



COVID-19 TRACKER

May 2020

METHODOLOGY

Each week ORB International polls a **nationally representative** sample of n=2,000 adults aged 18+ throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The core tracking questions are :-

Q. When thinking about the Coronavirus here in the UK which of the following do you think is most likely to happen over the next month?

- 1 The worse is yet to come
- 2 The situation will remain largely the same as it is now
- 3 We are over the worst of it – things will begin to improve

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

- 1 I think the UK Government is handling the Coronavirus crisis well
- 2 I believe the threat from the Coronavirus is exaggerated

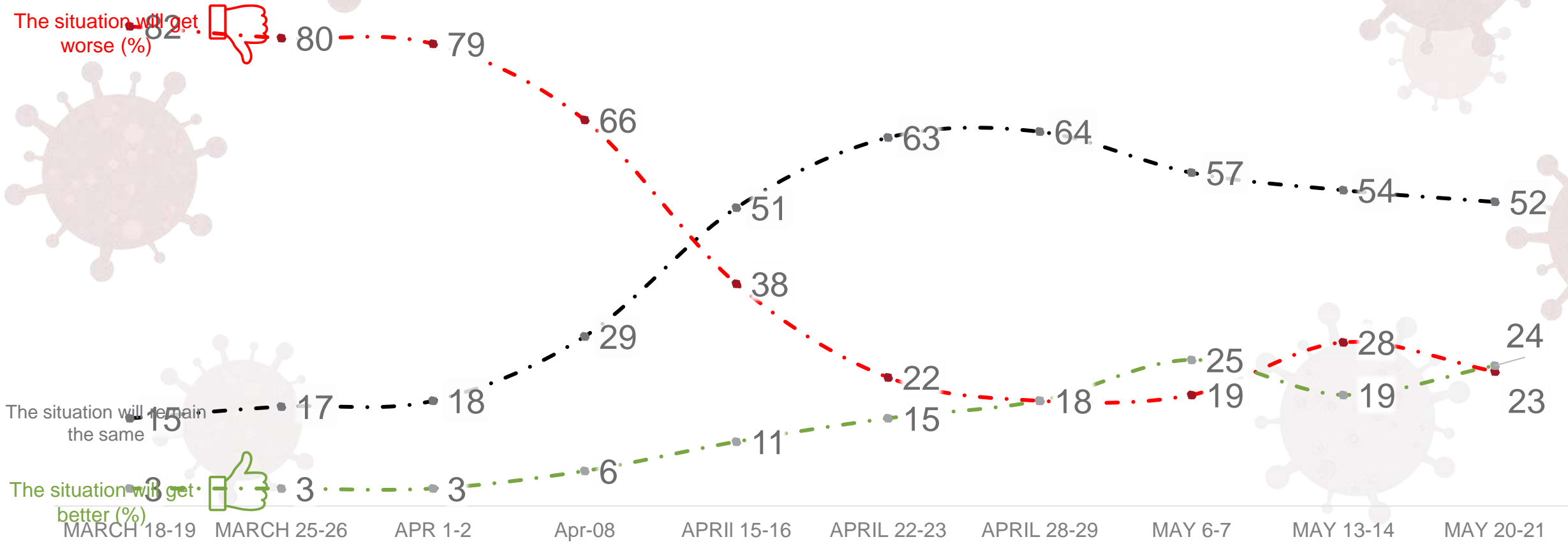
Topical questions each week are inserted and not necessarily tracked week on week.

- Sample Sizes :

March 18-20 n=2,094	March 25-26 n=2,085	April 1-2 n=2,077
April 8 th n=2,112	April 15-16 n=2103	April 22-23 n=2,095
April 29 th -30 th n=2,082	May 6 th -7 th n=2,091	May 13-14. n=2,095
May 20-21 n=2,113		
- The statistical margin of error at the 95% confidence level is $\pm 2.2\%$

