Post-European Elections Poll 2019

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Methodology

- This report presents findings from the Electoral Commission’s survey regarding the European Parliament elections in the United Kingdom in May 2019.
- The sample is comprised of 2,262 respondents from across the United Kingdom. The sample has been weighted to be nationally representative of the UK’s population by age, gender, region, and social grade.
- The fieldwork was timed to launch straight after the results of the election were announced and ran from 28th May to 6th June 2019.
- Figures may not total to 100% due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, voters are defined as those who voted in the elections, and non-voters as those who did not.
Key findings (1)

• Most voters had registered to vote months before the election: 80% of voters had registered over 6 months in advance and few registered in the weeks before the election. Non-voters were more likely to not remember when they had registered.

• Similarly most people are aware of how to register to vote, with three-quarters (74%) correctly aware that you can register online.

• Changing the voting process (e.g. by allowing people to vote online) would make no difference for most people in whether they would have voted or not. Younger people however were more likely to vote if the process was made simpler; three-quarters of non-voters aged 18-24 said that they would have been more likely to vote if they could have done so online.

• Most are also in favour of making the voting process easier with 60% supporting a change to allow people to be automatically added to the electoral register when they receive a National Insurance Number. However a majority also support mandatory voter ID. Again, younger people are more likely to be in favour of measures to make registering to vote easier.
Key findings (2)

• Most people had a good understanding of why the EU elections were happening and what they were about. In total, 69% said that they knew a great deal or a fair amount about the elections and only 1% were unaware that it was happening. Nearly nine-tenths (87%) of people surveyed had seen some sort of political message or been engaged by campaigners.

• Around two-thirds (65%) were certain or fairly sure that the elections would take place. However, only 29% said that they were concerned about the elections being cancelled.

• Nearly three-quarters (73%) found it easy to get information about how to cast their vote in the election, although fewer (50%) found it easy to information about the candidates. Non-voters found finding information about the elections significantly more difficult than voters. Similarly, non-voters wanted more information about the elections while voters felt that they had enough.

• The most common source of information on candidates was from them directly (54%). One in four (26%) received information on social media, with Facebook the most popular source.

• Most (85%) of those who voted were satisfied with the process. Of those who were not satisfied, the most common reason given was many people being unable to vote.

• Across both voters and non-voters, 62% were confident that the election was well run. Around one in five (22%) felt the opposite, with the most common reason given being voters, particularly EU citizens, not being allowed to vote.
Key findings (3)

• For most, casting their vote was a straightforward process: 96% of all voters found it easy to fill in the ballot paper, 97% of those who voted at a polling station found it easy to get in and vote and 95% of those who voted by post found completing the postal ballot simple.

• Of the eight electoral issues* presented to respondents, the most concerning is bias in the media, followed by low voter turnout and inadequate regulation of political spending and political activity on social media.

• Over one-third (36%) felt there was some electoral fraud during the elections but just 8% thought this constituted a lot of fraud; 38% said that they did not know how much took place.

• Those who believed that electoral fraud had taken place gave a variety of reasons why, but no clear answer emerged. Most commonly cited was suspicion over not requiring identification to vote (36%).

• Nevertheless, four-fifths (79%) believe that voting in general in the UK is safe from fraud and abuse.

• The public is split over whether they believe the authorities will take appropriate action should a political campaign be caught breaking the rules: 38% agreed they would but 38% also disagreed.

*Electoral fraud; Bias in the media; Low voter turnout at elections; barriers to democratic participation for minority groups; Foreign influence on UK election results; Inadequate regulation of political activity on social media; Intimidation of candidates that stand for election; Inadequate regulation of the money political parties spend on their election campaigns
Section 1: Awareness, perceptions and behaviour
Half had seen or heard an advert about registering to vote, with 18-24 year olds the most likely (65%)

Q3. Have you seen or heard any advertising, publicity or other information recently about registering to vote? Base: all (2,262)

Q3a. Where did you see or hear this advertising, publicity or information about registering to vote? Please select all that you recall. Base: all who remember seeing or hearing an advert (1,108)
The deadline for registering to vote in the European Parliament Election was the 7th May, but most had registered well before then. Few registered in the final few weeks before the deadline.

Q1a. The deadline for registering to vote in the European Parliament Election on Thursday 23 May was Tuesday 7 May. Thinking back, can you remember when you registered to vote?

