

# The Sunday People 'Bedroom Tax' Study

## METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 2,015 UK adults online between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>st</sup> September 2013. Data were weighted to be representative of all UK adults aged 18+. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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To commission a voting intention poll or a public opinion survey please contact Katharine Peacock: [katharine.peacock@comres.co.uk](mailto:katharine.peacock@comres.co.uk)

To register for Pollwatch, a monthly newsletter update on the polls, please email: [pollwatch@comres.co.uk](mailto:pollwatch@comres.co.uk)

## Sunday People Bedroom Tax Poll

### ONLINE Fieldwork : 25th-26th September 2013

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

**Q.1 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?****Base: All respondents**

|   | Gender      |            |            | Age        |            |            |            |            |            | Social Grade |            |            |            | Employment Sector |            |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|   | Total       | Male       | Female     | 18-24      | 25-34      | 35-44      | 45-54      | 55-64      | 65+        | AB           | C1         | C2         | DE         | Public            | Private    |
| Unweighted base   | 2015        | 915        | 1100       | 236        | 282        | 333        | 383        | 321        | 460        | 580          | 603        | 329        | 503        | 270               | 839        |
| Weighted base   | 2015        | 987        | 1028       | 240        | 339        | 339        | 359        | 299        | 439        | 538          | 559        | 439        | 479        | 266               | 862        |
| <b><u>No-one should lose housing benefit under the 'Bedroom Tax' unless they refuse to move into suitable smaller accommodation</u></b> |             |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |            |            |            |                   |            |
| Agree   | 1214<br>60% | 567<br>57% | 647<br>63% | 113<br>47% | 207<br>61% | 200<br>59% | 214<br>60% | 197<br>66% | 283<br>64% | 338<br>63%   | 311<br>56% | 260<br>59% | 305<br>64% | 143<br>54%        | 508<br>59% |
| Disagree  | 400<br>20%  | 199<br>20% | 201<br>20% | 42<br>17%  | 62<br>18%  | 61<br>18%  | 78<br>22%  | 67<br>22%  | 90<br>21%  | 117<br>22%   | 112<br>20% | 78<br>18%  | 93<br>19%  | 71<br>27%         | 153<br>18% |
| Don't know  | 401<br>20%  | 221<br>22% | 180<br>17% | 85<br>35%  | 70<br>21%  | 78<br>23%  | 67<br>19%  | 35<br>12%  | 66<br>15%  | 83<br>15%    | 136<br>24% | 101<br>23% | 81<br>17%  | 52<br>19%         | 201<br>23% |
| <b><u>The 'Bedroom Tax' shows how out of touch the Government is with the lives of real people</u></b>                                  |             |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |            |            |            |                   |            |
| Agree   | 1193<br>59% | 544<br>55% | 650<br>63% | 106<br>44% | 185<br>54% | 219<br>65% | 238<br>66% | 191<br>64% | 254<br>58% | 299<br>56%   | 280<br>50% | 260<br>59% | 355<br>74% | 151<br>57%        | 465<br>54% |
| Disagree  | 501<br>25%  | 274<br>28% | 227<br>22% | 36<br>15%  | 89<br>26%  | 67<br>20%  | 86<br>24%  | 80<br>27%  | 143<br>32% | 174<br>32%   | 151<br>27% | 109<br>25% | 66<br>14%  | 77<br>29%         | 210<br>24% |
| Don't know  | 321<br>16%  | 170<br>17% | 151<br>15% | 98<br>41%  | 66<br>19%  | 53<br>15%  | 35<br>10%  | 28<br>9%   | 42<br>10%  | 65<br>12%    | 128<br>23% | 70<br>16%  | 58<br>12%  | 39<br>15%         | 187<br>22% |
| <b><u>David Cameron should abandon the 'Bedroom Tax' entirely and think of other ways to save money</u></b>                             |             |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |            |            |            |                   |            |
| Agree   | 1209<br>60% | 572<br>58% | 637<br>62% | 100<br>42% | 190<br>56% | 215<br>63% | 243<br>68% | 196<br>65% | 265<br>60% | 307<br>57%   | 294<br>53% | 257<br>58% | 351<br>73% | 150<br>56%        | 497<br>58% |
| Disagree  | 477<br>24%  | 252<br>25% | 226<br>22% | 45<br>19%  | 77<br>23%  | 77<br>23%  | 76<br>21%  | 70<br>23%  | 133<br>30% | 171<br>32%   | 140<br>25% | 103<br>23% | 64<br>13%  | 75<br>28%         | 194<br>22% |
| Don't know  | 329<br>16%  | 164<br>17% | 165<br>16% | 95<br>40%  | 72<br>21%  | 48<br>14%  | 40<br>11%  | 34<br>11%  | 41<br>9%   | 61<br>11%    | 124<br>22% | 80<br>18%  | 64<br>13%  | 42<br>16%         | 172<br>20% |

