

**The Institute of Irish Studies,
University of Liverpool**

The Irish News

Opinion Poll April 2022



THE INSTITUTE
OF **IRISH STUDIES**

THE IRISH NEWS

The 3rd of 4 tracker and attitudes surveys has been delivered by the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, in association with the Irish News. The panel survey was conducted between 11th and 26th March and was undertaken by SMR. The 3 groups unionist, nationalist and neither unionist or nationalist were of near equal size. There were 1000 respondents with an estimated margin of error of 3.1%.

The main findings include:

- Sinn Fein remain set to be the largest party although the DUP are up slightly since February.
- Two-thirds of nationalists believe that if *'devolved politics worked better people would focus less on the constitutional question'*.
- 30% would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow which only rises to 33.4% regarding voting in 10-15 years.
- Only a quarter would vote for a united Ireland if it meant paying higher taxes or for healthcare.
- A quarter of Sinn Fein voters and nearly 30% of SDLP voters agreed that they would not vote if taxes were higher, and healthcare had to be paid for.
- The majority wish for Assembly reform, especially regarding the designation unionist, nationalist and neither. Less than 10% disagreed that *'if a policy is supported by 60% of all MLAs, that should be enough to demonstrate cross-community support in the Assembly'*.
- Nearly 80% agree that MLAs should not be paid if the Assembly does not return post-election.
- Contrary to opinion the majority in each community believe that **'Executive parties should jointly seek mitigations and easements from the EU regarding the Protocol'**.
- Half as many unionists (53.4% to 27.7%), nationalists (62.3% to 34.2%) and neithers (46.5% to 23.2%) agreed that the O'Neill, Foster and Givan delivered for society compared to Paisley, McGuinness and Robinson.
- Fewer than half as many unionists (55.5% to 23.2%), nationalists (63.6% to 31.3%) and neithers (46.2% to 18.8%) agreed that O'Neill, Foster and Givan delivered reconciliation compared to Paisley, McGuinness and Robinson.
- 14.4% of unionists will transfer to DUP.
- 11.3% of nationalists will transfer to Sinn Fein.
- A mere 1.1% and 3.5% of neithers would transfer to the DUP and Sinn Fein respectively.

In sum, Sinn Fein are on course to be the largest party. The share for parties other than DUP and Sinn Fein has generally grown and should lead to the two largest parties losing some seats or at least not gaining.

Overall, a younger generation is slowly moving away from constitutional parties.

Electoral and Ministerial Performance

About the Assembly Election results 2017, we find the following:

- The DUP remains as the worst performer at -7.9% although they are up since February 2022 poll.
- Sinn Fein are moving back to their 2017 performance.
- The Alliance Party are generally holding the growth they achieved between 2017 to 2019.
- The two non-constitutional parties the Green and Alliance are sitting on 18.9% of first preferences. In 2017 they achieved 11.8%.
- Regarding ministerial performance Robin Swann (59.6%) was ranked highest regarding the share who stated that his performance was good to excellent, Naomi Long (46.1%) was ranked second followed by Nicola Mallon (42.0%).
- Among unionist's 2nd party preferences are 14.4% DUP, 29.3% UUP and 8.1% TUV.
- Nationalists are twice as likely and unionists (20.9%) to transfer to Alliance with 38.9% opting SDLP.
- Neithers are more likely to transfer across the range of parties excluding the TUV (1.1%), DUP (1.1%) and Sinn Fein (3.4%). A quarter will vote SDLP, around a fifth Alliance and 1 in 8 will give a 2nd preference to the Greens or UUP. Alliance, UUP and SDLP are the most likely parties to receive 2nd preferences.
- DUP voters 2nd party transfers are mostly UUP (49.7%) and TUV (21.2%).
- Sinn Fein voter's preferences are mostly for SDLP (49.3%), Alliance (13.4%) and Greens (10.9%).
- Only 15.8% of SDLP voters will give a 2nd preference to Sinn Fein, with 10.5% will opt UUP and a very significant 43.4% for Alliance.
- 17% of UUP voters will give a 2nd preference to the DUP, with 31% opting Alliance and 22% TUV.
- 26.6% of Alliance voters will opt SDLP, 16.5% UUP and 18.3% Greens.
- The bulk of TUV transfers are 40% DUP and 20% UUP.

