The Electoral Commission

KANTAR TNS

Northern Ireland Assembly Post Election Public Opinion Survey
March 2017

- A total of 1,000 interviews conducted with adults aged 18+ throughout Northern Ireland.

- All interviewing was conducted via telephone from the Kantar Millward Brown research call centre in Belfast.

- Fieldwork took place between 3rd and 16th March 2017.

- Quota controls were placed on the sample for age, gender, socio-economic grouping and area. Post survey weighting was then applied across these four cohorts, in order to fine tune the final data set. Demographic stratifications and weighting targets were taken from Northern Ireland census data (2015 mid-year estimates). Area splits were sourced from Kantar NI population data.

- All research conducted in accordance with ISO 9001: 2008, the international quality standard ISO 20252: 2012 and the Market Research Society ethical Code of Conduct.

Questionnaire

- Screen on eligibility to vote (local government franchise)

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?
SINGLE CODE ONLY. DO NOT READ OUT. IF RESPONDENT SAYS YES, INTERVIEWER TO ASK 'WHERE LIVING NOW OR AT ANOTHER ADDRESS?'

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Yes – where living now	92	94	84
Yes – somewhere else / another address	4	2	5
No	4	2	9
Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	1	1	2

⇒ **ASK IF REGISTERED**

Q2. Thinking back, can you remember when you registered to vote?

	2017	2016	2011
	% (956)	%	%
More than 6 months ago	75		
In the final few months before the deadline [note to interviewer: deadline was 14th February]	4		
In the final few days before the deadline	1		
Can't remember	18		
Don't know	2		

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q3. How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedure for getting your name on the electoral register?
READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY.
(INTERVIEWER: IF ASKED EXPLAIN THAT BY THE ELECTORAL REGISTER WE MEAN THE LIST OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE)

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very satisfied	58	62	45
Fairly satisfied	24	26	32
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	9	8	13
Fairly dissatisfied	2	2	3
Very dissatisfied	1	*	1
Don't know	6	2	5

⇒ **ASK IF VERY/FAIRLY DISSATISFIED AT Q3**

Q4. Why are you dissatisfied with the system of registering to vote in Northern Ireland? DO NOT READ OUT LIST. MULTICODE - PROBE FULLY.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (27)	% (12)	%
Difficult/confusing	**70**	**47**	
It is not easy/they could make it easier	48	43	
It is too confusing/I don't understand the system/ I was confused by the changes in how I have to register	28	4	
EONI should automatically update the register when I move or use other services	13	0	
I'm not sure how to check if I am already registered	7	4	
They do not promote/advertise where/when to register	0	0	
Too much additional information was required to register to vote	4	n/a	
I tried to register but my application was rejected because not enough information was provided	3	n/a	

* *absolutes equate to <1%*

I didn't have any of the additional documents requested to support my registration	0	0	
I don't know how to register to vote	0	4	
It is inconvenient	**28**	**9**	
You should be able to register to vote online	19	0	
It is cumbersome/takes too long	0	9	
You should be able to register to vote over the telephone	9	0	
Mistakes/problems	**13**	**0**	
The post is unreliable	7	0	
EONI makes mistakes with my personal details	0	0	
I thought I was registered to vote but was not able to vote on the day	2	0	
I had been removed from the register / had problems re-registering	7	0	
Not secure	**8**	0	
The system of registering to vote is open to fraud and abuse	8	0	
Other	**10**	**48**	
There is no point voting / voting makes no difference	8	0	
I do not know where I can get information about the process of registering to vote	0	0	
Everyone should be automatically registered to vote from birth	0	0	
There should be more limitations on who can vote	0	0	
It should be compulsory to register to vote/everyone should have to register	0	0	
It is harder for students to vote	0	4	
People can be taken off the electoral roll without their knowledge	3	0	
Young people should be able to vote	0	12	
Other (specify)	**0**	**36**	
Don't know	**0**	**5**	

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q5. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following:

- **You should be able to register to vote until the day before the election**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	42	24	
Tend to agree	24	34	
Neither/nor	9	10	
Tend to disagree	13	17	
Disagree strongly	11	14	
Don't Know	1	1	

- **You should be able to register to vote in a polling station on the day of the election**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	29	23	
Tend to agree	16	20	
Neither/nor	7	7	
Tend to disagree	18	25	
Disagree strongly	29	24	
Don't Know	1	1	

