



Clear thinking in a complex world

Electoral Commission 2013 Winter Research: BME Booster Survey

Key findings



The
Electoral
Commission



February - March 2014

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Technical details

- This summary contrasts findings from the Mainstage of the 2013 Winter Tracker with findings for the 2013 Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Boost, which was conducted in parallel and funded by the Cabinet Office's Electoral Registration Transformation Programme. Results from the 2012 BME Boost are also included where applicable.

Mainstage

- ICM interviewed a nationally representative quota sample of 1,203 adults aged 18+ living in the UK. The sample consisted of 1,003 interviews with people living in Great Britain (865 in England; 87 in Scotland; 51 in Wales) and a boost of 200 interviews with people living in Northern Ireland.
- Interviews were carried out by telephone between 13th and 15th December 2013. Call-backs were made to add an ethnicity variable from 19th December 2013 – 7th January 2014. A total of 15 full replacement interviews were added on 9th January 2014 where we were unable to re-contact original sample respondents.
- A representative sample was interviewed using ICM's telephone omnibus, with quotas set by age, gender and region.
- Data was weighted to match the profile of the UK population using age, gender, tenure, socio-economic grade, work status and region.

BME booster

- In addition to the mainstage of interviewing, a 'BME boost' was conducted amongst black and minority ethnic groups aged 18+ living in the UK.
- As part of the Boost survey, ICM interviewed 1,002 BME respondents living in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Quotas were set to ensure a representative sample of each target ethnic groups was achieved. An additional 72 BME respondents were interviewed as part of the Mainstage were and added to the BME dataset to make a total sample of 1,074.
- The survey was conducted by telephone and took place between 25th February and 21st March 2014.
- The BME boost used a similar questionnaire to the Mainstage, with some additional questions asked of BME respondents. The BME respondents from the Mainstage sample were not asked the specific BME Boost questions. Throughout this report, base size descriptions should make clear which groups were asked each question.
- Data was weighted to match the profile of the UK BME population using a range of variables including ethnicity, gender, age, region, working status and religion.
- Results from the 2012 BME Boost are also included where applicable. This survey was conducted by TNS BMRB on behalf of the Cabinet Office using an identical methodology to the 2013 BME Boost. TNS conducted 999 BME interviews by telephone between 7th and 23rd December 2012 which added to the 94 BME interviews from the 2012 mainstage making a total BME sample of 1,093.

General

- Where results do not sum to 100%, this may be due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated.
- An asterisk (*) represents a value of less than one half or one percent, but not zero.
- All aspects of the research were conducted in accordance with ISO 20252 and ISO 27001, the international standards for market research and information security respectively.
- All changes/comparisons in the summary overleaf are statistically significant unless otherwise stated.

Summary of findings

The following represents some of the highlights in the 2013 BME Booster Survey compared to the 2012 study and the 2013 Mainstage survey among the wider population.

Voting process

- BMEs (66%) are significantly less likely than the wider population (72%) to say they are satisfied with the process of voting at elections in Great Britain/Northern Ireland. This contrasts with the pattern in 2012 when BMEs were more likely than people as a whole to be satisfied (68% versus 64%).
- The main reasons for dissatisfaction include the voting system being unfair (22%), voting being too confusing/not understanding the system (12%) and disliking/mistrusting politicians (11%). Importantly, BMEs (12%) are twice as likely as the general population (6%) to mention that voting is too confusing/they don't understand the system.
- Nine in ten (89%) BMEs say they are confident they know how to go about casting their vote at an election, up from 85 per cent in 2012. While the figure is still lower than the 93 per cent recorded among the general population, the difference in the result between BMEs and the public as a whole has halved (down from 7 to 4 percentage points).
- Three-quarters (76%) of BMEs are confident that the elections are well run in Great Britain, up 7 percentage points on 2012 levels. This means that in 2013 satisfaction among BMEs is in line with the general population (75%), itself up 14 percentage points since the 2012 survey.
- More than seven in ten BMEs state that their confidence in the way elections are run would be increased by: providing more information on how the voting process works (73%), increasing security and transparency when counting, storing or transporting votes/ballots (74%), requiring ID at polling stations (70%) and providing more information on candidates (75%).
- Just over half (55%) of BMEs say that they always vote at General Elections, which is in line with 2012 levels (53%), but still significantly lower than 2013 levels among the wider population (61%). Indeed, the finding among BMEs in 2013 is the same as among the population as a whole in 2012 (55%). At the same time there has been a decline in the proportion of BMEs who agree that 'I would be seriously neglecting my duty as a citizen if I didn't vote' (down 5 percentage points to 65%). More than one-third of BMEs (37%) believe that 'people are so busy they don't have time to vote', which is also consistent with 2012 levels (39%).

