



Solicitors Regulation Authority

METHODOLOGY NOTE

ComRes interviewed 1,810 English and Welsh adults online between 15th and 17th January 2016. Data were weighted to be representative of all English and Welsh adults aged 18+. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules.

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To commission a voting intention poll or a public opinion survey please contact Katharine Peacock: katharine.peacock@comres.co.uk

To register for Pollwatch, a monthly newsletter update on the polls, please email: pollwatch@comres.co.uk

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 1

Q.1 Some of the following occupations are regulated (there are rules regarding professional conduct and action is taken when things go wrong), and some are not. Which of the following, if any, do you think should be regulated?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector		
	Total	Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
Solicitors	1562 86%	757 85%	805 87%	158 73%	202 70%	292 85%CD	287 93%CDE	259 95%CDE	363 96%CDE	427 87%	466 88%	319 83%	350 87%	199 82%	637 83%
Doctors	1538 85%	731 82%	807 87%A	172 79%	208 72%	284 83%D	281 91%CDE	249 92%CDE	344 91%CDE	433 88%K	463 87%K	305 80%	338 84%	197 81%	625 81%
Dentists	1488 82%	722 81%	765 83%	164 76%	201 69%	271 79%D	272 89%CDE	248 91%CDE	332 87%CDE	411 83%K	448 85%K	293 76%	335 83%K	190 78%	608 79%
Accountants	1465 81%	720 81%	745 81%	150 69%	195 67%	266 77%cD	264 86%CDE	245 90%CDE	346 91%CDEF	407 83%k	447 84%KI	292 76%	318 79%	183 75%	609 79%
Plumbers	1147 63%	528 60%	620 67%A	109 50%	163 56%	227 66%Cd	214 69%CD	186 68%CD	249 65%CD	302 61%	360 68%IL	241 63%	245 61%	167 69%n	472 61%
Hairdressers	508 28%	179 20%	328 36%A	52 24%	85 29%	96 28%	93 30%	72 27%	109 29%	120 24%	163 31%I	114 30%	111 28%	75 31%	203 26%
None of these	105 6%	59 7%	46 5%	26 12%EFGH	40 14%EFGH	17 5%g	9 3%	4 2%	9 2%	22 4%	26 5%	28 7%	30 7%i	16 7%	51 7%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Solicitors Independence Survey

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Q.1 Some of the following occupations are regulated (there are rules regarding professional conduct and action is taken when things go wrong), and some are not. Which of the following, if any, do you think should be regulated?

Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
Solicitors	1562 86%	89 83%	1472 86%	80 89%	202 87%	153 86%	143 80%	146 91%HK	155 87%	202 80%	226 90%HK	165 92%bGhk
Doctors	1538 85%	84 78%	1454 85%	80 89%	200 86%	151 84%	147 82%	141 88%	154 86%	202 81%	218 87%k	161 90%Bhk
Dentists	1488 82%	80 75%	1407 83%	81 91%Bhjk	191 82%	152 85%b	144 80%	136 84%	146 81%	196 78%	206 82%	155 87%BK
Accountants	1465 81%	84 78%	1381 81%	80 89%bGhJK	190 81%	140 78%	135 75%	132 82%	138 77%	196 78%	213 85%Hjk	157 87%bGHJ K
Plumbers	1147 63%	73 68%jk	1074 63%	63 70%gJK	145 62%	103 57%	115 64%	110 68%gJK	99 55%	141 56%	175 70%GJK	124 69%GJK
Hairdressers	508 28%	37 35%g	471 28%	34 38%FGj	57 25%	41 23%	50 28%	49 30%	48 27%	70 28%	71 28%	49 27%
None of these	105 6%	5 5%	100 6%	2 2%	12 5%	9 5%	15 9%el	10 6%	13 7%	19 7%	10 4%	10 6%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

