



Northern Ireland (NI) Tracker Poll Results: August 2019 POLL QUESTIONS RESULTS – SUB REPORT

16th August 2019 – Version 2 – Sub Report (full report to follow)

This report covers results and commentary for part of the poll-survey project
– LucidTalk (LT) NI Opinion Panel ‘Tracker Poll’ August 2019 (2,302 responses)

Topics include: (a) a NI ‘Backstop’ as part of Brexit – What are your views?, and (b) ‘What do you think about the UK Government negotiations with the EU’?, and (c) NI Westminster Election – How would you vote?,

This is a sub-report covering the results from (a) and (b).

Partners for this project:

The SUNDAY TIMES (Ireland and UK), the NORTHERN SLANT blog-web side, and U105 radio



Apart from the project partners as listed above, this report is embargoed until 11am 18th August 2019

The Data, Results, and Commentary enclosed in this report are confidential and subject to the provisions of the UK Data Protection Act. Any publication, distribution, or communication, of this report, or parts thereof, are not permitted before the termination of the embargo period as stated above, without the authorisation of LucidTalk and/or their listed partners.

LucidTalk is a member of all recognised professional Polling and Market Research organisations, including the UK Market Research Society (UK-MRS), the British Polling Council (BPC), and ESOMAR (European Society of Market Research Organisations). The BPC are the UK professional body ensuring professional Polling and Market Research standards, and all polling, research, sampling, methodologies used, and results and reports production, for this project, are, and have been, carried out to the professional standards laid down by the BPC and AIMRO (Association of Irish Market Research Organisations).

Subject LT Opinion Panel Polling Projects
Issue 16th August 2019: LT NI Opinion Panel Poll-Project – NI Quarterly ‘Tracker’ Poll August 2019: Final Results – Sub Report (Version 1)
Date (Base Version 2): 16th August 2019 (Version 2)
Author(s) Bill White – LucidTalk

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NB All commentary, is provided 'for guidance' and for information purposes only. This is because commentary and analyses are not meant to be absolute determinations from the poll results, as poll and market research results can be subject to differing interpretations, commentary, and conclusions.

Constitutional Position:

Neutral = typically Alliance, Green, Independents voter group, and 'Others',

Unionists = Those who vote for Unionist parties + people from a Unionist heritage background,

Nationalist and/or Republican = Those who vote for SDLP/Sinn Fein + people from a Nationalist/Republican heritage background.

Key acronyms used in this report:

Where referenced in this document the following acronyms are used:

NI - Northern Ireland

LT – LucidTalk

UK – United Kingdom

BPC – British Polling Council

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LUCIDTALK MONTHLY TRACKER POLLS - Introduction and Background

LucidTalk run scheduled regular 'Tracker' polls of their established Northern Ireland online Opinion Panel - usually on a quarterly basis. The online LucidTalk Opinion Panel (now 12,762 members) consists of Northern Ireland (NI) residents (age 18+) and is balanced by gender, age-group, area of residence, and community background, in order to be demographically representative of Northern Ireland. This is the report from LT's August 2019 NI-Wide 'Tracker' poll – poll field research period: 9th to 12th August 2019.

The objective of these scheduled and regular 'Tracker' polls is to research opinion on key issues at key points in time + track changes in trends and opinions about key topics and issues over targeted periods of time.

For this 'Tracker' poll-project the LT 12,762 member online NI Opinion Panel was invited to participate, and 2,302 responses were received, and after data auditing to ensure:

- (a) 'one person-one vote' responses, and
 - (b) the collation of a robust, accurate, and balanced representative NI sample,
- 1,252 full responses were recorded and used for analysis in terms of the final results.

Methodology – and Press Publication notes:

Polling was carried out by Belfast based polling and market research company LucidTalk. The project was carried out online from 2pm 9th August 2019 to 10pm 12th August. The project targeted the established Northern Ireland (NI) LucidTalk online Opinion Panel (12,762 members) which is balanced by gender, age-group, area of residence, and community background, in order to be demographically representative of Northern Ireland. 2,302 full responses were received, and a data auditing process was carried out to ensure all completed poll-surveys were genuine 'one-person, one-vote' responses, and also to collate a robust and accurate balanced NI representative sample. This resulted in 1,252 responses being considered in terms of the final results - the results presented in this report.

Data was weighted to the profile of all NI adults aged 18+. Data was weighted by age, sex, socio-economic group, previous voting patterns (i.e. election turnout estimation), constituency, constitutional position, party support and religious affiliation.

All data results produced are accurate to a margin of error of +/-2.6%, at 95% confidence.

All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting. For further details regarding the data analysis and data weighting methodologies used for this project – please see Appendix 1.

LucidTalk – Professional Credentials

LucidTalk is a member of all recognised professional Polling and Market Research organisations, including the UK Market Research Society (UK-MRS), the British Polling Council (BPC), and ESOMAR (European Society of Market Research organisations). The BPC are the primary UK professional body ensuring professional Polling and Market Research standards. All polling, research, sampling, methodologies used, market research projects and results and reports production are, and have been, carried out to the professional standards laid down by the BPC and AIMRO (Association of Irish Market Research Organisations).

Note to Publishers: According to agreed British Polling Council and UK IPSO procedure - Parts in Red **MUST** be published - if not in full then in a format that conveys the same meaning. NB this can be in 'small-type' e.g. in a box at the bottom of the coverage etc. Parts in black type are desirable to be included, but not essential.

