

# Evidence of past electoral support and evidence of current support ahead of the General Election taking place on 12 December 2019

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# Contents

Section	
1. Overview	1
2. Evidence of past electoral support	4
3 Evidence of current support	17

#### 1. Overview

On 12 December 2019 there will be a General Election taking place in the UK. As an aid to broadcasters, 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).

#### 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 in 2017, 2018 and May 2019.

This digest provides a range of information to assist broadcasters when they are making: editorial decisions about election coverage during the election period¹ under Section Six² 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")³. However, this digest does not attempt to be an exhaustive compendium of all currently relevant electoral evidence. Broadcasters should also take account of other relevant information when making decisions in the area 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 geographical areas.

- 1.1 On 9 March 2017, Ofcom published its Statement<sup>4</sup> amending its rules in the areas of due impartiality, 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. Since the Statement, as an aid to broadcasters, we published, ahead of: the various elections that took place on 4 May 2017; the General Election that took place on 8 June 2017; the various elections that took place on 3 May 2018; the various elections that took place on 2 May 2019; and the European Parliamentary elections that took place on 23 May 2019, digests of evidence of past electoral support (i.e. election results) and evidence of current support (in the form of opinion polls).
- 1.2 As in the Statement, we consider it would be helpful to set out factors Ofcom takes into account in weighing different types of evidence when taking decisions in the area of elections. These factors reflect the approach we have taken to complaints and in our previous reviews of the list of larger parties:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In relation to the General Election taking place on 12 December 2019, the rules in Section Six of the Code will apply when the "election period" commences, on 6 November 2019.

 $<sup>^2 \, \</sup>text{See} \, \underline{\text{https://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv-radio-and-on-demand/broadcast-codes/broadcast-code/section-six-elections-referendums}$ 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See <a href="https://www.ofcom.org.uk/">https://www.ofcom.org.uk/</a> data/assets/pdf file/0035/99188/pprb-rules-march-2017.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See <a href="https://www.ofcom.org.uk/">https://www.ofcom.org.uk/</a> data/assets/pdf file/0030/98148/Due-impartiality-and-elections-statement.pdf

- we place greater weight on the actual performance of a political party 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 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) 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 past elections not being contested at a given time;
- we take into account the electoral performance of parties 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 the different devolved 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 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 General Elections.
- 1.4 While it is open to broadcasters to make reference to the digest in helping to frame their decisions in relation to what we anticipate to be the relatively few elections that might occur later in the year, it might be necessary for broadcasters to assess any more recent evidence that may be relevant.
- 1.5 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 23 May 2019.

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

1.6 As set out in the Statement, we decided to simplify the scheduling requirements in Rules 25 and 26 of our PPRB Rules<sup>5</sup>. However, 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 PPBs to a particular party at times attracting the lowest audiences, we would view this as potentially raising issues with that broadcaster's preservation of due impartiality during an election period, and would take action accordingly.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</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 2019

#### **UK General Elections**

2.1 Figure 1 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 1: Number of seats and share of vote at General Elections in 2015 and 2017 (England, Wales and Scotland)

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green <sup>6</sup>	Others /Ind
2015								
England	318 40.9%	206 31.6%	6 8.2%	N/A	N/A	1 14.1%	1 4.2%	1 1.0%
Wales	11 27.2%	25 36.9%	1 6.5%	N/A	3 12.1%	0 13.5%	0 2.6%	0 1.0%
Scotland	1 14.9%	1 24.3%	1 7.5%	56 50.0%	N/A	0 1.6%	0 1.3%	0 0.4%
2017								
England	296 45.4%	227 41.9%	8 7.8%	N/A	N/A	0 2.1%	1 1.9%	1 0.9%
Wales	8 33.6%	28 48.9%	0 4.5%	N/A	4 10.4%	0 2.0%	0 0.3%	0 0.2%
Scotland	13 28.6%	7 27.1%	4 6.8%	35 36.9%	N/A	0 0.2%	0 0.2%	0 0.3%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

2.2 Figure 2 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 2015 and 2017 (Northern Ireland)

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2015	8	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	1
	25.7%	24.5%	13.9%	16.0%	8.6%	2.3%	2.6%	1.0%	5.4%
2017	10	7	0	0	0	0		0	1
	36.0%	29.4%	11.7%	10.3%	7.9%	0.4%	N/A	0.9%	3.2%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

4

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> And Scottish Green Party.

