


 HOPE

COVID-19: THE FIRST THREE MONTHS

HOPE not hate started tracking the public mood in March, when it was becoming clear that the coronavirus outbreak was not just a serious medical crisis, but would have a huge social, economic and political impact for years to come.

[Our first poll](#), conducted a few days before the UK went into lockdown, found that although some, especially younger people, had not come around to the scale of the crisis yet, the majority were shocked and anxious about the impact the coronavirus outbreak would have. While people were split over the Government's immediate response to the crisis, for most the virus was not being seen as a political matter, and there was a consensus around the action needed to deal with the long term consequences.

As the death rate climbed, [our second poll](#), carried out two weeks into the UK's lockdown, found a consensus on the severity of the crisis, and a sense that coronavirus would cause huge short-term disruption the notion that life would quickly return to normal had faded, with most anxious about the long term impacts of the outbreak. Public support for the Government's response to coronavirus had increased, but many were frustrated about a lack of testing. The economic impact of the crisis was starting to show, with more than four in ten nervous that someone in their household would lose their job. Almost one in five have dipped into their savings, and 6% said they had fallen into debt or struggled to pay rent. Millennials and those in low income households were most impacted.

Yet in both pieces of research, we saw Britons pull together and hold on to the importance of community. [We saw solidarity](#), with over half the population joining their neighbours to #clapforcarers and 37% helping family or neighbours with shopping. Despite it all, more people reported feeling optimistic for the future than they had been before the coronavirus outbreak, when our polling found that more people were pessimistic than optimistic.

Our latest poll, conducted in the first week of

May, is seeing a shift in our response to the crisis, as many fear that life in Britain will never return to normal. Optimism is starting to ebb away, support for Johnson's Government and trust in the mainstream media and experts is falling, and discontent over potential economic impacts is rising rapidly among those most affected. While the conspiracy theories which saw 5G as a cause of the virus have largely been debunked, many are looking to alternative media sources to find the truth about coronavirus and anti-Chinese sentiment is rising.

More people are struggling under lockdown than are not, and there is less consensus about the next steps, with the inequalities exposed by the outbreak starting to take hold. Resentments are brewing among some sections of the population, and people are starting to look for someone to hold accountable.

There are many good things to read from our research, it should be said. Most feel more connected to their communities as a result of the outbreak, and a large majority of people voice gratitude for contribution of those, including migrants, working on the frontline of the crisis. Nonetheless, all of this will be tested in the coming months.

The scale of the economic impact will feed resentments and the already fraught relationship between people and politics will be put under further strain. [Our research](#) has consistently show how concerns about immigration and perceptions of multiculturalism as a threat are dialled up or down in response to how the economy is doing. When people feel that the system is not working for them – when people face hardship and don't feel listened to or that they have control over their lives – they are more likely to direct their resentments towards others.

The economic landscape left behind by the pandemic, and any shortcomings in how the outbreak is handled, will provide fertile ground for, those who seek to divide. How fringe actors are handling the pandemic might seem irrelevant right now. But it's no coincidence that Nigel Farage is attempting to stoke the immigration debate, and



that far-right outlets like Breitbart are increasingly speaking about China and promoting inflammatory content about border security or conspiratorial ideas about a ‘new world order’.

Our polling suggests that many will arrive on the other side of the covid-19 crisis with feelings of anger and resentments, and will be looking for answers. We need to ensure that people are given a genuine alternative, one of hope, not hate.

METHODOLOGY

The polling on which this report is based was commissioned by the HOPE not hate Charitable Trust.

This survey was conducted using an online interview of 2,003 adults 18+ who were sampled from across Great Britain, administered by Focaldata. Fieldwork was carried out between 1st and 3rd May 2020.

Where referred to, ‘March polling’, relates to Focaldata administered polling of 2,022 adults 18+ between 20th-23rd March, ‘April polling’, relates to Focaldata administered polling of 2,032 adults 18+ between 7th and 9th April. All results have been weighted to be representative of the GB population.

HOW THE MOOD OF THE NATION HAS CHANGED

In the years following the EU referendum, our polls have tracked dwindling optimism, with more people saying they were pessimistic (54%) than optimistic (46%) for the future in December 2019. However, for some, the pandemic is bringing out hope that things will get better.

