

## NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY - TOPLINE SUMMARY

- This data is based on 707 adults aged 18+ across Northern Ireland.
- Interviewing took place between 6 and 28 May 2016 by telephone.
- Data are weighted to match the profile of Northern Ireland. Iterative weighting was applied to match the sample breakdown to the known 18+ Northern Irish population by gender, age (2014 estimates) and ethnicity (census breakdown).
- Where results do not sum to 100, this is due to multiple responses, computer rounding or the exclusion of don't knows/not stated.
- Results are based on all respondents unless otherwise stated. Base sizes are in brackets.
- An asterisk (\*) represents a value of less than one half of one percent, but not zero.

Hello, my name is [INTERVIEWER NAME] I'm calling on behalf of the Electoral Commission from BMG Research.

I'm calling to carry out an important survey on electoral registration and voting. All of your responses will be treated in the strictest of confidence. Can I ask you some questions please?

QC1 Could I just quickly confirm that your name is [RESPONDENT NAME HERE]?

IF: No	Specify
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QS1 What was your age on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2016?

IF: Refuse	CLOSE
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QS2 From which country or countries do you have or are you eligible to hold a passport?  
INTERVIEWER NOTE: IF RESPONDENT DOESN'T UNDERSTAND QUESTION, ASK ARE YOU A UK NATIONAL OR ARE YOU A CITIZEN ELSEWHERE?]

IF: Other /Don't know/Refuse	CLOSE
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QS3 Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

IF: Refuse	CLOSE
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## REGISTRATION, TURNOUT AND VOTING

⇒ ASK ALL

Q1 As far as you know, is your name on the electoral register, that is, the official list of people who can vote, either where you are living now or somewhere else?

	2016	2011
	%	%
Yes - where living now	94	84
Yes - somewhere else / another address	2	5
No	2	9
Don't know	1	2

QC1 Could I also confirm that the postcode of the place that you are registered to vote at is [RESPONDENT POSTCODE HERE]?

IF: incorrect	Lookup postcode
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⇒ **ASK NOT REGISTERED ONLY**

**Q2 People have many reasons for not registering to vote. Why have you not registered to vote? DO NOT READ OUT.**

	2016 % (10)
Just moved/Just about to move	6
Don't see the point in registering/voting/don't want to vote	5
Haven't got round to it	6
More convenient/prefer to be registered at second home	0
Not eligible for reason(s) other than age	0
I actively dislike politicians/politics and refuse to vote	4
I didn't receive any forms	0
Not eligible for reason(s) other than nationality	0
Admin/clerical error	0
Not bothered - uninterested in politics	34
Don't know how to register to vote	0
Lack of information on parties/politics	0
I ran out time/too busy	4
Health reasons/illness	0
Politics makes no difference so no point	24
I didn't know I had to/thought I could do it on the day	0
Too difficult/complicated	0
Removed from the register due to new system (e.g. received a letter telling me I needed to re-register)	0
Not eligible because of age	0
Because you cannot register to vote online	0
Other	16
No answer	0
Don't know	0

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q3 How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the list of those people who are registered to vote? Are you.....READ OUT**

	2016 %	2011 %
Very satisfied	62	45
Fairly satisfied	26	32
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	8	13
Fairly dissatisfied	2	3
Very dissatisfied	*%	1
Don't know	2	5

**ASK IF VERY/FAIRLY DISSATISFIED**

**Q4 Why are you dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?**

	2016 % (12)
<b>IER Issues</b>	<b>0</b>
I preferred the old system/household form/don't like registering myself	0
I didn't like having to provide additional personal/extra information to confirm my registration	0
I didn't understand why I wasn't registered after I had filled in one form already (the Household Registration Form - HEF)	0
Excluding Northern Ireland: I didn't like receiving so many forms	n/a
<b>Difficult/confusing</b>	<b>47</b>
It is not easy/they could make it easier	43
It is too confusing/I don't understand the system/ I was confused by the changes in how I have to register	4
EONI/Council should automatically update the register when I move or use other services	0
I'm not sure how to check if I am already registered	4
They do not promote/advertise where/when to register	0
I don't know how to register to vote	4
<b>It is inconvenient</b>	<b>9</b>
You should be able to register to vote online	0
It is cumbersome/takes too long	9
You should be able to register to vote over the telephone	0
<b>Mistakes/problems</b>	<b>0</b>
The post is unreliable	0
The EONI/Council makes mistakes with my personal details	0
I thought I was registered to vote but was not able to vote on the day	0
<b>Not secure</b>	<b>0</b>
The system of registering to vote is open to fraud and abuse	0
<b>Other</b>	<b>48</b>
There is no point voting / voting makes no difference	0
I do not know where I can get information about the process of registering to vote	0
Everyone should be automatically registered to vote from birth	0

