

YouGov Survey Results

Attitudes towards Scotland

Prepared for Daily Telegraph

Sample Size: 2487

Fieldwork: 09-11 February 2004

	%
Would you say the political relations between Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom are something you think about...?	
Very often	3
Fairly often	14
Not very often	41
Almost never	39
Don't know	3

When it comes to deciding how you will vote at the next General Election, how much importance do you think you will attach to the relations between Scotland and the rest of the UK?	
A great deal	2
Quite a lot	9
Not very much	45
None at all	39
Don't know	5

As you probably know, Scotland now has its own Parliament which deals with almost all domestic matters except economic policy, the currency and social security – and a new building is being constructed to house the Parliament. Do you happen to know where the new building is located?	
Hollyrood	29
The Royal Mile	3
Castle Mound	2
Clydebank	1
Bannockburn	0
Stirling Castle	0
Don't know	64

Now that Scotland has its own devolved Parliament, do you think the Scottish people should be represented at Westminster by...?	
The same number of MPs as England and Wales in proportion to the Scottish population	38
Somewhat fewer MPs than in proportion to Scotland's population	17
A lot fewer MPs than in proportion to the population	24
Don't know	21

At the moment English and Welsh MPs at Westminster cannot vote on matters that have been devolved to the Scottish Parliament but Scottish MPs at Westminster can still vote on matters that relate solely to England and Wales. Do you think that...?	
All Westminster MPs should continue to be able to vote on all matters that come before the Westminster Parliament	18
Scottish Westminster MPs should not be allowed to vote on matters that affect only England and Wales	67
Don't know	15

Do you think that...?

All Westminster MPs should continue to be able to speak in debates on all matters that come before the Westminster Parliament	41
Scottish Westminster MPs should not be allowed to speak in debates on matters that affect only England and Wales	48
Don't know	11

The House of Commons recently agreed in principle to a bill to introduce so-called 'top-up' fees in Universities – but only in Universities in England and Wales. As it happens, the bill passed only because a large majority of Scottish MPs voted for it. If

How much, if at all, does it bother you that Scottish MPs were able to determine the outcome of a vote on a bill affecting only Universities in England and Wales?

It bothers me a great deal	36
Quite a lot	30
Not very much	17
Not at all	9
Don't know	7

The present United Kingdom Cabinet consists of 21 members, of whom 2 are members of the House of Lords and 19 are members of the House of Commons.

Of the 19 members of the House of Commons, how many of them, at a guess, do you think represent Scottish Westminster constituencies?

None	2
One	3
Two	8
Three	17
Four	15
Five or more	23
Can't even guess	32

In fact, the number is 3. Does it bother you, or not bother you, that 3 of the Commons members of the UK Cabinet represent Scottish constituencies?

Yes, it bothers me	32
No, it doesn't	56
Don't know	12

One of the Scottish MPs in the Cabinet, John Reid, is the Secretary of State for Health even though health matters are devolved to the Scottish Parliament and Dr Reid is therefore only responsible for the NHS in England and Wales.

Does it bother you, or not bother you, that the person in charge of the NHS in England and Wales represents a Scottish constituency?

It bothers me a great deal	19
Quite a lot	27
Not very much	31
Not at all	18
Don't know	5

Most experts agree that the UK government spends more money per head of population in Scotland than it does in England while not actually raising any more revenue per head of population in Scotland than in England. In that sense, the people of England could be said to be subsidising the people of Scotland.

How much, if at all, does it bother you that the English appear to be subsidising the Scots in this way?

It bothers me a great deal	27
Quite a lot	33
Not very much	24
Not at all	11
Don't know	6

The Conservative Party is said to be considering preventing MPs for Scottish constituencies from voting in the House of Commons on bills relating only to England and Wales. If the Conservatives do make that proposal, will that be in your view...?

Primarily because they genuinely believe it is wrong in principle for Scottish MPs to be able to vote on bills relating to England and Wales	42
Primarily because they believe the Conservatives can never again win a large number of seats in Scotland and want to make it difficult for any Labour Government to get its legislation through Parliament	38
Don't know	20

If Scottish MPs are prevented from voting in the House of Commons on the same basis as MPs from other parts of the UK, what do you think will be the effect on the relationship between Scotland and the rest of the UK?

It will strengthen relations between Scotland and the rest of the UK	3
It will weaken relations between Scotland and the rest of the UK and increase the chance that Scotland will one day become a fully independent country	46
It will not make much difference	36
Don't know	15

Would you personally be happy or unhappy if Scotland one day became a fully independent country?

Would be happy	21
Would be unhappy	24
Would not be bothered one day or the other	48
Don't know	7