

The Future of the Stormont Talks

Summary tables of principal statistical results

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Good morning/afternoon/evening. My name is from MRNI Ltd. We are currently undertaking a survey as part of research being conducted at Queens University and wondered if you would take a few minutes to answer some questions?

The survey presents a selection of issues regarding the future of the Stormont Talks. For most question several different options are available for each issue. Could you please indicate which ones you would consider to be **‘Desirable’**, **‘Acceptable’**, **‘Tolerable’** or **‘Unacceptable’**. For the purposes of this poll ‘desirable’, ‘acceptable’, ‘tolerable’ and ‘unacceptable’ mean:

SHOW CARD ONE

“Desirable” - This may not be exactly what you want but you think this option, or something very similar to it, is a good idea and should be put into practice.

“Acceptable” - This option is not what you would consider to be “Desirable”, if you were given a choice, but you could certainly “live with it”.

“Tolerable” - This option is not what you want. But, as part of a lasting settlement for Northern Ireland, you would be willing to put up with it.

“Unacceptable” - This option is completely unacceptable under any circumstances. You would not accept it, even as part of a lasting settlement.

Please note that you may use each of these terms as many times as you wish in each question. Also note that any reference to ‘The Parties’ relates to those elected to the Stormont Talks.

1. Getting to a Settlement

Here are some options under which all 'The Parties' should be prepared to talk to each other with a view to increasing opportunities for reaching a settlement. Please indicate which ones you consider to be 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

SHOW CARD TWO

All the parties should be prepared to talk to each other

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	25	19	14	42
So long as the cease-fires hold.	34	31	23	12
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	27	42	18	13
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	33	20	15	32

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	11	13	11	65
So long as the cease-fires hold.	25	30	29	16
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	25	46	19	10
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	46	24	14	16

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	45	26	17	12
So long as the cease-fires hold.	44	33	15	8
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	27	40	16	17
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	16	16	16	52

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	6	14	11	69
So long as the cease-fires hold.	16	27	31	26
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	17	43	25	15
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	51	20	11	18

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	11	9	8	72
So long as the cease-fires hold.	25	33	30	12
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	31	45	13	9
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	47	26	15	12

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	20	26	28	26
So long as the cease-fires hold.	53	36	9	2
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	41	51	4	4
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	31	24	13	32

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	45	27	18	10
So long as the cease-fires hold.	51	33	9	7
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	32	41	16	11
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	14	15	22	49

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Even if the cease-fires do not hold.	61	25	9	5
So long as the cease-fires hold.	39	27	22	12
So long as the cease-fires hold and there is also some decommissioning.	16	31	20	33
Only after decommissioning has been completed.	9	15	11	65

2. Parties Leaving the Talks

This question relates to what should be done in the event of certain parties leaving the Talks before their completion.

SHOW CARD THREE

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks - The remaining parties, whoever they are, should continue with their negotiations and try to conclude a settlement that can be placed before the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum.	23	28	22	27
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks - The remaining parties, whoever they are, should continue with their negotiations and try to conclude a settlement that can be placed before the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum.	30	26	19	25
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks - The other remaining parties, whoever they are, should continue with their negotiations and try to conclude a settlement that can be placed before the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum.	15	18	20	47
If any of the main parties leave the Talks - Then the Talks should be stopped.	20	16	19	45

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	19	25	25	31
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	39	27	16	18
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	12	12	17	59
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	23	15	22	40

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	28	32	19	21
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	20	25	22	33
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	20	27	22	31
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	17	18	14	51

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	14	22	24	40
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	35	31	18	16
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	11	10	18	61
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	19	10	29	42

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	24	21	26	29
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	41	25	19	15
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	13	12	17	58
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	26	16	15	43

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	20	41	17	22
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	18	33	20	29
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	14	26	18	42
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	18	27	17	39

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	35	30	15	20
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	23	29	17	31
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	22	27	22	29
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	19	14	13	54

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
If any parties leave the Talks	24	36	21	19
If Sinn Féin leave the Talks	18	15	26	41
If the remaining Unionists leave the Talks	22	23	28	27
If any of the main parties leave the Talks	18	17	14	51

3. Talks failing

This next question relates to what should be done in the event of the Talks failing.