Constitutional Question

Since Brexit there has been a small growth in support for a united Ireland that is glacial as opposed to rapid.

- 30% would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow which only rises to 33.4% regarding voting in 10-15 years' time.
- Around a quarter would vote for a united Ireland even if *it 'meant paying higher taxes... or a fee for healthcare'*.
- A fifth of Sinn Fein voters and over a quarter of SDLP voters would not vote for a united Ireland if it *'meant paying higher taxes... or a fee for healthcare'*.
- 74.5% agree that next Executive should *'prioritise jobs, health and welfare over constitutional issues'*. 56.5 of unionists compared to 67.3% of nationalist agreed.
- 57.9% agree that *'if devolved politics worked better people would focus less on the constitutional question'*. 56.4 of unionists compared to 66.1% of nationalists agreed.
- 30% of neither unionist or nationalists compared to 70.6% of nationalists and 7.2% unionists would vote for a UI in 10-15 years' time. 34.6% of neithers disagreed that they would vote then for a united Ireland.
- 9.0% of unionists, 16.8% of nationalists and 26.0% of neithers did not agree or disagree that they would vote for a united Ireland in 10-15 years' time.

Assembly Reform

- Just over half support re-naming as 'joint minister', and removal of the unionist and nationalist designation compared to around a fifth who disagree.
- 62% support changing the procedure for cross-community support, which privileges the views of nationalist and unionist MLAs.
- 61.7% believe that *'60% of all MLAs ... should be enough to demonstrate cross-community support in the Assembly'*.
- Nearly 80% agree that if the Assembly does not return MLAs should not be paid.
- There is strong support for the Assembly to collectively seek mitigations from the EU.
- Regarding *'a Citizens' Assembly should not be established'* only 27.5% of unionists, 10.6% of nationalists and 14.1% of neithers disagreed.

- Significant consensus among unionists (72.8%), nationalists (79.8%) and neithers (79.5%) agreed that *'the next Executive should prioritise jobs, health and welfare over constitutional issues'*.

Society and Change

- Contrary to opinion most respondents (58.1%) agreed that *'the Executive parties should jointly seek mitigations and easements from the EU regarding the Protocol'*. There was pronounced support among unionists 71.3%.
- 61.4% of unionists, 79.7% nationalists and 85.5% neithers support marriage equality.
- Neithers (63.4%) and Unionists (58.2%) are more supportive of the right to abortion than nationalists (48.8%).
- A significant 66.1% of nationalists agreed that *'if devolved politics worked better people would focus less on the constitutional question'*.
- Regarding post-Agreement change only 12.4% of unionists, 14.4% of nationalists and 20.2% of neithers disagreed that *'since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement violence has significantly declined'*.
- Only 14.8% disagreed that *'Northern Ireland has drawn in significant external and foreign investment'*.
- Over 70% of each community agreed that *'the politics of Northern Ireland remain sectarian'* with only 23.8% disagreeing that *'less sectarian crime is reported now'*.
- Only 1 in 5 disagreed that *'it is now safer to move between communities'*.
- 65.8% disagreed that *'politicians have moved beyond the divisions of the past'*.

Tables Below

Voting Intention

Table 1: Which party will you give your 1st preference vote to in the next Northern Ireland Assembly Election in May 2022?

	November 2021	February 2022	March 2022	November 2021 Excluding undecided / will not vote	February 2022 Excluding undecided / will not vote	March 2022 Excluding undecided / will not vote
DUP	16.4	13.3	15.0	20.6	19.4	20.2
SF	18.7	15.9	20.0	23.5	23.2	27.0
SDLP	9.1	6.8	7.6	11.4	9.9	10.3
UUP	10.4	9.6	10.1	13.0	14.0	13.5
Alliance	13.8	10.6	10.9	17.3	15.6	14.6
TUV	4.5	4.4	4.0	5.6	6.4	5.4
Greens	3.1	4.3	3.2	3.9	6.3	4.3
Aontu	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.3	0.3
NI Con	1.3	0.6	0.7	1.6	0.9	0.9
PBP	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.0	2.3	2.1
Other	0.7	1.2	1.0	0.8	1.7	1.3
Undecided	13.0	19.7	17.2			
Will not Vote	7.8	11.9	8.4			

Table 2: 1st preference voting intention (excluding undecided / will note vote) compared to Assembly Election 2017 results

	March 2022	Assembly Election 2017	Change
Alliance Party	14.6	9.1	+5.5
TUV	5.4	2.6	+2.8
Greens	4.3	2.7	+1.6
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	13.5	12.9	+0.6
Sinn Fein (SF)	27.0	27.9	-0.9
Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)	10.3	11.9	-1.6
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	20.2	28.1	-7.9

Issue Preference

Table 3: What is the most important issue that concerns you?