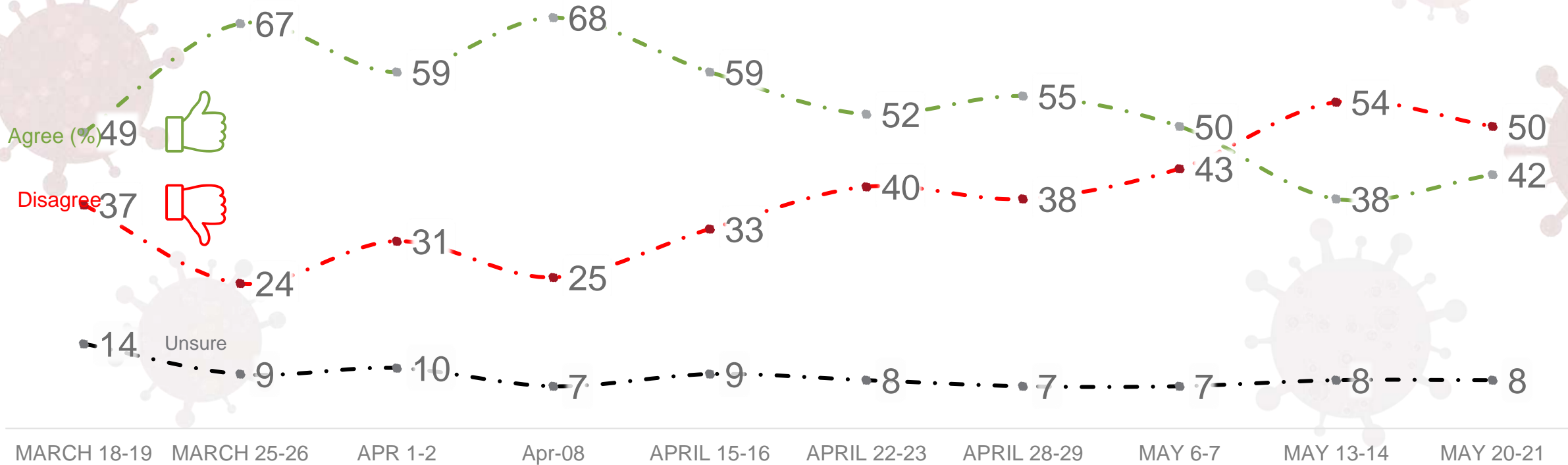


CORONAVIRUS : HOW THE PUBLIC SEE THE NEXT MONTH



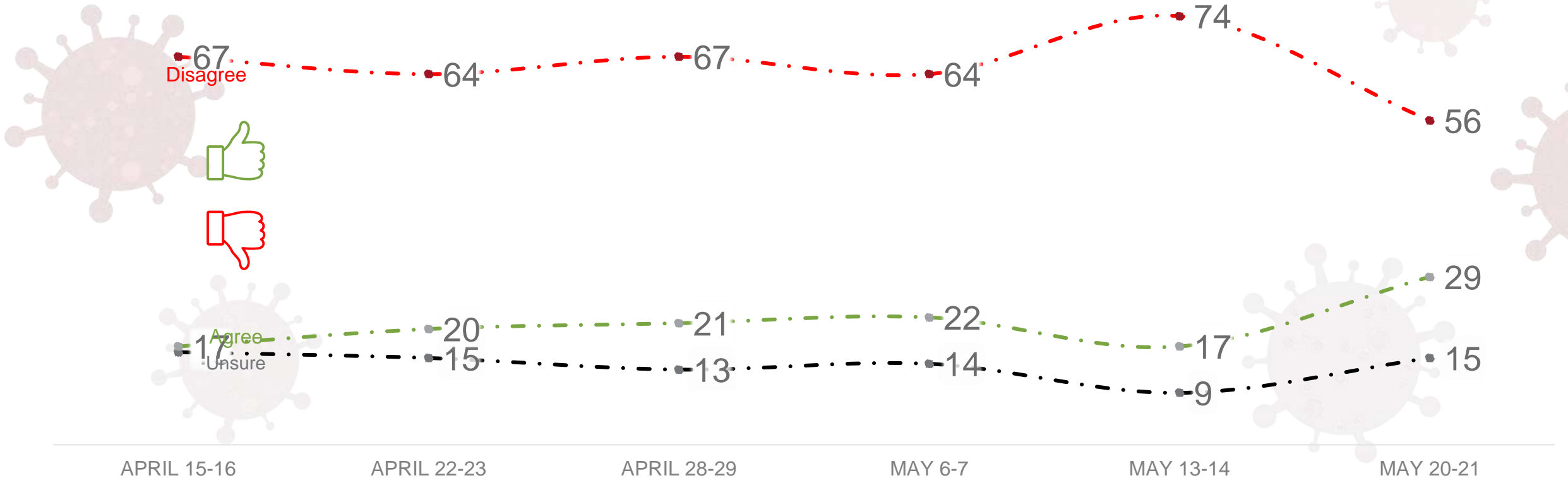
Q When thinking about the Coronavirus here in the UK which of the following do you think is most likely to happen over the next month? The worse is yet to come, the situation will remain largely the same as it is now or we are over the worst of it – things will begin to improve?

