

J.L. Partners/The Daily Mail – Royals poll

Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of 1,000 members of the public
- Conducted by J.L. Partners for The Daily Mail
- Fieldwork took place 9th-10th January 2020
- Weighted to gender, age, socio-economic group and region
- Margin of error of +/- 3%

James Johnson, co-founder of J.L. Partners and former pollster at 10 Downing Street, said:

“The British public clearly think, when it comes to the Royal Family, that you are either in or out. Despite sympathy with Meghan and Harry’s decision, the public do not think they should keep any taxpayer funding, their royal titles, accession rights, or public funding for their security. They also think they should give up Frogmore Cottage and pay back the £2.4m refurbishment of it paid for by the taxpayer.

“Most of all, the public are aggrieved by Harry and Meghan announcing their decision without consulting their Queen, with 71% saying that was the wrong thing to do.

“It has been a difficult few months for the Royal Family, and the monarchy have taken a popularity hit across the board. Harry, Meghan and Prince Andrew see the biggest declines since November. Prince William is now Britain’s favourite royal. And Kate is the nation’s People’s Princess, with 73% of the public preferring her over Meghan.

“Despite all this, faith in the monarchy as an institution remains strong. Asked how long people think it will last, the most popular option with the public was ‘forever’.”

For media requests please email JJOHNSON@JLPARTNERS.CO.UK.

Key findings

The decision

The public are **supportive** of the decision that Harry and Meghan made to give up their frontline Royal duties, by a margin of 50% to 36%.

Q. Do you agree or disagree with the decision by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex to give up their frontline Royal duties?	
Agree	50%
Disagree	36%
Don't Know	13%

But the overwhelming majority of people, 71%, think that announcing their decision without informing the Queen in advance was the **wrong thing to do**.

Q. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex announced their decision without informing the Queen in advance. Do you think that was the right or wrong thing to do?	
The right thing to do	16%
The wrong thing to do	71%
Don't Know	13%

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Most people (44%) think **Meghan was chiefly responsible for the decision**, followed by both equally (39%). Only 4% of the public think Harry was behind the decision.

Q. Who do you think was chiefly responsible for the decision to give up their frontline Royal duties?	
% Meghan, Duchess of Sussex	44%
% Harry, Duke of Sussex	4%
% Both equally	39%
% Don't Know	12%

Royal privileges

The British public resoundingly think that Harry and Meghan should **lose their privileges** as a result of the decision.

76% think they should not receive **any** financial support from the Royal Family or taxpayer at all – and similar numbers say they should also **lose financial support for official overseas visits (64%), Met Police protection while abroad (76%), and their overall security (73%)**.

60% also say they should **give up Frogmore Cottage**, and 60% think they should **pay back the £2.4m of taxpayer-funded refurbishment**. Though more split, more people than not also think Harry and Meghan should **lose their official HRH titles**.

Q. Now that they have made their announcement, please indicate whether you think the Duke and Duchess of Sussex should or should not...?			
	Should	Should not	Don't know
Receive any financial support from the Royal Family and British taxpayer	13%	76%	10%
Receive taxpayer-funded Metropolitan Police protection if they live abroad	13%	76%	10%
Receive financial support from the British taxpayer for their security	18%	73%	9%
Receive financial support from the Royal Family and British taxpayer for official overseas visits	26%	64%	10%
Be able to keep their official and Royal-funded residence, Frogmore Cottage in Windsor, as a UK base	28%	60%	12%
Pay back the £2.4m of public money used for the refurbishment of Frogmore Cottage	60%	25%	15%
Be allowed to keep their official HRH royal titles while earning money	34%	51%	15%
Be allowed to retain their official HRH royal titles	40%	47%	12%

Stay or go

72% of the public think the Queen should **let Harry and Meghan go** while only 16% said that she should try and convince them to stay.

This is particularly marked for people with a positive view of the Queen: 83% of people with a positive opinion of the Queen think that she should let Harry and Meghan go whilst only 7% of those with a positive opinion of the Queen think that she should try and convince them to stay.

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Q. Should Her Majesty The Queen let the Duke and Duchess of Sussex go, or try to convince them to stay?	
Let them go	72%
Try to convince them to stay	16%
Don't Know	12%

Impact on the monarchy

46% disagree the Royal Family is better off without Harry and Meghan, while 27% - just over one in four – agree. 44% say that the decision has **not damaged the monarchy**, compared to 38% - more than one in three - who say it has.

Q. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The Royal Family is better off without Harry and Meghan"	
Agree	27%
Disagree	46%
Don't know	27%

Q. Do you think the decision by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex has or has not damaged the monarchy?	
Has damaged the monarchy	38%
Has not damaged the monarchy	44%
Don't know	18%

More findings on the decision

More than half of people, 54%, think that Prince Harry should **relinquish his rights of accession to the throne**.

Almost two thirds of people, 60%, agree that the Sussexes have **treated the Queen shoddily**.

79% of people now believe that **Harry should pay for his own protection** in the same way that Prince Andrew pays for Beatrice and Eugenie's security.

The public are split on whether Harry **should remain head of the Royal Marines**. 39% agree he should, but 36% of people think he should not.

