

Annex A

Saltire, the Scottish Government's intranet, can be accessed by all users of the Scottish Government's IT network (known as 'SCOTS'). These users are staff within the core Scottish Government, executive agencies of the Scottish Government, and some public bodies/non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs). The number of Scots users as at November 2021 was 18,100.

Annex B

Scottish Government intranet polls, poll results and comments posted on the intranet in response to poll results from 1 January to 30 September 2021.

We asked during week commencing Monday, 11 January: Have you made any New Year's resolutions this year?

A total of 2566 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (642) 25%
- No (1195) 47%
- It's not my thing (729) 28%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 18 January: With Burns Night fast approaching, do you enjoy reading poetry?

A total of 2627 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (535) 21%
- No (955) 36%
- Haven't read any since school (864) 33%
- Would like to (273) 10%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 25 January: The US Presidential inauguration took place on Wednesday, 20 January. Did you watch it?

A total of 2987 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1457) 49%
- No (1209) 40%
- I wasn't interested (321) 11%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 1 February: Have you read the Scottish Budget for 2021 to 2022?

A total of 2549 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (385) 15%
- No (1293) 51%
- I've seen media coverage of it (871) 34%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 8 February: The Big Garden Birdwatch took place 29 to 31 January. Have you become more interested in the wildlife in your area since coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A total of 2351 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1066) 45%
- No (1285) 55%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 15 February: What's the main reason you use Saltire's Our Organisation section for?

A total of 2307 people responded to the poll:

- To find people (531) 23%
- To get to my team site (55) 2%
- To access corporate information (415) 18%
- To find out about the Scottish Government structure (253) 11%
- I don't use it (1053) 46%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 22 February: Do you know how to report phishing emails at work?

A total of 2326 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1045) 45%
- No (643) 28%
- I'm not sure (541) 23%
- What's phishing? (97) 4%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 1 March: World Book Day takes place on 4 March. How do you prefer to read a book?

A total of 2886 people responded to the poll:

- Paper or hardback (1603) 56%
- E-reader or tablet (347) 12%
- Both (646) 22%
- I don't read books (290) 10%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 8 March: Have you read the pre-election guidance yet?

A total of 2263 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (795) 35%
- No - but it's on my list (772) 34%
- Not planning to (696) 31%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 15 March: Have you read our social media guidance?

A total of 2084 people responded to the poll:

- Yes I've read and follow the guidance (1013) 49%
- No - but I intend to (333) 16%
- I use social media but don't plan to read it (281) 13%
- I don't use social media (457) 22%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 22 March: Do you currently have a pet at home?

A total of 3,320 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - I've always had pets (1,404) 42%
- Yes - since I started working from home (296) 9%
- No - but I'd like to (975) 29%
- No - I'm allergic to animals (104) 3%
- Not interested (541) 16%

COMMENTS

[redacted] 29/03/2021 10:06

I know this will not apply to the people here as I assume that anyone here getting a pet during lockdown will have been responsible but whilst it is correct that for some - the companionship of a pet can be beneficial please remember - a pet is for life - not just for lockdown.

It breaks my heart to see the increase in sales of puppies from puppy farms and animals being bought without thinking about the future and what will happen when we are not in the house 24/7 - animals are already being abandoned as a result...

[redacted] 29/03/2021 10:41

In an ideal world there would be no puppy farms. Also I don't get why anyone would buy a puppy/kitten off gumtree when there are so many looking to be rehomed.

[redacted] 29/03/2021 10:51

[redacted] - I am a strong believer that education is important in terms of this. I get that some people are desperate to get animals but they may not be suitable in the eyes of a rehoming centre as I know that they have a very strict criteria (and rightly so) so I understand why people then turn to Gumtree etc to try and get a pet but they maybe don't know the risks associated with buying from places like this - especially during lockdown when we are maybe unable to visit to see the animals in person prior to buying, unable to view the animals parents etc...

I'll never judge someone for buying from a source like this - I will always judge those who sell like this...

[redacted] 29/03/2021 11:17

Yes I know most sellers on Gumtree are above board. In any case I am uncomfortable with the notion that cats/dogs are commodities to make a profit on.