See Appendix 1 of this report for further details regarding LucidTalk's Polling and Data Weighting methodologies.

LucidTalk is a member of The British Polling Council and abides by its rules: <http://www.britishpollingcouncil.org>.

FULL DATA TABLES – with weighted results and full demographic breakdowns

POLL QUESTION 1: BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP': If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote?

Full Wording of this question – Question 1:

BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP':

QUESTION 2: Context - *The terms of the Protocol on Ireland and Northern Ireland(NI) in the current UK - European Union(EU) Withdrawal Agreement, has been, and is, currently rejected by the UK Government and Parliament - this is known as the "Backstop". This would mean that, after Brexit, NI (but not the rest of the UK) would remain, to a greater or lesser extent, aligned to the EU, perhaps staying in the EU single market and customs union. Some have said this would prevent a so-called 'hard border' on the island of Ireland, but may also mean some 'border arrangements' between the islands of Ireland and Great Britain (ie a Border in the Irish sea).*

It has been proposed by some that there should be a NI-only referendum on the 'NI Backstop' issue. If such a referendum took place in NI tomorrow - which way would you vote?

- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' with NI more closely aligned with the EU than the rest of the UK
- Not sure/Don't know - but would probably vote
- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD NOT BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' and NI should leave the EU on exactly the same terms as the rest of the UK.
- Would not vote - 100% certain

POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP':

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit?' - which way would you vote?

BASE : All respondents - 1,252 NI representative sample (weighted); LT NI-Wide Tracker Poll - August 2019

	GENDER			AGE-GROUP				COMMUNITY-RELIGION				NATIONALITY							
	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Catholic	Protestant	No Religion	Other	British and Irish	British and Northern Irish	British only	Irish and Northern Irish	Irish only	Northern Irish	Other	
NB Total results are given to one decimal place. All other demographic results are rounded.																			
THERE SHOULD BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' with NI more closely aligned with the EU than the rest of the UK	58.4%	60%	55%	65%	72%	51%	44%	93%	20%	71%	47%	83%	15%	27%	95%	99%	76%	88%	
THERE SHOULD NOT BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' and NI should leave the EU on exactly the same terms as the rest of the UK	39.5%	38%	43%	31%	25%	48%	56%	6%	78%	27%	53%	17%	76%	72%	2%	0%	21%	8%	
Not sure/Don't know - but would probably vote	2.1%	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%	0%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	9%	1%	3%	1%	3%	4%	
Would not vote - 100% certain	0.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	

NOTES – Commentary regarding Poll Question 1 Results (part 1):

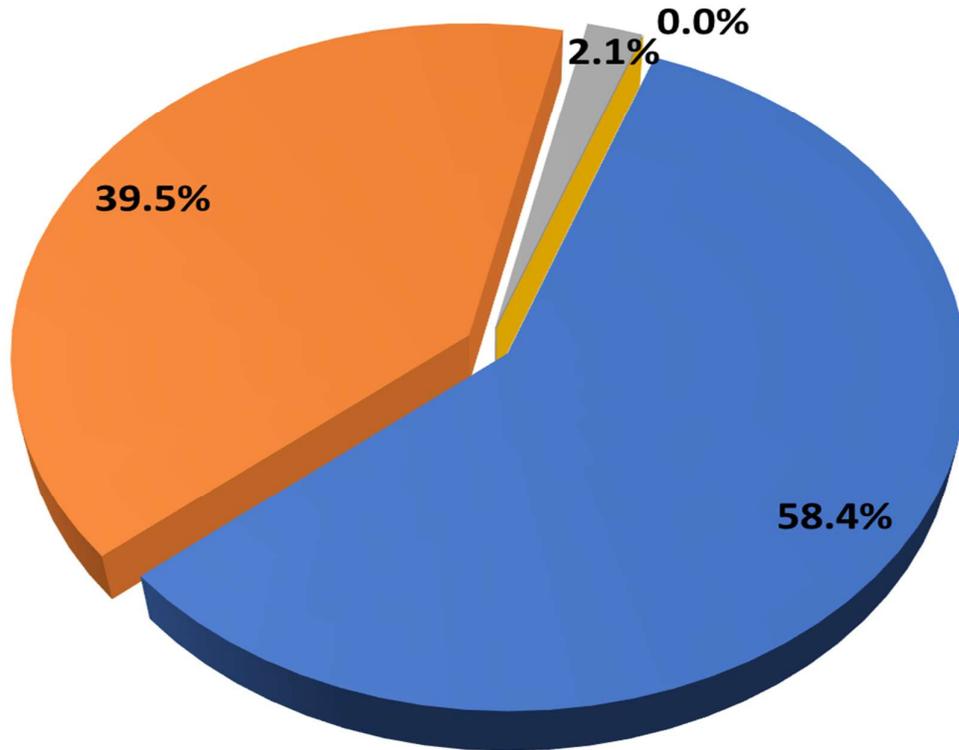
- **58.4% of people in NI would support a NI specific backstop which would mean NI having a closer relationship with the EU after Brexit, than the rest of the UK.**
- **The overwhelming No. of those who say they are 'Irish and Northern Irish' or 'Irish only' support a NI specific Backstop i.e. 95% and 99% respectively. However, even with the strongest pro-union group (pro NI staying in the UK) i.e. 'British only', a significant minority i.e. 27% support the concept of a NI only Backstop.**
- **Not surprisingly, there is strong disagreement about this issue when the results are analysed by community. But it should be noted that though only 6% of the Catholic community say they would be against a NI only Backstop, 20% of the Protestant community would support a NI only Backstop.**
- **Not surprisingly, the younger age-groups are much more supportive of a NI only backstop eg 72% vs 25% in the 25-44 years-old age-group.**



LUCIDTALK NORTHERN IRELAND(NI) 'Tracker' POLL: August 2019 -
Poll Period 9th August to 12th August 2019. 2,203 responses -
1,252 responses included in Balanced-Weighted NI Representative sample.

POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP':

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote?



- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' with NI more closely aligned with the EU than the rest of the UK
- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD NOT BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' and NI should leave the EU on exactly the same terms as the rest of the UK.
- Not sure/Don't know - but would probably vote
- Would not vote - 100% certain

1,252 responses - NI-Wide. Audited/Weighted to be NI representative. LT NI Tracker Poll - Poll Period: 9th - 12th August 2019. All data results are accurate to a margin of error of +/-2.6%, at 95% confidence.

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POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP':

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit?' - which way would you vote?

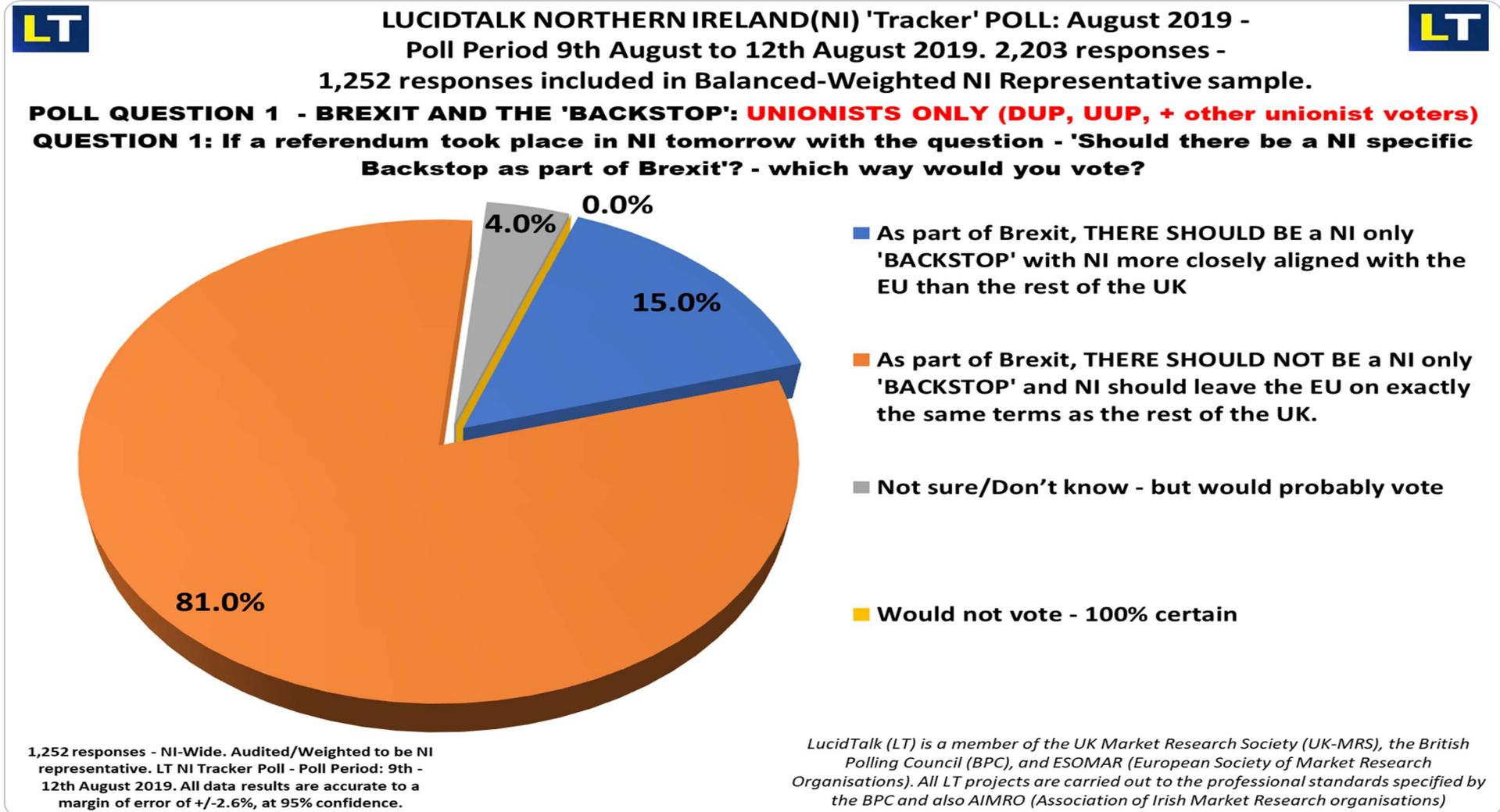
BASE : All respondents - 1,252 NI representative sample (weighted); LT NI-Wide Tracker Poll - August 2019

