

Topical Poll

Conducted by Survation on behalf of
the Poverty and Inequality
Commission



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Methodology: Online interviews of people aged 16+ in Scotland
Fieldwork: 29th March – 3rd April
Sample size: 1,510

Survation.

Methodology

Fieldwork Dates

- 29th March – 3rd April

Data Collection Method

- The survey was conducted via online panel. Invitations to complete the survey were sent out to members of the panel. Differential response rates from different demographic groups were taken into account.

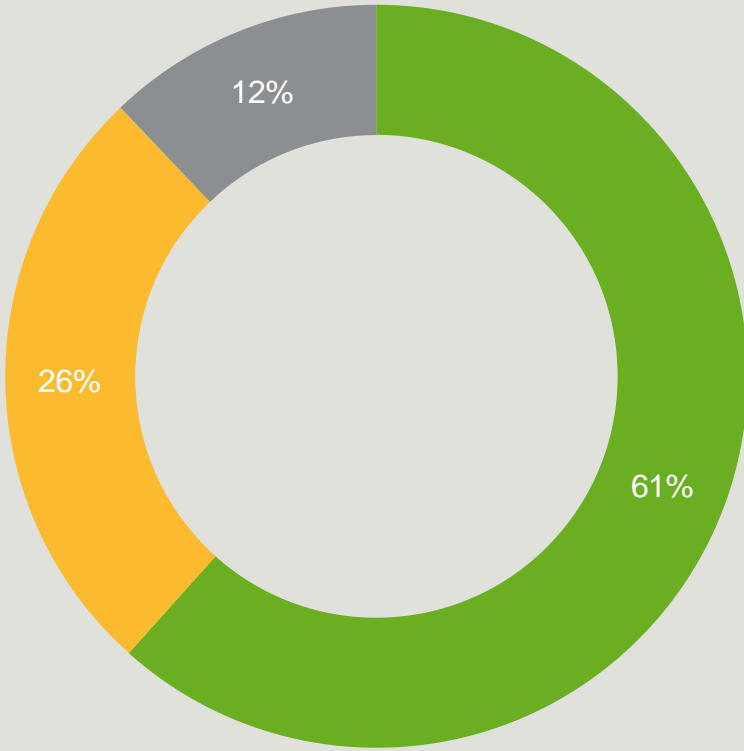
Population Sampled

- People aged 16+ living in Scotland.

Sample Size

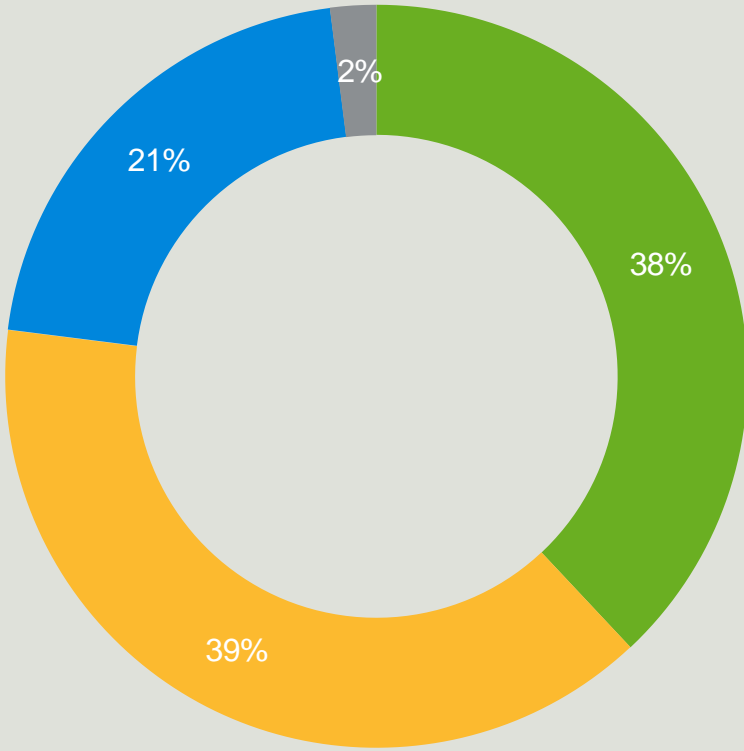
- 1,510

Q1. Do you think you could name up to three different types of taxes that either you personally pay, or that might be paid by other people in Scotland?



