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# Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015: Attitudes to Social Networks, Civic Participation and Co-production



PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND PLACES



# SCOTTISH SOCIAL ATTITUDES 2015: ATTITUDES TO SOCIAL NETWORKS, CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

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# Key findings

## Social networks and belonging

- In 2015, nearly 7 in 10 people in Scotland felt they belonged to their local area either 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot' (68%). A slightly higher proportion (76%) said they agreed that 'I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support'. Around 9 in 10 people said they meet socially with friends, relatives or work colleagues at least a few times a month (88%).

## Civic participation and volunteering

- Nearly 7 in 10 people in Scotland have done at least one activity as a way of registering what they thought about an issue in 2015 (69%). This has increased from 55% in 2009, representing a fourteen percentage point increase in the last six years. Over 4 in 10 had signed a petition (43%) and nearly 3 in 10 had given money to a campaign or organisation (38%). Around 3 in 10 people in 2015 had done an activity to register their views in the last few years that was connected with the Scottish independence referendum.
- Nearly half (46%) of people in Scotland had either volunteered at (or help set up) a local community organisation, helped to organise an event, or tried to stop something happening in their local area. Around 1 in 3 had volunteered or helped out at a local community organisation or charity (35%) and 1 in 6 had helped to organise a community event (17%).
- Around 3 in 5 agreed that '...people in this area are able to find ways to improve things around here when they want to' (61%). And around a quarter used the internet 'very' or 'quite' often to contact local community groups.

## Co-production

- The majority of people in Scotland support the idea of co-production in both the design and delivery of local public services. At least 8 in 10 felt that people either 'definitely should' or 'probably should' be involved in making decisions about how local services are run, making decisions about how money is spent on local services and should be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide local services.
- The most support was shown for people being involved in making decisions about how local services are run, with just over a half feeling that people 'definitely should' be involved (53%). This compares with around a third who felt that people 'definitely should' be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on local services (34%), and 'definitely should' be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide local services (35%).

# 1 Introduction

1.1 This report presents findings from the 2015 Scottish Social Attitudes Survey. It explores levels of social capital in Scotland by addressing a number of key questions:

- How connected are people to their local area and to what extent do people belong to social networks?
- Which groups are more likely to feel they belong to their local area and have strong social networks?
- What is the strength of the relationship between place and levels of social capital?
- Are people engaging in civic activities or volunteering and do they believe that things can change in their local area?
- Are people in Scotland supportive of the idea of co-production?

1.2 Most of the questions included in this module of the Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015 were new and therefore do not have time series data available. Two questions were repeat items: one on whether people feel they have someone to turn for advice and support; and one on involvement in activities to register what people think about an issue. Therefore, time series data is available and reported below.

## Scottish Social Attitudes Survey

1.3 Run annually by ScotCen Social Research since 1999, the Scottish Social Attitudes (SSA) survey provides a robust and reliable picture of changing public attitudes over time. SSA is based on face-to-face interviews with a representative random probability sample of those aged 18 and over in Scotland. In 2015 the sample size was 1,288, with fieldwork taking place between July 2015 and January 2016. Data are weighted in order to correct for non-response bias and over-sampling, and to ensure that they reflect the age-sex profile of the Scottish population. Further technical details about the survey are published in a separate SSA 2015 technical report.<sup>1</sup>

1.4 All percentages cited in this report are based on the weighted data and are rounded to the nearest whole number. All differences described in the text (between years, or between different groups of people) are statistically significant at the 95% level or above, unless otherwise specified. This means that the probability of having found a difference of at least this size if there was no actual difference in the population is 5% or less. The term 'significant' is used in this report to refer to statistical significance, and is not intended to imply substantive importance. Further details of significance testing and analysis are included in the separate technical report.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497080.pdf>

## What is 'social capital'?

- 1.5 The concept of 'social capital' provides a framework for exploring a range of individual and community-based assets (Ormston and Reid, 2012) which may have 'forceful, even quantifiable effects on many different aspects of our lives' (Putnam, 2000). High levels of social capital have been linked with 'a multiplicity of desirable policy outcomes' (ONS, 2001) in areas such as employment (Aguilera, 2002), crime (Siegler, 2015), and physical and mental wellbeing (Mackinnon et al, 2006). Social capital is also seen as contributing to heightened levels of trust in both individuals and institutions (Reid et al, 2014) and to a sense of individual and community empowerment (Siegler, 2015).
- 1.6 Although social capital has the potential to bring about a range of positive effects, the impacts of social capital are not necessarily beneficial (Aldridge et al, 2002). Declining social capital may lead to individuals facing difficulties in 'accessing new opportunities or valuable resources for dealing with life challenges' (Siegler, 2015), whilst the existence of high levels of social capital *within* particular groups in society coupled with low levels of social capital *between* those groups has the potential to divide rather than unite communities (Aldridge et al, 2002).
- 1.7 Although social capital is a complex and nuanced concept (Reid et al, 2014) that can be difficult to define (ONS, 2001), there is a general consensus that the concept focuses on the importance of social networks (Bourdieu, 1986; Coleman, 1988) and shared 'norms of reciprocity' (Harper, 2002). These elements are encapsulated in Putnam's (2000) definition of social capital as 'networks, norms and trust that enable participants to act together more effectively to pursue shared objectives'. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) view social capital as 'networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups' (Cote and Healy, 2001). More recently, the Office for National Statistics (2014) have referred to social capital as representing 'social connections and all the benefits they generate'; as Woolcock (2001) asserts, those who are well connected are more likely to be 'housed, healthy, hired and happy'.

## Social capital and policymaking

- 1.8 The concept of social capital has become widely accepted and applied (Adam and Roncevic, 2004). It is increasingly seen in a policy context. For example, institutions such as the OECD (Cote and Healy, 2001) and the World Bank (2011) have emphasised the importance of social capital to the achievement of social and economic goals, while the Cabinet Office have recognised social capital as one of the pillars of sustainable development, alongside natural capital and human capital (Siegler, 2015).

- 1.9 Acceptance of the positive impacts of social capital on a range of well-being aspects has been noted by policymakers in Scotland (SCDC, 2012; Burns, 2011; Sigerson & Gruer 2011), where strong, resilient communities are central to many of the Scottish Government's key strategic objectives and national outcomes (Ormston and Reid, 2012). High levels of social capital are seen to have an impact on helping to achieve policy aims in areas as varied as reducing health inequalities (Health and Sport Committee, 2015), improving public services (Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015) and reducing reoffending (McNeill, 2009). The achievement of such goals in turn helps to build levels of social capital, thus creating a cyclical relationship between social capital levels and beneficial outcomes. Robust measures of social capital in Scotland are therefore of significant value to policymakers tackling a range of issues across key policy areas.
- 1.10 This acceptance has been coupled with an increasing interest in involving the public more actively in reshaping how public services are designed and delivered in Scotland (Loeffler et al., 2013). One such approach is 'co-production', defined broadly as 'delivering public services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours' (Boyle and Harris, 2009). The concepts of co-production and social capital can be seen as interrelated; co-production approaches both have the potential to build trust and improve relationships between service users and service providers, and to contribute to 'more cohesive communities and offer new channels for the creation of social capital' (Barker, 2010). A greater understanding of public attitudes towards co-production and how this approach works in practice enables policymakers to maximise the benefits of such processes, and to allow communities 'to become far more effective agents of change' (ibid.).
- 1.11 SSA has included questions on aspects of social capital in previous years. Most notably, SSA 2011 findings were used in two reports: one exploring how attitudes varied in relation to different dimensions of social capital (Ormston, et al, 2012a); and one exploring the relationship between health and social capital (Ormston, et al, 2012b).
- 1.12 The remainder of this report is structured as follows:
- Chapter Two discusses social networks and examines people's sense of belonging to their local area.
  - Chapter Three explores levels of civic participation, volunteering, community action and contact with local community groups.
  - Chapter Four looks at attitudes towards public involvement in the design and delivery of local public services, with a focus on co-production
  - Finally, Chapter Five summarises the main conclusions of the report.