	NI ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2017 - PAST VOTE (PLU = Protestant-Loyalist-Unionist, CRN = Catholic-Republican-Nationalist)											EU REFERENDUM VOTE 2016 - PAST VOTE				
	TOTAL	DUP	Sinn Fein	UUP	SDLP	Alliance	Green	Other PLU	Other CRN	Other	Nonvote	Unknown	Leave	Remain	Non-vote	Prefer not to say, Can't Remember
NB Total results are given to one decimal place. All other demographic results are rounded.																
THERE SHOULD BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' with NI more closely aligned with the EU than the rest of the UK	58.4%	5%	98%	27%	98%	89%	86%	14%	76%	77%	55%	59%	14%	89%	85%	22%
THERE SHOULD NOT BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' and NI should leave the EU on exactly the same terms as the rest of the UK	39.5%	94%	1%	69%	2%	7%	0%	80%	21%	23%	43%	40%	84%	9%	14%	69%
Not sure/Don't know - but would probably vote	2.1%	1%	1%	4%	0%	4%	14%	6%	2%	0%	1%	1%	2%	2%	0%	9%
Would not vote - 100% certain	0.0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

NOTES – Commentary regarding Poll Question 1 Results (part 2):

- There are few surprises when we breakdown the results by party political support – but again it should be noted that a notable minority of the Unionist voter base would support a NI only backstop. This is more pronounced when we look at UUP (Ulster Unionist Party voters) i.e. 27% of UUP voters would support a NI specific backstop vs only 5% of DUP voters who would do the same. NB the UUP are viewed as the more ‘moderate’ unionist party.
- The Nationalist/Republican voter base are almost 100% supportive of a NI specific Backstop i.e. 98% each for both the SDLP and Sinn Fein voter base.
- Again, not surprisingly the middle-ground voter base i.e. Alliance/Green etc., are overwhelmingly pro a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit – but even here it should be noted that 7% of Alliance voters would be against a NI only Backstop – a quite small No., but noteworthy.
- In terms of EU Referendum voting – no surprises at the patterns. But 85% of those who didn’t vote in the EU Ref would support a NI only Backstop – these are probably largely the 16-18 year-olds at the time i.e. in 2016, who were too young to vote in the EU Referendum in 2016, but are now of voting age.

POLL QUESTION 1: BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP': If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote? – **KEY DEMOGRAPHICS**





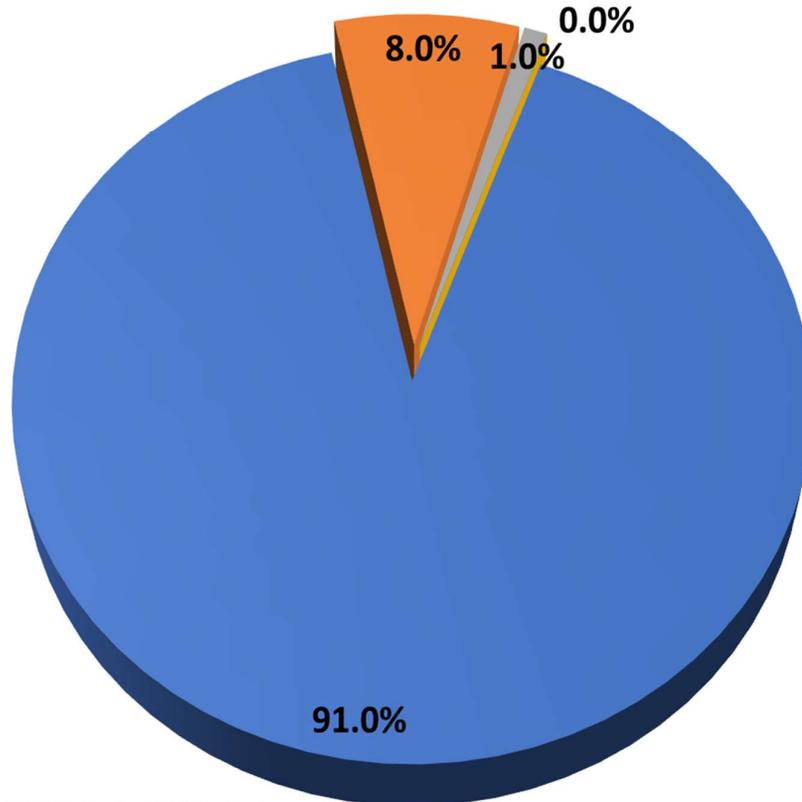
LUCIDTALK NORTHERN IRELAND(NI) 'Tracker' POLL: August 2019 -

Poll Period 9th August to 12th August 2019. 2,203 responses -

1,252 responses included in Balanced-Weighted NI Representative sample.

POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP': NATIONALIST/REPUBLICANS ONLY (Sinn Fein, SDLP, + other Nat/Reb voters)

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote?



- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' with NI more closely aligned with the EU than the rest of the UK
- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD NOT BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' and NI should leave the EU on exactly the same terms as the rest of the UK.
- Not sure/Don't know - but would probably vote
- Would not vote - 100% certain

