

LORD ASHCROFT KCMG PC NORTHERN IRELAND SURVEY – SEPTEMBER 2019

1,542 adults in Northern Ireland were interviewed online between 30 August and 2 September 2019. Results have been weighted to be representative of all adults in Northern Ireland. Full data tables are available at LordAshcroftPolls.com

1. 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	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
		Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Naomi Long	46	68	22	67	61	19	17	67
Leo Varadkar	44	62	23	63	56	19	19	62
Boris Johnson	40	4	77	6	21	78	81	10
Julian Smith	40	14	62	15	32	65	64	25
Colum Eastwood	37	49	22	51	46	19	20	49
Arlene Foster	32	3	61	3	9	67	66	7
Nigel Farage	31	4	59	6	15	60	68	4
Robin Swann	30	17	45	19	24	46	42	23
Michelle O'Neill	30	55	6	53	30	6	8	42
Jeremy Corbyn	30	56	8	53	37	4	10	43

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

%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
		Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Boris Johnson	45%	6%	88%	6%	27%	89%	89%	15%
Jeremy Corbyn	41%	80%	6%	79%	46%	5%	7%	65%
Not sure	14%	14%	6%	15%	27%	6%	4%	20%

3. If you had to choose, which of the following would you rather see in Westminster?

%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
		Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
A Labour government with Jeremy Corbyn as PM	53%	94%	10%	92%	69%	8%	8%	83%
A Conservative government with Boris Johnson as PM	47%	6%	90%	8%	31%	92%	92%	17%

4. Do you think there should be a referendum on Irish unification (a “border poll”)?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Yes, in the next 5 years	37%		71%	4%	64%	52%	3%	11%	53%
Yes, in the next 5-10 yrs	14%		22%	4%	22%	20%	3%	4%	22%
Yes, but not in the next 10 years	18%		5%	28%	12%	11%	26%	21%	16%
Never	29%		1%	59%	0%	7%	65%	60%	7%
Don't know	2%		1%	5%	2%	10%	3%	4%	2%

5. Do you think there will be a referendum on Irish unification (a “border poll”)?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Yes, in the next 5 years	26%		51%	3%	45%	33%	4%	7%	37%
Yes, in the next 5-10 yrs	35%		39%	30%	41%	40%	27%	26%	42%
Yes, but not in the next 10 years	20%		5%	35%	8%	12%	36%	32%	13%
Never	11%		0%	22%	1%	2%	24%	24%	1%
Don't know	8%		5%	10%	5%	13%	9%	11%	7%

6. If there were a “border poll” tomorrow, how would you vote?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
For NI to stay in the UK	45%		2%	89%	6%	29%	89%	87%	16%
For NI to leave the UK and join the ROI	46%		92%	5%	84%	59%	5%	11%	70%
Don't know/ Wouldn't vote	9%		6%	6%	10%	12%	6%	2%	14%

7. If there were a “border poll” tomorrow, what do you think the outcome would be?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
NI would vote to stay in the UK	59%		26%	87%	30%	52%	88%	85%	42%
NI would vote to leave the UK and join the ROI	27%		53%	5%	51%	28%	6%	9%	40%
Don't know	14%		21%	8%	19%	20%	6%	6%	18%

8. If there were a “border poll” in ten years’ time, what do you think the outcome would be?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
NI would vote to stay in the UK	29%		1%	59%	5%	7%	63%	61%	7%
NI would vote to leave the UK and join the ROI	54%		93%	17%	88%	74%	13%	20%	77%
Don't know	17%		6%	24%	7%	19%	24%	19%	16%

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

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Yes	48%		77%	15%	77%	67%	12%	5%	80%
No	48%		15%	84%	15%	31%	87%	94%	16%
Don't know	4%		8%	1%	8%	2%	1%	1%	4%

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

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
For the UK to remain in the EU	59%		91%	25%	90%	77%	21%	12%	92%
For the UK to leave the EU	38%		6%	72%	8%	15%	77%	84%	6%
Don't know/Wouldn't vote	3%		3%	3%	2%	8%	2%	4%	2%