Registration

- The overwhelming majority of BMEs remain confident about how to go about registering to vote (88% compared to 86% in 2012). BMEs compare about average with the population in general on this measure (89%).
- Nine in ten (89%) BMEs state that their name is on the electoral register. This figure is more or less in line with 2012 (91%) but it remains significantly lower than it is for the UK population in general (96%). The most common reasons among BMEs for not being registered are: not being eligible for reasons other than age (18%), having just moved (17%) and not being bothered/being disinterested in politics (15%). Of those who are registered to vote, just under half (47%) say they are registered for a postal vote, compared to 36% of the wider population.
- If BMEs needed more information on how to go about registering to vote, most would either use the internet (47%) or would contact the local authority/council/town hall (46%).

- Almost three-quarters (73%) of BMEs are satisfied with the system of registering to vote, down on the 2012 figure of 77%. This decline coincides with an increase among the wider population (up 6 percentage points to 82%). More specifically, there is an eleven percentage point gap between the proportions in each audience who are 'very satisfied' (32% among BMEs vs. 43% among the general population).
- Among BMEs the main reasons for dissatisfaction are: it is too confusing/don't understand the system (24%) and it is not easy/they could make it easier (18%).
- Almost four in five (78%) BMEs say that making registering to vote easier and quicker would increase their satisfaction with the process. Moreover, seven in ten (72%) BMEs say that making it possible to register to vote online would increase their satisfaction with the system of registering to vote, a significantly higher figure than the one recorded among the public as a whole (64%).
- Compared to 2012, BMEs are less confident that voters' details are held securely (2012: 70%, 2013: 64%) and that their own personal details are held securely (2012: 70%, 2013: 62%). This is in contrast to findings among the wider population where confidence remains unchanged between 2012 and 2013. BMEs (62%) are also less confident than the general population (67%) that their own personal details are held securely.
- Just over half (55%) of BMEs are confident that the system prevents people who should not be on the register from registering, although 24% are not very confident and 14% are not at all confident. Sentiment among BMEs is consistent with the public as a whole (56%).
- A large majority (90%) of BMEs feel confident that their registration details on the electoral register are accurate and correct, and most of these are very (50%) rather than fairly (39%) confident. The overall population is slightly more likely to say they feel confident (94%) than BMEs.
- More than half (56%) of BMEs say that they would be less likely to register to vote if they had no choice in whether their registration information was sold, while around one in three (36%) say it would make no difference.
- A large majority of BMEs (90%) say they would find it easy to provide their National Insurance number if needed for official purposes. This is in line with 2012 figures, but slightly lower than the wider population of whom 95% would find it easy.

Integrity of elections

- The BME community is split fairly evenly between those who feel they know a lot/little (48%) about electoral fraud and those who know hardly anything/nothing at all (51%) about it. BMEs (48%) are more likely than the general population (43%) to feel they know a lot/little. This also marks an increase from 2012, when 43% of BMEs said they knew a lot/little.
- BMEs (46%) are significantly more likely than the country as a whole (34%) to believe that electoral fraud is a problem. This also constitutes an increase since 2012, when 34% felt that electoral fraud was a problem. However, when asked about the extent of the electoral fraud problem (46%) compared to benefit fraud (84%) and false insurance claims (85%), it is clear that it is perceived as much less of an issue.
- Registering to vote and voting at the polling station (77% and 74% respectively) are perceived by BMEs as being the procedures which are safest from electoral fraud, ahead of voting by post (53%). However, fewer BMEs now compared to the 2012 findings believe all three aspects are safe (-4, -11 and -4 percentage points respectively).
- While fewer BMEs compared to the wider population deem voting at a polling station to be safe (74% versus 79%), the finding among the general public has declined six percentage points since 2012. Conversely, people as a whole are just as likely as a year ago to believe postal voting is safe.

- A large majority (82%) of BMEs think that electoral fraud could be prevented by requiring people to show some form of photographic ID at the polling station.

