

PUBLIC SERVICE CHOICE POLL
TOPLINE RESULTS
5 July 2004

- MORI interviewed 1,002 British adults aged 16+
- Fieldwork conducted by telephone between 2 – 4 July 2004
- Data are weighted to the national population profile
- Base size is 1,002 unless otherwise stated
- Some questions have been split-sampled. If this happens results for individual splits and combined answers are provided where applicable
- An asterisk (*) indicates a finding of less than 0.5%, but greater than zero
- Where percentages do not add up to exactly 100% this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't knows" or to multiple answers

Q1. How strongly do you agree or disagree that... ROTATE ORDER A-C

			Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
	A	Public services such as health and education should be funded by the taxpayer and be available free at the point of use to all citizens?	61	24	4	5	5	1
501 adults	B1	<i>Britain's public services need to start treating users and the public as customers in the same way as the private sector does</i>	53	26	6	4	6	4
501 adults	B2	<i>Britain's public services need to start treating users and the public as customers</i>	53	28	6	5	3	4
	B	Britain's public services need to start treating users and the public as customers (in the same way as the private sector does)	53	27	6	5	5	4
	C	Private companies should not be involved in providing public services under any circumstances	18	19	17	26	16	4

Q2. Which, if either, of the following statements best reflects your feelings towards the NHS?

		%
A	The NHS is critical to British society and we must do everything to maintain it	63
B	The NHS was a great project but we probably can't maintain it in its current form	35
	Don't know	3

Q3. If you had to choose between these two policies, which would you prefer?

		%
A	Paying more taxes to ensure a good quality hospital near your home	53
B	Having no increase in taxes but a choice of receiving treatment in a hospital anywhere in the country	43
	Don't know	5

SPLIT SAMPLE Q4a AND Q4b

Q4a. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?

		%
Base (501 adults)		
	Offering patients a wide choice of hospitals will help push up standards for everyone using the NHS	74
	Offering patients a wide choice of hospitals in the NHS will mostly benefit the better-off and better-educated patients	21
	Don't know	5

Q4b. Which of these statements comes closest to your own view?

		%
Base (501 adults)		
	Offering parents a wide choice of schools will help push up standards for all state schools	59
	Offering parents a wide choice of state schools will mostly benefit the better-off and better-educated	30
	Don't know	11

SPLIT SAMPLE Q5a/6a AND Q5b/6b

All taxpayers contribute to the funding of the NHS whether or not they personally use the health service. Some people think that patients who choose to go private should be given some money back from the government to contribute to the cost of their private healthcare, others feel that doing this will restrict other people's access to good quality treatment on the NHS. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Base (501 adults)	Neither agree nor disagree					
		Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
Q5a	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private healthcare</i>	9	14	5	21	49	2
Q5b	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private healthcare so long as this does not restrict other people's access to good quality treatment on the NHS</i>	23	31	5	14	26	1

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
	Base (501 adults)						
Q6a	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private healthcare</i>	8	13	5	24	48	2
Q6b	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private healthcare so long as this does not restrict other people's access to good quality treatment on the NHS</i>						

COMBINED Q5a/6a AND Q5b/6b

[All taxpayers contribute to the funding of the NHS whether or not they personally use the health service. Some people think that patients who choose to go private should be given some money back from the government to contribute to the cost of their private healthcare, others feel that doing this will restrict other people's access to good quality treatment on the NHS.]

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
Q5a/6a	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private healthcare</i>	9	14	5	22	48	2
Q5b/6b	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private healthcare so long as this does not restrict other people's access to good quality treatment on the NHS</i>						

SPLIT SAMPLE Q7a/8b AND Q7b/8b

[All taxpayers contribute to the funding of state schools whether or not they personally use them. Some people think that parents who choose to use private schools should be given some money back from the government to contribute to the cost of their child's private schooling, others feel that doing this will restrict other parent's access to good quality state schools.]

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

		Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
	Base (501 adults)						
Q7a	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private schools</i>	6	8	3	23	58	1
Q7b	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private schools so long as this does not restrict other parent's access to good quality of state schools</i>						

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Base (501 adults)	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
Q8a	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private schools</i>	5	8	3	23	60	1
Q8b	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private schools so long as this does not restrict other parent's access to good quality of state schools</i>	13	25	5	17	39	1

COMBINED Q7a/8a AND Q7b/8b

[All taxpayers contribute to the funding of state schools whether or not they personally use them. Some people think that parents who choose to use private schools should be given some money back from the government to contribute to the cost of their child's private schooling, others feel that doing this will restrict other parent's access to good quality state schools.]

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %
Q7a/8a	It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private schools	6	8	3	23	59
Q7b/8b	<i>It is right for public money to be used to subsidise private schools so long as this does not restrict other parent's access to good quality of state schools</i>	14	27	4	17	36

Q9. Do you think that giving people a government subsidy to use private hospitals will make the NHS better, worse or make no difference at all?

	%
Better	21
Worse	31
No difference	41
Don't know	6

Q10. Do you think that giving people a government subsidy to use private schools will make the state schools better, worse or make no difference at all?

	%
Better	12
Worse	36
No difference	46
Don't know	6