Base: all on the electoral register (2,206)
A variety of reasons were given for taking part in the election, with the majority voting to express a view or out of a sense of civic responsibility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Net: To express a view (%)</th>
<th>Net: Civic responsibility (%)</th>
<th>Net: To help create a change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to express my dissatisfaction that the EU election was happening</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To show my support/support the community</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU election voting system allows me to express a preference I wouldn't in UK elections</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to express my dissatisfaction that the EU election was happening</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to express dissatisfaction with the Brexit process taking too long</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am concerned about the issues that the European Parliament deals with</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to register a protest with domestic politics in the UK</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to participate to show my support for the running of the EU election</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not happy with the European Parliament /to send a message to the EU</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get a change</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To show my support-support the community</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to express a view on the result of the 2016 referendum on the European Union</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to express dissatisfaction with the decision to leave the EU</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am concerned about the issues that the European Parliament deals with</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to register a protest with domestic politics in the UK</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to participate to show my support for the running of the EU election</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not happy with the European Parliament /to send a message to the EU</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get a change</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To show my support-support the community</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU election voting system allows me to express a preference I wouldn't in UK elections</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I wanted to express my dissatisfaction that the EU election was happening</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Know</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
When non-voters were asked why they didn’t vote, a variety of reasons were given including that we are leaving the EU anyway.

![Bar chart showing reasons for not voting in the European Parliament election on 23rd May. The reasons are as follows:
- Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work: 10%
- I was away on 23 May/voting day: 10%
- We are leaving the European Union anyway: 7%
- Didn’t know what the election was about/couldn’t decide which way to vote: 6%
- You just can’t trust politicians to keep their promises/Voters’ wishes ignored: 5%
- Had no interest/view: 4%
- We should have already left the EU: 4%
- I wasn’t registered: 4%
- I didn’t receive a polling card: 4%
- Medical/health reasons: 3%
- Chose not to vote in protest/democratic right not to vote: 3%
- Politicians do not care/only in politics for own benefit: 3%
- I’m fed up with politics/Brexit: 3%
- I didn’t like the candidates/party/they didn’t represent my views: 3%
- Other: 5%
- Don’t know: 20%

*Only codes with 3% or more are shown.*

Three quarters of UK adults are aware that you can register to vote online.

Those aged 55+ are more likely to say that the online registration statement is false (11%).

Q10. Please could you indicate whether you think each of statements below are true or false? Select one answer per statement. Base: all (2,262)

- You can register to vote online: 74% True, 8% False
- It’s easier to vote if you take your polling card with you to the polling station: 54% True, 38% False
- You have to take ID with you to vote at a polling station: 69% True, 20% False
- You can register to vote until the day before an election: 69% True, 17% False
- You are at risk of getting a fine if you don’t register to vote: 75% True, 13% False
- You are automatically registered to vote if you pay council tax (GB only): 69% True, 9% False
- You are automatically registered to vote if you are of legal voting age: 80% True, 8% False
Those under 35 are more likely to agree that every change would make them more likely to vote.

For most, changing the voting process would make no difference in whether they would have voted or not, although online voting is a relatively popular option.

Q11. Would you have been more likely to vote on 23rd May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if the following things were true?

Base: all (2,262)

- If you could have voted online instead
  - More likely: 37%
  - No difference one way or the other: 55%
  - Less likely: 8%
  - Don’t know: 0%

- If it was easier for you to get a postal vote
  - More likely: 21%
  - No difference one way or the other: 72%
  - Less likely: 4%
  - Don’t know: 3%

- If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before including the Saturday and Sunday before
  - More likely: 20%
  - No difference one way or the other: 73%
  - Less likely: 3%
  - Don’t know: 5%

- If you could have voted at the weekend instead
  - More likely: 20%
  - No difference one way or the other: 74%
  - Less likely: 3%
  - Don’t know: 4%