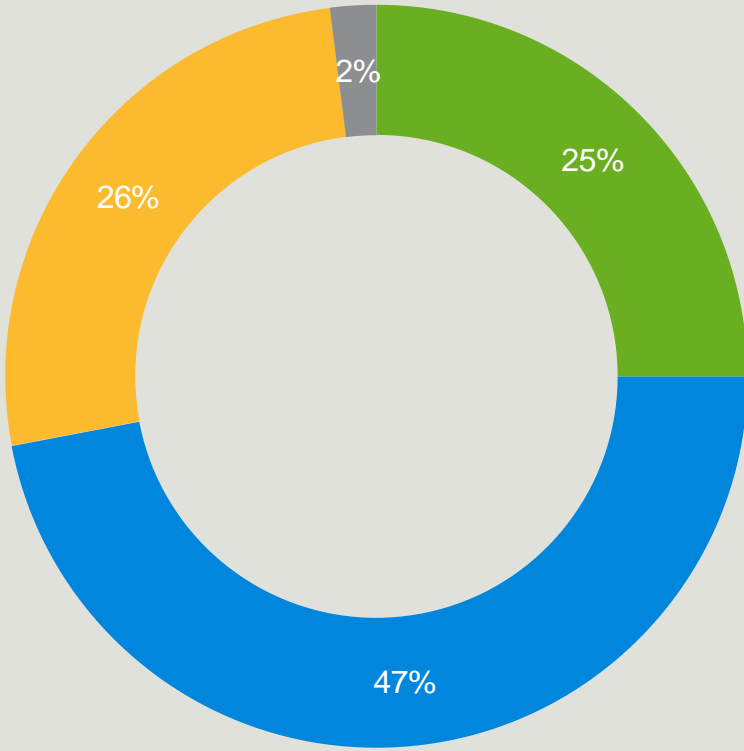
■ Yes, I could ■ No, I could not ■ Don't know

Q2. By the 'tax system in Scotland', we mean the different types of taxes and rates people and businesses in Scotland pay. Different tax policies and rates that apply in Scotland include those set by the Scottish or UK Government as well as those set by local councils. These include taxes like VAT, Income Tax, National Insurance Contributions, Corporation Tax, Council Tax, and Business rates. How would you best describe your own knowledge of how the tax system in Scotland works?



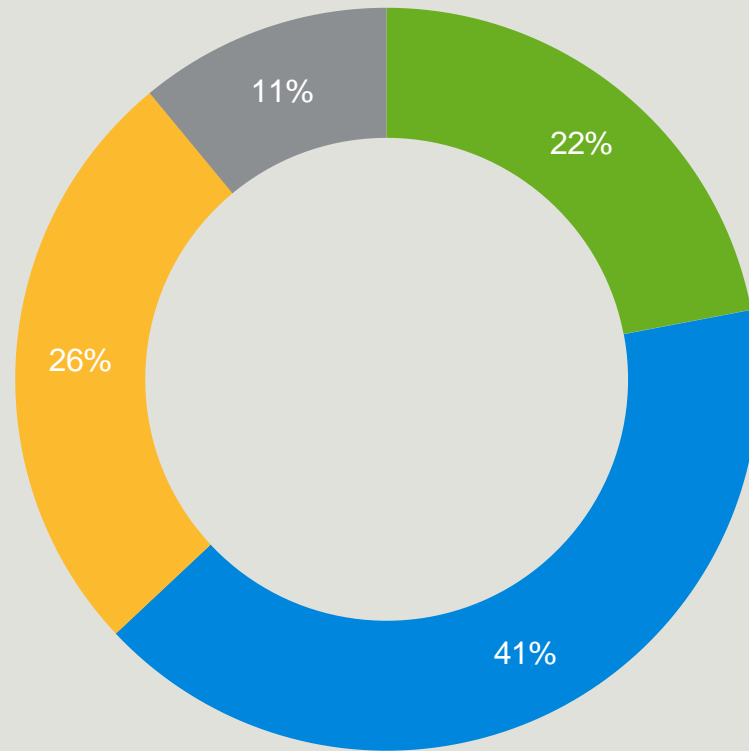
■ NET Good ■ Neither Good nor Poor ■ NET Poor ■ Don't know

Q3. Thinking about how well-off your household is compared to other households in Scotland nowadays, would you say your household is...?



