

**Political Engagement Poll  
The Electoral Commission/The Hansard Society**

**MORI survey – Topline results  
FINAL – 2 February 2004**

Topline results are based on 1,976 adults aged 18+ across the UK. Interviews in Great Britain were conducted face-to-face, in home, between 11-17 December 2003. Interviews in Northern Ireland were conducted face-to-face, in-home between 6-15 December 2003.

Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated.

Data are weighted to the profile of the population.

An asterisk (\*) indicates a finding of less than 0.5% but greater than zero.

Where percentages do not add up to exactly 100% this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t knows” or to multiple answers.

QA. **How likely would you be in a immediate general election, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote, and 1 means that you would be absolutely certain not to vote?**

	%
10 (Absolutely certain to vote)	51
9	6
8	8
7	5
6	3
5	7
4	2
3	2
2	2
1 (Absolutely certain not to vote)	11
Don't know	2
Refused	0

Q1. **Which, if any, of the things on this list have you done in the last two or three years. Just read out the letters that apply.**

	%
Presented my views to a local councillor or MP	13
Written a letter to an editor	6
Urged someone outside my family to vote	14
Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP	14
Made a speech before an organised group	11
Been an officer of an organisation or club	8
Stood for public office	1
Taken an active part in a political campaign	3
Helped on fund raising drives	21
Voted in the last general election	64
Flown on business overseas	8
Flown on a business trip within the UK	7
None of these	25

**Q2. You said that you have presented your views to a local councillor or MP. Was this to a local councillor, an MP or both?**

*Base: All who have presented views to councillor or MP (263)*

	%
Local councillor	48
MP	27
Both	24
Don't know	2

ASK ALL

**Q3. And which of these, if any, have you done in the last two or three years? Just read out the letters that apply**

	%
Voted in the last local council election	51
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a charity or campaigning organisation	41
Signed a petition	39
Discussed politics or political news with someone else	38
Contacted my local council	26
Done voluntary work	23
Boycotted certain products for political, ethical or environmental reasons	18
Helped organise a charity event	16
Taken part in a sponsored event	15
Taken part in a demonstration, picket or march	5
Been to any political meeting	5
Donated money or paid a membership fee to a political party	5
Taken part in a strike	2
Served as a school or hospital governor	2
Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a general election	1
Taken an active part in a party's campaign at a local election	1
Served as a local magistrate	1
None	17
Don't know	0

**Q4. How interested would you say you are in politics?**

	%
Very interested	11
Fairly interested	39
Not very interested	32
Not at all interested	18
Don't know	0

Q5. **What do you understand by “politics”?** PROBE FULLY AND WRITE IN.

Listings provided separately

Q6. **How much, if anything, do you feel you know about....**

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	Nothing at all	Don't know	Great deal/fair amount	Not much/nothing
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
a) Politics	3	39	45	12	1	42	57
b) The European Union	2	22	55	20	1	24	75
c) Your local council	4	34	49	12	1	38	61
d) The Westminster Parliament	3	30	50	17	1	33	67
e) The role of MPs	4	41	42	13	1	45	55

Q7. **What is the name of your local Member of Parliament for this constituency since June 2001/since the last by-election?**

	%
Correct	42
Incorrect	10
Don't know	49

Q8. **Please tell me if you think that the following statements are true or false. If you don't know, just say so and we will move on to the next question.**

	True	False	Don't know
	%	%	%
Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by voters like you and me (True)	49	32	19
Not all members of the Cabinet are MPs (True)	39	39	22
The European Union consists of 12 member states (False)	38	30	33
The House of Commons has more power than the House of Lords (True)	49	30	22
There has to be a general election every 4 years (False)	65	27	8
You can only vote in a local election if you pay council tax (False)	19	67	14
Local councils have the power to set the school leaving age in their own area (False)	8	74	17

- Q9. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that Parliament works?
- Q10. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way MPs in general are doing their job?
- Q11. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way your MP (INSERT NAME) is doing his/her job?

	Q9 %	Q10 %	Q11 %
Very satisfied	1	1	8
Fairly satisfied	35	31	33
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	27	26	26
Fairly dissatisfied	23	26	9
Very dissatisfied	9	10	4
Don't know	5	5	21
Satisfied	36	32	41
Dissatisfied	32	36	13

- Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Agree %	Disagree %
A) Being active in politics is a waste of time	4	18	20	42	13	3	22	55
B) I feel a sense of satisfaction when I vote	12	41	20	16	7	4	53	23
C) It is my duty to vote	37	37	10	10	5	1	74	15
D) I want to have a say in how the country is run	31	44	12	9	4	2	75	13
E) When people like me get involved in politics, they really can change the way that the UK is run	5	31	20	30	10	4	36	40

- Q13. Which of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain?

	%
Works extremely well and could not be improved	2
Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	34
Could be improved quite a lot	42
Needs a great deal of improvement	18
Don't know	4

**Q14. From this list, which two or three of the following do you believe have most impact on people's everyday lives? You can select up to three options**

Base: 1,064 UK adults, 18+

		%	
A)	Civil Service	22	
B)	Business	41	
C)	Cabinet	8	
D)	European Union	17	
E)	Local Councils	47	
F)	Media	52	
G)	Prime Minister	25	
H)	Westminster Parliament	30	
I)	Scottish Parliament	3	ONLY ASKED IN SCOTLAND
J)	National Assembly for Wales	2	ONLY ASKED IN WALES
	Northern Ireland Assembly (Stormont)	1	ONLY ASKED IN N. IRELAND
	None	*	
	Don't know	6	

**Q15. From what you know or have heard, how easy or difficult is it to contact your MP?**

Base: 1,064 UK adults, 18+

	%
Very easy	14
Fairly easy	44
Fairly difficult	12
Very difficult	5
Don't know	25

**Q16. How much would you say you trust politicians generally?**

Base: 1,064 UK adults, 18+

	%
A great deal	1
A fair amount	26
Not very much	51
Not at all	19
Don't know	2