There should be more limitations on who can vote	0
It should be compulsory to register to vote/everyone should have to register	0
It is harder for students to vote	4
People can be taken off the electoral roll without their knowledge	0
Young people should be able to vote	12
Other	36
Don't know	5

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q5** As you may know, on Thursday May 5th there was/were ...[ INSERT APPROPRIATE ELECTION] Many people have told us they didn't manage to vote on 5<sup>th</sup> May. We often find that a lot of people were not able to vote because they were sick, did not have the time, or were just not interested. How about you – did you manage to vote in the.....**READ OUT AS APPROPRIATE**

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS	2016	2011
	%	%
Yes	79	57
No	21	43

⇒ **ALL VOTERS**

**Q14 People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums.**

**Why did you vote on Thursday 5 May?**

**DO NOT PROMPT**

	2016 % (583)	2011 % (301)
<b>Civic responsibility reasons</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>69</b>
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	43	47
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	6	7
I always vote	17	25
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	7	n/a
To show my support/support the community	5	n/a
Wales Scotland and Northern Ireland : National identity/ they are our elections	2	n/a
<b>To express a view</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>
I wanted to have a say	18	30
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an opinion	6	5
Concerned about local issues	1	3
To support my party/candidates of preference/to help my party/candidate win	13	n/a
Because an important issue was at stake	0	1
<b>To help create a change</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
To get a change	6	7
Not happy with the Scottish/Welsh/Northern Irish government/local council/Police and Crime Commissioner	1	2
<b>To help keep the status quo</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
I like/am pleased with the current government/local council	1	1
<b>Tactical reasons</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	3	3
<b>Other reasons</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	1	2
Because I was sent a ballot paper in the post	0	1
To vote for position supported by my party	1	6
I take an interest in politics	1	1
To make things better/to improve	*	
Other	2	3
None of these / no reason	3	*
Don't know	1	1

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

**Q15** Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper/s on May 5<sup>th</sup> by deliberately leaving the ballot paper/s blank or by not voting in the instructed way. They did this to register a protest. Did you intentionally spoil your own ballot paper or not?

	2016
	%
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	(583)
No	98
Yes	2
Don't know	*%

⇒ **ASK ALL IF HH SIZE = 2+**

**Q6** Do you know if anyone else living in your household voted at the elections on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of May?

	2016
	%(635)
Yes - at least one person other than me voted	79
No - no one else voted in my household	19
Don't know	3

⇒ **ASK NON VOTERS**

**Q10** People had different reasons for not voting in the elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on the 5<sup>th</sup> May? **DO NOT PROMPT**

	2016 %(124)	2011 %(200)
<b>Circumstances</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>37</b>
Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	20	16
I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	1	3
I forgot	1	3
I was away on 5 May/voting day	15	9
I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	4	3
Medical/health reasons	7	4
Bad weather	0	n/a
Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	1	n/a
Bereavement	0	n/a
<b>Administration</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>
I wasn't registered	5	10
Not eligible to vote (age or nationality)	3	n/a
I didn't receive a polling card	0	6

I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	0	1
I didn't know where my polling station was	0	n/a
Admin reason	0	n/a
In Northern Ireland: Had no identification/Had no ID/Lost my ID	1	n/a
I did not know I could vote	0	n/a
I got to polling station but told I could not vote	0	n/a
<b>Elections not important</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>
There was no point in voting because the National Assembly for Wales can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the Scottish Parliament can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the Northern Ireland Assembly can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	3	5
There was no point in voting because the local council can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	1	n/a
There was no point in voting because the Crime Commissioner can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the London Assembly can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
There was no point in voting because the London Mayor can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	0	n/a
The elections (unspecified) aren't important	0	*
The local council elections aren't important	0	*
The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections aren't important	0	n/a
The National Assembly/Parliament elections aren't important	1	n/a
<b>Disinterested/no point</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>30</b>
I'm just not interested in politics	11	16
There was no point in voting because it was obvious who would win/my vote wouldn't have made a difference to the outcome	9	5
I couldn't be bothered	4	15
Waste of time/Could see no point	4	1
Had no interest/view on the subject	2	n/a
<b>Parties/Candidates</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
There was no point in voting because all parties are the same	1	4
I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	5	2
You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	2	3
I don't like the way the parties interact with each other/lack of co-operation/progress	0	n/a



