

Evidence of past electoral support and evidence of current support ahead of the various elections taking place on 4 and 18 May 2023

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# 1. Overview

On 4 May 2023 there will be local (and mayoral)¹ elections taking place in some parts of England. On 18 May 2023 there will be local elections taking place in Northern Ireland. To help broadcasters to take editorial decisions during election campaigns, we are publishing a digest of evidence of past electoral support (i.e. election results) and evidence of current support (in the form of opinion polls). This digest also sets out the factors we consider when making decisions on election-related programming, including putting more weight on evidence of past electoral support than evidence of current support (e.g. opinion polls).

#### What we are including in this document

This document is an updated version of the digests of evidence of past electoral support and current support we published ahead of the various elections since May 2017.

This digest provides a range of information to assist broadcasters when they are making: editorial decisions about election coverage during the election period<sup>2</sup> under Section Six of the Broadcasting Code ("the Code"); and decisions about allocation of party election broadcasts ("PEBs") under Ofcom's rules on Party Political and Referendum Broadcasts ("the PPRB Rules"). However, this digest is not intended to be an exhaustive compendium of all currently relevant electoral evidence. Broadcasters should also take account of other relevant information when making decisions in relation to their coverage of elections. For example, broadcasters should take account of relevant past electoral support and/or current support for parties and candidates in particular constituencies and electoral areas, when making editorial decisions in relation to coverage of electoral contests in those areas.

1.1 Since 9 March 2017,<sup>3</sup> Ofcom has required broadcasters to take election-related editorial decisions and decisions about allocations of PEBs and party political broadcasts ("PPBs") by reference to evidence of past electoral support and/or current support. As an aid to broadcasters, we have published digests of evidence of past electoral support (i.e. election results) and evidence of current support (in the form of opinion polls) ahead of the various elections that took place in the UK since 9 March 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This includes four local authority mayoral elections in: Bedford; Leicester; Mansfield; and Middlesbrough.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> In relation to the various elections taking place on 4 and 18 May 2023, the rules in Section Six of Ofcom's Broadcasting Code will apply when the "election period" commences. The start dates of the election period in England and Northern Ireland will be confirmed in a Note to Broadcasters, to be published in March 2023 in Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> On this date, Ofcom published its <u>Statement amending its rules in the areas of due impartiality</u>, due accuracy, elections and referendums ("the Statement"). In the Statement, we set out our decision to remove the concept of larger parties from Section Six of the Code and the PPRB Rules and to replace it with a requirement on broadcasters to take election-related editorial decisions and decisions about allocations of PEBs and party political broadcasts ("PPBs") by reference to evidence of past electoral support and/or current support.

- 1.2 We consider it would be helpful to set out some of the factors Ofcom takes into account in weighing different types of evidence when taking decisions around the enforcement of Section Six of our Code in the area of elections. These factors, set out below, reflect the approach we have taken to complaints since March 2017:
  - we place greater weight on the actual performance of a political party or an
    independent candidate in elections over opinion poll data. This reflects the fact that
    electoral performance is a measure of how voters have actually exercised their
    democratic choice. This compares with the greater uncertainty associated with support
    in opinion polls, which may not translate into actual votes or seats at an election;
  - in considering past electoral support, we take into account factors such as the electoral
    performance of parties (including the numbers of elected candidates and overall
    percentage of vote received) or independent candidates in the previous set of
    corresponding elections over at least two electoral cycles;
  - we also take into account performance in other relevant past elections being contested at the same time, as well as performance in other recent past elections;
  - we take into account the electoral performance of parties or independent candidates over at least two electoral cycles when considering performance in any given type of elections. However, we place less weight on the evidence of electoral performance two or more electoral cycles ago given the historical nature of this evidence;
  - where relevant we consider evidence in relation to electoral performance in the different nations of the UK;
  - while putting less weight on levels of current support as opposed to actual
    performance, we put weight on evidence of current support that is objective and
    measurable. One type of objective and measurable evidence of current support is
    opinion poll data, where it is available. There may be other types of evidence of current
    support but in considering such evidence we would take into account the consistency
    and objectivity of each type of evidence; and
  - our intention is always to undertake a balanced assessment having regard to the totality of relevant evidence.
- 1.3 For further information regarding evidence of past electoral support and current support, please see our <u>Guidance to Section Six</u> of the Code, paragraphs 1.42-1.47.
- 1.4 In Section Two we lay out evidence of past electoral support in the form of past election results, which includes the performance, over two election cycles, of political parties across the nations of the UK in: English local and, where relevant, mayoral elections; local elections in Northern Ireland; and other significant elections which are not being contested on 4 or 18 May 2023.
- 1.5 In the event that elections take place later in the year, it is open to broadcasters to make reference to this digest in helping to frame their decisions. However, it might also be necessary for broadcasters to assess any more recent evidence that may be relevant.
- 1.6 In Section Three we lay out evidence of current support for the political parties across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the form of opinion polling data since the various elections which took place on 5 May 2022.

