

Global Corruption Barometer 2010 New Zealand Results



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Executive Summary

This report is a summary of the New Zealand component of Transparency International's annual Global Corruption Barometer 2010¹. The Barometer is a global survey of the general public in 86 countries, and in 2010 had over 91,000 respondents worldwide. The survey measures public experiences and perceptions of corruption and petty bribery. This is the first year New Zealand has been included in the survey. The survey provides a picture of New Zealanders' views regarding the level of corruption in New Zealand and their experience with bribery in the last year. It also measures their views on the level of corruption within institutions and their willingness to fight corruption. The global results are summarised briefly on page 4, the survey methodology is described in Appendix A, and the survey questions are reproduced in Appendix B.

This report presents the findings of the New Zealand component of the survey and compares these results against several benchmarks. They include: the results in Singapore and Denmark (the nations, along with New Zealand, that are perceived as the least corrupt in the world²); our regional neighbours Australia, Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea; as well as the United Kingdom and the United States.

This report identifies four key themes:

- A large proportion of New Zealanders believe corruption has increased over the last three years.
- New Zealanders perceive political parties and parliament to be the most corrupt institutions in the country.
- 3.6% of New Zealanders reported that they or someone in their household had paid a bribe to a service provider in the last year.
- There is broad-based public willingness to engage in fighting corruption.

This report concludes that New Zealand needs to act to ensure it doesn't lose its ranking as one of the least corrupt countries in the world, and that there is a need for further research and investigation into issues of corruption and bribery in New Zealand, in order to develop a better understanding of the exact nature of the situation and to allow for measurement of changes over time.

¹ For the full report, see Transparency International's Global Corruption Barometer 2010 at www.transparency.org/gcb

² See www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2010 for more on TI's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

Summary of global results

Corruption is seen to be getting worse

6 out of ten respondents to the global survey believe corruption in their country has gotten worse over the last three years. This view is most strongly held in Europe and North America, with 73% of Europeans and 67% of North Americans believing corruption is worsening.

People are willing to become involved in fighting corruption

7 out of ten people say they would report an incident of corruption if they encountered one. Of those who had been subject to corruption, half say they would report it.

Petty bribery is everywhere

Over a quarter of people reported paying a bribe in the last year. The police are the institution most likely to be bribed, and the number of bribes paid to police globally has nearly doubled since 2006. In the same period, the number of bribes paid to the judiciary and to permit and registration services has increased. In Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly half of all respondents reported paying a bribe in the last 12 months, compared with 15% in Asia-Pacific and 5% in EU countries and North America.

The poor and the young are the most at risk

Low income earners are more likely to pay bribes than high income earners, and are twice as likely as higher earners to bribe in order to receive a basic service like education or utilities. Younger people are also more likely to bribe than older people are, with 1 in 3 under-30 year-olds reporting paying a bribe in the last year, compared with less than 20% of those aged 51+.

Public officials are seen as most corrupt

80% of respondents classified political parties as either corrupt or extremely corrupt, while parliament and the civil service are seen as the next most corrupt institutions. Furthermore, half of all respondents felt their government's efforts to stop corruption were ineffective.

Summary of NZ results

Corruption in New Zealand is perceived to be increasing

73% of those surveyed believe the level of corruption in New Zealand has increased in the past three years, while only 4% believe it has decreased. Nearly a quarter (24%) reported sensing no change in the level of corruption.

Political parties are perceived to be the most corrupt institution

New Zealanders perceive political parties to be the most corrupt of the core institutions and sectors, rating them 3.5 on a scale from 1 (meaning not at all corrupt) to 5 (meaning extremely corrupt). The legislature and the private sector were tied for second, receiving a rating of 3.2. The military, which received a rating of 2.2, was perceived to be the least corrupt institution.

