

# **Public attitudes to Coronavirus**

## **January update**

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## **Introduction**

This report draws together findings on key indicators from polling work on public attitudes to the Coronavirus pandemic in Scotland. Five reports covering earlier survey work were published on [8 May](#), [12 June](#), [5 August](#), [9 October](#) and [20 November](#) 2020. As with previous reports, it is not intended to provide comprehensive analysis of the large amount of polling information available, but rather to draw together findings on some key indicators. The report contains brief descriptions and explanations of the included measures, and data from surveys which took place in November and December 2020.

Results should be interpreted in the context of surveys that were designed and undertaken during a rapidly changing situation and bearing in mind the limitations of the data source noted below.

## **Data sources**

The source is an online polling survey by YouGov. It is a bespoke commission by Scottish Government. Further information about this source can be found in Annex A.

This report contains results from 3 November to 30 December, inclusive. The period covered was before the stay at home restrictions came into effect on 5 January. Due to the evolving situation and government responses to Coronavirus, questions were introduced at different times, or not asked at all waves. Fieldwork dates that the data relates to are provided, and these dates should be kept in mind when interpreting the data.

In the period covered by this report, the Pfizer and BioNTech, Moderna and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines were approved for use by the UK's medicines regulator. New variants of Coronavirus were also identified during this period. Alongside relevant fieldwork dates and other caveats, these events (see Annex B) also should be kept in mind when interpreting the data.

## **Limitations**

A polling survey has a number of limitations. The sample size (see Annex A for details) can limit meaningful subgroup analysis and the survey is based on non-probability research panels, which means representativeness is achieved using quotas. Furthermore, the nature of online research inherently excludes those who do not have internet access. The data source nevertheless provides useful and timely information, as long as appropriate caveats are applied.

As the survey has been conducted using a quota sample, rather than a random probability sample, statistical significance can only be used on an indicative basis. Differences over the survey waves are only highlighted if they are likely to be significant, however not all possible significant differences have been described.

## Overall trends and key points

There are a number of trends observable across the polling data:

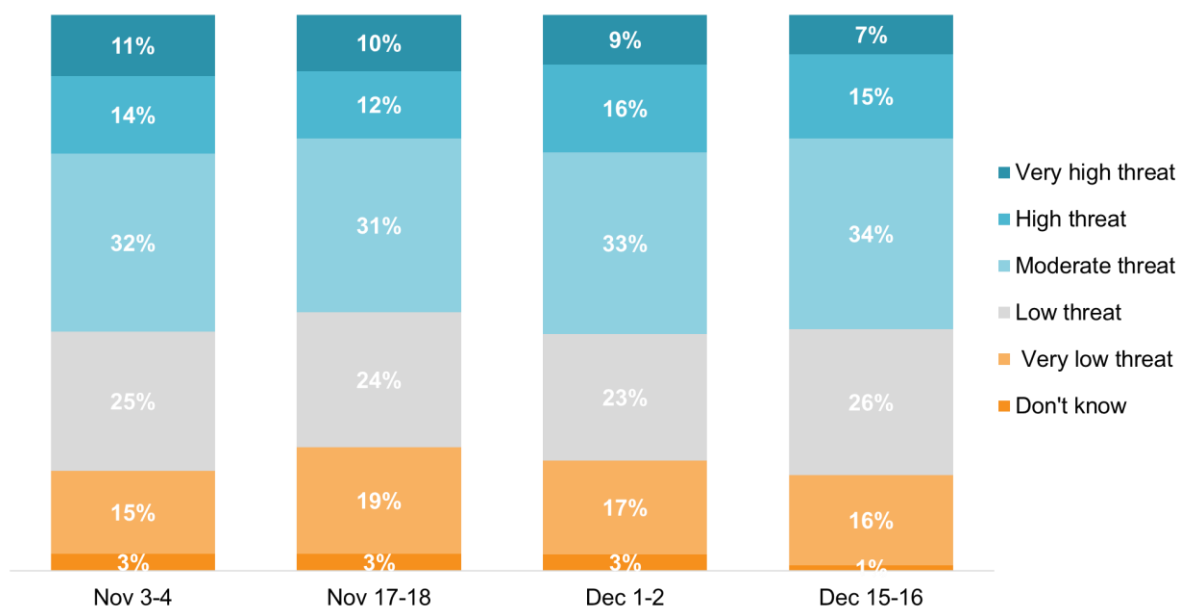
- Levels of optimism rose at the start of the November but declined at the end of December. Levels of optimism at the end of 2020 were similar to the beginning of the March lockdown.
- For parents with young children, over half agree that they are worried about the impact of the changes of school and nursery opening on their child or children's mental health, and a similar proportion about schools and nurseries staying closed beyond 18 January, the initial date proposed.
- Just under a half of respondents report having experienced loneliness in the past week.
- The proportion who agree that the best thing to do is follow government's advice increased between the beginning of November and the end of December, from just under, to just over, three quarters.
- Self-assessed compliance with the guidance/restrictions is high, as almost four fifths rate their compliance with the rules as 6 or 7 out of 7, while one fifth rate their compliance as less good (score of 1-5 out of 7).
- Trust in information from the Scottish Government about Coronavirus, and ratings of the Scottish Government as doing a good or very good job, fell slightly in mid-December. Despite this, around seven in ten report to trust the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests.
- Prior to the festive break, 38% intended to take advantage of the easing of restrictions, while around a half reported they did not. The vast majority agreed that the safest thing to do is stay within your own household during the festive period, but around a third had concerns about their mental health.
- However, at the end of December, once those undecided had consolidated their plans, 45% reported that they had taken advantage of these relaxations.
- The proportion who say they are 'extremely likely' to be vaccinated when a vaccine is made available to them has increased since mid-November, from two fifths to three fifths. Around one in ten say they are unlikely to do so.

# 1. Impact of Coronavirus

## Financial impact

Respondents were asked about the perceived level of threat to their job resulting from Coronavirus. Figure 1 shows that around one quarter of those employed perceived a 'very high' or 'high' threat to their job. This remained fairly consistent during November and December.

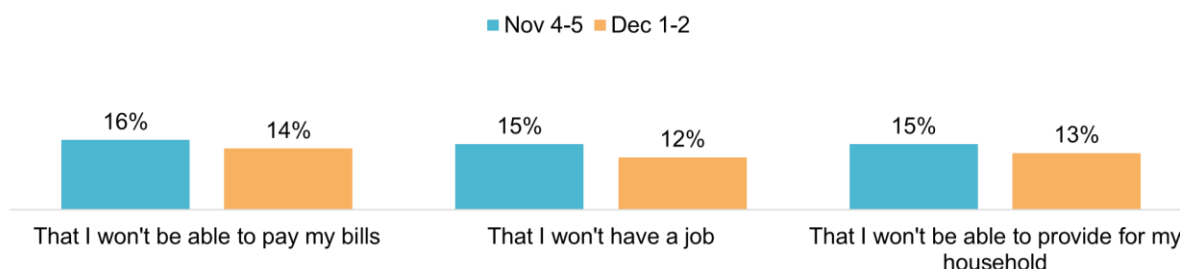
**Figure 1: Perceived threat to job amongst those employed**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base those in employment (n=413-461)

Respondents were also asked how concerned they are about the impact of Coronavirus on their household finances. As shown in Figure 2, between one in six and one in eight were 'very' or 'extremely' concerned that they will not be able to pay bills, have a job, or be able to provide for their household in one month's time.

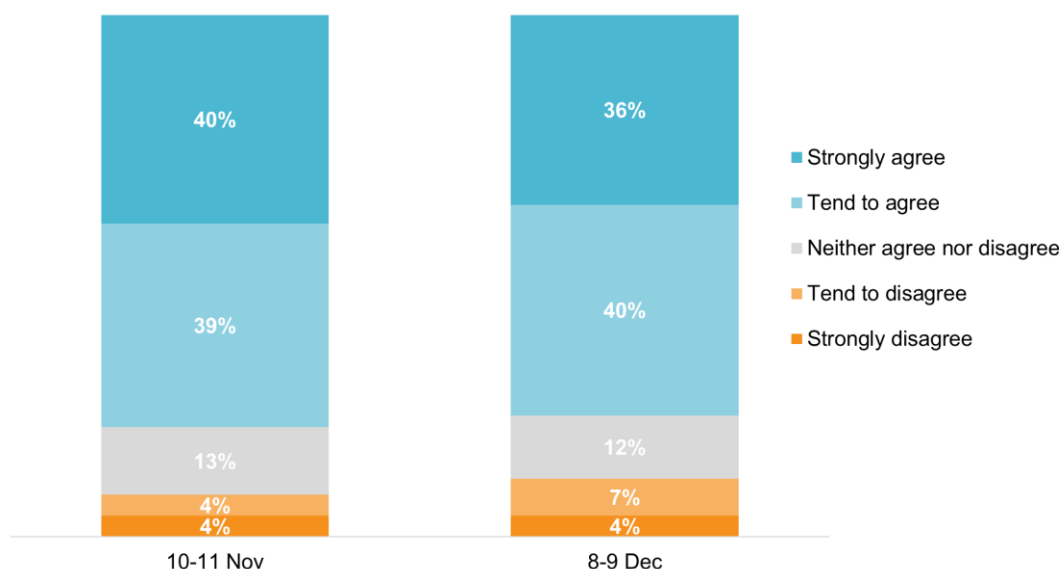
**Figure 2: Proportion of respondents who were very/extremely concerned about the scenarios shown**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1013-1020)

Respondents were also asked how worried they are about the long-lasting effect of Coronavirus on jobs and the economy. As shown in Figure 3, the majority agreed that they were worried in November and December.

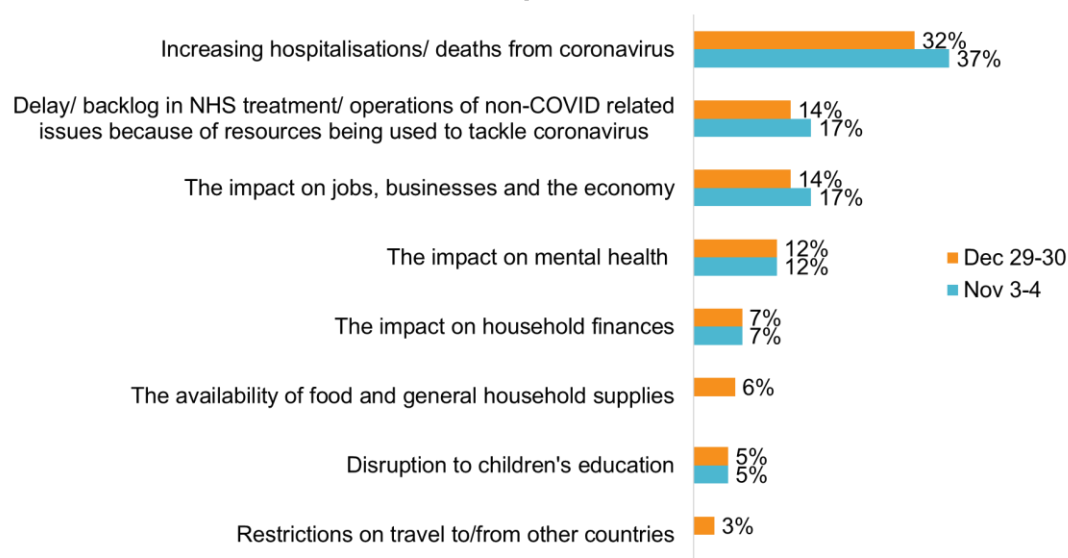
**Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who agreed/disagreed with the statement ‘I am worried about the long-lasting effect of restrictions on our jobs and our economy’**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1004)

Respondents were asked to rank a list of possible issues in order of concern in relation to the year ahead (i.e. 2021). As shown in Figure 4, the most common option to be ranked as the one respondents were most concerned about was increasing hospitalisations and deaths from Coronavirus.