## **Guidance on the PPRB Rules on scheduling**

1.7 Rules 25 and 26 of our PPRB Rules set out the scheduling requirements for PEBs and PPBs. <sup>4</sup>
We expect broadcasters to make scheduling decisions in a fair and consistent manner
having regard to evidence of past electoral and current support. We will therefore expect
broadcasters to continue to allocate PEBs and PPBs to parties with higher levels of past
electoral and current support at times which are likely to attract higher rather than lower
numbers of viewers and listeners. We will also expect broadcasters to ensure that different
parties are allocated PEBs and PPBs at different times in the schedule, in order to ensure
the various parties' messages reach the widest possible audience. In particular, if a
broadcaster consistently allocated PEBs and/or PPBs to a particular party at times
attracting the lowest audiences, we would view this as potentially raising issues regarding
the preservation of due impartiality under Section Five and/or (when during an election
period) Section Six of the Code.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Rule 25 states: "PEBs, PPBs and RCBs on television must be carried between 5.30pm and 11.30pm". Rule 26 states: "PEBs and RCBs on radio must be carried between 6.00am and 10.00pm".

# 2. Evidence of past electoral support

## **Previous results of elections being contested in 2023**

#### **English local elections**

2.1 Figure 1 sets out figures collated by the Elections Centre, Plymouth University, of the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties for English local elections in recent years, including: the past two cycles of English local elections in terms of sequential years (2021 and 2022); and the last two elections where the seats being contested in May 2023 were last contested (2015 and 2019).

Figure 1: Numbers of seats and share of vote at English local elections 2014 to 2022

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
2014	2,124	1,366	429	163	38	146
	25.9%	35.8%	11.1%	15.7%	6.6%	5.1%
2015	5,540	2,292	661	201	84	562
	35.8%	28.4%	10.3%	12.8%	6.5%	6.2%
2016	841	1,325	380	59	45	120
	27.0%	38.9%	12.8%	10.9%	6.0%	4.6%
2017	1,439	417	315	1	20	178
	46.6%	20.0%	18.0%	4.7%	4.4%	6.4%
2018	1,331	2,352	539	3	40	146
	31.8%	41.2%	14.0%	1.3%	6.7%	5.1%
2019	3,559	2,020	1,351	34	263	1,198
	31.4%	26.6%	16.9%	4.5%	9.2%	11.4%
2021	2,337	1,346	588	0	152	307
	40.5%	27.0%	15.3%	0.1%	9.1%	7.9%
2022	1,078	2,269	715	N/A	116	222
	29.3%	38.1%	16.5%		9.5%	6.6%

Source: The Elections Centre, Plymouth University

### **English mayoral elections**

- 2.2 Mayoral elections are due to take place in May 2023 in England for Bedford, Leicester, Mansfield and Middlesbrough.
- 2.3 Figure 2 sets out the winning party and the share of the first preference vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of the mayoral elections being contested.

Figure 2: Number of mayoralties and share of vote at mayoral elections in 2015 and 2019

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
Bedford						
2015	0 24.1%	0 19.8%	1 31.4%	0 8.8%	N/A	0 16.0%
2019	0 32.3%	0 19.8%	1 36.0%	0 5.4%	0 6.6%	N/A
Leicester						
2015	0 18.6%	1 54.6%	0 6.3%	0 9.6%	0 6.6%	0 4.3%
2019	0 17.2%	1 61.0%	0 5.0%	0 4.2%	0 7.9%	0 4.9%
Mansfield						
2015	N/A	0 37.9%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 58.8%⁵
2019	0 15.2%	1 29.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 55.6% <sup>6</sup>
Middlesbrough						
2015	0 7.8%	1 33.8%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0 58.4%
2019	0 8.1%	0 22.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	1 69.2% <sup>7</sup>

Source: Local authorities websites

<sup>5</sup> The mayoralty was won by the Mansfield Independent Forum candidate, who received 37.94% of first preference votes. An independent candidate received a further 20.84% of first preference votes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> The Mansfield Independent Forum candidate received 24.84% of first preference votes. Other independent candidates received 30.74% of first preference votes in total.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The mayoralty was won by an independent candidate who received 59.2% of first preference votes. Another independent candidate won 10.0% of first preference votes.

