



# Scottish Energy Opinion

Survey Results for:

**GREENPEACE** UK



Philip Eisenhart 0131 550 3737  
Jonathan Bradley 0131 550 3735  
[www.2collaborate.co.uk](http://www.2collaborate.co.uk)

## **Introduction**

Greenpeace UK commissioned 2collaborate to undertake an independent survey of adults living in Scotland.

The purpose of this survey was to test public opinion about the UK Government's Energy review and in particular the public's attitude to nuclear power.

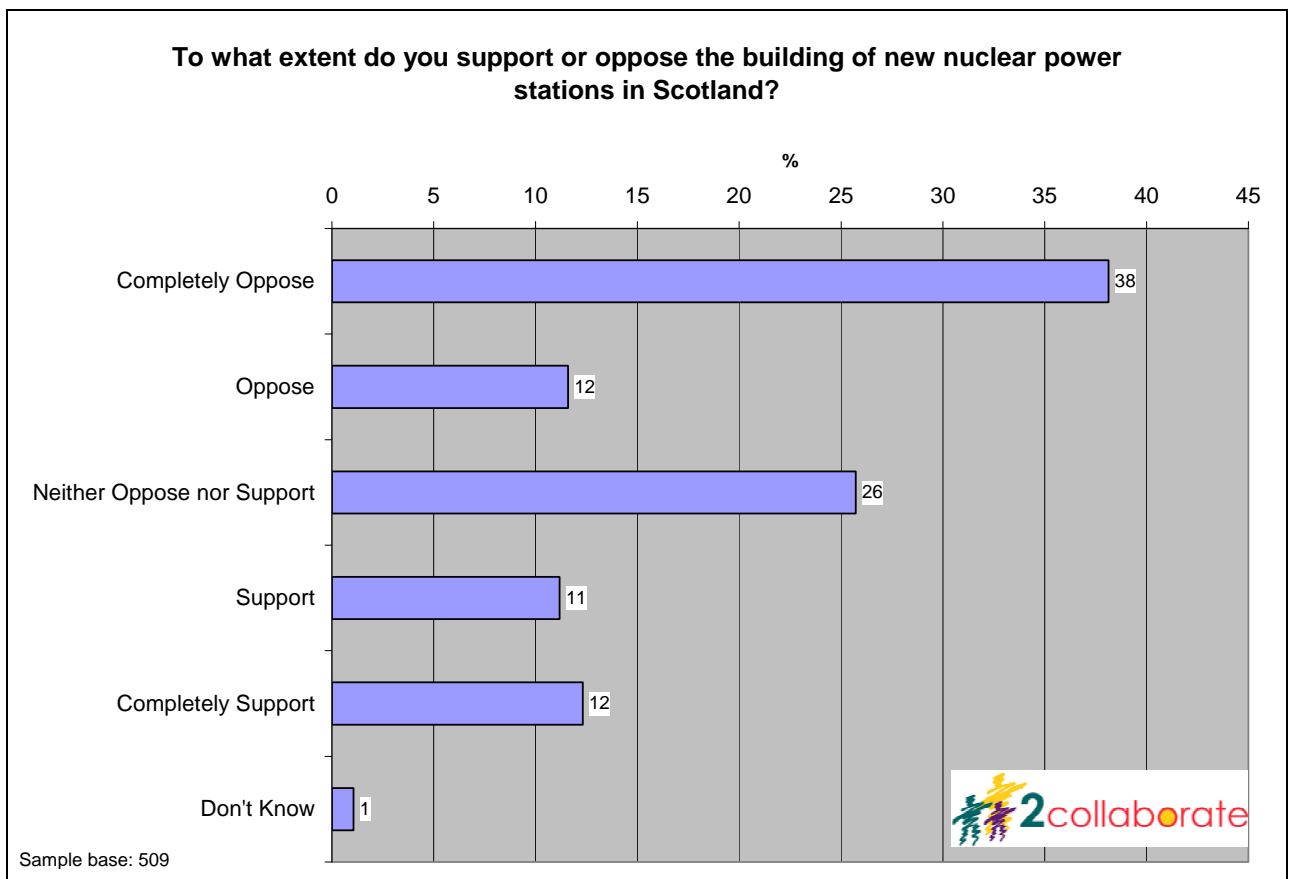
The results of this survey are provided below. A random sample of just over 500 telephone interviews was completed between 11<sup>th</sup> April and 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007. These results have been weighted by known population estimates to be representative of the general population of Scotland.