2.3 Figures 3 and 4 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties for the five Westminster by-elections (in England, Wales and Northern Ireland)<sup>7</sup> since the 2017 General Election

Figure 3: Winning party and share of vote in the three Westminster by-elections<sup>8</sup> that has taken place in England since the 2017 General Election

	Cons	Lab	Lib- Dem.	Plaid Cymru	Brexit	UKIP	Green	Others/ Ind
Lewisham	0	1	0			0	0	0
East	14.4%	50.2%	24.6%	N/A	N/A	1.7%	3.6%	5.6%
Newport	0	1	0	0		0	0	0
West	31.3%	39.6%	4.6%	5.0%	N/A	8.6%	3.9%	7.0%
Peterborough	0	1	0		0	0	0	0
	21.4%	30.9%	12.3%	N/A	28.9%	1.2%	3.1%	2.2%
Brecon and	0	0	1		0	0		0
Radnorshire	39.0%	5.3%	43.5%	N/A	10.5%	0.8%	N/A	1.1%

Source: Local authority website

Figure 4: Winning party and share of vote in the one Westminster by-election<sup>9</sup> that has taken place in Northern Ireland since the 2017 General Election

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
West	0	1	0	0	0				
Tyrone	23.9%	46.7%	17.9%	8.3%	3.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Local authority website

# Previous results of other significant elections which are not being contested in December 2019

2.4 Figures 5 to 16 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 December 2019.

#### **European Parliamentary elections**

2.5 Figure 5 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties in the past two cycles of European Parliamentary elections in England, Wales and Scotland.

 $<sup>^{7}</sup>$  No by-elections have taken place in Scotland since the 2017 General Election

 $<sup>^{8}</sup>$  Lewisham East on 14 June 2018, Newport West on 4 April 2019, Peterborough on 6 June 2019 and Brecon and Radnorshire on 1 August 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> West Tyrone on 3 May 2018.

Figure 5: 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	17	1				22	3	0
	24.9%	25.2%	7.0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	29.2%	8.0%	4.5%
Wales	1	1	0		1		1	0	0
	17.4%	28.1%	3.9%	N/A	15.3%	N/A	27.6%	4.5%	2.1%
Scotland	1	2	0	2			1	0	0
	17.2%	25.9%	7.1%	29.0%	N/A	N/A	10.5%	8.1%	1.5%
Great	19	20	1	2	1		24	3	0
Britain	23.9%	25.4%	6.9%	2.5%	0.7%	N/A	27.5%	7.9%	5.2%
2019									
England	3	9	15			26	0	7	0
	9.0%	14.6%	21.3%	N/A	N/A	33.4%	3.5%	12.9%	5.4%
Wales	0	1	0		1	2	0	0	0
	6.5%	15.3%	13.6%	N/A	19.6%	32.5%	3.3%	6.3%	2.9%
Scotland	1	0	1	3		1	0	0	0
	11.6%	9.3%	13.9%	37.8%	N/A	14.8%	1.8%	8.2%	2.4%
Great	4	10	16	3	1	29	0	7	0
Britain	9.1%	14.1%	20.3%	3.6%	1.0%	31.6%	3.3%	12.1%	5.0%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

2.6 Figure 6 sets out the number of seats won and share of the popular vote achieved by the various political parties for the past two cycles of European Parliamentary elections in Northern Ireland.

Figure 6: Number of seats and share of vote at the 2009 and 2014 European Parliamentary elections – Northern Ireland

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2014	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	20.9%	25.5%	13.0%	13.3%	7.1%	12.1%	1.7%	3.9%	2.5%
2019	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	21.8%	22.2%	13.7%	9.3%	18.5%	10.8%	0.9%	2.2%	0.6%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

#### **English local elections**

2.7 Figure 7 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. At the time of writing, share of vote figures were not available for the 2019 local elections. The figures in brackets are therefore the percentage share of elected councillors for each party out of the total seats being contested in May 2019.