**Figure 4: Proportion of respondents who ranked each option as that which they were most concerned about from a list of options<sup>1</sup>**



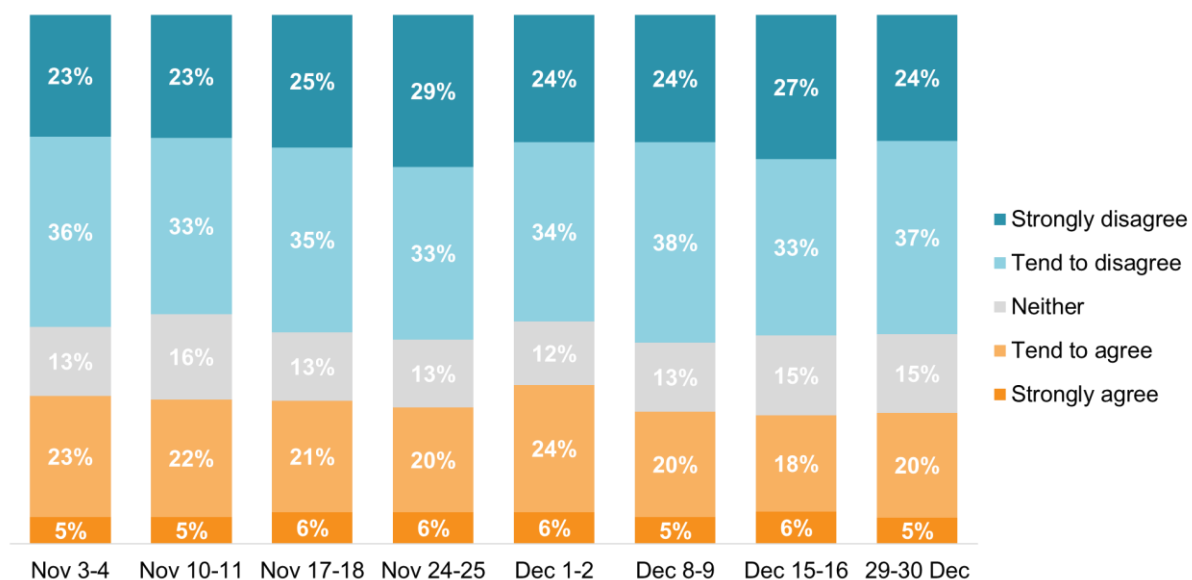
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1005-1013)

<sup>1</sup> The ‘availability of food and general household supplies’ and ‘restrictions on travel to/from other countries’ were not included on Dec 29-30

## Health impacts

To understand the potential impact on non-COVID related health issues, respondents were asked if they would avoid contacting a GP for immediate non-Covid-19 medical concerns. As shown in Figure 5, consistently just over one quarter agreed that they would avoid doing so, slightly fewer from 8-9 December.

**Figure 5: Proportion who agreed/disagreed that ‘I would avoid contacting a GP practice at the moment even if I had an immediate medical concern (not related to Coronavirus)’**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

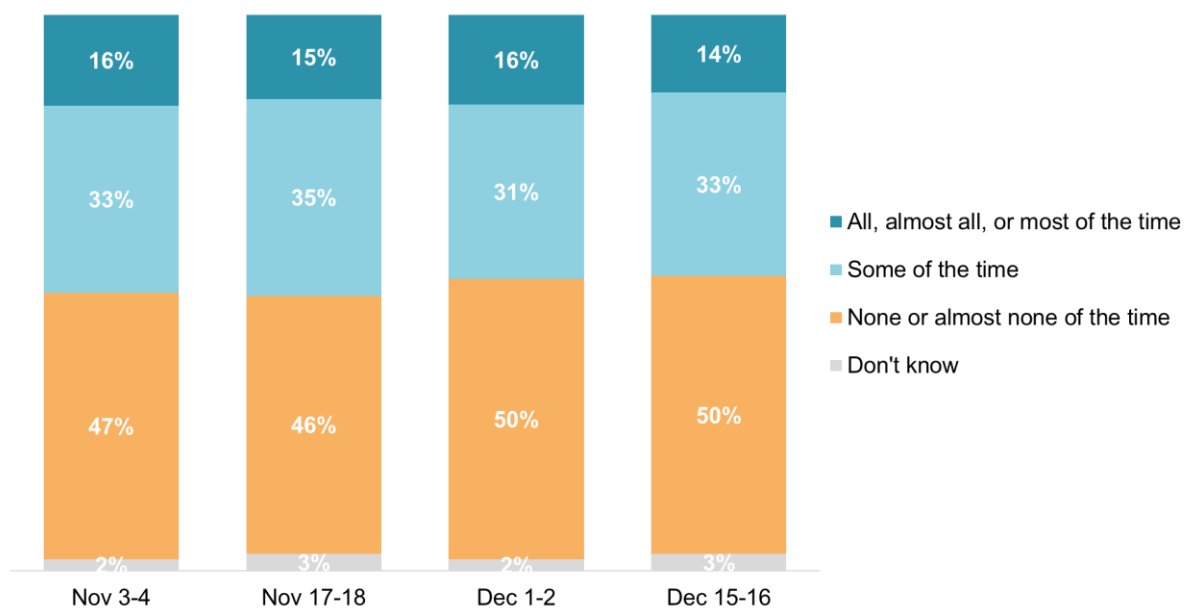
## 2. Wellbeing

### Levels of loneliness, anxiety and happiness

The Coronavirus pandemic is having a wide range of impacts on personal wellbeing. This section presents polling data about the impacts of the pandemic on feelings such as happiness, loneliness, optimism and anxiety.

To understand social isolation, respondents were asked how much of the time during the past week they had felt lonely. As shown in Figure 6, the proportion who felt lonely at least some of the time (around one half of respondents) has remained relatively stable in November and December.<sup>2</sup>

**Figure 6: How often respondents felt lonely during the past week**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009-1020)**

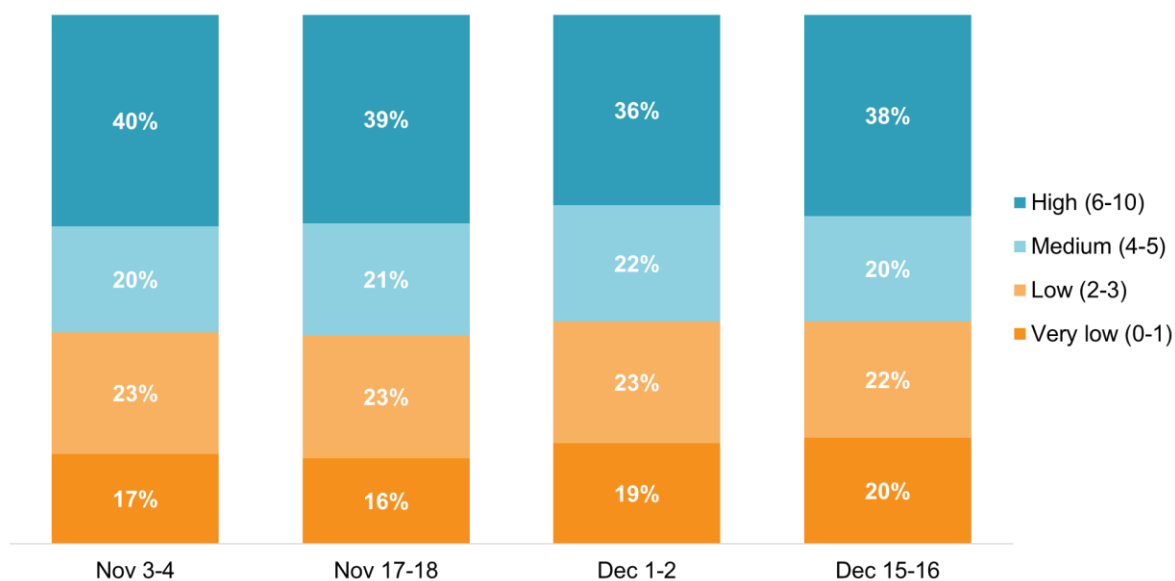
The survey included two of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) wellbeing questions<sup>3</sup> to measure levels of anxiety and happiness. Respondents were asked how anxious, and how happy, they felt 'yesterday', on a scale of 0 to 10. As shown in Figure 7, anxiety levels have remained stable and relatively high throughout November and December, with around two fifths reporting high anxiety.

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/detail.html#loneliness>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/methodologies/personalwellbeingssurveyuserguide>



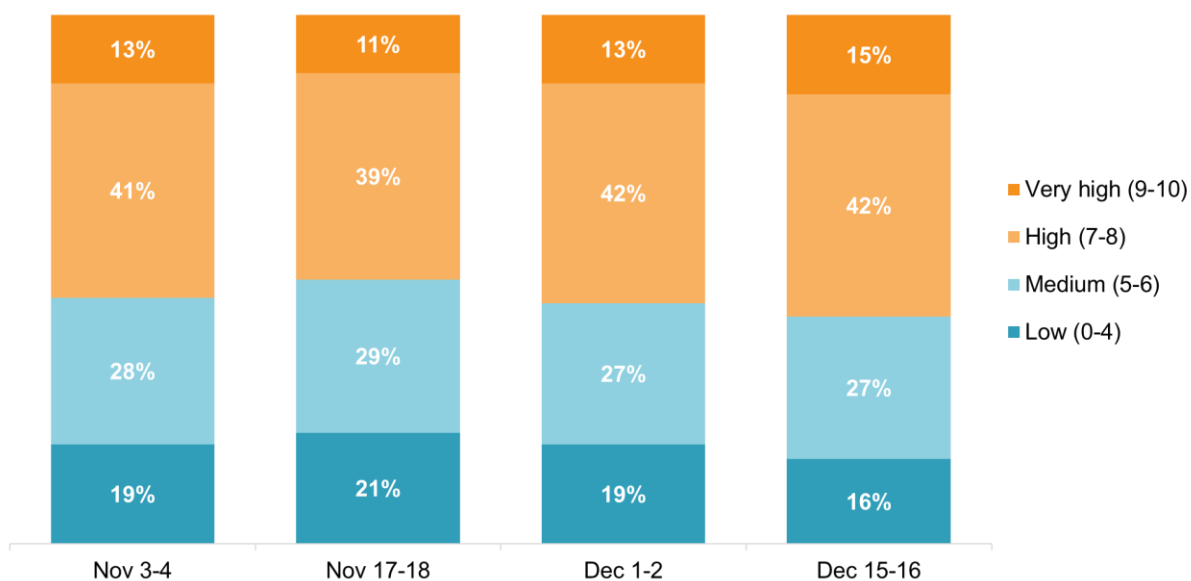
**Figure 7: How anxious respondents felt yesterday on a scale of 0-10**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009-1020)**

As shown in Figure 8, around half or slightly more of respondents reported high or very high levels of happiness (score of 7-10), and this has remained relatively stable in November and December. Around one in five felt low levels of happiness (score of 0-4), which has been stable since May.<sup>4</sup>

**Figure 8: How happy respondents felt yesterday on a scale of 0-10**



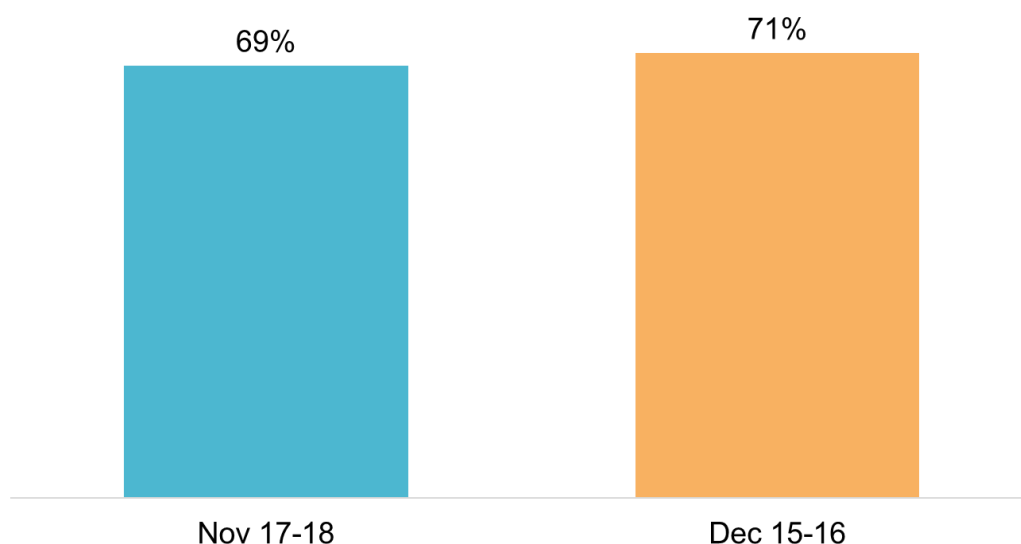
**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009-1020)**

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-summary/pages/7/> Figure 10

## Coping, worries and optimism

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, 'I feel like I am coping okay during the current Coronavirus situation'. As shown in Figure 9, around seven in ten agreed that they feel like they are coping okay.