## Survey results

All respondents were told about the UK Government's energy review with the interviewers reading out the following statement: The Government has recently completed a UK energy review, and is in favour of building new nuclear power stations. There are few sites in the UK where building nuclear plants will be acceptable; this will probably mean building nuclear plants in Scotland.

They were then asked the extent to which they support or oppose the building of new nuclear power stations in Scotland. This was on a scale of one to five, where 1 is completely oppose and 5 is completely support. Figure 1 summarises their response.

Figure 1



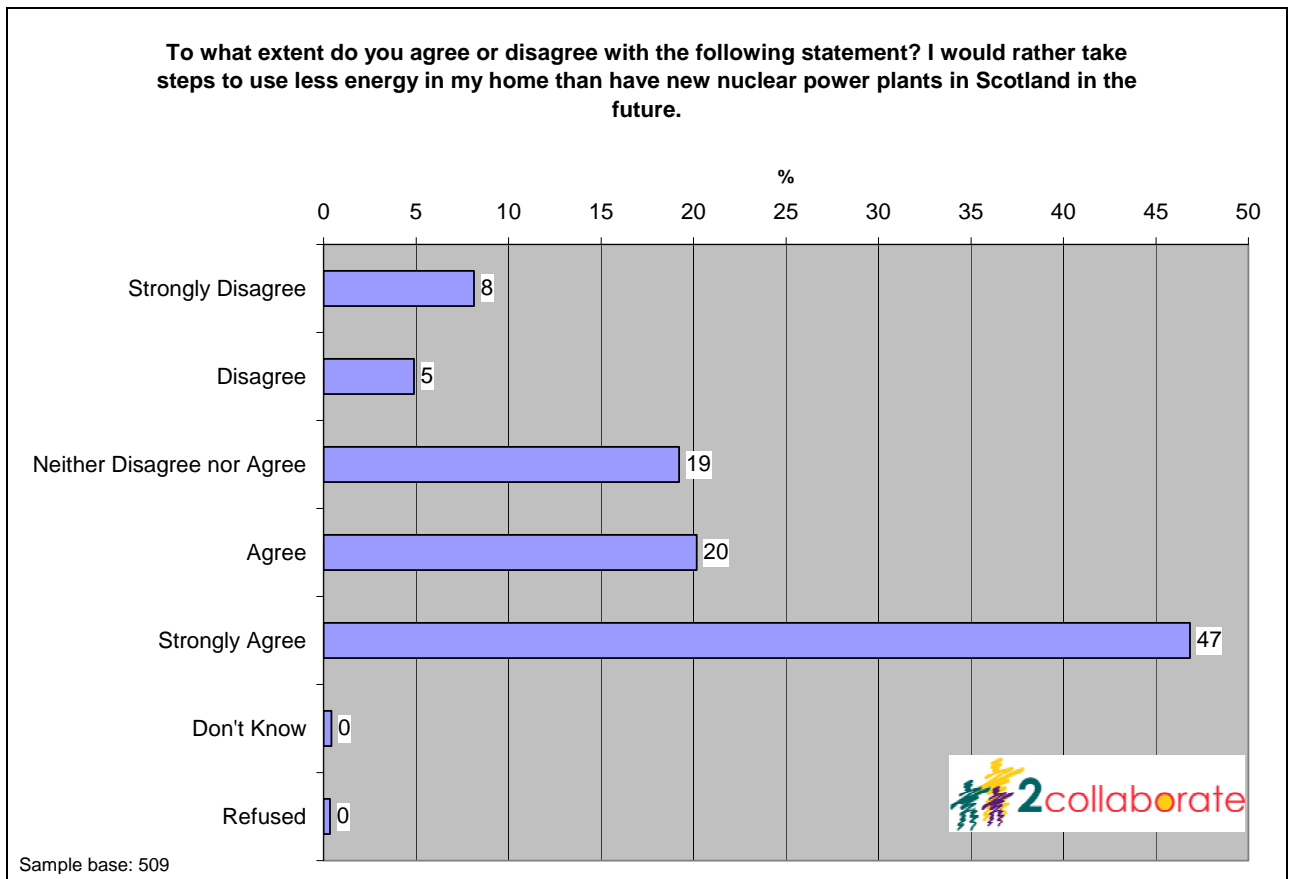
Note: verbal statements have been added for codes other than 1 (completely oppose) and 5 (completely support) which were given verbal attributes during the interview.

