

**For immediate release
15 January 2010**

Scots cope better than the English and Welsh during the big freeze

Despite being one of the worst hit parts of Great Britain, Scotland has coped better with the recent weather conditions than England and Wales, according to new research from YouGov.

Only 16% of Scottish workers said the recent snow and bad weather meant that they could not get to work on at least one occasion over the cold snap, compared to 36% of English workers and 40% of Welsh workers. 14% of Scottish parents said their children had to miss school over the past 10 days due to snow and bad weather, compared to 35% in England and 39% in Wales. With over double the amount of people in England and Wales missing school or work compared with those in Scotland, it seems Scotland are better prepared to cope with the weather conditions.

Both English and Scottish respondents agree on one thing: Scotland has been the worst hit country in the UK as temperatures plummeted to as low as -22 in some areas. 61% of Scottish respondents and 65% of English respondents named England as the country least able to cope with the weather conditions, with widespread travel chaos and school closures causing serious disruptions across the country.

During this recent cold snap, the National Grid has issued warnings that energy supplies are running low, even switching off the gas of nearly 100 businesses to protect domestic power supplies. Despite abundant media scaremongering, in reality people are not that worried that public energy supplies may run out, if the freezing temperatures continue (66% in England and 77% in Scotland are not worried).

At least the icy conditions have also brought out people's neighbourly sides, with 63% of English adults more likely to check on an elderly friend or neighbour during the recent cold weather.

Notes to editors:

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. All surveys were carried out online.

English results: total sample size was 1780 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 12th - 14th January 2010. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all English adults (aged 18+).

Scottish results: total sample size was 1013 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 12th - 14th January 2010. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all Scottish adults (aged 18+).

Welsh results: total sample size was 1137 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 11th - 13th January 2010. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all Welsh adults (aged 18+).

YouGov's GB Omnibus runs daily and clients can choose from 1,000 responses in 24 hours or 2,000 responses in 48 hours.

YouGov's Scotland Omnibus runs twice a week and interviews a nationally representative sample of 1,000 Scottish adults.

YouGov's Wales Omnibus runs weekly and interviews a nationally representative sample of 1,000 Welsh adults.

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