Do not believe in politics/the voting system/democracy	0	n/a
Politicians do not care/only in politics for their own benefit	1	n/a
No party will likely win	0	n/a
Northern Ireland: Parties in Northern Ireland cannot make a difference/cannot work together	3	n/a
Wales: Parties in Wales cannot make a difference	0	n/a
<b>No information/indecision/complicated</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
I didn't get any information	1	3
I didn't know who the candidates in my area were/and where to find information	2	1
I didn't know enough about the different options	0	1
I couldn't decide which way to vote	2	*
I don't know anything about local politics	0	n/a
I didn't understand/too confusing	0	2
I don't know anything about politics	0	n/a
I couldn't understand the voting/electoral system/ the system voting system was too confusing	0	n/a
<b>Reasons related to the referendum</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>n/a</b>
I didn't know it was happening	2	n/a
I thought it wasn't happening because of the referendum	0	n/a
I have only received information about the referendum	0	n/a
Too close to the referendum (time, effort, organisation)	0	n/a
Struggled to access information because most of the coverage focused on the referendum	0	n/a
Other referendum related reason	0	n/a
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>
I never vote	1	7
England: I don't vote in local elections	0	n/a
Religious reasons	1	1
Other	2	2
None of these/no reason	1	3
Don't know	0	n/a

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

**Q12 Did you vote on the 5<sup>th</sup> May.....READ OUT, SINGLECOD ONLY**

	2016 % (583)	2011 %
In person at polling station	97	96
By post	2	4
By proxy	1	1
Other	*	-
Don't know/can't remember	0	-

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q16 Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at UK Parliamentary General Elections (for Westminster)? READ OUT**

	2016 %
I always vote at General Elections	72
I sometimes vote at General Elections	16
I voted for the first time in 2015	4
I never vote in General Elections	6
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	2
Don't know/don't remember	*

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS WHO NEVER VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTIONS OR HAVE NOT BEEN ELIGLE TO VOTE IN THE PAST**

**Q13 Was this the first time you voted in any election or referendum?**

	2016 % (13)
Yes, it was my first time	11
Yes it was my first time as I wasn't eligible before	31
No, I voted before	58
Don't know / Cannot remember	0

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q11 VOTERS – Q5/1: You already told me that you voted, but would you have been more likely to vote on 5<sup>th</sup> May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...**  
**NON VOTERS - Q5/2: Would you have been more likely to vote on 5<sup>th</sup> May, less likely, or would it have made no difference one way or the other if...**

	2016 %
<b>If you could have voted at the weekend instead</b>	
More likely	19
Less likely	5
No difference one way or the other	73
Don't know	0
Would have voted anyway	3
<b>If you could have voted online instead</b>	
More likely	35
Less likely	13
No difference one way or the other	49
Don't know	*%
Would have voted anyway	2
<b>If you had been able to register to vote on election day</b>	
More likely	20
Less likely	5
No difference one way or the other	70
Don't know	1
Would have voted anyway	3
<b>Excluding Northern Ireland: If people had to show proof of identity at polling stations</b>	(0)
More likely	0
Less likely	0
No difference one way or the other	0
Don't know	0
Would have voted anyway	0
<b>If you could have voted in a polling station in the days before including the Saturday and Sunday before</b>	
More likely	22
Less likely	5
No difference one way or the other	70
Don't know	0
Would have voted anyway	2
<b>If it was easier for you to get a postal vote</b>	
More likely	17
Less likely	8
No difference one way or the other	72
Don't know	1
Would have voted anyway	3

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q18** Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false? DO NOT READ OUT DK

	2016 %
<b>You have to take ID (in Northern Ireland) with you to vote at a polling station</b>	
True	97
False	2
Don't know	*
<b>You are automatically registered to vote if you are of legal voting age</b>	
True	32
False	64
Don't know	4
<b>You can register to vote until the day before an election</b>	
True	17
False	74
Don't know	9
<b>You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote</b>	
True	11
False	86
Don't know	3
<b>One household member is able to register other members of the same household</b>	
True	30
False	59
Don't know	11
<b>You can register to vote online</b>	
True	42
False	41
Don't know	17
<b>If you were registered to vote for the May elections you are also registered to vote at the EU referendum</b>	
True	88
False	8
Don't know	4