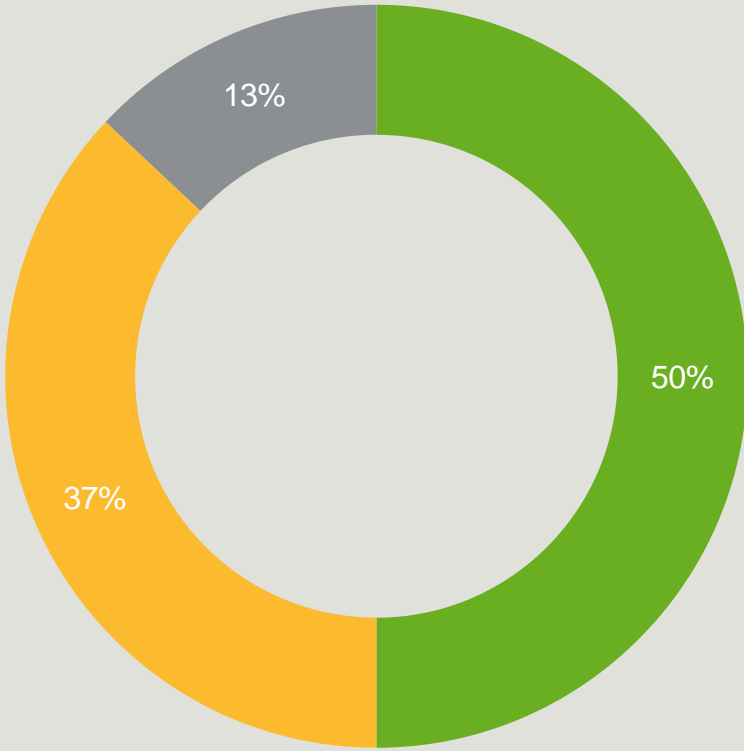
- NET Well-Off compared to other households in Scotland
- About average compared to other households in Scotland
- NET Worse-Off compared to other households in Scotland
- Don't know

Q4. Which of the statements below comes closest to your own view?



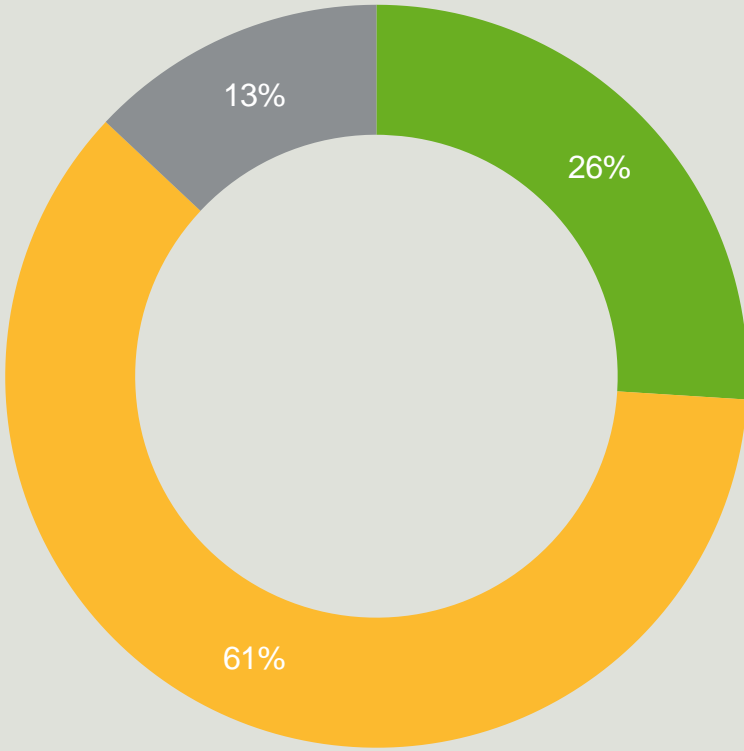
- Taxes should be increased, in order to spend more on public services
- Taxes and spending should be kept at the same level as now
- Taxes should be reduced, even if it means some reductions in public services
- Don't know

Q5. The Scottish Government says it believes that a fair tax system should be 'progressive'. This means that the amount of tax paid by people should reflect their income or wealth, so people who have more income or wealth pay relatively more tax. To what extent, if at all, do you believe that the tax system in Scotland is progressive?