#### **Northern Ireland local elections**

2.4 Figure 3 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of the Northern Ireland local elections.

Figure 3: Number of seats and share of vote at Northern Ireland local elections in 2014 and 2019

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	Others /Ind
2014	130	105	66	88	32	13	4	21
	23.1%	24.1%	13.6%	16.2%	6.7%	4.5%	0.9%	11.1%
2019	122	105	59	75	53	6	8	34
	24.1%	23.2%	12.0%	14.1%	11.5%	2.2%	2.1%	10.9%

Source: BBC and local authority websites

# Previous results of other significant elections which are not being contested in May 2023

2.5 Figures 4 to 15 set out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in a range of other significant elections which are not being contested in May 2023.

#### **UK General Elections**

2.6 Figure 4 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties for the last two General Elections in England, Wales and Scotland.

Figure 4: Number of seats and share of vote at General Elections in 2017 and 2019 (England, Wales and Scotland)

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	Green	Others/ Ind
2017							
England	296 45.4%	227 41.9%	8 7.8%	N/A	N/A	1 1.9%	1 3.0%
Wales	8 33.6%	28 48.9%	0 4.5%	N/A	4 10.4%	0 0.3%	0 2.2%
Scotland	13 28.6%	7 27.1%	4 6.8%	35 36.9%	N/A	0 0.2%	0 0.5%
2019							
England	345 47.2%	179 33.9%	7 12.4%	N/A	N/A	1 3.0%	1 1.0%

Wales	14	22	0	N/A	4	0	0
	36.1%	40.9%	6.0%	IN/ A	9.9%	1.0%	0.6%
Scotland	6	1	4	48	NI/A	0	0
Scotiana	25.1%	18.6%	9.5%	45.0%	N/A	1.0%	0.4%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

2.7 Figure 5 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties for the last two General Elections in Northern Ireland.

Figure 5: Number of seats and share of vote at General Elections in 2017 and 2019 (Northern Ireland)

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	Others /Ind
2017	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	1
2017	36.0%	29.4%	11.7%	10.3%	7.9%	0.4%	0.9%	3.2%
2010	8	7	2	0	1	N1 / A	0	0
2019	<b>2019</b> 30.6%	22.8%	14.9%	11.7%	16.8%	N/A 0.2%		3.4%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

#### **Northern Ireland Assembly elections**

2.8 Figure 6 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of the Northern Ireland Assembly elections.

Figure 6: Number of seats and share of vote at Northern Ireland Assembly elections in 2017 and 2022

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	Others/ Ind
2017	28	27	12	10	8	1	2	2
	28.1%	27.9%	11.9%	12.9%	9.1%	2.6%	2.3%	5.4%
2022	25	27	8	9	17	1	0	3
	21.3%	29.0%	9.1%	11.2%	13.5%	7.6%	1.9%	6.3%

Source: BBC

### **European Parliamentary elections**

2.9 Figure 7 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the last two cycles of European Parliamentary elections in England, Wales and Scotland.

Figure 7: Number of seats and share of vote at the 2014 and 2019 European Parliamentary elections – England, Wales and Scotland

	Cons	Lab	Lib- Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	Brexit	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2014									
England	17 24.9%	17 25.2%	1 7.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	22 29.2%	3 8.0%	0 4.5%
Wales	1 17.4%	1 28.1%	0 3.9%	N/A	1 15.3%	N/A	1 27.6%	0 4.5%	0 2.1%
Scotland	1 17.2%	2 25.9%	0 7.1%	2 29.0%	N/A	N/A	1 10.5%	0 8.1%	0 1.5%
Great Britain	19 23.9%	20 25.4%	1 6.9%	2 2.5%	1 0.7%	N/A	24 27.5%	3 7.9%	0 5.2%
2019									
England	3 9.0%	9 14.6%	15 21.3%	N/A	N/A	26 33.4%	0 3.5%	7 12.9%	0 5.4%
Wales	0 6.5%	1 15.3%	0 13.6%	N/A	1 19.6%	2 32.5%	0 3.3%	0 6.3%	0 2.9%
Scotland	1 11.6%	0 9.3%	1 13.9%	3 37.8%	N/A	1 14.8%	0 1.8%	0 8.2%	0 2.4%
Great Britain	4 9.1%	10 14.1%	16 20.3%	3 3.6%	1 1.0%	29 31.6%	0 3.3%	7 12.1%	0 5.0%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

