

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

	Vote in 2024 GE					EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)			Country			
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Green	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Higher	Intermediate	Routine	England	Wales	Scotland
Weighted Sample	2087	376	536	192	225	120	733	745	1008	1079	219	860	515	493	707	467	624	1805	100	182
Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

For the following political parties, can you say whether you consider their approach to crime and punishment to be too harsh, too soft or about right?

The Conservative Party

Too harsh	13	0	23	25	1	25	22	3	16	10	22	12	11	11	18	8	9	13	8	14
About right	26	51	19	26	24	16	25	31	28	24	27	20	29	33	29	25	25	27	22	23
Too soft	29	30	21	19	62	19	20	44	33	25	14	25	33	37	24	35	32	29	27	27
Don't know	33	18	37	29	13	40	32	22	23	42	37	43	27	18	29	32	35	32	42	36

The Labour Party

Too harsh	3	1	3	7	1	8	4	2	4	2	5	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	5
About right	23	8	41	34	1	30	33	10	26	19	34	21	22	21	29	19	16	23	18	23
Too soft	47	75	30	34	88	28	35	72	52	42	27	39	54	63	44	54	50	48	38	45
Don't know	28	17	26	26	10	34	28	16	18	36	33	37	22	15	24	25	32	27	41	28

The Liberal Democrats

Too harsh	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
About right	20	9	28	49	1	27	30	9	23	17	30	19	18	19	26	16	14	20	12	20
Too soft	36	54	25	17	77	16	26	58	44	27	19	28	43	49	34	40	39	36	35	30
Don't know	44	36	46	34	20	56	44	32	32	55	52	52	39	32	39	43	46	43	53	48

Reform UK

Too harsh	24	9	37	46	2	44	36	8	28	20	49	23	19	20	29	19	17	24	19	29
About right	26	44	12	12	73	7	14	49	31	22	12	22	30	38	23	31	30	27	25	23
Too soft	10	12	8	8	15	4	7	13	12	8	8	9	12	12	9	11	11	10	7	11
Don't know	39	35	43	34	11	45	43	29	29	50	31	47	40	30	39	39	42	39	49	37

The Green Party

Too harsh	1	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
About right	13	3	19	19	1	35	19	4	13	12	22	13	11	9	15	11	10	12	12	14
Too soft	43	59	35	33	78	25	35	62	53	33	39	35	46	54	43	44	43	44	34	40
Don't know	44	37	46	46	20	40	45	33	32	54	38	50	42	37	41	44	46	43	53	45

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	Total	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South
Weighted Sample	2087	495	342	253	716
Unweighted Sample	2087	514	339	183	727
	%	%	%	%	%

For the following political parties, can you say whether you consider their approach to crime and punishment to be too harsh, too soft or about right?

The Conservative Party

Too harsh	13	14	9	22	11
About right	26	25	23	25	29
Too soft	29	28	30	29	28
Don't know	33	32	38	24	31

The Labour Party

Too harsh	3	1	4	6	2
About right	23	25	20	27	21
Too soft	47	48	46	45	49
Don't know	28	26	30	22	28

The Liberal Democrats

Too harsh	1	0	2	1	1
About right	20	21	15	25	20
Too soft	36	38	33	34	37
Don't know	44	41	51	40	41

Reform UK

Too harsh	24	23	19	33	23
About right	26	27	25	25	28
Too soft	10	11	13	6	10
Don't know	39	39	43	36	39

The Green Party

Too harsh	1	1	2	1	1
About right	13	13	10	16	12
Too soft	43	45	41	45	43
Don't know	44	41	48	38	44

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		Vote in 2024 GE					EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)			Country		
Total		Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Green	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Higher	Intermediate	Routine	England	Wales	Scotland
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Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

How well or badly would you say the
Conservative government between 2019 and
2024 performed on crime and punishment?

Very well	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Fairly well	14	39	7	8	9	5	12	17	16	12	13	11	16	17	15	15	12	15	14	7
TOTAL WELL	14	40	7	8	9	6	12	18	16	12	13	11	17	17	15	16	12	15	14	7
Fairly badly	35	35	37	43	41	32	36	40	35	36	35	29	37	43	39	38	32	35	31	37
Very badly	28	7	37	30	38	27	31	28	37	19	19	28	31	28	28	23	29	27	30	31
TOTAL BADLY	63	42	74	73	79	59	67	68	72	55	54	57	68	71	67	61	61	62	61	68
Don't know	23	18	19	18	12	35	21	14	12	33	33	31	15	12	18	23	26	23	26	25

And how well or badly would do you say the
Labour governments since 2024 have performed
on crime and punishment?