- If you had been able to register to vote on election day
  - More likely: 14%
  - No difference one way or the other: 77%
  - Less likely: 7%
  - Don’t know: 3%
Three-quarters of non-voters aged 18-24 said that they would have been more likely to vote if they could have done so online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>If you could have voted at the weekend instead</th>
<th>If you could have voted online instead</th>
<th>If you had been able to register to vote on election day</th>
<th>If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before including the Saturday and Sunday before</th>
<th>If it was easier for you to get a postal vote</th>
<th>None of the above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q11. Would you have been more likely to vote on 23rd May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if the following things were true? Base: all non voters (by age: 18-24=59, 25-34=113, 35-44=98, 45-54=106, 55+=195)
The public is generally in favour of making registering to vote easier, although they are also in favour of mandatory voter ID

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Neither support nor oppose</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
<th>Net support score*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People being able to register to vote when accessing another public service</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being automatically added to the electoral register when you receive your National Insurance Number</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People having to show proof of identity to vote</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People being able to register to vote until the day before the election</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local government being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (GB only)</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National government being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (GB only)</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Bodies being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (NI only)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People being able to register to vote in a polling station on the day of the election</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q12. To what extent do you support or oppose the following? Select one answer per statement.
Base: all (2,262), all GB only (1,964), all NI only (298)

*Net support score is the % who support minus the % who oppose
Split by age, younger people are more likely to be in favour of all the measures suggested, while those over 55 are less supportive, with the exception of compulsory voter ID

Net support score

- People being able to register to vote in a polling station on the day of the election
- National government being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (GB only)
- Local government being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (GB only)
- People being able to register to vote until the day before the election
- People having to show proof of identity to vote
- Being automatically added to the electoral register when you receive your National Insurance Number
- People being able to register to vote when accessing another public service

Q12. To what extent do you support or oppose the following? Select one answer per statement. Base: 18-24=128, 25-34=316, 35-44=362, 45-54=375, 55+=1,081

*Public Bodies being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (NI)* excluded due to low base size
By region views are similar across the UK, although a greater proportion in North Ireland support voters having to show proof of identity.

Q12. To what extent do you support or oppose the following? Select one answer per statement. Base: England=1,287, Wales=349, Scotland=328, Northern Ireland=298

England: -9%
Wales: 8%
Scotland: 0%
Northern Ireland: -20%

- People being able to register to vote in a polling station on the day of the election
- National government being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register
- Local government/public bodies being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (GB)
- People being able to register to vote until the day before the election
- People having to show proof of identity to vote
- Being automatically added to the electoral register when you receive your National Insurance Number
- People being able to register to vote when accessing another public service

*Public Bodies being able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on an electoral register (NI)* excluded due to low base sizes
Section 2: Awareness and access to information
Across the United Kingdom, most people have a good grasp of what the election was about; only 1% overall were unaware that it was happening.

Q13. Now thinking again specifically about the European Parliament election which took place on Thursday 23rd May, how much, if anything did you feel you knew about the election on Thursday 23rd May?

Base: all (England=1,287, Wales=349, Scotland=328, Northern Ireland=298)
Around two-thirds (65%) were certain or fairly sure that the elections would take place, although around half were unconcerned whether they did or not; only a quarter were very or fairly concerned.

| How sure were you that the elections would be held? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Certain | Fairly sure | Not very sure | Not at all sure | Don’t know |
| 20% | 44% | 20% | 6% | 8% |

How concerned were you about whether or not the elections would take place?

| How concerned were you about whether or not the elections would take place? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Very | Fairly | A bit | Not at all | Don’t know |
| 13% | 16% | 16% | 48% | 7% |

Over 55s were the most concerned (35% very/fairly)

Q21c. Before the elections there was some speculation about whether these elections to the European Parliament would take place. Thinking about the month or so before 23rd May how sure were you that the elections would be held? Base: all (2,296)
Q21d. How concerned were you about whether or not the elections would take place? Base: all (2,296)
Awareness that the election was going on was high: nearly nine-tenths (87%) of UK adults had seen some sort of political message or been engaged by campaigners.