SHOW CARD FOUR

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May - If the Talks do not produce an agreement by the end of next May the two governments should place a settlement package before the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum.	33	41	17	9
Referendum if Talks collapse - In the event of the Talks collapsing the two governments should place a settlement package before the people of Northern Ireland in a referendum.	22	46	20	12
Impose settlement if Talks collapse - In the event of the Talks collapsing the two governments should impose a settlement package on the people of Northern Ireland.	4	12	25	59
No referendum - In the event of the Talks collapsing the British government should not hold a referendum but should simply try to govern Northern Ireland.	6	9	19	66

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	37	36	17	10
Referendum if Talks collapse	26	44	17	13
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	3	9	22	66
No referendum	8	11	14	67

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	28	47	16	9
Referendum if Talks collapse	17	51	21	11
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	7	16	30	47
No referendum	4	7	24	65

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	35	32	18	15
Referendum if Talks collapse	27	37	21	15
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	3	7	21	69
No referendum	6	9	12	73

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	41	38	16	5
Referendum if Talks collapse	24	50	15	11
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	2	7	25	66
No referendum	6	13	13	68

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	39	34	21	6
Referendum if Talks collapse	30	41	22	7
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	3	8	16	73
No referendum	4	12	21	63

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	29	50	11	10
Referendum if Talks collapse	16	52	19	13
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	9	20	34	37
No referendum	6	8	23	63

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Referendum next May	23	42	24	11
Referendum if Talks collapse	11	49	29	11
Impose settlement if Talks collapse	4	11	35	50
No referendum	3	3	26	68

4. The Framework Document

This question looks at the role of the Framework Document in terms of a final settlement.

SHOW CARD FIVE

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document - as a basis for a final settlement on the future of Northern Ireland.	17	29	27	27
Negotiate the Framework Document - All the parties should negotiate the Framework Document and try to reach an agreement on what they want to keep, change or add.	31	31	25	13
Reject the Framework Document - as a basis for a final settlement on the future of Northern Ireland.	9	12	22	57

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	14	21	25	40
Negotiate the Framework Document	30	28	26	16
Reject the Framework Document	14	17	21	48

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	20	39	29	12
Negotiate the Framework Document	32	36	22	10
Reject the Framework Document	4	6	21	69

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	12	16	18	54
Negotiate the Framework Document	25	27	32	16
Reject the Framework Document	21	19	23	37

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	37	53	25	33
Negotiate the Framework Document	35	28	19	18
Reject the Framework Document	11	18	20	51

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	18	24	42	16
Negotiate the Framework Document	34	33	29	4
Reject the Framework Document	4	1	17	78

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	28	41	22	9
Negotiate the Framework Document	35	34	21	10
Reject the Framework Document	3	5	27	65

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Accept the Framework Document	13	44	21	13
Negotiate the Framework Document	36	36	14	14
Reject the Framework Document	4	6	15	75

5. An alternative to the Talks

Here we look at some possible alternatives to the Talks process.

SHOW CARD SIX

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern - The British government should bring an end to the current Talks process and simply try to govern Northern Ireland.	12	23	17	48
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution - The British government should bring an end to the current Talks process and introduce devolved government to Northern Ireland similar to the proposals for Scotland and Wales.	12	15	18	55

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	18	30	16	36
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	18	18	17	47

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	6	14	15	65
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	5	11	18	66

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	19	36	16	29
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	16	15	20	49

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	17	33	16	34
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	23	20	15	42

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	6	13	13	68
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	4	11	13	72

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	11	17	15	57
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	7	14	23	56

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Stop all negotiations and govern	1	5	16	78
Stop all negotiations and introduce devolution	6	6	7	81

6. The Constitution of the Republic of Ireland

The Constitution of the Republic of Ireland makes a claim on the territory of Northern Ireland in Articles 2 and 3. The Republic of Ireland have said they are willing to introduce and support appropriate changes to their constitution to address this issue as part of an agreement reached at the Stormont Talks. Please indicate which of the options you consider to be 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

SHOW CARD SEVEN

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going - Do not delay the Talks, let reform of the Republic of Ireland's Constitution be dealt with at the same time as all the other issues that must be part of an over all settlement.	48	29	13	10
Delay the Talks - Until the reform of the Republic of Ireland's Constitution has been dealt with.	11	14	20	55

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	36	29	18	17
Delay the Talks	18	19	19	44

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	63	28	6	3
Delay the Talks	3	6	20	71

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	26	26	23	25
Delay the Talks	21	25	20	34

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	45	28	12	15
Delay the Talks	17	19	18	46

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	63	33	3	1
Delay the Talks	1	10	12	77

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	66	52	5	3
Delay the Talks	4	6	21	69

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Keep the Talks going	67	21	7	5
Delay the Talks	2	6	11	81

7. Consent of the people in a referendum

7A. The terms of a settlement for the political future of Northern Ireland must receive consent in a referendum. Do you want to be given an opportunity to vote on the terms of a settlement in a referendum?

Yes or No

Do you want to be given an opportunity to vote on the terms of a settlement in a referendum?	Yes	No
All NI	94	6
Protestant	94	6
Catholic	93	7
DUP	93	7
UUP	97	3
Alliance	94	6
SDLP	90	10
Sinn Féin	97	3

7B. A referendum can be undertaken in a number of different ways. Please indicate which options for endorsing the terms of a settlement you consider to be 'Desirable', 'Acceptable', 'Tolerable' or 'Unacceptable'.

