

PRESS RELEASE: 8th JULY 2006

***New Ipsos MORI Poll
The demand for an English Parliament
Commissioned by the English Constitutional Convention***

41% in favour of an English Parliament

The English Constitutional Convention is pleased to announce that repeated Government claims, of there being no demand for an English Parliament, have now been utterly demolished by the latest Opinion Poll on the subject by leading pollsters, Ipsos MORI.

In the old 2001 poll, often quoted by Government sources, which was conducted with somewhat slanted questions, it was then found that there was then 16% in favour of an English Parliament. In the new poll (see below), Question 1 is exactly the same question as the Government's poll, and now shows that there is 27% support in England for an English Parliament.

Also now, in Question 2, Ipsos MORI have discovered that, when voters are given more information about the present constitutional arrangements, they then vote 41% in favour of an English Parliament (which is much more than any other option, including the status quo).

These results, reported in the Observer on Sunday 9th July, are highly significant as they show a marked shift towards support for an English Parliament within a federal UK. These levels of support can be contrasted with the results in the Welsh Assembly Referendum, which attracted the votes of a mere 25.3% of their electorate, and with those of the Scottish Parliament Referendum, in which 44% of their electorate voted for the Holyrood Parliament. In those countries these referenda occurred after long campaigns and also after much publicity. This new result in England is, by contrast, without any equivalent publicity.

These new results therefore suggest that the English Constitutional Convention's role, as a non-party political, debating forum seeking consensus on the proper and democratic Constitutional arrangements for an English Parliament, is most timely.

The members of the English Constitutional Convention therefore invite all interested Parties, groups and individuals to join the debate on England's future.

Research Study Conducted for
The English Constitutional Convention
22 – 26 June 2006

Technical Note

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of adults aged 18+ at 193 sampling points across Great Britain.

Questions 1 and 2 were asked among adults living in Great Britain. The survey was "split-sampled" so that half of respondents (n=939) were asked question 1 and the other half (n=992) asked question 2.

Interviews were conducted face-to-face on 22 – 26 June 2006.

Data are weighted to match the profile of the 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. Throughout the volume, an asterisk (*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent.

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Q1) With all the changes going on in the way different parts of Great Britain are run, which of the following do you think would be best for England...?							
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2006	2006 (England)
Base: adults in Britain	(2,718) %	(1,928) %	(2,761) %	(2,897) %	(975) %	(939) %	(798)
... for England to be governed as it is now, with laws made by the UK Parliament	62	54	57	56	55	45	44
... for each region of England to have its own assembly that runs services like health	15	18	23	20	24	17	18
... for England as a whole to have its own new Parliament with law-making powers	18	19	16	17	16	26	27
None						2	2
Don't know	5	9	4	7	5	10	9

Q2) With all the constitutional changes going on in the way different parts of the UK are run, which are creating national Parliaments for Scotland and Wales, which of the following do you think would be best for England... ?		
Base: 939 adults in Britain (834 adults in England)	GB %	Eng %
...for England to be governed as it is now, with laws made by the UK Parliament even though this means that Scottish and Welsh MPs can vote on English-only issues	32	32
...for England to be divided into Regions with each having its own Assembly	14	14
...for England as a whole to have its own national Parliament with similar law-making powers to the Scottish Parliament	41	41
None	4	4
Don't know	9	9

Source: Ipsos MORI