



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Social Attitudes 2015: Attitudes to Government, the National Health Service, the Economy and Standard of Living



PUBLIC SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT



SCOTTISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES 2015: ATTITUDES TO
GOVERNMENT, THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, THE
ECONOMY AND STANDARD OF LIVING

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Key findings

Attitudes to government

- In 2015, almost 3 in 4 people (73%) said they trusted the Scottish Government to act in Scotland's best long-term interest compared with 23% who said this of the UK Government. The Scottish Government was also more trusted than the UK Government to make fair decisions (49% compared with 18%). 34% trusted their local council to make fair decisions.
- 3 in 5 (59%) thought the Scottish Government was good at listening to people's views before it takes decisions compared with 44% who thought this of their local council and 17% who thought this of the UK Government.
- A substantial majority thought that having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is run (61%) and a stronger voice in the UK (70%). This marks a return to the levels in 1999.
- Equal proportions said that the UK (42%) and Scottish (41%) Governments **have** the most influence over the way Scotland is run. Around three-quarters (76%) thought that the Scottish Government **ought** to have the most influence, compared with 14% who chose the UK Government.

Views on the National Health Service in Scotland

- Satisfaction levels with the NHS have remained unchanged since 2013, with 62% of people satisfied with the way the NHS runs and 24% dissatisfied.
- There was a significant increase, compared with 2011, in the proportion of people who thought that the standard of the health service had fallen in the last year (31% vs 39%). More people blamed the UK Government than the Scottish Government for these falling standards.

Views on the economy and standard of living in Scotland

- Helping the economy to grow faster was the most commonly chosen priority for Scottish Government action (32%) in 2015.
- 1 in 4 people (26%) thought that the economy had strengthened and 35% that it had weakened in the last year. In contrast, only around 19% thought that the standard of living in Scotland had increased in the last year, while 42% thought it had decreased.
- People were much more likely to 'credit' the Scottish Government than the UK Government with improvements in the economy (54% vs 16%) but only slightly more likely to 'credit' the Scottish Government with an increase in the standard of living (37% vs 28% for the UK Government).
- Conversely, the 'blame' for any perceived fall in the standards of the economy and general living standards were more likely to be attributed to UK Government policies (38% blame the UK Government for a weaker economy compared with 14% blaming the Scottish Government).

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report presents findings from the 2015 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey. It focuses on three key questions regarding the relationship between the public, the government and public services in Scotland in 2015:
- What factors are related to trust in government and who people think has, and ought to have, most influence over the way Scotland is run?
 - How have attitudes to government, the National Health Service (NHS), the economy, and standard of living changed over time?
 - Who do people see as responsible for perceived changes in the performance of the NHS, the economy and in standard of living?

Political and constitutional context

- 1.2 The political and constitutional landscape in Scotland has changed significantly in recent years. Following the passing of the Scotland Act 1998¹ and the establishment of a devolved Scottish Parliament, further transfer of powers from the UK Parliament in Westminster to Holyrood (including the power to set a Scottish rate of income tax) took place as a result of the Scotland Act 2012,² although the full effects of this new legislation will not be felt until 2016.
- 1.3 These developments coincided with a shift in voting patterns in Scotland, and a rise in political support for the Scottish National Party (SNP). Following Labour-Liberal Democrat administrations during the first two terms of the devolved parliament, in 2007, the SNP formed a minority government at Holyrood. In 2011 it formed the first majority government.
- 1.4 As part of its Scottish Parliament 2011 manifesto, the SNP made a commitment to hold a referendum on Scottish independence before the end of its five-year term. In this referendum, which was held on 18 September 2014, 55% opted to remain a part of the UK, with 45% voting in favour of Scottish independence.³
- 1.5 Following commitments made by the UK Government during the referendum campaign on the devolution of further powers from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament, on 19 September 2014, the UK Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Smith Commission to make recommendations. The Commission published its recommendations in a report on 27 November 2014.⁴ These included the complete devolution of the power to set income tax rates in Scotland, the devolution of specific powers relating to welfare and

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/46/contents>

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/11/contents/enacted>

³ <http://scotlandreferendum.info/>

⁴ <https://www.smith-commission.scot/smith-commission-report/>

benefits, and for the Scottish parliament to receive a portion of VAT raised in Scotland (amounting to 50% at current rates). The recommendations of the Commission informed the Scotland Bill 2015-2016⁵ announced during the Queen's Speech on 27 May 2015. The Scottish Government laid out its plans to use the new powers in the Programme for Government for 2015-16, published in September 2015 (Scottish Government, 2015a).

- 1.6 In May 2015, the UK general election saw a shift in voting behaviour in Scotland, with the SNP winning 56 out of the 59 constituency seats in the country.

Economic context

- 1.7 The Scottish economy has continued to grow every quarter over the last three years to the third quarter of 2015, (the most recent quarter for which data are currently available). This is the longest period of continuous growth since 2001. However, the pace of growth has slowed during the third quarter of 2015, with quarterly and annualised growth of 0.1% and 1.9% respectively (Scottish Government, 2015b).
- 1.8 In relation to the labour market in Scotland, the employment rate remained relatively stable between July 2014 and June 2015 with a slight increase overall from 73.8% to 74.1%. Scotland's employment rate was consistently higher than in the UK as a whole over this period. In the same period unemployment levels slightly reduced from 5.9% (in the third quarter of 2014) to 5.6% (in the second quarter of 2015), the same level as it was in the UK as a whole⁶.

The National Health Service in Scotland

- 1.9 The NHS in Scotland, as in other parts of the UK, faces long-term challenges to meet increasing demands, due to factors such as the changing demography, including a rapidly ageing population and high levels of preventable diseases and other conditions among those growing older, and sustained patterns of health inequalities across the population.
- 1.10 While NHS Scotland was able to report on a range of achievements in the year to March 2015 (NHSScotland Chief Executive 2015), including improvements in the early detection of cancer and a decline in the proportion of smokers, Audit Scotland assessed key performance targets, and noted that several key waiting time and performance targets were missed (Audit Scotland, 2015).

⁵ <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/scotland.html>

⁶ <http://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/regionallabourmarket/previousReleases>

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

- 1.11 Run by ScotGen Social Research since 1999, the Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) survey provides a reliable and robust picture of changing public attitudes over time. This report presents findings from the Scottish Government 'core' module of questions concerning public attitudes to government, the NHS, the economy and living standards. This module has been funded by the Scottish Government since 2004, but for many questions the time series stretch back to 1999. SSA has, therefore, tracked changing attitudes to government and public services since the establishment of the Scottish Parliament and throughout the past 15 years which has seen both constitutional changes and the economic downturn of 2008.
- 1.12 SSA is based on face-to-face interviews with a representative random probability sample of the Scottish adult population aged 18 and over. Fieldwork for SSA 2015 took place between July 2015 and January 2016. In 2015, the sample size was 1,288. Data are weighted in order to correct for non-response bias and over-sampling, and to ensure that they reflect the age-sex profile of the Scottish population. Further technical details about the survey are published in a separate technical report on SSA 2015.
- 1.13 All percentages cited in this report are based on the weighted data and are rounded to the nearest whole number. All differences described in the text (between years, or between different groups of people) are statistically significant at the 95% level or above, unless otherwise specified. This means that the probability of having found a difference of at least this size if there was no actual difference in the population is 5% or less. The term 'significant' is used in this report to refer to statistical significance, and is not intended to imply substantive importance. Further details of significance testing and analysis are included in the separate technical report.

2 Attitudes to government 1999-2015

- 2.1 This chapter presents findings on attitudes to government in 2015. It describes how the attitudes of people in Scotland towards both the Scottish and UK Governments have changed since the advent of devolution in 1999⁷. It also provides new evidence on attitudes towards local government. The findings cover:
- Trust in the UK and Scottish Governments to act in Scotland's best long-term interest and trust in local, Scottish and UK Governments to make fair decisions
 - Perceptions of the extent to which government at local, Scottish, and UK level is good at listening before taking decisions
 - Views of the extent to which the Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in Scotland
 - Views on whether having a Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice in the UK
 - Perceptions of which level of government has, and ought to have, the most influence over how Scotland is run
- 2.2 This chapter also examines how attitudes vary by socio-demographic factors and political attitudes, and whether any particular subgroups have changed their views in recent years.

Trust in Government

- 2.3 SSA 2015 included questions on two aspects of trust in government:
- Trust in government (UK and Scottish) to work in Scotland's best long-term interest, and
 - Trust in government (UK, Scottish and local) to make fair decisions

Trust in government to work in Scotland's best long-term interest

- 2.4 The proportion of people who trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' to act in Scotland's best interest was 73%. This has risen from 59% in 2013. It is the highest figure recorded in the time series, with the single exception of 1999, the year when Scotland's devolved Parliament was created (when it was 81%)⁸ (see Figure 2.1. below). Previous peaks in levels of trust (both to work in Scotland's best long-term interest and to make fair decisions) have coincided with Scottish election years. This so-called 'election bounce' effect has been consistently observed (2003, 2007, 2011) but the level of trust recorded in 2015 was particularly striking given that

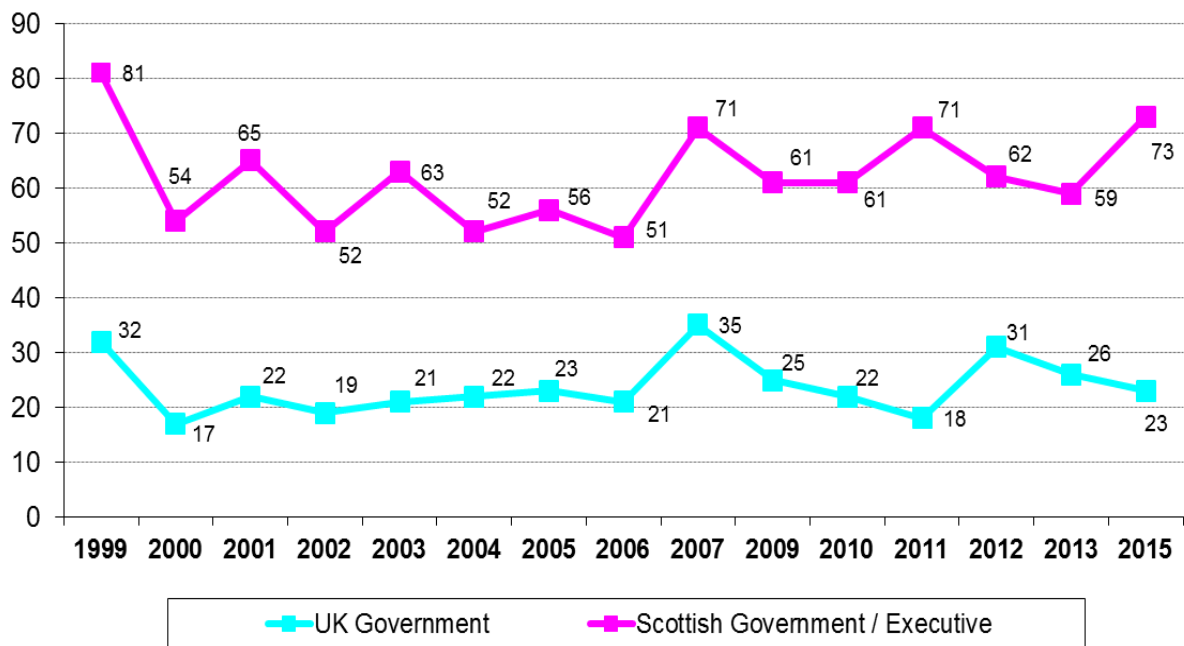
⁷ For full details, including time series data, see Tables A2.1 to A2.16 in Annex A.

⁸ In 1999 the question wording was 'How much would you trust a Scottish parliament to work in Scotland's best interests?'

2015 was not a Scottish election year (although the Scottish independence referendum took place in September 2014).

2.5 The proportion who said they trusted the UK Government ‘just about always’ or ‘most of the time’ to act in Scotland’s best long term interest in 2015 remained at a similar level to 2013 – 23% in 2015 compared with 26% in 2013 (see Figure 2.1 below). Since the SSA survey series began in 1999, levels of trust in the UK Government to act in Scotland’s best long-term interest have consistently been lower than levels of trust in the Scottish Government. There has been no observed ‘election bounce’ effect in relation to trust in the UK Government. The figures for trust in the UK Government have been quite variable since 2007, with local peaks in 2007 (35%), and 2012 (31%), and a particularly low rating in 2011 (18%).