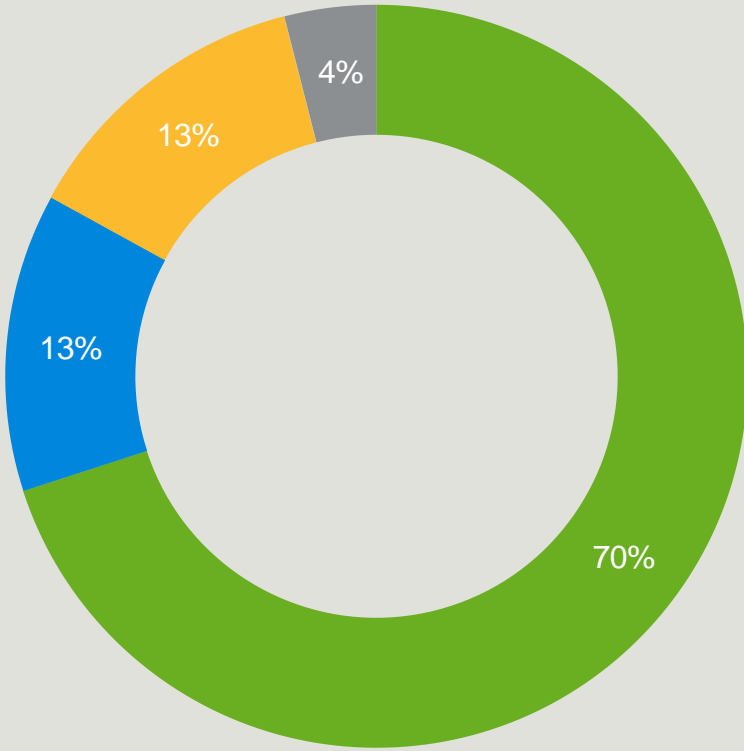
■ NET Progressive ■ NET Not Progressive ■ Don't know

Q6. To what extent, if at all, do you believe the tax system in the UK as a whole is progressive?



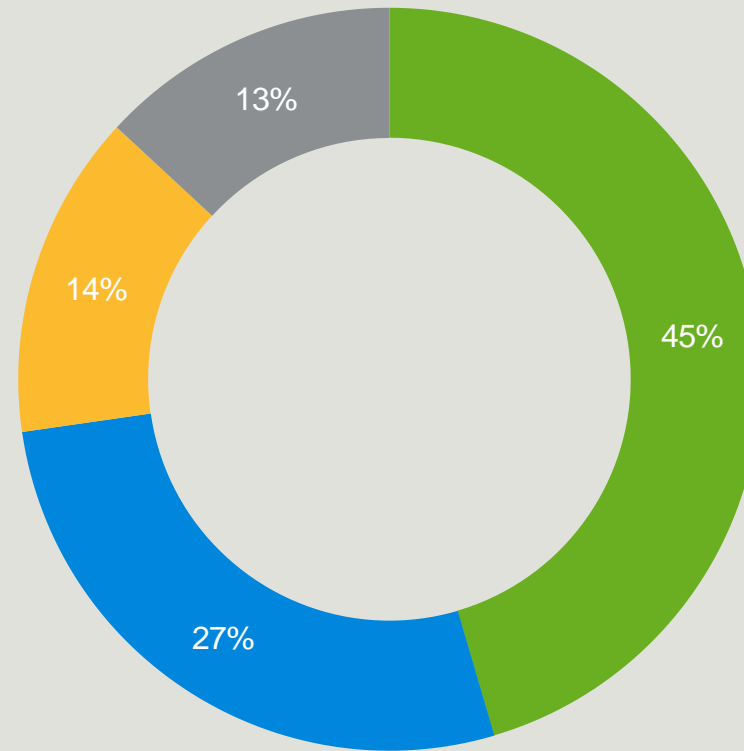
■ NET Progressive ■ NET Not Progressive ■ Don't know

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'Lower-income households should pay a lower share of their income in tax than higher-income households'