Very well	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	1
Fairly well	16	7	31	25	1	14	26	7	20	13	22	15	16	16	20	15	12	17	17	12
TOTAL WELL	17	7	32	27	2	14	27	8	21	14	22	16	17	16	21	16	13	18	17	13
Fairly badly	28	33	30	42	17	30	31	28	27	29	28	24	30	34	32	30	25	28	24	34
Very badly	33	49	14	15	78	16	20	54	39	27	14	29	39	41	27	33	41	33	35	29
TOTAL BADLY	61	82	44	57	95	46	51	82	66	56	42	53	69	75	59	63	66	61	59	63
Don't know	22	11	24	17	4	40	22	10	13	31	36	31	14	8	19	21	22	22	25	24

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	%	%	%	%	%

How well or badly would you say the
Conservative government between 2019 and
2024 performed on crime and punishment?

Very well	0	0	0	1	1
Fairly well	14	11	19	15	15
TOTAL WELL	14	11	19	16	16
Fairly badly	35	37	32	35	35
Very badly	28	30	23	32	26
TOTAL BADLY	63	67	55	67	61
Don't know	23	22	27	17	23

And how well or badly would do you say the
Labour governments since 2024 have performed
on crime and punishment?

Very well	1	0	2	2	1
Fairly well	16	18	15	18	16
TOTAL WELL	17	18	17	20	17
Fairly badly	28	25	25	32	29
Very badly	33	34	34	27	34
TOTAL BADLY	61	59	59	59	63
Don't know	22	23	23	21	21

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

Prison is generally considered to have several purposes. For each of the following purposes that people often give, please rank them in terms of which you personally think are most important, from the most important at the top to the least important at the bottom.

Punishing offenders for their crimes

Ranked first	44	57	37	41	58	26	40	57	42	45	19	40	55	50	42	46	48	44	45	44
Ranked second	24	26	25	21	28	28	24	25	24	25	27	24	21	28	23	24	28	24	22	25
Ranked third	16	12	18	24	9	12	15	10	17	14	31	16	11	12	17	15	12	16	15	16
Ranked fourth	13	4	19	13	3	33	20	5	14	12	18	16	10	9	17	12	8	13	9	13

Detering people from committing crimes

Ranked first	13	10	14	14	9	11	14	8	16	10	22	13	9	11	15	9	11	12	10	18
Ranked second	21	19	22	25	18	24	21	20	21	21	23	22	23	17	23	23	18	21	22	21
Ranked third	43	50	40	32	62	37	39	54	42	44	31	39	47	52	41	44	47	43	40	43
Ranked fourth	20	19	22	30	9	27	24	15	18	22	21	22	18	18	20	21	19	20	19	17

Removing offenders from society

Ranked first	28	29	30	23	28	34	29	28	25	32	30	30	24	30	29	30	28	29	25	25
Ranked second	38	46	33	36	48	31	36	46	38	38	26	36	43	42	38	37	39	38	35	39
Ranked third	19	16	21	21	18	24	20	17	22	16	22	20	20	16	19	19	18	19	13	20
Ranked fourth	11	8	13	19	4	10	13	7	12	10	18	11	11	10	12	10	10	11	19	14

Rehabilitating offenders

Ranked first	12	3	17	21	3	28	16	4	15	10	25	13	9	8	12	11	8	12	11	11
Ranked second	13	8	18	18	4	16	17	7	14	13	20	15	10	11	15	13	10	14	12	13
Ranked third	19	20	19	22	9	27	24	16	16	22	13	21	19	18	21	19	18	19	24	20
Ranked fourth	52	68	44	38	83	29	41	70	52	53	39	47	59	61	50	54	58	53	45	55
Don't Know	3	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	3	4	2	2	1	3	5	3	8	1

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Punishing offenders for their crimes

Ranked first	44	44	52	34	43
Ranked second	24	24	23	29	24
Ranked third	16	16	10	22	16
Ranked fourth	13	14	12	15	14

Detering people from committing crimes

Ranked first	13	12	12	14	12
Ranked second	21	21	22	17	22
Ranked third	43	44	45	41	43
Ranked fourth	20	21	17	27	19

Removing offenders from society

Ranked first	28	29	22	36	30
Ranked second	38	41	39	35	37
Ranked third	19	17	25	17	19
Ranked fourth	11	11	10	11	11

Rehabilitating offenders

Ranked first	12	13	10	15	12
Ranked second	13	12	13	18	13
Ranked third	19	21	16	19	18
Ranked fourth	52	52	57	47	53
Don't Know	3	2	4	1	4

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Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Would you support or oppose each of the following proposals for increasing or freeing up prison capacity?