This increase in optimism may seem strange, but it reflects a sense among many that this difficult period will pass. Our latest poll finds that this optimism has largely sustained, but uncertainty about when and how Britain will emerge from the pandemic is feeding pessimism; 44% said that they were pessimistic, up from 41% in April, but still above 48% in March.

Although most people (67%) don’t want lockdown to be lifted prematurely, it is clear that many are struggling. Almost one in five (18%) have felt a deep sense of loneliness over the last four weeks, and more than four times as many people would say their experience of lockdown has been difficult (45%) than those who say it has been enjoyable (10%).

People concerned about job losses in their household are far more likely to be finding the

lockdown period difficult (55%) than those who are not (39%). Many have struggled financially over this time. 14% report dipping into their savings because of the coronavirus outbreak, while 5% report getting into debt. 5% have struggled to pay rent, 5% say they have lost their job, and 5% have applied for universal credit. Almost one in five (16%) have been furloughed.

While our ideas of what type of ‘normal’ we will be returning to are subjective, people are conflicted about when they will be able to get on with their lives. Most (70%) expect that within a year, life in the UK will return to normal; 11% expect a return to normality by late summer, 20% by the autumn, and 39% in a year’s time. But 10% of people do not expect a return to normality for more than two years and 15% think that we cannot expect to ever return to normal.

FALLING FAITH IN JOHNSON?

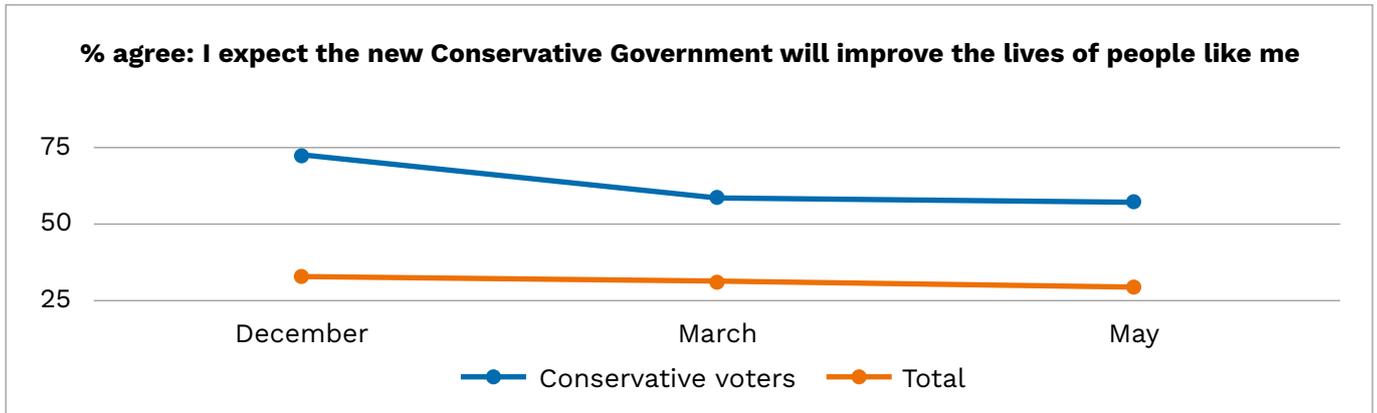
Over recent years, our research has seen how people’s relationship with the political system has been put under strain by the Brexit process, with the proportion who feel represented by any political party falling month on month.

Nonetheless, it is understandable that, in a time of crisis, people look for stability and put their trust in political leaders to get them through. Two weeks into the lockdown a large majority (64%) said they trusted Boris Johnson and the Government to deal with the coronavirus pandemic appropriately – up from 50% in the week before the lockdown.

By May, this was slowly falling, and widespread criticism over a lack of testing suggests that trust will fall further as we begin to emerge from the crisis and face up to the economic realities that are likely to follow. A huge 72% of people, including 60% of Conservative voters, agreed that the lack of coronavirus testing has meant the British Government’s ability to deal properly with the pandemic is severely limited.

As we move past the crisis phase, the potential for mass unemployment, poverty and a return to austerity could become a reality, with the poorest hit hardest. While many will accept this as an inevitability following a global crash, it will leave many feeling abandoned and let down by those in power.

