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Scottish Social Attitudes 2017: Attitudes to government, the economy and public services

An Official Statistics publication for Scotland

PUBLIC SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT

Scottish Social Attitudes 2017

Attitudes to government and the Scottish Parliament

- In 2017, 61% trusted the Scottish Government to [work in Scotland's best interests](#) and 37% to [make fair decisions](#), compared with 65% and 40% respectively in 2016. Consistent with previous years, trust in the UK Government was lower, at 20% and 16% respectively.
- For the second year in the time series, more people thought that the Scottish Government has most [influence over the way Scotland is run](#) (43%) than thought the UK Government had most influence (41%).
- Almost three quarters (74%) of people said that the Scottish Government [should have most influence](#) over the way Scotland is run. 15% said the UK Government should have the most influence.
- In 2017, 64% said that the Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a [stronger voice in the UK](#), compared with 71% in 2016. Similar to 2016, 57% said it gave [ordinary people more say](#) in how Scotland is governed.

Views on the economy and the standard of living in Scotland

- The most commonly chosen [priority for Scottish Government](#) action was to improve standards of education (26%).
- Half of respondents (50%) said the [economy](#) had weakened over the past year, compared with 54% in 2016. 39% of those respondents attributed this to UK Government policy, 29% to Scottish Government policy and 15% to "some other reason"
- In 2017 56% said that the [general standard of living](#) in Scotland had fallen over the past year, compared with 36% saying this in 2016. Of those who had perceived a fall in living standards, 50% attributed the fallen standard to UK Government policy; 16% attributed this to Scottish Government policy, and 14% attributed this to 'some other reason'.

Importance of Voting

- 92% of respondents said that [voting](#) in Scottish Parliament elections was very or fairly important. 88% said this of local elections and 87% of UK general elections. These figures are similar to in 2016.

Views on the National Health Service in Scotland

- Over half (55%) of respondents were satisfied with [the way the NHS was being run](#) in 2017, compared with 60% in 2016.
- Almost half (49%) said that standards in the [health service](#) had fallen over the past year, compared to 37% in 2016. Of those, 46% attributed this to UK Government policy, 27% attributed this to Scottish Government policy, and 13% attributed this to "some other reason".

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Introduction

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey has been conducted annually by the independent research organisation ScotCen since the advent of devolution in 1999 (with the exception of 2008). It is based on face-to-face interviews with between 1,200 to 1,700 people in Scotland drawn using probability sampling.

The SSA interviews in 2017 took place between July 2017 and February 2018. The sample size in 2017 was 1,234. This survey provides an important source of data on attitudes to government, the economy and public services over this period.

This report presents the findings of the Scottish Government funded questions in the SSA 2017, covering:

- trust in government
- perceptions of government influence over how Scotland is run
- views on the effects of the Scottish Parliament
- importance of voting
- attitudes to the economy, living standards and the National Health Service

We explored whether attitudes and experiences varied by social groups. Details of the statistical tests conducted and the full list of variables tested are presented in Annex A. Findings from the 2016 survey are available online.¹

This report was produced by professionally independent statisticians in the Office of the Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis, in line with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics.²

From 1999 to 2015, the survey was conducted with adults aged 18 or over. For the first time in 2016, the age range for the survey was extended to include 16 and 17 year olds to reflect the lowering of the age limit for voting in Scottish elections. Details of the survey methodology are provided in the Technical Annex published alongside this report.³

¹ [Scottish Government, 2016: Scottish Social Attitudes: Attitudes to government and political engagement](#)

² [UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice](#)

³ [Scottish Government, 2017: Scottish Social Attitudes: Attitudes to government and political engagement: Technical Annex](#)

1. Trust in government

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey 2017 asked participants questions about trust in government:

- Trust in government (Scottish and UK) to work in Scotland's best interests
- Trust in government (Scottish, UK and local) to make fair decisions
- How good government (Scottish, UK and local) is at listening before taking decisions

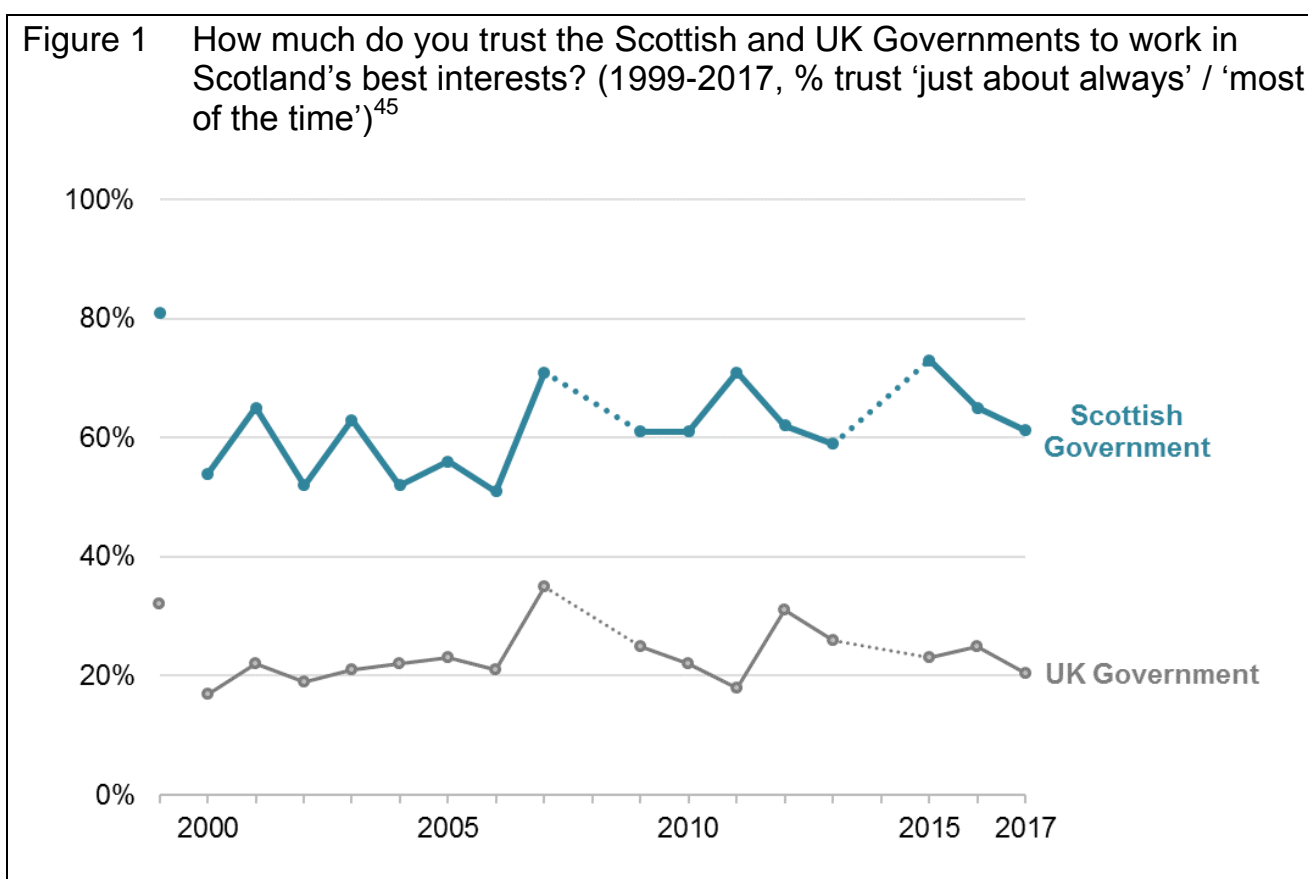
In this chapter we present headline findings at a glance, and highlight statistically significant differences in views between different groups in the population.

How much do you trust the government to work in Scotland’s best interests?

In 2017, 61% of people said they trusted the Scottish Government ‘just about always’ or ‘most of the time’ to work in Scotland’s best interests. This compared with 65% in 2016 (Figure 1). 37% of people trusted the Scottish Government ‘only some of the time’ or ‘almost never’.

The proportion of people who said they trusted the UK Government ‘just about always’ or ‘most of the time’ to work in Scotland’s best interests was 20% in 2017. This compared with 25% in 2016 (Figure 1). 78% of people trusted the UK Government ‘only some of the time’ or ‘almost never’.

Since these questions were first asked in the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey, levels of trust in the Scottish Government to work in Scotland’s best interests have been consistently higher than those in the UK Government. In 2017 there was a 41 percentage point gap between the proportion of people trusting the Scottish Government and the proportion of people trusting the UK Government to work in Scotland’s best interests. The size of this gap is similar to that in 2016.



⁴ In 1999, the question was asked prospectively: “How much would you trust a Scottish Parliament Scotland’s best interests? ”

⁵ A dotted line indicates a gap in the time-series.

Variations in attitudes between subgroups

Levels of trust in the Scottish and UK Governments to work in Scotland's best interests varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance, and are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

61% trusted the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests 'just about always' or 'most of the time'. This varied by subgroup as follows⁶:

Trust in the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests 'just about always' or 'most of the time'.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	81
Other	51
Age	
16-24	77
25-39	70
40-64	60
65+	46
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	64
'No interest at all' in politics	41
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	86
In work or waiting to take up work	65
Unemployed	53
Retired	50
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	66
Didn't feel close to a particular party	53
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	76
No formal qualifications	56
National identity	
More Scottish than British	66
Equally Scottish and British	48
More British than Scottish	56
Tenure	
Home owners	60
Private renters	73
Social renters	55
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	64
State benefits	48
Sex	
Female	56
Male	67

⁶ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

20% trusted the UK Government to work in Scotland's best interests 'just about always' or 'most of the time'. This varied by subgroup as follows⁷:

Trust in the UK Government to work in Scotland's best interests 'just about always' or 'most of the time'.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Age	
16-24	26
25-39	18
40-64	17
65+	26
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	20
Didn't feel close to a particular party	21
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	6
Other	28
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	20
'No interest at all' in politics	22
National identity	
More Scottish than British	12
Equally Scottish and British	27
More British than Scottish	46
Religious Identity	
Religious	26
Non-religious	16
Political Spectrum	
Right	51
Left	14
Urban-Rural	
Urban	19
Rural	29