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Health	25.5	33.0	29.7
Covid Recovery	9.5	11.9	8.7
Economy	29.8	30.2	35.5
The Protocol	20.9	2.1	3.6
Employment	2.8	3.2	5.1
Education	1.5	2.1	2.2
Environment	2.5	1.4	1.8
Housing	2.2	2.8	3.3
Equality	0.3	1.4	0.4
Crime	0.3	1.4	2.2
Legacy issues	0.3	0.4	
Gender issues	0.3	0.4	
Disability issues	0.3	1.4	1.4
Immigration	1.5	2.5	0.7
Constitutional Issues	0.9	1.4	
Other (Please specify)	1.2	4.6	5.4

Constitutional Question

Table 4: Attitudes to the Constitutional Question

	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Disagree	Do Not Know
I would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow	30.0	18.7	45.3	6.0
I would vote for a united Ireland in 15-20 years' time	33.4	17.9	41.5	7.6
The next Executive should prioritise jobs, health and welfare over constitutional issues	74.5	15.0	6.9	3.5
If devolved politics worked better people would focus less on the constitutional question	57.9	26.8	6.5	8.1
A united Ireland would mean a lower standard of public services	36.6	22.5	31.0	9.9
A united Ireland would lead to fewer public sector jobs	33.2	29.5	20.6	15.8
A united Ireland would deliver economic benefits	30.1	20.3	40.6	9.0
A united Ireland would create a fairer society	28.0	24.9	38.7	8.5
I would consider constitutional change if the Northern Ireland Assembly remained	25.9	36.1	22.2	15.8
I would vote for a united Ireland even if it meant paying higher taxes	24.9	16.7	52.4	6.0
I would vote for a united Ireland even if it meant having to pay a fee for the healthcare services currently provided by the NHS	23.3	16.0	56.9	3.8

Table 5:

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither
If devolved politics worked better people would focus less on the constitutional question	56.4	66.1	63.4
The next Executive should prioritise jobs, health and welfare over constitutional issues	56.5	67.3	49.1

Table 6: I would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	2.20	41.40	5.40
Agree	5.90	25.60	12.20
Neither agree nor disagree	4.60	24.90	29.10
Disagree	8.00	3.90	19.40
Strongly disagree	78.40	1.80	27.00
Don't know	0.90	2.50	6.80

Table 7: I would vote for a united Ireland in 15-20 years' time

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	2.2	35.3	6.5
Agree	5.0	35.3	22.7
Neither agree nor disagree	9.0	16.8	26.0
Disagree	10.2	5.6	13.7
Strongly disagree	72.1	2.4	20.9
Don't know	1.5	4.5	10.1

Table 8: I would vote for a united Ireland even if it meant paying higher taxes

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	3.4	35.8	3.2
Agree	2.8	23.2	9.4
Neither agree nor disagree	6.2	21.8	22.7
Disagree	7.4	11.6	24.2
Strongly disagree	79.3	3.5	34.7
Don't know	0.9	4.2	5.8

Table 9: I would vote for a united Ireland even if it meant having to pay a fee for the healthcare services currently provided by the NHS

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	1.8	28.8	3.6
Agree	2.5	26.0	10.5
Neither agree nor disagree	6.5	22.5	18.5
Disagree	8.9	16.1	23.6
Strongly disagree	79.1	5.6	39.9
Don't know	1.2	1.1	4.0

Table 10: A united Ireland would deliver economic benefits

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	3.4	40.9	4.0
Agree	4.9	21.3	22.4
Neither agree nor disagree	13.0	22.7	23.1
Disagree	13.9	5.9	18.1
Strongly disagree	61.1	2.8	22.0
Don't know	3.7	6.3	10.5