2.10 Figure 8 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties for the last two cycles of European Parliamentary elections in Northern Ireland.

Figure 8: Number of seats and share of vote at the 2014 and 2019 European Parliamentary elections – Northern Ireland

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	Others /Ind
2014	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
2014	20.9%	25.5%	13.0%	13.3%	7.1%	12.1%	3.9%	4.2%
2010	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
2019	21.8%	22.2%	13.7%	9.3%	18.5%	10.8%	2.2%	1.5%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

#### **London mayoral elections**

Figure 9 sets out winning party and the share of the first preference vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of London mayoral elections.

Figure 9: Share of vote at London mayoral elections in 2016 and 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2016	0	1	0	0	0	0
2016	35.0%	44.2%	4.6%	3.6%	5.8%	6.6%
2021	0	1	0	0	0	0
2021	35.3%	40.0%	4.4%	0.6%	7.8%	11.9%

Source: BBC

#### **London Assembly elections**

2.11 Figure 10 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of the London Assembly elections.

Figure 10: Numbers of seats and share of vote at London Assembly elections in 2016 and 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
2016						
Directly	5	9	0	0	0	0
elected	31.1%	43.5%	7.5%	7.6%	9.1%	1.2%
Regional	3	3	1	2	2	0
list	29.2%	40.3%	6.3%	6.5%	8.0%	9.6%
2021						
Directly	5	9	0	N/A	0	0
elected	32.0%	41.7%	10.3%	IN/A	13.0%	3.0%
Regional	4	2	2	0	3	0
list	30.7%	38.1%	7.3%	1.1%	11.8%	11.0%

Source: BBC and London Elects website

# Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") elections

2.12 Figure 11 sets out the numbers of PCC posts won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of PCC elections.

Figure 11: Numbers of PCC posts and share of vote at PCC elections in 2016 and 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2016							
England	20	13	0	NI/A	0	0	3
	30.2%	34.3%	9.1%	N/A	14.8%	1.4%	7.8%
Wales	0	2	0	2	0		0
	21.9%	34.1%	4.7%	23.7%	4.9%	N/A	10.7%
2021							
England	30	5	0	NI/A	NI/A	0	0
	45.2%	30.0%	14.3%	N/A	N/A	2.6%	7.9%
Wales	0	3	0	1	NI/A	NI/A	0
	28.4%	35.1%	5.2%	23.5%	N/A	A N/A	7.8%

Source: House of Commons Library

#### **Welsh Parliamentary elections**

2.13 Figure 12 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of the Welsh Parliamentary elections.

Figure 12: Numbers of seats and share of vote at Welsh Parliamentary elections in 2016 and 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2016							
Directly-	5	27	1	6	0	0	0
elected	21.1%	34.7%	7.7%	20.5%	12.5%	2.5%	1.0%
Regional	11	2	0	6	7	0	0
list	18.8%	31.5%	6.5%	20.8%	13.0%	3.0%	6.5%
2021							
Directly-	8	27	0	5	0	0	0
elected	26.1%	39.9%	4.9%	20.3%	0.8%	1.6%	6.4%
Regional	8	3	1	8	0	0	0
list	25.1%	36.2%	4.3%	20.7%	1.6%	4.4%	7.7%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

#### **Scottish Parliamentary elections**

2.14 Figure 13 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of the Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Figure 13: Numbers of seats and share of vote at Scottish Parliamentary elections in 2016 and 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	Scottish Green	Others /Ind
2016						
Directly-	7	3	4	59	0	0
elected	22.0%	22.6%	7.8%	46.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Danianal list	24	21	1	4	6	0
Regional list	22.9%	19.1%	5.2%	41.7%	6.6%	4.5%
2021						
Directly-	5	2	4	62	0	0
elected	21.9%	21.6%	6.9%	47.7%	1.3%	0.6%
	26	20	0	2	8	0
Regional list	23.5%	17.9%	5.1%	40.3%	8.1%	5.1%