⁷ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

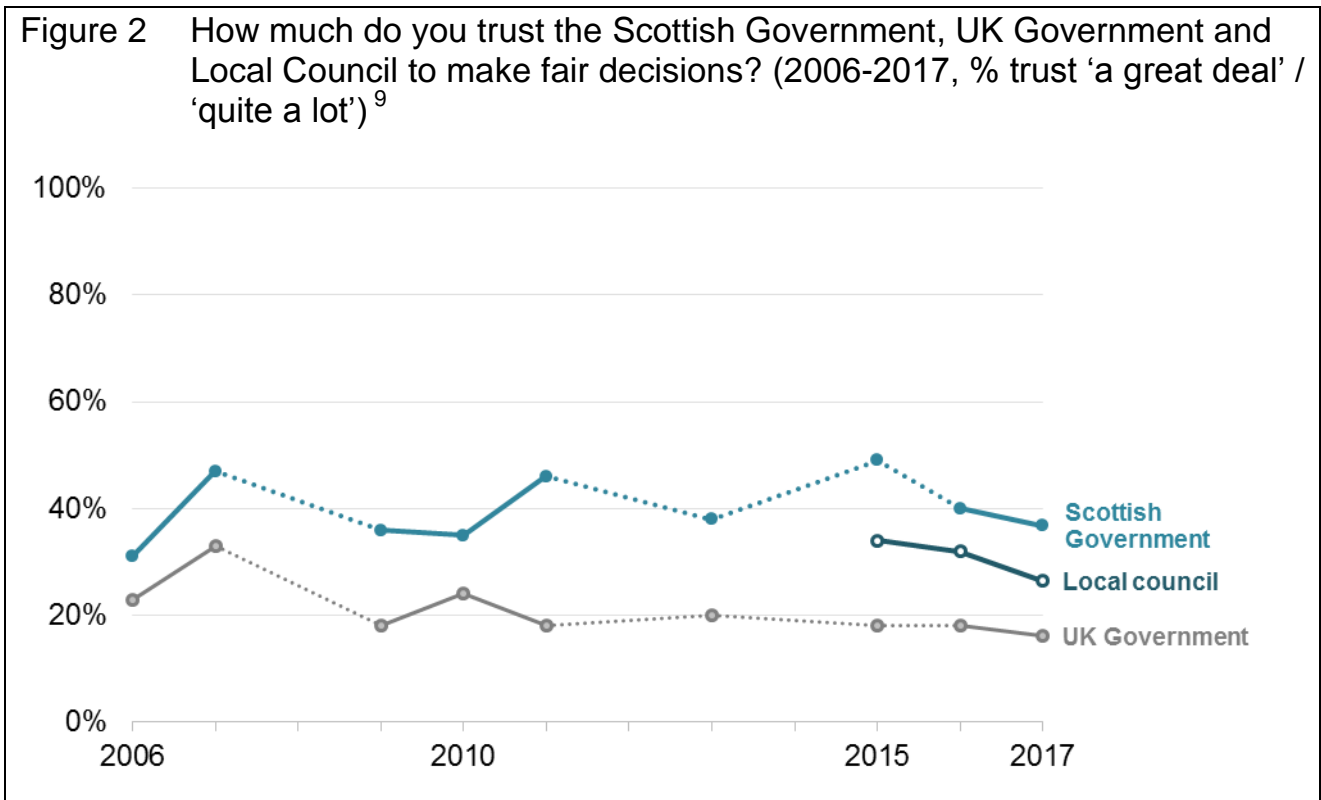
How much do you trust the government to make fair decisions?

In 2017, 37% of people trusted the Scottish Government ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to make fair decisions. This compared with 40% in 2016 (Figure 2). 19% trusted the Scottish Government ‘not very much’ or ‘not at all’ to make fair decisions.

The proportion of people who trusted the UK Government ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to make fair decisions was 16%. This compared with 18% in both 2016 and 2015 (Figure 2). 46% trusted the UK Government ‘not very much’ or ‘not at all’ to make fair decisions.

Around one quarter of people (26%) trusted their local council to make fair decisions in 2017. This compared with 32% in 2016 and 34% in 2015⁸ (Figure 2). 26% trusted their local council ‘not very much’ or ‘not at all’ to make fair decisions.

People were more than twice as likely to trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions compared to the UK Government. Trust in the Scottish Government to make fair decisions has been consistently higher than trust in the UK Government since this question was first asked in 2006.



⁸ This question was asked for the first time in the 2015 survey.

⁹ The questions on ‘Trust in government to make fair decisions’ and ‘Trust in government to act in Scotland’s best interests’ are not directly comparable due to the use of different answer scales.

Variations in attitudes between subgroups

Levels of trust in the Scottish Government, UK Government and Local Councils to make fair decisions varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance, and are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

37% trusted the Scottish Government to make fair decisions ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁰:

Trust in the Scottish Government to make fair decisions “a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	52
Other	29
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	38
‘No interest at all’ in politics	27
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	53
In work or waiting to take up work	39
Unemployed	20
Retired	32
Age	
16-24	43
25-39	42
40-64	37
65+	28
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	39
Didn’t feel close to a particular party	34
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	44
No formal qualifications	35
Political Spectrum	
Right	25
Left	37
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	39
State benefits	29
Sex	
Female	32
Male	42

¹⁰ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

16% trusted the UK Government to make fair decisions ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’. This varied by subgroup as follows¹¹:

Trust in the UK Government to make fair decisions “a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Political Spectrum	
Right	46
Left	12
National identity	
More Scottish than British	11
Equally Scottish and British	21
More British than Scottish	28
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	17
‘No interest at all’ in politics	7
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	11
Other	19
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	34
In work or waiting to take up work	14
Unemployed	7
Retired	17
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	18
Struggling on their present income	12
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	15
Didn’t feel close to a particular party	18
Religious Identity	
Religious	20
Non-religious	13

¹¹ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

26% trusted their local council to make fair decisions ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’. This varied by subgroup as follows¹²:

Trust in your Local Council to make fair decisions “a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	47
In work or waiting to take up work	24
Unemployed	15
Retired	27
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	28
‘No interest at all’ in politics	12
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	28
State benefits	20
Age	
16-24	38
25-39	26
40-64	23
65+	27
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	28
Struggling on their present income	21
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	31
No formal qualifications	25
Political Spectrum	
Right	36
Left	24
Tenure	
Home owners	26
Private renters	30
Social renters	24
SIMD Quintiles	
Least Deprived	26
2	32
3	26
4	25
Most Deprived	22

¹² Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

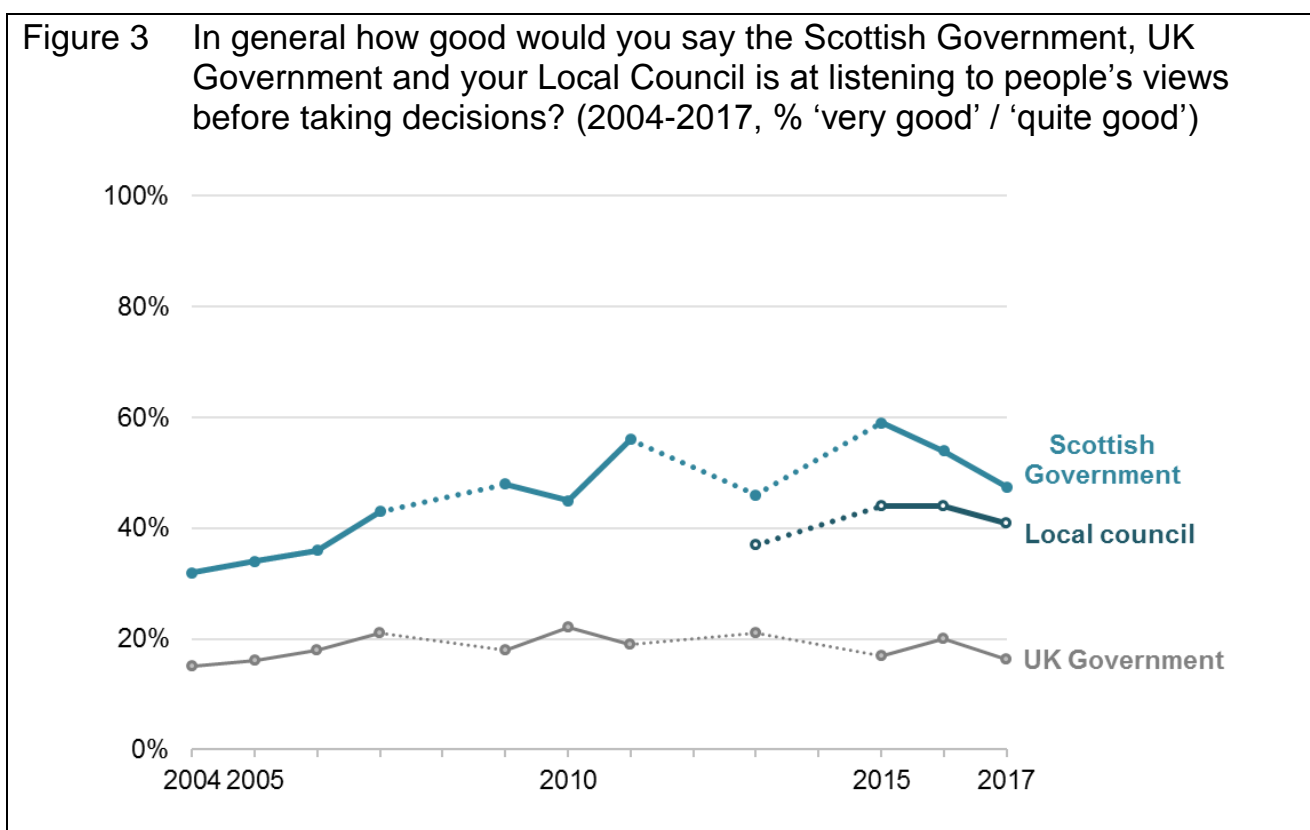
How good is the government at listening before taking decisions?

Almost half (47%) of people said the Scottish Government was ‘very good’ or ‘quite good’ at listening to people’s views before taking decisions in 2017. This compared with 54% in 2016 (Figure 3). 48% of people said the Scottish Government was ‘not very good’ or ‘not at all good’.

The percentage of people who said the UK Government was ‘very’ or ‘quite’ good at listening to people’s views before taking decisions to people’s views before taking decisions was 16% in 2017. This compared with 20% in 2016 (Figure 3). 79% of people said the UK Government was ‘not very good’ or ‘not at all good’.

In 2017, 41% of people said their local council was good at listening to people’s views before taking decisions. This compared with 44% in both 2016 and 2015 (Figure 3). 44% of people said their local council was ‘not very good’ or ‘not at all good’.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of people saying that the SG is good or very good at listening to people’s views before taking decisions since the question was first asked in 2004. It shows that, although this has varied over time, the percentage saying this is higher in 2017 than in 2004. Attitudes to how the UK Government is at listening to people’s views before taking decisions have remained stable over time. Since 2004, between 15% and 22% of people have considered the UK Government to be good at listening.