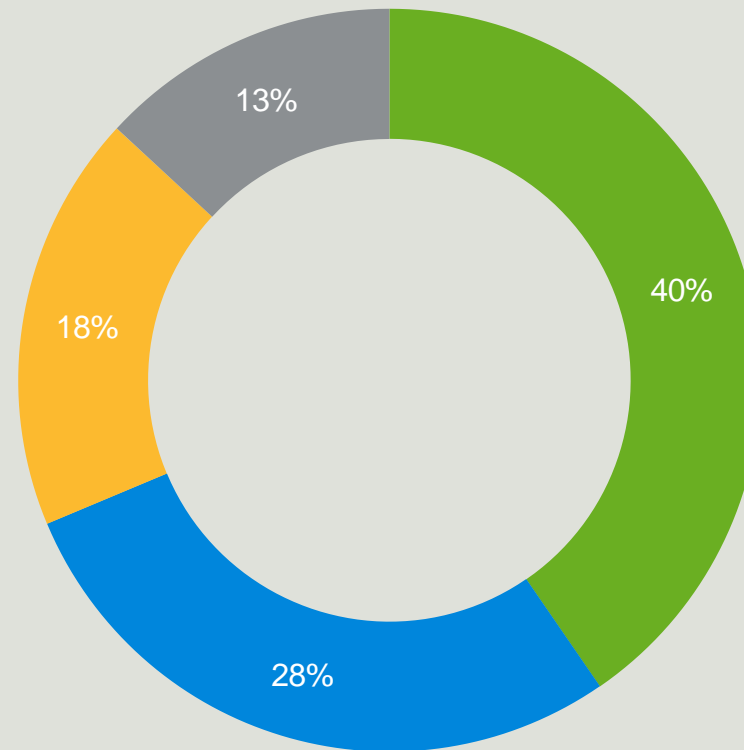
■ NET Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ NET Disagree ■ Don't know

Q8. Thinking about Scotland, which of the following statements is closest to your view?



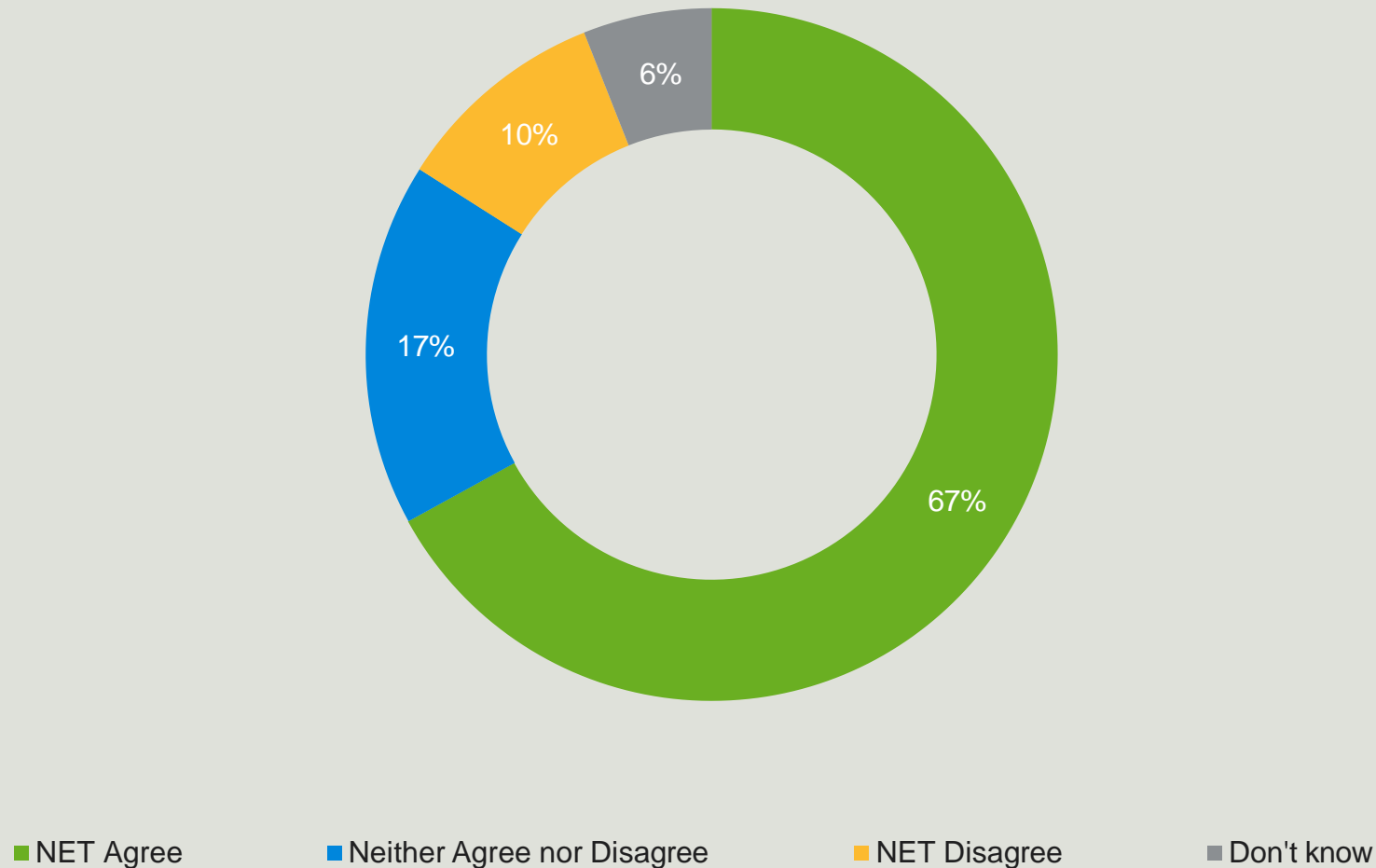
- Lower income households pay a lower share of their income in tax than higher income households
- Lower income households pay about the same share of their income in tax as higher income households
- Lower income households pay a higher share of their income in tax than higher income households
- Don't know