Q17. Thinking about the last few months, which of the following can you recall happening? Select all that apply. Base: all (2,262)

- I received a leaflet from a candidate/political party at my home: 72%
- I saw an advert or message from a candidate/political party on social media: 25%
- I saw an advert or message from a candidate/political party on television: 24%
- I saw election posters on the street (e.g. in shop windows, on billboards, outside houses, on lampposts, at bus stops): 23%
- I saw campaigners giving out leaflets near to where I live: 15%
- A campaigner knocked on my door: 7%
- None of the above: 13%
- Don't know: 3%
Most found it easy to get information about the election and how to cast their ballot

Q14. For each of the following statements, how easy or difficult would you say it was to access information on...? Select one answer per statement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Very easy</th>
<th>Fairly easy</th>
<th>Neither easy nor difficult</th>
<th>Fairly difficult</th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
<th>Don't Know/ Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How to cast your vote at the European Parliament election</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher among the over 55s (81% very/fairly easy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What the European Parliament election was for</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher among the over 55s (68% very/fairly easy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on parties and candidates standing in the European Parliament election</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher in Scotland (58% very/fairly easy) and Northern Ireland (61% very/fairly easy)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: all (2,262)
Non-voters found finding information about the elections significantly more difficult than voters

It is likely, however, that non-voters would answer this question more negatively because they are not actively searching for information as they are more disengaged with the process. Non-voters were also more likely to say that they did not know how easy or difficult it to get information and more likely to say that it was neither easy nor difficult.

Q14. For each of the following statements, how easy or difficult would you say it was to access information on...? Select one answer per statement.
Base: voters (1,691), non-voters (571)
Most felt that they had enough information about how to register and cast their vote, but almost half wanted more information on the parties and candidates.

Across all measures, those over 55 are more likely to say that they had enough information than any other age group.

Q15. Which of the following best describes the amount of information you feel you had on the things shown below? Select one answer per statement.

**How to cast your vote**
- 84% had enough information
- 10% would have liked to know more

**How to register to vote**
- 80% had enough information
- 10% would have liked to know more

**What the election was for / about**
- 66% had enough information
- 27% would have liked to know more

**When the deadline was for registering to vote**
- 65% had enough information
- 18% would have liked to know more

**The candidates and parties standing**
- 49% had enough information
- 44% would have liked to know more
Non-voters wanted more information while voters felt satisfied that they had enough

Q15. Which of the following best describes the amount of information you feel you had on the things shown below? Select one answer per statement

Base: voters (1,691), non-voters (571)
The most common source of information on candidates was from them directly, followed by the press.

A quarter received information over social media; this was higher among men (31%) and ABC1 (28%) respondents. Facebook was the most popular social media site by far, with three-quarters getting information from there.

### Where did you get information on candidates/parties?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaflet or flyer from a candidate/political party</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Through the press</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth/mentioned by friends/family</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On another website</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidate/party's website</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaflet or flyer from another source</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My local council website</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘Your Vote Matters’ website</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posters or billboards</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local/residents’ forum/online group</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhere else.</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I talked to a candidate/candidates directly</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community meeting (e.g. residents’ association)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electoral office for Northern Ireland (EONI) website</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t find/see any information</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What social media?

- Facebook: 75%
- Twitter: 45%
- Instagram: 11%
- LinkedIn: 1%
- YouTube: 1%
- Higher among 18-24 year olds (34%) and in Scotland (24%)
- Higher among over 45s (57% of 45-54 year olds; 63% of over 55s)

Net: 19%

Higher among C2DE (24%), non-voters (34%) and women (21%)

Q16. Where did you get information on candidates/parties? Select all that apply. Base: all (2,262)
Q16_B. And on what social media did you get information? Base: all who received information on social media (560)
Section 3: Voting processes and priorities
Most voters were satisfied with the voting process

How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting in the 23rd May elections?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Very satisfied</th>
<th>Fairly satisfied</th>
<th>Fairly dissatisfied</th>
<th>Very dissatisfied</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Ireland</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net satisfied: 85% 10%
Net dissatisfied: 75% 11%

Q18. How satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting in the 23rd May elections? Select one answer only.
Base: all voters (1,691), 18-24 (69), 25-34 (203), 35-44 (264), 45-54 (269), 55+ (886), England (979), Wales (254), Scotland (255), Northern Ireland (203)
Of those dissatisfied with the voting process, the most common reason given was many people, particularly EU citizens, being unable to vote.

Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the process for voting?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many people didn't get to vote/register / EU citizens unable to vote</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree with /don't like the voting system</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The system is not fair/ Lack of democracy within the system</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We voted to leave the EU so should not be having these elections</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough information about the candidates</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues with postal voting (admin)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues with secrecy/ anonymity of voting</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste of time / pointless</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confusion/uncertainty over whether elections would happen</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Didn't receive a polling card</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The system is not fair/ Lack of democracy within the system</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree with /don't like the voting system</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Responses selected by 2% of fewer of respondents have been excluded.

