

# British Attitudes to Nuclear Weapons

Research Study Conducted for  
Greenpeace UK



October 2005



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# Introduction

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This report presents the findings of a survey among a representative sample of British adults. The research was conducted by MORI (Market & Opinion Research International) on behalf of Greenpeace UK.

Greenpeace commissioned MORI to undertake a survey on public attitudes to nuclear weapons. The survey sought attitudes on replacing Trident and how this decision should be made. It also aimed to understand when and how (if at all) the UK Government should use nuclear weapons against another country.

**Methodology:** questions were placed on the MORI Omnibus, the regular MORI survey among the general public. A nationally representative quota sample of 1,973 British adults (aged 15 and over) was interviewed throughout Great Britain by MORI across 192 different sampling points. Full details are contained in the appendices to this document.

**It is important to note that two versions of the questionnaire were used, with approximately half the total sample being asked either Version 1 or Version 2. Please refer to the Topline Results in the appendices for full details of the different question wording used.**

Interviews were conducted face-to-face, in respondents' homes, using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) between 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005).

**Presentation of Results:** in the tables, the figures quoted are percentages. The size of the sample base from which the percentage is derived is indicated in all tables, and in the marked-up questionnaire (Topline) in the appendices. Note that the base may vary among sub-groups – the percentage is not always based on the total sample. Caution is advised when comparing responses between small sample sizes.

**Please note that the percentage figures for the various sub-samples or groups generally need to differ by a certain number of percentage points for the difference to be statistically significant. This number will depend on the size of the sub-group sample and the % finding itself - as noted in the appendix.**

**Under no circumstances should any results with (unweighted) base sizes of fewer than 100 respondents be commented upon, or released publicly, as these data cannot be held to be sufficiently representative of the population from which the sample has been drawn. If in any doubt as to which figures can be treated as sufficiently robust, please contact John Leaman or Andy Byrom in the MORI Team.**

Where an asterisk (\*) appears it indicates a percentage of less than one, but greater than zero. Where percentages do not add up to 100% this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

**Publication of Data:** our Standard Terms and Conditions apply to this, as to all studies we carry out. Compliance with the MRS Code of Conduct and our clearing of any copy or data for publication, web-siting or press release which contains any data derived from MORI research is necessary. This is to protect our clients' reputation and integrity as much as our own, and to avoid the release of information which could be misinterpreted, or could appear to be inaccurately, or misleadingly, presented.

# Summary of Findings

## Attitudes to Replacing Trident

- Opinions on whether the UK should replace Trident vary depending on the information provided. In **version one** (which presents the neutral ‘background’ to the current situation only), opinion on replacing nuclear weapons is evenly divided with 44% supporting its replacement and 46% expressing an opposite view. There is no outright majority support across gender or age group.
- In **version two**, which cites an alternative use of the money that would be spent on replacing Trident – building 1,000 new schools – the proportion of those who do not think that nuclear weapons should be replaced rises to just over half (54%). Indeed, there is majority opposition among both gender and age group. Only a third of the public (33%) expressly support the replacement of Trident when the cost factor is included in this way.

### VERSION 1 TEXT

*The UK’s ‘Trident’ nuclear weapons are now ageing and will become unusable in about 20 years’ time. This means that, for the UK to maintain effective nuclear weaponry, the government needs to decide soon on whether to develop a replacement.*

### VERSION 2 TEXT

*The UK’s ‘Trident’ nuclear weapons are now ageing and will become unusable in about 20 years’ time. This means that, for the UK to maintain effective nuclear weaponry, the government needs to decide soon on whether to develop a replacement. The total cost of replacing ‘Trident’ missiles, submarines and base facilities is likely to be around £25 billion. This is the equivalent of building around 1,000 new schools at current prices.*

**Q** *On balance, do you think the UK should replace its nuclear weapons, or not?*

|                              | Version 1* | Version 2* |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| <i>Base: All respondents</i> | (1,016)    | (957)      |
|                              | %          | %          |
| Yes, should                  | 33         | 44         |
| No, should not               | 54         | 46         |
| Don’t know                   | 13         | 10         |

*Source: MORI*

\* Please note that the two sets of results cannot be combined, owing to the different question wordings between the two versions of the questionnaire.

