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SCOTTISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY 2013 CORE MODULE: ATTITUDES TO GOVERNMENT, THE ECONOMY, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES, AND SOCIAL CAPITAL IN SCOTLAND

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Responsibility for the opinions expressed in this report, and for all interpretation of the data, lies solely with the authors.

Susan Reid, Jennifer Waterton & Annie Wild

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report presents findings from the Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) survey on two key questions relating to the relationship between the general public, the government and public services:

   - How have attitudes to government, the economy and standards of living, the health service and social care, changed over time?
   - What factors are related to trust in the Scottish Government, and who does and ought to influence the way Scotland is run?

   In addition, this year's report also considers a further question that is of particular relevance in the context of the experience, over recent years, of economic recession and now potential recovery:

   - What is the relationship between social capital and life satisfaction?

2. The report uses SSA data from 1999 onwards to explore changing attitudes to government, the economy and health and social care services. The most recent data included in this report were collected between June and October 2013.

Changing attitudes to government

3. The attitudes of people in Scotland towards the Scottish Government were at historically high levels in 2011 following the Scottish election. Since then, attitudes have become less positive in many areas. The results from SSA 2013 suggest this decrease was, in the most part, the result of the 'election bounce' effect in 2011 (similar to, but perhaps even stronger than, those found in 2003 and 2007), with attitudes in 2013 returning to their 2010 (pre-election) levels.

4. Levels of trust in the Scottish Government, both to act in Scotland's best interests and to make fair decisions, decreased between 2011 and 2013. Around six in ten (59%) people trusted the Scottish Government to act in Scotland's best interests in 2013 compared with around seven in ten (71%) in 2011. Awareness of the activities of the Scottish Government, and the proportion of people in Scotland who thought that the Scottish Government was good at listening to people's views before taking decisions, also declined over this period.

5. The proportion of people who thought the Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed decreased from 60% in 2011 to 46% in 2013. Both the proportion of people believing that the Scottish Government *has* the most influence and *ought to have* the most influence reduced over the same period. In 2013, 57% of people thought that the Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice in the UK, compared with 69% in 2011.

6. The clear longer term trend shows that attitudes towards the Scottish Government have been more positive on average between 2007, when the first SNP minority government was elected, and 2013 compared with the period from 1999 to 2006. The single exception to this is the proportion who think that the

Scottish Government *ought to have* the most influence over the way Scotland is run (see below).

7. Attitudes towards the Scottish Government are consistently, and by a substantial margin, more positive than attitudes towards the UK Government. In 2013 the proportion who trusted the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests 'just about always' or 'most of the time' was more than double that for the UK Government (59%, compared with 26%). Similar patterns were also observed in relation to trust in the Scottish / UK Governments to make fair decisions, and in relation to the responsiveness of both institutions in listening to people's views before taking decisions. In 2013, 46% said the Scottish Government was 'very good' or 'quite good' at listening to people's views before taking decisions compared with 21% who said this of the UK Government.

8. In both 2011 and 2013, levels of awareness of the activities of the Scottish Government were similar to awareness of UK Government activities. This is in contrast to the previous pattern from 2004-2010, when awareness of the Scottish Government and its activities was slightly lower than awareness of the activities of the UK Government.

How does trust in government vary?

9. In 2013, people's trust in the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests varied by a range of factors including age, constitutional preferences, identification with political parties, and degree of confidence in the accuracy of official statistics published by the Scottish Government. The proportion who trusted the Scottish Government 'just about 'always' or 'most of the time' varied in the following ways:

   - 69% of those aged 18-29 trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time', compared with 50% of those aged 65 or over
   - 77% of those who thought 'the Scottish Parliament should make all the decisions for Scotland' trusted the Scottish Government compared with 26% of those who thought 'the UK Government should make all the decisions for Scotland'
   - 80% of those who identified themselves as SNP supporters trusted the Scottish Government compared with 41% of those who identified themselves as Conservative supporters, and
   - 88% of those who were 'very confident' in the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics trusted the Scottish Government compared with 27% of those who were 'not very confident' about their accuracy.

10. Public trust in the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests decreased from 71% in 2011 to 59% in 2013. In general, this decrease occurred across all subgroups. There were, however, a few exceptions to this. Levels of trust among the following groups did not decrease between 2011 and 2013: those aged 18-29, those who support independence for Scotland, self-identified SNP supporters, and those who have not seen or heard much about the Scottish Government in the last 12 months.

Influence over the way Scotland is run

11. In 2013, less than one third of people (30%) thought that the Scottish Government had the most influence over the way Scotland is run, compared to almost half (47%) who thought the UK Government had the most influence. The proportion choosing the UK Government was consistently higher over the period 1999-2013 than the proportion choosing the Scottish Government, with the exception of 2011 when the proportions were equal (38% for each option).

12. Many more people thought that the Scottish Government *ought* to have the most influence over the way Scotland is run (63% in 2013) than thought that it actually *does* have the most influence (30%). Indeed, more than one-third of people (37%) believed that the Scottish Government *ought* to, but *does not*, have most influence over the way Scotland is run. (This figure has not changed significantly since 2011 when it was 38%).

13. In contrast to the other findings described above which have shown more positive attitudes during the period 2007-2013 as compared to 1999-2006, the percentage who thought that the Scottish Government ought to have the most influence over the way Scotland is run, has been stable. When averaged over the periods 1999-2006 and 2007-2013, this proportion has remained steady at 69%.

14. The proportion of people who thought the Scottish Government *ought* to have, but *does not* have, most influence over the way Scotland is run, varied markedly by political factors, but less so by attitudinal or demographic factors. For example, around half (52%) of those who said 'the Scottish Parliament should make all decisions for Scotland' thought that the Scottish Government *ought* to have, but *does not* have, most influence over the way Scotland is run, compared with just 12% of those who said 'the UK Government should make all decisions for Scotland'. Half (49%) of SNP supporters thought the Scottish Government *ought* to have, but *does not* have, most influence over the way Scotland is run, compared with a quarter (25%) of Conservative party supporters. Almost half (46%) of those who described themselves as 'Scottish, not British' compared with almost a quarter (24%) of those who described themselves as 'British' or 'more British than Scottish' also thought the Scottish Government *ought* to have, but *does not* have, most influence over the way Scotland is run.

Changing views of the economy and living standards

15. Views on how much of a priority the economy is for the Scottish Government have clearly shifted since the recession. Before the recession fewer than 1 in 6 of Scottish people viewed the economy as the Scottish Government's top priority; whereas since 2009 more than 1 in 3 have chosen this above all other options.

16. In 2013, a quarter of people in Scotland (24%) thought that the economy had improved over the last 12 months, and a further third (31%) that it had stayed the same. Whilst this represents a fairly negative assessment of the state of the economy, it is the least negative assessment since the recession started in 2008. Furthermore, it is substantially less negative than in 2011 when about 1 in 6 people (18%) thought the economy had improved over the last 12 months and a further 1 in 6 (16%) that it had stayed the same.

17. By contrast only 15% of people thought that living standards had increased over the last 12 months, and a further 25% that they had stayed the same. Before the recession, the proportion who thought living standards had either increased or stayed the same was fairly consistent at around 7 in 10. Since 2009, this figure has ranged between 3 in 10 and 4 in 10.

18. The proportion of people who reported that they were ‘struggling on their present income’ has been fairly stable since 2010 at around 1 in 6 and is much higher than pre-recession levels (1 in 11 people in 2006). There was evidence of a relationship between people’s own personal financial situation and their perception of the general standard of living in Scotland; 69% of those who said they were struggling on their present income believed that the standard of living had fallen in the past 12 months, compared with 53% of those who said they were living comfortably on their present income.

19. In 2013, as in previous years, the Scottish Government was more likely than the UK Government to be credited with improvements to the economy and less likely than the UK Government to be blamed for a weaker economy. Among those who thought the economy had improved, the proportion crediting the Scottish Government with these improvements has reduced between 2011 and 2013 (from 69% to 47%), the proportion crediting these improvements to ‘some other reason’ increased (from 10% to 26%), and the proportion crediting the UK Government stayed the same (15% in 2011 and 16% in 2013).

20. Those who were more likely to credit the Scottish Government with improvements to the economy were men, older people, SNP supporters, people with a stronger Scottish identity and those on the left of the political spectrum. Those more likely to blame the UK Government for falling economic standards included women, those on lower incomes and people on the left of the political spectrum.

Changing views about the health service and care for the elderly

21. Satisfaction with the NHS in Scotland has been increasing steadily since 2005, when 40% of people in Scotland were satisfied with ‘the way the NHS runs nowadays in Scotland’. It continued to rise between 2011 (58%) and 2013 (61%). The British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey includes an identical question which asks people across the UK their views on the NHS. Although comparisons are not available across the entire time series, satisfaction with the way the NHS is run in Scotland (as measured by SSA) is fairly similar now to satisfaction levels with the way the NHS is run in the UK (as measured by BSA)[1] This is in contrast to earlier years (2005, 2006) when levels of satisfaction with the NHS in Scotland were lower than those in the UK.

22. Views on who would provide the most effective and best quality services for older people who need regular help have not changed since 2011. Many more people (approximately one-half) believe that ‘charities would provide better services than Government’, than believe ‘private companies would provide better services than Government’ (approximately one-third). Those who were more likely to think that

[1] See Park et al, 2013.

private companies would provide the best quality services included younger people, people working in the private sector, and people who rated their health as 'good' or 'fair'.

23. The proportion of people who thought that the government should pay for the care of older people who need regular help with looking after themselves, no matter how much money the person has, declined between 2007 and 2013 (from 55% to 45%). Over the same period there has been an increase in the proportion who thought that who pays for the care should depend on how much money the person has (from 42% in 2007 to 51% in 2013).

24. In 2013, views on care provision varied in relation to newspaper readership (broadsheet readers were less likely than tabloid readers to think 'government should pay for care, no matter how much money the person has') and education levels (those with standard grades or no formal qualifications were more likely than those with Highers or a degree level education to say the 'government should pay for care, no matter how much money the person has').

Changing views about social capital and life satisfaction

25. There was a notable, and perhaps surprising, degree of stability in life satisfaction measures as assessed both before and after the recession in 2008. People in Scotland had high levels of satisfaction with their job, their family and personal life, their standard of living, and their life as a whole, and these measures have all held up strongly following the recession. Below average levels of life satisfaction were found among those who were permanently sick or disabled, the unemployed, those who were divorced or single and among both young people (aged 18-24) and older people (aged over 65).

26. Social connectedness, as measured by contact with, and reliance on, people in the local area was also fairly high, with three quarters of people in Scotland feeling that they have regular contact with people who live locally.

27. Participation in activities which have a 'civic' dimension was widespread in Scotland, with an increase in both active (e.g. attending a protest, or contacting an MP or MSP) and more passive, or socially distant, activities (e.g. signing a petition, giving money to a campaign) since 2009. The degree of social trust which exists (i.e. the extent to which people feel that others can be trusted) was, however, low by comparison, with almost half of the people in Scotland (46%) feeling that 'you can't be too careful in dealing with people'. The levels of social trust were even lower when first measured in 2000 (when 53% said 'you can't be too careful in dealing with people') but have remained fairly constant (between 44% and 46% selecting this statement) when asked on four occasions between 2004 and 2013.

28. Both social connectedness and social trust were found to be quite strongly associated with life satisfaction, with those who were least socially connected, and those least trusting of others, having lower life satisfaction than others.

1 INTRODUCTION

Background and context

1.1 The relationship between Scotland and the rest of the UK has evolved significantly in recent years. The Scotland Act 2012, which gave the Scottish Parliament powers to create new taxes and to set a Scottish rate of income tax, was passed in May 2012[2] (Scotland Act, 2012). Although the impacts will not be fully felt until 2015-16, the Act represented a significant extension of the powers of the Scotland Act 1998 which created the Scottish Parliament.

1.2 The SNP manifesto 2011 (SNP 2011), which formed the basis of the programme for government following the SNP election victory in May 2011, included a commitment to hold a referendum on Scottish independence during its 5-year term. In March 2013 it was announced that the date for the referendum would be 18 September 2014[3]. This followed a public consultation on arrangements for a referendum which had been held during 2012 (see for an analysis of the responses of this consultation, Griesbach et al, 2012), and advice provided by the Electoral Commission on issues such as the referendum question and spending limits for the campaigns[4]. Following the announcement, the various political parties and stakeholder groups began to articulate their positions and to form alliances for the two main positions[5]. Importantly, in terms of defining the electorate for the referendum, the Scottish Government suggested that 16 and 17 year olds should also be allowed to vote. In June 2013, the Bill allowing 16 and 17 year olds to vote in the referendum was passed by MSPs.

Economic Context

1.3 These political developments took place against a background of ongoing economic austerity, uncertainty and public sector budget constraint, in which major reform of the public sector both north and south of the border were centre stage. Public spending for the UK fell by 2.9% from 2010-11 to 2011-12, (HM Treasury 2013a) (the outturn figures for 2012-13 are not yet available at the time of writing) with plans to reduce expenditure further over the period to 2014-2015 (HM Treasury 2013b).

1.4 The Scottish Government's total budget for 2013-14 represented a real-terms reduction of 3.0% from 2012-13, and a cumulative real-terms reduction of 9.7% since 2010-11, with a further real-terms reduction of 1.7% from 2013-14 to 2014-15 planned (Scottish Government, 2012a). NHS revenue budgets continued to be protected in Scotland, whilst Scottish Government funding for local government was frozen for the sixth successive year.

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[2] The Act also gave the Scottish Parliament borrowing powers of £5bn, control over air guns and drink driving speeding limits, the power to raise taxes on land transactions and on waste disposal to landfill.
[3] http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-21828424
[4] http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/find-information-by-subject/elections-and-referendums/upcoming-elections-and-referendums/scottish-referendum
[5] The 'Yes' campaign and the 'Better Together' campaign

1.5 Moreover, figures from the Office for National Statistics have highlighted that real wages in the UK have fallen consistently since 2010, the longest period for 50 years[6]. Thus, the squeeze on household budgets has continued, as public services are cut back and wages decrease.

1.6 As far as the economy was concerned, there were signs that a recovery might have begun towards the end of 2012 (around 6 months before the fieldwork for the Scottish Social Attitudes survey 2013 began) both in the UK and in Scotland. There was an annual increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the UK of 2.0% in the period 2012 (Q3) to 2013 (Q3) and this increase was similar for Scotland (2.1%) over the same period (National Statistics Publication, 2013). The GfK UK Consumer Confidence Index also improved steadily during 2013[7]. In Scotland, the State of the Economy report (Scottish Government, 2013a) also presented evidence to suggest that the recovery in Scotland gained momentum in 2013. However, commentators both north and south of the border were cautious in interpreting these indicators as evidence of an underlying improvement.

Public Sector Reform

1.7 The Christie Commission report (2011) set out the direction of travel for the reform of public services in Scotland over the medium term[8]. The report emphasised: the role of the public in shaping services; the importance of effective coordination across public service organisations to achieve outcomes; the requirement to focus on prevention, reducing inequalities and promoting equality; and the continuing drive to improve efficiency, quality and accountability. It is possible that the implementation of the Christie Commission report recommendations could, over time, have an impact on public attitudes both to government (by, for example, altering the role of the public in shaping services) and to the services (including health and social care services) themselves (by, for example, altering the range and types of service provider).

1.8 The welfare reform legislation as set out in the Welfare Reform Act (2012) applies equally across all UK administrations. In particular, the creation of a single merged ‘universal credit’ which brings together a range of working-age benefits into a single system, represents a fundamental change to the welfare system. The changes are being introduced on a phased basis following the evaluation of pilot schemes, and the full impacts will not be known for a number of years. However, the reforms are substantial and controversial, and it is possible that public attitudes, especially perhaps towards the UK Government (since welfare is not a devolved issue), may be affected in the longer term. In addition, the reforms may affect standards of living, especially for those who are in receipt of state benefits.

[6] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/ashe/patterns-of-pay/1997---2013-ashe-results/index.html
[7] http://www.gfk.com/uk/news-and-events/documents/gfk%20consumer%20confidence%20press%20release%20(october%202013)%20f.pdf
[8] 2013 saw the creation of a single national police force, and a single national Scottish Fire and Rescue service, from the merger of 8 pre-existing services.

1.9 The NHS in England underwent a major restructuring from 1 April 2013, whereby the arrangements for the commissioning of services was fundamentally altered. Primary care trusts and strategic health authorities were abolished, and new organisations (clinical commissioning groups) were set up in their place[9]. No such reorganisation was effected in Scotland. The radical nature of these changes might be expected to affect public attitudes towards government (especially the UK Government).

Focus on Public Engagement

1.10 In recent years, both the Scottish and UK Governments have increased their efforts to engage with the public not just at election time, but throughout policy and election cycles. They believe not only that this broader engagement is vital for a healthy, modern democracy but also that it will lead to better policy making. The willingness of citizens to participate in this depends, in turn, on their views of government. If the public trusts government to act in their interests, to make fair decisions, and to listen to their views they may be more likely to respond positively, whilst if they hold more negative views they may opt out. Thus understanding who holds more positive (and negative) views can help government to develop strategies for engaging those whose voices may otherwise go unheard.

1.11 This emphasis on increasing public engagement has been widely discussed and promoted, particularly since the publication of the Power Inquiry (White, 2006), which argued that the political system in the UK had not evolved to adequately respond to the changing needs of citizens. In Scotland, the Christie Commission report (2011) recommended making provision in the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill (Scottish Government, 2013a) to embed community participation in the design and delivery of public services, whilst in the UK, a recent Commons Select Committee Report (House of Commons, 2013) has argued for a '…. "wiki" approach to policy making, where public opinion, ideas and contributions are sought and welcome at any and all stages of the policy cycle'.

1.12 These ideas build on more standard processes of consultation which are a longstanding and key part of the development of policy and legislative proposals in both Scotland and the UK, as well as on the many and varied exercises to measure and report on public attitudes on specific policy issues (e.g. energy and climate change[10]) as part of the policy process. Moreover, both in the UK and Scotland, policy teams are working more closely with digital experts to accelerate the shift from the use of digital platforms and networks as mainly for communication to their use as tools for policy engagement[11]. The recent report from the Carnegie Trust (Wallace, 2013) has summarised the evidence in relation to moving from the welfare state to the 'enabling state', and has focused, *inter alia*, on progress in moving towards

[9] http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/thenhs/about/Pages/nhsstructure.aspx
[10] https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey
[11] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/211506/CSR_OYO_LOW_RES_PDF.pdf

more locally designed services and seeking to broaden the range of people who participate in democratic decision making.

Why monitor public attitudes to government, the economy and public services?

1.13 In relation to public services, the Scottish Government's National Indicators, which set out key targets against which their progress in meeting strategic objectives can be assessed, include a commitment to 'improve people's perceptions of the quality of public services'. SSA 2013 included a range of questions on public attitudes to the NHS and who should provide and pay for care. The answers to these questions can help those tasked with planning services to understand how far the public may be prepared to support some of the changes suggested as potential ways of delivering efficiencies in a context of budgetary constraint (e.g. the Christie Commission recommendations on the diversification of service providers).

1.14 It is also important to track changes in attitudes over time in order to examine, both the relationship between changes in peoples' circumstances and changes in their attitudes, and the relationship between changes in government policy and changes in attitudes.

Report structure

1.15 The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- Chapter two discusses changing attitudes to the Scottish Government and Parliament and to the UK Government across a range of key areas (trust in government, awareness of government activities, perceptions of responsiveness to the public, and perceptions of efficacy)
- Chapter three looks at changing views of the economy and living standards in Scotland
- Chapter four summarises trends in views on the health service and care for the elderly
- Chapter five focuses on general life satisfaction and social capital and whether these have changed over time
- Chapter six summarises the key findings and conclusions.

Research questions

1.16 This report presents findings on two key questions relating to the relationship between the public, the government and public services::

- How have attitudes to government, the economy and standards of living, the health service and social care, changed over time?
- What factors are related to trust in the Scottish Government and who people think has, and ought to have, most influence over the way Scotland is run?

In addition this year's report also considers a further question that is of particular relevance in the context of the experience, over recent years, of economic recession and now potential recovery:

- What is the relationship between social capital and life satisfaction?

About the data

1.17 The 2013 Scottish Social Attitudes survey (SSA) took place against the backdrop of political change and economic austerity described above, with fieldwork taking place between June and October 2013. SSA is an annual survey of social and political attitudes in Scotland. Run by ScotCen Social Research since 1999, it provides a reliable and robust picture of changing public opinion over time.

1.18 This report presents findings from the Scottish Government 'core module' of questions on public attitudes to: government, the economy, living standards, public services relating to health and social care, and social capital. It examines attitudes in each of these areas and reflects on potential associations with the political and economic backdrop. This core module has been funded by the Scottish Government since 2004 but in many cases continued time series begun in 1999. In addition, a module on constitutional issues, which included a number of items from the core module, was funded by the ESRC on SSA 2012. The findings from 2012 are included in this core module report where appropriate.

1.19 The Scottish Social Attitudes survey (SSA) is based on interviews with a representative probability sample of the Scottish population. In 2013, the sample size was 1,497. Interviews are conducted in respondents' homes, using computer assisted personal interviewing technology. Most of the interview is conducted face-to-face by a ScotCen interviewer, but some questions each year are asked in a self-completion section. The survey has achieved a response rate of between 54% and 65% in each year since 1999 (in 2013, the response rate was 55%). The data are weighted to correct for over-sampling, non-response bias and to ensure they reflect the sex-age profile of the Scottish population. Further technical details about the survey are included in Annex B.

1.20 While the analysis in this report focuses particularly on 2013 data, extensive use is made of earlier years of SSA. It also builds on the findings presented in previous SSA reports on attitudes to government and public services (particularly Bromley and Given, 2005, Curtice, 2007, Given and Ormston, 2007a and b, Ormston and Sharp, 2007a and b, Ormston, 2008, Ormston, 2010, Ormston and Reid, 2011, and Ormston and Reid 2012).

Analysis and reporting conventions

1.21 All percentages cited in this report are based on the weighted data (see Annex B for details) and are rounded to the nearest whole number. All differences described in the text (between years, or between different groups of people) are statistically significant at the 95% level or above, unless otherwise specified. This means that the probability of having found a difference of at least this size if there was no actual difference in the population is 5% or less. The term 'significant' is used in this report to refer to statistical significance, and is not intended to imply substantive importance. Further details of significance testing and multivariate analysis conducted for this report is included in Annex B.

Use of 'Scottish Government' and 'Scottish Executive' in this report

1.22 On 3rd September 2007, the ruling administration took the decision to change the name 'Scottish Executive' to 'Scottish Government'. Questions in SSA 2009 (and all later waves) therefore referred to the 'Scottish Government' rather than the 'Scottish Executive'. However, the term 'Scottish Executive' is used in this report when referring to findings from 2007 and earlier. Footnotes and endnotes to tables and charts provide further details on any changes to question wording over time.

2 SCOTTISH ATTITUDES TOWARDS GOVERNMENT

Introduction

2.1 This chapter describes how the attitudes of people in Scotland towards both the Scottish and UK Governments have changed over time. The findings cover:

- Trust in government (to act in Scotland's interests, to make fair decisions, and to produce reliable official statistics)
- Public awareness of government activities
- Perceptions of the responsiveness of government
- Views of the relative influence of different institutions over how Scotland is and should be run
- The impact of having a Scottish Parliament on Scotland's voice within the UK.

2.2 The chapter also examines how attitudes, particularly those relating to trust and to influence, vary by socio-demographic subgroup, and whether any particular subgroups have changed their views disproportionately in recent years.

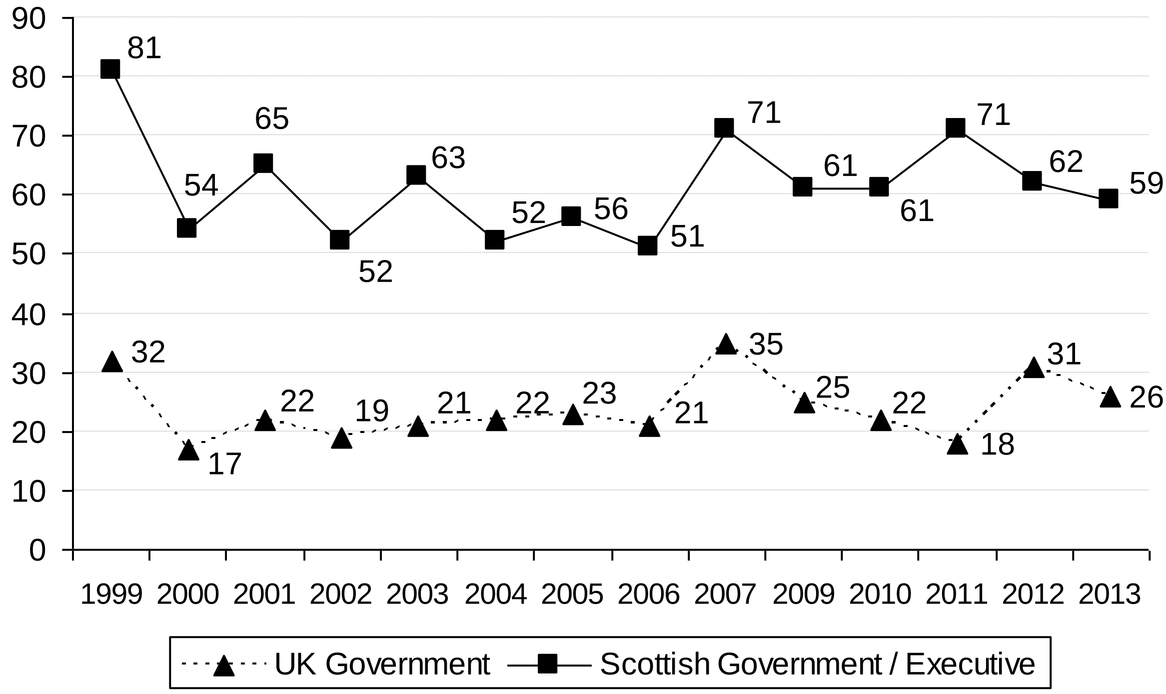
Trust in government

2.3 SSA 2013 included questions on three aspects of trust in government: i) trust in government (UK and Scottish) to work in Scotland's best long-term interests, ii) trust in government (UK and Scottish) to make fair decisions and iii) confidence in the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics.