Moreover, as the crisis has gone on, issues that were relegated to the backseat are increasing in public salience. Support for extending the Brexit transition period is falling, with just a third of



leave voters in favour of extending the period to focus on coronavirus – down from 42% in April. Many Conservative voters are losing the optimism which they had immediately after the general election. In December 2019, our poll found that 73% of Conservative voters expected their lives

to be improved by the new Tory Government, but this has fallen to 57% in our latest poll. A perception of a Government failing to deliver on non-coronavirus issues, alongside a view of a badly handled crisis, could heighten a feeling of voicelessness.

CORONAVIRUS AND CONSPIRACY

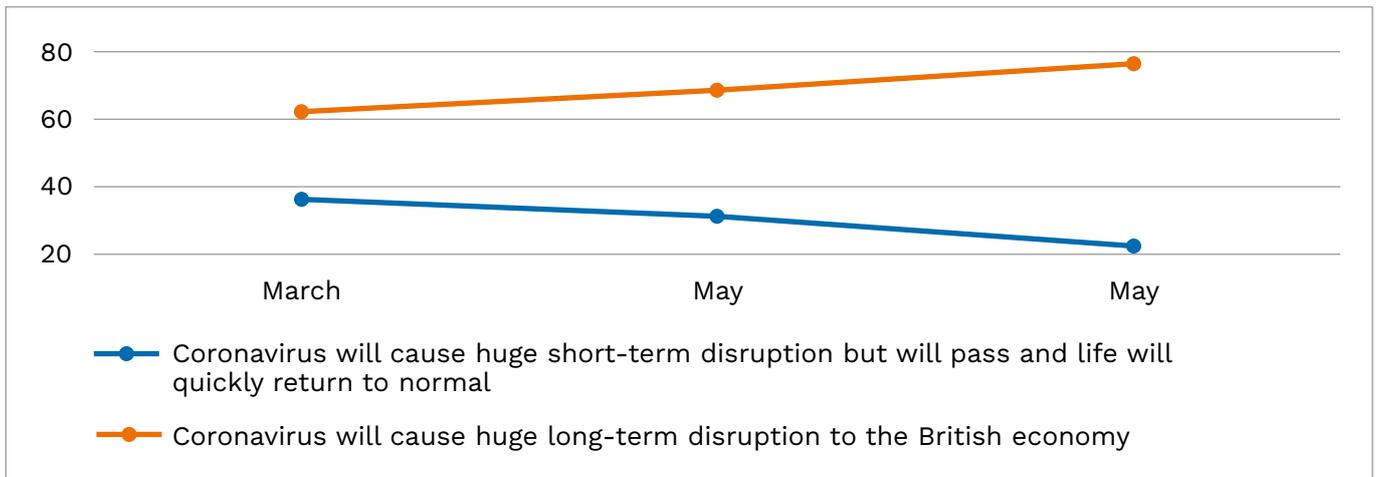
Support for conspiracy theories tends to rise during volatile and uncertain times – offering someone or something to blame and providing a form of explanation for hardship. When large, world-changing events take place we seek meaning, and often intent behind what is going on. Simple accidents often do not suffice as explanations.

At the start of the pandemic, we saw conspiracy theories gain popularity. This included the ‘5G conspiracy’; a belief that the virus is a bio-weapon released intentionally by the Chinese state, or that it is part of a UN plan to depopulate the planet. While initially, our research found that belief in this conspiracy was widespread among the British public, our most recent polling reveals that this has largely been debunked; 6% agreed that ‘5G technology is contributing to the spread of Coronavirus’, down from 8% in April and 11% in March.

The declining popularity of this conspiracy may be due to widespread media coverage which delegitimised the claims. Many of those who first subscribed to the theory would have been put off by coverage of a series of arson attacks on 5G phone masts. Others may have withdrawn their subscription to the theory with the discrediting of some of its most vocal supporters, including the removal of David Icke from social media platforms.

Nonetheless, conspiracy theory is in some ways the symptom as much as the cause of cynical outlooks about politics and society at large. Our most recent polling shows how trust in experts is falling, for example 69% of people trust that the Department of Health are competent and take appropriate action based on the information available – down from 75% in April and 71% in March. And many are looking to alternative sources. People are as likely to say they would prefer to find the truth out about coronavirus themselves (34%) as are content relying on the medical experts advising the Government (34%). This remains lower than in the week before lockdown, when 42% thought that looking beyond Government advice was preferable.

Conspiracies are often a means to contextualise hardship when people do not feel they are given a viable alternative. It is not a coincidence that those who have the lowest incomes and the least faith in the political system are also those that are most drawn to conspiracy theories. As the economic impacts of the crisis start to bite, leaving many looking for explanations, we could see more people turning to misinformation and conspiracy theories in order to make sense of a chaotic world.



ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The coronavirus outbreak is expected to trigger one of the biggest recessions since 1900. Our polling shows that people have grown increasingly pessimistic about the long term implications of the coronavirus outbreak. Just 23% of our May poll thought that coronavirus would cause short-term disruption but that life would quickly return to normal, while more than three quarters of people (77%) said that the crisis would result in huge long-term disruption to the British economy.

And while many economists are expecting a recession that is short but severe, with a rapid recovery as people get back to work, the public are more sceptical. Just 13% agreed that the British economy will be back to its pre-covid state within six months while the majority (68%) disagreed. Most people are also expecting this to change the landscape of towns and cities across the UK. An overwhelming majority (89%) think that the coronavirus outbreak will mean more shop closures and will accelerate the decline of the High Street.

While fears of unemployment are still running high, the first pay cheques from the Government’s furlough scheme have eased concerns for many about job losses. A third (33%) of people say that they are worried that

they or someone in their household could lose their job as a consequence of the economic fallout from Coronavirus, down from 41% of our April poll and 47% in our March poll.

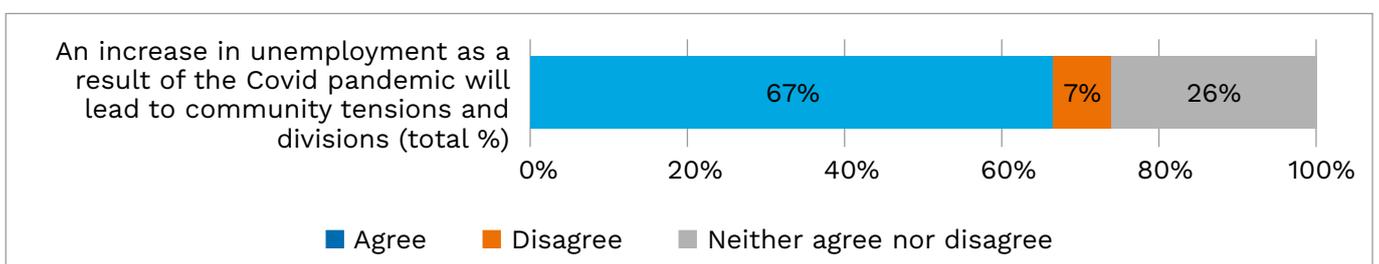
Meanwhile, our latest polling finds that many are concerned about the impact of an economic fallout on community relations. Just 7% of people disagree that a rise in unemployment would lead to community tensions and divisions.

At the same time, there is a consensus that protecting the health of everyone must come ahead of protecting the economy. Just 15% said that it was essential to protect the economy of this country, even if it means more older people die, while 85% said it was essential to look after the health of everyone in this country, whatever the economic cost.

GENERATIONAL DIVIDES

Our research finds growing generational divides, with younger people more likely to be struggling under lockdown and to be feeling the economic effects of the outbreak. Many are impatient to get back to normal and put economic recovery ahead of protecting the health of older people.

In our March polling, almost a third (30%) of 18-24s thought the crisis was being exaggerated by politicians and the media, but this rapidly fell away, with no notable age variations by May.



AUTHORITARIANISM VS CONTRIBUTION: THE CORONAVIRUS IMMIGRATION DILEMMA

The very visible contribution of migrant workers, on the frontline of the crisis has seen public support for migrants living and working in the UK soar. Just before the outbreak, the Government was looking at introducing its post-Brexit immigration policy, to limit numbers of ‘low skilled’ EU migrants.

But our polling from April found that the public wanted to instead offer automatic citizenship to EU nationals working in jobs considered to fit this ‘low skilled’ categorisation. 77% felt automatic citizenship should be extended to EU nationals working as doctors and nurses, 63% to care workers, 50% to supermarket and agricultural workers and 47% to delivery drivers.

Our wider research has seen public attitudes to immigration soften in recent years, and the findings described immediately above perhaps suggest another uptick in public support for migration. However, our polling also shows the limits of this support.

Our April poll found that more people agreed (42%) than disagreed (35%) that corona-virus has spread rapidly across Europe and America because of lax immigration policies. While this view was concentrated most among those who tend to be more sceptical of immigration, many groups who usually hold more liberal views on immigration also hold this to be true, including 34% of Londoners, 34% of 16-24s and 32% of graduates.

