

Evidence of past electoral support and evidence of current support ahead of the various elections taking place on 5 May 2022

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Contents

3. Evidence of current support

Section	
1. Overview	1
2. Evidence of past electoral support	4

13

1. Overview

On 5 May 2022 there will be: elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly; local (and mayoral)¹ elections taking place in some parts of England; and local elections taking place in Scotland and Wales. 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 in May and June 2017, May 2018, May and December 2019 and May 2021.²

This digest provides a range of information to assist broadcasters when they are making: editorial decisions about election coverage during the election period³ 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 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 Since 9 March 2017,⁴ 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

¹ This includes one metropolitan mayoral election in South Yorkshire, and six local authority mayoral elections in: Croydon; Hackney; Lewisham; Newham; Tower Hamlets; and Watford.

² Elections scheduled for May 2020 were postponed until May 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

³ In relation to the various elections taking place on 5 May 2022, the rules in Section Six of Ofcom's Broadcasting Code will apply when the "election period" commences. The start date/s of the election period in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will be confirmed in a Note to Broadcasters, to be published in March 2022 in Ofcom's Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin.

⁴ 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.

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 2017.⁵

- 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 6 of our Code in the area of elections. These factors reflect the approach we have taken to complaints since March 2017:
 - 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 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) 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 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 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

⁵ Specifically: 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; the European Parliamentary elections that took place on 23 May 2019; the General Election which took place on 12 December 2019, and the various elections that took place on 6 May 2021.

- the nations of the UK in: Northern Ireland Assembly elections, English local and where relevant, mayoral elections; Scottish local elections, Welsh local elections; and other significant elections which are not being contested on 5 May 2022.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 the various elections which took place on 6 May 2021.

Guidance on the PPRB Rules on scheduling

1.6 Rules 25 and 26 of our PPRB Rules set out the scheduling requirements for PEBs and PPBs.
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.

⁶ 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 2022

Northern Ireland Assembly elections

2.1 Figure 1 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 1: 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 29.2%	28 24.0%	12 12.0%	16 12.6%	8 7.0%	1 3.4%	0 1.5%	2 2.7%	3 7.8%
2017	28 28.1%	27 27.9%	12 11.9%	10 12.9%	8 9.1%	1 2.6%	N/A	2 2.3%	2 5.4%

Source: BBC

English local elections

2.2 Figure 2 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 (2019 and 2021);⁷ and the last two elections where the seats being contested in May 2022 were last contested (2014 and 2018).

Figure 2: Numbers of seats and share of vote at English local elections 2013 to 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
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%

⁷ Elections originally scheduled for May 2020 were postponed until May 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

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%

Source: The Elections Centre, Plymouth University

English mayoral elections

- 2.3 Mayoral elections are due to take place in May 2022 in England for Croydon, Hackney, Lewisham, Newham, South Yorkshire, Tower Hamlets and Watford.
- 2.4 Figure 3 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.8 As the mayoralty of South Yorkshire was created in 2018, there is only one previous election result available. May 2022 will be the inaugural Croydon mayoral election, so there are no previous results available.

Figure 3: Number of mayoralties and share of vote at mayoral elections in 2014 and 2018

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	UKIP	Green	Others/Ind
Hackney						
2016 ⁹	0 11.0%	1 69.0%	0 6.0%	N/A	0 13.0%	0 2.0%
2018	0 11.1%	1 65.9%	0 7.5%	N/A	0 10.5%	0 5.0%
Lewisham						
2014	0 11.1%	1 50.8%	0 10.0%	0 7.9%	0 10.0%	0 10.2%
2018	0 13.3%	1 54.3%	0 8.2%	N/A	0 10.4%	0 13.8%
Newham						

⁸ By-elections were held in Hackney in 2016 and Tower Hamlets in 2015 so we have included these results rather than those from the 2014 mayoral elections.

5

⁹ This was the result of a by-election.

