

British Foreign Policy Group: Summary Report

Dr Michael Turner, Robert Struthers & Ciaran McGlone

May 2017

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Methodology Sheet – Summary of Approach

Fieldwork Dates

5th – 8th May 2017

Data Collection Method

The fieldwork was conducted online. Invitations to participate were sent to members of our network of online panels. Non-response from different demographic groups was taken into account during the fieldwork phase and in the post-fieldwork adjustments.

Sample

The sample size was 1,630 respondents. All residents aged 18+ across Great Britain.

Weighting

Results were weighted to reflect the profile of all GB adults aged 18 and above. Targets were Age/Sex (interlocking), Government Office Region (GOR), Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), 2015 General Election results and the 2016 EU Referendum results. All targets are based on Official Statistics from the ONS that are awarded National Statistics status and the General Election and Referendum results are taken from the Elections Centre at Plymouth University.

The Results

Key results are presented in the slides that follow. Where base sizes do not sum to 100% this may be due to rounding. Please note that all results are subject to a margin of error. A sample size of 1,630 has a margin of error of +/- 2.4%. Caution should always be taken when interpreting sub-samples, which will be subject to a larger error.

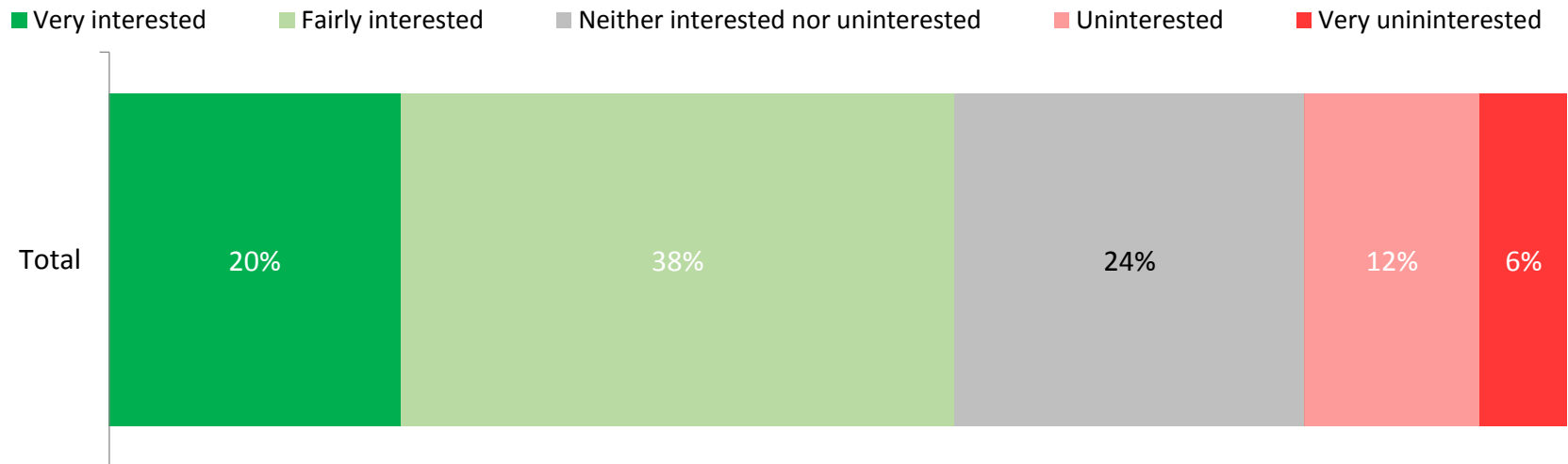
Interest & Information

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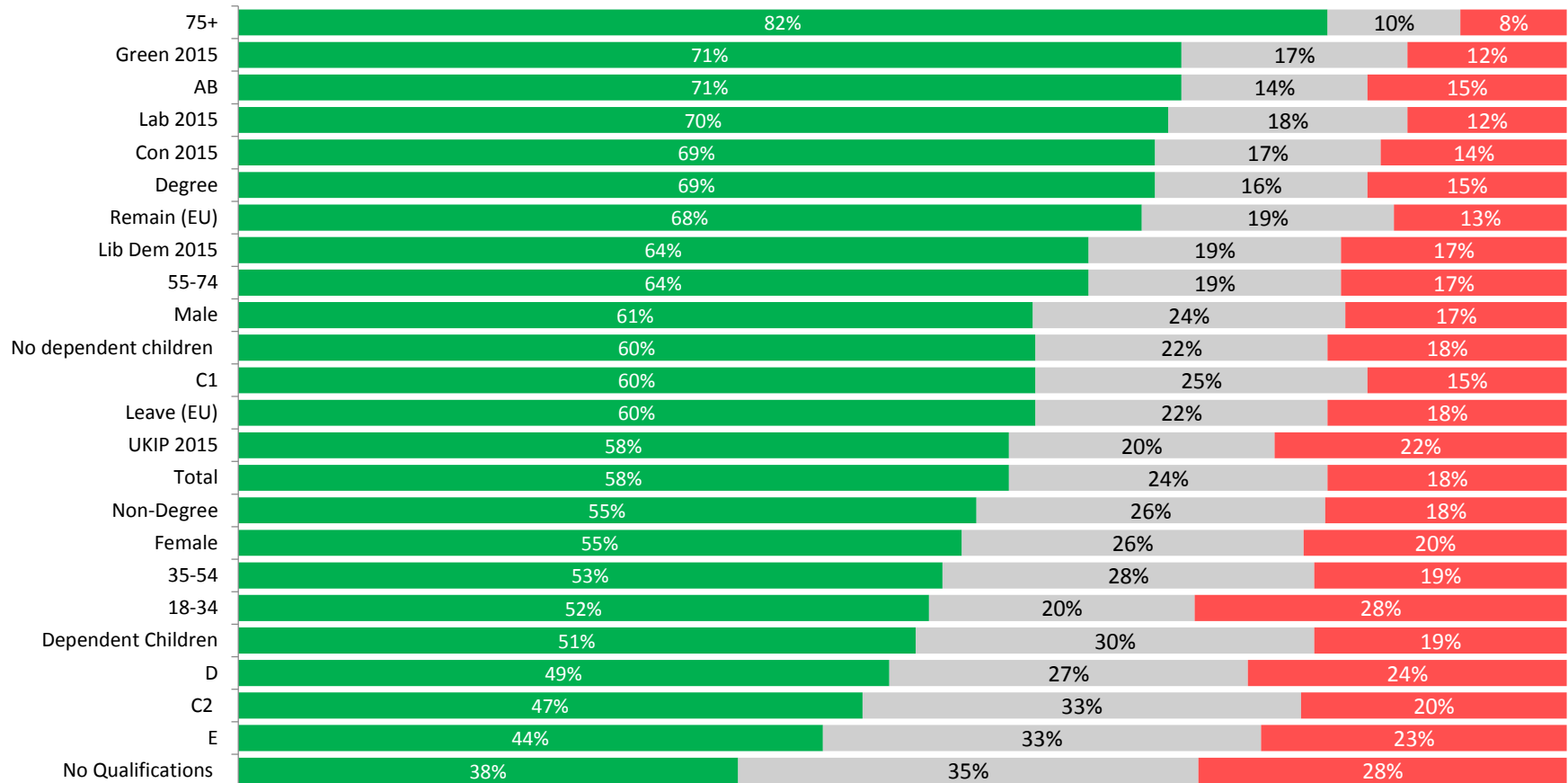
How interested would you say you are in what the UK does internationally?



Note: A clear majority of people (58%) say that they're interested in what the UK does internationally, compared to just 18% who say that they are not.

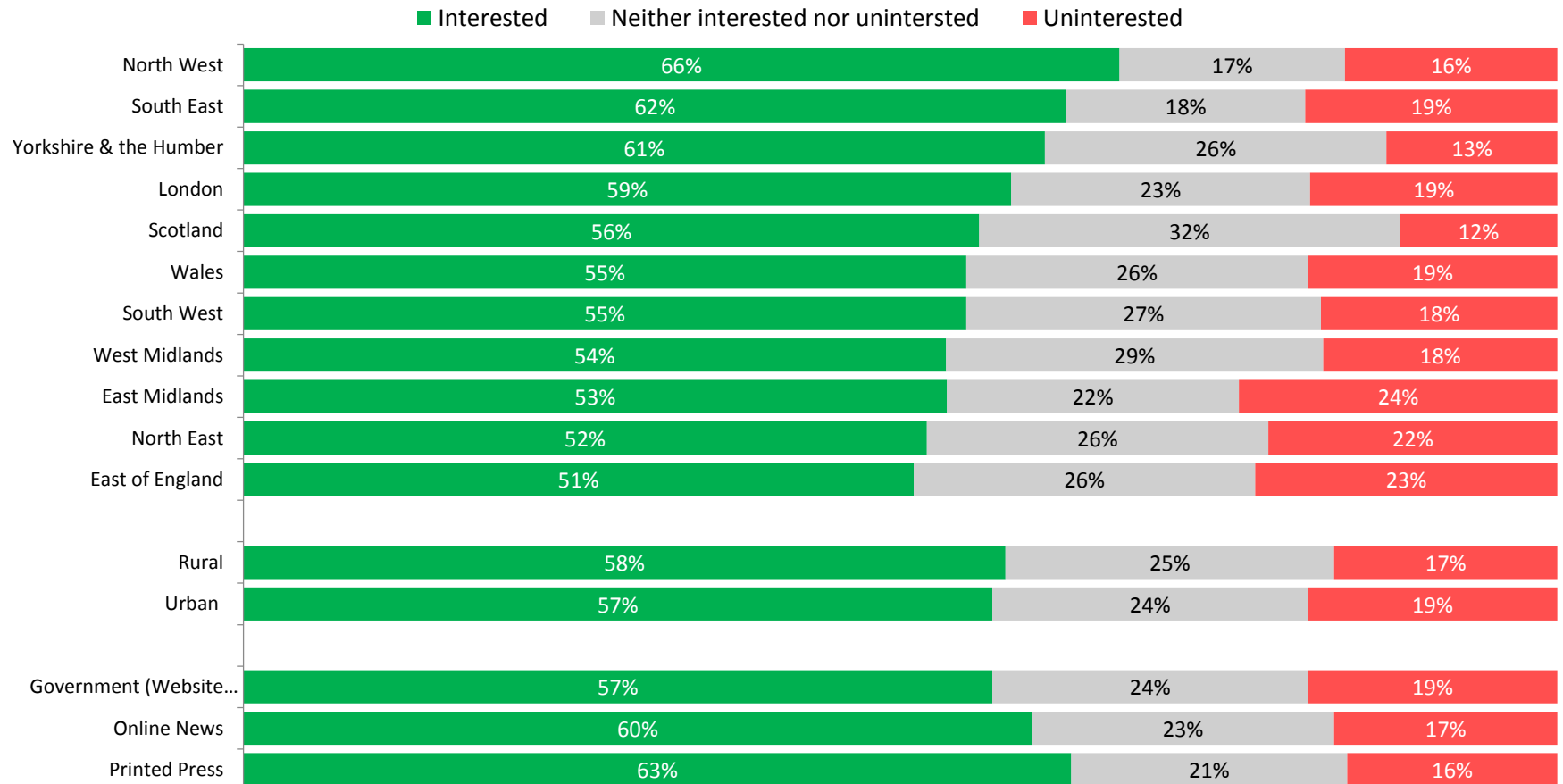
How interested would you say you are in what the UK does internationally?

■ Interested ■ Neither interested nor uninterested ■ Uninterested



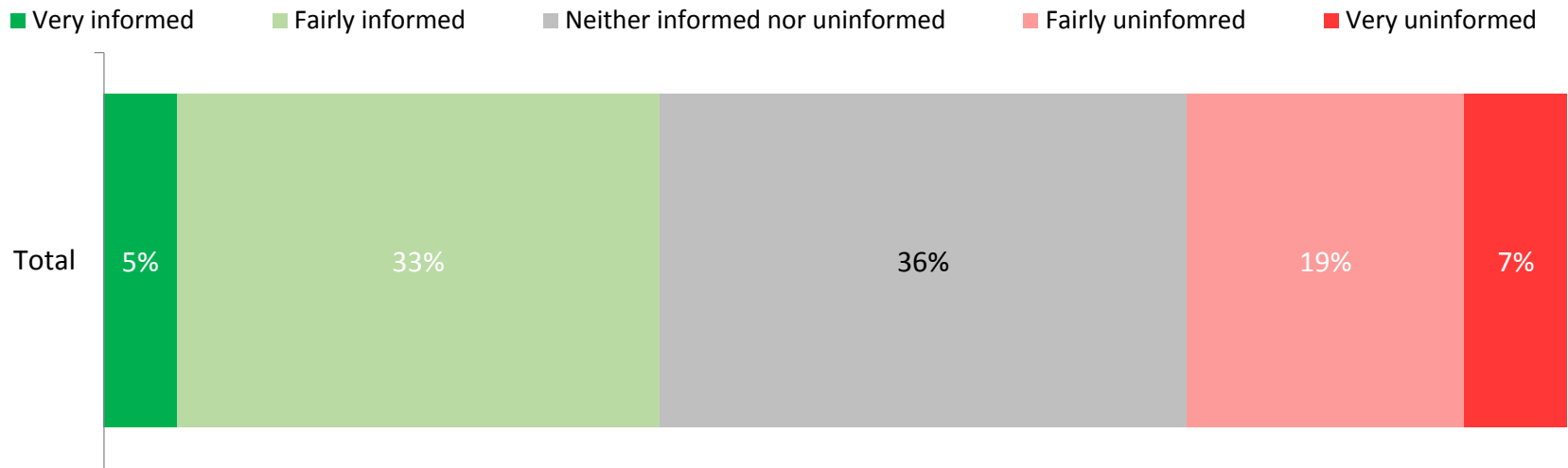
Note: Those aged 75 and over are most interested in the UK's foreign affairs (82%). By contrast, those who are younger tend to be less interested. 18-34's are the least likely age group to say that they would be interested (52%). Educational level is also a key differentiator, with degree educated respondents most likely to say they were interested (69%), and those with no qualifications the least likely (38%).

How interested would you say you are in what the UK does internationally?



Note: Two thirds (66%) of those living in the North West said that they were interested in what the UK does internationally. Comparatively, just over half (51%) of those living in the East of England declared interest. Those who say that they would look to the printed press for more information on an international issue are most likely to say that they are interested in foreign affairs (63%).

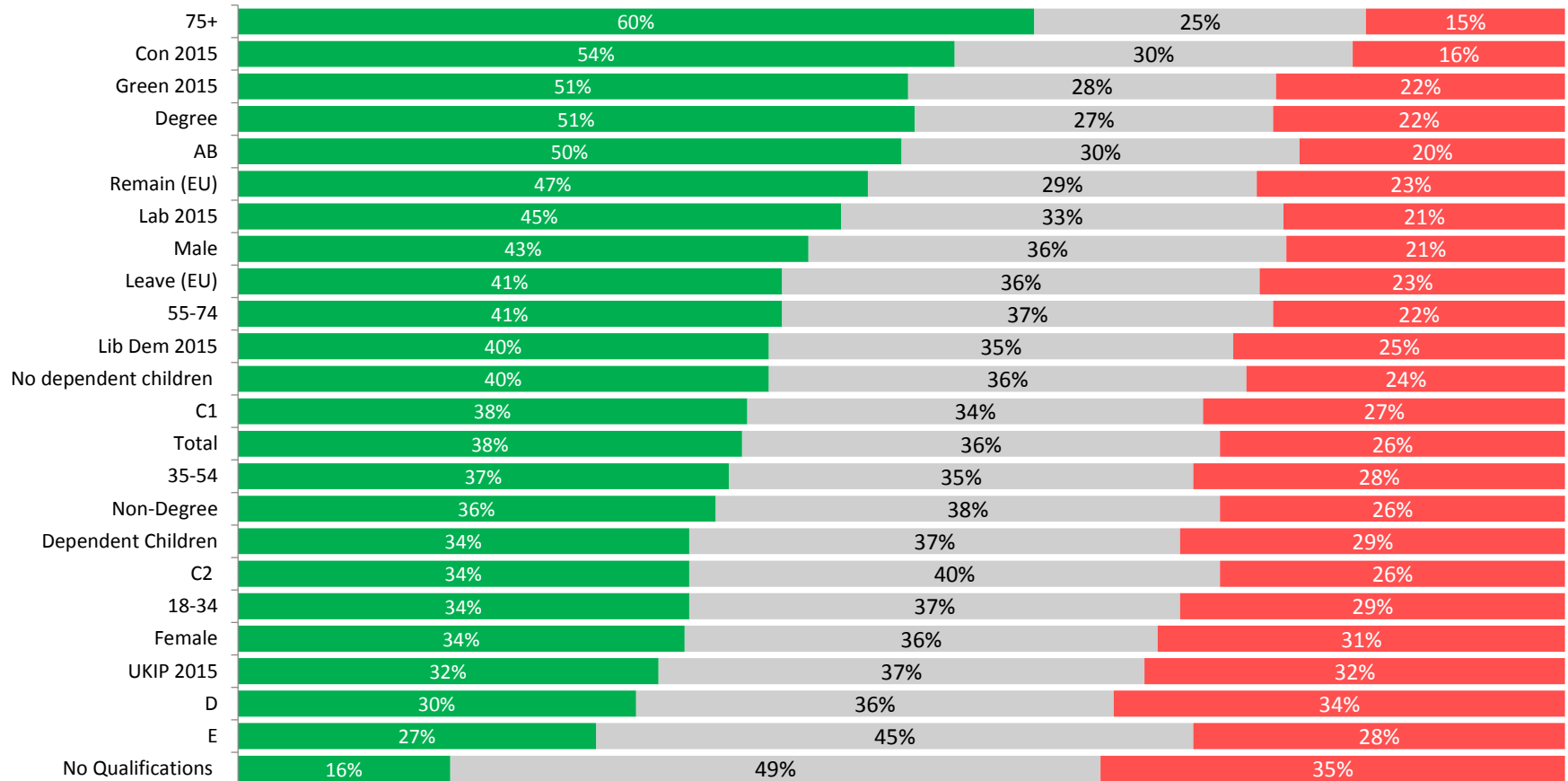
How informed do you feel about UK foreign affairs?



Note: While 58% of people say that they take an interest in what the UK does internationally, just 38% feel that they are informed to some degree. A large proportion also say that they feel neither informed, nor uninformed.

