



SAGA/POPULUS PANEL RESULTS

Populus received 21,333 responses from adults aged 50 and over to its online poll for SAGA between 7th & 19th March 2007. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to www.populuslimited.com.

DEMOGRAPHICS

		Count	Percentage
Gender	Male	13485	63%
	Female	7848	37%
Age	50 - 54	4021	19%
	55 - 59	5837	27%
	60 - 64	5367	25%
	65 +	6109	29%
Children or Grandchildren?	Children but no grandchildren	7212	34%
	Grandchildren	11362	53%
	Neither	2759	13%
TV Region	LWT/Carlton (London)	3757	18%
	Meridian (South)	2823	13%
	HTV West/West Country (South West)	1747	8%
	HTV Wales (Wales)	771	4%
	Central East (East Midlands)	1238	6%
	Anglia (Eastern)	1800	8%
	Yorkshire (Yorkshire & Humberside)	1993	9%
	Granada/Border (North West)	2263	11%
	Tyne Tees (North East)	830	4%
	Central/Central West (West Midlands)	2266	11%
	Border Scotland/Scottish/Grampian (Scotland)	1652	8%
UTV (Northern Ireland)	194	1%	
Socio-Economic Group	AB	12061	57%
	C1	5878	28%
	C2	2480	12%
	DE	914	4%
	Total	21333	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Nearly two out of three people (63%) think that the current system of Council Tax is unfair and fewer than a quarter (22%) describe it as completely or somewhat fair, but no one can agree on what to replace it with.

Just under half (47%) say it would be fairer to scrap locally based taxes altogether and fund local services out of higher national taxation, but a third (34%) describe this as unfair.

A local income tax is favoured by slightly more than a third (37%) but is regarded as unfair by a half (51%). A local sales tax is deemed unfair by more than two-thirds (69%) and a return to the rates is rejected by nearly three quarters (72%).

Two-thirds of people (66%) regard those who refuse to pay their Council Tax on pain of fines or imprisonment as martyrs rather than criminals including 75% of those reliant on benefits, while 34% of the total say that if people knowingly break the law they must expect to face the consequences.

SOCIAL NETWORKING WEB-SITES

Nearly two thirds of people (65%) – including 62% of over 65s – say they would consider visiting social networking web-sites at some point in the future.

Nearly half of these (47%) would do so to keep in touch with existing friends, almost a third (30%) would use it to research family history and nearly as many to discuss or plan holidays (29%). A fifth (22%) say they would use social networking sites to make new friends but just 4% say they would use it for dating.

Around one in six (15%) say they have already visited such sites and will do so again. Half (50%) say they haven't but might do so at some point and a third (32%) say they haven't and won't. Only 3% say they have visited social networking web sites but would not do so again.

Younger people (22% of 50–54) are more likely to have done so than older people (10% of 65+s)

INHERITANCE TAX

A half (52%) think that the Inheritance Tax threshold should be raised by more than the rate of inflation again in this year's Budget and as many (52%) agree that Inheritance Tax should be scrapped altogether.

More than a quarter (29%) say they are worried about the amount of Inheritance Tax beneficiaries will have to pay on their estate while one in ten (9%) worry about the Inheritance Tax they will have to pay as the beneficiary of someone else's estate.

VOTING ABROAD

More than half (55%) think they would no longer be able to vote in UK Parliamentary Elections if they move abroad, though nearly two-thirds of people (64%) would do so if they lived overseas and knew that they were entitled to.

Of the 36% who say they would not vote, four out of five of these (82%) give as their reason that it would be inappropriate for those not living in the UK to vote in UK Elections.

RETIREMENT AGE

Nearly two in five (37%) of those aged over the regular retirement age of 65 say they have worked beyond this age. Two-fifths of these (42%) did so in the main to keep their mind active, while a third (32%) gave the need to boost their income as their main reason for continuing to work.

Asked which factors would encourage them or would have encouraged them to work beyond 65, two thirds of over 50s (65%) say flexible working hours, nearly a half (44%) say the chance to take on less stressful responsibilities and slightly more than a third (36%) say an encouraging employer would or would have helped.

AGE DISCRIMINATION IN THE NHS

Only one in eight (12%) believe they have experienced age discrimination when using the NHS. Of those who felt they had been discriminated against, the most common complaint by a quarter of them (24%) was that they had waited longer for treatment than younger people with the same condition in their area.

VOLUNTARY WORK

Slightly less than half (45%) say they do voluntary or charitable work of some kind, ranging from just over a third (37%) of 50–54 year olds to a half (51%) of over 65s

Professional and former professional workers (52%) are almost twice as likely to do this than those who rely exclusively on state benefits (27%)

Around a third of volunteers (32%) commit between one and two hours of their time a week, however a quarter (27%) give up between three and six hours a week. In total nearly a half (47%) give up at least two hours a week.

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE

A quarter (25%) of people have private medical insurance (PMI) of some kind, including a third (34%) of those living in London, but only 15% of those living in the North East and 16% of those in Scotland. Just 8% of those relying on state benefits claim to have PMI compared with a third (31%) of professionals and former professionals.

Those with PMI say the main reason for having it is to avoid NHS waiting lists (30%) followed by the choice of when and where they are treated (27%). Just 3% say the main reason for having PMI is that private hospitals are cleaner.

Of those without PMI, more than half (57%) say they simply can't afford it, while a third (33%) claim not to have it because satisfied with the NHS.