2014	0	1	0	0	0	0
2014	18.0%	61.0%	2.0%	6.0%	4.0%	8.0%
2018	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	0
2016	12.0%	73.0%	9.0%	N/A	IN/A	6.0%
South						
Yorkshire						
2010	0	1	0	NI/A	0	0
2018	14.8%	48.0%	10.6%	N/A	8.0%	18.7%
Tower						
Hamlets						
201510	0	1	0	0	0	0
2015	8.7%	40.0%	3.1%	2.5%	3.9%	41.7%
2018	0	1	0	N/A	0	0
2018	7.9%	48.4%	7.2%	N/A	4.3%	31.2%
Watford						
2014	0	0	1	0	NI/A	NI/A
2014	13.6%	25.7%	45.9%	14.8%	N/A	N/A
2019	0	0	1	NI/A	NI/A	NI/A
2018	17.5%	33.8%	48.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Local authorities websites

Welsh local elections

2.5 Figure 4 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 4: Number of seats and share of vote at Welsh local elections in 2012 and 2017

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green	Others /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

6

 $^{^{\}rm 10}$ This was the result of a by-election.

Scottish local elections

2.6 Figure 5 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 5: 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

Previous results of other significant elections which are not being contested in May 2022

2.7 Figures 6 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 2022.

UK General Elections

2.8 Figure 6 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.

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem	SNP	Plaid Cymru	UKIP	Green	Others/ Ind
2017								
England	296	227	8	NI/A	NI/A	0	1	1
England	45.4%	41.9%	7.8%	N/A	N/A	2.1%	1.9%	0.9%
Wales	8	28	0	N/A	4	0	0	0
vvales	33.6%	48.9%	4.5%	IN/A	10.4%	2.0%	0.3%	0.2%
Scotland	13	7	4	35	N/A	0	0	0
Scotianu	28.6%	27.1%	6.8%	36.9%	IN/ A	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
2019								

For all and	345	179	7	N1 / A	N1 / A	0	1	1
England	47.2%	33.9%	12.4%	N/A	N/A	0.1%	3.0%	0.9%
Wales	14	22	0	NI/A	4	NI/A	0	0
wates	36.1%	40.9%	6.0%	N/A	9.9%	N/A	1.0%	0.6%
Scotland	6	1	4	48	NI/A	0	0	0
	25.1%	18.6%	9.5%	45.0%	N/A	0.1%	1.0%	0.3%

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

2.9 Figure 7 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 7: Number of seats and share of vote at General Elections in 2017 and 2019 (Northern Ireland)

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

Source: BBC and House of Commons Library

European Parliamentary elections

2.10 Figure 8 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 8: 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	19	20	1	2	1	NI/A	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
Eligialiu	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
vvales	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
Scotianu	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

2.11 Figure 9 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 9: 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

London mayoral elections

2.12 Figure 10 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 10: 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
	35.3%	40.0%	4.4%	0.6%	7.8%	11.9%

Source: BBC

London Assembly elections

2.13 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 London Assembly elections.

Figure 11: 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%	N/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

2.14 Figure 12 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 12: Numbers of PCC posts and share of vote at PCC elections in 2016 and 2021

Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid	UKIP	Green	Others
			Cymru			/Ind

2016							
England	20 30.2%	13 34.3%	0 9.1%	N/A	0 14.8%	0 1.4%	3 7.8%
Wales	0	2	0	2	0	1.470	0
vvales	21.9%	34.1%	4.7%	23.7%	4.9%	N/A	10.7%
2021							
England	30 45.2%	5 30.0%	0 14.3%	N/A	N/A	0 2.6%	0 7.9%
Wales	0 28.4%	3 35.1%	0 5.2%	1 23.5%	N/A	N/A	0 7.8%

Source: House of Commons Library

Welsh Parliamentary elections

2.15 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 Welsh Parliamentary elections.