Worryingly, our most recent poll found that more than half (53%) of people agreed that the best way to ensure that covid-19 does not return is to introduce much stricter immigration rules. Fewer than a third disagreed (27%), again including many of those who tend to hold more socially liberal views.

Much of this concern around lax border control and coronavirus is a response to a fear of lifting lockdown measures too soon, to allow international travel. Nonetheless, some of it also reflects a ‘charity begins at home’ political narrative, which presents foreigners and outsiders as a threat.

The gap between the support shown for immigrant workers and fears of lax border control reaffirms much of what we already know about the immigration debate; that most people support immigration when immigrants are regarded as part of our communities, when they are seen to contribute, and are felt to be subject to some form of control. But for most, fears of uncontrolled borders are associated with criminality and threat.

Coronavirus had initially displaced the salience of the immigration, but as the country emerges from lockdown, those pushing for a fairer immigration system cannot be complacent. Demands for tougher border control are often reflection of a range of wider anxieties about identity, culture and economic security – all issues that will be heightened in the post-pandemic landscape.

There is, however, an expectation gap between the generations about what will happen after the pandemic. Older people are far more likely to be cynical about a return to normal; 19% of over 65s and 21% of 55-64s say that we cannot expect a return to normal. Only 10% of 18-24s and 12% of 25-34s feel the same way. Younger people are also more optimistic about an economic recovery- 19% of 18-24s think it will, but just 6% of over 65s feel the same.

A longing to return to normal among young people may be because they are more likely to report struggling under lockdown. Almost a third (30%) of those aged 18-24 reported having felt a deep sense of loneliness in the weeks

since lockdown began. More than one in ten 18-24s said they had lost their job in the last four weeks as a result of the coronavirus outbreak (11%), with over 40% of those under 35 concerned about further job losses in their household.

As the scale of the economic impact becomes clear, increasing numbers of young people want to put their futures before protecting the health of older people. While it remains a minority view, 22% of people aged 25-34 say that it is essential to protect the economy of this country, even if it means more older people die. This figure has doubled (from 11%) since we last asked the question four weeks ago.



COMMUNITY AND SOLIDARITY

British society has responded to the crisis with solidarity and resilience. Most people say that they feel more connected to their communities (63%) despite being physically distanced from others. In our April poll, more than half of people (55%) had joined their neighbours to #clapforcarers, and more than a third (37%) had helped family or neighbours with shopping.

Cynically, one could point out that the majority of us live in neighbourhoods with others of similar backgrounds to ourselves. Nevertheless, this solidarity does seem to extend beyond people’s own milieu.

A staggering 88% of people agreed that many jobs traditionally considered low skilled have proved to be amongst some of the most important in keeping this country running during the covid-shutdown; just 2% disagreed with this. This support extends to migrant workers, whose contribution has become more visible during the crisis. 70% of people agreed that covid-19 reminds us of the valuable contribution migrants play in our health and social care services and in food production and distribution. Just 9% disagreed. This support stretched across leave (59%) and remain (84%) voters, Brexit party voters (43%), Labour (77%) and Conservative voters (64%).

COMING THROUGH THE CRISIS

With lockdown measures starting to ease, Britain is beginning to face up to the longevity of this crisis and the challenges of a post-pandemic landscape.

There is a consensus that it will be a long road to recovery, but there is less consensus as to how people want to rebuild Britain. While some will want to restore things to how they were in

February, others will be looking at how things could be restructured.