Party finance

- Knowledge about how parties are funded in order to fight elections is not only low (35% know a lot (9%) or a little (26%)) but is lower than among the wider population (39%). As many as 38% of BMEs say they know nothing at all about it.
- The sample was split three ways in order to cross-check the extent to which BMEs are confident that the authorities will take the appropriate action over rule breaking or party finance, donations and spending. Each question approach, however, largely yield the same result. Around two-fifths of BMEs are confident that on:
 - Breaking the rules of political party finance the authorities will take the appropriate action (42%). This is four percentage points lower than the figure among the general public although the difference is not statistically significant;
 - Breaking the rules on donations, or spending on election campaigns, the authorities will take the appropriate action (45%). While this is two percentage points higher than the figure among the wider public, the difference is not statistically significant;
 - As above but the authorities will simply “take action” (issues around MPs expenses having been excluded with a question prompt). 41% of BMEs are confident, consistent with the 43% recorded among the public as a whole.
- Only three in ten (31%) BMEs agree that the spending on political parties and candidates is open and transparent, which is in line with the population in general (30%). Marginally fewer BMEs believe the funding of political parties is similarly open and transparent (28%), in line with the picture among the wider population (25%).

Marked-up questionnaire

VOTING PROCESS

Q1. In general, how confident, if at all, are you that elections are well run in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Are you.....READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093); 2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074); 2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203)

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	25	28	25
Fairly confident	45	48	49
Not very confident	18	14	15
Not at all confident	8	7	9
Don't know	5	3	1
NET: Confident	69	76	75
NET: Not confident	25	21	24

Q2. To what extent would each of the following increase your confidence in the way that elections are run in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Would you say it would increase your confidence a lot, a little, hardly at all or not at all? READ OUT EACH. ROTATE. SINGLE CODE EACH.

2013 BME base: All not 'very confident' (796). 2013 Mainstage base: All not 'very confident' (901).

		A lot	A little	Hardly at all	Not at all	DK	NET: A lot/little	NET: Hardly/Not at all
Providing more information on how the voting process works	2013 BME Boost %	40	33	14	12	1	73	26
	2013 Mainstage %	33	33	17	15	2	66	32
Increasing security and transparency when counting, storing or transporting votes/ballots	2013 BME Boost %	43	31	11	12	2	74	23
	2013 Mainstage %	39	30	14	14	3	69	28
Requiring voters to produce ID at polling stations	2013 BME Boost %	49	21	12	16	2	70	28
	2013 Mainstage %	46	20	14	18	1	67	32
Providing more information on party candidates	2013 BME Boost %	49	26	11	12	2	75	23
	2013 Mainstage %	46	30	11	11	2	76	22
Making it possible to vote online	2013 BME Boost %	36	23	13	26	3	59	38
	2013 Mainstage %	34	17	11	37	1	51	48
Stopping political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners from handling postal votes	2013 BME Boost %	32	33	15	17	3	65	32
	2013 Mainstage %	26	29	20	22	3	55	41

Q3a. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at General Elections?
 READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER OF 1 TO 3...NOTE FOR SCOTLAND INTERVIEWS: THIS APPLIES TO THE WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENT NOT THE HOLYROOD PARLIAMENT.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
I always vote at General Elections	53	55	61
I sometimes vote at General Elections	25	25	22
I never vote at General Elections	13	12	11
I've not been eligible in the past to vote at a General Election	8	8	5
Don't know	1	*	*

Q3b. Please tell me how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...¹ READ OUT.
 REVERSE ORDER SINGLE CODE.

2012 BME base: All respondents (999). BME boost only.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,002). BME boost only.

		Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	DK	NET: Agree	NET: Disagree
I would be seriously neglecting my duty as a citizen if I didn't vote	2012 BME Boost %	29	40	11	12	5	2	70	17
	2013 BME Boost %	41	24	13	11	11	*	65	22
People are so busy that they don't have time to vote	2012 BME Boost %	8	30	8	35	17	2	39	52
	2013 BME Boost %	14	23	10	25	27	*	37	52

Q3c. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 10 means a great deal of influence and 0 means no influence, how much influence do you think you have on politics and public affairs? SINGLE CODE

2013 BME base: All respondents (999). BME boost only.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,002). BME boost only.

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost
	%	%
10 – a great deal of influence	4	4
9	2	2
8	3	5
7	6	6
6	7	7
5	18	18
4	10	9
3	9	8
2	5	9
1	3	6
0 – No influence	27	22
Don't know	0	0
Mean	3.54	3.72

¹ Questions 3b and 3b not asked in the Mainstage survey.