## 2 Belonging to your local area and social networks

2.1 Social networks are an important aspect of social capital as they provide a source of support to people, as well as facilitating mutual cooperation in people's local areas (Putnam, 2000). SSA 2015 included three questions on people's sense of belonging and their social networks. They were:

- Some people feel like they belong to their local area, others do not. To what extent do you feel like you belong to your local area?
- To what extent people agree or disagree that 'I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support'
- How often, if at all, do you meet socially with friends, relatives, neighbours or work colleagues?

### Feelings of belonging to local area

2.2 Nearly 7 in 10 people in Scotland felt they belonged to their local area either 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot' (68%). Around 3 in 10 felt they belonged to their local area 'a great deal', with a further 4 in 10 saying 'quite a lot'. Thirteen percent said they felt they belonged to their local area 'not very much' or 'not at all'. (See Table A1 in Annex A for details).

2.3 The analysis included in this report explores a range of socio-demographic factors, household composition, area-based factors and whether in general people can be trusted. More specifically these are:

- Age
- Gender
- Income
- Education
- Employment status (working, retired, unemployed etc)
- Tenure (owner-occupier, private renter, social renter)
- Disability
- Having school-aged children in the household
- Urban-rural
- Area deprivation (as measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, SIMD)<sup>2</sup>
- Whether people think that 'most people can be trusted'

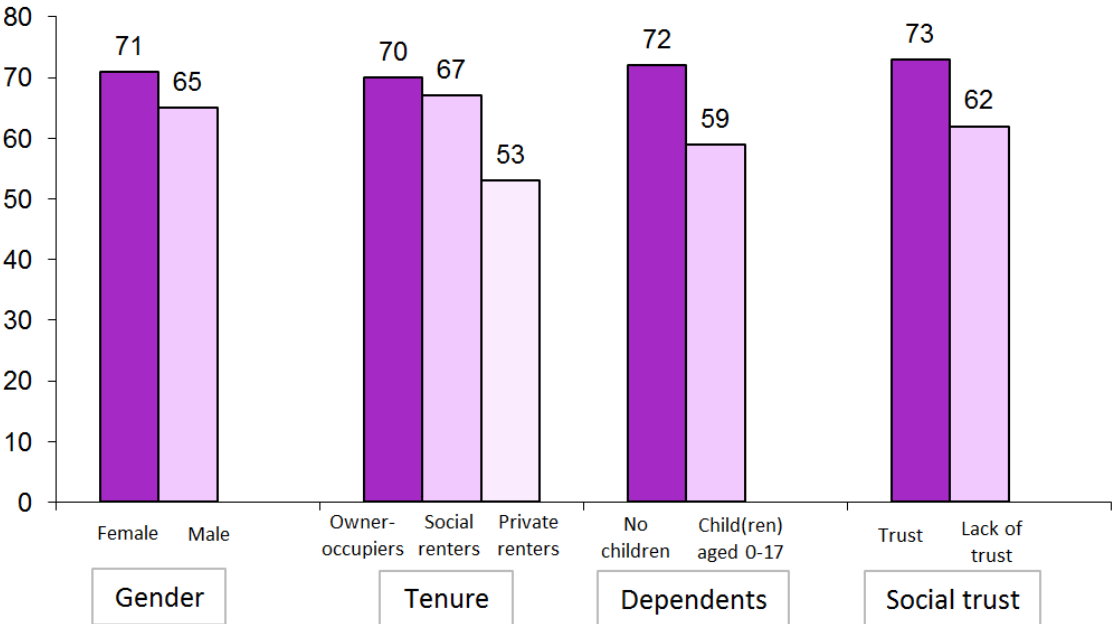
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<sup>2</sup> Measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). SIMD 2012 measures the level of deprivation across Scotland – from the least deprived to the most deprived areas. It is based on 38 indicators in seven domains of: income, employment, health, education skills and training, housing, geographic access and crime. The SIMD variable is divided into quintiles with the 1<sup>st</sup> quintile being the most deprived areas and the 5<sup>th</sup> quintile being the least deprived areas. See also Scottish Social Attitudes 2015: Technical Report for full details. Available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00497080.pdf>



- 2.4 SSA 2015 included a measure on how trusting people are overall: 'Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?' Half of people in Scotland said that 'most people can be trusted' with a similar proportion saying that 'you can't be too careful in dealing with people' (48%). This question has been asked on five previous occasions with similar findings and there have been no significant changes over time in response (See Table A2 in Annex A for details).
- 2.5 Regression analysis was conducted to explore which factors were significantly and independently associated with feelings of belonging to their local area. The factors explored were those used throughout the report and described in paragraph 2.3 above.
- 2.6 Previous SSA research on social capital (Ormston, 2012) showed that across a range of different dimensions of social capital, higher levels of social capital were found among people living in rural areas, those living in the least deprived quintile and people with higher levels of formal qualifications. However, in SSA 2015 the factors that were associated with feelings of belonging were gender, tenure, whether people had children in the household, and general views on whether people can be trusted (see Table A3 in Annex A for details). In contrast to the SSA 2012 report on social capital, whether people lived in urban or rural areas, whether they lived in an area of high or low deprivation and people's level of education were not associated with whether people felt they belonged to their local area or not.
- 2.7 Figure 1 below shows that those who were more likely to say they felt they belonged to their local area 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot' were:
- Women (71% compared with 65% of men )
  - People who owned their own home and social renters (70% and 67% respectively compared with 53% of private renters)
  - People with no children (aged 0 to 17 years old) living in the household (72% compared with 59% of those with children living in the household).
  - People who thought that most people can be trusted (73% compared with 62% of those who thought that you can never be careful enough in dealing with people).

**Figure 1: Feeling that they belonged ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ to their local area by gender, tenure, having children in the household and social trust (%)**



Base: All respondents

**Having someone locally to turn to for advice and support**

2.8 Having someone locally who people can turn to for advice and support is one measure of how connected people are to their local communities and may be an important aspect of well-being, helping to prevent isolation and loneliness and build stronger communities. SSA has asked people on four occasions how much they agree or disagree that ‘I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support’.

2.9 In 2015, over three-quarters said they either ‘agreed strongly’ or ‘agreed’ that ‘I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support’ (76%). This is similar to the proportions in both 2009 and 2013 (71% and 73% respectively) but lower than the 84% who agreed in 2006. Around 1 in 8 (12%) in 2015 said they ‘disagreed strongly’ or ‘disagreed’ that there are people in this area they can turn to for advice and support. (See Table A4 in Annex A for details).