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q19 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following...**

	2016 %
<b>You should be able to register to vote until the day before the election</b>	
Agree strongly	24
Tend to agree	34
Neither	10
Tend to disagree	17
Disagree strongly	14
Don't know	1
<b>You should be able to register to vote in a polling station on the day of the election</b>	
Agree strongly	23
Tend to agree	20
Neither	7
Tend to disagree	25
Disagree strongly	24
Don't know	1
<b>[EXCLUDING NORTHERN IRELAND]: Local government should be able to use other information they hold about me to automatically update my details on the electoral register</b>	(707)
Agree strongly	19
Tend to agree	28
Neither	10
Tend to disagree	19
Disagree strongly	22
Don't know	2
<b>It should be my responsibility, not the government's, to keep my electoral registration details up to date</b>	
Agree strongly	43
Tend to agree	32
Neither	8
Tend to disagree	9
Disagree strongly	7
Don't know	1

## AWARENESS

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q20 How much, if anything, did you feel you knew about the elections on Thursday 5 May?  
Would you say you knew... READ OUT FOR EACH ELECTION AS RELEVANT**

	2016 %
A great deal	29
A fair amount	54
Not very much	13
Nothing at all	4
Don't know	-

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q21 Would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on**

	Very easy %	Fairly easy %	Neither %	Fairly difficult %	Very difficult %	DK (DO NOT READ OUT)
ALL RESPONDENTS: How to cast your vote at the [INSERT *] (ask for each election separately in combined areas) <b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>	50	39	6	3	1	2
ALL EXCEPT PCC ONLY RESPONDENTS: What the ELECTION was for (in combined areas in England ask about local elections, in Wales ask about NAW election) <b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>	44	43	7	3	2	1
ALL RESPONDENTS IN PCC AREAS (ENGLAND AND WALES): What the PCC elections were for and the role of the Police and Crime Commissioners	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL RESPONDENTS: Information on the candidates standing in the [INSERT *] (ask for each election separately)	40	43	9	6	3	1

<i>in combined areas)</i> <b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>						
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⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q22 To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following...**

		Agree strongly	Tend to agree	Neither	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	DK (DO NOT READ OUT)
ALL: There was a lot of media coverage on the ELECTION* <b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>	2016	43	35	10	9	2	2
	2011	39	31	14	9	4	3
ALL: I had enough information on how to cast my vote	2016	59	31	4	5	2	0
	2011	52	28	7	5	5	2
ALL: I didn't know enough on what the ELECTION* was about <b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>	2016	11	12	5	26	46	0
	2011	17	15	8	21	38	1
RESPONDENTS IN PCC AREAS (E&W): I had enough information to understand the role of the PCC's	2016	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
ALL: I had enough information on candidates to be able to make an informed decision	2016	52	32	5	9	2	0
The ELECTION* was overshadowed by coverage of the EU referendum <b>Northern Ireland Assembly</b>	2016	9	15	16	34	27	1
It was clear to me that there are two sets of electoral events – these elections in May and the referendum that will take place in June	2016	65	23	7	3	1	1

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q24 Generally speaking, when it comes to receiving information about candidates and parties in elections, what form of communication would you yourself most prefer? DO NOT PROMPT, MULTICODE**

	2016
	%
Email messages	13
Leaflets or booklets through the door	58
Online adverts	9
News sources	8
Social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.)	8
TV or radio advertising	10
TV broadcasts or news sources	17
Billboards	1
Personal contact with candidates	15
Dedicated websites	6
Just talking about it with friends and family	1
I would not like any	2
Phone calls	*
SMS/text messages	1
Debates	*
Public meetings	*
Radio	*
Other	1
No preference	*
Don't know	1



## VOTING PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q25 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Great Britain/Northern Ireland?**

	2016	2011
	%	%
Very satisfied	45	30
Fairly satisfied	46	47
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	12
Fairly dissatisfied	2	6
Very dissatisfied	1	3
Don't know	1	2