How informed to do you feel about UK foreign affairs?

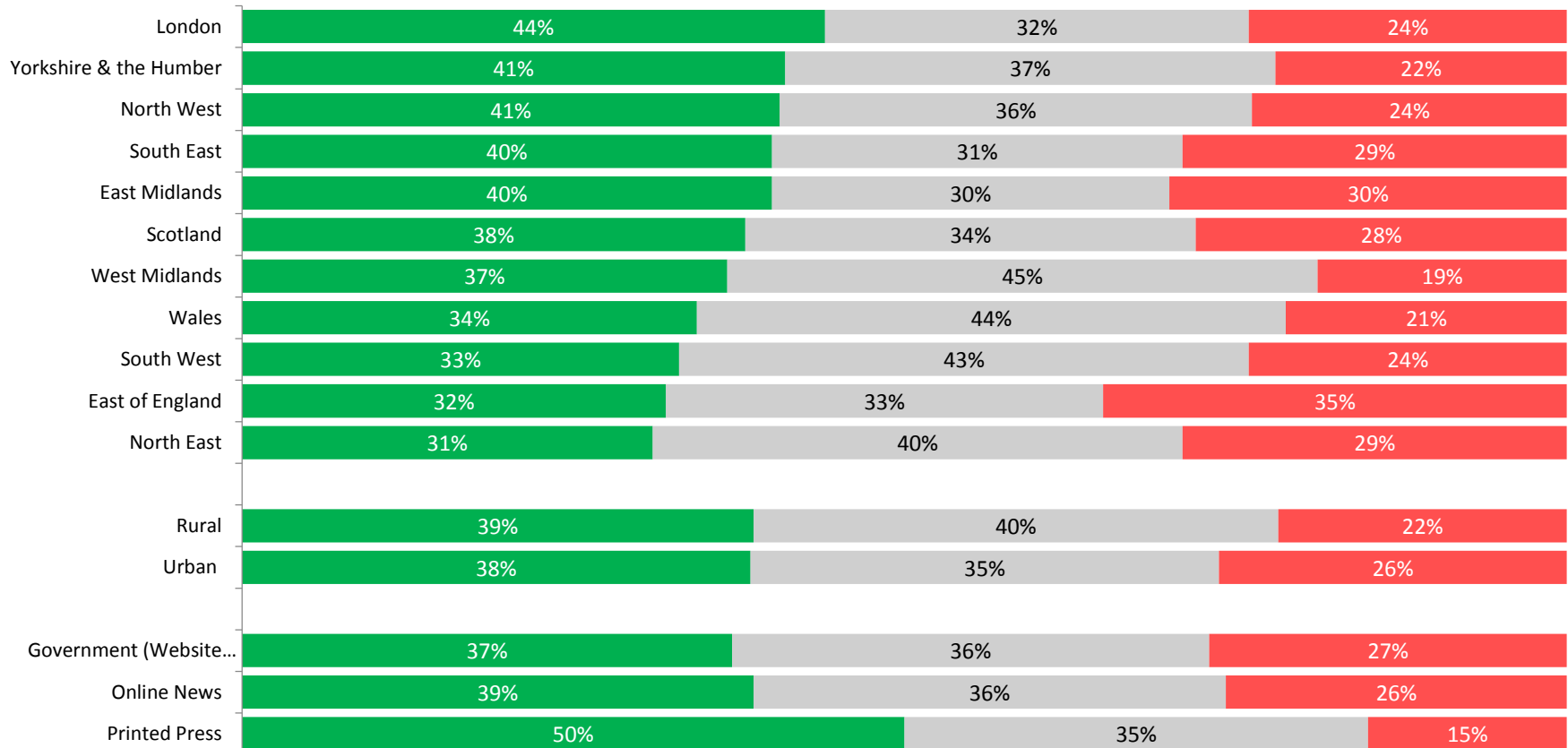
■ Informed ■ Neither informed nor uninformed ■ Uninformed



Note: Again, younger people are less likely to say that they feel informed about UK foreign affairs. Just one third (34%) of those aged between 18 and 34 report feeling informed to some degree, which is almost half the proportion of those aged 75 and over (60%). Interestingly, there is also a large divide across both educational attainment and socio-economic groups (SEG), with those in lower SEG groups and those with a lower level of educational attainment tending to feel less informed about UK foreign affairs.

How informed to do you feel about UK foreign affairs?

■ Informed ■ Neither informed nor uninformed ■ Uninformed



Note: Londoners are most likely to say that they feel informed about UK foreign affairs, with 44% saying so. Whilst those who live in the East of England are most likely to say that they feel uninformed (35%). Those who say that they would look to the printed press for more information on an international issue are most likely to say that they are informed about UK foreign affairs (50%).

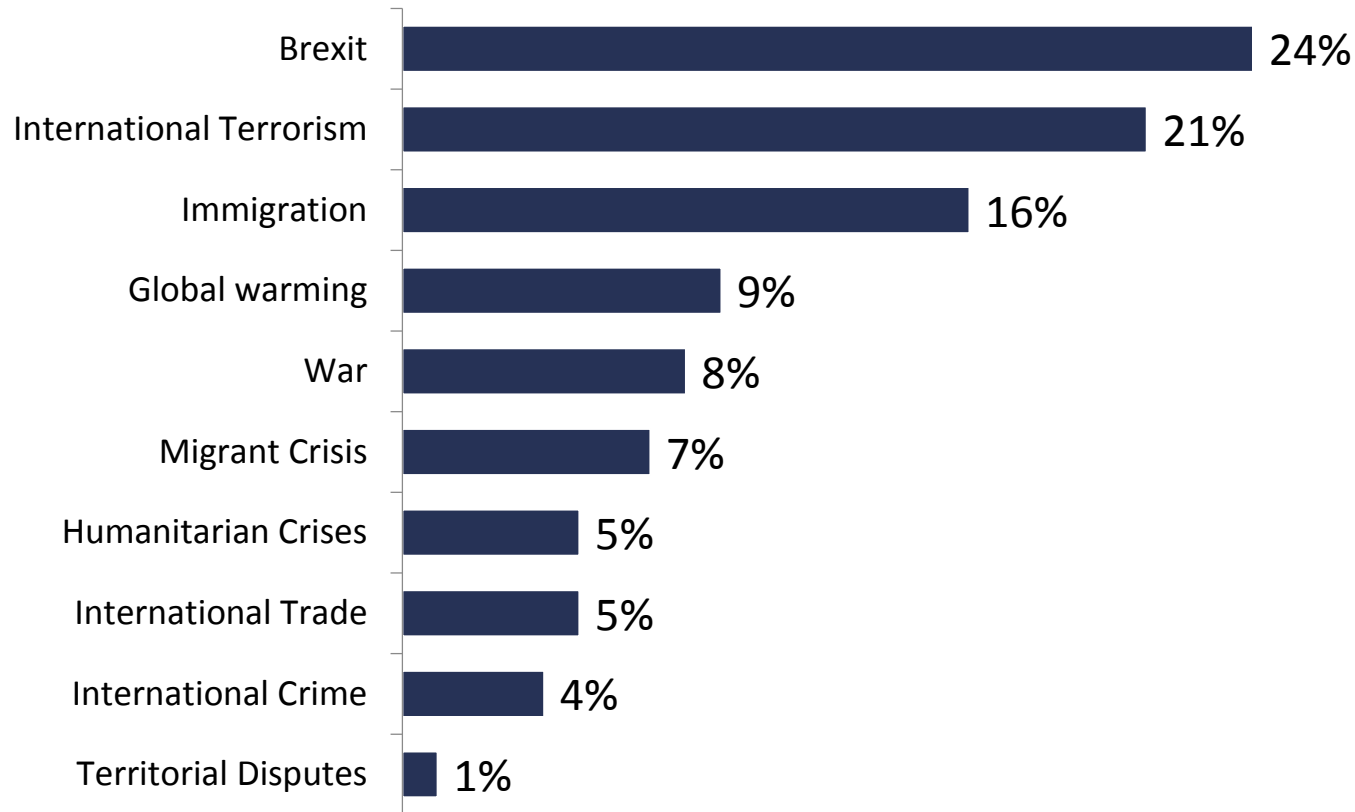
International Issues

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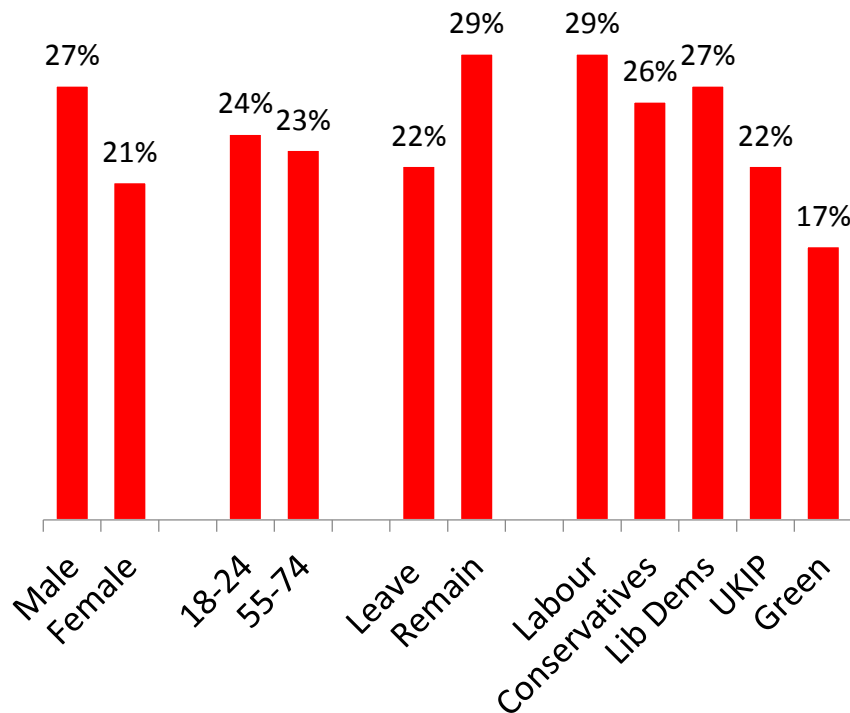
'Which of the following international issues do you view as most important?'



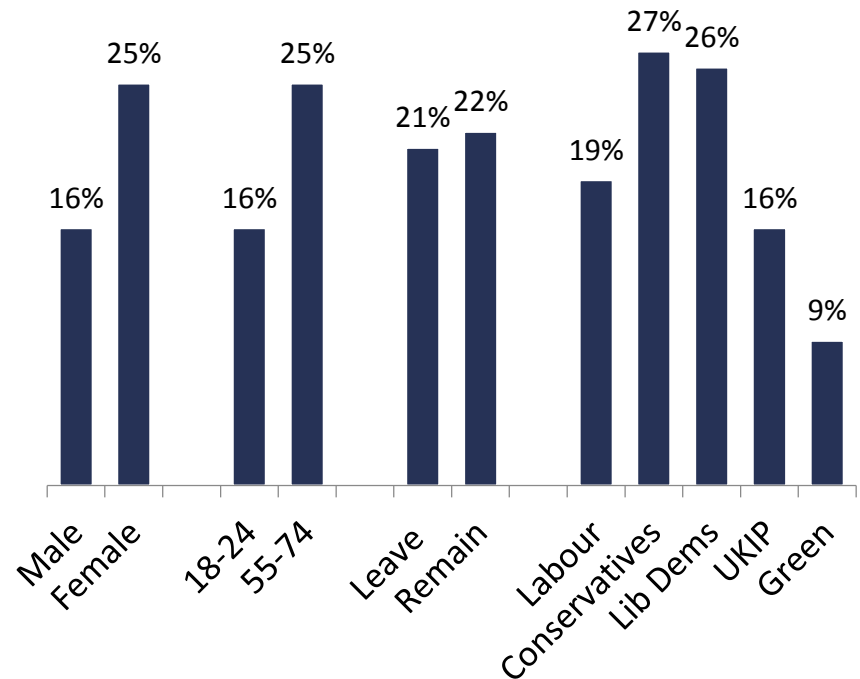
Note: Brexit is regarded as the most important international issue by the public. This is unsurprising given it's prominence in the media and printed press for a number of years in Britain. International terrorism is a close second place, ranked number one by more than one fifth (21%), and is followed by immigration, the most important for 16% of Britons. Immigration is another long-standing concern of the British public. Items such as International Trade, International Crime and Territorial Disputes are ranked most important by far fewer people. This is likely due to lower media coverage and a lack of a sense of urgency about each issue.

Issue Salience – Top Issues

Brexit Total: 24%



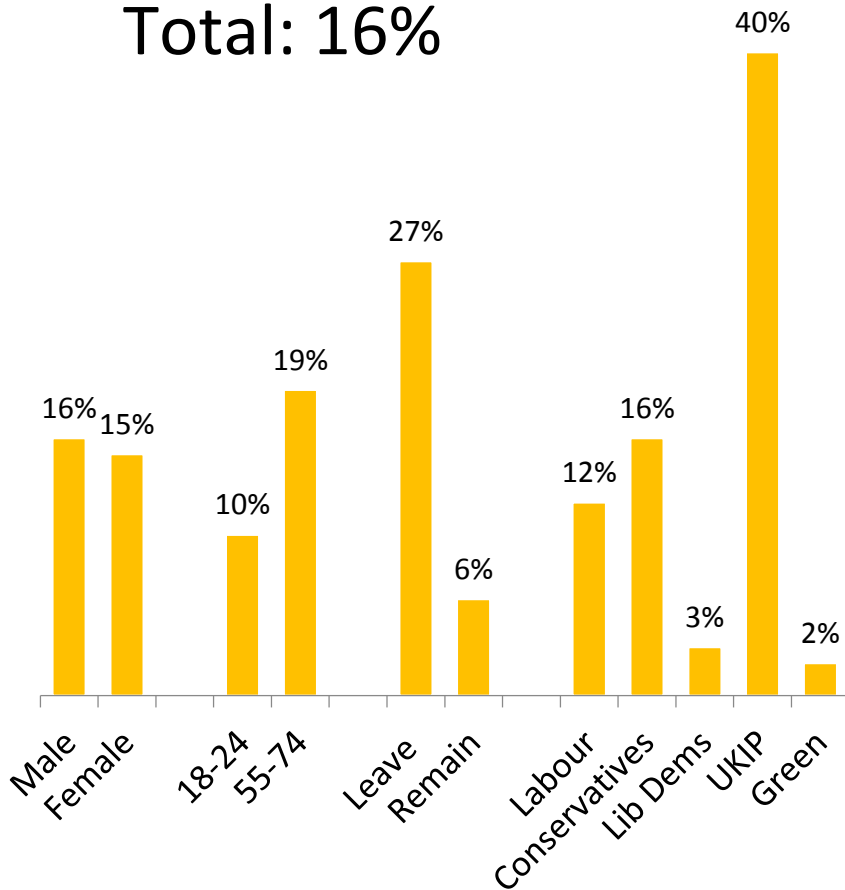
International
Terrorism Total: 21%



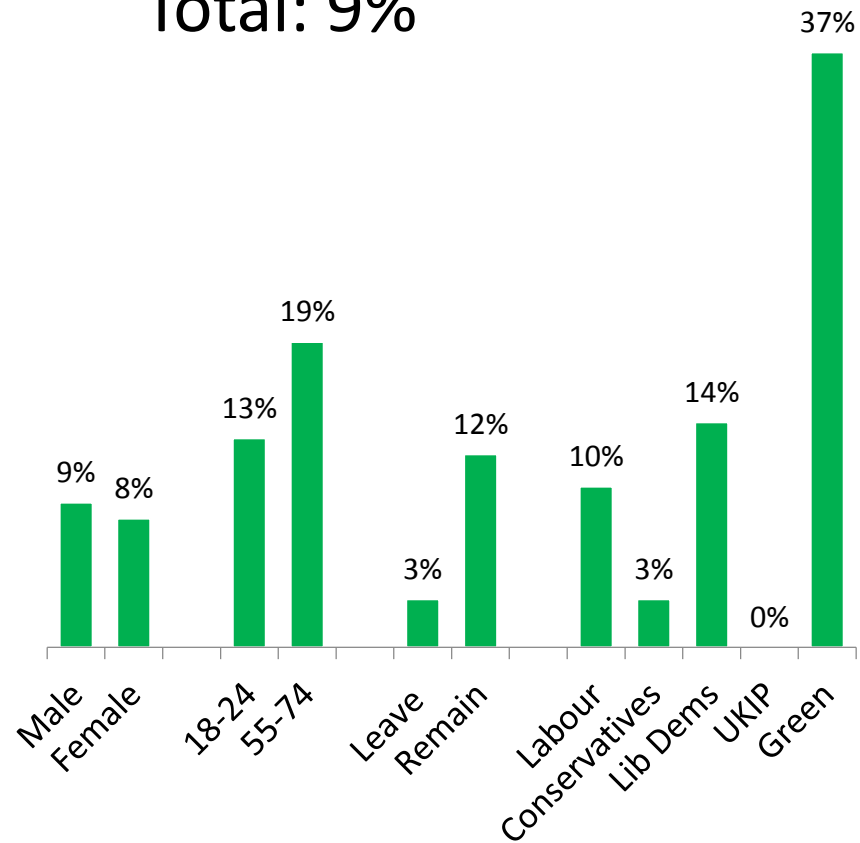
Note: On Brexit, the results are fairly consistent across the demographic groups, whereas on the issue of International Terrorism there is a greater divide between men and women and the age groups, with women and older groups significantly more likely to be concerned with the issue of international terrorism.