2.10 There were some differences between subgroups in relation to having people locally to turn to for advice and support. Women were more likely than men to agree that they had people in their area they could turn to for advice and support (79% compared with 74%). Those in rural areas were more likely than those in urban areas (84% compared with 74%), as were those who

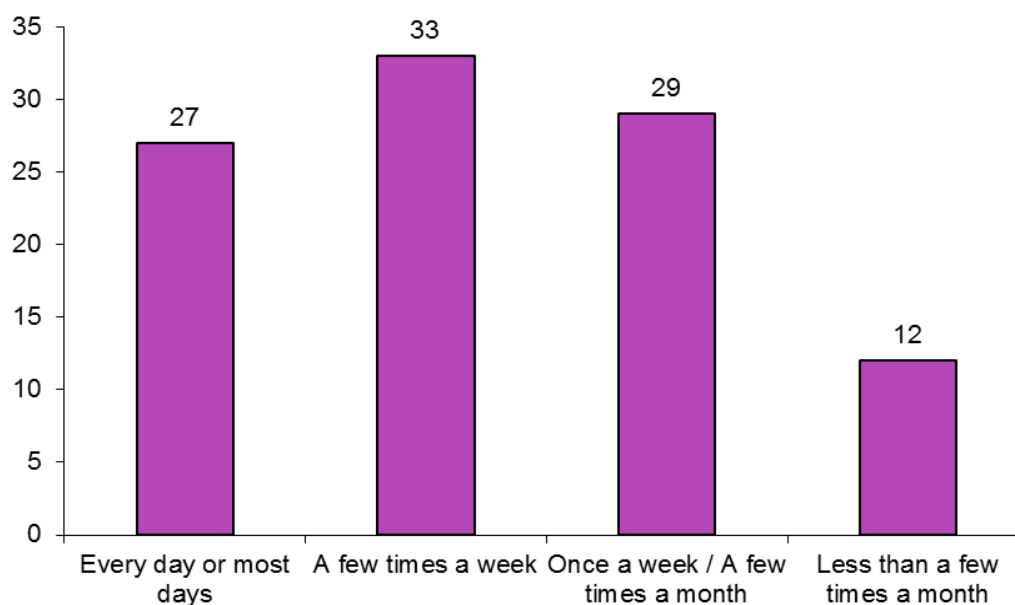
owned their property compared with renters (79% compared with 72% of social renters and 70% of private renters).<sup>3</sup> Those who agree that ‘most people can be trusted’ were also more likely to agree that they had people in their area they could turn to for advice and support (84%), compared with 69% of those who thought ‘you can’t be too careful in dealing with people’. (See Table A5 in Annex A for details).

2.11 Nearly 8 in 10 people who agreed that they had people in their area they could turn to for advice and support said they felt that they belonged to their area ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ (77%). This compared with only around 4 in 10 of those who disagreed that they had people to turn to for advice and support locally (39%).

## Social contact

2.12 SSA 2015 also included a measure of people’s level of social contact beyond their local area: ‘How often, if at all, do you meet socially with friends, relatives, neighbours or work colleagues?’ Figure 2 (below) shows that around a quarter said they met socially ‘every day or most days’ (27%); a third met ‘a few times a week’; and around 3 in 10 met ‘once a week’ or ‘a few times a month’ (29%). Around 1 in 10 met someone socially less than ‘a few times a month’ comprising 4% who met someone ‘once a month’, 3% ‘a few times a year’, 4% ‘very rarely’ and 1% who ‘never’ met anyone socially.

**Figure 2: Frequency that people meet socially with friends, relatives, neighbours or work colleagues (%)**



Base: All respondents

<sup>3</sup> The difference between homeowners and private and social renters were only marginally significant (p=0.53).

- 2.13 The previous section showed that there were relationships between people feeling they belonged to their local area and having people to turn to for advice and support. However, there was no relationship between people being more socially active and feelings of belonging or availability of someone for advice and support. Those who met people socially 'every day or most days' were no more, or less, likely to have said that they felt they belonged to their local area or that they have someone to turn to for advice and support in their local area.
- 2.14 Younger people (aged 18 to 29) were more than twice as likely as people in all other age groups to meet socially 'every day or most days': 49% compared with only 22% of those aged 65 and over. Those in full-time education were also much more likely than people who were in work, unemployed or retired to see people socially 'every day or most days': 61% in full-time education compared with 25% of people in work. Social renters (35%) were more likely to socialise compared with home owners and private renters (24%), and people living in urban areas were more likely than those in rural areas (29% compared with 22%).
- 2.15 Conversely, those who were more likely to see people socially once a month or less were people aged 40 or older (15% compared with 5% of those aged under 40), and those who felt that 'you can't be too careful in dealing with other people' (15%) compared with those who felt 'most people can be trusted' (8%). (See Table A6 in Annex A for details).

# 3 Civic participation, volunteering, community action and contact with local community groups

## Civic participation

3.1 SSA 2015 included five questions regarding civic participation, volunteering, community action and contact with local community groups. These questions were:

- In the last few years, have you ever done any of the following (list presented) as a way of registering what you personally thought about an issue?
- Which, if any, of the following (list presented) did you do in connection with the Scottish independence referendum campaign that took place last September?
- In the last few years, have you ever given up some of your time to do any of the following things (list presented) to help improve your local area?
- How much do you agree, or disagree, that people in this area are able to find ways to improve things around here when they want to?
- How often, if at all, do you use the internet to find out about or make contact with community groups or organisations that are based in your local area?

3.2 Since 2004, SSA has asked respondents which, if any, of a list of activities they had done as a way of registering what they thought about an issue.<sup>4</sup> Respondents were allowed to choose as many answers as applied to them. Before 2009 respondents were asked which of the activities they had 'ever done', whereas from 2009 onwards the question asked which activities people have done 'in the last few years'.

3.3 Table 1 below shows that the most commonly selected activities in 2015, chosen by around 1 in 5 or more were: signing a petition, giving money to a campaign or organisation, contacting the local council, an MP or MSP and attending a public meeting. The proportion of people in Scotland who have not been involved in any of the listed activities has continued to decline. In 2015, 31% stated that they had not undertaken any of the fifteen listed activities in the last few years, compared with 39% in 2013 and 45% in 2009.

3.4 In SSA 2015, the proportion of people in Scotland signing a petition continued to increase, with 43% reporting that they had done so in the last few years. This is an increase of five percentage points on 2013 (38%) and

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<sup>4</sup> 'In the last few years, have you ever done any of the things on this card as a way of registering what you personally thought about an issue?'

fifteen percentage points on 2009 (28%). The proportion of people giving money to a campaign or organisation also continued to rise. Just over a quarter (28%) said that they had given money to a campaign or organisation in the last few years compared with 22% in 2013 and 13% in 2009. Other commonly selected activities in 2015 were: contacting local councils (27%); contacting an MP or MSP (18%); and attending a public meeting (18%). There have been no significant increases in the proportions choosing these activities since 2009.

**Table 1: Have done any of the activities listed in the last few years as a way of registering what they personally thought about an issue**

	<b>2009*</b>	<b>2013*</b>	<b>2015*</b>
	%	%	%
Signed a petition (including online petitions)	28	38	43
Given money to a campaign or organisation	13	22	28
Contacted my local council	23	26	27
Contacted an MP or MSP	17	16	18
Attended a public meeting	14	15	18
No, have not done any of these	45	39	31
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1497</i>	<i>1288</i>

\*Responses sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose multiple options.