Figure 2.1 Trust in the UK and Scottish Governments to act in Scotland’s best long-term interest (1999 – 2015, % trust ‘just about always’ / ‘most of the time’)

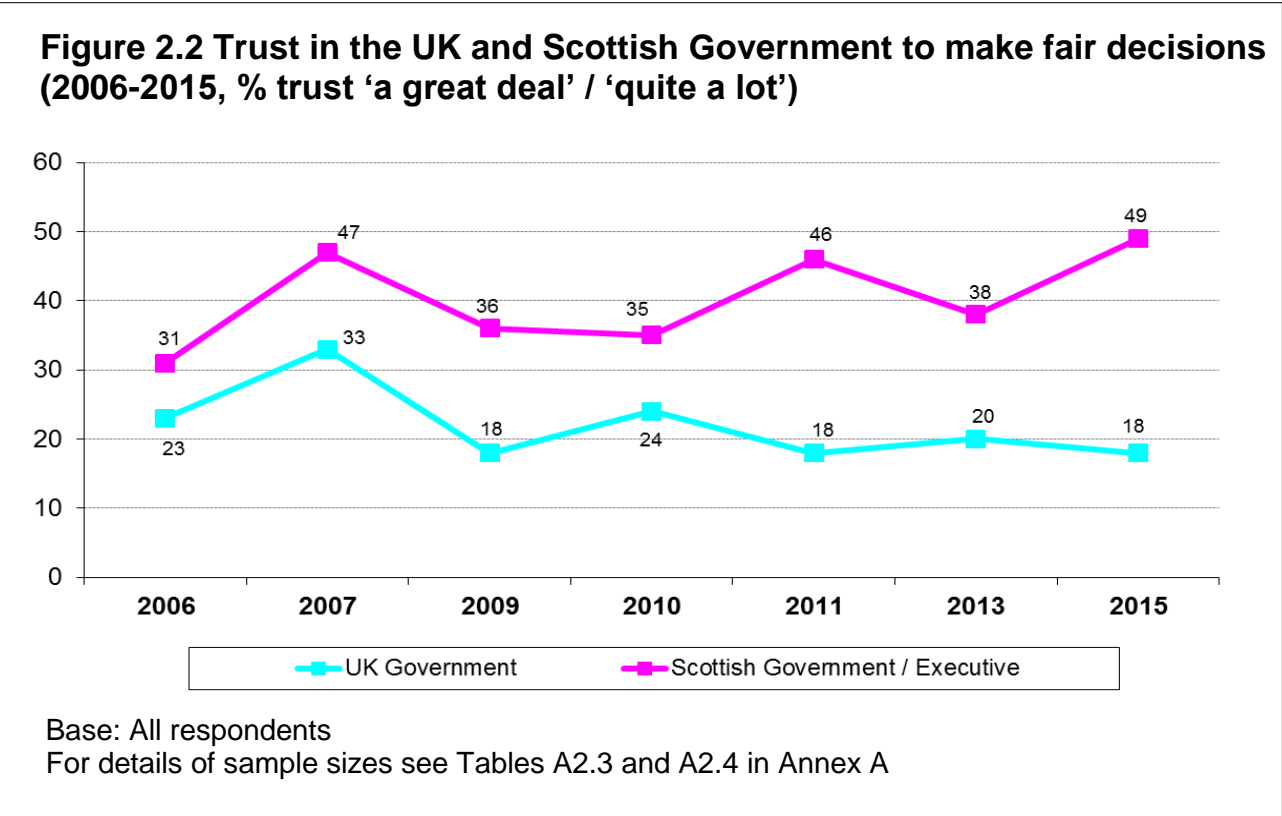


Base: All respondents
For details of sample sizes see Tables A2.1 and A2.2 in Annex A

Trust in government to make fair decisions

2.6 Questions on trust in the UK and Scottish Governments ‘to make fair decisions’ (defined in the question as ‘decisions that are fair to different groups of people in UK/Scotland’) were first asked in 2006.

2.7 In 2015, around half of people (49%) said they trusted the Scottish Government ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to make fair decisions. The two sets of trust questions use different answer scales so are not directly comparable.⁹ The levels of trust to make fair decisions are substantially lower than those in relation to trust to act in Scotland’s best long-term interest. However, similar patterns are observed in relation to both trust measures in three specific ways (see Figure 2.2 below). First, the level of trust in the Scottish Government to make fair decisions in 2015 (49%) is the highest it has been since the question was first asked in 2006, and has risen significantly since 2013 (from 38%). Second, the Scottish Government is more trusted than the UK Government (49% trusted the Scottish Government compared with 18% who trusted the UK Government in 2015). And third, the figure for trust in the UK Government has remained at a similar level since 2013 (20% in 2013 compared with 18% in 2015).



2.8 In 2015, for the first time people were asked the same question in relation to local government. This showed that around a third of people in Scotland trusted their local council to make fair decisions (34%), midway between the level of trust in the Scottish Government (49%) and trust in the UK Government (18%).

⁹ Trust to act in Scotland’s best interest is measured on a 4-point frequency scale ranging from ‘just about always’ to ‘never’. Trust to make fair decisions relates to the strength of trust and the answers are on a 5-point scale ranging from ‘a great deal’ to ‘not at all’.

Engagement and responsiveness

2.9 Since 2004 SSA has measured two important aspects of public engagement and responsiveness:

- how good the Scottish Government, UK Government and local councils¹⁰ are at listening to people's views before taking decisions
- whether having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed, less say or does it make no difference

How good is government at listening before taking decisions?

2.10 In 2015, nearly 3 in 5 (59%) thought the Scottish Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before it takes decisions. This compared with 44% who thought their local council was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening and 17% who thought this of the UK Government (see Figure 2.3 below).

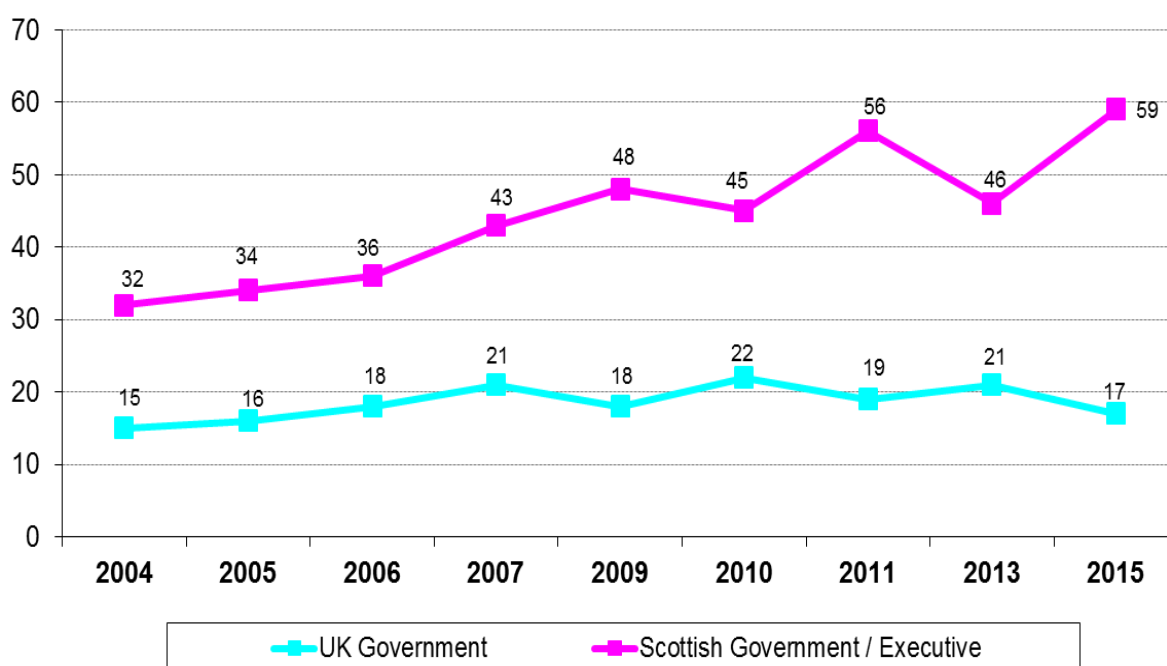
2.11 The figure for the Scottish Government was the highest that has been recorded since the question was first asked in 2004, and has increased significantly since 2013 (46%). Figure 2.3 shows that there has been a general upward trend in relation to this measure since 2004, with previous peaks in 2009 and 2011.

2.12 There has also been an increase between 2010 and 2015 (from 37% in 2010¹¹ to 44% in 2015) in the proportion who believed that their local council was good at listening before taking decisions. The figures for the UK Government have remained much more constant over the longer term, ranging from 15% to 22% between 2004 and 2015.

¹⁰ The question on how good local councils are at listening to people's views before taking decisions has been asked in 2010 and 2015 only.

¹¹ The question on how good your local council is at listening before making decisions was only asked in 2010 and 2015.

Figure 2.3 How good are the Scottish Executive / Government and the UK Government at listening to people’s views before taking decisions? (2004-2015, % ‘very good’ / ‘quite good’)



Base: All respondents

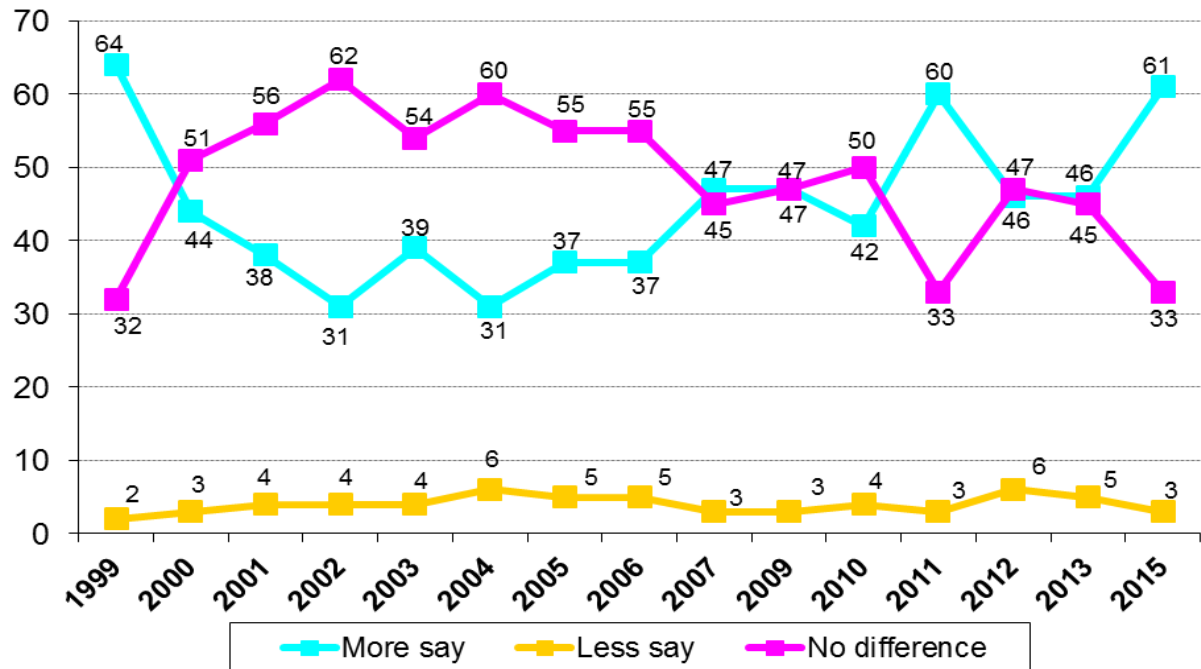
For details of sample sizes see Tables A2.6 and A2.7 in Annex A

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

2.13 In 2015, 61% of people said they thought having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed. The highest figure was recorded in 1999 when the question was asked prospectively¹² (64%). In the years following devolution the proportion believing that the Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say fell substantially to a low point of 31% in 2002 (and 2004). In 2011 (a Scottish election year) and again in 2015 (following the referendum on Scottish independence in 2014), the proportion who said that having a Scottish Parliament gives people more say in how Scotland is governed was, however, close to the level recorded in 1999.

¹² In 1999 the question wording was 'Will a Scottish Parliament give ordinary people in Scotland more say in how Scotland is governed, less say or will it make no difference?'

Figure 2.4 Does having a Scottish Parliament give ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed, less say or is it making no difference? (1999-2015, % 'more say in how Scotland is governed?')

