

# Appendix B: Marked up questionnaires - 2017

## UK Parliamentary General election 2017

### Questionnaire for Candidates

All figures below are a percentage. Some questions were specific to Great Britain or Northern Ireland only, these are indicated where relevant. Free text responses to questions are not included below.

#### THE NOMINATION PROCESS AND PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION

Q1 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about participating in the election? **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Don't know/ N/A
It was easy for me to find out what I had to do to become a candidate	63	25	6	4	1	1
I understood the rules for becoming a candidate and how to follow them	66	25	4	3	1	1
I was satisfied with the process for registering a political party (if applicable)	39	10	5	1	2	44
The nomination process was straightforward	68	21	5	4	1	1
The nomination process was well run	70	20	6	2	1	1
I received sufficient information	66	19	7	2	2	4

from the Returning Officer/ electoral staff on the nomination process						
It was easy for me to get the number of signatures required to secure my nomination	76	16	4	2	2	1
It was easy for me to raise the deposit required to secure my nomination	53	14	9	10	12	2
I found the rules on election spending and donations clear	38	30	11	11	6	3
I found the rules on personal expenses clear, including what constitutes a personal expense (i.e. one that does not count towards my spending limit)	32	31	15	12	7	3

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ELECTION, POLLING DAY, AND THE COUNT

Q2 Overall how satisfied were you with the administration of the UK general election in your constituency? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
56	34	6	4	1

Q3 How satisfied were you with how the postal vote opening process was run? (If attended) **Please 'X' one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied

24	19	16	4	1
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Q4 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the election count. (If attended) **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Don't know
Elections staff made it clear what was happening at all stages of the count (if attended)	50	26	9	8	6	1
It was clear what was happening during the verification and counting of ballot papers	55	26	8	6	4	1
The process for judging doubtful ballot papers was transparent	68	18	7	3	2	2
Overall the count process was transparent	66	23	6	2	2	1

Q5 Overall, how satisfied were you with how efficiently the verification and count processes were run (if attended)? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
55	31	6	5	2

#### INFORMATION PROVISION

Q6 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the information provided by the Electoral Commission. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
The Electoral Commission's written <i>Guidance for</i>	36	35	10	3	1	16

<i>candidates and agents</i> was clear and helpful						
The Electoral Commission's written information on what to expect at the verification and count (part 5 of the Candidates and Agents Guidance) was clear and easy to use	34	28	10	2	1	25

Q7 How do you most often consult/read Commission guidance? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Hardcopy/paper	Electronic/online	Don't know/Not applicable
26	60	14

Q8 If you access guidance online, what have you used to access it? **Please put an 'X' in all that apply**

Desktop or laptop computer	Tablet	Smartphone	Other (please specify)
78	13	8	

Q9 If you contacted the Commission personally (e.g. by telephone or e-mail) for advice or guidance please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
Direct advice or guidance on electoral administration was clear and easy to understand	11	5	3	1	1	79
Direct advice or guidance on spending and donations was clear and easy to understand	10	6	4	1	2	78
[Not asked in Northern	9	3	3	0	1	84

Ireland survey] Direct advice or guidance on registering a political party was clear and easy to understand						
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Q10 Overall, the Electoral Commission was a useful source of advice and guidance during the campaign **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
24	29	12	2	2	31

Q11 Please tell us more about why you did or did not find our advice or guidance useful, clear or easy. **Please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary).**

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#### NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY

INFORMATION PROVISION – The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI)  
Qx If you contacted the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland personally (e.g. by telephone or e-mail) for advice or guidance please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
Direct advice or guidance on electoral administration was clear and easy to understand	58	18	6	0	0	18
Direct advice or guidance on campaigning was clear and easy to understand	53	12	12	0	0	24
Direct advice on another area (please state _____) was clear and easy to understand	20	7	7	7	0	60

Qxx Overall, the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland was a useful source of advice and guidance during the campaign **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
44	33	6	0	0	17

Qxxx Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement about the **joint** written guidance provided by the **Electoral Commission and Electoral Office for Northern Ireland**. **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
The <i>Guidance for candidates and agents</i> from the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland was clear and helpful	72	22	0	0	0	6

#### ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Q12 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, how safe or unsafe would you say that voting is? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very safe	Fairly safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Fairly unsafe	Very unsafe
27	46	8	13	5

Q13 How much electoral fraud, if any, do you think took place at elections in your constituency? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

A lot	A little	Hardly at all	None at all	Don't know
5	15	28	26	25

Q14 If you answered 'a lot' or 'a little' at Q13. Please tell us more about why you think electoral fraud or abuse took place on 8th June? **Please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary).**

#### FURTHER COMMENTS

Q15 If you have any further comments on the experience of being a candidate or on the rules and running of the election, please feel free to add them below. Areas for comment might include those covered by the questions above, or other areas not covered by this survey. **Please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary).**

## ABOUT YOU

To help us better understand the views of all those taking part in this survey, it would be helpful if you could provide us with some or all of the following information. Please be assured that your views will remain confidential.