Using police jail cells as overflow

Strongly support	10	9	8	7	19	10	8	14	11	9	7	11	10	9	8	10	12	10	9	7
Somewhat support	30	36	27	23	34	21	27	33	31	28	29	28	30	32	28	30	32	29	34	31
TOTAL SUPPORT	40	45	35	30	53	31	35	47	42	37	36	39	40	41	36	40	44	39	43	38
Somewhat oppose	26	26	30	38	16	34	29	25	28	25	31	25	23	29	29	24	23	26	24	28
Strongly oppose	16	16	18	18	17	17	19	16	17	16	9	14	21	18	20	18	14	17	15	13
TOTAL OPPOSE	42	42	48	56	33	51	48	41	45	41	40	39	44	47	49	42	37	43	39	41
Don't know	18	13	17	14	14	18	16	13	13	23	24	22	15	12	16	18	18	18	17	20

Delaying court hearings for those awaiting trial

Strongly support	1	1	1	2	3	0	1	2	2	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2
Somewhat support	5	4	6	3	3	2	4	4	6	3	6	5	4	3	5	4	5	4	6	8
TOTAL SUPPORT	6	5	7	5	6	2	5	6	8	4	6	7	5	4	6	5	7	5	8	10
Somewhat oppose	30	32	34	34	19	40	34	28	30	31	32	29	32	32	30	33	30	31	28	29
Strongly oppose	47	49	44	48	63	36	46	54	47	46	40	42	50	55	51	45	45	46	51	47
TOTAL OPPOSE	77	81	78	82	82	76	80	82	77	77	72	71	82	87	81	78	75	77	79	76
Don't know	17	13	15	13	11	22	14	13	15	19	22	23	13	9	13	18	18	17	14	15

Allowing low-risk offenders to begin their sentences under house arrest

Strongly support	8	4	10	10	7	10	10	6	9	7	10	9	8	6	9	7	8	7	12	12
Somewhat support	46	44	52	51	27	64	52	38	48	44	55	45	45	43	49	42	44	47	41	37
TOTAL SUPPORT	54	48	62	61	34	74	62	44	57	51	65	54	53	49	58	49	52	54	53	49
Somewhat oppose	19	23	16	17	27	10	16	26	17	21	12	18	19	23	18	23	20	19	16	17
Strongly oppose	14	18	10	6	25	6	10	20	15	12	8	13	16	16	13	16	15	13	18	15
TOTAL OPPOSE	33	41	26	23	52	16	26	46	32	33	20	31	35	39	31	39	35	32	34	32
Don't know	14	11	12	15	14	9	13	11	11	16	15	15	12	13	12	12	14	13	12	18

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Would you support or oppose each of the following proposals for increasing or freeing up prison capacity?

Using police jail cells as overflow

Strongly support	10	11	14	9	8
Somewhat support	30	31	28	30	28
TOTAL SUPPORT	40	42	42	39	36
Somewhat oppose	26	26	23	24	28
Strongly oppose	16	16	17	14	18
TOTAL OPPOSE	42	42	40	38	46
Don't know	18	17	18	23	17

Delaying court hearings for those awaiting trial

Strongly support	1	1	3	2	0
Somewhat support	5	5	3	6	3
TOTAL SUPPORT	6	6	6	8	3
Somewhat oppose	30	31	32	22	33
Strongly oppose	47	48	44	50	45
TOTAL OPPOSE	77	79	76	72	78
Don't know	17	15	18	20	18

Allowing low-risk offenders to begin their sentences under house arrest

Strongly support	8	8	7	7	8
Somewhat support	46	44	41	57	48
TOTAL SUPPORT	54	52	48	64	56
Somewhat oppose	19	21	19	15	20
Strongly oppose	14	14	18	8	12
TOTAL OPPOSE	33	35	37	23	32
Don't know	14	13	15	13	13

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

Increasing the length of a sentence that can be suspended (i.e. served on probation unless further crimes are committed) from three years to five years

Strongly support	11	11	11	9	11	15	10	13	12	9	9	10	13	10	10	9	13	11	12	10
Somewhat support	32	30	36	41	21	43	40	24	31	33	33	30	33	34	34	31	29	32	24	31
TOTAL SUPPORT	43	41	47	50	32	58	50	37	43	42	42	40	46	44	44	40	42	43	36	41
Somewhat oppose	20	29	21	21	19	11	19	24	20	20	18	20	18	23	22	21	19	20	23	14
Strongly oppose	16	19	12	9	32	10	11	24	19	14	11	15	18	19	15	19	17	16	13	19
TOTAL OPPOSE	36	48	33	30	51	21	30	48	39	34	29	35	36	42	37	40	36	36	36	33
Don't know	21	12	21	20	17	21	20	16	18	25	29	26	18	14	19	19	22	21	28	25

