



Scotland's
Viewpoint
April 2022

THE BIG ISSUES AFFECTING THE SCOTTISH POPULATION IN APRIL 2022: THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS AND THE ONGOING WAR IN UKRAINE ARE OUR MAIN CURRENT CONCERNS

WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO SCOTS RIGHT NOW?

In mid April, two key issues were deemed priorities for the relevant authorities to tackle - increasing energy costs as well as the increasing costs of living - both described as very important by 85% of Scots. Almost three quarters described the need for more investment in the NHS as a priority (72% very important) whilst reducing inequalities in society, the war in Ukraine and improving the quality of school education were each very important for six in ten.

Compared with mid January, not surprisingly, the war in Ukraine has emerged as a major issue (24% were worried about the potential of war in January and based on the reality of war, this has increased to 60% in April). Other issues with increased importance compared with three months' ago are increasing energy costs (+10%) and the increased costs of living (+9%). Probably reflecting the Ukrainian situation and the recent controversies around refugee immigration policies, both providing more humanitarian aid and doing more to welcome refugees have increased by 7%. On the other hand, a desire to retain protective Covid measures has decreased by 8%.

JANUARY 2022

75%

Tackling increasing
energy costs

76%

Tackling the increasing costs of
living in Scotland

73%

Increasing investment in the NHS
to ease pressures

58%

Reducing inequalities in society
- poverty, homelessness etc.

24%

Addressing the [potential of/
ongoing] war in Ukraine

58%

Improving the quality of
education in our schools

53%

Ensuring Social Care gets greater
focus & investment

54%

Doing what we can nationally
to minimise climate change

55%

Continuing with protective measures
while Covid is still prevalent

36%

Playing our part to provide
global humanitarian aid

40%

Removing all coronavirus
restrictions - learn to live with it

35%

Increasing immigration
controls into the UK

26%

Doing more to provide a safe haven
for refugees/asylum seekers

APRIL 2022

85%

+10%

85%

+9%

72%

-1%

61%

+3%

60%

+36%

59%

+1%

56%

+3%

55%

+1%

47%

-8%

43%

+7%

40%

-

38%

+3%

33%

+7%

SCOTS SPONTANEOUSLY CITED 5 KEY CONCERNS IMPACTING THEM

When asked to think about what's happening in Scotland and the wider world at the moment, and to identify the issues giving them most cause for concern, for almost one in five Scots, the first spontaneous issue mentioned was **the war in Ukraine** (19%) - and this was even more likely to be mentioned by the over 55s (28%). Next most likely to be mentioned were **increased living costs** (16%) - and this was of greatest concern to those aged between 25 and 45 years (22%) and C2DEs (20%). Related, one in ten mentioned worries about **rising energy and fuel prices** as their main concern - and when prompted, 77% of Scots are extremely concerned about spiralling costs.

The **Coronavirus pandemic** remains the key issue for 11% of Scots (though more amongst women rather than men - 15% and 7% respectively), while the **climate emergency** is still the number one spontaneous concern for one in twelve Scots (8%) - especially young adults aged under 25 years (20%). Encouragingly, when prompted, almost four in ten Scots claim they are determined to make lifestyle changes this year to reduce their carbon footprint (37%).

War in Ukraine



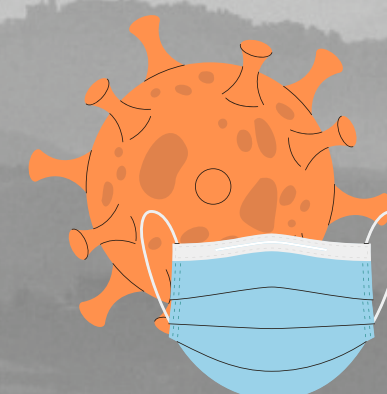
Spontaneous
1st mentions

19%

"I'm very worried
the war in
Ukraine will
escalate further"

58%

Coronavirus pandemic



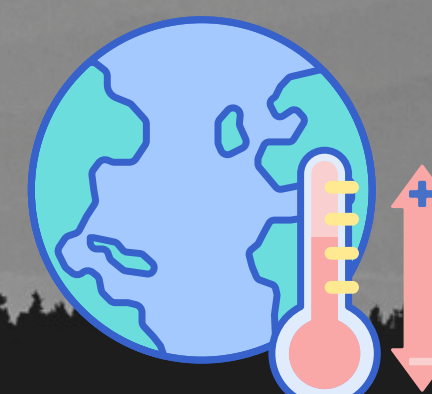
Spontaneous
1st mentions

11%

"Coronavirus will
have less & less
impact in Scotland
as the year goes on"

43%

Climate emergency



Spontaneous
1st mentions

8%

"I'll make more
changes this year
to reduce my own
carbon footprint"

37%

Increasing cost of living



Spontaneous
1st mentions

16%

"After the bills are
paid, I'm finding I
have less and less
money available"

69%

Increasing energy & fuel prices



Spontaneous
1st mentions

10%

"I'm extremely
worried about the
spiralling costs of
fuel"

77%

Scotland's Viewpoint is a quarterly survey of a statistically representative sample of the Scottish population, undertaken by 56 Degree Insight. The most recent wave of the survey ran over 18th and 19th April 2022 - 1,007 Scots were interviewed. We can also accommodate client confidential questions - please just get in touch:

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