Q19. Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the process for voting in the 23rd May elections? Please write in everything you think is relevant. Please give us as much information as you can to help us to understand your answer. Base: all dissatisfied with the voting process (120).
Most agreed that the election was well run, with it being quick and easy to vote and having a clear and concise ballot paper and convenient polling station the main reasons given.

How confident are you that the European Parliament election(s) was/were well run?

- Very confident: 23%
- Fairly confident: 39%
- Not very confident: 15%
- Not at all confident: 7%
- Don’t know: 17%

Why do you say you are confident that the election(s) was/were well run?

- It was quick/easy to vote (49%)
- Clear/concise ballot paper (40%)
- Polling station was accessible/easy to get to (40%)
- The whole process is tried and tested (38%)
- I had enough time to decide who to vote for (35%)
- The voting system is fair (33%)
- Everyone had the opportunity to vote (32%)
- I have no negative feedback (26%)
- The staff had a good attitude (25%)
- The elections were well organised (25%)
- The system is secure (22%)
- There was a lot of information about the elections (17%)
- The staff were knowledgeable about the process (14%)
- The results were in the media quickly (12%)
- There was a lot of information about the candidates (10%)
- No specific reason (4%)
- The candidates canvassed a lot/had contact with people (2%)
- Other (1%)
- Don’t know (1%)

Q20. How confident, if at all, are you that the European Parliament election(s) on 23rd May was/were well run? Select one answer only. Base: all (2,262)

Q21a. Why do you say you are confident that the election(s) on 23rd May was/were well run? Select one answer only. Base: all confident (1,472)
However, almost a quarter were not confident that they were well run. The issues around voter registration, likely regarding EU citizens, was the main reason given.

Why do you say you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run?

- Some people did not have the opportunity to vote: 57%
- Some people had difficulties registering to vote: 42%
- TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented: 39%
- Candidates didn’t canvass/have contact with people: 39%
- There wasn’t enough information about the candidates: 38%
- There wasn’t enough information about the elections: 34%
- I heard/read that the election was badly run: 24%
- Information about the elections was confusing: 22%
- The voting system is unfair/outdated: 21%
- There was a long wait for results: 19%
- The results are influenced by fraud/corruption: 19%
- Risks to the running of the poll as confirmed at short notice: 19%
- I heard that the election could be cancelled at short notice: 18%
- The counting process was not accurate: 9%
- I didn’t have enough time to decide who to vote for: 9%
- I didn’t receive a polling card/postal ballot papers: 4%
- People outside the polling station so I felt worried about going in: 4%
- There were not enough staff on duty at the polling station: 4%
- The staff at the polling station were not helpful: 3%
- I didn’t know what to do in the polling station: 1%
- Other: 8%
- No specific reason: 7%
- Don’t know: 3%

Q20. How confident, if at all, are you that the European Parliament election(s) on 23rd May was/were well run? Select one answer only. Base: all (2,262)

Q21b. Why do you say you are not confident that the election(s) was/were well run? Select one answer only. Base: all confident (449)
Section 4: Ballot paper
Most found it easy to fill in the ballot paper, but those aged 18-24 were more likely to struggle; 8% of this group found it difficult. Voters in Wales were less likely to say it was easy to fill in their ballot paper than in other regions, but 93% of Welsh voters still found it easy.

Q22. Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the 23rd May election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper for this election? Base: all voters (1,691). Q23. Why did you say it was difficult? Select all that apply. Base: all who found it difficult (34).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size/length of the ballot paper had to be too long</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The parties were in a confusing order</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I could not easily find the party or candidate of my choice</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There were too many candidates</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I didn’t have enough information on how to cast my vote</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The candidates were in a confusing order</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructions were unclear</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t understand how the electoral system works</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The text on the ballot paper was too small</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ballot paper was complex/confusing</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had difficulties using the forms</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAUTION: Low base size means results should be treated as indicative only.
Section 5: Polling station
For the vast majority, going to the polling station was a smooth experience; 97% found it easy to get inside and vote.

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

- **Very easy**: 90%
- **Fairly easy**: 8%
- **Fairly difficult**: 1%
- **Very difficult**: 1%
- **Don't know**: 1%

Higher among the over 55s (94%)

How useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote?