Releasing foreign nationals early so they can be deported

Strongly support	41	55	35	34	57	27	37	55	46	37	23	37	45	52	40	44	44	40	41	47
Somewhat support	37	35	39	44	31	48	40	32	35	40	44	37	39	33	39	39	34	38	34	30
TOTAL SUPPORT	78	90	74	78	88	75	77	87	81	77	67	74	84	85	79	83	78	78	75	77
Somewhat oppose	6	3	9	7	3	8	7	4	6	5	9	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	7	7
Strongly oppose	5	2	4	3	6	4	5	5	6	4	7	6	5	4	3	4	8	5	9	6
TOTAL OPPOSE	11	5	13	10	9	12	12	9	12	9	16	11	10	9	9	10	13	10	16	13
Don't know	11	5	13	12	2	12	12	4	7	14	17	15	6	5	11	8	9	11	9	9

Building more prisons

Strongly support	48	63	41	40	71	33	41	65	51	45	35	39	56	60	46	50	53	49	52	40
Somewhat support	33	29	36	41	21	32	36	26	32	34	34	37	29	30	36	33	29	32	24	44
TOTAL SUPPORT	81	92	77	81	92	65	77	91	83	79	69	76	85	90	82	83	82	81	76	84
Somewhat oppose	8	4	11	8	3	11	9	3	8	8	17	9	5	4	8	7	6	8	12	7
Strongly oppose	3	1	4	2	2	7	4	2	3	2	1	4	4	1	4	2	3	3	5	4
TOTAL OPPOSE	11	5	15	10	5	18	13	5	11	10	18	13	9	5	12	9	9	11	17	11
Don't know	9	3	9	9	3	18	9	3	6	11	14	11	7	4	7	8	9	9	8	6

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Increasing the length of a sentence that can be suspended (i.e. served on probation unless further crimes are committed) from three years to five years

Strongly support	11	11	12	9	10
Somewhat support	32	30	29	36	34
TOTAL SUPPORT	43	41	41	45	44
Somewhat oppose	20	20	22	18	21
Strongly oppose	16	18	15	14	16
TOTAL OPPOSE	36	38	37	32	37
Don't know	21	21	22	22	19

Releasing foreign nationals early so they can be deported

Strongly support	41	43	40	34	41
Somewhat support	37	37	38	40	38
TOTAL SUPPORT	78	80	78	74	79
Somewhat oppose	6	5	6	5	6
Strongly oppose	5	5	5	9	4
TOTAL OPPOSE	11	10	11	14	10
Don't know	11	11	11	11	10

Building more prisons

Strongly support	48	48	51	51	47
Somewhat support	33	33	31	30	34
TOTAL SUPPORT	81	81	82	81	81
Somewhat oppose	8	7	9	6	8
Strongly oppose	3	3	2	5	2
TOTAL OPPOSE	11	10	11	11	10
Don't know	9	9	8	8	10

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

Increasing the reduction in sentence that offenders can receive for pleading guilty

Strongly support	2	1	2	2	3	0	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	1	3	2	3	2	4	3
Somewhat support	19	17	23	24	13	24	24	15	25	14	23	16	19	23	25	16	15	19	18	21
TOTAL SUPPORT	21	18	25	26	16	24	26	18	28	16	25	19	22	24	28	18	18	21	22	24
Somewhat oppose	32	35	35	38	28	25	33	34	31	32	30	30	34	33	31	35	31	32	32	32
Strongly oppose	30	36	23	18	47	25	22	38	27	33	24	30	32	32	28	31	34	31	24	29
TOTAL OPPOSE	62	71	58	56	75	50	55	72	58	65	54	60	66	65	59	66	65	63	56	61
Don't know	17	10	17	18	9	26	18	10	14	19	22	21	13	11	14	16	17	16	22	16

Loosening overcrowding restrictions on how many prisoners can be kept in prisons

Strongly support	13	15	9	5	29	7	9	20	15	11	7	14	13	12	12	14	12	13	9	9
Somewhat support	27	34	27	30	25	19	24	30	28	26	29	27	26	26	29	24	29	27	20	29
TOTAL SUPPORT	40	49	36	35	54	26	33	50	43	37	36	41	39	38	41	38	41	40	29	38
Somewhat oppose	24	23	29	31	16	25	29	21	23	25	23	20	27	29	27	25	19	24	26	24
Strongly oppose	17	13	18	18	19	28	20	14	18	16	20	16	17	17	18	14	17	17	19	19
TOTAL OPPOSE	41	36	47	49	35	53	49	35	41	41	43	36	44	46	45	39	36	41	45	43
Don't know	20	16	18	17	11	22	18	15	16	23	22	23	17	16	14	22	23	19	26	19