- **The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland should be able to update my details on the electoral register using any other publically held data**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	35		
Tend to agree	24		
Neither/nor	10		
Tend to disagree	12		
Disagree strongly	16		
Don't Know	3		

- **It should be my responsibility, not the government's, to keep my electoral registration details up to date.**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	51	43	
Tend to agree	25	32	
Neither/nor	9	8	
Tend to disagree	5	9	
Disagree strongly	8	7	
Don't Know	2	1	

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- **You should be able to register to vote online**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	59		
Tend to agree	18		
Neither/nor	6		
Tend to disagree	7		
Disagree strongly	9		
Don't Know	2		

Polling day

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q6. As you may know, on Thursday 2nd March there was a Northern Ireland Assembly election.

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 Northern Ireland Assembly election?

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Yes	80	79	57
No	20	21	43
Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)		-	-

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

Q7. People have different reasons for voting in elections and referendums. Why did you vote on Thursday 2 March? Are there any other reasons? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (798)	% (583)	% (301)
Civic responsibility reasons	**68**	**67**	**69**
It is important to vote/It is my civic duty/everyone should vote/It is my right to vote	45	43	47
People fought to win the right to vote for me/others	11	6	7
I always vote	34	17	25
I wanted to be part of the democratic process/democracy	13	7	n/a
To show my support/support the community	7	5	n/a
National identity / they are our elections	6	2	n/a
To express a view	**40**	**35**	**35**
I wanted to have a say	33	18	30
If people don't vote then you have no right to complain/have an	7	6	5
Concerned about local issues	5	1	3
To support my party/candidates of preference/to help my party/candidate win	5	13	n/a
Because an important issue was at stake	5	0	1
To help create a change	**27**	**7**	**10**
To get a change	25	6	7
Not happy with performance of specific parties	6	n/a	n/a
Not happy with the performance of the Northern Ireland Assembly	4	1	2
To help keep the status quo	**2**	**1**	**2**
I like/am pleased with the current government	2	1	1
Tactical reasons	**5**	**3**	**3**
To defeat/stop the other side from winning	5	3	3

Reasons related to the snap-election	**3**	n/a	n/a
A new candidate stood that I liked	1	n/a	n/a
I wanted to vote for a candidate/party not connected / implicated in alleged scandals	2	n/a	n/a
I am fed up/angry with current political setup and wanted to help change things	1	n/a	n/a
I don't think the election should have been called but I wanted to support party/candidate I've voted for before	*	n/a	n/a
The Northern Ireland Assembly is important / need to avoid direct rule from Westminster	0	n/a	n/a
Other reasons	**2**	**5**	**12**
I was urged/persuaded to vote by a family member/friend	1	1	2
Because I was sent a ballot paper in the post	*	0	1
To vote for position supported by my party	1	1	6
I take an interest in politics	*	1	1
Other (Please specify…)	0	2	3
None of these / no reason	*	3	*
Don't know	*	1	1

⇒ **ASK ALL VOTERS**

Q8. Some people have told us they intentionally spoiled their ballot paper/s on 2nd March 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?

	2017	2016	2011
	% (798)	% (583)	
No	95	98	
Yes	4	2	
Don't know	1	*	

* *absolutes equate to <1%*

Q9. People had different reasons for not voting in the elections. Why did you not vote in the elections on the 2nd March? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (202)	% (124)	% (200)
Circumstances	**51**	**47**	**37**
· Lack of time/too busy/I was busy at work	30	20	16
· I really intended to vote but circumstances on the day prevented me	6	1	3
· I forgot	2	1	3
· I was away on 2 March /voting day	7	15	9
· I couldn't get to the polling station/it was inconvenient	7	4	3
· Medical/health reasons	4	7	4
· Bad weather	0	0	n/a
· Disorganised/lost track of time/lost polling card	3	1	n/a
· Bereavement	0	0	n/a
Administration	**23**	**9**	**17**
· I wasn't registered	16	5	10
· Not eligible to vote (age or nationality)	2	3	n/a
· I didn't receive a polling card	2	0	6
· I didn't receive a postal vote/it arrived too late	2	0	1
· I didn't know where my polling station was	0	0	n/a
· Admin reason	*	0	n/a
· Had no identification/Had no ID/Lost my ID	2	1	n/a