Issue Salience – Top Issues

Immigration Total: 16%

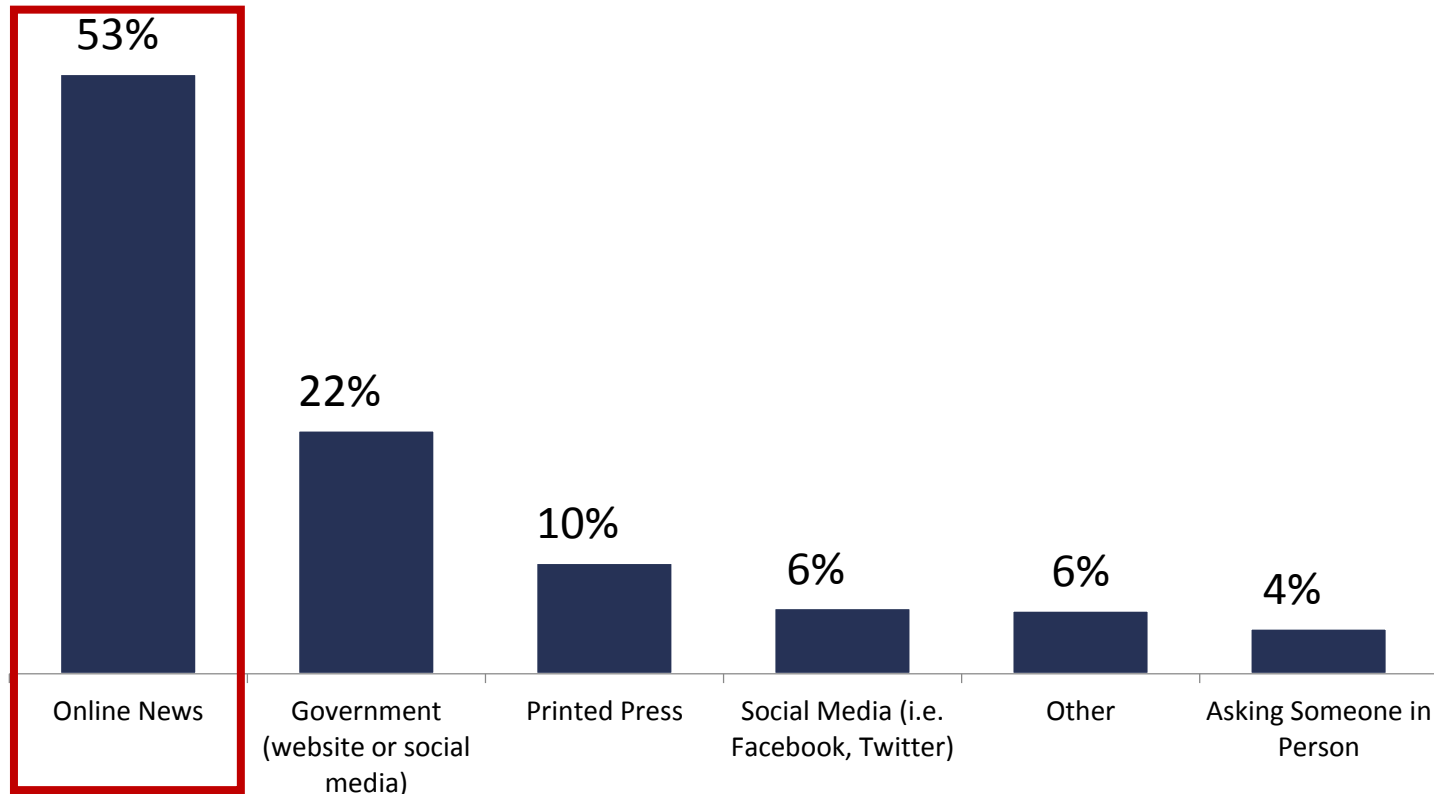


Global Warming Total: 9%



Note: Demographically and politically, the importance of the issue of Immigration varies substantially, with older groups much more likely to cite it as the most important concern, as are Leave & UKIP voters. On Global Warming, there is also a political divide, with Green Party and Remain voters most likely to cite it as the most important issue.

'If you were searching for information on '[Insert Important Issue Entered by Respondent]'
where would you look first?'



Note: When searching for information about the issue they consider to be most important, over half of Britons would look for it on Online News, whereas just over one fifth (22%) would look on government websites.

Knowledge

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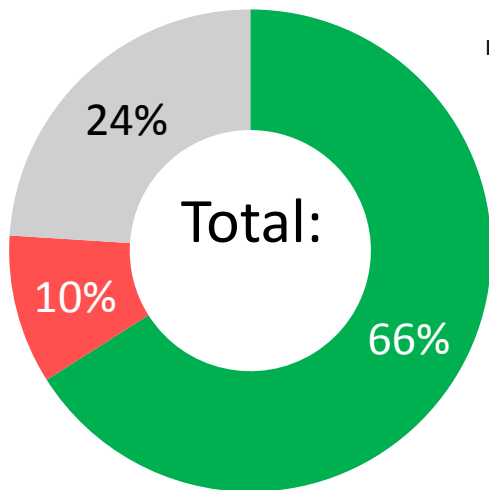


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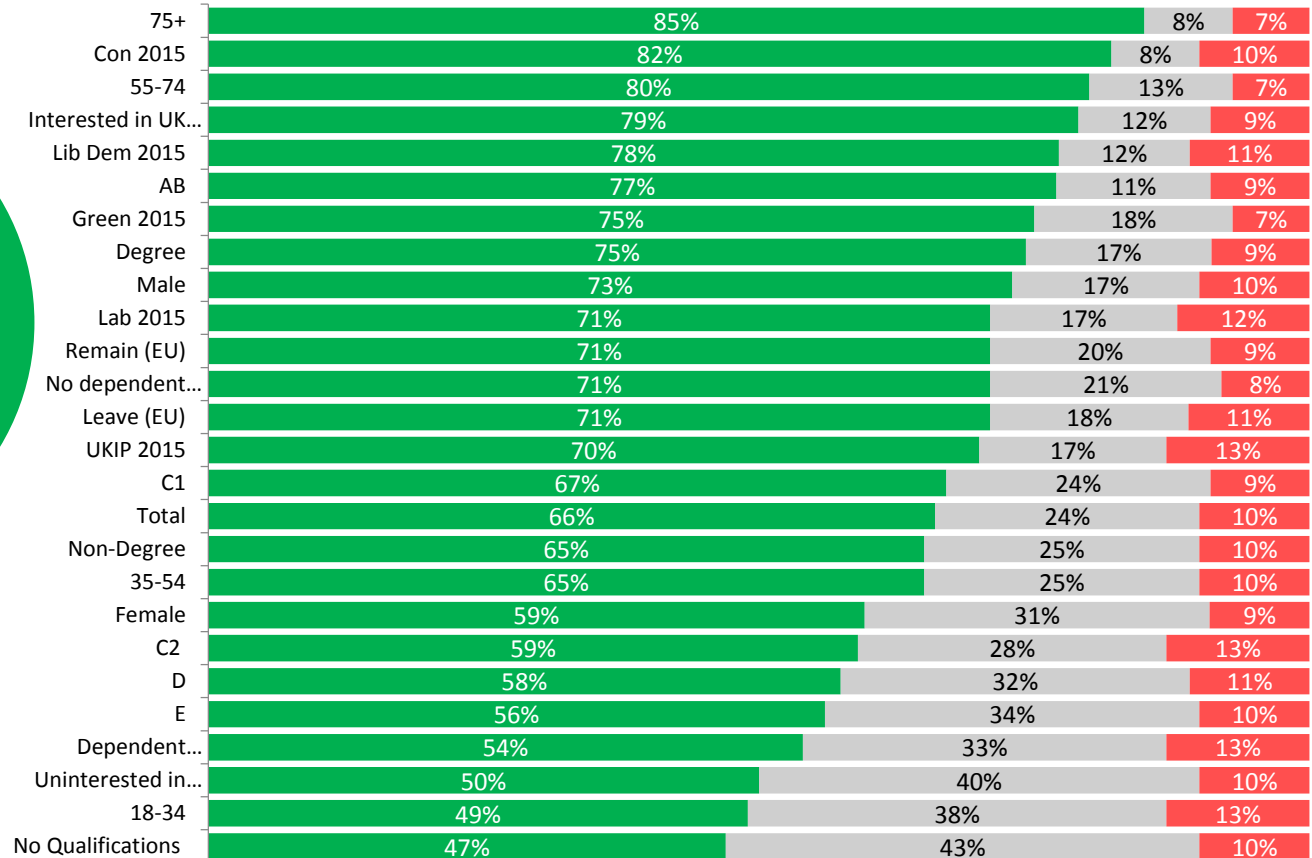
Foreign Affairs Knowledge

'Which of the following politicians is the current UK Foreign Secretary?'

■ Boris Johnson ■ Don't Know ■ Wrong Answer



■ Boris Johnson
 ■ Wrong answer
 ■ Don't Know

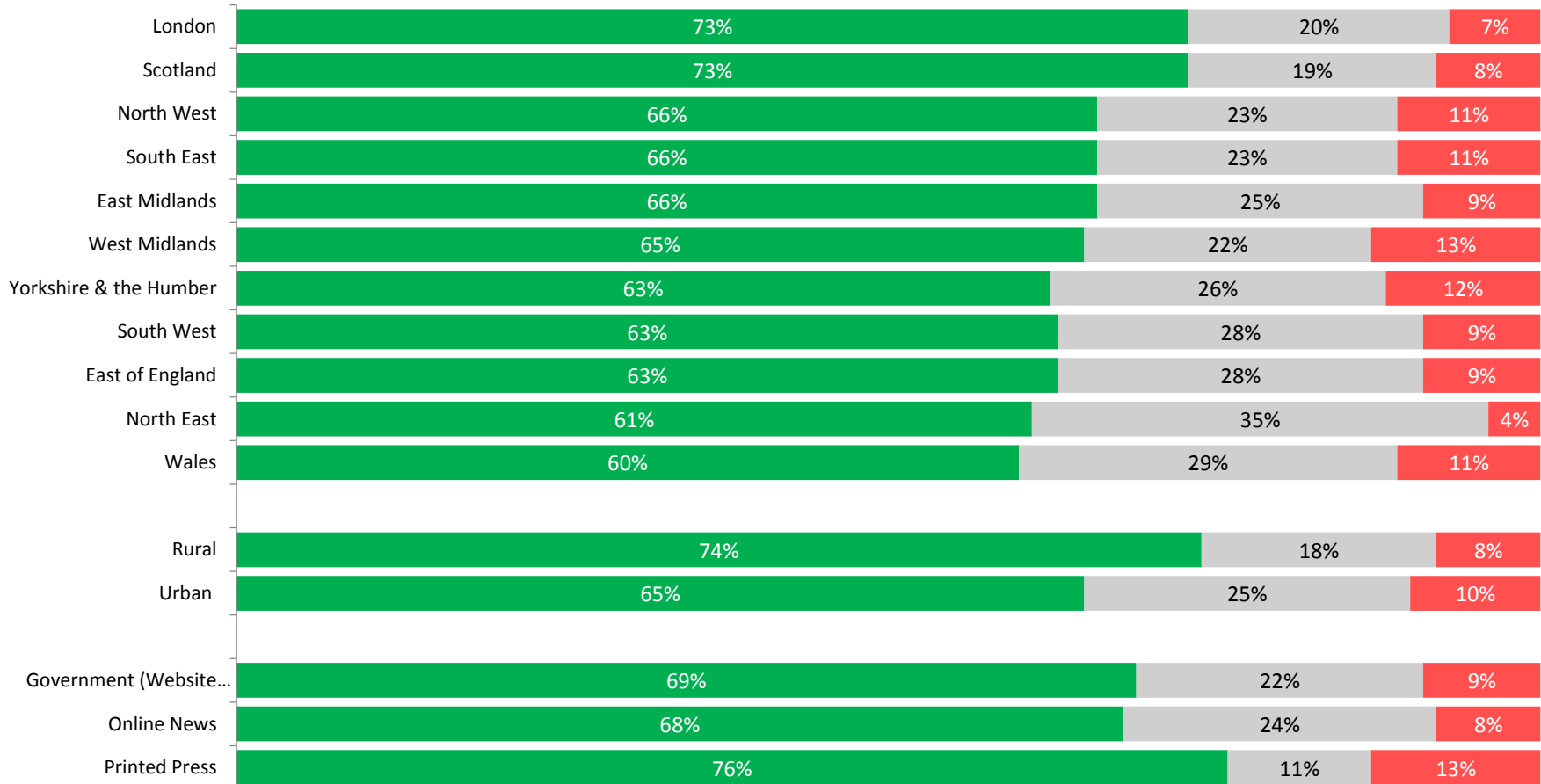


Note: Some two thirds (66%) of respondents were able to correctly name the UK Foreign Secretary. One quarter (24%) said that they didn't know, and one in ten (10%) answered incorrectly. Self-reported levels of knowledge appear to correspond well with the polling test questions.

Foreign Affairs Knowledge

'Which of the following politicians is the current UK Foreign Secretary?'

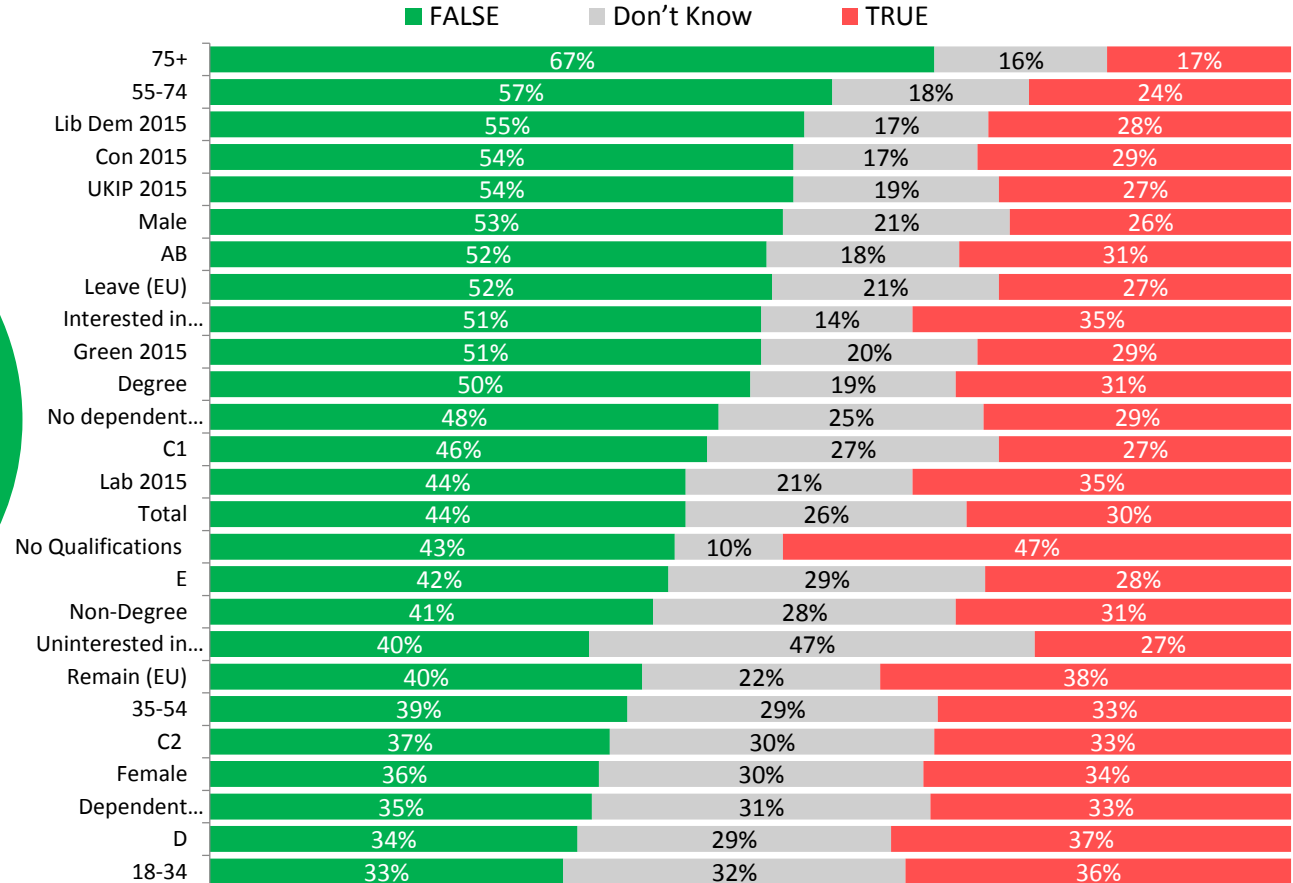
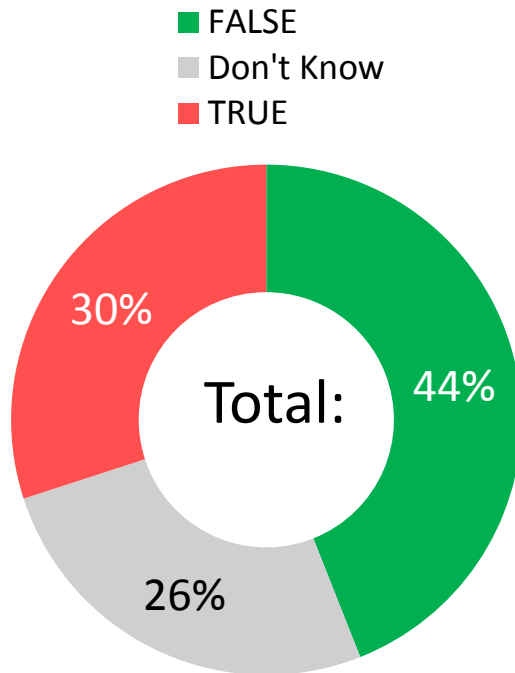
■ Boris Johnson ■ Don't Know ■ Wrong Answer



Note: Perhaps unsurprisingly those polled who lived in London were most likely to get the correct answer (73%). No doubt due to the raised profile of Boris Johnson among Londoners in his previous role as London Mayor.

