A survey of 2,000 UK job hunters by online interview software firm Shortlister.com has revealed that almost one in five candidates (18 per cent) have conducted a telephone interview at work, 8 per cent have been interviewed while on holiday, and 7 per cent in a car park.

The Shortlister.com survey also revealed that whilst over 50 per cent had been interviewed either in their bedroom (29 per cent) or living room (25 per cent), it was the 9 per cent of respondents who had conducted an interview in the bath that was the most surprising location cited.

“We expected to see some trends towards work and home interviews to share with our clients, we didn’t really anticipate that we would see so many candidates interviewing on the beach (7 per cent) or in a changing room while shopping (2 per cent),” said David Dewey, managing director of Shortlister.com which carried out the research.

The most unusual places that candidates listed as having carried out job interviews by phone included the Tower of London, behind a show court at the Wimbledon Championships, on a roof, on a stepper machine at the gym and while riding a horse.
“The move towards head hunting of passive candidates and the use of recruitment consultants by employers accounts for some of the trends, with a rise in out of hours contact and speculative calls occurring wherever the candidate happens to be. Clearly, this is not convenient for candidates,’ commented Mr Dewey.

The survey by Shortliser.com, designed to highlight the benefits of video interviewing software for candidates and employers, showed that half of candidates had undertaken phone interviews at some point in their careers, but fewer of these were in the 45-50 age group (32 per cent) than in the under 34 age group (60 per cent).

“That quite so many people were willing to undertake interviews whilst at work was, perhaps, a surprise and underlines that when it comes to telephone interviews, you really could be speaking to someone almost anywhere, doing pretty much anything,” he added.

Top telephone interview locations:

1. Living room 29%
2. In the bedroom 25%
3. At work 18%
4. In the bath 9%
5. In a car park 7%
6. On a beach 7%
7. At a supermarket 3%
8. In a changing room 2%

Most unusual locations:

- Behind a show court at Wimbledon
- On a Tower of London tour
- On a roof
- Riding a horse
- On a stepper machine
- In a soft play centre
- In a first aid room
- On the toilet

Data courtesy of Shortlister.com

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Photo: David Dewey of video interview platform Shortlister.com which carried out the survey of 2,000 UK job hunters

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