

## Non-voters Survey (9-17 May 2005)

### Summary

The survey was conducted with 1,025 people between 9-17 May 2005 who stated that they were on the electoral register but did not vote in the General Election on 5 May.

The findings from the total sample are set out below. Further analysis will appear on the Inquiry website ([www.powerinquiry.org](http://www.powerinquiry.org)) over the next few weeks.

1. Are you eligible to vote in the United Kingdom?

1= Yes	100%
2 = No	0%

2. Did you vote in the General Election on May 5<sup>th</sup>?

1= Yes	0%
2 = No	100%

3. Were you registered to vote in the General Election on May 5<sup>th</sup>?

1= Yes	100%
2 = No	0%

4. Have you voted in any other elections in the last 10 Years?

1= Yes	59%
2 = No	41%

5. How interested do you consider yourself to be in politics?

1= Very interested	8%
2 = Interested	26%
3= Not particularly interested	32%
4 = Not interested at all	34%

6. I am going to read you a list of issues. Can you say which of the issues, if any, really matter to you?

1 = the NHS	90%
2 = law and order	84%
3 = education	80%
4 = the environment	79%
5 = the economy	71%
6 = tax and spending	67%
7 = health and lifestyle issues	65%
8 = asylum and immigration	62%
9 = Third world poverty and development	59%
10 = transport	52%
11 = Iraq and the Middle east	45%
12 = Europe	34%
13 = international affairs	33%
No answer -	2%

7. In the past twelve months, have you been a member of or an active participant in any of the following?

1 = a charity	19%
2 = a local community or voluntary group (e.g. neighbourhood watch))	13%
3 = a sports, arts or leisure group	12%
4 = a trade union	7%
5 = a local public body (e.g. school governing body or PTA)	4%
6 = a campaign group (e.g. Countryside Alliance, Greenpeace)	2%
7 = a political party	1%
8 = no answer	63%

8. Thinking about the General Election on May 5<sup>th</sup>, what was the main reason for you not voting? (unprompted question)

1= could not be bothered/didn't care/didn't get round to it	19%
2 = it was inconvenient	15%
3 = politicians are untrustworthy/promise things they can't deliver	13%
4 = personal reasons (ill health, death of relative etc.)	10%
5 = There was no choice on offer/no difference between the political parties	9%
6 = didn't receive a polling card	4%
7 = Politicians don't care about me/my views/are only in it for themselves	4%
8 = voting doesn't change anything	4%
9 = I didn't have enough information about the parties/candidates.	3%
10 = didn't like any of the parties	3%
11 = I was on holiday	2%
12 = religious reasons	2%
13 = the national outcome was certain	1%
14 = the party I wanted to vote for had no chance of winning power	1%
15 = a protest against my normal part of choice	1%
16 = I was undecided	1%
17 = I was too busy	1%

18 = I didn't have enough information about voting arrangements	1%
19 = I was undecided	1%
20 = I forgot to vote	1%
21 = others (below 1% response)	4%

9. I am now going to read you a list of things that people have said might encourage them to vote. For each one, I want you to let me know how likely they would be to encourage you to vote. I want you to do this by answering very likely, likely, neither likely nor unlikely, not particularly likely, not likely at all.

	<b>very likely</b>	<b>likely</b>	<b>neither likely nor unlikely</b>	<b>not particularly likely</b>	<b>not likely at all</b>
1= Voting was made more convenient. For example, you could vote on the internet or using your mobile	21%	23%	7%	13%	35%
2 = There were incentives to vote. For example, you could be given a lottery ticket or shopping voucher if you voted	11%	13%	8%	19%	48%
3 = The result of my constituency election was less certain	10%	23%	9%	19%	33%
4 = The result of the national election was less certain	13%	25%	8%	19%	31%
5 = There were more differences between the political parties	19%	29%	7%	16%	25%
6 = My preferred party had a real chance to win power	24%	25%	8%	14%	24%
7 = Politicians' promises could be trusted	32%	21%	5%	12%	28%

8 = Politicians listened to my views between elections	25%	28%	6%	12%	26%
9 = More information on the candidates in my constituency.	18%	31%	8%	16%	26%
10 = An option to vote for “none of the above” on the ballot paper	17%	25%	8%	17%	29%
11 = One of the candidates or their representative had contacted me recently	6%	18%	10%	23%	41%
12 = More information about voting arrangements	11%	23%	11%	20%	33%

10. I am now going to read you a list of new ways in which people could be involved in decisions that affect their lives. For each of these ideas, I want you to tell me how likely you would be to take part. I want you to do this by answering very likely, likely, neither likely nor unlikely, not particularly likely, not likely at all

	<b>very likely</b>	<b>likely</b>	<b>neither likely nor unlikely</b>	<b>not particularly likely</b>	<b>not likely at all</b>
1= A referendum, where the public has the opportunity to vote a simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ on a important debate	34%	37%	5%	7%	16%
2 = The ability to force your MP to face an election if enough members of the public demanded it.	27%	36%	5%	12%	17%
3 = Meetings where members of the public hear different expert viewpoints on a controversial issue, and then	24%	35%	6%	13%	19%

agree what to do next with politicians					
4 = Meetings where members of the public agree how and where local money will be spent with local councillors.	35%	35%	4%	7%	17%
5 = A large group of members of the public explore a controversial issue over the space of a year and then have their recommendations put to a referendum	25%	37%	6%	12%	18%
6 = An issue is put to a referendum if enough people demand it.	30%	41%	5%	8%	14%