Renting prison space from foreign countries

Strongly support	15	21	10	7	35	9	11	26	19	11	7	14	16	20	14	14	20	15	23	12
Somewhat support	25	34	21	20	31	19	24	29	29	22	21	24	28	26	26	24	27	25	20	27
TOTAL SUPPORT	40	55	31	27	66	28	35	55	48	33	28	38	44	46	40	38	47	40	43	39
Somewhat oppose	18	12	23	25	9	24	21	12	16	21	28	20	15	16	21	19	13	19	10	17
Strongly oppose	23	16	29	30	13	31	29	18	24	22	26	23	24	23	23	25	22	23	28	24
TOTAL OPPOSE	41	28	52	55	22	55	50	30	40	43	54	43	39	39	44	44	35	42	38	41
Don't know	18	17	17	17	12	17	15	16	12	24	18	20	18	15	16	17	19	18	19	19

Releasing female prisoners early in order to use the prison space to hold male prisoners

Strongly support	4	5	5	3	5	6	4	5	3	5	4	2	5	6	4	4	5	4	5	5
Somewhat support	19	22	22	24	17	19	22	19	18	20	17	15	19	27	22	18	18	19	18	19
TOTAL SUPPORT	23	27	27	27	22	25	26	24	21	25	21	17	24	33	26	22	23	23	23	24
Somewhat oppose	32	33	32	35	29	29	32	30	32	31	36	31	30	33	32	33	30	32	29	31
Strongly oppose	27	27	23	22	35	20	21	32	33	22	25	31	29	20	25	28	30	27	28	27
TOTAL OPPOSE	59	60	55	57	64	49	53	62	65	53	61	62	59	53	57	61	60	59	57	58
Don't know	18	13	19	16	14	27	20	14	14	22	19	21	16	13	17	17	17	18	20	18

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

	Region in England				
	Total	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South
Weighted Sample	2087	495	342	253	716
Unweighted Sample	2087	514	339	183	727
	%	%	%	%	%

Increasing the reduction in sentence that offenders can receive for pleading guilty

Strongly support	2	3	2	2	2
Somewhat support	19	20	16	22	18
TOTAL SUPPORT	21	23	18	24	20
Somewhat oppose	32	31	30	34	33
Strongly oppose	30	30	32	26	32
TOTAL OPPOSE	62	61	62	60	65
Don't know	17	16	19	17	15

Loosening overcrowding restrictions on how many prisoners can be kept in prisons

Strongly support	13	12	13	13	14
Somewhat support	27	26	23	30	28
TOTAL SUPPORT	40	38	36	43	42
Somewhat oppose	24	24	27	28	21
Strongly oppose	17	18	17	14	16
TOTAL OPPOSE	41	42	44	42	37
Don't know	20	19	20	16	20

Renting prison space from foreign countries

Strongly support	15	14	17	16	15
Somewhat support	25	22	26	28	26
TOTAL SUPPORT	40	36	43	44	41
Somewhat oppose	18	20	17	19	19
Strongly oppose	23	29	20	24	21
TOTAL OPPOSE	41	49	37	43	40
Don't know	18	16	20	14	20

Releasing female prisoners early in order to use the prison space to hold male prisoners

Strongly support	4	4	3	6	4
Somewhat support	19	17	18	22	20
TOTAL SUPPORT	23	21	21	28	24
Somewhat oppose	32	35	28	30	32
Strongly oppose	27	26	30	22	28
TOTAL OPPOSE	59	61	58	52	60
Don't know	18	18	21	20	16

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

		Vote in 2024 GE					EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)			Country		
Total		Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Green	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Higher	Intermediate	Routine	England	Wales	Scotland
Weighted Sample	2087	376	536	192	225	120	733	745	1008	1079	219	860	515	493	707	467	624	1805	100	182
Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Allowing lower risk offenders to be moved to lower security open prisons