* *absolutes equate to <1%*

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I did not know I could vote	2	0	n/a
· I got to polling station but told I could not vote	1	0	n/a
Elections not important	**9**	**4**	**6**
· There was no point in voting because the Northern Ireland Assembly can't do very much/can't change anything/has no power	6	0	0
· The elections aren't important	3	0	0
Disinterested/no point	**13**	**27**	**30**
· I'm just not interested in politics	8	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	3	9	5
· I couldn't be bothered	1	4	15
· Waste of time/Could see no point	1	4	1
· Had no interest/view on the subject	3	2	n/a
· I am angry with the current political situation and didn't see the point in voting	1		
Parties/Candidates	**10**	**11**	**8**
· There was no point in voting because all parties are the same	5	1	4
· I didn't like the candidates/parties/they didn't represent my views	7	5	2
· You just can't trust politicians to keep their promises	2	2	3
· I don't like the way the parties interact with each other/lack of co-operation/progress	1	0	n/a
· Do not believe in politics/the voting system/democracy	1	0	n/a
· Politicians do not care/only in politics for their own benefit	1	1	n/a

· No party will likely win (i.e. will be coalition or hung parliament)	0	0	n/a
· Parties in Northern Ireland cannot make a difference/cannot work together	2	3	n/a
No information/indecision/complicated	**2**	**3**	**5**
· I didn't get any information	1	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	2	0	1
· I couldn't decide which way to vote	0	2	*
· I don't know anything about local politics	*	0	1
· I didn't understand/too confusing	0	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	0	n/a
Reasons related to the snap election	*	n/a	n/a
· We've only just voted/voted last year/voter fatigue	0	n/a	n/a
· Disagree with the circumstances of the poll	0	n/a	n/a
· I didn't have time to organise a postal / proxy vote	0	n/a	n/a
· **Miscellaneous**	**2**	5	11
I never vote	2	1	7
Religious reasons	*	1	1
Other	0	2	2

* *absolutes equate to <1%*

Q.10 Did you vote on the 2nd March ….READ OUT. RANDOMISE. SINGLE CODE ONLY

	2017	2016	2011
	% (798)	% (583)	% (301)
In person at the polling station	98	97	96
By post	2	2	4
By proxy	1	1	1
Other	0	*	0
Don't know/can't remember	0	0	0

Q11. Which of these statements best describes your attitude towards voting at UK Parliamentary General Elections (for Westminster)? READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER. SINGLE CODE ONLY.

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
I always vote in General Elections	65	72	
I sometimes vote in General Elections	18	16	
I voted for the first time in 2015	2	4	
I never vote in General Elections	12	6	
I've not been eligible to vote in the past	2	2	
Don't' know/don't remember	*	*	

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q12. Please could you tell me whether you think each of the following statements are true or false? True/False/Don't know (do not read out DK) READ OUT. SINGLE CODE ONLY. RANDOMISE ORDER

- **You have to take Photo ID with you to vote at a polling station (TRUE)**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
True	96	97	
False	4	2	
Don't Know	*	*	

- **You are automatically registered to vote if you are of legal voting age (FALSE)**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
True	40	32	
False	59	64	
Don't Know	1	4	

- **You can register to vote until the day before an election (FALSE)**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
True	27	17	
False	69	74	
Don't Know	5	9	

- **You are at risk of getting a fine if you don't register to vote (TRUE)**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
True	15	11	
False	82	86	
Don't Know	3	3	

Awareness

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q13. How much, if anything, did you feel you knew about the elections on Thursday 2nd March?
Would you say you knew… SINGLE CODE FOR EACH ELECTION AS RELEVENT. READ OUT. REVERSE ORDER

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
A great deal	30	29	
A fair amount	49	54	
Not very much	16	13	
Nothing at all	5	4	
Don't Know	*	-	

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q14. Did you see or hear any advertising, publicity or other information about registering to vote for this election?

By this, we mean advertising, publicity or other information about the elections themselves and what you need to do, rather than information from political parties about who to vote for.

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Yes	59		
No	36		
Don't Know	5		

⇒ **IF YES**

Q15. Please describe exactly what you remember seeing, reading or hearing in any of this advertising, publicity or information about registering to vote?

OPEN-ENDED QUESTION
NOTE: PREVIOUS CODEFRAME FROM PREVIOUS CAMPAIGN TRACKING TO BE USED FOR CODING.