[redacted] 29/03/2021 13:49

Article today on the issues SSPCA are having with capacity due to unwanted pets: Shelters 'at capacity' with unwanted lockdown pets - BBC News

[redacted] 29/03/2021 14:08

The SSPCA do a wonderful job. Their HQ isn't far from where I am.

One of their virtual gifts would make a great Easter present if anyone is looking for ideas :)

[redacted] 30/03/2021 13:16

I like the phrase "Adopt, don't shop!" The news about abandoned puppies is heartbreaking and agree with **[redacted]** sentiments. I'd like to see a lot more

education around rehoming from shelters (and acknowledge the great campaign SG colleagues launched in 2019? Lost all track of time...).

We asked during week commencing Monday, 29 March: How often do you turn your camera on for MS Teams meetings?

A total of 3098 people responded to the poll:

- Never (218) 7%
- Most of the time (1287) 41%
- Rarely (426) 14%
- Sometimes (711) 23%
- All the time (456) 15%

We asked during week commencing Tuesday, 6 April: Have you made efforts to go green?

A total of 2397 people responded to the poll:

- I do things that are easy (743) 31%
- I don't bother (96) 4%
- I do as much as I can (1510) 63%
- There's no point (48) 2%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 12 April: Do you prefer to search for information on Saltire or navigate to it?

A total of 2143 people responded to the poll:

- Search (1681) 78%
- Navigate (462) 22%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 19 April: As an organisation, we're looking back to move forward, have you?

A total of 2305 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - both at work and home (1143) 50%
- Yes - just at home (266) 12%
- Yes - just at work (96) 4%

- I've not reflected (800) 34%

COMMENTS

[redacted] 27/04/2021 13:13

Is it just me? I find it very disturbing that 34% of poll respondents have not reflected upon themselves and their situations over the past year. I am encouraged by the many folk I encounter who have done so and made really positive changes, and are much happier as a result. This is in no way suggesting that this is an easy exercise - quite the opposite - but a period of major change would seem an excellent opportunity to take stock.

[redacted] 29/04/2021 14:09

Hi **[redacted]**, Yes, it is an interesting statistic, however, I wonder if to some extent this was a result of not understanding the question? Also, there is the very human habit - particularly during times of great change and disruption - of clinging on to the dead-wood of the past for comfort.

We asked during week commencing Monday, 26 April: Do you prefer tea or coffee?

A total of 3381 people responded to the poll:

- Tea (1422) 42%
- Coffee (1622) 48%
- Neither for me (337) 10%

We asked during week commencing Tuesday, 4 May: Civil Service Live 2021 registration is now live. Have you registered to take part this year?

A total of 2264 people responded to the poll:

- I'm not planning to (1463) 65%
- No - but I intend to (383) 17%
- Yes (418) 18%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 10 May: Do you use Yammer?

A total of 2925 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - regularly (372) 13%
- Yes - sometimes (1289) 44%
- No - but I'm interested (312) 11%
- No - I'm not interested (952) 32%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 17 May: Do you have an electric car?

A total of 3476 people responded to the poll:

- No - I don't have a car (770) 22%
- Yes (86) 2%
- No (2562) 74%
- No - but I've got an electric bike (58) 2%

COMMENTS

[redacted] 25/05/2021 09:27

I didn't realise how low EV ownership still is. We've had a Kia e-Niro for the last two years and there's no way we'd go back.

Admittedly, it's not saving us as much money now we're not driving in and out of Edinburgh every day but it was actually working out cheaper for us when we were doing a daily commute. Plus a two week road trip driving 2500 miles around Europe cost us all of £120 in charger fees!

