



British Election Study

Devolved Politics and COVID-19 Supplement (Wave 22) -
Linkable to Scottish/Welsh Election Studies

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Details of the dataset

The 22nd wave of the British Election Study Internet Panel included a series of items, which focused on the constitutional questions and devolved politics during the COVID-19 pandemic. These variables were not previously included in the Wave 22 data file or the cumulative data file. Some of these items were also included in exactly the same form in the 2021 Scottish Election Study and the 2021 Welsh Election Study. This codebook provides the details about this set of variables.

Overall, 28,113 respondents took wave 22 of the British Election Study. Wave 22 was conducted by YouGov between 26th November 2021 and 15th December 2021.

ID Variables

This dataset can be used to compare results from England, Scotland, and Wales in parallel with the 2021 Scottish and Welsh election studies. However, some respondents will have taken part in more than one of these studies. In these circumstances, users may wish to link the datasets together in order to compare the responses of these respondents across the studies. In this case, users can connect respondents through their ID numbers.

Users can merge this file into their copy of the main British Election Study Internet Panel using the variable “id”. This variable contains all of the BES ID variables for each respondent in the supplement. For linking the datasets, the relevant ID variables are detailed here:

| ID Name | Dataset | Persistent Identifier (DOI) |
|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| ID_SES_2021 | 2021 Scottish Election Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-9062-1 |
| ID_SES_2019 | 2019 Scottish Election Study | - |
| ID_SES2016 | 2016 Scottish Election Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8728-1 |
| ID_SRS_2014 | 2014 Scottish Referendum Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8201-1 |
| ID_SES_2011 | 2011 Scottish Election Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8012-1 |
| ID_WES_2021 | 2021 Welsh Election Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-9063-1 |
| ID_WES_2019 | 2019 Welsh Election Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8774-2 |
| ID_WES_2016 | 2016 Welsh Election Study | - |
| ID_WRS_2011 | 2011 Welsh Referendum Study | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-7780-1 |
| ID_BES_2010 | 2010 British Election Study Cross-Section | 10.5255/UKDA-SN-7529-1 |

COVID-19 and the constitution

englandGovern if country==1

SINGLE CHOICE

Some UK laws only affect England because some policies are decided in Scotland and Wales. How do you think laws that only affect England should be made?

[Fielded to random subset of England]

- 1 By the UK Parliament, with all MPs having a vote
- 2 By the UK Parliament, but with only English MPs having a vote
- 3 By a new, separate parliament for England, but with England remaining part of the UK
- 4 By a new, separate parliament for England, and with England becoming independent from the rest of the UK
- 9999 Don't know

covid_devoEng if country==1

SINGLE CHOICE

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen the Scottish and Welsh governments make different decisions in how they've handled the crisis to the UK Government. Has the way the different governments have handled the crisis changed how you think about the idea of having an English parliament?

[Fielded to random subset of England]

- 1 Yes, it has made me more supportive of an English Parliament
- 2 No, it hasn't made any difference
- 3 Yes, it has made me less supportive of an English Parliament
- 9999 Don't know

covid_devoWal if country==3

SINGLE CHOICE

Inc: WES

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen the Welsh and UK Government make different decisions in how they've handled the crisis. Has the way the Welsh Government has handled the crisis changed how you think about devolution?

- 1 Yes, it has made me more supportive of devolution
- 2 No, it hasn't made any difference
- 3 Yes, it has made me less supportive to devolution
- 9999 Don't know

covid_devoScot if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen the Scottish and UK Government make different decisions in how they've handled the crisis. Has the way the Scottish Government has handled the crisis changed how you think about devolution?

- 1 Yes, it has made me more supportive of devolution
- 2 No, it hasn't made any difference
- 3 Yes, it has made me less supportive to devolution
- 9999 Don't know

covidwales

SINGLE CHOICE

Inc: WES

How well or badly do you think the _Welsh Government_...

covidwales_1 ...has communicated its decisions on the Covid-19 pandemic to the public? [asked to Wales only]

covidwales_2 ...has handled lockdown restrictions in Wales? [asked to Wales and a subset of England]

covidwales_3 ...is handling the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines? [asked to Wales and a subset of England]

0 0 - Very well

1 1

2 2

3 3

4 4

5 5

6 6 – Very badly

9999 Don't know

covidscot if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

Inc: SES

How well or badly do you think the _Scottish Government_...

- covidscot_1 ...has communicated its decisions on the Covid-19 pandemic to the public? [asked to Scotland only]
- covidscot_2 ...has handled lockdown restrictions in Scotland? [asked to Scotland and a random subset of England]
- covidscot_3 ...is handling the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines? [asked to Scotland and a random subset of England]

-
- 0 0 - Very well
- 1 1
- 2 2
- 3 3
- 4 4
- 5 5
- 6 6 – Very badly
- 9999 Don't know
-

covidUK if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

Inc:
WES/SES

How well or badly do you think the _UK Government_...