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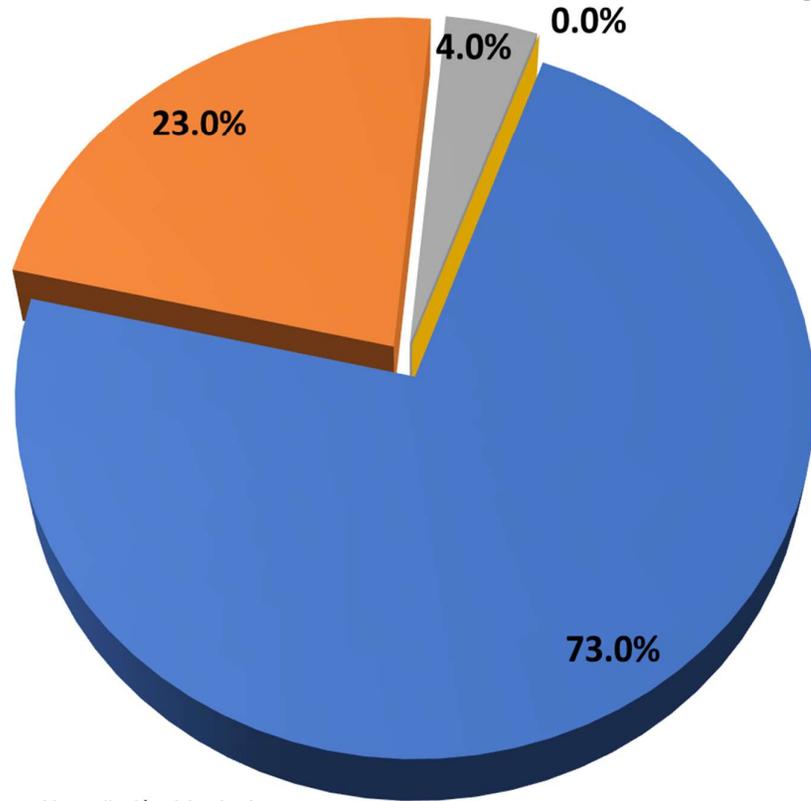
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Poll Period 9th August to 12th August 2019. 2,203 responses -

1,252 responses included in Balanced-Weighted NI Representative sample.

POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP': ALLIANCE/GREEN/NEUTRALS ONLY (Alliance, Green, + neutral voters)

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote?



- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' with NI more closely aligned with the EU than the rest of the UK
- As part of Brexit, THERE SHOULD NOT BE a NI only 'BACKSTOP' and NI should leave the EU on exactly the same terms as the rest of the UK.
- Not sure/Don't know - but would probably vote
- Would not vote - 100% certain

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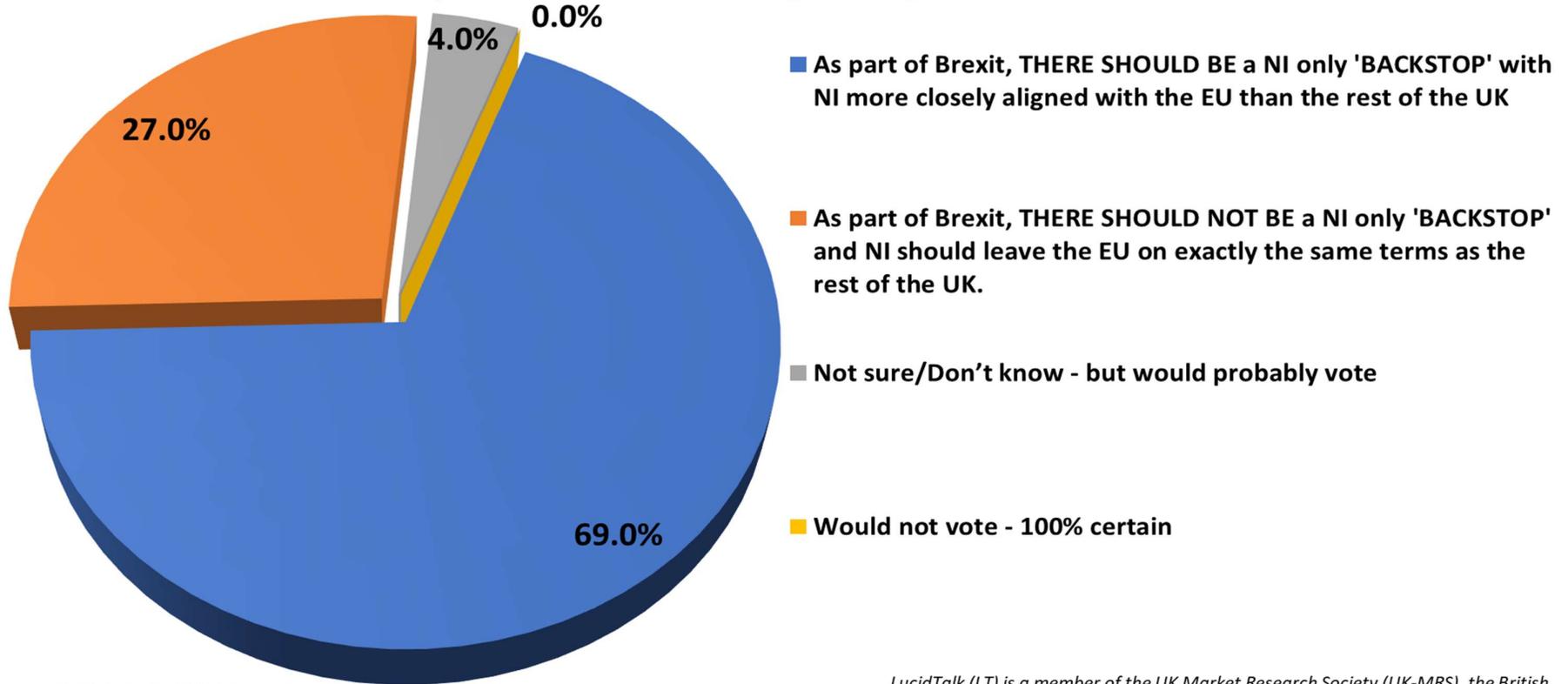
LUCIDTALK NORTHERN IRELAND(NI) 'Tracker' POLL: August 2019 -

Poll Period 9th August to 12th August 2019. 2,203 responses -

1,252 responses included in Balanced-Weighted NI Representative sample.

POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP': AGE-GROUP - 18-44 years

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote?



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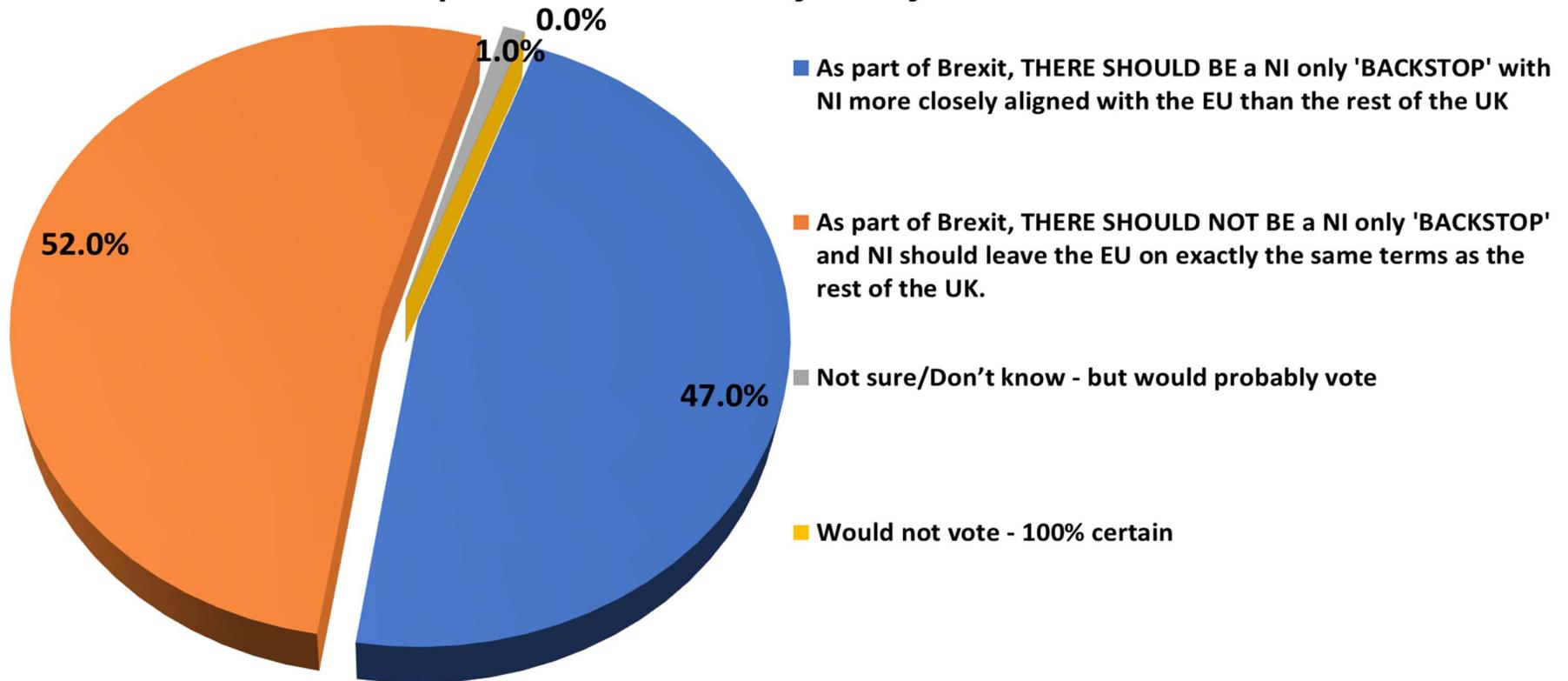
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Poll Period 9th August to 12th August 2019. 2,203 responses -

1,252 responses included in Balanced-Weighted NI Representative sample.

POLL QUESTION 1 - BREXIT AND THE 'BACKSTOP': AGE-GROUP - 45+ years

QUESTION 1: If a referendum took place in NI tomorrow with the question - 'Should there be a NI specific Backstop as part of Brexit'? - which way would you vote?



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POLL QUESTION 2: BREXIT and negotiations with the European Union (EU): How well or badly do you think the UK government are doing at negotiating the UK's exit from the European Union?

POLL QUESTION 2 - BREXIT and negotiations with the European Union?

QUESTION 2: How well or badly do you think the UK government are doing at negotiating the UK's exit from the European Union?