*** small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 2

Q.2 Many professions in the UK (e.g. doctors, dentists, solicitors) are regulated. Some are regulated by organisations that are independent from the profession itself (independently regulated) and some are regulated by the profession itself, such as by a representative body or trade association (self-regulated). On the whole, which of the following statements best describes your viewpoint?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age							Social Grade				Employment Sector	
	Total	Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Private (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
I am more likely to trust a profession that is independently regulated	1232 68%	625 70%b	607 66%	125 58%	155 54%	227 66%cD	226 74%CD _e	206 76%CD _e	292 77%CD _e	351 71%K	379 71%KI	238 62%	264 66%	175 72%	500 65%
I am more likely to trust a profession that regulates itself	172 10%	95 11%	77 8%	32 15%FGH	54 19%EFGH	39 11%FgH	16 5%	18 6%	14 4%	44 9%	45 9%	49 13%j	34 8%	26 11%	92 12%
The way in which a profession is regulated makes no difference to my trust in it	210 12%	82 9%	129 14%A	22 10%	31 11%	30 9%	41 13%	34 13%	52 14%e	57 11%	50 9%	52 13%	53 13%	22 9%	83 11%
Don't know	196 11%	85 10%	111 12%	38 18%FGH	49 17%FGH	48 14%FGH	25 8%	14 5%	22 6%	42 9%	56 11%	45 12%	52 13%i	20 8%	94 12%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

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Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
I am more likely to trust a profession that is independently regulated	1232 68%	75 70%	1156 68%	72 81% ^F GHIjK ^m	150 64%	112 62%	118 66%	108 67%	124 69%	159 63%	190 76% ^F GHiK	123 69%
I am more likely to trust a profession that regulates itself	172 10%	12 12%	160 9%	7 7%	32 14% ^l L ^m	21 12% ^l	17 9%	10 6%	16 9%	30 12% ^l	15 6%	13 7%
The way in which a profession is regulated makes no difference to my trust in it	210 12%	9 8%	202 12%	5 6%	28 12%	25 14% ^e	17 9%	29 18% ^b EhL	20 11%	30 12%	24 9%	25 14% ^e
Don't know	196 11%	11 10%	185 11%	6 6%	23 10%	22 12%	28 16% ^{el}	15 9%	19 11%	32 13%	22 9%	18 10%

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

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ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 3
Q.3 How do you think that solicitors should be regulated?
Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector		
	Total	Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
Solicitors should be regulated by themselves through their representative body (self-regulated)	117 6%	62 7%	56 6%	20 9%FG	32 11%EFgH	19 5%	12 4%	9 3%	25 7%	36 7%L	40 8%L	26 7%	15 4%	21 9%	54 7%
Solicitors should be regulated by a fully independent regulator (independently regulated)	1483 82%	731 82%	752 81%	145 67%	202 70%	281 82%CD	272 88%CDe	241 89%CDe	342 90%CDE	407 83%	432 82%	306 80%	338 84%	198 81%	610 79%
Solicitors should not be regulated	5 *	3 *	2 *	3 1%egh	* *	- -	1 *	- -	1 *	2 *	1 *	- -	2 *	- -	2 *
Don't know	205 11%	91 10%	113 12%	49 23%EFGH	55 19%eFGH	44 13%fH	23 7%H	21 8%H	12 3%	48 10%	57 11%	52 14%	47 12%	25 10%	104 13%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

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Table 3
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Base: All respondents

	Region											
	Total	Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
Solicitors should be regulated by themselves through their representative body (self-regulated)	117 6%	11 10%gl	106 6%	4 5%	10 4%	7 4%	10 6%	11 7%	8 5%	34 14%eFGHIJLM	11 4%	10 6%
Solicitors should be regulated by a fully independent regulator (independently regulated)	1483 82%	84 78%	1400 82%	83 92%BgHiKm	201 86%HK	147 82%k	133 74%	133 82%k	150 84%hK	186 74%	221 88%bHK	147 82%k
Solicitors should not be regulated	5 *	-	5 *	-	*	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	2 1%	*	-
Don't know	205 11%	13 12%e	192 11%	3 3%	22 9%	24 13%EI	35 20%EFijkLm	18 11%e	21 12%E	29 12%E	19 8%	21 12%E

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

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Absolutes/col percents

Table 4

Q.4 Please now imagine that you experienced a problem with your solicitor or law firm and that you needed to report them to the regulator (e.g. you wanted to complain about a solicitor's behaviour and conduct). Which of the following statements best describes your viewpoint?

