

ICM Unlimited...



Winter Tracking Research 2016

Data Toplines with Narrative

The
Electoral
Commission

December 2016

Technical Note

- Results are based on interviews with 1,202 adults aged 16+ in Scotland and 18+ across the rest of the UK. The un-weighted number of respondents are as follows:
 - England: 865
 - Scotland: 86
 - Wales: 51
 - Northern Ireland: 200
- Interviews were carried out by telephone between 9th and 22nd December 2016.
- A representative sample was interviewed using a telephone methodology, with quotas set by age, gender, ethnicity and region/nation.
- The data has been weighted by age, gender, social class, work status and region. Northern Ireland population represents 2.9% of the UK total, which implies a strong down-weight is applied to Northern Ireland booster interviews in order to make the overall dataset representative of the overall UK population. The 200 interviews are down-weighted to only 35 interviews on this basis. Tables in this top-line do show 200, however, in order to give the reader confidence in the reliability of the data.
- In previous surveys the research was administered using a GB telephone omnibus. Consequently, the quotas in England, Scotland, and Wales reflect each country's proportional share of 1,000 GB interviews. A booster of 200 interviews was conducted in Northern Ireland. In order to preserve long-term trends data, this sample composition has been repeated in the 2016 survey.
- Trend data has been included from previous waves of Winter Research where possible. Please note that, unless otherwise stated, prior to January 2008 the Winter Research was conducted as a face-to-face survey. From 2008 onwards the research has been conducted over the telephone. Findings from face-to-face and telephone surveys are broadly comparable but caution should be exercised when comparing findings between the different methodologies, and variations in results should be treated as indicative.
- Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half or one percent, but not zero.
- Changes since 2015 that are statistically significant have been marked with a †
- All aspects of the research have been conducted in accordance with ISO20252 and ISO27001.
- Study undertaken by ICM on behalf of The Electoral Commission.

Overview

Voting

- Over three quarters of respondents (76%) are confident that elections are well run in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This is a significant increase since 2015 (66%) and the proportion of respondents saying they are 'very confident' has also increased significantly (from 22% to 29%).
- There has also been a significant increase in satisfaction with the process of voting, from 68% in 2015 to 77% in 2016. This is driven by a similar increase in the proportion selecting the most positive response of 'very satisfied' (28% to 36%). The voting process is clearly well understood by the public as the proportion who are confident they know how to cast their vote has risen to an historic high of 97% (up from 92% in 2015).
- When asked what change would most increase their satisfaction with the voting process, the most popular suggestion was for more information on the parties and candidates standing and their policies (31%), followed by a proportional voting system (23%), online voting (17%), and increased security against electoral fraud (17%).

Registration

- Four in five (80%) are satisfied with system of registering to vote, with 47% 'very' satisfied and 34% 'fairly' satisfied. This is a significant increase in satisfaction since 2015, when 75% were satisfied overall. Levels of dissatisfaction remain consistent (6% in 2016, 7% in 2015) but there has been a significant reduction in those saying they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (13%, down four percentage points).
- In part, this increase in satisfaction may be driven by increased confidence in how to go about registering to vote; 94% of respondents are confident they know how to do this (up a statistically significant four points since 2015) with 74% saying they are 'very confident'.
- Respondents also express high levels of confidence in the registration system. Over seven in ten are confident that voters' details are held securely (72%) as are their own (73%), both significant increases on 2015 (66% and 68% respectively). Over half remain confident that the system prevents people who should not be on the register from registering (57% in 2016, 56% in 2015).
- The most popular change that could be made to increase satisfaction with the registration system is automatic registration upon reaching voting age, chosen by over one in three (36%). Around one in four respondents would like to be able to check if they were registered online (24%) and one in five wanted their details to be automatically updated when they move house (20%).
- The electoral register is currently available for sale although people have the ability to opt-out of this version if they wish to do so. Were the ability to opt out of appearing on this version no longer available, just under half (48%) say they would be less likely to register.

