

Whitehouse Consultancy – Retrospective Legislation Survey

METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 2,052 GB adults online between 25th and 27th April 2014. Data were weighted to be representative of all GB adults aged 18+. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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

Retrospective Punishments Survey ONLINE Fieldwork: 25th-27th April 2014

Table 1

Absolutes/col percents

Q.1 The following question is about changes in UK law which are backdated so people can be punished for breaking these laws before they came into effect, even if their actions were legal at the time they did them. Would you support or oppose people being punished retrospectively in each of the following scenarios? Base: All respondents

	-	Ger	nder			Ag	e				Social (Employment Sector			
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Unweighted base	2052	1003	1049	223	306	361	386	320	456	566	611	363	512	249	804
Weighted base	2052	1006	1046	244	346	346	366	305	447	549	569	447	488	273	876
The Government wishes															
reduce this benefit but a of benefit over the past					received the	nigher rate									
Support	315 15%	172 17%	142 14%	38 16%	79 23%	50 14%	43 12%	38 13%	66 15%	124 23%	76 13%	61 14%	54 11%	41 15%	169 19%
Oppose	1439 70%	701 70%	738 71%	150 61%	191 55%	241 70%	276 75%	243 80%	339 76%	374 68%	408 72%	313 70%	344 71%	196 72%	559 64%
Don't know	298 15%	132 13%	166 16%	56 23%	76 22%	55 16%	47 13%	23 8%	41 9%	51 9%	85 15%	73 16%	89 18%	36 13%	149 17%
Many people are using Government decides to															
tax using this arrangem						a lower rate of	illicollie								
Support	551 27%	325 32%	226 22%	27 11%	82 24%	79 23%	101 28%	97 32%	164 37%	156 29%	143 25%	123 27%	129 26%	80 29%	219 25%
Oppose	1123 55%	521 52%	602 58%	149 61%	173 50%	193 56%	204 56%	172 56%	233 52%	324 59%	324 57%	227 51%	248 51%	151 55%	468 53%
Don't know	379 18%	160 16%	218 21%	68 28%	91 26%	74 21%	61 17%	35 12%	49 11%	68 12%	102 18%	97 22%	111 23%	42 15%	190 22%
HMRC (the Government															
people owe them mone decision, it is up to then									int to challeng	e the					
Support	256 12%	152 15%	103 10%	22 9%	50 15%	47 13%	28 8%	30 10%	79 18%	77 14%	65 11%	53 12%	61 13%	33 12%	99 11%
Oppose	1447 70%	700 70%	747 71%	145 60%	210 61%	232 67%	298 81%	243 80%	318 71%	407 74%	403 71%	310 69%	326 67%	200 74%	606 69%
Don't know	349 17%	153 15%	196 19%	76 31%	85 25%	67 19%	40 11%	31 10%	50 11%	64 12%	101 18%	83 19%	101 21%	39 14%	171 20%



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Base: All respondents

	-	Gen	der			Ag	е	Social Grade						Employment Sector	
	Total	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE	Public	Pri- vate
Weighted base	2052	1006	1046	244	346	346	366	305	447	549	569	447	488	273	876
The Government reduction years. This means															
though the speed limit			compil on the	motorway at	aring the last t	cii years can	be inica or pa	manca for dor	<u>ng 30, cvcn</u>						
Support	117	55	62	17	35	22	19	11	13	34	21	30	31	16	64
	6%	5%	6%	7%	10%	6%	5%	3%	3%	6%	4%	7%	6%	6%	7%
Oppose	1698	841	857	177	244	268	315	281	413	477	477	368	375	227	681
	83%	84%	82%	73%	71%	77%	86%	92%	93%	87%	84%	82%	77%	83%	78%
Don't know	237	110	127	50	66	56	32	13	20	37	70	49	81	30	132
	12%	11%	12%	21%	19%	16%	9%	4%	5%	7%	12%	11%	17%	11%	15%
The Government realis detained illegally. The no longer challenge the	Government char														
Support	257	136	121	30	54	48	39	40	46	86	62	56	53	35	130
	13%	14%	12%	12%	16%	14%	11%	13%	10%	16%	11%	13%	11%	13%	15%
Oppose	1259	645	614	121	183	196	236	211	313	354	355	258	292	172	497
	61%	64%	59%	50%	53%	57%	64%	69%	70%	64%	62%	58%	60%	63%	57%
Don't know	536	224	312	93	109	101	91	54	88	109	152	132	143	66	250
	26%	22%	30%	38%	31%	29%	25%	18%	20%	20%	27%	30%	29%	24%	28%



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Q.1 The following question is about changes in UK law which are backdated so people can be punished for breaking these laws before they came into effect, even if their actions were legal at the time they did them. Would you support or oppose people being punished retrospectively in each of the following scenarios?