BASE : All respondents - 1,252 NI representative sample (weighted); LT NI-Wide Tracker Poll - August 2019

	GENDER			AGE-GROUP				COMMUNITY-RELIGION				NATIONALITY							
	TOTAL	Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Catholic	Protestant	No Religion	Other	British and Irish	British and Northern Irish	British only	Irish and Northern Irish	Irish only	Northern Irish	Other	
NB Total results are given to one decimal place. All other demographic results are rounded.																			
VERY BADLY	65.7%	64%	65%	63%	74%	63%	56%	90%	43%	65%	46%	84%	37%	49%	77%	92%	70%	92%	
FAIRLY BADLY	16.9%	18%	16%	30%	15%	13%	18%	6%	24%	21%	20%	4%	41%	21%	21%	5%	17%	0%	
NEUTRAL - Don't Know/No opinion	4.2%	5%	4%	0%	4%	5%	6%	2%	7%	4%	0%	6%	6%	6%	2%	2%	4%	0%	
FAIRLY WELL	6.8%	7%	7%	0%	2%	9%	15%	0%	14%	4%	34%	0%	6%	14%	0%	0%	2%	8%	
VERY WELL	6.4%	6%	8%	7%	5%	10%	5%	2%	12%	6%	0%	6%	10%	10%	0%	1%	7%	0%	

NOTES – Commentary regarding Poll Question 2 Results (part 1):

- This result isn't surprising and follows the UK national results (e.g. from YouGov) on this topic and poll question. Most of the support for the 'Fairly Well' & 'Very Well' comes from the Unionist community i.e. in nationality terms those who count themselves 'British only' or 'British and Northern Irish' e.g. for the 'British only' results 14% think the UK government are doing 'Fairly Well' in their negotiations, and 10% think they are doing 'Very Well'. This maybe because of the recent change to the Boris Johnson government and the 'harder line' they are taking with the EU – this is pleasing some of the pro-Union community in NI.



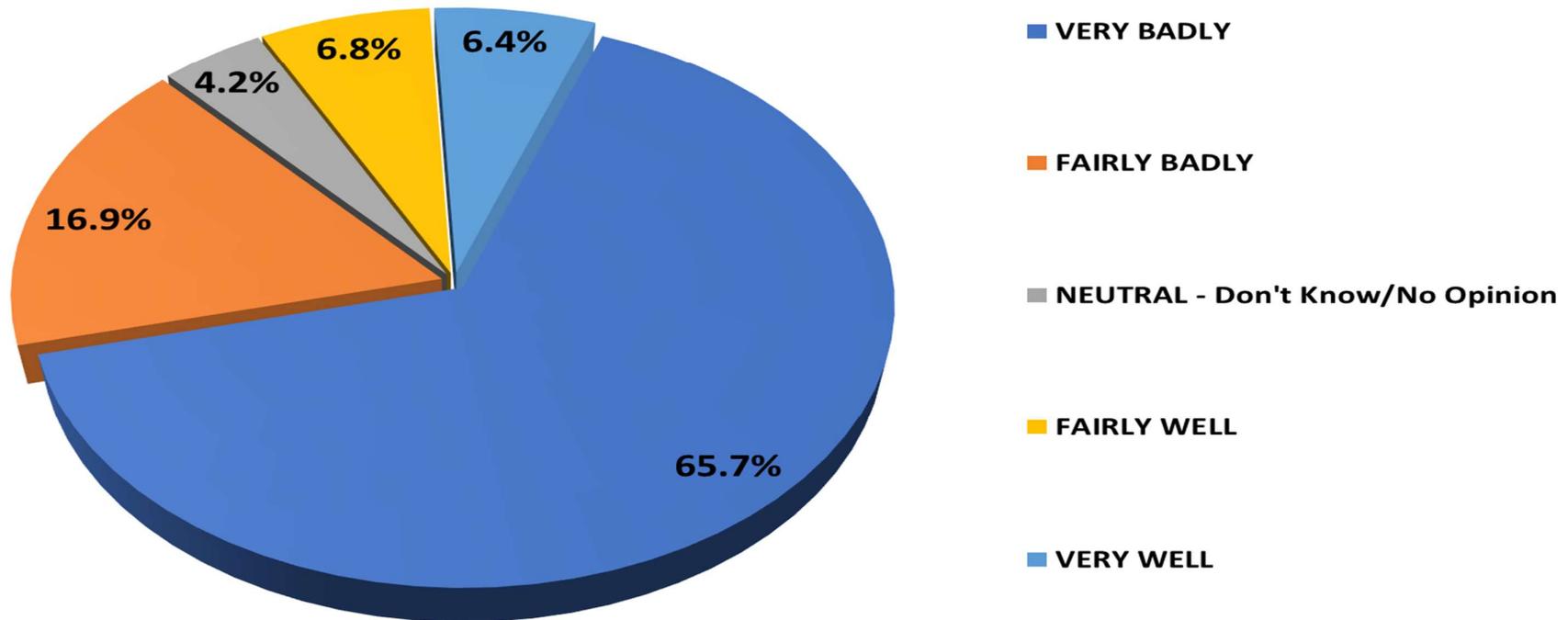
LUCIDTALK NORTHERN IRELAND(NI) 'Tracker' POLL: August 2019 -

Poll Period 9th August to 12th August 2019. 2,203 responses -

1,252 responses included in Balanced-Weighted NI Representative sample.

POLL QUESTION 2 - UK Government negotiations with the European Union:

QUESTION 2: How well or badly do you think the UK government are doing at negotiating the UK's exit from the European Union?



1,252 responses - NI-Wide. Audited/Weighted to be NI representative. LT NI Tracker Poll - Poll Period: 9th - 12th August 2019. All data results are accurate to a margin of error of +/-2.6%, at 95% confidence.

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POLL QUESTION 2 - BREXIT and negotiations with the European Union?
QUESTION 2: How well or badly do you think the UK government are doing at negotiating the UK's exit from the European Union?