Integrity of elections

- Low voter turnout (31%) and the influence of private business on government (30%) are thought to be the most serious problems in elections in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Bias in the media is considered to be a serious problem by one in four (24%), with smaller proportions expressing concerns relating to electoral fraud (15%) or barriers to democratic participation for minority groups (10%).
- When considering what could be done to improve elections and democracy in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, two in five call for increasing transparency around political parties and their financial arrangements, including donations (40%). Around one in five favour compulsory voting (22%).
- Voting in general is considered to be safe from fraud or abuse by seven in ten (73%) and respondents continue to express much greater confidence in the safety of voting at a polling station (considered safe by 82%) than voting by post (57%).
- Views on electoral fraud are largely consistent with 2015, with a few significant shifts. In 2016, there have been significant increases in the proportion of people who disagree that there could be enough electoral fraud in some areas to affect the election result (32%, up from 27% in 2015) and that it would be easy to get away with electoral fraud (44%, up from 36%). There has also been a significant rise in agreement that there are sufficient safeguards in place to prevent electoral fraud (46%, up from 40%).
- When asked what single measure would be most effective in preventing electoral fraud, over half of respondents support a requirement to show photographic ID at the polling station (52%). The next most popular measure is to stop political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners from handling postal vote applications/postal ballot papers, selected by one in five (20%), and one in ten support an end to proxy voting (11%).

Party Finance

- Overall knowledge about how parties are funded in order to fight elections has not changed significantly since 2015, with 47% of respondents saying they have at least some knowledge of party finance. As in previous years, the majority (53%) say they know hardly anything or nothing at all about it but this is not due to lack of interest; 58% say they are at least a little interested in party finance.
- Similarly to 2015, only one in four (26%) agree that the spending and funding of political parties and candidates at UK elections are open and transparent and fewer than two in five think they could easily find out more about how parties, candidates and organisations are funded if they wanted to (39%). Despite this, there has been a significant increase in agreement that, if a political party was caught breaking the rules regarding party finance, the authorities would take appropriate action (58%, up eight points since 2015).
- When asked where they thought they could find information on party finance, just 18% were correct in saying it would be on the Electoral Commission's website, one in five respondents (20%) answered the websites of individual parties, and 10% thought it could be found on their local council's website. 19% thought the information was not publicly available anywhere. These results are all consistent with 2015.

- A majority of respondents feel that, when it comes to funding political parties, businesses and corporations have too much influence (56%). Around four in ten felt that Trade Unions (42%) and individual donors (41%) also have too much influence.

Northern Ireland

- Levels of satisfaction with the system of registering to vote are higher in Northern Ireland (85%) than in the sample overall (80%). Just 2% say they are dissatisfied. When asked what single measure would be most likely to increase satisfaction, just under three in ten choose being able to register to vote online (28%).
- Separately, there have been some significant shifts in responses on party finance in Northern Ireland since 2015. There has been a significant increase in support for information on who donates money to political parties in NI being made publicly available (73%, up from 68% in 2015) and a significant decrease in support for this information remaining confidential (3%, down from 6% in 2015).

Topline results

VOTING

Q1. In general, how confident, if at all, are you that elections are well run in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Are you.....

2016 Base: All respondents (1202)	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 14	Dec 15	Dec 16
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	29	18	25	20	22	29 [†]
Fairly confident	43	43	49	45	44	47
Not very confident	16	20	15	20	19	15 [†]
Not at all confident	8	14	9	13	13	7 [†]
Don't know	4	5	1	2	2	2
Confident	72	61	75	65	66	76[†]
Not Confident	24	34	24	33	32	22[†]

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

2016 Base: all respondents (1202)	Nov 2006	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
I always vote at General Elections	65	63	59	70	61	55	61	64	68	75 [†]
I sometimes vote at General Elections	19	23	25	18	23	27	22	21	19	16
I never vote at General Elections	11	9	8	8	10	14	11	11	10	6 [†]
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	4	4	8	4	4	4	5	5	3	3
Don't know	1	*	*	-	1	*	*	-	*	-

Q3. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the actual process of voting at elections in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?