Base: A	ш	roen	ond	lante
Dase. A	11	resu	OHU	เษาเธ

						Region							
	Total	Scotland	Wales	NET: England	North East	North West	Yorkshire & Humberside	West Midlands	Fast Midlands	Eastern	London	South East	South West
Unweighted base	2052	186	112	1754	88	243	175	192	156	176	215	310	199
Ü													
Weighted base	2052	185	103	1765	82	226	185	185	144	205	267	287	185
The Government wishes													
reduce this benefit but a of benefit over the past f				one wno received	the higher rate	<u>9</u>							
				070	40	00	0.5	00	0.4	0.4	50	40	00
Support	315 15%	26 14%	13 12%	276 16%	12 14%	28 12%	25 13%	39 21%	24 17%	21 10%	56 21%	43 15%	28 15%
0		141		1215	57	167	120		102	143	161	206	134
Oppose	1439 70%	76%	83 81%	1215 69%	57 69%	74%	65%	125 67%	102 71%	70%	161 60%	206 72%	134 72%
Don't know	298	17	7	274	14	31	40	21	17	41	50	38	23
DOIT KNOW	15%	9%	7 7%	16%	17%	14%	21%	11%	12%	20%	19%	13%	12%
Government decides to a	legal tax plannin abolish this schen	ne but does so	retrospectivel	y. Everyone who									
Many people are using a Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support	legal tax plannin abolish this schen ent over the last te	ne but does so en years must r	retrospectivel low pay back	y. Everyone who the difference.	paid a lower ra	te of income	46	54	31	43	69	77	49
Government decides to a	legal tax plannin abolish this schen	ne but does so	retrospectivel	y. Everyone who			46 25%	54 29%	31 21%	43 21%	69 26%	77 27%	49 27%
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last to 551 27% 1123	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962	paid a lower ra 27 33% 38	65 29%	25% 92	29% 98	21% 92	21% 119	26% 144	27% 155	27% 110
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last to 551 27%	ne but does so en years must r 56 30%	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33%	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26%	paid a lower ra 27 33%	te of income 65 29%	25%	29%	21%	21%	26%	27%	27%
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last to 551 27% 1123 55% 379	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341	27 33% 38 47%	65 29% 115 51% 46	25% 92 50% 46	29% 98 53% 33	21% 92 64% 21	21% 119 58% 43	26% 144 54% 54	27% 155 54% 55	27% 110 59% 26
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last te 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18%	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13%	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13%	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19%	27 33% 38 47% 17 21%	65 29% 115 51% 46 20%	25% 92 50% 46 25%	29% 98 53% 33 18%	21% 92 64%	21% 119 58%	26% 144 54%	27% 155 54%	27% 110 59%
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know HMRC (the Government'	legal tax plannin abolish this scherent over the last to 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. 7	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government p	27 33% 38 47% 17 21%	65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that	21% 92 64% 21 15%	21% 119 58% 43	26% 144 54% 54	27% 155 54% 55	27% 110 59% 26
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know HMRC (the Government' people owe them money	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last to 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog demand paymore	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. 1	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government p d take money dire	27 33% 38 47% 17 21% basses a law to	65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather le's bank accou	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to j	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that	21% 92 64% 21 15%	21% 119 58% 43	26% 144 54% 54	27% 155 54% 55	27% 110 59% 26
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know HMRC (the Government' people owe them money decision, it is up to them	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last te 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a t, HMRC can now	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog demand paymo	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. Tent upfront an	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government p d take money dire sectively to all existence.	27 33% 38 47% 17 21% basses a law to octly from peopsting tax disput	te of income 65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather le's bank accoultes from the passions	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to justs. If people wat ten years.	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that ant to challenge	21% 92 64% 21 15%	21% 119 58% 43 21%	26% 144 54% 54 20%	27% 155 54% 55 19%	27% 110 59% 26 14%
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know HMRC (the Government' people owe them money decision, it is up to them	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last te 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a r, HMRC can now to take HMRC to	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog demand paymo	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. 1 ent upfront an pplied retrosp	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government per ditake money directively to all existence.	27 33% 38 47% 17 21% passes a law to extly from peopsting tax disput	65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather le's bank accountes from the past	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to onts. If people was ten years.	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that	21% 92 64% 21 15%	21% 119 58% 43	26% 144 54% 54	27% 155 54% 55	27% 110 59% 26 14%
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know HMRC (the Government' people owe them money decision, it is up to them Support	legal tax plannin abolish this schere ent over the last te 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a t, HMRC can now to take HMRC to	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog demand paymo court. This is a	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. 1 ent upfront and pplied retrospectively	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government pd take money directively to all existence with the control of the c	27 33% 38 47% 17 21% passes a law to extly from peopsting tax disputed the control of the contro	te of income 65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather le's bank accoultes from the past 27 12%	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to posts. If people was ten years. 21 12%	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that ant to challenge 31 17%	21% 92 64% 21 15% the	21% 119 58% 43 21%	26% 144 54% 54 20%	27% 155 54% 55 19% 29 10%	27% 110 59% 26 14% 20 11%
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last te 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a r, HMRC can now to take HMRC to	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog demand paymo	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. 1 ent upfront an pplied retrosp	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government per ditake money directively to all existence.	27 33% 38 47% 17 21% passes a law to extly from peopsting tax disput	65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather le's bank accountes from the past	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to onts. If people was ten years.	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that ant to challenge	21% 92 64% 21 15% the	21% 119 58% 43 21%	26% 144 54% 54 20%	27% 155 54% 55 19%	27% 110 59% 26 14% 20 11% 136
Government decides to a tax using this arrangement Support Oppose Don't know HMRC (the Government' people owe them money decision, it is up to them Support	legal tax plannin abolish this scher ent over the last to 551 27% 1123 55% 379 18% s tax office) has a r, HMRC can now to take HMRC to	ne but does so en years must r 56 30% 104 57% 24 13% large backlog demand paymocourt. This is a 21 12% 140	retrospectivel low pay back 33 33% 56 54% 13 13% of tax cases. Tent upfront an pplied retrosp 10 10% 78	y. Everyone who the difference. 461 26% 962 55% 341 19% The Government pd take money directively to all existence to the control of the cont	27 33% 38 47% 17 21% basses a law to bottly from peopsting tax disputed 13 16% 56	te of income 65 29% 115 51% 46 20% say that, rather le's bank accoultes from the past 27 12% 158	25% 92 50% 46 25% than having to justs. If people was ten years. 21 12% 121	29% 98 53% 33 18% prove that ant to challenge 31 17% 128	21% 92 64% 21 15% the 16 11% 112	21% 119 58% 43 21% 23 11%	26% 144 54% 54 20% 44 16%	27% 155 54% 55 19% 29 10% 212	27% 110 59% 26 14% 20 11%