- This clearly shows that views on nuclear weapons can differ depending on the type of information provided, with the reference about using money which could otherwise be earmarked for public services appearing to dampen support for financing Trident's replacement.
- For both versions of this question, support for replacing Trident is highest among Conservative supporters.
  - In **version one**, nearly three in five (58%) Conservative supporters agree that the UK should replace Trident. This compares to around two in five among non-Conservative supporters.
  - In **version two**, which outlines an alternative use of the money that would be spent on replacing Trident, just over two in five (45%) Conservatives support replacing nuclear weapons compared to around a third (35%) of Labour supporters and a quarter (25%) of Liberal Democrats.
- On both versions of the questionnaire, support for replacing Trident is lowest among London residents. This may be because in the event of a nuclear war, London is perceived as more likely to be targeted.
  - In **version one**, 29% of Londoners support replacing Trident. In **version two** of the survey, support for replacing Trident in London stands at around a quarter (23%), with a similar proportion of 26% support among North West residents.



**REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 1**

**Q** *The UK's 'Trident' nuclear weapons are now ageing and will become unusable in about 20 years' time. This means that, for the UK to maintain effective nuclear weaponry, the government needs to decide soon on whether to develop a replacement.*

*On balance, do you think the UK should replace its nuclear weapons, or not?*

|   | Yes, should | No, should not |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i> | <i>%</i>    | <i>%</i>       |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (1,016)</b>                                   | 44          | 46             |
| East Midlands (85)  | 43          | 43             |
| Eastern (78)  | 45          | 46             |
| London (131)  | <b>29</b>   | 51             |
| North East (49 – caution: low base size)                          | 42          | 53             |
| North West (131)  | 43          | 49             |
| South East (140)  | 48          | 48             |
| South West (92)   | 51          | 46             |
| West Midlands (75)  | 62          | 30             |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (90)                                       | 43          | 44             |
| Scotland (92)   | 34          | 52             |
| Wales (53 - caution: low base size)                               | 46          | 42             |

Source: MORI

\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold

**REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 2**

**Q** *The UK's 'Trident' nuclear weapons are now ageing and will become unusable in about 20 years' time. This means that, for the UK to maintain effective nuclear weaponry, the government needs to decide soon on whether to develop a replacement. The total cost of replacing 'Trident' missiles, submarines and base facilities is likely to be around £25 billion. This is the equivalent of building around 1,000 new schools at current prices.*

*On balance, do you think the UK should replace its nuclear weapons, or not?*

|   | Yes, should | No, should not |
|---|-------------|----------------|
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i> | <i>%</i>    | <i>%</i>       |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (957)</b>                                     | 33          | 54             |
| East Midlands (82)  | 37          | 43             |
| Eastern (71)  | 36          | 49             |
| London (126)  | 23          | 49             |
| North East (38 – <i>caution: low base size</i> )                  | 42          | 49             |
| North West (118)  | 26          | <b>63</b>      |
| South East (136)  | 38          | 52             |
| South West (87)   | 31          | 61             |
| West Midlands (70)  | 24          | 67             |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (86)                                       | 40          | 48             |
| Scotland (91)   | 28          | 61             |
| Wales (52 - <i>caution: low base size</i> )                       | 48          | 45             |

*Source: MORI*

*\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold*

## Informing the Debate on Replacing Trident

- When provided with a choice of different methods of public consultation, around nine in ten would prefer to see the issue discussed or at least brought fully into the public domain.
- It is worth noting, however, that the decision to replace nuclear weapons using a prime time television discussion with politicians only is the least preferred option (17%).

### ALL RESPONDENTS – BOTH VERSIONS

**Q** *In your opinion which, if any, of these are appropriate ways for the UK to make a decision on whether or not to replace its nuclear weapons?  
Just read out the letter or letters that apply.*

| <i>Base: All respondents</i>   | <i>%</i> |
|--|----------|
| A full national debate in which the government and organisations like Greenpeace & CND work together to give the public all the options available          | 43       |
| A national referendum  | 42       |
| The government giving Parliament & the public access to all the information it has about advantages & disadvantages of building a new nuclear weapon       | 39       |
| A prime-time televised debate on arguments for and against developing nuclear weapons, to include politicians and representatives from other organisations | 17       |
| Other  | 1        |
| None of these  | 5        |
| Don't know   | 5        |

*Source: MORI*

- There is some overlap between preferences - for example more than half of those who would like a national debate would also like to see a prime time televised debate.
- Although the preference is for a **full national debate** among the public overall, there are some differences according to where people live. In some areas the most popular option is for **the government to allow access to the information it holds** on the pros and cons of new nuclear arms: namely, in the South West (48%) and there is an equal preference for both options in Eastern (47%) and South East (49%) regions.