[redacted] 26/05/2021 09:44

Not a reply to your good experience of electric cars but a response to the 74% ownership which i think is about right. unless you have access to your own personal drive or are guaranteed to park your car outside your house then you might not be able to "fuel" your car up so its not feasible. The costs are for me astronomical to buy a new car and I have heard a few horror stories about 2nd hand batteries. The electric "ity" of cars also takes the joy of driving away. Too much auto-stop, elec hand brake, reversing, dash mounted camera etc. I dont like any of this. Where is my CD player! I have test driven a few for work, Nissan LEaf, Toyota Auris, Prius and found the experience dull and lifeless with real concern when the "available range" wavers massively from 100 miles to 10 miles depending on if you ut your fot down. No its a non starter for me. Infrastructure needs a massive overhaul first

[redacted] 26/05/2021 11:22

I think the days of driving for pleasure are long gone [redacted], it's time to embrace that fact and take up lycra clad cycling or some such other pastime. As a previous avid driver (and current motorcycle owner) I'm looking forward to waving bye-bye to my last dinosaur eating car and waving hello to the future when it's time to change cars next March. My car use has more than halved this past year and that's my target for future use too.

We asked during week commencing Monday, 24 May: Do you know how to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?

A total of 2600 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (429) 17%
- No (1078) 41%
- Somewhat (579) 22%
- What's an EQIA? (514) 20%

We asked during week commencing Tuesday, 1 June: Have you chosen the sessions you're going to attend at Civil Service Live 2021?

A total of 2116 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (621) 29%
- Not yet (464) 22%
- I'm not interested (1031) 49%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 7 June: Do you include your pronouns (for example she/her, they/them) in your email signature?

A total of 3278 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (534) 17%
- No - but I might in future (834) 25%
- No and I probably won't (1910) 58%

Comments posted in response to this poll are published on the Scottish Government's website and available via this link

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100225976/>

We asked during week commencing Monday, 14 June: Are you following UEFA Euro 2020?

A total of 3371 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1492) 44%
- Sometimes (794) 24%
- No (1085) 32%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 21 June: The Work:Spaces survey closes on Thursday, 24 June at 11pm. Have you had your say?

A total of 2589 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1938) 74%
- No but I'm planning to (298) 12%
- No and not planning to (355) 14%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 28 June: Are you aware of our new vision for the Scottish Government - 'In the service of Scotland'?

A total of 2319 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1246) 54%
- No (682) 29%
- No but I would like to find out more (391) 17%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 5 July: Are you going on holiday this year?

A total of 3145 people responded to the poll:

- Yes a staycation in Scotland (1267) 40%
- Yes a staycation in the UK (746) 24%
- Yes I'm going abroad (281) 9%
- No (851) 27%

COMMENTS

[redacted] 13/07/2021 08:51

Surely if you have a period staying away from home in the UK it's not a staycation it's, you know, a holiday? When did UK based holidays stop counting as "real" holidays?

[redacted] 13/07/2021 09:10

Quite agree.

If someone travelled from Boston to San Francisco would that be a "staycation" because they weren't crossing any borders?

[redacted] 13/07/2021 09:45

I agree **[redacted]**, "staycation" used this way brings out the nitpicker in me. A staycation is when you stay at home when you are on leave from work. Holidaying in your own country is just that - or "domestic tourism" if you want the kiwi expression!

[redacted] 13/07/2021 14:47

[redacted] - I was at a wedding once and when the question "where do you stay" was asked, the conversation took the unexpected turn about hearing all about Tunisia where this English person had been on holiday. It took some time to realise that using the verb stay rather than live is a Scottish thing whilst in England it's about where you spend your holiday. The quiz should have asked if you were having a staycation at home which could then depend on the definition of holiday!

[redacted] 14/07/2021 10:21

According to the Oxford English dictionary staycation is "A holiday spent in one's home country rather than abroad, or one spent at home and involving day trips to local attractions."

[redacted] 14/07/2021 16:17

I'd always thought of a staycation as still staying in your own home, but being off work, maybe visiting the local area and doing holiday type things. For me, staying anywhere away from home is automatically a "proper holiday". Then again, I was 17 when I first travelled anywhere by plane so might be a slightly skewed opinion

We asked during week commencing Monday, 12 July: How often do you use the HR guidance on Saltire?

A total of 2353 people responded to the poll:

- Frequently (444) 19%

- Sometimes (1458) 62%
- Never (451) 19%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 19 July: Did you do more exercise over lockdown?