BASE : All respondents - 1,252 NI representative sample (weighted); LT NI-Wide Tracker Poll - August 2019

	NI ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2017 - PAST VOTE (PLU = Protestant-Loyalist-Unionist, CRN = Catholic-Republican-Nationalist)											EU REFERENDUM VOTE				
	TOTAL	DUP	Sinn Fein	UUP	SDLP	Alliance	Green	Other PLU	Other CRN	Other	Nonvote	Unknown	Leave	Remain	Non-vote	Prefer not to say, Can't Remember
NB Total results are given to one decimal place. All other demographic results are rounded.																
VERY BADLY	65.7%	32%	92%	51%	90%	83%	81%	37%	73%	66%	61%	57%	39%	84%	76%	65%
FAIRLY BADLY	16.9%	28%	5%	31%	7%	13%	11%	19%	15%	11%	19%	0%	25%	12%	8%	0%
NEUTRAL - Don't Know/No opinion	4.2%	6%	2%	6%	1%	3%	8%	14%	0%	1%	11%	0%	8%	2%	1%	0%
FAIRLY WELL	6.8%	21%	0%	7%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%	9%	0%	10%	16%	0%	4%	0%
VERY WELL	6.4%	13%	1%	5%	2%	1%	0%	23%	12%	13%	9%	33%	12%	2%	11%	35%

NOTES – Commentary regarding Poll Question 2 Results (part 2):

- Again, we see the differences of opinion in this question when we compare the Unionist and Nationalist/Republican voter bases. But it is noteworthy that 21% of DUP voters the government are doing 'Fairly Well' with their negotiations, and 13% (of DUP voters) think they are doing 'Very Well' – though 28% and 32% of DUP voters still think they are doing 'Fairly Badly' or 'Very Badly' respectively. However, the 'good scores' for the government from the DUP voter base probably reflect the change to the Boris Johnson government, and also the current DUP confidence and supply arrangements with the Conservative government.
- In terms of how people voted in the EU referendum, there is a notable difference between 'Leavers' and 'Remainers' – i.e. the 'Leave' voters in 2016 are much more inclined to think the current UK government are negotiating well. Though again these are only minority scores i.e. the majority opinion across all types of voters in the EU Referendum is that the government are not doing well in their negotiations with the EU – though this is very much skewed towards those who voted Remain in 2016 i.e. 84% of 2016 Remain votes think the government is negotiating with the EU 'Very badly' compared to 'only' 39% of Leave voters who think the same thing.

Appendix 1 – Background on Project Methodology and Data Weighting

LUCIDTALK NORTHERN IRELAND TRACKER POLLS – Background, Project Methodology, and Data-Weighting

LucidTalk run scheduled regular 'Tracker' polls of their established Northern Ireland online Opinion Panel - usually on a quarterly basis. The LucidTalk Opinion Panel (now 12,762 members) consists of Northern Ireland residents (age 18+) and is balanced by gender, age-group, area of residence, and community background, in order to be demographically representative of Northern Ireland. The objective of these scheduled and regular 'Tracker' polls is to research opinion on key issues at key points in time + track changes in trends and opinions about key topics and issues over targeted periods of time.

In terms of this project, polling was carried out by Belfast based polling and market research company LucidTalk. The project was carried out online for a period of 4 days from 9th to 12th August 2019. For this 'Tracker' poll-project our 12,762-member NI Opinion Panel was targeted, and invited to participate, 2,302 responses were received, and after data auditing to ensure:

- (a) 'one person-one vote' responses, and
 - (b) the collation of a robust, accurate, and balanced representative NI sample,
- **1,252 full responses were recorded and used for analysis in terms of the final results.**

These 2,302 responses data-set was used and verified as the base data-set (unweighted). Then in order to produce a robust, accurate, balanced NI representative sample, this base data-set was weighted to reflect the demographic composition of Northern Ireland. The full data-tables comprising the complete unweighted and weighted results are presented in a complementary report in excel/csv format (see below).

Data Weighting: Data was weighted to the profile of all NI adults aged 18+. Data was weighted by age-group, gender, socio-economic group, previous voting patterns, constituency, constitutional position, party support and religious affiliation, occupational grade (using data from the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency - NISRA), EU Referendum Vote and the 2017 Northern Ireland Assembly election results. This resulted in a robust and accurate balanced NI representative sample, reflecting the demographic composition of Northern Ireland, resulting in 1,252 responses being considered in terms of the final results - these are the results presented in this report. Data was weighted using a raking algorithm, in R, otherwise known as iterative proportional fitting or sample-balancing. Raking ratio estimation is a method for adjusting the sampling weights of the sample data based on known population characteristics.

As part of the data weighting process two weights are calculated. These are the normal weight and the trimmed weight – with the trimmed weight being the one that is used in the results tables shown in this report. The trimmed weight is preferable as it reduces the influence of outlying observations. The total amount trimmed is divided among the observations that were not trimmed, so that the total weight remains the same. The weights are trimmed at 4 and 0.1 meaning that no observation is allowed to exceed these limits of relative importance.

For the main poll weights were/are calculated from data such as the 2016, 2017, and 2019 Northern Ireland (NI) elections, NI census estimates, and electorate election figures for gender, age, religion, constituency etc. This data analysis was then combined with previous polling information and results from LucidTalk NI polls in the last 4 years for party and constitutional position.

LucidTalk is a member of the British Polling Council (BPC) and abides by its rules: britishpollingcouncil.org.

As per BPC regulations, full Data-Tables for each LucidTalk project, including weighted and unweighted data figures for each poll question, will be published on the LucidTalk website 48-72 hours after publication of the poll results in the public domain.

For further information, please contact:

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