New Zealanders do pay bribes

3.6% of survey respondents reported that they or a member of their household paid a bribe to a service provider in the last 12 months. This includes the police, the judiciary, customs, medical services, education services, registry & permit services, land services, tax revenue, and utilities. Men and urban inhabitants were more likely to pay bribes than were women and rural inhabitants.

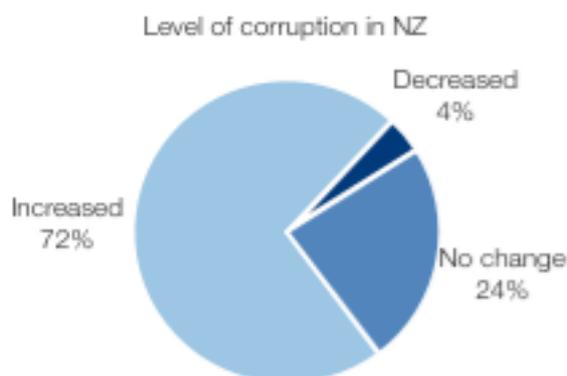
New Zealanders are willing to fight against corruption

A majority (54%) of New Zealanders surveyed believes the government is “somewhat” or “very” effective in its efforts to fight corruption, while just 12% feel its efforts are ineffective. 34% responded that the government’s efforts were neither effective nor ineffective. Nearly 1 in 4 of those surveyed said they most trusted government leaders to fight corruption, while 1 in 5 said they most trusted the media. 73% of New Zealanders say they could see themselves fighting corruption, and 96% would support a friend or colleague who was fighting corruption.

1. Increasing levels of corruption

The 2010 Global Corruption Barometer asked respondents around the world to state their views on the level of corruption in their country. Globally, 58% of respondents stated that the overall level of corruption in their country had increased either “a little” or “a lot” in the past three years. In New Zealand, 73% of respondents shared that view.

The 30% of New Zealanders who believed corruption had increased a lot were more likely to be: females; those aged over 50; those with an income in the bottom two quintiles; and rural inhabitants. 37% of respondents felt corruption had increased a little.



When the survey was performed in Singapore and Denmark, the nations tied with New Zealand atop Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index as the countries perceived to be the least corrupt in the world, just 38% of Singaporean respondents and 29% of Danish respondents reported an increase in corruption in the past 3 years.

54% of Australians, 67% of United Kingdom respondents, and 72% of Americans reported an increase in the level of corruption. The percentage of respondents reporting an increase in corruption in Pacific nations was 36% in Fiji, 85% in Papua New Guinea, 66% in the Solomon Islands, and 64% in Vanuatu.

Level of corruption	Increased	Decreased	No change
PNG	85%	7%	8%
New Zealand	73%	4%	24%
USA	72%	6%	22%
UK	67%	3%	30%
Solomon Islands	66%	16%	18%
Vanuatu	64%	13%	23%
Australia	54%	5%	42%
Singapore	38%	28%	33%
Fiji	36%	53%	11%
Denmark	29%	2%	69%

Source: Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2010

2. Corruption in institutions

Perceptions Of Corruption In Institutions

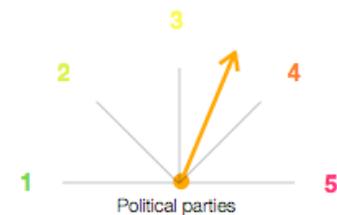
Respondents to the survey were asked to rate national institutions and sectors on a scale from 1 (meaning not at all corrupt) to 5 (meaning extremely corrupt).

New Zealanders perceived political parties and parliament to be the most corrupt, while the military was seen as the least corrupt.

The mean responses (out of 5) for New Zealand were:

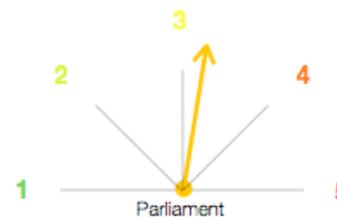
Political parties: 3.5

While more men than women responded that political parties were “not at all corrupt”, on average there was no overall difference in men’s and women’s views as groups. Those aged 65+ perceived political parties as being less corrupt than those aged under 65 did.



