

YouGov Survey Results

Fire-fighters & BBC Licence Fee

Prepared for The Daily Telegraph

Sample Size: 2056

Fieldwork: 23-25 October 2002

Daily Telegraph Survey

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First Results

Sample Size = 2056

The Fire Brigades Union is planning to strike in support of a 40 percent pay claim. Do you think the Union's claim for a 40 percent pay increase is reasonable or unreasonable?

Reasonable	20
Unreasonable	77
Don't know	3

Under present circumstances and from what you know, what level of pay increase for firefighters do you think would be appropriate?

2 percent	5
5 percent	22
10 percent	31
20 percent	21
30 percent	6
40 percent	11
Don't know	4

The report of a review of firefighters' pay, which the Government claims is independent, is due to be published in a few weeks time. Do you think the firefighters are justified in striking before the publication of the report, or should they postpone t

Are justified in striking	18
Should postpone strike	81
Don't know	2

If the firefighters are awarded a pay increase well above the rate of inflation, do you think that will, or will not, lead to other trade unions making similar demands?

Yes – will lead to similar demands	88
No - will not lead to similar demands	7
Don't know	5

If the firefighters are awarded a pay increase well above the rate of inflation, do you think that will, or will not, be damaging to the British economy as a whole?

Yes –will be damaging to the British economy	57
No – will not be damaging to the British economy	33
Don't know	10

In the present pay dispute, would you describe yourself as being broadly on the firefighters' side or not on their side?

On firefighters' side	54
Not on their side	41
Don't know	6

Which of the following groups do you think is MOST deserving of a substantial pay increase at the moment?

Policemen and women	7
Teachers	8
Firefighters	22
Nurses	45
None of these	15
Don't know	3

Which of the following groups do you think is SECOND most deserving of a substantial pay increase at the moment?

Policemen and women	14
Teachers	16
Firefighters	24
Nurses	24
None of these	18
Don't know	4

Groups of workers often ask for a substantial pay increase on the ground that it is proving difficult to recruit and retain essential staff. From what you know, do you believe that it is, or is not, proving difficult to recruit enough firefighters at

Yes – is proving difficult	20
No – is not proving difficult	55
Don't know	25

Some people have said that the firefighters are trying to 'trade on' (take advantage of) the public's sympathy for firefighters resulting from the tragic events of September 11 last year in New York. Do you believe that the firefighters are, or are no

Yes – are trying to trade on public sympathy	35
No – are not trying to trade on public sympathy	56
Don't know	9

Do you believe that by going on strike, the firefighters are, or are not, putting people's lives at risk?

Yes – are putting people's lives at risk	91
No – are not putting people's lives at risk	6
Don't know	3

Some groups, such as the police, are forbidden by law from going on strike. Other groups, like doctors and nurses, are permitted by the law to go on strike. Do you believe firefighters should be forbidden by law from going on strike, or should they co

Should be forbidden	58
Should be permitted	36
Don't know	7

The Prime Minister is said to fear that, if the firefighters strike and their strike succeeds, Britain could see a return to the 'bad old days' of the 1970s. (At this time inflation was high and there was a great deal of industrial disruption.) In you

Yes – is right to fear this	68
No - is wrong to fear this	25
Don't know	7

The Prime Minister and the Government are said to be determined to stand firm and to resist the firefighters' demands. Do you believe the Government should resist their demands or should it be prepared to award the firefighters a pay increase well abo

Government should resist their demands	46
Government should be prepared to award the firefighters a su	49
Don't know	5

From what you know, how well do you think the Government has so far handled the dispute?

Very well	3
Fairly well	29
Not very well	42
Not at all well	21
Don't know	5

From what you know, how well do you think the Fire Brigades Union has conducted itself in the present dispute?

Very well	5
Fairly well	31
Not very well	41
Not at all well	19
Don't know	5

On a separate matter, the BBC licence fee now costs £112 a year. Some people think that this is no longer justifiable, in an era when so many TV channels are available. Other people think the licence fee is as necessary as ever, to maintain TV standar

£112 licence fee no longer justifiable	58
Licence fee is as necessary as ever	35
Neither	6
Don't know	1