Figure 7: Numbers of seats and share of vote at English local elections 2012 to 2019

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
2012	786	1,189	288	7	26	116
	27.5%	43.1%	14.1%	4.4%	4.2%	6.7%
2013	1,117	538	352	147	22	186
	34.6%	21.2%	13.9%	19.9%	3.6%	6.8%
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
	(42.2%)	(24.0%)	(16.0%)	(0.4%)	(3.1%)	(14.2%)

Source: The Elections Centre, Plymouth University

#### **London mayoral elections**

2.8 Figure 8 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 8: Share of vote at London mayoral elections in 2012 and 2016

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
2012	1	0	0	0	0	0
	44.0%	40.3%	4.2%	2.0%	4.5%	5.1%
2016	0	1	0	0	0	0
	35.0%	44.2%	4.6%	3.6%	5.8%	6.6%

Source: BBC

#### **London Assembly elections**

2.9 Figure 9 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 9: Numbers of seats and share of vote at London Assembly elections in 2012 and 2016

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
2012						
Directly-	6	8	0	0	0	0
elected	32.7%	42.3%	8.8%	4.3%	8.5%	3.4%
Regional	3	4	2	0	2	0
list	32.0%	41.1%	6.8%	4.5%	8.5%	7.1%
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%

Source: BBC

#### Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") elections

2.10 Figure 10 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 10: Numbers of PCC posts and share of vote at PCC elections in 2012 and 2016

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2012							
England	15	12	0		0	0	10
	29.0%	30.3%	7.3%	N/A	7.4%	0.1%	23.9%
Wales	1	1			0		2
	20.9%	42.1%	N/A	N/A	1.8%	N/A	35.3%
2016							
England	20	13	0		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%

Source: House of Commons Library

#### **Welsh Assembly elections**

2.11 Figure 11 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 Assembly elections.

Figure 11: Numbers of seats and share of vote at Welsh Assembly elections in 2011 and 2016

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2011							
Directly-	6	28	1	5		0	0
elected	25.0%	42.3%	10.6%	19.3%	N/A	0.2%	2.6%
Regional	8	2	4	6	0	0	0
list	22.5%	36.9%	8.0%	17.9%	4.6%	3.4%	6.7%
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%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

#### Welsh local elections

2.12 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 Welsh local elections.

Figure 12: Number of seats and share of vote at Welsh local elections in 2012 and 2017

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid	UKIP	Green	Others
				Cymru			/Ind
2012	104	577	72	158	2	0	311
	12.7%	35.6%	8.0%	15.7%	0.3%	1.2%	26.5%
2017	184	468	63	208	0	1	330
	18.8%	34.4%	6.8%	16.5%	1.1%	1.3%	25.0%

Source: BBC and the Elections Centre, Plymouth University

#### **Scottish Parliamentary elections**

2.13 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 2011 and 2016

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	UKIP	Scottish Green	Others /Ind
2011							
Directly-	3	15	2	53	0		0
elected	13.9%	31.7%	7.9%	45.4%	0.1%	N/A	1.0%
Regional	12	22	3	16	0	2	0
list	12.4%	26.3%	5.2%	44.0%	0.9%	4.4%	6.8%

2016							
Directly-	7	3	4	59		0	0
elected	22.0%	22.6%	7.8%	46.5%	N/A	0.6%	0.5%
Regional	24	21	1	4	0	6	0
list	22.9%	19.1%	5.2%	41.7%	2.0%	6.6%	2.5%

Source: BBC and Electoral Commission

#### Scottish local elections

2.14 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 Scottish local elections.

Figure 14: Number of seats and share of vote at Scottish local elections in 2012 and 2017

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2012	115	394	71	425	0	14	204
	13.3%	31.4%	6.6%	32.3%	0.3%	2.3%	13.8%
2017	276	262	67	431	0	19	172
	25.3%	20.2%	6.9%	32.3%	0.2%	4.1%	11.0%

Source: BBC and Electoral Commission

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

2.15 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 the Northern Ireland Assembly elections.