Foreign Affairs Knowledge

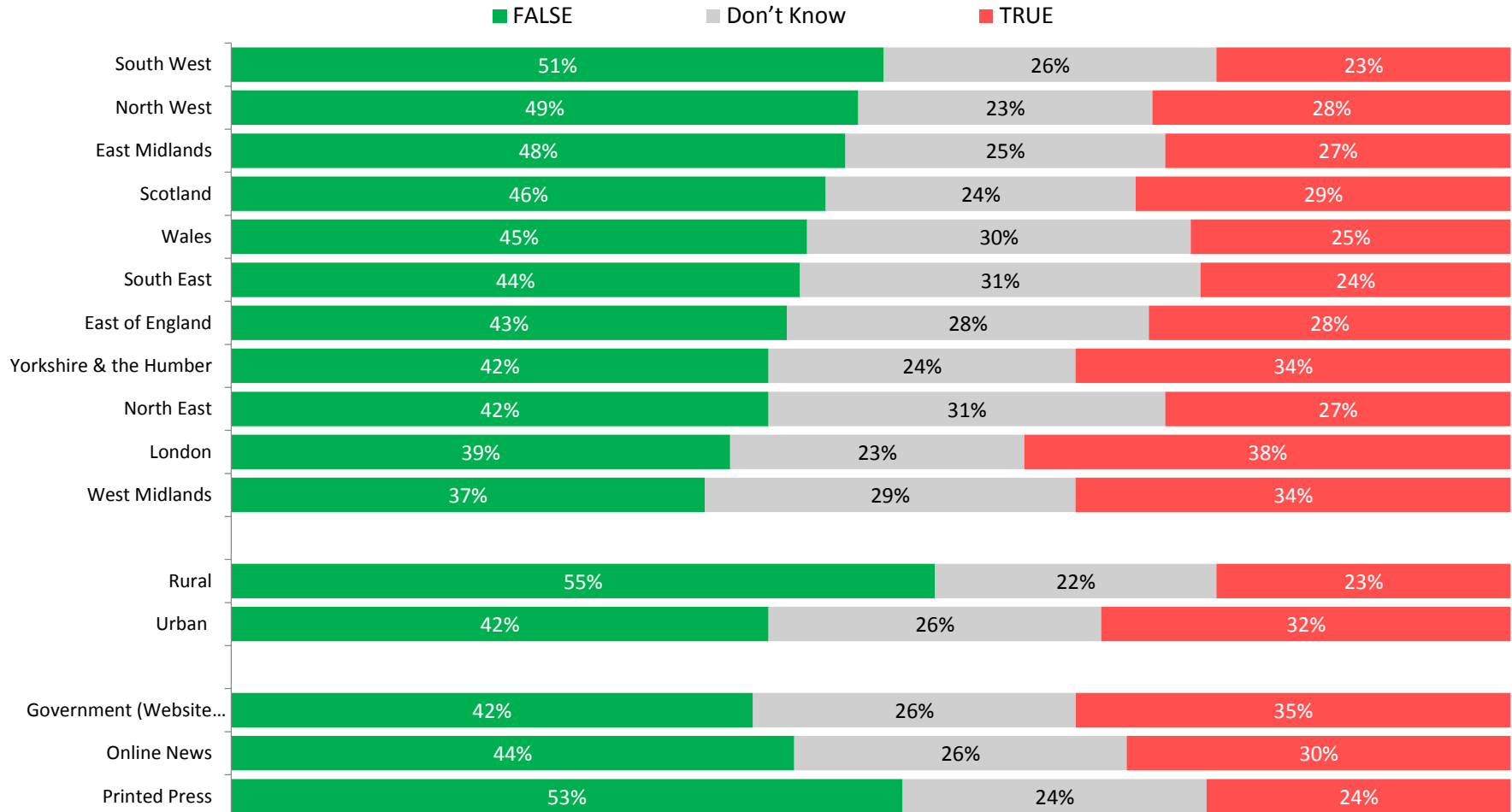
'Please read the following statements and state whether you believe they are true or false: ***“Without an arranged trade deal, countries cannot trade with one another”***



Note: Three in ten Britons (30%) thought that countries couldn't trade with one another without a trade deal arranged. This was highest among those with no qualifications (47%) and lowest among those aged 75+ (17%). Just over four in ten (44%) said that the statement was false and around one quarter (26%) said that they didn't know. There is a clear trend across most of the 'Knowledge Test' questions, with younger people, those who have fewer qualifications, and those working in lower socio-economic occupational groups, less likely to answer correctly.

Foreign Affairs Knowledge

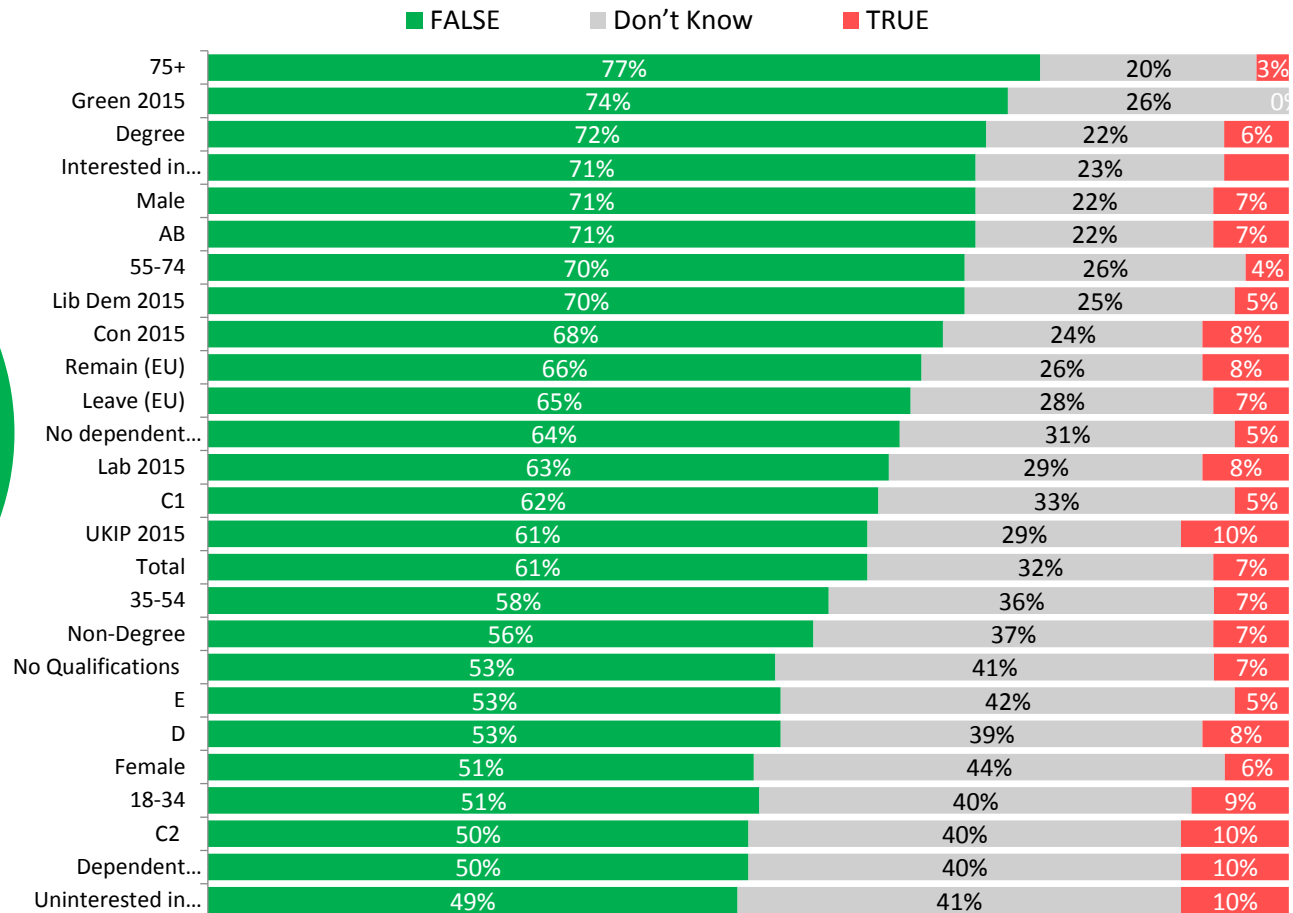
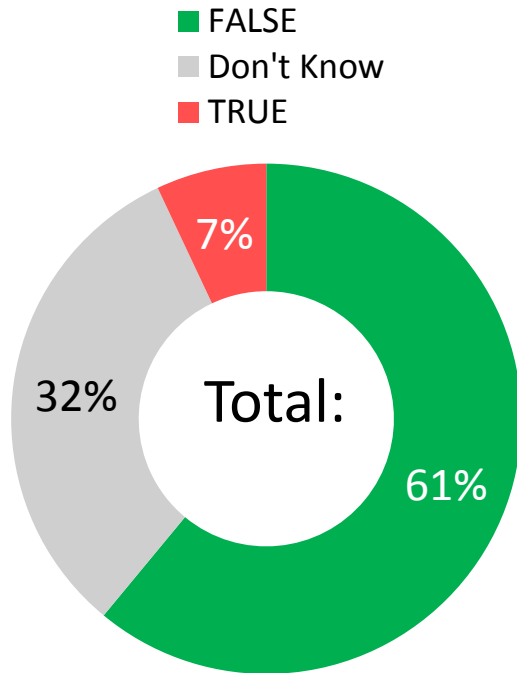
'Please read the following statements and state whether you believe they are true or false: ***“Without an arranged trade deal, countries cannot trade with one another”***



Foreign Affairs Knowledge

'Please read the following statements and state whether you believe they are true or false:

"All members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) must be nuclear powers"

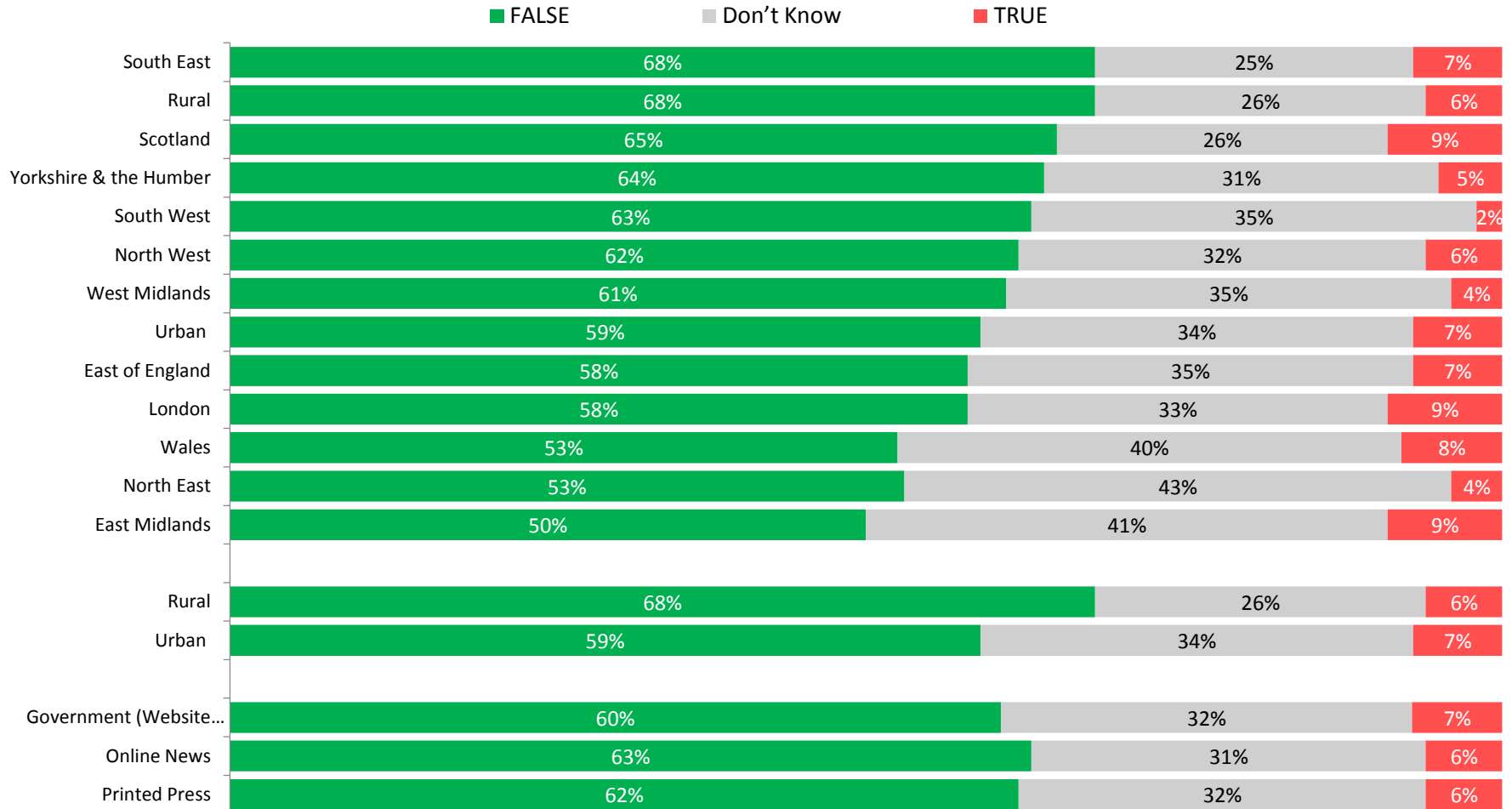


Note: More than six in ten respondents answered this question correctly, with a majority across all major groups tested.

Women and young people (18-34s) were most likely to say that they didn't know, at 44% and 40% respectively.

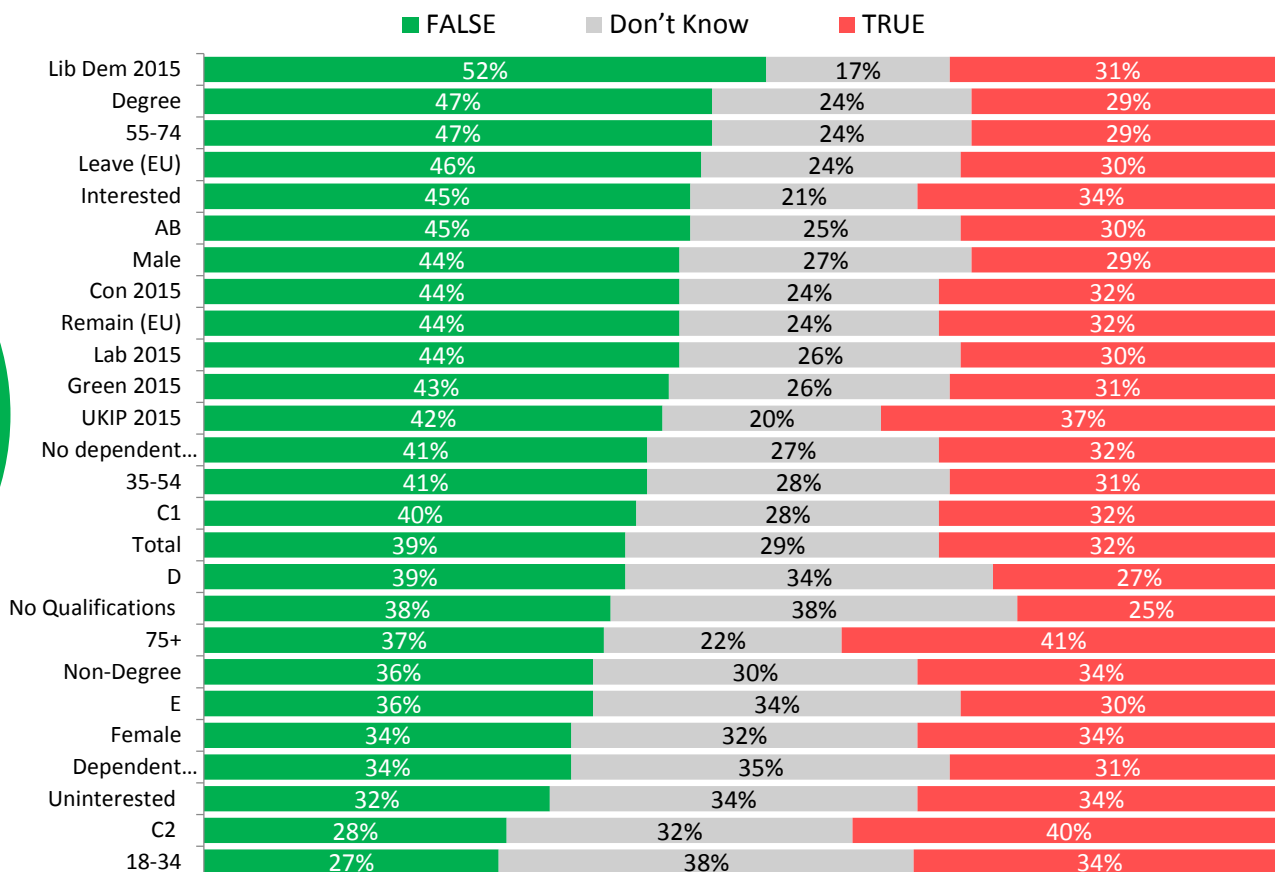
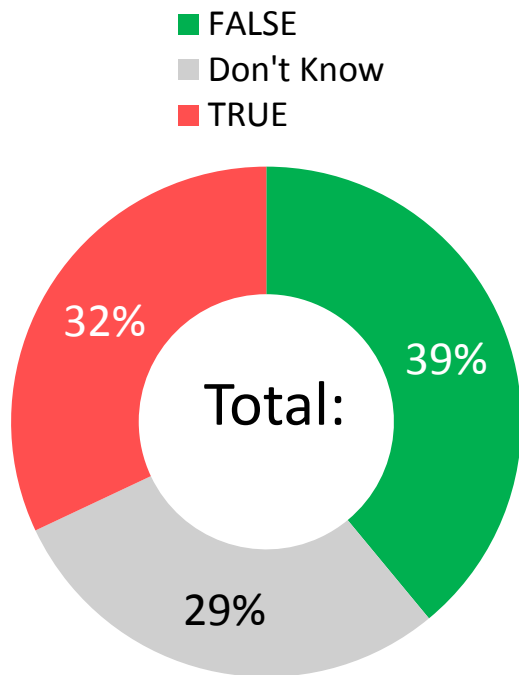
Foreign Affairs Knowledge

'Please read the following statements and state whether you believe they are true or false:
"All members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) must be nuclear powers"



'Please read the following statements and state whether you believe they are true or false:

“The UK has an embassy or consulate in every country”

