

## State of the Nation Survey 2010

### Topline Results (Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010)

- Results are based on interviews with 2,288 GB residents aged 18+.
- Interviews were carried out face-to-face, in street between 20<sup>th</sup> January and 7<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- A representative sample was interviewed, with quotas set by age, gender and work status.
- The data has been weighted by age, gender, work status, housing tenure and region.
- 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 (2,288) unless otherwise stated.
- An asterisk (\*) represents a value of less than one half or one percent, but not zero.
- Study undertaken by ICM on behalf of the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q1**

Q1. <b>Generally speaking, for each of the following statements, do you agree strongly, agree slightly, neither agree nor disagree, disagree slightly or disagree strongly?</b> READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH							
		Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	Don't know
Government power in Britain is too centralised	%	31	25	17	10	5	11
Local communities should have more say over decisions that affect them	%	61	28	6	3	1	2
More of the money spent by local councils should be raised locally	%	23	25	20	15	10	7
The length of a Parliament should be fixed, removing the Prime Minister's power to choose the date of the next election	%	39	25	15	7	6	7
Britain needs a written constitution, providing clear legal rules within which government ministers and civil servants are forced to operate	%	46	27	13	4	4	6
There should be more votes in the House of Commons in which MPs vote according to their own personal views rather than how the party leaders tell them	%	44	28	13	5	4	6
Laws for England should be made by the House of Commons, but only English MPs should be able to vote on them	%	39	22	16	9	7	7

Q2. <b>The government is currently thinking about who should sit in the House of Lords. Which one of the following options do you think the government should choose?</b> READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.	
	%
A mixture of elected and appointed members, with more than half of them elected	34
A wholly elected second chamber	27
A mixture with a third of the members elected and two thirds appointed	14
Don't know	25

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q3**

Q3. I am going to read out a number of policies and proposals, and I would like you to tell me whether you agree or disagree with each. READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH							
		Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	Don't know
This country should adopt a new voting system that would give parties seats in Parliament in proportion to their share of votes	%	35	30	13	6	7	8
A referendum should be held on changing the system we use to elect MPs	%	33	26	17	8	7	9
The present voting system produces governments which do not represent the views of most ordinary people	%	40	32	12	8	3	5
Ordinary people should be given the right to initiate and vote on new laws and changes to government or local policies	%	42	31	10	7	6	4
The voting age should be lowered to 16	%	8	9	10	20	50	3
Constituents should be able to sack their MP by holding a new election to choose an MP if a petition attracts enough support amongst constituents	%	38	31	14	6	5	5
'None of the Above' should be offered as an option on ballot papers at all elections	%	20	18	21	13	17	11
Elections should be held on a weekend to make it easier for people to vote	%	29	25	21	10	11	4

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q4**

**Q4. With the decline in membership of the main political parties, parties are now relying more on funding from other sources, such as wealthy individuals, trade unions and businesses to help them play their part in the political process.**

**I am now going to read out a number of statements that people have made about the funding of political parties. For each one please tell me if you agree strongly, agree slightly, neither agree nor disagree, disagree slightly or disagree strongly.**

**READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH**

		Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	Don't know
Funding parties by voluntary donations is unfair because there is a risk that wealthy individuals, trade unions and businesses can buy influence over parties	%	41	31	10	8	4	7
Political parties with significant public support should be provided with public funds to reduce their dependency on donations from wealthy individuals, trade unions and businesses	%	25	31	20	8	7	9
There should be limits on how much people can donate to political parties	%	37	28	13	9	7	7
If there is to be a system of state funding for political parties it should be targeted to support local activity by parties.	%	23	33	23	6	3	11
Donations to political parties should be subject to tax relief, just like donations to charities	%	21	22	16	14	16	10
If individual members give informed consent Trade Unions should be allowed to collect money from their members on behalf of a political party and money collected in this way should be treated as individual donations	%	17	29	23	9	11	12
Political parties should only be entitled to state funding if they are internally democratic and open to anyone to join	%	34	29	18	4	5	10