2.4 The proportion of people who trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' to act in Scotland's best interests was 59%, and this has fallen from 71% in 2011 (Figure 2.1). Previous evidence from both the Scottish and British Social Attitudes surveys (Ormston & Reid, 2012, Ormston & Reid, 2011, Ormston, 2010, Curtice, 2012) has shown that public attitudes tend to be more positive in election years – a phenomenon sometimes called an 'election bounce'. The long running time series shows this phenomenon clearly, with local peaks in 2003, 2007, and 2011, the years in which an election was held in Scotland. However, it is also the case that levels of trust in non-election years have been consistently higher since 2007[12].

[12] Note that the high figure for 1999 (81%) was in response to a prospective question about whether respondents *would* trust the new parliament.

Figure 2.1 Trust in the UK and Scottish Government to act in Scotland's interests? (1999-2007, 2009-2013 % trust 'just about always'/'most of the time')



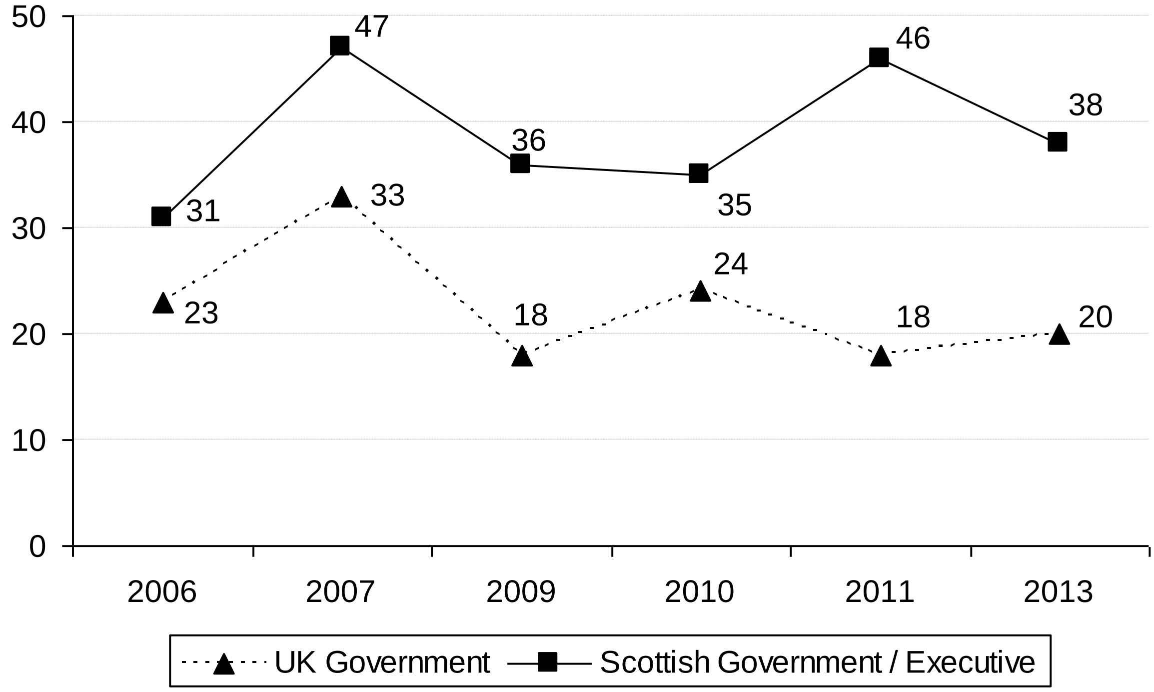
Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Tables A.1 & A.2

2.5 By contrast, the proportion who said they trusted the UK Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' to act in Scotland's interests was 26%. Ever since the SSA survey series began in 1999, levels of trust in the UK Government have been much lower than levels of trust in the Scottish Government. The figures for trust in the UK Government have been quite variable since 2007, with local peaks in 2007 (35%) and 2012 (31%), and a particularly low rating in 2011 (18%).

2.6 The level of public trust in the UK Government as measured in 2013 is similar to the levels of public trust in government within other jurisdictions both in Europe and the US. The Standard Eurobarometer measures the proportion who 'tend to trust' their national governments for each of the (28) EU countries individually, as well as reporting an average figure for all EU countries. According to this survey (Standard Eurobarometer, Autumn 2013), 24% of people in the UK reported that they 'tended to trust' the UK Government, a very similar result to the SSA measure of public trust in the UK Government (26%). The figure for public trust in the UK Government as reported in the Autumn 2013 Standard Eurobarometer 2013, was almost identical to the average figure for public trust in all EU-28 countries (23%). It is worth noting that the EU country with the highest rating in Autumn 2013 was Sweden (at 57%) whilst the lowest was Spain (at 9%). Levels of public trust in the US Government during the period of the Obama administration were also similar. Just over 1 in 5 (22%) of people said they trusted the US Government (Pew Research Centre, 2010).

2.7 SSA also asks a second pair of questions on trust in the UK and Scottish governments. These were first asked in 2006 and focus on trust in government 'to make fair decisions' which is defined as 'decisions that are fair to different groups of people in UK/Scotland'. The two sets of trust questions cannot be compared directly as they use different answer scales[13]. However, these questions show similar patterns to the previous pair in a number of ways. First, they show that the Scottish Government is more trusted than the UK Government (38% vs 20% in 2013). Second, they demonstrate the 'election bounce' effect for both UK and Scottish Governments, in that higher measures of trust are recorded in election years, with levels falling back in a consistent pattern in non-election years. And third, trust in the Scottish Government to make fair decisions has been higher since the first SNP government was elected in 2007. (Figure 2.2)

Figure 2.2 Trust in the UK and Scottish Government to make fair decisions? (2006-2007, 2009-2011, 2013 % trust 'a great deal'/ 'quite a lot')



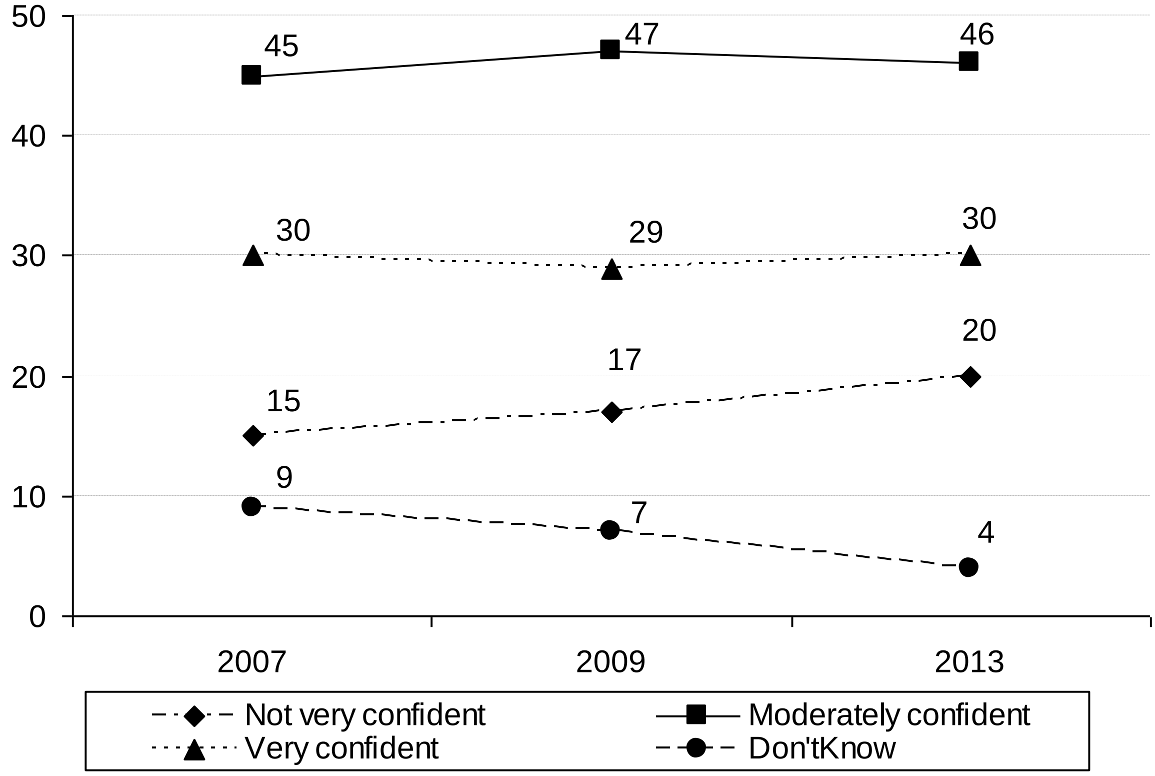
Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Table A.3 & A.4

2.8 The third aspect of trust which was investigated relates to whether people have confidence that official statistics published by the Scottish Government

[13] Trust to act is Scotland's best interest is measured on a 4-point frequency scale ranging from 'just about always' to 'never'. Trust to make fair decisions relates to the strength of trust and the answers are on a 5-point scale ranging from 'a great deal' to 'not at all'.

are accurate[14]. Figure 2.3 below shows how confidence in official statistics has changed over time[15].

Figure 2.3 Confidence in accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics (2007, 2009, 2013, %)



Base: All respondents
Sample sizes: see Annex A, Table A.13a

2.9 As can be seen in Figure 2.3, the proportions who were 'very confident' and 'moderately confident' in the accuracy of official statistics has been stable over time, and together these two groups represented three-quarters (75% - 76%) of people in Scotland. However, the proportion who were 'not very confident' of the accuracy of official statistics increased from 15% in 2007 to 17% in 2009 and then again to 20% in 2013. This increase has been matched by a commensurate decrease in the percentage who said 'don't know'.

2.10 However, the levels of trust in the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics in 2013 compared favourably with a recent study across Great Britain which found that 42% of those interviewed had 'just a little' or 'no trust at all' in information provided by statisticians (Ipsos Mori, 2013)[16]. Whilst these figures are not necessarily directly comparable (the question in the Ipsos Mori

[14] This question was also asked in 2007 and 2009.
[15] Respondents were asked about their confidence on a scale which ranged from 0 (Not confident at all) to 10 (Very confident). In the analysis, respondents were grouped into those who were very confident (7-10), moderately confident (4-6), not very confident (0-3).
[16] Respondents were asked 'How much trust do you have in information provided by statisticians?'

study asks about statisticians in general rather than about government statistics), the amount of distrust expressed in SSA is low in comparison.

2.11 The reasons people gave[17] for not being confident in the accuracy of official statistics were similar in 2013 to those given in 2007 and 2009 (see Annex A, Table A.13b). The reason given most often (chosen by around 1 in 5 on each occasion) was that 'official statistics are misrepresented or spun by politicians'. Other common answers included that 'statistics alone do not tell the whole story / there is more to it' (chosen by between 11% and 14%), and 'don't trust official statistics from personal experience' (chosen by around 1 in 10). Approximately equal numbers (around 1 in 10 on each occasion) offered the positive version of this last comment (i.e. 'trust official statistics from personal experience').

Public engagement and awareness of government

2.12 There is an ongoing emphasis within both Scotland and the UK to engage the public not simply at election time through their participation in voting, but with a broader spectrum of government decision making. The Christie Commission report (2011), referred to in Chapter 1 above has strongly recommended that the reshaping of public services in Scotland should be a collaborative venture, based on widespread and large scale participation of individuals and communities. A recent report by a UK Government committee (Commons Public Administration Select Committee, 2013) highlighted the importance of promoting and measuring public engagement at all stages of the policy cycle, and affirmed that citizens would be most likely to engage with Government if they believe they can make a real difference, or where the issue affects them. The study of civic participation in public policy to examine what governments and other agencies can do to encourage citizens to participate (in behaviours including for example recycling, volunteering, voting, petitioning, giving, donating) has incorporated insights drawn from the behavioural economics literature in the form of 'nudge theory' (Thaler and Sunstein, 2008; John, 2011).

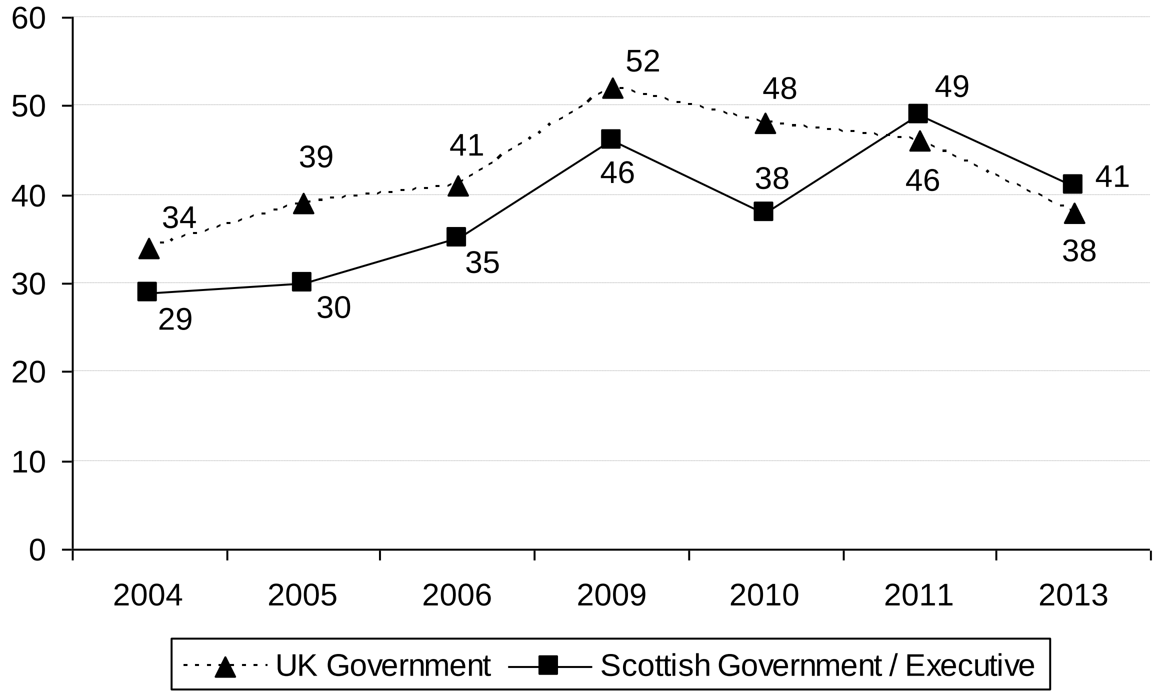
2.13 A necessary – if not sufficient - precursor to public participation and engagement with the political process is awareness of government activities to which we now turn.

2.14 SSA asks people how much they have seen or heard about the activities of the Scottish and UK Governments in the last 12 months. Between 2004 (when the question was first asked) and 2009, the visibility of both the Scottish and UK Governments as measured by the percentage of people saying they had heard 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot' about their activities, increased. During this period the visibility of the UK Government was between 5% and 10% higher than that of the Scottish Government. By 2009 the levels reached 52% for the UK Government and 46% for the Scottish Government (Figure 2.4). However,

[17] Following the question on confidence in the accuracy of official statistics, respondents were asked 'What is your **main** reason for saying that?'. The responses were then coded by the interviewer according to a pre-specified list, and checked with the respondent to ensure that they had been properly understood and recorded.

the pattern has changed in more recent years. The visibility of the UK Government has fallen from its 2009 peak to the current level of 38%, which is close to the level of visibility in 2005. By contrast, the visibility of the Scottish Government reached a peak of 49% in the election year of 2011, and fell back to 41% in 2013. Although on the two most recent measurements (2011 and 2013), the visibility of the Scottish Government has been higher than that of the UK Government, these differences are not statistically significant.

Figure 2.4: How much have people seen or heard about the activities of the Scottish Government / Scottish Executive and the UK Government in the last 12 months? (2004-2006, 2009-2011, 2013, % heard 'a great deal' / 'quite a lot')



Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Tables A.5 & A.6

Perceptions of government responsiveness

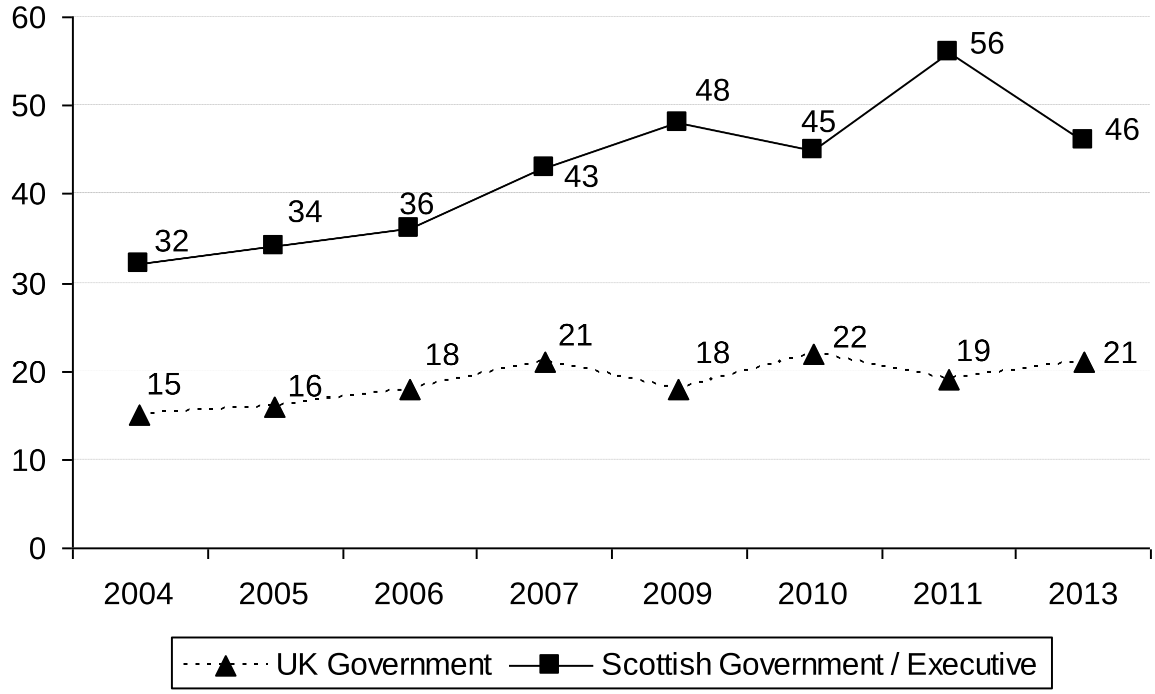
2.15 Another key element in supporting public participation is how responsive people feel the government is. People want to know that those in government are listening and that they will respond in a collaborative and consistent manner if at all possible (Binzer Hobolt and Klemmensen 2005, Farazmand 2004, Vigoda 2002, Bromley and Curtice 2002). If people believe that governments are unwilling to listen to their views or unable to act upon them they may feel there is little point in getting involved.

2.16 Since 2004, SSA has included questions on how good the Scottish Government and the UK Governments are at listening to people's views before taking decisions. In 2013, 46% thought the Scottish Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening to people's views before it takes decisions, compared with 21% who thought the UK Government was 'very' or 'quite' good. (Figure 2.5).

2.17 The figures for views of the responsiveness of both UK and Scottish governments increased slowly but steadily during the period 2004-2007, with the proportion believing the Scottish Government was 'very' or 'quite' good at listening being about twice as high (32%-43%) as the equivalent figures for the UK Government (15%-21%). However, from 2009 onwards the pattern has diverged somewhat.

2.18 Any expectation that the advent of a coalition government might increase government responsiveness through its potential ability to represent more people (Curtice and Seyd, 2011) has not been borne out. The figures for the UK Government since 2009 have remained fairly constant at around 1 in 5 (18%-22%). By contrast, the figures for the Scottish Government since 2009 have continued to increase. Notwithstanding the drop in 2013 from the election year high of 56% in 2011, there was a trend of increased perception of a more responsive Scottish government from 2007 onwards, when the first SNP led administration was elected.

Figure 2.5 How good are the Scottish Executive / Government and the UK Government at listening to people's views before taking decisions? (2004-2007, 2009-2011, 2013, % 'very good'/ 'quite good')



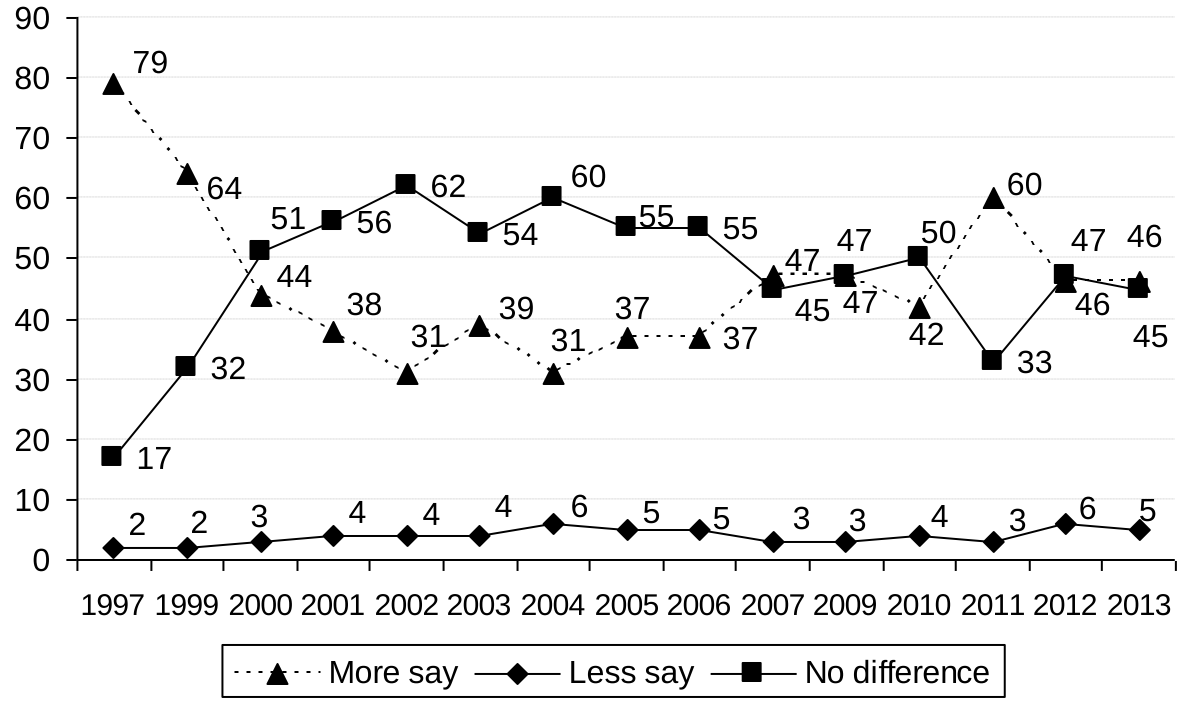
Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Tables A.7 & A.8

2.19 Another way of measuring government responsiveness is to ask whether people think that having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how their country is run. Since 1999, SSA has asked people whether they think having a Scottish Parliament gives people in Scotland more say in how Scotland is governed, less say, or whether it makes no difference. These figures have displayed substantial variation over time.

2.20 From 1997 to 2002, the percentage who thought the Scottish Parliament would give / gave ordinary people more say dropped dramatically from 79% (when the question was phrased prospectively) when expectations were very high, to 31%. From 2002-2006 this figure increased a little, to 37%. A further change took place in 2007, when the proportion thinking the Scottish Parliament gave ordinary people more say (47%) was approximately equal to the proportion thinking it made no difference (45%).

2.21 This pattern, of fairly equal proportions offering each of these two responses, has been maintained during the period of 2007-2013, except in election years. In the UK election year (2010), the percentage who thought a Scottish Parliament gave ordinary people more say was lower (42%) whilst in the Scottish election year (2011) the percentage saying the Scottish Parliament gave ordinary people more say was much higher (60%). (Figure 2.6). This results in a heightened Scottish Government 'election bounce' effect of 2011, with subsequent measures (in 2012, 2013) returning to the levels recorded before the 2010 UK election. The longer time series now makes it clear just how pronounced the impact of the 2011 election in Scotland was.