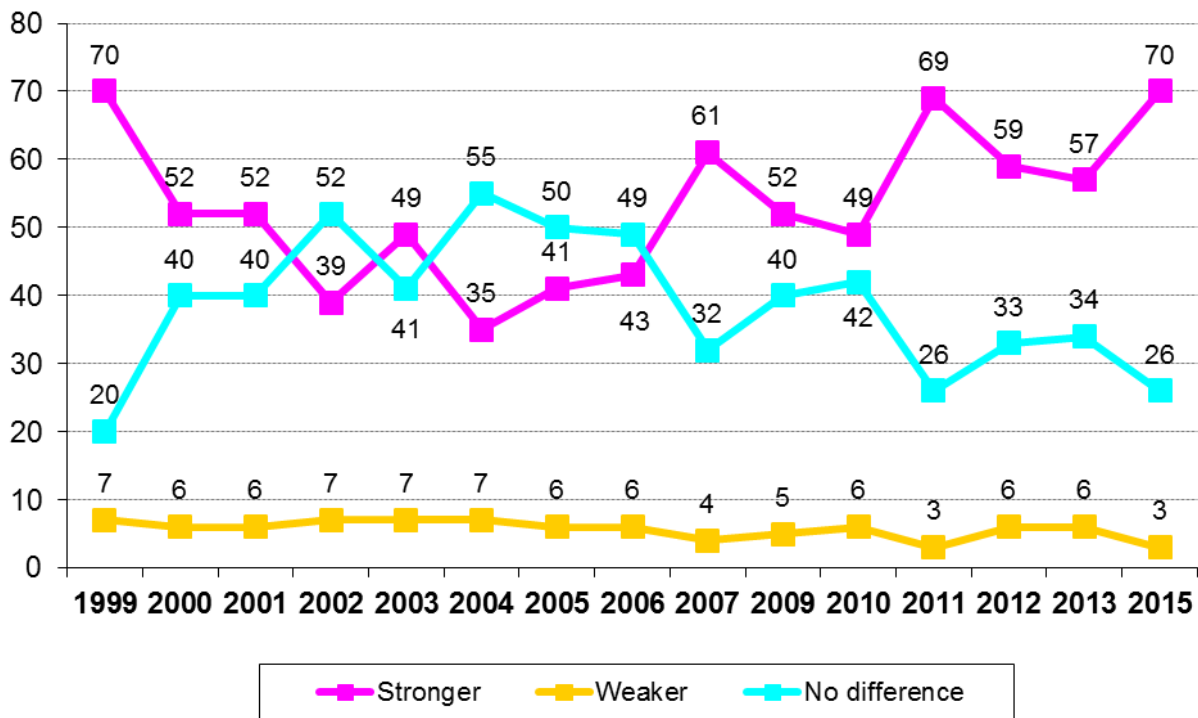


Base: All respondents
For details of sample sizes see Table A2.9 in Annex A

Voice in the UK

- 2.14 SSA asks people whether they think that **having a Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK, a weaker voice, or is making no difference**. The proportion who thought that having a Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice was 70% in 2015, the highest figure recorded in the time series, and a return to the level recorded in the early days of the establishment of the Scottish Parliament (see Figure 2.5 below).
- 2.15 Over the longer time series (see Figure 2.5), the pattern can be characterised as high and optimistic when the Parliament was in prospect and bedding in, substantially lower in the early years of the Parliament, reaching a low point in 2004. Between 2004 and 2015, the proportion believing that having a Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice in the UK has doubled from 35% to 70%. The peaks in 2003, 2007 and 2011 correspond to Scottish election years.

Figure 2.5 Do people think that having a Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger or weaker voice in the UK? (1999-2015, %)



Base: All respondents
For details of sample sizes see Table A2.10 in Annex A

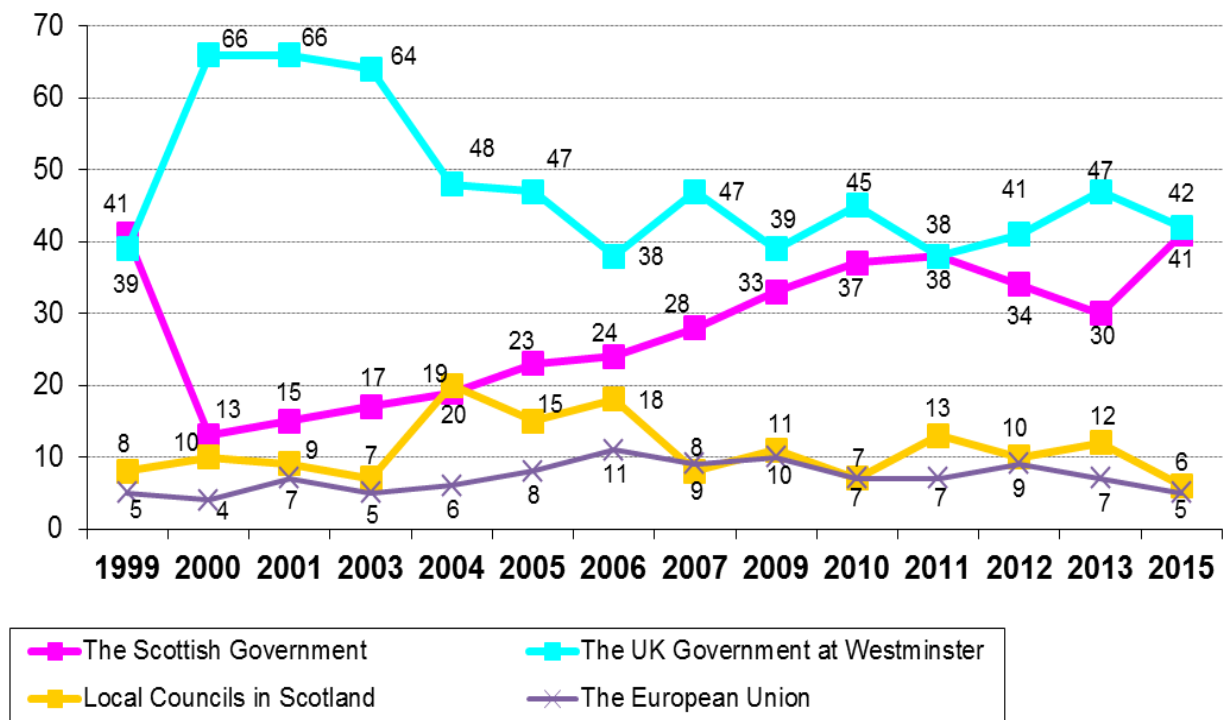
Perceptions of influence

2.16 Since 1999, SSA has asked people which institution – the Scottish Government, the UK Government, local councils or the European Union – **has** the most influence over the way Scotland is run (see Figure 2.6).¹³ In 2015 (following the referendum on Scottish independence in 2014 and the May 2015 UK election), almost equal proportions said the UK Government **has** most influence (42%) as said the Scottish Government (41%). Findings were similar in 1999 (when the question was phrased prospectively) when almost equal proportions chose the Scottish and UK Governments (41% compared with 39% respectively). In the first few years of devolution a far greater proportion of people felt that the UK Government had most influence over the way Scotland is run. However, from 2000 there has been an increase in the proportion saying that the Scottish Government has most influence and a decrease in the proportion saying the UK Government has most influence. In 2011 (when the first SNP majority administration was elected) equal proportions selected the UK and Scottish Governments (38%), similar to 1999

¹³ In 1999 the question was: ‘When the new parliament starts work, which of the following do you think will have most influence over the way Scotland is run?’

and 2015 when virtually equal proportions chose the UK and Scottish Governments.

Figure 2.6 Who has the most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2015, %)



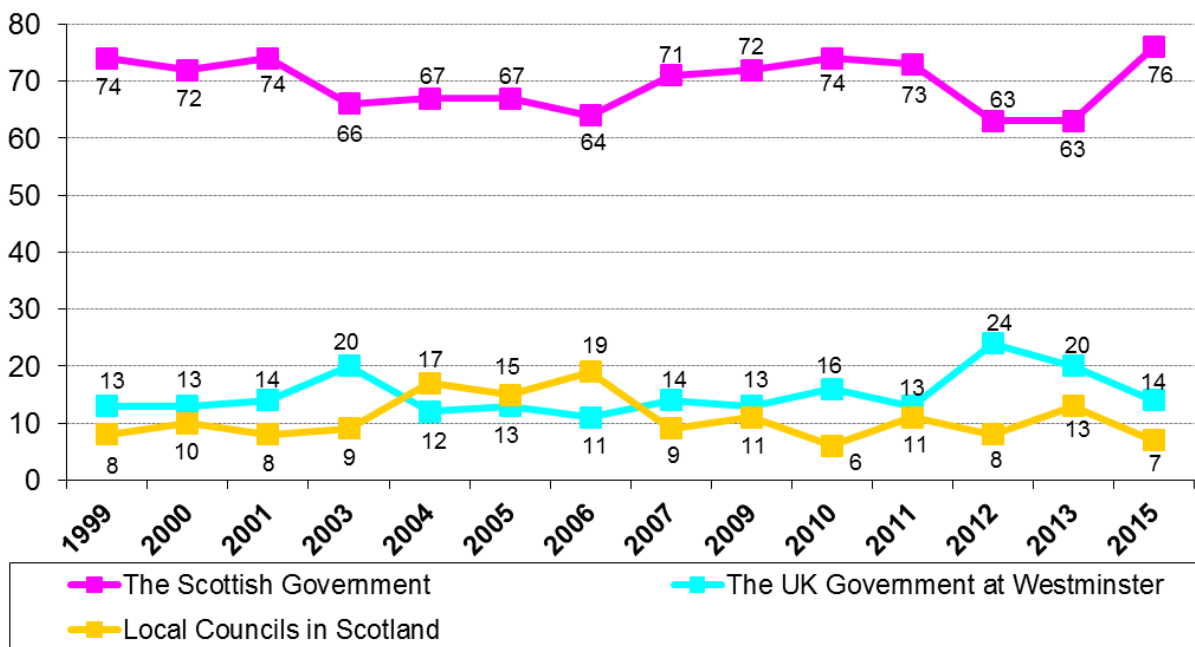
Base: All respondents
For details of sample sizes see Table A2.11 in Annex A

- 2.17 In 2015, 6% of people thought that local councils have the most influence over the way Scotland is run. As Figure 2.6 shows, between 1999 and 2015 (with the exception of 2004-2006) the proportion choosing local councils has varied between 6% and 13%. During 2004-2006 higher levels were recorded (15%-20%).
- 2.18 In 2015, the proportion of people saying that the European Union has most influence was 5%. This figure has been consistently low over the time series, fluctuating between 5% and 11%.
- 2.19 Since 1999, SSA has also asked which institution **ought** to have most influence over the way Scotland is run (rather than which institution **does** have the most influence) and a different pattern has emerged over time. Consistently, a much higher proportion have said the Scottish Government **ought** to have most influence than the UK Government. In 2015, 76% said the Scottish Government **ought** to have most influence, the highest figure recorded in the time series (see Figure 2.7). Previous high points coincided with the early years following devolution (1999-2001) and the years of the first

SNP minority government (2007-2011). By contrast, the proportion who thought that the UK Government **ought** to have the most influence has ranged between 11% and 24%, with a fairly low value within the range (14%) being recorded in 2015. The gap between the two figures in 2015 is at its greatest since the beginning of the time series in 1999.

2.20 Since 1999, around 1 in 10 have said local councils **ought** to have the most influence over the way Scotland is run, with the exception of 2004-2006 when between 15%-19% chose local councils. In 2015, 7% said this. Between 1999 and 2015 only around 1% thought the European Union ought to have the most influence (not included in Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7 Who ought to have the most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2015, %)¹⁴



Base: All respondents
For details of sample sizes see Table A2.12 in Annex A

Variations in attitudes to Government and Parliament in Scotland in 2015

2.21 Differences in attitudes to the Scottish Government and Parliament between subgroups were explored in relation to the following questions:

- Trust in the Scottish Government to make fair decisions
- How good the Scottish Government is at listening before taking decisions

¹⁴ The figure for the European Union was 1% or less in every year when the question was asked.

- Whether having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say
- Believing that the Scottish Government should have the most influence over the way Scotland is run

2.22 This analysis showed that in 2015, as in previous years¹⁵, attitudes to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament varied by socio-demographic factors, national identity and political attitudes (for full details see Tables A2.13–A2.16 in Annex A). The differences by demographic factors were far less pronounced than differences by factors such as being interested in politics, political party identification and whether people believe the Scottish Parliament should have more powers.¹⁶

Gender, age, education and income

2.23 There were some differences by gender, age, education and income in relation to trusting the Scottish Government to make fair decisions, how good the Scottish Government is at listening before taking decisions and thinking that the Scottish Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run.¹⁷ In particular:

- **Men** were marginally more likely than women to trust the Scottish Government ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to make fair decisions (52% of men compared with 47% of women)
- **People under 40 years old** were more likely than those aged over 40 to say they trusted the Scottish Government ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to make fair decisions and to believe the Scottish Government is good at listening. For example, 68% of those aged 30 to 39 compared with 52% of those aged 65 and over thought the Scottish Government was either ‘very good’ or ‘quite good’ at listening to people’s views before taking decisions
- **Those aged 40 and over** were more likely to say they thought that the Scottish Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run (45% of those aged over 40 compared with 30% of 18 to 29 year olds)
- People with any level of **formal qualifications** were more likely than those with no formal qualifications to trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions (51% of those educated to degree level compared with 41% of those with no formal qualifications)¹⁸
- Those in the **higher household income groups** were more likely to say that having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say and that the Scottish Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run

¹⁵ Reid, Waterton & Wild 2013, Ormston & Reid 2012, Ormston & Reid 2011, Ormston 2010, Ormston 2008, Ormston & Sharp 2007c, Curtice 2007, Given and Ormston 2007b, Bromley and Given 2005

¹⁶ Factors explored were: age, gender, education, income, social class, area deprivation (measured by the Scottish Index of Deprivation), urban rural classification, political party identification, constitutional preference, interest in politics, national identity (as measured by where people place themselves on a scale from ‘Scottish not British’ to ‘British not Scottish’) and left-right scale.