Variations in attitudes between subgroups

Views on whether the Scottish Government, UK Government and Local Councils were good at listening before taking decisions varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance. These are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

47% said the Scottish Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before taking decisions. This varied by subgroup as follows¹³:

The Scottish Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before taking decisions.	
Subgroups	%
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	69
Other	36
Age	
16-24	56
25-39	57
40-64	47
65+	34
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	52
Didn't feel close to a particular party	39
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	49
'No interest at all' in politics	33
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	69
In work or waiting to take up work	50
Unemployed	40
Retired	37
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	50
State benefits	36
Political Spectrum	
Right	30
Left	50
National identity	
More Scottish than British	52
Equally Scottish and British	37
More British than Scottish	40
Tenure	
Home owners	46
Private renters	58
Social renters	44
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	56
No formal qualifications	44

¹³ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

16% said the UK Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before taking decisions. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁴:

The UK Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before taking decisions.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Political Spectrum	
Right	30
Left	11
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	14
Didn't feel close to a particular party	21
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	22
'No interest at all' in politics	16
Age	
16-24	28
25-39	16
40-64	13
65+	15
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	33
In work or waiting to take up work	13
Unemployed	18
Retired	13
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	13
Other	18
Children in Household	
No children	17
With children	15

¹⁴ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

41% said their local council was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before taking decisions. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁵:

Local Councils were 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before taking decisions.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	43
'No interest at all' in politics	22
Political Spectrum	
Right	49
Left	37
Age	
16-24	52
25-39	40
40-64	38
65+	40
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	56
In work or waiting to take up work	40
Unemployed	31
Retired	40
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	43
State benefits	33
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	45
Struggling on their present income	39
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	43
Didn't feel close to a particular party	38

¹⁵ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

2. Influence over how Scotland is run

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey 2017 asked participants questions about who has and who should have most influence over how Scotland is run:

- Which of the following do you think has most influence over the way Scotland is run: the Scottish Government, the UK Government, local councils in Scotland?
- And which do you think ought to have most influence over the way Scotland is run, the Scottish Government, the UK Government, local councils in Scotland?

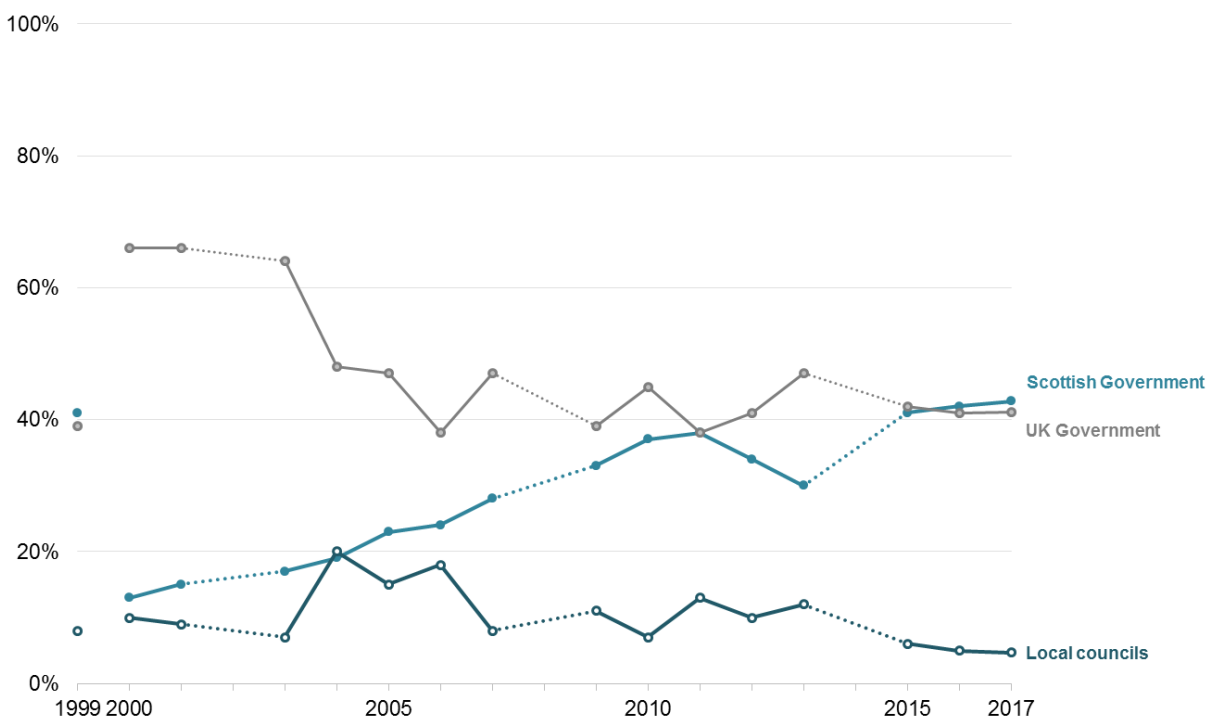
In this chapter we present headline findings at a glance, and highlight statistically significant differences in views between different groups in the population.

Who has most influence over the way Scotland is run?

In 2017, when asked who has the most influence over the way Scotland is run, 43% of people said the Scottish Government, 41% said the UK Government, 5% said local councils and 7% said the European Union (Figure 4).

During the first decade of devolution, considerably more people said that the UK Government had most influence. The gap has narrowed over time and 2016 was the first year in the series that people were more likely to say that the Scottish Government has the most influence.

Figure 4 Which of the following do you think has most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2017, %)



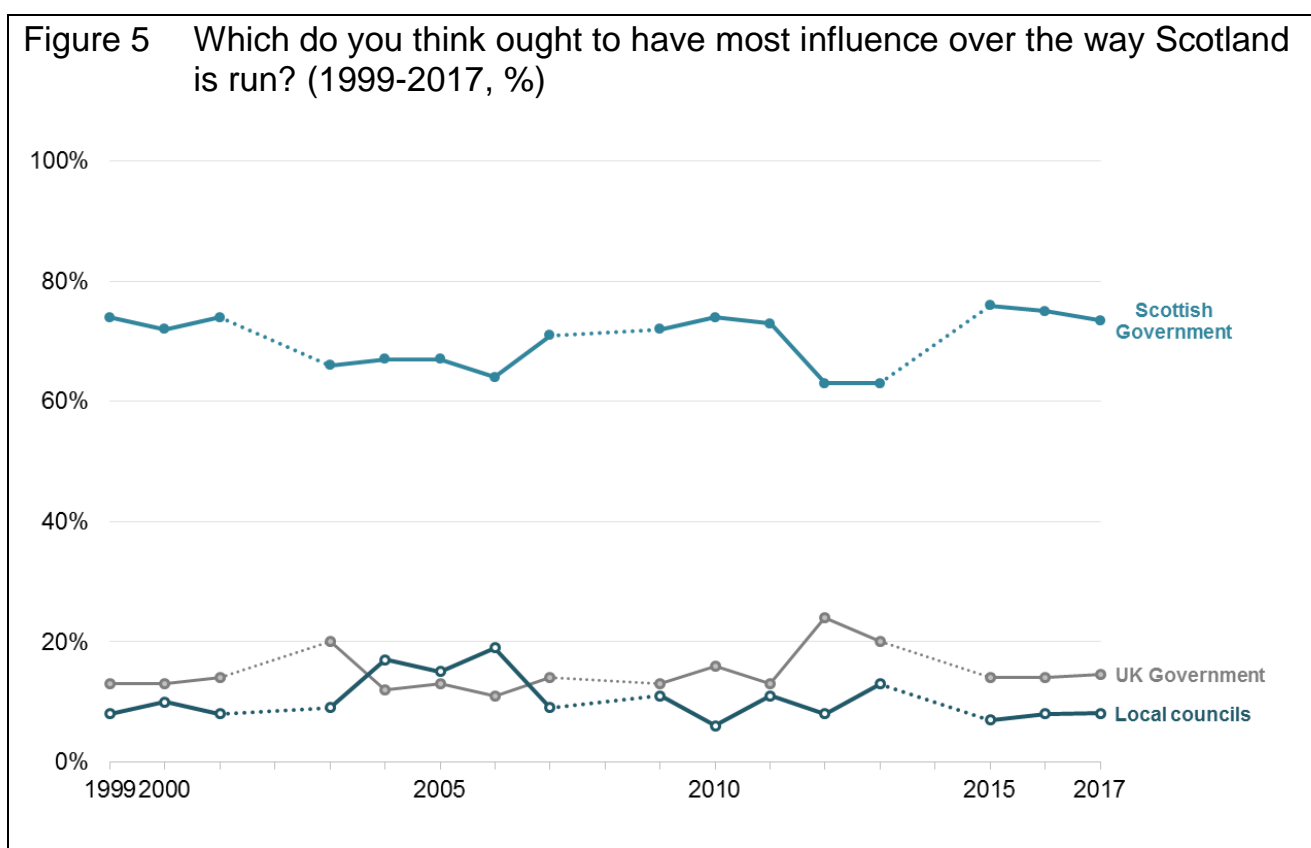
Who ought to have most influence over the way Scotland is run?

When asked who ought to have most influence over the way Scotland is run, nearly three-quarters (74%) of people said that the Scottish Government should have most influence. This compared with 75% in 2016 (Figure 5).

The percentage who said the UK Government should have most influence over the way Scotland is run was 15% in 2017. This compared with 14% in 2016 (Figure 5).

8% of people said local councils should have the most influence over the way Scotland is run, the same as in 2016 (Figure 5).

In 2017, people were nearly five times more likely to say the Scottish Government should have most influence than the UK Government. The proportion of people saying the Scottish Government should have most influence over the way Scotland is run has not dropped below 63% since this question was first asked in 1999.



Variations in attitudes between subgroups

Views on which government has, and ought to have, the most influence over the way Scotland is run varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance. These are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

43% said the Scottish Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁶:

The Scottish Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run.	
Subgroups	%
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	46
'No interest at all' in politics	19
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	48
Didn't feel close to a particular party	33
SIMD Quintiles	
Least Deprived	54
2	53
3	37
4	41
Most Deprived	29
Tenure	
Home owners	50
Private renters	36
Social renters	28
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	55
No formal qualifications	39
Age	
16-24	35
25-39	31
40-64	48
65+	50
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	38
In work or waiting to take up work	42
Unemployed	27
Retired	51
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	45
State benefits	35
National identity	
More Scottish than British	38
Equally Scottish and British	49
More British than Scottish	56
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	41
Other	44

¹⁶ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

74% said the Scottish Government should have most influence over the way Scotland is run. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁷:

The Scottish Government should have most influence over the way Scotland is run.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	88
Other	66
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	76
'No interest at all' in politics	59
National identity	
More Scottish than British	81
Equally Scottish and British	65
More British than Scottish	54
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	77
Didn't feel close to a particular party	68
Religious Identity	
Religious	70
Non-religious	77
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	82
No formal qualifications	71
Sex	
Female	69
Male	79

¹⁷ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

3. The Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey 2017 asked participants questions about the Scottish Parliament:

- Does having a Scottish Parliament give Scotland a stronger voice in the UK?
- Does having a Scottish Parliament give ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed?

In this chapter we present headline findings at a glance, and highlight statistically significant differences in views between different groups in the population.