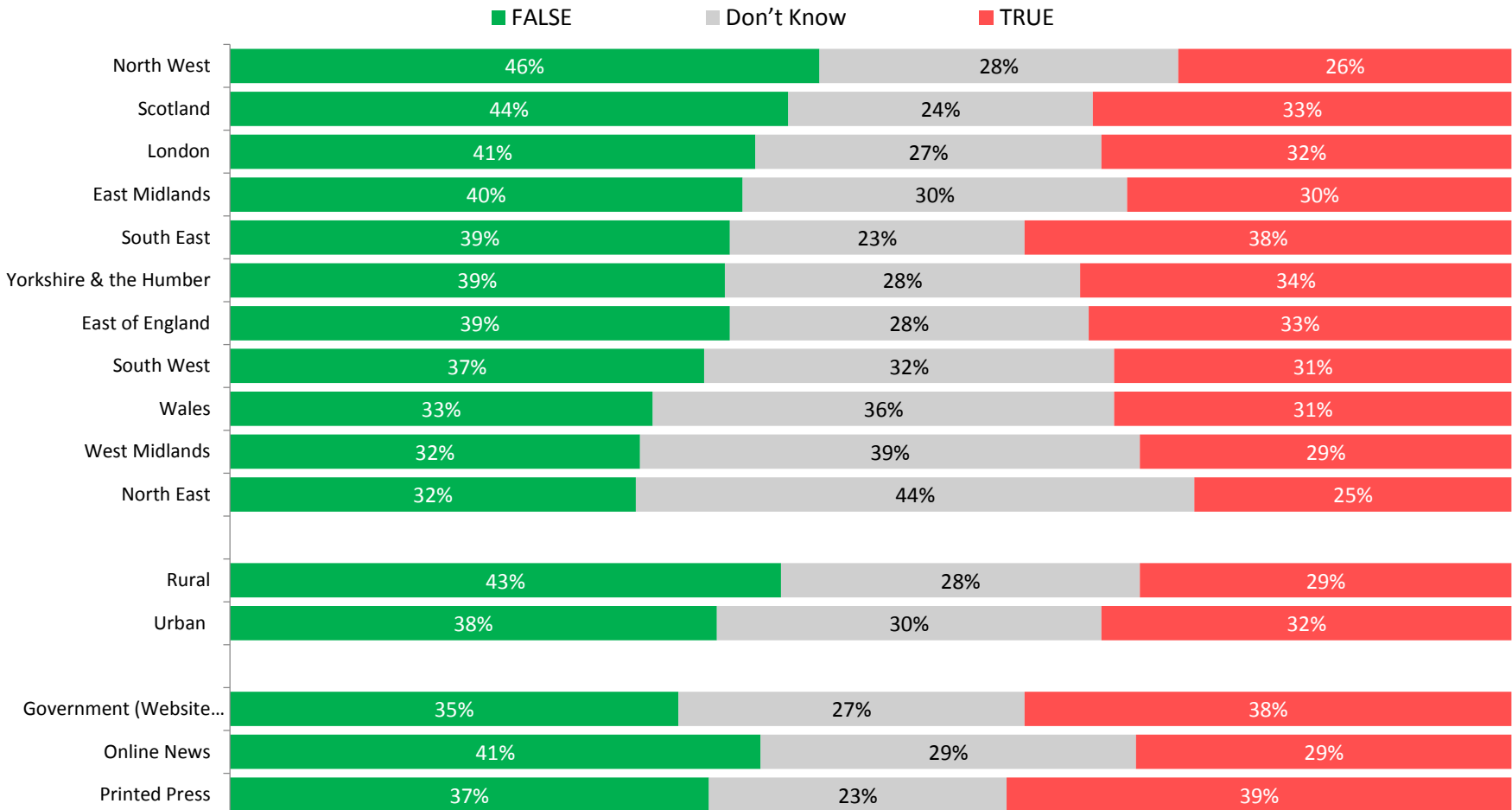


Note: Most respondents (39%) said that the statement ***“The UK has an embassy or consulate in every country”*** was false. Some 32% felt it was true. Results for this question are much more mixed, with less of a difference between major political and demographic groups and a large portion of respondents indicating that they didn't know.

Foreign Affairs Knowledge

'Please read the following statements and state whether you believe they are true or false:

"The UK has an embassy or consulate in every country"

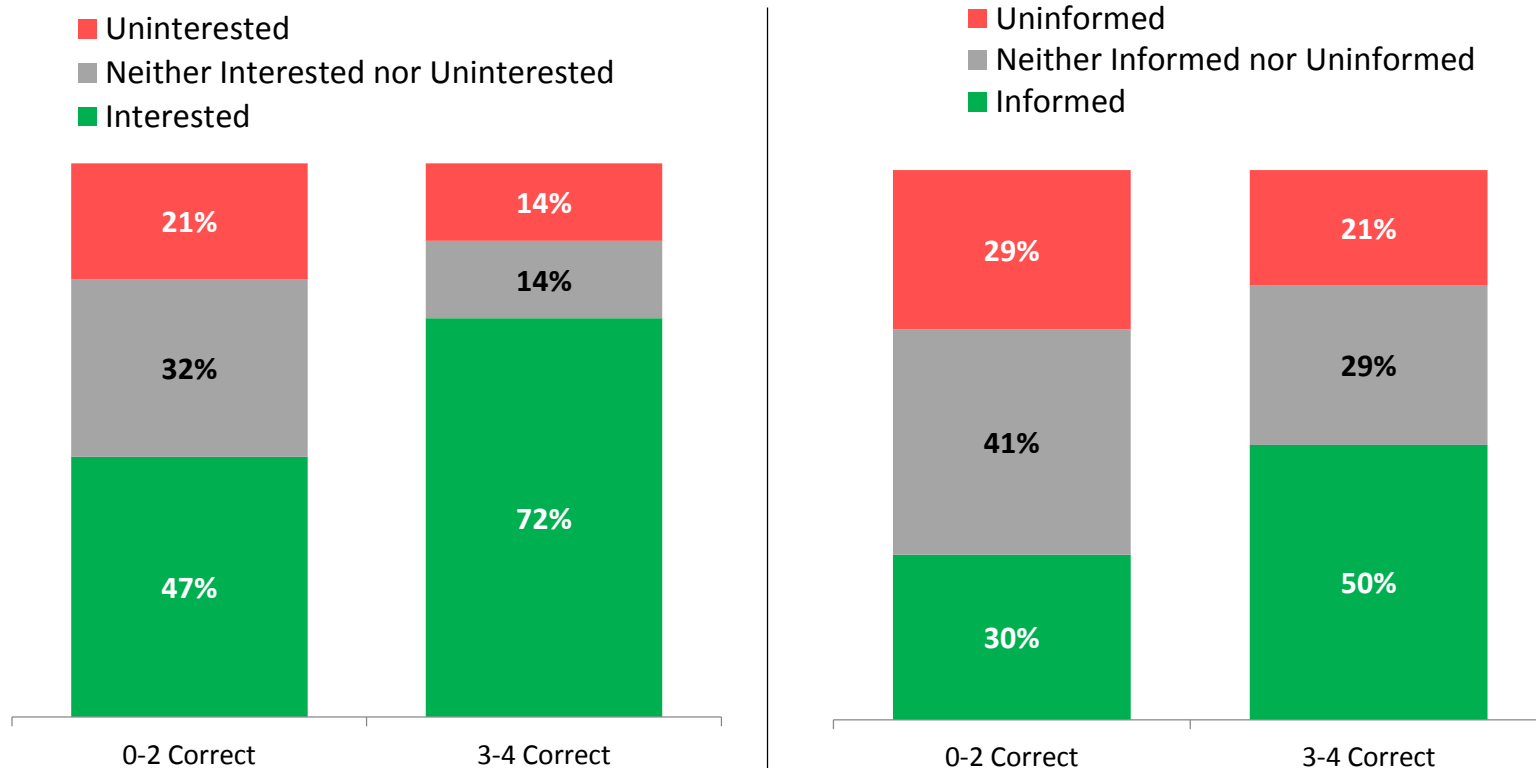


‘How interested would you say you are in what the UK does internationally?’

&

‘How informed to do you feel about UK foreign affairs?’

Score of correct answers given on foreign affair questions



Note: A respondent's level of interest in UK Foreign affairs appears to have a large effect on whether participants were able to answer the quiz questions correctly. Those who correctly answered 3-4 out of 4, are more likely to say that they are interested in UK foreign affairs (72%) than those who scored lower (47%). Likewise, those who scored higher in the knowledge quiz questions (3-4 correct answers) were more likely to say that they felt informed (50%) than those who scored lower (30%).

International Organisations, Treaties & Trade

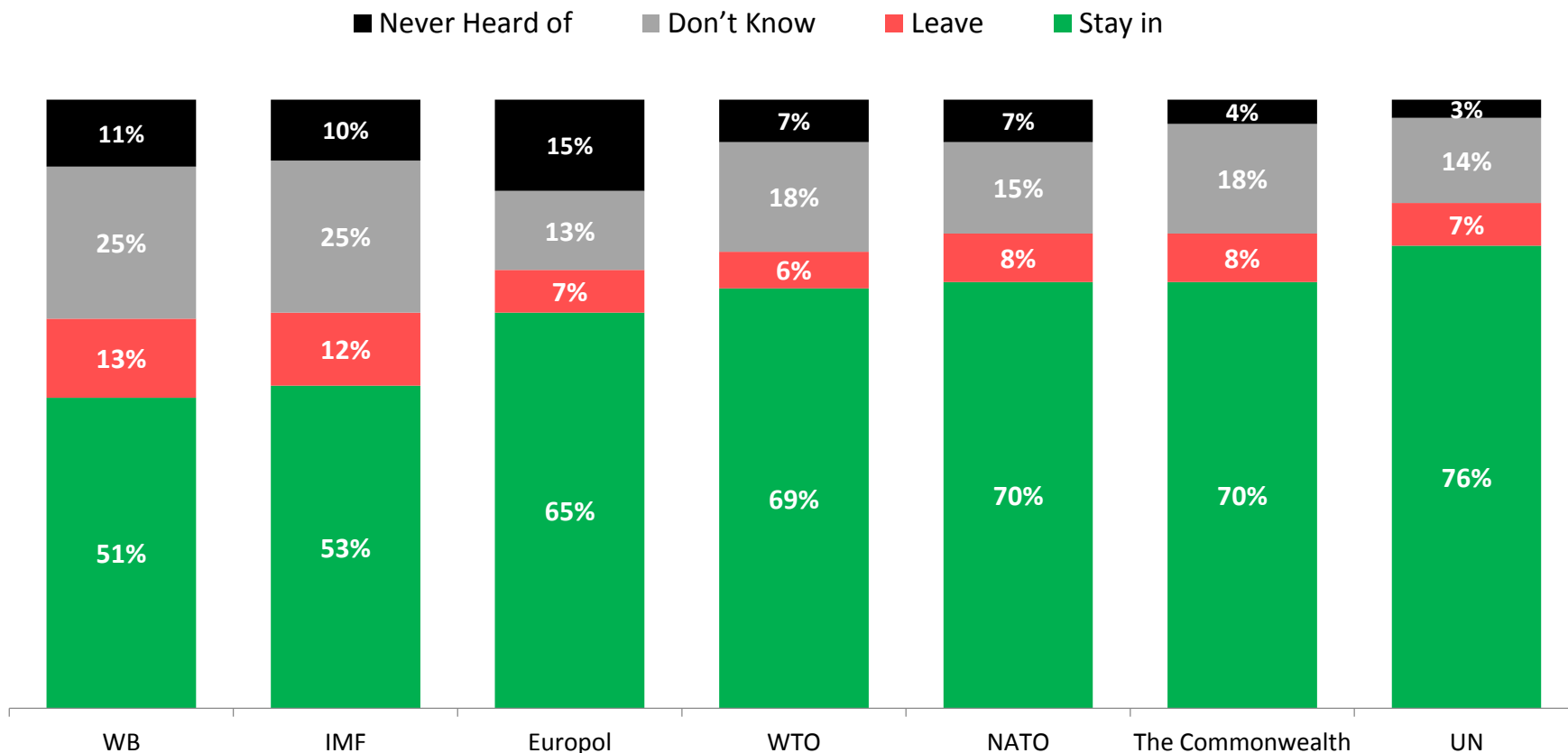
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International Organisations: Stay or Leave?

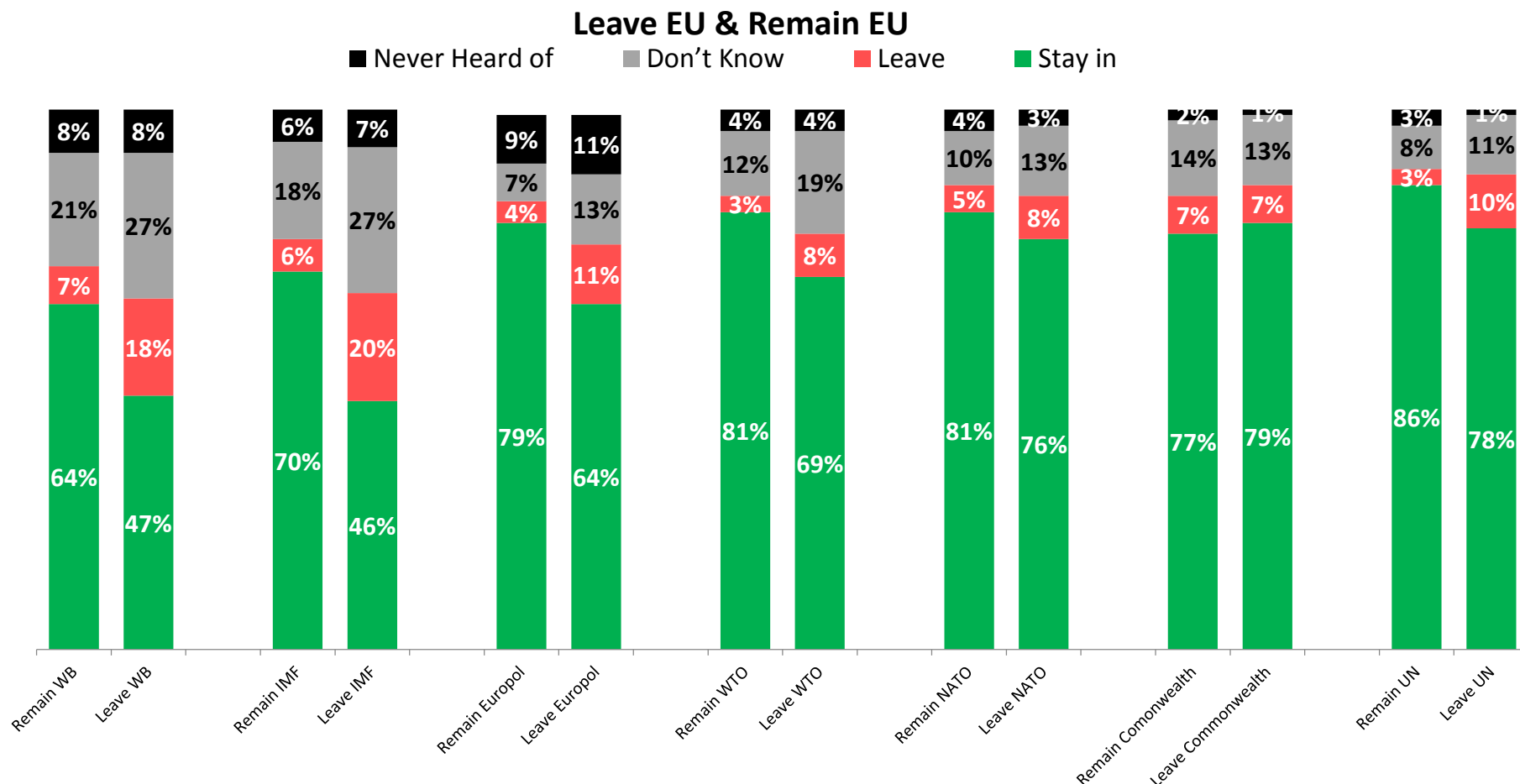
'If you could choose, would you stay in or leave the following international organisations?



Note: The World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) fared poorly when compared with the other international organisations. Just over half of people polled (51%) said that the UK should stay in the World Bank, whereas 13% felt we should leave. More than one third (36%) either didn't know or had never heard of the organisation. By contrast, the public were much more likely to feel that the United Nations (UN) was an organisation we should stay in (76%). Just 7% felt we should Leave the UN, and far fewer didn't know or had never heard of the organisation (17%).

International Organisations: Stay or Leave?

'If you could choose, would you stay in or leave the following international organisations?



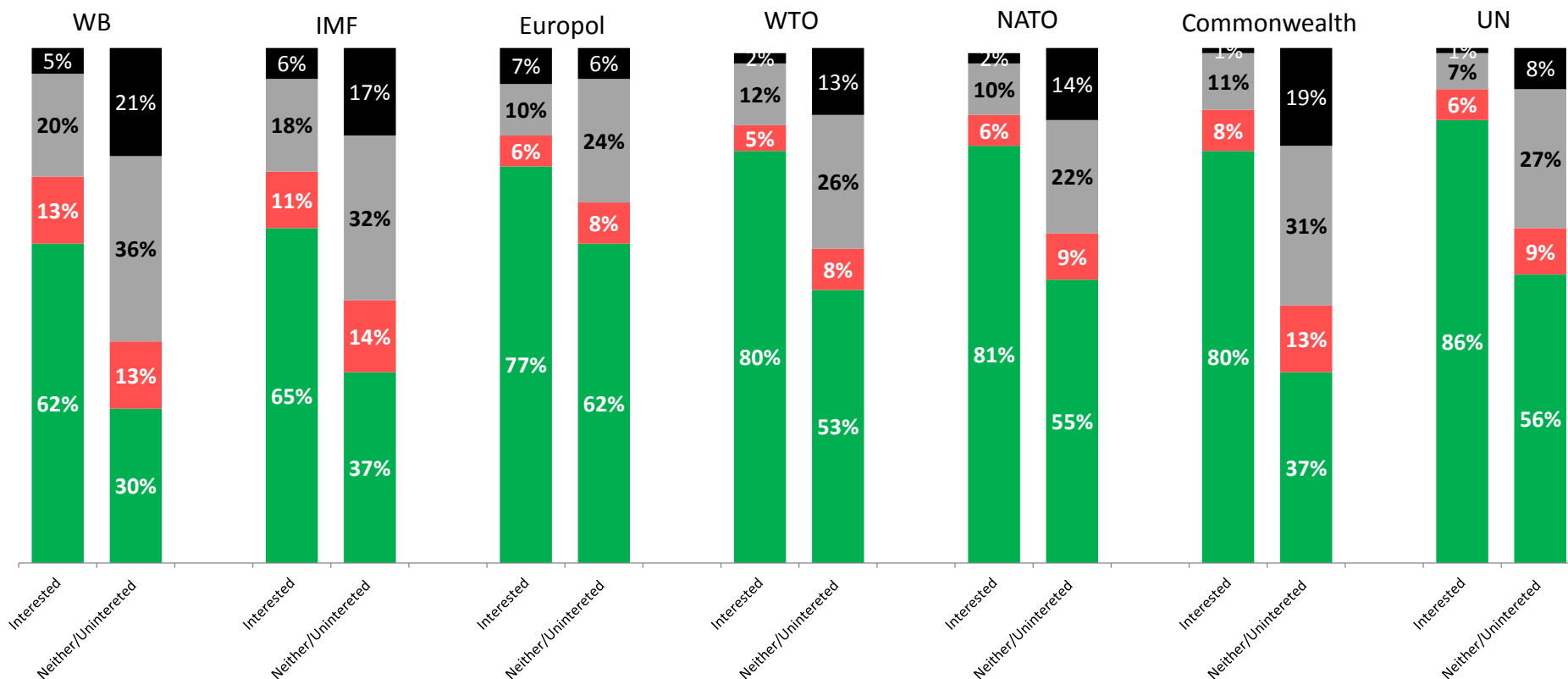
Note: Interestingly, when the data is segmented by Leave and Remain voters from the EU Referendum in June 2016, there are clear differences in the level of support for staying in international organisations that were mentioned/involved throughout the campaign. Notably the IMF, but also the World Bank and Europol. For instance, there is a 24 per cent difference in support for staying in the IMF between Leave (46%) and Remain (70%) voters, and a 17 per cent difference for the World Bank (47% & 64% respectively).