Base: All respondents

	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector		
	Total	Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
I would feel more comfortable making a complaint if the regulator is fully independent of solicitors	1256 69%	618 70%	638 69%	123 56%	169 58%	225 65% ^c	228 74% ^{CDE}	218 80% ^{CDE}	294 77% ^{CDE}	365 74% ^{KI}	371 70%	248 65%	272 67%	176 72%	515 67%
I would feel more comfortable making a complaint if the regulator is not fully independent of solicitors	139 8%	85 10% ^B	54 6%	26 12% ^{FGH}	34 12% ^{FGH}	39 11% ^{FGH}	15 5%	11 4%	14 4%	39 8%	38 7%	39 10% ^l	24 6%	23 10%	83 11%
I would feel equally comfortable in both scenarios	216 12%	94 11%	122 13%	31 14% ^e	31 11%	30 9%	44 14% ^e	29 11%	52 14% ^e	51 10%	58 11%	51 13%	57 14%	21 9%	77 10%
Don't know	199 11%	89 10%	109 12%	38 17% ^{FGH}	57 20% ^{FGH}	50 14% ^{FGH}	20 7%	13 5%	21 6%	39 8%	63 12% ⁱ	46 12%	50 13% ^l	23 10%	95 12%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

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Base: All respondents

	Region											
	Total	Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
I would feel more comfortable making a complaint if the regulator is fully independent of solicitors	1256 69%	70 65%	1186 70%	77 86%	158 BFGHIJKLM 68%	120 67%	113 63%	105 65%	129 72%	169 67%	184 73%h	131 73%h
I would feel more comfortable making a complaint if the regulator is not fully independent of solicitors	139 8%	13 12%eLM	126 7%	3 3%	27 12%EJLM	20 11%eLM	12 7%	13 8%lm	10 6%	24 9%eIM	11 5%	5 3%
I would feel equally comfortable in both scenarios	216 12%	13 12%	203 12%	8 8%	20 9%	19 11%	18 10%	23 15%	25 14%	27 11%	40 16%F	23 13%
Don't know	199 11%	11 11%	187 11%	3 3%	28 12%EI	21 11%EI	36 20%EfgiJKLM	19 12%EI	15 8%	31 12%EL	16 6%	20 11%e

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

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Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 5
Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Summary

Base: All respondents

	Statements				
	I would have more trust in solicitors if I knew that their profession was regulated independently	It is important that solicitors are regulated	I support Government attempts to make the regulator of solicitors fully independent	An independent regulator for solicitors would do a better job of protecting the interests of the public than a representative body for solicitors which regulates itself	I generally prefer independent regulation of professionals to self-regulation
Unweighted base	1810	1810	1810	1810	1810
Weighted base	1810	1810	1810	1810	1810
NET: Agree	1427 79%	1569 87%	1390 77%	1403 78%	1349 75%
Strongly agree (+2)	849 47%	1132 63%	862 48%	865 48%	855 47%
Tend to agree (+1)	578 32%	437 24%	528 29%	538 30%	494 27%
Neither agree nor disagree (0)	233 13%	130 7%	248 14%	219 12%	256 14%
Tend to disagree (-1)	26 1%	17 1%	24 1%	32 2%	50 3%
Strongly disagree (-2)	8 *	2 *	9 1%	4 *	12 1%
NET: Disagree	35 2%	19 1%	34 2%	36 2%	62 3%
Don't know	115 6%	92 5%	138 8%	152 8%	143 8%
Mean	1.32	1.56	1.32	1.34	1.28
Standard deviation	0.80	0.69	0.82	0.80	0.88
Standard error	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 6

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I would have more trust in solicitors if I knew that their profession was regulated independently

