

## ASBOs

# Britons Remain Unconvinced By Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

*Fewer than one-in-ten respondents believe the ASBOs have been successful in curbing anti-social behaviour in the UK.*

[LONDON – 22 February 2012] – More than a decade after their introduction, the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are regarded by many people in Britain as an unproductive instrument, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative sample of 2,025 British adults, only eight per cent of respondents believe the civil orders have been successful in curbing anti-social behaviour in the UK. Conversely, 33 per cent of Britons say the ASBOs have been unsuccessful, and 43 per cent deem them ineffectual.

However, only 42 per cent of respondents support abolishing the ASBOs altogether, while 30 per cent are opposed to this course of action and one-in-four (27%) are undecided.

Four-in-five respondents (79%) think anti-social behaviour (such as noise pollution, littering, shoplifting, drunken behaviour) in the United Kingdom has become frequent, normal and tolerated.

In 2010, the Government proposed moving beyond the ASBOs and change the emphasis, with communities working with the police and

### KEY FINDINGS

- **79% think anti-social behaviour (such as noise pollution, littering, shoplifting, drunken behaviour) in the United Kingdom has become frequent, normal and tolerated**
- **Only 8% believe ASBOs have been successful in curbing anti-social behaviour in the UK**
- **13% think the Government's approach to move beyond the ASBOs will be successful**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From February 21 to February 22, 2012, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 2,025 randomly selected British adults who are Springboard UK panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 2.2%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region data to ensure samples representative of the entire adult population of Great Britain. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.*

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other agencies to stop bad behaviour from escalating. While 13 per cent of Britons believe this approach will be successful, a majority of respondents think it will either have no effect on anti-social behaviour (33%) or be unsuccessful (22%).

Consult our [2010 survey](#) on ASBOs

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*[Angus Reid Public Opinion](#) is a public affairs practice headed by Dr. Angus Reid: an industry visionary who has spent more than four decades asking questions to figure out what people feel, how they think and who they will vote for. A team of talented and experienced practitioners with a unique and profound understanding of global issues conduct high quality research throughout the world on a daily basis for corporations, governments, academic researchers, and non-profit organizations.*

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

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**ASBOs**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? –

*“Anti-social behaviour (such as noise pollution, littering, shoplifting, drunken behaviour) in the United Kingdom has become frequent, normal and tolerated.”*

	Britain	Age		
		Age 18-34	Age 33-54	Age 55+
<b>Agree</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>

**ASBOs**

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) are civil orders made against people who have been shown to have engaged in anti-social behaviour in the United Kingdom. ASBOs impose restrictions, such as banning people from a local area or preventing them from swearing in public. From your own personal experience, do you think ASBOs have been successful or unsuccessful in curbing anti-social behaviour in the UK?

	Britain	Age		
		Age 18-34	Age 33-54	Age 55+
<b>Successful</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>They have had no effect on anti-social behaviour</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>15%</b>

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**ASBOs**

Would you support or oppose abolishing the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs)?

	Britain	Age		
		Age 18-34	Age 33-54	Age 55+
<b>Support</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>25%</b>

**ASBOs**

As you may know, the Government has called for a new approach to deal with anti-social behaviour. The Government has proposed moving beyond the Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) and change the emphasis, with communities working with the police and other agencies to stop bad behaviour from escalating. From what you have seen, read or heard, do you think the Government's approach will be successful or unsuccessful in curbing anti-social behaviour in the UK?

	Britain	Age		
		Age 18-34	Age 33-54	Age 55+
<b>Successful</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Unsuccessful</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>It will have no effect on anti-social behaviour</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>26%</b>

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