Source: BBC and Electoral Commission

#### Welsh local elections

2.15 Figure 14 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of Welsh local elections.

Figure 14: Number of seats and share of vote at Welsh local elections in 2017 and 2022

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	Green	Others /Ind
2017	184	468	63	208	1	330
	18.8%	34.4%	6.8%	16.5%	1.3%	26.1%
2022	112	527	70	203	8	314
	15.2%	34.0%	7.0%	17.0%	2.3%	24.4%

Source: BBC and the Elections Centre, Plymouth University

#### Scottish local elections

2.16 Figure 15 sets out the numbers of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of Scottish local elections.

Evidence of past electoral support and current support ahead of the various elections taking place on 4 and 18 May 2023

Figure 15: Number of seats and share of vote at Scottish local elections in 2017 and 2022

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	Green	Others /Ind
2017	276	262	67	431	19	172
	25.3%	20.2%	6.9%	32.3%	4.1%	11.2%
2022	214	282	87	453	35	155
	19.6%	21.7%	8.6%	34.1%	6.0%	9.9%

Source: BBC and Electoral Commission

# 3. Evidence of current support

We lay out below evidence of current support, as indicated by opinion polls, in England and Northern Ireland.

## **England**

- 3.1 We are not aware of any recent aggregated figures from across different polling organisations showing opinion poll data for the political parties in England only. However, Great Britain-wide polls can be used as a proxy for gauging levels of current support in England only. One source of aggregated Great Britain-wide opinion poll figures is the Polling Observatory project.
- 3.2 The Polling Observatory project has produced estimates of current support by pooling all the available evidence to reduce the impact of the random variation that each individual survey inevitably produces.
- 3.3 Figure 16 set outs the Polling Observatory data from the various elections in May 2022 to the end of January 2023. These figures are calculated on the basis of a rolling average of all polls over a two-month window, unadjusted for 'house effects' i.e. estimated biases of the individual pollsters.

Figure 16: Polling Observatory opinion poll data (Great Britain-wide) May 2022 - January 2023

Date (Week beginning)	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Green	Reform
05/05/2022	33.3%	38.9%	10.9%	5.8%	2.5%
12/05/2022	33.0%	39.1%	11.1%	5.8%	2.5%
19/05/2022	32.1%	39.4%	11.3%	5.8%	2.6%
26/05/2022	32.2%	39.7%	11.3%	5.8%	2.6%
02/06/2022	32.4%	39.1%	11.5%	5.7%	2.6%
09/06/2022	32.5%	39.4%	11.6%	5.6%	2.5%
16/06/2022	32.1%	39.7%	11.7%	5.6%	2.7%
23/06/2022	32.3%	39.9%	11.9%	5.5%	2.5%
30/06/2022	31.6%	40.7%	11.8%	5.5%	2.7%
07/07/2022	30.0%	41.1%	12.0%	5.7%	2.7%
14/07/2022	30.7%	41%	11.7%	5.7%	2.8%
21/07/2022	31.6%	40.4%	11.6%	5.8%	2.8%

28/07/2022	32.3%	39.0%	11.7%	5.8%	2.6%
04/08/2022	32.3%	39.3%	11.8%	5.7%	2.5%
11/08/2022	31.6%	40.9%	11.6%	5.6%	2.4%
18/08/2022	31.0%	41.4%	11.5%	5.5%	2.3%
25/08/2022	30.9%	42.0%	11.4%	5.5%	2.3%
01/09/2022	30.9%	42.0%	11.2%	5.4%	2.1%
08/09/2022	32.1%	42.2%	10.6%	5.3%	2.0%
15/09/2022	31.4%	42.4%	10.3%	5.3%	2.2%
22/09/2022	28.6%	45.6%	9.8%	5.1%	2.2%
29/09/2022	25.3%	49.0%	9.9%	4.9%	2.1%
06/10/2022	23.9%	50.8%	9.9%	4.8%	2.2%
13/10/2022	22.0%	52.1%	10.1%	4.6%	2.4%
20/10/2022	22.6%	52.2%	9.7%	4.4%	2.9%
27/10/2022	25.5%	49.5%	9.4%	4.4%	3.3%
03/11/2022	26.6%	48.0%	9.2%	4.5%	3.8%
10/11/2022	26.4%	48.2%	9.0%	4.5%	4.2%
17/11/2022	26.2%	47.6%	9.2%	4.6%	4.5%
24/11/2022	26.0%	47.0%	9.4%	4.6%	5.0%
01/12/2022	26.4%	46.5%	9.4%	4.7%	5.5%
08/12/2022	27.2%	46.2%	9.1%	4.8%	5.8%
15/12/2022	26.2%	46.4%	9.1%	4.8%	6.2%
22/12/2022	25.4%	46.7%	9.2%	4.8%	6.1%
29/12/2022	25.7%	46.7%	9.2%	4.8%	5.9%
05/01/2023	26.2%	46.7%	9.2%	4.8%	5.7%
12/01/2023	26.3%	46.7%	9.1%	4.9%	5.8%
19/01/2023	26.2%	47.2%	8.9%	4.8%	5.8%
26/01/2023	26.0%	47.5%	8.9%	4.9%	5.7%

