

Lord Ashcroft Polls

1,542 adults in Northern Ireland were interviewed online between 30 Aug and 2 Sept 2019. Results have been weighted to be representative of all adults in Northern Ireland.

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Unweighted sample	1542	444	1098	89	605	648	200	811	563	743	276	500	436	987
Weighted sample	1542	798	744	153	534	524	331	647	725	578	324	625	628	811

How positive or negative do you feel about each of the following, where zero means 'extremely negative' and 100 means 'extremely positive'?

Mean score /100	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Boris Johnson, UK Prime Minister	40	34	45	28	32	43	49	4	77	6	21	78	81	10
Jeremy Corbyn, UK Labour Party leader	30	32	28	45	34	28	23	56	8	53	37	4	10	43
Julian Smith, UK Northern Ireland Secretary	40	36	41	34	34	38	51	14	62	15	32	65	64	25
Arlene Foster, DUP leader	32	27	35	18	25	33	42	3	61	3	9	67	66	7
Robin Swann, UUP leader	30	31	28	30	31	29	35	17	45	19	24	46	42	23
Leo Varadkar, Taoiseach of the Republic of Ireland	44	48	38	47	47	40	44	62	23	63	56	19	19	62
Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Fein leader in Northern Ireland	30	30	28	41	32	26	20	55	6	53	30	6	8	42
Colum Eastwood, SDLP leader	37	38	34	44	39	34	37	49	22	51	46	19	20	49
Naomi Long, Alliance Party leader	46	52	40	44	48	45	47	68	22	67	61	19	17	67
Nigel Farage, Brexit Party leader	31	24	36	17	25	36	36	4	59	6	15	60	68	4

Which of the following do you think would make the best Prime Minister?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
BORIS JOHNSON	45%	39%	52%	32%	37%	49%	56%	6%	88%	6%	27%	89%	89%	15%
JEREMY CORBYN	41%	46%	36%	59%	48%	38%	29%	80%	6%	79%	46%	5%	7%	65%
Don't Know/Not Sure	14%	15%	12%	9%	15%	13%	15%	14%	6%	15%	27%	6%	4%	20%

If you had to choose, which of the following would you rather see at Westminster?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
A Labour government with Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister	53%	59%	46%	65%	61%	49%	39%	94%	10%	92%	69%	8%	8%	83%
A Conservative government with Boris Johnson as Prime Minister	47%	41%	54%	35%	39%	51%	61%	6%	90%	8%	31%	92%	92%	17%

Do you think there should be a referendum on Irish unification (a "border poll")?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Yes, in the next five years	37%	38%	35%	56%	41%	33%	27%	71%	4%	64%	52%	3%	11%	53%
Yes, in the next five to ten years	14%	14%	13%	7%	13%	20%	9%	22%	4%	22%	20%	3%	4%	22%
Yes, but not in the next ten years	18%	16%	20%	8%	11%	17%	35%	5%	28%	12%	11%	26%	21%	16%
Never	29%	28%	29%	20%	32%	29%	27%	1%	59%	0%	7%	65%	60%	7%
Don't know/Not sure	2%	4%	3%	9%	3%	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	10%	3%	4%	2%

Do you think there will be a referendum on Irish unification (a "border poll")?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Yes, in the next five years	26%	29%	21%	28%	29%	26%	19%	51%	3%	45%	33%	4%	7%	37%
Yes, in the next five to ten years	35%	35%	34%	31%	38%	33%	33%	39%	30%	41%	40%	27%	26%	42%
Yes, but not in the next ten years	20%	15%	27%	11%	16%	23%	28%	5%	35%	8%	12%	36%	32%	13%
Never	11%	9%	13%	16%	9%	10%	12%	0%	22%	1%	2%	24%	24%	1%
Don't know/Not sure	8%	12%	5%	14%	8%	8%	8%	5%	10%	5%	13%	9%	11%	7%

If there were a "border poll" tomorrow, how would you vote?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
For Northern Ireland to stay in the UK	45%	39%	52%	36%	41%	47%	55%	2%	89%	6%	29%	89%	87%	16%
For Northern Ireland to leave the UK and join the Republic of Ireland	46%	48%	45%	53%	51%	48%	34%	92%	5%	84%	59%	5%	11%	70%
I wouldn't vote	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know/Not sure	9%	13%	3%	10%	8%	5%	11%	6%	6%	10%	12%	6%	2%	14%

