

## YOUNGOV / DAILY TELEGRAPH SURVEY

Sample: 406 Liberal Democrat members; plus 580 non-members who told YouGov in May 2005 that they were Lib Dem voters in the general election

Fieldwork: January 6-8, 2006

	Members %	Voters %
<b>How well do you think the following are doing their jobs?</b>		
<b>Tony Blair as Prime Minister</b>		
Very well	2	2
Fairly well	32	35
Not very well	33	35
Not at all well	33	27
Don't know	0	2
<b>David Cameron as leader of the Conservatives</b>		
Very well	14	13
Fairly well	51	53
Not very well	17	11
Not at all well	10	6
Don't know	8	17
<b>Charles Kennedy as leader of the Liberal Democrats</b>		
Very well	15	6
Fairly well	34	32
Not very well	27	29
Not at all well	21	27
Don't know	2	5
<b>Gordon Brown as Chancellor of the Exchequer</b>		
Very well	13	15
Fairly well	50	49
Not very well	24	17
Not at all well	11	14
Don't know	1	5
<b>Here are some things that have been said about Charles Kennedy. In each case, please say whether you agree or disagree.</b>		
<b>'He is a genuinely nice and decent man'</b>		
Strongly agree	70	28
Tend to agree	29	61
Tend to disagree	0	3
Strongly disagree	0	0
Don't know	0	8

Members	Voters
%	%

**‘He has been too close to Labour’**

Strongly agree	1	2
Tend to agree	6	9
Tend to disagree	46	59
Strongly disagree	45	14
Don't know	2	16

**‘He is right to want to abandon the party’s plans to increase taxes’**

Strongly agree	9	7
Tend to agree	33	36
Tend to disagree	41	32
Strongly disagree	10	8
Don't know	7	17

**‘At times, drink has harmed his performance as leader’**

Strongly agree	17	15
Tend to agree	42	33
Tend to disagree	19	22
Strongly disagree	9	6
Don't know	13	24

**‘He has clear ideas on how to tackle Britain’s problems’**

Strongly agree	30	7
Tend to agree	52	46
Tend to disagree	14	27
Strongly disagree	3	5
Don't know	2	14

**‘He has failed to exploit sufficiently his party’s opposition to the Iraq war’**

Strongly agree	18	19
Tend to agree	33	38
Tend to disagree	32	27
Strongly disagree	15	5
Don't know	2	10

	Members	Voters
	%	%

**'He deserves much of the credit for leading the Lib Democrats in 2005 to the best election result achieved by any third party for 80 years'**

Strongly agree	45	26
Tend to agree	40	49
Tend to disagree	12	14
Strongly disagree	2	2
Don't know	1	9

**'He is too laid back'**

Strongly agree	14	5
Tend to agree	33	31
Tend to disagree	35	40
Strongly disagree	15	13
Don't know	3	11

**Who do you think has been the better leader of the Liberal Democrats – Paddy Ashdown or Charles Kennedy?**

Paddy Ashdown	39	29
Charles Kennedy	29	37
Both equally good	28	21
Don't know	4	14

**Recently a number of Liberal Democrat MPs have expressed their discontent with Mr Kennedy's leadership of their party. Do you think they have acted reasonably, or should they have continued to support him wholeheartedly?**

MPs have acted reasonably	53	46
All Lib Dem MPs should have supported him wholeheartedly	36	34
Don't know	12	20

**Mr Kennedy has now acknowledged that he has had a drink problem, and that he has sought professional help to deal with it. Which of these statements comes closer to your view?**

'Mr Kennedy acted reasonably in trying, initially, to tackle this problem privately in the past, even if this meant that he had to lie about it when questioned by journalists'	68	58
'However much sympathy one has with Mr Kennedy, he was wrong to lie about his drink problem and to deny that he was receiving help in tackling it'	27	35
Don't know	5	7

	Members	Voters
	%	%

**And which of these statements comes closer to your view?**

‘Because Mr Kennedy lied about his drink problem, his reputation for honesty has gone for good’	12	17
‘Just because he lied about his alcoholism, it doesn’t mean he is fundamentally dishonest. He deserves to be trusted just as much in the future as he has been in the past’	83	76
Don’t know	5	7

**Mr Kennedy says he has not had an alcoholic drink for two months. Do you think he has successfully tackled his drink problem and put it behind him for good?**

Yes, he has	5	6
No, he has not	9	9
It’s too early to say	80	77
Don’t know	6	8

**In principle, do you think it is reasonable for someone who has had a drink problem to lead a major political party?**

Yes, provided he or she has put it behind him for good	81	68
No, the risks are too great – one can never be sure that someone has put the problem behind them for good	14	23
Don’t know	5	9

**Mr Kennedy has called for a leadership election, and said that he would stand as a candidate. Do you think...**

There is no need for an election – Mr Kennedy should have carried on and Lib Dem MPs should have supported him	15	18
Mr Kennedy is right to call for an election and to stand as a candidate	37	49
Mr Kennedy should stand down as leader and not stand for re-election	44	26
Don’t know	4	7

**Now that Mr Kennedy has called for a leadership election and said that he will stand as a candidate, which would you prefer?**

At least one other MP should stand, so there can be a real election	77	72
No other Lib Dem MP should stand, and Mr Kennedy should be re-elected unopposed	16	16
Don’t know	7	12

Members    Voters  
%            %

**Which of these would you most like to lead the Liberal Democrats into the next general election?**

Charles Kennedy	27	31
Sir Menzies ('Ming') Campbell	27	14
Simon Hughes	13	11
Mark Oaten	7	3
Someone else	18	8
Don't know	8	33

**If Mr Kennedy does stand down before the next general election, and these were the candidates to succeed him, whom would you most support?**

Sir Menzies ('Ming') Campbell	49	26
Simon Hughes	21	20
Mark Oaten	13	8
Don't know	16	47

**At the next general election, how do you think the Liberal Democrats should position themselves?**

Further to the left than the Labour Party	32	31
Closer to Labour than the Conservatives	13	13
Equidistant between Labour and the Conservatives	38	35
Closer to the Conservatives than Labour	6	7
Further to the Right than the Conservative Party	1	0
Don't know	10	15

**How serious a challenge do you think the election of David Cameron as Conservative leader poses to the Liberal Democrats?**

A very serious challenge	19	27
A fairly serious challenge	49	44
Not a particularly serious challenge	26	16
No challenge at all	4	4
Don't know	1	9

**Suppose that for some reason there were no Liberal Democrat in your constituency at the next general election. How do you think you would vote under those circumstances?**

Conservative	12	23
Labour	24	26
For some other party	36	28
I would not vote	13	7
Don't know	15	15

**At the general election in May 2005, 62 Liberal Democrat MPs were elected.  
What do you think is the maximum number of MPs the party can realistically  
expect to have at the next election if Charles Kennedy remains leader?**

Fewer than 50	12	16
50 to 59	17	16
60 to 69	22	23
70 to 79	19	14
80 to 89	9	6
90 to 99	6	2
100 to 119	4	1
120 to 149	1	0
150 or more	3	0
Don't know	8	20

**And what is the maximum number of MPs the Liberal Democrats can  
realistically expect to have at the next election if the party has a different  
leader?**

Fewer than 50	5	7
50 to 59	6	12
60 to 69	15	23
70 to 79	26	19
80 to 89	17	7
90 to 99	9	4
100 to 119	9	2
120 to 149	2	0
150 or more	3	0
Don't know	9	25