Figure 2.6: Does having a Scottish parliament give ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed, less say or is it making no difference? (1999-2007, 2009-2013, %)



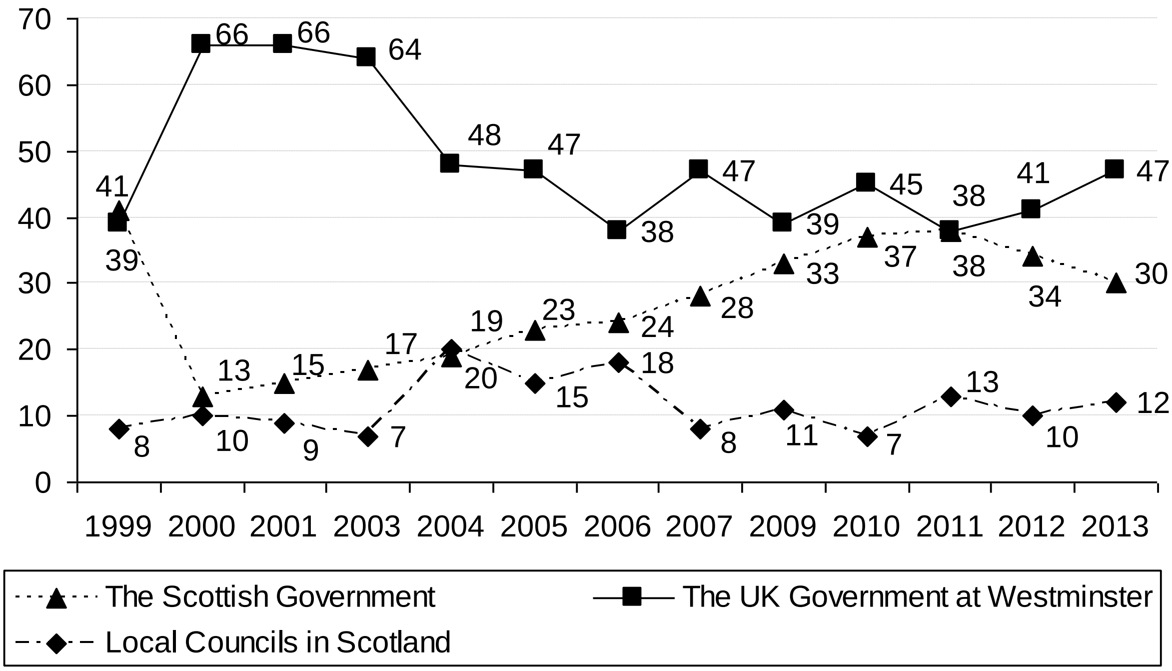
Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Table A.9

Influence and Voice

2.22 Since 1999 SSA has asked people which institution – the Scottish government, the UK Government, local councils, or the European Union – has most influence over the way Scotland is run. The proportion that chooses the

UK Government has been consistently higher than the proportion that chooses the Scottish Government with the exception of 2011, when the proportions were equal (Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7: Who has the most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2007, 2009-2013, %)

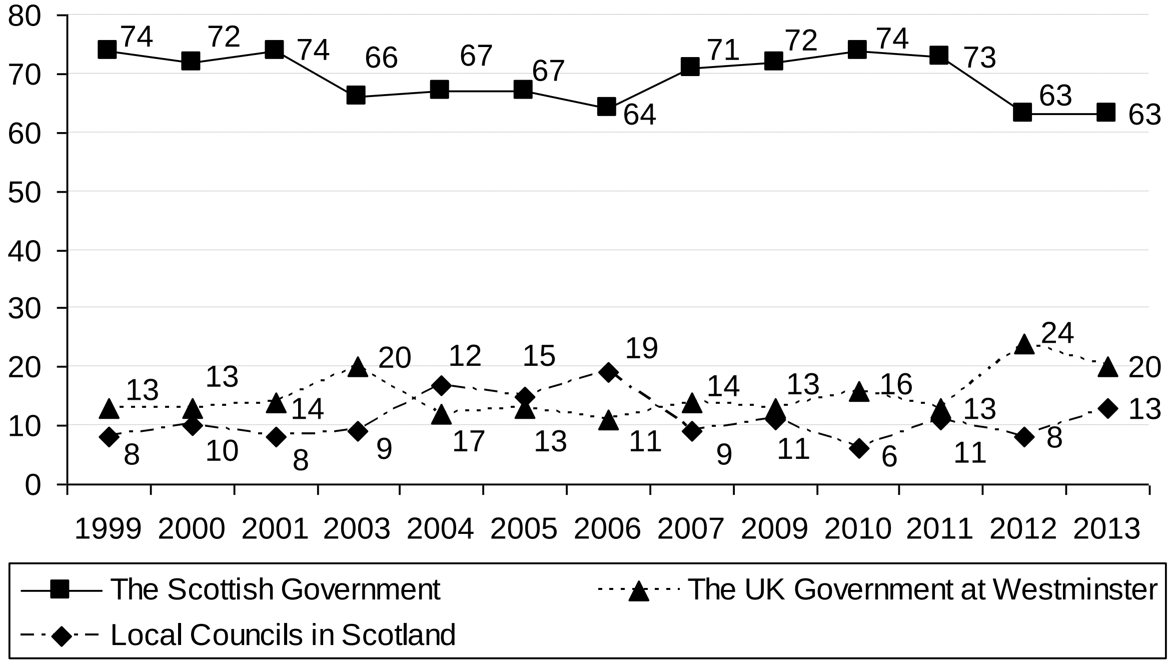


Note: The figures for European Union have not been included in Figure 2.7 for clarity of presentation. The percentage choosing the EU has ranged between 4% and 11%.
Full details are in Table A.10 in Annex A.
Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Table A.10

2.23 There was a steady increase in the proportion who believed that the Scottish Government was the most influential institution from 2000 (13%) to 2011 (38%). However, this figure has fallen since the high point in 2011, and now stands at 30%, a level similar to that in 2007. By contrast, the proportion saying the UK Government is the most influential institution fell to its lowest level in 2011 (also 38%) but has risen substantially since then (to 47%).

2.24 While more people continue to believe that the UK Government has most influence over the way Scotland is run, a majority - 63% in 2013 – thought that the Scottish government ought to be the most influential (Figure 2.8). Over the period 1999-2013, the proportion who thought the Scottish government ought to be most influential has ranged between 63% and 74%. Within that timeframe, there have been two periods where the proportion has been consistently higher and two periods where it has been consistently lower. The periods where it was highest coincided with the early years (1999-2001) and the years following the 2007 election (2007-2011), whilst the times where it has been lower were the years following the 2003 election (2003-2006) and the most recent years (2012-2013) when the debate about Scottish independence has come into sharper focus.

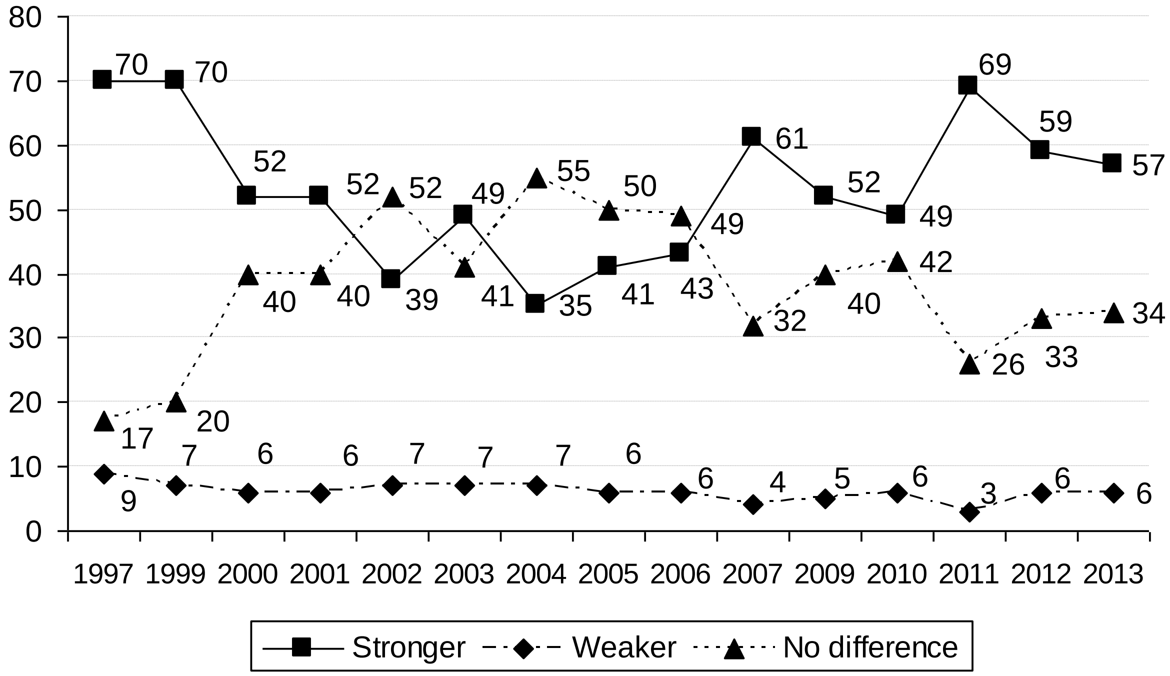
Figure 2.8 Who ought to have most influence over the way Scotland is run? (1999-2007, 2009-2013, %)



Note: The figures for European Union have not been included in Figure 2.8 for clarity of presentation. The percentage choosing the EU has been 1% or less over the period 1999-2013. Full details are in Table A.11 in Annex A.
Base: All respondents
Sample sizes: see Annex A, Table A.11

2.25 Finally, SSA also asks people whether they think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK, a weaker voice, or is making no difference. The proportions who believe that the Scottish Parliament is giving Scotland a stronger voice in the UK were at very high levels before the Parliament was established (70%), and then fell back in the first years of devolution, reaching a low point of 35% in 2004. Since then the trend has been upward, with particularly large increases in elections years followed by smaller falls in subsequent years. (Figure 2.9.)

Figure 2.9 Perceptions of the impact of having a Scottish parliament on Scotland's voice in the UK? (1999-2007, 2009-2013, %)



Base: All respondents
Sample size: see Annex A, Table A.12

How do attitudes to government vary?

2.26 The remainder of this chapter explores in more detail attitudes towards the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament in relation to public trust (both in the Scottish Government itself and in the official statistics it produces) and the perceptions of who does and who should have most influence over the way Scotland is run. This analysis complements and extends previous analysis on factors associated with differing attitudes to government as set out in earlier SSA reports.

2.27 Previous SSA reports (Ormston & Reid 2012, Ormston & Reid 2011, Ormston 2010, Ormston 2008, Ormston & Sharp 2007b, Curtice 2007, Given and Ormston 2007b, Bromley and Given 2005) have identified various factors associated with differing attitudes to government. Most recently, the analysis of SSA 2011 (Ormston & Reid 2012) confirmed that in terms of demographic characteristics, those most likely to express positive views about the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament included men, graduates, and those who read broadsheet newspapers. However, the analysis also highlighted that demographic differences were far less pronounced than differences by political attitudes. People who were interested in politics generally, SNP identifiers, and people who favoured more powers for the Scottish parliament, were groups who had particularly favourable attitudes to the Scottish Government and Parliament.

Trust in Scottish Government to work in Scotland's long term interests

2.28 As was noted in the earlier part of this chapter, despite the drop in levels of trust in the Scottish Government between the peak in 2011, and 2013, the overall levels of trust remain high in comparison both to trust in the UK Government, and in relation to other countries (see Para 2.6 above). A range of factors which might be expected to influence the extent to which people trust the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's long term interests, especially at a time of economic austerity, were examined. These covered economic and demographic factors (working status, employed in public or private sector, self-rated hardship, age), political factors (constitutional preference, awareness of Scottish government activities, and party identification) and other attitudinal factors (level of social trust, degree of trust in official statistics, beliefs about who should have the most influence over the way Scotland is run, and feelings of national identity.[18]

2.29 All of the factors examined, with the exception of sector of employment and self-rated hardship, showed variations in the patterning of trust in the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests. The factors which differentiated between subgroups most strongly were: the constitutional preferences of respondents; their identification with a political party; their age; and their degree of confidence in the accuracy of official statistics published by the Scottish government. (See Table A.14 in Annex A.) For example:

- 77% of those who think 'the Scottish Parliament should make all the decisions for Scotland' trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' compared with 26% of those who thought 'the UK Government should make all decisions for Scotland'
- 80% of those who identify as SNP supporters trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' compared with 41% of those who identified with the Conservative Party
- 69% of those aged 18-29 trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' compared with 50% of those aged 65 or over
- 88% of those who were very confident that the official statistics published by the Scottish government were accurate trusted the Scottish Government 'just about always' or 'most of the time' compared with 27% who were not very confident. This last finding shows how closely linked these different approaches to capturing underlying trust in government are.

2.30 As has been noted earlier, public trust in the Scottish Government decreased from 71% (in 2011) to 59% (in 2013). In general, the decrease in public trust was experienced by all subgroups, so that patterns across subgroups were similar in 2011 and 2013 (see Table A.14 in Annex A). The exceptions to this general trend were that:

[18] We use the term 'national identity' to denote the variable which asks how Scottish and/or British the respondent feels.

- The youngest age group (18-29 year olds), whose levels of trust were similar to the overall population levels in 2011 did not experience any erosion of their trust (69% in 2013, compared with 72% in 2011)
- Levels of trust for those who have not seen or heard much about the Scottish Government in the last 12 months, has not fallen further from its low level in 2011 (47% in 2013, 50% in 2011)
- Those who support independence for Scotland, and SNP supporters, have retained their high trust ratings (77% in 2013 and 76% in 2011 for those who support independence; 80% in 2013 and 84% in 2011 for SNP supporters).

Confidence in the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics

2.31 As far as confidence in the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics is concerned, there is a clear trend with age, with those in the younger age groups having more confidence. As might be expected, the groups expressing a greater degree of confidence in the Scottish Government's official statistics include those who think the Scottish Government should have most influence over the way Scotland is run, those favouring independence or more powers for the Scottish Government, SNP supporters, those who describe their identity as 'Scottish not British' or 'More Scottish than British', and those who have seen and heard more about the Scottish Government in the last 12 months. (See Table A.15 in Annex A for further details.)

Influence on the way Scotland is and ought to be run

2.32 As has been highlighted earlier (Paragraphs 2.19-2.21 above), many more people think that the Scottish Government *ought* to have most influence over the way Scotland is run (63%) than think the Scottish Government *does* have the most influence on the way Scotland is run (30%). Indeed, more than one-third of people in Scotland (37%) believe that the Scottish Government *ought* to, but *does not*, have the most influence over the way Scotland is run. (Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Who has, and who ought to have, the most influence on the way Scotland is run? (2013) (%)

	2013
	%
Scottish Government has, and ought to have the most influence	24
Scottish Government has, and ought NOT to have the most influence	6
Scottish Government does NOT have, and ought to have the most influence	37
Scottish Government does NOT have, and ought NOT to have the most influence	27
(Don't know)	6
Sample size	*1497*

2.33 This proportion varied markedly by political factors, but less so by attitudinal or demographic factors (see Table A.16 in Annex A). In particular, there were wide variations by constitutional preference, national identity, and party identification. For example:

- 52% of all those who said ‘the Scottish Parliament should make all decisions for Scotland’ thought that the Scottish Government *ought* to, but *does not*, have most influence over the way Scotland is run; this compared to just 12% of those who said ‘the UK Government should make all decisions for Scotland’
- There is a steep gradient in relation to national identity (i.e. the degree to which someone feels Scottish, British or a mixture of the two). Just under half (46%) of those who said they think of themselves as ‘Scottish, not British’ believed that the Scottish Government *ought* to, but *does not*, have most influence; this compared to just 1 in 4 (24%) of those who think of themselves as ‘British’ or ‘more British than Scottish’.

2.34 Almost half of SNP supporters (49%) thought that the Scottish Government *ought* to but *does not* have most influence; this compares to one quarter (25%) of Conservative supporters.

2.35 There was a small but significant trend in relation to who *ought* to and who *does* have the most influence over the way Scotland is run and self-rated hardship. One third (34%) of those who were ‘comfortable’ or ‘very comfortable’ on their present income thought that the Scottish Government *ought* to but *does not* have the most influence on the way Scotland is run. This compared to almost one half (45%) of those who were struggling on their present income.

2.36 The overall figure for the proportion who thought the Scottish Government *ought* to but *does not* have the most influence on the way Scotland is run has not changed since 2011 (it was 38% in 2011), and by and large the patterns across subgroups have not changed substantially. However, there was some suggestion that SNP supporters and those who were very interested in politics held this view more strongly in 2013 as compared with 2011. (See Table A.16 in Annex A.)

3 VIEWS OF THE ECONOMY AND LIVING STANDARDS

3.1 This chapter summarises trends in:

- Scottish Government priorities for action
- Perceptions of whether the economy has weakened or strengthened and whether standards of living in Scotland have increased or fallen in the past 12 months
- Perceptions of who is responsible for changes in the economy and standards of living
- Who is credited with perceived improvements, and who is blamed for a perceived fall in the economy and living standards.

3.2 As has been highlighted in Chapter 1, a more positive picture of both the UK and Scottish economy began to emerge in 2013, increases in GDP in the UK were reported and there was evidence to suggest that the recovery in Scotland also gained momentum. However, commentators both north and south of the border were still being cautious in interpreting these indicators as evidence of an underlying improvement.

3.3 Since the recession started in 2008 wages have increased at a lower rate year on year than inflation. Most recently, according to ONS figures for the year ending April 2013 wages increased by 2.1% on average, whilst over the same period inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased by 2.4%. Public sector workers in Scotland had their pay frozen in 2011 and 2012. In 2013 a one per cent cap on the cost of the increase in basic pay for staff earning under £80,000 in the public sector was introduced (Scottish Government, 2012b).

3.4 In addition, for those reliant on benefits there have been changes in the welfare system. These include a reduction in housing benefit for people deemed to have a spare room, (the so-called ‘bedroom tax’), and the reassessment of people on long term sickness and disability benefits. This latter change has meant some people have been reassessed as fit for work and are no longer entitled to claim additional disability benefits. The real term decrease in wages coupled with the reduction in benefits for people in certain groups, mean that some people across the UK are having to manage on lower incomes.

3.5 At the same time the cost of living has continued to rise. In the three years from October 2010, household energy prices have increased by around 37% (Citizens Advice, 2013), and between 2007 and 2013 the cost of food rose by 10.2% more than the price of all goods (as measured by the consumer price index) (Institute of Fiscal Studies, 2013).

3.6 These changes in pay, welfare benefits and the cost of living have not impacted on everyone, but have had a negative impact on specific groups, according to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) (Padley & Hirsch, 2014).

In particular, the JRF report showed that poverty levels increased for couples with no children and for single people under 35 during 2011-12.

3.7 The Scottish Social Attitudes survey asks about attitudes to both the economy and to living standards, as well as collecting information about peoples' perceptions of how they are managing on their present income. This allows us to examine the relationship between how people perceive the relationship between their own situation and that in the wider economy, and how this has changed over time.

Priorities for government action

3.8 First we look at where people place the economy in terms of the Scottish Government's highest priority, comparing priorities before and after the recession in 2008 (Table 3.1). In 2007, prior to the recession, about a quarter of people (27%) thought that the Scottish Government's highest priority should be to cut crime, whilst about one sixth thought that it should be to improve people's health (17%), to help the economy to grow faster (16%) or to improve housing (16%). Since 2009, and the start of the recession[19], helping the economy to grow faster has been chosen by over one-third as the highest priority. Since 2009, the proportion choosing the economy as the highest priority has been more than twice the proportion choosing any other topic. The findings in 2013 were consistent with this post recession pattern, with 35% of people choosing the economy as the highest priority for action.

3.9 Prior to 2009, cutting crime was consistently chosen either most often, or second most often as the highest government priority for action: chosen by 27% of people in Scotland in 2007. Since 2007 there has been a reduction in the proportion of people choosing crime as the highest government priority. In 2013, only 10% of people in Scotland thought that cutting crime should be the Scottish Government's highest priority, the lowest level ever recorded[20].

[19] There was no data collection in 2008, so SSA 2009 is the first year following the recession that SSA conducted fieldwork.

[20] SSA has data from 2004 onwards and 10% for 'cutting crime' is the lowest figure recorded since 2004.

Table 3.1: What should be the Scottish Government's* highest priority? (2006-2007, 2009-2011, 2013 column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Help the economy to grow faster	14	16	33	37	36	35
Cut crime	24	27	17	18	17	10
Improve people's health	24	17	13	15	16	18
Improve standards of education	16	12	15	12	15	18
Improve housing	12	16	13	9	11	13
Improve the environment	6	5	3	3	2	1
Improve public transport	2	1	1	1	*	1
Bases	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

Base = all respondents
* Prior to 2009, this question asked about the 'Scottish Executive'
Note: not all columns add to exactly 100% due either to rounding or because of small proportions saying either 'don't know' (0.5% in 2013) or giving some other top priority (3% in 2013).

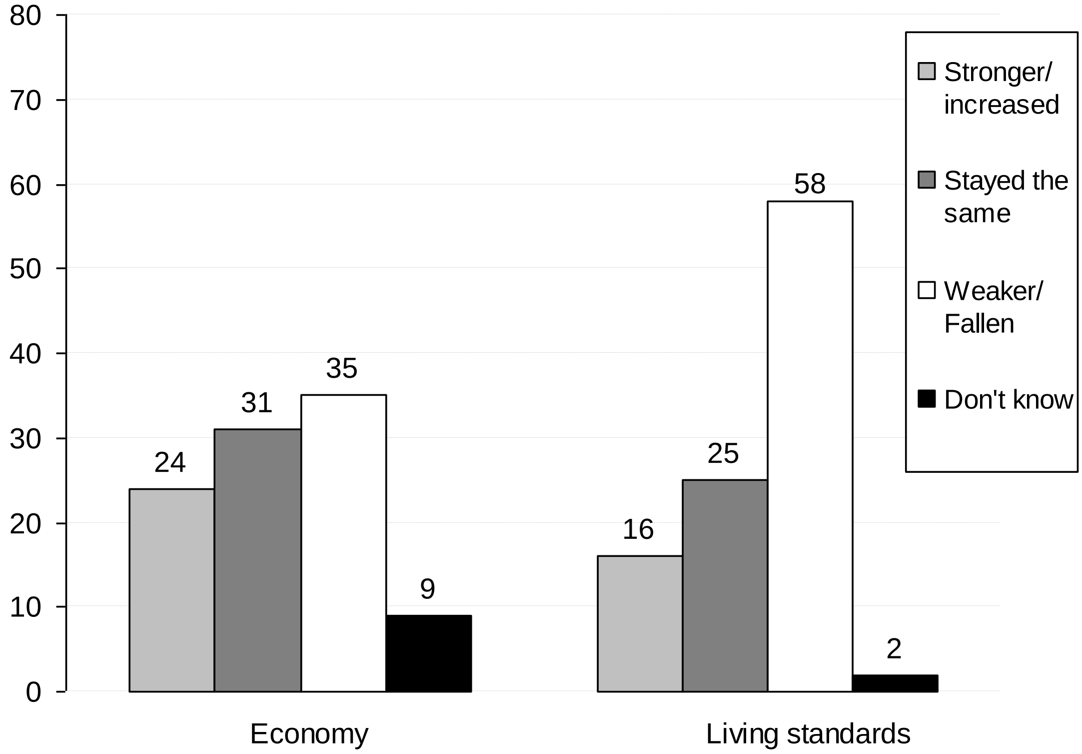
Views on the economy and standards of living from 2006 to 2013

3.10 The Scottish Social Attitudes survey includes questions that allow us to track the impact of the recession on peoples' perceptions of the state of the economy, and on standards of living. Findings from 2013 show that people were more likely to say the economy has become weaker over the last 12 months than that it has become stronger, and that the majority of people in Scotland thought that the general standard of living for people in Scotland has declined over the same period .

3.11 People were asked to think back over the last twelve months and say whether they thought the economy had got stronger or weaker, and whether the general standard of living in Scotland had increased or fallen. Figure 3.1 shows that around a quarter of people (24%) thought that the economy had become 'a lot' or 'a little' stronger in the previous twelve months. A higher proportion, around a third, felt that the economy had become 'a little' or 'a lot' weaker (35%), with a further 31% feeling the economy had stayed the same.

3.12 People in Scotland expressed more negative views about the general standard of living in Scotland than the economy. 58% felt that the standard of living in Scotland had fallen 'a little' or 'a lot' in the past twelve months compared with only 35% of people who felt the economy had become weaker. And only 16% of people felt that the standard of living had increased in the past twelve months. This is perhaps not surprising given the increases in the cost of living and the below inflation level wage rises that have been taking place every year since 2008.