2016 Base: all respondents (1202)	Nov 2006	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	21	32	31	28	20	25	31	31	28	36 [†]
Fairly satisfied	54	43	43	45	48	39	41	39	40	41 [†]
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	14	9	11	12	19	19	18	19	17	12
Fairly dissatisfied	3	7	8	7	6	9	4	5	7	6
Very dissatisfied	1	5	4	6	5	7	4	4	6	4
Don't know / no opinion	7	4	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Satisfied	75	75	73	74	67	64	72	70	68	77[†]
Dissatisfied	5	11	12	13	11	16	7	9	13	10[†]

Q4. Which ONE of the following would be the most likely to increase your satisfaction with the process of voting at elections in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? READ OUT. ROTATE.

2016 Base: all respondents (1202)	Dec 2016
	%
More information on the parties and candidates standing and their policies	31
A proportional voting system	23
If it was possible to vote online	17
Increased security against electoral fraud	17
More information on how the voting process works	5
Other	2
Nothing would increase my satisfaction	3
Don't know	2

Q5. How confident, if at all, are you that you know how to go about casting your vote at an election?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	66	69	67	69	68	70	70	81 [†]
Fairly confident	27	25	27	24	25	22	23	16 [†]
Not very confident	5	3	4	4	3	5	5	2 [†]
Not at all confident	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	1 [†]
Don't know	1	*	1	1	*	*	*	-
Confident	93	94	94	92	93	92	92	97[†]
Not Confident	6	6	6	7	6	8	7	3[†]

REGISTRATION

Q6. How confident, if at all, are you that you know how to go about registering to vote?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	55	68	60	63	66	64	63	74 [†]
Fairly confident	34	24	29	28	23	26	28	20 [†]
Not very confident	7	4	6	5	6	6	6	3 [†]
Not at all confident	3	3	3	2	4	4	3	2
Don't know	1	*	2	2	*	1	*	1
Confident	89	92	89	91	89	89	90	94[†]
Not confident	10	7	9	8	10	10	9	5[†]

Q7. As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is, the official list of people entitled to vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes – where living now	93	91	94	92	93	94
Yes – another address	3	4	2	3	4	2
No	2	4	2	3	2	2
DK	3	2	1	2	1	1

Q8. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	43	43	46	38	39	43	38	35	47 [†]
Fairly satisfied	39	39	40	41	37	39	40	40	34 [†]
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	10	8	13	15	14	14	17	13 [†]
Fairly dissatisfied	4	3	3	2	3	1	4	4	4
Very dissatisfied	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	3	2
Don't know / no opinion	3	3	2	4	3	2	2	1	1
Satisfied	82	82	85	79	76	82	78	75	80[†]
Dissatisfied	5	5	5	4	5	2	6	7	6

⇒ **ASK IF VERY/FAIRLY DISSATISFIED AT Q8**

Q9. Why are you dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE.

Note that where possible 'other' responses have been coded after fieldwork – these codes are typed in grey

2016 Base: All dissatisfied at Q8 (73)	2016 %
It's too confusing/it should be easier	21
I don't like the new system/having to register myself	17
Process is not secure/is open to fraud	9
People don't register / lot of people not on the register even if eligible	9
It's too inconvenient/takes too long	9
I didn't like having to provide additional personal/extra information to confirm my registration	8
Everyone should be automatically registered to vote when they reach voting age	7
You should be able to register online	6
Lack of information	5
There's no point in voting/it makes no difference	4
I don't know how to register	3
People can register/vote without being a full member of the UK	3
System should be based on the household not the individual	3
Information being sold on to third parties	3
Inaccuracies/incompetencies occur	1
Other	12
Don't know	1

Q10. Which one of the following would be most likely to increase your satisfaction with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain / Northern Ireland? READ OUT. ROTATE. MULTICODE.

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2016 %
If people were automatically registered when they turn 18 [16 in Scotland]	36
If you could check online if you were registered or not [GB ONLY]	24
If your details were automatically updated when you move house	20
If you didn't have to provide so much personal information	6
If it was possible to register to vote on polling day	4
If it was possible to register to vote online [NI ONLY]	1
None of these	7
Don't know	2

Q11. Thinking about the system of registering to vote [INSERT: in Great Britain / Northern Ireland], how confident are you that...

