

**Prepared  
for  
Baroness  
Young**      **Parliament Act Poll - November 2000**

**ICM Research** interviewed by telephone a random sample of 1,000 adults aged 18+ in the political constituency of Sedgefield on 19th-20th November 2000. The results have been weighted to the profile of all Sedgefield adults.

<b>Q1. Parliament at Westminster has recently been discussing laws relating to the age of consent for sexual relations. At present the age of consent for heterosexual sex is 16, and for homosexual gay sex it is 18. Do you think the age of consent for gay people should be lowered from 18 to 16 or not?</b>	
<b>Yes - should be lowered</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>No should not be lowered</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>6%</b>

<b>Q2. You may have heard recently that the House of Lords has for the third time rejected a Bill passed to it by the House of Commons that seeks to lower the age of consent for homosexual gay sex to 16. Do you think the House of Lords was right or wrong to reject the Bill for the third time?</b>	
<b>Right</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Wrong</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>4%</b>

<b>Q3. As a result of rejecting the Bill, the Prime Minister Tony Blair will invoke the Parliament Act. This Act allows the government to pass Bills into law without the Lords agreement after a delay of one year. Do you think the government is right or wrong to invoke the Parliament Act?</b>	
<b>Right</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Wrong</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>10%</b>

<b>Q4. The Parliament Act is very rarely used. Do you think that lowering the age of consent for gay homosexual sex is important enough an issue for the government to use the Parliament Act or not?</b>	
<b>Yes - age of consent important enough</b>	<b>35%</b>

<b>No - age of consent not important enough</b>	<b>59%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>6%</b>

**Q5. As a result of the government attempting to lower the age of consent for gay, homosexual sex and using the Parliament Act to achieve it, do you think you are more likely to vote Labour in any new General Election, less likely to vote Labour or will it make no difference?**

<b>More likely to vote Labour</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Less likely to vote Labour</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Make no difference</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Don't know</b>	<b>2%</b>