- In Scotland three in five (60%) would like there to be a **national referendum** on the issue. This preference may be partly due to the recent experience of referenda (Devolution in 1997 and Congestion Charging in Edinburgh in 2005). Holding a national referendum is also the preference of residents in the East Midlands (41%), North East (49%), North West (42%), West Midlands (42%) and Yorkshire and Humberside (45%).

**REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - BOTH VERSIONS**

**Q** *In your opinion which, if any, of these are appropriate ways for the UK to make a decision on whether or not to replace its nuclear weapons?*

|   | <b>A</b>                    | <b>B</b>                   | <b>C</b>                              | <b>D</b>                           |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | <b>Full national debate</b> | <b>National referendum</b> | <b>Public access to all govt info</b> | <b>Prime-time televised debate</b> |
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i> | <i>%</i>                    | <i>%</i>                   | <i>%</i>                              | <i>%</i>                           |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (1,973)</b>                                   | 43                          | 42                         | 39                                    | 17                                 |
| East Midlands (167)   | 38                          | 41                         | 27                                    | <b>10</b>                          |
| Eastern (149)   | 47                          | <b>34</b>                  | <b>47</b>                             | 14                                 |
| London (257)  | 40                          | <b>35</b>                  | 34                                    | 16                                 |
| North East (87)   | 42                          | 49                         | 40                                    | 21                                 |
| North West (249)  | 39                          | 42                         | <b>27</b>                             | 13                                 |
| South East (276)  | <b>49</b>                   | 41                         | 49                                    | <b>21</b>                          |
| South West (179)  | 44                          | 38                         | <b>48</b>                             | 14                                 |
| West Midlands (145)   | <b>35</b>                   | 42                         | 34                                    | 14                                 |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (176)                                      | 42                          | 45                         | 40                                    | <b>23</b>                          |
| Scotland (183)  | <b>52</b>                   | <b>60</b>                  | 44                                    | <b>23</b>                          |
| Wales (105)   | 47                          | 46                         | 46                                    | 16                                 |

Source: MORI

\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold

- On the whole there is stronger support for some form of consultation amongst readers of broadsheet newspapers. For example, almost half of this group (49%) would like the government to provide access to all its information on building a new nuclear weapon. This compares to around two in five readers of tabloid (39%), middle-market (41%) and regional (43%) newspapers.

## Attitudes towards the Use of Nuclear Weapons

- There is a general consensus that nuclear weapons should not be used against a country that does not have nuclear weapons themselves. In differently worded - but similar - questions, the level of opposition to the use of nuclear weapons in this scenario remains consistent at around four in five of the public.
- Of the three scenarios presented to respondents (*see tables below*), only one shows a (slight) majority favouring the British government using nuclear weapons: during a war with a country that itself uses nuclear weapons to attack the UK (version one: 53%, version two: 55%). However it is worth noting that - even in this instance – around a third of the public (version one: 37%; version two: 32%) would expressly oppose the UK using nuclear weapons.

| ALL RESPONDENTS - VERSION 1                    |   |            |            |
|--|---|------------|------------|
| Q  | Would you approve or disapprove of the UK using nuclear weapons against a country we are at war with and that ..... |            |            |
|  | Approve   | Disapprove | Don't know |
| <i>Base: all respondents Version 2 (1,016)</i> |   |            |            |
|  | %   | %          | %          |
| Does not have nuclear weapons                  | 9   | 84         | 7          |
| Has nuclear weapons but has never used them    | 16  | 72         | 11         |
| Uses nuclear weapons against the UK            | 53  | 37         | 10         |
| <i>Source: MORI</i>                            |   |            |            |