...in general, voters' personal details are held securely?							
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	15	16	20	19	17	15	18
Fairly confident	54	52	47	48	51	51	54
Not very confident	20	21	21	20	18	21	17 [†]
Not at all confident	7	8	9	10	11	12	7 [†]
Don't know	4	4	4	3	3	1	3
Confident	69	68	66	67	68	66	72[†]
Not confident	27	29	30	30	29	33	24[†]

...your own personal details are held securely?							
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	16	17	19	19	18	16	20 [†]
Fairly confident	54	50	48	49	51	52	53
Not very confident	19	21	20	21	19	21	17 [†]
Not at all confident	8	8	9	10	10	11	8 [†]
Don't know	3	4	3	3	3	1	2
Confident	70	67	67	67	69	68	73[†]
Not confident	27	29	30	30	29	32	25[†]
...the system prevents people who should not be on the register from registering?							
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very confident	9	11	12	12	14	11	10
Fairly confident	47	43	41	45	44	45	47
Not very confident	23	23	24	24	20	27	24
Not at all confident	8	8	8	12	11	13	8 [†]
Don't know	12	15	14	7	11	5	11 [†]
Confident	56	54	53	56	58	56	57
Not confident	31	31	32	36	31	40	32[†]

⇒ **ASK ALL REGISTERED TO VOTE (CODES 1 OR 2 AT Q7)**

Q12. Are you currently registered for a postal vote? That is, registered to send your ballot paper through the post, rather than having to go to a polling station?

2016 Base: All registered to vote (1160)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, am registered for a postal vote	30	29	36	35	31	33
No, am not registered for a postal vote	64	65	58	58	67	63 [†]
Don't know	6	6	6	7	2	4 [†]

Q13. At the moment, a version of the electoral register can be bought by any person, company or organisation. This version is, for example, used by businesses and charities to confirm name and address details. You can currently choose whether your information is included on this version of the register that is made available for sale.

If this choice was no longer available and you had to have your information included on a register that is available for sale, would you be more likely to register to vote, less likely to register or would it make no difference?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2013	2014	2015	2016
	%	%	%	%
More likely	3	3	3	2
Less likely	54	49	52	48
Make no difference	41	47	45	49
Don't know	2	1	*	1

INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS

Q14. How much of a problem do you think that each of the following is in [Great Britain/Northern Ireland] at the moment? [On a scale of 1-5 where 1 is not much of a problem at all and 5 is a very serious problem]

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Electoral Fraud	The influence of private businesses on government	Bias in the media	Low voter turnout at elections	Barriers to democratic participation for minority groups
	%	%	%	%	%
1. Not a problem	13	6	12	6	13
2	23	8	4	8	17
3	30	25	7	26	36
4	14	28	19	27	14
5. Serious problem	15	30	25	31	10
Don't know	5	3	2	2	9

Q15. Thinking about improving elections and democracy in [Great Britain / Northern Ireland], which ONE of the following do you think is the most important? READ OUT. ROTATE.

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2016 %
Increasing transparency around political parties and their financial arrangements, including donations	40
Making voting compulsory	22
Introducing greater safeguards against electoral fraud	15
Providing more information to the public about how voting and elections work	15
Improving local government administration of the voting [GB ONLY]	6
Other	1
None of these	1
Don't know	1

Q16. In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud or abuse, would you say that [INSERT: a, b and c] is very safe, fairly safe, neither safe nor unsafe, fairly unsafe or very unsafe.

Voting in general	
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2016
	%
Very safe	18
Fairly safe	55
Neither safe nor unsafe	15
Fairly unsafe	7
Very unsafe	3
Don't know	2
Safe	73
Unsafe	10

Voting at a polling station										
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very safe	30	33	38	40	43	41	30	28	31	32
Fairly safe	51	50	48	46	43	44	49	51	48	50
Neither safe nor unsafe	10	9	8	5	4	4	11	12	12	10
Fairly unsafe	4	5	3	4	6	6	7	6	6	4
Very unsafe	1	*	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
Don't know	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	1	1	2
Safe	82	83	87	85	86	85	79	79	79	82
Unsafe	5	6	4	7	7	9	9	8	8	6