The table shows the most commonly chosen categories. For full results see Table A7 in Annex A.

Base: All respondents

- 3.5 Those who had not done any of the listed civic activities were more likely to be less well educated (47% of those with no formal qualifications compared with 17% of those with degrees) and more likely to live in the most deprived quintile (40% compared with 23% in the least deprived quintile). They were also more likely to be in the lowest income group (35% compared with 21% in the highest) and more likely to think that you can't be too careful in dealing with people (37% compared with 26% who thought that most people can be trusted).
- 3.6 There were significant differences in whether people had done any of the listed civic activities, or not, between different groups in society. Those educated to degree level were more likely to be involved in civic participation activities than those with lower levels of, or no, formal qualifications (83% of those with degrees compared with 53% of those with no formal qualifications). Households earning above £26,000 were also more likely to have taken part in at least one type of civic participation (77%, compared with

65% of those households earning less than £26,000). Those living in the least deprived quintile were also more likely than those living in the most deprived quintile to have done at least one of the activities to register what they thought on an issue in the last few years (77% in areas in the least deprived quintile compared with 60% of those living in areas in the most deprived quintile).<sup>5</sup> And those who were working were more likely than those who were retired to have done one of the activities (73% of those in work compared with 63% of those who were retired). Nearly three-quarters (74%) of those who said that ‘most people can be trusted’ had done at least one of the activities to register their views on an issue, compared with 63% of those who felt ‘you can’t be too careful in dealing with people’ (See Table A8 in Annex A for further details).

- 3.7 People who felt that they belonged to their local area were more likely to have done at least one activity to register their views on an issue compared with those who did not feel that they belonged to their local area, as were those who met socially with people at least a few times a month compared with those who met socially less often. Those who agreed that they had people in their local area to turn to for advice and support were also more likely to have registered their views than those who disagreed.

### **Civic participation in relation to the Scottish independence referendum**

- 3.8 In 2015, SSA also asked respondents which of the ways they had registered what they thought of an issue had been done in connection with the 2014 Scottish independence referendum.<sup>6</sup> Around 3 in 10 (31%) who had registered their views in the last few years said that at least one of these activities had been in connection with the referendum. The most commonly selected activities done in relation to the Scottish independence referendum were attending a public meeting (12%), signing a petition (11%) and giving money to a campaign or organisation (9%). Seven per cent had contacted an MP or MSP, or actively taken part in a campaign (e.g. leafleting, stuffing envelopes etc.) (see Table A9 in Annex A for details).
- 3.9 In contrast to the differences between groups who had taken part in some form of civic participation in relation to the referendum, differences were only seen by age and education (see Table A10 in Annex A for details). Younger people were more likely than older people to have taken part in an activity related to the Scottish independence referendum (44% of 18 to 29 year olds compared with 26% of those aged 65 or over). Those with degrees or

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<sup>5</sup> Level of education and area deprivation are related – people with no formal qualifications are more likely to live in the most deprived quintile and people who are educated to degree-level are more likely to live in the least deprived quintile.

<sup>6</sup> ‘Which, if any, of these did you do in connection with the Scottish independence referendum campaign that took place last September?’

Highers were also more likely to have engaged in at least one of the activities in relation to the Scottish independence referendum: 34% compared with 23% of those with Standard Grades or no formal qualifications.

## Volunteering

3.10 Respondents were asked whether they had given up their time to help improve their local area in the last few years by engaging in a range of different community activities<sup>7</sup>. Table 2 below shows that the most popular activity undertaken was volunteering at a local community organisation or charity, which around a third said they had done in the last few years (35%). The next most commonly chosen community activities were helping to organise a community event (17%) and trying to stop something happening in their local area (11%). Over half (54%) said that they had not given up their time to do any of the listed community activities to help improve their local area in the last few years.

**Table 2: Whether people have given up some of their time in the last few years to do any of the things listed to help improve their local area**

	<b>2015*</b>
	<b>%</b>
No, have not done any of these	54
Volunteered or helped out at a local community organisation or charity (e.g. a youth club, community cafe or charity supporting older people)	35
Helped to organise a community event (e.g. a street party or fundraising event)	17
Tried to stop something happening in my local area (e.g. a new business that you object to or the closure of a local service)	11
Tried to set up a local community organisation	3
Other	1
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1288</i>

\*Responses sum to more than 100% as respondents could choose multiple options.  
Base: All respondents

3.11 There were differences in the level of community activity by education similar to those seen in relation to civic participation. Those educated to degree or

<sup>7</sup> 'Here is a list of things people might do to help improve their local area. In the last few years, have you ever given up some of your time to do any of the things listed on this card?'



Higher-level were more likely than those with Standard Grades or no formal qualifications to have given up their time to take part in at least one of the listed activities. Half of those with degrees (51%) had given up their time compared with only 3 in 10 of those with no formal qualifications (31%). Women were more likely than men to have given up their time to take part in at least one community activity (51% compared with 40% of men).

- 3.12 Area level differences were also evident with people living in rural areas more likely to have given up their time for a community activity (50%) compared with those living in urban areas (44%). People in the three least deprived quintiles were more likely than those in the two most deprived quintiles to have given up their time (49% compared with 40% respectively). Again, levels of general trust were associated with levels of community activity. Those who thought that 'most people can be trusted' were more likely (49%) than those who thought that 'you can't be too careful in dealing with people' (42%) to have given up their time for a community activity in the past few years (see Table A11 in Annex A for details).

### **Ability of local community to bring about change**

- 3.13 The previous section covered questions about the types of civic and community activities people had themselves been involved in. SSA also asked people about their perceptions of the effectiveness of their local community to bring about change. The question was: 'How much do you agree, or disagree, that people in this area are able to find ways to improve things around here when they want to?' Around 3 in 5 either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that people in their area are able to find ways to improve things when they want to (61%), with 11% disagreeing<sup>8</sup> and around a quarter (26%) neither agreeing nor disagreeing (see Table A12 in Annex A).
- 3.14 Regression analysis was used to determine which factors were significantly and independently associated with agreeing that 'people in this area are able to improve things around here if they want to'.<sup>9</sup> The analysis showed that whether people lived in urban or rural areas and how trusting people are in general were associated with agreeing that people are able to improve things in their local area (see Table A13 in Annex A for details). Those in remote or very remote rural areas were considerably more likely to agree that 'people in this area are able to improve things around here if they want to' (77%) compared with those living in large urban areas (56%). As were those who thought that 'most people can be trusted' compared with those who thought that 'you can't be too careful in dealing with people' (67% compared with 53% respectively).

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<sup>8</sup> Either 'strongly disagreed' or 'disagreed'.

<sup>9</sup> The regression model looked at whether the following variables were associated with 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing' that 'people in this area are able to find ways to improve things if they want to': age, gender, income, education, employment status, tenure (owner-occupier, private renter, or social renter), whether or not the respondent has a disability, whether or not there are school-aged children in the household, Urban-rural, SIMD, social trust. See Table A20 in Annex A for further details.