⇒ **ASK FAIRLY/VERY DISSATISFIED**

**Q26 Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections?  
DONOT READ OUT**

	2016 % (19)	2011 % (10)
<b>Voting system</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>n/a</b>
The system is not fair	0	13
Disagree with/don't like the voting system	4	n/a
Lack of democracy within the system	0	n/a
Confusion with multiple voting systems	0	n/a
<b>Voting procedure</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Voting process should be available online	37	3
Voting system should be more secure	4	2
Many people didn't get to vote/register	0	5
Length of time it takes	3	4
Everyone should vote/compulsory voting	0	6
Voting should be spread over a few days	7	1
Voting should be in pen/a more permanent mark/ not pencil	0	n/a
Issues with postal voting	4	n/a
Outdated methods/paper based/ dropping ballots into the box	12	n/a
Not enough polling stations to choose from	0	2
Non-UK citizen are not able to vote	0	n/a
Process is poorly represented/misrepresented	0	n/a
Issues with secrecy/anonymity of voting	0	n/a
The system is open to abuse	0	n/a
Voters should be required to show identification	0	n/a
Dislike the counting process	0	n/a
Too many elections taking on the same day	0	n/a
<b>Experience of voting</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Didn't receive a polling card	0	8
Poor accessibility of polling stations	3	n/a
Because of the outcome / dismay with election results	0	n/a

<b>Politicians / The political system</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Don't trust politicians/politicians don't fulfil their promises	3	n/a
Need more options/opinions/choice	0	n/a
Dislike politicians behaviour	0	n/a
May end up voting for people/positions I don't support	0	1
<b>Lack of information</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Not enough information/media coverage	17	14
People don't/didn't understand what the elections were about/too complicated	0	*
<b>Other</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Should be simpler	0	n/a
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	0	n/a
Not a convenient time/not enough time	7	n/a
Need personal contact with election candidates	6	n/a
Waste of money	0	n/a
The polls shouldn't have been held so close to the EU referendum	0	n/a
The polls should have been held on the same day as the EU referendum	0	n/a
Other	7	25
Don't know	7	9

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q27** How confident, if at all, are you that the election(s) on May 5th was/were well run?

	2016	2011
	%	%
Very confident	45	24
Fairly confident	48	47
Not very confident	5	12
Not at all confident	1	6
Don't know	1	11

⇒ **ASK CONFIDENT**

**Q28 Why do you say you are confident that the [ELECTION(S)] was/were well run?  
DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.**

	2016 % (648)	2011 %
Clear/concise ballot/easy to vote	10	4
Quick easy voting	15	n/a
There was a lot of information about the elections	10	n/a
Tried and tested	2	4
No negative feedback	9	n/a
Voting system fair	3	9
Trust the staff	4	2
Accessible polling station	4	2
Good staff attitude	3	4
Personal involvement	2	n/a
Professional conducted	4	n/a
Received polling card ballot papers in good time	1	n/a
Everyone had the opportunity to vote	*	2
Well canvassed	1	2
Well organised	30	28
Well publicised	6	23
Results were in the media quickly	5	n/a
Feel it was the right result	2	2
High turnout	2	n/a
Others	26	8
None	4	n/a
Don't know	3	17

⇒ **ASK NOT CONFIDENT**

**Q29 Why do you say that you are not confident that the election was/were well run?  
DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.**

	2016 % (48)	2011 %
<b>Lack of information</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it (general)	10	14
Lack of information/publicity/ don't know much/anything about it because of the focus on the referendum	3	n/a
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	2	n/a
Lack of information about the candidates	5	24
<b>Polling station/ballot issues</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Badly run/organised	5	n/a
Low turnout	4	31
Long wait for results	6	n/a
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers	0	n/a

Lack of time given to vote/decide	0	n/a
The counting process was not well verified	0	n/a
I didn't know how to vote/what to do in the polling station/how to fill in my ballot paper	0	n/a
Two/More elections on one day/too much to organise/handle	0	n/a
<b>Politicians/political system</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	7	23
<b>Campaign issues/candidate</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Lack of canvassing/personal contact	0	n/a
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	0	n/a
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	0	n/a
Little choice in who to vote for	0	n/a
Coverage only focused on the referendum	0	n/a
<b>General impression/word of mouth</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>n/a</b>
From what I have read/heard	4	n/a
I did not witness what went on	0	n/a
I had a bad impression	2	n/a
<b>Voting system and procedure</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>n/a</b>
People did not know the voting procedure (how to fill in the ballot paper/what to do in the polling station)	3	n/a
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	2	n/a
Outdated/unfair voting system	0	n/a
Combination of elections	0	n/a
<b>Fraud security</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	5	n/a
<b>Other</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Because of the outcome/dismay with the results	2	n/a
Disinterested/don't care about politics	3	n/a
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	0	n/a
Issues registering to vote	0	n/a
Didn't vote for personal reasons	5	n/a
Dislike the National Assembly for Wales	0	n/a
Dislike the Scottish Parliament	0	n/a
Dislike the Northern Ireland Assembly	0	n/a
Dislike Police and Crime Commissioners	0	n/a
Dislike local government	0	n/a
Other	20	14
None	12	n/a
Don't know	18	n/a

