

Welfare Reform Poll

ONLINE Fieldwork : 26th-27th June 2012

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The total amount of benefits any family can receive should be capped so that a family cannot get more on benefits than the average working family earns

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem	
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176	
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156	
NET: Agree	1774	860	914	184	265	329	314	282	400	445	479	448	257	144	460	508	138	
	88%	87%	89%	76%	82%	86%	91%	93%	94%	87%	90%	88%	88%	82%	97%	79%	88%	
Strongly agree	(4)	1302	636	666	114	201	225	239	207	316	334	349	313	205	101	405	306	94
		64%	64%	65%	47%	62%	58%	69%	68%	75%	65%	65%	62%	70%	58%	85%	48%	60%
Somewhat agree	(3)	472	223	249	70	63	105	75	75	84	112	130	135	53	43	55	202	43
		23%	23%	24%	29%	20%	27%	22%	25%	20%	22%	24%	27%	18%	24%	12%	32%	28%
Somewhat disagree	(2)	115	62	53	26	27	19	15	14	12	34	27	24	15	14	4	68	10
		6%	6%	5%	11%	8%	5%	4%	5%	3%	7%	5%	5%	5%	8%	1%	11%	6%
Strongly disagree	(1)	55	29	26	8	12	17	7	4	7	11	13	15	6	9	2	35	1
		3%	3%	2%	3%	4%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	5%	*	6%	*
NET: Disagree		170	91	79	34	40	37	22	18	19	45	40	39	22	23	5	103	10
		8%	9%	8%	14%	12%	10%	7%	6%	5%	9%	7%	8%	7%	13%	1%	16%	7%
Don't know		79	40	39	25	20	18	7	3	5	23	15	20	13	8	9	29	8
		4%	4%	4%	10%	6%	5%	2%	1%	1%	5%	3%	4%	4%	5%	2%	5%	5%
Mean		3.55	3.54	3.57	3.34	3.49	3.47	3.62	3.61	3.69	3.57	3.57	3.53	3.63	3.41	3.86	3.27	3.56
Standard deviation		0.73	0.75	0.71	0.82	0.82	0.80	0.68	0.64	0.61	0.72	0.71	0.73	0.69	0.86	0.40	0.88	0.64
Standard error		0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.05

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Table 2

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Over recent years a something-for-nothing culture has taken hold in the welfare system, with people increasingly allowed to get away with choosing to live on benefits

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
NET: Agree	1702 84%	830 84%	872 85%	195 80%	254 79%	321 84%	289 84%	260 86%	382 90%	437 85%	456 85%	428 84%	250 86%	132 75%	454 96%	475 74%	133 85%
Strongly agree	(4) 57%	1155 56%	601 58%	131 54%	159 49%	205 53%	186 54%	181 60%	294 69%	303 59%	297 56%	287 56%	188 65%	80 46%	377 80%	264 41%	74 47%
Somewhat agree	(3) 27%	547 27%	276 26%	65 27%	96 30%	116 30%	103 30%	79 26%	89 21%	134 26%	159 30%	141 28%	61 21%	52 30%	77 16%	211 33%	60 38%
Somewhat disagree	(2) 7%	145 7%	70 7%	75 7%	18 8%	29 9%	28 7%	26 7%	22 5%	23 7%	38 6%	33 6%	38 7%	19 7%	5 10%	80 12%	13 9%
Strongly disagree	(1) 5%	97 5%	60 6%	37 4%	9 4%	23 7%	22 6%	16 5%	13 4%	14 3%	11 2%	31 6%	26 5%	11 4%	6 10%	58 9%	4 2%
NET: Disagree	242 12%	129 13%	112 11%	27 11%	51 16%	49 13%	42 12%	35 12%	37 9%	49 10%	64 12%	64 13%	30 10%	34 20%	11 2%	138 22%	17 11%
Don't know	79 4%	32 3%	47 5%	20 8%	18 6%	14 4%	13 4%	9 3%	6 1%	28 5%	15 3%	16 3%	12 4%	9 5%	9 2%	26 4%	6 4%
Mean	3.42	3.38	3.46	3.42	3.28	3.36	3.38	3.45	3.58	3.50	3.39	3.40	3.53	3.17	3.78	3.11	3.36
Standard deviation	0.83	0.87	0.79	0.81	0.91	0.86	0.83	0.82	0.74	0.74	0.85	0.84	0.79	0.99	0.52	0.96	0.74
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.02	0.04	0.06