Q16 Your constituency

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Q17 Were you a candidate, or both candidate and agent in these elections?

Candidate	Both
85	15

Q18 Did you stand for a political party or as an independent candidate?

Political party	Independent candidate
96	4

Q19 Party name (if applicable)

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Q20 Was this the first time you contested an election?

Yes	No
19	81

Q21 IF NO at Q20: Please provide information of previous elections in which you have stood.

Local Government elections		
National Assembly for Wales		
Northern Ireland Assembly		
Scottish Parliament		
Westminster		
Other (Specify):		

Q22 Were you elected at this election?

Yes	No
11	89

Q23 What gender are you?

Male	Female	Other (please specify)
71	29	-

Q24 Which age group do you belong to?

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
4	11	17	23	27	17

Q25 Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

White	Chinese	Irish Traveller	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
85	0	0	1	6	1
Black Caribbean	Black African	Black Other	Other (please specify)		Prefer not to answer
0	1	0	1		4

Q26 Do you have any long term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities or the work that you can do?

Yes	No
10	90

Q27 Do you have caring responsibilities for any people within your household (for example children under 18 or anyone with a disability or long-term illness)?

Yes	No
23	77

#### **NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY**

Qx Regardless of whether they actually practice a particular religion, most people in Northern Ireland are perceived to be members of either the Protestant or Roman Catholic communities. Please indicate the community to which you belong by ticking the appropriate box below

I am a member of the Protestant community	I am a member of the Catholic community	Neither	Prefer not to answer
33	40	27	-

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## Scottish councils election 2017

### Questionnaire for Candidates

All figures below are a percentage. Free text responses to questions are not included below. Some questions had an additional answer option online (due to space restrictions in hardcopy) these are indicated where relevant.

The questionnaire was originally for candidates and agents, agents responses have been filtered from the results for this report and below.

#### THE NOMINATION PROCESS, CAMPAIGNING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION

Q1 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about participating in the election? **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Don't know/ N/A
It was easy to find out what to do to become a candidate	70	18	7	2	1	2
I understood the rules for becoming a candidate and how to follow them	73	19	4	2	1	1
I was satisfied with the process for registering a political party (if applicable)	52	10	3	1	1	35
I found the Returning Officer briefing on being a candidate useful (if applicable)	59	14	6	0	1	23
The nomination process was straightforward	76	15	4	1	2	2
The nomination process was well run	76	14	5	1	2	2
I received sufficient	75	14	5	1	1	4

information from the Returning Officer/electoral staff on the nomination process						
It was clear how standing for election under Single Transferrable Vote (STV) system worked	48	24	10	10	8	0
I found the rules on election spending clear	58	23	11	5	2	2
I found the rules on personal expenses clear, including what constitutes a personal expense (i.e one that does not count towards my spending limit)	48	26	13	5	4	4
I found the rules on expenses relating to a candidate's disability clear, including how to report a disability related expense	26	11	13	3	3	45
I was aware of the Access to Elected Office Fund Scotland	20	6	9	9	41	16
There should be rules on donations to candidates' campaigns at local government elections in	56	17	15	3	5	5

Scotland						
I am content for my address or my candidate's address to appear on the ballot paper	49	15	8	8	19	0

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ELECTION, POLLING DAY, AND THE COUNT  
 Q2 Overall how satisfied were you with the administration of the election in your council area? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
72	23	4	1	1

Q3 HARDCOPY How satisfied were you with how the postal vote opening process was run? (If attended) **Please 'X' one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
54	23	20	2	1

Q3 ONLINE **additional answer option of: Did not attend** How satisfied were you with how the postal vote opening process was run? (If attended) **Please 'X' one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Did Not attend
28	15	8	5	28	41

Q4 Overall, how confident are you that the election was well run? **Please 'X' one box only**

Very confident	Fairly confident	Neither confident nor unconfident	Not very confident	Not at all confident
70	25	2	2	1

Q5 HARDCOPY Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the election count. (If attended) **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Don't know
Elections staff made it clear what was happening at all stages of the count (If attended)	65	18	6	5	2	4
The process	74	13	4	2	2	5

for judging doubtful ballot papers was transparent						
Overall the count process was transparent	76	11	5	3	2	3
A daytime count was better than an overnight count	64	11	11	4	7	4
Electronic counting of ballot papers worked well	64	21	7	2	1	4