Table 11: A united Ireland would mean a lower standard of public services

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	32.4	6.0	15.2
Agree	28.4	14.4	18.8
Neither agree nor disagree	17.0	21.1	28.3
Disagree	7.7	30.5	23.2
Strongly disagree	9.3	21.8	4.0
Don't know	5.2	6.3	10.5

Table 12: A united Ireland would create a fairer society

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	0.9	31.0	4.0
Agree	4.0	31.4	19.2
Neither agree nor disagree	18.0	23.7	31.2
Disagree	13.6	7.0	12.0
Strongly disagree	59.8	3.1	22.8
Don't know	3.7	3.8	10.9

Table 13: A united Ireland would lead to fewer public sector jobs

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	20.1	7.0	11.6
Agree	19.1	21.1	26.1
Neither agree nor disagree	26.9	31.7	29.0
Disagree	5.2	26.8	14.5
Strongly disagree	12.3	4.9	2.5
Don't know	16.4	8.5	16.3

Table 14: I would consider constitutional change if the Northern Ireland Assembly remained

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	1.5	7.3	5.8
Agree	14.2	36.0	18.5
Neither agree nor disagree	31.6	36.7	40.9
Disagree	17.3	6.3	9.1
Strongly disagree	25.4	2.8	6.2
Don't know	9.9	10.8	19.6

Table 15: I would vote for a united Ireland tomorrow

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	PBP
Strongly agree	3.3	46.8	14.5	1.0	8.3		12.5	33.3
Agree	7.3	21.9	34.2	4.0	14.8	5.0	43.8	20.0
Neither agree nor disagree	8.0	17.9	32.9	3.0	39.8		9.4	26.7
Disagree	4.0	6.5	10.5	16.8	14.8	2.5	15.6	6.7
Strongly disagree	76.7	2.5	6.6	75.2	20.4	92.5	9.4	13.3
Don't know	0.7	4.5	1.3		1.9		9.4	

Table 16: I would vote for a united Ireland even if it meant paying higher taxes

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	PBP
Strongly agree	5.3	36.8	10.5	4.0	1.8		40.6	26.7
Agree	4.6	15.9	31.6	1.0	15.6	2.4	9.4	20.0
Neither agree nor disagree	7.9	22.9	28.9	1.0	31.2	2.4	9.4	13.3
Disagree	9.3	13.4	19.7	5.9	23.9	2.4	9.4	13.3
Strongly disagree	72.2	6.0	6.6	86.1	23.9	92.7	21.9	26.7
Don't know	0.7	5.0	2.6	2.0	3.7		9.4	

Table 17: I would vote for a united Ireland even if it meant having to pay a fee for the healthcare services currently provided by the NHS

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	PDP
Strongly agree	3.3	33.3	7.8	1.0	0.9		35.5	13.3
Agree	6.0	20.9	29.9	2.9	13.8		9.7	20.0
Neither agree nor disagree	6.7	23.9	24.7	4.9	25.7	4.9	9.7	20.0
Disagree	8.0	15.4	20.8	5.8	29.4	12.2	19.4	13.3

Strongly disagree	75.3	5.0	7.8	83.5	26.6	82.9	22.6	33.3
Don't know	0.7	1.5	9.1	1.9	3.7		3.2	

Table 18: A united Ireland would deliver economic benefits

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	PBP
Strongly agree	4.0	42.0	11.7	3.0	10.0		43.8	14.3
Agree	9.3	18.0	42.9	2.0	22.7	5.0	9.4	21.4
Neither agree nor disagree	13.9	22.5	24.7	14.9	28.2		12.5	35.7
Disagree	9.9	8.5	11.7	28.7	13.6		12.5	14.3
Strongly disagree	57.6	2.5	5.2	50.5	17.3	92.5	12.5	14.3
Don't know	5.3	6.5	3.9	1.0	8.2	2.5	9.4	

