

REFERENDUM FOR AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND POLL

Published 8th October 2012

In August 2007, the SNP published a white paper on Scotland's future, containing the bill which would authorise a referendum on Scottish independence and setting out a proposed ballot paper. Since then, using our omnibus, Scottish Opinion Survey, TNS BMRB has conducted a series of polls to establish how the Scottish electorate would respond to the two options specified if such a referendum were to be held 'tomorrow'.

Although the SNP have proposed an alternative form of question, we have retained the original question for purposes of trend data and measuring change in attitudes. This poll is the latest in this series, and was published in The Herald on 8th October 2012. It contains an additional question featuring a third option of additional powers for the Scottish Parliament within the United Kingdom, first asked in October 2011.

TNS BMRB is a member of the British Polling Council (BPC) and abides by its rules. We also operate within the Code of Conduct of the Market Research Society (MRS). In accordance with these rules the following information is provided:

Sample size	995
Sampling points	70 Scottish parliament constituencies
Fieldwork dates	26 th September – 4 th October 2012
Interview method	Face-to-face, in-home
Population sampled	All adults aged 18+ in Scotland
Sampling method	The poll was conducted through our Omnibus, Scottish Opinion Survey. For this survey, sampling points are selected to be representative of Scotland demographically and geographically. Within each sampling point, a quota sampling method is used for respondent selection.
Data weighting	Data is weighted to the profile of all adults aged 18+ in Scotland, based on population profile estimates from the BARB (Broadcasters' Audience Research Board) Establishment Survey 2 Years Ending December 2008 and the 2001 Census. Weighting is carried out in relation to working status within gender, age, social grade and electoral region. Unweighted and weighted bases are shown at the top of each data table.
Questions	The data tables show the question wording in full
Further enquiries	Chris.eynon@tns-bmrb.co.uk
View main data set	Independence Tables

SCOTTISH OPINION SURVEY - INDEPENDENCE : SEPTEMBER 2012 : JN105992

Table 1

Q1. The SNP are outlining their plans for a possible referendum on Scottish independence in the future.

If such a referendum were to be held tomorrow, how would you vote?

BASE: All aged 18+

	SEX		AGE									SEG				AREA			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	West	East/ South	North
Unweighted base	995	449	546	79	145	124	188	168	291	224	312	459	186	237	181	391	382	360	253
Weighted base	995	474	521	114	154	185	183	156	202	268	369	359	194	274	219	308	403	363	229
I AGREE that the Scottish Government should negotiate a settlement with the Government of the United Kingdom so that Scotland becomes an independent state	275 28%	152 32%	124 24%	42 37%	35 23%	56 30%	58 32%	47 30%	36 18%	78 29%	115 31%	83 23%	46 24%	64 23%	50 23%	115 37%	108 27%	96 26%	72 31%
I DO NOT AGREE that the Scottish Government should negotiate a settlement with the Government of the United Kingdom so that Scotland becomes an independent state	530 53%	240 51%	290 56%	47 42%	77 50%	93 50%	93 51%	90 58%	130 65%	124 46%	185 50%	221 62%	124 64%	153 56%	125 57%	129 42%	230 57%	195 54%	105 46%
Don't know	189 19%	82 17%	107 21%	24 21%	42 27%	36 20%	32 18%	19 12%	36 18%	66 25%	68 19%	55 15%	24 12%	57 21%	44 20%	65 21%	65 16%	72 20%	52 23%

Q1. The SNP are outlining their plans for a possible referendum on Scottish independence in the future.

If such a referendum were to be held tomorrow, how would you vote?

BASE: All aged 18+

	Total	AREA							
		H&I	North East	Mid & Fife	Lothians	Central	Glasgow	West	South
Unweighted base	995	100	136	100	150	107	119	132	151
Weighted base	995	80	129	129	129	139	129	129	129
I AGREE that the Scottish Government should negotiate a settlement with the Government of the United Kingdom so that Scotland becomes an independent state	275 28%	28 36%	32 25%	41 32%	31 24%	36 26%	27 21%	47 37%	32 25%
I DO NOT AGREE that the Scottish Government should negotiate a settlement with the Government of the United Kingdom so that Scotland becomes an independent state	530 53%	38 47%	62 48%	63 49%	67 52%	78 56%	85 65%	68 53%	69 54%
Don't know	189 19%	14 17%	35 27%	25 19%	31 24%	26 18%	17 13%	13 10%	28 22%

Q2. Thinking about the future of Scotland, which of these three options would you support the most:

BASE: All aged 18+

	SEX		AGE									SEG				AREA			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	18-34	35-54	55+	AB	C1	C2	DE	West	East/ South	North
Unweighted base	995	449	546	79	145	124	188	168	291	224	312	459	186	237	181	391	382	360	253
Weighted base	995	474	521	114	154	185	183	156	202	268	369	359	194	274	219	308	403	363	229
Keep the current arrangement of a Scottish Parliament with its existing powers	347 35%	161 34%	186 36%	28 25%	51 33%	61 33%	58 32%	61 39%	88 44%	79 29%	119 32%	149 42%	77 40%	108 39%	79 36%	83 27%	132 33%	141 39%	74 32%
Transfer more powers from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament, including tax and welfare but excluding defence and foreign affairs	341 34%	150 32%	191 37%	31 27%	61 39%	62 34%	72 39%	50 32%	64 32%	92 34%	135 37%	114 32%	72 37%	93 34%	77 35%	98 32%	154 38%	109 30%	78 34%
Full independence for Scotland	217 22%	129 27%	88 17%	38 34%	26 17%	44 24%	41 22%	38 24%	30 15%	64 24%	85 23%	68 19%	33 17%	48 18%	45 21%	91 29%	87 22%	74 20%	57 25%
Don't know	90 9%	35 7%	55 11%	16 14%	17 11%	18 10%	12 6%	7 5%	19 10%	33 12%	30 8%	27 7%	11 6%	25 9%	17 8%	37 12%	30 7%	39 11%	21 9%

Q2. Thinking about the future of Scotland, which of these three options would you support the most:

BASE: All aged 18+

	Total	AREA							
		H&I	North East	Mid & Fife	Lothians	Central	Glasgow	West	South
Unweighted base	995	100	136	100	150	107	119	132	151
Weighted base	995	80	129	129	129	139	129	129	129
Keep the current arrangement of a Scottish Parliament with its existing powers	347 35%	27 34%	45 35%	42 32%	48 37%	43 31%	47 37%	43 33%	51 40%
Transfer more powers from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament, including tax and welfare but excluding defence and foreign affairs	341 34%	30 38%	41 32%	44 34%	38 29%	53 38%	52 40%	45 35%	37 29%
Full independence for Scotland	217 22%	17 21%	29 22%	37 29%	21 16%	34 24%	23 18%	30 24%	26 20%
Don't know	90 9%	5 7%	14 11%	6 5%	22 17%	10 7%	7 5%	10 8%	15 12%

Q2. Thinking about the future of Scotland, which of these three options would you support the most:

BASE: All aged 18+

	Total	RESPONSE TO Q1 (AGREE/DISAGREE WITH INDEPENDENCE)		
		Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Unweighted base	995	274	532	189
Weighted base	995	275	530	189
Keep the current arrangement of a Scottish Parliament with its existing powers	347 35%	14 5%	304 57%	28 15%
Transfer more powers from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament, including tax and welfare but excluding defence and foreign affairs	341 34%	59 21%	202 38%	80 42%
Full independence for Scotland	217 22%	193 70%	6 1%	18 9%
Don't know	90 9%	9 3%	18 3%	64 34%