Parliament: 3.2

As with political parties, men were more likely to think parliament was “not at all corrupt”, and women judged it to be overall more corrupt than men did. Those aged 65+ viewed parliament as being less corrupt than those aged under 65 did.



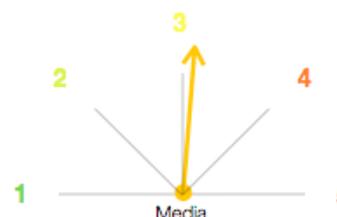
Private sector: 3.2

Those with secondary education or higher viewed the private sector as being more corrupt than those with no or basic education did. Those aged under 30 were far more likely to respond “Don’t know” than those in older age groups.



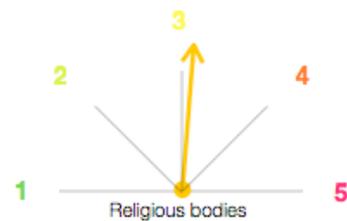
Media: 3.1

Men were more likely than women to view the media as “not at all corrupt”. Overall, those living in rural areas judged the media to be more corrupt than those living in urban areas did.



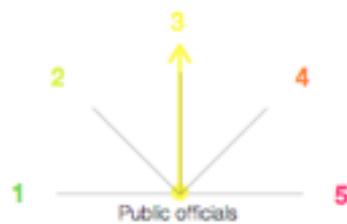
Religious bodies: 3.1

Those aged over 30 were much more likely to view religious institutions as being “not at all corrupt”, while those aged 65+ were far less likely than anyone else to classify them as “extremely corrupt”. Overall, the 65+ age group viewed religious bodies as being less corrupt than those under 65 did.



Public officials: 3.0

Those in the age group 51-65 were more likely to view public officials as “extremely corrupt” and overall they classified them as being more corrupt than the other age groups did. Inhabitants of rural areas viewed public officials as being more corrupt than urban inhabitants did.



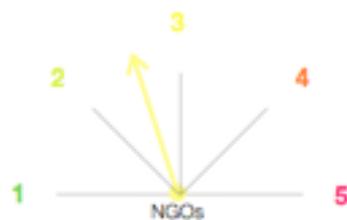
Police: 2.7

Overall, women viewed the police as being more corrupt than men did. Those aged 65+ found the police to be more corrupt than those younger did. Respondents with an income in the lowest quintile rated the police as significantly more corrupt than those with higher incomes did. Rural inhabitants also found the police to be more corrupt than did urban inhabitants.



NGOs: 2.6

Urban dwellers, and those aged below 50, were more likely to classify NGOs as “not at all corrupt”. Overall, rural inhabitants found NGOs to be more corrupt than urban inhabitants did.



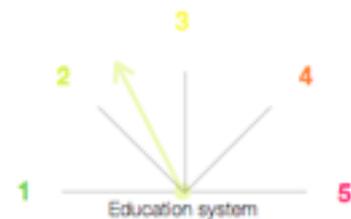
Judiciary: 2.5

Those with incomes in the bottom 20% were significantly less likely than others to rate the judiciary “not at all corrupt”. Men, and people in their thirties, were more likely to share this same view. Overall, men, urban inhabitants, and the over-65 were likely to view the judiciary as less corrupt than others did.



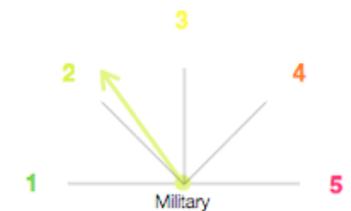
Education system: 2.4

Those with secondary or higher education, as well as urban inhabitants, were more likely to rate the education system as “not at all corrupt”.



Military: 2.2

Men, and urban dwellers, were more likely to classify the military as “not at all corrupt”. Overall, women, rural inhabitants, and those aged under 30 viewed the military as more corrupt than did, respectively, men, urban inhabitants, and those aged over 50.