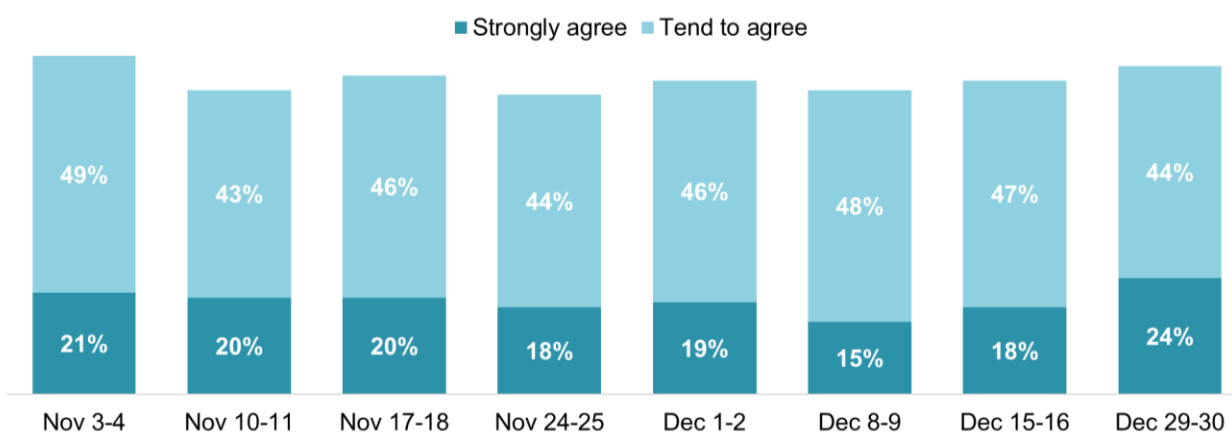
**Figure 9: Proportion who agreed to the statement 'I feel like I am coping okay during the current Coronavirus situation'**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009)

The proportion who agreed that they are worried about the Coronavirus situation has remained high yet fluctuated slightly in November and December, with particularly strong agreement at the end of December.

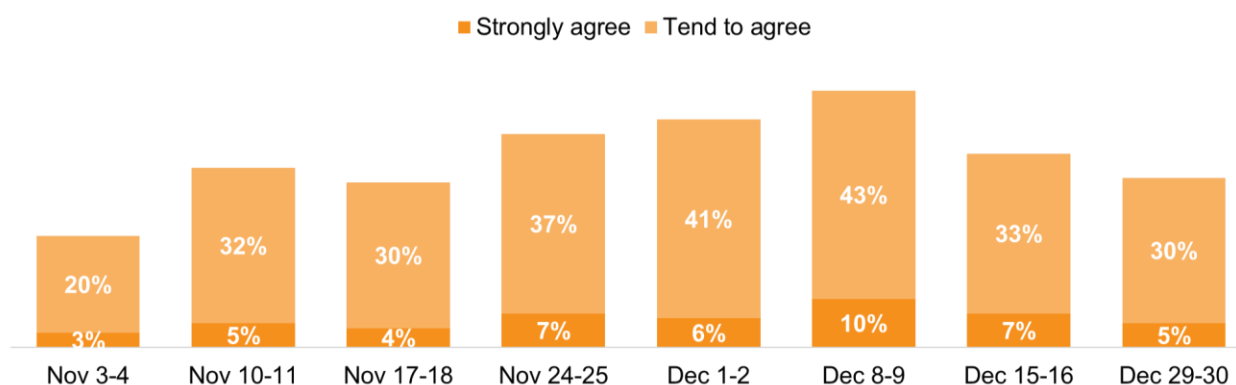
**Figure 10: Proportion who agreed with the statement 'I feel worried about the Coronavirus situation'**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

Levels of optimism (measured by the proportion who agree that things will start to get better soon) increased from a quarter at the start of November to over half in the second week of December. Since then, they has decreased to around a third. Levels of optimism at the end of 2020 are at similar levels to the beginning of the March 2020 lockdown.<sup>5</sup>

**Figure 11: Proportion who agreed with the statement ‘I’m sure that things will start to get better soon’**

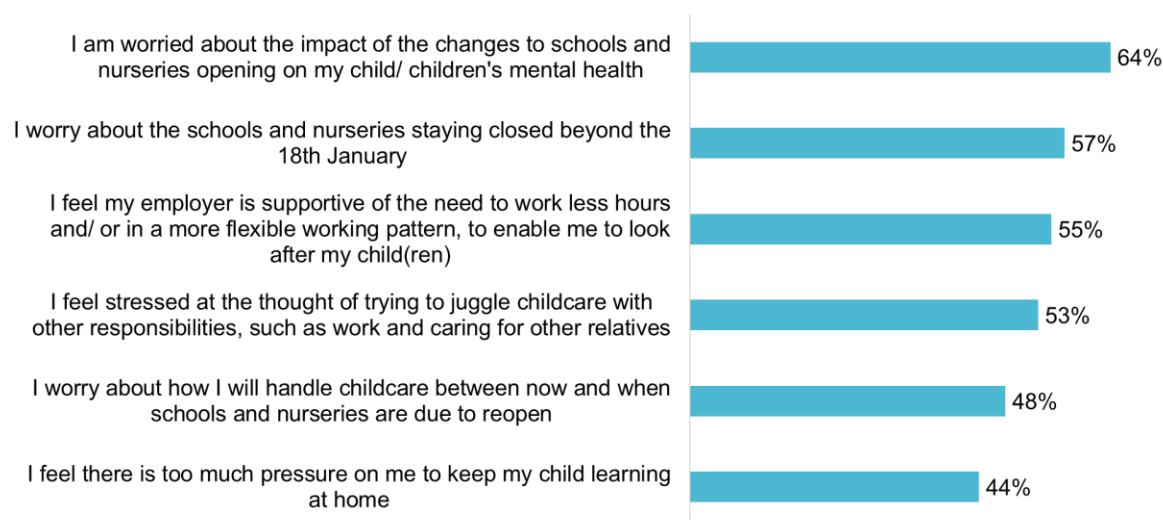


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

## Childcare

With delayed returns to school announced, respondents with children aged 0-17 years were asked at the end of December the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a range of statements about schooling and childcare. Almost two thirds of respondents agreed that they were worried about the impact of the changes to school and nursery opening on their child or children’s mental health. Over half were worried about schools and nurseries staying closed beyond 18 January.

**Figure 12: Proportion who agreed with the statements shown**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (29-30 Dec). Base Scottish parents with children aged 0-17 (n=124-178)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/public-attitudes-coronavirus-april-summary/pages/8/> Figure 7

### 3. Compliance

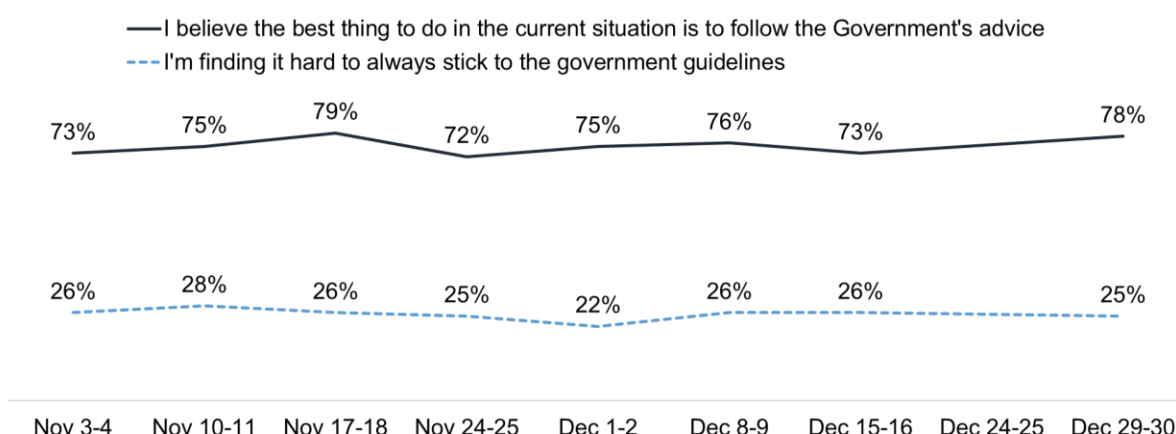
#### Views on guidance

As well as tracking the impacts of Coronavirus on people's finances and health, polling surveys have been used to monitor people's attitudes to the Coronavirus response. This section presents data about public awareness of, and reaction to, Coronavirus measures.

It is important to note that during November and December, restrictions varied by Local Authority and at a national level. Findings should be interpreted in light of this. More information about these changes can be found in Annex B.

Respondents were provided with statements about government advice and guidance, and asked about the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each. Figure 13 shows that the percentage of respondents who agreed that the best thing to do is to follow the government's advice increased between the start of November and the end of December. The proportion of respondents finding it hard to always stick to the government rules was around one quarter during November and December.

**Figure 13: Proportion who agreed with the statements shown**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

#### Views on recent restrictions

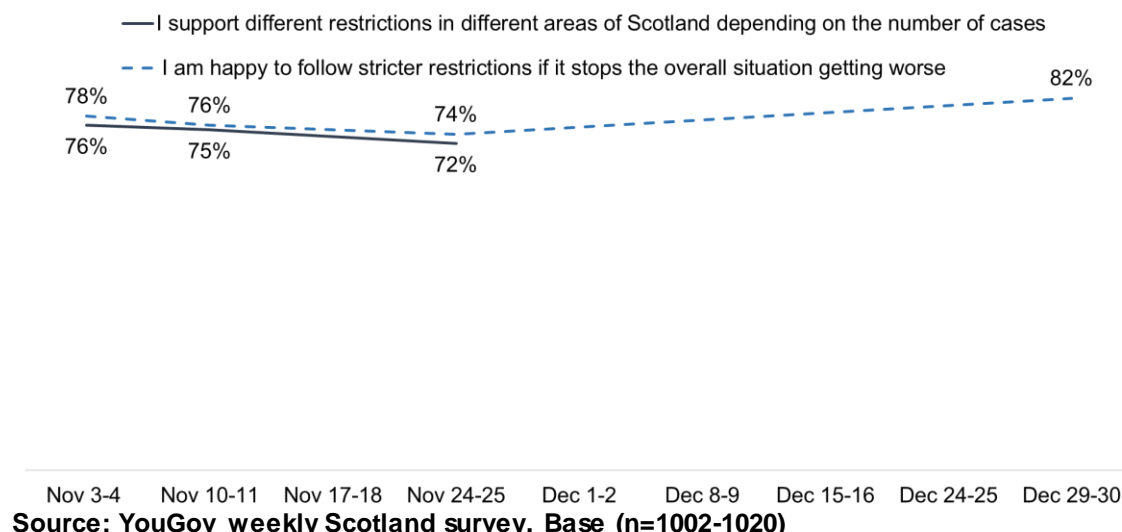
A system of Covid protection levels came into effect on 2 November. Under this system, each local authority was assigned one of five different levels, from 0 to 4, based on five indicators, with levels reviewed on a weekly basis. With most areas in levels 3 or 4 prior to Christmas, <sup>6</sup> restrictions were eased on Christmas Day, and from Boxing Day, all of mainland Scotland moved to Level 4 restrictions.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): local protection levels - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-protecting-levels/pages/12/)

<sup>7</sup> These included the closure of non-essential retail and hospitality. Other than for specific exemptions, travel between Scotland and the rest of the UK was made illegal from midnight on Sunday 20 December. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): stay at home guidance - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-stay-at-home-guidance/pages/12/)

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed with statements about these protection levels. The proportion who supported different restrictions in different areas of Scotland depending on the local situation (including number of cases, rate of infection, hospital capacity, etc.) remained stable at around three quarters during November.<sup>8</sup> The proportion who agreed that they were happy to follow stricter restrictions if it stops the situation getting worse also remained broadly stable during November, but increased to over four in five at the end of December.