	2017		
	% (590)		
Register	**10**		
Need to register	1		
Make sure you are registered (to vote)	1		
Have to be registered to vote / can't just turn up	1		
Register to vote	2		
Go to website / online to register	1		
How to register	1		
Register by deadline	6		
Date you need to register by	5		

Vote	**23**		
To vote / telling people to vote	*		
Your votes/voting makes a difference/is important	*		
Get your voice/opinion heard	*		
Don't miss out on/don't lose (your chance to) vote	1		
There is going to be an election	*		
Who to vote for/vote for the right person - canvassing / billboards	22		
Date of the election (Thursday 2nd March)	0		
Ad Recall	**22**		
People going to vote but unable to as they have not registered	0		
People not allowed to do what they want advert	0		
Elephants and other noises drowning people out	1		
Need ID	1		
Saw advert on TV / little recall	22		
Miscellaneous	**76**		
Leaflet / flyer	23		
On TV / radio	40		
Political party mentions/policies/ broadcasts	7		
Newspapers / posters	21		
Social media i.e. facebook twitter	10		
Focus groups	*		
Electoral Commission's point of view	*		
Post / letter to home address	5		
Bus sides / cars advertising	1		
Going online	2		
Word of mouth	*		

Other	1		
None/Nothing	1		

* absolutes equate to <1%

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q16. Would you say it was very easy, fairly easy, neither easy nor difficult, fairly difficult or very difficult to access information on: READ OUT. CODE ONE FOR EACH

- **How to cast your vote**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very easy	58	50	
Fairly easy	28	39	
Neither easy nor difficult	7	6	
Fairly difficult	4	3	
Very difficult	1	1	
Don't know	2	2	

- **What the election was for**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very easy	58	44	
Fairly easy	30	43	
Neither easy nor difficult	5	7	
Fairly difficult	4	3	
Very difficult	1	2	
Don't know	2	1	

- **Information on the candidates standing in the election**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very easy	48	40	
Fairly easy	30	43	
Neither easy nor difficult	8	9	
Fairly difficult	10	6	
Very difficult	3	3	
Don't know	1	1	

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q17. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: (READ OUT. CODE ONE FOR EACH)

- **There was a lot of media coverage on the election**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	67	43	39
Tend to agree	21	35	31
Neither/nor	5	10	14
Tend to disagree	4	9	9
Disagree strongly	2	2	4
Don't know	1	2	3

- **I had enough information on how to cast my vote**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	67	59	52
Tend to agree	22	31	28
Neither/nor	3	4	7
Tend to disagree	4	5	5
Disagree strongly	2	2	5
Don't know	2	0	2

- **I didn't know enough on what the election was about**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	13	11	17
Tend to agree	12	12	15
Neither/nor	4	5	8
Tend to disagree	22	26	21
Disagree strongly	48	46	38
Don't know	1	0	1

- **I had enough information on candidates to be able to make an informed decision**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	56	52	
Tend to agree	22	32	
Neither/nor	6	5	
Tend to disagree	10	9	
Disagree strongly	4	2	
Don't know	1	0	

Voting processes and priorities

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q.18 Generally speaking, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the procedures for voting in elections and referendums in Northern Ireland?

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very satisfied	52	45	30
Fairly satisfied	35	46	47
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	7	6	12
Fairly dissatisfied	3	2	6
Very dissatisfied	2	1	3
Don't know	2	1	2

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Q.19 Why do you say you were dissatisfied with the procedure for voting in elections? DO NOT READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (43)	% (19)	% (10)
Voting system	**34**	**4**	**n/a**
The system is not fair	14	0	13
Disagree with/don't like the voting system	13	4	n/a
Lack of democracy within the system	6	0	n/a
Confusion with multiple voting systems	14		
Voting procedure	**48**	**52**	**n/a**
Voting process should be available online	12	37	3
Voting system should be more secure	5	4	2
Many people didn't get to vote/register	16	0	5
Length of time it takes	9	3	4
Everyone should vote/compulsory voting	2	0	6
Voting should be spread over a few days	6	7	1
Voting should be in in pen/a more permanent mark/ not pencil	2	0	n/a
Issues with postal voting	8	4	n/a
Outdated methods/paper based/ dropping ballots into the box	6	12	n/a
Not enough polling stations to choose from	2	0	2
Non-UK/Irish/EU citizens are not able to vote	2	0	n/a
Process is poorly represented/misrepresented	10	0	n/a
Issues with secrecy/anonymity of voting	0	0	n/a
The system is open to abuse	6	0	n/a

