

YouGov/ The Economist Survey Results

Sample Size: 2073

Fieldwork: 17th - 19th June 2008

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%

Britain has more closed circuit TV cameras (CCTVs) than any other country, monitoring streets, stations, shopping centres, offices etc.

Do you think...

- This is broadly a good thing, as CCTV cameras help to deter criminal behaviour and catch offenders **74**
- This is broadly a bad thing, because these cameras allow the state to 'snoop' on people and invade their privacy **22**
- Don't know **5**

Police are relying ever more heavily on DNA to solve crimes. Britain now has the largest DNA database in the world. It includes data on people who have not been convicted of any crime.

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

- 'DNA data should be held only for convicted criminals. Data on everyone else's DNA should be destroyed' **43**
- 'In order to be able to catch more criminals, the police should be able to build up their DNA database, so that eventually they hold DNA data on every citizen' **51**
- Don't know **7**

The Government says that health care will be more efficient if patients' records are on a centralised database.

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

- 'This is a good idea, for it means that, wherever and whenever a patient needs treatment, doctors will be able to get the information they need to provide the best possible care' **55**
- 'This is a bad idea, because access to the information will not be rigorously controlled; the assault on our privacy would outweigh any slight gains in the quality of patients' care' **38**
- Don't know **6**

Britons have not, until now, been required to carry proof of identity in peacetime. The Government proposes introducing an ID card, and backing it up with a comprehensive database including biometric information about everyone in Britain.

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

- 'ID cards and biometric information are a good idea: they will make identity theft harder and keeping track of terrorists and illegal immigrants easier' **48**
- 'The benefits of the ID card and biometric information system are few and possibly non-existent; they certainly do not justify such an invasion of our privacy' **45**
- Don't know **7**

Altogether, an increasing amount of personal information is being collected by both the Government and private businesses. There have been some cases where this information has been seen by people who should not have access. Which of these statements come closer to your view?

In relation to the Government

- Improvements in efficiency and the quality of service provided outweigh the risks to privacy 29
- The risks to privacy outweigh improvements in efficiency and the quality of service provided 55
- Don't know 16

In relation to private companies such as banks supermarkets and companies that sell goods and services on the internet?

- Improvements in efficiency and the quality of service provided outweigh the risks to privacy 15
- The risks to privacy outweigh improvements in efficiency and the quality of service provided 71
- Don't know 14

Currently, the police may detain suspected terrorists for up to four weeks before charging or releasing them. The Government wants to extend this period to six weeks.

Which of these statements comes closer to your view?

- 'These days it can take some weeks to analyse all the evidendence against suspected terrorists; it is right to be able to detain them for up to six weeks' 61
- 'It is a long-established principle of British justice that suspects should either be released or know the charge against them within days; the proposed six weeks detention period is far too long' 33
- Don't know 6

David Davis, formerly shadow home secretary, has decided to resign as MP to campaign for re-election on the issue of civil liberties. He says that the Government's policies on ID cards, DNA and biometric databases, and the time allowed to question terrorist suspects, together threaten our civil liberties.

Do you think...

- He is right; and he would do more to protect our civil liberties if he were home secretary 23
- He is right; but he would NOT do any more to protect our civil liberties if he were home secretary 26
- He is wrong: the measures proposed to tackle terrorism, crime and identity theft will enhance, and not undermine our civil liberties 38
- Don't know 14