The survey findings indicate that less than a quarter of people living in Scotland support proposals to build new nuclear power stations here with around half the population actually opposing such plans (50% of those surveyed).

All respondents were then asked to rate their agreement with certain statements.

First of all they were asked whether or not they agreed or disagreed with the following: I would rather take steps to use less energy in my home than have new nuclear power plants in Scotland in the future. Figure 2 summarises their responses.

Figure 2



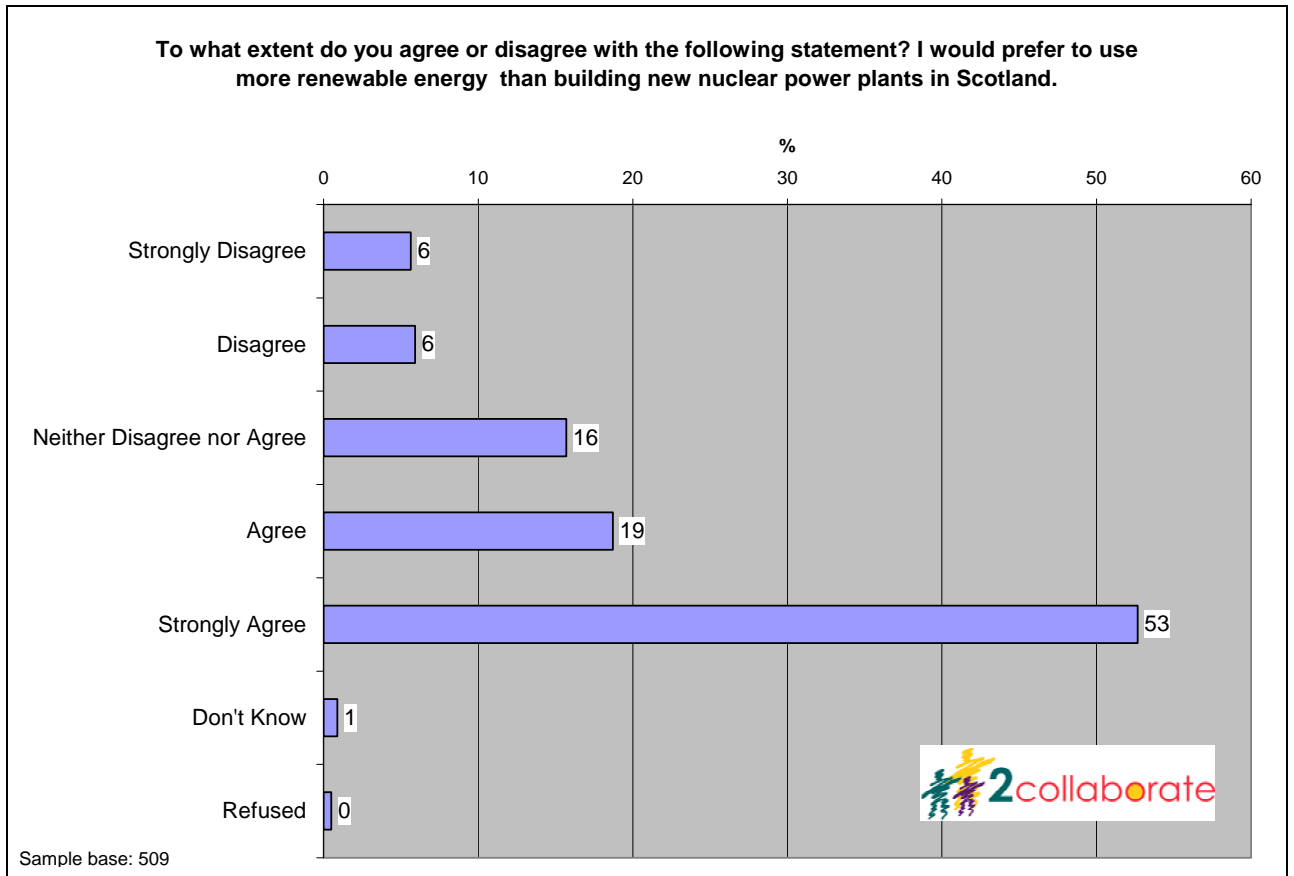
Note: verbal statements have been added for codes other than 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree) as these were given verbal attributes during the interview.