**Q5 ONLINE additional answer option of: Did not attend** Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the election count

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	ONLINE: Did not attend count
Elections staff made it clear what was happening at all stages of the count (If attended)	56	21	3	3	10	8
The process for judging doubtful ballot papers was transparent	59	15	0	10	5	8
Overall the count process was transparent	56	21	3	3	10	8
A daytime count was better than an overnight count	49	18	8	3	18	5
Electronic counting of ballot papers worked well	44	28	8	5	3	8

Q6 Overall, how satisfied were you with how efficiently count processes were run  
**Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
65	26	6	2	1

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INFORMATION PROVISION - The Electoral Commission

Q7 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the information provided by the Electoral Commission. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
The Electoral Commission's written <i>Guidance for candidates and agents</i> was clear and helpful	53	30	7	1	1	8
The Electoral Commission's written information on what to expect at the count was clear and easy to use	50	28	9	2	1	11

Q8 If you contacted the Commission personally (e.g. by telephone or e-mail) for advice or guidance please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
Direct advice or guidance on electoral administration/participating in the election was clear and easy to understand	19	8	3	1	1	68
Direct advice or guidance on spending was clear and easy to understand	17	9	3	2	1	68
Direct advice or guidance on registering a political	14	5	4	0	0	76

party was clear and easy to understand (if applicable)						
Direct advice on another area (please state) was clear and easy to understand	9	3	4	1	2	81

Q9 Overall, the Electoral Commission was a useful source of advice and guidance during the campaign **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
30	21	11	0	1	36

Q10 Please tell us more about why you did or did not find our advice or guidance useful, clear or easy. **Please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary).**

#### ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Q11 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, how safe or unsafe would you say that voting is? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very safe	Fairly safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Fairly unsafe	Very unsafe
46	42	6	5	1

Q12 How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at this election? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

A lot	A little	Hardly at all	None at all	Don't know
1	6	16	40	35

#### FURTHER COMMENTS

Q13 If you have any further comments on the experience of being a candidate or on the rules and running of the election, please feel free to add them below. Areas for comment might include those covered by the questions above, or other areas not covered by this survey. **Please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary).**

#### ABOUT CANDIDATES

Q14 Your ward

Q15 Were you a candidate, or both candidate and agent in these elections?

Candidate	Both
81	19

Q16 Did you stand for a political party or as an independent candidate?

Political party	Independent candidate
76	24

Q17 Party name (if applicable)

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Q18 Was this the first time you contested an election?

Yes	No
39	61

Q19 IF NO at Q18: Please provide information of previous elections in which you have stood.

Local Government elections		
National Assembly for Wales		
Northern Ireland Assembly		
Scottish Parliament		
Westminster		
Other (Specify):		

Q20 Were you elected at this election?

Yes	No
54	46

Q21 What is your sex?

Male	Female	Other (please specify)
70	30	-

Q22 Which age group do you belong to?

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
3	4	9	22	33	29

Q23 Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

White	Chinese	Irish Traveller	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
94	0	*	*	*	0
Black Caribbean	Black African	Black Other	Other (please specify)		Prefer not to answer
0	0	0	2		4

Q24 Do you have any long term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities or the work that you can do?

Yes	No
11	89

Q25 Do you have caring responsibilities for any people within your household (for example children under 18 or anyone with a disability or long-term illness)?

<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
18	82



# Northern Ireland Assembly election 2017

## Questionnaire for Candidates

All figures below are a percentage. Free text responses to questions are not included below.

### THE NOMINATION PROCESS AND PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTION

Q1 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about participating in the election? **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Don't know/ N/A
It was easy for me to find out what I had to do to become a candidate	79	21	0	0	0	0
I understood the rules for becoming a candidate and how to follow them	88	12	0	0	0	0
I was satisfied with the process for registering a political party (if applicable)	71	4	8	0	0	17
The nomination process was straightforward	91	9	0	0	0	0
The nomination process was well run	97	3	0	0	0	0
I received sufficient information from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland on the	88	12	0	0	0	0

nomination process						
It was easy for me to get the number of signatures required to secure my nomination	97	0	3	0	0	0
It was easy for me to raise the deposit required to secure my nomination	79	9	6	3	3	0
I found the rules on election spending and donations clear	70	27	3	0	0	0

Q2 If you have any further comments on participating in the election, for example regarding the impact of the election timetable **please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary)**.