**Figure 14: Proportion who agreed with the statements shown**

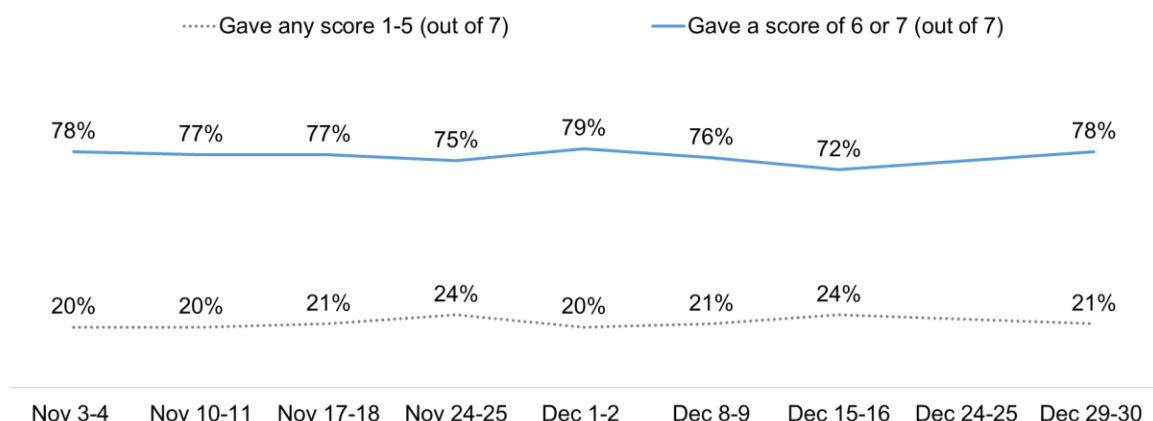


## Compliance with restrictions

Respondents were asked to assess their compliance with Coronavirus guidance on a scale from 1 to 7, where 1 is 'not at all' and 7 is 'completely'. The proportion rating their compliance as 6 or 7 out of 7 remained stable at between three quarters and four fifths throughout November and December. Around one fifth rated their compliance lower with a score of between 1 and 5, was also stable in the period analysed.

<sup>8</sup> Prior to 10-11 Nov the statement read 'I support different restrictions in different areas of Scotland depending on the number of cases'

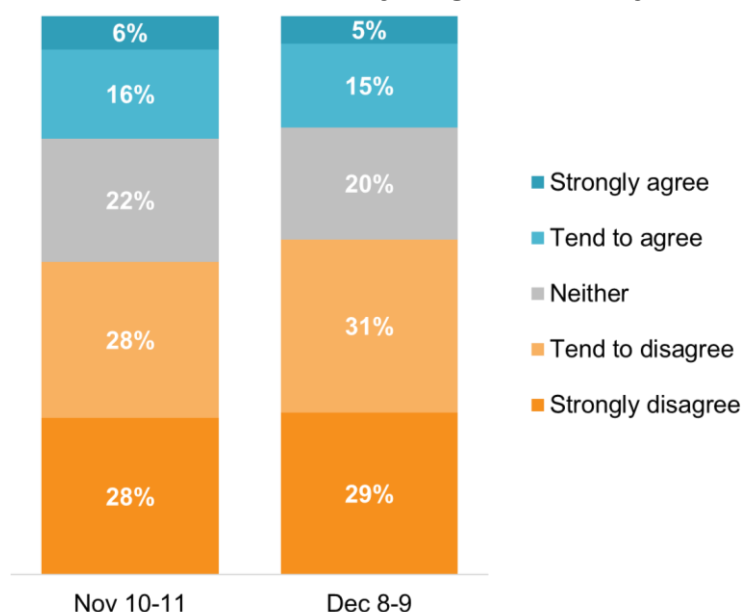
**Figure 15: Proportion who rated their compliance as 1-5 or 6-7 out of 7**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)**

As shown in Figure 16, around a fifth of respondents agreed that they had been adapting the guidance as they do not think everything is necessary, with the same proportion neither agreeing nor disagreeing. The majority of respondents indicated that they had not been adapting the guidance.

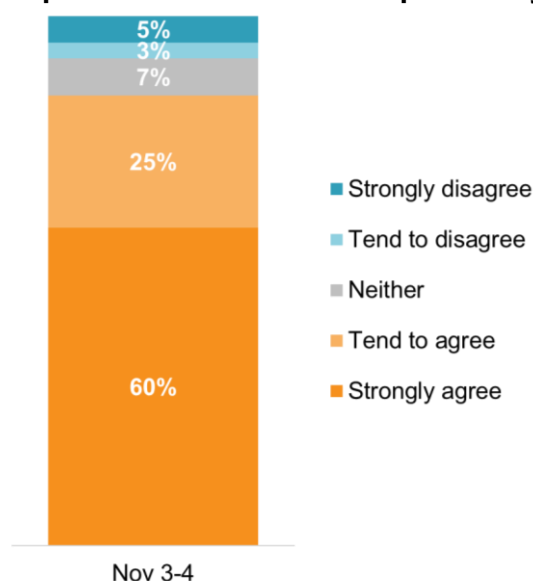
**Figure 16: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statement 'I have been adapting the guidance as I don't think everything is necessary'**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1004)**

Respondents were asked at the start of November whether they agreed that following the rules to stop the spread of the virus is a responsibility that lies with all of us. More than four fifths agreed with the statement.

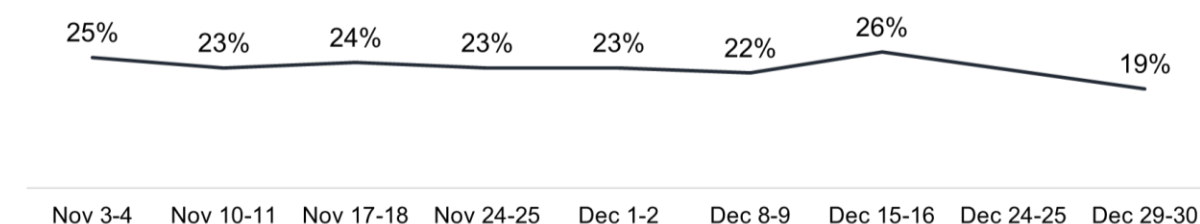
**Figure 17: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statement ‘Following the rules to stop the spread of the virus is a responsibility that lies with all of us’**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (3-4 Nov). Base (n=1013)**

Respondents were also asked to indicate whether they had engaged in a number of indoor and outdoor activities in the previous week, including meeting up with others in a variety of settings, use of public transport, car sharing and travel. The proportion who admitted any non-compliant activity remained stable at around one quarter across November/December, with the exception of the last week of December, when it dropped to just under one fifth.

**Figure 18: Proportion who engaged in any non-compliant activities in the past week**

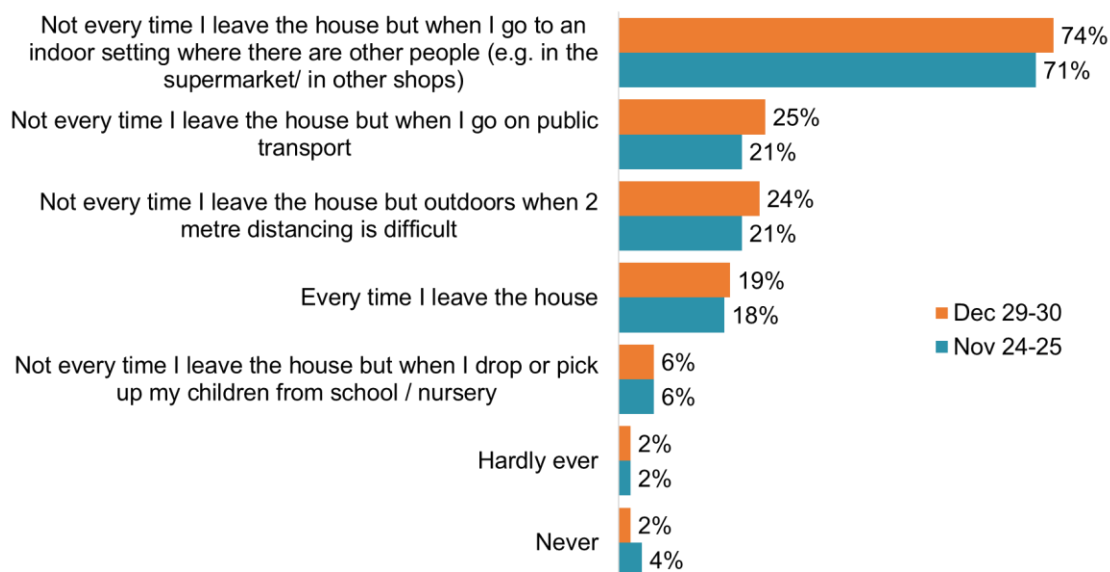


**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)**

### Personal protective actions

Respondents were asked when, if ever, they wear a face covering. As shown in Figure 19, the majority reported to wear a face covering when in indoor settings with other people. A quarter or slightly fewer claimed to wear a face covering when they go on public transport, outdoors when two metre distancing is difficult, or every time they leave the house. Only a small minority reported that they never or hardly ever wear face coverings.

**Figure 19: Proportion wearing a face covering by setting**



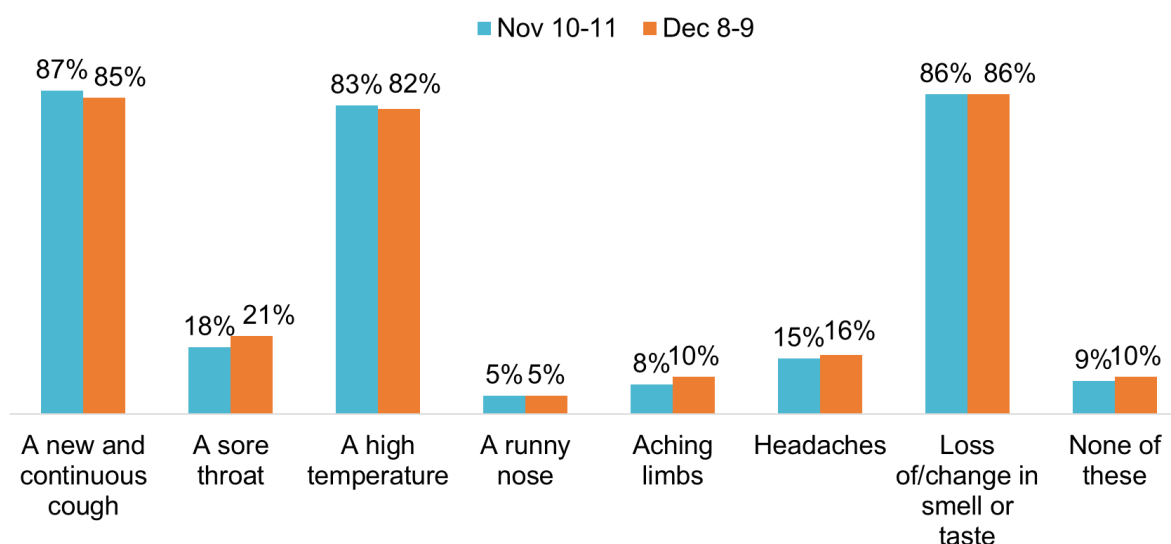
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1005)

## Symptoms

Respondents were provided with a list of symptoms, and asked to identify which, if any, are the symptoms of Coronavirus that people are being asked to watch out for. Figure 20 shows responses to this question in early November and early December.

More than four in five respondents correctly identified a new and continuous cough, a high temperature, or loss of/change in smell or taste as symptoms of Coronavirus we are asked to watch out for.

**Figure 20: Respondents' awareness of symptoms**



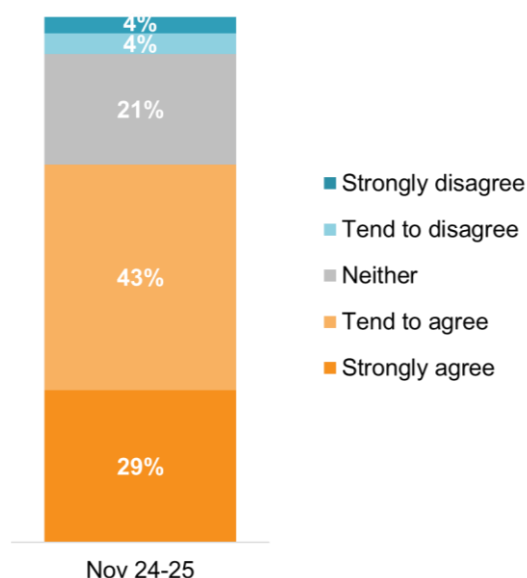
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1004)



## Test and Protect

At the end of November, respondents were asked to what extent they agreed that they worry that not everyone will use Test & Protect if they have symptoms. Just over seven in ten agreed with the statement, with one in five neither agreeing nor disagreeing.