Figure 3.1: Changes in the economy and living standards in the last 12 months (2013) (%)



Base: All respondents. Sample size: 1497

3.13 In order to track these changes over time Figure 3.2 shows the ‘net balance’ score for people’s views on the economy and general standard of living. These were calculated by subtracting the proportion of people who said the economy, or living standards, have declined from the proportion who said they have improved in the past twelve months. In 2013, the ‘net balance’ score for the economy was -11 compared with -42 for the general standard of living in Scotland.

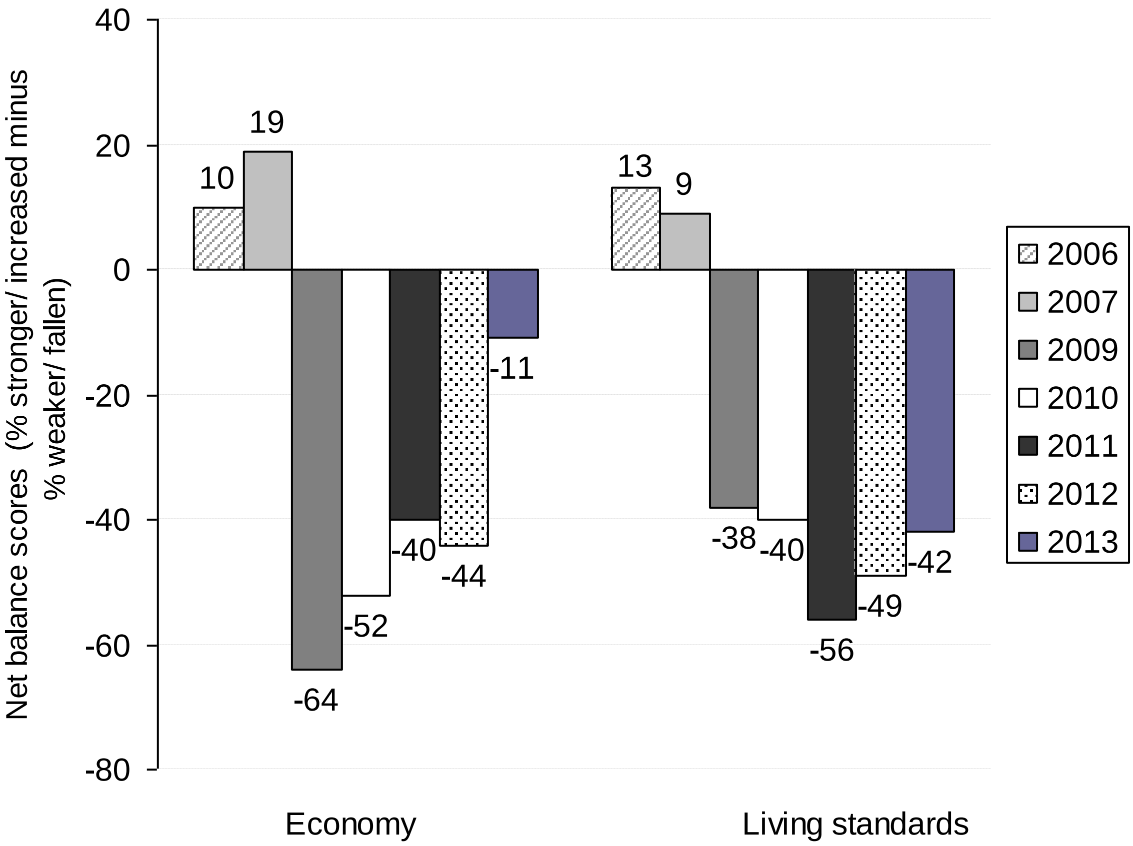
3.14 Prior to the recession in 2008, more people felt that the economy was getting stronger than thought it was getting weaker (positive net balance scores of 10 in 2006 and 19 in 2007). However, in 2009, following the recession, the net balance score dropped to -64. Perceptions of the economy did improve from this point but remained extremely negative between 2010 and 2012, only rising in 2012 to a negative net balance score of -44. Perhaps reflecting the more positive news on the economy, in 2013, people’s views of the economy improved considerably giving a net balance score of -11.

3.15 The decrease in negative attitudes to the economy which we found in 2013 did not, however, carry through to people’s views on the general standard of living in Scotland. The net balance score for general standards of living in Scotland in 2013 was -42[21]. Unlike views on the economy that have been steadily improving since 2009, there is no evidence that views on the general

[21] This figure is not significantly different to the -49 in 2012 due to the large confidence intervals around these figures.

standard of living were any less negative in 2013 than they were at the start of the recession. This is probably a reflection of the continuing impact of below inflation wage rises and increases in many of the basic living costs e.g. food and fuel.

Figure 3.2: 'Net balance' scores for views of Scotland's economy and the general standard of living in the last 12 months (2006-2007, 2009-2013)

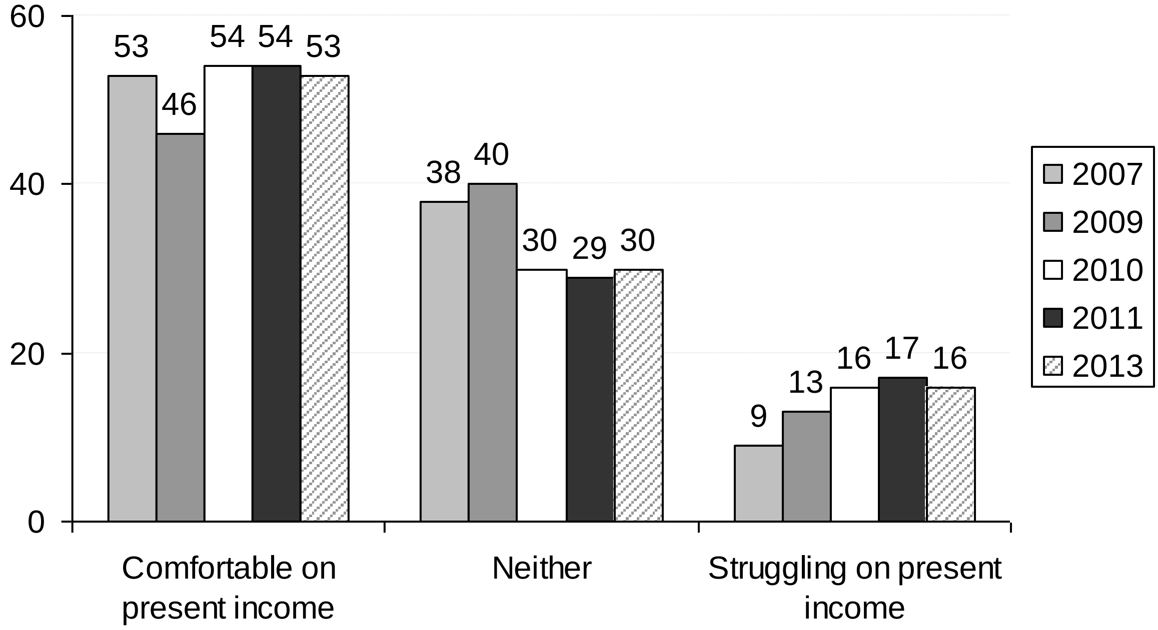


Base: All respondents.
Sample size: See Annex A, Tables A.17 & A.18

Perceptions of ability to live on present income

3.16 Although the majority of people in Scotland in 2013 felt that living standards had fallen in the last 12 months, there has been no change between 2011 and 2013 in the proportion of people who said they were living really comfortably, or comfortably on their present income (Figure 3.3). Just over half of the people in Scotland (53%) in 2013 said that they were living really comfortably, or comfortably on their present income. A further 30% said they were neither comfortable nor struggling, with only 16% of people saying they were either struggling or really struggling on their present income. These figures were similar to those in 2011. Taken over a longer time period, however, it is clear that changes have occurred. In particular, the proportion of people who said they were struggling on their present income has increased over time from the pre-recession level of 9% (in 2007) to about 1 in 6 (16%-17%) from 2010 onwards.

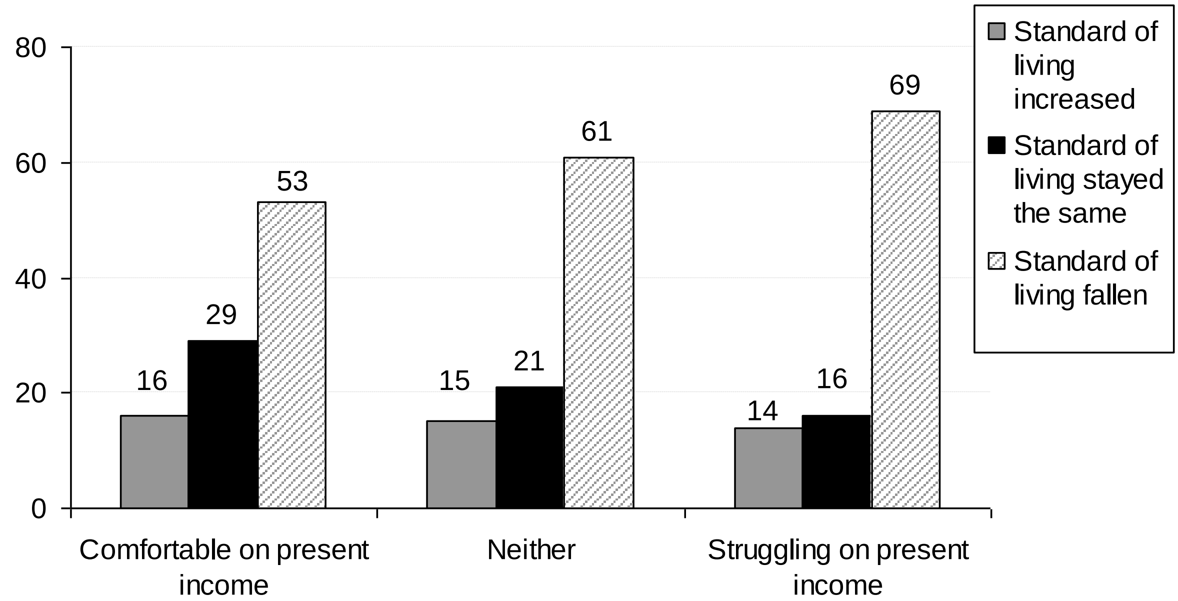
Figure 3.3: Perceptions of own ability to live on present income (2007, 2009-2011, 2013)



Base: All respondents
Sample size: See Table A.19 in Annex A

3.17 Are people's views on the general standards of living in Scotland related to their own personal financial situation? Figure 3.4 shows that people who said they were struggling, or really struggling, on their present income were more likely than those who were comfortable, or really comfortable, to believe that standards of living in Scotland have fallen in the past 12 months. Over two-thirds (69%) of people who were struggling on their present income believed that the standard of living had fallen in the past 12 months, compared with 53% of those who were comfortable. This suggests that there is a relationship between people's own personal financial situation and their perception of the general standard of living in Scotland.

Figure 3.4: Views on changes in the general standard of living in Scotland by perceptions of own ability to live on present income (2013)



Base: All respondents. Sample size: 1497

Who gets the credit and who gets the blame for changes in the economy and general living standards?

3.18 In addition to asking people whether they thought the economy and living standards had strengthened or improved or whether they had weakened or fallen in the previous 12 months, we also asked people what they thought this was mainly the result of. In 2013, 24% of people thought that Scottish Government policies were responsible for changes in the economy, 28% chose UK Government policies, and 27% chose ‘some other reason’ (see Table A.20 in Annex A). Since 2011 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of people who said that changes in the economy were due to UK Government policies (38% in 2011 compared with 28% in 2013). There has been a corresponding increase of 8 percentage points in those saying that the changes were for ‘some other reason’ (19% in 2011 compared with 27% in 2013). However, in relation to changes in the general standard of living in 2013 only 11% of people thought these were due to the Scottish Government, 44% to the UK Government and 28% to ‘some other reason’. There has been very little change in these figures since 2011.

3.19 To further explain differences between peoples’ views on who is responsible for changes to the economy and living standards, we explored who people think is responsible for a stronger economy and who for a weaker economy and similarly for living standards. Those who thought the economy had got stronger, were divided into those who ‘credit’ this economic improvement to Scottish Government policies, those who ‘credit’ this to UK Government policies and those who ‘credit’ some other reason. Similarly those who thought that the economy had weakened or living standards had fallen, were divided into people who ‘blame’ the Scottish Government for a weaker economy or a fall in living standards, those who ‘blame’ the UK Government and those who ‘blame’ some other reason.

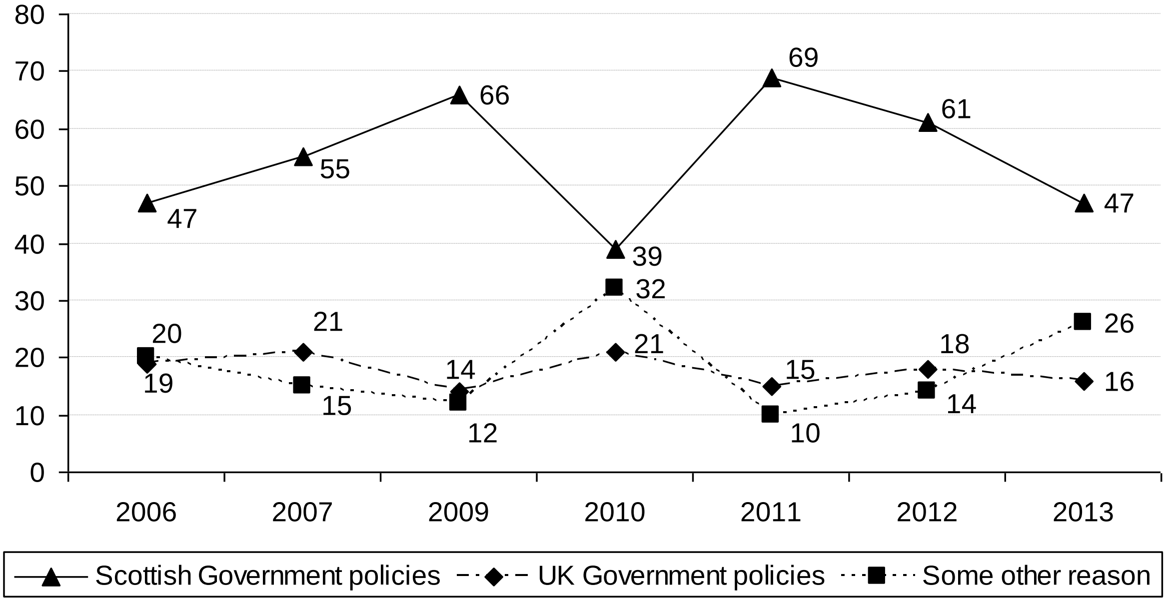
3.20 Previous SSA reports (see Given and Ormston, 2007a, Ormston and Sharp, 2007a, Ormston, 2010, Ormston and Reid, 2011 and Ormston and Reid 2012) showed that consistently there has been a ‘reverse symmetry’ in who people ‘credit’ and who they ‘blame’ for changes in the economy and living standards. People who thought the economy has improved were much more likely to credit this to the Scottish Government than to the UK Government and conversely people who thought the economy has weakened were more likely to blame the UK Government than the Scottish Government. In spite of the fact that consistently since 2000 more people thought that the UK Government has most influence over how Scotland is run (see Chapter 2), people in Scotland were still much more likely to credit the Scottish Government with improvements in both the economy and living standards.

3.21 Figure 3.5 shows that in 2013 nearly three times as many people credited the Scottish Government with a stronger economy than credited the UK Government: 47% credited the Scottish Government compared with 16% who credited the UK Government. And more people thought that the economy had become stronger due to ‘some other reason’ (26%) than thought this was due to the UK Government (16%).

3.22 The findings from 2006 onwards show the same overall pattern, with the Scottish Government much more likely to be credited with improvements than the UK Government. The proportion of people who credited the Scottish Government has reduced from a high of 69% in 2011 to 47% in 2013, similar to the proportion recorded in 2006. This decrease was not accompanied by a corresponding increase in the proportion crediting the UK Government, rather it seemed to be related to an increase in the proportion of people who thought that the strengthening economy was due to ‘some other reason’. The proportion who thought the credit was due to ‘some other reason’ has increased from a low of 10% in 2011 to 26% in 2013, the second highest level recorded since 2004.

3.23 The SSA report of 2011 findings (Ormston & Reid, 2012), suggested that the increase from 39% in 2010 to 69% in 2011 in the proportion who credited the Scottish Government with economic improvements may be related to people having more positive attitudes towards the Scottish Government in general. The 2013 findings also lend weight to this hypothesis, albeit in the reverse direction. In 2013, there was a decrease in the proportion of people who credited the Scottish Government with economic improvements, and this coincided with a general post-election decrease in the extent to which people expressed positive attitudes towards the Scottish Government in general.

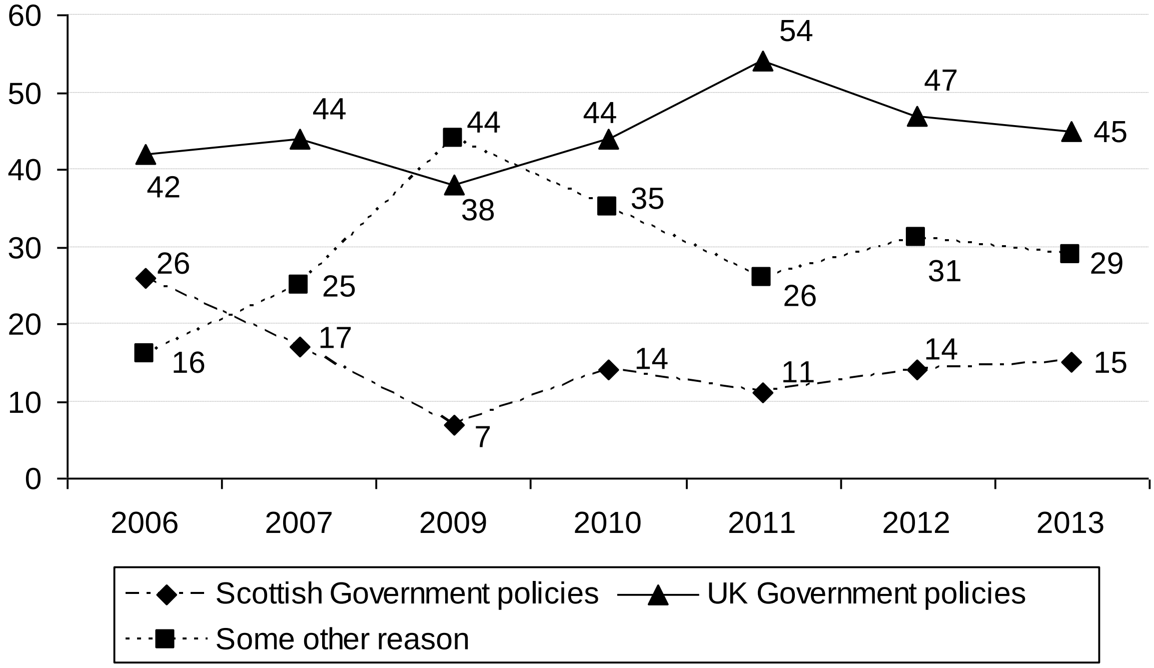
Figure 3.5: Who is credited with changes among those who believe that the economy has become stronger in the past 12 months? (2006-07, 2009-2013)



Base: All those believing that the economy has strengthened in the past 12 months.
Sample size in 2013: 364

3.24 The blame for a weaker economy and falling living standards has consistently been more likely to be given to the UK Government (Figure 3.6). In 2013, 45% of people blamed the UK Government for the falling economic standards and 54% blamed them for the fall in living standards. This compared with 15% blaming the Scottish Government for a weaker economy and only 6% blaming them for a fall in the general standards of living. The proportion believing that a weaker economy is due to ‘some other reason’ has ranged between a third and a quarter since 2010. We can only speculate on what the ‘other reason’ is that people are thinking about, but given the global nature of the economic recession and the interconnectedness of global markets and finances, it is perhaps not surprising that 29% of people in 2013 believed that when the economy has weakened that this cannot be contributed to an individual government’s policies.

Figure 3.6: Who is blamed for changes among those who believe that the economy has become weaker in the past 12 months? (2006-07, 2009-2013)



Base: All those believing that the economy has weakened in the past 12 months.
Sample size in 2013: 529

How do views of the economy and living standards differ between groups?

3.25 As discussed above, around a quarter of people in Scotland (24%) thought that the economy had improved over the past 12 months. Around half of these people, 47%, (representing 12% of the population overall) thought that these improvements were due to Scottish Government policies. In this section we explore how those who thought that the economy had improved over the past 12 months due to the Scottish Government's policies varies by subgroups.

3.26 The figures discussed in this section are informed by regression analysis, which looked at what factors were significantly and independently associated with thinking that the Scottish Government should be credited with economic improvements[22]. The following factors were explored:

- age
- gender
- income
- level of education
- party political identification

[22] Regression is a statistical technique that allows you to examine the relationship between a dependent variable (in this case, believing the Scottish Government is responsible for a strengthening economy), and various independent variables (including socio-demographic factors e.g. age, income, education etc and factors such as party identification, national identity and how left or right wing people are). The analysis identifies which of these independent variables are significantly and independently related to the dependent variable, after controlling for the inter-relationships between variables.

- how Scottish or British you feel
- who you think has most influence over how Scotland is run
- how politically left or right wing people are[23].

3.27 There were no significant differences by income, level of education or who people think has the most influence over how Scotland is run. Those that were more likely to credit the Scottish Government for a stronger economy were men, older people, SNP supporters, people with a stronger Scottish identity and those on the left of the political spectrum (Table 3.2). In more detail:

- 14% of men compared with 9% of women credited the Scottish Government with economic improvements
- Those aged 55 or more were more likely to credit the Scottish Government with a stronger economy compared with other age groups
- SNP supporters were more than twice as likely as supporters of all other parties, and supporters of no political party, to credit the Scottish Government: 25% of SNP supporters compared with 10% of Labour supporters and 5% of Conservative supporters
- 16% of those who identified as 'Scottish not British' or 'More Scottish than British' credited the Scottish Government with economic improvements compared with 4% of those who identified as 'More British than Scottish' or 'British not Scottish'
- People on the left of the political spectrum are more likely than others to credit the Scottish Government with economic improvements. 17% of people on the left of the political scale credited the Scottish Government, compared with 8% of those in the centre and 9% of those on the right.

[23] As measured by a set of questions examining views on the distribution of resources in society, whether government should redistribute income and attitudes to 'big business'. Responses to each question in this set were combined to give an average 'score' on a left-right scale. Respondents were then divided into quintiles – running from 1 to 5, where 1 is left-wing and 5 is right-wing – based on their total scores on this scale.

Table 3.2: Who believes that the Scottish Government is responsible for a stronger economy? (2013)

		% believing Scottish Govt is responsible for a stronger economy	***Sample size***
ALL		**12**	***1497***
Gender	Male	14	*669*
	Female	9	*828*
Age	18-24	12	*93*
	25-34	7	*180*
	35-44	11	*217*
	45-54	7	*279*
	55-64	17	*280*
	65+	15	*448*
Party identification	Conservative	5	*203*
	Labour	10	*441*
	Liberal Democrats	2	*80*
	SNP	25	*347*
	Other	10	*217*
	None	5	*208*
National identity	Scottish not British/More Scottish than British	16	*807*
	Equally Scottish and British	7	*432*
	More British than Scottish/ British not Scottish	4	*166*
Left-right political scale	Left	17	*477*
	Centre	8	*398*
	Right	9	*456*

Note: only factors where the difference is significant at the 95% level are shown in the table above

3.28 A separate regression analysis was conducted to explore what factors were associated with blaming the UK Government for a weaker economy. As already discussed, 35% of people in Scotland thought that the economy had weakened in the past 12 months. 45% of these people thought that the UK Government policies were responsible for the weakening economic position, representing the views of 15% of the total population. This analysis explored the same factors as the analysis described in Paragraphs 3.25-3.27 above.

3.29 Those that were more likely to blame the UK Government for a weaker economy were women, middle-aged people and people with standard grade level education compared with those with no qualifications. People on high incomes were less likely than those on low incomes to blame the UK

Government as were those on the right of the political spectrum (Table 3.3). In more detail:

- 18% of women compared with 14% of men thought that the UK Government was to blame for a weaker economy. People aged 35 to 54 years old, compared with those over 65 were more likely to think that the UK government is responsible for a weaker economy
- In terms of education it was those who have standard grades compared with those with no qualifications who were more likely to blame the UK Government for a weaker economy: 23% compared with 15%
- Those who were less likely to think that the UK Government is to blame were people in the highest income group. 7% of people in the highest income group compared with 23% in the lowest income group thought that the UK Government was to blame for a weaker economy
- And people on the left of the political spectrum were more than twice as likely to blame the UK Government, 21%, than people on the right, 9%.

