

SPA Public Opinion Surveys High Level Results

18 May 2020

Public Opinion Survey Comparators

- SPA Survey Fieldwork 28 April 2020
 - 1660 Respondents
 - 479 North Scotland, 505 East Scotland, 676 West Scotland
 - 797 males, 863 females
 - 481 under 35, 249 35-44s, 282 45-54s, 266 55-64s, 382 over 65s
- **SPA Survey Fieldwork 13 May 2020**
 - **1574 Respondents**
 - **458 North Scotland, 476 East Scotland, 640 West Scotland**
 - **754 males, 820 females**
 - **441 under 35, 250 35-44s, 284 45-54s, 284 55-64s, 315 over 65s**
- Crest Commissioned Yougov Survey Fieldwork Weekend 3-6 April 2020
 - 1646 Respondents
 - 198 London, 553 South, 357 Midlands/Wales, 396 North, 142 Scotland
 - 800 males, 846 females
 - 179 under 24, 686 25-49s, 397 50-64s, 384 over 65s
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2017/18
 - 5,475 Respondents
 - 2,518 males, 2,957 females
 - 408 16-24, 1,519 25-44, 1,396 45-59, 2,152 60+

Key Statistics – Surveys 1 and 2

- Opinion on policing performance remains steady with 17% of respondents describing Police Scotland as doing an **excellent** job in their local area compared with 10% in the 2017/18 SCJS
- Confidence remains steady with 17% of respondents stating they are **very confident** in the ability of Police Scotland to respond quickly compared with 15% in the 2017/18 SCJS
- Confidence remains steady with 18% of respondents stating they are **very confident** in the ability of Police Scotland to deal with incidents as they occur compared with 12% in the 2017/18 SCJS
- Opinion on **police presence** shows a decrease in the respondents describing this as “not enough” from 38% to 36% which is compared to the 50% recorded in the 2017/18 SCJS
- Public support for the Police Scotland **handling** of COVID-19 shows 42% fully support the approach and shows a reduction in the number of respondents stating that actions were going too far from 17% to 10% and an increase in support for tougher actions from 28% to 35%.
- Public support for the use of **stop and account, fines and arrest** remain largely unchanged and higher than the Great Britain average.

Key Statistics – Survey 2

- When asked about **personal compliance** with public health guidance 98% of respondents stated they were complying all(80%) or most(18%) of the time.
- When asked for their main **reason for compliance** 61% stated wanting to play their part in protecting the NHS with 5% fearful of breaking the law
- 65% stated that they would **continue to comply** as the lockdown continued with 29% stating that they would become less likely to comply over time.
- When asked about compliance with public health guidance continuing to **apply to all citizens** 95% of respondents stated they would complying all(80%) or most(15%) of the time.
- When asked about compliance with public health guidance continuing to apply to them **but not all citizens** 92% of respondents stated they would continue complying all(69%) or most(23%) of the time.

Since the lockdown measures came into effect, how would you **best** describe your own degree of compliance with public health guidance?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I have tried to comply with all of the guidance	80%	79%	83%	78%
I have tried to comply with most of the guidance	18%	19%	15%	20%
I have tried to comply with some of the guidance but not all of it	2%	2%	1%	2%
I have not tried to comply with the guidance	0	0%	1%	1%

Range of opinion 13 May: "ALL" 87% in 55-64s to 70% under 35s

Which of the following most closely describes your **main reason** for deciding on whether to comply with the public health guidance on staying at home and avoiding unnecessary travel?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I want to play my part in protecting the NHS and saving lives	61%	58%	64%	62%
I am worried about catching the Coronavirus	25%	28%	21%	25%
Something else/none of the above	6%	6%	7%	6%
I do not want to get into trouble with the Police for breaking the law	5%	5%	6%	5%
I do not want to attract negative judgement from my friends, family, neighbours and community	3%	4%	3%	2%

Range of opinion 13 May: “NHS” 68% in 35-44s to 55% over 65s

Thinking about the length of the lockdown, which of the following comes closest to your viewpoint?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
The longer the lockdown continues won't affect how likely it is that I'll follow the public health guidance	65%	63%	65%	69%
The longer the lockdown continues, the more difficult I will find it to follow the public health guidance, but I will still try to	29%	31%	30%	26%
The longer the lockdown continues, the less likely it is that I'll follow the public health guidance	6%	6%	5%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: "WONT AFFECT" 69% in over 65s to 59% under 35s

If the lockdown continues to apply to **all people equally** in Scotland in the weeks ahead, how likely is it that you will comply with the public health guidance on staying at home and avoiding unnecessary travel?

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I would still try to comply with all of the guidance	80%	82%	80%	76%
I would still try to comply with most of the guidance	15%	14%	14%	19%
I would still try to comply with some of the guidance but not all of it	4%	3%	5%	4%
I would not try to comply with the guidance	2%	2%	1%	1%

Range of opinion 13 May: "ALL" 84% in Females to 76% in the North

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Supposing the public health guidance is relaxed so that some people have more freedom of movement, for example because of their age or because of where they live, how likely is it that you would continue to comply with the guidance **if it is not relaxed for you?**

Statement	Scotland	West	East	North
I would still try to comply with all of the guidance	69%	70%	68%	68%
I would still try to comply with most of the guidance	23%	25%	22%	23%
I would still try to comply with some of the guidance but not all of it	6%	3%	8%	8%
I would not try to comply with the guidance	2%	2%	2%	1%

