



What people think,
feel and do

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Key findings

9 August 2019

Project details

PROJECT NUMBER	VI 08 08 19
POLL	VI 08 August 2019
POLLING SERIES	Opinium / Observer
EMAIL	political@opinium.co.uk
SAMPLE	2,003 UK adults aged 18+
FIELDWORK DATES	08 to 09 August 2019

One-minute takeaway

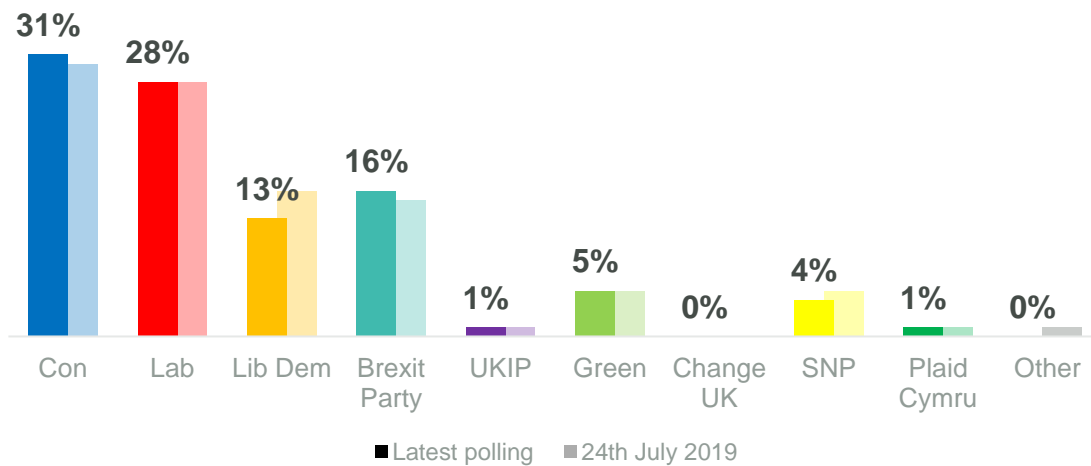
Headline stats

- The Conservatives have a 3-point lead in the polls, with 31% of the vote
- If there is a vote of no confidence in the government, 40% think Johnson should refuse to resign and call a general election for after October 31st
- 41% of the public think the UK should accept a request from the Scottish government to hold a second referendum on Scottish independence

The state of the parties and leaders

Conservatives extend lead in the polls

The Conservatives continue to steadily extend their lead over Labour in the polls. They have gained 1 point since two weeks ago, to now take a 3 point lead over Labour (previously +2 lead).



Boris Johnson viewed as the better Prime Minister

Johnson leads over Corbyn on who would make the best prime minister by 19 points, a drop of 2 points since a fortnight ago (Johnson at 38% & Corbyn at 19% vs. Johnson at 38% & Corbyn at 17% two weeks ago).

Polling commentary

Adam Drummond, head of political polling at Opinium commented:

"Johnson's strategy of uniting the Leave vote appears to still be paying off and the message discipline of 'leave by the 31st do or die' has had some effect with an increasing number of voters believing the UK will leave by that date. That said, while there is a large gap in Johnson's favour on the 'best prime minister' question, the closeness of the Tory and Labour vote shares shows he still has a way to go to achieve what Theresa May failed to do in 2017"

Issues facing the country

Despite Brexit deadline, health is deemed the number one issue facing the country

Despite the Brexit deadline looming closer, there has been a drop in the number of people who think the EU and Brexit is the biggest issue facing the country. The public perceive the Health/NHS to be the most important issue facing the country (59%), followed by the EU and Brexit (51%). A fortnight ago, health and Brexit were tied in first place as the most important issues the UK faces (both at 57%)

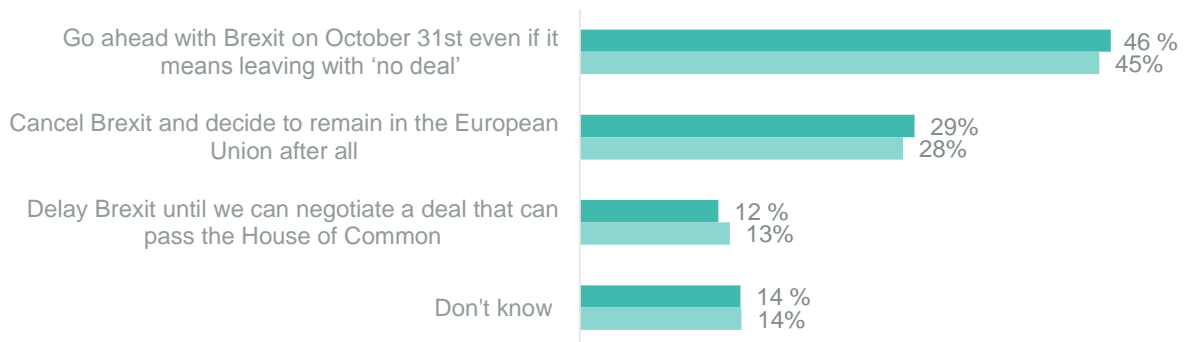
Europe and Brexit

The public think an election should be called if there is a push for a further Brexit extension

Johnson has said that he wants to change the Withdrawal Agreement made between May's government and the European Union.