3. New Zealanders do pay bribes

Proportion of Bribe Payers

The 2010 Global Corruption Barometer asked respondents if they, or anyone in their household had had contact in the last 12 months with any of the following organisations: the police, the judiciary, customs, medical services, education services, registry & permit services, land services, tax revenue, and utilities. Those that stated they had had contact were then asked if they, or anyone in their household, had paid a “bribe in any form” to that organisation. Globally, 26% of respondents reported paying a bribe to at least one of these organisations. In New Zealand that figure was 3.6%.

The proportion that reported paying a bribe in Singapore was 8.8%, while in Denmark 0.4% of respondents indicated they had engaged in bribery. 2.4% of Australian respondents reported paying a bribe in the last 12 months, compared with just 1.4% in the United Kingdom, and 5.3% in the United States. In the Pacific, 12% of Fijians had paid bribes, as had 26.1% of respondents from Papua New Guinea. 19.7% of Solomon Islands residents and 15.5% of respondents from Vanuatu reported paying a bribe in the last year.

	Bribe Payers (weighted average)
PNG	26.1%
Solomon Is.	19.7%
Vanuatu	15.5%
Fiji	12.0%
Singapore	8.8%
USA	5.3%
New Zealand	3.6%
Australia	2.4%
UK	1.4%
Denmark	0.4%

Source: Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2010

In NZ, men were more likely than women to have reported paying a bribe, and urban inhabitants were more likely to bribe than rural inhabitants were. Also, there is generally a negative correlation between income and having paid a bribe. That is to say, a lower level of income tends to be associated with a higher likelihood of paying a bribe. This is also true of the relationship between age and reported bribery; a younger age is associated with a higher likelihood of having paid a bribe. This is in line with the results of the global survey³, which shows corruption disproportionately affects poorer people and younger people. However, this tendency is reversed when dealing with the education system, in which case higher age and higher income are associated with a higher likelihood of bribery, and for the tax department and customs, where higher income was positively correlated with reported bribery.

³ See TI's Global Corruption Barometer 2010 at www.transparency.org/gcb

4. Fighting Corruption

Governments Fighting Corruption

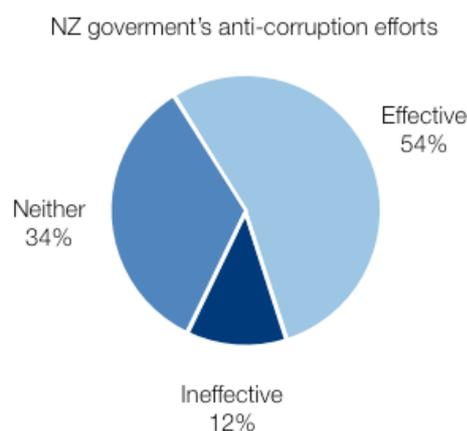
Survey respondents were asked how effective their government was at fighting corruption. Globally, half of all respondents felt their government's efforts to fight corruption were "somewhat" or "very" ineffective, while just 29% felt the efforts were effective. 21% felt the efforts were neither effective nor ineffective.

In New Zealand, 54% felt the government was doing an effective job fighting corruption, while 12% found the efforts ineffective. The 6% who felt the government's efforts were "very effective" tended to be: men; those with an income in the top 20%; and urban inhabitants.

In Singapore, 29% felt the government's efforts were effective, while 40% felt they were neither effective nor ineffective. 56% of Danish respondents felt their government's corruption-fighting efforts were effective, while 44% found them ineffective.

In Australia, 36% felt the government was doing an effective job, compared with 21% who felt it ineffective. 66% of those in the United Kingdom found the government ineffective, and 71% of Americans held the same view about their own government.

88% of Fijians thought their government was doing an effective job fighting corruption, compared with just 24% of Papua New Guineans, 25% of Solomon Islanders, and 32% of respondents in Vanuatu.