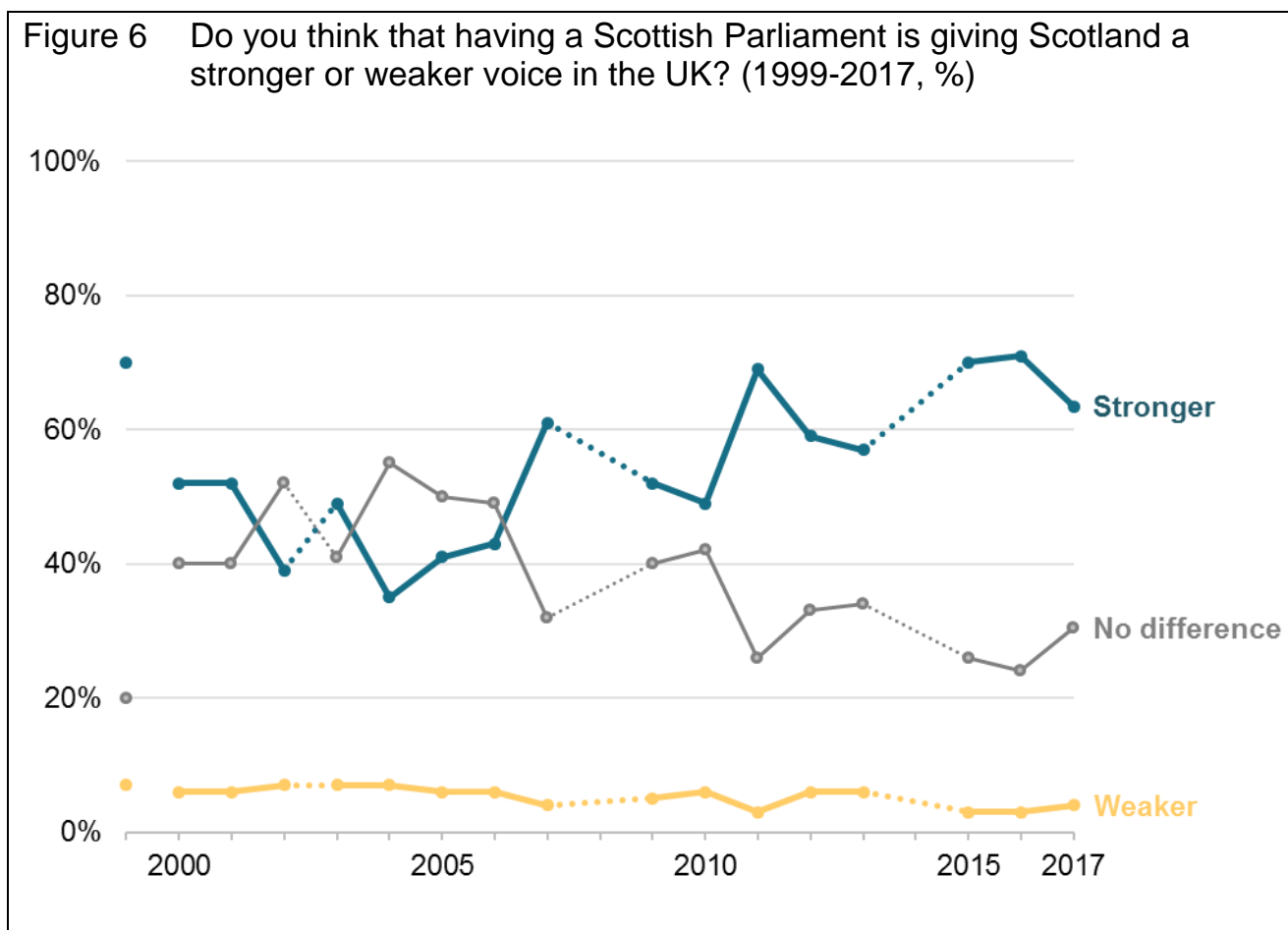
Does having a Scottish Parliament give Scotland a stronger voice in the UK?

In 2017, the proportion of people who said that having a Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK was 64%. This compared with 71% in 2016 (Figure 6). Just under a third (31%) of people said having a Scottish Parliament was making no difference while 4% of people said having a Scottish Parliament was giving Scotland a weaker voice in the UK.

The proportion of people who said having a Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK has varied over time, though with an upward trend. At its lowest in 2004, only 35% of people said having a Scottish Parliament was giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK (Figure 6).

The proportion of people who said having a Scottish Parliament makes no difference in giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK has been broadly declining since 2004, although this figure has increased by 7 percentage points between 2016 and 2017 (Figure 6).

The proportion of people who said having a Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a weaker voice has remained fairly stable over the time series.

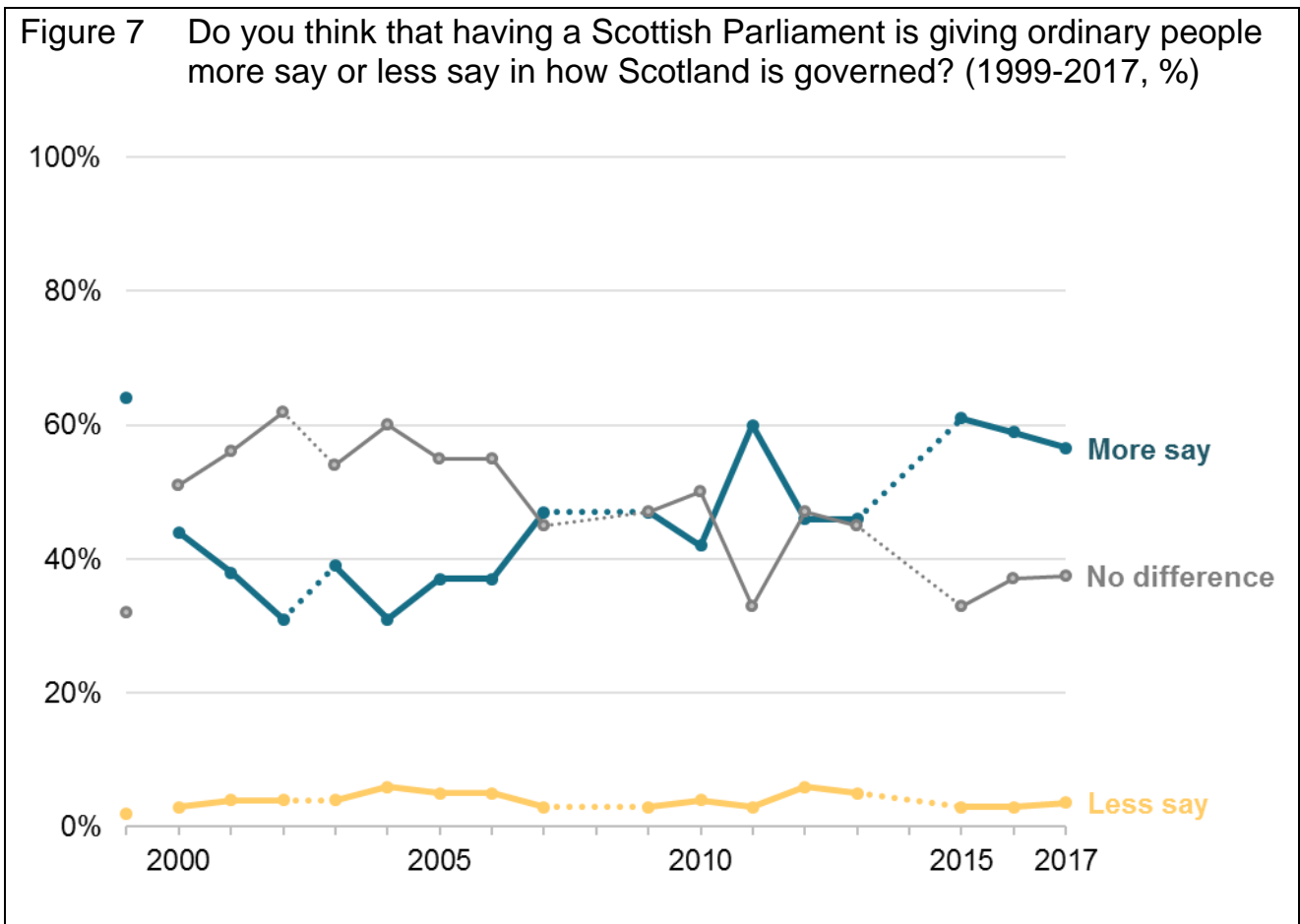


Does having a Scottish Parliament give ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed?

The proportion of people who said the Scottish Parliament is giving ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed is 57% in 2017. This compared with 59% in 2016 (Figure 7). 38% said it made no difference and 4% said it gave Scotland less say.

Figure 7 shows that between 2000 and 2006, more people said the Scottish Parliament was making no difference in giving ordinary people a say in how Scotland was governed. For three consecutive years in 2015, 2016 and 2017, the majority of people said the Scottish Parliament is giving ordinary people more of a say in how Scotland is governed.

In 1999, when the question was asked prospectively, 64% expected the Scottish Parliament to give ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed. While the broad trend is increasing (by 26 percentage points since 2004), the level anticipated in 1999 has not yet been reached (Figure 7).



Variations in attitudes between subgroups

Views on whether having a Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK, and giving ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed, varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance. These are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

64% said having a Scottish Parliament was giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁸:

The Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice in the UK.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	67
'No interest at all' in politics	38
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	81
In work or waiting to take up work	65
Unemployed	59
Retired	58
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	74
Other	58
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	77
No formal qualifications	59
Political Spectrum	
Right	51
Left	65
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	68
Didn't feel close to a particular party	56
Age	
16-24	71
25-39	69
40-64	63
65+	55
SIMD Quintiles	
Least Deprived	68
2	70
3	60
4	67
Most Deprived	52
Children in Household	
No children	63
With children	65
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	66
State benefits	53

¹⁸ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

57% said having a Scottish Parliament was giving ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed. This varied by subgroup as follows¹⁹:

The Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	59
'No interest at all' in politics	35
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	71
Other	49
Age	
16-24	71
25-39	66
40-64	52
65+	46
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	70
No formal qualifications	52
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	80
In work or waiting to take up work	57
Unemployed	54
Retired	49
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	61
Didn't feel close to a particular party	49
Religious Identity	
Religious	51
Non-religious	61

¹⁹ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

4. Importance of voting

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey 2017 asked participants questions about voting in elections:

- How important do you think it is to vote in Scottish Parliament elections?
- How important do you think it is to vote in UK General elections?
- How important do you think it is to vote in Local Council elections?

In this chapter we present headline findings at a glance, and highlight statistically significant differences in views between different groups in the population.