| ALL RESPONDENTS - VERSION 2                               |   |            |            |
|---|---|------------|------------|
| Q   | Would you approve of using the nuclear bomb in these cases? * |            |            |
|   | Approve   | Disapprove | Don't know |
| <i>Base: all respondents Version 2 (957)</i>              |   |            |            |
|   | %   | %          | %          |
| Against an enemy that does not possess it themselves      | 5   | 87         | 9          |
| Against an enemy that does possess it but is not using it | 11  | 77         | 12         |
| Against an enemy that has it and uses it against us       | 55  | 32         | 13         |
| <i>Source: MORI</i>                                       |   |            |            |

\* Question wording derived from 1955 Gallup survey

**REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 1**

**Q** *Would you approve or disapprove of the UK using nuclear weapons against a country we are at war with and that .....*

|   | Approve | Disapprove |
|---|---------|------------|
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i> | %       | %          |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (1,016)</b>                                   | 9       | 84         |
| East Midlands (85)  | 1       | 91         |
| Eastern (78)  | 13      | 85         |
| London (131)  | 7       | 79         |
| North East (49 – caution: low base size)                          | 7       | 90         |
| North West (131)  | 8       | 84         |
| South East (140)  | 9       | 86         |
| South West (92)   | 12      | 84         |
| West Midlands (75)  | 18      | 69         |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (90)                                       | 5       | 87         |
| Scotland (92)   | 5       | 89         |
| Wales (53 - caution: low base size)                               | 9       | 87         |

Source: MORI

\*No percentages in this table show statistically significant differences to the national average

**REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 1**

**Q** *Would you approve or disapprove of the UK using nuclear weapons against a country we are at war with and that .....*

|   | Approve | Disapprove |
|---|---------|------------|
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i> | %       | %          |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (1,016)</b>                                   | 16      | 72         |
| East Midlands (85)  | 8       | 79         |
| Eastern (78)  | 22      | 73         |
| London (131)  | 13      | 65         |
| North East (49 – <i>caution: low base size</i> )                  | 19      | 78         |
| North West (131)  | 17      | 72         |
| South East (140)  | 17      | 76         |
| South West (92)   | 16      | 76         |
| West Midlands (75)  | 31      | 55         |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (90)                                       | 11      | 74         |
| Scotland (92)   | 8       | 84         |
| Wales (53 - <i>caution: low base size</i> )                       | 22      | 69         |

*Source: MORI*

*\*No percentages in this table show statistically significant differences to the national average*

London residents are less likely than average to expressly approve of the UK using nuclear weapons against a country we are at war with and that uses nuclear weapons against the UK. This may in part be due to the greater proportion of people in the capital who say they don't know (18% compared to an average of 10%).

| <b>REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 1</b>  |                |                   |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Q Would you approve or disapprove of the UK using nuclear weapons against a country we are at war with and that .....</b> |                |                   |
|  | <b>Approve</b> | <b>Disapprove</b> |
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i>  | <i>%</i>       | <i>%</i>          |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (1,016)</b>  | 53             | 37                |
| East Midlands (85)   | 50             | 34                |
| Eastern (78)   | 67             | 30                |
| London (131)   | <b>43</b>      | 39                |
| North East (49 – caution: low base size)   | 66             | 29                |
| North West (131)   | 50             | 42                |
| South East (140)   | 49             | 40                |
| South West (92)  | 56             | 35                |
| West Midlands (75)   | 59             | 30                |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (90)  | 45             | 40                |
| Scotland (92)  | 51             | 42                |
| Wales (53 - caution: low base size)  | 57             | 37                |

*Source: MORI*

*\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold*



The fact that residents in London show lower outright opposition to using ‘the nuclear bomb’ against an enemy without this technology is likely to be due to a far higher proportion who offer no opinion compared to the national figure (25% compared to an average of 9%).