[Fielded to Wales, Scotland, and a random subset of England]

covidUK_1 ...has communicated its decisions on the Covid-19 pandemic to the public? [asked to Scotland, Wales, and random subset of England]

covidUK_2 ...has handled lockdown restrictions in England? [asked to Scotland, Wales, and random subset of England]

covidUK_3 ...is handling the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccines? [asked to Scotland, Wales, and random subset of England]

0 0 - Very well

1 1

2 2

3 3

4 4

5 5

6 6 – Very badly

9999 Don't know

Scottish independence question wordings

scotConst1979 if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

There has been a lot of discussion recently about giving more power to Scotland. Which of these statements come closest to what you yourself feel should be done?

[Asked to random sub-sample of Scotland]

- 1 There should be no devolved government in Scotland
- 2 There should be no devolved government in Scotland, but the needs of Scotland should be better understood by the Government in London
- 3 Keep allowing decisions to be made in Scotland
- 4 Scotland should completely run its own affairs
- 9999 Don't know

scotConst1987 if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

An issue in Scotland is the question of the Scottish Parliament. Which of these statements comes closest to your view?

[Asked to random sub-sample of Scotland]

- 1 Scotland should become completely independent
- 2 There should continue to be a devolved Scottish Parliament
- 3 There should be no Scottish Parliament, but the needs of Scotland should be better understood by the Government in London
- 4 There should be no Scottish Parliament
- 9999 Don't know

scotConst1992 if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

An issue in Scotland is the question of the Scottish Parliament. Which of these statements comes closest to your view? [Asked to random sub-sample of Scotland]

- 1 Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK and the European Union
- 2 Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK but part of the European Union
- 3 Scotland should remain part of the UK, with its own elected parliament which has some taxation and spending powers
- 4 There should be no Scottish Parliament
- 5 Other [otherScotConst1992]{open prompt= "please specify"}
- 9999 Don't know

scotConst1997 if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

In SES

An issue in Scotland is the question of the Scottish Parliament. Which of these statements comes closest to your view? [Asked to random sub-sample of Scotland]

- 1 Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK and the European Union
- 2 Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK but part of the European Union
- 3 Scotland should remain part of the UK, with its own elected parliament which has some taxation powers
- 4 Scotland should remain part of the UK, with its own elected parliament but no taxation powers
- 5 Scotland should remain part of the UK without an elected parliament
- 9999 Don't know

scotConst2005 if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of these statements comes closest to your view? [Asked to random sub-sample of Scotland]

- 1 Scotland should become independent, separate from the UK
- 2 Scotland should remain part of the UK, with its own elected parliament that has some taxation powers
- 3 Scotland should be part of the UK without an elected parliament
- 9999 Don't know

scotWordingBasic if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

Imagine there was a referendum on the following question:
"Should Scotland be an independent country?"
How would you vote in such a referendum?

[Fielded to random 1/3 sample]

- 1 Yes
- 0 No
- 998 Wouldn't vote
- 9999 Don't know

scotWordingAgree if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

Imagine there was a referendum on the following question: “Do you agree that Scotland should be an independent country?” How would you vote in such a referendum?

[Fielded to random 1/3 sample]

- 1 Yes
- 0 No
- 998 Wouldn't vote
- 9999 Don't know

scotWordingRemain if country==2

SINGLE CHOICE

Imagine there was a referendum on the following question: “Should Scotland remain in the United Kingdom or leave the United Kingdom?” How would you vote in such a referendum?

[Fielded to random 1/3 sample]

- 0 Remain
- 1 Leave
- 998 Wouldn't vote
- 9999 Don't know

**sSqueeze1 if scotWordingBasic in
[998,9999] or scotWordingAgree in
[998,9999]**

SINGLE CHOICE

You have said you \$scotWord1. If you had to \$scotSq1 either 'No' or 'Yes' which would you go for?

- 1 Yes
 - 0 No
 - 998 Wouldn't vote
 - 9999 Don't know
-

**sSqueeze2 if scotWordingRemain in
[998,9999]**

SINGLE CHOICE

You have said you \$scotWord1. If you had to \$scotSq1 either 'Remain' or 'Leave' which would you go for?

- 0 Remain
 - 1 Leave
 - 998 Wouldn't vote
 - 9999 Don't know
-

scotCertain1 if scotWordingBasic in [1,0] or scotWordingRemain in [1,0] or scotWordingAgree in [1,0] or sSqueeze1 in [1,0] or sSqueeze2 in [1,0]

SINGLE CHOICE

You have said you would vote \$scotWord2. How certain are you that you would vote that way?

-
- 1 – Not certain at all
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7 – Completely certain
 - 9999 Don't know
-

Location

gorW22_1

SINGLE CHOICE

You have said you would vote \$scotWord2. How certain are you that you would vote that way?

-
- 1 North East
 - 2 North West
 - 3 Yorkshire and Humber
 - 4 East Midlands
 - 5 West Midlands
 - 6 East of England
 - 7 London
 - 8 South East
 - 9 South West
 - 10 Wales
 - 11 Scotland
-