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Table 3

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

We should not be paying working age benefits to people who don't even live in this country

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem	
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176	
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156	
NET: Agree	1842 91%	907 91%	935 91%	198 82%	277 86%	355 92%	313 91%	289 95%	409 96%	463 90%	490 92%	467 92%	265 91%	156 89%	449 95%	571 89%	144 92%	
Strongly agree	(4) 76%	1530 76%	749 76%	781 76%	132 54%	218 67%	297 77%	265 77%	249 82%	371 87%	369 72%	403 75%	393 77%	229 78%	136 77%	406 86%	413 64%	116 74%
Somewhat agree	(3) 15%	312 15%	157 16%	154 15%	66 27%	60 18%	59 15%	48 14%	40 13%	38 9%	94 18%	87 16%	74 15%	36 12%	20 11%	44 9%	159 25%	28 18%
Somewhat disagree	(2) 3%	52 3%	21 2%	31 3%	13 5%	9 3%	5 1%	12 4%	7 2%	6 2%	12 2%	16 3%	14 3%	7 2%	4 2%	7 1%	24 4%	6 4%
Strongly disagree	(1) 1%	22 1%	12 1%	10 1%	6 3%	9 3%	3 1%	- -	2 1%	2 *	9 2%	1 *	8 2%	2 1%	1 1%	3 1%	11 2%	1 1%
NET: Disagree	74 4%	33 3%	41 4%	19 8%	18 5%	8 2%	12 4%	8 3%	8 2%	8 2%	21 4%	17 3%	22 4%	9 3%	5 3%	9 2%	35 5%	7 5%
Don't know	107 5%	52 5%	55 5%	26 11%	29 9%	21 5%	19 6%	6 2%	7 2%	30 6%	27 5%	18 4%	17 6%	14 8%	15 3%	33 5%	5 3%	
Mean	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.49	3.65	3.78	3.78	3.80	3.86	3.70	3.76	3.74	3.79	3.80	3.86	3.60	3.71	
Standard deviation	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.74	0.69	0.50	0.50	0.49	0.42	0.61	0.51	0.59	0.52	0.51	0.43	0.65	0.58	
Standard error	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02	0.03	0.04	

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Table 4

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

After a certain period of benefits, everyone who is physically able should be expected to do some form of full-time work helping the community, in return for continued benefits

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
NET: Agree	1738 86%	842 85%	896 87%	201 83%	261 81%	321 83%	289 84%	265 87%	401 94%	447 87%	450 84%	438 86%	255 87%	149 85%	450 95%	516 81%	133 85%
Strongly agree	(4) 1074 53%	519 52%	555 54%	114 47%	150 46%	187 49%	167 48%	172 57%	283 67%	271 53%	271 51%	270 53%	179 61%	82 46%	352 74%	246 38%	82 52%
Somewhat agree	(3) 664 33%	323 33%	341 33%	87 36%	110 34%	133 35%	123 36%	93 31%	117 28%	175 34%	178 33%	167 33%	76 26%	67 38%	97 21%	270 42%	51 33%
Somewhat disagree	(2) 136 7%	73 7%	63 6%	17 7%	20 6%	31 8%	31 9%	24 8%	14 3%	26 5%	49 9%	33 6%	20 7%	8 5%	8 2%	61 10%	13 8%
Strongly disagree	(1) 74 4%	42 4%	32 3%	8 3%	23 7%	14 4%	13 4%	8 3%	8 2%	21 4%	18 3%	16 3%	8 3%	11 6%	6 1%	38 6%	4 3%
NET: Disagree	210 10%	115 12%	95 9%	25 10%	42 13%	45 12%	44 13%	32 11%	21 5%	46 9%	67 13%	49 10%	28 10%	19 11%	14 3%	100 16%	17 11%
Don't know	75 4%	34 3%	41 4%	17 7%	21 6%	19 5%	10 3%	6 2%	2 1%	21 4%	17 3%	21 4%	9 3%	8 4%	10 2%	24 4%	6 4%
Mean	3.41	3.38	3.43	3.36	3.28	3.35	3.33	3.44	3.60	3.41	3.36	3.42	3.50	3.31	3.72	3.18	3.40
Standard deviation	0.78	0.81	0.75	0.77	0.89	0.80	0.80	0.76	0.64	0.77	0.79	0.76	0.75	0.84	0.56	0.85	0.76
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.04	0.06