Q9. Thinking about the United Kingdom as a whole, which of the following statements is closest to your view?

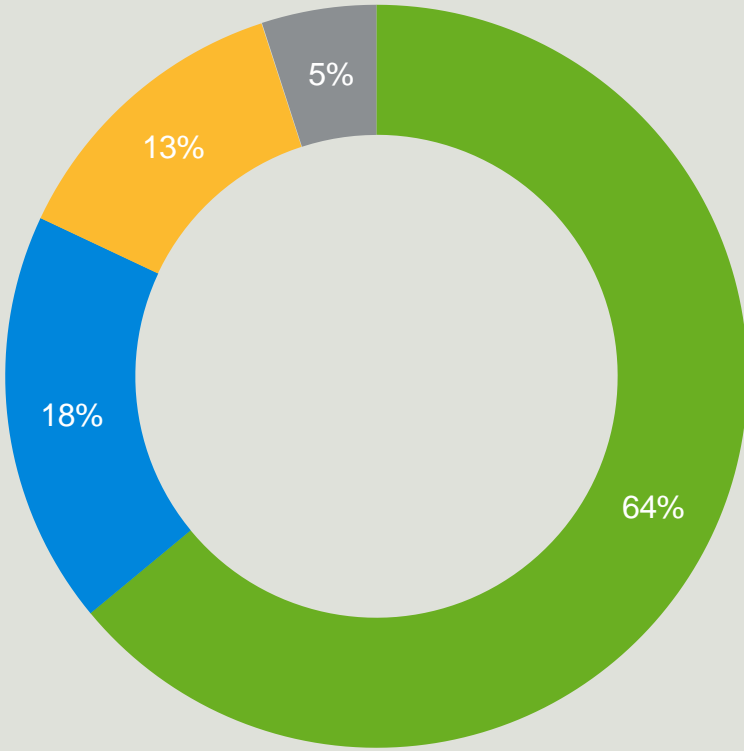


- Lower income households pay a lower share of their income in tax than higher income households
- Lower income households pay about the same share of their income in tax as higher income households
- Lower income households pay a higher share of their income in tax than higher income households
- Don't know

Q10. Taxes people pay in Scotland include both 'direct' taxes such as Income Tax, which are paid directly to the government and 'indirect' taxes that are collected by somebody else, and then paid to government. VAT added to the cost of goods and services is an example of an 'indirect tax'. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'The taxes I pay make the Scottish Government accountable to me for how it spends money'