## Contact with local community groups

- 3.15 In 2015 SSA also asked respondents for the first time about their use of the internet for contacting local community groups or organisations.<sup>10</sup> A quarter said they used the internet either 'very' or 'quite often' to contact local community groups. Around a third said either 'not very often' or 'not at all often' (35%), and 4 in 10 said 'never'. There were differences by gender, age, education, income, whether people lived in rural or urban areas, working status, whether people had children living in the household and levels of general trust (see Tables A14 - A15 in Annex A for details).
- 3.16 Women were more likely than men to have used the internet 'very' or 'quite often' to contact local community groups (30% compared with 20% respectively), as were people under the age of 65 (28%) compared with those aged 65 and over (14%). People with any level of formal qualification were more likely than those with no formal qualifications to have used the internet 'very' or 'quite often' to contact local community groups (28% compared with 9% respectively), as were those in the highest income group (30%) compared with those in the lowest (19%). Where people lived also made a difference: those living in rural areas were more likely than those in urban areas to use the internet 'very' or 'quite often' to contact local community groups (32% compared with 22% respectively), but there were no differences by area deprivation. Those in work (27%) compared with those who were retired (16%) and those with children (aged 0 to 17 years old) living in the household (33%) compared with those without (21%) were all more likely to use the internet to contact local community groups frequently. And those who felt that 'most people can be trusted' (29%) used the internet more often to contact local community groups than those who thought 'you can't be too careful in dealing with people' (20%).

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<sup>10</sup> 'How often, if at all, do you use the internet to find out about, or make contact with, community groups or organisations that are based in your local area?'

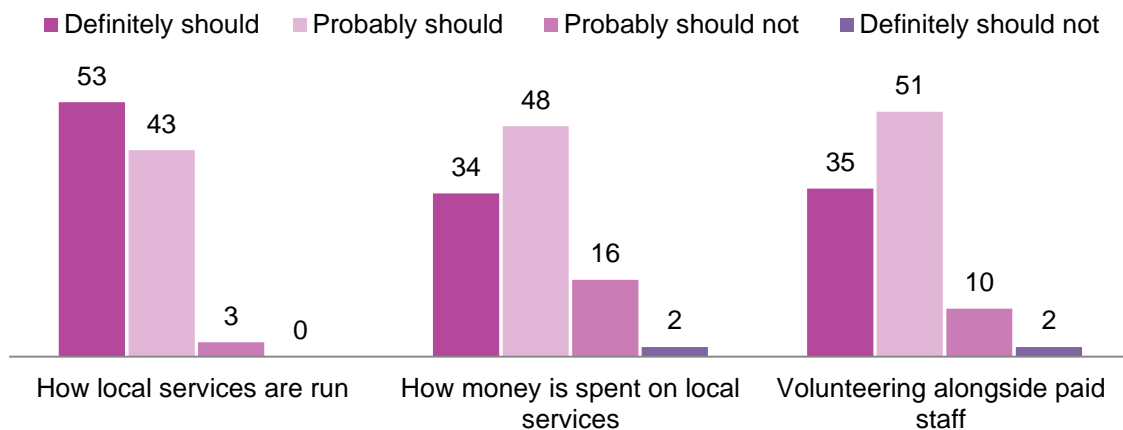
## 4 Co-production

- 4.1 In order to explore people's attitudes towards co-production in Scotland, SSA 2015 asked a series of questions on public involvement in relation to both the design and delivery of local public services. The questions did not specify individual services but asked generally about 'local public services'. The questions asked were:
- Do you think that people in this area should, or should not, be involved in making decisions about how local public services are planned and run?
  - Do you think that people in this area should, or should not, be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on different local public services?
  - Do you think that people in this area should, or should not, be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide local public services?
- 4.2 There has been a growing interest in recent years in involving the public more actively in reshaping how public services are designed and delivered in Scotland (Loeffler et al., 2013). One such approach is 'co-production', defined as "delivering public services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours" (Boyle and Harris, 2009). It is argued that as a result of such reciprocal relationships "both services and neighbourhoods become far more effective agents of change" (ibid).
- 4.3 The Scottish Government has expressed a commitment in recent years to 'co-produce' services, for example in relation to the provision of health and social care services. The Christie Commission report on the Future Delivery of Public Services argued that it is necessary "... to ensure that our public services are built around people and communities, their needs, aspirations, capacities and skills, and work to build up their autonomy and resilience" (Christie, 2011).
- 4.4 The findings showed that the majority of people in Scotland support the idea of co-production in both the design and delivery of local services. The highest level of support for public involvement was for people making decisions about how local public services are planned and run, with 96% of people saying that people 'definitely' or 'probably should' be involved. Around 8 out of 10 said that people should be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on different local public services (81%), and that people should be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide local public services (86%).
- 4.5 It is worth noting the strength of support for these three aspects of co-production by looking at the proportions who gave a response of 'definitely should' (see Figure 3 below). Over half (53%) felt that people 'definitely

should' be involved in making decisions about how local services are planned and run; however, only around a third felt that people 'definitely should' get involved in making decisions about how money is spent (34%) or should be able to volunteer alongside paid staff (35%).

4.6 Whereas only 3% said that people 'probably' or 'definitely should not' be involved in making decisions about how local services are planned and run, around 2 in 10 said that people should not be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on local services (18%), with just over 1 in 10 saying that people should not be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide local services (12%).

**Figure 3: Whether people should be involved in 3 different types of co-production activity**



Base: All respondents

## Planning and running of public services

4.7 The variation between subgroups was different in relation to the three different types of co-production (see Tables A16-A18 in Annex A for details). In relation to people's involvement in making decisions about the planning and running of local public services, the following groups were more likely to have said that people 'definitely should' be involved:

- Those educated to degree level (58% compared with 43% of those with no formal qualifications)
- Those with a long term illness or disability (57% compared with those 50% of those without a long term illness or disability)<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Marginally significant (p=0.69)

- Those who thought that ‘most people can be trusted’ (56% compared with 49% of those who think that ‘you can’t be too careful in dealing with people’).

## **Making decisions about how money is spent on local public services**

4.8 Those who were more likely to have said that people ‘definitely should’ be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on local public services were:

- Social renters (40% compared with 27% of private renters)
- Those living in the most deprived quintile (41% compared with 27% of those in the least deprived quintile).

## **Volunteering alongside paid staff to provide local public services**

4.9 Those who were more likely to have said that people ‘definitely should’ be able to volunteer alongside paid staff to provide local services were:

- Younger people (45% of those aged 18-39 compared with 28% of those aged 65 and over)
- Those with some level of formal qualification (37% compared with 27% of those with no formal qualifications)<sup>12</sup>
- Those in work (37% compared with 27% of retired people)
- Those with children (aged 0 to 17 years old) living in the household (42% compared with 32% of those with no children living in the household).

4.10 The strength of support for the idea of co-production was also associated with whether people agreed or disagreed that ‘people in this area are able to improve things around here when they want to’ and whether they felt that their local council was good at listening before it takes decisions.

4.11 Those who agreed that ‘people in this area are able to improve things around here when they want to’ were more likely than those who disagreed with this statement to say that people ‘definitely should’ get involved in all three aspects of co-production. For example, around 3 in 5 who agreed that ‘people in this area are able to improve things around here’ said that people ‘definitely should’ be involved in making decisions about how local services are planned and run (59%). For those who disagreed that ‘people in this area are able to improve things around here’, around 2 in 5 (43%) said that people ‘definitely should’ be involved in making decisions about how local services are planned and run.