CORONAVIRUS : IS THE GOVERNMENT HANDLING IT WELL?



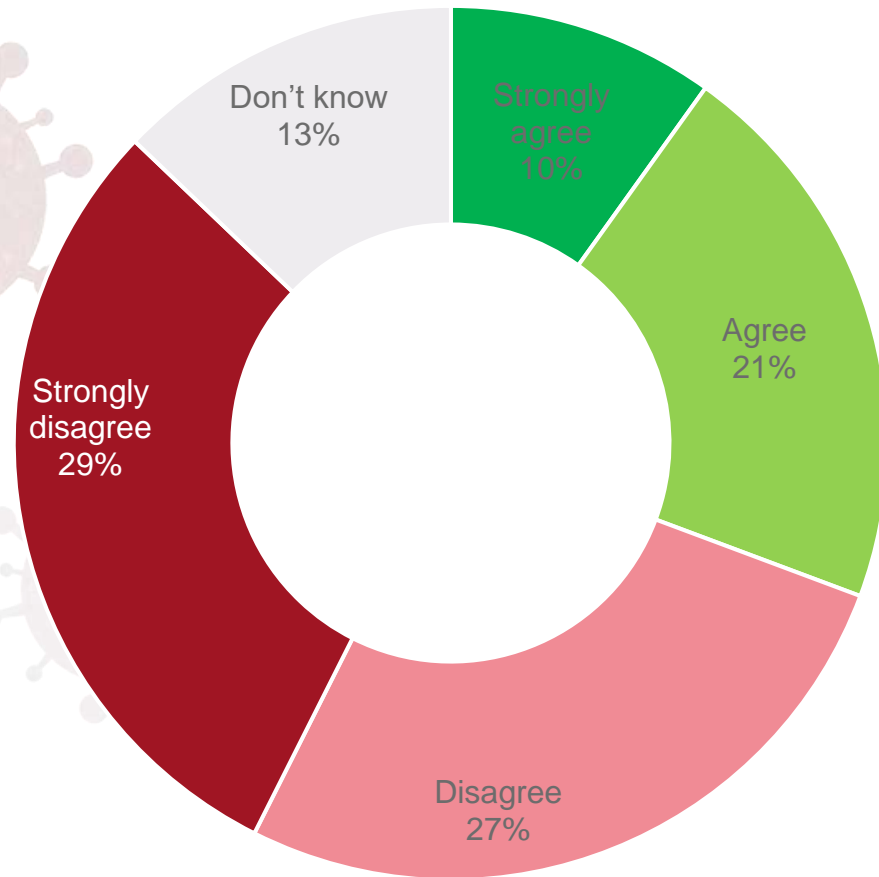
Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I think the UK Government is handling the Coronavirus well.

CORONAVIRUS : UNDER CONTROL?



Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? I think the spread of the virus in the UK is under control