Almost two thirds (67%) of those surveyed indicated that they agreed with this statement demonstrating that the majority of people living in Scotland would prefer to take steps to be more energy efficient than see new nuclear power plants in Scotland.

Few seem opposed to being more energy efficient rather than building new nuclear power plants. Just 13% of those surveyed indicate that this is the case.

Respondents were then asked the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the following statement: I would prefer to use more renewable energy than building new nuclear power plants in Scotland.

Figure 3



Note: verbal statements have been added for codes other than 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree) as these were given verbal attributes during the interview.

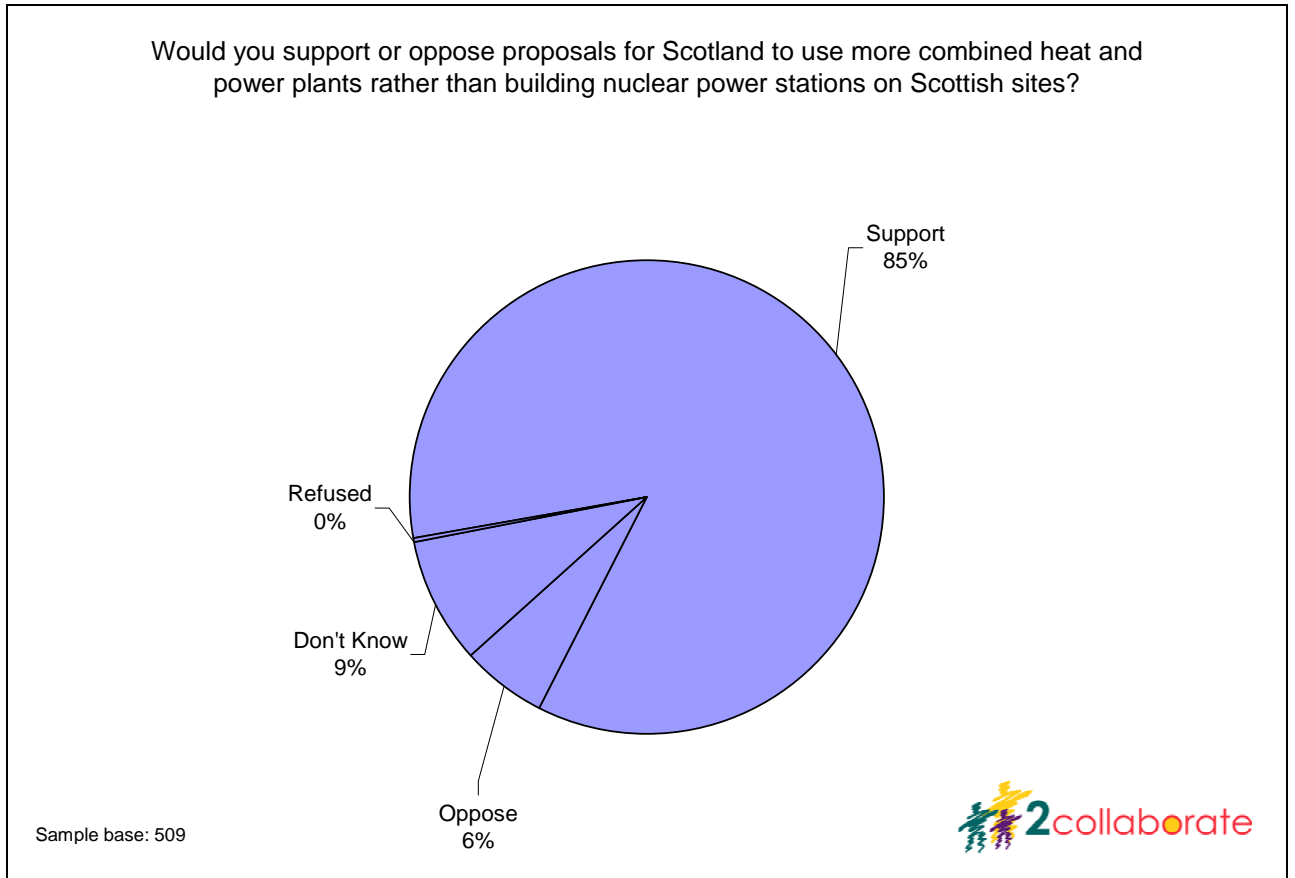
Around three quarters (72%) of those surveyed indicate that they tend to agree with this statement. This shows that the majority of people living in Scotland are in favour of using more renewable energy rather than building new nuclear power plants in Scotland.