¹⁷ In relation to whether people thought having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed, there were no significant differences by age, gender or education.

¹⁸ Differences by education were only marginally significant.

(for example, 66% in the highest income group compared with 55% in the lowest income group thought that having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say).

Political attitudes and national identity

2.24 The relationship between attitudes to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament and political attitudes and national identity was very strong in 2015. Those who were more likely to hold positive attitudes in relation to trust in the Scottish Government, whether the Scottish Government is good at listening before taking decisions and believing that having the Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say were:

- **SNP supporters** (for example, 67% of SNP supporters trusted the Scottish Government to make fair decisions compared with 39% of Labour and 36% of Conservative supporters)¹⁹
- Those who had either ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ of **interest in politics** (for example, 70% of those who said they had either ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ of interest in politics thought the Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed compared with 50% of those with ‘not very much’ or ‘no interest’ in politics)
- Those who said **Scotland should become independent** (for example, 72% of those who said Scotland should become independent thought that the Scottish Government is either ‘very good’ or ‘quite good’ at listening before it takes decisions compared with 50% who thought that Scotland should remain in the UK with its own parliament and 38% who thought Scotland should remain in the UK without an elected parliament)
- Those who **identified as Scottish** (for example, 60% of those who identified as Scottish trusted the Scottish Government to make fair decisions compared with 30% who identified as British)²⁰

2.25 Only interest in politics was significantly associated with believing that the Scottish Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run (47% who had ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ of interest in politics compared with 29% with ‘not very much’ or ‘none at all’).

Change in attitudes to Scottish Government 2013-2015

2.26 Further analysis showed that between 2013 and 2015 generally attitudes to the Scottish Government have become more positive amongst all sub-groups, although there were some differences in the degree of change observed. For example:

¹⁹ The sample size for Liberal Democrats supporters was small in 2015 and so findings for this group are not reported.

²⁰ Those described as identifying as Scottish chose either ‘Scottish not British’ or ‘more Scottish than British’ and those described as identifying as British chose either ‘British not Scottish’ or ‘more British than Scottish’.

- Between 2013 and 2015 the proportion who said that they trusted the Scottish Government ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to make fair decisions increased from 38% to 49%. However, the increase for Labour supporters was fairly limited, increasing from 36% to 39% whereas among Conservative supporters there was an increase of 11 percentage points (25% to 36%). In addition, among those who identified as Scottish there was an increase of 16 percentage points (from 44% to 60%) whilst there was no significant difference for those who identified as British (there was a 4 percentage point decrease from 34% in 2013 to 30% in 2015)
- Between 2013 and 2015 the proportion who said that the Scottish Government was either ‘very’ or ‘quite’ good at listening to people’s views increased from 46% to 59%. However, there was an increase of 19 percentage points among those who were interested in politics (either ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’) from 46% to 65% whereas for those who had only ‘some’ interest in politics no significant increase was observed (53% in 2013 to 57% in 2015).

2.27 Between 2013 and 2015, there were large changes in the profile of the population in relation to the key factors associated with holding positive attitudes towards the Scottish Government. In particular, the profile in relation to party identification and constitutional preference underwent a substantial shift and, to a lesser extent, levels of interest in politics also increased. Specifically, the proportion of people in Scotland who:

- Described themselves as supporters of the SNP rose from 22% in 2013 to 42% in 2015
- Expressed a constitutional preference for an independent Scotland rose from 29% in 2013 to 39% in 2015
- Said they had ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ of interest in politics rose from 32% in 2013 to 40% in 2015.

2.28 It is not possible from repeated cross-sectional surveys to infer which is cause and which is effect (i.e. did the increase in support for the SNP cause an increase in the levels of positive attitudes to the Scottish Government or did an increase in the levels of positive attitudes towards Scottish Government cause an increase in support for the SNP?)

Variation in attitudes towards local councils in 2015

2.29 In 2015 two questions were asked about people's attitudes towards local councils. These covered: trust in local councils to make fair decisions (new to SSA 2015); and views about whether local councils were good at listening before taking decisions (also included in SSA 2010).

2.30 There was little variation in people’s attitudes towards local councils, either in relation to demographic factors, or in relation to political attitudes. The one exception was in relation to political party identification where both Labour and SNP supporters (48%) were more likely than Conservative supporters (32%) to feel that their local council was good at listening before taking decisions.

3 Views of government priorities, the National Health Service, the economy and the standard of living

- 3.1 This chapter describes the priorities of people for Scottish Government action and their views of the National Health Service, the economy and the standard of living in 2015²¹. It also explores trends over time. In particular the chapter examines:
- Views on the Scottish Government priorities for action
 - Satisfaction with the National Health Service (NHS)
 - Perceptions of whether the standard of the health service in Scotland has increased or fallen in the past 12 months
 - Perceptions of whether the economy has weakened or strengthened and whether the standard of living in Scotland has increased or fallen in the past 12 months
 - Who is viewed as responsible for changes in the health service, the economy, and the standard of living in Scotland

Priorities for government action

- 3.2 Since 2004, SSA has asked people to choose one policy area (from a list)²² which they consider should be the highest priority for Scottish Government action. In 2015, 'help the economy to grow faster' topped the list, with 1 in 3 people (32%) choosing it as the highest priority.
- 3.3 It should be noted that the findings from 2015 are not directly comparable with those from previous years because of the addition of the response option 'reduce inequality' in 2015 (which was chosen by 4% of people).
- 3.4 Notwithstanding this, helping the economy to grow faster has been the most commonly chosen priority for Scottish Government action since the economic downturn of 2008 (see Table 3.1 below).
- 3.5 While some of the priority rankings have remained fairly constant over the time series, others have changed. Between 2007 and 2015, there was a significant increase in the proportion choosing 'improving standards of education', an increase from 12% to 22%. Improving people's health was selected most often as a priority between 2004-2006 when around 1 in 4 people chose it; in subsequent years it has been selected by around 1 in 6 people.

²¹ For full details, including time series data, see Tables A3.1 to A3.15 in Annex A.

²² In 2015, the list included the following answer options: improve standards of education; improve housing; help the economy grow; improve people's health; cut crime, improve the environment; improve public transport; reduce inequality.

3.6 Prior to the economic downturn in 2008, 'cutting crime' was the option selected most often as the top priority for government (27% selected this option in 2007). However, since then, there has been a steady decrease in the proportion of people who have chosen cutting crime, and in 2015 just 4% of people selected this option.

Table 3.1: What should be the Scottish Government's* highest priority? (2004-2015, column %)²³

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Help the economy to grow faster	16	18	14	16	33	37	36	35	32
Cut crime	22	23	24	27	17	18	17	10	4
Improve people's health	27	26	24	17	13	15	16	18	17
Improve standards of education	17	15	16	12	15	12	15	18	22
Improve housing	12	10	12	16	13	9	11	13	15
Improve the environment	4	4	6	5	3	3	2	1	1
Improve public transport	1	1	2	1	1	1	*	1	2
Reduce inequality	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
<i>Bases</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>

Base: All respondents

* Prior to 2009, this question asked about the 'Scottish Executive'

3.7 Not all groups were equally likely to identify improving the economy as the highest priority for Scottish Government action. Those who were more likely to choose the economy in 2015 were:

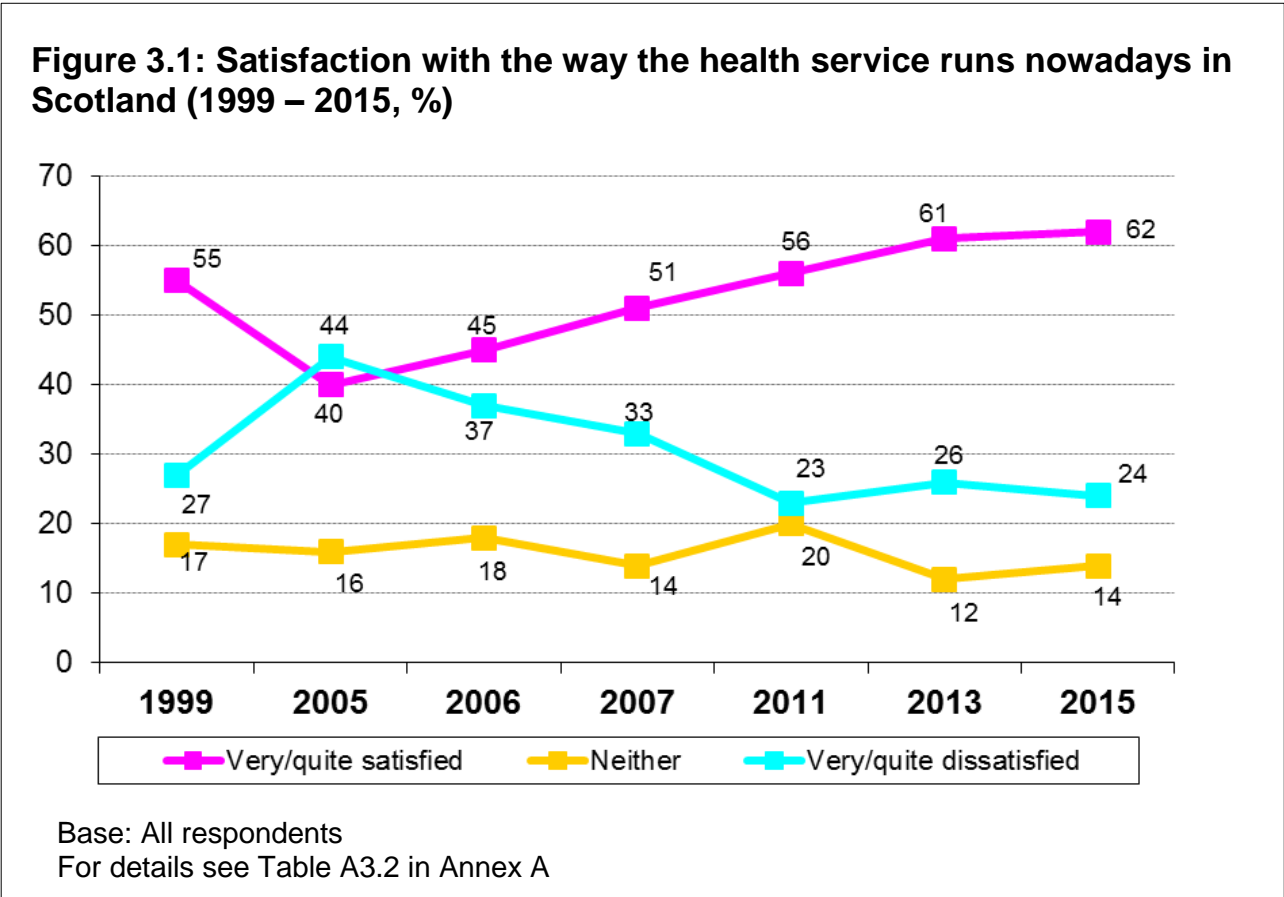
- **older people** (38% of those aged 65 or over compared with 22% of those aged 18-29)
- **those on the right of the political scale** (40%) compared with those on the left (25%)

²³ Note: not all columns add to exactly 100% due either to rounding or because of small proportions saying either 'don't know' (0.4% in 2015) or giving some other top priority (3% in 2015).

3.8 People living in the most deprived areas of Scotland²⁴ were less likely to select helping the economy to grow faster (22%) than those in all other areas (for example, 37% in the least deprived areas). Equal proportions of those who said they are living comfortably on their present income and those struggling on their present income chose helping the economy to grow faster as their highest priority for government action (30%). See Table A3.1 in Annex A for full details.²⁵

Views on the NHS

3.9 Since 2005²⁶, SSA has asked a question about satisfaction with ‘the way in which the National Health Service runs nowadays’. The level of satisfaction has steadily increased since then, when 40% of people were ‘very’ or ‘quite’ satisfied with ‘the way the NHS runs nowadays in Scotland’. By 2013, the proportion who were satisfied had risen to 61% and has remained at a similarly high level in 2015 (62%). Conversely, the proportion of people who were dissatisfied with the NHS was at the highest level in 2005 (44%) and had halved by 2011, when 23% were dissatisfied. A similar proportion (24%) was dissatisfied in 2015 (see Figure 3.1 below).