| <b>REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 2</b>                                |                |                   |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Q Would you approve of using the nuclear bomb in these cases?</b> |                |                   |
|  | <b>Approve</b> | <b>Disapprove</b> |
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i>    | <i>%</i>       | <i>%</i>          |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (957)</b>  | 5              | 87                |
| East Midlands (82)   | 6              | 86                |
| Eastern (71)   | 9              | 86                |
| London (126)   | 9              | <b>66</b>         |
| North East (38 – caution: low base size)                             | 3              | 91                |
| North West (118)   | 2              | 90                |
| South East (136)   | 4              | 88                |
| South West (87)  | 3              | 94                |
| West Midlands (70)   | 3              | 92                |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (86)  | 3              | 90                |
| Scotland (91)  | 2              | 94                |
| Wales (52 - caution: low base size)                                  | 1              | 95                |

Source: MORI

\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold

As with the previous question, one in four London residents (25%) are unable to offer an opinion (compared to 12% nationally who don't know – reflected in the lower degree of outright opposition shown below.

| <b>REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 2</b>                                |                |                   |
|--|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Q Would you approve of using the nuclear bomb in these cases?</b> |                |                   |
|  | <b>Approve</b> | <b>Disapprove</b> |
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i>    | <i>%</i>       | <i>%</i>          |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (957)</b>  | 11             | 77                |
| East Midlands (82)   | 10             | 70                |
| Eastern (71)   | 14             | 77                |
| London (126)   | 13             | <b>62</b>         |
| North East (38 – <i>caution: low base size</i> )                     | 25             | 64                |
| North West (118)   | <b>4</b>       | 83                |
| South East (136)   | 13             | 79                |
| South West (87)  | 10             | 83                |
| West Midlands (70)   | 8              | 81                |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (86)  | 9              | 79                |
| Scotland (91)  | 7              | 86                |
| Wales (52 - <i>caution: low base size</i> )                          | 11             | 83                |

*Source: MORI*

*\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold*

| <b>REGIONAL BREAKDOWN - VERSION 2</b>                             |  |                   |
|---|--|-------------------|
| <b>Q</b>  | <b>Would you approve of using the nuclear bomb in these cases?</b> |                   |
|   | <b>Approve</b>   | <b>Disapprove</b> |
| <i>Base: All respondents in each region (denoted in brackets)</i> | <i>%</i>   | <i>%</i>          |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE (957)</b>                                     | 55   | 32                |
| East Midlands (82)  | 56   | 34                |
| Eastern (71)  | 63   | 28                |
| London (126)  | <b>38</b>  | 33                |
| North East (38 – caution: low base size)                          | 60   | 27                |
| North West (118)  | 54   | 35                |
| South East (136)  | 57   | 31                |
| South West (87)   | 62   | 29                |
| West Midlands (70)  | 54   | 32                |
| Yorkshire & Humberside (86)                                       | 60   | 33                |
| Scotland (91)   | 49   | 44                |
| Wales (52 - caution: low base size)                               | 67   | 26                |

Source: MORI

\* Percentages which show statistically significant differences to the national average are highlighted in bold

## Changing Attitudes to Nuclear Weapons?

In version two of the survey, some questions were asked using essentially the same wording as a Gallup survey first asked in 1955.<sup>1</sup> Support for the use of nuclear weapons has fallen for all three scenarios – most dramatically in the case of their use against an enemy that uses it against the UK.

| <b>Q Would you approve of using the nuclear bomb in these cases?</b> |                |                   |                   |
|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | <b>Approve</b> | <b>Disapprove</b> | <b>Don't know</b> |
| <i>Base: All version 2 respondents (957)</i>                         | <i>%</i>       | <i>%</i>          | <i>%</i>          |
| <b>Against an enemy that does not possess it themselves</b>          | 5              | 87                | 9                 |
| <i>Gallup survey 1955</i>  | <i>11</i>      | <i>77</i>         | <i>12</i>         |
| <b>Against an enemy that does possess it but is not using it</b>     | 11             | 77                | 12                |
| <i>Gallup survey 1955</i>  | <i>22</i>      | <i>64</i>         | <i>14</i>         |
| <b>Against an enemy that has it and uses it against us</b>           | 55             | 32                | 13                |
| <i>Gallup survey 1955</i>  | <i>76</i>      | <i>16</i>         | <i>8</i>          |

*Source: MORI*

<sup>1</sup> The October 1955 Gallup survey question referred to the hydrogen bomb, and was worded as follows: "What do you think about the H-Bomb in a war? Would you approve of using it in these cases?"; the same three scenarios as cited above were then provided. The sample size was c. 1,000 British adults, and a similar face-to-face, in-home methodology was used.