## Sunday People Bedroom Tax Poll

### ONLINE Fieldwork : 25th-26th September 2013

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

**Q.1 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

**Base: All respondents**

|  | Gender      |            |            | Age        |            |            |            |            |            | Social Grade |            |            |            | Employment Sector |            |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|  | Total       | Male       | Female     | 18-24      | 25-34      | 35-44      | 45-54      | 55-64      | 65+        | AB           | C1         | C2         | DE         | Public            | Private    |
| Weighted base  | 2015        | 987        | 1028       | 240        | 339        | 339        | 359        | 299        | 439        | 538          | 559        | 439        | 479        | 266               | 862        |
| <b><u>The Government should give more money to social housing providers to help those worst hit by the 'Bedroom Tax'</u></b>                 |             |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |            |            |            |                   |            |
| Agree  | 1016<br>50% | 492<br>50% | 524<br>51% | 78<br>33%  | 162<br>48% | 184<br>54% | 200<br>56% | 158<br>53% | 234<br>53% | 258<br>48%   | 252<br>45% | 209<br>48% | 297<br>62% | 140<br>53%        | 391<br>45% |
| Disagree   | 560<br>28%  | 256<br>26% | 304<br>30% | 55<br>23%  | 96<br>28%  | 81<br>24%  | 107<br>30% | 91<br>31%  | 129<br>29% | 179<br>33%   | 152<br>27% | 135<br>31% | 93<br>19%  | 80<br>30%         | 243<br>28% |
| Don't know   | 439<br>22%  | 239<br>24% | 200<br>19% | 106<br>44% | 81<br>24%  | 74<br>22%  | 52<br>14%  | 50<br>17%  | 76<br>17%  | 101<br>19%   | 154<br>28% | 94<br>22%  | 89<br>19%  | 47<br>18%         | 229<br>27% |
| <b><u>It's only fair that people who have spare bedrooms in council or housing association homes should receive less housing benefit</u></b> |             |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |              |            |            |            |                   |            |
| Agree  | 768<br>38%  | 371<br>38% | 397<br>39% | 87<br>36%  | 151<br>44% | 122<br>36% | 125<br>35% | 101<br>34% | 183<br>42% | 251<br>47%   | 216<br>39% | 166<br>38% | 136<br>28% | 119<br>45%        | 326<br>38% |
| Disagree   | 856<br>42%  | 415<br>42% | 441<br>43% | 69<br>29%  | 112<br>33% | 145<br>43% | 183<br>51% | 149<br>50% | 198<br>45% | 208<br>39%   | 202<br>36% | 182<br>41% | 264<br>55% | 94<br>35%         | 339<br>39% |
| Don't know   | 391<br>19%  | 201<br>20% | 190<br>18% | 83<br>35%  | 77<br>23%  | 72<br>21%  | 52<br>14%  | 49<br>17%  | 57<br>13%  | 80<br>15%    | 141<br>25% | 91<br>21%  | 79<br>17%  | 53<br>20%         | 198<br>23% |