Strongly support	15	12	17	19	11	27	15	13	16	13	20	15	13	13	15	14	14	14	17	22
Somewhat support	61	65	62	66	52	61	66	59	60	61	62	57	62	65	67	58	57	62	55	52
TOTAL SUPPORT	76	77	79	85	63	88	81	72	76	74	82	72	75	78	82	72	71	76	72	74
Somewhat oppose	10	13	8	7	16	4	8	14	9	11	5	11	11	12	8	13	11	11	11	8
Strongly oppose	6	4	5	1	14	3	4	8	7	4	4	6	7	4	4	6	8	6	6	7
TOTAL OPPOSE	16	17	13	8	30	7	12	22	16	15	9	17	18	16	12	19	19	17	17	15
Don't know	9	6	7	7	7	5	8	6	7	10	10	11	7	5	6	9	9	8	12	11

Prioritising the release of older prisoners

Strongly support	4	4	6	5	3	1	4	4	6	3	6	5	5	2	4	3	5	4	4	4
Somewhat support	34	36	37	40	26	42	38	33	39	29	34	29	33	43	38	31	32	34	27	33
TOTAL SUPPORT	38	40	43	45	29	43	42	37	45	32	40	34	38	45	42	34	37	38	31	37
Somewhat oppose	24	28	24	26	26	18	24	25	21	27	25	24	24	24	23	28	24	25	27	21
Strongly oppose	15	14	10	8	28	7	10	19	14	15	13	16	15	13	14	14	17	14	15	18
TOTAL OPPOSE	39	42	34	34	54	25	34	44	35	42	38	40	39	37	37	42	41	39	42	39
Don't know	23	18	23	21	17	32	23	18	20	26	22	26	23	17	22	23	22	22	28	23

Reducing the proportion of their sentence that less serious offenders have to serve in prison from 40-50% to 33%

Strongly support	3	1	3	1	1	6	3	2	3	3	3	3	4	1	4	1	4	3	4	3
Somewhat support	22	14	28	30	11	30	27	14	23	20	34	21	20	19	24	18	18	22	19	23
TOTAL SUPPORT	25	15	31	31	12	36	30	16	26	23	37	24	24	20	28	19	22	25	23	26
Somewhat oppose	27	30	29	37	23	26	31	27	27	28	27	27	26	30	28	29	27	28	26	23
Strongly oppose	34	44	27	17	57	20	26	47	36	32	21	32	37	40	34	38	37	34	35	39
TOTAL OPPOSE	61	74	56	54	80	46	57	74	63	60	48	59	63	70	62	67	64	62	61	62
Don't know	14	11	13	15	8	18	13	10	10	17	15	17	12	9	10	13	14	14	16	11

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

	Region in England				
	Total	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South
Weighted Sample	2087	495	342	253	716
Unweighted Sample	2087	514	339	183	727
	%	%	%	%	%

Allowing lower risk offenders to be moved to lower security open prisons

Strongly support	15	16	13	12	14
Somewhat support	61	58	59	65	64
TOTAL SUPPORT	76	74	72	77	78
Somewhat oppose	10	11	11	14	9
Strongly oppose	6	6	6	6	5
TOTAL OPPOSE	16	17	17	20	14
Don't know	9	9	10	3	8

Prioritising the release of older prisoners

Strongly support	4	5	5	3	4
Somewhat support	34	32	33	38	35
TOTAL SUPPORT	38	37	38	41	39
Somewhat oppose	24	27	21	26	24
Strongly oppose	15	14	17	11	15
TOTAL OPPOSE	39	41	38	37	39
Don't know	23	23	24	22	22

Reducing the proportion of their sentence that less serious offenders have to serve in prison from 40-50% to 33%

Strongly support	3	4	3	3	2
Somewhat support	22	22	16	26	23
TOTAL SUPPORT	25	26	19	29	25
Somewhat oppose	27	25	30	26	30
Strongly oppose	34	37	35	33	32
TOTAL OPPOSE	61	62	65	59	62
Don't know	14	12	16	13	14

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

		Vote in 2024 GE					EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)			Country		
Total		Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Green	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Higher	Intermediate	Routine	England	Wales	Scotland
Weighted Sample	2087	376	536	192	225	120	733	745	1008	1079	219	860	515	493	707	467	624	1805	100	182
Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Reducing the proportion of their sentence that some more serious offenders have to serve in prison to from 67% to 50%

Strongly support	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	3	2
Somewhat support	6	4	8	6	5	11	8	4	9	4	9	7	4	6	8	5	5	6	6	10
TOTAL SUPPORT	8	5	9	7	7	12	9	6	11	5	10	9	6	7	9	7	7	7	9	12
Somewhat oppose	20	20	24	32	8	24	25	14	22	19	30	18	20	19	21	22	16	20	20	20
Strongly oppose	62	73	56	53	82	50	56	77	59	65	47	58	67	70	62	63	66	63	59	57
TOTAL OPPOSE	82	93	80	85	90	74	81	91	81	84	77	76	87	89	83	85	82	83	79	77
Don't know	10	2	11	8	3	14	10	4	9	11	13	15	6	4	8	9	12	10	12	10

Which government do you hold most responsible for the current shortage of prison spaces?

