

YouGov Survey Results: Magna Carta and Freedom of the Press

Sample Size: 1691 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 26th - 27th May 2015

	Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample	1691	820	871	201	428	578	484	964	727	216	550	362	416	147
Unweighted Sample	1691	816	875	173	308	697	513	1086	605	216	543	365	407	160

Thinking about the Police's 'Operation Elveden' which probed inappropriate payments to police officers by journalists, which one of these statements, if any, most closely represents your view?

The police were right to mount a case against those involved as these were criminal acts	44%	47%	41%	38%	35%	46%	51%	47%	40%	40%	43%	45%	45%	46%
The police overstepped their role by interfering with press freedoms and public interest	11%	11%	11%	6%	8%	12%	14%	11%	10%	13%	9%	14%	9%	10%
Operation Elveden was politically motivated	8%	12%	5%	5%	8%	9%	10%	8%	9%	10%	9%	11%	6%	6%
It was right to investigate potential criminal practice but prosecutions should not have been brought in most cases	7%	9%	6%	4%	7%	6%	9%	7%	7%	6%	8%	6%	7%	9%
None of the above	2%	2%	2%	3%	4%	1%	0%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%
Don't know	28%	20%	35%	45%	38%	26%	15%	25%	32%	28%	30%	22%	31%	26%

Do you believe that the recent collapse of the journalism trials based on the Police's Operation Elveden probe into bribery was...

Please select as many as apply

A missed opportunity to set a precedent and clamp down on the bribing of public officials	41%	45%	36%	36%	26%	47%	48%	41%	40%	31%	41%	43%	43%	42%
Probably the right outcome	17%	21%	13%	7%	18%	16%	20%	18%	15%	20%	16%	20%	14%	13%
A victory for freedom of the press and investigative journalism	10%	13%	7%	3%	9%	8%	16%	10%	10%	16%	10%	10%	8%	7%
Don't know	37%	27%	46%	56%	50%	33%	22%	35%	39%	39%	38%	31%	37%	42%

The Leveson Report recommended that the Press Complaints Commission be replaced with a new "tough, independent regulator with teeth" based on legally enforceable contracts between publishers and the new body.

Which one of the following, if any, do you most agree with?

There should be external regulation of the press, with the media itself not involved in deciding the parameters of the system	30%	34%	26%	24%	23%	35%	32%	32%	27%	26%	26%	36%	32%	29%
The press should have a system of self-regulation, with responsibility for deciding complaints lying only (or mainly) with other media professionals	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	3%	7%	5%	5%	8%	5%	4%	6%	6%
The press should have a system of self-regulation but the majority of people determining complaints should be unconnected to the media	25%	27%	24%	21%	25%	25%	28%	28%	23%	28%	25%	25%	24%	26%
The press should have a system of self-regulation but it should be overseen by a government-backed body which determines its effectiveness	16%	15%	16%	16%	13%	16%	18%	16%	15%	17%	17%	16%	15%	14%
Other [For all open responses, please see Tab 1]	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Not sure	23%	17%	29%	34%	33%	20%	15%	18%	30%	22%	26%	19%	23%	24%

	Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample	1691	820	871	201	428	578	484	964	727	216	550	362	416	147
Unweighted Sample	1691	816	875	173	308	697	513	1086	605	216	543	365	407	160

Regarding freedom of the press, do you think...

Freedom of the press is under threat from government	19%	20%	17%	14%	17%	19%	22%	19%	18%	22%	17%	20%	16%	22%
Freedom of the press is not under threat from government, but does require more scrutiny, such as that from an independent body	46%	48%	44%	47%	40%	47%	50%	49%	42%	43%	46%	47%	47%	45%
There is no threat to freedom of the press from government	9%	10%	8%	10%	11%	10%	7%	9%	10%	9%	10%	8%	10%	9%
The status quo between government and press freedoms is about right	7%	8%	6%	5%	5%	7%	10%	6%	9%	11%	7%	7%	6%	7%
Other [For all open responses, please see Tab2]	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Don't know	18%	12%	23%	23%	26%	16%	10%	16%	20%	15%	19%	17%	19%	17%

This year marks the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta. In celebration of this, we would like to ask you a few questions...