Public opinion on what the UK should do next if Johnson is unable to make these changes remains unchanged from a fortnight ago. 46% think that the UK should go ahead with Brexit on October 31st even if it means leaving with 'no deal' (compared to 45% two weeks ago). However, a similar proportion think that either Brexit should be delayed or cancelled altogether (41%)

If Boris Johnson is unable to make changes to the Withdrawal Agreement that enables it to pass the House of Commons before October 31st, which of the following should he do?



The public are becoming more convinced that Johnson as prime minister will lead to the UK leaving the EU by the 31st of October. Three fifths (61%) think it is likely the UK will leave by that date, compared to 53% a fortnight ago.

In the event of Johnson being unable to negotiate significant changes to the Withdrawal Agreement, and the Commons voting to force the government to ask for a further extension to the Brexit deadline, 54% of the public think he should call an election, down from 57% a fortnight ago.

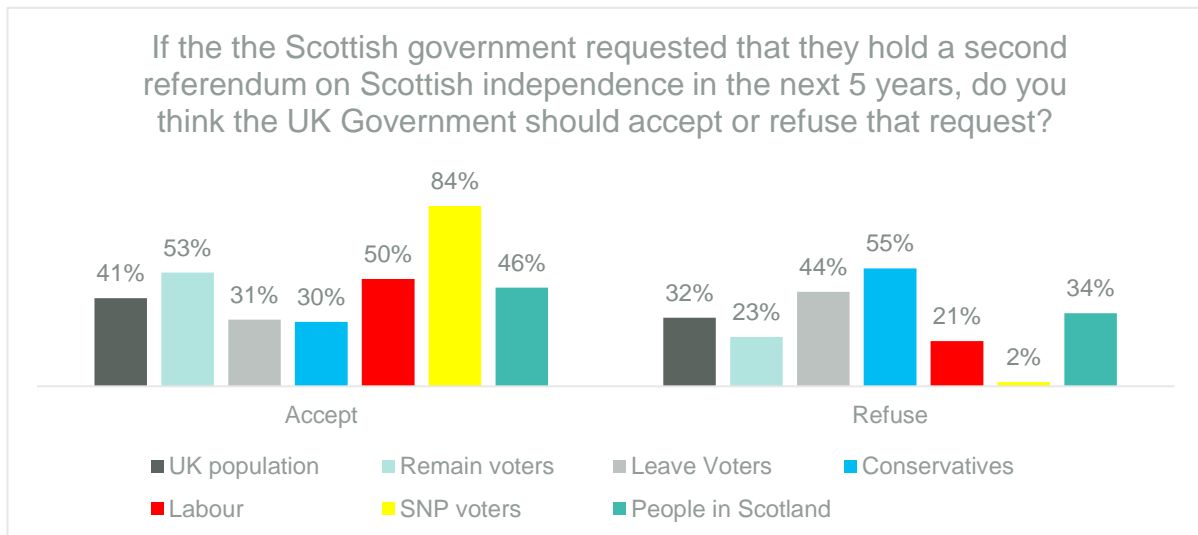
When Parliament meets in September, it is possible that a vote of confidence will be held against Johnson’s government with the aim of preventing the UK leaving the EU with ‘no deal’. In this scenario, if the government was to lose the vote of confidence, 40% of the public would want Johnson to refuse to resign and call a general election for after October 31st so the UK can guarantee leaving the EU by that date, even with ‘no deal’. On the other hand, 29% of the public would want Johnson to resign in the hope that an alternative government can be formed to avoid a ‘no deal’ Brexit.

Scottish Referendum

With Brexit, and Scotland voting by a majority for the UK to remain a member of the EU, calls for a second independence referendum have intensified. In May 2019, the Scottish government published the Referendum (Scotland) Bill, which would provide the legal basis for holding a second independence referendum. For a legally binding referendum, the British government would need to grant a Section 30 order. In his first visit to Scotland as Prime Minister, Johnson appeared to rule out another independence referendum vote, commenting that the 2014 vote had been “a once in a generation consultation”.

Two fifths (41%) of the public think that if requested, the UK government should allow the Scottish Government to have a second referendum in the next 5 years, while 32% think the UK Government should hold the opposite stance and prevent this from happening.

- 46% of the Scottish public think the UK government should accept this request, while 34% think they should refuse it



About Opinium

OPINIUM is an award winning strategic insight agency built on the belief that in a world of uncertainty and complexity, success depends on the ability to stay on pulse of what people **think, feel** and **do**. Creative and inquisitive, we are passionate about empowering our clients to make the decisions that matter. We work with organisations to define and overcome strategic challenges – helping them to get to grips with the world in which their brands operate. We use the right approach and methodology to deliver robust insights, strategic counsel and targeted recommendations that generate change and positive outcomes.

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