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Voters should be required to show identification	0	0	n/a
Dislike the counting process	5	0	n/a
Experience of voting	**17**	**3**	**n/a**
Didn't receive a polling card	10	0	8
Poor accessibility of polling stations	9	3	n/a
Because of the outcome / dismay with election results	4	0	n/a
Politicians/The political system	**21**	**3**	**n/a**
Don't trust politicians/politicians don't fulfil their promises	20	3	n/a
Too much corruption etc.	11	0	n/a
The Northern Ireland Assembly isn't working	4	0	n/a
Need more options/opinions/choice	2	0	n/a
Dislike politicians behaviour	2	0	n/a
May end up voting for people/*positions* I don't support	0	0	n/a
Waste of time – this election won't resolve anything	0	1	1
Lack of information	**3**	**17**	**n/a**
Not enough information/media coverage	3	17	14
People don't/didn't understand what the elections were about/too complicated	2	0	*
Other	**6**	**20**	**n/a**
Should be simpler	6	0	n/a
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	0	0	n/a
I / other voters were intimidated	0	0	n/a
Waste of money	0	0	n/a
Other (Specify)	0	7	25
Don't know	0	7	9

absolutes equate to <1%

Q.20 How confident, if at all, are you that the election on March 2nd was well run?

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very confident	49	45	24
Fairly confident	38	48	47
Not very confident	6	5	12
Not at all confident	2	1	6
Don't know	6	1	11

Q21. Why do you say you are confident that the election was well run?	2017	2016	2011
	% (860)	% (648)	%
Clear/concise ballot/easy to vote	28	10	4
Quick easy voting	23	15	n/a
No queues	11	n/a	n/a
There was a lot of information about the elections	6	10	n/a
Tried and tested	5	2	4
No negative feedback	9	9	n/a
Voting system fair	4	3	9
Trust the staff	8	4	2
Accessible polling station	6	4	2
Good staff attitude	6	3	4
Personal involvement	2	2	n/a
Professional conducted	7	4	n/a
Received polling card ballot papers in good time	2	1	n/a

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Everyone had the opportunity to vote	2	*	2
Well canvassed	3	1	2
Well organised	26	30	28
Well publicised	6	6	23
Results were in the media quickly	7	5	n/a
Feel it was the right result	2	2	2
High turnout	4	2	n/a
Others	1	26	8
None	8	4	n/a
Don't know	6	3	17

* *absolutes equate to <1%*

⇒ **ASK NOT CONFIDENT**

Q22. Why do you say that you are not confident that the election was well run?

	2017	2016	2011
	% (78)	% (48)	%
Lack of information	**31**	**17**	**n/a**
Lack of information/publicity/don't know much/anything about it (general)	**21**	10	14
Information confusing/some people didn't understand what the vote was for	10	2	n/a
Lack of information about the candidates	9	5	24
Polling station/ballot issues	**33**	**15**	**n/a**
Badly run/organised	**21**	5	n/a
Low turnout	3	4	31
Long wait for results	2	6	n/a
Didn't receive a polling card/postal ballot papers	6	0	n/a
Lack of time given to vote/decide	1	0	n/a
The counting process was not well verified	1	0	n/a

I didn't know how to vote/what to do in the polling station/how to fill in my ballot paper	1	0	n/a
Polling station was in an area I consider not safe	1	0	n/a
Politicians/political system	**12**	**7**	**n/a**
Mistrust/Don't stick to their promises/just in it for themselves	12	7	23
Campaign issues/candidate	**4**	**0**	**n/a**
Lack of canvassing/personal contact	1	0	n/a
There was misinformation/stupid allegations as to what the vote was about	2	0	n/a
TV/press coverage was biased/badly presented	0	0	n/a
Little choice in who to vote for	1	0	n/a
General impression/word of mouth	**13**	**5**	n/a
From what I have read/heard	10	4	n/a
I did not witness what went on	2	0	n/a
I had a bad impression	1	2	n/a
Voting system and procedure	**6**	**4**	**n/a**
People did not know the voting procedure *(how to fill in the ballot paper/what to do in the polling station)*	1	3	n/a
People's opinions are not valued/vote will make no difference	2	2	n/a
Outdated/unfair voting system	4	0	n/a
Fraud security	**8**	**5**	**n/a**
Corruption/fraud/fixed results	**8**	5	n/a
Other	**13**	**28**	**n/a**
Because of the outcome/dismay with the results	4	2	n/a
Disinterested/don't care about politics	0	3	n/a
Some did not have the opportunity to vote/had the opportunity taken away	3	0	n/a
Issues registering to vote	0	0	n/a
Didn't vote for personal reasons	1	5	n/a
Dislike the Northern Ireland Assembly	5	0	n/a