Source: Polling Observatory

#### **Northern Ireland**

3.4 Figure 17 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Northern Ireland, from May 2022 to February 2023, based on voting intention at Northern Ireland Assembly Elections.

Figure 17: Voting preference in Northern Ireland Assembly Elections

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	Others/Ind
Institute of Irish Studies (Jul 2022)	20.1%	30.9%	10.0%	9.6%	15.3%	4.7%	2.8%	6.6%
LucidTalk (Aug 2022)	24.0%	30.0%	7.0%	11.0%	16.0%	6.0%	2.0%	4.0%
LucidTalk (Nov 2022)	27.0%	32.0%	7.0%	9.0%	15.0%	5.0%	2.0%	3.0%
LucidTalk (Jan 2023)	25.0%	31.0%	7.0%	10.0%	15.0%	7.0%	1.0%	4.0%

#### **Scotland**

3.5 Figure 18 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Scotland from May 2022 to February 2023, based on voting intention at General Elections. Figure 19 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Scotland, from May 2022 to February 2023, based on voting intention at Scottish Parliamentary elections (both in terms of directly-elected constituency voting intention and regional list voting intention).

Figure 18: Voting preference in UK General Elections

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	Green	Reform UK	Others/Ind.
YouGov (May 2022)	19.0%	22.0%	6.0%	46.0%	3.0%	1.0%	2.0%
lpsos (May 2022)	19.0%	23.0%	10.0%	44.0%	3.0%	N/A	2.0%
Savanta ComRes (Jun 2022)	18.0%	25.0%	8.0%	46.0%	N/A	N/A	3.0%

Panelbase (Jul 2022)	19.0%	23.0%	8.0%	47.0%	N/A	N/A	3.0%
Panelbase (Aug 2022)	20.0%	23.0%	8.0%	44.0%	N/A	N/A	5.0%
Survation (Sep 2022)	15.0%	31.0%	6.0%	44.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
ComRes (Oct 2022)	15.0%	30.0%	8.0%	46.0%	N/A	N/A	1.0%
YouGov (Oct 2022)	12.0%	31.0%	7.0%	45.0%	3.0%	N/A	2.0%
Panelbase (5-7 Oct 2022)	15.0%	30.0%	5.0%	45.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Panelbase (7-11 Oct 2022)	16.0%	30.0%	6.0%	42.0%	2.0%	N/A	2.0%
Redfield & Wilton (Nov 2022)	16.0%	31.0%	8.0%	41.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%
Ipsos MORI (Dec 2022)	13.0%	25.0%	6.0%	51.0%	3.0%	N/A	2.0%
YouGov (Dec 2022)	14.0%	29.0%	6.0%	43.0%	4.0%	3.0%	1.0%
Savanta (Dec 2022)	19%	30.0%	6.0%	43.0%	N/A	N/A	2.0%
Survation (Dec 2022)	16.0%	31.0%	6.0%	44.0%	N/A	N/A	1.0%
Survation (Jan 2023)	18.0%	29.0%	7.0%	43.0%	N/A	N/A	2.0%

Figure 19: Voting preference in Scottish Parliamentary elections (constituency vote and regional list vote)