Base: All respondents

	Total	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector	
		Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
NET: Agree	1427 79%	694 78%	733 79%	141 65%	196 68%	261 76% <i>Cd</i>	262 85% <i>CDE</i>	234 86% <i>CDE</i>	334 88% <i>CDE</i>	393 80%	429 81%	298 78%	307 76%	199 82%	593 77%
Strongly agree	(+2) 849 47%	433 49%	416 45%	57 26%	105 36% <i>C</i>	143 42% <i>C</i>	143 47% <i>CD</i>	162 60% <i>CDEF</i>	238 63% <i>CDEF</i>	249 51%	248 47%	168 44%	183 45%	123 50% <i>N</i>	315 41%
Tend to agree	(+1) 578 32%	261 29%	317 34% <i>a</i>	83 38% <i>GH</i>	90 31%	118 34% <i>H</i>	118 39% <i>GH</i>	73 27%	96 25%	144 29%	181 34%	130 34%	124 31%	76 31%	279 36%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 233 13%	114 13%	118 13%	35 16% <i>FgH</i>	50 17% <i>FGH</i>	57 17% <i>FGH</i>	30 10%	26 10%	35 9%	62 12%	59 11%	51 13%	61 15%	25 10%	106 14%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 26 1%	22 2% <i>B</i>	4 *	7 3% <i>fGH</i>	8 3% <i>gH</i>	5 1%	2 1%	1 *	2 1%	10 2% <i>l</i>	9 2%	5 1%	2 1%	4 2%	14 2%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 8 *	3 *	5 1%	2 1% <i>f</i>	2 1%	1 *	- -	1 *	2 *	4 1%	3 1%	1 *	1 *	2 1%	4 *
NET: Disagree	35 2%	25 3% <i>B</i>	10 1%	10 4% <i>eFGH</i>	11 4% <i>FgH</i>	6 2%	2 1%	2 1%	4 1%	14 3% <i>L</i>	12 2% <i>l</i>	6 2%	3 1%	5 2%	18 2%
Don't know	115 6%	53 6%	62 7%	32 15% <i>EFGH</i>	34 12% <i>EFGH</i>	20 6% <i>H</i>	14 5% <i>h</i>	9 3%	7 2%	25 5%	30 6%	28 7%	32 8% <i>i</i>	14 6%	53 7%
Mean	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.00	1.13	1.23 <i>C</i>	1.37 <i>CDe</i>	1.49 <i>CDEF</i>	1.52 <i>CDEF</i>	1.33	1.33	1.29	1.31	1.37 <i>n</i>	1.24
Standard deviation	0.80	0.83	0.77	0.88	0.90	0.80	0.70	0.73	0.73	0.85	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.80	0.81
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 6

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I would have more trust in solicitors if I knew that their profession was regulated independently

Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
NET: Agree	1427 79%	86 80%	1342 79%	75 84%	185 79%	135 76%	132 74%	137 85%gHkm	144 81%	191 76%	205 82%h	136 76%
Strongly agree	(+2) 849 47%	54 50%	795 47%	55 61%HIJKLM	119 51%iiM	91 51% ^m	78 43%	65 40%	83 47%	120 48%	113 45%	71 39%
Tend to agree	(+1) 578 32%	31 29%	547 32%	20 23%	66 28%	45 25%	54 30%	72 45%BEFGHJK	61 34% ^g	71 28%	92 37%EFgK	66 37%EG
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 233 13%	12 11%	221 13%	9 10%	32 14%	29 16% ⁱ	28 16%	15 9%	19 11%	31 12%	32 13%	25 14%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 26 1%	1 1%	25 1%	1 2%	3 1%	1 1%	2 1%	- -	2 1%	11 4%fGjL	2 1%	3 2%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 8 *	- -	8 *	- -	- -	- -	1 *	1 1%	- -	3 1%	1 1%	2 1%
NET: Disagree	35 2%	1 1%	33 2%	1 2%	3 1%	1 1%	3 2%	1 1%	2 1%	14 6%FGhJL	4 1%	5 3%
Don't know	115 6%	9 8%	106 6%	4 5%	13 6%	13 7%	16 9% ^l	9 5%	14 8%	15 6%	10 4%	12 7%
Mean	1.32	1.41 ^m	1.31	1.51 ^{hiKIM}	1.37 ^m	1.36	1.27	1.31	1.37 ^m	1.24	1.30	1.20
Standard deviation	0.80	0.75	0.81	0.75	0.78	0.79	0.82	0.69	0.73	0.94	0.78	0.85
Standard error	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06

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*** small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 7
Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
It is important that solicitors are regulated
Base: All respondents