Government's efforts	Effective	Ineffective	Neither
Fiji	88%	9%	3%
Denmark	56%	44%	0%
New Zealand	54%	12%	34%
Australia	36%	21%	43%
UK	34%	66%	0%
Vanuatu	32%	49%	19%
Solomon Islands	32%	55%	20%
Singapore	29%	31%	40%
USA	29%	71%	0%
PNG	24%	65%	11%

Source: Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2010

Organisations Fighting Corruption

Respondents were also asked who they most trusted to fight corruption. They were asked to select from: government leaders, business/private sector, non-government organisations, the media, international organisations, or none of the above.

New Zealanders were most likely to trust government leaders or the media, and were least likely to trust international organisations. Just 6.5% of New Zealanders trust the private sector to fight corruption. 40 percent of those with no or basic education trusted nobody to fight corruption, as did 42% of those with incomes in the lowest two quintiles.

Most trusted corruption fighter	
Government leaders	23%
Media	20%
Nobody	18.4%
NGOs	14.6%
Private sector	6.5%
International organisations	3.5%
Don't know	14%

Source: Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2010

Individuals Fighting Corruption

Survey respondents were asked if ordinary people could make a difference in the fight against corruption. They were also asked if they would report an incident of corruption, if they could see themselves involved in fighting corruption, and if they would support a friend or colleague if that person was fighting against corruption.

87% of New Zealanders did believe ordinary people could make a difference in the fight against corruption, Just 73% could see themselves involved in the fight, but 96% would support a friend or colleague who was. 93% said they would report an incident of corruption if they encountered one.

Those aged over 50 were more likely to believe ordinary people could make a difference than those under 50 did. Those who could see themselves involved in fighting corruption were more likely to be men than women, and the age group that most held this view was 51-65 year-olds. Those aged over 50 were significantly more likely than those younger to say they would report an incident of corruption.

New Zealanders' views	Agree	Disagree
Individuals can make a difference fighting corruption	87%	13%
Could become involved in fighting corruption	73%	27%
Would support a friend/colleague fighting corruption	96%	4%
Would report an incident of corruption	93%	7%

Source: Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2010

Conclusions

Unlike some of Transparency International's other surveys⁴, which measure corruption as seen by business people and by experts, the Global Corruption Barometer measures the general public's actual experiences and perceptions of corruption. As such, it outlines those institutions seen as corrupt and those institutions to which bribes have actually been paid. It also measures the public perception regarding how levels of corruption have changed and how effectively governments have been fighting corruption. Furthermore, it gauges the public's willingness to themselves become involved in fighting corruption.

As 2010 is the first year in which New Zealand is included in the Global Corruption Barometer, there are no previous data against which to make comparisons as to the evolution of public experiences and perceptions of corruption in New Zealand. However, the data from this year's survey still provide a snapshot of public opinion and experience in this regard, and serve as tools for furthering understanding and exploration of corruption and bribery in New Zealand.

Petty bribery appears to be present in New Zealand. Men were more likely to have offered a bribe than women were, and urban dwellers were more likely than rural inhabitants were. In line with the results of the global survey, youth and poverty were positively correlated with reported bribery in most instances in New Zealand. Government must do more to protect those on low incomes who disproportionately bear the burden of corruption, especially where they pay bribes to organisations that provide them with basic utilities like water and electricity, as well as implement measures to stop bribery by those on high incomes.

As is the prevailing view in much of the rest of the world, New Zealanders do believe the level of corruption in this country has increased in the last three years. As this is the first edition of the survey to include New Zealand, we cannot state whether the 3.6% of New Zealanders who reported paying a bribe in the last year represents an increase or a decrease in the last few years. However, 3.6% is by no means the lowest proportion of bribe payers recorded in the survey, a result one might expect given New Zealand's position tied for the nation perceived to be the least corrupt in the world⁵. It would be unwise to take this position for granted. Given the proportion of self-reported bribers in New Zealand and the strong public view that corruption has increased over the last three years, New Zealand's status atop the Corruptions Perception Index may be in danger if nothing is done to address this issue.

