Ipsos MORI Political Monitor January 2008

Contributed by Ipsos MORI
Tuesday, 19 February 2008

1 February 2008

Ipsos MORI's January Political Monitor, conducted from 17-23 January 2008 (before Peter Hain's resignation) shows the Conservatives on 37%, Labour on 38% and the Liberal Democrats on 16%. These figures do not represent a significant change from our December Monitor for Labour or the Liberal Democrats, but the Conservatives have come down five points from 42% last month.

This finding is reflected in the public's satisfaction with the two main party leaders: satisfaction with the way David Cameron is doing his job as leader of the Conservative Party has fallen from 39% in December to 31% now, and dissatisfaction with Cameron has risen from 33% to 38%. Satisfaction with Cameron has dropped notably among Conservative Party supporters, from 67% last month to 57% now.

However, Cameron's ratings still remain well above those for Gordon Brown and the Governement. Satisfaction with the government is at 29% and dissatisfaction at 62%, while a third (32%) are satisfied with the way Brown is doing his job as Prime Minister compared to almost half (48%) who are dissatisfied. However, dissatisfaction with both Brown and the Government have decreased in the past month, yielding improved 'net' ratings for both.

As our trend data shows (Satisfaction Ratings â€" last 12 months), net ('index') support for the Government and Brown has increased among the general public, but dropped off notably amongs Labour supporters. It appears that neutrals, or floating voters, who do not necessarily support Brown, chose to cast their support to Labour â€" likely because of their increasing dissatisfaction with Cameron.

This slight drop in support for the Conservatives may be related to the public's increasing pessimism about the future of Britain's economy (60% now think it will get worse over the next 12 months, up from 55% in December). Over the last decade, the Labour party has been seen to be better on economic issues than the Conservatives (Best Party On Key Issues â€" Managing the Economy).

'Crime / law and order / violence' and 'race relations / immigration' remain at the top of the public's list of concerns facing Britain.

Topline Results
- Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 2,045 adults aged 18+ at 210 sampling points across Great Britain.
- Interviews were conducted face-to-face on 17-23 January 2008.
- Data are weighted to match the profile of the population. Download the data tabulations pdf, 227KB Â Â Â Â

Voting â€" all absolutely certain to voteQ1 How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

(If undecided or refused at Q1)Q2 Which party are you most inclined to support?

Base: All 'absolutely certain to vote' (1,070)Â %Conservative37Labour38Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)16Scottish / Welsh Nationalist2Green Party2UK Independence Party1Other4Â Lab lead (Â±%)+1Â Would not vote1Undecided7Refused1

Voting â€" allQ1 How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

(If undecided or refused at Q1)Which party are you most inclined to support?

Base: All naming a party (2,045)Â %Conservative33Labour43Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)15Scottish / Welsh Nationalist2Green Party3UK Independence Party1Other3Â Lab lead (Â±%)+10Â Would not vote12Undecided11Refused1Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr Brown is doing his job as Prime Minister?
Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr Cameron is doing his job as leader of the Conservative Party?
Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Nick Clegg is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?Base: 1,014 British adults 18+Â SatisfiedDissatisfiedDon't knowIndexÂ %%%Â±%Government (Q3)296210-33Brown (Q4)324820-16Cameron (Q5)313831-7Clegg (Q6)151867-3

Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?

Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr Brown is doing his job as Prime Minister?
Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Mr Cameron is doing his job as leader of the Conservative Party?
Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Nick Clegg is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?Base: All party supportersÂ BaseSatisfiedDissatisfiedDon't knowIndexÂ n%%%%Government (Q3)33554379+17Brown (Q4)335532522+28Cameron (Q5)231572319+34Clegg (Q6)10338953+29

Q7 What would you say is the most important issue facing Britain today? (Spontaneous)
Q8 What do you see as other important issues facing Britain today? (Spontaneous)Base: 1,014 British adults 18+Â Q7Q7/8Â %%Crime / law & order / violence / vandalism / anti-social (yob) behaviour2247Race relations / immigration / immigrants2340National Health Service / Hospitals / Health care933Economy / economic situation920Defence / foreign affairs / international terrorism820Education / schools218Housing39Unemployment / factory closure / lack of industry29Pollution / environment48Morality / individual behaviour38Inflation / prices18Drug abuse17Taxation17Pensions / social security / benefits15Petrol prices / fuel15Poverty / inequality15Low pay / minimum wage / fair wages*4Transport / public transport*4Local government / council tax*3Public services in general*3Common Market / EU / Europe / EURO12AIDS*1Bird flu / Flu pandemic*1Countryside / rural life*1Nuclear weapons / nuclear war / disarmament*1Pound / exchange rate / value of pound*1Scottish / Welsh Assembly / Devolution Constitutional reform*1Animal welfare01Privatisation 01Foot and mouth outbreak / farming crisis0*GM / GM (Genetically Modified) foods0*Trade unions / strikes0*Northern Ireland 00Tsunami / South East Asia00Other14Don't know53Q9 Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?Base: 1,014 British adults 18+Â %Improve9Stay the same27Get worse60Don't know5Ipsos MORI EOI-51Q10 And how likely would you be to vote in an immediate General Election, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote, and 1 means that you would be absolutely certain not to vote?Base: 2,045 British adults 18+Â %10 â€” absolutely certain to vote5395867563594132221 â€” absolutely certain not to vote10Don't know3Refused*