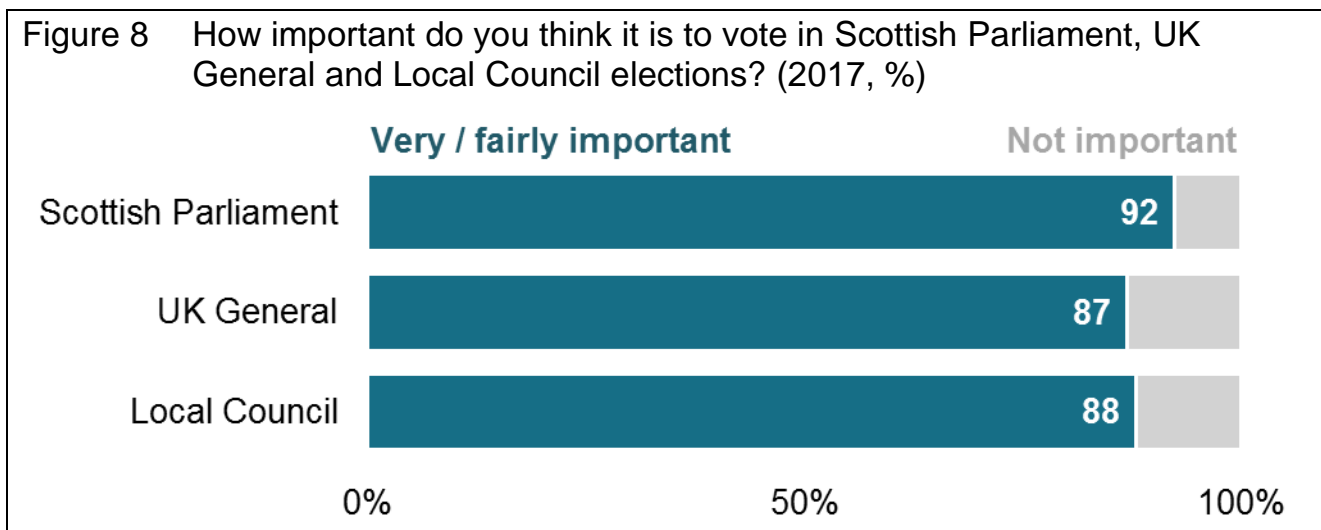
How important is it to vote in elections?

Figure 8 shows that 92% of people said that voting in Scottish Parliament elections was 'very important' or 'fairly important'. For local council elections, this figure was 88% while for UK general elections it was 87%.

Over three-quarters (80%) of people said that voting was very or fairly important in all three elections while 5% of people said voting was not very or not at all important in all of the elections listed.

When these questions were first asked in 2005, 82% of people said that voting in Scottish Parliamentary elections was 'very important' or 'fairly important'. For local elections this figure was 82% while for UK general elections it was 85%.

In 2005, 74% of people said that voting was very or fairly important in all three elections while 9% of people said voting was not very or not at all important in all of the elections listed.



Variations in attitudes between subgroups

Views on whether voting in elections was important varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance. These are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

92% of people said that voting in Scottish Parliament elections was ‘very important’ or ‘fairly important’. This varied by subgroup as follows²⁰:

Voting in Scottish Parliament elections was ‘very important’ or ‘fairly important’	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	95
‘No interest at all’ in politics	66
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	97
Didn’t feel close to a particular party	83
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	95
Struggling on their present income	84
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	97
Other	90
Tenure	
Home owners	95
Private renters	90
Social renters	86
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	97
No formal qualifications	91
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	93
State benefits	87

²⁰ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

87% of people said that voting in UK general elections was ‘very important’ or ‘fairly important’. This varied by subgroup as follows²¹:

Voting in UK general elections was ‘very important’ or ‘fairly important’	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	91
‘No interest at all’ in politics	54
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	92
Didn’t feel close to a particular party	77
SIMD Quintiles	
Least Deprived	94
2	92
3	91
4	75
Most Deprived	82
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	91
Struggling on their present income	75
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	95
No formal qualifications	84
Tenure	
Home owners	91
Private renters	84
Social renters	78
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	88
In work or waiting to take up work	87
Unemployed	72
Retired	93
National identity	
More Scottish than British	83
Equally Scottish and British	90
More British than Scottish	95
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	89
State benefits	80

²¹ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

88% of people said that voting in Local Council elections was 'very important' or 'fairly important'. This varied by subgroup as follows²²:

Voting in Local Council elections was 'very important' or 'fairly important'	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	91
'No interest at all' in politics	63
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	93
Didn't feel close to a particular party	78
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	82
In work or waiting to take up work	89
Unemployed	73
Retired	92
Religious Identity	
Religious	92
Non-religious	85
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	90
State benefits	81
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	93
No formal qualifications	86
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	90
Struggling on their present income	81
Tenure	
Home owners	91
Private renters	85
Social renters	84

²² Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

5. The economy, general standard of living and the National Health Service

The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) Survey 2017 asked participants about:

- What the highest priority of the Scottish Government should be
- Perceived changes in the economy and in the general standard of living over the previous year
- Satisfaction with the way the National Health Service runs nowadays and perceived changes in standards in the health service over the previous year

In this chapter we present headline findings at a glance, and highlight statistically significant differences in views between different groups in the population.

What should be the Scottish Government's priority?

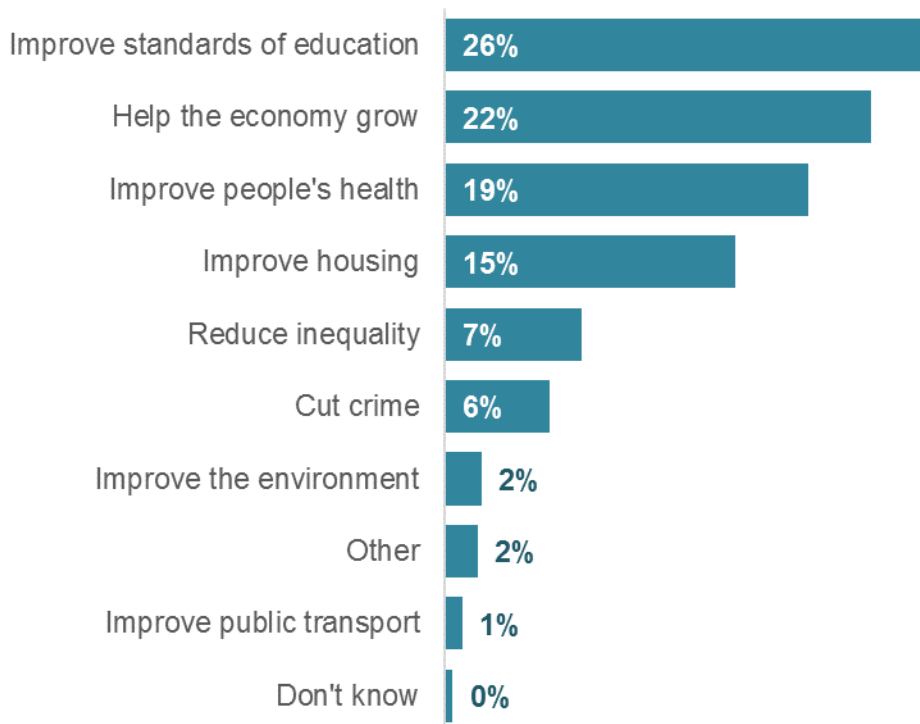
Figure 9 shows that when asked to choose what the Scottish Government's highest priority should be from a list, the four priorities selected most often were:

- improving standards of education (26%);
- help the economy grow faster (22%);
- improving people's health (19%);
- Improve housing (15%);

This is the first year that improving standards of education has been the most commonly selected priority for the Scottish Government (Figure 9). From 2009 until 2016 helping the economy grow faster was people's highest priority for the Scottish Government.²³

The percentage of people identifying cutting crime as the priority has fallen dramatically from 27% in 2007 to 6% in 2017.

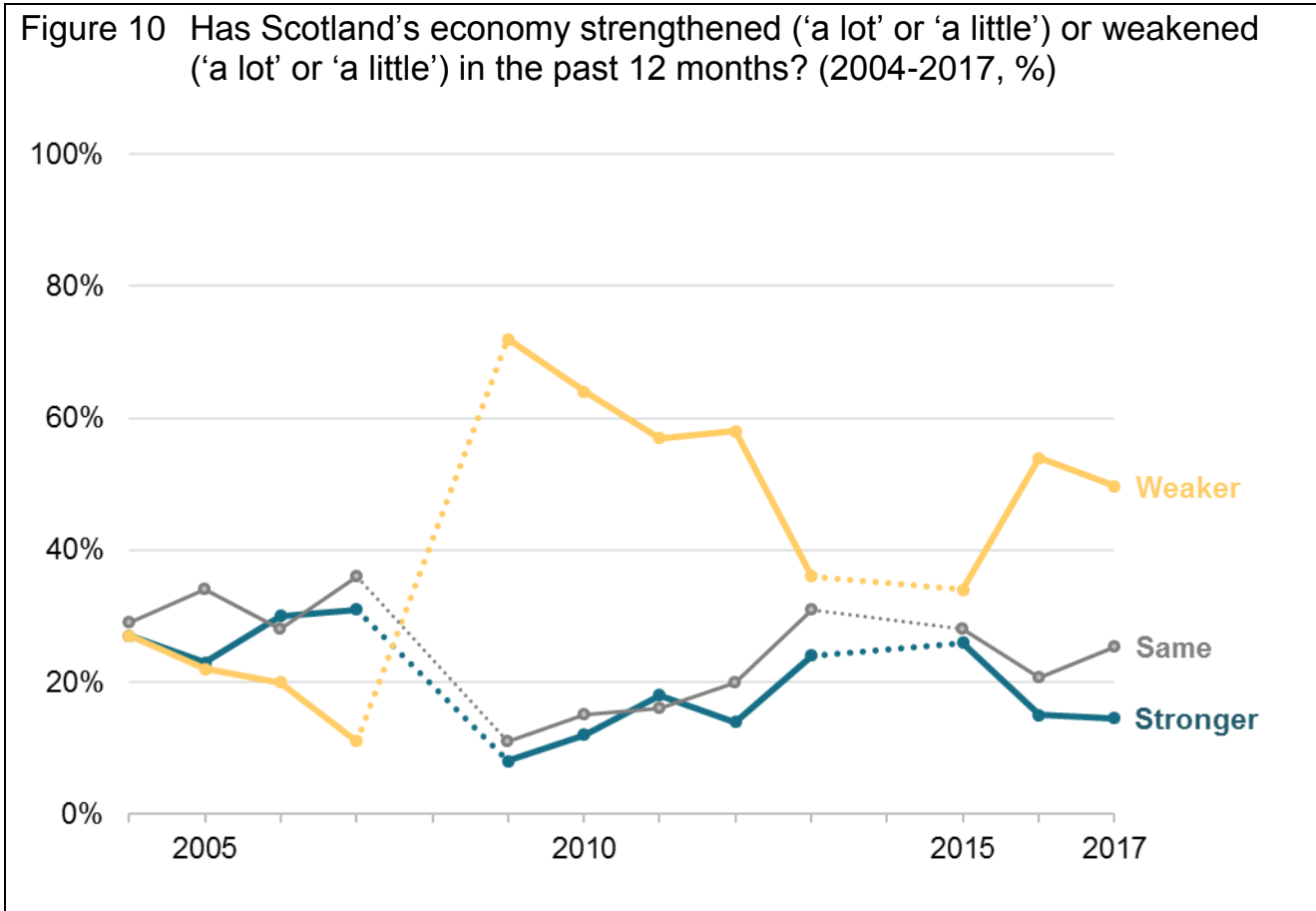
Figure 9 What should be the Scottish Government's highest priority? (2017, %)



²³ The lists provided have varied over time. The table with top choices in previous years can be found in Annex B.