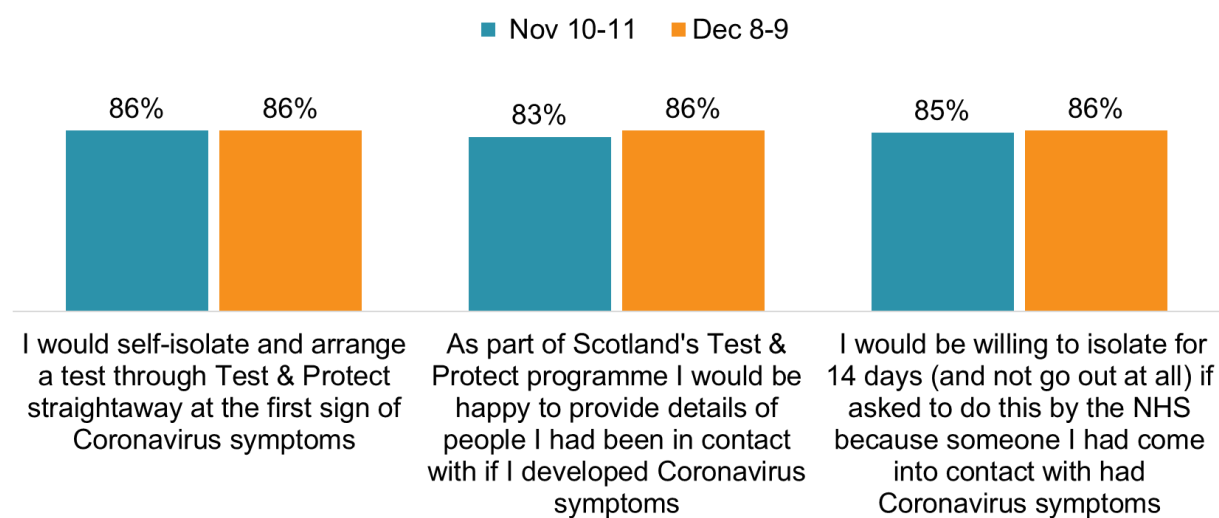
**Figure 21: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statement ‘I worry that not everyone will use Test & Protect if they have symptoms’**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (24-25 Nov). Base (n=1002)

Respondents were also asked whether they agreed or disagreed that they would self-isolate and arrange a test through Test & Protect straightaway at the first sign of Coronavirus symptoms, alongside other statements about their willingness to comply with the programme. Figure 22 shows that the vast majority agreed that they would self-isolate and arrange a test through Test & Protect straightaway at the first sign of Coronavirus symptoms, that they would be willing to provide details of those they had been in contact with if they developed symptoms, and that they would be willing to comply with self-isolation guidance. Levels of agreement with each statement did not change between November and December.

**Figure 22: Proportion who agreed with the statements shown**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1004)**

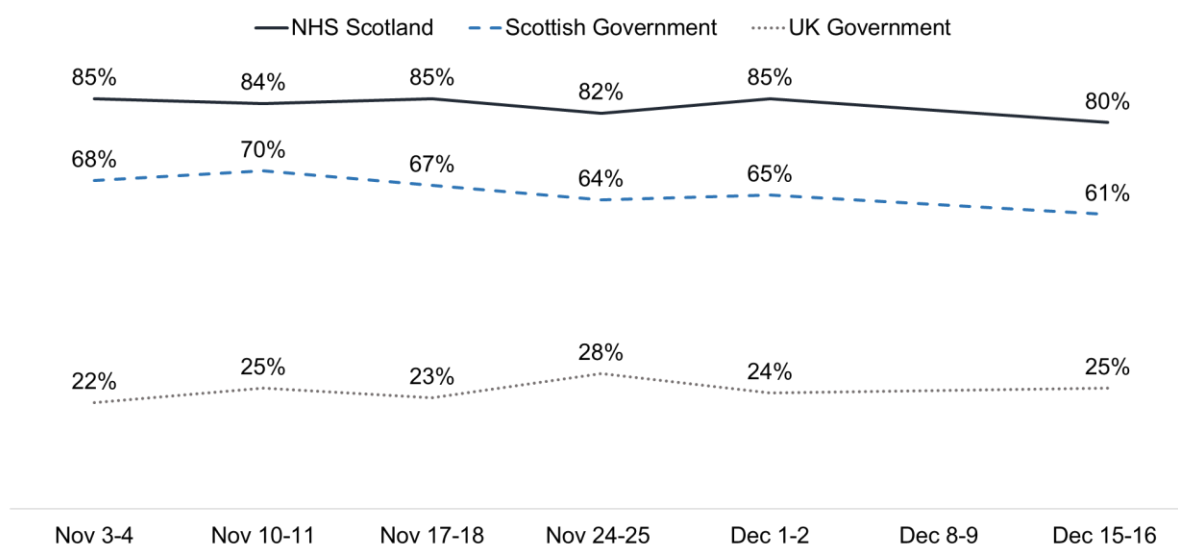
## 4. Views on government and information sources

### Rating of government

This section summarises polling data about public trust in the Coronavirus measures, and trust in various sources to provide information about Coronavirus.

Respondents were asked how good or poor a job various institutions are doing to help their country deal with recovery following the pandemic. As shown in Figure 23, while NHS Scotland was the highest rated, the proportion of respondents rating it as doing a good or very good job declined slightly in mid-December. The proportion rating the Scottish Government as doing a good or very good job also declined between mid-December and the month previous. Around one quarter rated the UK Government as doing a good job.

**Figure 23: Proportion who rated each as doing a good/very good job to help Scotland deal with recovering following the pandemic**

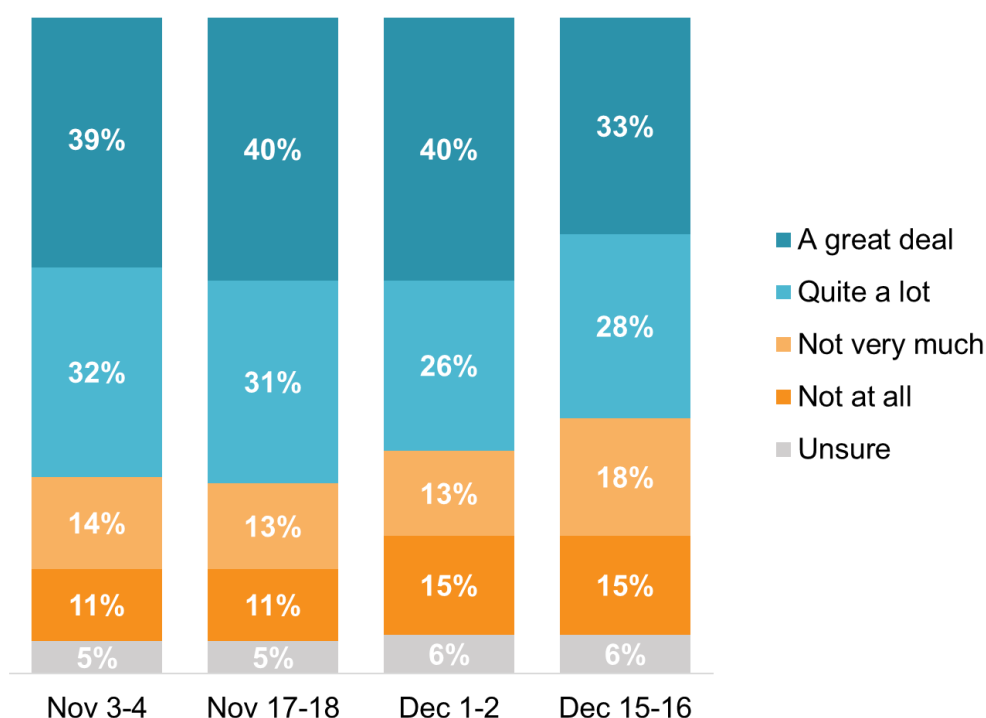


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

### Trust in Scottish Government

Respondents were asked to what extent they trust the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests during the Coronavirus pandemic. As shown in Figure 24, around seven in ten said that they trust the Scottish Government 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot', although the proportion who reported 'a great deal' declined between early and mid-December. Around one third reported that they do not trust the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests in mid-December.

**Figure 24: Whether respondents trust the Scottish Government to work in Scotland's best interests during the Coronavirus pandemic**



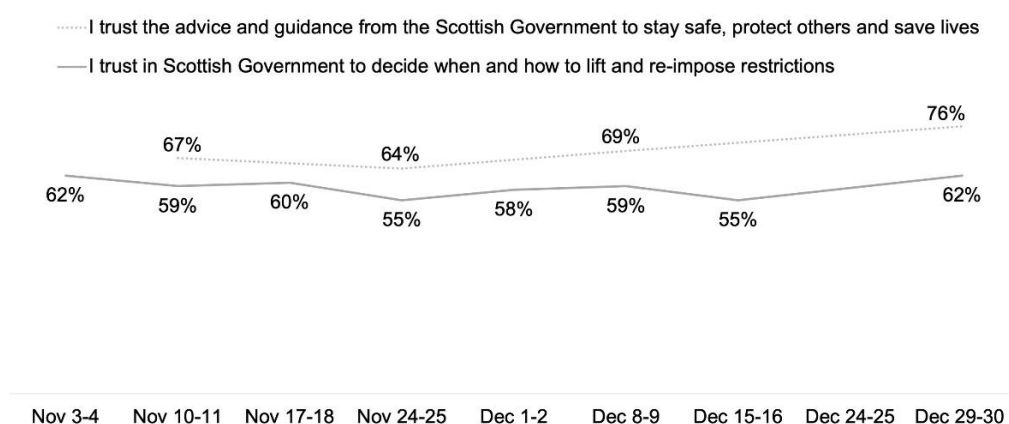
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009-1020)

### Trust in Scottish Government advice and guidance

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about trust in the Scottish Government's advice and guidance. Figure 25 shows that the majority agreed with these statements. The proportion trusting the advice and guidance from the Scottish Government to stay safe, protect others and save lives was around two thirds for most of November and December, increasing to three quarters at the end of December.<sup>9</sup> In comparison, around three in five trust the Scottish Government to decide when and how to lift and re-impose restrictions.

**Figure 25: Proportion who agreed with the statements shown**

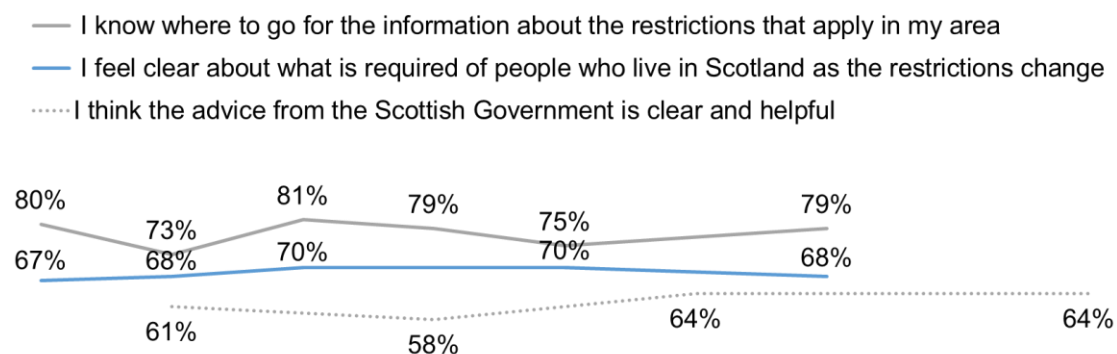
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)



<sup>9</sup> From 29-30 Dec wording was changed to 'I trust the advice and guidance from the Scottish Government to stay home, stop the spread and save lives'

Figure 26 shows that, during November and December, the majority of respondents agreed that they feel clear about what is required, that they think that advice from the Scottish Government is clear and helpful, and that they know where to go for information about the restrictions that apply in their area. The proportion agreeing with the latter dipped in November and slightly in December, but has since recovered.