Other	1	20	14
None	5	12	n/a
Don't know	3	18	n/a

Polling station

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q.23 From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting at the polling station for the Thursday 2nd March election was….READ OUT

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very convenient	70	54	44
Fairly convenient	20	32	32
Not convenient nor inconvenient	3	7	11
Fairly inconvenient	2	3	6
Very inconvenient	2	3	3
Don't know	3	1	3

⇒ **ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

Q24. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting at a polling station? Would you say…..READ OUT

	2017	2016	2011
	% (781)	% (566)	% (290)
Very satisfied	74	72	65
Fairly satisfied	23	25	31
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	2	2	3
Fairly dissatisfied	1	*	*
Very dissatisfied	*	*	*
Don't know	*	*	-

* absolutes equate to <1%*

Q25. Once you arrived at your polling station/place, how easy or difficult was it for you to get inside to vote?

	2017	2016	2011
	% (781)	% (566)	% (290)
Very easy	84	89	89
Fairly easy	13	9	10
Neither easy nor difficult	2	1	0
Fairly difficult	1	1	1
Very difficult	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0

⇒ **Q26. ASK POLLING STATION VOTERS**

Q26. Thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, how useful, if at all, was the help or support available from polling station staff on how to vote? Was it ... READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (781)	% (566)	% (290)
Very useful	68	64	75
Fairly useful	15	15	12
Not very useful	1	*	*
Not at all useful	*	*	1
Didn't use them/need them	16	21	12
Don't know	*	0	*

absolutes equate to <1%

The Electoral Commission

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Q27. And again thinking back to when you went to vote at the polling station, 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.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (781)	% (566)	% (290)
Very useful	52	52	47
Fairly useful	15	25	21
Not very useful	3	1	5
Not at all useful	2	1	2
Didn't use them/need them	28	20	25
Don't know	*	1	*

* absolutes equate to <1%

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q28. 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 forms of ID can be used on polling day in order to vote? Please name as many as you can.
DO NOT READ OUT. MULTIPLE RESPONSES

NOTE* 2016 Prompted / 2017 Spontaneous	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
UK, Irish or EU Passport (VALID)	84	95	
UK, Irish or EEA (European) photographic driving license (VALID)	82	95	
Electoral identity card (VALID)	31	70	
Translink Senior or 60+ SmartPass (VALID)	33	52	
Student ID card	3	35	
Birth Certificate	3	10	
National Insurance Card	1	6	
Medical card	1	9	
Work pass	1	6	

Disabled blue badge parking permit	9	14	
None of these	1	0	
Don't know	2	*	

absolutes equate to <1%

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q29. How easy or difficult did you find/would you have found it to access a required form of ID in order to vote?

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very easy	85		
Fairly easy	11		
Neither easy nor difficult	3		
Fairly difficult	1		
Very difficult	*		
Don't know	*		

absolutes equate to <1%

Voting by post

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q30. From what you have seen, heard or experienced, do you think that voting by post for the March 2nd election was….READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very convenient	41	25	17
Fairly convenient	22	26	23
Not convenient nor inconvenient	16	24	22
Fairly inconvenient	6	3	3
Very inconvenient	2	3	4
Don't know	13	19	31

Q31. How easy or difficult was it to understand what you had to do in order to complete and return your postal vote? Would you say….READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (13)	% (14)	% (9)
Very easy	93	50	62
Fairly easy	7	36	26
Neither easy nor difficult	0	0	11
Fairly difficult	0	6	0
Very difficult	0	8	0
Don't know	0	0	0

⇒ **ASK ALL POSTAL VOTERS**

Q32. 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(s)? Were they… READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (13)	% (14)	% (9)
Very useful	100	61	52
Fairly useful	0	24	48
Not very useful	0	15	0
Not at all useful	0	0	0
Didn't use them/need them	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0

Q33. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the process of voting by post? Would you say………..READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (13)	% (14)	% (9)
Very satisfied	100	94	52
Fairly satisfied	0	0	48
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	0	6	0
Fairly dissatisfied	0	0	0
Very dissatisfied	0	0	0
Don't know	0	0	0

Ballot paper

Q34. Some people said it was difficult to fill in the ballot paper when voting in the 2nd March election. How easy or difficult did you find it to fill in the ballot paper(s) for this election? Was it… READ OUT.