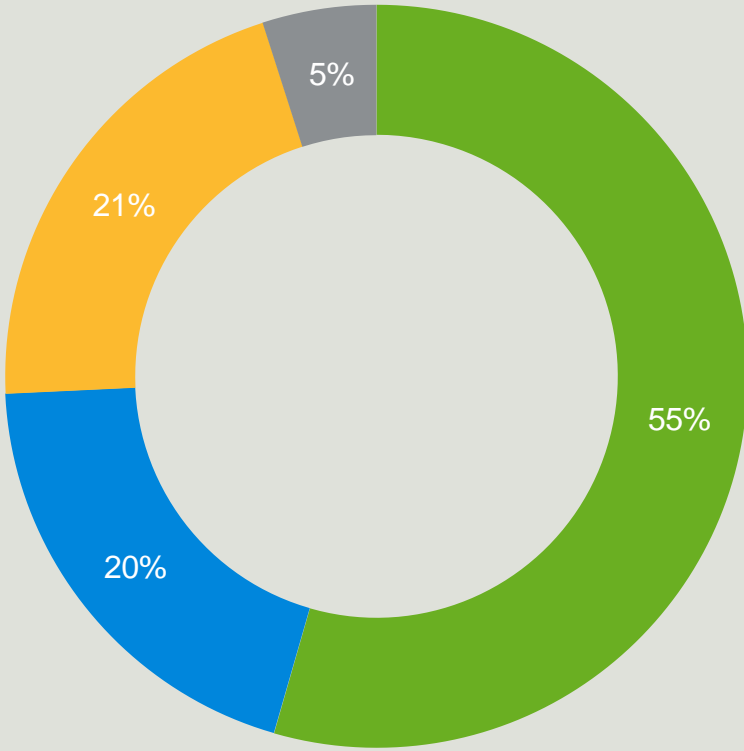


Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'The taxes I pay make the UK Government accountable to me for how it spends money'



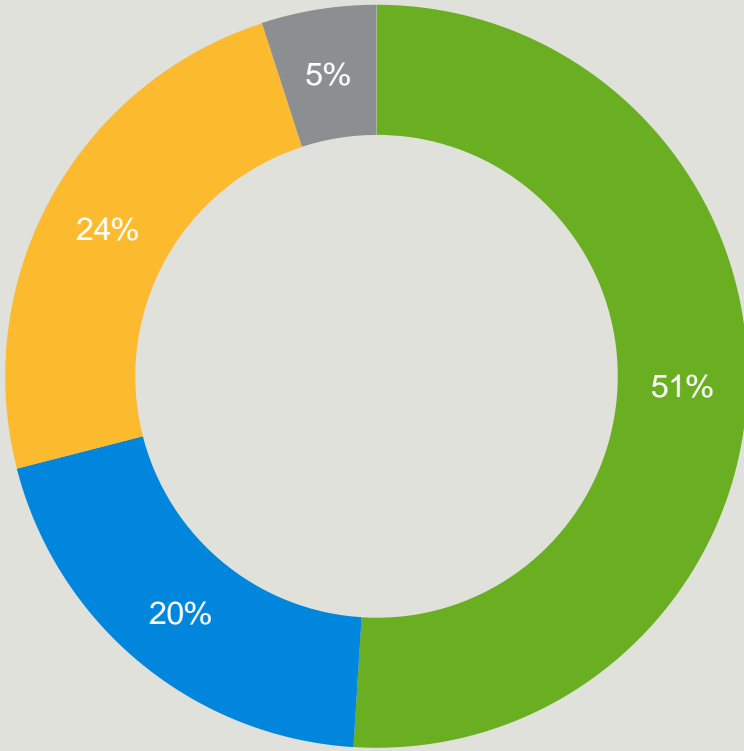
■ NET Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ NET Disagree ■ Don't know

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'The taxes I pay give me a stake in decisions the Scottish Government makes'