International Organisations: Stay or Leave?

'If you could choose, would you stay in or leave the following international organisations?

BY 'Level of interest in what the UK does internationally'

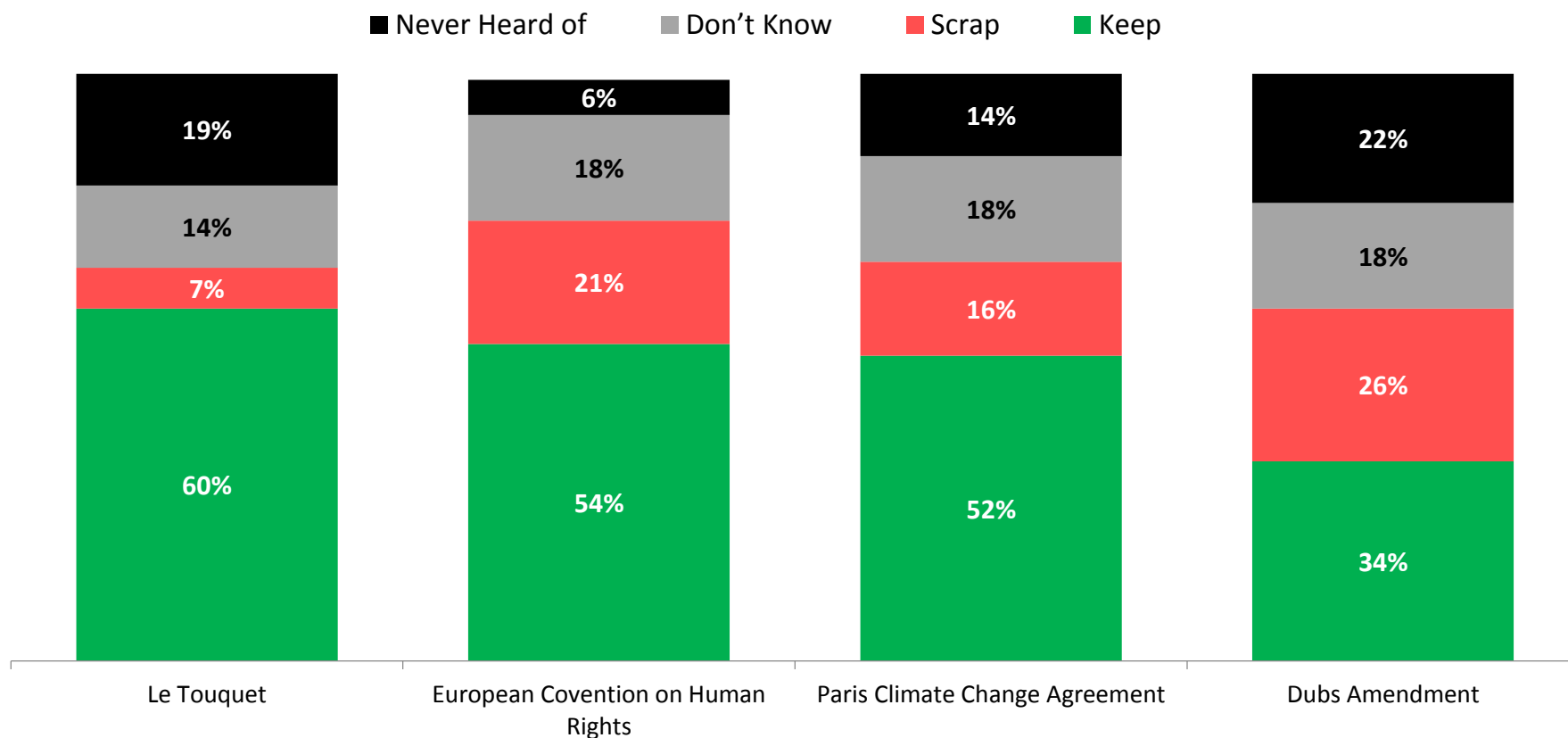
■ Never Heard of ■ Don't Know ■ Leave ■ Stay in



Note: Whether or not people said that they were interested in the UK's international affairs also appears to play a key role in determining whether people feel the UK should stay in organisations listed. For instance, the World Bank (WB) and IMF fared relatively poorly among those who say that they are uninterested, when compared to those who say that they take an interest in the UK's foreign affairs. Although there is support for staying in the World Bank from some 62% of those interested the UK's international affairs, just 30% of those who are not interested feel the same. Similarly for the IMF, support is at 65% for those interested, and just 37% for those not. Remarkably, support for staying in the Commonwealth stands at four in five (80%) among the interested, but less than four in ten (37%) for those not.

International Agreements: Keep or scrap?

'If you could choose, would you keep or scrap the following international agreements/treaties?

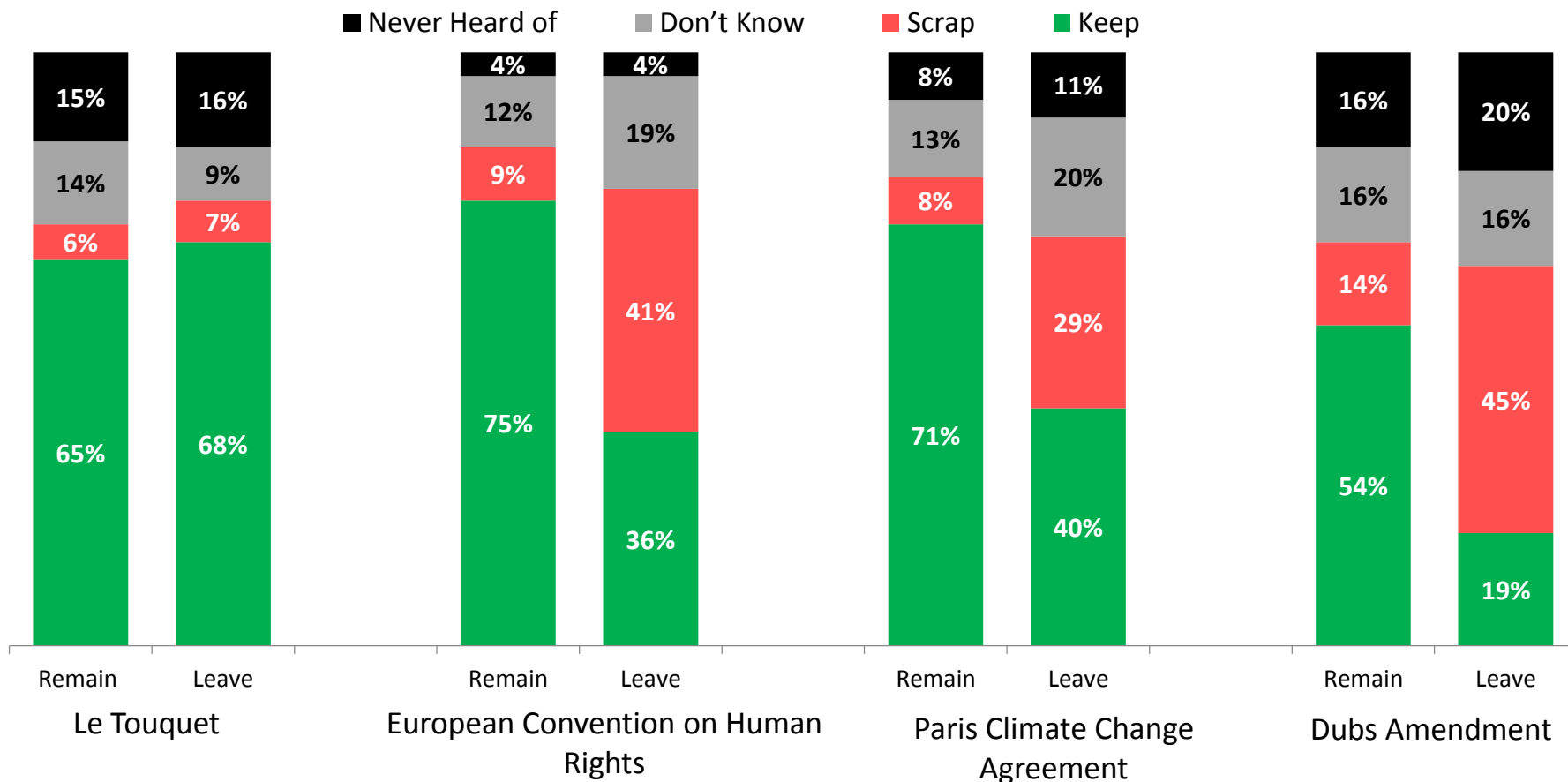


Note: The Dubs Amendment is by far the least popular of the agreements/treaties listed. Just one third (34%) of Britons would choose to keep it, and more than one quarter (26%) would scrap it. This perhaps relates to the public's strong feelings on immigration, particularly as the policy relates to a form of immigration policy. The Dubs amendment appears therefore to be a more decisive agreement than, for instance, Le Touquet, which relatively is as unknown, or unheard of, but concerns stricter controls on immigration.

International Agreements: Keep or Scrap?

'If you could choose, would you keep or scrap the following international agreements/treaties?

Leave EU & Remain EU

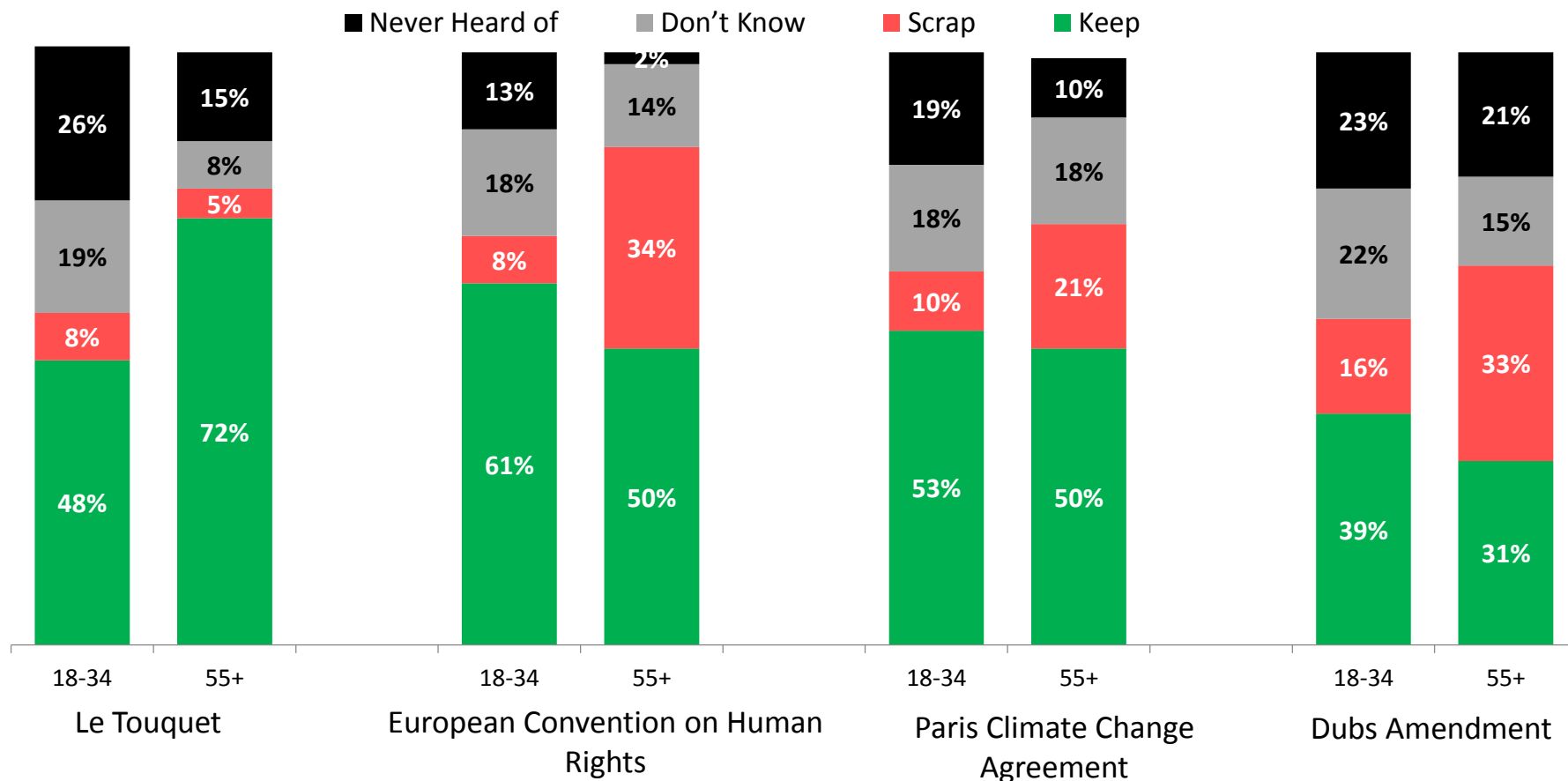


Note: Interestingly, although the Le Touquet agreement has relatively similar levels of support across many groups, there is a very large difference in support for all three of the other treaties listed, between those who voted to Leave and those who voted to Remain in the EU. Far more Leave voters would choose to scrap the European Convention of Human rights, the Dubs Amendment and the Paris Climate Change Agreement, compared with Remain voters.

International Agreements: Keep or Scrap?

'If you could choose, would you keep or scrap the following international agreements/treaties?

Leave EU & Remain EU



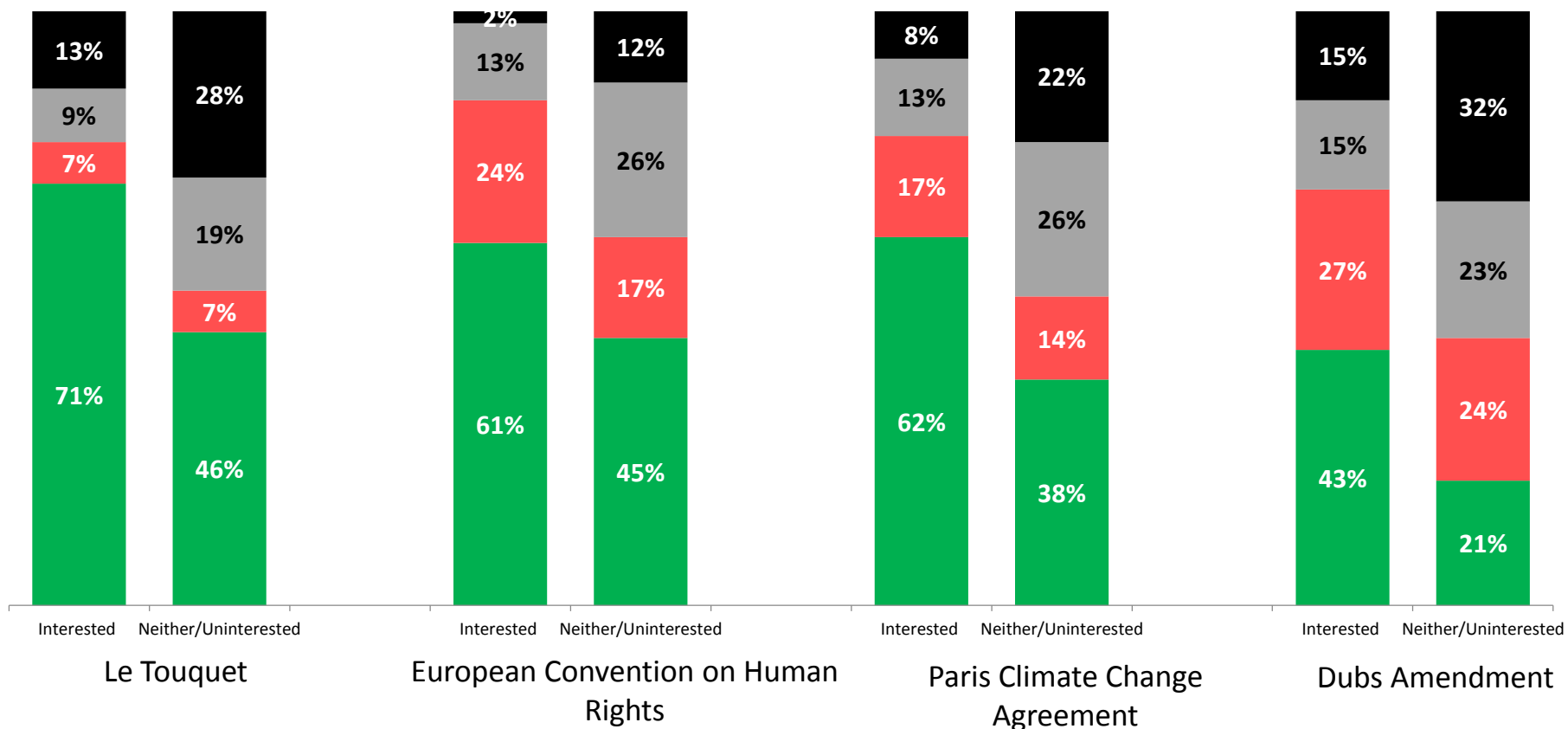
Note: The age of respondents was also a key factor, with older people much more likely to choose to scrap the Dubs Agreement, Paris Climate Change Agreement and European Convention of Human Rights, and younger people less likely to support the Le Touquet Agreement.

International Agreements: Keep or Scrap?