## Sunday People Bedroom Tax Poll

### ONLINE Fieldwork : 25th-26th September 2013

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

**Q.1 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

**Base: All respondents**

|   | Region      |            |            |            |                        |               |               |           |            |            |            | Voting Intention |            |            |           |            |
|---|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
|   | Total       | Scotland   | North East | North West | Yorkshire & Humberside | West Midlands | East Midlands | Wales     | Eastern    | London     | South East | South West       | Con        | Lab        | LibDem    | UKIP       |
| Unweighted base   | 2015        | 168        | 88         | 244        | 168                    | 185           | 154           | 86        | 175        | 235        | 313        | 199              | 464        | 545        | 153       | 244        |
| Weighted base   | 2015        | 181        | 81         | 222        | 181                    | 181           | 141           | 101       | 202        | 262        | 282        | 181              | 477        | 573        | 144       | 233        |
| <b><u>No-one should lose housing benefit under the 'Bedroom Tax' unless they refuse to move into suitable smaller accommodation</u></b> |             |            |            |            |                        |               |               |           |            |            |            |                  |            |            |           |            |
| Agree   | 1214<br>60% | 112<br>62% | 56<br>69%  | 138<br>62% | 103<br>57%             | 114<br>63%    | 91<br>64%     | 62<br>62% | 127<br>63% | 133<br>51% | 165<br>58% | 112<br>62%       | 271<br>57% | 376<br>66% | 81<br>56% | 136<br>58% |
| Disagree  | 400<br>20%  | 39<br>21%  | 11<br>13%  | 43<br>19%  | 41<br>23%              | 35<br>19%     | 27<br>19%     | 19<br>19% | 37<br>18%  | 41<br>16%  | 68<br>24%  | 41<br>23%        | 93<br>19%  | 115<br>20% | 30<br>21% | 56<br>24%  |
| Don't know  | 401<br>20%  | 30<br>17%  | 14<br>17%  | 41<br>18%  | 37<br>21%              | 32<br>18%     | 23<br>17%     | 19<br>19% | 38<br>19%  | 88<br>34%  | 50<br>18%  | 28<br>16%        | 114<br>24% | 82<br>14%  | 32<br>23% | 41<br>18%  |
| <b><u>The 'Bedroom Tax' shows how out of touch the Government is with the lives of real people</u></b>                                  |             |            |            |            |                        |               |               |           |            |            |            |                  |            |            |           |            |
| Agree   | 1193<br>59% | 138<br>76% | 58<br>72%  | 144<br>65% | 111<br>61%             | 106<br>59%    | 91<br>65%     | 78<br>77% | 108<br>54% | 133<br>51% | 136<br>48% | 90<br>50%        | 142<br>30% | 454<br>79% | 83<br>57% | 118<br>51% |
| Disagree  | 501<br>25%  | 27<br>15%  | 13<br>17%  | 54<br>24%  | 44<br>24%              | 55<br>30%     | 33<br>23%     | 10<br>10% | 53<br>26%  | 45<br>17%  | 102<br>36% | 65<br>36%        | 229<br>48% | 55<br>10%  | 36<br>25% | 87<br>37%  |
| Don't know  | 321<br>16%  | 17<br>10%  | 9<br>11%   | 23<br>11%  | 27<br>15%              | 20<br>11%     | 17<br>12%     | 13<br>13% | 40<br>20%  | 83<br>32%  | 44<br>16%  | 27<br>15%        | 106<br>22% | 64<br>11%  | 26<br>18% | 28<br>12%  |
| <b><u>David Cameron should abandon the 'Bedroom Tax' entirely and think of other ways to save money</u></b>                             |             |            |            |            |                        |               |               |           |            |            |            |                  |            |            |           |            |
| Agree   | 1209<br>60% | 131<br>72% | 61<br>75%  | 152<br>68% | 106<br>59%             | 109<br>60%    | 93<br>66%     | 72<br>71% | 104<br>52% | 140<br>54% | 152<br>54% | 89<br>49%        | 161<br>34% | 453<br>79% | 90<br>62% | 114<br>49% |
| Disagree  | 477<br>24%  | 29<br>16%  | 12<br>15%  | 48<br>22%  | 40<br>22%              | 49<br>27%     | 30<br>21%     | 16<br>16% | 62<br>31%  | 41<br>15%  | 82<br>29%  | 68<br>38%        | 208<br>44% | 63<br>11%  | 32<br>22% | 89<br>38%  |
| Don't know  | 329<br>16%  | 21<br>12%  | 8<br>10%   | 22<br>10%  | 35<br>19%              | 23<br>13%     | 18<br>13%     | 13<br>13% | 36<br>18%  | 81<br>31%  | 47<br>17%  | 24<br>14%        | 108<br>23% | 58<br>10%  | 23<br>16% | 30<br>13%  |