Table 19: Assembly Reform

	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagree	Disagree	Do Not Know
The titles of 'First Minister' and 'deputy First Minister' should be renamed 'Joint First Ministers'.	51.8	24.1	18.6	5.5
The requirement for MLAs to designate as 'nationalist', 'unionist' or 'other' should be removed.	55.4	19.8	18.7	6.1
The procedure for cross-community support, which privileges the views of nationalist and unionist MLAs, should be reformed so that nationalist, unionist and 'other' MLAs are treated equally.	62.5	20.6	7.8	9.0
If a policy is supported by 60 of all MLAs, that should be enough to demonstrate cross-community support in the Assembly.	61.7	22.7	7.2	8.2
MLAs and Ministers should not be paid if the Assembly and Executive is not formed within 6 months of the May election.	77.0	11.9	6.1	4.9
MLAs and Ministers should not be paid if the Assembly and Executive is not formed within a year of the May election.	78.0	12.3	4.9	4.7

Table 20: If an Assembly is not Formed

	1st Preference	2nd Preference
An Executive should be formed and political parties should accept the outcome of the election.	45.0	26.9
Direct Rule should be applied with immediate effect if an Executive is not formed.	24.7	17.0
If one of the larger parties refuses to nominate a First or deputy First Minister, the opportunity to nominate should pass to the next qualifying party.	20.2	36.0
The parties should negotiate for up to 6 months to reach an agreement.	5.6	12.0
The parties should negotiate for up to 1 year to reach an agreement.	4.3	8.0
Direct Rule.	25.2	16.2
Direct Rule with ongoing negotiations.	16.3	22.9
An international mediator should be appointed to chair talks between the parties.	21.1	18.1
The UK Government in consultation with the Irish Government should appoint expert commissioners to run the Executive Departments paralleled by ongoing negotiations.	18.2	17.2
It should be acknowledged the Northern Ireland Assembly will not work and its powers should be devolved to local councils.	14.7	15.6
There should be no time limit on how long the parties should negotiate.	4.6	9.9

Table 21: The Executive parties should jointly seek mitigations and easements from the EU regarding the Protocol

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	34.9	12.3	15.5
Agree	36.4	41.8	41.4
Neither agree nor disagree	19.4	29.5	28.1
Disagree	3.4	8.4	4.7
Strongly disagree	2.5	3.5	4.3
Don't know	3.4	4.6	6.1

Table 22: I support marriage equality.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	33.6	39.5	52.0
Agree	27.8	40.2	32.5
Neither agree nor disagree	17.0	12.9	8.3
Disagree	10.8	2.1	4.3
Strongly disagree	9.6	4.2	1.1
Don't know	1.2	1.0	1.8

Table 23: I support the right to abortion.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	28.8	21.1	31.5
Agree	29.4	27.7	31.9
Neither agree nor disagree	21.1	29.1	22.1
Disagree	8.0	12.6	5.4
Strongly disagree	10.5	9.1	6.5
Don't know	2.2	0.4	2.5

Table 24: If devolved politics worked better people would focus less on the constitutional question.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	12.4	19.9	21.0
Agree	44.0	46.2	42.4
Neither agree nor disagree	31.3	24.5	22.8
Disagree	5.0	3.8	2.9
Strongly disagree	4.3	2.4	0.7
Don't know	3.1	3.1	10.1

Table 25: The next Executive should prioritise jobs, health and welfare over constitutional issues.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	39.2	46.9	46.6
Agree	33.6	32.9	32.9
Neither agree nor disagree	14.8	15.4	12.3
Disagree	7.1	2.8	4.3
Strongly disagree	3.4	1.0	1.1
Don't know	1.9	1.0	2.9

Table 26: Regarding legacy we can only get truth for victims and survivors if we offer conditional amnesties to those who offer up the truth.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	12.7	18.9	8.3
Agree	25.9	34.6	32.5
Neither agree nor disagree	28.1	28.3	24.9
Disagree	16.4	7.7	13.4
Strongly disagree	12.7	4.9	9.4
Don't know	4.3	5.6	11.6

Table 27: Children should not be separated in education by religious faith.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	33.0	30.2	49.8
Agree	31.2	32.6	31.0
Neither agree nor disagree	20.7	23.5	9.7
Disagree	9.9	7.7	5.4
Strongly disagree	4.0	4.2	2.5
Don't know	1.2	1.8	1.4

Table 28:

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist or Nationalist
The Executive parties should jointly seek mitigations and easements from the EU regarding the Protocol	71.3	54.1	56.9
I support marriage equality	61.4	79.7	84.5
I support the right to abortion	58.2	48.8	63.4