	Total	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector	
		Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
NET: Agree	1569 87%	757 85%	813 88%	166 76%	216 75%	279 81%	278 90%CDE	260 96%CDEF	372 98%CDEF	442 89%KL	469 88%kl	320 83%	339 84%	205 84%	640 83%
Strongly agree	(+2) 1132 63%	580 65%B	552 60%	85 39%	146 51%C	184 54%C	211 68%CDE	203 75%CDE	303 80%CDEF	332 67%KL	333 63%	228 59%	240 60%	143 59%	452 59%
Tend to agree	(+1) 437 24%	177 20%	260 28%A	81 37%DEFGH	69 24%	95 28%H	67 22%	56 21%	69 18%	110 22%	136 26%	92 24%	99 25%	62 25%	188 24%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 130 7%	72 8%	58 6%	27 12%FGH	42 15%FGH	38 11%FGH	16 5%GH	4 2%	3 1%	25 5%	31 6%	42 11%J	32 8%	24 10%	72 9%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 17 1%	14 2%B	3 *	3 2%gh	7 2%GH	4 1%	2 1%	-	1 *	5 1%	4 1%	5 1%	3 1%	3 1%	11 1%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 2 *	* *	1 *	- -	1 *	* *	1 *	-	-	1 *	1 *	-	-	1 *	1 *
NET: Disagree	19 1%	15 2%B	4 *	3 2%gh	8 3%GH	4 1%	3 1%	-	1 *	6 1%	5 1%	5 1%	3 1%	4 2%	12 2%
Don't know	92 5%	43 5%	48 5%	21 10%FGH	24 8%fGH	23 7%gH	11 4%h	8 3%	5 1%	22 4%	25 5%	16 4%	29 7%i	10 4%	46 6%
Mean	1.56	1.57	1.55	1.26	1.33	1.43C	1.64CDE	1.75CDEF	1.79CDEF	1.63KI	1.57	1.48	1.54	1.47	1.49
Standard deviation	0.69	0.72	0.65	0.76	0.86	0.75	0.64	0.47	0.44	0.65	0.67	0.75	0.68	0.78	0.75
Standard error	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.03

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 7

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

It is important that solicitors are regulated

Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
NET: Agree	1569 87%	85 79%	1484 87% ^b	82 92% ^{bH}	202 87%	153 85%	144 80%	144 89% ^{bh}	161 90% ^{bH}	215 86%	228 91% ^{BH}	157 87%
Strongly agree	(+2) 1132 63%	65 60%	1068 63%	64 71% ^h	145 62%	113 63%	105 59%	97 60%	110 61%	152 61%	167 66%	114 64%
Tend to agree	(+1) 437 24%	21 19%	417 24%	18 21%	57 25%	39 22%	38 21%	47 29%	51 28%	62 25%	61 24%	42 24%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 130 7%	11 11%	118 7%	3 3%	13 6%	16 9%	21 12% ^{EfjJl}	9 6%	8 4%	20 8%	14 6%	14 8%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 17 1%	3 3% ^m	14 1%	1 1%	2 1%	1 *	1 *	1 1%	4 2% ^m	5 2%	1 1%	-
Strongly disagree	(-2) 2 *	-	2 *	1 1%	-	1 *	-	-	-	-	*	-
NET: Disagree	19 1%	3 3% ^m	16 1%	1 2%	2 1%	1 1%	1 *	1 1%	4 2% ^m	5 2%	2 1%	-
Don't know	92 5%	8 8%	83 5%	3 3%	16 7% ^l	9 5%	14 8% ^l	7 4%	7 4%	11 5%	7 3%	8 5%
Mean	1.56	1.48	1.56	1.66	1.59	1.55	1.50	1.55	1.55	1.51	1.61	1.58
Standard deviation	0.69	0.81	0.68	0.66	0.64	0.72	0.73	0.65	0.68	0.73	0.64	0.64
Standard error	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

*** small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 8
Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
I support Government attempts to make the regulator of solicitors fully independent
Base: All respondents