While political parties and parliament are perceived to be the most corrupt institutions in the country, a slight majority of New Zealanders believes the government is doing an effective job fighting corruption. Furthermore, government leaders are cited as the people most trusted to lead the fight against corruption, followed in second position by the media. This may reflect a higher degree of perceived transparency and accountability in the government, compared with the private sector and NGOs, and the role media play in making government actions public. This might reflect the faith New Zealanders have in certain individuals within government and it is to these people the New Zealand public looks for leadership in the fight against corruption.

4 See www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/about for more on TI's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) and Bribe Payers' Index (BPI)

5 See TI's CPI, mentioned above

Coupled with New Zealanders' faith in government's corruption-fighting ability is a strong sense that ordinary people can make a difference in the fight, a view held by 87% of those surveyed. 93% of people would report an incident of corruption if they witnessed one. 73% say they could see themselves involved in fighting corruption and an even greater proportion (96%) would support a friend or colleague who was involved. The strength of this sentiment will be an important asset to those fighting corruption, as it indicates public willingness to support stronger anti-corruption measures.

In order to ensure the level of corruption and bribery in New Zealand does not grow, the large proportion of ordinary New Zealanders who are willing to fight for this goal need to be both empowered and protected. To this end, the relevant legislation and mechanisms regarding whistle-blowing and reporting must be effectively implemented. Selected measures must also be taken to ensure that our public and private institutions operate and are seen to operate with high levels of integrity.

While the results of this survey do provide data on actual incidences of bribery in New Zealand, an area which has not previously been explored to a large extent, there are still several questions in need of answers and future surveys and studies ought to address these issues, explore the matter of corruption in New Zealand in greater depth and also provide new data sets to allow comparisons over time.

One of the questions raised by this survey and in need of further investigation is: how do New Zealanders define the terms bribery and corruption? The survey did not give explicit definitions of these terms and so New Zealanders' cultural conceptions of these notions may have informed their responses. Differences in understanding of these terms between people and between counties may influence results and this makes international comparison more difficult.

Furthermore, as the survey was Internet based, there was limited opportunity to explore the context within which bribery occurred. While this is an area about which respondents may feel sensitive and reluctant to discuss, conducting face-to-face interviews would allow for more consistent definitions of important terms and would allow the nature of individual instances of corruption and bribery to be examined. The low response rate (19%) is also a potential issue, if any group of people systematically opted to, or to not, respond to the survey. This should be considered both when analysing the results of this survey and when designing future studies. Importantly, the results of this survey and of some other related surveys briefly summarised in Appendix C do show some level of corruption and bribery present in New Zealand. As such, further studies should be undertaken to examine this issue and to measure its development over time.

Appendix A: About the survey

The Global Corruption Barometer is a survey of public opinion and experience regarding corruption and bribery designed by Transparency International and administered on its behalf by Gallup International. The 2010 edition of the survey was conducted in 86 countries and territories, and was answered by over 91,000 respondents. The number of New Zealand respondents was 1,291.

Timing of Fieldwork

Fieldwork for the New Zealand portion of the survey was conducted by Colmar Brunton between June 3 and July 11 2010.

Demographic Variables

The demographic variables collected in the questionnaire were: gender, age, level of education, household income, religion, employment, and urbanity.

Sampling

The survey was conducted by sending email invitations to a selected sample of New Zealand residents. The sample selection was based on a nationally representative sample. The email surveys were returned with an 18.6% rate of response.

Weighting

First, imbalances were corrected at the country level in order to provide a representative sample of the national population (e.g. slight corrections to the proportions of age groups, gender, etc.). Secondly, each country was weighted by its relative population when calculating global, regional and other composite figures.