Voting by post

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Nov 2006	Jan 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very safe	5	8	8	10	10	10	13	16	15	17	14
Fairly safe	33	34	32	36	43	46	40	39	41	39	43
Neither safe nor unsafe	17	16	15	14	11	8	8	12	13	14	15
Fairly unsafe	25	29	29	25	19	24	23	19	19	19	14 [†]
Very unsafe	9	9	11	11	9	8	9	8	9	9	8
Don't know	10	5	5	5	8	4	6	6	4	2	6 [†]
Safe	38	42	40	46	53	56	53	55	56	56	57
Unsafe	34	37	40	36	28	32	33	27	28	28	22[†]

Registering to vote							
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2010	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very safe	22	23	23	25	25	27	28
Fairly safe	57	58	55	55	52	50	52
Neither safe nor unsafe	10	6	7	9	11	13	10
Fairly unsafe	7	8	8	7	6	6	5
Very unsafe	2	2	3	2	2	2	2
Don't know	3	4	3	3	3	1	3
Safe	79	80	78	80	78	77	80
Unsafe	9	10	11	8	8	9	7

Q17. For each of the following please tell me whether you agree or disagree?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Agree strongly	Tend to agree	Neither	Tend to disagree	Disagree strongly	DK	Agree	Disagree
There could be enough electoral fraud in some areas to affect the election result (%)								
2013	18	24	19	18	12	9	42	30
2014	17	26	29	18	11	*	43	28
2015	14	31	26	16	11	2	45	27
2016	19 [†]	25 [†]	17 [†]	19	13	6 [†]	44	32[†]
I would know how to report electoral fraud (%)								
2013	14	13	11	17	38	7	27	55
2014	18	15	15	20	32	*	33	52
2015	15	19	12	20	31	3	34	51
2016	17	14 [†]	7 [†]	22	33	7 [†]	31	55
It would be easy to get away with electoral fraud in Great Britain/NI (%)								
2013	15	22	18	21	16	8	37	37
2014	15	21	27	21	17	*	35	38
2015	12	23	27	24	12	3	34	36
2016	14	19	16 [†]	28 [†]	16 [†]	8 [†]	32	44[†]
Electoral fraud is very common where I live (%)								
2013	3	4	21	22	34	16	7	56
2014	3	3	33	22	39	*	6	61
2015	2	5	32	26	30	6	7	55
2016	4 [†]	4	18 [†]	24	35 [†]	7	8	59
I felt I had little or no choice about who to vote for because of pressure from people I know (%)								
2013	2	1	7	11	78	1	4	89
2014	3	3	10	8	76	*	6	84
2015	3	3	7	12	75	1	6	86
2016	3	4	5	12	74	1	8	86
There are sufficient safeguards in place to prevent electoral fraud (%)								
2013	17	31	20	15	8	8	48	24
2014	19	29	29	13	9	*	48	23
2015	12	28	30	17	10	4	40	27
2016	15	31	20	15	9	10 [†]	46[†]	24

⇒ **ASK IN ENGLAND, WALES & SCOTLAND ONLY:**

Q18. Which one of the following do you think would be most effective in preventing electoral fraud from taking place in Great Britain?

Base: all respondents in GB (1166)	2016 %
People being required to show some form of photographic identification at their polling station	52
Stop political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners from handling postal vote applications/postal ballot papers	20
Stopping people voting for others by proxy	11
Having independent observers in all polling stations	8
Stop postal voting on demand	4
Other	1
None of these	1
Don't know	3

POLITICAL FINANCE

Q19. Political parties need money to run themselves and fight elections. How much would you say you know about political party finance, that is the way in which parties raise money to pay their staff and fight elections? Would you say....

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2013 %	2014 %	2015 %	2016 %
A lot	8	10	11	10
A little	30	34	32	37 [†]
Hardly anything at all	25	27	26	28
Nothing at all	35	28	30	24 [†]
Don't know	1	*	1	1
A lot/little	39	44	43	47
Hardly/nothing at all	60	55	57	53

Q20. And how interested would you say you are in party finance [the way parties and other campaigners raise and spend money]?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2016 %
A lot	20
A little	38
Hardly at all	22
Not at all	19
Don't know	*
A lot/little	58
Hardly/not at all	41

Q21. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

Q21.a The spending and funding of political parties and candidates at UK elections is open and transparent.		
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%
Strongly agree	7	10 [†]
Tend to agree	18	17
Neither	27	17 [†]
Tend to disagree	28	30
Strongly disagree	18	21
Don't know	2	4 [†]
Agree	25	26
Disagree	46	52[†]