	Total	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector	
		Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
NET: Agree	1390 77%	691 78%	700 76%	137 63%	195 67%	243 71%	251 82% ^{CDE}	235 87% ^{CDEf}	329 87% ^{CDEF}	394 80% ^{kl}	414 78%	283 74%	299 74%	188 77%	584 76%
Strongly agree	(+2) 862 48%	457 52% ^B	404 44%	59 27%	103 36% ^c	138 40% ^C	157 51% ^{CDE}	159 59% ^{CDEF}	246 65% ^{CDEF}	252 51% ^j	240 45%	173 45%	197 49%	111 46%	344 45%
Tend to agree	(+1) 528 29%	233 26%	295 32% ^A	78 36% ^{gH}	92 32% ^H	105 31% ^H	94 31% ^H	76 28%	83 22%	142 29%	174 33% ^L	110 29%	101 25%	77 32%	240 31%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 248 14%	125 14%	123 13%	41 19% ^{FGH}	57 20% ^{FGH}	66 19% ^{FGH}	32 10%	19 7%	33 9%	49 10%	70 13%	69 18% ^l	59 15% ^l	34 14%	116 15%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 24 1%	16 2%	8 1%	6 3% ^{eFG}	6 2% ^g	2 1%	2 *	- -	9 2% ^{fG}	9 2%	7 1%	4 1%	4 1%	2 1%	11 1%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 9 1%	6 1%	3 *	* *	2 1%	2 1%	3 1%	2 1%	1 *	8 2% ^{JKL}	1 *	- -	1 *	5 2% ^N	3 *
NET: Disagree	34 2%	22 2%	12 1%	7 3% ^g	7 3%	5 1%	4 1%	2 1%	9 2%	17 3% ^{jkL}	8 2%	4 1%	5 1%	7 3%	14 2%
Don't know	138 8%	49 6%	89 10% ^A	33 15% ^{EFGH}	30 10% ^{gH}	30 9% ^H	20 7% ^H	15 6% ^h	9 2%	34 7%	38 7%	27 7%	40 10%	15 6%	56 7%
Mean	1.32	1.34	1.30	1.02	1.11	1.19 ^c	1.40 ^{CDE}	1.52 ^{CDEF}	1.53 ^{CDEF}	1.35	1.31	1.27	1.35	1.26	1.28
Standard deviation	0.82	0.85	0.79	0.83	0.87	0.84	0.78	0.70	0.76	0.87	0.78	0.81	0.80	0.89	0.81
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 8

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I support Government attempts to make the regulator of solicitors fully independent

Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
NET: Agree	1390 77%	71 66%	1319 77%B	76 84%Bm	184 79%b	138 77%	135 75%	121 75%	135 75%	197 78%b	201 80%B	132 74%
Strongly agree	(+2) 862 48%	52 48%	810 48%	49 54%l	128 55%lj	87 49%	82 46%	62 39%	80 45%	119 47%	120 48%	83 47%
Tend to agree	(+1) 528 29%	20 18%	508 30%b	27 30%	56 24%	51 29%	53 29%	59 37%BF	55 31%b	78 31%B	81 32%Bf	48 27%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 248 14%	25 23%DEfgikL	223 13%	7 8%	32 14%	23 13%	27 15%	19 12%	26 14%	33 13%	31 12%	26 14%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 24 1%	2 1%	23 1%	3 3%h	2 1%	3 2%	*	3 2%	4 2%	5 2%	3 1%	1 1%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 9 1%	-	9 1%	-	-	1 *	-	2 1%	-	3 1%	2 1%	3 2%f
NET: Disagree	34 2%	2 1%	32 2%	3 3%h	2 1%	3 2%	*	4 3%h	4 2%	7 3%h	4 2%	4 2%
Don't know	138 8%	10 9%	128 8%	4 4%	16 7%	15 8%	17 9%	16 10%	15 8%	13 5%	15 6%	18 10%
Mean	1.32	1.24	1.33	1.42	1.43l	1.35	1.34	1.22	1.28	1.29	1.33	1.29
Standard deviation	0.82	0.89	0.81	0.79	0.76	0.81	0.75	0.84	0.82	0.86	0.80	0.88
Standard error	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.09	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.07

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

*** small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 9
Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?
An independent regulator for solicitors would do a better job of protecting the interests of the public than a representative body for solicitors which regulates itself
Base: All respondents

	Total	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector	
		Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
NET: Agree	1403 78%	695 78%	708 77%	131 60%	196 68%	245 71% C	253 82% CDE	245 90% CDEF	334 88% CDEF	397 80% KI	426 80% KI	279 73%	302 75%	191 78%	586 76%
Strongly agree	(+2) 865 48%	450 51% B	415 45%	56 26%	106 37% C	140 41% C	151 49% CDe	165 61% CDEF	247 65% CDEF	245 50%	256 48%	179 47%	185 46%	116 47%	335 44%
Tend to agree	(+1) 538 30%	245 28%	293 32% a	75 34% H	90 31% H	105 31% H	102 33% H	80 29% h	86 23%	152 31%	170 32%	100 26%	117 29%	75 31%	251 33%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 219 12%	108 12%	111 12%	38 18% FGH	60 21% FGH	51 15% fGH	29 9% g	14 5%	27 7%	45 9%	59 11%	62 16% lj	53 13% i	28 12%	109 14%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 32 2%	19 2%	13 1%	9 4% FGH	5 2%	9 3%	2 1%	1 1%	4 1%	11 2%	10 2%	6 2%	4 1%	8 3% n	9 1%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 4 *	2 *	2 *	* *	1 *	- -	2 1%	- -	1 *	1 *	1 *	1 *	* *	* *	3 *
NET: Disagree	36 2%	21 2%	15 2%	10 4% FGH	6 2%	9 3%	4 1%	1 1%	5 1%	13 3%	11 2%	8 2%	5 1%	8 3%	13 2%
Don't know	152 8%	63 7%	89 10% a	39 18% DeFGH	28 10% GH	39 11% GH	21 7% h	12 4%	14 4%	39 8%	34 7%	35 9%	43 11% J	16 7%	62 8%
Mean	1.34	1.36	1.33	0.99	1.12	1.23 C	1.39 CDE	1.57 CDEF	1.57 CDEF	1.38	1.35	1.29	1.34	1.31	1.28
Standard deviation	0.80	0.81	0.78	0.87	0.86	0.83	0.75	0.62	0.70	0.79	0.78	0.85	0.78	0.83	0.80
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.03