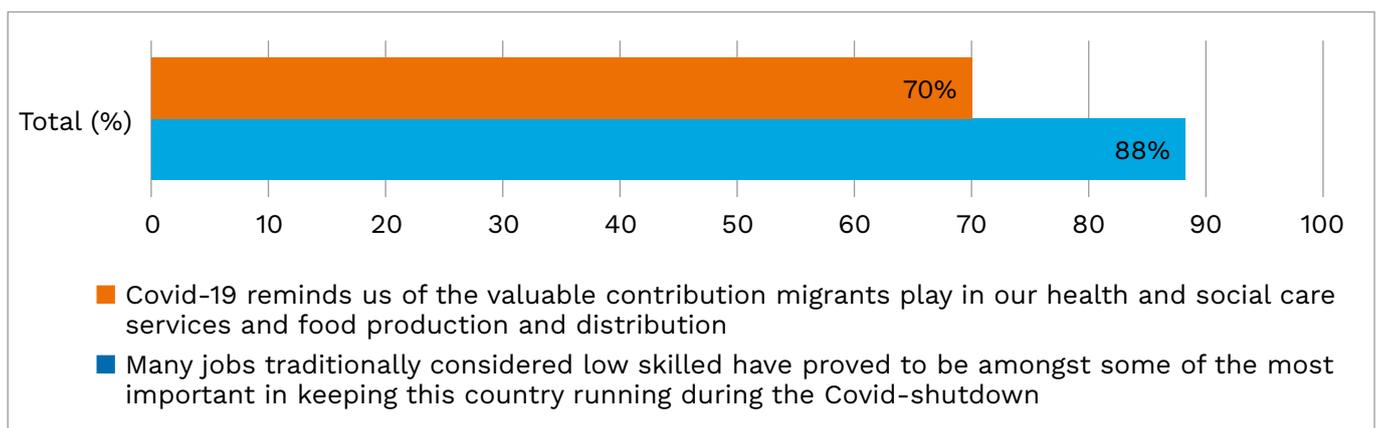
People are more open to internationalist responses, with a large majority (83%) agreed that defeating covid-19 can best be achieved through strong collaboration between countries. And a majority (59%) agreeing that the pandemic should act as a warning for why we should be addressing the climate change issue before it is too late.

The majority of people (56%) agree also that the coronavirus outbreak is exposing deep inequalities within British society, while only 14% disagreed – a sentiment that stretched across political divides. Growing concern about inequality could open a window for political change, at a time when the role of the state has fundamentally changed.

Nonetheless, austerity feels like an inevitability to many as the UK looks towards economic recovery. More than half of our respondents (53%) agree that the Government will need to re-introduce austerity and further cut public spending in order to reduce the public debt caused by the pandemic. This would likely hit those already most vulnerable, including BAME communities and women, the poorest in society, and those in precarious work or precarious housing.

At the same time, not everyone is clear what austerity entails. When people are asked more explicitly if they support cuts to public spending, far fewer agree. Just over a third (36%) agree that once the current lockdown is lifted, the Government should cut public spending in order to reduce the public debt and balance its budget, but a third disagree with this (33%) and almost a third remain unsure (31%).

And people want the Government to continue providing financial support to those who need





it. 77% of people agree that once the current lockdown is lifted, the Government should continue to give additional financial support to those who have lost their jobs. Just 6% disagree.

A high level of acceptance for austerity measures twinned with confusion about what ‘austerity’ actually entails and a consensus that financial Government support should remain in place creates a political challenge for the Conservative Government. If they seek to put austerity measures in place, then they may find initial public support for the measures. But the result could be met with disappointment and a sense of betrayal, as people find they are struggling, and the optimism about life after coronavirus is dimmed.

DATA SHEET: COVID-19 THE FIRST 3 MONTHS

CORONAVIRUS

- Just 12% think the coronavirus is not as serious as the Government and media makes it out to be, while 76% disagree. There has been a 3 point increase since April among those under 35 who think the crisis is not as serious as is being made out (19% of 25-34s and 16% of 18-24s), although this remains lower than in the week before lockdown when 30% of 18-24s thought the severity of coronavirus was exaggerated.
- 70% of people expect that, within a year, life in the UK will return to normal, with 11% expecting a return to normality by late summer, 20% by the autumn, and 39% in a year's time. But 10% of people believe that a return to normality will not come for more than two years. 15% think that we cannot expect to return to normal
- Older people are far more likely to be cynical about a return to normal. 19% of over 65s and 21% of 55-64s say that we cannot expect a return to normal, while only 10% of 18-24s and 12% of 25-34s feel the same way.
- More than four times as many people would say their experience of lockdown has been difficult (45%) as those who say it has been enjoyable (10%).
- Just 3% of people would describe their experience of lockdown as "very enjoyable", while 7% would say they have found it "enjoyable". Almost half of people (44%) would describe their lockdown experience as "manageable" while 37% would say their experience has been difficult but manageable. 7% are finding lockdown "very difficult".
- Women are more likely than men to have found things difficult (48% of female respondents, 41% of male) but also more likely to have found things enjoyable (12% of females, 9% of males), perhaps reflecting that they are more likely to be taking on childcare duties.
- People concerned about job losses in their households are far more likely to be finding the lockdown period difficult (55%) than those who are not (39%).
- The majority of people (67%), across demographic breaks, think that the Government should continue the lockdown

until it is totally safe for people to go out again. 30% believe that the Government should start easing the restrictions, even if there remains a health risk, and just 3% think that they should end all the restrictions and open up the economy

THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS

- The public remain split over the Government's response to coronavirus, but support is ebbing away. 49% think that the Government is dealing with the coronavirus as well as could be expected, down from 54% at the beginning of April and returning to the same level of support as during the week prior to lockdown. 51% think that the Government has been too slow in dealing with coronavirus.
- Conservative voters are at odds with most of the country in how they feel the Government has handled the crisis. Almost three quarters (74%) think that the Government is dealing with the coronavirus as well as could be expected, compared with 49% of the country overall.
- Younger people, graduates and Labour voters are more likely to think that the Government has been too slow in dealing with the crisis.
- A huge 72% of people agree the lack of coronavirus testing has meant that the British Government's ability to deal properly with the pandemic is severely limited. 11% disagree. Despite their strong trust in the Government's handling of the crisis Conservative voters remain critical of how the Government has handled this. 60% agree that the lack of Coronavirus testing has meant that the British Government's ability to deal properly with the pandemic is severely limited.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

- A large majority (83%) agree that defeating covid-19 can best be achieved through strong collaboration between countries. Only 4% disagree, with a consensus across demographic and political breaks. This reinforces the support for an internationalist approach, which we found in our last two poll in April (when 60% said that Coronavirus is best dealt with at an international level, while 40% said a national response would be preferable).
- Just 15% of people think that President Trump has shown strong leadership in dealing

with covid-19, while 85% say Trump has shown weak leadership.

- Men are more likely to have a favourable view of Trump's crisis handling (18%) than women (12%), while older people (8% of over 65s) are less likely to say that Trump has shown strong leadership than younger people (20% of 18-24s).
- Worryingly, 53% of people agreed that the best way to ensure that covid-19 does not return is to introduce much stricter immigration rules. Less than a third disagreed (27%), highlighting the potential for the immigration debate to blow up again as things return to normal. 69% of Conservative voters and 39% of Labour voters agreed.

OPTIMISM AND TRUST

- People continue to be more optimistic about the future but pessimism is slowly creeping back in. 44% said that they were pessimistic, up from 41% in April, but still above 48% in March. Remain voters are still more pessimistic (52%) than leave voters (38%), suggesting that Brexit identities still shape our attitudes, despite Brexit holding less political salience at the moment.
- Just 29% of people expect the new Conservative Government to improve the lives of people like them, down from 31% at the beginning of lockdown and 33% in our December poll.
- Many Conservative voters are losing the optimism which they had immediately after the general election. In December 2019, our poll found that 73% of Conservative voters expected their lives to be improved by the new Government, but this has fallen to 57%.
- Trust in Johnson and the Government to deal with the crisis has remained steady over the lockdown period. 61% of people say that they trust Boris Johnson and the Government to deal with the coronavirus pandemic appropriately – down slightly from 64% in April, but up from 50% in the week before the lockdown. Trust in Johnson's ability is falling among those already less likely to agree with him politically; trust among labour voters has fallen from 44% in April to 38% now, while Conservative support remains high (89%).
- Trust in the BBC's coverage of coronavirus is falling. Although a majority (65%) say that they trust the information they get from the BBC on coronavirus, this is down from 76% four weeks before.

- Trust in experts is falling. 69% of people trust that experts at the Department of Health are competent and take appropriate action based on the information available – down from 75% in April and 71% in March.
- As many people say they would prefer to find the truth out about coronavirus themselves (34%) as are content relying on the medical experts advising the Government (34%). This remains lower than in the week before lockdown, when 42% thought that looking beyond Government advice was preferable.
- The conspiracy that 5G technology is contributing to the spread of coronavirus has largely been debunked. 6% agree with this, down from 8% in April and 11% in March.