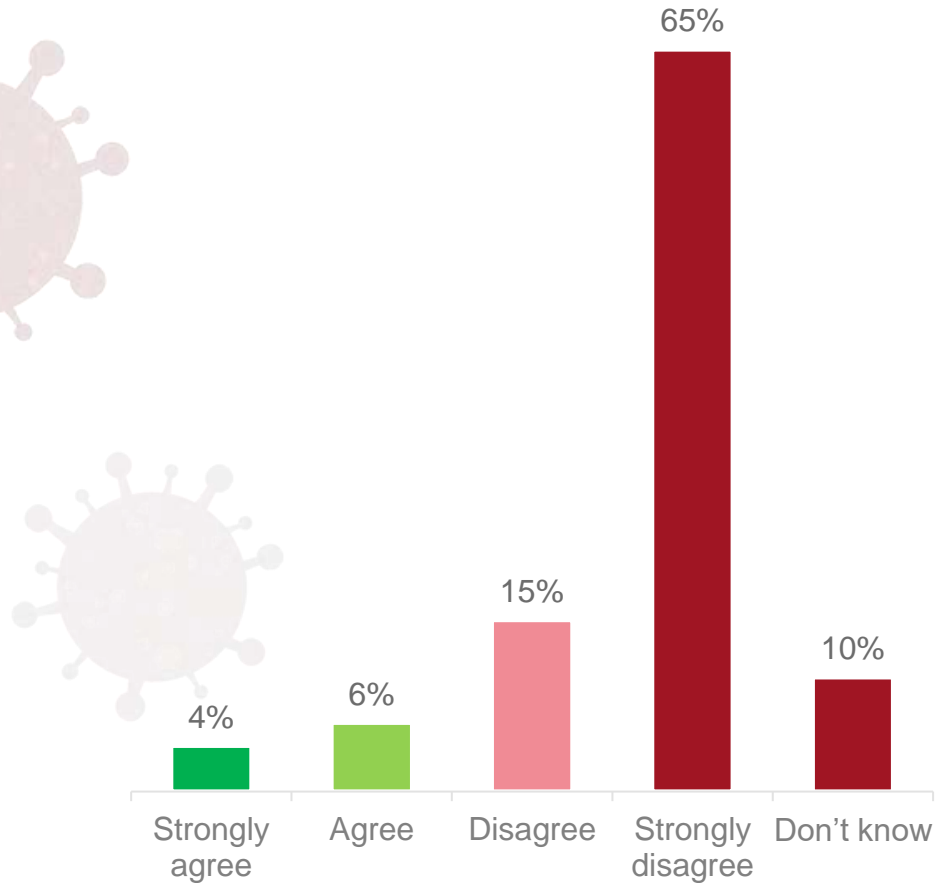
CORONAVIRUS : RETURNING TO SCHOOL



- A majority of people (57%) **do not believe** that children should return to school.
- Among those with primary age school children 59% disagree, while among those with secondary age school children 62% disagree



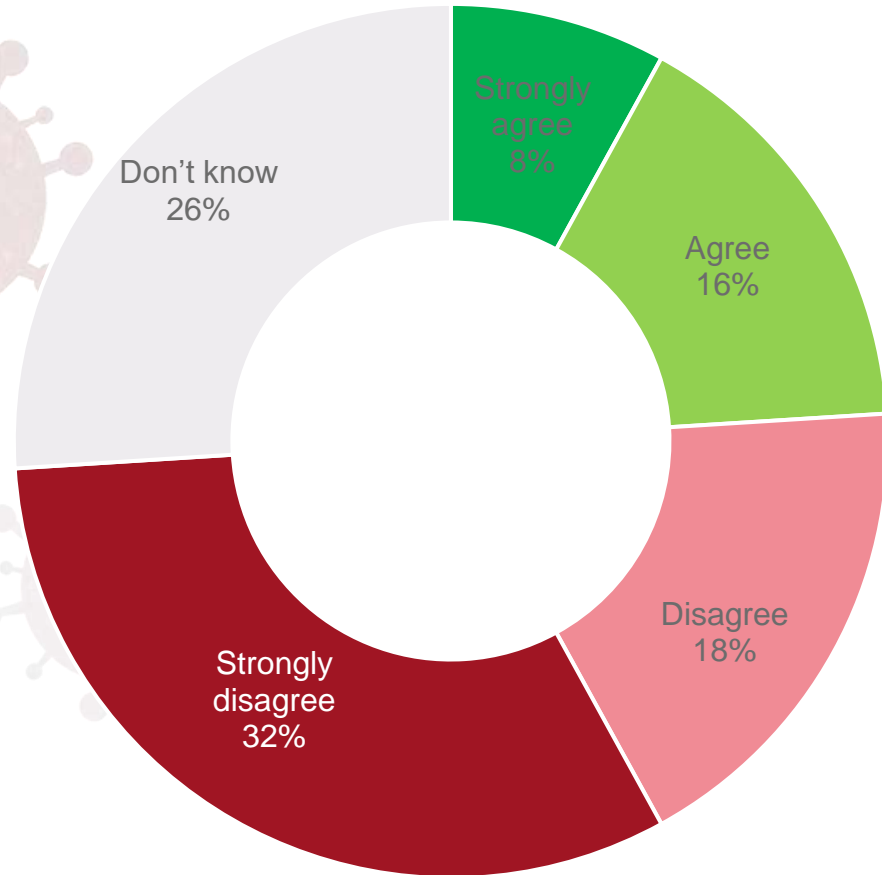
CORONAVIRUS : SUMMER HOLIDAYS



- The vast majority (80%) are unwilling to head abroad this summer with only 10% planning a foreign holiday.