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q5/Q6**

**Q5. In Britain how much power would you say each of the following groups SHOULD have over government policies?**

**READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH**

		A great deal	A fair amount	A little	None at all	Don't know
Ordinary voters	%	60	27	8	2	3
The media	%	8	20	36	32	4
Large companies	%	9	22	36	28	5
Parliament	%	44	38	11	3	4
Trade Unions	%	9	32	35	18	6
Pressure and lobby groups	%	9	28	34	20	9

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q5/Q6**

Q6. <b>In Britain how much power would you say each of the following groups DO have over government policies?</b> READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH		A great deal	A fair amount	A little	None at all	Don't know
Ordinary voters	%	7	17	47	25	5
The media	%	31	44	14	5	6
Large companies	%	32	41	15	4	7
Parliament	%	57	29	7	1	5
Trade Unions	%	18	40	28	6	8
Pressure and lobby groups	%	14	32	34	9	11

Q7. <b>Which one of these statements best describes your opinion on the present system of governing Britain?</b> READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.		%
It works extremely well and could not be improved		2
It could be improved in small ways but mainly works well		20
It could be improved quite a lot		41
It needs a great deal of improvement		33
Don't know		4

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q8**

Q8. <b>I would now like to ask you some questions about a Bill of Rights, which some people have been talking about. On this card is a list of rights that some people have said should be included in a Bill of Rights. I'd like you to go through the list and tell me, which, if any, you yourself think should be INCLUDED in a Bill of Rights.</b> READ OUT. MULTICODE.		%
Right to a fair trial before a jury		88
Right to hospital treatment on the NHS within a reasonable time		87
Right to know what information government departments hold about you		81
Right to privacy in your phone, mail and e-mail communications		79
Right to join a legal strike without losing your job		76
Right to obtain information from government bodies about their activities		75
Right of free assembly for peaceful meetings and demonstrations		72
Right of a woman to have an abortion		66
Right of British subjects to equal treatment on entering and leaving the UK, irrespective of colour or race		66
Right of those who are homeless to be housed		60
Don't know		4

Q9. <b>Do you agree or disagree with the view that Britain needs a Bill of Rights to protect the liberty of the individual?</b> READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.		%
Agree strongly		52
Agree slightly		28
Neither agree nor disagree		8
Disagree slightly		3
Disagree strongly		3
Don't know		6

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q10**

Q10.	<b>The government has proposed the introduction of identity cards that, in combination with your passport, will cost around £93. From what you have seen or heard do you think that this proposal is a good idea or a bad idea?</b> READ OUT. SINGLE CODE.	
		%
	Very good idea	10
	Good idea	27
	Bad idea	25
	Very bad idea	27
	Don't know	10

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q11**

Q11.	<b>From what you have seen or heard do you think the following government proposals for handling personal information are a good idea or a bad idea?</b> READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH					
		Very good idea	Good idea	Bad idea	Very bad idea	Don't know
Collecting information about citizens and storing it on large computer systems which can then be used for a wide range of purposes and shared between different parts of government	%	6	22	31	34	7
Holding all your medical records on a centralised computer system, rather than under the control of your GP or hospital	%	13	26	26	29	6
Allowing the government to be able access your phone, e-mail and internet browsing records wherever they are held	%	3	9	28	55	5

⇒ **ASK RESPONDENTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES ONLY**

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q12**

Q12.	<b>In England and Wales, the police can currently take a DNA sample from anyone arrested for a recordable offence before they are charged with an offence. This sample is analysed to produce a DNA profile which is kept permanently on a database, whether or not the person is convicted or even charged with an offence.</b>  <b>For each of the following please tell me whether you think the police should keep a person's DNA profile on the database permanently, or whether there should be a time limit.</b>  READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH			
		Keep permanently	Time limit	Don't know
If they are convicted of a serious violent or sexual offence, such as rape or murder	%	92	5	2
If they are convicted of burglary	%	57	39	4
If they are convicted of being drunk and disorderly, or taking part in an illegal demonstration	%	25	65	10

