

QUEEN'S SPEECH

Almost Half of Britons Want Queen's Speech Tradition to Persist

Pledges to guarantee free personal care for the elderly and amend the laws on MPs expenses are regarded as the most important bills included in the most recent speech.

[LONDON – Nov. 25, 2009] – Many Britons would like the long-standing tradition of the Queen's speech to continue, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 2,004 British adults, 44 per cent believe the Queen's speech—written by the Government and geared at setting out their planned bills for Parliament—should continue as it is.

About one-in-four respondents (23%) consider the Queen's speech as irrelevant, and would prefer for the Government to set out its plans in writing.

An additional eight per cent of respondents would prefer to have an address from the Prime Minister, and 15 per cent would abandon the whole idea of the Queen's speech.

Respondents in Scotland (24%) are more likely than all others to call for the abandonment of the Queen's speech.

The Labour Government headed by Gordon Brown presented seven bills in the last Queen's speech, read by Queen Elizabeth II on Nov. 18.

KEY FINDINGS

- **44% want Queen's speech to continue as it is; only 15% would abandon the tradition**
- **Just 8% would replace the Queen's speech with an address from the Prime Minister**
- **More than 90% of respondents believe the elderly care and MP expense bills are important**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

From November 20 to November 23, 2009, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,004 adults who are members of Springboard UK. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current data for age, gender, region, social grade and newspaper readership to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain.

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A pledge to guarantee free personal care for the elderly (95%) and amending the laws on MPs expenses (94%) are regarded as the most important bills, followed by allowing Government to have more influence over banker's bonuses (85%), introducing classes for parents of children with anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) (75%), banning cluster munitions (73%), and reforming the House of Lords to make it more democratic (71%).

Respondents are not as keen to pass a bill that would introduce powers to cut off the Internet supply for those who illegally download films. Only 37 per cent of respondents consider this bill as important.

Analysis

A large proportion of the population voices support for the continuation of the Queen's speech. An address by the Prime Minister is clearly the least favoured option.

Despite the relatively short timeframe to implement its agenda before the next General Election, the Labour Government finds a high level of support for several of its policies. There is only one area—illegal downloads—where Britons are clearly in no rush to see action.

Download Full Tables

http://www.visioncritical.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/11/table_qspeech.pdf

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Queen's Speech

The final Queen's speech before the next General Election was read on Wednesday. The Queen's speech is written by the government of the day and sets out their planned bills for the Parliament. It is read by the Queen. There have been a number of suggestions about the future of the Queen's speech. Which of the following best sums up your view?

	Region					
	Great Britain	London	South of England	Midlands and Wales	North	Scotland
The Queen's speech should continue as it is	44%	44%	46%	46%	44%	33%
The Queen's speech needs to be read but it should be read by the Prime Minister	8%	10%	10%	6%	7%	10%
The actual speech is irrelevant; the government should just set out its plans in writing	23%	19%	22%	24%	22%	26%
The whole idea of the Queen's speech should be abandoned	15%	15%	11%	15%	16%	24%
Don't know	10%	13%	10%	9%	11%	8%

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Queen's Speech

With the next General Election to take place in June 2010 at the latest it will not be possible to get all potential Bills through Parliament and into law before then.

How important do you feel the following Bills are?

	Very Important / Somewhat Important	Not Very Important / Not At All Important
Guaranteeing free personal care for the elderly	95%	5%
Amending the laws on MPs expenses	94%	6%
Allowing Government to have more influence over banker's bonuses	85%	15%
Introducing classes for parents of Children with ASBOs	74%	26%
Banning cluster munitions	73%	27%
Reforming the House of Lords to make it more democratic	71%	29%
Introducing powers to cut off the Internet supply for those who illegally download films	37%	63%

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Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Strategies team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995

Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.

Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum (www.angusreidforum.com), Springboard America (www.springboardamerica.com) and Springboard UK (www.springboarduk.com) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.

Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election.

<http://bit.ly/4zxf1S>

Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.

More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at

<http://bit.ly/3z0u11>

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**For more information, please contact
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

Copies of this poll are available on our website:

<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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