## POLLING STATIONS

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q30** From what you have seen or heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station / (SCOTLAND: polling place) for the Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May election was...READ OUT

	2016	2011
	%	%
Very convenient	54	44
Fairly convenient	32	32
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	7	11
Fairly inconvenient	3	6
Very inconvenient	3	3
Don't know	1	3

⇒ ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS

**Q31** Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station/place? Would you say.....READ OUT

	2016	2011
	% (566)	% (290)
Very satisfied	72	65
Fairly satisfied	25	31
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	3
Fairly dissatisfied	*%	*
Very dissatisfied	*%	*
Don't know	*%	-

⇒ ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS

**Q32** Once you arrived at your polling station/place, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote?

	2016	2011
	% (566)	% (290)
Very easy	89	89
Fairly easy	9	10
Neither easy nor difficult	1	-
Fairly difficult	1	1
Very difficult	0	-
Don't know	0	-

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

**Q33 Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station/place, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station/place staff on how to vote? Was it...READ OUT**

	2016 % (566)	2011 % (290)
Very useful	64	75
Fairly useful	15	12
Not very useful	*	*
Not at all useful	*	1
Didn't use them/need them	21	12
Don't know	0	*

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

**Q34 And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station/place, how useful, if at all, were any written instructions on how to vote, such as a poster on display in the polling booth or guidance on the ballot paper(s)? Were they....READ OUT**

	2016 % (566)	2011 %
Very useful	52	47
Fairly useful	25	21
Not very useful	1	5
Not at all useful	1	2
Didn't use them/need them	20	25
Don't know	1	*

⇒ **ASK IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

**Q35 When you go to vote at a polling station you are required to present a form of ID before you receive a ballot paper. As far as you are aware, which, if any, of the following forms of ID can be used on polling day in order to vote? READ OUT. MULTICODE**

	2016 % (707)
UK, Irish or EU Passport	95
UK, Irish or EEA (European) photographic driving license	95
Electoral identity card	70
Translink Senior or 60+ SmartPass	52
Student ID card	35
Birth Certificate	10
National Insurance Card	6
Medical card	9
Work pass	6
Disabled blue badge parking permit	14
None of these	0
Don't know	*

## VOTING BY POST

⇒ **ASK ALL**

**Q36** From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the May 5<sup>th</sup> election(s) was...**READ OUT**

	2016	2011
	%	%
Very convenient	25	17
Fairly convenient	26	23
Neither convenient nor inconvenient	24	22
Fairly inconvenient	3	3
Very inconvenient	3	4
Don't know	19	31

⇒ **ASK POSTAL VOTERS**

**Q37** How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote(s)? Would you say....**READ OUT**

	2016	2011
	% (14)	% (9)
Very easy	50	62
Fairly easy	36	26
Neither easy nor difficult	0	11
Fairly difficult	6	-
Very difficult	8	-
Don't know	0	-

⇒ **ASK POSTAL VOTERS**

**Q38** Thinking back to when you voted by post, how useful, if at all, were any written instructions on how to vote and return your vote, such as guidance on the ballot paper? Were they.....**READ OUT**

	2016	2011
	% (14)	% (9)
Very useful	61	52
Fairly useful	24	48
Not very useful	15	-
Not at all useful	0	-
Didn't use them/need them	0	-
Don't know	0	-

⇒ **ASK ALL POSTAL VOTERS**

**Q39 Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post?  
Would you say.....READ OUT**

	2016 % (14)	2011 % (9)
Very satisfied	94	52
Fairly satisfied	0	48
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	6	-
Fairly dissatisfied	0	-
Very dissatisfied	0	-
Don't know	0	-