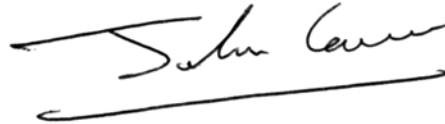
## Implications

- There is only one instance where a slight majority of the public would support the use of nuclear weapons. This is in the event of war with another country that itself uses nuclear weapons against the UK. This suggests that much of the support for the UK retaining nuclear weapons is premised on the understanding that their use would only be considered as retaliation, should another country launch a nuclear attack against the UK.
- Public support for replacing Trident is strongly (if not completely) influenced by the context in which the question is posed. If alternative uses for the money are suggested, especially if it could be used to fund additional public services, there is greater opposition to financing Trident's replacement from the public purse.
- There is an appetite among the public for some form of discussion to be held on whether or not to replace Trident. The nature of this debate and/or consultation might take various forms, but the clear preference is for the debate to be inclusive.

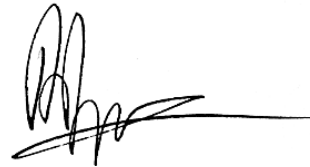
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*Checked & Approved:*



*John Leaman*



*Andy Byrom*



*Victoria Labeodan*



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# Appendices

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# Technical Details

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## Sample Design

The sample design is a constituency based quota sample. There are 641 parliamentary constituencies covering Great Britain. From these, we select approximately one in three to be used as the main sampling points on the MORI Omnibus. These points are specially selected to be representative of the whole country by region, social grade, working status, MOSAIC rurality, tenure, ethnicity and car ownership. Within each constituency, one local government ward is chosen which is representative of the constituency.

Within each ward or sampling point, we interview ten respondents whose profile matches the quota.

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Gender:           | Male; Female                              |
| Household Tenure: | Owner occupied; Council Tenant/HAT; Other |
| Age:              | 15 to 24; 25 to 44; 45+                   |
| Working Status    | Full-time; part time/not working          |

These quotas reflect the socio-demographic makeup of that area, and are devised from an analysis of the 2001 Census combined with more recent ONS (Office of National Statistics) data. Overall, quotas are a cost-effective means of ensuring that the demographic profile of the sample matches the actual profile of GB as a whole, and is representative of all adults in Great Britain aged 15 and over.

## Fieldwork

Fieldwork is carried out by MORI using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing). All interviews are conducted face to face, in the home - one interview per household. No incentives are offered to respondents.

## Weighting and Data Processing

Data entry and analysis are carried out by an approved and quality-assured data processing company. The data are weighted using 6 sets of simple and interlocking rim weights for social grade, standard region, unemployment within region, cars in household, and age and working status within gender. This is to adjust for any variance in the quotas or coverage of individual sampling points so that the sample is representative of the GB adult population.



# Statistical Reliability

Because a sample, rather than the entire population, was interviewed the percentage results are subject to sampling tolerances – which vary with the size of the sample and the percentage figure concerned. For example, for a question where 50% of the people in a (weighted) sample of 957 respond with a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary more than 3 percentage points, plus or minus, from the result that would have been obtained from a census of the entire population (using the same procedures). The tolerances that apply in this report are given in the table below.

| <b>Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels (at the 95% confidence level)</b> |                         |                         |                  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
|  | <b>10% or 90%<br/>±</b> | <b>30% or 70%<br/>±</b> | <b>50%<br/>±</b> |
| <b>Size of sample or sub-group on which survey result is based</b>   |                         |                         |                  |
| 1,973 (applies to Q2 only)   | 1                       | 2                       | 2                |
| 1,016 (Version 1 of questionnaire)   | 2                       | 3                       | 3                |
| 957 (Version 2 of questionnaire)   | 2                       | 3                       | 3                |
| <i>Source: MORI</i>  |                         |                         |                  |

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results between different elements of the sample. A difference must be of at least a certain size to be statistically significant. The following table is a guide to the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons between sub-groups.