The previous Conservative government	32	9	59	47	15	50	46	21	39	27	42	32	29	33	41	30	23	33	29	30
The current Labour government	5	13	2	4	11	2	4	8	7	4	3	7	5	5	4	6	6	6	5	3
Both equally	45	70	25	36	69	30	35	61	45	45	29	39	54	54	40	46	54	45	40	49
Don't know	17	9	15	13	6	18	15	10	10	24	26	22	12	8	14	17	17	16	25	18

If proposals for releasing some offenders from prison early are implemented, they will include exemptions for those who committed certain crimes. Do you think each of the following types of crime should or should not exclude a prisoner from being considered for early release?

Murder

Should exclude them from early release	86	89	87	88	88	89	90	87	85	87	82	85	87	89	88	88	84	86	82	86
Should not exclude them from early release	10	11	9	9	10	7	7	11	10	10	13	9	10	10	9	7	12	10	12	10
Don't know	4	0	4	3	3	4	3	2	5	3	6	6	3	1	3	4	4	4	6	5

Violent offences with a sentence of seven years or more

Should exclude them from early release	84	89	85	87	85	87	87	86	84	85	86	81	84	90	86	86	82	84	81	86
Should not exclude them from early release	10	10	8	10	13	7	8	11	11	9	10	10	12	8	10	8	12	10	12	9
Don't know	6	1	7	2	2	6	5	3	5	6	5	9	4	1	4	6	6	5	7	6

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Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

	Region in England				
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Unweighted Sample	2087	514	339	183	727
	%	%	%	%	%

Reducing the proportion of their sentence that
some more serious offenders have to serve in
prison to from 67% to 50%

Strongly support	2	2	2	1	1
Somewhat support	6	6	6	5	6
TOTAL SUPPORT	8	8	8	6	7
Somewhat oppose	20	19	19	24	21
Strongly oppose	62	64	64	57	63
TOTAL OPPOSE	82	83	83	81	84
Don't know	10	10	9	12	10

Which government do you hold most responsible
for the current shortage of prison spaces?

The previous Conservative government	32	35	28	44	30
The current Labour government	5	5	8	5	5
Both equally	45	46	46	35	47
Don't know	17	14	17	16	18

If proposals for releasing some offenders from
prison early are implemented, they will include
exemptions for those who committed certain
crimes. Do you think each of the following types
of crime should or should not exclude a prisoner
from being considered for early release?

Murder

Should exclude them from early release	86	87	88	80	87
Should not exclude them from early release	10	9	7	14	10
Don't know	4	3	4	6	3

Violent offences with a sentence of seven years
or more

Should exclude them from early release	84	86	85	80	84
Should not exclude them from early release	10	8	9	15	11
Don't know	6	6	5	6	5

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

2020																				
		Vote in 2024 GE					EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)			Country		
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Green	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Higher	Intermediate	Routine	England	Wales	Scotland
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Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Violent offences with a sentence of between four and seven years

Should exclude them from early release	79	83	80	82	85	81	82	83	78	80	73	75	82	87	81	81	78	80	73	78
Should not exclude them from early release	13	13	13	13	13	11	10	14	15	12	13	14	14	10	12	11	15	13	16	12
Don't know	8	4	8	5	2	8	7	3	7	8	13	11	4	3	7	8	7	7	11	10

Violent offences with a sentence of less than four years

Should exclude them from early release	71	79	70	70	76	68	72	79	69	73	54	68	76	78	73	74	72	72	62	67
Should not exclude them from early release	18	15	19	20	18	15	16	17	20	16	29	18	17	15	17	16	19	18	20	20
Don't know	11	6	11	10	5	17	11	4	11	11	17	14	7	6	10	11	10	10	18	12

Sexual offences

Should exclude them from early release	85	86	87	87	86	89	88	86	82	87	82	83	86	87	86	89	81	85	81	83
Should not exclude them from early release	10	12	9	9	12	8	8	12	12	8	10	10	11	10	10	6	13	10	12	13
Don't know	5	2	5	5	2	3	4	3	6	4	7	7	3	3	3	5	6	5	7	4

Burglary

Should exclude them from early release	49	56	43	39	67	37	42	60	51	47	40	48	51	51	45	53	53	49	47	48
Should not exclude them from early release	36	35	42	42	24	44	42	31	37	35	40	33	36	38	41	31	32	36	32	37
Don't know	15	9	15	19	9	19	15	9	13	18	20	18	13	11	14	16	15	15	21	15