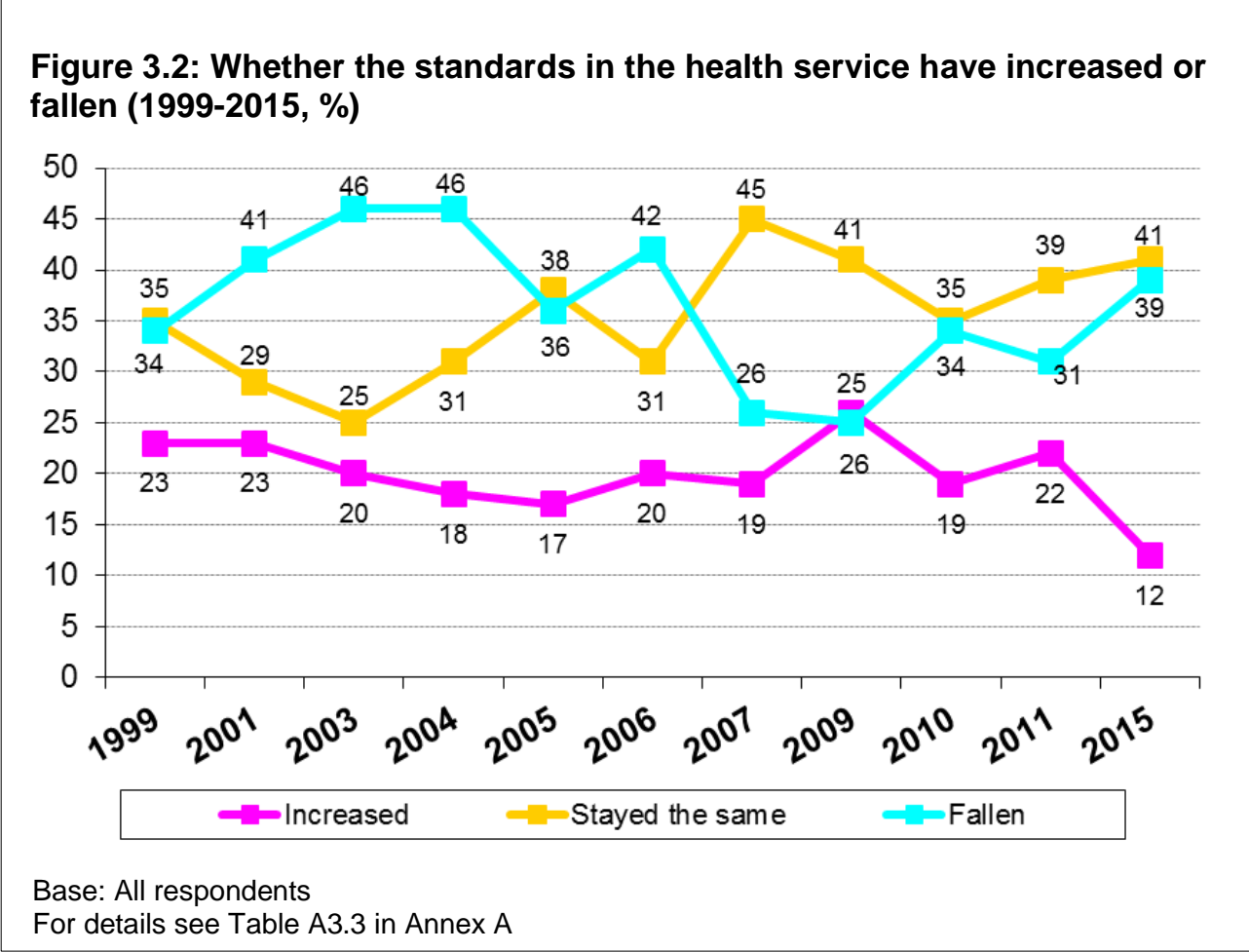


²⁴ Measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). SIMD 2012 measures the level of deprivation across Scotland – from the least deprived to the most deprived areas. It is based on 38 indicators in seven domains of: income, employment, health, education skills and training, housing, geographic access and crime.

²⁵ There were no significant differences between subgroups for those who chose education and health as the highest priority.

²⁶ The question was also asked in 1999 but then not again until 2005.

3.10 SSA also asks people whether they think that standards in the health service have increased or fallen in the last twelve months. In 2015, 39% said they thought that the standard of the health service had fallen ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ over the last year.²⁷ This compared with 31% in 2011, the last year the question had been asked. In addition, fewer people in 2015 (12%) said that the standard of the health service had increased over the last year than did so in 2011 (22%). Between 1999 and 2011, the proportion of people in Scotland who thought that standards in the health service had increased ‘a little’ or ‘a lot’ ranged between 17%-26%. The 2015 figure is, therefore, the lowest since the time series began in 1999.



3.11 84% of those who thought that the standard of the health service in Scotland had increased were satisfied with the way the NHS runs nowadays and 77% of those who felt that the standard of the health service had stayed the same were satisfied with the NHS (see Table 3.2 below). Amongst those who said that the standard of the health service had fallen, nearly 2 in 5 were still satisfied with the NHS (39%).

²⁷ 26% said that the standard of the health service has fallen ‘a little’ and 14% that it has fallen ‘a lot’.

3.12 Levels of satisfaction with the NHS are not always directly related to views that the standard of the health service has increased or fallen. For example, those aged 65 and over were the most likely to say that standards of the health service have fallen, but were also the most satisfied with the way the NHS is run.

Table 3.2: Satisfaction with health service by changes in NHS standards (2015, column %)

	Increased	Stayed the same	Fallen	All
	%	%	%	%
Very/quite satisfied	84	77	39	62
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	5	12	17	14
Very/quite dissatisfied	11	10	44	24
<i>Bases (weighted)</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>504</i>	<i>1288</i>
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>537</i>	<i>510</i>	<i>1288</i>

Variations in attitudes to the NHS

3.13 Attitudes towards the health service in Scotland in 2015 varied by both demographic factors and political attitudes (see Tables A3.4 and A3.5 in Annex A for full details). The groups who were more likely to be *satisfied* with the way the NHS runs nowadays were:

- Those **aged 65 and over** (70% compared with 59% of those aged 18 to 64).
- **Men** (67% compared with 58% of women)
- Those **living in the least deprived areas** (67% compared with 60% of those living in the most deprived areas)
- **Labour and Conservative supporters** (69% and 70% respectively) compared with SNP supporters (58%)
- 67% of those **living comfortably on present income** compared with 45% of those struggling on present income

The groups that were more likely to be *dissatisfied* with the standard of the NHS were:

- Those **on the left of the political spectrum** (30% compared with 21% of those in the centre and 21% on the right)

- Those **struggling on their present income** (37% compared with 21% of those living comfortably on present income)

3.14 There were no significant differences between subgroups among those who thought that the standard of the health service had increased in the last twelve months. Those who were more likely to say that the standard of the health service in Scotland had *fallen* were:

- **Older people** – 49% of those aged 65 and over compared with 32% of those aged 18-29
- **Women** (42%) compared with men (36%)
- Those with **lower levels of education** – 48% of those with no formal qualifications compared with 35% of those educated to degree level
- Those households **earning below £26,000 p.a.** (47%) compared with those earning £26,000 or above p.a. (34%)
- Those **on the left of the political spectrum** (47%) compared with those on the right (33%)

Who do people think is responsible for the changes to the health service?

3.15 In addition to asking whether people felt standards in the NHS in Scotland had increased or fallen, SSA has also tracked people's attitudes on whether the Scottish Government or the UK Government's policies are viewed as responsible for these changes or whether there was 'some other reason'. SSA can therefore provide data on who is getting 'the credit'²⁸ when things are seen to be going well and who is getting 'the blame' from those who think standards have fallen. (For full details, see Tables A3.6 and A3.7 in Annex A).

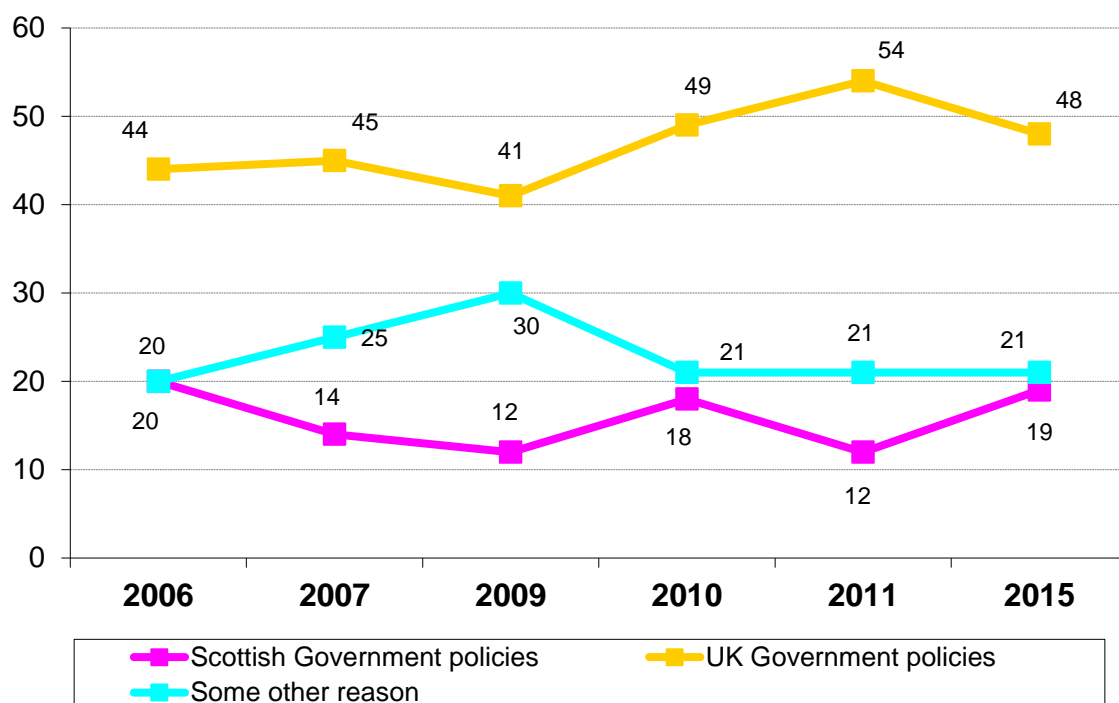
3.16 Figure 3.3 below shows which government people 'blamed' for falling standards in the health service. Nearly half (48%) of those in 2015 who said there had been a fall in the standard of the health service 'blamed' it on UK Government policies, compared with 19% who 'blamed' the Scottish Government. One in five (20%) said the fall in standards was due to 'some other reason'.²⁹ The proportion of people blaming the UK Government for the decline in standards of the health service increased significantly between 2009 and 2011 (from 41% to 54%), but there has been a slight decrease between 2011 and 2015 to 48%.³⁰

²⁸ Figures for who gives 'credit' for improvements in the health service are not included in the report. The sample size for those believing standards in the health service in Scotland have increased (12%) is too small to support this analysis.

²⁹ 8% said falling standards in the health service were due to the policies of both 'the UK and Scottish Governments'.

³⁰ The difference between 2011 and 2015 was marginally significant.

Figure 3.3: Which government policies are responsible for the fall in the standard of the health service in the past 12 months? (2006-2015,%)



Base: All who said the standard of the health service has fallen
Unweighted - 510, weighted - 504

Views on Scotland's economy and the standard of living

3.17 In 2015, 26% of people thought that Scotland's economy had grown stronger in the last 12 months.³¹ In 2007, prior to the economic downturn 31% thought that Scotland's economy had strengthened in the previous 12 months. This figure fell dramatically in 2009 to 8% but has been increasing gradually ever since (see Figure 3.4 below). However, in 2015 a higher proportion thought that Scotland's economy had weakened than thought it had strengthened (35%³² compared with 26%). This figure is substantially higher than proportions recorded in the years preceding the economic downturn when it ranged from 11%-27% (2004-2007) and significantly lower than in 2009 (when it was 72%).