CORONAVIRUS : ALLOWING OWN CHILDREN TO RETURN

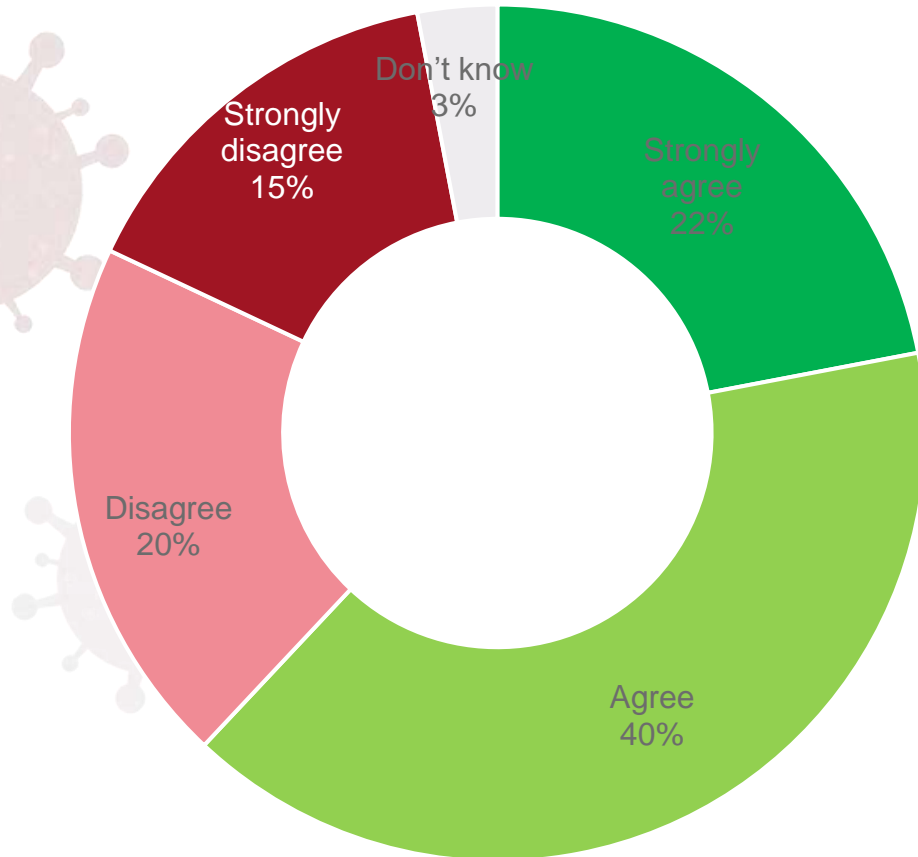


- If schools are going to return to normal class sizes next month then many parents will need convincing that it is safe to send their children in. Right now, 50% of the country would not allow it, but 26% simply don't know. Only one in four (24%) would permit it.
- When we look specifically at those in the sample with children under the age of 18 (n=566) the figures are :-

Parents of children aged...	Agree	Disagree
Under 5 yrs	30%	59%
5-10 yrs	26%	63%
11-18 yrs	24%	63%

Q How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? BASE : n=2113 MAY 20-21
 "I would be prepared to allow my children/grandchildren to return to school next month"