'If you could choose, would you keep or scrap the following international agreements/treaties?

Interested and Uninterested in what the UK does Internationally

■ Never Heard of ■ Don't Know ■ Scrap ■ Keep

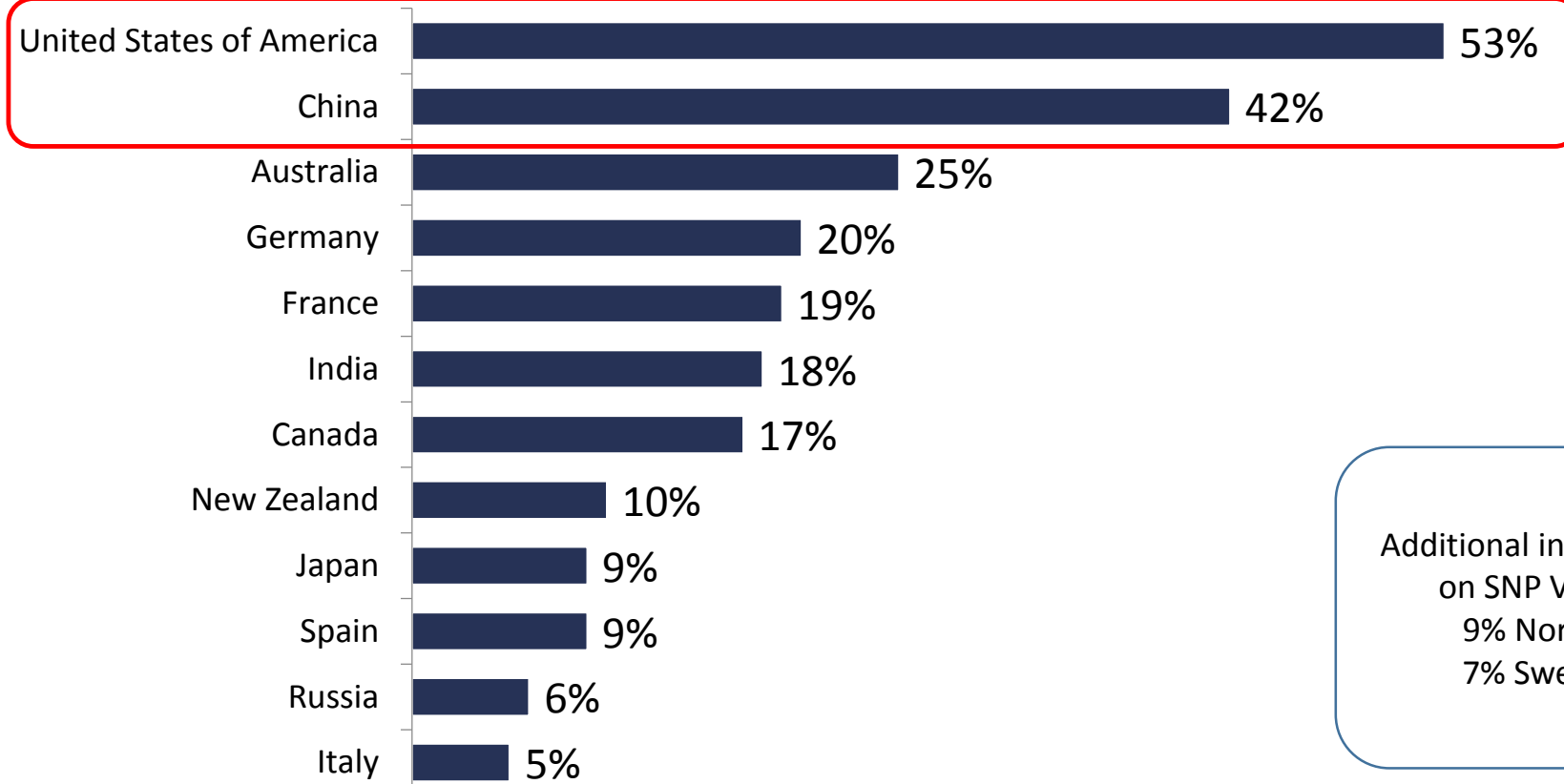


Note: Similar to the results for international organisations, those who that they are interested in what the UK does internationally, are much more likely to want to keep treaties rather than scrap them.

International Trade: Trading Partners

'Which countries, if any, should the UK focus increasing its trading links with?'

Total:

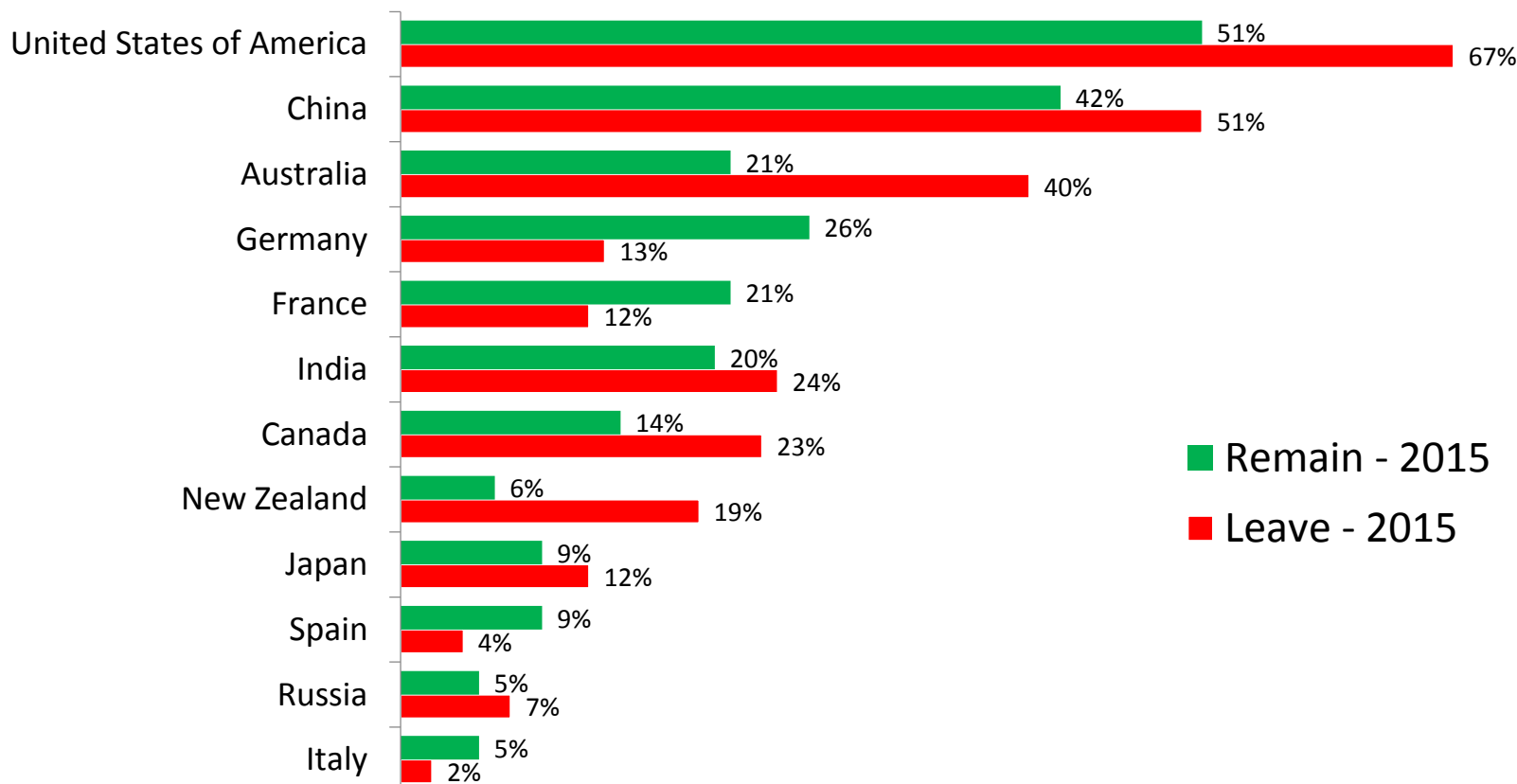


Additional information
on SNP Voters:
9% Norway
7% Sweden

Note: Respondents were asked to prioritise up to five countries that the UK should focus on increasing trading links with. Over half (53%) of those polled selected the United States, followed by China which was prioritised by more than two-fifths of the public (42%). Australia came in at third most popular, selected by one quarter of respondents (25%). Interestingly, no European countries made it into the top 3, however Germany and France were prioritised by around one-fifth of those polled (20% and 19% respectively). These were closely followed by former commonwealth countries, India (18%), Canada (17%) and New Zealand (10%). Please note that countries which polled at under 5% of the total result have been excluded from this graphic.

'Which countries, if any, should the UK focus increasing its trading links with?'

EU – Leavers and Remainers:

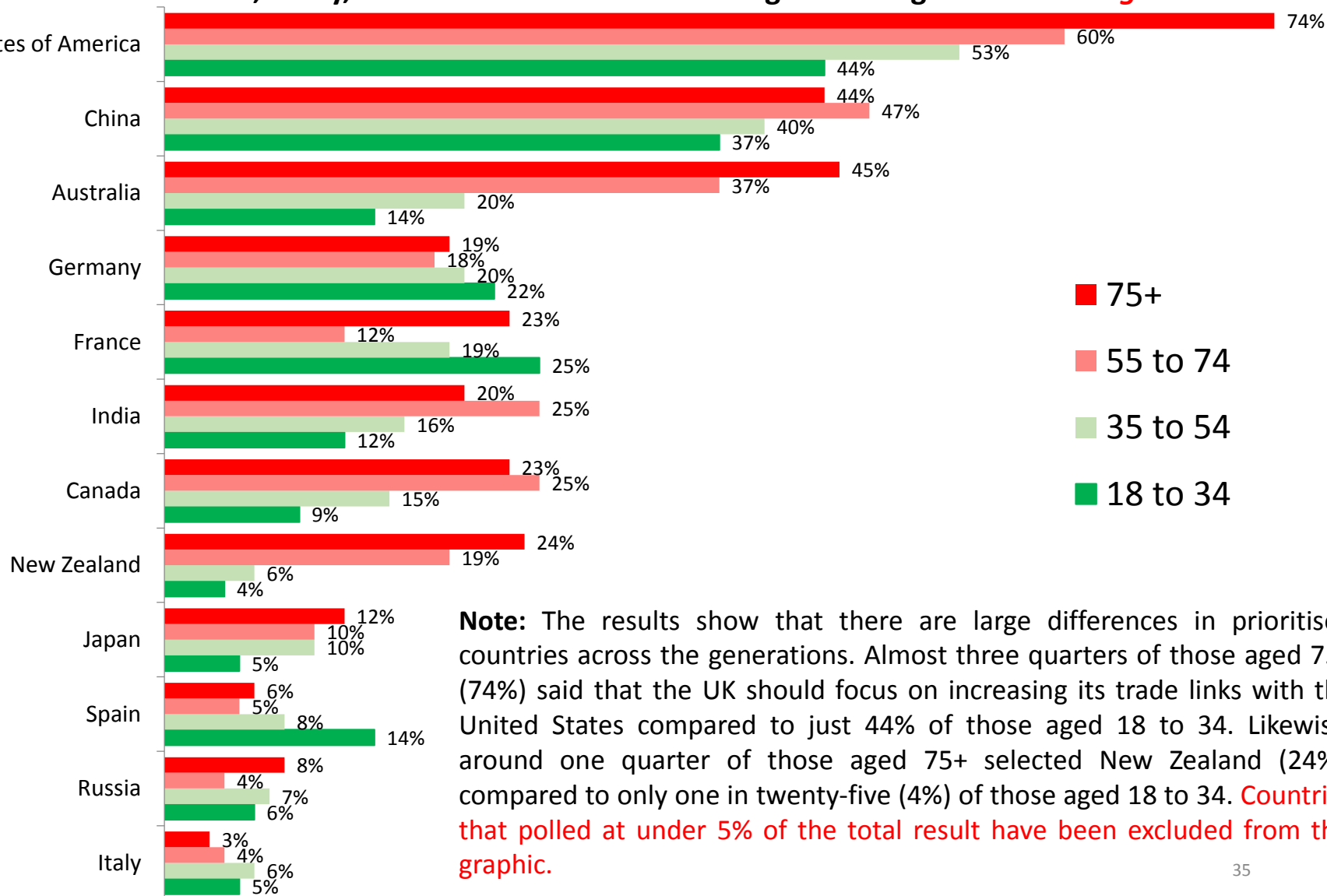


■ Remain - 2015
 ■ Leave - 2015

Note: While there is a significant difference in the likelihood of prioritising the United States and China between Leavers & Remainers, there is an even greater disparity between these groups for countries slightly lower down the priority order. Two fifths of Leavers (40%) said that the UK should increase its trading links with Australia, almost double the percentage among Remainers (21%). Those who supported Brexit in 2015 were significantly less likely to select either France or Germany (12% & 13% respectively), than Remainers (21% & 26% respectively). Canada and New Zealand were much more likely to be prioritised by Leavers (23% & 24% respectively) than by Remainers (14% & 20% respectively). *Please note that countries which polled at under 5% of the total result have been excluded from this graphic.*

International Trade: Trading Partners

'Which countries, if any, should the UK focus increasing its trading links with?' **Age:**



Spending on Diplomacy

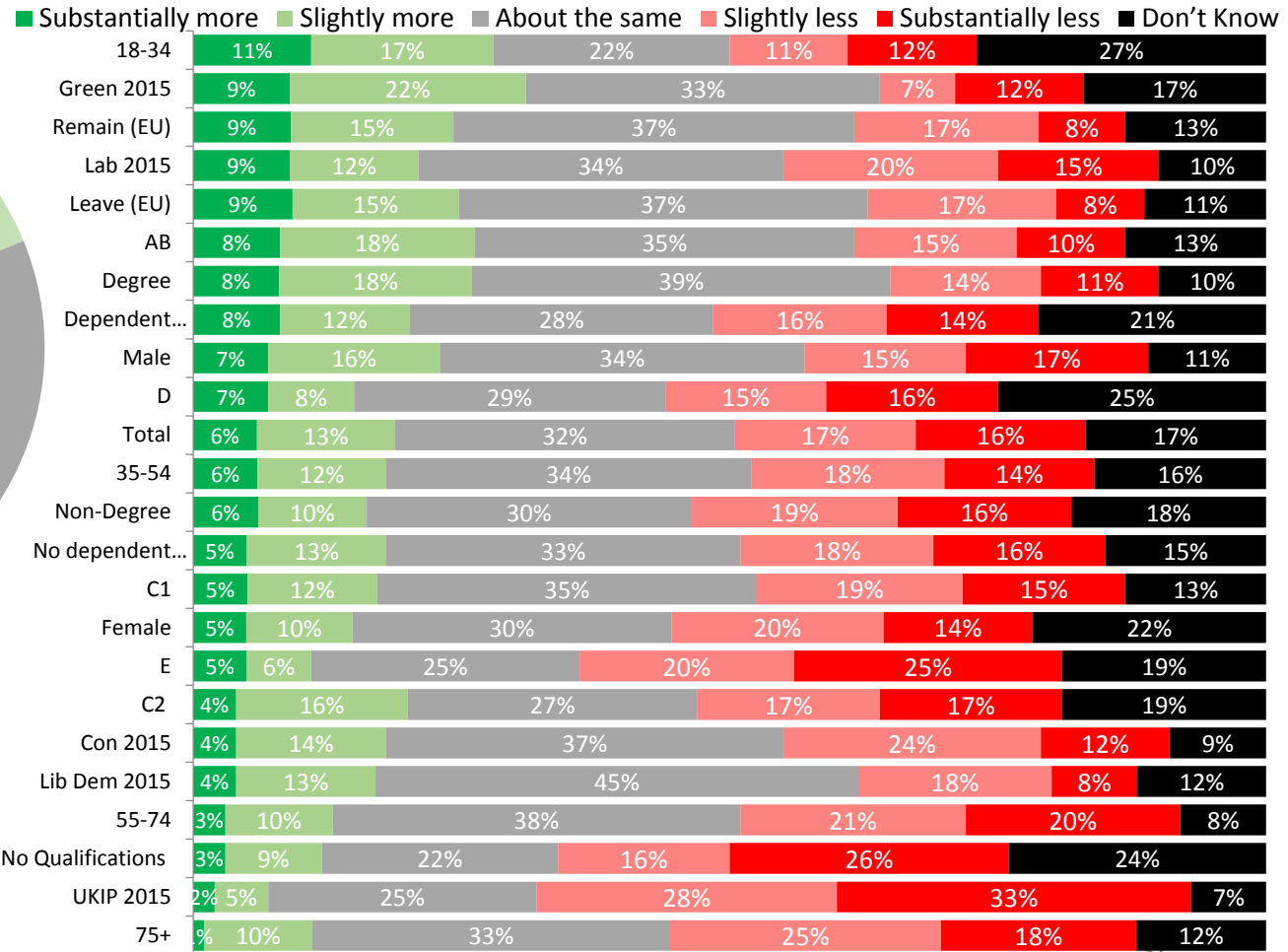
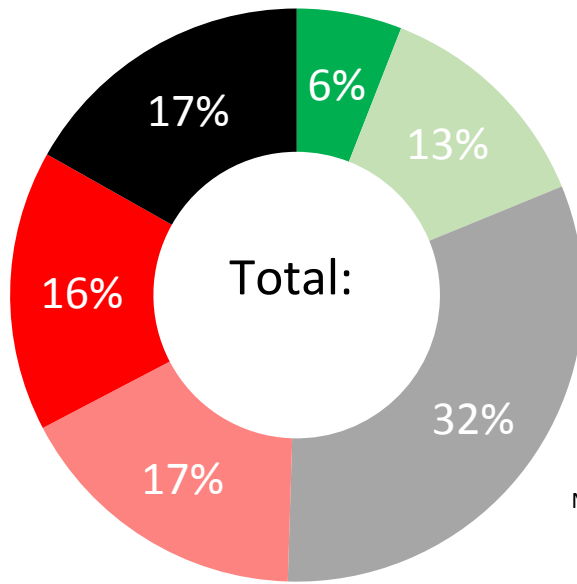
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Diplomatic Spending

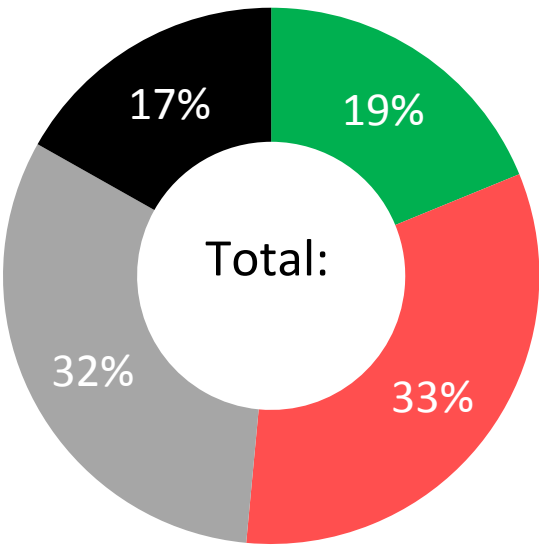
'Currently the UK spends roughly 0.14% (£1.1 billion) on diplomacy. After the UK leaves the European Union, in your view, should the UK be spending more, less, or about the same on diplomatic activities?'