Margin of Error

The standard, maximum margin of error for this survey is +/- 2.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Appendix B: Survey

Let me open this questionnaire by asking your general views on corruption

In the past three years, how has the level of corruption in this country changed:

- 1 Increased a lot
- 2 Increased a little
- 3 Stayed the same
- 4 Decreased a little
- 5 Decreased a lot
- 9 DK/NA

How would you assess your current government's actions in the fight against corruption?

- 1 The government is very effective in the fight against corruption
- 2 The government is somewhat effective in the fight against corruption
- 3 The government is neither effective nor ineffective in the fight against corruption)
- 4 The government is somewhat ineffective in the fight against corruption
- 5 The government is very ineffective in the fight against corruption
- 9 DK/NA

Whom do you trust the **most** to fight corruption in this country? (single answer)

- 1 Government leaders
- 2 Business /private sector
- 3 NGOs (non governmental organisations)
- 4 Media
- 5 International organisations [eg UN, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc.]
- 6 Nobody
- 9 DK

Question on perceptions regarding corruption.

To what extent do you perceive the following categories in this country to be affected by corruption? Please answer on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 meaning not at all corrupt, 5 meaning extremely corrupt). Of course you can use in-between scores as well.

Sectors	Not at all corrupt				Extremely corrupt	DK/NA
1. Political parties	1	2	3	4	5	9
2. Parliament/legislature	1	2	3	4	5	9
3. Police	1	2	3	4	5	9
4. Business/ private sector	1	2	3	4	5	9
5. Media	1	2	3	4	5	9
6. Public officials/civil servants	1	2	3	4	5	9
7. Judiciary	1	2	3	4	5	9
8. NGOs (non-governmental organisations)	1	2	3	4	5	9
9. Religious bodies	1	2	3	4	5	9
10. Military	1	2	3	4	5	9
11. Education system	1	2	3	4	5	9

A. In the past 12 months, have you or anyone living in your household had a contact with the following institution/organisation?

- 1=Yes (**Note to interviewer if YES ask question b if NO ask about next institution**)
- 2=No
- 8=DK
- 9=NA

B. In the past 12 months have you or anyone living in your household paid a bribe in any form to each of the following institutions/organisations?

Sectors	QA				QB			
	Had a contact				Paid a bribe			
	YES	NO	D K	NA	YES	NO	DK	N A
Education system	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Judiciary	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Medical services	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Police	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Registry and permit services (civil registry for birth, marriage, licenses, permits)	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Utilities (telephone, electricity, water, etc.)	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Tax revenue	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Land services (buying, selling, inheriting, renting)	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9
Customs	1	2	8	9	1	2	8	9

If you paid a bribe in the past 12 months, which of the following applied to the LAST bribe paid:

- 1=The bribe was paid to speed things up
- 2=The bribe was paid to avoid a problem with the authorities
- 3=The bribe was paid to receive a service entitled to
- 4=Did not pay a bribe in the past 12 months
- 5=Cannot remember
- 9=Don't know

I am going to read out some statements. For each one, can you tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree?

- 1 Strongly disagree
- 2 Disagree
- 3 Agree
- 4 Strongly agree

Ordinary people can make a difference in the fight against corruption
 I would support my colleague or friend, if they fought against corruption
 I could imagine myself getting involved in fighting corruption
 I would report an incident of corruption

Demographics

Rural/Urban

Rural

1

Urban 2

Sex:

Male 1
Female 2

Age:

Write in year of birth:

Code:

Under 30 1
30 – 50 2
51 - 65 3
65 + 4

Total household income before taxes

Please ask household income as you would normally ask it in your country and then re-code as follows

Low (Bottom quintile/20%) 1
Medium low (Second quintile/20%) 2
Medium (Third quintile/20%) 3
Medium high (Fourth quintile/20%) 4
High (Top quintile/20%) 5
Refused/Don't know/no answer 9

Education: Highest attained

No education/ only basic education 1
Secondary school 2
High level education (e.g university) 3
DK/ NA 9

Employment

Which of the following best describes your own present employment status?