3.18 Views on the general standard of living in Scotland in 2015 were less positive than those of the economy. 19% felt that the standard of living had increased³³

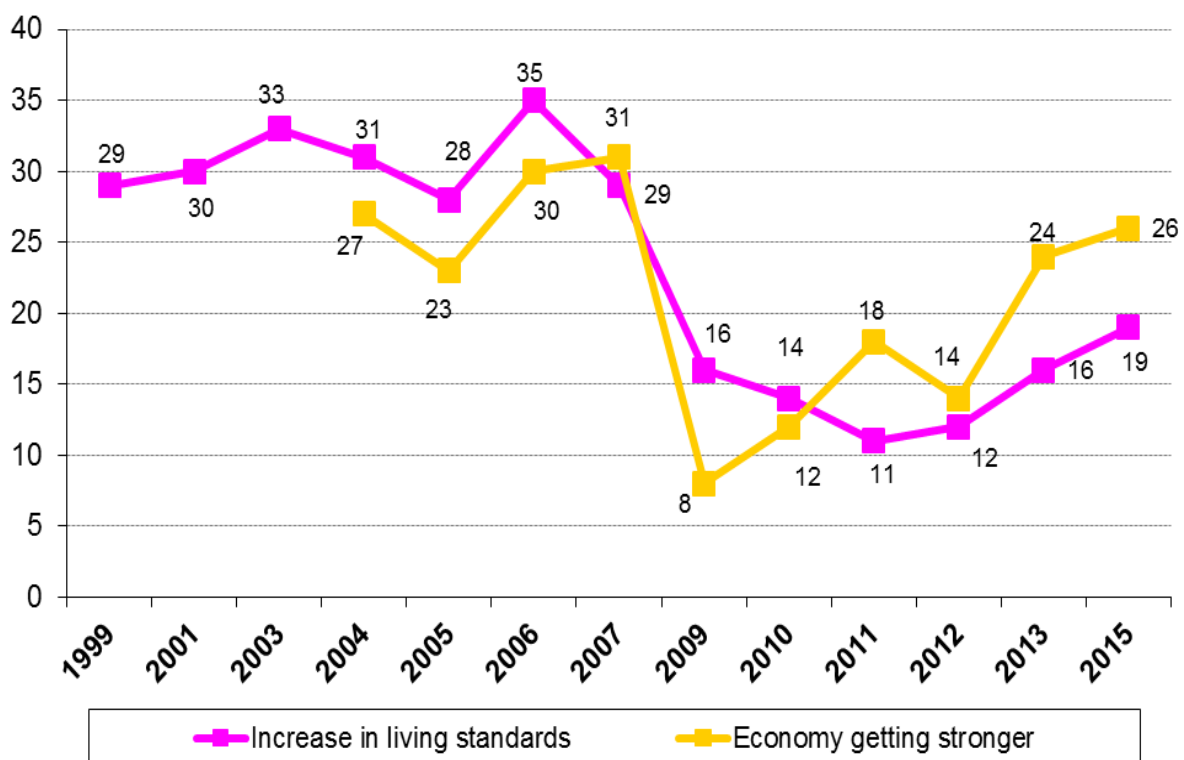
³¹ 1% said the economy had got 'a lot' stronger and 25% said it had got 'a little' stronger.

³² 28% said the economy had got 'a little' weaker and 6% said it had got 'a lot' weaker.

³³ 1% said the standard of living had increased 'a lot', 18% said it had increased 'a little'.

in the last twelve months, while 42% felt it had fallen.³⁴ From 2009, following the economic downturn, views on the economy became more positive (increasing from 8% in 2009 to 18% in 2011) while at the same time views on the standard of living continued to become more negative (declining from 16% in 2009 to 11% in 2011). However, from 2011 onwards the proportion saying that the standard of living has improved has steadily increased, whereas the proportion saying the economy had strengthened declined between 2011 and 2012 before increasing sharply between 2012-2013.

Figure 3.4: Whether the economy has strengthened and whether the standard of living has increased in the past 12 months? (1999-2015, %)



Base: All respondents
For full details see Tables A3.8 and A3.9 in Annex A

Variations in attitudes to the economy and standard of living

- 3.19 Sub-group analysis revealed some marked differences in views on the economy and standard of living (see Tables A3.10 and A3.11 in Annex A for full details).
- 3.20 Age, education, income and party identification were all associated with views on whether the economy had strengthened or weakened over the past 12

³⁴ 13% said the standard of living had fallen 'a lot', 29% said it had fallen 'a little'.

months³⁵. Those who were more likely to think the economy had strengthened were:

- **people aged 30-39** (38%) compared with all other age groups (23%-24% for all other age groups)
- those **educated to Standard Grade or above** (28%) compared with those with no formal qualifications (21%)
- those in the **highest household income group** (35%) compared with those in the lowest income group (23%)
- **SNP supporters** (35%) compared with Labour (22%) and Conservative supporters (23%).

3.21 Views about changes in the general standard of living over the past 12 months varied significantly by a range of factors including gender, age, income, area deprivation, whether people lived in urban or rural areas and party identification. Those who were more likely to think that the standard of living had increased were:

- People **aged 65 and over** (24%) compared with those aged 18-29 (13%)
- **Conservative supporters** (28%) compared with 21% of SNP supporters and 16% of Labour supporters.
- Those **living comfortably on present income** (24%) compared with those struggling on present income (13%)

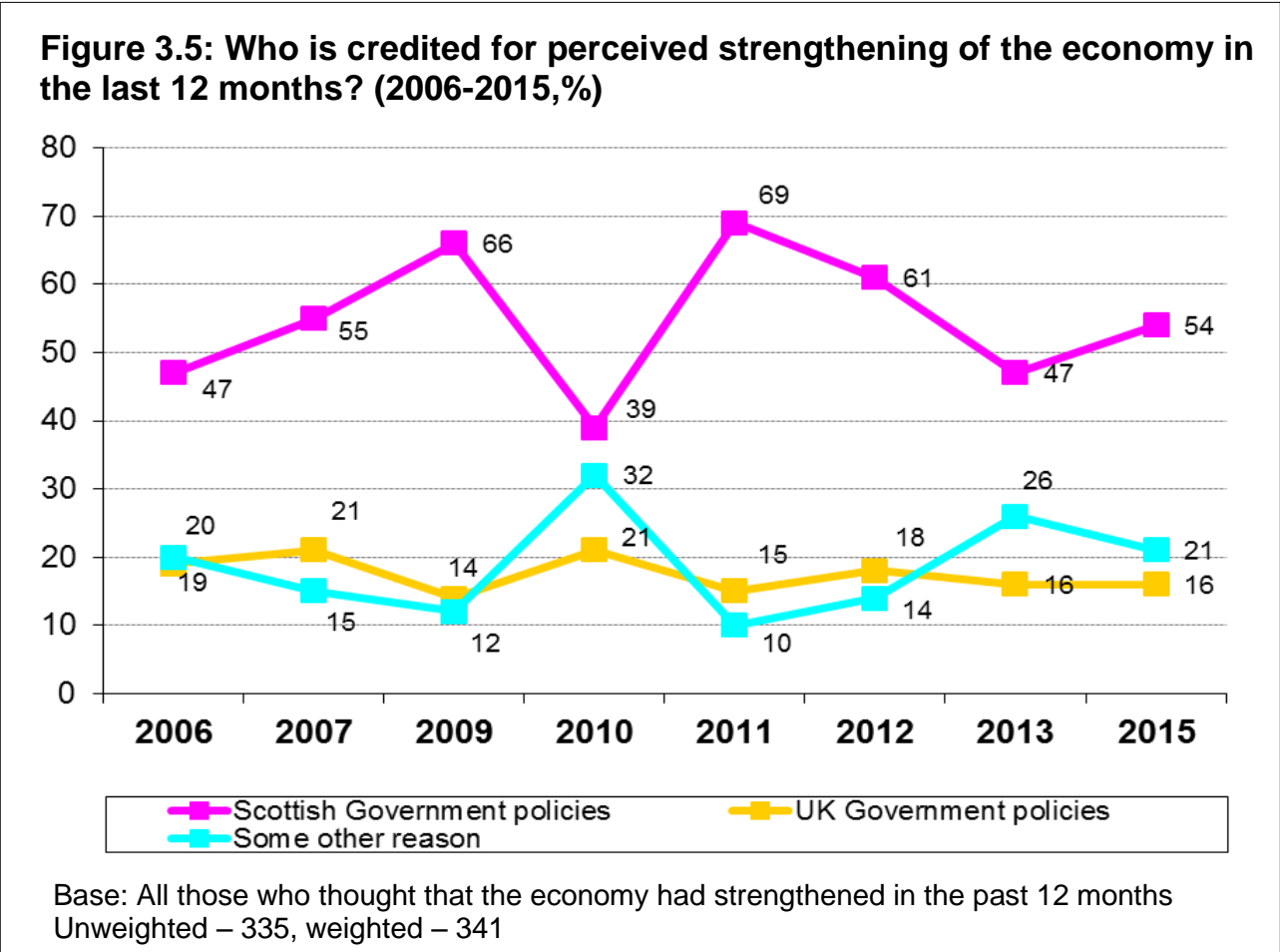
3.22 Those who were significantly more likely to think that the standard of living had fallen were:

- **Women** (47% compared with 37% of men)
- Those in the **lowest household income group** (51% compared with 36% in the highest income group)
- Those **living in the most deprived areas** (50% in the most deprived areas compared with 32% of those in the least deprived areas of Scotland)
- Those **living in urban areas** (44% in large urban areas compared with 30% in remote and very remote rural areas)
- **SNP supporters** (47%) and **Labour supporters** (43%) compared with Conservative supporters (26%)
- Those **struggling on their present income** (64%) compared with those living comfortably on present income (35%)

³⁵ The only factor associated with believing that the economy had weakened was political party identification. 46% of Conservative supporters compared with 40% of Labour supporters and 30% of SNP supporters thought that the economy had weakened in the last twelve months.

Who is seen as responsible for the changes to the economy and living standards?

3.23 In 2015 over half of people (54%) who said the Scottish economy had strengthened over the last 12 months thought that this was the result of Scottish Government policies. This compared with 16% who thought that it was the result of UK Government policies. Thus, many more people gave the ‘credit’ for a stronger economy in Scotland to the Scottish Government than to the UK Government. 1 in 5 people (21%) thought that the economy got stronger because of ‘some other reason’.³⁶ (For full details see Tables A3.12 and A3.13 in Annex A).

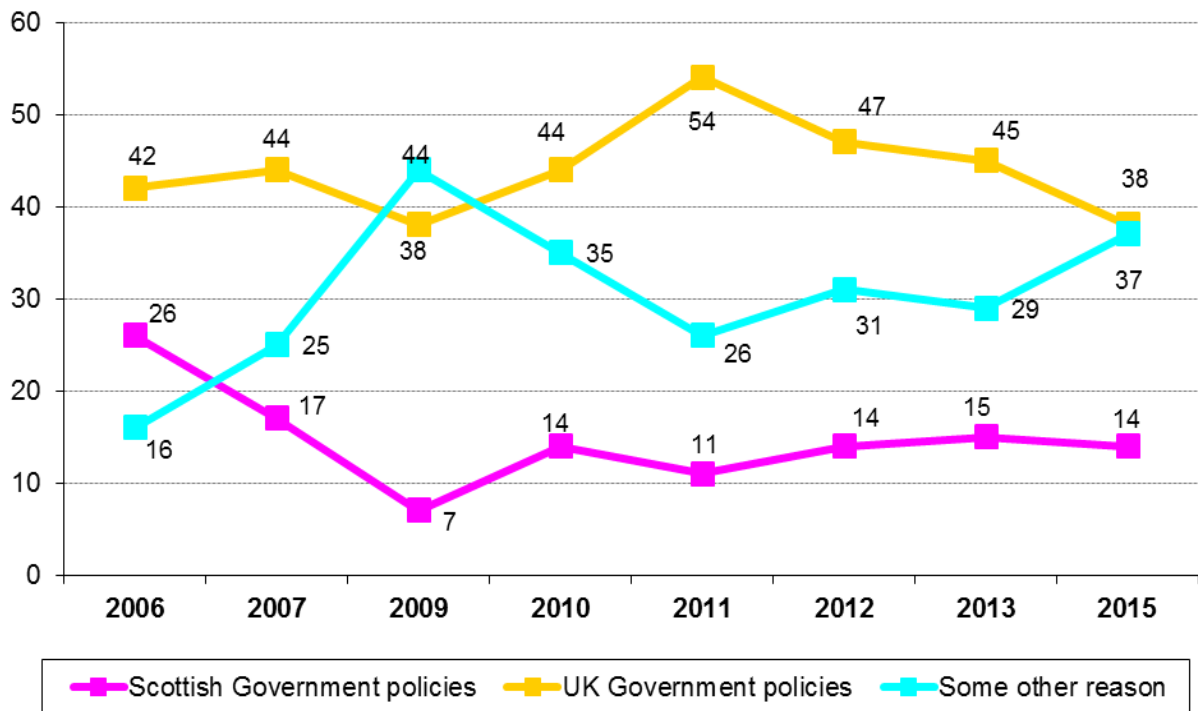


3.24 By contrast, the ‘blame’ for a weaker economy has been consistently attributed to the UK Government, with the exception of 2009 (when people were most likely to choose ‘some other reason’ as the explanation for the economy becoming weaker). The 2015 findings confirm this pattern, with 38% of those who believed the Scottish economy had weakened over the last 12

³⁶ 7% answered that the economy had strengthened due to the policies of ‘both the UK and Scottish Governments’

months ‘blaming’ UK Government policies compared with 14% who thought Scottish Government policies were to blame (see Figure 3.6 below). In 2015, 37% of people who thought Scotland’s economy had weakened in the last 12 months said this was due to ‘some other reason’.³⁷

Figure 3.6: Who is blamed for perceived weakening of the economy in the past 12 months? (2006-2015)



Base: All those who thought that the economy got weaker in the past 12 months
Unweighted – 447, weighted – 449

3.25 In relation to the perceived increase in the general standard of living, 37% ‘credited’ Scottish Government policies with an increase compared with 28% who gave credit for this to UK Government policies.³⁸ In contrast, ‘blame’ is attributed mainly to UK Government policies, among those who thought that the general standard of living had fallen, 62% ‘blamed’ UK Government policies compared with only 7% who ‘blamed’ Scottish Government policies.³⁹ (For full details see Tables A3.14 and A3.15 in Annex A).