■ Substantially more ■ Slightly more
■ About the same ■ Slightly less
■ Substantially less ■ Don't Know

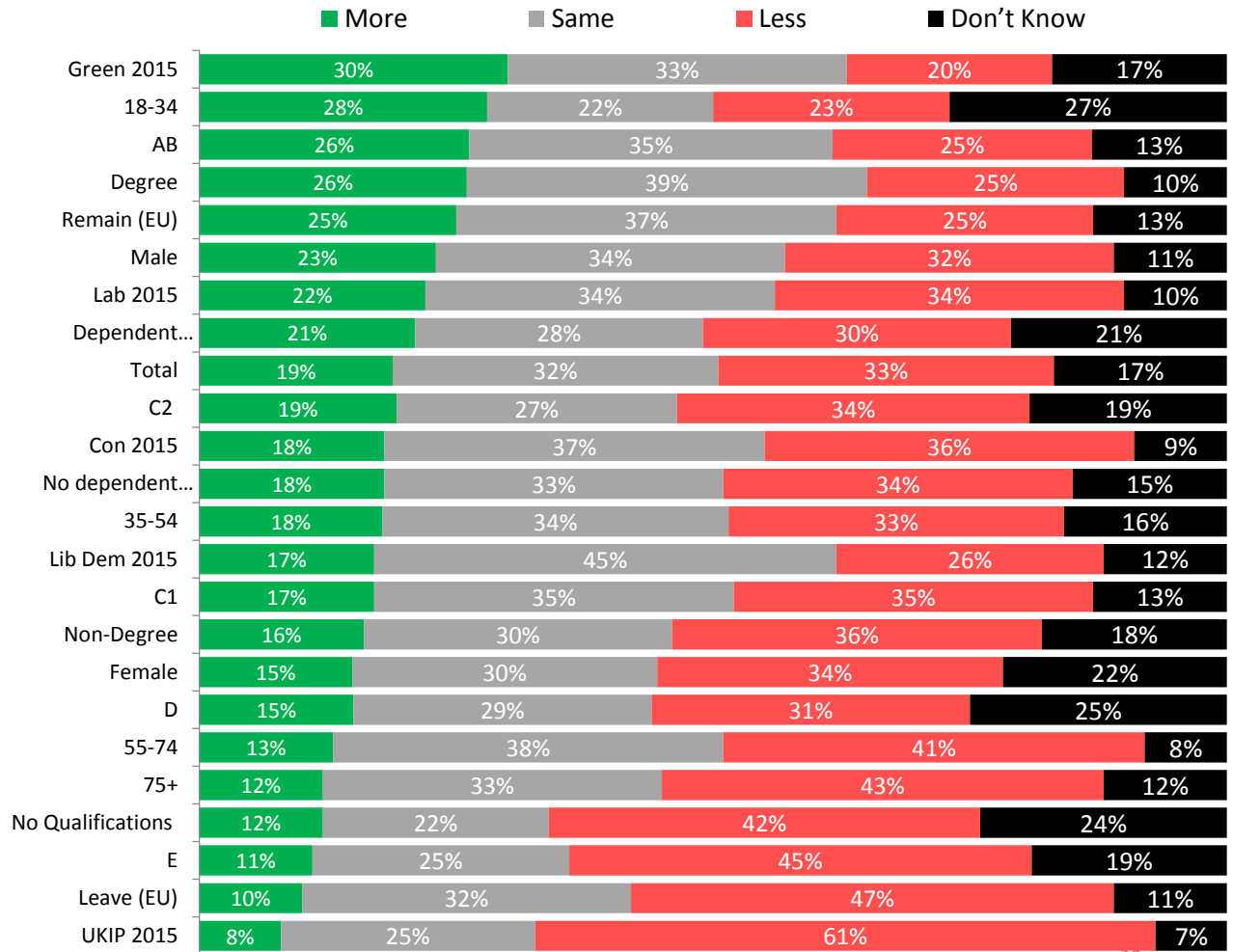
Diplomatic Spending

'Currently the UK spends roughly 0.14% (£1.1 billion) on diplomacy. After the UK leaves the European Union, in your view, should the UK be spending more, less, or about the same on diplomatic activities?'



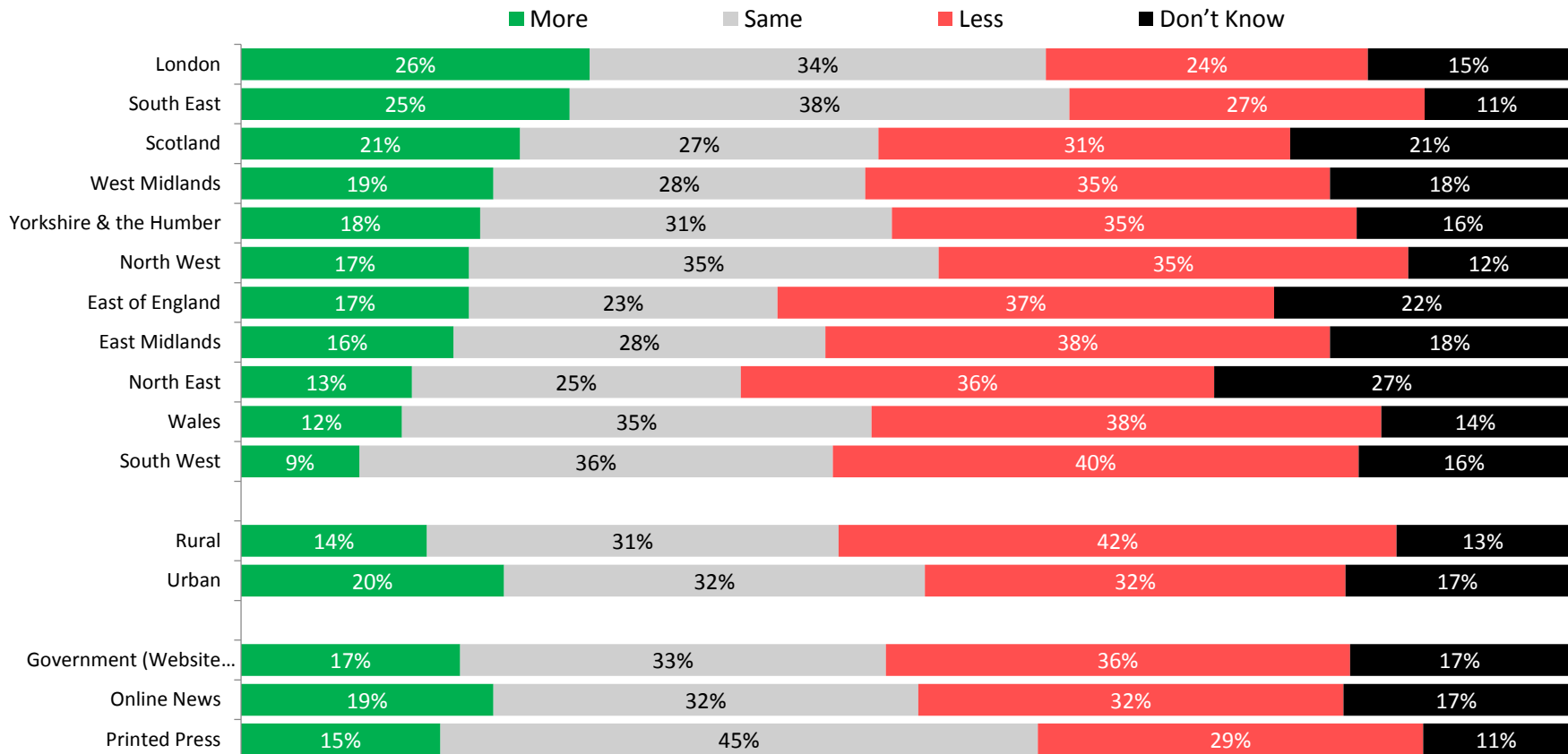
■ More
■ Same
■ Less
■ Don't Know

activities?



Diplomatic Spending

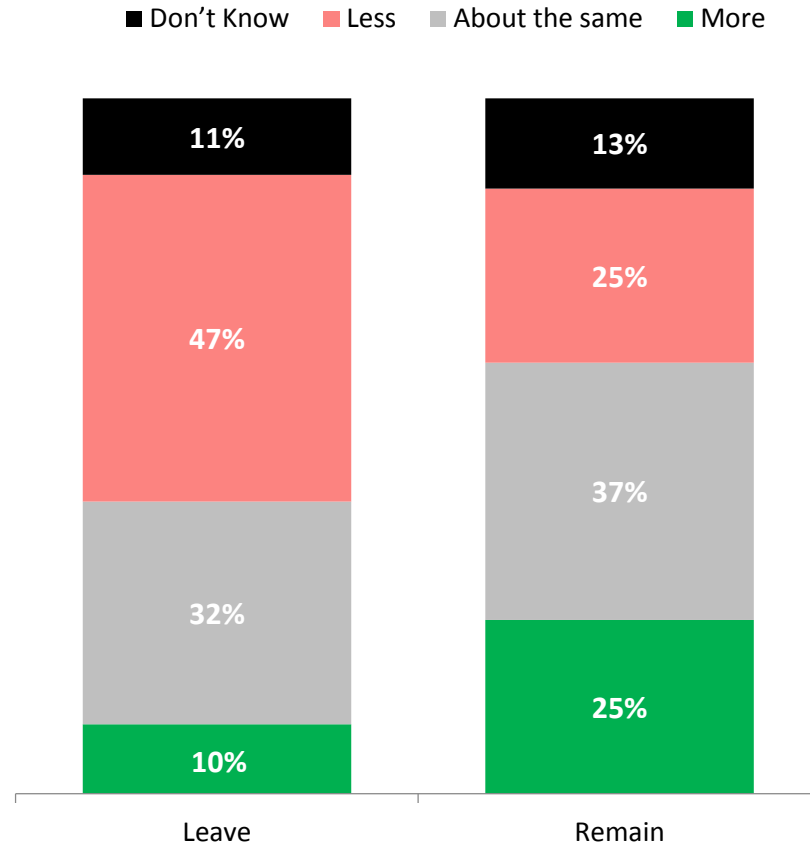
'Currently the UK spends roughly 0.14% (£1.1 billion) on diplomacy. After the UK leaves the European Union, in your view, should the UK be spending more, less, or about the same on diplomatic activities?'



Note: Support for more spending in diplomatic activities is at its highest in the diplomatic heart of the country, London, with over a quarter (26%) believing that more should be spent, and over one third (34%) saying a similar amount should be spent. Support for more diplomatic spending is also similarly high in the South East of England at around one quarter (25%).

Diplomatic Spending

Should the UK be spending more, less, or about the same on diplomatic activities?



Note: The public's view about how to engage with the world varies substantially by previous political behaviour. For instance, those that voted to Leave the EU (and UKIP supporters), are much more likely than Remain voters to say that spending on diplomatic activities should be curbed. Almost half of Leave voters (47%) would like spending on diplomatic activities to come down, compared with just one quarter of Remain voters.

International Issues & Political Parties

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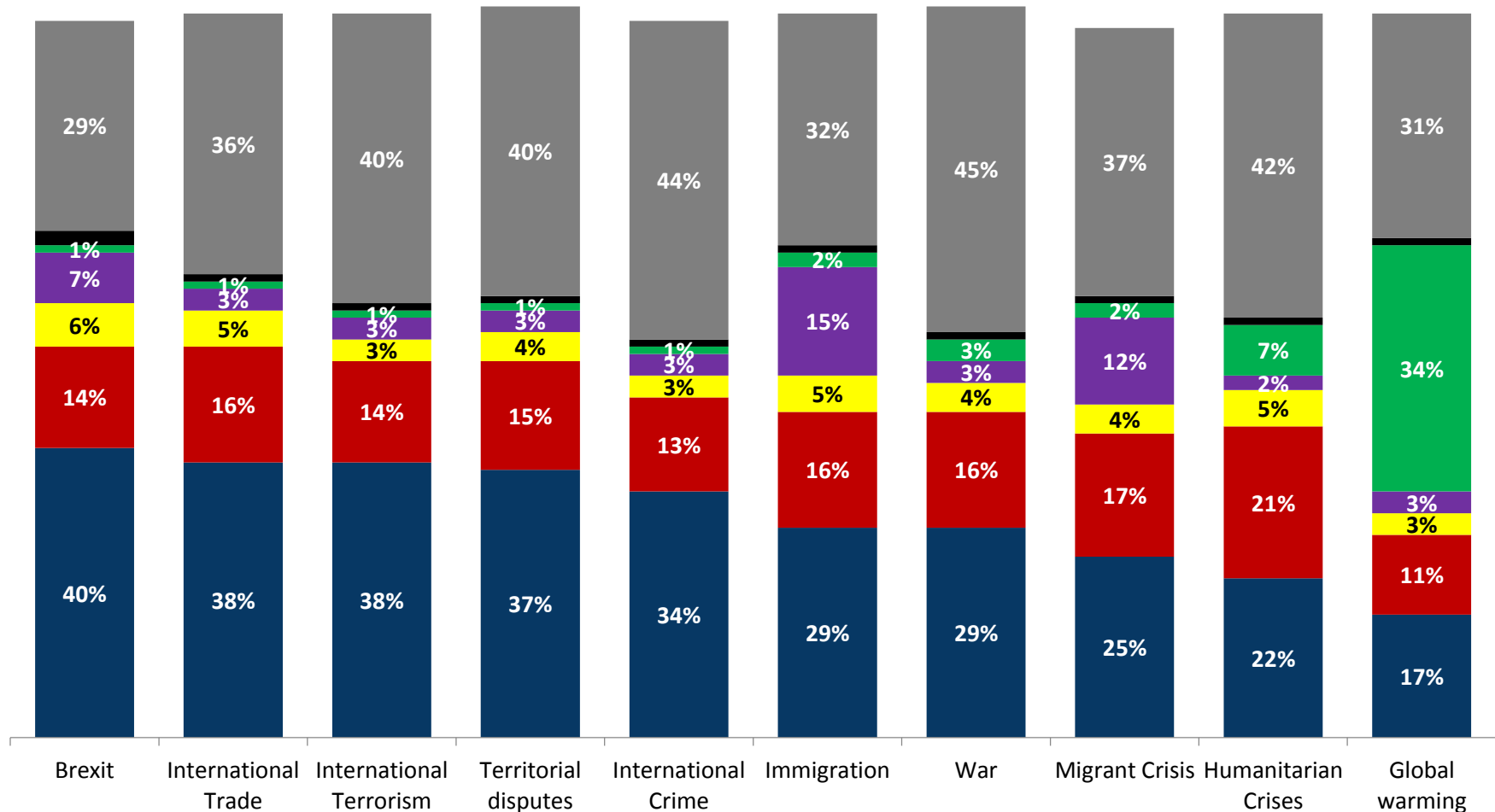
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Political Parties & International Issues

'Which political party do you believe best addresses the following issues?'

■ Conservatives ■ Labour ■ Lib Dems ■ UKIP ■ Greens ■ Other ■ Don't Know



Note: Conservatives are ahead on every international issue listed, in the eyes of the public, bar the issue of Global Warming, which many people would strongly associate with the Greens, as principally a single issue party.

Interested & Informed About Foreign Affairs

Older age groups are most interested in the UK's foreign affairs. By contrast, those who are younger tend to be less interested. 18-34's are the least likely age group to say that they would be interested (52%), those aged 75 and over are most likely (82%). Educational level is also a key differentiator, with degree educated respondents most likely to say they were interested (69%), and those with no qualifications the least likely (38%). On feeling informed, younger people are less likely to say that they feel informed about UK foreign affairs. Just one third (34%) of those aged between 18 and 34 report feeling informed to some degree, which is almost half the proportion of those aged 75 and over (60%). There is a large divide across both educational attainment and socio-economic groups (SEG), with those in lower SEG groups and those with a lower level of educational attainment tending to feel less informed about UK foreign affairs.

Foreign Affairs Knowledge

There is a clear trend across most of the 'Knowledge Test' questions, with younger people, those who have fewer qualifications, and those working in lower socio-economic occupational groups, tending to perform worse than those who are older, have a higher level of educational attainment and in higher social-economic groups.

Issue Salience

Brexit is regarded as the most important international issue by the public. This is unsurprising given its prominence in the media and printed press for a number of years in Britain. International terrorism comes a close second and is followed by immigration. Items such as International Trade, International Crime and Territorial Disputes are ranked most important by far fewer people.

Attitude Towards International Organisations & Treaties

The World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) fared poorly when compared with the other international organisations. Interestingly, when the data is segmented by Leave and Remain voters from the EU Referendum in June 2016, there are clear differences in the level of support for staying in international organisations that were mentioned/involved throughout the campaign. Notably the IMF, but also the World Bank and Europol. The age of respondents was also a key factor, with older people much more likely to choose to scrap the Dubs Agreement, Paris Climate Change Agreement and European Convention of Human Rights, and younger people less likely to support the Le Touquet Agreement.

Spending on Diplomacy

The public's view about how to engage with the world varies substantially by previous political behaviour. For instance, those that voted to Leave the EU (and UKIP supporters), are much more likely than Remain voters to say that spending on diplomatic activities should be curbed. Almost half of Leave voters (47%) would like spending on diplomatic activities to come down, compared with just one quarter of Remain voters.

Political Parties on Foreign Issues

Conservatives are ahead on every international issue listed, in the eyes of the public, bar the issue of Global Warming, which many people would strongly associate with the Greens, as principally a single issue party.