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 9

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

An independent regulator for solicitors would do a better job of protecting the interests of the public than a representative body for solicitors which regulates itself

Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
NET: Agree	1403 78%	76 71%	1327 78%	80 89%BGHJKM	191 82%bhJ	137 77%	131 73%	125 78%	130 72%	197 79%	203 81%bhj	134 75%
Strongly agree	(+2) 865 48%	46 43%	819 48%	57 64%BGHJKLM	122 52% <i>m</i>	87 48%	83 46%	70 43%	81 45%	121 48%	123 49%	76 42%
Tend to agree	(+1) 538 30%	30 28%	508 30%	23 25%	69 29%	51 28%	48 27%	56 35%	49 28%	76 30%	79 32%	58 32%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 219 12%	16 15%E	203 12%	3 3%	20 9%	23 13%E	24 14%E	19 12% <i>e</i>	31 17%EF	32 13%E	30 12%E	21 12%E
Tend to disagree	(-1) 32 2%	4 4%	28 2%	3 3%	3 1%	1 1%	3 2%	2 1%	2 1%	6 2%	2 1%	5 3%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 4 *	-	4 *	-	2 1%	1 *	-	-	-	1 1%	-	* *
NET: Disagree	36 2%	4 4%	32 2%	3 3%	5 2%	2 1%	3 2%	2 1%	2 1%	7 3%	2 1%	5 3%
Don't know	152 8%	12 11%	140 8%	4 5%	17 7%	17 9%	21 12% <i>kl</i>	15 9%	16 9%	15 6%	16 6%	20 11% <i>k</i>
Mean	1.34	1.23	1.35	1.57BghiJKIM	1.42	1.36	1.33	1.32	1.28	1.31	1.38	1.28
Standard deviation	0.80	0.88	0.79	0.72	0.79	0.79	0.81	0.75	0.81	0.84	0.74	0.82
Standard error	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

*** small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 10

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I generally prefer independent regulation of professionals to self-regulation