If there were a "border poll" tomorrow, what do you think the outcome would be?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Northern Ireland would vote to stay in the UK	59%	51%	67%	53%	54%	61%	65%	26%	87%	30%	52%	88%	85%	42%
Northern Ireland would vote to leave the UK and join the Republic of Ireland	27%	33%	22%	36%	31%	21%	27%	53%	5%	51%	28%	6%	9%	40%
Don't know/Not sure	14%	16%	11%	11%	15%	18%	8%	21%	8%	19%	20%	6%	6%	18%

If there were a "border poll" in ten years' time, what do you think the outcome would be?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Northern Ireland would vote to stay in the UK	29%	20%	39%	23%	26%	33%	31%	1%	59%	5%	7%	63%	61%	7%
Northern Ireland would vote to leave the UK and join the Republic of Ireland	54%	57%	51%	71%	56%	54%	44%	93%	17%	88%	74%	13%	20%	77%
Don't know/Not sure	17%	23%	10%	6%	18%	13%	25%	6%	24%	7%	19%	24%	19%	16%

Do you think there should be a new referendum on whether the UK should leave or remain in the EU?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
YES	48%	53%	43%	56%	51%	47%	41%	77%	15%	77%	67%	12%	5%	80%
NO	48%	42%	55%	42%	44%	48%	58%	15%	84%	15%	31%	87%	94%	16%
Don't know/Not sure	4%	5%	2%	2%	5%	5%	1%	8%	1%	8%	2%	1%	1%	4%

If there were to be a new referendum on the UK's membership of the EU tomorrow, how would you vote?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
For the UK to REMAIN in the EU	59%	65%	52%	75%	63%	55%	52%	91%	25%	90%	77%	21%	12%	92%
For the UK to LEAVE the EU	38%	32%	45%	22%	33%	43%	44%	6%	72%	8%	15%	77%	84%	6%
I wouldn't vote	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	0%	3%	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%	3%	1%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%	0%	1%	1%

Do you think Brexit makes Irish unification in the foreseeable future more likely, less likely, or has it made no difference?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Much More Likely	51%	56%	48%	62%	59%	49%	37%	90%	12%	87%	68%	11%	11%	79%
Slightly More Likely	14%	13%	14%	19%	11%	13%	16%	7%	19%	7%	24%	15%	17%	12%
Makes No Difference	20%	19%	21%	12%	17%	23%	25%	0%	41%	1%	7%	44%	41%	6%
Slightly Less Likely	5%	4%	5%	2%	7%	2%	6%	0%	10%	0%	0%	11%	11%	0%
Much Less Likely	9%	7%	11%	5%	5%	9%	16%	3%	16%	4%	1%	17%	18%	3%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	0%	1.0%	4.0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Brexit strengthens the case for Irish unification	58%	62%	54%	77%	64%	55%	46%	97%	19%	94%	81%	15%	14%	89%
Brexit strengthens the case for Northern Ireland remaining part of the UK	24%	23%	25%	16%	20%	25%	32%	2%	45%	3%	10%	49%	51%	5%
Brexit makes no difference to the case for or against Irish unification	17%	14%	20%	6%	15%	19%	20%	1%	34%	3%	6%	35%	34%	5%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%

Do you feel closer or less close to the rest of the UK than you did five years ago, or no different?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
I feel closer to the rest of the UK than I did five years ago	21%	17%	25%	26%	19%	17%	27%	0%	43%	2%	7%	44%	44%	5%
I feel less close to the rest of the UK than I did five years ago	49%	54%	44%	42%	53%	49%	46%	77%	16%	74%	71%	16%	18%	70%
I feel no different	29%	28%	30%	28%	27%	34%	26%	22%	40%	24%	20%	39%	37%	25%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%