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

Brexit makes Irish unification in the foreseeable future...%	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
... much more likely	51%		90%	12%	87%	68%	11%	11%	79%
... slightly more likely	14%		7%	19%	7%	24%	15%	17%	12%
... slightly less likely	20%		0%	41%	1%	7%	44%	41%	6%
... much less likely	5%		0%	10%	0%	0%	11%	11%	0%
Brexit makes no difference	9%		3%	16%	4%	1%	17%	18%	3%
Don't know	1%		0%	2%	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%

12. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Brexit strengthens the case for Irish unification	58%		97%	19%	94%	81%	15%	14%	89%
Brexit strengthens the case for NI remaining part of the UK	24%		2%	45%	3%	10%	49%	51%	5%
Brexit makes no difference to the case for or against Irish unification	17%		1%	34%	3%	6%	35%	34%	5%
Don't know	1%		0%	2%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%

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

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Closer to the UK	21%		0%	43%	2%	7%	44%	44%	5%
Less close to the UK	49%		77%	16%	74%	71%	16%	18%	70%
I feel no different	29%		22%	40%	24%	20%	39%	37%	25%
Don't know	1%		1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	1%	0%

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

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
For the UK to leave the EU on 31 October with or without a deal	38%		7%	70%	9%	19%	72%	82%	6%
For the UK to leave the EU with a good deal, even if it means waiting beyond 31 Oct	10%		5%	13%	4%	13%	13%	11%	7%
For the UK to remain in the EU	51%		85%	16%	84%	67%	14%	5%	85%
Don't know	1%		3%	1%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%

15. Which of the following is closest to your view?

Leaving the EU with no deal...%	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
... would be disastrous for NI	57%		94%	16%	91%	75%	15%	11%	87%
... would cause some difficulties, but the risks have been exaggerated	33%		3%	64%	5%	22%	65%	67%	9%
... would cause only negligible problems for NI, if any	9%		0%	19%	1%	2%	19%	21%	1%
Don't know	1%		3%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	3%

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

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
For NI to remain part of the UK	44%	2%	87%	5%	25%	89%	88%	13%	
For NI to remain in the EU	55%	97%	12%	94%	73%	10%	11%	85%	
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	

17. 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 31 October. If no further progress is made in the negotiations, and these are the only two options available, which of the following would you rather do?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Leave the EU with a deal that includes the NI 'backstop'	60%	96%	21%	94%	82%	17%	17%	88%	
Leave the EU with no deal	39%	4%	77%	6%	14%	82%	81%	10%	
Don't know	1%	0%	2%	0%	4%	1%	2%	2%	

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

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
Making sure exactly the same laws and regulations to apply in NI as in the rest of the UK	38%	3%	75%	4%	19%	79%	77%	12%	
Making sure there is no visible border between Ireland and NI	61%	96%	24%	96%	81%	20%	22%	87%	
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	

19. Which of the following is closer to your own view?

	%	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
			Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
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 NI	41%		3%	82%	5%	19%	86%	88%	10%
The only way to avoid a hard border between Ireland and NI is to keep the 'backstop', or for the UK to remain in the EU – there is no alternative solution available	57%		96%	14%	94%	79%	11%	11%	87%
<i>Don't know</i>	2%		1%	4%	1%	2%	3%	1%	3%

20. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

<i>Leaving the EU with no deal...%</i>	ALL	Tradition		Religion			EU ref vote	
		Nat.	Un.	Cath.	No rel.	Prot.	L	R
The 'backstop' separates NI from the rest of the UK in unacceptable ways, and the government should not agree to any deal that includes it	40%	2%	79%	6%	13%	84%	83%	11%
There is no problem with the 'backstop' and the government should accept it as part of a Brexit deal	35%	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 NI	24%	29%	15%	29%	46%	9%	10%	34%
<i>Don't know</i>	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%