THE ECONOMY

- People have grown increasingly pessimistic about the long term implications of the coronavirus outbreak. Just 23% think that virus will cause short-term disruption but will pass, while more than three quarters of people (77%) think that Coronavirus will cause long-term disruption to the British economy.
- An overwhelming majority (89%) think that the coronavirus outbreak will mean more shop closures and accelerate the decline of the High Street – just 2% say otherwise.
- Just 13% agree that the British economy will be back to its pre-Covid-19 state within six months. 68% disagree while almost 1 in 5 (19%) are unsure either way. Younger people are more optimistic about an economic recovery.
- The public remain adamant that it is essential to look after the health of everyone in this country, whatever the economic cost, 85% of people agreed with this statement, while just 15% prioritised protecting the economy.
- A quarter of people (25%) are more worried about the damage the lockdown is doing to the economy than they are about the health impact of coronavirus. 53% disagree and 22% are uncertain either way.
- 33% of people say that they are worried that they or someone in their household could lose their job as a consequence of the economic fallout from coronavirus, down from 41% of our April poll and 47% in our March poll.



- Younger people remain more concerned about job losses. 41% of 18-24s, 44% of 25-34s and 43% of 35-44s say they are concerned about potential job losses (although concern has reduced among these groups since our last poll).
- Almost a third of people (31%) who worry they or someone in their household could lose their job are more worried about the damage the lockdown is doing to the economy than they are about the health impact. 48% are more worried about the health impact.
- 17% of people agree that, once the current lockdown is lifted, the Government should be allowed to reduce workers’ rights in order to boost economic recovery, but 64% disagree.

As a consequence of the Coronavirus outbreak, have you	April 2020	May 2020
Had to work from home	27%	18%
Dipped into your savings	17%	14%
Been furloughed	13%	16%
Had your hours reduced	10%	7%
Got into debt	6%	5%
Struggled to pay your rent	6%	5%
Applied for Universal Credit	4%	5%
Lost your job	4%	4%
Struggled to pay your mortgage		2%
Felt a deep sense of loneliness		18%
None of the above	45%	40%

- More than half of our poll (53%) agree that the Government will need to re-introduce austerity and further reduce public spending in order to reduce the public debt caused by the pandemic. 17% disagree and 30% are unsure either way.
- Conservative voters are more likely to support austerity measures (64%) – along with a significant proportion (43%) of Labour voters.
- Those who are worried about someone in their household losing their job are slightly more likely (57% agree) than those who are not worried to support austerity measures (52% agree).
- Just over a third (36%) agree that, once the current lockdown is lifted, the Government should cut public spending in order to reduce the public debt and balance its budget, but a third disagree with this (33%). Almost a third remain unsure (31%).
- 77% of people agree that once the current lockdown is lifted, the Government should

continue to give additional financial support to those who have lost their jobs. Just 6% disagree.

COMMUNITY

- 63% of people said that they felt more connected to their local community as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, while 37% felt less connected.
- The majority of people (56%) agree that the coronavirus outbreak is exposing inequality in British society, while only 14% disagree and 30% neither agree nor disagree.
- 44% of Conservative voters agree that the crisis is exposing inequalities, while 66% of Labour voters agree. Leave voters are less likely (48%) than remain voters (67%) to think the crisis is exposing inequalities.
- 88% of people agree that many jobs traditionally considered low skilled have proved to be amongst some of the most important in keeping this country running during the shutdown. This reinforces our research from April, when we found widespread support across the population for offering automatic citizenship to EU migrant workers in so-called ‘low-skilled’ but essential work. There is very little difference in responses to this question across demographic and political groups.
- The contribution of migrants is being acknowledged by most. 70% of people agreed that covid-19 reminds us of the valuable contribution migrants play in our health and social care services and in food production and distribution. This support stretched across leave (59%) and remain (84%) voters, Brexit party voters (43%), Labour (77%) and Conservative voters (64%).

BREXIT

- Support for extending the Brexit transition period is falling, with 59% of people agreeing that the Government should request an extension to the Brexit transition period in order to focus properly on the coronavirus – down from 67% in our April polling and 64% in March.
- A third of leave voters would support extending the transition period to focus on coronavirus – down from 42% in April.
- Leave and remain voters feel equally connected to their communities during the crisis.



THE ENVIRONMENT

- A majority (59%) agree that the pandemic shows why we should be addressing the climate change issue before it is too late. 18-24s are only slightly more likely to agree (66%) than other age groups. A majority across all categories agree with this (with the exception of Brexit party voters who are just as likely to disagree). Those on the political left and middle class groups are slightly more likely to agree.
- 32% agree that once the current lockdown is lifted, the Government should be allowed to relax environmental rules and standards in order to boost economic recovery, but 44% disagree.