Thinking about Brexit, which of the following would you most like to see?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
For the UK to leave the EU on 31 October with or without a deal	38%	32%	43%	17%	33%	42%	47%	7%	70%	9%	19%	72%	82%	6%
For the UK to leave the EU with a good deal, even if this means waiting beyond 31 October	10%	8%	11%	27%	9%	6%	8%	5%	13%	4%	13%	13%	11%	7%
For the UK to remain in the EU	51%	58%	44%	54%	56%	50%	45%	85%	16%	84%	67%	14%	5%	85%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%	3%	1%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%

Which of the following is closest to your view?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Leaving the EU with no deal would be disastrous for Northern Ireland	57%	61%	51%	68%	64%	54%	42%	94%	16%	91%	75%	15%	11%	87%
Leaving the EU with no deal would cause some difficulties, but the risks have been exaggerated	33%	32%	34%	25%	30%	33%	41%	3%	64%	5%	22%	65%	67%	9%
Leaving the EU with no deal would cause only negligible problems for Northern Ireland, if any	9%	5%	14%	7%	6%	12%	11%	0%	19%	1%	2%	19%	21%	1%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	6%	3%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%

If it were not possible to have both, which do you think is more important?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
For Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom	44%	39%	50%	35%	38%	46%	55%	2%	87%	5%	25%	89%	88%	13%
For Northern Ireland to remain in the EU	55%	60%	49%	65%	60%	53%	45%	97%	12%	94%	73%	10%	11%	85%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%

As you may know, the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated between the EU and Theresa May's government contains a section, known as the 'backstop', intended to ensure there is no hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit. This means that, unless an alternative arrangement has been agreed, the UK would remain in the EU customs union, and some EU regulations would still apply to Northern Ireland but not to the rest of the UK. Boris Johnson, the UK Prime Minister, has said the UK will not agree to any deal that includes the 'backstop', but the EU has insisted that it must be part of any Brexit deal. The UK is due to leave the EU on 31st October. If no further progress is made in the negotiations before then, **and these are the only two options available**, which of the following would you rather do?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Leave the EU with a deal that includes the Northern Ireland 'backstop'	60%	65%	54%	75%	66%	56%	48%	96%	21%	94%	82%	17%	17%	88%
Leave the EU with no deal	39%	33%	45%	25%	33%	42%	49%	4%	77%	6%	14%	82%	81%	10%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	2%	1%	0%	1%	2%	3%	0%	2%	0%	4%	1%	2%	2%

If it were not possible to have both after Brexit, which do you think is more important?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
Making sure exactly the same laws and regulations apply in Northern Ireland as in the rest of the UK	38%	34%	42%	23%	32%	40%	51%	3%	75%	4%	19%	79%	77%	12%
Making sure there is no visible border between Ireland and Northern Ireland	61%	65%	57%	76%	68%	59%	47%	96%	24%	96%	81%	20%	22%	87%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%

Which of the following is closer to your own view?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
The issue of the Irish border is being deliberately exaggerated by politicians who want to stop Brexit – if both sides were willing, a practical solution could be found that would avoid a hard border after Brexit without EU regulations applying in Northern Ireland	41%	38%	45%	21%	35%	44%	56%	3%	82%	5%	19%	86%	88%	10%
The only way to avoid a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland is to keep the 'backstop', or for the UK to remain in the EU – there is no alternative solution available	57%	60%	52%	76%	63%	54%	41%	96%	14%	94%	79%	11%	11%	87%
Don't know/Not sure	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%	4%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				TRADITION		RELIGION			EU REF VOTE	
		Female	Male	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	Nationalist	Unionist	Catholic	No Religion	Protestant	Leave	Remain
There is no problem with the 'backstop' and the government should accept it as part of a Brexit deal	35%	38%	32%	40%	38%	36%	27%	69%	5%	64%	40%	6%	6%	54%
The 'backstop' is not ideal, but it is an acceptable compromise for getting Brexit done without the risk of a hard border between Ireland and Northern Ireland	24%	24%	24%	38%	29%	22%	15%	29%	15%	29%	46%	9%	10%	34%
The 'backstop' would separate Northern Ireland from the rest of the UK in unacceptable ways, and the government should not agree to any deal that includes it	40%	37%	43%	22%	32%	42%	57%	2%	79%	6%	13%	84%	83%	11%
Don't know/Not sure	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%