Table 3.3: Who believes that the UK Government is responsible for a weaker economy? (2013)

		% believing UK Govt is responsible for a weaker economy	***Sample size***
ALL		**15**	***1497***
Gender	Male	14	*669*
	Female	18	*828*
Age	18-24	18	*93*
	25-34	12	*180*
	35-44	17	*217*
	45-54	23	*279*
	55-64	16	*280*
	65+	11	*448*
Income	Up to £14,300	23	*346*
	Over £14,300 to £26,000	19	*303*
	Over £26,000 to £44,200	14	*241*
	Over £44,200	7	*260*
Education[1]	Degree/Higher education	12	*509*
	Highers/A-levels	14	*236*
	Standard grades/GCSEs	23	*382*
	No recognised qualification	15	*360*
Party identification[2]	Conservative	9	*203*
	Labour	19	*441*
	Liberal Democrats	18	*80*
	SNP	18	*347*
	Other	8	*217*
	None	18	*208*
Left-right political scale[3]	Left	21	*477*
	Centre	19	*398*
	Right	9	*456*

Note: only factors with a significant relationship are shown
[1]Education is only marginally significant (p=0.070)
[2]Party identification is only marginally significant (p=0.063)
[3]Left-right political scale is only marginally significant (p=0.075)

4 VIEWS ABOUT THE HEALTH SERVICE AND CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

4.1 This chapter summarises:

- Trends in satisfaction with the National Health Service (NHS)
- Trends in whether people think that compared with the government, the private sector or the voluntary sector provide the most cost effective or the best quality services
- How views vary on whether the private or voluntary sectors provide the best quality health and social care services
- Trends in who people in Scotland think should pay for care for the elderly.

4.2 In 2012 the Health and Social Care Act introduced a radical restructuring of the NHS in England which was implemented in April 2013. There have, however, been no similar attempts to restructure the NHS in Scotland. NHS spending in Scotland has been protected, as it has been across the UK, although in real terms the budget has still reduced in Scotland. In Scotland the key policy focus has been on integrating health and social care services, requiring joint working and combined budgets for the NHS and local authorities. As part of the move towards more integrated services, the 'Reshaping Care for Older People Programme[24]' was introduced in 2011 and supported by the introduction of a Change Fund[25], which had a budget of £80m in 2012/13. As the older population is likely to increase in Scotland by around two thirds in the next twenty years, the Reshaping Care for Older People Programme aims to improve services by focusing more on prevention and anticipatory care.

4.3 The Christie Commission report (2011), and more recently the review undertaken by the UK Carnegie Trust (Wallace, 2013) have focused on the importance of diversifying service provision and actively involving service users in the development of services (rather than simply regarding them as passive recipients of services). One key policy that reflects this move towards so-called 'co-production' is the introduction of self-directed support. The national strategy for self-directed support was launched in November 2010 and the Social Care (self-directed support) (Scotland) Act was passed in 2013. The Act gives people more choice and control over how their support is provided and how their 'individual budget' is spent. This strategy requires there to be a range of different service providers available, in order to meet the different care needs of individuals, and consumers are supported to explore care options in both the voluntary and private sectors.

[24] http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Support-Social-Care/Support/Older-People/ReshapingCare

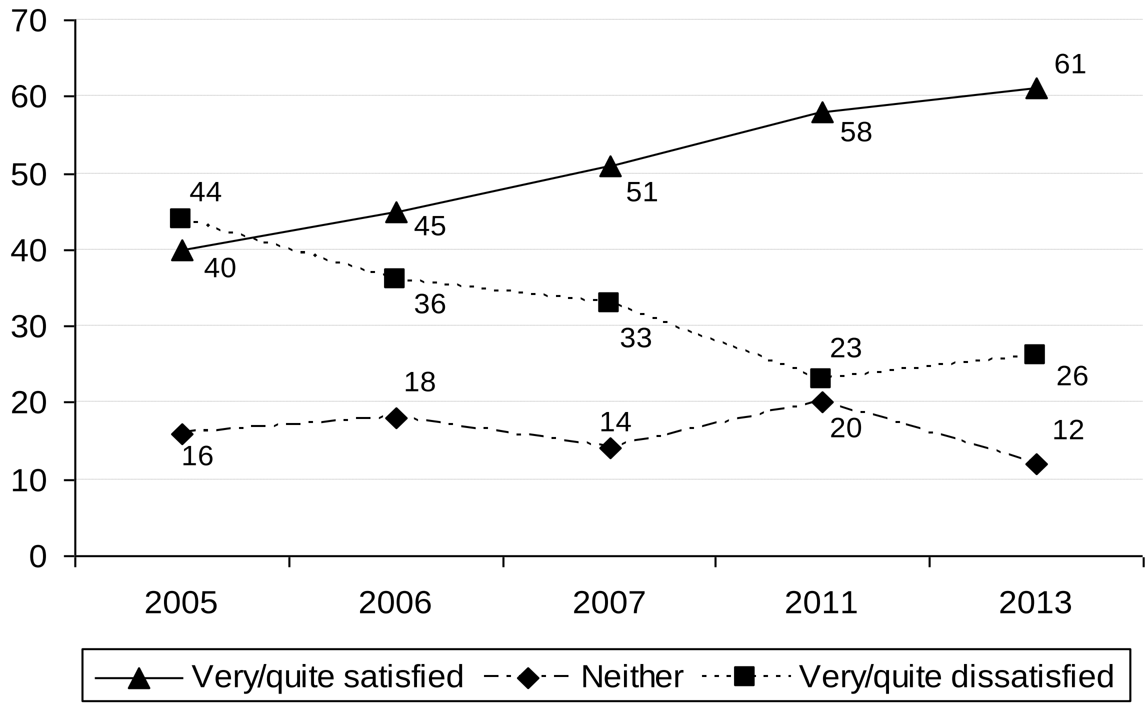
[25] http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/action-areas/reshaping-care-for-older-people/change-fund-plans/

Satisfaction with the National Health Service

4.4 As discussed in previous chapters the Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) survey has tracked changing attitudes during the recession in a way which enables the impact of the cuts in public spending introduced from 2010 onwards to be examined. Although the health budget in Scotland has been protected, the increases in cash terms have not kept pace with inflation. Indeed, the Scottish Government has set annual savings targets for the NHS. In 2012/13 the NHS made savings of £270 million, equivalent to three per cent of the budget (Audit Scotland, 2013).

4.5 On the first occasion (1999) when SSA asked how satisfied people in Scotland are with the NHS, the proportion saying they were either very or quite satisfied was 55%. This decreased to 40% in 2005 but has been steadily increasing ever since (Figure 4.1). In 2013, 61% of people in Scotland were either very or quite satisfied with the NHS compared with around a quarter of people (26%) who said they were either quite or very dissatisfied.

Figure 4.1: Satisfaction with the way the NHS runs nowadays in Scotland (2005-2007, 2011, 2013)

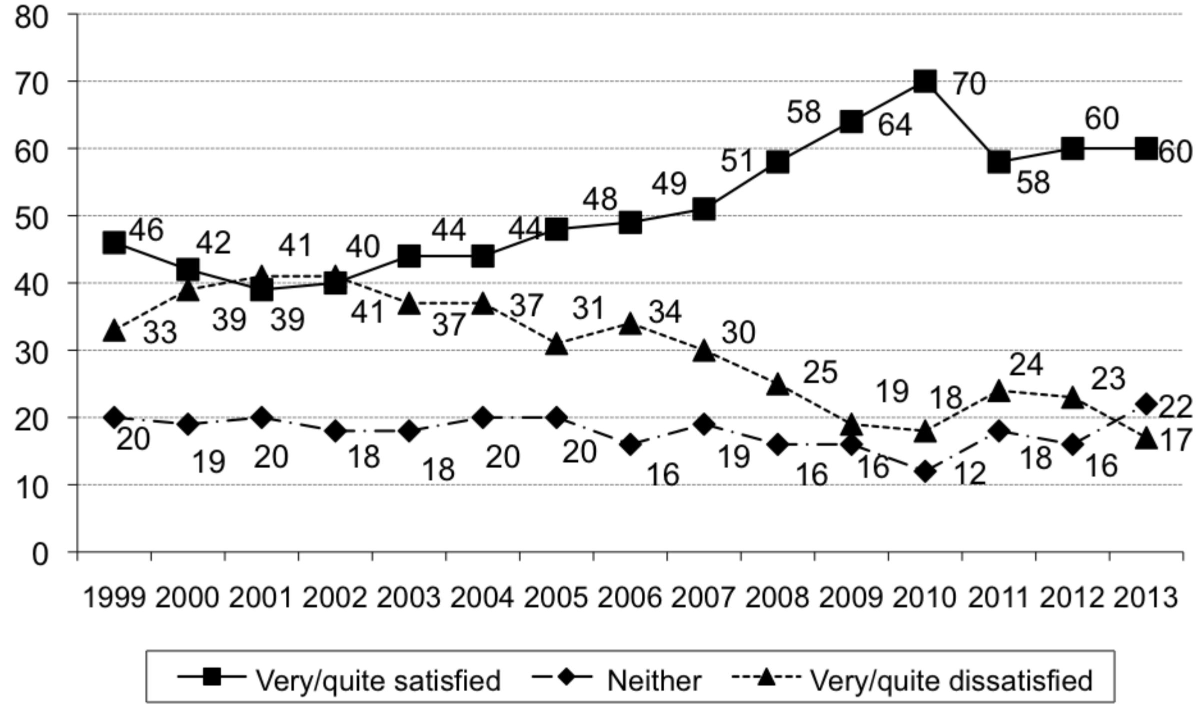


Base: All respondents.
Sample size: See Annex A, Table A.21.

4.6 The British Social Attitudes survey has asked people across the UK how satisfied they are with the NHS since 1983. The findings from BSA from 2001 onwards show a steady increase in levels of satisfaction from 2001 up until 2010: 44% said they were very or quite satisfied in 2004 compared with 70% in 2010. However, in 2011 there was a sharp decline of 12 percentage points in satisfaction with the NHS across Britain with 58% of people being either very or quite satisfied with the NHS. The results in 2012 showed a small, but not statistically significant increase to 60%, and this figure remained at 60% in 2013. It is difficult to directly compare trends over time from BSA and SSA, as SSA does not have a complete time series, so the overall upward trend in satisfaction in Scotland from 2005 to 2013 may mask fluctuations that might have existed in between individual years. However, comparing data from the years that both SSA and BSA asked people how satisfied they are with the NHS shows that in 2005 people across the UK were more satisfied than people in Scotland with the NHS: 48% were either very or quite satisfied compared with 40% in Scotland. In 2007 and 2011, SSA and BSA recorded identical levels of satisfaction, whilst the figures in 2013 were almost the same (61% for SSA and 60% for BSA).

4.7 The BSA 30th report (Park et al, 2013) reviewed the relationship between satisfaction with the NHS, public expenditure, and performance. The report concluded that there had been no consistent pattern between satisfaction and NHS expenditure over the last 30 years in the UK. However, the report does suggest that the increase in satisfaction levels in the UK since 2001 may be due to the effects of extra funding which has enabled improvements in performance in some key areas (including the reduction in waiting times). The reduction in satisfaction levels in the UK since 2011 may be due in part to concerns about the organisational reforms in the English NHS following the introduction of the Health and Social Care Act in 2012.

Figure 4.2: Satisfaction with the way the NHS runs nowadays in UK (BSA, 1999-2013)



Base: All respondents.
Sample size: See Annex A, Table A.22.

Views on private and voluntary sector organisations providing care for the elderly

4.8 The role of both the private and voluntary sectors in providing care services has been increasing in recent years and is likely to expand further. The Christie Commission (2011) recommended the use of a diverse range of service providers. Moreover, the introduction of self-directed support means individuals are now able to purchase services directly from both the voluntary and private sectors. It should be noted, however, that the move to a more diverse social care market has not been uncontentious. Previous research has shown that people can have quite negative views about the involvement of private sector organisations providing care services (Curtice & Heath, 2009).

4.9 In 2007 and 2010, SSA included questions on whether people support or oppose 'private companies or businesses' and 'charities or 'not for profit' organisations' providing personal care for older people. In 2010 over twice as many people supported charities or 'not for profit' organisations providing personal care for older people than supported private companies providing this care: 74% compared with 35%. Between 2007 and 2010, there was a substantial increase in the proportion of people supporting charities providing these services, from 44% in 2007 to 74% in 2010. There was a much smaller increase in relation to support for private companies over the same time period, from 28% in 2007 to 35% in 2010.

4.10 In 2011 more detailed questions were included in SSA that explored people's views on i) the cost effectiveness and ii) the quality of services for older people who need regular help. The questions first asked people how they rate the cost effectiveness and quality of services provided by private companies compared with services provided by the government. The survey then asked similar questions comparing services provided by charities as compared with services provided by government. These questions were repeated in 2013 and the findings are shown in Table 4.1 below.

4.11 In 2013, whichever comparison was tested (private companies versus government or charities versus government) people in Scotland did not distinguish between these two aspects (cost effectiveness and quality) in their answers. That is, the proportion choosing who provides the most cost effective service was virtually identical to the proportion choosing who provides the best quality service. See table 4.1. In what follows we therefore focus on people's perception of quality alone.

4.12 People did have different views towards private companies compared with charities providing care services. In 2013, when comparing government with private companies, many more people thought government would probably/definitely provide better quality services (59%) compared with 32% who thought private companies would. The findings were more balanced when respondents compared charities with government. In this case, 48% felt charities would probably/definitely provide better quality services compared with 43% who thought government would.

Table 4.1: Attitudes to who provides the most cost effective and best quality services for older people who need regular help (2013)

	Private companies vs. Government		Charities vs. Government	
	Most cost	**Best quality**	**Most cost effective**	**Best quality**
	%	%	%	%
Definitely government	22	22	15	15
Probably government	37	37	28	29
Probably private companies/charities	28	27	41	40
Definitely private companies /charities	4	5	8	8
Neither/same/don't know	9	9	8	9
Sample size	*1497*	*1497*	*1497*	*1497*

4.13 There have been no significant changes in the responses to these questions since 2011. There is an indication that between 2011 and 2013 there was a small drop in the proportion who thought charities probably provided more cost effective services than government (46% in 2011 compared with 41%[26] in 2013), but in all other respects the patterns and associations were similar.

4.14 SSA 2013 included questions on people's views about private companies or charities running NHS hospitals. The findings show more support for charities running NHS hospitals, rather than private companies. However, even for charities, the proposal attracted fairly limited support. The proportion supporting the involvement of these other organisations in running NHS hospitals was 29% for charities and just 14% for private companies. This question was also asked in 2007, when a similar proportion of people supported the involvement of charities (27%). However, there has been a reduction between 2007 and 2013 in the proportion supporting private sector involvement from 27% in 2007 to 14% in 2013.

Who thinks that private companies provide the best quality care for the elderly?

4.15 The SSA 2011 report (Ormston & Reid, 2012) explored how attitudes differed between groups in relation to thinking that private companies rather than government should provide care for the elderly. The report concluded that those who thought that private companies would provide the best quality care were more likely to be: younger, qualified to Higher level compared with all other levels of education, working in the private sector, and more right wing in their political beliefs.

4.16 The patterns were similar in 2013 in relation to age, education and sector of employment (see Table 4.2). In particular:

- younger people were more likely to think that private companies would provide the best quality services compared with older people: 57% of 18-29 year olds compared with 23% of those over 65

[26] This difference was only marginally significant (p=0.076)

- those with Highers, compared with those with both lower and higher education levels, were more likely to think that private companies would provide the best quality care
- people working in the private sector were more likely to think that the private sector would provide the best quality services compared with people working in either the public sector or those who were self-employed.

4.17 By contrast, a different pattern was found in relation to how left or right wing people were in 2011 and 2013. In 2011, people who were more left wing were less likely to believe that private companies provided the best quality services: 25% of people who were on the left of the political spectrum compared with 36% of people who were on the right. In 2013, people who were politically left or right wing did not have significantly different views on whether private companies, rather than the government, would provide the best quality services.

4.18 People's attitudes to whether private companies or government provided the best quality services were also explored in relation to their assessment of their own health. There were (marginally) significant differences by self-rated health[27], with people rating their health either 'very bad' or 'bad' less likely to say that private companies provided the best quality care compared with all other groups.

[27] Self-rated health was only marginally associated with whether people believed that private companies provided the best quality care: (p=0.086).

Table 4.2: Attitudes to who provides the best quality services for older people who need regular help by demographic factors, self-rated health and political attitudes (2013)

% private companies/ charities definitely/ probably provide better quality services	**Private companies vs. government**		**Charities / 'not for profit' vs. government**	
	2011	**2013**	**2011**	**2013**
	%	%	%	%
All	33	32	54	48
Gender[28]				
Men	29	34	51	48
Women	36	30	58	48
Age				
18-29	54	57	65	50
30-39	37	38	57	59
40-64	25	23	53	47
65+	26	23	45	39
Annual household income[29]				
Up to £14,300	38	30	50	39
Over £14,300 to £26,000	32	27	53	48
Over £26,000 to £44,200	31	38	54	56
Over £44,200	32	33	65	57
Highest educational qualification				
Degree/Higher Education	30	33	57	51
Highers/A-levels	42	38	57	57
Standard Grades/GCSEs	34	34	58	50
No recognised qualification	26	22	43	33
Self-rated health[30]				
Very good	34	33	59	49
Good	34	35	53	51
Fair	31	30	53	44
Bad or very bad	23	21	41	39
Occupational sector[31]				
Private sector	36	38	57	52
Public sector/ Charity	27	22	57	43
Self-employed	25	28	51	47
Position on political left-right scale				
Left	25	30	51	50
Centre	37	34	57	46
Right	36	36	56	52

See Annex A, Table A.23 for sample sizes.

[28] Gender differences in 2011 were marginally statistically significant but were not significant in 2013 for private companies or charities.
[29] Income was not significant for private companies providing the best quality care in either 2011 or 2013.
[30] In 2013 self-rated health was only marginally significant for private companies providing the best quality care (p=0.086) and not significant for charities.
[31] Occupational sector was only marginally significant for charities in 2013 (p=0.083).

Who thinks that charities provide the best quality care for the elderly?

4.19 In 2011 the groups who had a more positive view of charities providing the best quality care for the elderly compared with government were women, younger people, those on higher incomes and those with any level of educational qualification compared with those with none (see Table 4.2 above). This was similar to the groups who had a more positive view of private companies. However, attitudes to charities are less divided on political factors than attitudes to private companies, as there were no significant differences by occupational sector or how left or right wing people were politically.

4.20 In 2013 there were again significant differences in attitudes by age, income and education levels. However, whether people worked in the private or public/voluntary sector was significantly related to attitudes to charities in 2013 and gender was no longer significant. Younger people were more likely to say that charities would provide better quality services than government compared with older people: 50% of those aged 18 to 29 compared with 39% of those over 65 years old.

4.21 In 2013 people with incomes over £44,200 were more likely to say that charities provided the best quality services (57%) compared with those in the lowest income category (39%). And people with no formal qualifications were less likely than all other groups to think that charities would provide better quality care than the government. Surprisingly it was people working in the private sector who were the most likely to think that charities would provide the best quality care services for the elderly. This may be because this group have the most negative attitudes towards government providing care services and therefore prefer any alternative provider.

4.22 In relation to both private companies and charities providing care services the most negative views were held by those who were more likely to be receiving care now or in the near future. It is too early to say whether this is a cohort effect and as the younger people get older their attitudes will become less positive about private companies and charities providing care for the elderly.

Views on who should pay for care for the elderly and how these views vary among different groups

4.23 In 2007, 2011 and 2013 the survey included a question about who should pay for the care of older people who need regular help with looking after themselves. The three possible responses were:

- The government should pay, no matter how much money the person has
- The person should pay, no matter how much money he/she has
- Who pays should depend on how much money the person has

4.24 Figure 4.3 shows that in 2007 over half of people in Scotland, 55%, thought that the government should pay, no matter how much money the person has; 42% thought it should depend on how much money someone has and only 2% thought that the person should pay regardless. There has been a decline in the proportion believing that the government should pay, regardless of how much money the person has of 10 percentage points between 2007 and 2013, when 45% of people believed this. This has been accompanied by an increase from 42% in 2007 to 51% in 2013 in the proportion of those believing that who pays should be related to how much money the person has. It is worth noting that the most recent change from 2011 to 2013 was statistically significant.

Figure 4.3: Attitudes to who should pay for personal care for older people (2007, 2011, 2013)

Base: All respondents.
Sample size: 2007 = 1,508; 2011 = 1,197; 2013=1,497

4.25 In 2011 significant differences in attitudes on this issue were found in relation to age, education levels and how politically left or right wing people are. In 2013 we explored the relationship between age, gender, education levels, income, self-reported health, newspaper readership and how left or right wing people are. Significant differences in attitudes to who should pay for personal care were found only in relation to education levels and newspaper readership. Those with Standard grades or with no formal qualifications were more likely to say that the government should pay for care no matter how much money the person has compared with those with Highers or degree level education. 49% of those with no formal qualifications compared with 36% of those educated to degree level. Those who read broadsheets, compared with those who read tabloids or no paper at all were less likely to have said that the government should pay for care regardless: 37% of broadsheet readers compared with 51% of tabloid readers.

5 SOCIAL CAPITAL AND LIFE SATISFACTION

5.1 This chapter describes social capital and life satisfaction. The findings cover:

- Levels of satisfaction with life as a whole
- Levels of satisfaction with particular aspects of life including job satisfaction, satisfaction with family and personal life, and satisfaction with standard of living
- The extent of 'social connectedness' people feel with others in their area
- The involvement, and likelihood of future involvement, in civic participation
- Levels of social trust

5.2 The chapter also examines the relationship between social capital and life satisfaction. In particular it explores whether factors relating to social capital provide a better explanation of variations in life satisfaction than can be achieved using demographic factors alone.

Introducing social capital and life satisfaction

5.3 While the concept of social capital is not straightforward to define, there is some convergence over the idea that networks and shared 'norms of reciprocity' are of central importance (Harper, 2002). This is consistent with the definition by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which describes social capital as 'networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups'. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has also adopted this definition. However, a report by the ONS (ONS, 2001) illustrates that in practice social capital can be a sprawling concept, including social trust, friendship patterns, membership of clubs, participation in neighbourhood activities, how often people see their family, and whether people know their neighbours. Thus, social capital is a complex and nuanced concept which is difficult to capture through research.

5.4 There are many subcategories of social capital and a useful distinction is made between strong ties and weak ties, the first referring to the ties a person has with their closest friends and family, the second being the broader network of acquaintances, colleagues and friends of friends an individual may have (Easley and Kleinberg, 2010). It has been claimed that weak ties are highly important as they bring together people from different backgrounds, and can help people to progress in life, for example by identifying job opportunities through friends of friends (Harper, 2002). It is also thought that social capital can be described as both a public and a private resource (Putnam, 2000). It is a private good in that individuals with high levels of social capital can benefit from it personally. Putnam and others go further to claim that there are also thought to be diffuse, shared benefits which extend beyond those with high levels of social capital. For example, if people do voluntary work, make an effort to look out for their neighbours or are friendly and trusting towards strangers, this can benefit everyone in a society, not just those with high levels of social capital.

5.5 Not all these aspects of social capital are covered in detail on SSA – and arguably many forms cannot be measured through survey research (Li, 2010). SSA 2013 provides us with a set of questions which measure a respondent's social connectedness; their civic participation including volunteering; motivation and efficacy in terms of the respondent feeling they are willing and able to influence their local area; and generalised social trust.

5.6 Aside from allowing us to observe any changes in these measures of social capital in Scotland[32], these questions have been included on SSA 2013 to enable analysis of their effects on life satisfaction. There is evidence from analysis of the Scottish Health Survey (Ormston, 2012) and from the British Household Panel Survey (Li, 2005) that some elements of social capital have a positive effect on mental wellbeing or happiness. The inclusion of a series of questions on social capital has allowed us to analyse these initial findings in more depth.

5.7 Like social capital, life satisfaction has been of increased academic and policy interest over the past decade or so. The Scottish Government (2013) has included mental wellbeing as one of their National Indicators since 2007 and uses findings from the Scottish Health Survey (SHeS) to monitor this. Note however that on SHeS, a clinical measure of wellbeing is used (known as WEMWBS), whereas on SSA the focus is self-assessed life satisfaction.