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Table 5

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

People claiming benefits who don't have the basic literacy & numeracy skills needed to get a job should be required - and helped - to get these skills as a condition on continued receipt of benefits

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
NET: Agree	1813 90%	871 88%	942 91%	201 83%	280 87%	342 89%	308 90%	282 93%	401 94%	458 89%	471 88%	467 92%	262 90%	155 88%	454 96%	551 86%	138 88%
Strongly agree	(4) 1222 60%	577 58%	645 63%	130 54%	178 55%	230 60%	199 58%	198 65%	287 68%	295 57%	328 61%	305 60%	190 65%	104 59%	356 75%	330 52%	80 51%
Somewhat agree	(3) 591 29%	294 30%	297 29%	70 29%	102 32%	111 29%	109 32%	84 28%	114 27%	162 32%	143 27%	162 32%	72 25%	51 29%	98 21%	220 34%	57 37%
Somewhat disagree	(2) 109 5%	62 6%	47 5%	19 8%	19 6%	23 6%	19 6%	14 5%	15 3%	29 6%	39 7%	22 4%	10 4%	9 5%	8 2%	49 8%	15 9%
Strongly disagree	(1) 46 2%	28 3%	17 2%	6 3%	13 4%	10 3%	5 2%	3 1%	8 2%	14 3%	10 2%	10 2%	7 3%	5 3%	4 1%	26 4%	1 1%
NET: Disagree	155 8%	91 9%	64 6%	25 10%	32 10%	33 9%	25 7%	17 6%	23 5%	43 8%	49 9%	31 6%	18 6%	13 8%	12 2%	75 12%	16 10%
Don't know	55 3%	30 3%	25 2%	17 7%	12 4%	9 2%	11 3%	5 2%	1 *	14 3%	13 3%	9 2%	12 4%	7 4%	8 2%	14 2%	3 2%
Mean	3.52	3.48	3.56	3.44	3.43	3.50	3.51	3.60	3.61	3.48	3.52	3.53	3.59	3.51	3.73	3.37	3.41
Standard deviation	0.71	0.75	0.67	0.76	0.79	0.73	0.68	0.63	0.65	0.73	0.72	0.67	0.69	0.72	0.53	0.80	0.70
Standard error	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.06	0.02	0.03	0.05

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Table 6

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

The benefit system should be structured so that people are always better off in work than they would be dependent on benefits

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem	
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176	
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156	
NET: Agree	1844	890	954	202	278	355	312	289	408	458	493	471	266	155	459	555	150	
	91%	90%	93%	83%	86%	92%	91%	95%	96%	89%	92%	93%	91%	88%	97%	87%	96%	
Strongly agree	(4)	1414	664	749	150	209	234	244	233	343	366	358	210	117	420	354	111	
		70%	67%	73%	62%	65%	61%	71%	77%	81%	70%	69%	70%	72%	66%	89%	55%	71%
Somewhat agree	(3)	430	226	205	52	69	121	68	56	65	96	127	113	56	38	38	201	39
		21%	23%	20%	21%	21%	32%	20%	18%	15%	19%	24%	22%	19%	22%	8%	31%	25%
Somewhat disagree	(2)	88	52	36	20	17	13	18	7	11	35	13	18	14	9	50	3	
		4%	5%	3%	8%	5%	3%	5%	2%	3%	7%	2%	4%	5%	2%	8%	2%	
Strongly disagree	(1)	32	14	18	3	14	5	4	1	4	8	9	8	2	4	-	17	1
		2%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%	*	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	-	3%	*
NET: Disagree		120	66	54	23	32	19	22	8	16	44	23	26	16	12	9	67	4
		6%	7%	5%	10%	10%	5%	6%	3%	4%	8%	4%	5%	5%	7%	2%	10%	3%
Don't know		59	35	24	17	14	10	9	6	1	12	18	11	10	8	6	18	2
		3%	4%	2%	7%	4%	3%	3%	2%	*	2%	3%	2%	3%	5%	1%	3%	1%
Mean		3.64	3.61	3.67	3.55	3.53	3.56	3.65	3.75	3.76	3.62	3.65	3.65	3.68	3.60	3.88	3.43	3.69
Standard deviation		0.65	0.66	0.63	0.71	0.80	0.64	0.64	0.51	0.54	0.69	0.62	0.63	0.60	0.70	0.38	0.76	0.54
Standard error		0.01	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.02	0.03	0.04	