Figure 15: Number of seats and share of vote at Northern Ireland Assembly elections in 2016 and 2017

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2016	38	28	12	16	8	1	2	0	3
	29.2%	24.0%	12.0%	12.6%	7.0%	3.4%	2.7%	1.5%	7.8%
2017	28	27	12	10	8	1	2	0	2
	28.1%	27.9%	11.9%	12.9%	9.1%	2.6%	2.3%	0.2%	5.3%

Source: BBC

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

2.16 Figure 16 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.

Evidence of past electoral support and current support ahead of the General Election taking place on 12 December 2019

Figure 16: Number of seats and share of vote at Northern Ireland local elections in 2014 and 2019

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
2014	130	105	66	88	32	13	3	4	21
	23.1%	24.1%	13.6%	16.2%	6.7%	4.5%	1.5%	0.9%	9.6%
2019	122	105	59	75	53	6	0	8	34
	24.1%	23.2%	12.0%	14.1%	11.5%	2.2%	0.5%	2.1%	10.4%

Source: BBC and local authority websites

## 3. Evidence of current support

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

#### **England**

- 3.2 We are not aware of any recent aggregated figures of different polling organisations' opinion polls, showing support 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Figure 17 set outs the Polling Observatory data from the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections to October 2019. 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 17: Polling Observatory opinion poll data (Great Britain-wide) May 2019 to October 2019

Date (Week beginning)	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Brexit	UKIP	Green
23/05/19	20.0%	24.5%	17.3%	21.0%	1.0%	5.8%
30/05/19	19.5%	23.7%	18.2%	21.9%	0.5%	6.2%
06/06/19	20.8%	23.9%	18.3%	21.8%	0.6%	6.3%
13/06/19	21.4%	23.9%	18.3%	21.0%	0.8%	6.5%
20/06/19	22.7%	24.0%	18.1%	19.2%	0.9%	6.5%
27/06/19	24.3%	24.1%	17.8%	19.0%	0.3%	6.3%
04/07/19	25.3%	25.0%	17.5%	18.8%	0.3%	6.1%
11/07/19	26.2%	25.2%	18.0%	17.9%	0.3%	5.8%
18/07/19	27.9%	24.9%	18.6%	15.5%	0.6%	5.7%
25/07/19	30.3%	25.3%	18.4%	13.3%	0.3%	5.5%
01/08/19	30.7%	25.0%	18.3%	13.2%	0.3%	5.2%
08/08/19	31.4%	25.3%	17.5%	13.4%	0.4%	5.0%
15/08/19	33.0%	25.5%	17.4%	10.4%	0.2%	4.8%
22/08/19	33.2%	25.2%	17.6%	11.7%	0.5%	4.7%

29/08/19	33.6%	25.7%	18.1%	11.9%	0.2%	4.3%
05/09/19	32.8%	25.5%	18.7%	12.2%	0.4%	4.1%
12/09/19	32.7%	25.0%	19.6%	12.3%	0.4%	3.9%
19/09/19	32.8%	24.5%	19.9%	12.3%	0.2%	3.9%
26/09/19	33.8%	24.8%	19.6%	11.3%	0.0%	3.9%
03/10/19	34.9%	25.4%	18.4%	11.7%	0.2%	4.0%
10/10/19	35.7%	25.3%	18.1%	10.7%	0.1%	4.0%
17/10/19	36.1%	24.6%	18.2%	10.5%	0.3%	4.1%
24/10/19	36.7%	24.7%	17.7%	9.9%	0.3%	4.0%
31/10/19	37.1%	24.8%	17.5%	9.4%	0.3%	3.9%

Source: Polling Observatory

#### Wales

3.5 It is Ofcom's understanding that very few opinion polls have been carried out in relation to Wales only. Figure 18 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Wales from the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections to October 2019, based on voting intention at General Elections. Figure 19 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Wales, from the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections to October 2019, based on voting intention at Welsh Assembly 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.	Plaid Cymru	Brexit	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
YouGov (Jul 2019)	24.0%	22.0%	16.0%	15.0%	18.0%	0.0%	3.0%	1.0%
YouGov (Oct 2019	29.0%	25.0%	16.0%	12.0%	14.0%	0.0%	4.0%	1.0%