How has Scotland's economy changed over the last 12 months?

Half of people (50%) said that Scotland's economy had weakened 'a little' or 'a lot' in the past year. This compared with 54% in 2016. In 2017, the proportion of people who said that Scotland's economy had become 'a little' or 'a lot stronger' in the past year was 15%. This figure is the same as in 2016 (Figure 10).



Perceived responsibility for changes

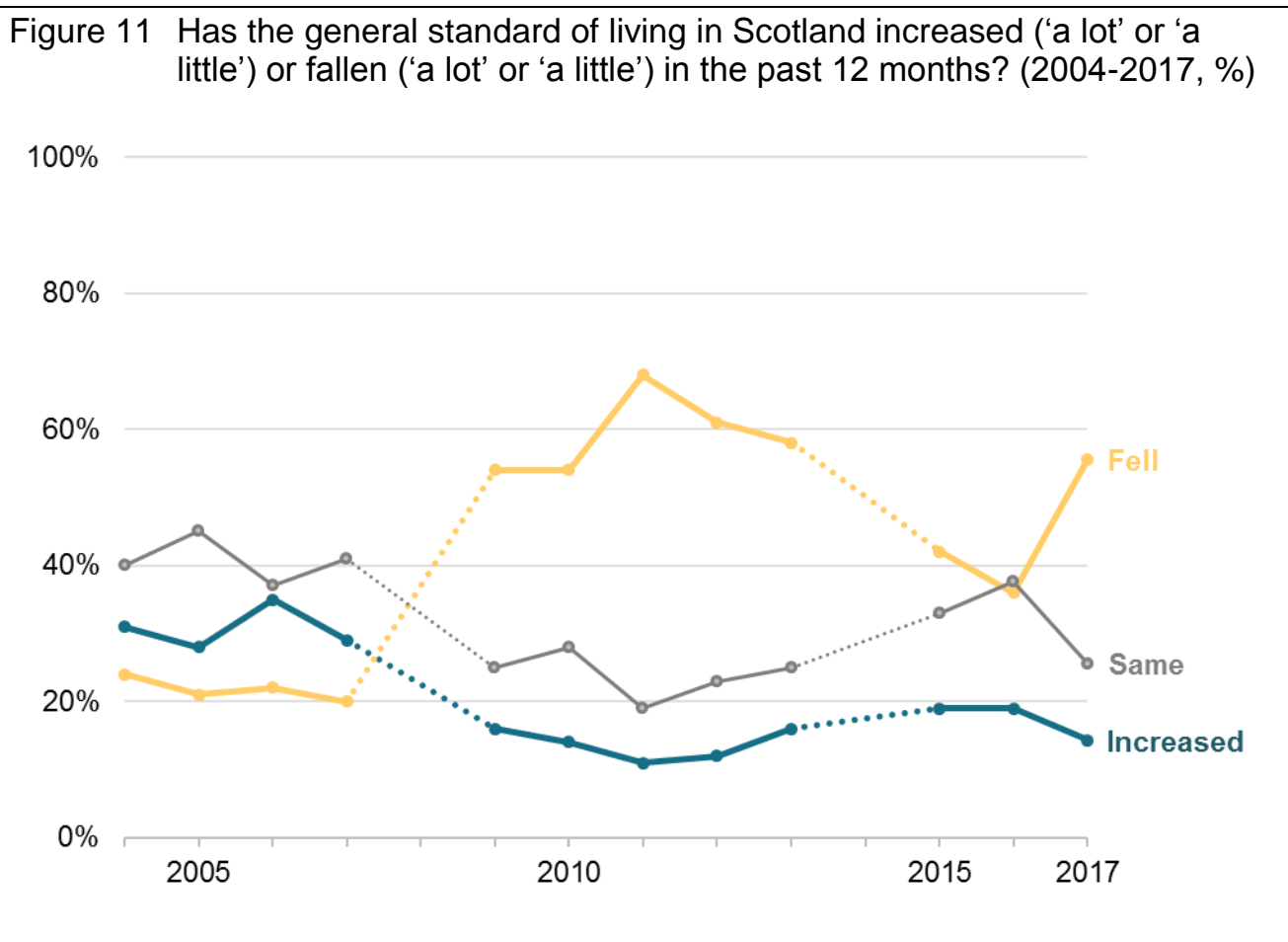
Of those who said the economy had weakened, 39% attributed this to UK Government policies, 29% attributed this to Scottish Government policies, and 15% to 'some other reason'.

Of those who said the economy had improved, 68% attributed this to Scottish Government policies, 10% to UK Government policies and 14% to 'some other reason'.

How has the general standard of living in Scotland changed over the last 12 months?

In 2017, 56% of people said the general standard of living had fallen ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’, 26% said it had ‘stayed the same’, and 14% of people said it had increased ‘a lot’ or ‘a little’ (Figure 11).

Between 2011 and 2016, the percentage of people saying that the general standard of living had fallen in the past year had been declining. In 2017 this figure increased by 20 percentage points. The proportion of people who said that the standard of living had increased was 14% in 2017 compared to 19% in 2016 (Figure 11).



Perceived responsibility for changes

Of those who said the standard of living had worsened, 50% attributed this to UK Government policy, 16% attributed this to Scottish Government policy, and 14% to ‘some other reason’.

Of those who said the standard of living had improved, 43% attributed this to Scottish Government policy, 28% to UK Government policy and 15% to ‘some other reason’.

Variations in attitudes between subgroups: Economy & general standard of living

Views on changes to the economy, standards of living and standards in the health service had improved or declined varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance, and are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

Views on whether Scotland's economy had weakened varied by subgroup as follows²⁴:

Scotland's economy had weakened by 'a little' or 'a lot'	
<i>Subgroups</i>	%
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	52
'No interest at all' in politics	28
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	52
Didn't feel close to a particular party	46
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	42
Other	54
Sex	
Female	50
Male	49
Tenure	
Home owners	53
Private renters	46
Social renters	44
Age	
16-24	45
25-39	43
40-64	53
65+	55
National identity	
More Scottish than British	45
Equally Scottish and British	57
More British than Scottish	61
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	58
No formal qualifications	47

²⁴ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

Views on whether living standards in Scotland had fallen varied by subgroup as follows²⁵:

Living standards in Scotland had fallen by 'a little' or 'a lot'	
<i>Subgroups</i>	%
Age	
16-24	31
25-39	52
40-64	63
65+	61
Tenure	
Home owners	59
Private renters	43
Social renters	58
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	29
In work or waiting to take up work	55
Unemployed	56
Retired	61
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	59
Didn't feel close to a particular party	49
Interest in politics	
Any interest in politics	56
'No interest at all' in politics	49
Political Spectrum	
Right	53
Left	60
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	58
Other	54
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	53
Struggling on their present income	69
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	53
State benefits	67

²⁵ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

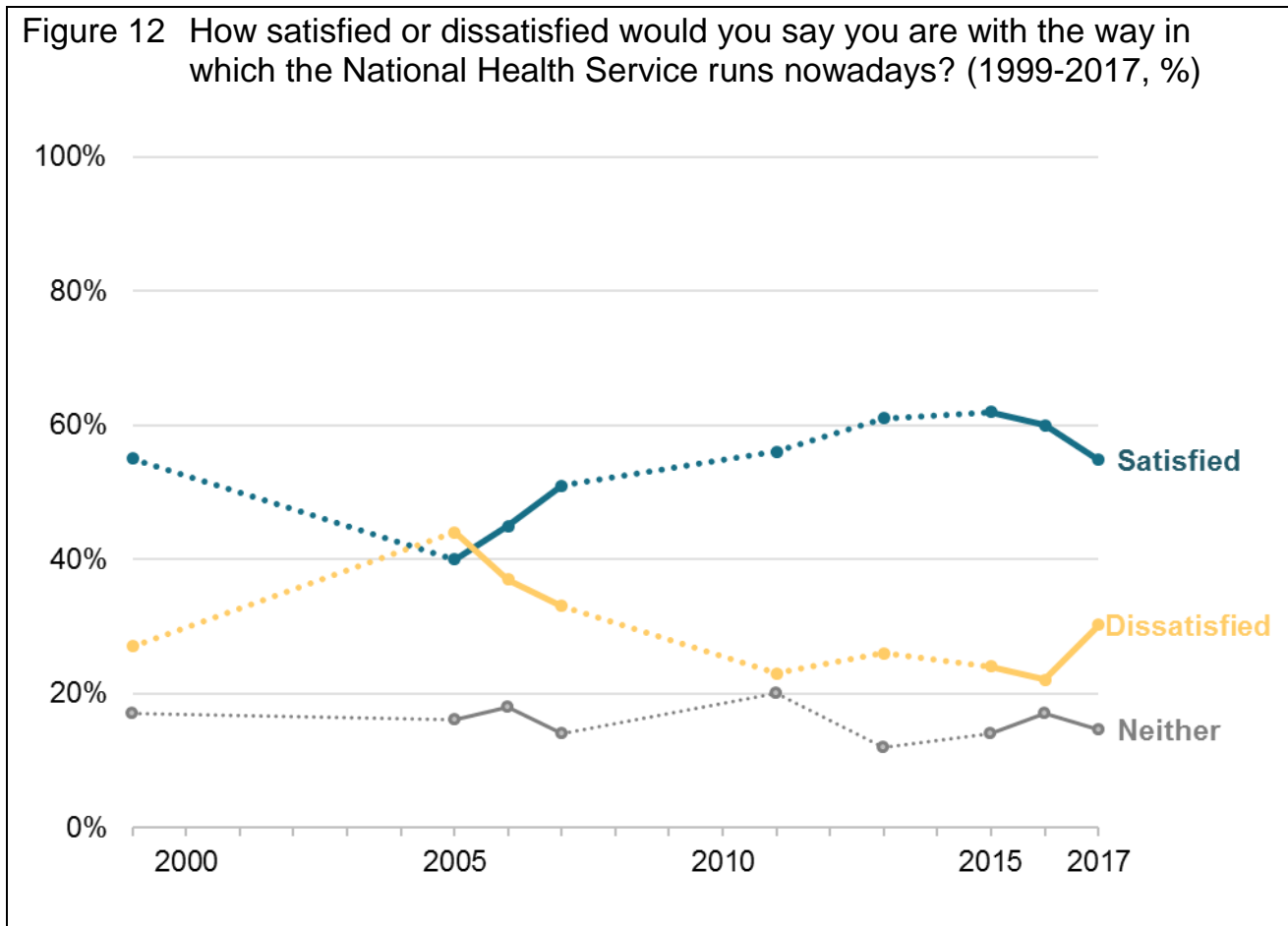
National Health Service (NHS)

People were asked two key questions on the National Health Service in Scotland:

- How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the National Health Service runs nowadays?
- Has the standard of the health service in Scotland increased or fallen in the last 12 months?

