

Poll for Defence Green Paper 2009:

The MoD is currently developing a Green Paper, which will be published in early 2010. This is in preparation for the Strategic Defence Review which will take place early in the next Parliament.

In developing the Green Paper, we were interested in hearing what the general public thought about a number of issues. In order to allow as many people as possible an opportunity to give their views we provided an open invite for people to complete an on-line poll which ran between 12 Nov and 10 Dec 2009. 4,582 completed surveys were received.

The results of the poll are published below. Whilst the poll, because of its self-selecting nature, cannot be considered representative of the UK population, it does give us an indication of the views of those members of the general public who have an interest in Defence issues. Their views will be considered when developing the Green Paper.

We would like to thank everyone who completed the poll.

Results (All results in percentages¹):

Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Armed Forces?

1. "UK Armed Forces are a force for good in the world":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	69
Tend to agree	21
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Tend to disagree	3
Strongly disagree	2
Don't Know	0

2. "The UK needs strong Armed Forces":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	83
Tend to agree	11
Neither agree nor disagree	2
Tend to disagree	2
Strongly disagree	2
Don't Know	0

3. "The UK Armed Forces are well equipped":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	4
Tend to agree	19
Neither agree nor disagree	17
Tend to disagree	37

¹ It has been necessary to round up some of the scores on a limited number of the results

Strongly disagree	21
Don't Know	1

4. "UK Armed Forces contribute to making the world a safer place":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	51
Tend to agree	33
Neither agree nor disagree	9
Tend to disagree	4
Strongly disagree	3
Don't Know	0

5. "UK Armed Forces make a positive contribution to the UK through activities at home":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	67
Tend to agree	25
Neither agree nor disagree	5
Tend to disagree	2
Strongly disagree	1
Don't Know	0

6. "UK Armed Forces look after their people":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	17
Tend to agree	35
Neither agree nor disagree	18
Tend to disagree	21
Strongly disagree	8
Don't Know	1

7. "UK Armed Forces give the taxpayer value for money":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	46
Tend to agree	28
Neither agree nor disagree	12
Tend to disagree	7
Strongly disagree	6
Don't Know	1

Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Ministry of Defence (MoD)? (All results in percentages)

1. "The MoD is a force for good in the world":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	17
Tend to agree	31
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Tend to disagree	16
Strongly disagree	9
Don't Know	1

2. "The MOD gives the taxpayer value for money":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	7
Tend to agree	15
Neither agree nor disagree	17
Tend to disagree	30
Strongly disagree	30
Don't Know	1

3. "The MOD looks after its people":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	6
Tend to agree	20
Neither agree nor disagree	22
Tend to disagree	26
Strongly disagree	21
Don't Know	4

4. "The MoD works well with industry to provide the best equipment for the Armed Forces":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	2
Tend to agree	12
Neither agree nor disagree	15
Tend to disagree	33
Strongly disagree	36
Don't Know	2

Q3. Before accessing this survey, had you heard about the Strategic Defence Review which will take place early in the next Parliament?

Yes	76
No	24

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the Armed Forces?

1. "In general, it is right to tackle the UK's enemies overseas to stop attacks on the UK, for example, in Afghanistan":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	40
Tend to agree	37
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Tend to disagree	9
Strongly disagree	7
Don't Know	0

2. "Broadly speaking, where there is danger that situations overseas will turn into conflicts, the UK government should help to stop it, for example through United Nations peacekeeping"

Internet poll

Strongly agree	42
Tend to agree	43
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Tend to disagree	5
Strongly disagree	2
Don't Know	0

3. "In general, UK Armed Forces should concentrate on defence at home, rather than overseas interventions"

Internet poll

Strongly agree	11
Tend to agree	18
Neither agree nor disagree	21
Tend to disagree	33
Strongly disagree	17
Don't Know	0

4. "Broadly speaking, where we can help to prevent a situation overseas worsening, the UK government should act e.g. by helping to reduce poverty or by supporting reform of a Government or its military":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	21
Tend to agree	47
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Tend to disagree	10
Strongly disagree	5
Don't Know	0

5. "Where possible, UK Armed Forces should be able to act on their own, without any allies, if they have to":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	53
Tend to agree	27
Neither agree nor disagree	8
Tend to disagree	9
Strongly disagree	4
Don't Know	0

6. "Where possible, it is better for UK Armed Forces to work with allies and partners such as NATO or the European Union":

Internet poll

Strongly agree	35
Tend to agree	41
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Tend to disagree	6
Strongly disagree	2

Don't Know	0
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Q5. On a scale of 1 -10 (where 1 = no threat, 10 = a very large threat) how much do you feel each of the following are a threat to security in the UK?

1. "International terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	14
5-7 (Some threat)	22
8-10 (Very large threat)	64

2. "The Taleban in Afghanistan"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	33
5-7 (Some threat)	33
8-10 (Very large threat)	34

3. "Potentially hostile governments such as Iran or North Korea"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	27
5-7 (Some threat)	42
8-10 (Very large threat)	31

4. "International criminals, for example drug dealers"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	24
5-7 (Some threat)	41
8-10 (Very large threat)	35

5. "Weapons of mass destruction, for example nuclear or chemical weapons"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	28
5-7 (Some threat)	37
8-10 (Very large threat)	35

6. "Conflicts in the Middle East or the Gulf, for example involving Israel or Iraq"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	25
5-7 (Some threat)	41
8-10 (Very large threat)	34

7. "Conflict on Europe's flanks such as Former Yugoslavia or Georgia"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	40
5-7 (Some threat)	42
8-10 (Very large threat)	18

8. "Crises in Africa, for example civil wars"

Internet poll

1-4 (No threat at all)	62
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5-7 (Some threat)	30
8-10 (Very large threat)	8