

**ZA6918**

**Flash Eurobarometer 457  
(Businesses' Attitudes Towards Corruption in the EU)**

**Country Questionnaire  
United Kingdom**

A	Flash number
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FL428 A
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B	Country
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FL428 B
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C	Interview number
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FL428 C
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NACE	NACE code (Sample information)
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				NACE code - 4 digits
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FL428 NACE
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SIZE	Size of company (Sample information)
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				Size of company
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FL428 SIZE
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(INTRO1) Hello, I'm (NAME), calling from TNS. May I speak with your CEO, a general manager, a financial director or any legal officer who has decision-making responsibilities in your company ?
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(INTRO2) IF THE GATEKEEPER ASKS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: We are contacting (decision makers in) companies across Europe regarding their views on current business topics. The feedback will be used to support decision-making and design future European policies. I would greatly appreciate being able to speak with him or her to include his/her opinion in the study.
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IF THE ELIGIBLE RESPONDENT IS NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
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(INTRO3) (WHEN SPEAKING TO THE TARGETED RESPONDENTS) Hello, I'm (NAME), calling from TNS, a market research company.
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(INTRO4) We are contacting (decision makers in) companies across Europe regarding their views on current business topics and we would greatly appreciate your input. The feedback will be used to support decision-making and design future European policies. Would you have some time to answer to a few questions? It should take between 15 and 20 minutes ...

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LAN1	In which language do you want to do this interview?
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(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)
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Austria - German	1
Belgium - Dutch	2
Belgium - French	3
Bulgaria - Bulgarian	4
Croatia - Croatian	5
Czech Republic - Czech	6
Denmark - Danish	7
Estonia - Estonian	8
Estonia - Russian	9
Finland - Finnish	10
Finland - Swedish	11
France - French	12
Germany - German	13
Greece - Greek	14
Hungary - Hungarian	15
Iceland - Icelandic	16
Ireland - English	17
Ireland - Irish	18
Italy - Italian	19
Latvia - Latvian	20
Latvia - Russian	21
Lithuania - Lithuanian	22
Luxembourg - Luxembourgish	23
Luxembourg - French	24
Luxembourg - German	25
Macedonia - Macedonian	26
Macedonia - Albanian	27
Malta - Maltese	28
Malta - English	29
Montenegro - Montenegrin	30
Netherlands - Dutch	31
Norway - Norwegian	32
Poland - Polish	33
Portugal - Portuguese	34
Republic of Cyprus - Greek	35
Romania - Romanian	36
Slovakia - Slovak	37
Slovenia - Slovene	38
Spain - Catalan	39

Spain - Spanish	40
Sweden - Swedish	41
Switzerland - German	42
Switzerland - French	43
Switzerland - Italian	44
Turkey - Turkish	45
Turkey - Kurkish	46
Turkish Cypriot Community - Turkish	47
United Kingdom - English	48
United States of America - English	49

FL428 LAN1

ASK ALL

(RESPONDENT REASSURANCE) I would like to reassure you that your co-operation is completely voluntary and all of your answers are confidential. For quality control and training purposes this interview may be monitored or recorded. First I will ask a few questions purely for classification purposes...

Let me start with a few basic questions regarding your company. For all questions, please limit your responses to the activities of your company in the UK only.

IF D1=7 OR 8 THEN STOP INTERVIEW

D1 What is the main activity of your company?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Energy, mining, oil and gas, chemicals	1
Healthcare and pharmaceutical	2
Engineering and electronics, motor vehicle manufacturing	3
Construction and building	4
Telecommunications and Information technologies	5
Financial services, banking and investment	6
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	7
DK/NA	8

FL428 D1

IF D2=5 AND SIZE=NULL THEN STOP INTERVIEW

D2 How many employees does your company have?

(READ OUT - SINGLE CODE)

1 to 9 employees	1
10 to 49 employees	2
50 to 249 employees	3
250 employees or more	4
DK/NA	5

FL428 D2

D3 How long has your company been in business?

(RECORD NUMBER OF YEARS - CODE "999" IF DON'T KNOW/REFUSAL)

Years

FL428 D3

D4 Over the past two years, has your company's annual turnover increased, decreased or remained unchanged?

(SHOW SCREEN - SINGLE CODE)

Increased	1
Decreased	2
Remained unchanged	3
Not applicable (DO NOT READ OUT)	4
DK/NA	5

FL428 D4

D5 What was your turnover last year?

(READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Less than £83 000	1
More than £83 000 to £415 000	2
More than £415 000 to £1.7 million	3
More than £1.7 million to £8.3 million	4
More than £8.3 to £41.5 million	5
More than £41.5 million	6
Not applicable (DO NOT READ OUT)	7
DK/NA	8

FL428 D5

ASK ALL

READ OUT: When we mention corruption, we mean it in a broad sense, including offering, giving, requesting and accepting bribes or kickbacks, valuable gifts and important favours, as well as any abuse of power for private gain. Please note, it is important that you consider your answers in the light of your own or your company's experience

Q1 Do you consider the following to be a problem or not for your company when doing business in the UK?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		A very serious problem	A quite serious problem	Not a very serious problem	Not a problem at all	DK/NA
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1	Corruption	1	2	3	4	5
2	Patronage and nepotism	1	2	3	4	5
3	Complexity of administrative procedures	1	2	3	4	5
4	Fast-changing legislation and policies	1	2	3	4	5
5	Inadequate infrastructure in the UK	1	2	3	4	5
6	Lack of means or procedures to recover debt from others	1	2	3	4	5
7	Restrictive labour regulations	1	2	3	4	5
8	Tax rates	1	2	3	4	5
9	Access to financing, including credits	1	2	3	4	5

FL428 Q1

READ OUT: In this questionnaire we refer to public officials. By public officials, we mean employees of public authorities and ministries including government officials, customs officers, policemen, judges, prosecutors, tax officials, etc.; and we also mean local officials, such as housing/building regulators, mayors, local government officers and people working in the local authorities

Q2 A gift from someone in return for a favour may be evidence of his esteem and kindness, but may also qualify as a bribe. If a public official receives money, a gift or a service from someone, what would be the minimum value at which you would consider this to be a bribe?

(WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER) (IF REFUSAL/DK/NA CODE "9999999")

							Pounds Sterling
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FL428 Q5

Q3 How widespread do you think the problem of corruption is in the UK?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Very widespread	1
Fairly widespread	2
Fairly rare	3
Very rare	4
Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	5
DK/NA	6

FL428 Q6

Q4: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 8

INT: If the respondent asks, give the following definition of a collusive bidding: "Collusive bidding is an attempt by conspiring bidders to get round rules and laws laid down to ensure free and competitive bidding, including rules against price-fixing"

Q4 And how widespread do you think the following practices are in public procurement procedures in the UK?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very wide spread	Fairly wide spread	Fairly rare	Very rare	Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	DK/NA
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1	Abuse of negotiated procedures	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Abuse of emergency grounds to justify use of non-competitive or fast-track procedures	1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Involvement of bidders in the design of specifications	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Unclear selection or evaluation criteria	1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Conflict of interests in the evaluation of bids	1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Specifications tailor-made for particular companies	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Collusive bidding	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Amendments of the contract terms after conclusion of the contract	1	2	3	4	5	6

FL428 Q7

Q5 And how widespread do you think the following practices are in the UK?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very wide spread	Fairly wide spread	Fairly rare	Very rare	Non-existent (DO NOT READ OUT)	DK/NA
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1	Corruption in public procurement managed by national authorities	1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Corruption in public procurement managed by regional or local authorities	1	2	3	4	5	6

FL428 Q8

Q6: ROTATE CODES 1 TO 7

Q6: ITEM 9 'NONE' IS A SINGLE CODE

INT: If the respondent asks, give the following definition of kickbacks: "Paying back a certain percentage of the contract value or gain to a person who has influence over the contract or who decides which services or goods should be ordered"

Q6 Which of the following practices do you consider to be the most widespread in the UK?

