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Digital Skills and Research Method

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### **Executive summary**

The purpose for this research report is to explore, what are individuals' perceptions concerning Brexit. With Brexit approaching how will personal finance, NHS, immigration, terrorism and the sterling pound be affected. When gathering my primary data by admitting five questions into a survey and asked random people in London. I gathered many stats and results from people who have run experiments or had an interest in the subject and had vital but valuable information. The results I received backed up alongside information I attained shows people understand the consequences surrounding Brexit. However, the main thing I noticed was with many EU doctors leaving there will be loads of free jobs. I believe this is where the NHS will suffer, also with the prices rising on foods and the pound the lowest in thirty-one years personal finance will be an issue.

## **Rationale**

The reason for this research report is to discover the perceptions of individuals concerning Brexit. With the UK voting to leave the EU I would like to see the concerns of individuals surrounding five main factors they are personal living, the NHS, immigration, terrorism and sovereignty. With most studies concerning the views of trade, politics, travel and economy, I wanted to gain more knowledge concerning the five main factors mentioned above, as I believe these are important factors concerning Brexit. While collecting primary data I will receive it in qualitative which is descriptive not number based from surveys I have handed out to the public. Secondary data will be formed by both sets of data numeric and categorical, that I will attain from searching the internet, reading articles and researching past experiments.

## **Aims and objectives**

With a second referendum taken place, the original vote to stay in the EU was overturned meaning Brexit got the go ahead. Brexit is scheduled for March 2019, although negotiations are still ongoing until December (McGee, 2017). As negotiations are still taking place between the UK and the EU at present for security, travel, and trade individuals do not know an outline on the long term (Hunt, 2018). With UK citizens having split decisions to stay or leave I wanted to gather knowledge on people's opinions surrounding Brexit.

- ❖ To identify if the UK citizens believe Brexit will improve the NHS, for better or worse?
- ❖ To gain the views of individuals concerning the strength of the pound, will it erode or decline?
- ❖ To analyse the perceptions of individuals on the state of immigration, will it be for better or worse?
- ❖ With the border lines expected to be controlled better, do individuals believe terrorism will be better or worse?
- ❖ With the UK leaving the EU and the pound weakening how do UK residents believe their personal finance will be better or worse?

## **Literature review**

- ❖ Brexit - How hard will it hit your finance? (Peachy, 2015).
- ❖ How Will Brexit affect your finance? (Evans, 2018).
- ❖ Life after Brexit (Boyd et al, 2016).
- ❖ Post – EU priorities (Percy, 2017).
- ❖ Almost 10,000 EU health workers have quit NHS since Brexit (O'Carroll, 2017).

- ❖ NHS and Brexit top Britons list of concerns (Clemence, 2018).
- ❖ What will happen to EU citizens in the UK after Brexit, will they need visas and how many are in Britain (Mullin, 2018).
- ❖ EU immigration to the UK (O'Leary, 2017).
- ❖ Terrorism in Great Britain: the statistics (Allen, 2018).
- ❖ Sterling hits new 31 year low against dollar (Monaghan, 2018).
- ❖ Two years on from Brexit vote: what's the impact on your personal finances? (Brodbeck, 2018).

## **Methodology**

### **Reason**

The reason for me gathering my own primary data is to analyse individual's perceptions on Brexit involving five factors personal finance, the NHS, immigration terrorism and the UK sovereignty. Alongside I will be analysing the data I have researched and collected that involves the five factors mentioned previously.

### **Method**

The method I will use when collecting data for primary research will be in a format of a survey that I have handed out to 50 individuals in London. The secondary data has been sourced from many destinations such as journals, books, articles, websites, previous research, magazines and newspaper articles.

### **Data type**

The primary data I collect from individuals from the survey will be qualitative and will be gathered from London. The reason for this being Brexit is only months away and the data will be an accurate guide to how people are feeling now. The secondary data that I researched from online will be from journals, articles and past research, alongside books, newspapers and magazines with both quantitative and qualitative data collected as answers. The reason for me collecting this data is to compare stats, inflation and comments against my findings.

### **Procedure**

The procedure I took when researching primary data was interacting with the public to receive the information I needed from the questions I asked, alongside searching many websites about Brexit and factors surrounding the situations, reading books in online libraries and searching through archives, scanning magazine and reading newspapers.

### Analysis

With the data that I collect, I will analyse and compare data with information to make a conclusion, when doing this I will compare Immigration with terrorism, the NHS figures to immigration, and for personal finance ill compare household food bill inflation and the state of sterling pound.