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	Green	Alba	Others/ Ind.
YouGov (May 2022)							
Directly- elected	18.0%	23.0%	7.0%	47.0%	2.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	18.0%	21.0%	8.0%	39.0%	10.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Savanta ComRes (Jun 2022)							
Directly- elected	18.0%	25.0%	8.0%	46.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	20.0%	24.0%	8.0%	33.0%	13.0%	2.0%	1.0%
Panelbase (Jul 2022)							
Directly- elected	17.0%	22.0%	9.0%	47.0%	3.0%	N/A	2.0%
Regional list	19.0%	22.0%	8.0%	41.0%	7.0%	N/A	3.0%
Panelbase (Aug 2022)							
Directly- elected	17.0%	22.0%	9.0%	47.0%	3.0%	N/A	2.0%
Regional list	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Survation (Sep 2022)							
Directly- elected	14.0%	30.0%	6.0%	45.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	14.0%	27.0%	9.0%	31.0%	14.0%	1.0%	3.0%

Savanta ComRes (Oct 2022)							
Directly- elected	17.0%	25.0%	8.0%	47.0%	N/A	N/A	2.0%
Regional list	19.0%	26.0%	8.0%	32.0%	13.0%	2.0%	1.0%
YouGov (Oct 2022)							
Directly- elected	13.0%	26.0%	8.0%	49.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	14.0%	24.0%	8.0%	38.0%	12.0%	N/A	3.0%
Panelbase (Oct 2022)							
Directly- elected	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Regional list	17.0%	26.0%	7.0%	37.0%	9.0%	4.0%	0.0%
Ipsos MORI (Dec 2022)							
Directly- elected	14.0%	24.0%	7.0%	50.0%	3.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	14.0%	21.0%	6.0%	43.0%	13.0%	N/A	3.0%
YouGov (Dec 2022)							
Directly- elected	13.0%	25.0%	7.0%	50.0%	N/A	N/A	5.0%
Regional list	13.0%	24.0%	6.0%	40.0%	11.0%	N/A	4.0%
Savanta (Dec 2022)							
Directly- elected	18.0%	28.0%	8.0%	44.0%	N/A	N/A	2.0%

Regional list	18.0%	24.0%	10.0%	32.0%	13.0%	N/A	2.0%
Survation (Dec 2022)							
Directly- elected	16.0%	29.0%	8.0%	44.0%	0.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	15.0%	26.0%	9.0%	33.0%	12.0%	2.0%	3.0%
Survation (Jan 2023)							
Directly- elected	17.0%	27.0%	8.0%	46.0%	N/A	N/A	2.0%
Regional list	18.0%	25.0%	8.0%	33.0%	12.0%	N/A	3.0%

#### Wales

3.6 Figure 20 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Wales from May 2022 to February 2023, based on voting intention at General Elections. Figure 21 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Wales, from May 2022 to February 2023, based on voting intention at Welsh Parliamentary elections (both in terms of directly-elected constituency voting intention and regional list voting intention).

Figure 20: Voting preference in UK General Elections

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	Reform UK	Green	Others /Ind
YouGov (Jun 2022)	26.0%	41.0%	7.0%	16.0%	4.0%	4.0%	2.0%
YouGov (Sep 2022)	23.0%	46.0%	5.0%	15.0%	5.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Survation (Oct 2022)	24.0%	51.0%	6.0%	13.0%	N/A	N/A	6.0%
YouGov (Dec 2022)	18.0%	51.0%	4.0%	13.0%	8.0%	4.0%	2.0%

Figure 21: Voting preference in Welsh Parliamentary elections (constituency vote and regional list vote)

	Cons	Lab	Lib- Dem.	Plaid Cymru	Reform UK	Green	AWA <sup>8</sup>	Others /Ind
YouGov (Jun 2022)								
Directly- elected	24.0%	37.0%	6.0%	21.0%	5.0%	5.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	21.0%	31.0%	5.0%	24.0%	4.0%	6.0%	6.0%	3.0%
YouGov (Sep 2022)								
Directly- elected	20.0%	40.0%	6.0%	22.0%	5.0%	3.0%	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	18.0%	37.0%	5.0%	21.0%	4.0%	5.0%	7.0%	3.0%
YouGov (Dec 2022)								
Directly- elected	17.0%	44.0%	6.0%	20.0%	7.0%	3.0%	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	16.0%	38.0%	4.0%	23.0%	4.0%	N/A	N/A	15.0%

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 8}$  Abolish the Welsh Assembly.