| <b>Differences required for significance at the 95% confidence level at or near these percentages</b> |                         |                         |                  |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
|   | <b>10% or 90%<br/>±</b> | <b>30% or 70%<br/>±</b> | <b>50%<br/>±</b> |
| <b>Size of sample on which survey result is based</b>   |                         |                         |                  |
| 199 Conservative vs 339 Labour supporters   | 5                       | 8                       | 9                |
| 160 Broadsheet readers vs 247 Tabloid readers   | 6                       | 9                       | 10               |
| 462 Male vs 495 Female  | 4                       | 6                       | 6                |
| <i>Source: MORI</i>   |                         |                         |                  |

# Definition of Social Grades

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The grades detailed below are the social class definitions as used by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, and are standard on all surveys carried out by MORI (Market & Opinion Research International Limited). The percentages below are derived from the National Readership Survey.

| <b>Social Grades</b> |   |  |                                 |
|----------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
|                      | <b>Social Class</b>                       | <b>Occupation of Chief Income Earner</b>                                     | <b>Percentage of Population</b> |
| A                    | Upper Middle Class                        | Higher managerial, administrative or professional                            | 24.7                            |
| B                    | Middle Class                              | Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional                      |                                 |
| C1                   | Lower Middle Class                        | Supervisor or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional | 29.0                            |
| C2                   | Skilled Working Class                     | Skilled manual workers   | 20.9                            |
| D                    | Working Class                             | Semi and unskilled manual workers  | 25.4                            |
| E                    | Those at the lowest levels of subsistence | State pensioners, etc, with no other earnings                                |                                 |

# Topline Results

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## Attitudes to Nuclear Weapons

16 September 2005

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- Results are based on responses from a nationally representative sample of 1,973 British adults aged 15+ using MORI's face-to-face omnibus
  - All questions with the exception of Q2 were split-sampled, with approximately one half of respondents being asked one 'version' of the survey and the other half a second version. 1,016 respondents were interviewed for Version 1 of the questionnaire and 957 for Version 2 – giving an overall sample size of 1,973.
  - Data are weighted to age, gender, social class, tenure, work status and Government Office Region (GOR)
  - Fieldwork was conducted between 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Quotas were set for age, gender, GOR and social class
  - An asterisk (\*) denotes a finding of less than 0.5% but greater than zero

### **VERSION 1**

The UK's 'Trident' nuclear weapons are now ageing and will become unusable in about 20 years' time. This means that, for the UK to maintain effective nuclear weaponry, the government needs to decide soon on whether to develop a replacement.

---

Q1 On balance, do you think the UK should replace its nuclear weapons, or not?

|                | %  |
|----------------|----|
| Yes, should    | 44 |
| No, should not | 46 |
| Don't know     | 10 |

---

Base: all respondents Version 1 (1,016)

**VERSION 2**

The UK's 'Trident' nuclear weapons are now ageing and will become unusable in about 20 years' time. This means that, for the UK to maintain effective nuclear weaponry, the government needs to decide soon on whether to develop a replacement.

The total cost of replacing 'Trident' missiles, submarines and base facilities is likely to be around £25 billion. This is the equivalent of building around 1,000 new schools at current prices.

---

Q1. On balance, do you think the UK should replace its nuclear weapons, or not?

|                | %  |
|----------------|----|
| Yes, should    | 33 |
| No, should not | 54 |
| Don't know     | 13 |

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Base: all respondents Version 2 (957)

Q2 In your opinion which, if any, of these are appropriate ways for the UK to make a decision on whether or not to replace its nuclear weapons? Just read out the letter or letters that apply.

|  | %  |
|--|----|
| A full national debate in which the government and organisations like Greenpeace & CND work together to give the public all the options available          | 43 |
| A national referendum  | 42 |
| The government giving Parliament & the public access to all the information it has about advantages & disadvantages of building a new nuclear weapon       | 39 |
| A prime-time televised debate on arguments for and against developing nuclear weapons, to include politicians and representatives from other organisations | 17 |
| Other  | 1  |
| None of these  | 5  |
| Don't know   | 5  |

Base: all respondents (1,973)

**VERSION 1**

Q3-5 Would you approve or disapprove of the UK using nuclear weapons against a country we are at war with and that .....

