

**Release Date: 5th June 2008**



Local Opinion

Mount Offham  
Offham  
West Malling  
Kent ME19 5PG  
t: 01732 874 054 f: 0870 870 1451

e: [info@localopinion.co.uk](mailto:info@localopinion.co.uk)  
w: [www.localopinion.co.uk](http://www.localopinion.co.uk)

## PRESS RELEASE:

### **Operation Stack drives Kent residents nowhere.**

Two thirds of those using the M20 motorway between Maidstone and Dover (65%) have been inconvenienced by Operation Stack. Amongst all Kent residents, 85% believe that Kent County Council is right to seek compensation from the French Government when the cause of congestion is industrial action in France.

These are the findings of Local Opinion, a Kent based Online Survey Panel.

Kent residents appear to be strongly in favour of lorry companies paying a tariff when they enter the county to cover the cost of Operation Stack, with nearly seven out of ten (68%) being of this view.

The proposed lorry park also seems to be a popular solution to this problem, with 79% of Kent residents stating that they were in favour of this proposal. However, whilst a lorry park might appear to be a good idea, Kent residents are not quite so sure as to where it should be located. When asked "Do you think the site near Ashford is a good place to build a lorry park?", only one in three (27%) said yes to this location, with 18% saying no, and a further 55% saying that they don't know. Not surprisingly, 43% of Ashford residents were against the proposal of the Lorry Park being located near Ashford, with a further 35% saying don't know.

35% of Kent residents are concerned that a lorry park would bring law and order problems, this figure rises to 51% for Ashford residents. Of those with a concern about law and order problems, 86% were concerned about illegal immigrants, 66% with drug dealing, 65% with thefts from lorries, and 47% with prostitution.

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**Notes to editors:**

Local Opinion is a independent online panel of 2,000 Kent residents who have been recruited to offer their opinions on a variety of topical issues. Local Opinion is run by Lake Market Research, a division of Lake Communications Limited. Local Opinion complies with the Market Research Society's Code of Conduct.

Please include the sample size when reporting results. Respondents are free to withdraw from the Local Opinion Panel at any time.

Fieldwork was undertaken between 18<sup>th</sup> April and 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008.

Base: A total of 902 Panel members took part in the survey using online, telephone and post.

**Local Opinion press release contact information:**

Name: Rob Hancock  
Title: Research Director  
Email: [robh@lake-communications.com](mailto:robh@lake-communications.com)

Name: Julie Thompson  
Title: Research Executive  
Email: [Juliet@lake-communications.com](mailto:Juliet@lake-communications.com)

Tel: 01732 874054  
Fax: 0870 870 1451  
Web: [www.localopinion.co.uk](http://www.localopinion.co.uk)

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