Do you feel that the values outlined in the Magna Carta are generally well understood in the UK?

Very well understood	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Quite well understood	13%	15%	11%	9%	11%	11%	18%	13%	13%	13%	13%	17%	12%	6%
TOTAL WELL UNDERSTOOD	15%	17%	13%	10%	12%	13%	21%	15%	15%	15%	15%	19%	14%	7%
Not well understood	49%	50%	49%	49%	38%	51%	56%	51%	47%	47%	55%	45%	49%	45%
Not understood at all	23%	23%	23%	26%	27%	24%	18%	23%	23%	23%	19%	26%	25%	27%
TOTAL NOT WELL UNDERSTOOD	72%	73%	72%	75%	65%	75%	74%	74%	70%	70%	74%	71%	74%	72%
Don't know	13%	10%	15%	15%	22%	11%	5%	11%	14%	15%	11%	11%	13%	21%

How significant a role do you feel the Magna Carta plays in modern day politics and laws in the UK?

Very significant	9%	10%	8%	6%	6%	10%	12%	9%	9%	11%	9%	9%	11%	2%
Quite significant	28%	30%	26%	23%	26%	27%	32%	31%	24%	32%	31%	26%	27%	19%
TOTAL SIGNIFICANT	37%	40%	34%	29%	32%	37%	44%	40%	33%	43%	40%	35%	38%	21%
Not very significant	28%	31%	26%	20%	24%	31%	33%	29%	27%	21%	29%	33%	27%	30%
Not at all significant	9%	12%	7%	14%	6%	10%	10%	8%	11%	9%	9%	7%	11%	14%
TOTAL NOT SIGNIFICANT	37%	43%	33%	34%	30%	41%	43%	37%	38%	30%	38%	40%	38%	44%
Don't know	25%	17%	33%	37%	38%	22%	13%	23%	28%	27%	23%	26%	24%	36%

And how relevant do you feel the Magna Carta is in your life?

Very relevant	5%	5%	5%	4%	3%	6%	7%	5%	5%	6%	4%	6%	6%	2%
Quite relevant	23%	25%	21%	15%	20%	21%	31%	25%	20%	26%	25%	21%	24%	11%
TOTAL RELEVANT	28%	30%	26%	19%	23%	27%	38%	30%	25%	32%	29%	27%	30%	13%
Not very relevant	30%	34%	27%	33%	25%	31%	33%	30%	30%	26%	32%	31%	28%	35%
Not at all relevant	18%	18%	19%	20%	17%	21%	15%	17%	20%	16%	18%	19%	18%	22%
TOTAL NOT RELEVANT	48%	52%	46%	53%	42%	52%	48%	47%	50%	42%	50%	50%	46%	57%
Don't know	23%	17%	29%	27%	35%	22%	14%	22%	25%	27%	20%	23%	23%	31%

Do you believe that the 1998 Human Rights Act has eroded the protections granted to British citizens that were set on the foundation of the Magna Carta?

Yes	29%	32%	27%	8%	20%	28%	49%	28%	31%	24%	33%	33%	28%	17%
No	21%	29%	14%	36%	18%	23%	16%	24%	18%	23%	18%	22%	23%	27%
Not sure	49%	39%	59%	57%	62%	49%	35%	48%	51%	53%	49%	45%	49%	56%

	Gender		Age				Social Grade		Region					
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-39	40-59	60+	ABC1	C2DE	London	Rest of South	Midlands / Wales	North	Scotland
Weighted Sample	1691	820	871	201	428	578	484	964	727	216	550	362	416	147
Unweighted Sample	1691	816	875	173	308	697	513	1086	605	216	543	365	407	160

Which of the following do you believe is guaranteed under the following:

Magna Carta

The right to a fair trial / trial by jury	45%	54%	37%	38%	37%	47%	54%	48%	42%	54%	44%	45%	46%	35%
Protection of private property	40%	47%	33%	34%	36%	39%	47%	43%	36%	44%	40%	40%	40%	33%
Freedom of Speech	29%	30%	28%	16%	20%	29%	43%	29%	30%	32%	30%	28%	32%	19%
Protection from slavery	27%	27%	27%	18%	24%	27%	33%	26%	28%	30%	28%	24%	29%	21%
Free elections	26%	28%	24%	18%	23%	26%	31%	25%	27%	25%	26%	29%	27%	17%
Provisions on corruption and official misconduct	26%	28%	24%	20%	23%	27%	31%	28%	24%	31%	24%	30%	27%	16%
The right to protest	24%	27%	21%	18%	20%	24%	30%	24%	24%	28%	24%	20%	27%	16%
Freedom of religion	23%	24%	23%	13%	14%	25%	33%	22%	25%	23%	23%	23%	27%	17%
Personal privacy	14%	15%	12%	11%	8%	14%	20%	14%	14%	16%	13%	15%	14%	8%
Non-discrimination	12%	11%	12%	8%	9%	11%	16%	11%	13%	12%	11%	11%	13%	8%
None of these	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	2%	4%	7%
Don't know	38%	32%	44%	46%	46%	36%	31%	36%	42%	31%	40%	38%	36%	49%

1998 Human Rights Act

Non-discrimination	52%	57%	48%	53%	50%	55%	51%	55%	48%	59%	52%	52%	51%	47%
Personal privacy	45%	49%	41%	46%	44%	47%	42%	47%	41%	51%	45%	41%	44%	44%
Freedom of religion	44%	48%	41%	50%	48%	45%	38%	50%	37%	52%	44%	44%	42%	43%
Protection from slavery	42%	49%	36%	52%	41%	43%	38%	46%	37%	46%	43%	41%	41%	39%
Freedom of Speech	41%	43%	39%	53%	41%	42%	34%	45%	36%	46%	40%	38%	42%	41%
The right to protest	41%	43%	40%	45%	40%	43%	39%	44%	37%	44%	40%	41%	41%	41%
The right to a fair trial / trial by jury	36%	37%	36%	48%	37%	36%	31%	39%	33%	40%	35%	35%	38%	36%
Free elections	36%	40%	33%	39%	34%	38%	35%	40%	32%	41%	36%	34%	36%	40%
Provisions on corruption and official misconduct	30%	32%	27%	29%	26%	30%	33%	31%	28%	31%	31%	28%	28%	31%
Protection of private property	29%	31%	26%	39%	30%	26%	26%	30%	27%	33%	30%	25%	30%	24%
None of these	3%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%
Don't know	35%	30%	39%	36%	39%	32%	33%	32%	38%	29%	36%	36%	32%	43%

Do you think there is a need for a 'new Magna Carta' to protect the people from abuse of executive power, or does the precedent set out by the original offer sufficient safe guards?

There should be a new 'Magna Carta' to reflect modern society's concerns	40%	43%	38%	42%	31%	40%	47%	40%	41%	41%	41%	40%	41%	35%
The precedent of the original Magna Carta, embodied in current laws, is sufficient	23%	28%	19%	23%	20%	24%	25%	27%	19%	28%	23%	23%	24%	17%
Don't know	36%	29%	43%	35%	48%	35%	27%	34%	40%	30%	36%	37%	35%	48%

Do you think that in the absence of a written constitution there should be a British equivalent of the US First Amendment that guarantees Freedom of Expression and therefore the Freedom of the Media?

Yes	31%	38%	25%	29%	28%	29%	37%	32%	30%	33%	30%	32%	29%	37%
No	29%	31%	27%	31%	26%	30%	30%	31%	26%	30%	27%	34%	29%	21%
Other	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%
Don't know	38%	29%	47%	37%	45%	39%	32%	35%	42%	35%	41%	32%	40%	39%