

Conservative Research Department

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9511

KB/sgc

Director: ALAN HOWARTH

Mr Derek Howe
10 Downing Street
London SW1

MB

CONFIDENTIAL

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New News,

PUBLIC OPINION BACKGROUND NOTE 77

The interviewing for our latest Gallup 'tracking' study was conducted from 5th to 10th August and found a slight drop in the level of support for the Social Democrats after the upsurge in support for them in the period immediately after the Warrington by-election. It is too early to say whether this marks the start of a return to the pre-Warrington level of support for them.

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PUBLIC OPINION BACKGROUND NOTE 771. Introduction

The interviewing for our latest Gallup 'tracking' study was conducted from 5th to 10th August and we found a slight drop in the level of support for the Social Democrats after the upsurge in support for them in the period after the Warrington by-election. Whether this marks a return to the pre-Warrington level of support for the Social Democrats or whether it can partly be explained by the effects of the holiday season we will have to wait until early September before attempting to draw any conclusions. There was no significant change in the level of support for the Conservative Party although support for Labour drifted down slightly.

Support for the Social Democrats or Social Democrat/Liberal alliance in response to our standard prompted questions (details below) showed almost no change.

Full details of the results from our three standard voting intention questions, which include don't knows as a separate category are shown below.

VOTING INTENTION
(including don't knows)

	<u>31 Mar</u>	<u>8/13</u>	<u>15/21</u>	<u>22/27</u>	<u>29 Apr</u>	<u>6/11</u>	<u>13/18</u>	<u>19/26</u>	<u>26 May</u>	<u>3/8</u>	<u>9/15</u>	<u>16/22</u>
	6 Apr	Apr	Apr	Apr	5 May	May	May	May	1 June	June	June	June
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative	26	27	26	27	29	29	31	28	28	28	27	29
Labour	29	31	34	32	31	32	33	35	33	36	34	33
Liberal	15	13	16	13	15	16	16	14	17	13	16	14
Others	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2
Social Democrat Party	17	17	16	14	12	10	10	11	12	11	11	11
Don't know/it depends	10	16	9	12	11	9	8	9	9	10	10	10

	<u>24/30</u>	<u>1/6</u>	<u>8/13</u>	<u>15/20</u>	<u>22/27</u>	<u>29 July</u>	<u>5/10</u>
	June	July	July	July	July	3 Aug	Aug
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative	26	27	27	26	24	23	24
Labour	35½	35	36	32	35	36	33
Liberal	15	12	13	14	12	11	14
Others	2	3	3	3	2	2	4
Social Democrat Party	10½	11	11	15	19	19	16
Don't know/it depends	10	11	11	10	9	9	10

VOTING INTENTION IF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE
(including don't knows)

	<u>31 Mar</u> 6 Apr	<u>8/13</u> Apr	<u>15/21</u> Apr	<u>22/27</u> Apr	<u>29 Apr</u> 5 May	<u>6/11</u> May	<u>13/18</u> May	<u>19/26</u> May	<u>26 May</u> 1 June	<u>3/8</u> June	<u>9/15</u> June
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative	21	22	22	23	25	23	25	23	21	22	23
Labour	21	24	25	24	25	24	27	26	27	27	28
Liberal	10	10	11	9	10	11	11	10	12	9	12
Others	2	1	1	2	4	3	2	2	2	2	1
Social Democrat Party	26	27	22	24	21	21	20	21	20	23	20
Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know/it depends	20	17	19	18	15	18	15	18	17	17	16

	<u>16/22</u> June	<u>24/30</u> June	<u>1/6</u> July	<u>8/13</u> July	<u>15/20</u> July	<u>22/27</u> July	<u>29 July</u> 3 Aug	<u>5/10</u> Aug
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative	23	21	22	21	21	18	20	20
Labour	28	31	29	29	28	28	30	27
Liberal	11	11	8	9	11	9	7	8
Others	2	1½	2	2	2	1	1	2
Social Democrat Party	19	19	20	20	23	29	26	25
Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know/ it depends	16	16½	16	18	16	16	15	18

VOTING INTENTION IF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC/LIBERAL ALLIANCE

	<u>31 Mar</u> 6 Apr	<u>8/13</u> Apr	<u>15/21</u> Apr	<u>22/27</u> Apr	<u>29 Apr</u> 5 May	<u>6/11</u> May	<u>13/18</u> May	<u>19/26</u> May	<u>26 May</u> 1 June	<u>3/8</u> June	<u>9/15</u> June
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative	20	21	21	22	21	22	24	23	20	21	22
Labour	20	23	24	24	24	22	25	25	25	27	17
Liberal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1
Social Democrat Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance	35	37	34	33	32	32	32	31	33	32	30
Don't know/it depends	23	17	20	18	20	22	16	19	19	18	19

	<u>16/22</u> June	<u>24/30</u> June	<u>1/6</u> July	<u>8/13</u> July	<u>15/20</u> July	<u>22/27</u> July	<u>29 July</u> 3 Aug	<u>5/10</u> Aug
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Conservative	24	20	22	20	21	18	20	20
Labour	27	29	28	27	27	27	29	25
Liberal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2
Social Democrat Party	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance	28	32	28	31	33	37	33	33
Don't know/it depends	19	18	19	19	18	16	16	19

2. Standard Voting Intention

The table below shows the level of support for the main parties when respondents who claimed they did not know how they would vote are excluded. The net effect of changes in support for the Labour and Conservative parties was to reduce Labour's lead from 14½% (29 July/ 3 Aug) to 9% (5/10 Aug). Details below.