**Figure 26: Proportion who agreed with the statements shown**

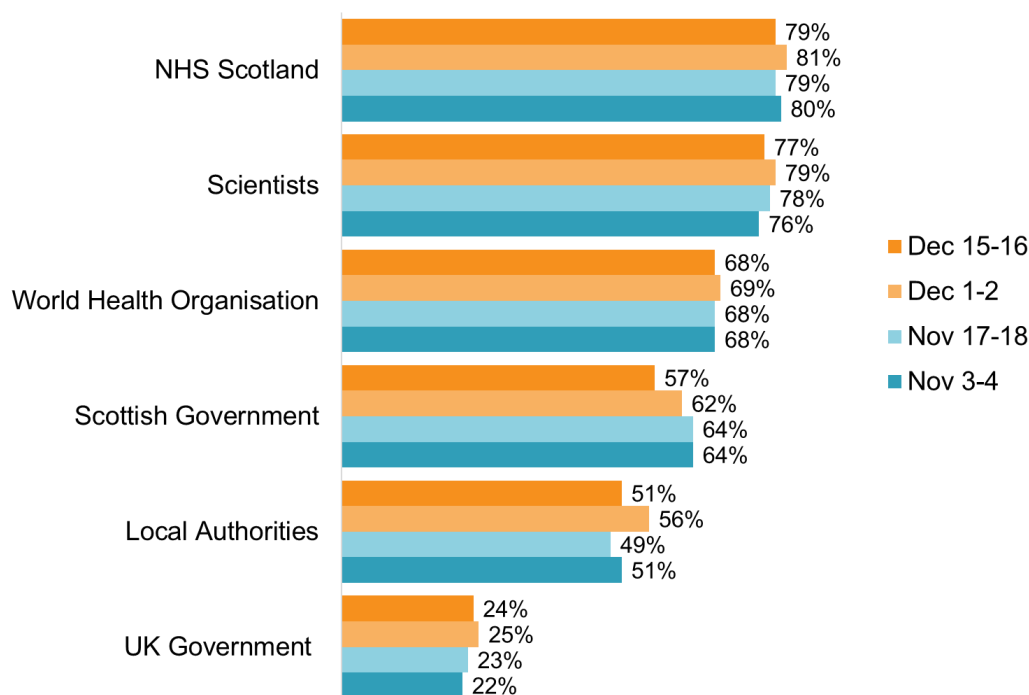


Nov 3-4 Nov 10-11 Nov 17-18 Nov 24-25 Dec 1-2 Dec 8-9 Dec 15-16 Dec 24-25 Dec 29-30

**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)**

Respondents were shown a list of information sources and asked about the degree to which they trust the source to deliver information on Coronavirus. As shown in Figure 27, the proportion who said they trust NHS Scotland was consistently higher than the proportion who trust the Scottish Government and Local Authorities in this context. Trust in information from the Scottish Government declined slightly in mid-December.

**Figure 27: Proportion who completely or mostly trust each information source to deliver information on Coronavirus**

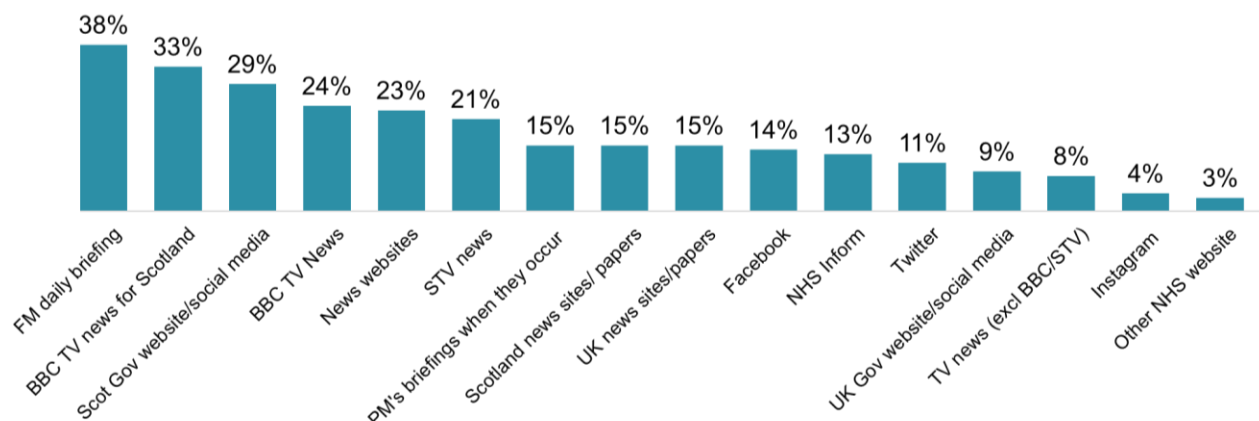


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009-1020)

### Sources of information

In November, respondents were shown a list of information sources and asked which they use regularly to access information on Coronavirus (i.e. at least three times a week). As shown in Figure 28, Scotland specific sources were used by sizable minorities, including FM daily briefings, BBC TV News for Scotland, and Scot Gov websites/social media.

**Figure 28: Proportion using each information source regularly to access information on Coronavirus**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (24-25 Nov). Base (n=1002)

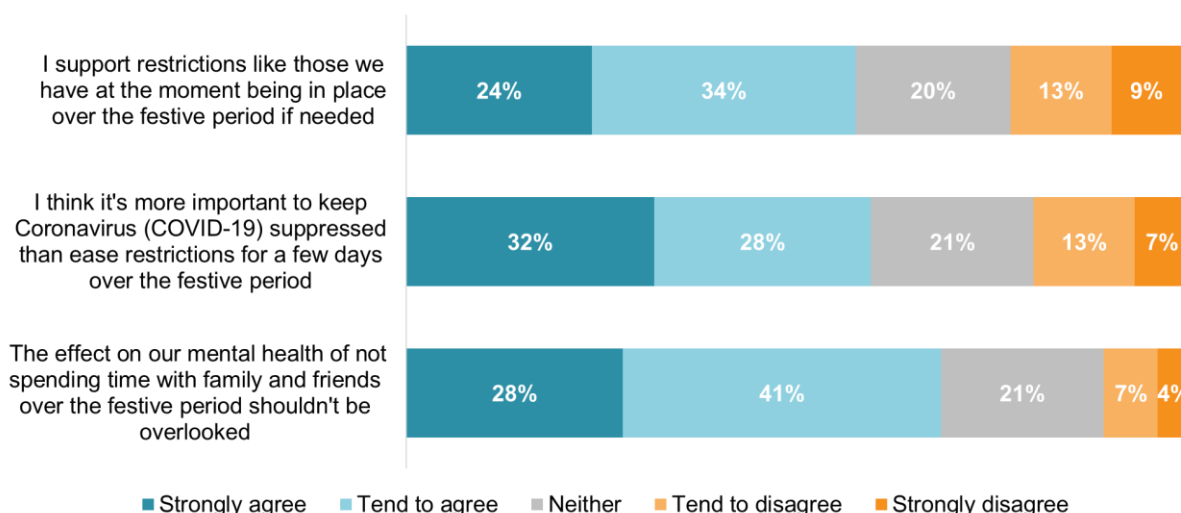
## 5. Festive period

At the end of November a UK-wide relaxation of Coronavirus restrictions for the festive period was announced, to allow people to travel and spend Christmas together in “bubbles” with other households between 23 and 27 December 2020. Guidance changed following 19 December, to take into account new developments of the virus, with the planned relaxation tightened.<sup>10</sup> This chapter presents public opinions and insights from polling data related to these events, the festive period and New Year.

### Views towards festive restrictions

In mid-November, a majority (around three fifths) agreed that they would support restrictions like those then in place being continued over the festive period. However, concerns about the impact of not seeing friends or family on mental health were also high, with seven in ten agreeing that this should not be overlooked.

**Figure 29: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statements shown**

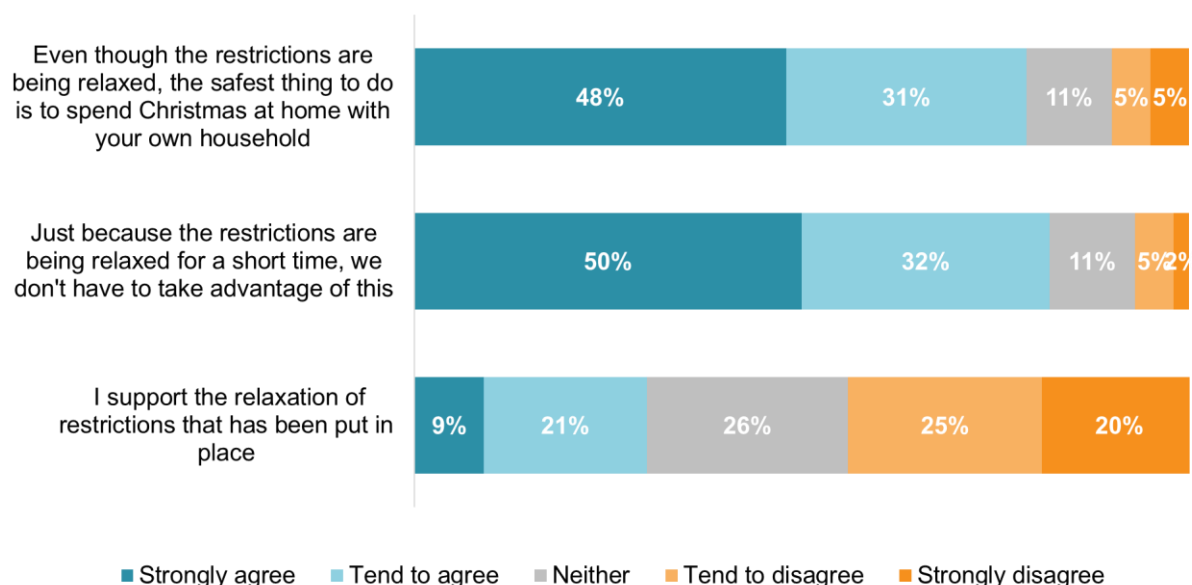


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (17-18 Nov). Base (n=1009)

<sup>10</sup> [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Christmas and the festive period - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-christmas-and-the-festive-period/pages/10/)

In early December, around three in ten agreed that they support the relaxation of restrictions, while over four in ten disagreed. The vast majority agreed that the safest thing to do is stay within your own household during the festive period.

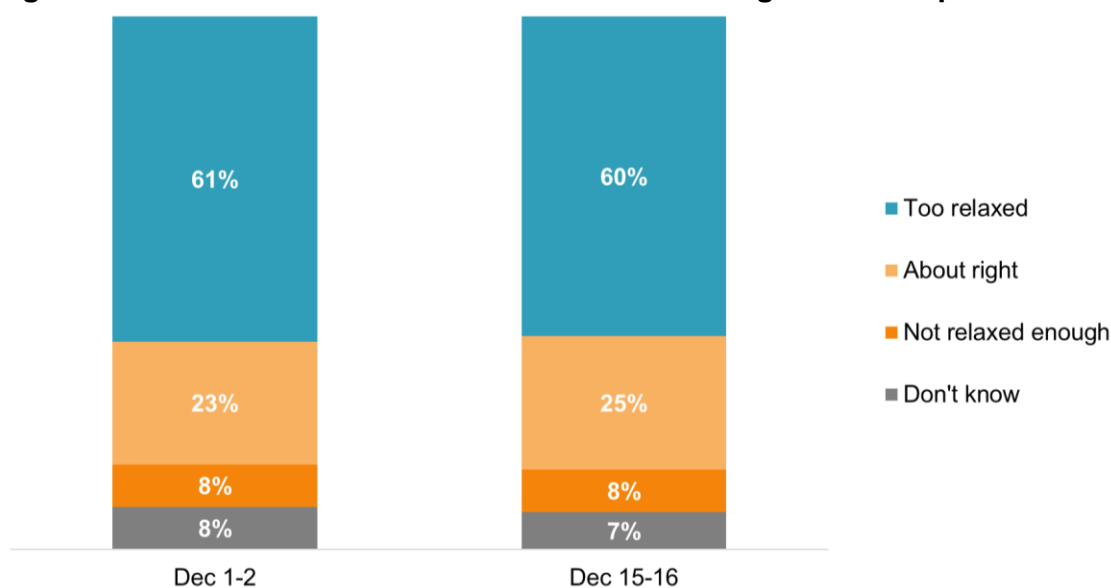
**Figure 30: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statements shown**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (1-2 Dec). Base (n=1020)

Respondents were asked what they thought about the level of relaxation of restrictions planned for the festive period. Around three fifths reported the level of relaxation to be too relaxed, and under a quarter reported it to be about right. Less than one in ten reported the restrictions to be not relaxed enough. This remained stable in the first two weeks of December.

**Figure 31: Views on the relaxation of restrictions during the festive period**

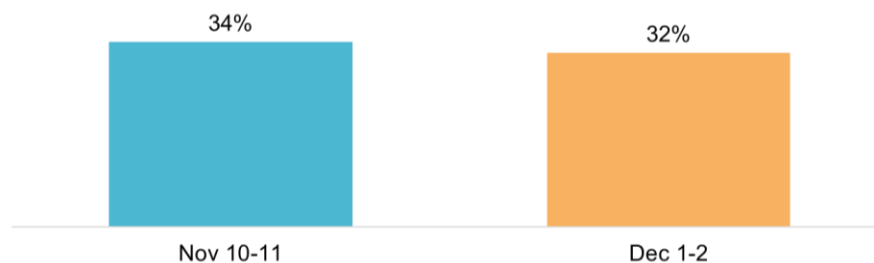


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)



Around a third of respondents indicated they had concerns about their mental health over the festive period, as shown in Figure 32.