Few seem opposed to using more renewable energy rather than building new nuclear power plants. Just 12% of those surveyed indicate that this is the case.

All respondents were then read the following statement: power stations in the UK waste nearly two thirds of the energy they generate, as lost heat. Existing technology allows heat from power stations to

be recycled and used in the local area. This is called Combined Heat and Power (or CHP) New power stations using CHP on average are twice as efficient. They were then asked whether they would support or oppose proposals for Scotland to use more combined heat and power plants rather than building nuclear power stations on Scottish sites. Figure 4 summarises their responses.

Figure 4



The results from the opinion poll indicate that people living in Scotland are strongly in favour of using more combined heat and power stations rather than building new nuclear power stations on Scottish sites. Almost 9 out of 10 people (85%) support this proposal.

Respondents were then asked about how concerned or unconcerned they were that building new nuclear power stations in Scotland will lead to less investment in renewable energy.

The results, shown in Figure 5, below, demonstrate that the majority of people living in Scotland are concerned that building new nuclear

power stations in Scotland will lead to less investment in renewables. 55% of those surveyed indicate this to be the case and just 16% that they are not concerned.

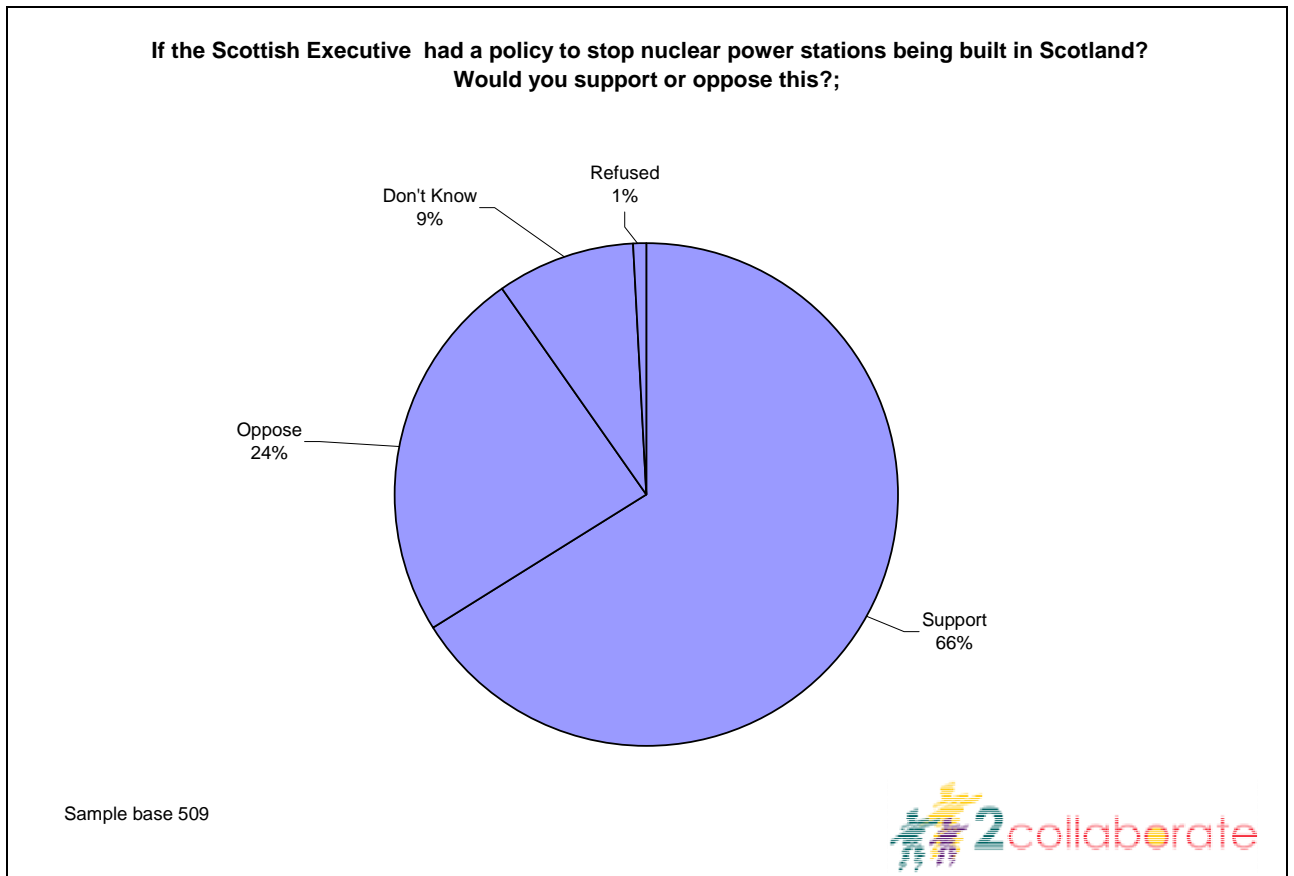
Figure 5



Note: verbal statements have been added for codes other than 1 (not at all concerned) and 5 (very concerned) as these were given verbal attributes during the interview.

The survey also shows that people living in Scotland would support any Scottish Executive plans to stop nuclear power stations in Scotland. Two thirds (66%) of those surveyed say they would support such plans. Figure 6 provides a full break down of the findings for this question.