A total of 2814 people responded to the poll:

- More (902) 32%
- Less (1281) 46%
- About the same (631) 22%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 26 July: Will you watch the Olympics on TV?

A total of 2981 people responded to the poll:

- Yes can't wait (525) 18%
- I'm sure I'll catch some of it (1583) 53%
- Not my thing (873) 29%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 2 August: Have you read the guidance about reopening our offices?

A total of 2,566 people responded to the poll:

- Yes (1521) 60%
- Not yet - but I will (778) 30%
- No (267) 10%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 9 August: Can you remember your PIN to access our buildings?

A total of 3019 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - 42% (1264)
- I didn't have one - 23% (693)
- No - 19% (564)

- I'll need to get a reminder - 16% (498)

We asked during week commencing Monday, 16 August: Have you booked a slot to clear your desk yet?

A total of 2514 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - 15% (370)
- Already cleared it - 25% (622)
- Not yet - 16% (402)
- No - 44% (1120)

We asked during week commencing Monday, 23 August: Will you attend our In the service of Scotland virtual events in October?

A total of 2414 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - (212) 9%
- Maybe - (455) 19%
- No - (573) 24%
- I don't know what that is - (1174) 48%

COMMENTS

[redacted] 30/08/2021 17:11

Really hope that more people develop an interest in 'In the Service of Scotland' than the poll suggests from those who took part. It's a great initiative at an important time and I think we will all benefit from trying to embed this in our day-to-day work. I certainly look forward to hearing more about how we bring this all to life - particularly around collaboration, inclusion and kindness :-)

[redacted] 30/08/2021 17:28

I agree that we must examine our values regularly, but the kindness one astounds me. I think as an organisation we are kind, I think in our teams we are kind and I have thought that for over 35 years.

We asked during week commencing Monday, 30 August: Have you set your objectives for this year?

A total of 2315 people responded to the poll:

- Yes - (734) 32%
- No - (1581) 68%

We asked during week commencing Monday, 6 September: It's National read a book day this week. How do you read yours?

A total of 3286 people responded to the poll:

- Hard copy - (1441) 44%
- On a kindle / device - (454) 14%
- Listen to Audiobooks - (137) 4%
- A mixture - (885) 27%
- I don't read books - (369) 11%

COMMENTS

[redacted] 13/09/2021 11:14

Actually quite appalled that 11% don't read books in any format 😞

[redacted] 13/09/2021 11:32

It's probably a separate discussion for another day, but I suspect we're starting to see a societal impact of people being used to the smartphone/social media age of consuming media in much smaller bite-sized chunks and the prospect of committing to something the size of a full novel seems daunting to a lot of younger people now.

I published a (non-fiction) book last year and joined a variety of online communities for authors and publishers during the process and it seems to be a big topic at the moment with the major publishers that they are starting to gently push authors to reduce overall word counts slightly from the current expectations of word count in different genres.

[redacted] 13/09/2021 12:30

For people who find reading the printed word difficult, books may be difficult or impossible. Fortunately there are other ways of accessing some of the content (film/tv adaptation, audio book, etc), albeit usually only certain genres.

[redacted] 13/09/2021 14:55

Sorry to have appalled you **[redacted]**.

[redacted] 14/09/2021 17:11

That's quite a low percentage compared to the general adult population

[redacted] 13/09/2021 10:29

Around 1 in 9 don't read books !

You're missing out.....

We asked during week commencing Monday, 13 September: Now the nights are beginning to draw in, are you looking forward to autumn or holding on to summer?

A total of 2991 people responded to the poll:

- Looking forward to autumn - 55% (1640)
- Holding onto summer - 45% (1351)

We asked during week commencing Monday, 20 September: Have you registered for In the Service of Scotland Festival yet?

A total of 2,222 people responded to the poll:

- No I'm not planning to - 44% (982)
- Not sure what this is (see Saltire news for details) - 27% (604)
- Yes - 18% (407)
- No I'm planning to - 11% (229)

We asked during week commencing Monday, 27 September: How is your Saltire profile looking?

A total of 2145 people responded to the poll:

- It's in tip top condition (906) 42%
- It needs some attention (518) 24%
- I've never updated mine (721) 34%