**TRUST IN INFORMATION SOURCES, ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

**Data and file overview**

Dataset contains two separate surveys, one of citizens in Britain (total N=1,501) and the other of citizens in the USA (n=1,499).

Datafiles are in Stata (.dta) format. Stata files can also be read in SPSS and R.

The data were deposited in September 2024.

**Data collection**

Data were collected via specially-designed surveys of the British (n=1,501) and US (n=1,499) populations. The surveys were conducted by Ipsos-MORI in February 2022. The surveys were conducted online, and based on samples of adults aged 18+ drawn from the company’s online panels. To ensure the representativeness of samples, quotas were set on age, gender, region and working status. The distributions are weighted to the known offline population proportions for age, working status and social grade within gender and region (for the British sample) and for age within gender, working status, household annual income and region (for the US sample).

The surveys collected two types of data. The first comprised discrete choice data gathered through a conjoint experiment embedded within the surveys. The second comprised a set of self-reported beliefs – or observational data – derived from survey questions on scientists’ (and politicians’) traits and behaviours.

*Choice data*

The choice data derive from a conjoint experiment. The British and US samples were each divided into two groups (~750 respondents in each, with each split-sample being separately weighted). Respondents in each group were presented with pairs of a single actor – either a scientist advising government on COVID-19 or a politician (a government minister in Britain; a state governor in the US) – and asked to choose which one they would trust more to provide reliable information about COVID-19. The actors within each pair varied across a set of attributes , and each respondent was asked to make four pairwise choices relating to their trust in either scientists or politicians.

*Observational data*

The survey contained a battery of measures exploring evaluations of the traits and behaviours of scientists and politicians.

A full list of the measures – along with the conjoint experiment that was embedded in the survey – can be found in the accompanying ‘Master questionnaire’ document.