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### ONLINE Fieldwork : 25th-26th September 2013

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

**Q.1 Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

**Base: All respondents**

|  | Region      |            |            |            |                           |                |                |           |           |            |            |            | Voting Intention |            |           |            |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
|  | Total       | Scot-land  | North East | North West | York-shire & Hum-ber-side | West Mid-lands | East Mid-lands | Wales     | East-ern  | London     | South East | South West | Con              | Lab        | LibDem    | UKIP       |
| Weighted base  | 2015        | 181        | 81         | 222        | 181                       | 181            | 141            | 101       | 202       | 262        | 282        | 181        | 477              | 573        | 144       | 233        |
| <b><u>The Government should give more money to social housing providers to help those worst hit by the 'Bedroom Tax'</u></b>                 |             |            |            |            |                           |                |                |           |           |            |            |            |                  |            |           |            |
| Agree  | 1016<br>50% | 117<br>65% | 46<br>57%  | 124<br>56% | 84<br>46%                 | 92<br>51%      | 71<br>50%      | 61<br>60% | 93<br>46% | 136<br>52% | 130<br>46% | 62<br>34%  | 147<br>31%       | 394<br>69% | 82<br>57% | 86<br>37%  |
| Disagree   | 560<br>28%  | 29<br>16%  | 19<br>24%  | 62<br>28%  | 54<br>30%                 | 58<br>32%      | 31<br>22%      | 14<br>14% | 70<br>35% | 47<br>18%  | 94<br>33%  | 82<br>45%  | 205<br>43%       | 83<br>14%  | 35<br>24% | 109<br>47% |
| Don't know   | 439<br>22%  | 35<br>19%  | 15<br>19%  | 36<br>16%  | 44<br>24%                 | 31<br>17%      | 39<br>28%      | 26<br>26% | 39<br>19% | 80<br>30%  | 59<br>21%  | 37<br>20%  | 125<br>26%       | 97<br>17%  | 27<br>19% | 39<br>17%  |
| <b><u>It's only fair that people who have spare bedrooms in council or housing association homes should receive less housing benefit</u></b> |             |            |            |            |                           |                |                |           |           |            |            |            |                  |            |           |            |
| Agree  | 768<br>38%  | 46<br>25%  | 25<br>30%  | 78<br>35%  | 68<br>38%                 | 63<br>35%      | 52<br>37%      | 31<br>31% | 87<br>43% | 96<br>37%  | 130<br>46% | 92<br>51%  | 298<br>62%       | 141<br>25% | 56<br>39% | 110<br>47% |
| Disagree   | 856<br>42%  | 110<br>61% | 45<br>56%  | 103<br>46% | 80<br>44%                 | 83<br>46%      | 64<br>45%      | 51<br>50% | 77<br>38% | 82<br>31%  | 96<br>34%  | 66<br>36%  | 78<br>16%        | 352<br>61% | 58<br>40% | 82<br>35%  |
| Don't know   | 391<br>19%  | 25<br>14%  | 11<br>14%  | 41<br>18%  | 33<br>18%                 | 35<br>19%      | 25<br>18%      | 19<br>19% | 37<br>19% | 84<br>32%  | 56<br>20%  | 24<br>13%  | 101<br>21%       | 80<br>14%  | 30<br>21% | 41<br>18%  |

**Sunday People Bedroom Tax Poll**  
**ONLINE Fieldwork : 25th-26th September 2013**

Absolutes/col percents

Table 2

**Q.2 Does Labour's proposal to scrap the 'Bedroom Tax' make you more or less likely to vote for them at the next general election, or does it make no difference?**

