

## YouGov Survey Results: Magna Carta and Freedom of the Press

Sample Size: 730 Opinion Formers

Fieldwork: 20th May - 1st June 2015

	Occupation	
Total		Media including journalists

**Thinking about the Police's 'Operation Elveden' which probed inappropriate payments to police officers by journalists, which **\*\*one\*\*** of these statements, if any, most closely represents your view?**

	Base	730	196
The police were right to mount a case against those involved as these were criminal acts		43%	27%
It was right to investigate potential criminal practice but prosecutions should not have been brought in most cases		30%	41%
The police overstepped their role by interfering with press freedoms and public interest		10%	17%
Operation Elveden was politically motivated		8%	8%
Don't know		9%	7%
None of the above		0%	-

**Do you believe that the recent collapse of the journalism trials based on the Police's 'Operation Elveden' probe into bribery was... **\*\*Please select as many as apply\*\*****

	Base	729	196
A missed opportunity to set a precedent and clamp down on the bribing of public officials		39%	27%
Probably the right outcome		38%	47%
A victory for freedom of the press and investigative journalism		16%	27%
Don't know		15%	11%

**The Leveson Report recommended that the Press Complaints Commission be replaced with a new "tough, independent regulator with teeth" based on legally enforceable contracts between publishers and the new body. Which **\*\*one\*\*** of the following, if any, do you most agree with?**

	Base	725	196
The press should have a system of self-regulation but the majority of people determining complaints should be unconnected to the media		43%	50%
There should be external regulation of the press, with the media itself not involved in deciding the parameters of the system		27%	12%
The press should have a system of self-regulation but it should be overseen by a government-backed body which determines its effectiveness		17%	17%
The press should have a system of self-regulation, with responsibility for deciding complaints lying only (or mainly) with other media professionals		8%	13%
Other		-	-
Other		3%	5%
Not sure		2%	3%

**Regarding freedom of the press, do you think...**

	Base	725	196
Freedom of the press is not under threat from government, but does require more scrutiny, such as that from an independent body		47%	33%
Freedom of the press is under threat from government		29%	45%
The status quo between government and press freedoms is about right		12%	12%
There is no threat to freedom of the press from government		7%	4%
Other		4%	4%
Don't know		1%	3%

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Do you feel that the values outlined in the Magna Carta are generally well understood in the UK?

	Base	725	196
Very well understood	1%		1%
Quite well understood	20%		23%
Not well understood	59%		58%
Not understood at all	19%		17%
Don't know	2%		2%
Net: Understood	21%		23%
Net: Not understood	78%		75%

How significant a role do you feel the Magna Carta plays in modern day politics and laws in the UK?

	Base	725	196
Very significant	12%		11%
Quite significant	42%		41%
Not very significant	34%		34%
Not at all significant	6%		6%
Don't know	6%		9%
Net: Significant	54%		52%
Net: Insignificant	40%		39%

And how relevant do you feel the Magna Carta is in your life?

	Base	725	196
Very relevant	14%		17%
Quite relevant	41%		36%
Not very relevant	31%		31%
Not at all relevant	9%		6%
Don't know	6%		10%
Net: Relevant	54%		53%
Net: Irrelevant	39%		37%

Do you believe that the 1998 Human Rights Act has eroded the protections granted to British citizens that were set on the foundation of the Magna Carta?

	Base	724	196
Yes	23%		18%
No	52%		55%
Not sure	26%		27%

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Which of the following do you believe is guaranteed under the following: - Magna Carta

	<b>Base</b>	703	196
Freedom of Speech	27%		29%
Personal privacy	9%		8%
The right to protest	20%		20%
Non-discrimination	5%		5%
The right to a fair trial / trial by jury	70%		75%
Protection from slavery	21%		21%
Protection of private property	56%		51%
Freedom of religion	20%		18%
Free elections	15%		16%
Provisions on corruption and official misconduct	28%		27%
None of these	4%		4%
Don't know	17%		13%

Which of the following do you believe is guaranteed under the following: - 1998 Human Rights Act

	<b>Base</b>	703	196
Freedom of Speech	56%		54%
Personal privacy	55%		59%
The right to protest	55%		55%
Non-discrimination	70%		73%
The right to a fair trial / trial by jury	45%		45%
Protection from slavery	61%		63%
Protection of private property	32%		36%
Freedom of religion	65%		67%
Free elections	47%		51%
Provisions on corruption and official misconduct	33%		35%
None of these	3%		2%
Don't know	16%		15%

Do you think there is a need for a 'new Magna Carta' to protect the people from abuse of executive power, or does the precedent set out by the original offer sufficient safe guards?

	<b>Base</b>	703	196
There should be a new 'Magna Carta' to reflect modern society's concerns	38%		44%
The precedent of the original Magna Carta, embodied in current laws, is sufficient	47%		40%
Don't know	16%		16%

Do you think that in the absence of a written constitution there should be a British equivalent of the the US First Amendment that guarantees Freedom of Expression and therefore the Freedom of the Media?

	<b>Base</b>	703	196
Yes	41%		59%
No	44%		28%
Other	5%		4%
Don't know	10%		10%