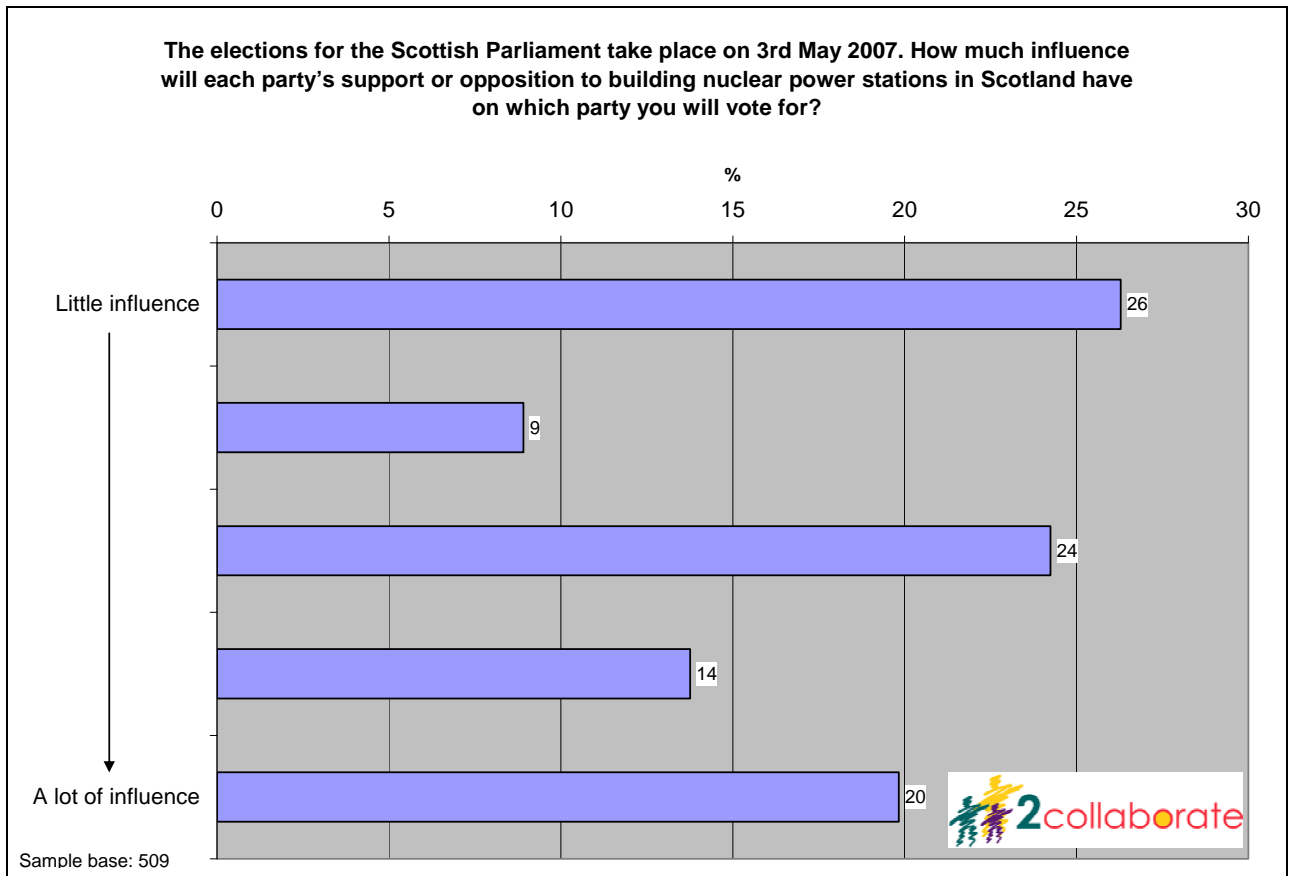
Figure 6



The survey also explored how much influence each party's support or opposition to building nuclear power stations in Scotland will have on which party people vote for.

