

Public Services Survey

Fieldwork : September 19th-21st 2003

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

Q.1 Some people say that the government is placing too much emphasis on using private companies to provide public services. Do you agree or disagree?

Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
Agree	623 62%	291 59%	332 65%	59 57%	123 64%	326 65%	114 55%	140 58%	163 58%	143 69%	178 65%	117 61%	127 59%	131 69%	39 72%	219 64%	181 59%	223 63%
Disagree	325 32%	181 37%	143 28%	42 40%	61 32%	150 30%	71 34%	88 37%	105 37%	55 26%	77 28%	68 36%	75 35%	54 28%	14 26%	105 31%	109 35%	111 31%
Don't know	54 5%	20 4%	35 7%	3 3%	7 3%	23 5%	22 10%	11 5%	12 4%	11 5%	20 7%	6 3%	13 6%	6 3%	1 3%	17 5%	18 6%	19 5%

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Table 2

Q.2 Do you approve or disapprove of the government's intention to create a separate tier of NHS "foundation" hospitals that can borrow more and pay their staff more than other NHS hospitals?

Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
Approve	296	158	137	46	67	132	50	70	76	61	90	63	71	42	20	102	97	97
	30%	32%	27%	44%	35%	26%	24%	29%	27%	29%	33%	33%	33%	22%	37%	30%	32%	27%
Disapprove	615	297	318	51	105	315	144	152	178	128	156	117	133	135	30	218	176	220
	61%	60%	62%	49%	55%	63%	69%	63%	64%	62%	57%	61%	62%	71%	56%	64%	57%	62%
Don't know	92	37	55	7	19	53	13	18	25	19	29	11	11	14	4	21	35	35
	9%	7%	11%	7%	10%	11%	6%	8%	9%	9%	11%	6%	5%	7%	7%	6%	11%	10%

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Table 3

Q.3 Here are some things people have said about public services. For each one I read out please say whether you agree or disagree.

Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
<u>Private companies should not be allowed to provide any public services</u>																		
Agree	320 32%	152 31%	169 33%	26 25%	51 27%	166 33%	77 37%	68 28%	84 30%	72 35%	96 35%	57 30%	58 27%	67 35%	20 36%	125 37%	90 29%	105 30%
Disagree	658 66%	334 68%	324 64%	77 74%	137 72%	320 64%	124 60%	165 69%	191 69%	133 64%	169 61%	129 68%	154 72%	119 62%	33 60%	206 60%	215 70%	238 67%
Don't know	24 2%	6 1%	18 3%	1 1%	2 1%	14 3%	7 3%	7 3%	4 1%	3 1%	10 4%	5 2%	3 1%	6 3%	2 3%	10 3%	3 1%	10 3%
<u>Private companies usually run public services more efficiently than local councils</u>																		
Agree	446 44%	234 48%	212 42%	51 49%	94 49%	196 39%	105 51%	117 49%	113 40%	96 46%	120 44%	105 55%	90 42%	74 39%	14 26%	134 39%	152 49%	160 45%
Disagree	493 49%	232 47%	262 51%	49 47%	80 42%	274 55%	91 44%	109 46%	149 53%	102 49%	133 48%	75 39%	110 51%	107 56%	40 73%	179 52%	141 46%	173 49%
Don't know	63 6%	26 5%	37 7%	4 4%	17 9%	30 6%	11 5%	14 6%	17 6%	10 5%	22 8%	10 5%	16 7%	10 5%	1 1%	28 8%	15 5%	19 5%
<u>In future private companies should be allowed to run public services if they can guarantee better service</u>																		
Agree	804 80%	404 82%	400 78%	90 86%	162 85%	400 80%	153 74%	188 78%	232 83%	173 83%	211 77%	157 82%	181 84%	150 78%	39 71%	273 80%	254 82%	277 79%
Disagree	182 18%	83 17%	99 19%	14 13%	27 14%	90 18%	52 25%	45 19%	45 16%	34 17%	58 21%	31 16%	34 16%	35 18%	16 29%	63 19%	48 16%	71 20%
Don't know	16 2%	5 1%	11 2%	1 1%	2 1%	10 2%	3 1%	7 3%	3 1%	* *	6 2%	3 1%	1 *	6 3%	- -	5 1%	6 2%	5 1%

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Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
<u>It would be better if your local authority were to be run by a business executive rather than a local government official</u>																		
Agree	392 39%	192 39%	200 39%	36 35%	76 40%	190 38%	90 43%	93 39%	106 38%	90 43%	104 38%	94 50%	69 32%	69 36%	18 33%	122 36%	134 43%	136 39%
Disagree	538 54%	274 56%	263 52%	66 63%	102 53%	266 53%	104 50%	127 53%	157 56%	109 52%	145 53%	82 43%	131 61%	112 59%	36 67%	195 57%	152 49%	191 54%
Don't know	72 7%	26 5%	47 9%	2 2%	13 7%	43 9%	14 7%	20 8%	17 6%	10 5%	26 9%	14 8%	15 7%	10 5%	- -	24 7%	22 7%	26 7%