	2017	2016	2011
	% (798)	% (583)	% (301)
Very easy	79	72	71
Fairly easy	16	23	24
Neither easy nor difficult	4	3	3
Fairly difficult	1	2	1
Very difficult	1	1	*
Don't know	*	2	-

absolutes equate to <1%

Q35. Why did you say it was difficult? DO NOT PROMPT. MULTICODE

	2017	2016	2011
	% (15)	% (20)	% (6)
Text too small	0	4	n/a
Too many candidates	16	30	n/a
Instructions were unclear	18	9	-
Complex/confusing	23	29	n/a
Lack of information	9	0	n/a
Difficulties using forms	0	18	n/a
The candidates were in a confusing order	18	18	n/a
The parties were in a confusing order	0	0	2
The size of the ballot paper	8	0	n/a
I could not easily find the party name of my choice	6	9	-
I could not easily find the party candidate of my choice	13	0	n/a
Lack of understanding/clarity	8	4	n/a
The layout was confusing	40	16	57
I don't understand how the electoral system works	8	0	n/a
Other	0	9	28
Don't know	0	0	-

Party and election finance

Q36. 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?

- **The spending and funding of political parties, candidates and other campaigning organisations at elections is open and transparent**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	13	10	
Tend to agree	12	24	
Neither/nor	14	22	
Tend to disagree	25	22	
Disagree strongly	28	17	
Don't Know	8	5	

- **If a political party or another campaigner is caught breaking the rules, the authorities will take appropriate actions**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	33	38	
Tend to agree	24	32	
Neither/nor	12	12	
Tend to disagree	14	8	
Disagree strongly	11	8	
Don't Know	5	3	

- **I can easily find out how much political parties, candidates and other organisations spent on campaigning and how they were funded**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Agree strongly	11	12	
Tend to agree	12	18	
Neither/nor	17	19	
Tend to disagree	23	23	
Disagree strongly	28	19	
Don't Know	9	9	

Electoral fraud

⇒ **ASK ALL**

Q37. How much electoral fraud, if any, do you think took place at the March 2 elections? Would you say it happened…

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
A lot	9	4	9
A little	19	30	33
Hardly anything at all	29	29	29
Nothing at all	23	14	28
Don't know	20	23	1

Q38. Which one of the following best describes why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 2nd March?

	2017	2016	2011
	% (287)	% (256)	%
General impression that fraud is a problem	46	48	
I saw stories in the media about electoral fraud	17	30	
Identity fraud is on the increase	22	56	
Postal voting is not secure	21	51	
People are registering other voters at the same address	12	56	
People are registering multiple times	11	38	
I heard from someone else that electoral fraud took place	12	16	
I have first-hand experience of electoral fraud	4	6	
Aware of the possibility of fraud	2	n/a	
Written in pencil, easy to erase	1	n/a	
Other	3	4	
Don't know	15	3	

Q39. In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, would you say that: *(ALWAYS ASK FIRST)* **voting in general is …**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very safe	50	30	24
Fairly safe	34	58	53
Neither safe nor unsafe	8	7	12
Fairly unsafe	3	3	3
Very unsafe	2	1	3
Don't know	3	2	5

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voting at a polling station/polling place is …	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very safe	55	52	42
Fairly safe	31	44	45
Neither safe nor unsafe	8	2	7
Fairly unsafe	2	1	2
Very unsafe	1	1	1
Don't know	3	*	3

* *absolutes equate to <1%*

voting by post is…	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Very safe	32	16	14
Fairly safe	24	36	34
Neither safe nor unsafe	20	15	14
Fairly unsafe	12	17	13
Very unsafe	4	7	5
Don't know	8	9	20

Q40. People have many reasons for voting and not voting in elections and referendums. Did you personally vote in any of the following:

- **Referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union in June 2016**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Yes	78		
No	21		
Don't know	1		

- **Northern Ireland Assembly elections in May 2016**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Yes	78		
No	21		
Don't know	1		

- **UK Parliamentary General election in May 2015**

	2017	2016	2011
	%	%	%
Yes	69		
No	29		
Don't know	2		