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Table 7

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Now there is free childcare for all children from the age of three, parents of children aged three & above who are claiming income support should be required to spend at least 15 hours a week working, looking for a job or learning new skills to help get a job - even though their child is not yet of school age

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
NET: Agree	1502 74%	751 76%	751 73%	165 68%	219 68%	272 71%	245 71%	248 82%	353 83%	371 72%	408 76%	396 78%	215 74%	112 64%	419 88%	437 68%	113 72%
Strongly agree	(4) 768 38%	385 39%	383 37%	86 36%	94 29%	134 35%	117 34%	130 43%	207 49%	192 37%	202 38%	194 38%	127 44%	53 30%	257 54%	184 29%	58 37%
Somewhat agree	(3) 734 36%	367 37%	368 36%	79 33%	126 39%	138 36%	128 37%	117 39%	146 34%	179 35%	206 39%	202 40%	88 30%	59 34%	162 34%	254 40%	55 35%
Somewhat disagree	(2) 281 14%	125 13%	156 15%	46 19%	46 14%	67 17%	42 12%	33 11%	48 11%	83 16%	74 14%	54 11%	39 13%	31 17%	27 6%	116 18%	22 14%
Strongly disagree	(1) 113 6%	47 5%	66 6%	8 3%	33 10%	27 7%	26 8%	10 3%	9 2%	24 5%	25 5%	31 6%	18 6%	15 9%	10 2%	49 8%	10 6%
NET: Disagree	394 19%	173 17%	222 21%	54 22%	79 24%	94 24%	68 20%	42 14%	57 13%	108 21%	99 19%	85 17%	57 20%	46 26%	37 8%	164 26%	32 21%
Don't know	127 6%	67 7%	59 6%	23 10%	25 8%	19 5%	31 9%	13 4%	15 4%	36 7%	27 5%	27 5%	19 7%	18 10%	18 4%	38 6%	11 7%
Mean	3.14	3.18	3.10	3.11	2.94	3.04	3.07	3.27	3.34	3.13	3.15	3.16	3.19	2.95	3.46	2.95	3.10
Standard deviation	0.88	0.85	0.90	0.86	0.96	0.92	0.91	0.79	0.77	0.88	0.85	0.86	0.92	0.96	0.71	0.91	0.91
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.07

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Table 8

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

People in work have to think about the financial implications of having more children and people dependent on welfare benefits should have to do the same - so people on benefits should not continue to get child benefit after the first two children

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
NET: Agree	1544 76%	785 79%	759 74%	165 68%	223 69%	273 71%	272 79%	249 82%	363 85%	375 73%	411 77%	402 79%	235 80%	122 70%	426 90%	428 67%	123 79%
Strongly agree	(4) 1012 50%	520 52%	491 48%	92 38%	149 46%	172 45%	177 52%	166 55%	256 60%	255 50%	255 48%	258 51%	171 59%	72 41%	321 68%	236 37%	72 46%
Somewhat agree	(3) 532 26%	265 27%	268 26%	72 30%	74 23%	101 26%	94 27%	83 27%	107 25%	119 23%	156 29%	144 28%	63 22%	50 28%	105 22%	192 30%	51 33%
Somewhat disagree	(2) 193 10%	85 9%	108 10%	25 10%	30 9%	47 12%	29 8%	35 12%	27 6%	50 10%	57 11%	40 8%	31 11%	15 9%	23 5%	91 14%	18 11%
Strongly disagree	(1) 152 8%	67 7%	85 8%	22 9%	45 14%	35 9%	19 6%	9 3%	22 5%	48 9%	36 7%	36 7%	15 5%	17 10%	11 2%	77 12%	6 4%
NET: Disagree	345 17%	152 15%	193 19%	47 20%	75 23%	82 21%	48 14%	44 14%	49 11%	98 19%	93 17%	76 15%	45 16%	32 19%	33 7%	169 26%	24 15%
Don't know	134 7%	54 5%	79 8%	31 13%	25 8%	29 8%	25 7%	11 4%	13 3%	41 8%	30 6%	29 6%	12 4%	21 12%	15 3%	43 7%	10 6%
Mean	3.27	3.32	3.22	3.11	3.10	3.15	3.34	3.39	3.45	3.23	3.25	3.30	3.40	3.14	3.60	2.98	3.29
Standard deviation	0.94	0.91	0.97	0.98	1.09	1.00	0.88	0.81	0.84	1.00	0.92	0.91	0.88	1.00	0.69	1.03	0.83
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.06

