

# Analysis of public opinion in response to the Extinction Rebellion actions in London, April 2019

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## Method

In advance of the Extinction Rebellion actions in London, April 2019, we created a survey to assess the response of the general public to the actions. Survey participants were 1539 individuals recruited using the Prolific polling organisation's Representative Sample tool, balanced for age, gender and ethnicity against the UK population. Results are additionally weighted according to UK norm data (YouGov, 2017) for position on the left-right political spectrum, and thus comprise a reasonably reliable representation of UK opinion. Participants were tested between Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 20:21 and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 21:48 (between one and two days into the rebellion). The data-set and full survey is available on request.

To assess the effects of exposure to different types of media reporting the rebellion, prior to responding ¼ of the sample was shown a 3 min BBC news clip about the actions, ¼ read a Daily Mail article, and ¼ viewed a 3.5 min video of a rebel justifying their actions. A further ¼ were not informed about the action, for a comparison sample. The results presented in this report aggregate all of these conditions; breakdown analysis is available on request.

## Key results

1. Do you support or oppose the disruptive civil disobedience being carried out in London by the Extinction Rebellion?

Support	46%
Oppose	27%
Neither/Don't know	27%

2. Do you think a Citizens Assembly would do a better job than UK Governments have done in tackling climate change and ecological breakdown?

Agree	61%
Disagree	19%
Neither/Don't know	20%

3. Climate change is one of the greatest threats facing humanity.

Agree	83%
Disagree	8%
Neither/Don't know	9%

4. The Government is doing a lot to tackle climate change.

Agree	25%
Disagree	51%
Neither/Don't know	24%

The Government is doing a lot to tackle ecological breakdown (for example species going extinct).

Agree	15%
Disagree	60%
Neither/Don't know	25%

## Conclusions

At the point at which the rebellion had not yet begun to target dedicated public transport infrastructure, it had more support than opposition from the UK public.

The facts that the vast majority of the public regard climate change as a very great threat, and most do not believe the Government is doing much to tackle it, together suggest that further political action to tackle climate change would be popular. The support for a Citizen's Assembly to address the issue suggests that this could be one such political action.

The fact that most of the public did not oppose the rebellion prior to the targeting of dedicated public transport infrastructure suggests a possible political compromise. The Extinction Rebellion could renounce the targeting of dedicated public transport infrastructure and politicians could in return establish a Citizen's Assembly to tackle climate change and ecological breakdown.