4.12 People who thought that their local council was ‘not at all good’ at listening to people’s views before taking decisions were more likely to think that the

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<sup>12</sup> Marginally significant (p=0.75)

public should definitely get involved in making decisions about how local services are planned and how money is spent. For example, about half (52%) who thought their local council was 'not at all good' at listening said people 'definitely should' be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on different local public services. For those who thought that their local council was 'very good' or 'good' at listening to people's views before taking decisions, around a third (34%) said people 'definitely should' be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on different local public services.

## 5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Social capital has become a widely accepted concept that is seen as important in achieving key policy objectives by many national and international organisations (Cote and Healy, 2001; World Bank, 2011). High levels of social capital are believed to be beneficial because they can have a positive effect on physical and mental wellbeing and can lead to a sense of individual and community empowerment. In turn, the positive effects of high levels of social capital, such as improved wellbeing, improved public services and reduced reoffending, help to build levels of social capital, thus creating a cyclical relationship between social capital levels and beneficial outcomes.
- 5.2 SSA 2015 gathered data on three aspects of social capital: social networks, civic participation and co-production. Overall, people in Scotland expressed positive views about all three dimensions of social capital. The majority feel that they belong to their local area, have strong personal social networks, feel that improvements are possible in their local area and believe that people should be involved in the design and delivery of local public services.
- 5.3 Two of the measures included in SSA 2015 have been asked in previous surveys and showed changes over time. First, the proportion who agreed that 'there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support' had reduced by thirteen percentage points between 2006 and 2009 but has been steadily increasing since. In 2015, over three-quarters agreed with the statement.
- 5.4 SSA has measured levels of civic participation in Scotland since 2004. Since 2009, the proportion that has done any of the (listed) activities in the last few years had increased from 55% to 69% in 2015. This increase in activity levels is mostly seen in relation to more 'passive' forms of participation, that is signing petitions (including online petitions) and giving money to a campaign or organisation, rather than more 'active' forms of participation such as attending public meetings or contacting elected officials.
- 5.5 People who engaged in civic participation were more likely to have high levels of social capital in relation to social networks. For example, they were more likely to feel that they belonged to their local area, to meet socially with people more often and to agree that they had people in their local area to turn to for advice and support.
- 5.6 Analysis of previous SSA data on social capital suggested that the key factors associated with having either high or low levels of social capital were related to place, living in an urban or rural area and level of deprivation, as well as education. However, findings from SSA 2015 suggest that place was less important. Trust is a core element of social capital but being more trusting is also associated with building relationships which sit at the heart of the concept of social capital. It is, therefore, unsurprising to find an

association between believing that people can be trusted and having higher levels of social capital. However, in 2015, how much people trusted others was the factor that was shown to be related most often to the different dimensions of social capital. Those who said that 'most people can be trusted' were more likely to have high levels of social capital in relation to eight of the eleven measures included in the report. These measures covered all dimensions of social capital: social networks, civic participation, volunteering, feelings of belonging to your local area, believing that things can be improved in your local area and co-production.

- 5.7 Place was still a factor in relation to some measures, with differences in attitudes between those in rural and urban areas and between people living in the most deprived and least deprived quintiles. People living in the most deprived quintile in Scotland were less likely to have registered what they thought about an issue or to have volunteered to help improve their local area. They are, however, more likely than those living in the least deprived quintile to feel that people should be involved in making decisions about how money should be spent on local public services. People in rural areas were more likely to say they had people to turn to for advice and support, to believe that people in their local area are able to improve things around here if they want to and to have volunteered to improve their local area. People in urban areas, however, were more likely to meet socially more often.
- 5.8 The increased levels of civic participation show that people in Scotland are becoming more willing to engage with government and community organisations to register what they think about issues that are important to them. However, there is also evidence that those living in deprived areas are less likely to engage in civic participation activities. It is therefore important to understand the dynamics of participation that exist in communities and support people living in deprived areas to become more involved in activities and enable them to put their views across and be involved in local decision making processes. Feeling that people can be trusted was also shown to be associated with high levels of social capital suggesting that community-based projects that support the involvement of and collaboration between local people in decision making could support the development of trust and increase levels of social capital in local areas.



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# ANNEX A – detailed tables

## Notes on tables

- ‘\*’ indicates less than 0.5 percent but greater than zero
- ‘-’ indicates no respondents gave this answer
- All figures are rounded to the nearest whole number

**Table A1: To what extent do you feel like you belong to your local area? (2015)**

	%
A great deal	31
Quite a lot	37
Some	18
Not very much	11
None at all	2
(Don't know)	*
(Refused)	-
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1288</i>

**Table A2: Would you say that most people can be trusted, or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? (2000 - 2015)**

	2000	2004	2006	2009	2013	2015
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Most people can be trusted	46	54	51	51	52	50
Can't be too careful in dealing with people	53	45	44	46	46	48
(Don't know)	1	1	5	3	3	2
(Refused)	-	-	*	-	*	-
<i>Sample Size</i>	<i>1663</i>	<i>1637</i>	<i>1594</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1497</i>	<i>1228</i>

**Table A3: % who feel they belong to their local area ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ by gender, tenure, children in household, social trust (2015)**

	% agreeing that ‘they belong to their local area ‘ a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’	<i>Weighted bases</i>	<i>Unweighted bases</i>
<b>ALL</b>	68	1288	1288
<b>Gender</b>			
Male	65	617	582
Female	71	671	706
<b>Tenure</b>			
Owner	70	826	827
Social renter	67	310	308
Private renter	53	140	137
<b>Children in the household</b>			
No children in the household	72	902	956
Children in the household (0-17 years old)	59	376	326
<b>Social trust</b>			
Most people can be trusted	73	646	660
You can’t be too careful when dealing with people	62	620	604

Note: only factors where the difference is significant at the 95 level are shown in the table above

**Table A4: % who agree/disagree with the statement ‘I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support.’ (2006-2015)**

	2006	2009	2013	2015
	%	%	%	%
Agree strongly	39	23	24	29
Agree	45	48	49	47
Neither agree nor disagree	3	11	12	11
Disagree	11	15	12	9
Disagree strongly	3	2	2	3
(Don't know)	-	*	*	*
(Refused)	-	-	*	-
<i>Sample Size</i>	1594	1482	1497	1288

**Table A5: % who agree/disagree with the statement ‘I feel that there are people in this area I could turn to for advice and support’ by sex, tenure, urban/rural classification, social trust (2015)**

	<b>Agree/Agree strongly</b>	<b>Disagree/Disagree strongly</b>	<b>Weighted bases</b>	<b>Unweighted bases</b>
	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	77	23	1288	1288
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	74	26	617	582
Female	79	21	671	706
<b>Tenure</b>				
Owner	79	21	826	827
Social renter	72	27	310	308
Private renter	70	30	140	137
Rent-free, squatting etc.	100	0	9	12
<b>Urban / Rural Classification</b>				
Large urban areas	72	28	517	344
Other urban areas	76	23	410	353
Accessible small towns	82	18	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	88	12	51	98
Accessible rural	81	18	125	188
Remote rural /Very remote rural	89	11	72	162
<b>Social trust</b>				
Most people can be trusted	84	15	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	69	31	620	604