Figure 19: Voting preference in Welsh Assembly elections (constituency vote and regional list vote)

	Cons	Lab	Lib- Dem.	Plaid Cymru	Brexit	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
YouGov (Jul 2019)								
Directly- elected	19.0%	21.0%	12.0%	24.0%	19.0%	0.0%	4.0%	2.0%
Regional list	18.0%	19.0%	12.0%	23.0%	17.0%	2.0%	4.0%	5.0%

YouGov (Oct 2019								
Directly- elected	23.0%	25.0%	11.0%	22.0%	15.0%	0.0%	4.0%	1.0%
Regional list	22.0%	23.0%	10.0%	21.0%	14.0%	1.0%	5.0%	4.0%

#### **Scotland**

3.6 It is also Ofcom's understanding that more opinion polls have been carried out in relation to Scotland only compared with Wales only. Figure 20 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Scotland, from the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections to October 2019 based on voting intention at General Elections. Figure 21 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Scotland, from the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections to October 2019, based on voting intention at Scottish Parliamentary elections (both in terms of directly-elected constituency voting intention and regional list voting intention). (Note: In some Survation opinion polls the levels of support for UKIP and the Scottish Green Party were not separately reported in the case of voting preferences for General Elections and directly-elected seats in Scottish Parliamentary elections).

Figure 20: Voting preference in UK General Elections

	Cons	Lab	Lib- Dem.	SNP	Brexit	UKIP	Scottish Green	Others /Ind
Panelbase (Jun 2019)	18.0%	17.0%	13.0%	38.0%	9.0%	1.0%	2.0%	1.0%
YouGov (Sep 2018)	20.0%	15.0%	12.0%	43.0%	6.0%	0.0%	4.0%	0.0%
Panelbase (Oct 2019)	21.0%	19.0%	13.0%	39.0%	5.0%	1.0%	2.0%	0.0%

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

	Cons	Lab	Lib- Dem.	SNP	Brexit	UKIP	Scottish Green	Others /Ind
Panelbase (Jun 2019)								
Directly- elected	20.0%	16.0%	11.0%	42.0%	7.0%	1.0%	3.0%	1.0%
Regional list	20.0%	16.0%	10.0%	39.0%	6.0%	1.0%	7.0%	1.0%

YouGov (Sep 2019)								
Directly- elected	23.0%	13.0%	12.0%	45.0%	3.0%	0.0%	2.0%	1.0%
Regional list	20.0%	11.0%	13.0%	39.0%	5.0%	1.0%	8.0%	3.0%
Panelbase (Oct 2019)								
Directly- elected	21.0%	19.0%	10.0%	42.0%	4.0%	1.0%	3.0%	1.0%
Regional list	21.0%	18.0%	11.0%	38.0%	4.0%	1.0%	6.0%	1.0%

#### **Northern Ireland**

3.7 Ofcom also understands that very few opinion polls have been carried out in relation to Northern Ireland only. Figure 22 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Northern Ireland, from the May 2019 European Parliamentary elections to October 2019, based on voting intention at General Elections.

Figure 23: Voting preference in UK General Elections

	DUP	Sinn Fein	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	UKIP	Green	Others /Ind
LucidTalk (Aug 2019) <sup>10</sup>	29.0%	25.0%	8.0%	9.0%	21.0%	1.0	See others	1.0	6.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The LucidTalk findings above are based on analysis by Electoral Calculus which stated: "these percentage support figures were produced by Electoral Calculus from LucidTalk's seat predictions, using the assumptions that the turnout in each seat would be equal to that of the 2017 General Election and assuming the same pattern as 2017 of DUP/UUP division of seats with a single unionist candidate. LucidTalk has slightly different figures from slightly different assumptions". See: <a href="https://www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/northernireland.html">www.electoralcalculus.co.uk/northernireland.html</a>