

Sample Size: 1503 GB Adults  
Fieldwork: 14th - 15th February 2010  
For detailed results, [click here](#)

%

**How much do you think the votes of you and people like you make a difference to your lives?**

Our votes make a big difference	23
Our votes make some difference	35
<b>TOTAL SOME/ BIG DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>58</b>
Our votes make a little difference	26
Our votes make no difference	12
<b>TOTAL LITTLE/ NO DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>38</b>
Don't know	4

**Many MPs have had to repay money that they claimed in expenses. What is your view of the expenses issue?**

It is a major scandal that shames parliament	83
It is a minor matter that has been exaggerated by the media	14
Don't know	3

**Many MPs have said that they claimed what they genuinely thought they were entitled to receive under the old rules, and that they did not set out deliberately to use the expenses system to enrich themselves**  
**If you had to guess, how many MPs sitting in Parliament today would you say deliberately set out to exploit the rules in order to enrich themselves?**

Hardly any	3
A minority	28
Around half	25
Most of them	40
Don't know	4

**New rules have been put in place on what MPs can claim; and in future all details of each MP's expenses will be made public. Do you think...**

Most MPs now 'get it' and know they will have to behave better in future	48
Most MPs don't 'get it' and will continue to try to get away with whatever they can	47
Don't know	6

**Does the expenses scandal...**

Makes me more likely to vote at the coming election, to express my anger at the way some politicians have behaved	14
Makes me more likely NOT to vote, because politicians are much the same, and I don't trust any of them any longer	12
Make no difference, I will vote anyway	64
Make no difference, I will NOT vote anyway	5
Don't know	5

**Which makes you more angry - MPs who cheat on their expenses or footballers who cheat on their wives?**

MPs who cheat on their expenses	83
Footballers who cheat on their wives	9
Don't know	9

**More generally, do you think most MPs are...  
Harding working or lazy?**

Hard-working **48**  
Lazy **31**  
Don't know **22**

**Honest or dishonest?**

Honest **34**  
Dishonest **48**  
Don't know **18**

**In touch with the day-to-day lives of their constituents or out of touch?**

In touch with the day-to-day-lives of their constituents **19**  
Out of touch **70**  
Don't know **12**

**Concerned with the issues that their constituents really care about, or concerned  
with issues that matter more to them than their constituents?**

Concerned with the issues that their constituents really care about **19**  
Concerned with issues that matter more to them than their constituents **68**  
Don't know **14**

**Principled or unprincipled?**

Principled **32**  
Unprincipled **47**  
Don't know **22**

**Competent or incompetent?**

Competent **34**  
Incompetent **46**  
Don't know **20**

**Devoted to serving the public interest, or more interested in their own personal  
interests?**

Devoted to serving the public interest **19**  
More interested in their own personal interests **66**  
Don't know **14**

**Do you feel your own MP listens, or does not listen, to the concerns of people like  
you?**

Yes, my own MP does listen to the concerns of people like me **36**  
No, my MP does not **30**  
Don't know **34**

**Thinking about Britain's political system overall, which of these views comes closest to your own?**

It works extremely well	3
It works reasonably well	33
<b>TOTAL WORKS WELL</b>	<b>36</b>
It sometimes appears broken	42
It is badly broken	18
<b>TOTAL BROKEN</b>	<b>60</b>
Don't know	4

**If Labour wins the coming election, do you think Britain's political system will become...**

Much better	4
Slightly better	15
<b>TOTAL BETTER</b>	<b>19</b>
Neither better nor worse	38
Slightly worse	11
Much worse	26
<b>TOTAL WORSE</b>	<b>37</b>
Don't know	7

**If the Conservatives win the coming election, do you think Britain's political system will become...**

Much better	4
Slightly better	23
<b>TOTAL BETTER</b>	<b>26</b>
Neither better nor worse	30
Slightly worse	17
Much worse	17
<b>TOTAL WORSE</b>	<b>34</b>
Don't know	9