Welfare Reform Poll

ONLINE Fieldwork : 26th-27th June 2012

Absolutes/col percents

Table 9

At the moment about £1 in every £3 spent by the UK government goes on welfare. The single biggest element of this is the state pension, but a large proportion of the total welfare bill goes in benefits to people of working age, which currently cost about £84 billion every year (roughly what we spend on education and defence combined) and this cost has been increasing significantly over recent years. There is now a debate going on between the political parties about possible reforms to the welfare system. Please say in each case if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

People should not have an unconditional right to expect to receive housing benefit to live anywhere in the country, regardless of the housing cost in that area

Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem	
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176	
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156	
NET: Agree	1472 73%	731 74%	740 72%	152 63%	209 65%	268 70%	252 73%	233 77%	357 84%	359 70%	405 76%	375 74%	213 73%	121 69%	417 88%	400 62%	111 71%	
Strongly agree	(4) 46%	929 48%	472 44%	458 30%	74 37%	119 43%	165 46%	157 51%	154 61%	261 44%	225 46%	247 47%	238 52%	150 39%	69 69%	326 30%	193 37%	58
Somewhat agree	(3) 27%	542 26%	260 27%	283 32%	79 28%	91 27%	103 28%	95 26%	79 23%	96 26%	134 29%	157 27%	136 21%	63 29%	52 19%	91 32%	207 34%	52
Somewhat disagree	(2) 12%	233 13%	128 10%	105 11%	26 11%	37 15%	56 12%	42 14%	42 7%	30 11%	56 11%	60 11%	58 14%	40 10%	18 6%	28 17%	110 14%	22
Strongly disagree	(1) 8%	161 8%	78 8%	83 8%	24 10%	42 13%	29 8%	29 8%	15 5%	22 5%	50 10%	34 6%	36 7%	22 8%	20 11%	13 3%	83 13%	12 8%
NET: Disagree	394 19%	206 21%	188 18%	50 21%	80 25%	86 22%	70 20%	58 19%	51 12%	106 21%	94 18%	94 19%	62 21%	38 21%	41 9%	193 30%	34 22%	
Don't know	157 8%	54 5%	104 10%	41 17%	35 11%	31 8%	22 6%	12 4%	17 4%	49 10%	36 7%	39 8%	16 6%	17 10%	15 3%	47 7%	11 7%	
Mean	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.00	2.99	3.14	3.18	3.28	3.46	3.15	3.24	3.23	3.24	3.07	3.59	2.86	3.08	
Standard deviation	0.96	0.97	0.96	0.99	1.06	0.97	0.97	0.90	0.85	1.01	0.91	0.94	0.98	1.03	0.73	1.03	0.95	
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.03	0.04	0.07	