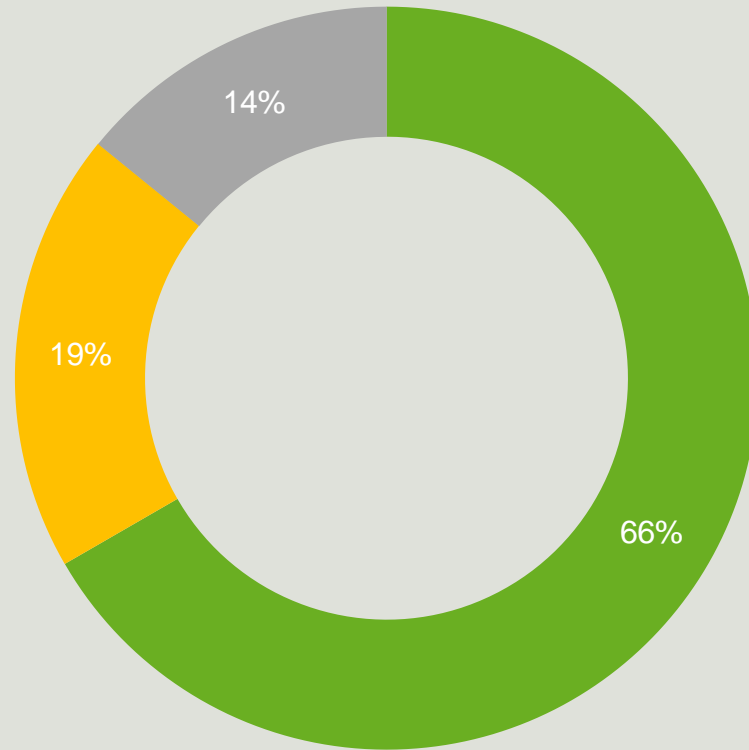
■ NET Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ NET Disagree ■ Don't know

Q13. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? 'The taxes I pay give me a stake in decisions the UK Government makes'



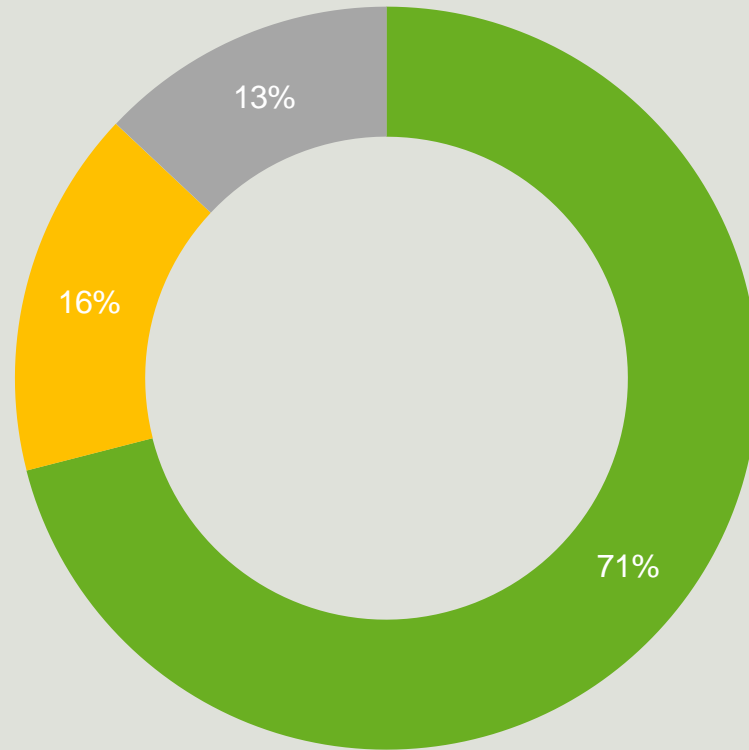
■ NET Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ NET Disagree ■ Don't know

Q14. In the UK as a whole it is estimated that about 5% of taxes that are owed go uncollected. In 2020 to 2021 this was around £32 billion. Governments spend money on tax collection and enforcement activity to try to reduce this revenue loss and increase the amount money they have available to spend. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



- Governments should increase the level of enforcement on taxes owed by individuals who may under-report their income
- Governments should not increase the level of enforcement on taxes owed by individuals who may under-report their income
- Don't know

Q15. Which of the following statements is closest to your view?



- Governments should increase the level of enforcement on taxes owed by businesses who may under-report their income
- Governments should not increase the level of enforcement on taxes owed by businesses who may under-report their income
- Don't know

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