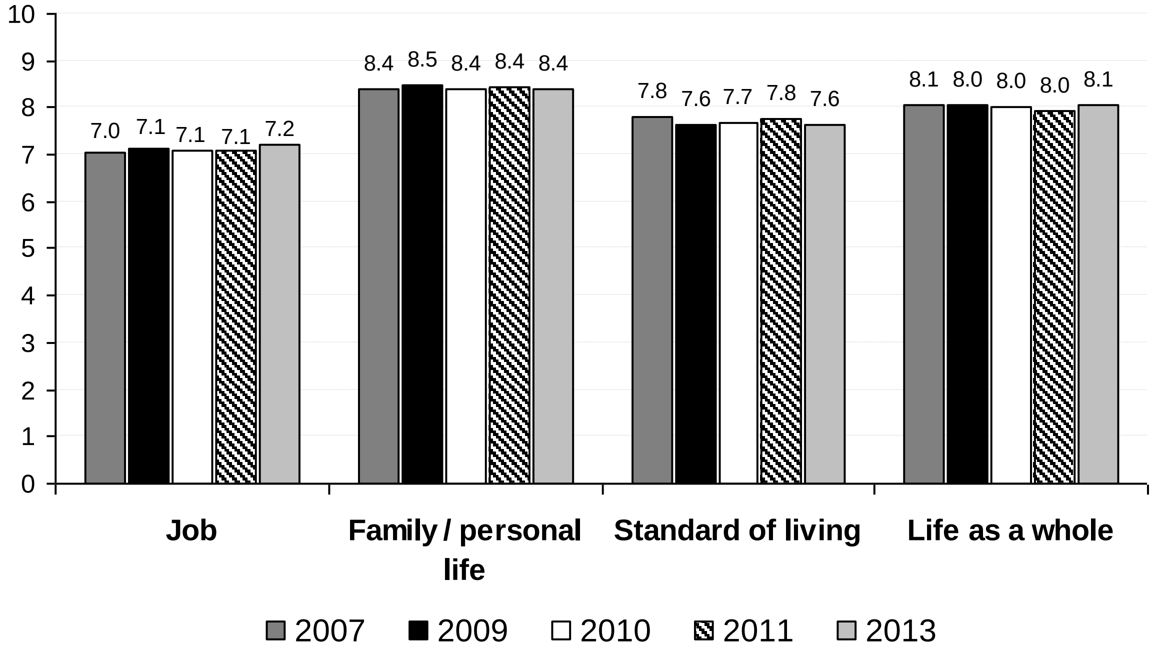
Life satisfaction

5.8 Given the economic context described in Chapter One, and low levels of confidence in both the economy and standards of living described in Chapter Three, we might expect to see a reduction in self-assessed life satisfaction since the start of the economic downturn in 2008.

5.9 Four questions on life satisfaction have been asked on SSA since 2006. Each question has an 11 point scale running from 0 (extremely dissatisfied) to 10 (extremely satisfied)[33]. Figure 5.1 presents the mean scores (out of 10) for responses to these questions. The figures are high with a mean score of 8.05 for satisfaction with 'life as a whole' and 7.63 for 'standard of living'. The equivalent score for 'family and personal life' is slightly higher and for job satisfaction is slightly lower.

[32] Subsets of these questions have been asked in 2000, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2013.
[33] This suite of questions replicates those asked on the European Social Survey in 2002 and 2004.

Figure 5.1 Mean scores for four measures of life satisfaction



Base: All respondents. Sample size: 1497.
See Annex A, Tables A.24, A.25, A.26, A.27 for full details.

5.10 Perhaps the most notable characteristic of these figures is their stability, especially considering this timeframe includes the recent recession. Even the mean score for self-assessed standard of living, which might have been expected to decrease following the recession, has been reasonably stable between 2007 and 2013. No clear trend has been displayed over time, and variations from year-to-year have been less than 0.2. In Table 5.1 we can see that the distribution of responses to each point on the scale for satisfaction with 'life as a whole' is also remarkably stable. The equivalent tables for the other three questions demonstrate a similar pattern. This shows that the mean scores in figure 5.1 do not 'hide' any more subtle variation in responses.

Table 5.1 And all things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%
0 (extremely dissatisfied/ unhappy)	*	*	1	1	*
1	*	*	*	*	*
2	*	*	*	1	*
3	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	2	1	1	1
5	5	5	6	5	7
6	7	5	6	7	3
7	14	14	14	16	15
8	30	29	27	26	29
9	23	23	22	21	21
10 (extremely satisfied/ happy)	19	21	21	22	21
MEAN	*8.06*	*8.04*	*8.00*	*7.95*	*8.05*
Sample size	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

Social connectedness

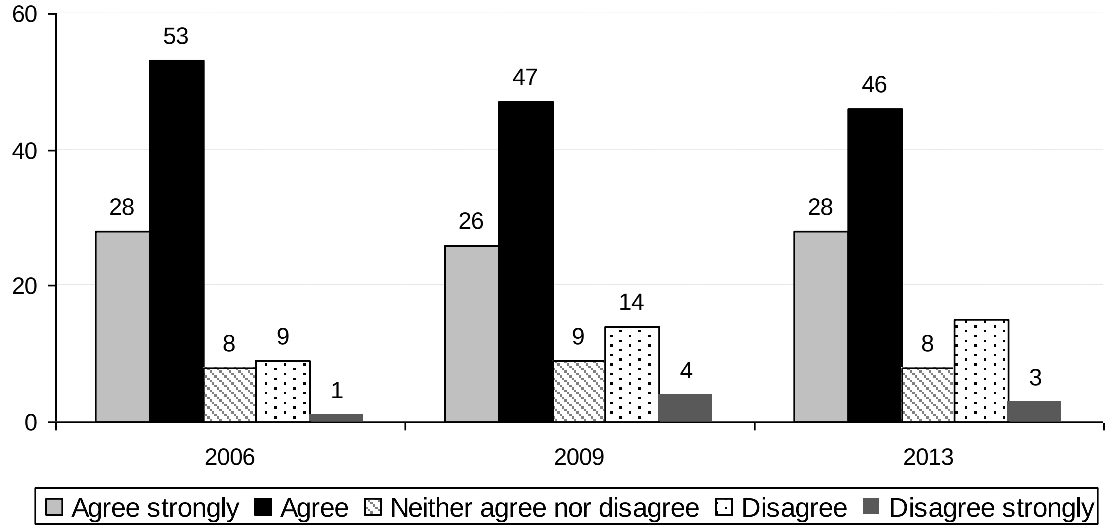
5.11 As previously mentioned, three of the SSA 2013 social capital questions measure how socially connected respondents feel they are to people in their local area. They were previously featured in 2006[34] and 2009 and asked:

- Whether respondents regularly stop and speak to people in their local area
- If a respondent's home was empty they could count on one of their neighbours to keep an eye on it
- Whether respondents feel that there are people in their area they could turn to for advice and support.

5.12 Figure 5.2 shows responses to the question about whether respondents regularly stop and speak to people in their local area. In 2013, 28% strongly agreed and 46% agreed with the statement, while only 3% disagreed strongly. This provides some evidence of quite a high level of 'weak ties' social capital. There was a significant reduction in the proportion agreeing or agreeing strongly with this statement from 2006 (81%) to 2009 (73%), but no further change from 2009 to 2013 (74%).

[34] In 2006 the second and third questions were phrased slightly differently as follows: 'If my home was empty I could count on one of my friends or relatives in this area to keep an eye on it'; 'I have friends or relatives in this area I feel I could turn to for advice and support'.

Figure 5.2 'I regularly stop and speak to people in my local area'



Base: All respondents.
Sample size: 2006 1549; 2009 1482; 2013 1497

5.13 There were also significant decreases in the proportions agreeing or agreeing strongly that they could rely on someone to keep an eye on their house if it were empty from 2006 (91%) to 2009 (85%) and that there were people in the local area people felt they could turn to for advice and support (81% in 2006 down to 72% in 2009) (see Annex A, Tables A.28 & A.29 for full details). However, given the wording changes (mentioned in footnote 35 above) we cannot know whether this represents an actual change in these forms of social capital or whether this is a result of the change in wording. The figures from 2009 and 2013 on both these items have been stable.

Civic participation – behaviour

5.14 Civic participation is a term that describes activities that are politically motivated or intended to bring about social change. While some regard civic participation as a form of social capital (e.g. Walsh et al, 2013), others do not (e.g. ONS, 2001). Despite this disagreement, for at least some activities there is clearly an overlap, particularly when we consider those activities which involve direct personal contact.

5.15 Table 5.2 shows the proportion of those involved in civic participation. Respondents were asked which out of a list of 15 activities they had done in the past 12 months. Table 5.2 presents the figures for those who did not do anything, who signed a petition, who gave money to a campaign or organisation and who did something 'active' (e.g. attended a protest, or contacted an MP or MSP). We can see from the table that the proportion who had not taken part in any civic activities was 39% in 2013 – a reduction of six percentage points from when this was last asked in 2009.

5.16 There have been notable increases in the proportions signing a petition and giving money to a campaign or organisation from 2009 to 2013. It has been argued elsewhere (Ormston, 2010) that these are both 'passive' forms of civic participation, whereas the other options listed in the question are more 'active'. The rise in smartphone usage and in the number of organisations whose purpose it is to campaign using petitions, e.g. www.avaaz.org and www.change.org, provides a credible explanation of why the number of people signing petitions has increased substantially (from 28% in 2009 to 38% in 2013). Explaining the rise from 13% to 22% in giving money to a campaign or organisation is not quite so simple. The proliferation of smartphones and social media, and the corresponding rise in organisations taking advantage of these in their fundraising, may account for some the increase. And perhaps the signs of a nascent economic recovery (as discussed earlier in Chapter 1) may also have contributed. Note that around half the population (48%) had taken part in something 'active' in 2013, an increase of four percentage points from 2009. Details of these activities can be found in the annex.

Table 5.2: Civic participation in past 12 months

	2009	**2013**
	%	%
Did nothing	45	39
Signed a petition	28	38
Give money to campaign/ organisation	13	22
Did something active	44	48
Don't know	*	*
Sample size	*1482*	*1497*

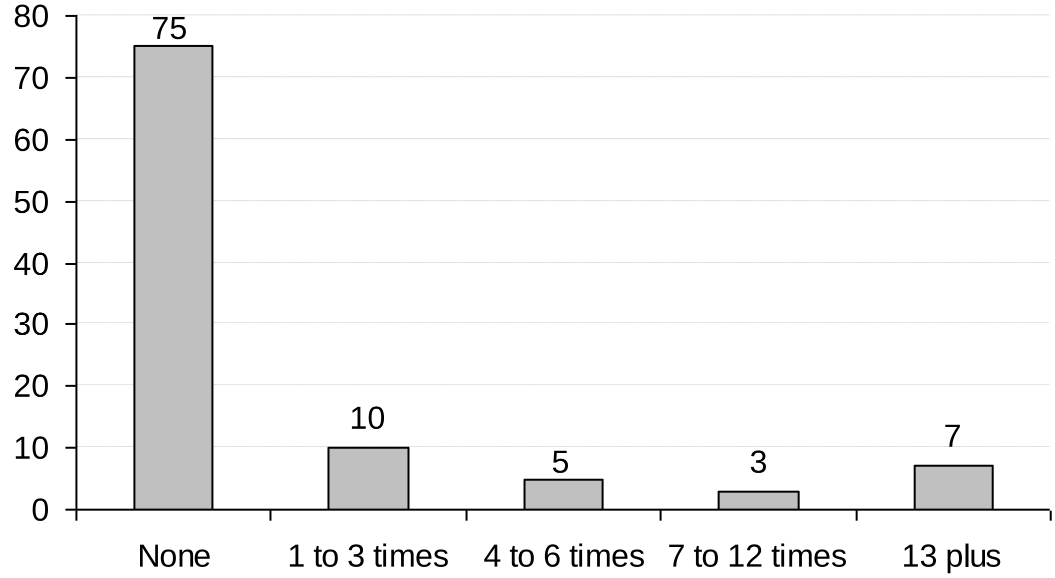
Note that percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one answer category

For full details see Annex A, Table A.30

5.17 The other measure of civic participation on the SSA 2013 asked how many times people had volunteered in the past 12 months. About one quarter (24%) had volunteered at least once with 7% saying they had volunteered 13 times or more (see Figure 5.3). This was the first time this question had been asked on the SSA and was consistent with the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) which found that 27% had volunteered in 2012[35].

[35] SSA 2013 featured a single question on volunteering, while the SHS includes a follow up with a list of specific examples of volunteering. This latter approach may have reminded respondents of activities they had taken part in but not remembered at first, and could account for the difference of 3 percentage points.

Figure 5.3: Number of times volunteered in past 12 months (%)



Base: All respondents.
Sample size: 1497

Civic participation – motivation and efficacy

5.18 To complement the civic participation questions which measure actual behaviour the survey included two questions which ask about respondent motivation and efficacy i.e. the extent to which they feel able to bring about beneficial social change. The responses to these questions also provide some indication of the ‘norms of reciprocity’ aspect of social capital mentioned briefly at the start of this chapter. Even if many people do not actually take part in activities to improve their local area, by reporting this is something they might do – albeit hypothetically - indicates there is a shared norm around the social desirability of this kind of action. There are two questions on this topic:

- Likeliness respondent would go to meetings to improve local services
- Whether respondent feels it’s too difficult for someone like them to improve local area[36].

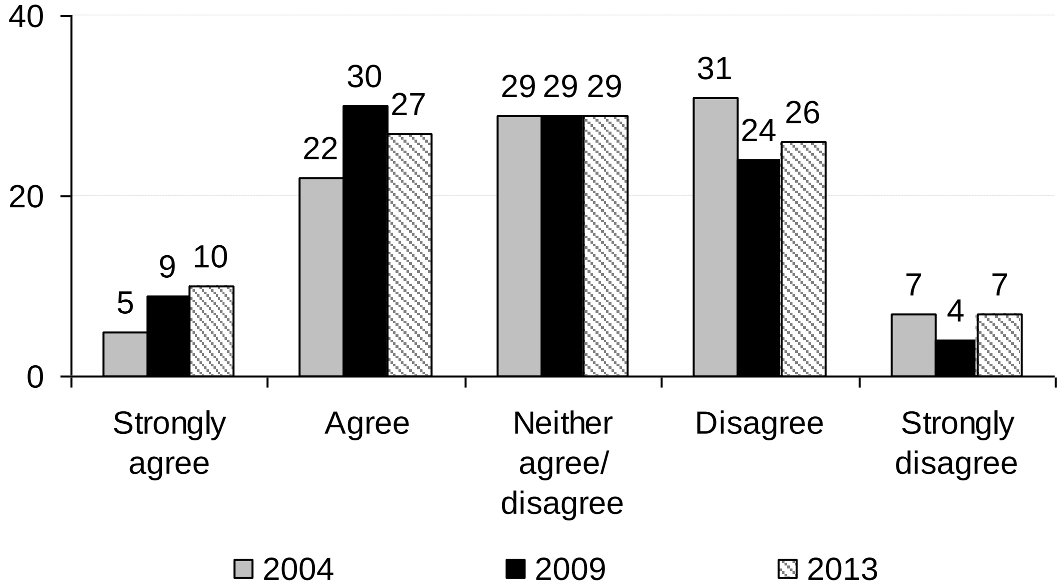
5.19 In 2013, 18% said they were very likely and 33% said they were fairly likely to go to local council meetings to improve services. The figures for 2011 were virtually identical, when 16% chose ‘very likely’ and 35% chose ‘fairly likely’ (see Annex A, Table A.31 for full details).

5.20 Respondents were asked whether they felt it was too difficult to improve their local area. Figure 5.4 shows that 27% agreed while 10% strongly agreed – similar figures to 2009 when 30% agreed and 9% strongly agreed. However

[36] The questions asked: ‘Say your local council decided to set up regular meetings with people in your area to discuss how to improve local services like schools, transport and parks. How likely or unlikely would you be to go along to these meetings?’ and ‘Thinking about improving your local area, how much would you agree or disagree with this statement? ‘It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about improving my local area’’

there has been a slight increase from 2004 when 22% agreed and only 5% strongly agreed.

Figure 5.4: 'It is just too difficult for someone like me to do much about improving my local area'



Base: All respondents who completed the CASI interview.
Sample size: 1340

Social trust

5.21 Social trust is often described in the literature as being an essential condition for high levels of social capital (Putnam, 1994). Trust is required for people to make friends, join clubs, etc. however it is also thought to be a product of those activities, as participating in group activities can reinforce beliefs that others are trustworthy.

5.22 The SSA 2013 asked whether 'most people can be trusted' or 'if you can't be too careful in dealing with people'. In 2013 52% said that most people can be trusted while 46% chose the more cautious statement. This question has been asked periodically since 2000, and in previous years attitudes have been similarly divided with roughly half being trusting while the other half are more distrustful (see Annex A, Table A.32 for full details).

Analysing the effects of social capital on life satisfaction

5.23 Previous evidence has shown that deprivation, age, marital status and employment status have a relationship with life satisfaction or mental wellbeing (Ormston, 2012; Scottish Government, 2013b). This section explores the additional impact that social capital factors can provide in explaining patterns of self-assessed life satisfaction.

5.24 The figures discussed here are informed by regression analysis[37], which examined what factors were significantly and independently associated with below average life satisfaction[38]. Based on previous research findings on factors associated with life satisfaction or wellbeing, the following demographics were explored:

- age
- marital status
- employment status
- income
- area deprivation

5.25 To these, a number of social capital related questions were added:

- socially connectedness scale[39]
- social trust
- civic participation
- whether volunteered in past year
- whether respondent would go to meetings to improve local area

5.26 Given that any policy interventions related to wellbeing or life satisfaction would generally be targeted at those who have 'below average' life satisfaction, our analysis has focused on this group. Overall in 2013 29% of people in Scotland have 'below average' life satisfaction[40].

[37] Regression is a statistical technique that allows you to examine the relationship between a dependent variable (in this case, believing the Scottish Government is responsible for a strengthening economy), and various independent variables (including socio-demographic factors e.g. age, income, education etc and factors such as party identification, national identity and how left or right wing people are). The analysis identifies which of these independent variables are significantly and independently related to the dependent variable, after controlling for the inter-relationships between variables.

[38] The 'outcome' or 'dependent variable' in the regression is a recoded version of the question in Table 5.1 which asked 'And all things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays?' with a 0 to 10 point response scale. The variable was recoded into two groups for the regression analysis. One group (71% of the sample) comprised those with an average score and above (8 to 10) whilst the other group (29% of the sample) comprised those with below average life satisfaction (0 to 7).

[39] Our measure of 'social connectedness' is based on respondents' level of agreement with three statements - that they regularly stop and speak to people in their area, that they feel they could count on one of their neighbours to look after their home while they were away, and that they feel there are people in their area to whom they could turn for advice and support. In each case, they were asked to indicate how strongly they agreed or disagreed on a 5 point scale (from agree strongly to disagree strongly). People's responses to these three questions were combined to produce a single score to indicate their level of social connectedness. The resulting values ranging from 3 (indicating the highest level of social connectedness) to 15.

[40] This below average score is low because a large proportion of respondents gave an 'average' score of 8. While the exact mean was 8.39, respondents were only able to respond in whole numbers.

5.27 Focussing first on demographic factors, those who were most likely to have below average life satisfaction were those who were permanently sick or disabled, the unemployed, and those who were divorced or single (Table 5.4). Age also had a significant relationship with life satisfaction which replicated previous findings from the Scottish Health Survey (Scottish Government, 2013d).

5.28 In relation to employment status:

- Almost three quarters (71%) of those who were unable to work because they are permanently sick or disabled had below average life satisfaction scores, compared with one quarter (25%) of those who are working. The permanently sick or disabled had the highest rates of below average life satisfaction of all subgroups considered.
- Being unemployed also had a negative effect on life satisfaction. Almost half of the unemployed (49%) had below average life satisfaction.
- The proportion of those who look after the home with below average life satisfaction was also relatively high (37%). By contrast, just 22% of retired people had below average life satisfaction.

5.29 Other relevant findings in relation to demographic factors include:

- Satisfaction with life was much lower for those who were divorced, separated or who had dissolved a civil partnership than those who were married, living as if they were married or in a civil partnership: 44% of the first group had below average life satisfaction compared with just 24% of the second. Moreover, those who were widowed had similar rates of life satisfaction to those who were married with just 23% reporting below average satisfaction.
- Around 1 in 5 of both the youngest and the oldest groups (18 to 24 and those over 65) had below average life satisfaction compared with one third of 25 to 39 year olds[41].
- Income and area deprivation did not were not significantly related to life satisfaction.

5.30 In addition to these demographic factors, two social capital factors provided additional explanatory power to the regression analysis. These were i) the scale measuring social connectedness and ii) social trust. Of these, the social connectedness scale had the strongest relationship with life satisfaction. In more detail:

- 38% of the least socially connected group had below average life satisfaction compared with 21% of the most socially connected.
- Distrustful people were significantly more likely to have low life satisfaction than those who are generally more trusting: 36% compared with 22%.
- Whether a respondent had been involved in civic participation or volunteering, or how likely they said they were to go to meetings to

[41] This relationship was not statistically significant in the regression analysis.

improve the local area did not have a statistically significant relationship with life satisfaction.

Table 5.4: Who has below average self-reported life satisfaction (2013)

		% Below average life satisfaction	***Sample size***
TOTAL		**29**	***1497***
Age	18-24	21	*93*
	25-39	33	*287*
	40-64	32	*666*
	65+	22	*445*
Marital status	Married/ civil partnership/ living as married	24	*760*
	Separated/ divorced	44	*195*
	Widowed	23	*198*
	Never married or civil partnership	36	*337*
Employment status	Education/ training	26	*36*
	Working	25	*732*
	Unemployed	49	*73*
	Permanently sick/ disabled	71	*72*
	Retired	22	*448*
	Looking after home	37	*82*
Socially connected	Most connected	21	*459*
	Intermediate	25	*580*
	Least connected	38	*452*
Social trust	'Most people can be trusted'	22	*821*
	'Can't be too careful'	36	*629*

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The Scottish Social Attitudes survey (SSA) 2013 fieldwork took place during the mid-term of the electoral cycle in relation to both UK and Scottish Parliamentary elections[42]. Economic austerity, uncertainty and public sector budget constraint continued to predominate, but there were some tentative signs of a limited economic recovery taking place, both north and south of the border. Against that backdrop, this final chapter sets out the key conclusions of SSA 2013 about current attitudes towards government and public sector reform, and the extent to which the economic difficulties of the last few years have left a legacy in terms of social capital and life satisfaction.

6.2 The attitudes of people in Scotland towards the Scottish Government were at historically high levels following the Scottish election in May 2011 (Ormston and Reid 2012). The analysis of SSA 2013 suggests that this was mostly the result of an 'election bounce effect' (similar to, but perhaps even stronger than, those found in 2003 and 2007), with attitudes in 2013 returning to their 2010 (pre-election) levels.

6.3 For example, trust in the Scottish Government to act in Scotland's best interests 'just about always' or 'most of the time' increased from 61% in 2010 to 71% in 2011 and then fell back to 59% in 2013. Similarly, the proportion who thought the Scottish Government was 'very good' or 'quite good' at listening to people's views before taking decisions increased from 45% in 2010 to 56% in 2011 and then fell back to 46% in 2013. Other examples of attitudes towards the Scottish Government mirror this pattern whereby high levels were reported in 2011 with lower levels reported in both the preceding and following years.

6.4 The exception to this pattern relates to the impact of having a Scottish parliament on Scotland's voice in the UK which, although it has fallen substantially from its historically high level in 2011 (when 69% said the Scottish parliament gave Scotland a stronger voice in the UK), is nevertheless still substantially higher in 2013 (57%) than it was in 2010 (49%). The sustaining of this rather higher level may reflect the discussions about the referendum on Scottish independence which began in earnest following the announcement of the referendum date.

6.5 More generally, attitudes towards the Scottish Government have been more positive in the period 2007-13, which coincides with the period when the SNP has been the ruling administration. For example, between 1999 and 2006, the proportion who thought that having a Scottish Parliament gives ordinary people more say in how Scotland is governed was, on average, 40%. This rose to an average of 48% for the period 2007-2013. Between 1999 and 2006 the proportion who thought the Scottish Parliament gives Scotland a stronger voice within the UK was on average 44%, rising to 58% between 2007-2013.

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[42] It has been agreed that following the introduction of The Fixed-term Parliaments Act 2011, the next UK Parliamentary election will be held in May 2015, and the next Scottish Parliamentary election in May 2016 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/14/contents/enacted

6.6 In addition, in 2013, attitudes towards the Scottish Government remained markedly more positive than attitudes towards the UK Government. For example, in 2013 the proportion who trusted the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests was more than double that for the UK Government (59% compared with 26%), whilst the proportion who trusted the Scottish Government to make fair decisions was nearly twice as high as for the UK Government (38% compared with 20%).

6.7 Trust in the Scottish Government in 2013 was, not surprisingly, higher amongst those who support the SNP and amongst those who favour more powers for the Scottish Parliament. More surprising perhaps, is that trust in the Scottish Government was highest for the 18-29 year olds, and lowest for those aged 65 and over.

6.8 Since SSA first asked, in 1999, who people believed *ought* to have most influence over the way Scotland is run, a clear majority (between 63% and 74%) of the population have selected the Scottish Parliament. Much smaller proportions (between 13% and 38%) have thought the Scottish Parliament *does* have the most influence over the way Scotland is run.

6.9 The proportion who thought the Scottish Parliament *ought* to have most influence over the way Scotland is run, when averaged over a longer time period has been stable. The average figure has been 69% for both the earlier (1999-2006) and later (2007-2013) periods following devolution. However, the patterns in relation to who *does* have most influence have changed substantially with an increase between the two periods in the average percentage who think that the Scottish Government *has* the most influence over the way Scotland is run (from 22% to 33%) and a corresponding decrease (from 53% to 43%) in the average percentage who think the UK Government *has* the most influence over the way Scotland is run.