Table 29: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Violence has significantly declined.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	15.5	30.9	18.8
Agree	48.6	31.2	47.7
Neither agree nor disagree	22.3	21.1	11.6
Disagree	8.7	11.6	16.2
Strongly disagree	3.7	2.8	4.0
Don't know	1.2	2.5	1.8

Table 30: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Politicians have moved beyond the divisions of the past.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	2.2	5.3	4.3
Agree	10.5	14.4	10.8
Neither agree nor disagree	16.9	17.2	10.1
Disagree	39.7	37.5	32.1
Strongly disagree	29.8	25.3	40.1
Don't know	0.9	0.4	2.5

Table 31: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Unemployment has fallen.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	2.5	7.0	2.2
Agree	40.2	26.3	31.0
Neither agree nor disagree	25.7	31.6	24.5
Disagree	18.9	23.5	24.2
Strongly disagree	4.0	5.3	9.7
Don't know	8.7	6.3	8.3

Table 32: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Northern Ireland has drawn in significant external and foreign investment.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	7.1	12.9	8.7
Agree	40.1	39.9	32.6
Neither agree nor disagree	33.6	26.9	29.7
Disagree	8.6	14.0	13.4
Strongly disagree	3.4	2.1	3.3
Don't know	7.1	4.2	12.3

Table 33: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Standards of living have risen

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	11.5	11.9	12.7
Agree	34.7	36.7	34.1
Neither agree nor disagree	25.7	21.7	17.4
Disagree	15.8	19.2	21.0
Strongly disagree	8.4	8.4	11.6
Don't know	4.0	2.1	3.3

Table 34: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - The politics of Northern Ireland remain sectarian.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	34.7	28.0	37.7
Agree	46.7	45.8	40.9
Neither agree nor disagree	9.3	17.8	12.7
Disagree	4.0	3.1	2.2
Strongly disagree	3.4	3.5	2.5
Don't know	1.9	1.7	4.0

Table 35: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Policing reform has delivered a safer and less contentious society.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	4.7	6.3	4.7
Agree	28.6	32.6	21.0
Neither agree nor disagree	31.7	30.2	42.4
Disagree	23.0	19.6	20.7
Strongly disagree	9.0	9.8	6.9
Don't know	3.1	1.4	4.3

Table 36: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Policing reform has delivered a safer and less contentious society.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	4.9	11.2	5.1
Agree	16.3	20.3	25.3
Neither agree nor disagree	38.5	31.8	35.7
Disagree	27.4	30.4	22.4
Strongly disagree	8.9	3.8	3.6
Don't know	4.0	2.4	7.9

Table 37: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - Less sectarian crime is reported now

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	3.1	4.5	5.4
Agree	40.4	35.7	33.0
Neither agree nor disagree	26.9	28.7	23.9
Disagree	17.3	16.8	20.3
Strongly disagree	5.9	8.7	4.7
Don't know	6.5	5.6	12.7

Table 38: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - It is now safer to move between communities.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	8.0	5.6	6.5
Agree	36.9	38.6	36.6
Neither agree nor disagree	31.1	37.5	27.5
Disagree	14.8	8.4	17.0
Strongly disagree	6.5	9.1	6.2
Don't know	2.8	0.7	6.2

Table 39: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement - People socialise more across the identity and/or constitutional divide.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	7.4	7.4	9.1
Agree	43.4	50.5	46.0
Neither agree nor disagree	30.8	30.5	27.2
Disagree	11.4	8.1	10.1
Strongly disagree	2.8	2.1	4.3
Don't know	4.3	1.4	3.3

Table 40: Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist or Nationalist	% Share Disagree
Violence has significantly declined.	64.2	66.7	59.0	15.9
Politicians have moved beyond the divisions of the past.	18.2	15.5	12.2	65.8
Unemployment has fallen.	53.0	46.8	45.5	28.0
Northern Ireland has drawn in significant external and foreign investment.	53.4	52.0	33.2	14.8
The politics of Northern Ireland remain sectarian.	71.8	71.7	80.3	7.2
Less sectarian crime is reported now.	41.8	47.6	38.7	23.8
It is now safer to move between communities.	43.4	45.4	45.9	20.5
People socialise more across the identity and/or constitutional divide.	63.5	60.2	41.6	12.5