³⁷ 10% answered that the economy got weaker because of ‘Both Westminster and Scottish Government’

³⁸ 26% said that the standard of living has increased because of ‘some other reason’, 4% said it was due to the policies of ‘both the UK and Scottish Governments’

³⁹ 17% said that the standard of living had fallen because of ‘some other reason’, 10% said it was due to the policies of ‘both the UK and Scottish Governments’

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 SSA has tracked attitudes to government and public services since the establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999, through periods of constitutional change and the economic downturn of 2008. SSA 2015 fieldwork took place shortly after the the UK general election (May 2015) when the SNP won 56 out of the 59 constituency seats in Scotland. The Scottish independence referendum had taken place in September 2014 and this led to commitments by the UK Government to devolve further powers to the Scottish Parliament. Against this context of recent political changes, this concluding chapter summarises key trends in public attitudes to government, the economy, standard of living and the health service over the past 15 years.
- 4.2 In 2015 attitudes to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament were particularly positive. For many measures, including thinking that having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say, having a Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice in the UK and that the Scottish Government has the most influence over the way Scotland is run, the levels recorded in 2015 matched those of 1999. This suggests that the early expectations for the devolved institutions may have now been realised.
- 4.3 In 2015, people are equally likely to think that the UK Government and the Scottish Government have most influence over the way Scotland is run, a situation which has only been recorded on two previous occasions (1999 and 2011). A large majority still believe that the Scottish Government ought to have the most influence over the way Scotland is run and the level in 2015 is the highest level recorded since 1999.
- 4.4 Those who are the most likely to hold positive attitudes to the Scottish Government and Scottish Parliament are SNP supporters, those who support an independent Scotland, people interested in politics and those who identify as Scottish (rather than British).
- 4.5 The profile of the Scottish population has changed markedly in relation to key factors related to holding positive attitudes towards the Scottish Government. Between 2013 and 2015, the proportion of people in Scotland identifying as SNP supporters has nearly doubled and there has been a significant increase in the proportion supporting an independent Scotland.
- 4.6 SSA 2015 also found that the level of interest in politics has increased among people in Scotland (32% in 2013 said they had 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot' of interest in politics compared with 40% in 2015). As has been noted in other research, (for example, Crowther, 2015) this may have been a response to the debate on the Scottish independence referendum.
- 4.7 The NHS in Scotland, as in other parts of the UK, faces long-term challenges to meet increasing demands. Levels of satisfaction with the NHS remain high but at the same time there has been a significant increase in those believing

that standards in the health service have fallen in the last year (31% in 2011 compared with 41% in 2015).

- 4.8 The economy continues to be the priority for government action chosen by the highest proportion of people, as it has been over the period 2008 to 2015. Views on the state of the economy have become more positive since 2013 and the proportion believing that the economy has strengthened has returned to the level first recorded in 2004.
- 4.9 Views on the general standard of living were less positive. The proportion believing that the general standard of living has increased in the last year is slightly higher than when measured in 2013 but was still substantially lower than the levels recorded before the economic downturn.
- 4.10 Consistent with previous years of SSA, those who think that the standard of living has increased and that the economy has strengthened are most likely to 'credit' these positive changes to the Scottish Government. Conversely, those who believe that standards have fallen and the economy has weakened are most likely to 'blame' the UK Government.
- 4.11 Attitudes to the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament were particularly positive in 2015, particularly in relation to trusting the Scottish Government, believing that the Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say and giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK. At the same time, views on the economy have continued to become more positive over the past three years. Yet there are still some challenges for the Scottish Government in relation to the health service and the standard of living. Fewer people in 2015 (compared with 2011) think that standards in the health service have improved and views on whether the standard of living has increased are still considerably less positive than views on the strength of the economy.

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ANNEX A – detailed tables

Notes on tables

- ‘*’ indicates less than 0.5 percent but greater than zero
- ‘-’ indicates no respondents gave this answer
- All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number

Table A1.1: Sample sizes (1999-2015)

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594
Year	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	
Sample size	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	

ATTITUDES TO GOVERNMENT

Chapter 2 detailed tables

Table A2.1: How much do you trust the UK Government to work in Scotland’s best long-term interest? (1999-2015, column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
Most of the time	29	16	20	17	19	20	21	19
Only some of the time	52	54	55	51	58	50	53	52
Almost never	14	26	22	26	20	26	21	24
(Don’t know)	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-
Sample size	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594
	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Just about always	3	2	3	3	4	3	2	
Most of the time	32	23	19	15	28	23	21	
Only some of the time	44	48	51	49	45	45	44	
Almost never	18	24	23	31	22	27	31	
(Don’t know)	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	
(Not answered)	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sample size	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	

Table A2.2: How much do you trust the Scottish Government/Executive /Parliament* to work in Scotland’s best long-term interest? (1999-2015, column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	26	9	13	9	10	9	10	8
Most of the time	55	45	52	43	52	43	46	43
Only some of the time	14	34	29	34	31	37	33	37
Almost never	2	9	5	11	4	10	7	8
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	3
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	-
<i>Sample size</i>	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549	1594
	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Just about always	14	14	13	20	16	16	22	
Most of the time	57	47	47	51	46	43	50	
Only some of the time	22	31	31	23	28	31	21	
Almost never	4	5	6	5	9	8	5	
(Don't know)	4	3	2	1	2	2	1	
(Not answered)	*	*	*	-	-	*	-	
<i>Sample size</i>	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288	

*Prior to 2004, the question asked about the Parliament. In 2004 an experiment was run whereby half the sample was asked about the Scottish Parliament and half was asked about the Scottish Executive. The change of wording made negligible difference to the responses given therefore the combined results are shown here. In 2009, the wording was changed again to ask about the Scottish Government, following the September 2007 name change.

Table A2.3: How much do you trust the UK Government to make fair decisions? (2006-2015, column %)

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

Table A2.4: How much do you trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions? (2006-2015, column %)

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

Table A2.5: How much do you trust your Local Council to make fair decisions? (2015, column %)

	2015
	%
A great deal	4
Quite a lot	30
Some	37
Not very much	16
Not at all	6
(Don't know)	7
(Not answered)	-
<i>Sample size</i>	1288

Table A2.6: In general how good would you say the Scottish Executive/Government* is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions? (2004- 2015, column %)

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

*From 2004-2007, the question asked about the Scottish Executive. In 2009, the question was amended to ask about the Scottish Government.

**Table A2.7: And how good would you say the UK Government is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions?
(2004- 2015, column %)**

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

**Table A2.8: And how good would you say your Local Council is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions?
(2010- 2015, column %)**

	2010	2015
	%	%
Very good	3	6
Quite good	34	38
Not very good	38	28
Not at all good	17	14
(Don't know)	8	14
(Not answered)	-	*
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1495</i>	<i>1288</i>

Table A2.9: From what you have seen and heard so far do you think that having a Scottish parliament is giving ordinary people...(1999- 2015, column %)

	1997*	1999**	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...more say in how Scotland is governed	79	64	44	38	31	39	31	37
...less say	2	2	3	4	4	4	6	5
...or, is it making no difference	17	32	51	56	62	54	60	55
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
Sample size	882	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549
	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...more say in how Scotland is governed	37	47	47	42	60	46	46	61
...less say	5	3	3	4	3	6	5	3
...or, is it making no difference	55	45	47	50	33	47	45	33
(Don't know)	4	4	3	4	4	31	3	3
(Not answered)	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-
Sample size	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288

*1997 data source = Referendum study

**1999-2009 data source = Scottish Social Attitudes survey

Note: The question wording in each year was:

1999 "Will a Scottish Parliament..."

2000 "Do you think that having a Scottish parliament is going to..."

2001 onwards "Do you think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving..."

Table A2.10: From what you have seen and heard so far do you think that having a Scottish parliament is giving Scotland.....(1997- 2015, column %)

	1997 Ref	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...a stronger voice in the United Kingdom	70	70	52	52	39	49	35	41
...a weaker voice in the United Kingdom	9	7	6	6	7	7	7	6
...or, is it making no difference?	17	20	40	40	52	41	55	50
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	*
Sample size	882	1482	1663	1605	1665	1508	1637	1549
	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...a stronger voice in the United Kingdom	43	61	52	49	69	59	57	70
...a weaker voice in the United Kingdom	6	4	5	6	3	6	6	3
...or, is it making no difference?	49	32	40	42	26	33	34	26
(Don't know)	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	1
(Not answered)	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	*
Sample size	1594	1508	1482	1495	1197	1229	1497	1288

Note:

The question wording in each year was:

1999 "Will a Scottish Parliament..."

2000 "Do you think that having a Scottish parliament is going to..."

2001 onwards "Do you think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving..."

Table A2.11 Which of the following do you think has most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999- 2015, column %)

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

Note:

*In 1999 the question wording was: "When the new parliament starts work, which of the following do you think will have most influence over the way Scotland is run"

**In 2004 an experiment was run whereby half the sample was asked about the Scottish Parliament and half was asked about the Scottish Executive. The change of wording made negligible difference to the responses given, therefore the combined results are shown here. In 2009, the wording was changed again to ask about the 'Scottish Government', rather than the 'Scottish Executive', following the September 2007 name change.

Table A2.12 Which of the following do you think ought to have most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999- 2015, column %)

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

*In 2004 an experiment was run whereby half the sample was asked about the Scottish Parliament and half was asked about the Scottish Executive. The change of wording made negligible difference to the responses given, therefore the combined results are shown here. In 2009, the wording was changed again to ask about the 'Scottish Government', rather than the 'Scottish Executive', following the September 2007 name change.

Table A2.13: How good is the Scottish Government at listening to people's views before it takes decisions?

	Very good / Quite good	Not very good	Not good at all	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
ALL	59	25	9	1287	1287
Age					
18-29	63	18	7	239	143
30-39	68	17	8	227	193
40-64	57	28	8	532	581
65+	52	30	14	288	368
Party identification					
Conservative	36	33	20	140	177
Labour	48	35	12	251	247
Liberal Democrat	43	41	14	45	50
SNP	79	15	3	542	528
None, Other, Don't know, Not applicable	45	27	13	309	284
Constitutional preference					
Scotland not in UK	72	17	6	507	486
Scotland in UK with own parliament	50	32	10	629	641
Scotland in UK without parliament	38	24	30	72	80
Interest in politics					
A great deal / Quite a lot	65	20	13	513	517
Some	57	29	5	393	392
Not very much / None	52	25	9	381	378
National Identity					
Scottish	66	20	7	344	333
More Scottish than British	68	18	7	347	338
Equally	49	32	11	386	395
More British / British	38	39	15	128	146
Urban / Rural Classification					
Large urban areas	64	21	9	517	344
Other urban areas	55	27	10	410	353
Accessible small towns	50	31	7	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	54	31	9	51	98
Accessible rural	63	19	9	125	188
Remote rural /Very remote rural	55	26	9	72	162
Who ought to have most influence					
Scottish Government	65	22	6	982	974
UK Government	31	35	23	176	178
Local councils in Scotland	53	24	14	85	90
The European Union	24	76	-	8	9

Table A2.14: Do you think having a Scottish Parliament is giving ordinary people...

	...More say in how Scotland is governed	...Less say in how Scotland is governed	Making no difference	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
ALL	61	3	33	1288	1288
Age					
18-29	64	4	27	239	143
30-39	63	2	31	227	193
40-64	61	3	35	533	582
65+	55	5	38	288	368
Household income quartiles					
Up to 14,300	55	4	37	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	54	4	38	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	69	1	28	285	272
Over 44,200	66	4	30	287	256
Don't know/Refusal/Not Applicable/	56	4	35	233	218
Party Identification					
Conservative	43	7	49	140	177
Labour	53	5	42	251	247
Liberal Democrat	51	2	45	45	50
SNP	77	2	19	543	529
None, Other, Don't know, Not applicable	47	3	42	309	284
Constitutional preference					
Scotland not in UK	72	2	24	508	487
Scotland in UK with own parliament	57	3	38	629	641
Scotland in UK without parliament	28	11	60	72	80
Interest in politics					
A great deal / Quite a lot	70	4	26	513	517
Some	59	2	36	394	393
Not very much / None	50	3	40	381	378
National Identity					
Scottish	69	3	24	344	333
More Scottish than British	62	2	33	348	339
Equally	55	4	39	386	395
More British / British	46	3	48	128	146
Left – Right scale					
Left	67	3	29	362	345
Centre	61	4	33	444	444
Right	56	2	36	423	441

Table A2.15: Which of the following do you think has most influence over the way Scotland is run?