**Figure 32: Proportion who agreed with the statement ‘I am worried about my mental health over the festive period’**



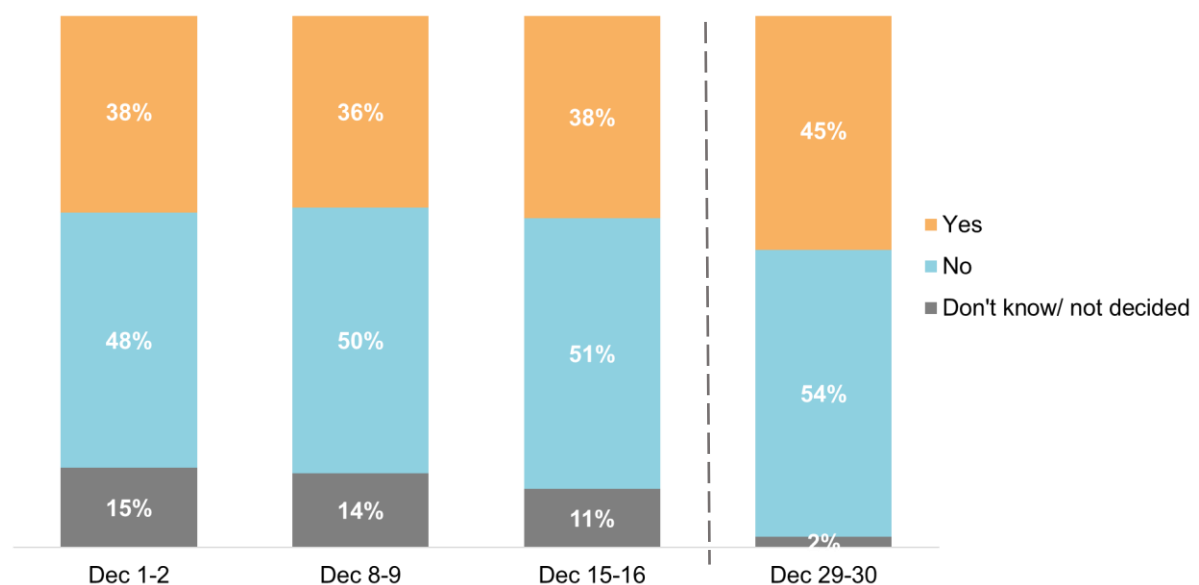
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1004-1020)

### Intentions/ actions over festive period

Before the festive period, respondents were asked whether they planned to take advantage of any easing of restrictions. With easing ultimately limited to Christmas Day, at the end of December respondents were asked whether or not they had taken advantage of the relaxation of the rules.

As shown in Figure 33 just under two fifths reported that they intended to, while around a half reported they did not. There was a slight decline in the proportion who did not know or had not decided during the first two weeks of December. However, following the festive period, with those undecided allocated, the proportion who said that they took advantage increased.

**Figure 33: Intentions to take advantage of the easing of restrictions before the festive period and whether actually took advantage of the easing of restrictions**

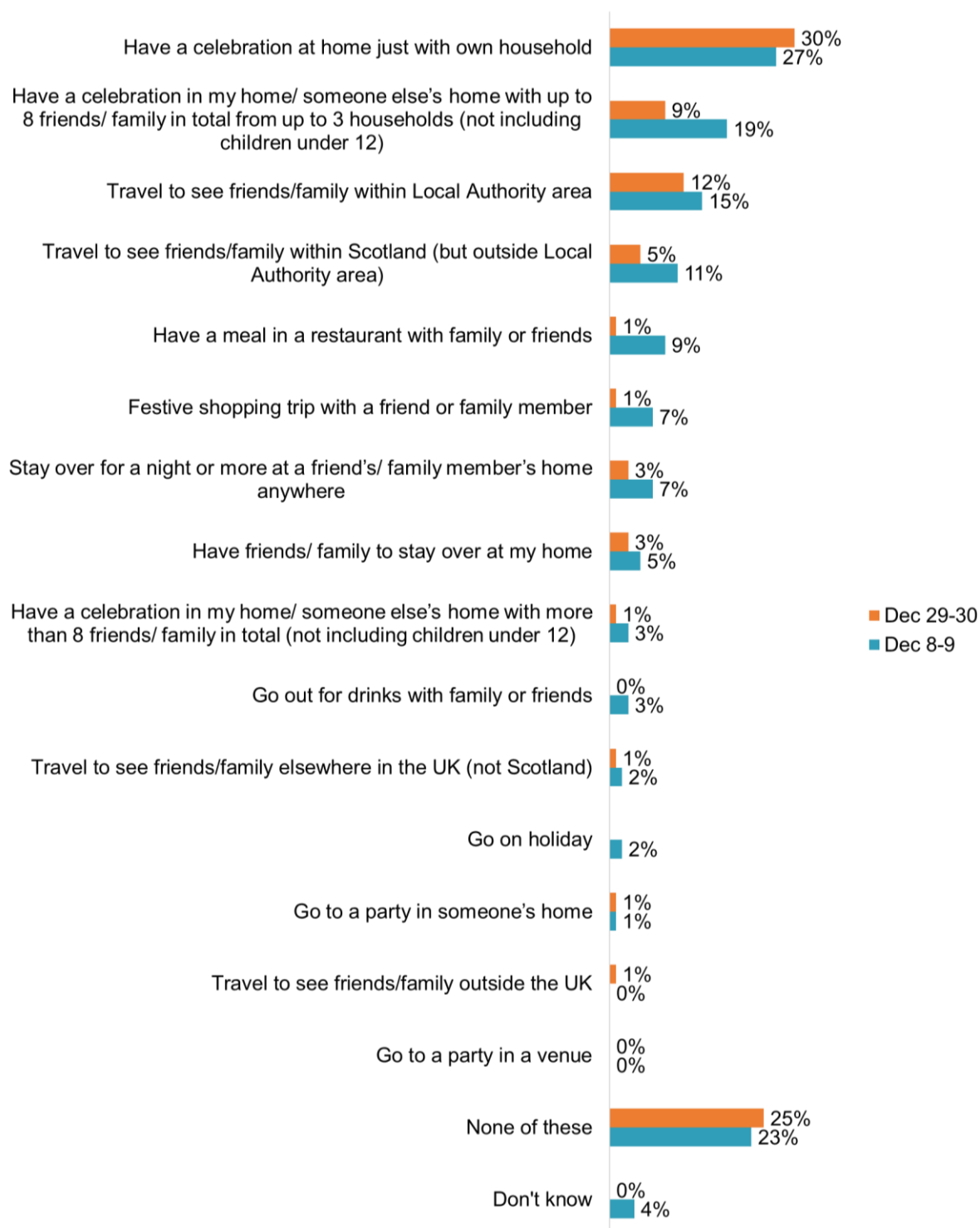


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

Before the festive period, respondents were provided a list of possible activities and asked which, if any, they intended to do over the festive period (24 to 27 December). Following 25 December respondents were asked whether or not they had undertaken any of these activities.

As shown in Figure 34, just over a quarter reported that they planned to have a celebration with their own household, and around a fifth planned to have a celebration with people from another household, which was within the guidance at the time. Only a small proportion planned to have family or friends stay, or to go on holiday. Actual activities claimed post-Christmas mostly reflected these intentions and the new guidance, with three in ten celebrating with their own household. Around one in ten celebrated with up to eight friends or family in their or someone else's home, lower than had been planned.

**Figure 34: Proportion planning each activity for over festive period (and undertaken)<sup>11</sup>**



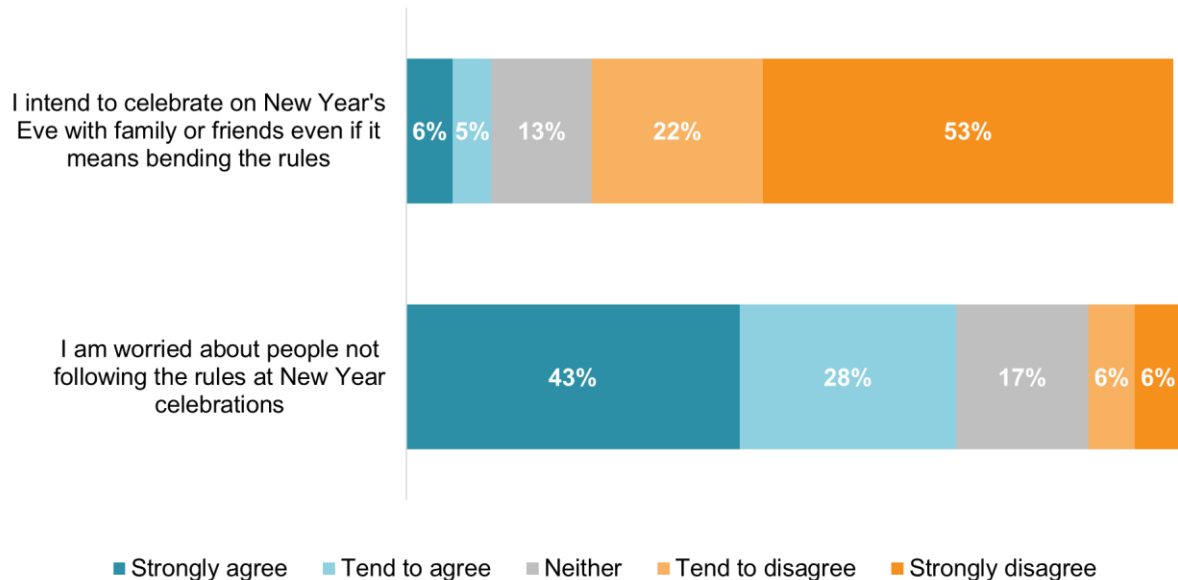
**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1005)**

<sup>11</sup> Statements were worded in the past tense for 29-30 December

## New Year

There was no easing of Coronavirus restrictions over the New Year period. When asked about New Year at the beginning of December, around one in ten agreed that they “intend to celebrate at New Year even if it means bending the rules”. A much higher proportion (seven in ten) agreed that they “are worried about other people not following the guidance for New Year celebrations”.

**Figure 35: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statements shown**



Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (8-9 Dec). Base (n=1002)

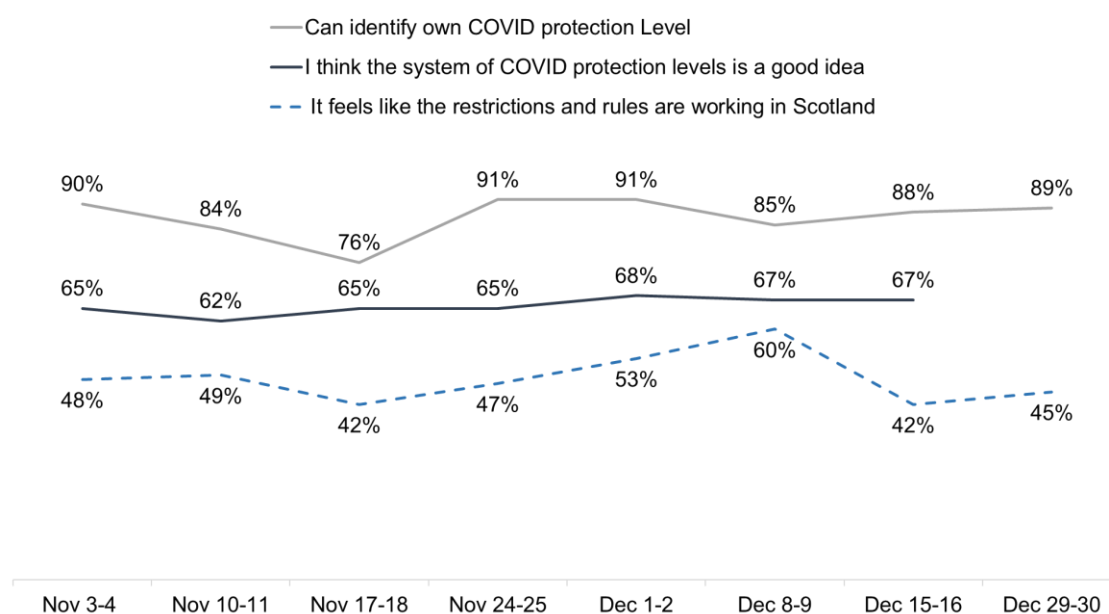
## 6. Views on current and future measures

### Current restrictions

Finally, surveys have examined people's attitudes towards support for Coronavirus measures and future plans. This section summarises polling data related to public confidence in current restriction measures and attitudes towards vaccination for Covid-19.