**Table A6: How often, if at all, do you meet socially with friends, relatives, neighbours or work colleagues? By age, main economic activity, tenure, urban/rural classification, social trust (2015)**

	Every day or most days	A few times a week	Once a week/ a few times a month	Once a month/ few times a year/ very rarely/ never	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	27	33	29	11	1288	1288
<b>Age</b>						
18-29	49	33	15	3	239	143
30-39	19	41	32	8	227	193
40-64	23	26	36	16	533	582
65+	22	40	25	13	288	368
<b>Main economic activity</b>						
Education/training	61	18	16	5	59	36
In work/wait take up work	25	31	34	10	707	660
Unemployed	34	37	20	10	81	69
Retired	21	40	25	14	303	385
Other	32	29	23	16	137	137
<b>Tenure</b>						
Owner	24	33	31	12	826	827
Social renter	35	31	21	13	310	308
Private renter	24	37	32	7	140	137
Rent-free, squatting etc.	48	25	14	12	9	12
<b>Urban / Rural Classification</b>						
Large urban areas	26	35	27	13	517	344
Other urban areas	32	31	28	9	410	353
Accessible small towns	25	36	32	8	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	18	33	33	15	51	98
Accessible rural	22	30	31	17	125	188
Remote rural /Very remote rural	23	26	39	12	72	162
<b>Social trust</b>						
Most people can be trusted	26	36	29	8	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	27	30	28	15	620	604

**Table A7: In the last few years, have you ever done any of the things on this card as a way of registering what you personally thought about an issue? (2004- 2015)**

	<b>2004 Ever done</b>	<b>2005 Ever done</b>	<b>2009 Done in last few years</b>	<b>2013 Done in last few years</b>	<b>2015 Done in last few years</b>
	%	%	%	%	%
No, have not done any of these	26	26	45	39	31
Contacted an MP or MSP	24	26	17	16	18
Contacted a government department directly	11	12	5	7	8
Contacted my local Council	NA	NA	23	26	27
Responded to a consultation document	13	12	7	10	11
Attended a public meeting	31	29	14	15	18
Contacted radio, TV or a newspaper	9	10	5	7	7
Signed a petition (including online petitions)	59	56	28	38	43
Raised the issue in an organisation I already belong to	8	8	5	7	8
Gone on a protest or demonstration	13	12	4	6	9
Attended an event organised as part of a consultation exercise	10	10	6	8	10
Spoken to an influential person	15	17	9	11	13
Formed a group of like-minded people	5	5	2	3	3
Joined an existing organisation	9	8	4	7	8
Actively took part in a campaign (e.g. leafleting, stuffing envelopes etc.)	9	9	3	5	7
Given money to a campaign or organisation	27	25	13	22	28
<i>Sample size</i>	<i>1637</i>	<i>1549</i>	<i>1482</i>	<i>1497</i>	<i>1288</i>



**Table A8: Whether done something as a way of registering what they personally thought about an issue by education, income, SIMD, social trust (2015)**

	Yes	No	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	69	31	1288	1288
<b>Education</b>				
Degree/HE	83	17	491	487
Highers/A-levels	68	32	279	242
Standard Gd/GCSE	59	41	274	287
None	53	47	239	265
<b>Household income</b>				
Up to 14,300	65	35	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	64	36	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	74	26	285	272
Over 44,200	79	21	287	256
DK	57	43	86	79
Ref / NA	59	41	147	139
<b>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 Quintiles</b>				
Most deprived	60	40	224	178
2	68	32	267	246
3	69	31	284	320
4	70	30	270	332
Least deprived	77	23	242	212
<b>Social trust</b>				
Most people can be trusted	74	26	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	63	37	620	604
<b>Current working status</b>				
In education	83	17	59	36
In work	73	27	707	660
Unemployed	63	37	81	69
Retired	63	37	303	385
Other	60	40	137	137

**Table A9: Which, if any, of these did you do in connection with the Scottish independence referendum campaign that took place last September? (2015)**

	2015
	%
No, have not done any of these (in relation to the referendum)	69
Contacted an MP or MSP	7
Contacted a government department directly	2
Contacted my local Council <sup>2</sup>	3
Responded to a consultation document	4
Attended a public meeting	12
Contacted radio, TV or a newspaper	3
Signed a petition (including online petitions) <sup>3</sup>	11
Raised the issue in an organisation I already belong to	2
Gone on a protest or demonstration	6
Attended an event organised as part of a consultation exercise	4
Spoken to an influential person	6
Formed a group of like-minded people	2
Joined an existing organisation	6
Actively took part in a campaign (e.g. leafleting, stuffing envelopes etc.)	7
Given money to a campaign or organisation	9
Don't know/ refused	*
<i>Sample size</i>	858

**Table A10: Whether active about an issue in connection with the Scottish independence referendum campaign by age and education (2015)**

	Yes	No	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	31	69	887	858
<b>Age</b>				
18-29	44	56	239	143
30-39	30	69	227	193
40-64	28	72	533	582
65+	26	74	288	368
<b>Education</b>				
Degree/HE	31	68	407	393
Highers/A-levels	41	59	189	162
Standard Gd/GCSE	27	73	162	170
None	18	82	127	129

**Table A11: Whether given up some of their time to do any of the things listed by gender, education, SIMD, urban/rural classification, social trust (2015)**

	Yes	No	Weighted bases	Unweighted bases
	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	46	54	1288	1288
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	40	60	617	582
Female	51	49	671	706
<b>Education</b>				
Degree/HE	51	49	491	487
Highers/A-levels	52	48	279	242
Standard Gd/GCSE	43	57	274	287
None	31	69	238	265
<b>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 Quintiles</b>				
Most deprived	42	58	224	178
2	37	63	267	246
3	50	50	284	320
4	46	54	270	332
Least deprived	53	47	242	212
<b>Urban / Rural Classification</b>				
Large urban areas	41	59	517	344
Other urban areas	48	52	410	353
Accessible small towns	48	52	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	36	64	51	98
Accessible rural	56	44	125	188
Remote rural /Very remote rural	54	46	72	162
<b>Social trust</b>				
Most people can be trusted	49	51	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	42	58	620	604

**Table A12: How much do you agree, or disagree, that people in this area are able to find ways to improve things around here when they want to? (2015)**

	2015
	%
Agree strongly	10
Agree	51
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Disagree	10
Disagree strongly	1
(Don't know)	2
(Refused)	-
Sample Size	1228

**Table A13: % who agree that 'people in this area are able to find ways to improve things around here when they want to' by urban/rural classification, social trust (2015)**

	<b>% agreeing that 'people in this area are able to find ways to improve things around here when they want to'</b>	<i>Weighted bases</i>	<i>Unweighted bases</i>
<b>ALL</b>	61	1288	1288
<b>Urban / Rural Classification</b>			
Large urban areas	56	517	344
Other urban areas	57	410	353
Accessible small towns	64	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	76	51	98
Accessible rural	73	125	188
Remote rural /Very remote rural	77	72	162
<b>Social trust</b>			
Most people can be trusted	67	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	53	620	604

**Table A14: How often do you use the internet to find out about or make contact with community groups or organisations that are based in your local area? (2015)**

	<b>2015</b>
	%
Very often	9
Quite often	16
Not very often	23
Not at all often	13
Never	40
(Don't know)	*
(Refused)	-
Sample Size	1228

