

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 2250 Adults in GB
Fieldwork: 6th - 7th May 2025

	Vote in 2024 GE					EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country			Region in England			
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	England	Wales	Scotland	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South
Weighted Sample	2250	405	578	207	243	790	803	1089	1161	236	929	556	529	1283	967	1946	108	196	533	369	272	772
Unweighted Sample	2250	386	641	232	253	926	830	1009	1241	136	844	601	669	1395	855	1928	119	203	551	369	231	777
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

In general, do you think the prison system in the UK is functioning well or badly?

Very well	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	3	1
Fairly well	8	7	8	9	4	7	7	9	7	15	7	6	7	9	7	8	10	7	7	7	13	7
TOTAL WELL	9	8	10	9	5	8	7	11	7	17	8	6	7	10	8	9	10	8	8	7	16	8
Fairly badly	38	40	41	47	35	42	35	39	38	42	37	38	38	39	37	38	41	37	41	36	34	38
Very badly	37	40	33	26	54	34	47	37	37	19	33	42	46	34	40	37	33	39	36	42	31	37
TOTAL BADLY	75	80	74	73	89	76	82	76	75	61	70	80	84	73	77	75	74	76	77	78	65	75
Don't know	16	12	16	18	6	17	11	14	18	22	22	13	8	17	15	16	16	16	15	15	19	17

And more specifically, do you think the following areas of the prison system in the UK are functioning well or badly?

Punishing prisoners for their crimes

Very well	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	1
Fairly well	19	13	26	23	11	22	13	23	16	29	22	15	15	21	17	20	19	16	19	18	25	19
TOTAL WELL	20	14	28	25	13	24	14	25	17	32	24	16	16	23	18	21	20	18	20	19	28	20
Fairly badly	34	43	33	40	31	35	36	32	37	33	31	36	38	33	35	35	31	33	32	35	31	38
Very badly	29	32	21	17	51	21	42	30	28	13	27	34	33	27	32	29	24	34	31	32	19	28
TOTAL BADLY	63	75	54	57	82	56	78	62	65	46	58	70	71	60	67	64	55	67	63	67	50	66
Don't know	16	10	17	19	6	20	9	13	19	22	18	14	13	17	16	16	25	15	15	14	21	15

Protecting the public from dangerous criminals

Very well	4	3	6	3	2	4	3	5	2	5	5	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	5	3	5	2
Fairly well	29	31	35	41	19	35	24	31	28	34	26	30	31	31	26	29	31	31	25	29	30	30
TOTAL WELL	33	34	41	44	21	39	27	36	30	39	31	33	33	35	29	33	35	34	30	32	35	32
Fairly badly	30	31	31	29	29	32	30	30	30	33	33	28	27	30	30	30	31	29	30	30	31	31
Very badly	25	26	15	14	45	16	35	25	25	12	22	29	30	23	27	25	17	24	27	28	19	25
TOTAL BADLY	55	57	46	43	74	48	65	55	55	45	55	57	57	53	57	55	48	53	57	58	50	56
Don't know	13	9	13	14	5	14	8	10	15	16	14	10	10	12	14	12	17	14	12	10	16	12

Preparing prisoners for life without crime when they are released

Very well	1	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	4	2	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	4	1
Fairly well	7	11	5	9	4	6	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7	8	8	5	4	9	7	9	8
TOTAL WELL	8	11	8	9	4	7	8	9	8	12	10	7	7	9	9	9	5	5	10	7	13	9
Fairly badly	34	35	37	38	35	38	34	36	32	29	34	38	31	33	35	33	33	41	35	35	30	33
Very badly	30	23	32	31	34	31	30	31	29	30	31	31	29	32	27	30	34	27	32	30	28	30
TOTAL BADLY	64	58	69	69	69	69	64	67	61	59	65	69	60	65	62	63	67	68	67	65	58	63
Don't know	27	31	23	22	27	25	28	24	31	29	26	24	33	26	30	28	28	26	23	29	29	29

Treating causes of crime (e.g. drug addictions)

Very well	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	0
Fairly well	6	7	6	4	4	5	4	7	5	13	7	4	5	6	6	7	4	3	7	6	9	6
TOTAL WELL	7	7	8	4	4	6	4	8	5	15	8	4	5	7	6	8	4	4	8	7	12	6
Fairly badly	35	37	39	44	32	40	32	36	34	34	36	36	33	35	34	35	31	39	34	34	32	36
Very badly	38	33	37	36	48	36	43	39	37	33	36	40	40	38	37	37	47	40	37	37	36	37
TOTAL BADLY	73	70	76	80	80	76	75	75	71	67	72	76	73	73	71	72	78	79	71	71	68	73
Don't know	21	23	16	16	16	18	21	17	24	19	21	21	22	19	23	21	18	16	21	22	20	22

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

You will now be shown 10 crimes, for each please say whether you think prison is or is not the most appropriate punishment (as opposed to other forms, such as fines, electronic monitoring, or community orders)...

