

Recent YouGov Polling on the Monarchy and the Jubilee – Media Briefing

Support for the monarchy

Support for the institution of monarchy remains extremely high. 73% of people think that Britain should continue to have a monarchy, compared to 16% who would support an elected head of state. This is up slightly on last year, when 69% supported the monarchy compared to 20% in favour of an elected head of state.

Support for the monarchy is highest amongst Conservative voters, and amongst older people. 89% of Conservatives support the monarchy, compared to 69% of Labour supporters. 81% of people over the age of sixty support the monarchy, compared to 61% of under 25s.

Support for the monarchy is also stronger than that for an elected head of state. 47% of people who support the monarchy say they feel “very strongly” about it, compared to 30% of people who favour an elected head of state.

67% of people think that the monarchy is good for Britain, with only 9% thinking it is bad for the country (20% think it is neither).

57% say they are proud that the country has a monarchy, 31% are not, 8% are embarrassed that Britain still has a monarchy.

64% think the money the royal family receives from the civil list represents good value for money for the role they play, 27% think they are bad value for money.

The Queen

Support for how the Queen personally has performed her role as monarch is even higher than that of the institution. 86% of people think that the Queen herself has done a good job during her time on the throne, with only 5% thinking she has done badly.

Even amongst those who would support an elected head of state, 61% think the Queen personally has done a good job.

Putting her role in a historical context, 56% of people think the Queen has been one of Britain’s greatest monarchs, 20% a good monarch, but not great, 10% an average monarch.

Charles, William and the succession

While responses depend on how the question is asked, our polls are consistent in showing a significant minority of people who think Charles will not do well in the role of King. Asked he will do a good or bad job as King when the time comes, 61% think he will do a good job (16% very good, 45% fairly good), compared to 26% who think he will do a bad job.

This compares poorly to the extremely positive perceptions of Prince William. 83% expect Prince William to do a good job as King (including 48% who expect him to do a very good job), with only 5% expecting him to do badly.

Asked if they would prefer Charles to become King after the death of the Queen, or the crown to skip a generation and pass directly to William, 38% would like to see Charles become King and 44% William (11% would like to see the monarchy end after the Queen dies).

Prince William polls exceptionally well on all grounds. 80% of people see him as a good role model for young people, 83% think he will make a good king. 45% of people also see Prince William as having done the most to improve the image of the monarchy since the death of Princess Diana fifteen years ago, far more than any other member of the royal family.

Other members of the Royal Family

The Queen, Prince William and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge poll the most positively amongst the Royal Family, with 80% or more thinking they are an asset to the Royal Family. Prince Harry is seen as an asset by 69%, compared to 10% who see him as a liability, Princess Anne is seen as an asset by 55% and a liability by 10%.

Opinions are more mixed on Prince Philip (seen as an asset by 47% and a liability by 29%) and Prince Charles (seen as an asset by 48% and a liability by 22%).

There a negative perceptions of Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and Prince Andrew. Camilla is a seen as an asset for the Royal Family by 22%, but as a liability by 35%. Only 17% see Prince Andrew as an asset, 46% a liability.

	<i>Asset %</i>	<i>Liability %</i>	<i>Neither %</i>	<i>Net</i>
<i>The Queen</i>	84	3	7	+81
<i>Prince William</i>	84	3	7	+81
<i>Kate, Duchess of Cambridge</i>	80	4	9	+76
<i>Prince Harry</i>	69	10	15	+59
<i>Princess Anne</i>	55	10	25	+45
<i>Prince Charles</i>	48	22	23	+26
<i>Prince Philip</i>	47	29	18	+18
<i>Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall</i>	22	35	36	-13
<i>Prince Andrew</i>	17	46	27	-29

The Jubilee celebrations

A third of people say they will personally be celebrating the Jubilee, with 50% saying they will not. 20% of people think they will be attending a party to celebrate the Jubilee, with 52% thinking they will watch television coverage of the Jubilee celebrations in London.

However, it is seen as less big an event than the Olympics. People think the Olympics will do more to promote Britain than the Jubilee by 43% to 35%.

Detailed tables

YouGov/Sunday Times (24th-25th May) - <http://y-g.co/Ne3gQX>

YouGov/Sun (27th-28th May) - <http://y-g.co/LFLgwc>

YouGov (27th-28th May) - <http://y-g.co/Ju2MTi>