

Scottish Election Study 2007 – Follow-up questionnaire**PAGE 1****BASE: All Scottish adults**

Suppose that there was an election for the Scottish Parliament tomorrow. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means 'very unlikely' and 10 means 'very likely', how likely is it that you would vote in that election?

0 – Very unlikely

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 – Very likely

Don't know

You have two votes in Scottish Parliament elections: one for a party list for your REGION, and one for an individual member of the Scottish Parliament – or MSP – for your CONSTITUENCY.

Thinking first about the REGIONAL vote, which party would you be most likely to vote for?

Conservative

Labour

Liberal Democrat

SNP

Green Party

Scottish Socialist Party

Solidarity

Scottish Senior Citizens' Unity Party

Other

Don't know

Would not vote [route page=2](#)

If you said 'Other', please specify in the box below which party it is, otherwise leave it blank.

TEXT unvalidated

Now thinking of the vote on the right hand side of the ballot paper for an individual MSP for your CONSTITUENCY, which party would you be most likely to vote for?

Would not vote

Conservative

Labour

Liberal Democrat

SNP

Other

Don't know

If you said 'Other', please specify in the box below which party it is, otherwise leave it blank.

TEXT unvalidated

PAGE 2

BASE: All Scottish adults

On the whole, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way that democracy works in Scotland?

- Very satisfied
- Fairly satisfied
- A little dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Don't know

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements [Please tick one option on each row]

GRID

People like me have no say in what government does
MSPs soon lose touch with the people who elected them
Politics and government are too complicated for me to understand
Parties are only interested in votes, not voters' opinions

- Agree strongly
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

END GRID

PAGE 3

BASE: All Scottish adults

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting and elections? [Please tick one option on each row]

GRID

Most of my family and friends think voting is a waste of time
It is every citizen's duty to vote
Elections help to keep politicians accountable for the promises they make
Elections allow voters to express their opinions but don't really change anything
Elections give voters an opportunity to tell politicians what they think is really important
All things considered, most elections are just a big waste of time and money

- Agree strongly
- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Disagree strongly
- Don't know

END GRID

In some countries, people believe their elections are conducted fairly. In other countries, people believe that their elections are conducted unfairly. Thinking first of WESTMINSTER elections in general, how fair would you say they are?

- Very fair
- Quite fair
- Not very fair
- Not at all fair
- Don't know

And now thinking of SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT elections in general, how fair would you say they are?

- Very fair
- Quite fair
- Not very fair
- Not at all fair
- Don't know

PAGE 4

BASE: All Scottish adults

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? Please use the 0-10 scale to indicate your view, where 0 means 'can't be too careful in dealing with people' and 10 means 'most people can be trusted'.

- 0 – Can't be too careful
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 – Most people can be trusted
- Don't know

And do you think that most people you come into contact with would try to take advantage of you if they got the chance or would they try to be fair? Please use the 0-10 scale again where 0 means 'would try to take advantage' and 10 means 'would try to be fair'.

- 0 – Would try to take advantage
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 – Would try to be fair
- Don't know

PAGE 5

BASE: All Scottish adults

[Ad hoc]

Now, some questions about the Scottish Parliament elections earlier this year.

[End Ad hoc]

For you, which of these best describes the result of the election in terms of seats?

- A clear SNP win
- A quite narrow SNP win
- A very narrow SNP win

A dead heat between the SNP and Labour
 None of the above
 Don't know

Which of these statements comes closest to your view about the government that was formed?

The SNP was right to become a minority government
 The SNP should have found partners to form a majority coalition
 Labour should have found partners to form a majority coalition
 None of the above
 Don't know

PAGE 6

BASE: All Scottish adults

Thinking back to the 2007 election to the Scottish Parliament, how fair would you say it was?

Very fair
 Quite fair
 Not very fair
 Not at all fair
 Don't know

Prior to polling day in 2007, do you recall seeing any public education (e.g. leaflets, newspaper adverts) about how to vote in the upcoming elections?

Yes
 No
 Can't remember

As you may have heard, there has been some public debate about various aspects of these elections. Do you think there were problems with those aspects of organising the 2007 elections? If so, how serious were the problems?

GRID

Postal voting

The electronic counting machines

The number of rejected ballot papers

The new electoral system for council elections

Very serious problems
 Quite serious problems
 Not very serious problems
 No problems at all
 Don't know

END GRID

PAGE 7

BASE: All Scottish adults

In 2007 there were many more rejected ballot papers than in previous Scottish Parliament elections. Some voters were unsure whether their ballots had been counted or rejected. Have you spoken to anyone – perhaps a family member, friend or neighbour – who was worried about their ballot being rejected?

Yes
 No
 Don't know

Thinking of your own ballot in the Scottish Parliament election, how confident are you that it was counted and not rejected?