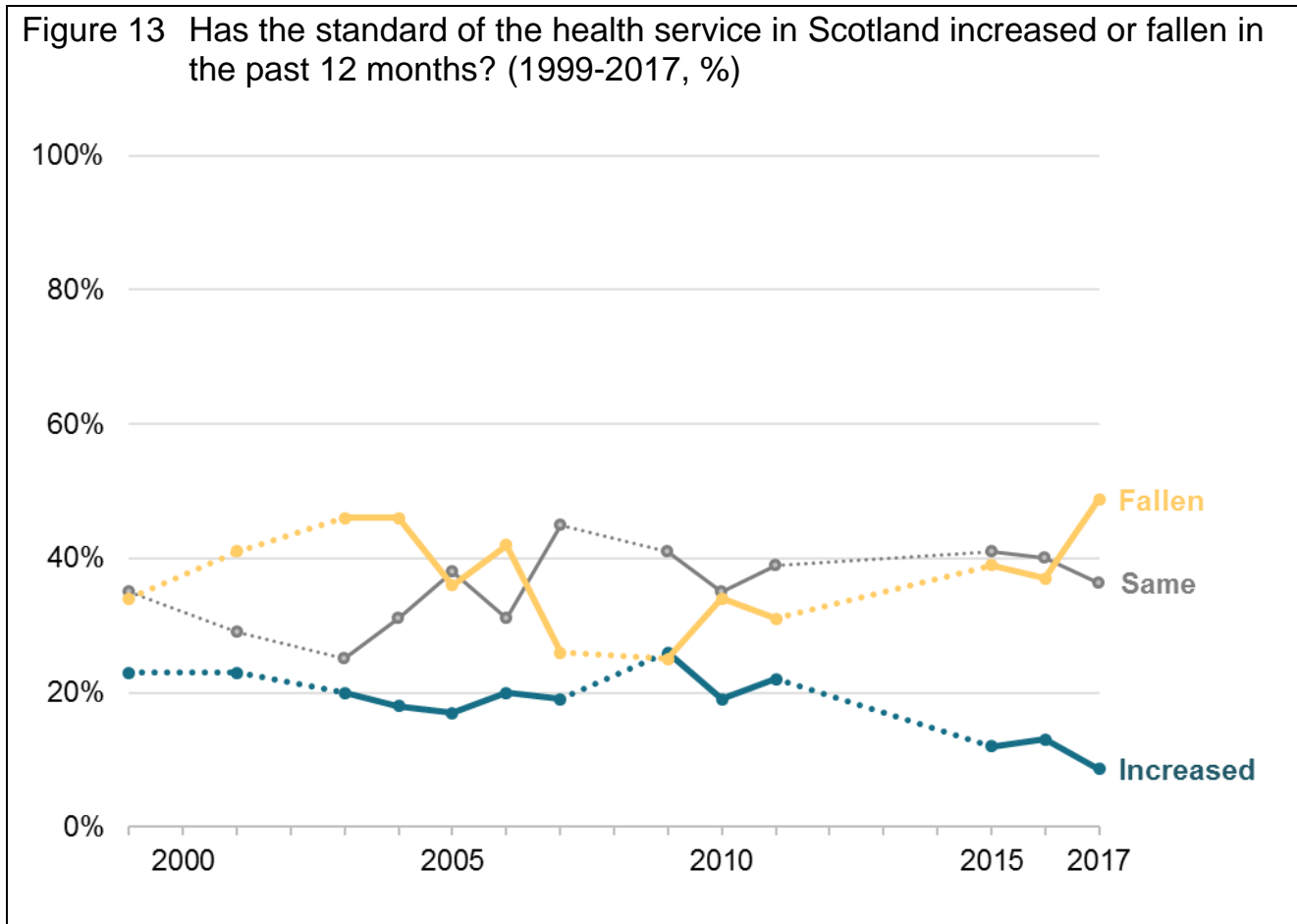
How satisfied are you with the way the NHS runs?

In 2017, 55% of people reported that they were 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the way the NHS runs nowadays. This compared with 60% in 2016. 30% of people said they were dissatisfied and 15% were neither satisfied or dissatisfied (Figure 12).



How has the standard of the health service in Scotland changed over the last 12 months?

In 2017, 49% of people said that standards in the health services had fallen ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ in the past year. This compared with 37% in 2016. 36% of people said standards had stayed the same, 9% said they had increased ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ (Figure 13).



Perceived responsibility for changes

Of those who said standards in the NHS had fallen, 46% attributed this to UK Government policy, 27% attributed it to Scottish Government policy, and 13% to ‘some other reason’.

Of those who said standards in the NHS had improved, 57% attributed this to Scottish Government policy, 16% to UK Government policy and 13% to ‘some other reason’.

Variations in attitudes between subgroups: NHS

Satisfaction with, and views on whether standards in the health service had improved or declined varied between a number of social groups, based on statistical significance, and are listed here. Variables with no statistically significant differences are listed in Annex A.

Satisfaction with the way the health service is run varied by subgroup as follows²⁶:

'Satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the way the health service runs nowadays.	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Living Comfortably	
Living comfortably on present income	60
Struggling on their present income	40
Age	
16-24	60
25-39	58
40-64	50
65+	58
Self-reported Health	
Good health	57
Poor health	43
Political Spectrum	
Right	68
Left	53
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	57
State benefits	48
Economic Activity	
Education or full time training	70
In work or waiting to take up work	54
Unemployed	37
Retired	56

²⁶ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

Views on whether the standards in the health service have fallen varied by subgroup as follows²⁷:

Standards in the health service have fallen by 'a little' or 'a lot'	
<i>Subgroups</i>	<i>%</i>
Age	
16-24	43
25-39	36
40-64	54
65+	57
Main Income Source	
Wages or private income	45
State benefits	62
Self-reported Health	
Good health	45
Poor health	65
Children in Household	
No children	53
With children	39
Educational Qualification	
Degree or equivalent	43
No formal qualifications	51
Support for a political party	
Supported or felt close to a political party	51
Didn't feel close to a particular party	45
Political affiliation	
SNP supporter	47
Other	50
Tenure	
Home owners	51
Private renters	41
Social renters	52
Political Spectrum	
Right	38
Left	53

²⁷ Differences in responses by different groups were examined (see Annex A) and only findings with statistically significant differences between groups are presented in this report.

Annex A. Statistical Testing

This Annex contains details of tests conducted to determine significant relationships between questions on government, priorities, importance of voting, the economy, living standards, the NHS, and a set of independent variables from the wider SSA collection.

Cross-tabulations and chi-squared tests were run²⁸. Since a large number of statistical tests were being conducted for each variable, false positives were controlled using the Holm-Bonferroni method.

In the table below:

- ✓ indicates that a statistically significant relationship is found
- × indicates that no statistically significant relationship is found

²⁸ ²⁸ The cross-tabulations do not take into account correlations between the dependent variables.

Independent Variables →		Age	Sex	Children in household	Economic activity	Support or feel close to a party	Political affiliation	Political spectrum	Interest in politics	National identity	Tenure	Main income source	Living comfortably	Religious identity	Highest qualifications	SIMD	Urban/Rural	Self-reported health
Dependant Variables ↓																		
Trust to work in Scotland's best interests	Scottish Government	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	
	UK Government	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	
Trust to make fair decisions	Scottish Government	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	✓	x	x	
	UK Government	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Listening to people's views before taking decisions	Scottish Government	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	
	UK Government	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Influence over the way Scotland is run	Who has the most?	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	
	Who ought to have the most?	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	
Is Scottish Parliament giving...	Scotland a stronger voice in the UK?	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	
	Ordinary people more of a say?	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	
Importance of Voting	Scottish Parliament elections	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	x	x	
	UK General Elections	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	x	
	Local Council Elections	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	
Change in the economy		✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	✓	x	x	
Change in living standards		✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	
NHS Satisfaction		✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	x	x	✓
Change in NHS standards		✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	x	✓	x	x	✓

Annex B. Time series Tables

This Annex contains back series tables and the latest results for all questions in the core module.

Table 1 How much do you trust the UK Government to work in Scotland's best long-term interest? (1999-2017, column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	3	2	3	2
Most of the time	29	16	20	17	19	20	21	19	32	23	19	15	28	23	21	22	19
Only some of the time	52	54	55	51	58	50	53	52	44	48	51	49	45	45	44	43	43
Almost never	14	26	22	26	20	26	21	24	18	24	23	31	22	27	31	30	35
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	1	2
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 2 How much do you trust the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests? (1999-2017, column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	26	9	13	9	10	9	10	8	14	14	13	20	16	16	22	17	15
Most of the time	55	45	52	43	52	43	46	43	57	47	47	51	46	43	50	49	46
Only some of the time	14	34	29	34	31	37	33	37	22	31	31	23	28	31	21	25	28
Almost never	2	9	5	11	4	10	7	8	4	5	6	5	9	8	5	8	9
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	4	3	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	*	*	*	-	-	*	-	*	-
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 3 How much do you trust the UK Government to make fair decisions? (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
Quite a lot	21	30	17	21	15	17	16	15	15
Some	46	43	48	44	42	39	37	39	36
Not very much	23	17	24	23	27	28	28	29	34
Not at all	6	4	7	7	11	11	14	13	12
(Don't know)	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	1
(Not answered)	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	-
Sample size	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 4 How much do you trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions? (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	3	4	4	4	8	5	8	8	5
Quite a lot	29	42	32	32	38	33	41	33	32
Some	46	39	46	46	39	42	38	41	43
Not very much	15	8	13	13	11	14	9	13	15
Not at all	5	2	3	3	3	4	3	4	4
(Don't know)	3	4	3	2	1	2	1	1	1
(Not answered)	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	-
Sample size	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 5 How much do you trust your local council to make fair decisions? (2006-2017, column %)

	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%
A great deal	4	4	3
Quite a lot	30	28	23
Some	37	33	38
Not very much	16	18	19
Not at all	6	8	7
(Don't know)	7	9	9
(Not answered)	-	*	-
Sample size	1288	1237	1234