Effect and Performance

Table 41: Effective - delivering for society - The Assembly (1998–2002) led by David Trimble and Seamus Mallon

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	11.7	12.6	9.4
Agree	34.3	37.9	30.7
Neither agree nor disagree	23.5	29.8	29.6
Disagree	11.7	7.4	7.9
Strongly disagree	8.6	4.2	3.6
Don't know	10.2	8.1	18.8

Table 42: Effective - delivering for society - The Assembly (2007–2017) led by Ian Paisley / Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	15.4	16.2	12.7
Agree	38.0	46.1	33.8
Neither agree nor disagree	19.8	24.6	24.4
Disagree	10.8	7.4	13.5
Strongly disagree	12.0	3.5	7.3
Don't know	4.0	2.1	8.4

Table 43: Effective - delivering for society - The Assembly (2020 – 2022) led by Arlene Foster/Paul Givan and Michelle O'Neill

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	7.1	7.3	4.7
Agree	20.6	26.9	15.9
Neither agree nor disagree	17.8	18.2	19.9
Disagree	24.3	25.2	33.6
Strongly disagree	27.4	22.0	19.9
Don't know	2.8	0.3	6.1

Table 44: Effective - leadership for reconciliation - The Assembly (1998–2002) led by David Trimble and Seamus Mallon

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	16.0	12.9	13.7
Agree	36.1	32.9	26.0
Neither agree nor disagree	22.5	34.6	26.4
Disagree	8.0	7.7	12.6
Strongly disagree	8.0	6.3	3.2
Don't know	9.3	5.6	18.1

Table 45: Effective - leadership for reconciliation - The Assembly (2007–2017) led by Ian Paisley / Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	15.4	19.2	14.8
Agree	40.1	44.4	31.4
Neither agree nor disagree	19.1	22.4	26.4
Disagree	10.5	8.0	13.4
Strongly disagree	11.7	4.5	6.9
Don't know	3.1	1.4	7.2

Table 46: Effective - leadership for reconciliation - The Assembly (2020 – 2022) led by Arlene Foster / Paul Givan and Michelle O'Neill

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	5.6	4.6	3.6
Agree	17.6	26.7	15.2
Neither agree nor disagree	25.3	24.9	21.7
Disagree	25.6	18.6	27.9
Strongly disagree	22.8	24.2	25.4
Don't know	3.1	1.1	6.2

Table 47:

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Effective Society			
Mallon/Trimble	46.0	50.5	40.1
Paisley/McGuinness/Robinson	53.4	62.3	46.5
O'Neill/Foster/Givan	27.7	34.2	20.6
Effective Reconciliation			
Mallon/Trimble	52.1	45.8	39.9
Paisley/McGuinness/Robinson	55.5	63.6	46.2
O'Neill/Foster/Givan	23.2	31.3	18.8

Table 48: Sinn Fein - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	3.7	34.9	7.6
Agree	12.7	38.0	27.4
Neither agree nor disagree	20.1	12.3	23.8
Disagree	18.9	3.2	11.6
Strongly disagree	38.1	7.0	14.1
Don't know	6.5	4.6	15.5

Table 49: DUP - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	10.2	11.3	5.1
Agree	29.0	22.2	16.6
Neither agree nor disagree	26.9	20.4	27.8
Disagree	17.6	20.4	17.7
Strongly disagree	11.4	21.5	19.1
Don't know	4.9	4.2	13.7

Table 50: SDLP - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	2.5	20.9	10.5
Agree	17.6	47.0	28.3
Neither agree nor disagree	33.4	17.1	26.1
Disagree	21.1	8.0	12.7
Strongly disagree	18.0	3.8	8.3
Don't know	7.4	3.1	14.1

Table 51: UUP - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	11.7	15.8	6.9
Agree	34.3	30.2	20.7
Neither agree nor disagree	23.5	20.7	32.7
Disagree	15.1	15.1	12.0
Strongly disagree	8.3	14.4	11.6
Don't know	7.1	3.9	16.0

Table 52: TUV - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	10.8	7.0	4.0
Agree	16.4	11.9	10.9
Neither agree nor disagree	34.0	19.6	26.4
Disagree	17.9	23.2	18.5
Strongly disagree	12.3	28.4	21.7
Don't know	8.6	9.8	18.5

Table 53: Alliance - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	5.6	22.5	12.0
Agree	19.2	39.8	33.7
Neither agree nor disagree	27.9	19.7	22.1
Disagree	25.1	8.1	9.4
Strongly disagree	13.9	4.6	6.9
Don't know	8.4	5.3	15.9

Table 54: Greens - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	2.8	16.1	8.0
Agree	8.7	31.8	22.5
Neither agree nor disagree	31.9	24.1	32.2
Disagree	26.3	11.2	9.1
Strongly disagree	17.6	10.5	9.1
Don't know	12.7	6.3	19.2

Table 55: People Before Profit - has the capacity to deliver better healthcare.