### **Primary research**

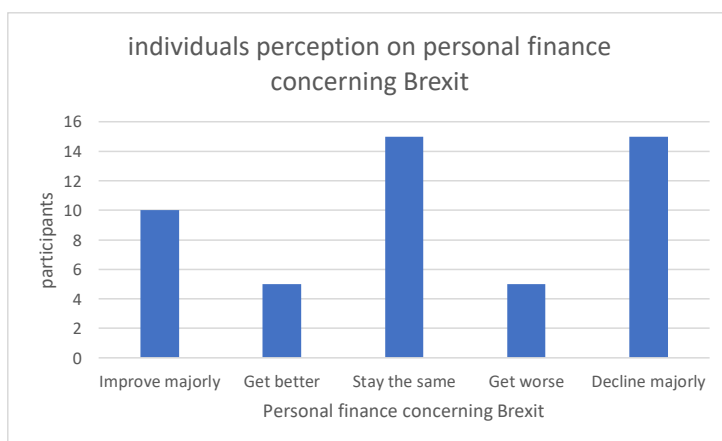
To collect primary Data, I needed to create five questions to attain the data, descriptive being the data I collected. When collecting descriptive data from individuals it already exists, so no new groups need to be formed (Fink, 2003). The method I chose to get the data was in the format of a survey because Bell (2010) states each survey is unique and allows new light to be added to a theory. Once I collected the data I inserted it into a chart and then converted the information into a graph for easy reading.

### **Question 1**

Q1. With the UK leaving the EU do you think personal finance will?

1. Improve majorly
2. Get better
3. Stay the same
4. Get worse
5. Decline majorly

| Will personal finance | No of participants |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Improve majorly       | 10                 |
| Get better            | 5                  |
| Stay the same         | 115                |
| Get worse             | 5                  |
| Decline majorly       | 15                 |

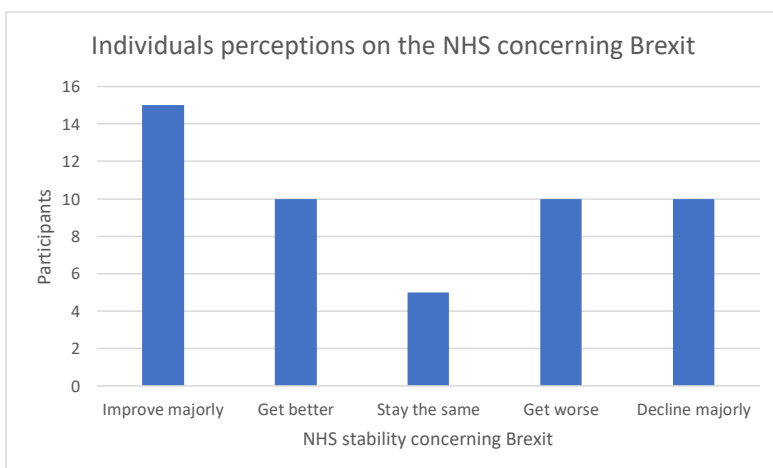


## Question 2

Q2. With the UK leaving the EU, how do you think the NHS will cope?

1. Improve majorly
2. Get better
3. Stay the same
4. Get worse
5. Decline majorly

| How will the NHS cope | No of participants |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Improve majorly       | 15                 |
| Get better            | 10                 |
| Stay the same         | 5                  |
| Get worse             | 10                 |
| Decline majorly       | 10                 |

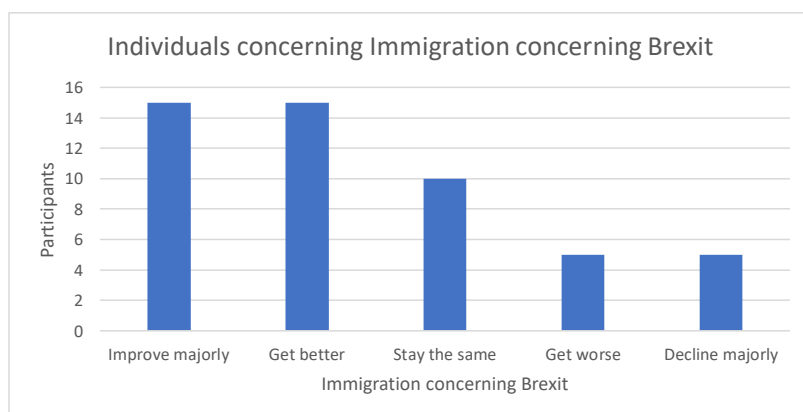


### Question 3

Q3. With the UK leaving the EU, do you think immigration will?