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#### THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ELECTION, POLLING DAY, AND THE COUNT

Q3 Overall how satisfied were you with the administration of the Northern Ireland Assembly election in your constituency? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
63	28	6	0	3

Q4 How satisfied were you with how the postal vote opening process was run? (If attended) **Please 'X' one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
38	31	23	4	0

Q5 Overall, how satisfied were you with how efficiently the verification and count processes were run? **Please 'X' one box only**

Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
68	21	9	0	3

Q6 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about the election count. (If attended) **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Don't know
Elections staff made it clear what was happening at all stages of the count	64	15	12	3	6	0
It was clear what was happening during the verification and counting of ballot papers	64	24	12	0	0	0
The process for judging doubtful ballot papers was transparent	67	18	12	0	0	3
Overall the count process was transparent	71	18	9	0	0	3

INFORMATION PROVISION - The Electoral Commission

Q7 Overall, the Electoral Commission was a useful source of advice and guidance during the campaign **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
42	24	21	0	3	9

Q8 If you contacted the Commission personally (e.g. by telephone or e-mail) for advice or guidance please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
Direct advice or guidance on electoral administration was clear and easy to understand	55	9	9	0	0	27
Direct advice or guidance on spending and donations was clear and easy to understand	40	20	12	0	4	24
Direct advice or guidance on registering a political party was clear and easy to understand	50	5	14	0	0	32
Direct advice on another area (please state _____) was clear and easy to understand	12	0	6	0	0	15 (67% left blank)

INFORMATION PROVISION – The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI)

Q9 If you contacted the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland personally (e.g. by telephone or e-mail) for advice or guidance please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statements. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
Direct advice or guidance on electoral administration was clear and easy to	69	8	8	0	0	15

understand						
Direct advice or guidance on campaigning was clear and easy to understand	62	12	8	0	0	19
Direct advice on another area (please state _____) was clear and easy to understand	67	0	25	0	8	77

Q10 Overall, the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland was a useful source of advice and guidance during the campaign **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
59	28	3	0	0	9

Q11 Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each of the following statement about the **joint** written guidance provided by the **Electoral Commission and Electoral Office for Northern Ireland**. **Please put an 'X' in one box only for each statement**

	Agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to Disagree	Disagree	Did not use
The <i>Guidance for candidates and agents</i> from the Electoral Commission was clear and helpful	70	24	0	3	0	3
The <i>Guidance for candidates and agents</i> from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland was clear and helpful	73	24	3	0	0	0

## ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

Q12 In general, when it comes to being safe from fraud and abuse, how safe or unsafe would you say that voting is? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

Very safe	Fairly safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Fairly unsafe	Very unsafe
47	35	9	6	3

Q13 How much, if at all, do you think that electoral fraud took place at elections in your area? **Please put an 'X' in one box only**

A lot	A little	Hardly at all	None at all	Don't know
13	26	13	19	29

## FURTHER COMMENTS

Q14 If you have any further comments on the experience of being a candidate or on the rules and running of the election, please feel free to add them below. Areas for comment might include those covered by the questions above, or other areas not covered by this survey. **Please write below (use a separate sheet if necessary).**

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## ABOUT YOU

To help us better understand the views of all those taking part in this survey, it would be helpful if you could provide us with some or all of the following information. Please be assured that your views will remain confidential.

Q15 Your name

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Q16 Your constituency

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Q17 Were you a candidate, or both candidate and agent in these elections?

Candidate	Both
74	22

Q18 Did you stand for a political party or as an independent candidate?

Political party	Independent candidate
86	14

Q19 Party name (if applicable)

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Q20 Was this the first time you contested an election?

Yes	No
30	70

Q21 IF NO at Q20: Please provide information of previous elections in which you have stood, and the position you held if you were elected (if applicable)?

Q22 Were you elected at this election?

Yes	No
50	50

Q23 What gender are you?

Male	Female
74	26

Q24 Which age group do you belong to?

18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
15	8	23	19	23	12

Q25 Which of these best describes your ethnic group?

White	Chinese	Irish Traveller	Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi
100	0	0	0	0	0
Black Caribbean	Black African	Black Other	Other (please specify)	Prefer not to answer	
0	0	0	0	-	

Q26 Do you have any long term illness, health problems or disability which limits your daily activities or the work that you can do?

Yes	No
8	92

Q27 Do you have caring responsibilities for any people within your household (for example children under 18 or anyone with a disability or long-term illness)?

Yes	No
19	74

Q28 Regardless of whether they actually practice a particular religion, most people in Northern Ireland are perceived to be members of either the Protestant or Roman Catholic communities. Please indicate the community to which you belong by ticking the appropriate box below

I am a member of the Protestant community	I am a member of the Catholic community	Neither	Prefer not to answer
46	33	17	4