### COMBINED ELECTIONS AND BALLOT PAPERS

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

**Q40 Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper(s) when voting in the 5<sup>th</sup> May ELECTIONS\*. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper(s) for this election? Was it... READ OUT.**

		Very easy	Fairly easy	Neither	Fairly difficult	Very difficult	DK
NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTION	2016 %	72	23	3	2	1	2
	2011 %	71	24	3	1	*	-



⇒ **ASK ALL WHO SAID FAIRLY/VERY DIFFICULT**

**Q41 Why do you say it was difficult? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.**

	2016 % (20)	2011 % (6)
Text too small	4	n/a
Too many candidates	30	n/a
Instructions were unclear	9	-
Complex/confusing	29	n/a
Lack of information	0	n/a
Difficulties using forms	18	n/a
The candidates were in a confusing order	18	n/a
The parties were in a confusing order	0	2
The size of the ballot paper	0	n/a
I could not easily find the party name of my choice	9	-
I could not easily find the party candidate of my choice	0	n/a
Lack of understanding/clarity	4	n/a
The layout was confusing	16	57
I don't understand how the electoral system works	0	n/a
Other	9	28
Don't know	0	-

## PARTY AND ELECTION FINANCE

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q45** I am going to read you some statements relating to the rules on the money that political parties, organisations and other individuals use when campaigning. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **READ OUT**

	2016 %
<b>The spending and funding of political parties, candidates and other campaigning organisations at elections is open and transparent</b>	
Agree strongly	10
Tend to agree	24
Neither	22
Tend to disagree	22
Disagree strongly	17
Don't know	5
<b>If a political party or another campaigner is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions</b>	
Agree strongly	38
Tend to agree	32
Neither	12
Tend to disagree	8
Disagree strongly	8
Don't know	3
<b>I can easily find out how much political parties, candidates and other organisations spent on campaigning and how they were funded</b>	
Agree strongly	12
Tend to agree	18
Neither	19
Tend to disagree	23
Disagree strongly	19
Don't know	9

## ELECTORAL FRAUD

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q46 What do you understand by the term “electoral fraud”? NO NOT PROMPT.  
MULTICODE**

	2016
	%
Someone using someone else's vote	51
Voting multiple times	16
Cheating/corruption/vote rigging	14
Ballot stuffing	1
Deliberately miscounting votes	4
When people not eligible but still do vote	7
Spoiling/tampering of ballot papers	4
Misuse of postal voting	4
People being intimidated	3
Casting a vote where not registered	4
Missing/disposing of votes	2
Others	18
None	2
Don't know	12

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q47 How much electoral fraud, if any, do you think took place at the May 5 elections?  
Would you say it happened...READ OUT**

	2016	2011
	%	%
A lot	4	9
A little	30	33
Hardly anything at all	29	29
Nothing at all	14	28
Don't know	23	1

⇒ ASK IF 'A LOT/A LITTLE'

**Q48 Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 5<sup>th</sup> May? READ OUT. MULTICODE**

	2016 % (256)
General impression that fraud is a problem	48
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	30
Because you don't have to provide identification to vote	0
Identity fraud is on the increase	56
Postal voting is not secure	51
People are registering other voters at the same address	56
People are registering multiple times	38
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	16
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	6
Other	4
Don't know	3

⇒ ASK ALL

**Q49 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that:  
READ OUT**

	2016 %	2011 %
<b>Voting in general is.....</b>		
Very safe	30	24
Fairly safe	58	53
Neither safe nor unsafe	7	12
Fairly unsafe	3	3
Very unsafe	1	3
Don't know	2	5
<b>Voting at a polling station [ENG, WALES, NI]/polling place [SCOTLAND] is...</b>		
Very safe	52	42
Fairly safe	44	45
Neither safe nor unsafe	2	7
Fairly unsafe	1	2
Very unsafe	1	1
Don't know	*%	3
<b>Voting by post is...</b>		
Very safe	16	14
Fairly safe	36	34
Neither safe nor unsafe	15	14
Fairly unsafe	17	13
Very unsafe	7	5
Don't know	9	20

## REFERENDUM

⇒ ASK ALL ELIGIBLE

**Q50 As you may know, on the 23rd of June there will be a referendum on the United Kingdom's membership of the European Union, how likely are you to vote at the referendum? READ OUT**

	2016 % (657)
Very likely	83
Fairly likely	11
Neither likely or unlikely	1
Fairly unlikely	1
Very unlikely	2
Don't know	2