	The Scottish Government	The UK government at Westminster	Local councils in Scotland	The European Union	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%	%		
ALL	41	42	6	5	1288	1288
Age						
18-29	30	53	5	3	239	143
30-39	35	52	4	2	227	193
40-64	47	36	7	6	533	582
65+	43	36	6	7	288	368
Household income						
Up to 14,300	36	42	8	6	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	35	43	6	8	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	43	45	5	4	285	272
Over 44,200	48	44	3	2	287	256
DK / Ref / NA	39	34	10	6	233	218
Interest in politics						
A great deal / Quite a lot	47	41	4	4	513	517
Some	43	41	8	5	394	393
Not very much / None	29	43	7	6	381	378

Table A2.16: How much do you trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions?

	A great deal / Quite a lot	Some	Not very much	Not at all	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%	%		
ALL	49	38	9	3	1288	1288
Age						
18-29	52	31	8	5	239	143
30-39	58	34	4	3	227	193
40-64	48	41	9	2	533	582
65+	42	41	13	3	287	367
Sex						
Male	52	34	9	4	616	581
Female	47	41	9	2	671	706
Highest Educational Qualification						
Degree / HE	51	39	7	3	491	487
Highers / A-Levels	52	36	8	4	279	242
Standard Gd / GCSE	50	40	8	2	274	287
None	41	36	15	1	238	264
Party Identification						
Conservative	36	48	12	4	140	177
Labour	39	44	12	5	249	246
Liberal Democrat	45	45	8	1	45	50
SNP	67	28	4	0	543	529
None, Other, Don't know, Not applicable	34	43	13	6	309	284
Constitutional preference						
Scotland not in UK	63	31	5	2	508	487
Scotland in UK with own parliament	41	43	11	3	628	640
Scotland in UK without parliament	29	40	23	9	72	80
Interest in politics						
A great deal / Quite a lot	56	32	7	5	512	516
Some	49	42	8	1	394	393
Not very much / None	41	41	12	2	381	378
National Identity						
Scottish	60	29	7	2	344	333
More Scottish than British	48	41	8	2	348	339
Equally	46	38	11	3	385	394
More British / British	30	56	10	3	128	146

Trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions	A great deal / Quite a lot	Some	Not very much	Not at all	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
Urban / Rural Classification						
Large urban areas	54	34	8	4	517	344
Other urban areas	45	42	9	3	410	353
Accessible small towns	44	44	9	1	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	49	42	7	2	51	98
Accessible rural	56	30	10	0	125	188
Remote rural / Very remote rural	43	44	10	2	72	162
Newspaper readership						
No paper	52	37	7	2	823	801
Tabloid	42	41	13	3	269	282
Broadsheet (inc.regional)	42	43	10	4	149	174
Other/more than 1 paper	66	23	4	7	33	20
Who ought to have most influence over how Scotland is run						
Scottish Government	41	28	5	2	982	974
UK Government	6	5	2	1	176	178
Local councils in Scotland	2	3	1	*	85	90
The European Union	*	*	*	*	8	9
Vote in Scottish Referendum						
Yes	65	27	5	2	524	517
No	38	45	12	3	566	582

Chapter 3 Detailed tables

Table A3.1: Those who chose 'helping the economy grow' as the highest priority for government action

	Help the economy grow	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%		
ALL	32	1288	1288
Age			
18-29	22	239	143
30-39	32	227	193
40-64	33	533	582
65+	38	288	368
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 Quintiles			
Most deprived	22	224	178
2	37	267	246
3	30	284	320
4	32	270	332
Least deprived	37	242	212
Left – Right scale			
Left	25	362	345
Centre	29	444	444
Right	40	423	441
Self-rated hardship			
Living really comfortably/ comfortably on present income	30	734	750
Neither	34	737	764
Struggling/really struggling on present income	30	172	166

Table A3.2: All in all, how satisfied or dissatisfied would you say you are with the way in which the National Health Service runs nowadays? (1999- 2015)

	1999	2005	2006	2007	2011	2013	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	9	7	6	10	12	13	16
Quite satisfied	46	33	39	41	44	49	46
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	16	18	14	20	12	14
Quite dissatisfied	19	27	29	22	17	19	17
Very dissatisfied	7	16	8	11	6	6	7
Don't know	1	*	1	1	1	1	1
Not answered	*	-	*	*	-	-	-
Sample Size	1482	1549	1594	1508	1197	1497	1288

Table A3.3: Whether the standard of the health service in Scotland has increased or fallen

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

Table A3.4: All in all, how satisfied or dissatisfied would you say you are with the way in which the National Health Service runs nowadays?

	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
ALL	62	14	24	1288	1288
Age					
18-29	59	18	20	239	143
30-39	64	14	22	227	193
40-64	59	15	25	533	582
65+	70	7	24	288	368
Sex					
Male	67	11	21	617	582
Female	58	16	26	671	706
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 Quintiles					
Most deprived	60	14	25	224	178
2	57	14	28	267	246
3	61	17	23	284	320
4	67	14	18	270	332
Least deprived	67	9	24	242	212
Party Identification					
Conservative	70	9	22	140	177
Labour	69	10	20	251	247
Liberal Democrat	70	9	21	45	50
SNP	58	16	26	543	529
Other / DK / Ref / NA	61	15	22	309	284

Satisfaction with NHS	Satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
Self-rated hardship					
Living really comfortably/ comfortably on present	67	12	21	733	750
Neither	59	17	23	373	364
Struggling/really struggling on present	45	16	37	172	166
Left-right scale					
Left	56	14	30	733	750
Centre	62	16	21	373	364
Right	68	11	21	172	166

Table A3.5: Thinking back over the last twelve months, that is since (month of interview) 2014, would you say that since then the standard of the health service in Scotland has increased or fallen?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Fallen	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
ALL	12	41	39	1288	1288
Age					
18-29	14	40	32	239	143
30-39	14	48	28	227	193
40-64	10	42	42	533	582
65+	11	35	49	288	368
Sex					
Male	11	45	36	617	582
Female	12	38	42	671	706
Highest Educational qualification					
Degree / HE	8	49	35	491	487
Highers / A-Levels	13	39	36	279	242
Standard Gd / GCSE	16	38	42	274	287
None	12	32	48	239	265
Household income					
Up to 14,300	15	35	44	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	7	38	50	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	14	43	34	285	272
Over 44,200	9	53	33	287	256
DK / Ref / NA	13	35	36	233	218
Left – Right scale					
Left	12	34	47	362	345
Centre	11	43	37	444	444
Right	11	46	33	424	441

Table A3.6: Who is 'credited' for an increase in the standard of the health service in Scotland (2006- 2015)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2015
Scottish Executive/Scottish Government policies	41	50	55	49	58	57
UK Government policies	24	34	18	30	15	13
Some other reason	17	9	13	16	20	16
Both Westminster and SE/SG	7	1	6	2	1	4
Don't know	11	6	8	4	7	10
<i>Weighted sample size</i>	314	284	383	290	260	150
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	313	279	387	286	236	148

Table A3.7: Who is 'blamed' for a fall in the standard of the health service in Scotland (2006- 2015)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2015
Scottish Executive/Scottish Government policies	20	14	12	18	12	19
UK Government policies	44	45	41	49	54	48
Some other reason	20	25	30	21	21	21
Both Westminster and SE/SG	8	3	11	8	8	8
Don't know	7	13	6	5	5	4
<i>Weighted sample size</i>	662	390	372	515	365	504
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	696	422	383	524	388	510

Table A3.8: What about the Scotland's economy? Has it got stronger or weaker since (month of interview) previous year?

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

Table A3.9: What about the general standard of living in Scotland? Has it increased or fallen since (month of interview) previous year? (1999- 2015)

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

Note:

The question wording in each year was:

1999 and 2001 "Thinking back to the UK general election in 1997"

2003 "Thinking back to the last Scottish election in 1999"

2004 onwards "since (month of interview) (previous year)".

Table A3.10: And what about Scotland's economy? Has it got stronger or weaker since (month of interview) 2014?

	Stronger	Stayed the same	Weaker	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
ALL	26	28	35	1288	1288
Age					
18-29	24	24	34	239	143
30-39	38	23	28	227	193
40-64	24	32	36	533	582
65+	23	26	39	288	368
Highest Educational qualification					
Degree / HE	27	27	36	491	487
Highers / A-Levels	27	24	37	279	242
Standard Gd / GCSE	29	30	32	274	287
None	21	31	33	239	265
Household income					
Up to 14,300	23	29	35	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	26	28	37	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	24	31	38	285	272
Over 44,200	35	27	33	287	256
DK / Ref / NA	23	24	30	233	218
Party identification					
Conservative	23	26	46	140	177
Labour	22	28	40	251	247
Liberal Democrat	22	24	43	45	50
SNP	35	27	30	543	529
Other / DK / Ref / NA	17	30	34	309	284

Table A3.11: Thinking back over the last 12 months, that is since (month of interview) 2014, would you say that since then the general standard of living in Scotland has increased or fallen?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Fallen	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%		
ALL	19	33	42	1288	1288
Age					
18-29	13	38	36	239	143
30-39	19	33	44	227	193
40-64	20	32	45	533	582
65+	24	33	39	288	368
Sex					
Male	21	36	37	617	582
Female	17	31	47	671	706
Household income					
Up to 14,300	16	29	51	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	24	31	41	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	18	31	48	285	272
Over 44,200	23	38	36	287	256
DK / Ref / NA	16	37	33	233	218
Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 Quintiles					
Most deprived	14	31	50	224	178
2	22	22	48	267	246
3	18	34	43	284	320
4	22	35	37	270	332
Least deprived	20	46	32	242	212
Urban / Rural Classification					
Large urban areas	19	32	44	517	344
Other urban areas	18	33	44	410	353
Accessible small towns	21	33	39	114	143
Remote / Very remote small	19	40	39	51	98
Accessible rural	23	35	37	125	188
Remote rural / Very remote	21	43	30	72	162
Party identification					
Conservative	28	42	26	140	177
Labour	16	39	43	251	247
Liberal Democrat	22	41	36	45	50
SNP	21	28	47	543	529
Other / DK / Ref / NA	14	33	40	309	284
Self-rated hardship					
Living really comfortably/ comfortably on present income	24	36	35	733	750
Neither	13	34	46	373	364
Struggling/really struggling on present income	13	20	64	172	166

Table A3.12: Who is 'credited' for a stronger economy (2006- 2015)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015
Scottish Executive/Scottish Government policies	47	56	66	39	69	61	47	54
UK Government policies	19	21	14	21	15	18	16	16
Some other reason	20	15	12	32	10	14	26	21
Both Westminster and SE/SG	8	2	2	2	2	4	8	7
Don't know	6	5	6	6	4	3	4	3
<i>Weighted sample size</i>	483	466	119	176	215	170	364	341
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	454	441	120	177	193	164	373	335

Table A3.13: Who is 'blamed' for a weaker economy (2006- 2015)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015
Scottish Executive/Scottish Government policies	26	17	7	14	11	14	15	14
UK Government policies	42	44	38	44	54	47	45	38
Some other reason	16	25	44	35	26	31	29	37
Both Westminster and SE/SG	13	7	9	6	8	8	9	10
Don't know	3	8	2	1	1	1	3	1
<i>Weighted sample size</i>	318	173	1072	958	687	709	529	449
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	330	187	1037	941	683	700	533	447

Table A3.14: Who is 'credited' for an increase in the standard of living (2006- 2015)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015
Scottish Executive/Scottish Government policies	30	32	22	37	44	46	23	37
UK Government policies	28	36	24	33	31	27	42	28
Some other reason	26	23	30	22	12	17	18	26
Both Westminster and SE/SG	6	3	9	4	10	5	5	4
Don't know	10	7	12	4	3	5	12	4
<i>Weighted sample size</i>	553	440	376	203	132	153	233	249
<i>Unweighted sample size</i>	548	432	400	211	121	137	240	261

Table A3.15: Who is 'blamed' for a fall in the standard of living (2006- 2015)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2015
Scottish Executive/Scottish Government policies	18	10	6	8	6	7	6	7
UK Government policies	51	56	39	49	58	53	55	62
Some other reason	18	26	44	36	27	30	29	17
Both Westminster and SE/SG	10	4	8	4	7	7	8	10
Don't know	3	4	3	3	2	2	2	3
<i>Weighted sample size</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>805</i>	<i>809</i>	<i>808</i>	<i>752</i>	<i>868</i>	<i>540</i>
<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>

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