Welfare Reform Poll

ONLINE Fieldwork : 26th-27th June 2012

Absolutes/col percents

Table 10

The following are some specific aspects of the welfare system as it currently works and which some people have argued are wrong & should be reformed. Please say in each case what you think?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age							Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
<u>At the moment we spend nearly £2 billion a year paying housing benefit to 16-24 year-olds - most of whom could still be living with their parents rather than living on a benefit funded by working people - and this benefit is currently paid even if these young people are not actively seeking work</u>																	
This is wrong & should be reformed	1617	786	831	174	247	304	270	249	374	411	426	402	248	130	436	438	120
	80%	79%	81%	72%	76%	79%	79%	82%	88%	80%	80%	79%	85%	74%	92%	68%	77%
This is not wrong & does not need reform	406	205	201	69	77	81	73	55	51	103	108	105	44	46	38	202	37
	20%	21%	19%	28%	24%	21%	21%	18%	12%	20%	20%	21%	15%	26%	8%	32%	23%
<u>At the moment young people have the option of leaving school and going straight onto benefits, without ever having contributed to the system in any way</u>																	
This is wrong & should be reformed	1691	812	878	192	265	325	271	259	378	449	439	416	249	138	433	480	132
	84%	82%	85%	79%	82%	85%	79%	85%	89%	87%	82%	82%	85%	79%	91%	75%	85%
This is not wrong & does not need reform	332	179	153	50	59	59	73	45	47	66	95	92	42	37	41	159	24
	16%	18%	15%	21%	18%	15%	21%	15%	11%	13%	18%	18%	15%	21%	9%	25%	15%
<u>At the moment the vast majority of welfare benefits are paid in cash, rather than through benefits in kind, like food & clothing vouchers</u>																	
This is wrong & should be reformed	1280	623	657	156	202	228	197	192	305	341	326	314	195	104	362	337	98
	63%	63%	64%	64%	62%	59%	57%	63%	72%	66%	61%	62%	67%	59%	76%	53%	62%
This is not wrong & does not need reform	743	368	375	86	122	157	147	111	119	173	208	194	96	72	112	303	59
	37%	37%	36%	36%	38%	41%	43%	37%	28%	34%	39%	38%	33%	41%	24%	47%	38%

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Table 10

The following are some specific aspects of the welfare system as it currently works and which some people have argued are wrong & should be reformed. Please say in each case what you think?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age							Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
<u>Even after the introduction of this government's cap on the total amount of benefits that can be claimed, people can still get housing benefit up to a maximum of £20,000 a year, when a working person would typically need to be earning as much as £80,000 a year to afford rent this high</u>																	
This is wrong & should be reformed	1770	860	910	210	259	332	307	270	392	446	472	452	260	140	450	508	138
	88%	87%	88%	87%	80%	86%	89%	89%	92%	87%	88%	89%	89%	80%	95%	79%	88%
This is not wrong & does not need reform	253	131	121	33	65	52	37	33	33	68	62	55	32	36	24	132	18
	12%	13%	12%	13%	20%	14%	11%	11%	8%	13%	12%	11%	11%	20%	5%	21%	12%
<u>At the moment there may be as many as 34,000 households with incomes above £60,000 a year, who still live in a council house - and as many as 6,000 council house occupants who earn more than £100,000 a year, all paying very low rents subsidised through the wages of other people</u>																	
This is wrong & should be reformed	1789	879	910	211	284	336	285	274	398	464	473	440	274	138	447	532	144
	88%	89%	88%	87%	88%	88%	83%	90%	94%	90%	89%	87%	94%	78%	94%	83%	92%
This is not wrong & does not need reform	234	112	122	32	40	48	59	29	27	50	61	68	18	38	27	107	12
	12%	11%	12%	13%	12%	12%	17%	10%	6%	10%	11%	13%	6%	22%	6%	17%	8%
<u>At the moment people have the right to claim housing benefit wherever they choose to live, regardless of the cost of housing cost in the area, rather than being expected to consider less expensive housing in other areas</u>																	
This is wrong & should be reformed	1411	688	723	172	207	256	227	214	336	364	360	355	215	117	392	376	106
	70%	69%	70%	71%	64%	67%	66%	71%	79%	71%	67%	70%	74%	67%	83%	59%	67%
This is not wrong & does not need reform	612	303	309	71	117	129	117	89	89	150	174	153	77	59	82	263	51
	30%	31%	30%	29%	36%	33%	34%	29%	21%	29%	33%	30%	26%	33%	17%	41%	33%

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 11
Gender
Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
Male	991	991	-	104	162	203	170	167	185	240	243	256	158	95	249	321	93
	49%	100%	-	43%	50%	53%	49%	55%	44%	47%	46%	50%	54%	54%	53%	50%	60%
Female	1032	-	1032	139	162	181	174	137	240	275	290	252	134	80	225	319	63
	51%	-	100%	57%	50%	47%	51%	45%	56%	53%	54%	50%	46%	46%	47%	50%	40%