Do you think a prison sentence is or is not most appropriate for...

[Respondents were shown 10 randomly selected crimes]

Murder

[n=1048]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	97	99	99	99	93	97	97	96	97	94	98	95	97	96	97	96	95	100	98	98	91	96
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	2	1	1	1	6	1	3	3	2	4	1	3	2	3	1	2	5	0	2	1	7	1
Don't know	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	2

Sexual assault

[n=1030]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	93	94	92	91	94	90	94	92	94	98	92	93	93	92	94	93	97	92	94	94	91	92
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	3	2	4	4	2	5	2	4	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	5	3
Don't know	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	4	0	5	4	5	5	4	4	1	5	3	5	4	5

Rape

[n=1028]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	97	98	98	97	97	96	99	97	97	95	97	99	97	98	96	97	97	97	96	98	99	97
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	1	0	0	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	0	3	1	0	1
Don't know	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	0	3	1	1	1	2

Petty theft (at a supermarket or shop)

[n=977]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	18	29	16	11	25	13	26	24	14	15	16	22	21	17	21	19	16	14	20	19	14	20
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	72	65	75	78	59	78	63	68	75	84	73	68	68	73	70	71	72	75	73	69	76	70
Don't know	10	6	10	11	17	9	12	9	11	2	11	9	11	10	10	10	12	10	8	12	10	9

Robbery (theft with use of force)

[n=1063]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	92	96	92	91	96	88	97	95	90	98	90	94	93	93	92	93	90	90	95	91	90	93
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	5	3	4	6	3	8	2	2	7	1	7	3	4	5	5	5	4	6	3	6	8	4
Don't know	3	1	4	3	1	4	1	2	3	1	3	4	3	3	3	3	6	3	2	4	2	2

Burglary

[n=985]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	80	90	79	78	86	74	86	84	77	85	79	81	79	77	84	80	85	76	81	81	74	82
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	11	5	13	14	5	15	8	8	14	11	12	9	12	14	8	11	12	15	11	10	12	11
Don't know	9	5	9	9	9	10	6	8	9	4	9	9	9	10	7	9	3	9	8	9	15	7

Carrying a knife

[n=1006]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	61	70	56	47	77	56	70	64	59	47	56	64	74	58	66	61	58	64	67	63	56	58
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	27	19	30	34	14	27	21	25	28	42	29	25	18	28	25	27	25	25	22	23	29	31
Don't know	12	10	14	19	9	17	9	11	13	10	15	11	9	14	9	12	17	11	11	13	15	11

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[illegible]

Attacking someone with a knife

[n=1021]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	95	97	95	94	100	94	98	95	95	96	94	95	98	94	97	95	97	95	97	96	93	94
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	2	1	1	2	0	3	0	2	1	1	3	2	0	3	1	2	3	3	0	1	5	2
Don't know	3	1	4	5	0	4	2	2	3	3	3	3	1	3	2	3	0	2	2	3	2	4

Consuming illegal drugs

[n=1058]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	19	24	17	10	27	14	22	19	20	35	14	18	23	18	21	19	25	16	23	18	23	16
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	72	68	75	86	59	78	65	73	71	63	79	72	62	74	68	71	67	76	67	69	72	76
Don't know	9	8	8	4	14	8	12	9	10	2	7	10	15	8	11	9	7	8	10	12	5	8

Carrying a personal amount of illegal drugs

Carrying
[n=1023]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	21	23	14	11	34	12	26	23	20	31	16	20	27	17	26	22	19	15	26	20	27	18
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	69	61	78	80	52	77	62	67	70	63	73	70	61	73	63	68	69	77	64	71	66	70
Don't know	10	15	7	8	15	11	11	10	10	7	10	10	12	10	10	10	12	8	10	10	7	12