Q4. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the actual process of voting at elections in Great Britain/ Northern Ireland? READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very satisfied	25	23	31
Fairly satisfied	43	43	41
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	18	23	18
Fairly dissatisfied	6	6	4
Very dissatisfied	5	4	4
Don't know / no opinion	3	1	2
NET: Satisfied	68	66	72
NET: Dissatisfied	11	10	7

Q5. Why do you say you are dissatisfied with the actual process of voting at elections in Great Britain/ Northern Ireland? PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE

2012 BME base: All 'fairly' or 'very' dissatisfied at Q4 (115).

2013 BME base: All 'fairly' or 'very' dissatisfied at Q4 (99).

2013 Mainstage base: All 'fairly' or 'very' dissatisfied at Q4 (89).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Voting System	24	33	29
The voting system is unfair	10	22	17
The party/candidate I support has no chance of being elected under this voting system	5	6	9
I don't agree with the First Past the Post system / I would prefer Proportional Representation (PR)	1	3	8
Because of the voting system, my vote doesn't count	13	3	5
Ease / Convenience of Voting	29	23	14
Voting is too confusing / I don't understand the system	7	12	6
Difficulty in getting to a polling station	14	8	4
There should be more choice on how and where to vote	5	8	4
Should be able to vote online	5	4	-
Politicians / The Political System	19	15	21%
Don't like/trust politicians	12	11	12
Politicians do not deliver on what they promise	12	9	7
You never see politicians except at election time	2	-	2
Other	36	41	39
There is no point in voting / it doesn't make any difference	5	12	12
General dissatisfaction with politicians and political parties	8	9	6
The procedure for voting is open to fraud and abuse	3	6	4
Can't be bothered with it	3	2	2
Not enough information about the candidates/parties	8	-	-
Other	14	15	16
Don't know	10	7	17

Q6. How confident, if at all, are you that you know how to go about casting your vote at an election?
 READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).
 2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).
 2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	48	53	68
Fairly confident	37	36	25
Not very confident	9	7	3
Not at all confident	4	3	3
Don't know	2	1	*
NET: Confident	85	89	93
NET: Not confident	13	10	6

Q7. Which one of the following statements do you most agree with? READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. ROTATE

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).
 2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Ballot papers should include a "none of the above" option so that people can indicate they do not support any of the candidates or parties	-	63	68
Ballot papers should not include a "none of the above" option as not turning out to vote amounts to the same thing as choosing such an option on the ballot paper	-	31	27
Don't know	-	6	5

REGISTRATION

Q8. How confident, if at all, are you that you know how to go about registering to vote?
 READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).
 2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).
 2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	51	54	66
Fairly confident	35	34	23
Not very confident	8	8	6
Not at all confident	5	3	4
Don't know	1	*	*
NET: Confident	86	88	89
NET: Not confident	13	11	10

Q9. As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is, the official list of people entitled to vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else? MULTICODE FOR 1 AND 2 ONLY

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
NET: Yes	91	89	96
Yes – where living now	87	86	94
Yes – another address	4	3	2
No	7	6	2
Don't know	3	4	1

Q10a. Why are you not registered to vote? (ADD IF 'YES – ANOTHER ADDRESS': where you are living now)? PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT LIST. MULTICODE OK

2012 BME base: All those who are not registered to vote or not registered where they are living now (92).

2013 BME base: All those who are not registered to vote or not registered where they are living now (97).

2013 Mainstage base: All those who are not registered to vote or not registered where they are living now (55 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Not eligible for reason(s) other than age (e.g. nationality)	39	18	11
Just moved	21	17	25
Not bothered – disinterested in politics	2	15	7
Haven't got round to it	9	12	14
Not old enough/not eligible	8	8	19
More convenient/prefer to be registered at second home	2	7	7
In between addresses/not at home	-	6	-
Don't know how to register	2	4	-
Politics doesn't make any difference so no point	-	2	2
I actively dislike politicians/politics and refuse to vote	-	*	3
Other	16	5	19
Don't know	6	10	5

Q10b. What is the reason(s) you are not eligible to vote?² WRITE IN

2013 BME Base: Boost only - All adults who are not eligible to vote for reasons other than age (16 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost
	Number	Number
Not eligible to vote	-	8
Not a citizen/ not currently a citizen	-	7
Other	-	1
Don't know	-	3

² Questions 10b and 10b not asked in the Mainstage survey.

Q10c. If you needed more information on how to go about registering to vote, where would you get it from?
DO NOT READ OUT. MULTICODE.

2012 BME base: All respondents (999). BME boost only.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,002). BME boost only.

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost
	%	%
Internet / online (no detail given)	42	47
Contact the local authority/council/town hall	41	46
Local library	6	9
Council website	3	8
Google (specific mention)	3	8
Ask a friend or family member	4	8
Contact the local community /civic/information centre	2	7
Government websites such as DirectGov	3	6
Citizens Advice Bureau	2	4
MP's office/local MP	1	4
Media (TV/newspapers/radio)	2	4
Electoral roll/register/form	1	3
Would expect to receive a letter explaining what to do	9	3
Registration/registry office	1	2
Post Office	2	2
Would call someone (unspecified who)	1	2
School/college/university	2	1
Other	7	*
Don't know	8	6

Q11. Can you remember, did you receive a form earlier this year asking you to register to vote, or not?
SINGLE CODE.