1. Improve majorly
2. Get better
3. Stay the same
4. Get worse
5. Decline majorly

| Will the immigration status | No of participants |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Improve majorly             | 15                 |
| Get better                  | 15                 |
| Stay the same               | 10                 |
| Get worse                   | 5                  |
| Decline majorly             | 5                  |

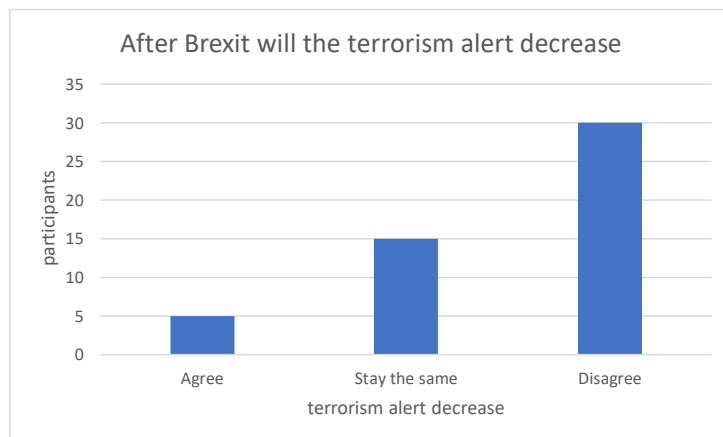


#### **Question 4**

Q4. When left the EU do you think the UK terrorism alert will decrease?

1. Agree
2. Stay the same
3. Disagree

| Will terrorism decrease | No of participants |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Agree                   | 5                  |
| Stay the same           | 15                 |
| Disagree                | 30                 |

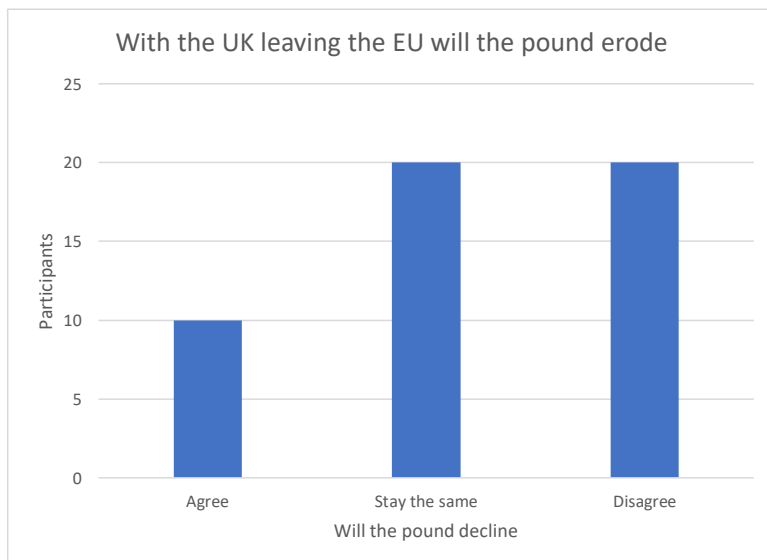


### **Question 5**

Q5. With brexit a few months away, do you think the sterling pound will decline?

1. Agree
2. Stay the same
3. Disagree

| Will the pound erode | No of participants |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Agree                | 10                 |
| Stay the same        | 20                 |
| Disagree             | 20                 |



## **Secondary research**

### **Personal finance**

- ❖ 0.5% lower growth rate after Brexit (Boyd et al, 2016).
- ❖ Vegetables up 5.7% between 2016-2017 (Peachy, 2018).
- ❖ Tea, coffee and cocoa beans increased 8.5% between 2016-2017 (Peachy, 2018).
- ❖ Meat increased 3.9% (Peachy, 2018).
- ❖ Standard fuel improved, Npower 7.8%, Scottish power 7.8% and EDF 3.9% since referendum (Money, 2018).

