

MORE 4 NUCLEAR WEAPONS SURVEY

Populus interviewed a random sample of 1,006 adults aged 18+ by telephone between 21st and 22nd February. Interviews were conducted across the country and the results have been weighted to be representative of all adults. Populus is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more details go to www.populuslimited.com.

1. The government is currently considering whether to replace Britain's Trident nuclear weapons system. The government estimates that this would cost around £20 billion and they claim we need to decide now in order to still have nuclear weapons in 20 years time. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

Britain should have the best possible independent nuclear deterrent even if it does cost £20 billion	24%
Britain should keep the current nuclear weapons but we shouldn't commit now to having new nuclear weapons in 20 years time	24%
During the Cold War it was important to have nuclear weapons, but times have changed and we should get rid of them now	19%
Britain does not need nuclear weapons now and should never have had them in the first place	29%

Overall, respondents were fairly evenly spread with their answers to this question. However, there were some significant gender gaps; Twice as many men (33%) agreed with the statement, 'Britain should have the best possible independent nuclear deterrent even if it does cost £20 billion' than women (15%). Additionally, 37% of women agreed that 'Britain does not need nuclear weapons now and should never have had them in the first place' compared to only 20% of men.

2. Who should take the final decision on whether or not Britain should replace the Trident nuclear weapons system?

A public referendum	51%
Parliament	30%
The Cabinet	8%
The Prime Minister	7%

Women were more likely to think that a public referendum should be held to take the final decision on whether or not Britain should replace the Trident nuclear weapons system (60%) than men (43%), although this was still the most popular answer among both sexes. Men were, however, more likely to say that parliament should decide (38%) than women (23%).

3. Which of the following do you think is the greatest threat to security of the UK now? And in 20 years' time?

	Now	In 20 years' time
Terrorists	51%	28%
Iran	3%	3%
North Korea	2%	3%
Pakistan	2%	1%
Climate change	36%	58%