- **Very useful**: 25%
- **Fairly useful**: 18%
- **Not very useful**: 52%
- **Not at all useful**: 2%
- **Didn't use them/need them**: 1%
- **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? Select one answer only. Base: all who voted in a polling station (1,239)

Q25. 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? Select one answer only. Base: all who voted in a polling station (1,239)
Section 6: Voting by post
Similarly, most postal voters thought the postal ballot was easy to complete (95%) and found the written instructions useful (89%).

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

- Very easy: 65%
- Fairly easy: 30%
- Fairly difficult: 1%
- Very difficult: 1%
- Don't know: 1%

How useful, if at all, were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)?

- Very useful: 56%
- Fairly useful: 33%
- Not very useful: 5%
- Not at all useful: 2%
- Didn't use them/need them: 2%
- Don't know: 2%

Higher among men (62%) and C2DE (8%).

Q26. How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Select one answer only. Base: all who voted by post (431)

Q27. Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all, were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Select one answer only. Base: all who voted by post (431)
Section 7: Integrity of elections
Bias in the media is considered the most serious problem facing the UK at the moment followed by low voter turnout and inadequate regulation of political spending and political activity on social media.

How much of a problem do you think that each of the following is in the UK at the moment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>1 - Not a problem</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5 - Serious problem</th>
<th>Mean score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bias in the media</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low voter turnout at elections</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate regulation of the money political parties spend on their election campaigns</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate regulation of political activity on social media</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q28. How much of a problem do you think that each of the following is in the UK at the moment? Select one answer per statement. Base: all (2,262)
The below are of less concern to the British public, although a higher proportion still consider them a problem in comparison to those who don’t.

How much of a problem do you think that each of the following is in the UK at the moment?

- **Foreign influence on UK election results (e.g. funding, campaigning activity, disinformation or cyber-crime)**
  - Don’t know: 20%
  - Not a problem: 8%
  - Somewhat of a problem: 11%
  - Serious problem: 21%
  - Very serious problem: 20%
  - Higher among men (11%) and those aged over 45 (12% of 45-54 year olds; 10% of the over 55s)
  - Higher in Scotland (26%)
  - Mean score: 3.46

- **Electoral fraud**
  - Don’t know: 23%
  - Not a problem: 10%
  - Somewhat of a problem: 15%
  - Serious problem: 22%
  - Very serious problem: 15%
  - Higher among men (15%)
  - Higher among C2DE (17%)
  - Higher in Scotland (19% and among ABC1 (14%)
  - Mean score: 3.11

- **Barriers to democratic participation for minority groups**
  - Don’t know: 24%
  - Not a problem: 16%
  - Somewhat of a problem: 11%
  - Serious problem: 19%
  - Very serious problem: 17%
  - Higher among men (15%)
  - Higher among C2DE (17%)
  - Higher in Scotland (19% and among ABC1 (14%)
  - Mean score: 2.97

- **Intimidation of candidates that stand for election**
  - Don’t know: 25%
  - Not a problem: 12%
  - Somewhat of a problem: 17%
  - Serious problem: 21%
  - Very serious problem: 15%
  - Higher among men (11%)
  - Mean score: 2.95

Q28. How much of a problem do you think that each of the following is in the UK at the moment? Select one answer per statement. Base: all (2,262)
Over one-third feel there was some electoral fraud during the elections but just 8% thought this constituted a lot of fraud.

The most common answer given was ‘Don’t know’; only 5% thought there was no electoral fraud.

Q29. How much electoral fraud or abuse, if any, do you think took place at the 23rd May elections? Select one answer only. Base: all (2,262)

- Don’t know: 38%
- Nothing at all: 5%
- Hardly anything: 21%
- A little: 29%
- A lot: 8%

Net: 26%

Men are more likely to say that there was no or negligible electoral fraud while women were more likely to say they didn’t know.

- Men: 28% (Don’t know), 47% (Hardly anything)
- Women: 33% (Don’t know), 18% (Hardly anything)

Net: 36%

Similarly, voters were more likely to say there was electoral fraud, while non-voters were unsure.