Criminal damage

Should exclude them from early release	33	40	28	28	44	26	29	43	36	30	23	32	34	38	31	35	36	33	31	33
Should not exclude them from early release	50	45	57	57	40	58	58	42	49	51	58	49	52	47	54	50	45	50	48	50
Don't know	17	15	15	15	16	16	13	15	14	19	19	19	14	15	15	15	19	16	21	18

Non-violent drug offences

Should exclude them from early release	25	30	24	15	35	17	20	33	28	22	21	21	32	26	22	26	29	25	23	29
Should not exclude them from early release	62	57	64	74	55	76	69	55	63	61	67	64	56	63	66	61	56	62	63	60
Don't know	13	14	12	10	10	7	11	12	9	17	12	15	12	12	12	14	15	13	14	11

Domestic abuse-related crimes

Should exclude them from early release	79	80	81	85	79	86	83	80	74	84	78	77	82	80	79	84	76	79	78	78
Should not exclude them from early release	13	16	12	11	15	8	11	15	17	10	12	13	14	14	14	10	16	13	13	13
Don't know	8	4	7	5	5	6	6	5	9	6	10	9	5	6	7	7	8	7	10	9

Cyber-crime

Should exclude them from early release	33	37	30	34	40	25	32	38	32	35	26	31	37	38	31	35	36	34	34	31
Should not exclude them from early release	45	45	50	48	44	48	48	44	50	41	48	46	45	43	50	45	39	45	38	46
Don't know	21	18	20	18	16	27	20	18	18	25	26	24	19	18	19	20	25	21	27	23

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Weighted Sample		2087	495	342	253	716
Unweighted Sample		2087	514	339	183	727
		%	%	%	%	%
Violent offences with a sentence of between four and seven years						
Should exclude them from early release		79	81	82	74	80
Should not exclude them from early release		13	11	11	17	14
Don't know		8	8	7	9	6
Violent offences with a sentence of less than four years						
Should exclude them from early release		71	75	76	61	71
Should not exclude them from early release		18	15	15	22	19
Don't know		11	9	9	17	9
Sexual offences						
Should exclude them from early release		85	86	88	80	86
Should not exclude them from early release		10	10	7	12	10
Don't know		5	5	5	8	4
Burglary						
Should exclude them from early release		49	52	55	47	44
Should not exclude them from early release		36	33	34	35	39
Don't know		15	15	11	18	17
Criminal damage						
Should exclude them from early release		33	34	35	38	29
Should not exclude them from early release		50	51	48	45	54
Don't know		17	15	18	17	17
Non-violent drug offences						
Should exclude them from early release		25	28	30	27	19
Should not exclude them from early release		62	60	58	59	67
Don't know		13	12	13	14	15
Domestic abuse-related crimes						
Should exclude them from early release		79	80	82	72	80
Should not exclude them from early release		13	12	13	16	14
Don't know		8	8	5	12	6
Cyber-crime						
Should exclude them from early release		33	32	40	33	32
Should not exclude them from early release		45	46	39	47	47
Don't know		21	22	21	20	21

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

2020																				
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Unweighted Sample	2087	357	557	216	234	112	856	746	907	1180	154	701	620	612	812	476	493	1763	128	196
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Fraud

Should exclude them from early release	30	35	27	24	39	21	28	33	32	28	24	29	32	33	26	31	34	30	30	31
Should not exclude them from early release	55	53	58	61	52	61	58	55	56	54	61	55	55	53	59	57	48	55	49	55
Don't know	15	12	15	15	9	18	14	12	13	18	16	17	13	14	15	12	19	15	21	13

Shoplifting

Should exclude them from early release	23	27	21	19	36	11	18	30	26	20	17	20	26	26	21	24	26	23	18	25
Should not exclude them from early release	65	61	69	73	51	78	72	58	63	67	74	65	62	63	67	64	60	65	67	63
Don't know	12	12	10	9	13	11	10	12	11	14	9	15	12	10	12	12	14	12	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.*

Sample Size: 2087 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 20th - 21st August 2026

Region in England					
	Total	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South
Weighted Sample	2087	495	342	253	716
Unweighted Sample	2087	514	339	183	727
	%	%	%	%	%

Fraud

Should exclude them from early release	30	29	33	28	29
Should not exclude them from early release	55	55	54	56	55
Don't know	15	15	13	16	16

Shoplifting

Should exclude them from early release	23	24	28	22	20
Should not exclude them from early release	65	64	58	66	68
Don't know	12	12	14	12	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.*