Very confident

Quite confident

Not that confident

Not at all confident

I deliberately spoiled my ballot or left it blank

I didn't vote in the Scottish Parliament election

Don't know

If you were to make a mistake in marking your ballot paper, and you thought you had 'spoiled' it, which of these do you think you should do?

Cross out your mistake and vote as you originally intended

Write on the ballot paper that you made a mistake, and indicate how you intended to vote

Ask the polling station workers for another ballot paper

None of the above

Don't know

PAGE 8

BASE: All Scottish adults

Various reasons have been suggested for the big increase in rejected ballots, and six of them are listed below. Which of these do you think was most important in causing the large increase in rejected ballot papers?

Putting both Scottish Parliament votes on the same ballot paper

Electronic machines not being able to read the votes properly

The council elections held on the same day

Not enough public information for voters before the elections

Lack of instructions on the ballot papers

Many voters are too dim to get it right

Don't know [routepage=10](#)

PAGE 9

BASE: Respondents FIRST preference

If p8q1.Value=1 then p9q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p8q1.Value=2 then p9q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p8q1.Value=3 then p9q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p8q1.Value=4 then p9q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p8q1.Value=5 then p9q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p8q1.Value=6 then p9q1a1.IsHidden = true

And which do you think was the SECOND most important?

Putting both Scottish Parliament votes on the same ballot paper

Electronic machines not being able to read the votes properly

The council elections held on the same day

Not enough public information for voters before the elections

Lack of instructions on the ballot papers

Many voters are too dim to get it right

Don't know [routepage=10](#)

PAGE 10

There is also disagreement about who is to blame for the big increase in rejected ballot papers. Based on the information you have heard, who do you think was most to blame?

- Voters themselves
- The people who counted the votes
- The people who designed the electronic counting machines
- The Scottish Office at Westminster
- The Scottish Executive at Holyrood
- The political parties in Scotland
- Don't know [routepage=12](#)

PAGE 11

BASE: Respondents FIRST preference

- If p10q1.Value=1 then p11q1a1.IsHidden = true
- If p10q1.Value=2 then p11q1a1.IsHidden = true
- If p10q1.Value=3 then p11q1a1.IsHidden = true
- If p10q1.Value=4 then p11q1a1.IsHidden = true
- If p10q1.Value=5 then p11q1a1.IsHidden = true
- If p10q1.Value=6 then p11q1a1.IsHidden = true

And who do you think was second most to blame?

- Voters themselves
- The people who counted the votes
- The people who designed the electronic counting machines
- The Scottish Office at Westminster
- The Scottish Executive at Holyrood
- The political parties in Scotland
- Don't know [routepage=12](#)

PAGE 12

BASE: All Scottish adults

In your opinion, how likely is it that the relatively large number of rejected ballots affected the outcome of the election a) in your constituency, and b) in Scotland overall?

GRID

**In your constituency
In Scotland overall**

- Very likely
- Quite likely
- Not very likely
- Not at all likely
- Don't know

END GRID

Please tick any regions that you think had a particularly high proportion of rejected ballots, or just choose 'Don't know'. [MULTICODE]

- Central Scotland
- Glasgow
- Highlands and Islands
- Lothians
- Mid Scotland and Fife
- North East Scotland

South of Scotland
 West of Scotland
 Don't know

Do you happen to know roughly what percentage of ballot papers was rejected overall?

Less than 1%
 1% to 5%
 5 to 10%
 10% to 20%
 More than 20%
 Don't know

PAGE 13

BASE: All Scottish adults

Thinking of the results in Scotland overall, which if any of these parties do you think may have gained because of the large number of rejected ballots? Please tick all that apply, or choose 'None of the parties'. [MULTICODE]

Conservative
 Labour
 Liberal Democrat
 SNP
 Greens
 Scottish Socialist Party
 Solidarity
 Other
 None of the parties gained
 Don't know

If you said 'Other', please specify in the box below which party it is, otherwise leave it blank.

TEXT unvalidated

Again thinking of the overall results, which if any of these parties do you think may have lost because of the large number of rejected ballots? Please tick all that apply, or choose 'None of the parties'. [MULTICODE]

Conservative
 Labour
 Liberal Democrat
 SNP
 Greens
 Scottish Socialist Party
 Solidarity
 Other
 None of the parties lost
 Don't know

If you said 'Other', please specify in the box below which party it is, otherwise leave it blank.

TEXT unvalidated

PAGE 14**BASE: All Scottish adults**

All things considered, what effect have the problems in 2007 had on the likelihood of you voting in future Scottish Parliament elections?

Makes no difference

Makes me slightly less likely to vote

Makes me much less likely to vote

Don't know

PAGE 15

As you may know, a commission led by Ron Gould recently reported on the problems in the 2007 elections. The Gould Commission made several recommendations, some of which are listed below. Which of these do you think is the most important – that is, which should be the top priority for the next elections?