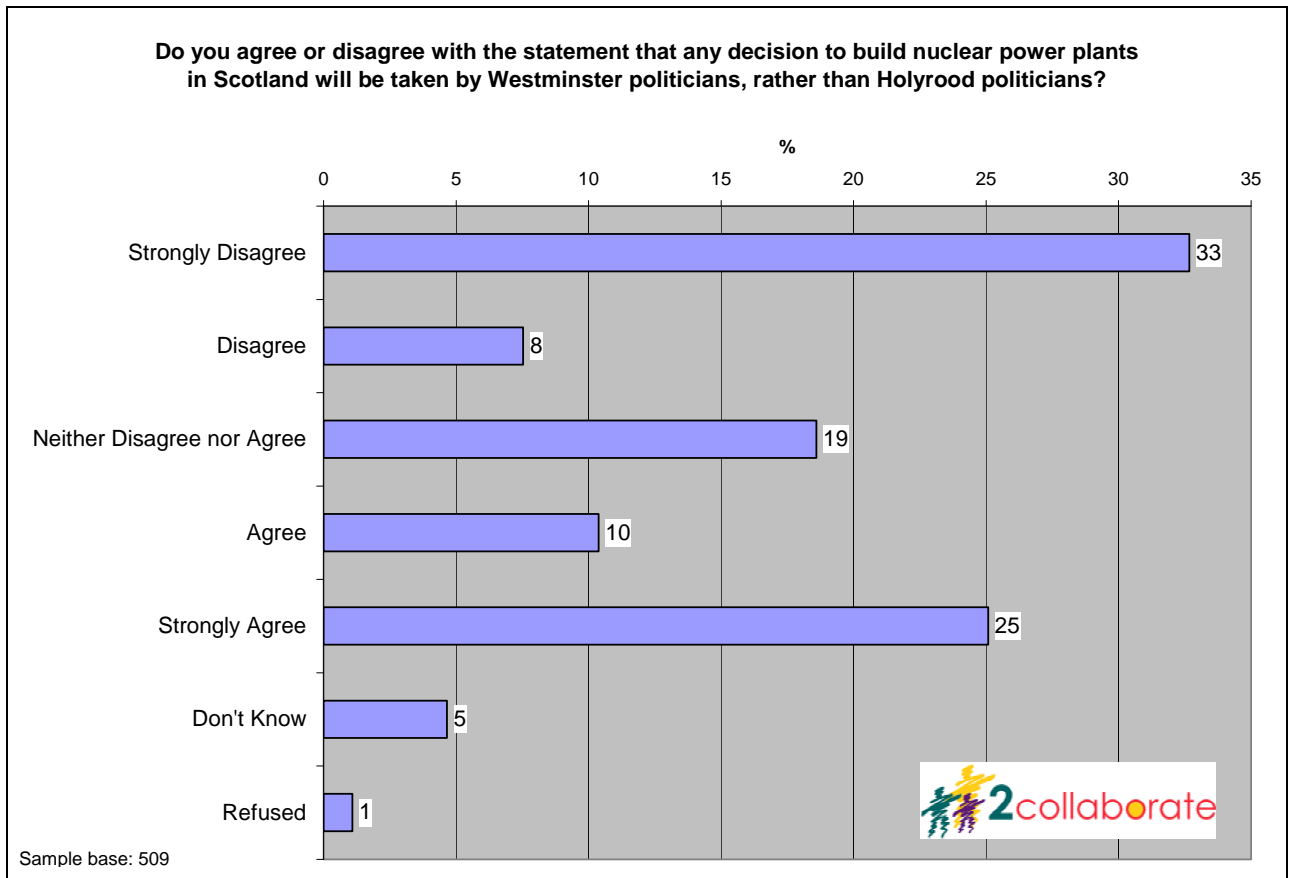
Our findings, shown in figure 7, suggest that for a substantial proportion of voters (34%) each party's stance on building new nuclear power plants will be an important factor in who they vote for. However, our findings also show that for a similar proportion (31%) the opposite is likely to be the case.

Figure 7



Finally respondents were asked how much they agreed or disagreed with the statement that any decision to build nuclear power plants in Scotland will be taken by Westminster politicians, rather than Holyrood politicians. Figure 8 summarises the results for this question.

Figure 8



Note: verbal statements have been added for codes other than 1 (strongly disagree) and 5 (strongly agree) as these were given verbal attributes during the interview.

Our findings show that whilst a substantial proportion (41%) of people feel that they disagree with this statement a similar proportion (35%) tend to agree (25% strongly).

Overall the findings therefore show that around a third of people living in Scotland feel that the decision to build new nuclear power plants in Scotland will not be taken by their own parliament.

Several profile questions concerning respondents' age, gender and status were also asked at the end of the survey. These were asked in order to monitor the sample and for weighting purposes. This data can be provided on request.