### **The NHS**

- ❖ 350m loss for the UK health care after Brexit (Percy, 2017).
- ❖ 55% of voters said health service was a main concern with 29% naming Brexit (Clemence, 2018).
- ❖ 10,000 EU workers have resigned since Brexit (O'Carroll, 2017).
- ❖ 22% rise in EU nationals resigning during 2017 than previous year (O'Carroll, 2017).
- ❖ 170,000 Doctors are EU nationals (O'Carroll, 2017)

### **Immigration**

- ❖ 3.6million EU nationals live in Britain, which 600,000 are children (Mullin, 2018).
- ❖ Estimated 284,000 EU nationals migrated to Britain in 2015, declining to 223,000 during 2016 although slowly raised to 240,000 in 2017 (O'Leary, 2017).
- ❖ EU nationals migrating out of UK increased from 95,000 to 139,000 (2017)
- ❖ 6% of UK population are EU nationals (O'Leary, 2017).

### **Terrorism**

- ❖ 412 individuals arrested for suspected terrorism acts with 135 charged and 228 (Allen, 2018).
- ❖ 54 deaths in GB terrorism related during 2001-2016 (Allen, 2018).
- ❖ 3,840 arrest relating to terrorism since 2001 (Allen, 2018).

### GBP strength

- ❖ GBP down 15% since referendum (Brodbeck, 2018).
- ❖ GBP decreased 12% against Euro (Money, 2018).
- ❖ GBP decreased 8% against USD (Money, 2018).
- ❖ £42 less every £500 you exchange against the dollar since referendum (Brodbeck, 2018).
- ❖ £31 less every £500 you exchange against the Euro since referendum (Brodbeck, 2018).

### Discussion

The NHS is a major concern surrounding Brexit, so it was no surprise to see that 55% of people think that the health service will be an issue, with 29% claiming Brexit the reason (Clemence, 2018). After Brexit the NHS will not receive the 350million they do from the EU that they receive, therefore leaving an impact this set to kick in during 2019 (Percy, 2017). Although that is not the only stress that is held upon the NHS, with 10,000 EU nationals leaving their positions since Brexit a rise by 22% on the previous year. With 170,000 doctors that are EU citizens and are uncertain of their residential status, therefore leaving 40,000 nursing posts empty (O'Carroll, 2017). When I analyse the results, I got to the information and data received concerning the NHS, I cannot understand how most of the individuals who did the survey claim the NHS would improve majorly with 30%. As mentioned above there are many vacant positions in the NHS at present with more to follow with many EU nationals resigning from their positions.

With 3.6million EU nationals living in the UK, 600,000 being innocent children. Theresa May could not have been any clearer when she stated that EU citizens living lawfully in the UK will be able to stay (Mullins et al, 2018). This statement has since changed and if 170,000 migrate there will be crisis in the NHS. The results concerning immigration show 30% of individuals thought it would get better and a further 30% said it will improve majorly. I agree with the public but worry about roles in the workplaces that are being held by EU nationals this is backed with O'Leary's (2017) useful information that 284,000 EU nationals migrating to the UK in 2015 declining to 223,000 in 2016 and an increase of 95,000 to 139,000 leaving the UK in 2017. I agree with the public on the decision that most think it will improve in some way, however 6% of the UK population are EU nationals with 2.3million individuals working making up 7% of the UK work force.

The results surrounding the terrorism alert lowering, did not alert me as with 60% of individuals claiming it would get worse. I can understand why individuals had these views with the stats I researched, 54 deaths across the UK relating to terrorism from 2001 to 2016, 3,840

arrest concerning suspected terrorism since 2001 and 412 individuals being arrested with 135 being convicted and 228 released without charge in 2017 (Allen, 2018).

Personal finance was a big factor to most with the results I received from the survey as the public seemed to think it would stay the same with 30% of the votes. I think personally we will struggle, and things will get worse. 30% of individuals votes stated it would get majorly worse, when comparing the result against the strength of the pound 40% of individuals claimed it would improve. I am led to believe that there will be worse times ahead before the brighter outcome, as the pound is the lowest it has been against the dollar in 31 years (Beacham, 2018). The sterling pound is slowly gathering its rate, which is a relief for the economy and individuals finance, as the UK economy is not suffering as first predicted (Evans, 2018). There are still other worries as prices for foods have inflated, but prices are still below those of 2015. However, with vegetables rising 5.7%, Tea/coffee/sugar all rising by 3.9% from 2016 to 2017 (Peachy, 2015). As it remains we are still in a recession and does not look like changing in the foreseen future.

### **Conclusion**

When analysing the information around individuals concerning Brexit, I discovered that the NHS could be in for some bad times with 170,000 doctors due to leave and 40,000 vacant positions. The pound is also a concern with household prices hiking so it was no surprise to see people worried about their personal finance although the pound is not as powerful abroad as it once was, it is slowly increasing so we will just have to wait for the dust to settle as wait to see if Brexit does go ahead.

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