6.10 Despite this long term underlying trend, the figures for 2013 are rather different. The percentage who thought the Scottish Government *does* have the most influence over the way Scotland is run was 30% in 2013, down from 38% in 2011. By contrast, the percentage who thought the UK Government *does* have the most influence increased from 38% in 2011 to 47% in 2013. This divergence may be a consequence of policies and developments that had an impact on the general public in the months leading up to fieldwork for SSA 2013 (e.g. negotiations and discussions about the arrangements for the referendum on independence, the reform of welfare policies).

6.11 Satisfaction with the way the NHS is run in Scotland has increased steadily from 2005. This is despite the recession, and the increased demands placed on the NHS by an ageing population. This may in part be due to the decision to protect NHS revenue funding following the recession, in contrast to the cuts which have been implemented in many other areas of public expenditure.

6.12 There was some indication of a small shift away from support for the provision of universal services, free at the point of receipt, for older people who need care; the proportion who thought government should always pay for these services has decreased from 55% in 2007 to 45% 2013 whilst the proportion who thought that who should pay should be related to how much money the person has increased from 42% to 51% over the same period. This points to a growing acknowledgement that, in the context of an ageing population, it is not necessarily possible to expect government to fully fund the provision of care for elderly people.

6.13 Since the recession, about one-third of the population has selected the economy as the top priority for Scottish Government action. No other topic has been identified by so many. This contrasts with the situation before the recession when about one-sixth of the population chose the economy as the top priority for the Scottish Government, and other topics (crime, health) were of greater salience.

6.14 Gross Domestic Product figures for both Scotland and the UK, the GfK UK Consumer Confidence Index, and the Scottish Government State of the Economy reports for 2013, all suggested that a limited economic recovery might be underway. Whilst in 2013 people still had a fairly negative view of the state of the economy over the last 12 months, their views were not quite as negative as in the years immediately following the recession in 2008. This suggests that changes in attitudes may reflect real changes in the underlying economy. About one quarter of people in 2013 (24%) thought the economy had improved over the last 12 months, compared with around 3 in 10 who thought this during the pre-recession years of 2004-2007. Views of living standards in 2013 remained more negative, at their post-recession levels. Fewer than 1 in 6 thought living standards have improved in the last 12 months.

6.15 The recession does not appear to have impacted significantly on measures of life satisfaction. People’s high levels of satisfaction with their job, their family and personal life, their standard of living, and their life as a whole have all been maintained following the recession. Given that the large majority of people think that standards of living have either stayed the same in the last 12 months (25%) or fallen (58%), this suggests that people’s assessment of their satisfaction with their own personal standard of living may be a judgement that is made on a relative, rather than an absolute, basis.

6.16 ‘Social connectedness’ was fairly strong in 2013, and was at similar levels to those found in 2011. The proportions who could rely on a neighbour to keep an eye on their home if it was empty (86%), who could turn for advice and support to people in their area (83%) and who regularly stop and speak to people in their local area (74%) show that a range of aspects relating to social capital are operating effectively across a wide range of local circumstances. However social trust (i.e. the extent to which people feel that others can be trusted) was fairly low, with almost half of people (46%) saying ‘you can’t be too careful in dealing with people’.

6.17 Below average levels of life satisfaction were found among those who were permanently sick or disabled, the unemployed, those who were divorced or single and among both young people (aged 18-24) and older people (aged over 65). Both social connectedness and social trust were found to be quite strongly associated with life satisfaction, with those who are least socially connected, and those least trusting of others, having lower life satisfaction.

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ANNEX A – DETAILED TABLES

Notes on tables

- '*' indicates less than 0.5 percent but greater than zero
- '-' indicates no respondents gave this answer
- All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number

Chapter 2 detailed tables

Table A.1: How much do you trust the UK Government to work in Scotland's best long-term interest? (column %)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	3	1	2	2	2	2
Most of the time	29	16	20	17	19	20
Only some of the time	52	54	55	51	58	50
Almost never	14	26	22	26	20	26
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	2
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*
Sample size	*1482*	*1663*	*1605*	*1665*	*1508*	*1637*
	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	2	2	3	2	3	3
Most of the time	21	19	32	23	19	15
Only some of the time	53	52	44	48	51	49
Almost never	21	24	18	24	23	31
(Don't know)	3	3	3	3	3	2
(Not answered)	*	-	*	-	-	-
Sample size	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*
	2012	2013				
	%	*%*				
Just about always	4	3				
Most of the time	28	23				
Only some of the time	45	45				
Almost never	22	27				
(Don't know)	2	3				
(Not answered)	-	-				
Sample size	*1229*	*1497*				

Table A.2: How much do you trust the Scottish Government/Executive /Parliament* to work in Scotland's best interests?

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	26	9	13	9	10	9
Most of the time	55	45	52	43	52	43
Only some of the time	14	34	29	34	31	37
Almost never	2	9	5	11	4	10
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	2
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	*
Sample size	*1482*	*1663*	*1605*	*1665*	*1508*	*1637*
	2005	**2006**	**2007**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Just about always	10	8	14	14	13	20
Most of the time	46	43	57	47	47	51
Only some of the time	33	37	22	31	31	23
Almost never	7	8	4	5	6	5
(Don't know)	3	3	4	3	2	1
(Not answered)	*	-	*	*	*	-
Sample size	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*
	2012	**2013**				
	%	%				
Just about always	16	16				
Most of the time	46	43				
Only some of the time	28	31				
Almost never	9	8				
(Don't know)	2	2				
(Not answered)	-	*				
Sample size	*1229*	*1497*				

*Prior to 2004, the question asked about the Parliament. In 2004 an experiment was run whereby half the sample was asked about the Scottish Parliament and half was asked about the Scottish Executive. The change of wording made negligible difference to the responses given therefore the combined results are shown here. In 2009, the wording was changed again to ask about the Scottish Government, following the September 2007 name change.

Table A.3: How much do you trust the UK Government to make fair decisions? (column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	2	3	2	3	3	2
Quite a lot	21	30	17	21	15	17
Some	46	43	48	44	42	39
Not very much	23	17	24	23	27	28
Not at all	6	4	7	7	11	11
(Don't know)	3	3	2	2	1	2
(Not answered)	-	*	*	-	-	-
Sample size	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

Table A.4: How much do you trust the Scottish Government to make fair decisions? (column %)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	3	4	4	4	8	5
Quite a lot	29	42	32	32	38	33
Some	46	39	46	46	39	42
Not very much	15	8	13	13	11	14
Not at all	5	2	3	3	3	4
(Don't know)	3	4	3	2	1	2
(Not answered)	*	*	*	-	-	-
Sample size	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

Table A.5: How much would you say you've seen or heard about the work of the UK Government over the last twelve months?

	2004	2005	2006	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	11	12	14	23	21	13	13
Quite a lot	23	27	27	29	27	32	25
Some	29	26	26	23	26	26	33
Not very much	31	29	26	19	21	22	23
Nothing at all	5	5	6	4	4	6	4
(Don't know)	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
(Not answered)	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
Sample size	*1637*	*1549*	*1594*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

Note: this question was not asked on *SSA* 2007

Table A.6: And how much would you say you've seen or heard about the work of the Scottish Government/Executive* over the last twelve months?

	2004	2005	2006	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A great deal	9	7	8	14	11	13	11
Quite a lot	21	24	27	32	27	36	30
Some	30	28	31	29	31	27	33
Not very much	33	34	26	20	26	20	22
Nothing at all	7	7	7	4	4	3	4
(Don't know)	1	1	1	1	1	*	1
(Not answered)	-	*	-	-	-	-	-
Sample size	*1637*	*1549*	*1594*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1197*

Note: this question was not asked on *SSA* 2007
* Prior to 2009, the question asked about the 'Scottish Executive'.

Table A.7: In general how good would you say the Scottish Executive/Government* is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions?

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	1	3	2	2	4	3	6	4
Quite good	31	32	34	41	44	41	50	42
Not very good	41	38	39	35	33	37	26	33
Not at all good	17	16	14	9	8	11	8	12
(Don't know)	10	12	11	13	11	8	9	9
(Not	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	-
Sample size	*1637*	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

*From 2004-2007, the question asked about the Scottish Executive. In 2009, the question was amended to ask about the Scottish Government.

Table A.8: And how good would you say the UK Government is at listening to people's views before it takes decisions?

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very good	1	1	1	*	1	1	1	1
Quite good	14	15	17	21	17	21	18	20
Not very good	50	52	49	50	51	51	48	49
Not at all good	30	25	27	21	23	20	27	24
(Don't know)	6	7	7	8	7	7	6	6
(Not	*	*	*	*	-	-	-	-
Sample size	*1637*	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

Table A.9: From what you have seen and heard so far do you think that having a Scottish parliament is giving ordinary people…

	1997*	1999*	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...more say in how Scotland is governed	79	64	44	38	31	39	31
...less say	2	2	3	4	4	4	6
...or, is it making no difference	17	32	51	56	62	54	60
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
Sample size	*882*	*1482*	*1663*	*1605*	*1665*	*1508*	*1637*
	2005	**2006**	**2007**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...more say in how Scotland is governed	37	37	47	47	42	60	46
...less say	5	5	3	3	4	3	6
...or, is it making no difference	55	55	45	47	50	33	47
(Don't know)	4	4	4	3	4	4	31
(Not answered)	*	-	*	*	-	-	-
Sample size	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*
	2013						
	%						
...more say in how Scotland is governed	46						
...less say	5						
...or, is it making no difference	45						
(Don't know)	3						
(Not answered)	-						
Sample size	*1497*						

*1997 data source = Referendum study
**1999-2009 data source = Scottish Social Attitudes survey
Note: The question wording in each year was:
1999 "Will a Scottish Parliament…"
2000 "Do you think that having a Scottish parliament is going to…"
2001 onwards "Do you think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving…"

Table A.10 Which of the following do you think has most influence over the way Scotland is run?

	1999*	2000	2001	2003	2004	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Scottish Government**	41	13	15	17	19	23
The UK Government at Westminster	39	66	66	64	48	47
Local Councils in Scotland	8	10	9	7	20	15
The European Union	5	4	7	5	6	8
(Don't know)	8	8	-	6	7	7
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	*	*
Sample size	*1482*	*1663*	*1605*	*1508*	*1637*	*1549*
	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Scottish Government	24	28	33	37	38	34
The UK Government at Westminster	38	47	39	45	38	41
Local Councils in Scotland	18	8	11	7	13	10
The European Union	11	9	10	7	7	9
(Don't know)	9	7	7	5	4	6
(Not answered)	*	*	-	-	-	-
Sample size	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*
	2013					
	%					
The Scottish Government	30					
The UK Government at Westminster	47					
Local Councils in Scotland	12					
The European Union	7					
(Don't know)	4					
(Not answered)	-					
Sample size	*1497*					

Note:
*In 1999 the question wording was: "When the new parliament starts work, which of the following do you think will have most influence over the way Scotland is run"
**In 2004 an experiment was run whereby half the sample was asked about the Scottish Parliament and half was asked about the Scottish Executive. The change of wording made negligible difference to the responses given, therefore the combined results are shown here. In 2009, the wording was changed again to ask about the 'Scottish Government', rather than the 'Scottish Executive', following the September 2007 name change.

Table A.11 Which of the following do you think ought to have most influence over the way Scotland is run?

	1999	2000	2001	2003	2004	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Scottish Government*	74	72	74	66	67	67
The UK Government at Westminster	13	13	14	20	12	13
Local Councils in Scotland	8	10	8	9	17	15
The European Union	1	1	1	1	1	1
(Don't know)	-	5	-	-	3	4
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	*	*
Sample size	*1482*	*1663*	*1605*	*1508*	*1637*	*1549*
	2006	**2007**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Scottish Government*	64	71	72	74	73	63
The UK Government at Westminster	11	14	13	16	13	24
Local Councils in Scotland	19	9	11	6	11	8
The European Union	1	1	*	1	1	1
(Don't know)	4	4	3	3	2	4
(Not answered)	*	*	-	-	-	*
Sample size	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*
	2013					
	%					
The Scottish Government	63					
The UK Government at Westminster	20					
Local Councils in Scotland	13					
The European Union	1					
(Don't know)	3					
(Not answered)	*					
Sample size	*1497*					

*In 2004 an experiment was run whereby half the sample was asked about the Scottish Parliament and half was asked about the Scottish Executive. The change of wording made negligible difference to the responses given, therefore the combined results are shown here. In 2009, the wording was changed again to ask about the 'Scottish Government', rather than the 'Scottish Executive', following the September 2007 name change.

Table A.12: From what you have seen and heard so far do you think that having a Scottish parliament is giving Scotland.....

	1997 Ref	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...a stronger voice in the United Kingdom	70	70	52	52	39	49	35
...a weaker voice in the United Kingdom	9	7	6	6	7	7	7
...or, is it making no difference?	17	20	40	40	52	41	55
(Don't know)	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
(Not answered)	-	-	-	-	-	-	*
Sample size	*882*	*1482*	*1663*	*1605*	*1665*	*1508*	*1637*
	2005	**2006**	**2007**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
...a stronger voice in the United Kingdom	41	43	61	52	49	69	59
...a weaker voice in the United Kingdom	6	6	4	5	6	3	6
...or, is it making no difference?	50	49	32	40	42	26	33
(Don't know)	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
(Not answered)	*	-	*	*	-	-	-
Sample size	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*
	2013						
	%						
...a stronger voice in the United Kingdom	57						
...a weaker voice in the United Kingdom	6						
...or, is it making no difference?	34						
(Don't know)	2						
(Not answered)	-						
Sample size	*1497*						

Note:
The question wording in each year was:
1999 "Will a Scottish Parliament…"
2000 "Do you think that having a Scottish parliament is going to…"
2001 onwards "Do you think that having a Scottish Parliament is giving…"

Table A.13a How confident are you that official statistics published by the Scottish Government[43] are accurate?

	2007	2009	2013
	%	%	%
0 (Not confident at all)	3	4	5
1	2	3	2
2	4	4	4
3	6	6	9
4	9	10	13
5	22	23	21
6	15	14	13
7	16	14	16
8	10	10	10
9	2	3	3
10 (Very confident)	2	2	1
Don't know	9	7	4
Not answered	*	-	-
MEAN[44]	5.43	5.32	5.15
Sample size	*1508*	*1482*	*1497*

Table A.13b What is the main reason for your views about the accuracy of official statistics published by the Scottish Government[45]?

	2007	2009	2013
	%	%	%
NOT CONFIDENT			
Don't trust official statistics, from personal experience	8	11	10
Heard / read something bad about official statistics	2	2	2
Official statistics are difficult to count or measure	5	5	4
The Scottish Government has a vested interest in results	4	4	9
Official statistics are misrepresented or spun by politicians	20	21	22
Statistics alone do not tell whole story	14	14	11
CONFIDENT			
Trust official statistics, from personal experience	9	7	8
Heard / read something good about official statistics	4	3	5
Official statistics are easy to count or measure	3	4	5
The Scottish Government does not have a vested interest in	4	4	3
OTHER		5	7
No opinion / Don't understand statistics	7	12	6
It depends on the type of statistics	3	2	3
Don't Know	11	5	4
Sample size	*1508*	*1482*	*1497*

[43] Prior to 2009, the question asked about the 'Scottish Executive'
[44] Means are calculated on sample *excluding* 'don't know/ not answered'
[45] Prior to 2009, the question asked about the 'Scottish Executive'

Table A.14: Trust Scottish Government / Executive 'just about always / most of the time' to act in Scotland's best interests, by economic, demographic, social and political attitudes, 2011 and 2013 (cell %)

	2011	*Sample size*	2013	*Sample size*	Change 2011 to 2013
ALL	**71**	***1197***	**59**	***1497***	**-12**
Self rated hardship					
Comfortable / very comfortable	70	*653*	62	*825*	-8
Neither comfortable nor struggling	73	*333*	54	*441*	-19
Struggling on present income	69	*205*	58	*216*	-11
Working Status					
Education/Training	75	*33*	68	*36*	-7
Working	75	*611*	63	*733*	-12
Unemployed	70	*58*	59	*74*	-11
Retired	66	*356*	52	*491*	-14
Other	63	*139*	50	*161*	-13
Age					
18-29	72	*143*	69	*177*	-3
30-39	76	*182*	59	*203*	-17
40-64	72	*531*	58	*668*	-14
65+	66	*337*	50	*447*	-16
Trust in other people					
Most people can be trusted	81	*452*	64	*820*	-17
You can't be too careful	65	*731*	52	*631*	-13
Confidence in Scottish Government official statistics					
Very confident	N/A	*N/A*	88	*306*	*N/A*
Moderately confident	N/A	*N/A*	54	*708*	*N/A*
Not very confident	N/A	*N/A*	27	*420*	*N/A*
Don't know	N/A	*N/A*	57	*61*	*N/A*
Who ought to have most influence in the way Scotland is run					
Scottish Government	77	*876*	67	*938*	*-10*
UK Government at Westminster	55	*158*	39	*314*	*-15*
Local councils in Scotland	56	*127*	54	*179*	*-2*
Other / Don't know	48	*36*	40	*62*	*-8*
How much seen / heard of Scottish Government in last 12 months					
A great deal / quite a lot	80	*583*	66	*637*	*-14*
Some	75	*331*	59	*484*	*-16*
Not very much / nothing at all	50	*277*	47	*366*	*-3*

Table A. 14 (Contd): Trust Scottish Government / Executive 'just about always' / 'most of the time' to act in Scotland's best interests by economic, demographic, social and political attitudes, 2011 and 2013 (cell %)

	2011	***Sample size***	**2013**	***Sample size***	**Change 2011 to 2013**
ALL	**71**	**1197**	**59**	***1497***	**-12**
Constitutional preference					
UK Govt should make all decisions	33	64	26	*132*	-7
UK Govt tax, benefits, defence and foreign affairs, Scottish Parliament everything else	67	273	48	*410*	-19
UK Govt defence and foreign affairs, Scottish Parliament everything else	75	357	60	*437*	-15
Scottish Parliament should make all decisions	76	473	77	*465*	+1
National Identity					
Scottish	70	346	*63*	*368*	-7
More Scottish than British	74	381	*61*	*438*	-13
Equally Scottish and British	69	278	*52*	*432*	-17
More British than Scottish / British	70	130	*53*	*166*	-17
Other	71	62	*67*	*91*	-4
Party identification					
Conservative	70	124	41	*203*	-29
Labour	70	353	58	*440*	-12
Lib Dem	69	68	50	*80*	-19
SNP	84	397	80	*347*	-4
None / Other	55	255	52	*424*	-3
Interest in politics					
A great deal/quite a lot	83	398	62	*487*	-21
Some	73	351	61	*518*	-12
Not very much/none	60	448	53	*490*	-7

Table A.15: % who are very confident about the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics, by economic, demographic, social and political attitudes, 2013 (cell %)

	2013	*Sample size*
ALL	**30**	***1497***
Self rated hardship		
Comfortable / very comfortable	32	*800*
Neither comfortable nor struggling	28	*418*
Struggling on present income	34	*207*
Working Status		
Education/Training	50	*34*
Working	33	*707*
Unemployed	37	*69*
Retired	24	*471*
Other	24	*155*
Age		
18-29	45	*164*
30-39	33	*192*
40-64	28	*652*
65+	24	*428*
Trust in other people		
Most people can be trusted	20	*793*
You can't be too careful	23	*601*
Who ought to have most influence in the way Scotland is run		
Scottish Government	38	*907*
UK Government at Westminster	20	*304*
Local councils in Scotland	19	*171*
Other / Don't know	8	*52*
How much seen / heard of Scottish Government in last 12 months		
A great deal / quite a lot	37	*625*
Some	31	*465*
Not very much / nothing at all	20	*340*

Table A.15 (Contd): % who are very confident about the accuracy of Scottish Government official statistics by economic, demographic, social and political attitudes, 2013 (cell %)

	2013	***Sample size***
ALL	**30**	***1497***
Constitutional preference		
UK Govt should make all decisions	11	*130*
UK Govt tax, benefits, defence and	15	*399*
UK Govt defence and foreign affairs,	33	*425*
Scottish Parliament should make all	48	*445*
National Identity		
Scottish	39	*344*
More Scottish than British	32	*429*
Equally Scottish and British	23	*420*
More British than Scottish / British	22	*163*
Other	47	*80*
Party identification		
Conservative	18	*200*
Labour	28	*432*
Lib Dem	27	*78*
SNP	55	*336*
None / Other	21	*389*
Interest in politics		
A great deal/quite a lot	36	*480*
Some	34	*509*
Not very much/none	22	*447*

Table A.16: % who think that the Scottish Government ought to, but does not, have the most influence over the way Scotland is run by economic, demographic, social and political attitudes, 2011 and 2013 (cell %)

	2011	*Sample size*	2013	*Sample size*	Change 2011 to 2013
ALL	**38**	***1197***	**37**	***1497***	**-1**
Self rated hardship					
Comfortable / very comfortable	36	*653*	34	*827*	-2
Neither comfortable nor struggling	38	*333*	39	*441*	+1
Struggling on present income	43	*205*	45	*216*	+2
Working Status					
Education/Training	29	*33*	39	*36*	+10
Working	41	*611*	38	*734*	-3
Unemployed	37	*58*	42	*74*	+5
Retired	31	*356*	34	*491*	+3
Other	38	*139*	38	*162*	+0
Age					
18-29	37	*143*	42	*177*	+5
30-39	44	*182*	35	*203*	-9
40-64	39	*531*	39	*669*	+0
65+	30	*337*	31	*448*	+1
Sex					
Male	39	*528*	38	*669*	-1
Female	37	*669*	36	*828*	-1
Trust in other people					
Most people can be trusted	32	*452*	36	*822*	+4
You can't be too careful	42	*731*	38	*631*	-4
How much seen / heard of Scottish Government in last 12 months					
A great deal / quite a lot	36	*583*	35	*638*	*-1*
Some	38	*331*	40	*484*	*+2*
Not very much / nothing at all	42	*277*	38	*367*	*-4*

Table A.16 (contd): % who think that the Scottish Government ought to, but does not, have the most influence over the way Scotland is run by economic, demographic, social and political attitudes, 2011 and 2013 (cell %)

	2011	*Sample size*	2013	*Sample size*	Change 2011 to
ALL	**38**	**1197**	**37**	***1497***	**-1**
Constitutional preference					
UK Govt should make all decisions	7	473	12	*133*	+5
UK Govt tax, benefits, defence and foreign affairs, Scottish Parliament everything else	29	357	26	*410*	-3
UK Govt defence and foreign affairs, Scottish Parliament everything else	41	273	41	*438*	+0
Scottish Parliament should make all decisions	44	64	52	*465*	+8
National Identity					
Scottish	49	346	*46*	*368*	-3
More Scottish than British	37	381	*40*	*439*	+3
Equally Scottish and British	33	278	*32*	*432*	-1
More British than Scottish / British	21	130	*24*	*166*	-3
Other	30	62	*34*	*92*	+4
Party identification					
Conservative	26	124	25	*203*	-1
Labour	35	353	35	*441*	+0
Lib Dem	22	68	28	*80*	+6
SNP	41	397	49	*347*	+8
None / Other	44	255	36	*425*	-8
Interest in politics					
A great deal/quite a lot	31	398	40	*488*	+9
Some	38	351	34	*518*	-4
Not very much/none	43	448	38	*491*	-5

Chapter 3 detailed tables

Table A.17: What about the Scotland's economy? Has it got stronger or weaker since (month of interview) previous year?

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
A lot stronger	3	2	2	2	1	*	2	1	1
A little stronger	25	21	28	28	7	11	16	13	23
Stayed the same	29	34	28	36	11	15	16	20	31
A little weaker	22	19	18	10	43	41	39	41	28
A lot weaker	5	3	2	1	29	23	18	17	8
(Don't know)	17	22	21	22	8	9	9	9	9
Sample size	*1637*	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*	*1497*

Table A.18: What about the general standard of living in Scotland? Has it increased or fallen since (month of interview) previous year?

	1999	2001	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Increased a lot	2	3	4	4	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	5
Increased a little	27	27	30	27	25	30	27	13	11	9	10	10
Stayed the same	43	45	36	40	45	37	41	25	28	19	23	25
Fallen a little	18	15	17	18	17	17	16	38	38	39	39	38
Fallen a lot	6	4	7	6	4	5	4	16	16	29	22	20
(Don't know)	5	6	7	5	7	6	9	4	4	2	4	2
Sample size	*1482*	*1605*	*1508*	*1637*	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*	*1497*

Note:
The question wording in each year was:
1999 and 2001 "Thinking back to the UK general election in 1997"
2003 "Thinking back to the last Scottish election in 1999"
2004 onwards "since (month of interview) (previous year)".

Table A.19: Sample sizes for Table 3.3 (Perceptions of own ability to live on present income 2007, 2009-2011, 2013)

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
Self-rated hardship					
Living very/fairly comfortably	*794*	*699*	*796*	*653*	*827*
Coping	*563*	*590*	*445*	*332*	*441*
Finding if difficult/very difficult	*148*	*183*	*238*	*205*	*216*

Table A.20: What are changes in the economy and standards of living in Scotland mainly the result of…? (2006-07, 2009-2013)

	2006	2007	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Economy[2]							
Scottish Government policies	28	28	14	18	24	23	24
UK Government policies	21	24	31	35	38	34	28
Some other reason	18	15	36	30	19	25	27
Standard of living							
Scottish Government policies	21	19	15	16	13	17	11
UK Government policies	33	37	31	39	47	41	44
Some other reason	22	22	34	30	25	26	28
Sample size	*1594*	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1229*	*1497*

Note the wording of this question was changed in 2010, from asking people whether they were living comfortably, coping or finding it difficult on their income, to asking whether they were living comfortably, struggling, or neither.