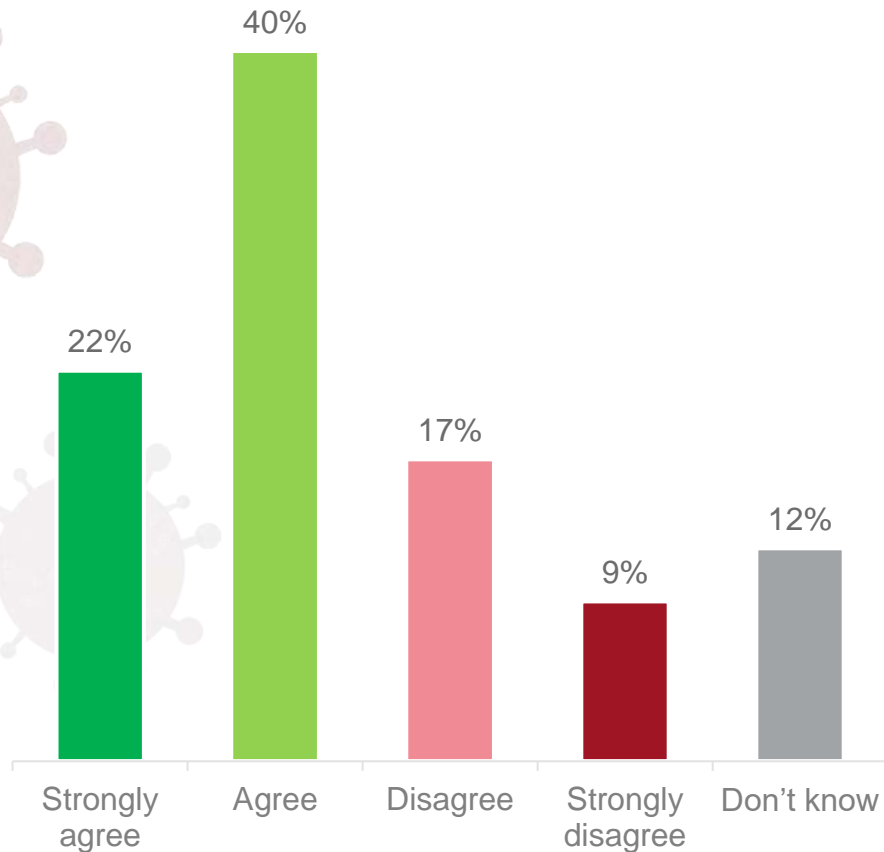
CORONAVIRUS : SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE



- Despite a lot of commentary last week over the lack of clarity in the message, **a majority are clear on the social distancing guidance (62%)**.
- There is a correlation between age and understanding the guidance. While only a minority (48%) of 18-24 year old's agree that it is clear, the corresponding figure for the over 65s age group is 78%.