|    |  | Approve<br>% | Disapprove<br>% | Don't know<br>% |
|----|--|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Q3 | <b>Does not have nuclear weapons</b>               | 9            | 84              | 7               |
| Q4 | <b>Has nuclear weapons but has never used them</b> | 16           | 72              | 11              |
| Q5 | <b>Uses nuclear weapons against the UK</b>         | 53           | 37              | 10              |

Base: all respondents Version 1 (1,016)

**VERSION 2: DERIVED FROM OCTOBER 1955 GALLUP SURVEY**

Q3-5 Would you approve of using the nuclear bomb in these cases? \*

|    |  | Approve<br>% | Disapprove<br>% | Don't know<br>% |
|----|--|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Q3 | <b>Against an enemy that does not possess it themselves</b>      | 5            | 87              | 9               |
|    | <i>Gallup October 1955</i>                                       | 11           | 77              | 12              |
| Q4 | <b>Against an enemy that does possess it but is not using it</b> | 11           | 77              | 12              |
|    | <i>Gallup October 1955</i>                                       | 22           | 64              | 14              |
| Q5 | <b>Against an enemy that has it and uses it against us</b>       | 55           | 32              | 13              |
|    | <i>Gallup October 1955</i>                                       | 76           | 16              | 8               |

Base: all respondents Version 2 (957)

\* The October 1955 Gallup survey question referred to the hydrogen bomb, and was worded as follows: "What do you think about the H-Bomb in a war? Would you approve of using it in these cases?"; the same three scenarios as cited above were then provided. The sample size was 1,000 British adults, and a similar face-to-face, in-home methodology was used.

## KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

### Daily Newspapers

Here is a list of daily newspapers. Which of these do you read or look at regularly?  
By regularly I mean on average at least three out of four issues.

|                      | %  |
|----------------------|----|
| Daily Express        | 4  |
| Daily Mail           | 14 |
| The Mirror           | 8  |
| Daily Record         | 3  |
| Daily Telegraph      | 6  |
| Financial Times      | 1  |
| The Guardian         | 5  |
| The Herald (Glasgow) | 1  |
| The Independent      | 3  |
| Metro                | 3  |
| The Scotsman         | 1  |
| Daily Star           | 3  |
| The Sun              | 16 |
| The Times            | 5  |
| Evening Standard     | 2  |
| Other                | 10 |
| None of these        | 37 |

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Base: all respondents (1,973)

### Voting Intention

How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow? (IF AGED 15-17  
ADD: If you were old enough to vote?)

|                             | %  |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Conservative                | 19 |
| Labour                      | 31 |
| Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem) | 16 |
| Scottish/Welsh Nationalist  | 1  |
| Green Party                 | 2  |
| UK Independence Party       | *  |
| Other                       | 1  |
| Would not vote              | 11 |
| Undecided                   | 17 |
| Refused                     | 2  |

---

Base: all respondents (1,973)

## Inclination to Support

Which party are you most inclined to support?

|                             | %  |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Conservative                | 14 |
| Labour                      | 21 |
| Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem) | 8  |
| Scottish/Welsh Nationalist  | *  |
| Green Party                 | 1  |
| UK Independence Party       | 0  |
| Other                       | *  |
| Would not vote              | 1  |
| Undecided                   | 48 |
| Refused                     | 8  |

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Base: all undecided or refused at voting intention question (386)

## Socio-Political Activism

And which, if any of the things on this list have you done in the last two or three years? Just read out the letters that apply.

|   | %        |
|---|----------|
| A Presented my views to a local councillor or MP              | 14       |
| B Written a letter to an editor                               | 6        |
| C Urged someone outside my family to vote                     | 16       |
| D Urged someone to get in touch with a local councillor or MP | 12       |
| E Made a speech before an organised group                     | 11       |
| F Been an officer of an organisation or club                  | 8        |
| G Stood for public office                                     | 1        |
| H Taken an active part in a political campaign                | 3        |
| I Helped on fund raising drives                               | 20       |
| J Voted in the last general election                          | 68       |
| None of these   | 21       |
| <b>Activist (5 + activities)</b>                              | <b>6</b> |
| Semi-activist (3 or 4 activities)                             | 15       |
| Non-activist (2 or fewer activities)                          | 80       |

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Base: all respondents (1,973)