Supplying illegal drugs

[n=1065]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	81	91	76	81	87	75	89	82	79	77	74	85	88	81	81	81	86	79	86	82	72	79
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	12	4	16	9	10	16	6	12	12	19	16	8	6	13	11	12	9	15	8	11	20	12
Don't know	7	5	8	10	4	8	5	6	9	4	9	7	6	7	8	8	4	6	7	7	8	8

Transporting illegal drugs

[n=1037]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	83	92	77	77	91	76	89	82	84	87	76	85	90	81	85	83	79	80	86	84	74	84
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	10	2	14	15	4	14	6	10	9	8	13	8	6	11	8	10	12	7	8	6	19	11
Don't know	7	5	9	8	5	10	5	8	7	5	10	6	4	8	6	7	9	13	7	10	7	5

Embezzlement (theft or misuse of funds)

[n=1021]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	64	66	66	60	65	59	61	68	60	77	61	64	63	61	68	64	61	61	65	58	71	64
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	24	23	23	25	25	25	26	19	28	15	25	25	25	26	21	24	18	21	24	29	17	25
Don't know	13	11	11	15	11	15	12	12	13	8	15	11	12	13	12	12	21	18	11	13	12	11

Fraud

[n=1039]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	57	57	53	61	59	53	58	59	54	62	56	57	54	57	56	57	56	50	61	54	62	54
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	16	26	28	19	28	29	26	26	26	20	28	25	27	27	25	26	21	30	22	30	22	28
Don't know	17	17	18	20	13	18	16	15	20	18	17	18	19	17	18	17	23	20	16	16	16	18

Domestic violence

[n=1008]

Prison is the most appropriate punishment	85	86	85	84	84	85	87	81	90	91	85	89	80	86	85	85	89	88	88	87	79	84
Prison is NOT the most appropriate punishment	7	6	7	5	9	8	6	10	4	4	7	5	9	7	7	7	9	6	5	7	12	6
Don't know	8	8	7	11	7	8	7	9	6	5	8	6	10	8	8	8	2	6	7	6	9	9

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Weighted Sample Unweighted Sample		Vote in 2024 GE				EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Social Grade		Country			Region in England			
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	2250	386	641	232	253	926	830	1009	1241	136	844	601	669	1395	855	1928	119	203	551	369	231	777
(trolling)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
appropriate punishment Don't know	31	37	32	24	23	28	34	26	35	27	28	31	37	29	33	31	35	29	35	27	31	30
	51	44	50	57	61	53	48	56	47	60	53	50	45	53	49	51	50	56	47	51	54	52
	18	19	18	19	15	19	18	18	18	13	19	19	17	18	18	18	15	14	18	22	15	18
appropriate punishment Don't know	49	46	50	40	46	43	47	45	52	61	49	45	45	47	51	49	52	45	52	48	48	47
	32	34	30	38	33	36	33	36	28	20	32	37	34	32	32	32	22	34	31	31	34	33
	19	21	20	22	21	21	20	19	20	19	19	18	21	21	17	19	26	21	16	21	18	19
appropriate punishment Don't know	63	58	66	60	62	63	61	57	69	79	64	65	52	64	63	62	72	68	65	67	63	58
	20	24	18	18	20	19	22	24	16	10	20	19	26	19	21	21	8	18	21	19	19	21
	17	18	16	22	18	18	17	19	15	11	16	16	22	17	16	17	20	13	14	14	18	20
appropriate punishment Don't know	30	41	23	20	38	17	40	33	27	30	26	29	39	28	33	32	11	22	34	36	32	30
	58	46	65	71	52	69	48	58	57	63	60	58	49	61	53	56	70	62	56	53	60	57
	12	13	13	9	10	14	11	9	15	7	13	13	12	11	14	11	19	16	10	12	7	14
appropriate punishment Don't know	11	14	8	9	11	8	15	14	7	6	10	15	10	10	12	11	8	12	12	14	8	9
	80	75	87	84	74	85	74	77	83	93	79	77	78	81	78	79	90	82	74	77	81	82
	9	11	5	7	15	7	11	9	10	2	11	7	12	9	10	10	2	5	14	8	11	8
appropriate punishment Don't know	83	82	80	78	93	76	87	83	83	85	81	82	86	83	83	83	80	83	86	88	79	80
	8	8	11	9	5	11	6	8	8	8	10	7	8	9	8	9	9	6	8	5	14	9
	9	10	9	13	3	14	7	9	9	7	10	11	7	9	9	9	11	11	6	8	7	11
appropriate punishment Don't know	58	59	56	52	57	51	62	56	60	63	62	53	54	54	63	58	59	59	66	62	47	54
	33	37	35	36	34	40	30	36	31	30	29	38	38	37	29	34	32	31	26	30	47	36
	8	4	9	12	9	9	8	8	9	7	9	9	8	9	8	8	9	10	7	8	6	10

