



# **PUBLIC VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE**

**Scotland analysis  
November 2021**

**IPSOS KNOWLEDGEPANEL**

Research by the Climate Engagement Partnership

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Centre for **Climate Change**  
and **Social Transformations**

**Ipsos MORI**





# The Scottish public see achieving net zero as an urgent priority

# 86%

are extremely, very or fairly worried about climate change

# 59%

feel the UK needs to reduce its carbon emissions to net zero sooner than 2050

# 72%

think the UK is already feeling the effects of climate change

# Awareness of the UK's 2050 net zero target is high

**Four in five of the UK public have heard of the UK's target of reaching net zero by 2050.**

- Around three in five in Scotland and Wales are aware of the Scottish Government's and Welsh Assembly's net zero targets respectively.
- Awareness is lower in Northern Ireland, where a net zero target is not yet enshrined in law – a Climate Change Bill is currently progressing through the Northern Ireland Assembly.

*Before today, had you heard of this target of achieving 'net zero' in the UK by 2050/ in Scotland by 2045/ in Wales by 2050/ the Climate Change Bill and the proposed target of achieving 'net zero' in Northern Ireland by 2045?*

Had heard of it | Not heard of it

UK net zero target

79%

20%

Scotland net zero target

60%

39%

Wales net zero target

62%

37%

NI Climate Change Bill and net zero target

38%

62%

**Base:** 5,665 UK adults aged 16+; 1,051 Scottish adults aged 16+; 215 Welsh adults aged 16+; 150 Northern Irish adults aged 16+. 19 – 25 Aug 2021

# Knowledge gap on climate action



**Despite this clear desire to take action to reach net zero**, the UK public's understanding of what they and the Government will need to do to reduce the UK's carbon emissions is relatively low. They want to act but are not fully empowered with the knowledge to do so.



**Only 13% in both Scotland and the wider UK feel they know a lot about what they personally would need to do to reduce the UK's carbon emissions**, while half only know a little and one in four realise they need to do something but don't know what.

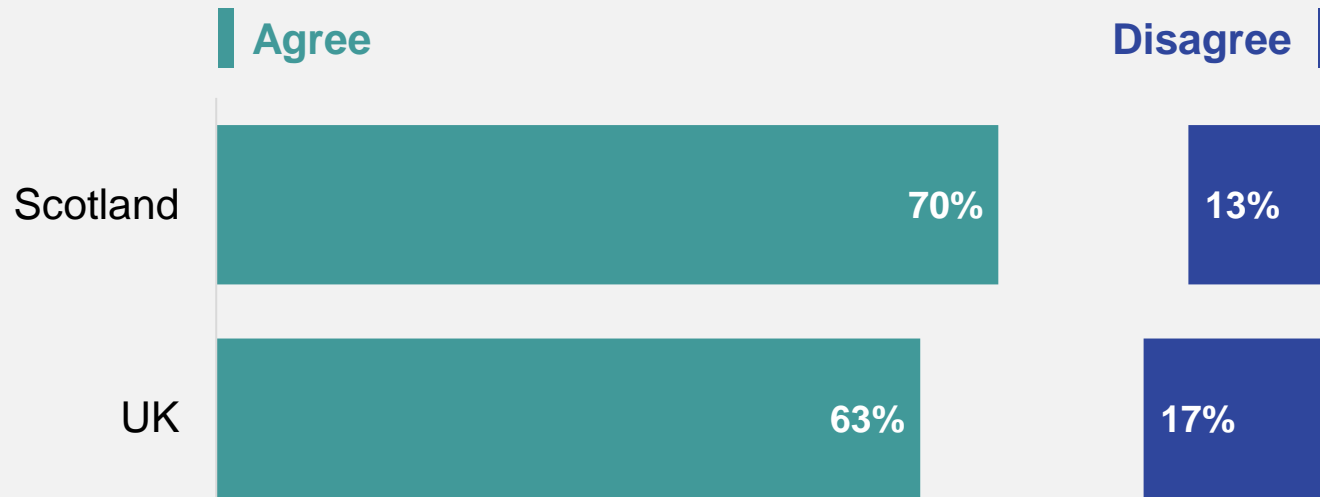


**Public understanding of what the UK Government will need to do is even lower.** Just 10% in Scotland feel they know a lot about what the UK Government will need to do to reduce the UK's carbon emissions, while half (48%) only know a little and a third (32%) realise it needs to do something but do not know what.

