECTION ISSUES

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

Base: All voters in Northern Ireland (254)

	%
Very easy	93
Fairly easy	6
Neither easy nor difficult	*
Fairly difficult	0
Very difficult	0
Don't know	1

AWARENESS AND PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTORAL FRAUD

- Q30. **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...**

	%
A lot	11
A little	35
Hardly anything at all	27
Nothing at all	25
Don't know	2

Q31. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting is...**

	%
Very safe	28
Fairly safe	53
Neither safe nor unsafe	11
Fairly unsafe	4
Very unsafe	1
Don't know	3

Q32. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting at a polling station is...**

	%
Very safe	46
Fairly safe	42
Neither safe nor unsafe	6
Fairly unsafe	4
Very unsafe	*
Don't know	2

Q33. **In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that voting by post is...**

	%
Very safe	10
Fairly safe	34
Neither safe nor unsafe	19
Fairly unsafe	18
Very unsafe	9
Don't know	9

Q34. **How concerned, if at all, are you that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May? Would you say you are...**

	%
Very concerned	10
Fairly concerned	23
Not very concerned	30
Not at all concerned	33
Don't know	4

Q35. Why do you say that you are concerned that that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election on Thursday 6th May?

Base: All who are very/fairly concerned that electoral fraud and abuse took place at the General Election in Northern Ireland (151)

	%
<u>Most common answers</u>	
Fraud/abuse generally a bad thing: Unspecified	18
Too many recounted votes/counting done inappropriately	13
Northern Ireland has a history of election problems	9
Result close - incentive to commit fraud/fraud could have altered the result	7
Fraud/abuse is always possible/it's possible it's happened	6
People being intimidated when voting/being told who to vote for/abused/assaulted at polling stations	5
Election was fixed/rigged/just believe it goes on - no specified reason	4
I am/we are concerned about the election	4
People were not able to vote	4
Postal voting too easy to rig/open to fraud	4
Fraud was committed in previous elections/heard about it in the past	3
Don't have to provide identification to vote	2
People voting multiple times	2
Deceased people registered/voting	1
Fraud is common in areas with immigrants/I don't trust immigrants	1
Fraud is endemic/we live in a corrupt society/always goes on	1
If it did go on, it would concern me	1
More votes counted than registered voters	1
People registering multiple times/voters from the same address	1
People giving fake names/registering under false aliases	1
Result not what expected - suspect fraud manipulated result	1
No reason	1
Other	7
Don't know	5

PARTY FINANCE

Q36. 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 in Northern Ireland (514)

	%
Made available to the public	62
Kept confidential	10
Don't mind either way	27
Don't know	1