Range of opinion 13 May: "ALL" 77% in 55-64s to 63% under 35s

Which of the following statements best describes your *current* personal status regarding the Coronavirus / Covid-19 lockdown?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May
I am shielding myself or self-isolating	15%	14%	17%	14%	12%	13%	16%	13%
I spend most of my time at home, and practice social-distancing when I go out into public places	64%	61%	62%	60%	66%	63%	63%	61%
I have to leave the house quite often (for work and/or exercise and/or caring responsibilities) but practice social-distancing whenever possible	20%	24%	20%	24%	21%	23%	21%	25%
None of the above	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%

Taking everything into account how good a job do you think the police in your **local area** are doing?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Excellent	17%	17%	16%	17%	16%	20%	18%	15%	10%
Good	32%	25%	29%	25%	33%	24%	33%	25%	47%
Fair	17%	15%	20%	16%	17%	11%	12%	17%	31%
Poor	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	4%	5%	9%	7%
Very poor	2%	4%	3%	3%	1%	5%	2%	3%	2%
Don't know	27%	33%	25%	32%	27%	36%	30%	30%	3%
Rather not say	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%

Range of opinion 13 May: “Excellent” 22% in over 65s to 14% in under 35s

Overall do you think that the police presence in your local area is?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Not Enough	38%	36%	40%	35%	37%	39%	36%	35%	50%
About right	44%	41%	42%	40%	44%	42%	47%	42%	44%
Too Much	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	0%
Don't know	16%	21%	17%	23%	17%	18%	14%	20%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: 4+ people households 41% saying “not enough” to 33% for females

How confident are you in the ability of police in your **local area** to respond quickly?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Very confident	17%	17%	17%	19%	18%	16%	18%	15%	15%
Fairly confident	50%	42%	48%	39%	50%	42%	54%	45%	48%
Not very confident	15%	14%	18%	15%	13%	15%	13%	13%	23%
Not at all confident	5%	8%	5%	8%	4%	9%	5%	8%	9%
Don't know	12%	18%	12%	19%	14%	17%	11%	19%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: “Very Confident” 21% in over 65s to 14% in under 35s

How confident are you in the ability of police in your **local area** to deal with incidents as they occur?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	SCJS
Very confident	18%	18%	18%	20%	18%	16%	19%	17%	12%
Fairly confident	52%	43%	49%	43%	54%	43%	54%	42%	53%
Not very confident	14%	15%	17%	14%	13%	15%	11%	17%	23%
Not at all confident	5%	7%	5%	6%	4%	8%	6%	6%	7%
Don't know	11%	16%	11%	16%	11%	16%	10%	17%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: “Very Confident” 23% in over 65s to 15% in under 35s

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view of how the police in Scotland are handling the COVID 19 lockdown?

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	GB Average (Yougov)
I fully support the approach taken by the police	46%	42%	42%	40%	47%	43%	49%	43%	42%
I support the approach taken by the police but in some cases they are going too far	17%	10%	17%	11%	19%	9%	14%	11%	32%
The approach taken by the police to enforcing the COVID 19 lockdown is too heavy handed	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	6%
The police should take tougher action to ensure public compliance	28%	35%	31%	35%	25%	34%	26%	36%	14%
The police have no role in enforcing the COVID 19 lockdown, compliance should be a matter for individuals	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	2%
None of the above	5%	8%	5%	9%	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: "Fully Support" 48% in 55-64s to 32% in 35-44s

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To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with each of the following police measures in response to COVID-19?
 Asking people to provide a valid reason for being out of their home when challenged (stop and account)

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	GB Average (Yougov)
Very comfortable	50%	51%	46%	48%	53%	53%	52%	51%	47%
Fairly comfortable	34%	34%	35%	38%	35%	34%	31%	29%	35%
Fairly uncomfortable	9%	7%	11%	6%	6%	6%	8%	11%	9%
Very uncomfortable	6%	5%	6%	7%	5%	5%	8%	4%	5%
Don't know	2%	2%	3%	2%	1%	1%	2%	5%	5%

Range of opinion 13 May: “Very comfortable” 55% in females to 46% in males

To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with each of the following police measures in response to COVID-19?
 Arresting people who fail to comply with police instructions to return home

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 13 May	GB Average (Yougov)
Very comfortable	47%	47%	46%	46%	48%	49%	48%	48%	41%
Fairly comfortable	32%	30%	31%	31%	30%	29%	36%	32%	31%
Fairly uncomfortable	11%	12%	12%	13%	12%	14%	8%	10%	15%
Very uncomfortable	7%	7%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: “Very Comfortable” 53% in 55-64s to 41% in under 35s

To what extent are you comfortable or uncomfortable with each of the following police measures in response to COVID-19?
 Issuing people breaching the lockdown with penalty fines

Statement	Scotland 28 April	Scotland 13 May	West 28 April	West 13 May	East 28 April	East 13 May	North 28 April	North 32 May	GB Average (Yougov)
Very comfortable	57%	56%	55%	56%	59%	59%	48%	53%	41%
Fairly comfortable	28%	30%	28%	29%	29%	29%	36%	34%	34%
Fairly uncomfortable	7%	6%	8%	6%	7%	5%	8%	7%	13%
Very uncomfortable	5%	4%	6%	5%	3%	4%	6%	4%	6%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	6%

Range of opinion 13 May: “Very Comfortable” 59% in females to 54% in 35-44s