Q21.b If a political party is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate action		
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%
Strongly agree	25	33 [†]
Tend to agree	26	25
Neither	14	12
Tend to disagree	21	17 [†]
Strongly disagree	14	11
Don't know	1	3 [†]
Agree	50	58[†]
Disagree	34	28[†]

Q21.c If I wanted to, I could easily find out how much political parties, candidates and other organisations spent on campaigning and how they were funded [NEW QUESTION]	
2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Dec 2016
	%
Strongly agree	16
Tend to agree	24
Neither	12
Tend to disagree	25
Strongly disagree	18
Don't know	5
Agree	39
Disagree	44

Q22. Which ONE of the following statements about party finance in Great Britain /NI do you think is true?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2014	2015	2016
	%	%	%
Information on the funding of political parties is available on individual political party websites	20	23	20
There is no information on the funding of political parties available to the public	18	22	19
Information on the funding of political parties is available on the Electoral Commission's website	14	21	18
Information on the funding of political parties is available on your local council's website	12	12	10
Don't know	36	22	33 [†]

⇒ **ASK IN NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY**

Q23. 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?

2016 Base: All in Northern Ireland (200)	Dec 2008	Dec 2011	Dec 2012	Dec 2013	Dec 2014	Dec 2015	Dec 2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Made available	59	62	62	64	67	68	73 [†]
Kept confidential	8	4	7	6	8	6	3 [†]
Do you not mind either way	32	33	31	29	24	25	23
Don't know	*	1	*	*	2	1	1

Q24. Wealthy individuals, businesses and trade unions as well as party members all give money to political parties in [Great Britain / Northern Ireland].

Which of the following best describes how you feel about the amount of influence they have on parties: do they have...

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Individuals	Businesses/ corporations	Trade Unions	Party Members
	%	%	%	%
Too much influence	41	56	42	21
A reasonable amount of influence	39	33	35	52
Too little influence	9	4	13	15
No influence at all	6	3	4	4
Don't know	5	4	7	7

Q25. Before this interview, how much, if anything, had you heard about...?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	Heard a great deal	Heard a fair amount	Not heard very much	Not heard of it at all	Don't know	NET: Great deal/fair amount	NET: not very much/not at all
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Electoral Commission	6	35	40	19	*	41	59
Equalities and Human Rights Commission [GB ONLY]	14	36	34	16	*	50	49
The Equality Commission [NI ONLY]	19	37	34	9	*	57	43
Financial Conduct Authority	11	27	37	24	*	38	61
Ofcom	19	43	25	12	1	62	38
The Charity Commission [ENGLAND AND WALES ONLY]	13	33	30	24	*	45	54
The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) [SCOTLAND ONLY]	6	15	26	53	-	21	79
The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland [NI ONLY]	7	26	42	23	1	34	66

Q26. Have you seen or heard anything about the Electoral Commission in the news in the last 12 months?

2016 Base: All Respondents (1202)	2016 %
Yes	42
No	53
Don't know	5

⇒ **ASK ALL WHO HAVE HEARD OR SEEN ANYTHING (YES AT Q26)**

Q27. What did you see or hear?

2016 Base: All who have seen or heard anything about the Electoral Commission in the news in the last 12 months (502)	Dec 2016 %
Stories relating to the EU Referendum	17
Stories relating to improper election spending/ the Party spending review	10
Something related to the elections in May 2016	6
Something about the Commission in general / role as a regulator	6
Stories relating to changes to constituency boundaries/ Boundary Committee	5
A campaign to encourage registration	1
Registration deadline extension	1
Other (specify)	24
Don't know/Can't remember	45

Q29. People have many reasons for voting and not voting in elections and referendums. Did you personally vote in any of the following:

2016 Base: All respondents (1202)	Yes %	No %	Don't know %
Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union in June 2016	85	14	1
Scotland: Scottish Parliamentary Wales: National Assembly for Wales/PCC NI: Northern Ireland Assembly London: London Assembly/London Mayoral England (excl. London): Local/PCC ...Elections in May 2016	66	31	2
UK Parliamentary General election in May 2015	78	20	2