2013 BME base: All Northern Ireland respondents (4 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

2013 Mainstage base: All Northern Ireland respondents (200).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	Number	%
Yes – received a form	-	2	85
No – did not receive a form	-	2	10
Don't know	-	-	5

Q12. And how easy or difficult did you find it to fill in this registration form? Did you find it..... READ OUT.
SINGLE CODE.

2013 BME base: All in NI who received voting registration form (2 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

2013 Mainstage base: All in NI who received voting registration form (171).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	Number	%
Very easy	-	2	59
Quite easy	-	-	36
Quite difficult	-	-	3
Very difficult	-	-	*
Don't know	-	-	2
NET: Easy	-	2	94
NET: Difficult	-	-	3

⇒ IF DIFFICULT AT Q12, ASK:

Q13. Why did you find it difficult? WRITE IN FULLY

NO RESPONSES TO THIS QUESTION.

Q14. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very satisfied	34	32	43
Fairly satisfied	43	41	39
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	15	21	14
Fairly dissatisfied	3	2	1
Very dissatisfied	2	2	1
Don't know	3	2	2
NET: Satisfied	77	73	82
NET: Dissatisfied	5	5	2

Q15. Why are you dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? PROBE FULLY. DO NOT READ OUT LIST. MULTICODE.

2012 BME base: All dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in GB/NI (47 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

2013 BME base: All dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in GB/NI (50 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

2013 Mainstage base: All dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in GB/NI (24 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Difficult/confusing	39	44	38
It is too confusing/I don't understand the system	10	24	24
It is not easy/they could make it easier	13	18	17
I don't know how to register to vote	12	9	9
They do not promote/advertise where/when to register	9	2	6
It is inconvenient	14	6	9
You should be able to register to vote online	7	2	9
It is cumbersome/takes too long	4	3	5
You should not have to re-register every year	3	-	-
You should be able to register to vote over the telephone	-	-	5
Mistakes/problems	-	6	15
The council makes mistakes with my personal details	-	5	8
The post is unreliable	-	1	7
Not secure	2	11	11
The system of registering to vote is open to fraud and abuse	2	11	11
Other	40	38	41
I do not know where I can get information about the process of registering to vote	-	2	9
There should be more limitations on who can vote	3	-	7
Don't vote/don't register/don't want to vote	-	6	-
There is no point voting / voting makes no difference	12	12	6
Not eligible/register to vote	-	7	-
There should not be a fine for not re-registering	3	-	-
Other answer	25	9	29
Don't know	17	5	8

Q16. To what extent would each of the following increase your satisfaction with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland? Would you say a lot, a little, hardly at all or not at all? READ OUT. ROTATE. SINGLE CODE EACH.

2013 BME base: All not 'very' satisfied with the system of registering to vote in GB/NI (738).

2013 Mainstage base: All not 'very' satisfied with the system of registering to vote in GB/NI (685).

		A lot	A little	Hardly at all	Not at all	DK	NET: Lot /little	NET: Hardly/ not at all
Making it possible to register to vote online	2013 BME Boost %	52	20	9	18	2	72	26
	2013 Mainstage %	45	20	10	24	1	64	34
Tightening the system further against fraud or abuse	2013 BME Boost %	56	22	9	11	3	77	20
	2013 Mainstage %	56	26	9	8	1	82	17
Make registering to vote easier and quicker	2013 BME Boost %	53	25	9	11	2	78	19
	2013 Mainstage %	49	25	13	11	2	74	24

Q17. Thinking about the system of registering to vote [INSERT: in Great Britain / Northern Ireland], how confident are you that...READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. RANDOMISE.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

		Very confident	Fairly confident	Not very confident	Not at all confident	DK	NET: Confident	NET: Not confident
In general, voters' personal details are held securely	2012 BME Boost %	24	47	17	8	5	70	25
	2013 BME Boost %	22	43	21	12	3	64	33
	2013 Mainstage %	19	48	20	10	3	67	30
Your own personal details are held securely	2012 BME Boost %	27	44	18	8	4	70	26
	2013 BME Boost %	21	41	20	15	3	62	35
	2013 Mainstage %	19	49	21	10	3	67	30
The system prevents people who should not be on the register from registering	2012 BME Boost %	17	39	19	9	15	57	28
	2013 BME Boost %	14	40	24	14	8	55	37
	2013 Mainstage %	12	45	24	12	7	56	36