⇒ **ASK RESPONDENTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES ONLY**  
 ⇒ **SHOWCARD Q13**

Q13. **I am now going to read out a number of policies and proposals, and I would like you to tell me to what extent you support or oppose each?**  
 READ OUT EACH. SINGLE CODE EACH

		Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Allowing the police to take a DNA sample from a person before they are charged with an offence	%	17	22	9	19	31	2
Allowing the police to keep a person's DNA profile on a database permanently, even if they are never charged or convicted of an offence	%	14	15	8	20	41	3
Allowing the police to keep a person's DNA profile on a database for six years, even if they are never charged or convicted of an offence	%	14	19	9	19	37	3
Allowing the police to keep a person's record of arrest permanently, even if they are never charged or convicted of an offence	%	11	14	9	19	43	3

Q14. **I would like you to think about the political parties, and for you to tell me, in turn, how much you like or dislike them AT PRESENT.**  
 READ OUT EACH PARTY. CODE FOR EACH.

		Like a lot 7	6	5	Neutral 4	3	2	Dislike a lot 1	Don't know
Conservative	%	7	8	13	31	10	8	16	6
Labour	%	6	7	10	28	12	10	21	6
Liberal Democrat	%	2	4	11	45	11	6	13	8
Green Party	%	3	3	8	43	10	8	15	10
UK Independence Party	%	2	3	4	35	10	10	23	13
British National Party	%	3	1	3	21	6	9	48	9
Plaid Cymru <b>[WALES ONLY]</b>	%	6	8	11	46	5	3	9	11
Scottish National Party <b>[SCOTLAND ONLY]</b>	%	9	12	17	36	7	7	10	4

⇒ **SHOWCARD Q15**

Q15. **For each political party please tell me which of the following statements is true.**  
 READ OUT EACH PARTY. CODE FOR EACH.

	I might vote for them	I could never vote for them	Neither of them	Don't know
	%	%	%	%
Conservative	44	29	25	1
Labour	40	34	25	1
Liberal Democrat	36	33	29	1
Green Party	23	42	34	1
UK Independence Party	16	49	33	2
British National Party	11	63	24	2
Plaid Cymru <b>[WALES ONLY]</b>	35	35	27	2
Scottish National Party <b>[SCOTLAND ONLY]</b>	49	29	22	*

Q16. Finally, could I ask you which political party you feel you most closely identify yourself with? PROMPT IF NECESSARY. SINGLE CODE.	
	%
Conservative	26
Labour	26
Liberal Democrat	9
British National Party	4
Green Party	3
Scottish National Party <b>[SCOTLAND ONLY]</b>	2
UK Independence Party	2
Plaid Cymru <b>[WALES ONLY]</b>	1
Other party	1
Not stated	26

## CLASSIFICATIONS

Gender	%
Male	48
Female	52

Age	%
18-24	12
25-34	16
35-44	20
45-54	17
55-64	15
65+	21

Tenure:	%
Own outright	33
Own with mortgage	39
Council rent	13
Private rent/other	16

Working Status of respondent:	%
Full-time	45
Part-time	12
Not working	36
Unemployed	7

Social class	%
AB	21
C1	32
C2	19
DE	26
Not stated	2

Trade Union member	%
Yes	14
No	84
Not stated	2

Workplace	%
Public sector	27
Private sector	37
Other	13
Not stated	23

Cars in household	%
None	23
One	43
Two	28
Three +	5
Not stated	1

Ethnicity (SHOW CARD)	%
<b>White</b>	<b><u>92</u></b>
<b>NET: Black</b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
Black Caribbean	1
Black African	1
Black other	*
<b>NET: Asian</b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
Of Indian origin	1
Of Pakistani origin	1
Of Bangladeshi origin	1
Of other Asian origin	*
<b>NET: Other</b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
Of Chinese origin	*
Other/ mixed	2