- Voters: 34% (Don’t know), 48% (Hardly anything)
- Non-voters: 27% (Don’t know), 23% (Hardly anything)

Net: 29%
There was no standout reason for why some thought electoral fraud had taken place, but the most common answer was suspicion over not requiring identification to vote

Q30a. What makes you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 23rd May? Select all that apply

Base: all who think electoral fraud took place (850)

- I am sure people are voting fraudulently because you don’t have to provide identification to vote, but I haven’t heard or seen anything specific
- I have seen stories in the media about political parties breaking the rules
- I am sure people are voting fraudulently by post, but I haven’t heard anything specific
- I have heard of people fraudulently voting on behalf of others
- I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud
- I have heard of people registering multiple times
- I have heard of people fraudulently registering others at the same address
- I have seen posters/videos/other publicity telling people about electoral fraud
- I personally know someone who committed electoral fraud
- I personally saw someone vote when they weren’t allowed to/fraudulently
- Other
- Don’t know

Higher among the over 55s (48%)
Higher in Northern Ireland (41%) and among the over 55s (36%)

Perhaps unsurprisingly, those who believe that electoral fraud did take place are more likely to support measures requiring people to show proof of identity to vote (66% in favour vs 52% of those who do not think electoral fraud took place)
Of those who did not think that electoral fraud took place, the most common reasons given were trusting those who administer the elections and not hearing about fraud in the media.

Q30b. Which one of the following best describes why you said that you think electoral fraud or abuse did not take place on 23rd May? Select all that apply.

- I didn’t hear anything in the media about electoral fraud: 51%
- I trust the people that administer elections do a good job: 51%
- I did not hear from anyone first hand that anything suspicious took place: 42%
- I did not see anything suspicious first-hand: 40%
- There are sufficient measures in place to deter anyone from committing electoral fraud: 30%
- Elections in this country are safe from fraud and abuse: 25%
- I don’t really know anything about electoral fraud: 10%
- Greater safeguards against electoral fraud have recently been introduced: 9%
- Other: 3%
- Don’t know: 4%

Higher among women (19%) and in Wales (17%) and men (58%).
Voting is considered safe from fraud and abuse by a majority of the population. Men (85%) and those aged over 55 (83%) are more likely to consider voting in general safe but there are no significant differences by region.

When it comes to being safe from fraud or abuse, how safe or unsafe do you think these things are?

**Voting at a polling station**
- Very safe: 35%
- Fairly safe: 47%
- Fairly unsafe: 8%
- Very unsafe: 1%
- Don't know: 8%
- 82% Net safe, 10% Net unsafe

**Registering to vote**
- Very safe: 32%
- Fairly safe: 47%
- Fairly unsafe: 7%
- Very unsafe: 2%
- Don't know: 11%
- 79% Net safe, 9% Net unsafe

**Voting in general**
- Very safe: 23%
- Fairly safe: 56%
- Fairly unsafe: 10%
- Very unsafe: 2%
- Don't know: 9%
- 79% Net safe, 12% Net unsafe

**Voting by post**
- Very safe: 18%
- Fairly safe: 41%
- Fairly unsafe: 20%
- Very unsafe: 8%
- Don't know: 13%
- 59% Net safe, 28% Net unsafe

In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud or abuse, how safe or unsafe do you think these things are? Select one answer only.
Base: all (2,262)
Section 8: Party and election finance
Most disagree that campaigns are open and transparent and that they could find out how campaigns are funded

Q32. Here are some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. These rules do not include politicians' expenses. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: all (2,262)

If a political party or another campaigner is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate action.

- Strongly agree: 12%
- Tend to agree: 27%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 15%
- Tend to disagree: 26%
- Strongly disagree: 12%
- Don't Know: 9%

Net %: 38% 38%

Higher among over 55s (net agree 52%)

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.

- Strongly agree: 4%
- Tend to agree: 19%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 18%
- Tend to disagree: 30%
- Strongly disagree: 13%
- Don't Know: 17%

Net %: 23% 43%

Higher among over 55s (net agree 27%)

The spending and funding of political parties and candidates and other campaigning organisations at elections is open and transparent.

- Strongly agree: 2%
- Tend to agree: 12%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 20%
- Tend to disagree: 36%
- Strongly disagree: 17%
- Don't Know: 12%

Net %: 14% 54%

Higher among 18-24 year olds (20%)

Higher among women (11%)