There should be a Chief Returning Officer responsible for all elections in Scotland

Scottish Parliament and local elections should be held on different days

The two votes in the Scottish Parliament elections should be on separate ballot papers

Parties should have to use their own names on the ballot papers

The responsibility for Scottish elections should be devolved from Westminster to Holyrood

Vote counting should start on Friday morning, not on Thursday night

Don't know [routepage=17](#)

PAGE 16

If p15q1.Value=1 then p16q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p15q1.Value=2 then p16q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p15q1.Value=3 then p16q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p15q1.Value=4 then p16q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p15q1.Value=5 then p16q1a1.IsHidden = true

If p15q1.Value=6 then p16q1a1.IsHidden = true

And which do you think is SECOND most important?

There should be a Chief Returning Officer responsible for all elections in Scotland

Scottish Parliament and local elections should be held on different days

The two votes in the Scottish Parliament elections should be on separate ballot papers

Parties should have to use their own names on the ballot papers

The responsibility for Scottish elections should be devolved from Westminster to Holyrood

Vote counting should start on Friday morning, not on Thursday night

Don't know [\[ClearOthers\] routepage=17](#)

PAGE 17

Thinking of the Gould recommendations overall, how likely do you think they are to be implemented by those in power?

Very likely

Quite likely

Not very likely

Not at all likely

Don't know [\[ClearOthers\]](#)

PAGE 18**BASE: All Scottish adults****[Adhoc]**

Now a few questions about coalitions and governments. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [Please tick one option on each row]

[End Adhoc]**GRID**

It is better to have just one party in government, even if that party didn't get a majority of seats

Coalitions tend to result in more moderate policies

When one party gets a majority, they just do what they want and ignore the voters

A coalition government means that nobody gets the government they voted for

If a party doesn't get a majority of seats, it shouldn't be allowed to govern on its own

By winning a majority, a party has shown that it is the clear choice of the voters

Agree strongly

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Disagree strongly

Don't know

END GRID

Some people say that coalitions are better because they allow a wider range of opinion to be represented. Others think that single-party government is better because then you know exactly who is responsible for government decisions. Please use the 0-10 scale to indicate your view, where 0 means 'coalitions better to represent a range of opinion' and 10 means 'single-party government better so you know who is responsible'.

0 – Coalitions better to represent a range of opinion

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 – Single-party government better so you know who is responsible

Don't know **[ClearOthers]**

And which of these statements come closest to your view about parties and their coalition partners?

The parties should announce coalition plans **BEFORE** election day so we know what we're voting for

The parties should campaign on their own and leave coalition discussions until **AFTER** the election

Don't know **[ClearOthers]**

PAGE 19

BASE: All Scottish adults

[Adhoc]

Now a few questions about the political parties...

[End Adhoc]

Please rate each one on a scale from 0 to 6, where 0 means 'moderate' and 6 means 'extreme'.

GRID

Conservative Party

Labour Party

Liberal Democrats

SNP

BY

0 – Moderate

1

2

3

4

5

6 – Extreme

Don't know **[ClearOthers]**

END GRID

Now please rate each one on a different scale from 0 to 6, where 0 means 'divided' and 6 means 'united'.

GRID

Conservative Party

Labour Party

Liberal Democrats

SNP

BY

0 – Divided

1

2

3

4

5

6 – United

Don't know **[ClearOthers]**

GRID

And now please rate each one on a different scale from 0 to 6, where 0 means 'not at all competent' and 6 means 'extremely competent'.

GRID

Conservative Party

Labour Party

Liberal Democrats

SNP

BY

0 – Not at all competent

1

2

3

4

5

6 – Extremely competent

Don't know

END GRID

PAGE 20

BASE: All Scottish adults

During the 2007 Scottish election campaign there was a lot of talk about the competence of Labour and the SNP to govern at Holyrood. Please use the competence scale again, where 0 means 'not at all' and 6 means 'extremely', to rate those parties on different aspects of competence. Thinking first about how competent they would be TO TAKE TOUGH DECISIONS, how would you rate Labour and the SNP?

GRID

Labour Party

SNP

BY

0 – Not at all

1

2

3

4

5

6 – Extremely

Don't know

END GRID

Thinking now about how competent the parties would be TO MANAGE PUBLIC SERVICES please rate them on the same scale previously used.

GRID

Labour Party

SNP

0 – Not at all

1

2

3

4

5

6 – Extremely

Don't know

END GRID

Thinking now about how competent the parties would be IN A CRISIS, please rate them on the scale of 0 – 6.

GRID

Labour Party

SNP

BY

0 – Not at all

1

2

3

4

5

6 – Extremely

Don't know

END GRID

Thinking finally about how competent the parties would be TO DELIVER ON THIER MANIFESTO PROMISES, please rate them on the scale 0 – 6.

GRID

Labour Party

SNP

0 – Not at all

1

2

3

4

5

6 – Extremely

Don't know

END GRID

[END]