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Strongly agree	3.1	16.0	9.4
Agree	11.1	32.1	24.2
Neither agree nor disagree	27.2	25.8	30.0
Disagree	20.7	8.4	9.0
Strongly disagree	22.8	8.4	8.7
Don't know	15.1	9.4	18.8

Table 56: % share performance of Ministers ranked over 5 on a scale on 1 (poor performance) to 10 (excellent performance).

Robin Swann	59.6
Naomi Long	46.1
Nicola Mallon	42.0
Conor Murphy	39.7
Deidre Hargey	33.4
Gordon Lyons	32.1
Peter Weir	31.2
Edwin Poots	30.9
Diane Dodds	30.6
Michele McIlveen	29.4

Percentage share of sample who will vote for the following parties after casting their 1st preference vote.

Table 57: Which other party will you transfer your 2nd preference vote to?

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Democratic Unionist Party (DUP)	14.4	0.8	1.1
Sinn Fein (SF)	0.4	11.3	3.4
Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP)	4.2	38.9	24.1
Ulster Unionist Party (UUP)	29.5	2.9	13.2
Alliance Party	10.5	20.9	17.8
Traditional Unionist Voice	18.2	0.8	1.1
Green	2.1	10.5	11.5
Aontu		0.4	
Northern Ireland Conservatives	1.4	0.4	1.1
People Before Profit	1.4	5.0	6.3
Other (please specify)	1.4		
I have not decided which party to transfer to	9.5	3.3	13.8
I will not transfer my vote to another party	7.0	4.6	6.3

Table 58: Which other party will you transfer your 2nd preference vote to

	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP	Alliance	TUV	Green	PBP
DUP		2.0	5.3	17.0	2.8	40.0	3.1	
SF	0.7		15.8		9.2	2.5	18.8	26.7
SDLP	6.6	49.3		7.0	26.6	2.5	3.1	20.0
UUP	49.7	2.5	10.5		16.5	20.0	3.1	
Alliance	4.6	13.4	43.4	31.0			46.9	
TUV	21.2	1.0	2.6	22.0	1.8			
Green	2.0	10.9	1.3	2.0	18.3	2.5		20.0
Aontu		0.5						
NI Conservatives	0.7	1.0	1.3	3.0	0.9			
PBP		6.0	6.6	3.0	5.5		9.4	
Not Decided	6.0	9.0	6.6	7.0	17.4	17.5	9.4	13.3
No Transfer	8.6	4.5	6.6	8.0	0.9	15.0	6.3	20.0

A Citizens' Assembly

Table 59: Citizens' Assembly

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
A Citizens' Assembly should be established that provides general advice to the Northern Ireland Executive	29.9	27.5	24.5
A Citizens' Assembly should be established which provides recommendations that the Northern Ireland Executive must respond to	25.9	36.3	33.0
A Citizens' Assembly, should be established which provides recommendations that the Northern Ireland Executive must implement.	16.7	25.7	28.6
A Citizens' Assembly should not be established	27.5	10.6	14.1

Table 60: If a Citizens' Assembly is to be established, what policy area do you think it should consider? Please rank the following options from most preferred (1) to least preferred (8)

	Unionist	Nationalist	Neither Unionist nor Nationalist
Healthcare Reform	22.2	34.4	35.3
Economic Development	18.5	27.4	22.7
The Protocol	25.2	2.5	9.7
Constitutional Issues	9.5	12.6	9.0
Review of costs of segregation upon public resources	6.2	8.4	7.9
Education Reform	9.5	7.7	7.6
Environment and Climate Change	5.5	2.1	5.8
Gender Equality	3.4	4.9	2.2