The protection levels approach was introduced in Scotland on 2 November 2020 and is explained in Scotland's Strategic Framework.<sup>12</sup> As shown in Fig 36, since it was introduced, around two thirds of respondents agreed that the levels system is a good idea.<sup>13</sup> The majority are able to identify the protection level of their own area, with awareness higher in December than in mid-November. The proportion who feel like the restrictions are working in Scotland increased in early December, from a half to three fifths, then fell back to two fifths in mid-December.

**Figure 36: Proportion who agreed with statements shown, and correctly identified own level**



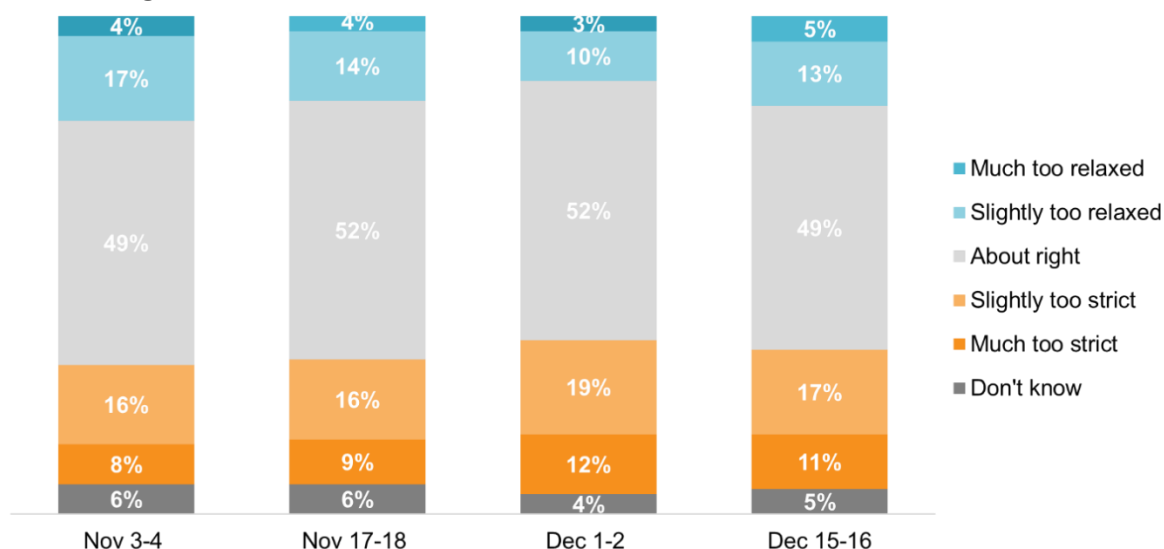
Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

When asked about the level of restrictions currently in place in their area, around half reported it to be 'about right'. Between early November and early December there was an increase in the proportion who reported it as too strict, from just under a quarter, to just over three in ten. Correspondingly, the proportion reporting the level as 'too relaxed' declined during this time. However, in mid-December the proportion who thought they were too relaxed increased slightly.

<sup>12</sup> [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Scotland's Strategic Framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotland-strategic-framework/pages/12.aspx)

<sup>13</sup> Prior to 8-9 Dec the statement read 'I support the introduction of the new system of COVID protection levels'

**Figure 37: Whether respondents think restrictions in their area are too relaxed, strict or 'about right'**

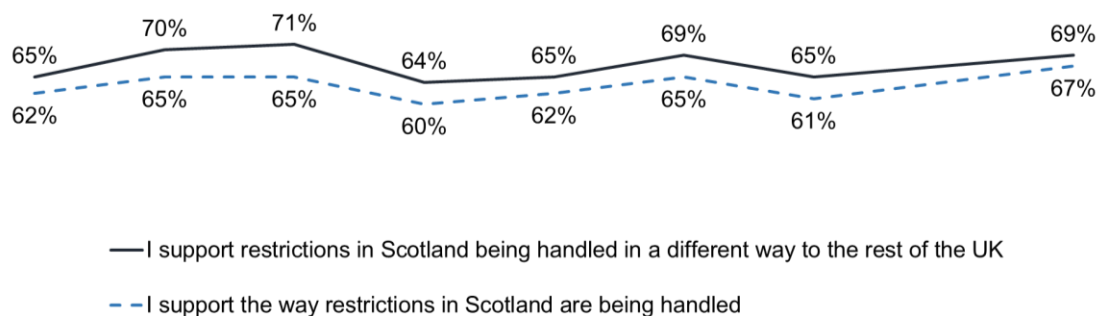


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1009-1020)

### Support for measures

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about the way restrictions were being handled in Scotland. Figure 38 shows that, during November and December, the majority agreed that they support the way restrictions are being handled, despite some fluctuation. Support for Scotland handling restrictions in a different way to the UK have likewise fluctuated, with between two thirds and seven in ten in agreement over this period.

**Figure 38: Proportion who agreed/strongly agreed with the statements shown**

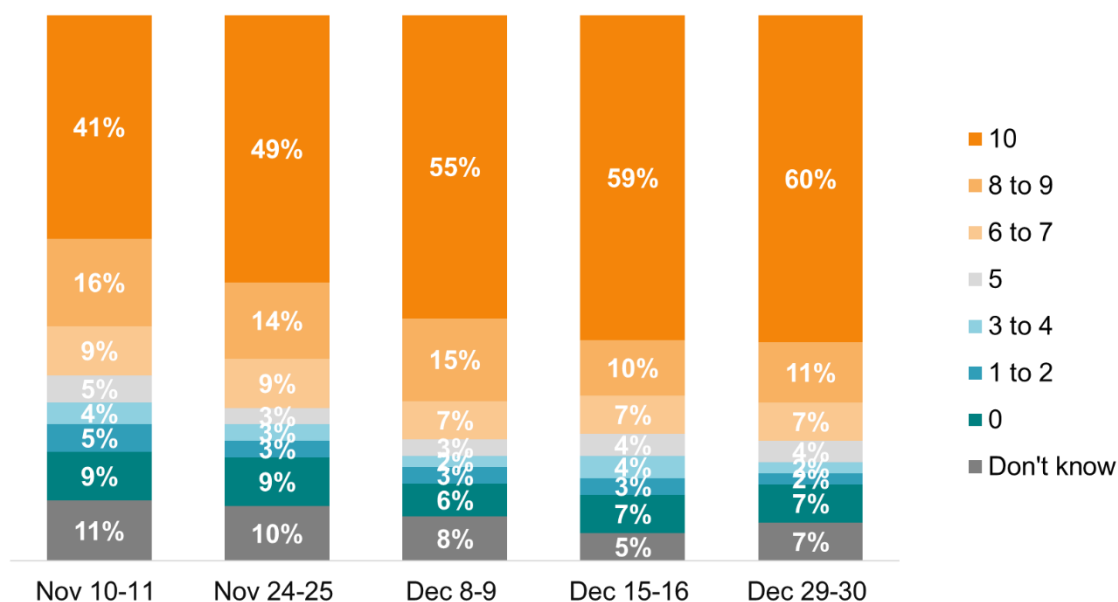


Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1020)

## Covid-19 vaccine

Using a scale of 0 ('extremely unlikely') to 10 ('extremely likely'), respondents were asked how likely or unlikely they are to be vaccinated for COVID-19 when a vaccine becomes available to them. The proportion who reported they are 'extremely likely' to be vaccinated increased between mid-November and the end of December, from two fifths to three fifths. The proportion who reported they are unlikely (with a score of 0-2) declined slightly at the end of November but has remained stable since at around one in ten.

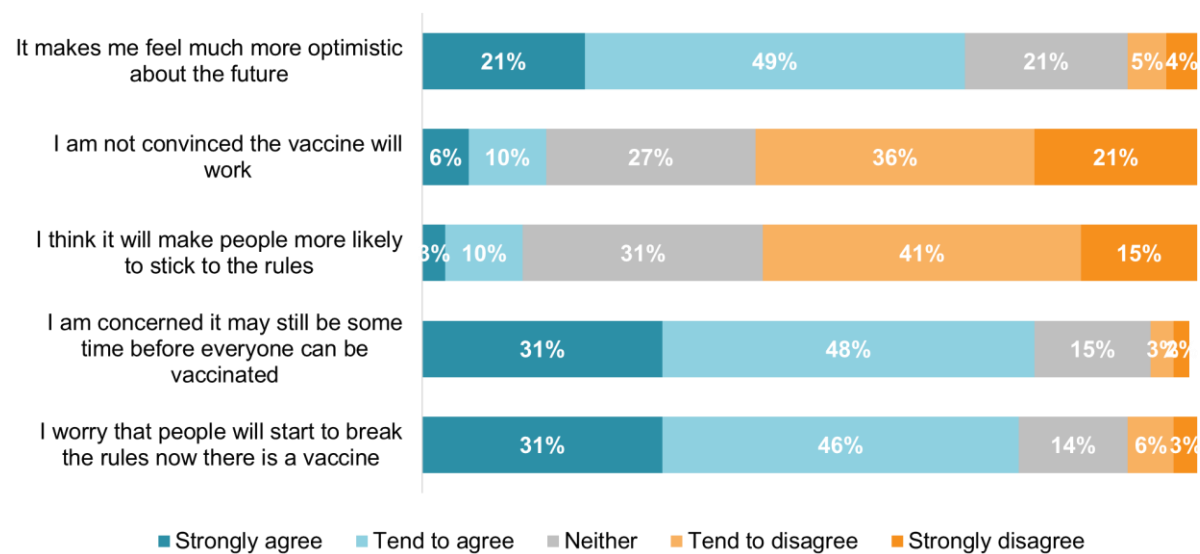
**Figure 39: Likelihood of being vaccinated for COVID-19**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey. Base (n=1002-1009)**

Respondents were also asked whether they agreed or disagreed with statements about the Covid-19 vaccine. As shown in Figure 40, seven in ten agreed that the vaccine has given them more optimism, however, more than three quarters agreed that they are worried that people will start to break the rules. A small proportion (around one in six) agreed that they are not convinced the vaccine will work, although over half disagreed with this statement.

**Figure 40: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statements shown**



**Source: YouGov weekly Scotland survey (8-9 Dec). Base (n=1002)**



## Annex A: Sample sizes

YouGov results are based on a sample of c.1,000 adults 18+ across Scotland at each wave. YouGov apply weighting to the data to match the population profile to adjust for any over/under representations and to maximise consistency from wave to wave. Parameters used include age, gender, social class, region and level of education.

**Table 2: Fieldwork information**

Name	Sample size	Age group	Field dates
YouGov weekly survey	Wave 33: 1013	18+	Wave 33: 3-4 Nov
	Wave 34: 1004		Wave 34: 10-11 Nov
	Wave 35: 1009		Wave 35: 17-18 Nov
	Wave 36: 1002		Wave 36: 24-25 Nov
	Wave 37: 1020		Wave 37: 1-2 Dec
	Wave 38: 1002		Wave 38: 8-9 Dec
	Wave 39: 1009		Wave 39: 15-16 Dec
	Wave 41: 1005		Wave 41: 29-30 Dec

Fieldwork dates cover the period where the bulk of the survey fieldwork was completed. Usually a small number of interviews are completed on the morning after the dates shown. Fieldwork was paused for one week (week 40) for the festive period.

## Annex B: Key events during data collection

This table below summarises of key events taking place in November and December related to Coronavirus in Scotland. It is not exhaustive, however, gives some context to events surrounding data collection. Fieldwork dates should be borne in mind when interpreting the data.

2 November	Covid protection levels system comes into effect.
5 November	England begins month long lockdown.
10 November	FM announces changes to levels coming into effect on 13 Nov. News of first effective vaccine, Pfizer and BioNTech broke.
17 November	FM announces changes to levels, coming into effect on 20 Nov, with some Levels entering Level 4 and ban on non-essential travel in/out of Levels 3 and 4; news about Moderna vaccine breaks.
24 November	FM announces small changes to levels, news of Oxford University vaccine; Level 1 now able to meet 8 persons/3 households outdoors.
26 November	Guidance about festive period published.
2 December	Announcement of Pfizer vaccine approval and for vaccination to begin on 8 December; no change to Levels.
8 December	First vaccinations take place. FM announces changes to levels, becoming effective on 11 December - including all Level 4 areas going down to Level 3.
15 December	New strain of Coronavirus in the media. FM announces re-assignment of 3 Local Authorities to Level 3.
16 December	Updated guidance on festive period issued.
19 December	FM announces from 26 December, all areas apart from some islands will enter Level 4; cases continue to rise.
25 December	Restrictions relaxed, allowing bubbles of up to 8 people from 3 households to share Christmas Day.
26 December	Level 4 restrictions in place in all areas apart from some islands from 26 December.



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