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Table 4
Q.4 Is your rubbish collected by the council or a private contractor?
Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
Council	759	362	397	94	154	370	141	170	208	172	210	134	180	144	50	292	241	227
	76%	74%	78%	90%	81%	74%	68%	71%	74%	83%	76%	71%	83%	75%	92%	86%	78%	64%
Private Contractor	185	100	85	4	21	109	51	49	57	30	49	50	28	41	4	36	48	101
	19%	20%	17%	4%	11%	22%	25%	21%	20%	14%	18%	26%	13%	22%	7%	11%	16%	29%
Don't know	57	30	28	6	16	20	16	21	14	6	16	6	8	6	1	13	20	25
	6%	6%	5%	6%	8%	4%	7%	9%	5%	3%	6%	3%	4%	3%	1%	4%	6%	7%

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Table 5
Q.5 Do you think private companies should be involved in running...?
Base: All respondents

	Sex			Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region		
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
<u>Refuse collection</u>																		
Yes	536 53%	305 62%	231 45%	56 53%	108 57%	268 54%	104 50%	150 63%	148 53%	111 53%	126 46%	124 65%	118 55%	93 49%	16 30%	142 42%	184 60%	210 59%
No	419 42%	171 35%	248 49%	40 39%	76 40%	207 41%	96 46%	77 32%	117 42%	87 42%	138 50%	60 32%	88 41%	91 48%	33 61%	183 54%	112 36%	124 35%
Don't know	47 5%	16 3%	31 6%	9 8%	7 4%	24 5%	7 4%	12 5%	14 5%	10 5%	11 4%	6 3%	9 4%	7 4%	5 9%	16 5%	12 4%	19 5%
<u>Street cleaning</u>																		
Yes	618 62%	335 68%	283 55%	74 71%	127 66%	306 61%	111 54%	165 69%	173 62%	126 61%	153 56%	136 71%	134 62%	109 57%	23 42%	190 56%	206 67%	221 63%
No	358 36%	153 31%	205 40%	29 28%	62 32%	179 36%	88 42%	67 28%	98 35%	76 37%	116 42%	54 29%	78 36%	77 40%	29 53%	141 41%	92 30%	125 35%
Don't know	27 3%	4 1%	23 4%	2 2%	2 1%	15 3%	8 4%	7 3%	8 3%	6 3%	5 2%	- -	3 2%	5 3%	3 5%	10 3%	10 3%	6 2%
<u>Schools</u>																		
Yes	340 34%	169 34%	171 34%	48 46%	65 34%	169 34%	58 28%	80 33%	84 30%	79 38%	98 36%	72 38%	80 37%	46 24%	17 31%	110 32%	116 38%	114 32%
No	604 60%	302 61%	302 59%	55 52%	118 62%	302 60%	129 62%	147 61%	184 66%	118 57%	155 56%	105 55%	127 59%	138 72%	37 67%	213 62%	175 57%	216 61%
Don't know	57 6%	21 4%	37 7%	2 1%	7 4%	28 6%	20 10%	13 5%	12 4%	11 5%	21 8%	13 7%	9 4%	8 4%	1 2%	18 5%	17 6%	23 6%

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Q.5 Do you think private companies should be involved in running...?
Base: All respondents

	Sex		Age				Social Class				Voting Intention				Region			
	Total	Male	Fe- male	18-24	25-34	35-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other	North	Mid- lands	South
Weighted base	1002	492	510	104	191	499	207	240	279	208	275	190	215	191	55	341	308	353
<u>Tax collection</u>																		
Yes	273 27%	140 28%	133 26%	32 31%	60 32%	130 26%	49 24%	68 29%	79 28%	53 26%	72 26%	51 27%	64 30%	47 24%	7 12%	84 25%	95 31%	93 26%
No	674 67%	340 69%	334 65%	69 66%	123 64%	340 68%	143 69%	165 69%	188 67%	142 68%	179 65%	136 71%	137 64%	136 71%	48 88%	240 71%	196 63%	238 67%
Don't know	55 6%	12 2%	44 9%	3 3%	8 4%	29 6%	15 7%	6 2%	12 4%	13 6%	24 9%	3 2%	14 7%	9 5%	- -	16 5%	17 6%	22 6%
<u>Social services</u>																		
Yes	328 33%	166 34%	162 32%	49 47%	63 33%	148 30%	68 33%	70 29%	94 34%	71 34%	93 34%	68 36%	79 36%	50 26%	16 29%	101 30%	109 35%	118 33%
No	638 64%	312 64%	325 64%	54 52%	122 64%	332 66%	129 62%	161 67%	175 63%	132 64%	169 61%	118 62%	130 60%	134 70%	38 69%	230 68%	186 60%	222 63%
Don't know	37 4%	14 3%	23 4%	2 2%	5 3%	20 4%	10 5%	8 3%	10 4%	5 2%	14 5%	4 2%	7 3%	7 4%	1 2%	10 3%	14 4%	13 4%