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Q.1 The following question is about changes in UK law which are backdated so people can be punished for breaking these laws before they came into effect, even if their actions were legal at the time they did them. Would you support or oppose people being punished retrospectively in each of the following scenarios?

	Base:	ΑII	respo	ond	ents
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	_						Re	gion						
							Yorkshire &							
	Total	Scotland	Wales	NET: England	North East	North West	Humberside	West Midlands	East Midlands	Eastern	London	South East	South West	
Weighted base	2052	185	103	1765	82	226	185	185	144	205	267	287	185	
The Government reduces the speed limit on the motorway from 70mph to 60mph, but also decides to apply this change retrospectively over the last														
ten years. This means that anyone who drove above 60mph on the motorway during the last ten years can be fined or punished for doing so, even														
though the speed limit at the	time was 70n	nph.												
Support	117	6	6	105	11	8	15	9	5	8	27	11	10	
	6%	3%	6%	6%	14%	4%	8%	5%	4%	4%	10%	4%	6%	
0	4000	405	00	4.440	00	195	134	100	125	164	193	248	158	
Oppose	1698 83%	165 90%	93 91%	1440 82%	63 77%	195 86%	73%	160 87%	125 87%	80%	72%	248 86%	86%	
		3076	3170		1170	0078	7370	07 70	07 70	00 /0	12/0	0070	0070	
Don't know	237	13	4	220	8	23	36	15	13	33	46	29	16	
	12%	7%	4%	12%	10%	10%	20%	8%	9%	16%	17%	10%	9%	
The Government realises tha	t due to a pro	blem in the wor	ding of the M	ental Health Act,	some people w	ho have been se	ectioned may h	ave been						
detained illegally. The Govern														
no longer challenge the decis	sion.													
Support	257	22	12	223	13	32	19	31	19	24	29	33	23	
Cupport	13%	12%	12%	13%	15%	14%	10%	17%	13%	12%	11%	12%	12%	
Oppose	1259	119	66	1074	53	127	111	116	89	122	157	179	119	
	61%	65%	64%	61%	65%	56%	60%	63%	62%	60%	59%	62%	65%	
Don't know	536	43	25	468	16	67	55	38	35	59	81	75	42	
	26%	23%	24%	27%	20%	29%	30%	20%	25%	29%	30%	26%	23%	