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Prisoners can be 'recalled' to prison if they breach their license conditions, which are rules they must follow after their release. These can range from a 14-day fixed-term recall, to serving the rest of their sentence.

In general, do you think a prisoner should or should not be recalled for the following?

Committing another offence

Should be recalled to prison	96	98	95	96	100	96	98	94	97	90	94	98	98	96	95	95	94	97	96	97	92	96
Should not be recalled to prison	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	3	1
Don't know	3	1	3	3	0	3	1	5	2	8	4	2	2	3	4	3	4	2	3	2	5	3

Failing to keep in touch with their supervising officer as and when instructed

Should be recalled to prison	77	79	76	74	90	73	83	78	75	71	72	80	83	76	78	76	80	77	78	75	72	77
Should not be recalled to prison	13	13	14	16	6	15	9	12	14	15	14	12	11	14	11	13	10	13	12	14	18	11
Don't know	11	9	10	10	3	12	8	10	11	14	14	8	6	10	11	11	10	10	10	11	10	11

Staying one or more nights at an address not approved by their supervising officer

Should be recalled to prison	45	51	43	36	62	39	56	47	44	41	41	48	52	45	46	46	44	46	49	45	40	45
Should not be recalled to prison	36	30	39	40	28	40	30	36	36	39	39	36	31	37	35	36	38	37	36	36	37	36
Don't know	18	18	18	24	9	21	15	17	20	20	20	16	17	18	19	18	19	17	15	19	23	19

Undertaking work not approved by their supervisor

Should be recalled to prison	29	32	28	23	44	23	37	29	29	29	25	31	35	28	32	30	25	26	32	32	26	29
Should not be recalled to prison	50	47	51	55	42	56	44	51	50	49	53	51	46	52	48	50	53	53	50	49	53	49
Don't know	20	21	21	22	13	21	18	20	21	22	22	19	19	20	21	20	22	22	18	19	21	22

Travelling outside of the UK without the permission of their supervising officer

Should be recalled to prison	84	88	82	86	93	81	89	84	84	78	81	86	89	83	86	84	84	87	86	86	74	84
Should not be recalled to prison	9	6	8	11	4	10	5	8	9	14	10	7	6	10	7	9	8	7	7	7	15	8
Don't know	8	6	9	3	3	9	5	7	8	8	10	7	5	8	7	8	7	6	7	7	12	7

Failing to update their supervising officer if they change contact details, like their number or email

Should be recalled to prison	49	56	47	41	63	44	60	50	48	37	42	56	58	47	52	49	52	47	50	50	45	49
Should not be recalled to prison	38	34	39	42	27	41	30	37	39	49	41	32	33	40	35	38	33	40	39	39	39	36
Don't know	13	11	13	17	10	15	11	13	13	14	16	12	9	13	13	13	14	13	11	12	15	15

Breaching their curfew agreement

Should be recalled to prison	71	79	67	64	88	66	80	74	68	58	69	75	76	69	73	71	72	70	74	76	60	71
Should not be recalled to prison	18	13	20	24	7	22	11	17	19	27	19	15	16	19	16	18	16	18	18	15	23	18
Don't know	11	9	12	12	5	12	8	10	12	14	12	10	8	12	10	11	13	12	8	10	16	11

Failing a drug test

Should be recalled to prison	63	74	58	56	78	55	73	64	62	61	58	65	70	62	64	63	61	65	66	63	55	63
Should not be recalled to prison	25	15	30	29	14	31	17	24	26	27	28	24	19	26	24	25	27	25	23	24	30	25
Don't know	12	11	12	15	9	14	10	12	13	12	14	11	11	13	12	12	12	11	11	13	15	12

*Any percentages calculated on bases fewer than 100 respondents do not represent a wide enough cross-section of the target population to be considered statistically reliable. These figures should not be used.