



The Mass Observation Project

Summer 2011 Directive

Part 1: Climate Change

In this directive we are interested in what you understand by the term 'climate change'. We would like to know what impact you think climate change has had or will have on your life and the lives of other people, and whether information about climate change has led to any changes in your behaviour.

As usual, please start each part of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number (NOT name), sex, age, marital status, the town or village where you live and your occupation or former occupation.

Remember not to identify yourself or other people inadvertently within your reply. It is best to use initials instead of real names.

Your beliefs about climate change

Please describe what the term 'climate change' means to you. What effects do you think climate change has brought to your local neighbourhood and the wider world? What do you think your neighbourhood and the wider world will look like in 50 years – will there be changes that are a direct result of climate change?

When you think of the term 'climate change', what image immediately comes to mind?

Where do you get your information about climate change from (for example, newspapers, television, radio, the internet)? When did you first become aware of the risks associated with climate change? If you can remember what prompted this awareness, please tell us about it. Do you think about climate change much? How worried are you about it? If so, what is your biggest concern?

Please tell us what you think has caused climate change. Do you have doubts about whether climate change is really happening or not?

Climate change and behaviour

Please describe any activities you have taken part in that are related to your beliefs about climate change. For instance: Do you recycle? Do you try to drive or fly less? Have you joined any organisations related to this issue?

Do you think there is sometimes a 'gap' between your beliefs and how you behave in relation to environmental issues and climate change in particular?

Do you think different groups of people react differently to climate change issues? For example, in relation to age, gender, financial situation and geographic location.

Task: For one week we would like you to document/list anything that you do, that you think contributes to reducing the impact of climate change. Please include any conversations you have about the subject with family/friends.

Solutions to climate change

Are there solutions to climate change and its effects in your view? If so, what are they?

Do you think that governments can address the risks associated with climate change? Do you think they are committed to doing so? Do you think developments in science and technology will be able to help solve the problems brought about by climate change? Or do you think people will have to change the way they live?

Part 2: Ageing and Care

With life expectancy growing, we are an ageing society, where there are now more people over the state pension age than there are children. Part two of this directive is focused upon your thoughts, opinions and personal experiences of ageing and the care for older people, whether at home, in hospital or other care settings.

Please start part 2 of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

Your personal experiences of care

Can you tell us what care has been taken of members of your own family, for example, your grandparents, parents, and yourself? Has extended health and social care ever been needed by family members? If so, please describe your experience. We are interested in experiences of all types of care, private, NHS and organisations like Age UK, Alzheimer's Society etc.

Have you cared for anyone at home or anticipate that you may have to? Are you currently in the situation of taking care of someone or being taken care of? Please describe what this is like.

Have you or any relatives or friends been in a nursing home, sheltered accommodation, or other kind of care setting? Can you describe this experience and comment on the standard of care received?

Are you able to comment on the personal experience you have, if any, of the care of someone with a dementia? Can you comment on how this differed, to the caring of someone with a physical illness?

Managing risk

Sometimes as people grow older and less robust they are seen as vulnerable and in need of protection whereas they themselves might choose to do things their family and friends regard as 'risky', eg people who are unsteady when they walk may insist on continuing to go out shopping despite their relatives being concerned that they might fall or people who are forgetful insist that they will still look after their own money when family members are worried that they might be taken advantage of.

Please describe what experience you have had, if any, in your own family regarding risks in later life and how you balanced the need for older relatives to stay independent with the desire to protect them from harm.

Current standards of care

In the press in recent months there has been growing concern about the standards of care provided to older people in general hospitals. Doctors, nurses and hospital managers have all been criticised in recent inquiry reports for failing to ensure an acceptable quality of care to older patients.

What do you think about the current standard of care offered to older people in hospitals? Do you have any concerns or worries? Could they be improved?

To what extent do you think doctors, nurses, and general hospital managers can be trusted to ensure a high quality of care to older people in general hospitals?

If you agree with reports that the standard of care offered to older people in general hospitals is sometimes unacceptable what do you think could be done to improve things?

Who do you think is responsible for providing good access to health and social care?

The future of health care

What should care for older people look like in the next 10-15 years? What sorts of care should be provided? Please try and give examples of the range of care that could be available to people.

How would you like to be taken care of as an older person? Do you or would you budget for this? Is there anything you are afraid of or worry about? Do you have any special wishes?

End of life

What experience have you had of 'end of life' care for relatives or friends? Can you describe this experience and comment on whether the care met with expectations?

What do you think would be a 'good death'?

What are your thoughts on euthanasia?

Part 3: The press in 2011

News reports in recent months have been dominated with stories about the internal workings of the media, particularly the British press. Stories about the private life of a footballer (and other politicians and celebrities), super injunctions, and more recently, phone hacking have appeared almost on a daily basis. Some of these stories have been so serious that they have resulted in police investigations, job loss, the closure of one of the UK's biggest tabloid newspapers and the resignation of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Please start Part 3 of your directive reply on a new sheet of paper with your MO number and a brief biography.

In part three of this directive, we would like your thoughts on these issues. We are interested what you think about these stories and how you think the press should be

regulated. What do you think about the relationship between the media, politicians and the police? Has the internet changed the media? If so, has this been a good thing or a bad thing?

At the time of writing the directive the news about the extent of the phone hacking scandal is still coming out. Please comment on any developments

It would be useful if you could start your directive response by listing what sorts of media you read/listen to (if any....).

Please post your response to: **The Mass Observation Archive, FREEPOST BR 2112, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 1ZX** or by email to: moa@sussex.ac.uk

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