Q18. How confident, if at all, are you that your registration details on the electoral register are accurate and correct? SINGLE CODE

[NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: if asked: **by electoral register we mean the list of names that people who are registered to vote are included on**]

[NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: if asked: **accurate and correct includes whether you are registered to the correct address or under the correct name**]

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	-	50	59
Fairly confident	-	39	34
Not very confident	-	6	4
Not at all confident	-	3	1
Don't know	-	1	1
NET: Confident	-	90	94
NET: Not confident	-	9	5

Q19. You mentioned that you are [INSERT: not very confident/not confident at all] that your details on the electoral register are accurate and correct. Why do you say that? DO NOT PROMPT.

2013 BME base: All not confident that their registration details on the electoral register are accurate and correct (92).

2013 Mainstage base: All not confident that their registration details on the electoral register are accurate and correct (60).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Lack of efficiency/accuracy	-	31	33
Might not be secure/safe/confidential	-	27	34
Details not updated/change of address not acknowledged	-	15	21
Not eligible to vote/ not on the list	-	9	-
Not familiar with the system	-	8	8
Other	-	*	13
Don't know	-	13	10

Q20. Are you currently registered for a postal vote? That is, registered to send your ballot paper through the post, rather than having to go to a polling station? SINGLE CODE

2012 BME base: All registered to vote (1,009).

2013 BME base: All registered to vote (974).

2013 Mainstage base: All registered to vote (1,159).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Yes, am registered for a postal vote	39	47	36
No, am not registered for a postal vote	55	48	58
Don't know	6	5	6

Q21a. Please tell me if you think that the following statements about registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland are true or false. If you don't know, just say so and we will move on to the next question³. READ OUT. RANDOMISE ORDER. SINGLE CODE FOR EACH

2012 BME base: All respondents in Great Britain only (1,078).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

		True	False	DK
In order to register to vote everyone must provide their National Insurance Number	2012 BME Boost %	32	51	17
	2013 BME Boost %	32	52	16
	2013 Mainstage %	27	53	20
In order to register to vote everyone must provide their date of birth	2012 BME Boost %	81	12	7
	2013 BME Boost %	83	11	6
	2013 Mainstage %	80	13	7
In order to register to vote everyone must provide their signature	2012 BME Boost %	53	35	12
	2013 BME Boost %	56	32	12
	2013 Mainstage %	47	40	13
People can register to vote, or change their voting registration details such as those on where they live, at most points during the year	2012 BME Boost %	60	13	27
	2013 BME Boost %	65	16	19
	2013 Mainstage %	64	15	21
In order to register to vote, everyone must provide a utility bill as proof of address	2012 BME Boost %	-	-	-
	2013 BME Boost %	36	48	16
	2013 Mainstage %	29	52	19
When registering to vote people can decide whether they want their information included on a version of register that is available for general sale	2012 BME Boost %	-	-	-
	2013 BME Boost %	46	26	28
	2013 Mainstage %	47	29	25

Q21b. At the moment, a version of the electoral register can be bought by any person, company or organisation. This version is, for example, used by businesses and charities to confirm name and address details. You can currently choose whether your information is included on this version of register that is made available for sale.

If this choice was no longer available and you had to have your information included on a register that is available for sale, would you be more likely to register to vote, less likely to register or would it make no difference? SINGLE CODE

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
More likely	-	6	3
Less likely	-	56	54
Make no difference	-	36	41
Don't know	-	2	2

³ N.B. This question was asked of Great Britain respondents only in 2012/13 and GB and Northern Ireland respondents in 2013/14.

Q22. How easy or difficult would it be for you to provide your National Insurance number if you needed it for official purposes? READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER ON ALTERNATE INTERVIEWS.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very easy	57	62	73
Fairly easy	33	29	21
Fairly difficult	5	4	3
Very difficult	4	4	2
Don't know	1	1	1
NET: Easy	90	90	95
NET: Difficult	9	9	5

INTEGRITY OF ELECTIONS

Q23. As you may know, there are many types of fraud such as benefit fraud and insurance fraud. From what you know or have heard, how much do you feel you understand about electoral fraud in the UK, that is fraud relating to elections and voting? Would you say....? READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
A lot	7	11	9
A little	36	37	35
Hardly anything at all	22	28	33
Nothing at all	32	22	23
Don't know	3	1	1
NET: A lot/little	43	48	43
NET: Hardly at all/not at all	54	51	56

⇒ SPLIT SAMPLE 50:50 ON Q24 A AND B.

