Who do we trust? Who do we rate?

We asked the general public to rate their level of trust and confidence in their parliamentary representatives compared with a range of other professions and occupations.

Trust and confidence in general
Respondents were considered to have trust and confidence in a profession/occupation, if they rated it between 7 and 10 on the 11-point trust and confidence scale.

The three professions/occupations which recorded the highest trust and confidence were the 'emergency' professions/occupations; that is, doctors and nurses (81%), the Ambulance Service (89%) and the Fire Service (89%). Three specific professions/occupations were rated particularly poorly; Members of Parliament (22%), local council members (22%) and journalists (23%).

Contributing to the Covid infection rate being low
We asked the general public to rate occupational groups on whether they had made a significant contribution to keeping the Covid infection rate low (i.e. if respondents rated it between 7 and 10 on the 11-point contribution scale).

All occupations were rated as having made a significant contribution by 50% or more of respondents. A large majority (i.e. 75% or more of New Zealanders) felt hospital staff, frontline testing medical staff, supermarket workers and Police had made a significant contribution. The Team of 5 million had a contribution result of 74% and, despite media coverage about isolation centres escapes, hotel and security staff had a somewhat surprising result of 68%.

The Research New Zealand poll of 1,010 people aged 18 years and over was conducted online between 23 and 27 July 2020. The maximum margin of error is +/-3.1 percent (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of the general population of New Zealand. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of New Zealanders’ opinions about topical issues.