**Base: All respondents**

|                     | Gender      |            |            | Age       |            |            |            |            |            | Social Grade |            |            |            | Employment Sector |            |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|                     | Total       | Male       | Female     | 18-24     | 25-34      | 35-44      | 45-54      | 55-64      | 65+        | AB           | C1         | C2         | DE         | Public            | Private    |
| Unweighted base     | 2015        | 915        | 1100       | 236       | 282        | 333        | 383        | 321        | 460        | 580          | 603        | 329        | 503        | 270               | 839        |
| Weighted base       | 2015        | 987        | 1028       | 240       | 339        | 339        | 359        | 299        | 439        | 538          | 559        | 439        | 479        | 266               | 862        |
| More likely         | 523<br>26%  | 244<br>25% | 278<br>27% | 79<br>33% | 110<br>32% | 107<br>31% | 106<br>29% | 61<br>21%  | 60<br>14%  | 120<br>22%   | 117<br>21% | 122<br>28% | 164<br>34% | 83<br>31%         | 217<br>25% |
| Makes no difference | 1092<br>54% | 516<br>52% | 576<br>56% | 84<br>35% | 143<br>42% | 173<br>51% | 199<br>55% | 191<br>64% | 302<br>69% | 311<br>58%   | 324<br>58% | 218<br>50% | 239<br>50% | 128<br>48%        | 441<br>51% |
| Less likely         | 265<br>13%  | 151<br>15% | 114<br>11% | 23<br>10% | 60<br>18%  | 35<br>10%  | 40<br>11%  | 37<br>12%  | 71<br>16%  | 93<br>17%    | 62<br>11%  | 66<br>15%  | 44<br>9%   | 39<br>14%         | 122<br>14% |
| Don't know          | 135<br>7%   | 75<br>8%   | 59<br>6%   | 53<br>22% | 27<br>8%   | 25<br>7%   | 14<br>4%   | 9<br>3%    | 6<br>1%    | 14<br>3%     | 55<br>10%  | 34<br>8%   | 31<br>7%   | 17<br>6%          | 83<br>10%  |

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### ONLINE Fieldwork : 25th-26th September 2013

Absolutes/col percents

Table 2

**Q.2 Does Labour's proposal to scrap the 'Bedroom Tax' make you more or less likely to vote for them at the next general election, or does it make no difference?**

**Base: All respondents**

|                     | Region      |            |            |            |                           |                |                |           |            |            |            | Voting Intention |            |            |           |            |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|
|                     | Total       | Scot-land  | North East | North West | York-shire & Hum-ber-side | West Mid-lands | East Mid-lands | Wales     | East-ern   | London     | South East | South West       | Con        | Lab        | LibDem    | UKIP       |
| Unweighted base     | 2015        | 168        | 88         | 244        | 168                       | 185            | 154            | 86        | 175        | 235        | 313        | 199              | 464        | 545        | 153       | 244        |
| Weighted base       | 2015        | 181        | 81         | 222        | 181                       | 181            | 141            | 101       | 202        | 262        | 282        | 181              | 477        | 573        | 144       | 233        |
| More likely         | 523<br>26%  | 53<br>29%  | 30<br>37%  | 79<br>36%  | 45<br>25%                 | 54<br>30%      | 39<br>28%      | 34<br>34% | 29<br>14%  | 72<br>28%  | 58<br>20%  | 30<br>16%        | 31<br>6%   | 296<br>52% | 28<br>20% | 17<br>7%   |
| Makes no difference | 1092<br>54% | 106<br>59% | 44<br>55%  | 108<br>49% | 100<br>55%                | 97<br>53%      | 79<br>56%      | 54<br>53% | 127<br>63% | 101<br>38% | 171<br>61% | 105<br>58%       | 276<br>58% | 215<br>37% | 80<br>55% | 163<br>70% |
| Less likely         | 265<br>13%  | 16<br>9%   | 4<br>5%    | 27<br>12%  | 18<br>10%                 | 23<br>13%      | 14<br>10%      | 12<br>12% | 35<br>17%  | 29<br>11%  | 46<br>16%  | 41<br>23%        | 120<br>25% | 44<br>8%   | 24<br>16% | 47<br>20%  |
| Don't know          | 135<br>7%   | 6<br>3%    | 2<br>3%    | 8<br>3%    | 18<br>10%                 | 8<br>4%        | 8<br>6%        | 1<br>1%   | 10<br>5%   | 60<br>23%  | 7<br>3%    | 6<br>3%          | 50<br>11%  | 19<br>3%   | 12<br>9%  | 5<br>2%    |