Q24a. How much of a problem, if at all, do you think electoral fraud, that is fraud relating to elections and voting, is in [INSERT Great Britain/Northern Ireland]? Do you think it is...? READ OUT. SINGLE CODE. REVERSE ORDER.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,093)⁴.

2013 BME base: Split sample (570).

2013 Mainstage base: Split sample (598).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
A very big problem	11	16	8
A fairly big problem	23	30	26
Not a very big problem	35	30	46
Not a problem at all	16	14	12
Don't know	15	11	9
NET: Problem	34	46	34
NET: Not a problem	52	44	58

⁴ Not asked of split sample in 2012/13.

⇒ SPLIT SAMPLE 50:50 ON Q24 A AND B.

Q24b. From what you know or have heard, how much of a problem, if at all, do you think different types of fraud are in Great Britain?⁵ ROTATE OPTIONS. READ OUT. SINGLE CODE EACH.

2013 BME base: Split sample base (504).

2013 Mainstage base: Split sample base (605).

		A very big problem	A fairly big problem	Not a very big problem	Not a problem at all	DK	NET: Problem	NET: Not a problem
Benefit fraud	2013 BME Boost %	52	32	9	3	4	84	12
	2013 Mainstage %	55	35	6	1	2	90	8
False insurance claim	2013 BME Boost %	43	41	8	4	3	85	12
	2013 Mainstage %	42	48	5	1	3	91	6
Electoral fraud, that is fraud relating to elections and voting	2013 BME Boost %	15	31	32	9	13	46	41
	2013 Mainstage %	10	34	34	10	12	44	44

Q25. In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud or abuse, would you say that [INSERT: a, b and c] is very safe, fairly safe, neither safe nor unsafe, fairly unsafe or very unsafe. READ OUT. SINGLE CODE EACH. REVERSE ORDER OF SCALE.

2012 BME base: All respondents (1,093).

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

		Very safe	Fairly safe	Neither /nor	Fairly unsafe	Very unsafe	DK	NET: Safe	NET: Unsafe
Voting at a polling station	2012 BME Boost %	44	40	4	5	4	3	85	9
	2013 BME Boost %	32	42	12	6	4	3	74	10
	2013 Mainstage %	30	49	11	7	2	2	79	9
Voting by post	2012 BME Boost %	19	38	7	19	9	8	57	28
	2013 BME Boost %	18	35	13	19	10	6	53	29
	2013 Mainstage %	16	39	12	19	8	6	55	27
Registering to vote	2012 BME Boost %	34	47	7	5	2	4	81	7
	2013 BME Boost %	27	50	11	6	3	3	77	9
	2013 Mainstage %	25	55	9	7	2	3	80	8

⁵ Not asked in 2012/13 BME booster.

Q26. For each of the following please tell me whether you agree or disagree? READ OUT EACH. ROTATE. SINGLE CODE EACH.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

		Agree strongly	Tend to agree	Neither/nor	Tend to disagree	Disagree strongly	DK	NET: Agree	NET: Disagree
There could be enough electoral fraud in some areas to affect the election result	2013 BME Boost %	22	27	18	14	11	8	49	25
	2013 Mainstage %	18	24	19	18	12	9	42	30
I would know how to report electoral fraud	2013 BME Boost %	16	17	11	20	29	6	33	50
	2013 Mainstage %	14	13	11	17	38	7	27	55
It would be easy to get away with electoral fraud in Great Britain/NI	2013 BME Boost %	17	20	15	20	21	8	37	41
	2013 Mainstage %	15	22	18	21	16	8	37	37
Electoral fraud is very common where I live	2013 BME Boost %	8	7	20	20	27	19	15	47
	2013 BME Boost %	3	4	21	22	34	16	7	56
I felt I had little or no choice about who to vote for because of pressure from people I know	2013 BME Boost %	6	7	9	14	63	1	13	77
	2013 Mainstage %	2	1	7	11	78	1	4	89
There are sufficient safeguards in place to prevent electoral fraud	2013 BME Boost %	20	27	19	13	10	11	47	23
	2013 Mainstage %	17	31	20	15	8	8	48	24

Q27. How effective, if at all, do you think each of the following would be in preventing electoral fraud taking place? Would you say... READ OUT EACH. ROTATE. SINGLE CODE EACH.

2013 BME base: All respondents in Great Britain (1,072).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents in Great Britain (1,168).