**Table A15: How often do you use the internet to find out about or make contact with local community groups by gender, age, education, income, main economic activity, tenure, urban/rural classification, children in the household (2015)**

	<b>Very often/ Often</b>	<b>Not very/ Not at all often</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Weighted bases</b>	<b>Unweighted bases</b>
	%	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	25	35	40	1288	1288
<b>Gender</b>					
Male	20	38	42	617	582
Female	30	33	37	671	706
<b>Age</b>					
18-29	28	35	36	227	193
30-39	32	46	22	533	582
40-64	26	37	37	288	368
65+	14	24	62	227	193
<b>Education</b>					
Degree/HE	32	43	24	491	487
Highers/A-levels	28	37	34	279	242
Standard Gd/GCSE	22	33	45	274	287
None	9	20	70	238	265
<b>Household income</b>					
Up to 14,300	19	23	57	236	278
14,300 up to 26,000	25	33	42	248	264
26,000 up to 44,200	31	45	24	285	272
Over 44,200	30	42	28	287	256
DK	10	43	47	86	79
Ref / NA	20	23	55	147	139
<b>Main economic activity</b>					
Education/training	40	30	24	59	36
In work/wait take up work	27	41	32	707	660
Unemployed	26	34	40	81	69
Retired	16	26	58	303	385
Other	28	28	44	137	137
<b>Tenure</b>					
Owner	24	33	31	826	827
Social renter	35	31	21	310	308
Private renter	24	37	32	140	137
Rent-free, squatting etc.	48	25	14	9	12
<b>Urban / Rural Classification</b>					
Large urban areas	22	34	43	517	344
Other urban areas	21	39	40	410	353
Accessible small towns	39	32	30	114	143
Remote / Very remote small towns	27	31	43	51	98
Accessible rural	30	32	38	125	188
Remote rural /Very remote rural	29	42	30	72	162
<b>Children in the household</b>					
No children in HH	21	33	45	902	956
Children 0-17 in HH	33	41	26	376	326
<b>Social trust</b>					
Most people can be trusted	29	42	29	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	20	30	50	620	604

**Table A16: Whether people should or should not be involved in making decisions how local public services are planned and run by education, disability, social trust (2015)**

	<b>Definitely should</b>	<b>Probably should</b>	<b>Probably should not</b>	<b>Definitely should not</b>	<b>Weighted bases</b>	<b>Unweighted bases</b>
	%	%	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	53	43	3	-	1288	1288
<b>Education</b>						
Degree/HE	58	39	2	-	491	487
Highers/A-levels	53	45	2	-	279	242
Standard Gd/GCSE	52	45	3	-	274	287
None	43	50	6	-	239	265
<b>Disability or long-term illness</b>						
Yes	57	40	2	-	466	510
No	50	45	3	-	820	776
<b>Social trust</b>						
Most people can be trusted	56	42	2	-	646	660
You can't be too careful in dealing with people	49	46	4	-	620	604

**Table A17: Whether people should or should not be involved in making decisions about how money is spent on different local public services by tenure, SIMD (2015)**

	<b>Definitely should</b>	<b>Probably should</b>	<b>Probably should not</b>	<b>Definitely should not</b>	<b>Weighted bases</b>	<b>Unweighted bases</b>
	%	%	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	34	48	16	2	1288	1288
<b>Tenure</b>						
Owner	32	50	15	2	826	827
Social renter	40	41	16	1	310	308
Private renter	27	53	17	0	140	137
<b>Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 Quintiles</b>						
Most deprived	41	40	16	1	224	178
2	30	50	18	1	267	246
3	39	43	14	2	284	320
4	32	51	15	2	270	332
Least deprived	27	55	16	1	242	212

**Table A18: Whether people should or should not be able to volunteer alongside paid staff by age, education, main economic activity, children in the household (2015)**

	<b>Definitely should</b>	<b>Probably should</b>	<b>Probably should not</b>	<b>Definitely should not</b>	<i>Weighted bases</i>	<i>Unweighted bases</i>
	%	%	%	%		
<b>ALL</b>	35	51	10	2	1288	1288
<b>Age</b>						
18-29	45	44	8	1	227	193
30-39	45	51	4	0	533	582
40-64	31	52	12	3	288	368
65+	28	56	12	3	227	193
<b>Education</b>						
Degree/HE	38	46	13	2	491	487
Highers/A-levels	38	54	4	2	279	242
Standard Gd/GCSE	36	52	10	2	274	287
None	27	57	10	3	239	265
<b>Main economic activity</b>						
Education/training	55	32	7		59	36
In work/wait take up work	37	51	9	2	707	660
Unemployed	39	51	7	2	81	69
Retired	27	55	13	2	303	385
Other	35	50	11	3	137	137
<b>Children in the household</b>						
No children in HH	32	53	11	2	902	956
Children 0-17 in HH	42	49	7	1	376	326

## Regression models

**Table A19: Factors associated with feeling that you belong to your local area ‘a great deal’ or ‘quite a lot’ (2015)**

<b>Dependent variable encoding</b> 1 = Those who think that they belong to their local area ‘a great deal’/ ‘quite a lot’ 0 = All other respondents	<b>Odds ratio</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>
<b>Gender (p = 0.013)</b>		
Male (reference)	1.00	
Female	1.47	1.08- 2.00
<b>Tenure (p = 0.031)</b>		
Owner	1.00	
Social renter	1.07	0.71-1.62
Private renter	0.55	0.34- 0.88
<b>Children in the household (p = 0.052)</b>		
No school-aged children in the household	1.00	
School-aged children in the household	1.49	0.99- 2.23
<b>Social trust (p = 0.09)</b>		
Most people can be trusted	1.00	
You can’t be too careful when dealing with people	0.61	0.42-0.88

Nagelkerke R2 = 9.5%

Other factors included in model but which were not significant after other factors were accounted for were: age, education, household income, employment status, whether or not the respondent has a disability, Urban-rural, SIMD

**Table A20: Factors associated with agreeing/agreeing strongly that ‘People in this area are able to find ways to improve things if they want to’ (2015)**

<b>Dependent variable encoding</b> 1 = Those who ‘agree’/ ‘agree strongly’ that ‘People in this area are able to find ways to improve things if they want to’ 0 = All other respondents	<b>Odds ratio</b>	<b>95% confidence interval</b>
<b>Urban/rural (p=0.01)</b>		
Large urban areas (reference)	1.00	
Other urban areas	1.07	0.70- 1.43
Accessible small towns	1.43	0.84- 2.46
Remote/very remote small towns	2.64	1.38- 5.03
Accessible rural	2.00	1.12- 3.57
Remote rural/ very remote rural	2.43	1.21- 4.88
<b>Social trust (p = 0.00)</b>		
Most people can be trusted	1.00	
You can’t be too careful when dealing with people	0.51	0.39-0.67

Nagelkerke R2 = 9.3%

Other factors included in model but which were not significant after other factors were accounted for were: gender, age, education, household income, employment status, tenure (owner-occupier, private renter, or social renter), whether or not the respondent has a disability, whether or not there are school-aged children in the household, SIMD



## How to access background or source data

The data collected for this social research publication:

- are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- are available via an alternative route <specify or delete this text>
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [Social\\_Research@gov.scot](mailto:Social_Research@gov.scot) for further information.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.



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