Figure 13: 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%
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

2.16 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 the Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Figure 14: Numbers of seats and share of vote at Scottish Parliamentary elections in 2016 and 2021

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	UKIP	Scottish Green	Others /Ind
2016							
Directly-	7	3	4	59	N/A	0	0
elected	22.0%	22.6%	7.8%	46.5%		0.6%	0.5%
Regional list	24	21	1	4	0	6	0
	22.9%	19.1%	5.2%	41.7%	2.0%	6.6%	2.5%
2021							
Directly-	5	2	4	62	0	0	0
elected	21.9%	21.6%	6.9%	47.7%	0.0%	1.3%	0.6%
Regional list	26	20	0	2	0	8	0
	23.5%	17.9%	5.1%	40.3%	0.1%	8.1%	5.0%

Source: BBC and Electoral Commission

Northern Ireland local elections

2.17 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 local elections.

Figure 15: 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

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

England

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 2021 to the end of January 2022. 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 2021 – January 2022

Date (Week beginning)	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Green
06/05/2021	42.6%	33.4%	8.0%	5.4%
13/05/2021	42.7%	32.3%	8.3%	5.6%
20/05/2021	42.8%	32.6%	8.3%	5.7%
27/05/2021	42.8%	32.9%	8.0%	5.8%
03/06/2021	43.1%	33.2%	7.9%	5.8%
10/06/2021	42.8%	33.2%	8.1%	5.8%
17/06/2021	42.2%	32.8%	8.7%	5.8%
24/06/2021	41.5%	33.0%	8.9%	5.8%
01/07/2021	41.2%	33.3%	8.9%	5.8%
08/07/2021	40.9%	33.5%	9.0%	5.9%
15/07/2021	40.7%	33.8%	9.0%	5.9%
22/07/2021	40.3%	34.4%	9.0%	5.9%
29/07/2021	40.0%	34.0%	9.3%	6.0%

05/08/2021	40.1%	34.1%	9.3%	5.9%
12/08/2021	39.8%	34.1%	9.4%	6.0%
19/08/2021	39.5%	34.0%	9.4%	6.0%
26/08/2021	39.3%	33.8%	9.3%	6.1%
02/09/2021	38.8%	34.3%	9.2%	6.2%
09/09/2021	38.2%	35.1%	9.1%	6.3%
16/09/2021	39.1%	34.9%	9.0%	6.3%
23/09/2021	39.3%	34.2%	9.1%	6.2%
30/09/2021	39.1%	34.6%	9.1%	6.2%
07/10/2021	39.0%	34.9%	8.9%	6.3%
14/10/2021	38.5%	35.3%	8.8%	6.3%
21/10/2021	37.9%	35.2%	9.0%	6.4%
28/10/2021	37.7%	35.4%	9.1%	6.4%
04/11/2021	36.5%	36.0%	9.3%	6.3%
11/11/2021	35.4%	36.9%	9.3%	6.3%
18/11/2021	35.7%	37.0%	9.3%	6.3%
25/11/2021	35.6%	36.8%	9.4%	6.3%
02/12/2021	34.1%	37.5%	9.8%	6.2%
09/12/2021	32.0%	38.6%	10.1%	6.2%
16/12/2021	31.3%	38.4%	10.6%	6.1%
23/12/2021	32.1%	38.7%	10.8%	6.0%
30/12/2021	32.3%	38.8%	10.8%	5.9%
06/01/2022	31.4%	39.4%	11.0%	5.8%
13/01/2022	30.8%	40.3%	10.9%	5.9%
20/01/2022	31.7%	40.1%	10.7%	5.9%
27/01/2022	32.0%	39.7%	10.7%	5.9%

Source: Polling Observatory

Northern Ireland

3.4 Ofcom understands that no opinion polls have been carried out in relation to voting intention at General Elections in Northern Ireland only since May 2021. Figure 17 sets out

indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Northern Ireland, from May 2021 to February 2022, 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
LucidTalk (May 2021)	16.0%	25.0%	12.0%	14.0%	16.0%	11.0%	2.0%	4.0%
LucidTalk (Aug 2021)	13.0%	25.0%	13.0%	16.0%	13.0%	14.0%	2.0%	4.0%
University of Liverpool (Oct 2021)	20.6%	23.5%	11.4%	13.0%	17.3%	5.6%	3.9%	4.7%
LucidTalk (Nov 2021)	18.0%	24.0%	12.0%	14.0%	15.0%	11.0%	2.0%	4.0%
LucidTalk (Jan 2022)	17.0%	25.0%	11.0%	14.0%	14.0%	12.0%	3.0%	4.0%