# 7 in 10 Scots agree that developed countries (including the UK) should pay more to solve the climate emergency

*To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?*

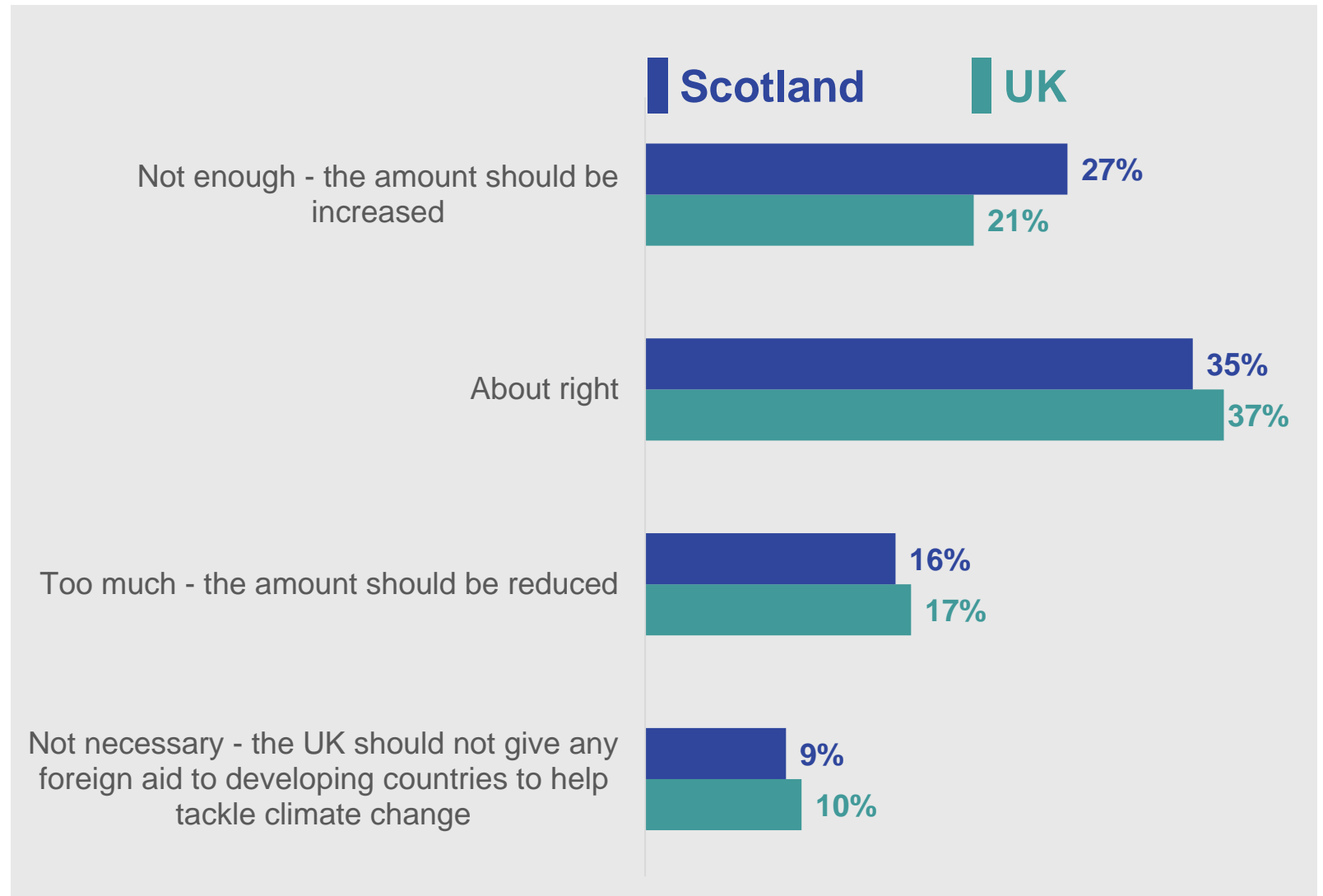
*It is right that developed countries (such as the UK, Japan and the United States) who have contributed most to the climate emergency by producing the most carbon emissions should pay more to solve the problem*



Base: 9,999 UK adults aged 16+, including 1,911 adults living in Scotland, 30<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

# Public views on UK doubling of climate finance aid to £11.6bn

*The UK government has pledged £11.6 billion over the next 5 years in foreign aid to developing countries to help them tackle climate change and limit its impacts. Do you think this is...?*



Base: 9,999 UK adults aged 16+, including 1,911 adults living in Scotland, 30<sup>th</sup> September – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

## Technical note

Survey data has been collected by Ipsos MORI's UK KnowledgePanel, an online random probability panel which provides gold standard insights into the UK population, by providing bigger sample sizes via the most rigorous research methods.

Ipsos MORI conducted 2 studies. The first interviewed a representative sample of 5,665 people over 16 in the UK, including 1,051 in Scotland. Interviews were conducted online between 19th and 25th August 2021. The second interviewed a representative sample of 9,999 people over 16 in the UK, including 1,911 in Scotland. Interviews were conducted online between 30th September and 6th October 2021.

Data are weighted by age, gender, region, Index of Multiple Deprivation quintile, education, ethnicity and number of adults in the household in order to reflect the profile of the population of the UK. All polls are subject to a wide range of potential sources of error.

Where percentages do not sum to 100 this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't know" categories, or multiple answers.

Questions are asked of the total sample of n=5,665 (Study 1)/ n=9,999 (Study 2) in the UK unless otherwise stated.



# CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

This is the second public release by the new Climate Engagement Partnership, a collaboration between Ipsos MORI and the Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformations (CAST). Look out for more expert analysis and results coming soon.

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