VOTING INTENTION (excluding don't knows)

	<u>CON</u>	<u>LAB</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u> <u>DEMOCRAT</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>LEAD</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>1979</u>						
May (GE)	43.9	36.9	13.8	-	5.5	+7.0
13/18 June*	42.0	43.5	13.0	-	5.0	-9.0
<u>1981</u>						
31 March/ 6 April	29.0	32.0	17.0	19.0	3.0	-3.0
8/13 April	30.0	34.5	14.0	19.0	2.5	-4.5**
15/21 April	28.5	37.5	17.5	15.0	1.5	-9.0
22/27 April	30.5	36.5	15.0	15.5	2.5	-6.0
29 April /5 May	33.0	35.0	17.0	13.5	1.5	-2.0
6/11 May	32.0	35.5	18.0	11.0	3.5	-3.5**
13/18 May	33.5	36.0	17.0	10.5	3.0	-2.5
19/26 May	31.0	38.0	15.5	12.0	3.5	-7.0
26 May/1 June	30.0	36.0	18.0	13.0	3.0	-6.0
3/8 June	31.0	40.0	14.0	12.5	2.5	-9.0
9/15 June	29.5	37.5	18.0	12.5	2.5	-8.0**
16/22 June	32.0	37.0	15.5	13.0	2.5	-5.0
24/30 June	29.0	40.0	17.0	12.0	2.0	-11.0
1/6 July	30.5	39.5	14.0	13.0	3.0	-9.0
8/13 July	30.0	40.5	14.5	12.0	3.0	-10.5**
15/20 July	29.0	36.0	16.0	17.0	2.0	-7.0
22/27 July	26.0	38.0	13.0	21.0	2.0	-12.0
29 July/ 3 Aug	25.5	40.0	11.5	20.5	2.5	-14.5
5/10 August	27.0	36.0	15.0	18.0	4.0	-9.0

* First Gallup Post-Election Survey

** Published Polls

3. Government Record

Our latest study found no change in the level of approval for the record of the Government. Please see following page for table.

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GOVERNMENT RECORD

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
	%	%	%
<u>1979</u>			
13/18 June	34	41	25
<u>1981</u>			
31 March/ 6 April	26	65	9
8/13 April	24	67	9
15/21 April	25	65	10
22/27 April	27	63	10
29 April/5 May	26	62	12
6/11 May	29	60	11
13/18 May	30	57	13
19/26 May	28	60	12
26 May/1 June	27	61	12
3/8 June	26	60	14
9/15 June	26	63	11
16/22 June	29	59	12
24/30 June	23	67	10
1/6 July	24	63	13
8/13 July	23	66	11
15/20 July	23	66	11
22/27 July	23	66	11
29 July/ 3 August	23	65	12
5/10 August	23	64	13

4. Popularity of Political Leaders

Slight improvement in Mrs Thatcher's popularity in the latest study - no change in Mr Foot's popularity but sharp improvement in Mr Steel's popularity.

POPULARITY OF POLITICAL LEADERS

	<u>Mrs Thatcher</u>			<u>Mr Foot</u>			<u>Mr Steel</u>		
	<u>Sat.</u>	<u>Dis-</u>	<u>Don't</u>	<u>Is</u>	<u>Is</u>	<u>Don't</u>	<u>Is</u>	<u>Is</u>	<u>Don't</u>
	%	sat.	Know	%	Not	Know	%	Not	Know
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<u>1981</u>									
31 March/ 6 April	31	63	6	24	55	22	64	17	19
6/13 April	30	65	5	21	54	24	60	20	20
15/21 April	31	64	6	24	54	22	62	17	21
22/27 April	34	60	6	21	58	20	66	17	18
29 April /5 May	34	59	7	20	58	22	60	19	21
6/11 May	35	60	5	26	52	23	63	17	21
13/18 May	36	58	6	27	52	22	63	17	21
19/26 May	35	59	6	27	50	23	60	17	23
26 May/ 1 June	32	62	6	27	54	19	62	17	20
3/8 June	36	58	6	29	41	21	59	19	22
9/15 June	33	61	6	28	48	24	61	18	21
16/22 June	34	60	6	29	50	21	60	20	21
24/30 June	30	65	5	28	52	21	60	19	21
1/6 July	31	62	7	25	54	21	60	17	23
8/13 July	30	65	5	25	52	23	56	20	24
15/20 July	31	65	4	22	59	19	59	19	22
22/27 July	26	68	6	23	55	22	59	21	21
29 July / 3 Aug	27	68	5	26	53	20	57	23	20
5/10 August	30	65	5	27	56	17	62	18	21