Scotland

3.5 Figure 18 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Scotland from May 2021 to February 2022, based on voting intention at General Elections. Figure 19 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Scotland, from May 2021 to February 2022, 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.
Panelbase (Jun 2021)	25.0%	18.0%	6.0%	47.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Opinium (Sep 2021)	21.0%	17.0%	5.0%	51.0%	2.0%	2.0%	1.0%
Panelbase (Sep 2021)	23.0%	19.0%	7.0%	47.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Panelbase (Oct 2021)	21.0%	21.0%	7.0%	48.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%

Panelbase (Nov 2021)	21.0%	20.0%	7.0%	48.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
YouGov (Nov 2021)	20.0%	18.0%	6.0%	48.0%	3.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Opinium (Dec 2021)	17.0%	22.0%	7.0%	48.0%	3.0%	N/A	4.0%

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

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	SNP	Green	Alba	Others/ Ind.
Panelbase (Jun 2021)							
Directly- elected	24.0%	19.0%	6.0%	46.0%	3.0%	N/A	2.0%
Regional list	23.0%	17.0%	6.0%	38.0%	9.0%	N/A	6.0%
Opinium (Sep 2021)							
Directly- elected	21.0%	18.0%	6.0%	51.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	21.0%	16.0%	5.0%	40.0%	8.0%	0.0%	10.0%
Savanta ComRes (Sep 2021)							
Directly- elected	22.0%	20.0%	7.0%	48.0%	N/A	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	23.0%	18.0%	7.0%	36.0%	13.0%	2.0%	1.0%
Panelbase (Sep 2021)							
Directly- elected	22.0%	18.0%	7.0%	46.0%	4.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	23.0%	18.0%	8.0%	38.0%	9.0%	N/A	4.0%

Savanta ComRes							
(Oct 2021) Directly-	20.0%	22.0%	7.0%	49.00/	NI/A	N1/A	3.0%
elected	20.0%	22.0%	7.0%	48.0%	N/A	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	22.0%	20.0%	7.0%	38.0%	11.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Panelbase (Nov 2021)							
Directly- elected	20.0%	19.0%	8.0%	47.0%	4.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	21.0%	18.0%	8.0%	41.0%	10.0%	N/A	2.0%
YouGov (Nov 2021)							
Directly- elected	21.0%	19.0%	7.0%	48.0%	2.0%	N/A	3.0%
Regional list	19.0%	19.0%	7.0%	38.0%	11.0%	1.0%	5.0%
Ipsos MORI (Nov 2021)							
Directly- elected	19.0%	17.0%	5.0%	52.0%	3.0%	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	20.0%	15.0%	6.0%	43.0%	12.0%	1.0%	3.0%
Savanta ComRes (Jan 2022)							
Directly- elected	19.0%	22.0%	8.0%	47.0%	N/A	N/A	4.0%
Regional list	18.0%	20.0%	9.0%	38.0%	12.0%	2.0%	1.0%

Wales

3.6 Ofcom understands that there has only been one opinion poll carried out in relation to voting intention at Welsh Parliamentary elections since May 2021. Figure 20 sets out indicative levels of current support for the various parties in Wales from May 2021 to February 2022, based on voting intention at General Elections.

Figure 20: Voting preference in UK General Elections

	Cons	Lab	Lib-Dem.	Plaid Cymru	Reform UK	Green	Others /Ind
YouGov (Sep 2021)	31.0%	37.0%	4.0%	15.0%	6.0%	5.0%	2.0%
YouGov (Dec 2021)	26.0%	41.0%	3.0%	13.0%	7.0%	6.0%	3.0%