SHOW CARD EIGHT

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland - A referendum in Northern Ireland only.	52	20	12	16
Both North and South - Separate but concurrent referenda in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.	13	26	13	48
Island of Ireland - A single referendum in the island of Ireland as a whole.	16	16	12	56
UK - GB and NI - A single referendum in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as a whole.	10	19	22	49

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	74	18	5	3
Both North and South	4	11	14	71
Island of Ireland	2	5	7	86
UK - GB and NI	14	19	15	52

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	24	24	20	32
Both North and South	24	45	13	18
Island of Ireland	34	30	16	20
UK - GB and NI	7	18	31	44

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	79	14	4	3
Both North and South	3	8	12	77
Island of Ireland	1	2	5	92
UK - GB and NI	13	15	24	48

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	76	21	2	1
Both North and South	3	13	15	69
Island of Ireland	1	6	6	87
UK - GB and NI	13	21	12	54

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	53	16	11	20
Both North and South	19	27	13	41
Island of Ireland	7	19	16	58
UK - GB and NI	8	19	13	60

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	25	22	20	33
Both North and South	27	47	15	11
Island of Ireland	27	34	25	14
UK - GB and NI	5	23	32	40

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Only Northern Ireland	9	31	25	35
Both North and South	25	52	10	13
Island of Ireland	65	23	5	7
UK - GB and NI	4	8	35	53

7C. With regard to the people of Northern Ireland how would you consider the following options

SHOW CARD NINE

All NI	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority - A simple majority of the people of Northern Ireland - More than 50%.	29	32	21	18
Weighted majority - A larger majority of the people of Northern Ireland - Approximately 70%.	18	31	30	21
A majority from both communities - A separate majority of the people from each of the two main communities in Northern Ireland - More than 50% from each community.	29	29	17	25

Protestant	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	42	34	15	9
Weighted majority	21	34	26	19
A majority from both communities	15	29	21	35

Catholic	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	13	29	29	29
Weighted majority	13	30	34	23
A majority from both communities	48	29	12	11

DUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	53	24	13	10
Weighted majority	16	27	28	29
A majority from both communities	9	20	16	55

UUP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	39	41	11	9
Weighted majority	20	38	27	15
A majority from both communities	19	33	20	28

Alliance	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	18	36	22	24
Weighted majority	34	28	24	14
A majority from both communities	41	31	11	17

SDLP	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	13	28	30	29
Weighted majority	15	29	35	21
A majority from both communities	47	34	10	9

Sinn Féin	Desirable	Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable
Simple majority	9	25	27	39
Weighted majority	8	25	40	27
A majority from both communities	55	22	13	10

8. Government and the Peace Process

How much do you think the handling of the peace process by the current government favours the:

All NI	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	36	24	28	9	3
Nationalists	33	28	28	9	2
Unionists	12	19	33	24	12
Loyalists	10	17	36	23	14
Political Party you support	3	17	36	27	17

Protestant	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	58	18	21	3	0
Nationalists	53	24	20	3	0
Unionists	3	18	21	37	21
Loyalists	2	11	26	36	25
Political Party you support	1	13	27	34	25

Catholic	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	9	29	38	17	7
Nationalists	8	31	38	18	5
Unionists	24	20	46	8	2
Loyalists	21	23	47	7	2
Political Party you support	6	22	47	17	8

DUP	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	66	12	15	6	1
Nationalists	60	19	14	6	1
Unionists	1	16	16	38	29
Loyalists	1	6	22	37	34
Political Party you support	1	14	18	32	35

UUP	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	60	19	19	2	0
Nationalists	52	27	19	2	0
Unionists	4	17	18	45	16
Loyalists	4	9	25	45	17
Political Party you support	1	12	24	45	18

Alliance	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	19	42	34	4	1
Nationalists	13	40	39	7	1
Unionists	7	31	48	13	1
Loyalists	4	31	48	14	3
Political Party you support	2	14	55	26	3

SDLP	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	9	33	40	15	3
Nationalists	9	34	41	13	3
Unionists	16	22	55	5	2
Loyalists	13	24	55	6	2
Political Party you support	7	29	49	12	3

Sinn Féin	A lot	A little	No Strong Views	Not very much	Not at all
Republicans	8	25	22	28	17
Nationalists	7	31	23	31	8
Unionists	48	22	25	4	1
Loyalists	45	27	25	2	1
Political Party you support	9	27	21	25	18

9. In today's circumstances do you want the political party you support to stay in the Talks?

Yes or No

In today's circumstances do you want the political party you support to stay in the Talks?	Yes	No
All NI	92	8
Protestant	86	14
Catholic	98	2
DUP	76	24
UUP	93	7
Alliance	99	1
SDLP	99	1
Sinn Féin	100	0