

## Far more support for an English Parliament than Regional Assemblies

Despite years of propaganda and publicity from the UK government, state financed Regional organisations, and the BBC, far more people want an English Parliament than Regional Assemblies.

England should have its own English Parliament	47%
England should be made up of nine Regional Assemblies	28%
Don't Knows	25%

(NOP Telebus NOP)

Among all age groups and social classes, support for an English Parliament is far higher than for Regional Assemblies.

### Opinion by Area

Despite a lack of publicity for the English Parliament cause, there is clearly much greater support for a Parliament than for Assemblies.

Support for an English Parliament in Scotland (47%) and Wales (51%) is in line with opinion in England.

In the North East of England a well-financed campaign has for many years been trying to convince the public that there is widespread backing for a North East Regional Assembly. But even there, those who favour an English Parliament (44%) outnumber those who want Regional Assemblies (41%). (Don't Knows 15%)

Only in the extreme South West was support for Regional Assemblies (56%) greater than for an English Parliament (24%) (Don't Knows 20%). This dramatic difference in opinion is perhaps explained by the inclusion of Cornwall, and many years of Liberal Democrat campaigning for a Regional Assembly in their SW stronghold. This *region* (West Country TV mainly Devon & Cornwall) and the NE (Tyne Tees) are the smallest *regions*, representing just 3% and 5% of the total population of Great Britain. The next smallest *region* is Anglia, which represents 8% of the population.

### Opinion by Age

One of the most encouraging findings of this poll is that the strongest support for an English Parliament is found among the 15 to 24 age group. (For an English Parliament 58%, For Regional Assemblies 27%)

### David and Goliath

The only voice for an English Parliament has been that of the *Campaign for an English Parliament*, which is run entirely by volunteers and funded by its members. On the other side we have a collection of organisations which in one way or another receive funding and practical help from the state. Despite their formidable resources, some Regional Organisations also receive generous funding from the Rowntree Trust and the public support of Church of England bishops. Neither the Church of England nor the Rowntree Trust are willing to give any support to the Campaign for an English Parliament.

### A Referendum

Despite widespread support for an English Parliament, the people of England are being denied the opportunity to express their preference in a referendum. Instead, they are being manipulated and cajoled by the UK government into accepting Regional Assemblies on a take it or leave it basis. It is nothing less than outrageous denial of democracy. Is it any surprise that the electorate feel disillusioned with the political system.

The people of England should be given the same opportunity as the people of Scotland to opt for a

Parliament of their own. How can any political party that claims to uphold fairness and democracy deny the people of England their right to choose their system of government.

### Survey Results

Q. At the moment as well as the Parliament in Westminster, Scotland has its own Parliament, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own Assemblies. England however does not have either. It has been suggested that England should have either its own English Parliament, along with the Westminster Parliament or have nine English Regional Assemblies.

Which of these statements, if any, best sums up your opinion about this?

BASE : ALL ADULTS AGED 15+ (999)

	Total	Sex		Age						Social Class			
		Male	Female	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	AB	C1	C2	DE
England should have its own English Parliament	47%	45	50	58	44	49	38	44	51	48	46	51	46
England should be made up of nine Regional Assemblies	28%	29	26	27	33	25	27	31	24	27	28	28	27
Don't Know	25%	26	24	15	23	26	35	25	25	25	26	21	27

	Total	ITV Regions									
		Scotland	Tyne Tees	Granada	Yorkshire	Central	Harlech	Anglia	Carlton LWT	Meridian	West Country TV
England should have its own English Parliament	47%	47	44	51	44	50	51	50	49	43	24
England should be made up of nine Regional Assemblies	28%	19	41	31	34	25	20	21	29	22	56
Don't Know	25%	33	15	17	22	25	29	30	22	34	20

*NOP Telebus FIELDWORK DATES : 5TH - 7TH APRIL 2002. Commissioned by Campaign for an English Parliament*