(READ OUT - MAX. 3 ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Kickbacks	1,
Bribes	2,
Tax fraud or non-payment of VAT	3,
Offering a free gift or trip in exchange for a service	4,
Favouring friends and family members in business	5,
Funding political parties in exchange for public contracts or influence over policy making	6,
Favouring friends and family members in public institutions	7,
Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	8,
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	9,
DK/NA	10,

FL428 Q11

Q7: ROTATE STATEMENTS 1 TO 8

Q7 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)



		Totally agree	Tend to agree	Tend to disagree	Totally disagree	DK/NA
1	Too close links between business and politics in the UK lead to corruption	1	2	3	4	5
2	Bribery and the use of connections is often the easiest way to obtain certain public services in the UK	1	2	3	4	5
3	There is sufficient transparency and supervision of the funding of political parties in the UK	1	2	3	4	5
4	In the UK the only way to succeed in business is to have political connections	1	2	3	4	5
5	In the UK favouritism and corruption hamper business competition	1	2	3	4	5
6	In the UK measures against corruption are applied impartially and without ulterior motives	1	2	3	4	5
7	People and businesses caught for petty corruption are appropriately punished in the UK	1	2	3	4	5
8	People and businesses caught for bribing a senior official are appropriately punished in the UK	1	2	3	4	5

FL428 Q12 (STATEMENTS 1 TO 6) FL428 Q15 (STATEMENTS 7 AND 8)

Q8 How likely do you think it is that the following would happen to people or businesses engaging in corrupt practices in the UK?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

		Very likely	Fairly likely	Fairly unlikely	Very unlikely	DK/NA
1	They would be caught by or reported to the police or prosecutors	1	2	3	4	5

2	They would be heavily fined or imprisoned by a court	1	2	3	4	5
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FL428 Q14

D7 In the past three years, has your company taken part in a public tender or a public procurement procedure?

(READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY)

No	1
Yes, once	2
Yes, more than once	3
DK/NA	4

FL428 Q2

ASK D8 AND D9a IF "YOUR COMPANY HAS TAKEN PART IN A PUBLIC TENDER OR A PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE" CODE 2 OR 3 IN D7

D8 In the last three years, do you think that corruption has prevented you or your company from winning a public tender or a public procurement contract?

(ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Yes	1
No	2
Refusal (DO NOT READ OUT)	3
DK/NA	4

FL428 Q3

D9a: NUMBER MUST BE BETWEEN 0 AND 100 OR = 999

D9a Could you please estimate what proportion of your annual turnover comes from public tenders or public procurement procedures?

(WRITE DOWN THE ANSWER IN PERCENTAGES) (IF REFUSAL/DK/NA CODE "999")

			%
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FL428 Q4

ASK D9b IF "YOUR COMPANY HAS NOT TAKEN PART IN A PUBLIC TENDER OR A PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE" CODE 1 IN D7

D9b: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 5

D9b: ITEM 7 'NONE' IS A SINGLE CODE

INT: If the respondent asks, give the following definition of a collusive bidding: "Collusive bidding is an attempt by conspiring bidders to get round rules and laws laid down to ensure free and competitive bidding, including rules against price-fixing"

D9b Was it for any of the following reasons?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

The criteria seemed to be tailor-made for certain participants	1,
The deal seemed to be done before the call to tender	2,
You had the impression that collusive bidding would take place	3,
The deadlines for submitting the project were too tight and impossible to meet	4,
The procedure seemed too bureaucratic or burdensome	5,
Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	6,
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	7,
DK/NA	8,

FL428 Q3b

ASK ALL

D10: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 6

D10: ITEM 8 'NONE' IS SINGLE CODE

D10 Over the last 12 months, has your company been in contact with the public authorities in order to obtain the following permits or to use their services in the following categories?

(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Building permits	1,
Business permits	2,
Change of land use	3,
Environmental permits including waste and water treatment	4,
Licence plates or permits related to vehicles	5,
State aid and social, structural funds	6,
Other (DO NOT READ OUT)	7,
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	8,
DK/NA	9,

FL428 Q9

ASK D11 IF CODES 1 TO 6 IN D10

ASK D11.1 ONLY IF D10=1

ASK D11.2 ONLY IF D10=2

ASK D11.3 ONLY IF D10=3

ASK D11.4 ONLY IF D10=4

ASK D11.5 ONLY IF D10=5

ASK D11.6 ONLY IF D10=6

D11: ROTATE ITEMS 1 TO 6

D11: CODE 7 IS A SINGLE CODE

D11	And has anyone in the UK asked or expected someone from your company to give a gift, favour, or extra money for any of the following permits or services?
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(READ OUT - MULTIPLE ANSWERS POSSIBLE)

Building permits	1,
Business permits	2,
Change of land use	3,
Environmental permits including waste and water treatment	4,
Licence plates or permits related to vehicles	5,
State aid and social, structural funds	6,
None (DO NOT READ OUT)	7,
DK/NA	8,

FL428 Q10 MODIFIED