The public **do not blame the actions of the Queen and other royals or the public for Meghan and Harry's decision to step back**. Only 27% of people think Meghan has not received the support she deserves from the Royal Family, whilst 41% think she has received the support she deserves. The same applies to the public – only 32% think Meghan has not received the support she deserves from the public, whilst 49% think she has received the support she deserves.

Q. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements:			
	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Prince Harry should relinquish his rights of accession to the throne	54%	28%	18%
The couple have treated the Queen shoddily	60%	23%	17%
I approve of the couple's aim to 'carve out a progressive new role' for themselves	55%	27%	18%
In the same way that Prince Andrew pays for Beatrice and Eugenie's protection, Harry should pay for his	79%	8%	13%

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Harry should not be allowed to remain titular head of the Royal Marines	39%	36%	25%
Meghan has not received the support she deserves from the Royal Family	27%	41%	32%
Meghan has not received the support she deserves from the British public	32%	49%	19%
The couple will be able to successfully do what they describe as 'honouring their duty to the Queen, Commonwealth and their patronages'	34%	38%	28%

Members of the Royal Family

Comparing to a [YouGov poll in October 2019](#), Harry and Meghan have seen big drops in support, with their net ratings down by 20 and 22 points. Andrew has also seen a big fall, down 25.

For the first time, Meghan is now a member of the Royal Family that **more people view negatively than positively**. On a net rating of -2, she is alongside Camilla (-4), Sarah Ferguson (-22) and Prince Andrew (-61) in this regard.

The most popular member of the Royal Family is **Prince William**, closely followed by the Queen and Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge.

But the last two months have not been good for most of the Royal Family, with ratings flat, or down – **even the Queen sees a decline of 5 net points**. There is **good news for Princess Anne**, who sees her rating increase by 8 points.

Q. Thinking about the Royal Family, for each of the following please say whether you have a positive or negative opinion of them				
	Positive	Negative	Don't know	Net rating and change
The Queen	80%	14%	6%	+66 (down 5)
Prince Philip	58%	32%	10%	+26 (up 1)
Prince Charles	58%	34%	8%	+24 (down 1)
Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall	40%	44%	16%	-4 (no change)
Prince William	81%	12%	7%	+69 (no change)
Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge	77%	13%	11%	+64 (up 1)
Prince Harry	61%	32%	7%	+29 (down 20)
Meghan, Duchess of Sussex	44%	46%	10%	-2 (down 22)
Princess Anne	65%	15%	20%	+50 (up 8)
Prince Andrew	13%	74%	14%	-61 (down 25)
Sophie Wessex	40%	17%	43%	+23 (n/a)
Zara Tindall (nee Philips)	48%	19%	33%	+29 (n/a)
Sarah Ferguson	26%	48%	26%	-22 (n/a)

When given the choice, the public **overwhelmingly prefer Prince William to Prince Harry**. Of the two, 65% prefer William and 35% prefer Harry. And **Kate is the real People's Princess** – 73% of people prefer Kate over Meghan (27%).

Q. Of the following options, which member of the Royal Family do you prefer?	
Prince Harry	35%
Prince William	65%
Q. Of the following options, which member of the Royal Family do you prefer?	
Meghan, Duchess of Sussex	27%

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Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge	73%
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Monarchy overall

The public **remain supportive of the Monarchy overall**. When asked if it should be abolished 61% of people disagree and only 25% agree. But that is still one quarter of the public who think the Monarchy should be abolished completely.

48% of people think the Monarchy will last forever. 39% of people though the Monarchy would only last another 10-50 years. But only 13% of people said that the Monarchy would not last another 10 years.

Q. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The monarchy should be abolished"	
Agree	25%
Disagree	61%
Don't know	13%

Q. How long do you think the British monarchy will last for?	
0-10 years	13%
10-50 years	39%
Forever	48%

Demographic differences

People of all classes have similar views of Harry and Meghan, their decision and the consequences it should have for them.

Older people are even more convinced that Harry and Meghan should lose perks. 49% of those aged 18-34 think Harry and Meghan should not keep Frogmore Cottage, but 71% of over 65s we believe that they should not keep Frogmore Cottage. 85% of those aged over 65 said that Harry and Meghan should lose all financial support from the Royal Family and the taxpayer whilst 64% of under 35s thought the same.

Women have a more positive opinion of Harry. 66% of women said they have a positive opinion of him whilst only 55% of men do.

Meghan and Harry are **both more popular with young people and Meghan is distinctly unpopular with people aged over 45.** 18-24 year olds are the most positive about Meghan – 57% of 18-24 year olds have a positive view of her whilst only 30% of over 65 year olds have a positive view

Q. Thinking about the Royal Family, for each of the following please say whether you have a positive or negative opinion of them: "Meghan, Duchess of Sussex"						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Positive	57%	54%	49%	42%	42%	30%
Negative	28%	32%	43%	50%	48%	64%

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Younger people are **split on the future of the Monarchy** while older people are overwhelmingly convinced it should and will survive.

Q. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The monarchy should be abolished"						
	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Agree	36%	31%	30%	27%	19%	15%
Disagree	43%	41%	57%	61%	73%	81%