		Very effective	Quite effective	Not very effective	Not effective at all	DK	NET: Effective	NET: Not effective
People being required to show some form of photographic identification at their polling station	2013 BME Boost %	58	24	9	7	2	82	16
	2013 Mainstage %	53	31	8	7	2	83	15
People being required to show some form of non -photographic identification at their polling station	2013 BME Boost %	19	24	32	23	3	43	55
	2013 Mainstage %	15	29	31	21	3	45	53
People being required to sign in order to check their identity before being given their ballot paper in the polling station	2013 BME Boost %	38	30	17	12	3	68	29
	2013 Mainstage %	33	34	22	10	2	67	32
Having independent observers in all polling stations	2013 BME Boost %	39	36	13	9	3	74	22
	2013 Mainstage %	31	38	19	8	3	69	27
Stopping people voting for others by proxy. IF ASKED: SAY: At the moment you can get someone else to make a 'proxy' vote on your behalf	2013 BME Boost %	33	27	20	13	8	60	32
	2013 Mainstage %	30	31	21	11	7	61	32
Stop postal voting on demand. IF ASKED, SAY: at the moment you can request a postal vote without giving a reason	2013 BME Boost %	22	29	24	15	9	52	39
	2013 Mainstage %	19	30	28	14	9	49	42
Stop political parties, candidates, canvassers and campaigners from handling postal vote applications and postal ballot papers	2013 BME Boost %	35	32	15	12	6	66	28
	2013 Mainstage %	35	34	17	8	5	69	25

PARTY FINANCE

Q28. Political parties need money to run themselves and fight elections. How much would you say you know about political party finance, that is the way in which parties raise money to pay their staff and fight elections? Would you say.... READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
A lot	-	9	8
A little	-	26	30
Hardly anything at all	-	25	25
Nothing at all	-	38	35
Don't know	-	2	1
NET: A lot/little	-	35	39
NET: Hardly/nothing at all	-	63	60

⇒ SPLIT SAMPLE 1/3RD FOR Q29 A/B/C.

Q29a. How confident, if at all, are you that when a political party or one of its members is caught breaking the rules of political party finance, the authorities will take appropriate action? Are you... READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE.

2013 BME base: split sample (348).

2013 Mainstage base: split sample (410).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	-	17	12
Fairly confident	-	26	33
Not very confident	-	27	36
Not at all confident	-	28	15
Don't know	-	3	2
NET: Confident	-	42	46
NET: Not confident	-	55	52

Q29b. How confident, if at all, are you that when a political party or one of its members is caught breaking the rules on political donations or spending on election campaigns, the authorities will take appropriate action? Are you... READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE.

2013 BME base: split sample (352).

2013 Mainstage base: split sample (438).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	-	15	9
Fairly confident	-	30	34
Not very confident	-	29	37
Not at all confident	-	23	19
Don't know	-	3	1
NET: Confident	-	45	43
NET: Not confident	-	52	56

Q29c. How confident, if at all, are you that when a political party or one of its members is caught breaking the rules on political donations or spending on election campaigns, the authorities will take action? Please do not include issues around MPs expenses as being part of these rules. Are you... READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE.

2013 BME base: split sample (374).

2013 Mainstage base: split sample (354).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	%	%
Very confident	-	13	9
Fairly confident	-	28	36
Not very confident	-	28	31
Not at all confident	-	28	22
Don't know	-	3	3
NET: Confident	-	41	44
NET: Not confident	-	56	53

Q30. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements. READ OUT EACH. REVERSE ORDER OF SCALE. SINGLE CODE EACH.

2013 BME base: All respondents (1,074).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents (1,203).

		Agree strongly	Tend to agree	Neither / nor	Tend to disagree	Disagree strongly	DK	Net: Agree	Net: Disagree
The <u>spending</u> of political parties and candidates at UK elections is open and transparent.	2013 BME Boost %	12	20	23	20	19	6	31	39
	2013 Mainstage %	10	20	24	26	16	4	30	42
The <u>funding</u> of political parties in the UK is open and transparent	2013 BME Boost %	10	18	20	23	22	8	28	44
	2013 Mainstage %	8	18	19	30	21	5	25	51

Q31. In your opinion, should information about who donates money to political parties in Northern Ireland be made available to the public or kept confidential, or do you not mind either way? SINGLE CODE

2013 BME base: All respondents in Northern Ireland (4 – CAUTION SMALL BASE).

2013 Mainstage base: All respondents in Northern Ireland (200).

	2012 BME Boost	2013 BME Boost	2013 Mainstage
	%	Number	%
Made available	-	0	64
Kept confidential	-	0	6
Do you not mind either way	-	0	29
Don't know	-	4	*