

# BBC London Riots Poll

## Topline Results – 26 September 2011

### Fieldwork: 23-25 Sept 2011

#### Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,001 adults aged 16+ across London.

Interviews were conducted by telephone 23<sup>rd</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Data are weighted to match the profile of the London population.

Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of "don't know" categories, or multiple answers. An asterisk (\*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote, are undecided or refuse to name a party and in the headline figures, those who are not absolutely certain to vote. Data are based on all adults unless otherwise stated.

- ASK ALL
- Q1. **Government borrowing is now at record levels, and will need to be reduced in future. If the overall level of public spending is going to be reduced as part of the process of reducing borrowing and rebalancing the public finances, should spending on some services be protected from cuts even if that means bigger rises in taxation and/or deeper cuts in other areas of public spending, or should no services be protected from cuts? SINGLE CODE ONLY**

	Jun 2009 <sup>1</sup> %	Sep 2011 %
Yes, protect some services	70	77
No, do not protect any services	26	16
Don't know	3	7

*Comparison with June 2009 figures indicative only because based on small number of respondents*

- IF THINK SOME SERVICES SHOULD BE PROTECTED AT Q1
- Q2. **Which TWO or THREE, if any, of the following main areas of public spending do you think should be protected from any cuts? READ OUT STATEMENTS ROTATE ORDER MULTICODE UP TO THREE**
- Base: All who say some services should be protected  
(Sep 2011- 775, June 2009 - 85)

	Jun 2009 <sup>2</sup> %	Sep 2011 %
The NHS/health care	84	77
Schools	62	59
The Police	49	42
Care for the elderly	40	40
Local authority services	3	12
Benefit payments	8	10
Social services	13	19
Defence	5	6
Overseas aid	9	6
None of these	1	*
Don't know	-	1

*Comparison with June 2009 figures indicative only because based on small number of respondents*

<sup>1</sup> 2009 London figures based on 118 Londoners interviewed as part of survey of 1,004 British adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone between 19-21 June 2009

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/2374/Public-Spending-Index-June-2009.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> ibid. 2009 London figures based on 85 Londoners who said some services should be protected

- ASK ALL
- Q3a. **Would you say the Metropolitan Police generally do a good job or a poor job?**  
IF NECESSARY: Is that fairly or very? SINGLE CODE ONLY

	% Feb 2006 <sup>3</sup> (505)	% Sep 2011
Very good	16	30
Fairly good	58	47
Neither good nor poor	10	8
Fairly poor	11	8
Very poor	3	3
Don't know	2	3
<b>Good</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>

- ASK ALL
- Q3b. **And during the riots in London last month, would you say the Metropolitan Police generally did a good job or a poor? IF NECESSARY: Is that fairly or very?**  
SINGLE CODE ONLY

	%
Very good	22
Fairly good	34
Neither good nor poor	6
Fairly poor	19
Very poor	14
Don't know	4
<b>Good</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>34</b>

- ASK ALL
- Q3c. **How confident, or not, are you that the Metropolitan Police can protect the public in London during any future riots? SINGLE CODE ONLY. READ OUT.**

	%
Very confident	22
Fairly confident	52
Not very confident	19
Not at all confident	6
Don't know	1
<b>Confident</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Not confident</b>	<b>25</b>

- ASK ALL
- Q4. **As you may know, a National Citizens' Service programme for young people is being introduced in Britain. Under this scheme, school leavers will spend six to eight weeks working on a project such as improving their local environment, helping to create local infrastructure or collaborating on a cultural event.**

**Do you think that a National Citizens' Service programme for young people should be compulsory, voluntary or should it not be set up at all? SINGLE CODE**

	%
Compulsory	47
Voluntary	40
Should not be set up at all	9
Don't know	3

<sup>3</sup> 1,002 adults aged 18+ in London, interviewed by telephone 14-17 February 2006.

<http://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/researcharchive/264/Attitudes-To-London-Policing-Survey.aspx>

I'm now going to ask you some questions about the riots last month in London and other cities.

Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

SINGLE CODE, SPLIT SAMPLE A/B

		Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Base
A)	<b>The Police should be given new powers to block social networking sites such as Blackberry messenger, Facebook and Twitter during any future riots</b> (Base: 501)	38	17	2	13	28	3	(501)
B)	<b>Blocking social networking sites such as Blackberry messenger, Facebook and Twitter should not be allowed in Britain, even during riots</b> (Base: 500)	33	14	3	19	26	5	(500)

ASK ALL

Q5c. In the event of future riots, do you think local people should, or should not be allowed to use physical violence to protect their properties and communities?

	%
Should	62
Should not	31
Don't know	7

ASK ALL

Q6. If the government was to spend more money on activities and services in London for young people, such as youth clubs, sports clubs and theatre groups, do you think it would make future riots more likely, less likely, or would it make no difference?

SINGLE CODE

	%
More likely	4
Less likely	55
Make no difference	40
Don't know	2

ASK ALL

Q7. Some people would like to see the Police use tougher measures during riots, while others don't believe it is necessary. In the event of more riots in London, do you think that the Police should, or should not use each of the following..?

RANDOMISE ORDER.

		Should use %	Should not use %	Don't know %
A)	Rubber bullets	38	57	5
B)	Water cannons	72	25	4
C)	Tear gas	50	46	4
D)	Curfews	78	20	3