Table 6 In general how good would you say the Scottish Government is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions? (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	1	3	2	2	4	3	6	4	8	7	4
Quite good	31	32	34	41	44	41	50	42	51	47	44
Not very good	41	38	39	35	33	37	26	33	25	28	34
Not at all good	17	16	14	9	8	11	8	12	9	12	14
(Don't know)	10	12	11	13	11	8	9	9	7	5	5
(Not answered)	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	-	*	*	-
Sample size	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 7 In general how good would you say the UK Government is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions? (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	1	1	1	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Quite good	14	15	17	21	17	21	18	20	16	20	15
Not very good	50	52	49	50	51	51	48	49	49	51	49
Not at all good	30	25	27	21	23	20	27	24	28	24	30
(Don't know)	6	7	7	8	7	7	6	6	6	5	4
(Not answered)	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
<i>Sample size</i>	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 8 In general how good would you say your local council is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions? (2010-2017, column %)

	2010	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%
Very good	3	6	7	5
Quite good	34	38	38	36
Not very good	38	28	26	28
Not at all good	17	14	14	16
(Don't know)	8	14	15	16
(Not answered)	-	*	*	-
<i>Sample size</i>	1495	1288	1237	1234

Table 9 From what you have seen and heard so far do you think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving ordinary people...(1999-2017, column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...more say in how Scotland is governed	64	44	38	31	39	31	37	37	47	47	42	60	46	46	61	59	57
...less say	2	3	4	4	4	6	5	5	3	3	4	3	6	5	3	3	4
...or, is it making no difference?	32	51	56	62	54	60	55	55	45	47	50	33	47	45	33	37	38
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	1	3	3	2	2
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 10 From what you have seen and heard so far do you think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland...(1999-2017, column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...a stronger voice in the United Kingdom	70	52	52	39	49	35	41	43	61	52	49	69	59	57	70	71	64
...a weaker voice in the United Kingdom	7	6	6	7	7	7	6	6	4	5	6	3	6	6	3	3	4
...or, is it making no difference?	20	40	40	52	41	55	50	49	32	40	42	26	33	34	26	24	31
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	2
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	-
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 11 Which of the following do you think has the most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2017, column %)

	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2003 %	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2009 %	2010 %	2011 %	2012 %	2013 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %
The Scottish Government	41	13	15	17	19	23	24	28	33	37	38	34	30	41	42	43
The UK Government at Westminster	39	66	66	64	48	47	38	47	39	45	38	41	47	42	41	41
Local Councils in Scotland	8	10	9	7	20	15	18	8	11	7	13	10	12	6	5	5
The European Union	5	4	7	5	6	8	11	9	10	7	7	9	7	5	8	7
(Don't know)	8	8	-	6	7	7	9	7	7	5	4	6	4	6	4	4
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 12 Which of the following do you think ought to have the most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2017, column %)

	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2003 %	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2009 %	2010 %	2011 %	2012 %	2013 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %
The Scottish Government	74	72	74	66	67	67	64	71	72	74	73	63	63	76	75	74
The UK Government at Westminster	13	13	14	20	12	13	11	14	13	16	13	24	20	14	14	15
Local Councils in Scotland	8	10	8	9	17	15	19	9	11	6	11	8	13	7	8	8
The European Union	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
(Don't know)	-	5	-	-	3	4	4	4	3	3	2	4	3	2	2	3
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	*	*	*	*	*
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 13 What should be the Scottish Government's highest priority? (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Improve standards of education	17	15	16	12	15	12	15	18	22	21	26
Help the economy grow faster	16	18	14	16	33	37	36	35	32	28	22
Improve people's health	27	26	24	17	13	15	16	18	17	15	19
Improve housing	12	10	12	16	13	9	11	13	15	16	15
Reduce inequality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	10	7
Cut crime	22	23	24	27	17	18	17	10	4	4	6
Improve the environment	4	4	6	5	3	3	2	1	2	2	2
Improve public transport	1	1	2	1	1	1	*	1	1	1	1
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1637</i>	<i>1549</i>	<i>1594</i>	<i>1508</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1495</i>	<i>1197</i>	<i>1497</i>	<i>1288</i>	<i>1237</i>	<i>1234</i>

Table 14 All in all, how satisfied or dissatisfied would you say you are with the way in which the National Health Service runs nowadays? (1999-2017, column %)

	1999	2005	2006	2007	2011	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	9	7	6	10	12	13	16	14	14
Quite satisfied	46	33	39	41	44	49	46	46	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	16	18	14	20	12	14	17	15
Quite dissatisfied	19	27	29	22	17	19	17	14	21
Very dissatisfied	7	16	8	11	6	6	7	8	9
(Don't know)	1	*	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
(Not answered)	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	*
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1549</i>	<i>1594</i>	<i>1508</i>	<i>1197</i>	<i>1497</i>	<i>1288</i>	<i>1237</i>	<i>1234</i>

Table 15 Whether the standard of the health service in Scotland has increased or fallen. (1999-2017, column %)

	1999 %	2001 %	2003 %	2004 %	2005 %	2006 %	2007 %	2009 %	2010 %	2011 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %
Increased a lot	2	2	2	3	2	4	2	4	3	4	2	2	1
Increased a little	21	21	18	15	15	16	17	22	16	18	9	11	7
Stayed the same	35	29	25	31	38	31	45	41	35	39	41	40	36
Fallen a little	20	26	26	23	24	23	20	17	21	19	26	23	33
Fallen a lot	14	15	20	24	12	18	6	8	14	12	14	14	15
(Don't know)	8	7	8	5	10	8	10	8	11	9	8	11	6
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1605</i>	<i>1508</i>	<i>1637</i>	<i>1549</i>	<i>1594</i>	<i>1508</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1495</i>	<i>1197</i>	<i>1288</i>	<i>1237</i>	<i>1234</i>

Table 16 Who is 'credited' for an increase in the standard of the health service in Scotland. (2006-2017, column %)

	2006 %	2007 %	2009 %	2010 %	2011 %	2015 %	2016 %	2017 %
Scottish Government policies	41	50	55	49	58	57	54	57
UK Government policies	24	34	18	30	15	13	16	16
Some other reason	17	9	13	16	20	16	24	13
Both Westminster and SG	7	1	6	2	1	4	2	9
(Don't know)	11	6	8	4	7	10	4	6
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	<i>313</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>387</i>	<i>286</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>106</i>

Table 17 Who is 'blamed' for a fall in the standard of the health service in Scotland. (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Scottish Government policies	20	14	12	18	12	19	25	27
UK Government policies	44	45	41	49	54	48	40	46
Some other reason	20	25	30	21	21	21	18	13
Both Westminster and SG	8	3	11	8	8	8	12	11
(Don't know)	7	13	6	5	5	4	4	3
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	696	422	383	524	388	510	486	602

Table 18 What about Scotland's economy? Has it got stronger or weaker since (month of interview) previous year? (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A lot stronger	3	2	2	2	1	*	2	1	1	1	2	1
A little stronger	25	21	28	28	7	11	16	13	23	25	14	14
Stayed the same	29	34	28	36	11	15	16	20	31	28	21	25
A little weaker	22	19	18	10	43	41	39	41	28	28	39	40
A lot weaker	5	3	2	1	29	23	18	17	8	6	15	10
(Don't know)	17	22	21	22	8	9	9	9	9	11	9	10
<i>Sample size</i>	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 19 What about the general standard of living in Scotland? Has it increased or fallen since (month of interview) previous year? (1999-2017, column %)

	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased a lot	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	5	1	1	2
Increased a little	27	27	30	27	25	30	27	13	11	9	10	10	18	18	12
Stayed the same	43	45	36	40	45	37	41	25	28	19	23	25	33	38	26
Fallen a little	18	15	17	18	17	17	16	38	38	39	39	38	29	27	39
Fallen a lot	6	4	7	6	4	5	4	16	16	29	22	20	13	9	16
(Don't know)	5	6	7	5	7	6	9	4	4	2	4	2	5	7	5
<i>Sample size</i>	1482	1605	1508	1637	1549	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	1237	1234

Table 20 Who is 'credited' for a stronger economy in Scotland. (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Scottish Government policies	47	56	66	39	69	61	47	54	60	68
UK Government policies	19	21	14	21	15	18	16	16	14	10
Some other reason	20	15	12	32	10	14	26	21	18	14
Both Westminster and SG	8	2	2	2	2	4	8	7	4	7
(Don't know)	6	5	6	6	4	3	4	3	4	2
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	454	441	120	177	193	164	373	335	175	179

Table 21 Who is 'blamed' for a weaker economy in Scotland. (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Scottish Government policies	26	17	7	14	11	14	15	14	18	29
UK Government policies	42	44	38	44	54	47	45	38	35	39
Some other reason	16	25	44	35	26	31	29	37	37	15
Both Westminster and SG	13	7	9	6	8	8	9	10	9	13
(Don't know)	3	8	2	1	1	1	3	1	2	3
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	330	187	1037	941	683	700	533	447	679	614

Table 22 Who is 'credited' for an increase in the standard of living. (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Scottish Government policies	30	32	22	37	44	46	23	37	41	43
UK Government policies	28	36	24	33	31	27	42	28	28	28
Some other reason	26	23	30	22	12	17	18	26	16	15
Both Westminster and SG	6	3	9	4	10	5	5	4	9	9
(Don't know)	10	7	12	4	3	5	12	4	5	6
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	548	432	400	211	121	137	240	261	212	177

Table 23 Who is 'blamed' for a fall in the standard of living. (2006-2017, column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Scottish Government policies	18	10	6	8	6	7	6	7	15	16
UK Government policies	51	56	39	49	58	53	55	62	50	50
Some other reason	18	26	44	36	27	30	29	17	19	14
Both Westminster and SG	10	4	8	4	7	7	8	10	13	17
(Don't know)	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	<i>349</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>783</i>	<i>798</i>	<i>803</i>	<i>780</i>	<i>875</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>468</i>	<i>685</i>

Table 24 Importance of Voting in Scottish Parliament Elections. (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%
Very important	47	48	68	76
Fairly important	31	28	23	16
Not very important	11	12	6	4
Not important at all	5	5	3	4
(Don't Know)	-	-	*	-
(Not answered)	-	-	*	*
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1,637</i>	<i>1,549</i>	<i>1,237</i>	<i>1,234</i>

Table 25 Importance of Voting in UK General Elections. (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%
Very important	49	52	58	68
Fairly important	30	27	26	18
Not very important	10	9	11	9
Not important at all	4	4	5	4
(Don't Know)	-	-	*	-
(Not answered)	-	-	*	*
<i>Sample size</i>	1,637	1,549	1,237	1,234

Table 26 Importance of Voting in Local Council Elections. (2004-2017, column %)

	2004	2005	2016	2017
	%	%	%	%
Very important	49	47	57	65
Fairly important	31	29	30	22
Not very important	11	12	10	8
Not important at all	4	5	3	4
(Don't Know)	-	-	*	-
(Not answered)	-	-	*	*
<i>Sample size</i>	1,637	1,549	1,237	1,234

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