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 12

Age**Base: All respondents**

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
18-24	243 12%	104 10%	139 13%	243 100%	-	-	-	-	-	74 14%	64 12%	59 12%	25 9%	20 11%	41 9%	92 14%	23 15%
25-34	324 16%	162 16%	162 16%	-	324 100%	-	-	-	-	104 20%	74 14%	81 16%	39 13%	26 15%	53 11%	127 20%	22 14%
35-44	384 19%	203 21%	181 18%	-	-	384 100%	-	-	-	93 18%	112 21%	101 20%	40 14%	39 22%	73 15%	138 22%	18 12%
45-54	344 17%	170 17%	174 17%	-	-	-	344 100%	-	-	91 18%	87 16%	94 19%	50 17%	21 12%	78 16%	107 17%	28 18%
55-64	303 15%	167 17%	137 13%	-	-	-	-	303 100%	-	62 12%	75 14%	77 15%	63 22%	27 15%	78 17%	89 14%	28 18%
65+	425 21%	185 19%	240 23%	-	-	-	-	-	425 100%	90 17%	122 23%	95 19%	75 26%	43 24%	150 32%	88 14%	37 24%
Average age	47.07	47.10	47.04	21.94	29.96	40.02	50.00	59.75	69.41	44.71	47.76	46.34	50.77	47.76	51.50	43.76	48.14

Welfare Reform Poll

ONLINE Fieldwork : 26th-27th June 2012

Absolutes/col percents

Table 13
GO Region
Base: All respondents

	Gender			Age						Region					Party Support		
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	South East	Mid-lands	North Eng-land	Wales & South West	Scot-land	Con	Lab	LibDem
Unweighted base	2023	1059	964	211	316	399	380	337	380	517	538	475	313	180	531	565	176
Weighted base	2023	991	1032	243	324	384	344	303	425	514	534	508	292	176	474	640	156
Scotland	176 9%	95 10%	80 8%	20 8%	26 8%	39 10%	21 6%	27 9%	43 10%	-	-	-	-	176 100%	19 4%	49 8%	6 4%
North East	91 5%	54 5%	37 4%	11 5%	23 7%	13 4%	17 5%	13 4%	14 3%	-	-	91 18%	-	-	14 3%	36 6%	9 6%
North West	238 12%	129 13%	109 11%	26 11%	36 11%	47 12%	48 14%	40 13%	42 10%	-	-	238 47%	-	-	51 11%	86 13%	20 13%
Yorkshire & Humberside	178 9%	72 7%	106 10%	22 9%	22 7%	41 11%	29 9%	24 8%	39 9%	-	-	178 35%	-	-	38 8%	60 9%	15 10%
West Midlands	187 9%	90 9%	97 9%	23 10%	34 11%	36 9%	21 6%	28 9%	45 11%	-	187 35%	-	-	-	39 8%	67 10%	7 4%
East Midlands	157 8%	76 8%	82 8%	20 8%	18 6%	33 9%	29 8%	25 8%	33 8%	-	157 29%	-	-	-	43 9%	54 8%	11 7%
Wales	107 5%	56 6%	51 5%	10 4%	24 8%	13 3%	20 6%	18 6%	21 5%	-	-	-	107 37%	-	17 4%	48 8%	8 5%
Eastern	190 9%	78 8%	112 11%	21 9%	21 7%	43 11%	37 11%	22 7%	45 11%	-	190 36%	-	-	-	53 11%	56 9%	16 10%
London	255 13%	121 12%	134 13%	48 20%	63 19%	56 15%	38 11%	18 6%	32 7%	255 50%	-	-	-	-	70 15%	81 13%	13 8%
South East	260 13%	119 12%	141 14%	27 11%	41 13%	37 10%	52 15%	44 15%	58 14%	260 50%	-	-	-	-	78 17%	62 10%	31 20%
South West	185 9%	102 10%	83 8%	15 6%	14 4%	26 7%	30 9%	45 15%	54 13%	-	-	-	185 63%	-	52 11%	40 6%	23 14%