Base: All respondents

	Total	Gender		Age						Social Grade				Employment Sector	
		Male (a)	Female (b)	18-24 (c)	25-34 (d)	35-44 (e)	45-54 (f)	55-64 (g)	65+ (h)	AB (i)	C1 (j)	C2 (k)	DE (l)	Public (m)	Pri- vate (n)
Unweighted base	1810	906	904	248	256	269	330	258	449	543	521	291	455	222	720
Weighted base	1810	887	923	217	290	344	308	271	380	494	530	384	402	244	770
NET: Agree	1349 75%	682 77% ^b	668 72% ^A	135 62%	186 64%	234 68%	229 75% ^{CD}	235 86% ^{CDEF}	331 87% ^{CDEF}	392 79% ^{KL}	411 78% ^{KL}	268 70%	278 69%	194 80% ^N	543 71%
Strongly agree	(+2) 855 47%	463 52% ^B	391 42%	61 28%	102 35%	138 40% ^C	156 51% ^{CDE}	160 59% ^{CDEF}	238 63% ^{CDEF}	251 51% ^{KI}	262 49%	163 42%	179 45%	115 47%	333 43%
Tend to agree	(+1) 494 27%	218 25%	276 30% ^A	73 34% ^{FH}	84 29%	97 28%	73 24%	75 28%	92 24%	141 29%	150 28%	105 27%	99 24%	79 32%	210 27%
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 256 14%	105 12%	151 16% ^A	39 18% ^{GH}	64 22% ^{FGH}	67 19% ^{FGH}	38 12% ^H	22 8%	26 7%	49 10%	61 12%	67 17% ^{IJ}	79 20% ^{IJ}	30 12%	127 17%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 50 3%	31 3%	20 2%	12 6% ^{eGH}	8 3%	7 2%	13 4% ^G	2 1%	8 2%	16 3%	14 3%	13 3%	7 2%	4 2%	27 4%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 12 1%	6 1%	5 1%	* *	1 *	2 1%	5 1%	1 *	3 1%	3 1%	3 *	3 1%	3 1%	1 *	6 1%
NET: Disagree	62 3%	37 4%	25 3%	12 6% ^G	9 3%	9 3%	18 6% ^{eGh}	3 1%	11 3%	20 4%	17 3%	16 4%	10 2%	5 2%	34 4%
Don't know	143 8%	64 7%	79 9%	32 15% ^{FGH}	30 10% ^{GH}	34 10% ^{GH}	22 7% ^H	13 5%	12 3%	33 7%	41 8%	33 9%	36 9%	15 6%	66 9%
Mean	1.28	1.34 ^B	1.22	0.99	1.07	1.17 ^c	1.27 ^{CD}	1.51 ^{CDEF}	1.51 ^{CDEF}	1.35 ^{KL}	1.34 ^{KI}	1.18	1.21	1.33 ⁿ	1.19
Standard deviation	0.88	0.89	0.86	0.90	0.89	0.88	0.97	0.71	0.79	0.86	0.84	0.92	0.90	0.80	0.93
Standard error	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.04

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/b - c/d/e/f/g/h - i/j/k/l - m/n

Solicitors Independence Survey

ONLINE Fieldwork: 15th-17th January 2016

Absolutes/col percents

Table 10

Q.5 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I generally prefer independent regulation of professionals to self-regulation

Base: All respondents

	Total	Region										
		Wales (b)	NET: England (d)	North East (e)	North West (f)	Yorkshire & Humberside (g)	West Midlands (h)	East Midlands (i)	Eastern (j)	London (k)	South East (l)	South West (m)
Unweighted base	1810	83	1727	86	227	185	181	135	194	254	270	195
Weighted base	1810	108*	1702	90*	233	179	179	161	179	251	251	179
NET: Agree	1349 75%	80 74%	1270 75%	75 84%gHK	174 75%	129 72%	125 70%	119 74%	135 76%	179 71%	199 79%hk	134 75%
Strongly agree	(+2) 855 47%	49 45%	806 47%	49 54%i	127 54%lJm	85 48%	81 45%	63 39%	77 43%	117 47%	127 51%i	81 45%
Tend to agree	(+1) 494 27%	31 29%	463 27%	27 30%	47 20%	44 24%	44 25%	55 34%Fgk	59 33%Fk	62 25%	73 29%f	54 30%F
Neither agree nor disagree	(0) 256 14%	15 14%	241 14%	7 8%	33 14%	31 18%e	27 15%	25 16%	26 14%	39 16%	28 11%	23 13%
Tend to disagree	(-1) 50 3%	5 4%	46 3%	4 4%	3 1%	1 1%	5 3%	4 2%	3 2%	12 5%fG	8 3%	6 3%
Strongly disagree	(-2) 12 1%	-	12 1%	1 1%	3 1%	1 *	1 *	1 1%	2 1%	2 1%	1 *	1 *
NET: Disagree	62 3%	5 4%	57 3%	4 5%	5 2%	2 1%	6 3%	5 3%	5 3%	14 5%G	9 4%	7 4%
Don't know	143 8%	8 8%	135 8%	3 3%	21 9%	17 9%	21 12%EL	13 8%	13 7%	19 7%	14 6%	15 8%
Mean	1.28	1.24	1.28	1.37	1.38ik	1.30	1.26	1.19	1.23	1.21	1.33	1.26
Standard deviation	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.88	0.84	0.89	0.85	0.87	0.95	0.85	0.87
Standard error	0.02	0.10	0.02	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.06

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5%, 10% risk level) - a/d - b/d - c/d - a/b/c/e/f/g/h/i/j/k/l/m

*** small base; ** very small base (under 30) ineligible for sig testing**