Working full or part time (include self-employed) 1
Unemployed 2
Not working (student, housewife) 3
Retired 4
DK/ NA 9

Religion

Do you consider yourself to be.....

Roman Catholic 01
Russian or Eastern Orthodox 02
Protestant 03
Other Christian 04
Hindu 05
Muslim 06
Jewish 07
Buddhist 08
Other 09
Nothing (DO NOT READ)
10 Refuse to answer

Appendix C: Other NZ Surveys

(1) Massey University Role of Government Survey

INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SURVEY PROGRAMME ROLE OF GOVERNMENT 2006

Between August and October 2006, a nationwide mail survey was conducted of 2250 people aged 18 and over, randomly selected from the New Zealand Electoral Roll. The survey produced 1200 valid responses, an effective response rate of 60%.

New Zealand is generally regarded as free from the sorts of corruption that characterise a number of other countries. This view is supported by the finding that 90% of respondents had never come across a public official who hinted they wanted, or asked for, a bribe or favour in return for a service. However, there is an equally strong perception that the treatment people get from public officials in New Zealand probably depends on who they know, and around 15% of those surveyed believe that quite a lot of politicians and public officials are involved in corruption.

In the last five years, how often have you or a member of your immediate family come across a public official who hinted they wanted, or asked for, a bribe or favour in return for a service?

How often found a public official who wanted a bribe or favour

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Never	1073	85.0	89.6	89.6
	Seldom	88	7.0	7.4	97.0
	Occasionally	30	2.4	2.5	99.5
	Quite often	4	.3	.3	99.8
	Very often	2	.2	.2	100.0
	Total	1197	94.8	100.0	
Missing	Can't choose	43	3.4		
	System	23	1.8		
	Total	66	5.2		
Total		1263	100.0		

In your opinion, about how many politicians in New Zealand are involved in corruption?

How many politicians in New Zealand are involved in corruption

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Almost none	196	15.5	17.4	17.4
	A few	466	36.9	41.3	58.7
	Some	313	24.8	27.7	86.4
	Quite a lot	124	9.8	11.0	97.4
	Almost all	29	2.3	2.6	100.0
	Total	1128	89.3	100.0	
Missing	Can't choose	109	8.6		
	System	26	2.1		
	Total	135	10.7		
Total		1263	100.0		

How many public officials in New Zealand are involved in corruption

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Almost none	151	12.0	13.6	13.6
	A few	430	34.0	38.7	52.2
	Some	372	29.5	33.5	85.7
	Quite a lot	140	11.1	12.6	98.3
	Almost all	19	1.5	1.7	100.0
	Total	1112	88.0	100.0	
Missing	Can't choose	126	10.0		
	System	25	2.0		
	Total	151	12.0		
Total		1263	100.0		

Do you think that the treatment people get from public officials in New Zealand depends on who they know?

The treatment people get from public officials in New Zealand depends on who they know

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Definitely does	249	19.7	21.5	21.5
	Probably does	610	48.3	52.8	74.3
	Probably does not	245	19.4	21.2	95.5
	Definitely does not	52	4.1	4.5	100.0
	Total	1156	91.5	100.0	
Missing	Can't choose	80	6.3		
	System	27	2.1		
	Total	107	8.5		
Total		1263	100.0		

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(2) Notable results from the 2010 State Services Commission survey of state servants

- 15% of 8,200 respondent state servants reported observing illegal conduct in previous 12 months
- 4% observed "giving or accepting inappropriate payments, perks, or inappropriate gifts"
- 5% observed inappropriate alteration of documents
- 4% observed falsification or misrepresentation of records or reports

Source:
New Zealand State Services Integrity and Conduct Survey 2010
<http://www.ssc.govt.nz/display/document.asp?DocID=7815>