Chapter 4 detailed tables

Table A.21: Satisfaction with they way the NHS runs nowadays in Scotland (1999, 2005-2007, 2011)

	1999	2005	2006	2007	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very satisfied	9	7	6	10	12	13
Quite satisfied	46	33	39	41	44	49
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	17	16	18	14	20	12
Quite dissatisfied	19	27	29	22	17	19
Very dissatisfied	7	16	8	11	6	6
Don't know	1	*	1	1	1	1
Not answered	*	-	*	*	-	-
Sample Size	*1482*	*1549*	*1594*	*1508*	*1197*	*1497*

Table A.22: Satisfaction with the way the NHS runs nowadays in UK (BSA, 1999-2013)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very / Quite satisfied	46	42	39	40	44	44	48	49
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	20	19	20	18	18	20	20	16
Very / Quite dissatisfied	33	39	41	41	37	37	31	34
Sample Size	*3143*	*3426*	*2188*	*2287*	*2293*	*3199*	*3193*	*2143*
	2007	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Very / Quite satisfied	51	58	64	70	58	60	60	
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	19	16	16	12	18	16	22	
Very / Quite dissatisfied	30	25	19	18	24	23	17	
Sample Size	*3078*	*3358*	*3421*	*3297*	*1096*	*1103*	*1063*	

Table A.23: Sample sizes for Table 4.2 (2011 & 2013)

% private companies/ charities definitely/ probably provide better quality services	***Sample sizes (2011 & 2013)***	
	2011	**2013**
ALL	*1197*	*1497*
Gender		
Men	*528*	*669*
Women	*669*	*828*
Age		
18-29	*143*	*177*
30-39	*182*	*203*
40-64	*531*	*669*
65+	*337*	*448*
Annual household income		
Up to £14,300	*322*	*346*
Over £14,300 to £26,000	*208*	*303*
Over £26,000 to £44,200	*233*	*241*
Over £44,200	*205*	*260*
Highest educational		
Degree/Higher Education	*403*	*509*
Highers/A-levels	*216*	*236*
Standard Grades/GCSEs	*290*	*382*
No recognised qualification	*284*	*360*
Self-rated health		
Very good	*361*	*402*
Good	*465*	*647*
Fair	*257*	*325*
Bad or very bad	*113*	*118*
Occupational sector		
Private sector	*573*	*734*
Public sector/ Charity	*391*	*481*
Self-employed	*135*	*282*
Position on political left-right		
Left	*390*	*477*
Centre	*341*	*398*
Right	*423*	*456*

Chapter 5 detailed tables

Table A.24: All things considered, how satisfied are you with your (main) job? (2007, 2009-2011, 2013)

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%
0 (extremely dissatisfied/ unhappy)	1	1	2	3	1
1	1	3	3	*	*
2	3	1	3	2	1
3	3	5	3	4	3
4	4	3	4	4	4
5	10	10	7	9	9
6	9	7	6	8	8
7	18	18	23	17	21
8	28	28	24	28	27
9	15	10	13	12	13
10 (extremely satisfied/ happy)	9	15	13	13	12
Don't know	*	*	*	*	1
Not answered	-	-	-	-	*
MEAN[1]	*7.04*	*7.14*	*7.08*	*7.07*	*7.23*
Sample size	*827*	*765*	*756*	*604*	*737*

[1] - Means are calculated on sample *excluding* don't know/not answered.

Table A.25: (And) all things considered how satisfied are you with your family or personal life? (2007, 2009-2011, 2013)

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%
0 (extremely dissatisfied/ unhappy)	*	*	*	*	*
1	*	*	*	*	*
2	*	*	*	*	1
3	1	1	1	1	1
4	2	1	2	2	1
5	3	5	5	4	4
6	4	4	4	3	4
7	11	9	10	10	10
8	23	22	20	22	24
9	23	22	23	22	23
10 (extremely satisfied/ happy)	31	36	34	35	32
Don't know	1	*	*	*	*
Not answered	*	*	*	-	*
MEAN[1]	*8.41*	*8.46*	*8.39*	*8.43*	*8.39*
Sample size	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

[1] - Means are calculated on sample *excluding* don't know/not answered.

Table A.26: And your general standard of living? (2007, 2009-2011, 2013)

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%
0 (extremely dissatisfied/ unhappy)	*	*	*	1	*
1	*	*	1	*	*
2	1	1	*	1	1
3	1	2	1	2	1
4	3	3	3	2	3
5	5	7	7	6	8
6	7	8	9	7	9
7	17	16	18	16	17
8	30	27	27	27	30
9	19	18	18	18	16
10 (extremely satisfied/ happy)	16	17	16	19	15
Don't know	*	*	*	-	-
Not answered	*	-	-	-	-
MEAN[1]	*7.79*	*7.64*	*7.68*	*7.75*	*7.63*
Sample size	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

[1] - Means are calculated on sample *excluding* don't know/not answered.

Table A.27: And all things considered, how satisfied are you with your life as a whole nowadays? (2007, 2009-2011, 2013)

	2007	2009	2010	2011	2013
	%	%	%	%	%
0 (extremely dissatisfied/ unhappy)	*	*	1	1	*
1	*	*	*	*	*
2	*	*	*	1	*
3	1	1	1	1	1
4	1	2	1	1	1
5	5	5	6	5	7
6	7	5	6	7	3
7	14	14	14	16	15
8	30	29	27	26	29
9	23	23	22	21	21
10 (extremely satisfied/ happy)	19	21	21	22	21
Don't know	*	-	*	*	*
Not answered	*	*	*	-	*
MEAN[1]	*8.06*	*8.04*	*8.00*	*7.95*	*8.05*
Sample size	*1508*	*1482*	*1495*	*1197*	*1497*

[1] - Means are calculated on sample *excluding* don't know/not answered.

Table A.28: If my home was empty I could count on one of my neighbours to keep an eye on it (2006, 2009, 2013)

	2006[1]	2009	2013
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	44	38	37
Agree	47	47	49
Neither agree nor disagree	2	4	3
Disagree	5	7	8
Disagree strongly	2	3	2
Don't Know	-	*	*
Not Answered	-	*	*
Sample Size	*1594*	*1482*	*1497*

[1] Note that in 2006 the question asked 'I could count on one of my friends or relatives in this area to keep an eye on it

Table A.29: I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support (2006, 2009, 2013)

	2006[1]	2009	2013
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	39	23	24
Agree	45	48	49
Neither agree nor disagree	3	11	12
Disagree	11	15	12
Disagree strongly	3	2	2
Don't Know	-	*	*
Not Answered	-	-	*
Sample Size	*1594*	*1482*	*1497*

[1] Note that in 2006 the question asked 'I have friends or relatives in this area I feel I could turn to for advice or support'

Table A.30: In the last few years1, have you ever done any of the things on this card as a way of registering what you personally thought about an issue? (2009, 2013)

	2009	2013
	%	%
No, have not done any of these	45	39
Contacted an MP or MSP	17	16
Contacted a government department directly	5	7
Contacted my local Council[2]	23	26
Responded to a consultation document	7	10
Attended a public meeting	14	15
Contacted radio, TV or a newspaper	5	7
Signed a petition (including online petitions)[3]	28	38
Raised the issue in an organisation I already belong to	5	7
Gone on a protest or demonstration	4	6
Attended an event organised as part of a consultation exercise	6	8
Spoken to an influential person	9	11
Formed a group of like-minded people	2	3
Joined an existing organisation	4	7
Actively took part in a campaign (e.g. leafleting, stuffing envelopes etc)	3	5
Given money to a campaign or organisation	13	22
Sample size	*1482*	*1497*

Table A.31: How likely to attend a meetings with people in your area to discuss how to improve local services like schools, transport and parks? (2011, 2013)

	2011	2013
	%	%
Very Likely	16	18
Fairly Likely	35	33
Fairly Unlikely	24	26
Very Unlikely	22	22
Can't Choose	2	1
Refusal	-	-
Sample size	*1197*	*1340*

Table A.32: Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? (2000, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2013)

	2000	2004	2006	2009	2013
	%	%	%	%	%
Most people can be trusted	46	54	51	51	52
Can't be too careful in dealing with people	53	45	44	46	46
Don't Know	1	1	5	3	3
Not Answered	-	-	*	-	*
Sample Size	*1663*	*1637*	*1594*	*1482*	*1497*

ANNEX B –TECHNICAL DETAILS OF THE SURVEY

The Scottish Social Attitudes series

1. The Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) survey was launched by the Scottish Centre for Social Research (ScotCen) in 1999, following the advent of devolution. Based on annual rounds of interviews of between 1,200 to 1,500 people drawn using probability sampling (based on a stratified, clustered sample)[46], it aims to facilitate the study of public opinion and inform the development of public policy in Scotland. In this it has similar objectives to the British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey, which was launched by ScotCen's parent organisation, the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) in 1983. While BSA interviews people in Scotland, these are usually too few in any one year to permit separate analysis of public opinion in Scotland (see Park, et al, 2013 for more details of the BSA survey).

2. The SSA survey has been conducted annually each year since 1999, with the exception of 2008. The survey has a modular structure. In any one year it typically contains three to five modules, each containing 40 questions. Funding for its first two years came from the Economic and Social Research Council, while from 2001 onwards different bodies have funded individual modules each year. These bodies have included the Economic and Social Research Council, the Scottish Government and various charitable and grant awarding bodies, such as the Nuffield Foundation and Leverhulme Trust. 2013 funders were the Scottish Government, Economic and Social Research Council, NHS Health Scotland, University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Institute for Policing Research.

The 2013 survey

3. The 2013 survey contained modules of questions on:

   - Attitudes to government, the economy, health and social care services and social capital - funded by the Scottish Government
   - Attitudes to mental health – funded by the Scottish Government
   - Attitudes to alcohol – funded by NHS Health Scotland
   - Constitutional change – funded by the ESRC and University of Edinburgh
   - Attitudes to policing – funded by the Scottish Institute for Policing Research and ScotCen.

4. Findings from the modules funded by the Scottish Government will be available in reports published on their website (www.scotland.gov.uk). Separate programmes of dissemination are planned for each of the other modules. This technical annex

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[46] Like many national surveys of households or individuals, in order to attain the optimum balance between sample efficiency and fieldwork efficiency the sample was clustered. The first stage of sampling involved randomly selecting postcode sectors. The sample frame of postcode sectors was also stratified (by urban-rural, region and the percentage of people in non-manual occupations) to improve the match between the sample profile and that of the Scottish population. For further details of the sample design, see para 6 below.

covers the methodological details of the survey as well as further discussion of the analysis techniques used in this report.

Sample design

5. The survey is designed to yield a representative sample of adults aged 18 or over, living in Scotland. The sample frame is the Postcode Address File (PAF), a list of postal delivery points compiled by the Post Office. The detailed procedure for selecting the 2013 sample was as follows:

   I. 110 postcode sectors were selected from a list of all postal sectors in Scotland, with probability proportional to the number of addresses in each sector for addresses in urban areas and a probability of twice the address count for sectors in rural areas (i.e. the last 3 categories in the Scottish Government's 6 fold urban-rural classification). Prior to selection the sectors were stratified by Scottish Government urban-rural classification[47], region and percentage of household heads recorded as being in non-manual occupations (SEG 1-6 and 13, taken from the 2001 Census).

   II. 28 addresses were selected at random from each of these 110 postcode sectors

   III. Interviewers called at each selected address and identified its eligibility for the survey. Where more than one dwelling unit was present at an address, all dwelling units were listed systematically and one was selected at random using a computer generated random selection table. In all eligible dwelling units with more than one adult aged 18 or over, interviewers had to carry out a random selection of one adult using a similar procedure.

Response rates

6. The Scottish Social Attitudes survey involves a face-to-face interview with respondents and a self-completion section (completed using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing). The numbers completing each stage in 2013 are shown in Table 1. See Bromley, Curtice and Given (2005) for technical details of the 1999-2004 surveys, Given and Ormston (2006) for details of the 2005 survey, Cleghorn, Ormston and Sharp (2007) for the 2006 survey, Ormston (2008) for the 2007 survey, Ormston (2010) for the 2009 survey and Ormston and Reid (2011 & 2012) for the 2010 and 2011 surveys.

[47] See http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/07/29152642/7 for details.

Table 1: 2013 Scottish Social Attitudes survey response

	No.	%
Addresses issued	3,080	
Vacant, derelict and other out of scope [1]	339	11
Achievable or 'in scope'	2741	
Unknown eligibility [2]	9	*
Interview achieved	1497	55
Self-completion completed	1340	49
Interview not achieved		
Refused [3]	851	31
Non-contacted [4]	187	7
Other non-response [5]	196	7

Notes to table

1 This includes empty / derelict addresses, holiday homes, businesses and institutions, and addresses that had been demolished.

2 'Unknown eligibility' includes cases where the address could not be located, where it could not be determined if an address was residential and where it could not be determined if an address was occupied or not.

3 Refusals include: refusals prior to selection of an individual; refusals to the office; refusal by the selected person; 'proxy' refusals made by someone on behalf of the respondent; and broken appointments after which a respondent could not be re-contacted.

4 Non-contacts comprise households where no one was contacted after at least 6 calls and those where the selected person could not be contacted.

5 'Other non-response' includes people who were ill at home or in hospital during the survey period, people who were physically or mentally unable to participate and people with insufficient English to participate.

Sample size for previous years

7. The table below shows the achieved sample size for the full *SSA* sample (all respondents) for all previous years.

Table 2: *Scottish Social Attitudes* survey sample size by year

Survey year	Achieved sample size
1999	1482
2000	1663
2001	1605
2002	1665
2003	1508
2004	1637
2005	1549
2006	1594
2007	1508
2009	1482
2010	1495
2011	1197
2012	1229
2013	1497

Weighting

8. All percentages cited in this report are based on weighted data. The weights applied to the *SSA* 2013 data are intended to correct for three potential sources of bias in the sample:

- Differential selection probabilities
- Deliberate over-sampling of rural areas
- Non-response

9. Data were weighted to take account of the fact that not all households or individuals have the same probability of selection for the survey. For example, adults living in large households have a lower selection probability than adults who live alone. Weighting was also used to correct the over-sampling of rural addresses. Differences between responding and non-responding households were taken into account using information from the census about the area of the address as well as interviewer observations about participating and non-participating addresses. Finally, the weights were adjusted to ensure that the weighted data matched the age-sex profile of the Scottish population (based on 2012 mid-year estimates from the General Register Office for Scotland).

10. In addition to the usual weighting on SSA a special weight was developed specifically for any questions in the section conducted by computer assisted self-complete (CASI), to adjust for differences in the profile of those who agreed to complete the CASI and those who refused.

Fieldwork

11. Fieldwork for the 2013 survey ran between June and October 2013, with 78% of interviews completed by the end of August and 91% by the end of September. An advance postcard, followed by an advance letter were sent to all addresses and were followed up by a personal visit from a ScotCen interviewer. Interviewers were required to make a minimum of 6 calls at different times of the day (including at least one evening and one weekend call) in order to try and contact respondents. All interviewers attended a one day briefing conference prior to starting work on the study.

12. Interviews were conducted using face-to-face computer-assisted interviewing (a process which involves the use of a laptop computer, with questions appearing on screen and interviewers directly entering respondents' answers into the computer). All respondents were asked to fill in a self-completion questionnaire using the interviewer's laptop. If the respondent preferred, the questions could be read out by the interviewer. Table 1 (above) summarises the response rate and the numbers completing the self-completion section in 2013.

Analysis variables

13. Most of the analysis variables are taken directly from the questionnaire and are self-explanatory. These include age, sex, household income, and highest educational qualification obtained.

National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)

14. The most commonly used classification of socio-economic status used on government surveys is the National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC). *SSA* respondents were classified according to their own occupation, rather than that of the 'head of household'. Each respondent was asked about their current or last job, so that all respondents, with the exception of those who had never worked, were classified. The seven NS-SEC categories are:

    - Employers in large organisations, higher managerial and professional
    - Lower professional and managerial; higher technical and supervisory
    - Intermediate occupations
    - Small employers and own account workers
    - Lower supervisory and technical occupations
    - Semi-routine occupations
    - Routine occupations.

15. The remaining respondents were grouped as 'never had a job' or 'not classifiable'.

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

16. The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)[48] 2009 measures the level of deprivation across Scotland – from the least deprived to the most deprived areas. It is based on 38 indicators in seven domains of: income, employment, health, education skills and training, housing, geographic access and crime. SIMD 2009 is presented at data zone level, enabling small pockets of deprivation to be identified. The data zones are ranked from most deprived (1) to least deprived (6,505) on the overall SIMD 2009 and on each of the individual domains. The result is a comprehensive picture of relative area deprivation across Scotland.

17. The analysis in this report used a variable created from SIMD data indicating the level of deprivation of the data zone in which the respondent lived in quintiles, from most to least deprived.[49]

Analysis techniques

Significance testing

18. Where this report discusses differences between two percentages (either across time, or between two different groups of people within a single year), this difference is significant at the 95% level or above, unless otherwise stated. Differences between two years were tested using standard z-tests, taking

[48] See http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/ for further details on the SIMD.
[49] These variables were created by the ScotCen/NatCen Survey Methods Unit. They are based on SIMD scores for all datazones, not just those included in the sample – so an individual who lives in the most deprived quintile of Scotland will also be included in the most deprived quintile in the *SSA* dataset.

account of complex standard errors arising from the sample design. Differences between groups within a given year were tested using logistic regression analysis, which shows the factors and categories that are significantly (and independently) related to the dependent variable (see below for further detail). This analysis was done in PASW 18, using the CS logistic function to take account of the sample design in calculations.

Regression analysis

19. Regression analysis aims to summarise the relationship between a 'dependent' variable and one or more 'independent' explanatory variables. It shows how well we can estimate a respondent's score on the dependent variable from knowledge of their scores on the independent variables. This technique takes into account relationships between the different independent variables (for example, between education and income, or social class and housing tenure). Regression is often undertaken to support a claim that the phenomena measured by the independent variables cause the phenomenon measured by the dependent variable. However, the causal ordering, if any, between the variables cannot be verified or falsified by the technique. Causality can only be inferred through special experimental designs or through assumptions made by the analyst.

20. All regression analysis assumes that the relationship between the dependent and each of the independent variables takes a particular form. This report was informed by logistic regression analysis – a method that summarises the relationship between a binary 'dependent' variable (one that takes the values '0' or '1') and one or more 'independent' explanatory variables. The tables in this annex show how the odds ratios for each category in significant explanatory variables compares to the odds ratio for the reference category (always taken to be 1.00).

21. Taking Model 1 (below), the dependent variable is thinking the Scottish Government should be credited with economic improvements. If the respondent said the Scottish Government should be credited with economic improvements, the dependent variable takes a value of 1. If not, it takes a value of 0. An odds ratio of above 1 means that, compared with respondents in the reference category, respondents in that category have higher odds of saying the Scottish Government should be credited with economic improvements. Conversely, an odds ratio of below 1 means they have lower odds of saying this than respondents in the reference category. The 95% confidence intervals for these odds ratios are also important. Where the confidence interval does not include 1, this category is significantly different from the reference category. If we look at party identification in Model 1, we can see that those who do not identify with any political party have an odds ratio of 0.24, indicating that they have lower odds compared with SNP identifiers (who were the reference category) of saying that the Scottish Government should be credited with economic improvements. The 95% confidence interval (0.10-0.58) does *not* include 1, indicating this difference is significant.

22. The significance of each independent variable is indicated by 'P'. A p-value of 0.05 or less indicates that there is less than a 5% chance we would have found

these differences between the categories just by chance if in fact no such difference exists, while a p-value of 0.01 or less indicates that there is a less than 1% chance. P-values of 0.05 or less are generally considered to indicate that the difference is highly statistically significant, while a p-value of 0.06 to 0.10 may be considered marginally significant.

23. It should be noted that the final regression models reported below were in some cases produced following several stages, with initial models identifying the significant factors from a longer list of possible variables. The models below show the final model for each variable, which was produced using the Complex Survey command (CS Logistic) in PASW 18. CS Logistic models can account for complex sample designs (in particular, the effects of clustering and associated weighting) when calculating odds ratios and determining significance. The models shown below include only those variables found to be significant after the regression models were run using CS logistic.

Regression model

Table 1: Factors associated with believing the Scottish Government is responsible for a stronger economy? (2013)

Dependent variable encoding **1 = Believing Scottish Government is responsible for a stronger economy** **0 = All other respondents**	**Odds ratio**	**95% confidence interval**
Gender (p = 0.046)		
Male (reference)	1.00	
Female	0.64	0.42-0.99
Age (p = 0.003)		
65+ (reference)	1.00	
18-24	0.62	0.28-1.40
25-34	0.45	0.22-0.92
35-44	0.48	0.23-0.96
45-54	0.28	0.15-0.50
55-64	0.73	0.40-1.33
Party identification (p = 0.000)		
SNP (reference)	1.00	
Conservative	0.20	0.09-0.43
Labour	0.38	0.23-0.62
Liberal Democrat	0.15	0.03-0.94
None	0.24	0.10-0.58
Other/Don't Know/Refused/Not applicable	0.50	0.30-0.86
National identity (p = 0.012)		
Scottish / More Scottish (reference)	1.00	
Equally Scottish and British	0.58	0.32-1.05
More British / British	0.24	0.10-0.58
Left-right scale (p = 0.020)		
Left (reference)	1.00	
Centre	0.50	0.31-0.81
Right	0.69	0.38-1.25

Nagelkerke R2 = 20.2%
Other factors included in model but which were not significant after other factors were accounted for were: income, level of education or who people think has the most influence over how Scotland is run.

Table 2: Factors associated with believing the UK Government is responsible for a weaker economy (2013)

Dependent variable encoding **1 = Believing UK Government is responsible for a weaker economy** **0 = All other respondents**	**Odds ratio**	**95% confidence interval**
Gender (p = 0.029)		
Male (reference)	1.00	
Female	1.52	2.22
Age (p = 0.005)		
65+ (reference)	1.00	
18-24	2.32	1.01-5.33
25-34	1.80	0.83-3.92
35-44	2.60	1.45-4.68
45-54	3.25	1.76-6.01
55-64	1.55	0.84-2.86
Income (p = 0.009)		
Up to £14,300	1.00	
Over £14,300 to £26,000	0.64	0.45-1.18
Over £26,000 to £44,200	0.50	0.24-1.04
Over £44,200	0.23	0.10-0.52
Education (p=0.07)		
No recognised qualification	1.00	
Degree/ Higher education	0.99	0.52-1.89
Highers/ A-levels	0.91	0.51-1.64
Standard grades/ GCSEs	1.65	1.02-2.69
Party identification (p = 0.063)		
SNP (reference)	1.00	
Conservative	0.76	0.34-1.71
Labour	1.42	0.89-2.27
Liberal Democrat	2.37	0.88-6.37
None	1.42	0.78-2.59
Other/Don't Know/Refused/Not applicable	0.57	0.28-1.15
Left-right scale (p = 0.075)		
Left (reference)	1.00	
Centre	1.04	0.64-01.67
Right	0.54	0.30-0.96

Nagelkerke R2 = 16.5%

Other factors included in model but which were not significant after other factors were accounted for were: national identity and who people think has the most influence over how Scotland is run.

Table 3: Demographic and social capital factors associated with below average life satisfaction (2013)

Dependent variable encoding 1 = Below average life satisfaction 0 = Average and above average life satisfaction	Odds ratio	95% confidence interval
Age (p = 0.003)		
65+ (reference)	1.00	
18-24	0.48	0.18 – 1.28
25-39	1.16	0.51 – 2.65
40-64	1.40	0.70 – 2.80
Marital status (p = 0.041)		
Married/ civil partnership/ living as married (reference)	1.00	
Separated/ divorced/ dissolved civil partnership	1.98	1.23 - 3.01
Widowed/ surviving partner of civic partnership	1.09	0.53 - 2.24
Never married/civil partnership	1.60	1.05 - 2.44
Employment status (p = 0.000)		
Working (reference)	1.00	
Education/ training	1.25	0.48 - 3.30
Unemployed	2.23	1.12 - 4.47
Permanently sick/ disabled	4.72	2.14 - 10.39
Retired	1.01	0.47 - 2.16
Looking after home	2.13	1.03 - 4.41
Socially connected (p = 0.001)		
Most connected (reference)	1.00	
Intermediate	1.08	0.74 - 1.59
Least connected	2.06	1.34 - 3.18
Social trust (p = 0.004)		
‘Most people can be trusted’ (reference)	1.00	
‘Can’t be too careful’	1.52	1.05 - 2.21

Nagelkerke R2 = 18.3%
Other factors included in model but which were not significant after other factors were accounted for were income, area deprivation, whether a respondent had been involved in civic participation, whether respondent had volunteered in past year, and how likely they said they were to go to meetings to improve the local area.

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