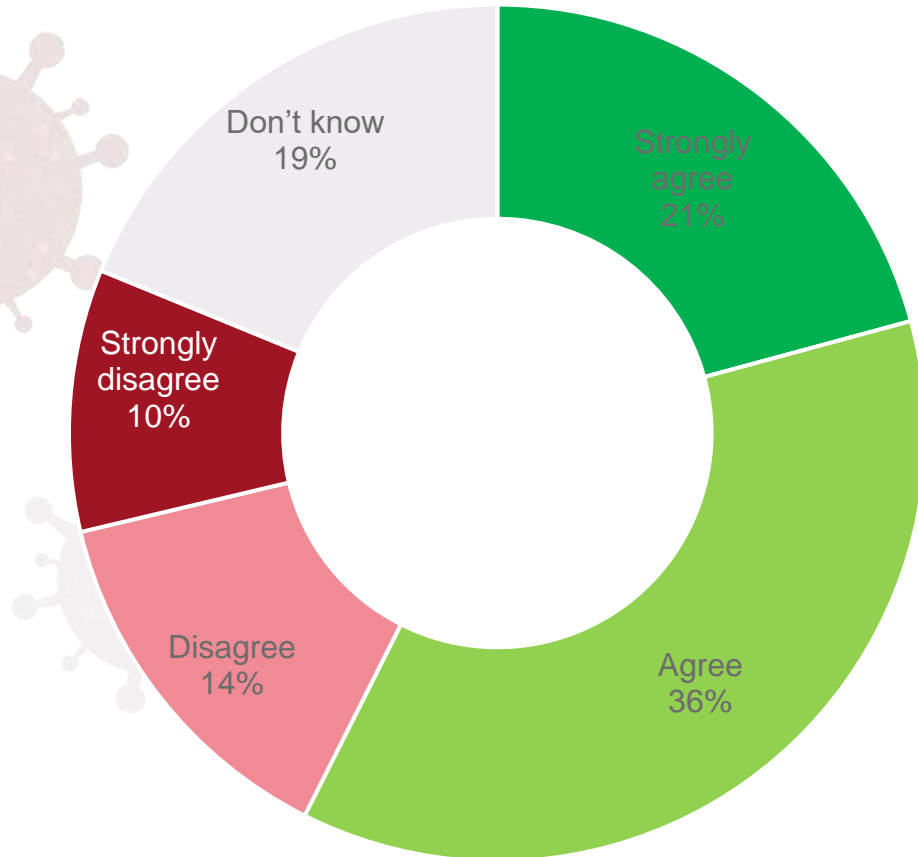
CORONAVIRUS : DEVOLVED AUTHORITY



- Almost two in three (62%) agree that the four administrations of the UK should be allowed to take their own decisions to fight COVID 19.
- These figures increase to 80% of those living in N Ireland and Scotland and to 69% amongst those living in Wales.



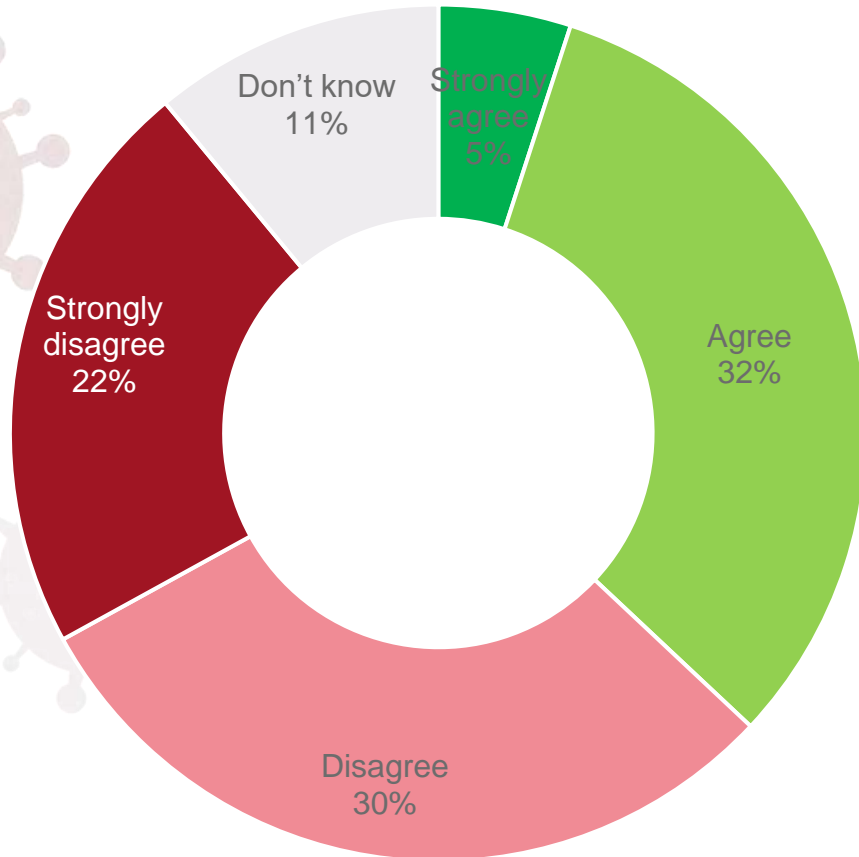
CORONAVIRUS : SCOTTISH APPROACH



- A majority (57%) support Scotland pursuing its own approach to Coronavirus.
- Understandably the highest support comes from north of the border with only 14% in Scotland opposing Holyrood’s strategy so far. Respondents in the other devolved regions are similarly positive though; Northern Ireland polls 3% less (79%) and nearly two thirds in Wales (65%) share this view.



CORONAVIRUS : GOVT IN CONTROL OF OUTBREAK



- A majority (52%) believe the Government has not got control of the outbreak, while just over a third (38%) believe the contrary.
- Respondents in the West Midlands (44%) and East Midlands (46%) are the most likely to support the notion that the Government are in control. The three devolved countries within the UK are the least likely to share that sentiment, with Scotland (30%), Wales (28%) and Northern Ireland (28%) all below a third.



ORB International has been working in partnership with the **LSHTM** as part of The Vaccine Confidence Project exploring global perceptions towards vaccines to inform policy.



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