

What do voters in Northern Ireland think about the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland?

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Notes

- 1 Prof. David Phinnemore, Professor of European Politics, Queen's University Belfast; Prof. Katy Hayward, Professor of Political Sociology, Queen's University Belfast, and Senior Fellow, UK in a Changing Europe; Dr. Lisa Claire Whitten, Research Fellow, Queen's University Belfast.
- 2 Excludes Don't Knows/Not sure/No opinion (all <2% combined).
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- 4 The poll attracted comments from 598 of the 3009 respondents to the poll. Of the comments, 68 related exclusively to the survey structure and 530 related to the survey topic. These comments inevitably include those from respondents who were not part of the weighted data sample of 1516, but they are nonetheless of interest in our quest to 'temperature test' NI public opinion. We have analysed these comments and categorised them using systematic qualitative data coding across all four polls. The following provides a summary of the themes addressed by the qualitative comments received in the open-text part of the survey:

Theme	2022		2021	
	February	October	June	March
Positive view of the Protocol	29 %	32%	19%	16%
Negative view of the Protocol	25%	29%	26%	29%
Critical of the DUP	18%	4%	9%	10%
Concerned about misinformation	5%	7%	10%	5%
View Brexit as the problem	4%	9%	9%	15%
Critical of NI politicians in general	4%	2%	1%	2%
Support for 'United Ireland' or 'Border Poll'	3%	2%	4%	6%
Critical of Great Britain or England	1%	1%	0%	1%
Critical of the UK government	1%	5%	6%	3%
Critical of Unionist politicians & activists	1%	3%	3%	3%
Critical of the European Union	1%	1%	4%	3%

- 5 Figures reflect the percentage of respondents identifying each issue from most important (1) to least important (10), e.g. 32% of respondents rank the future of the NHS as their top concern; 20% of respondents rank the effects of the Protocol as the issue of least concern.
- 6 Where there has been a growth in trust and/or a decrease in distrust since the June 2021 poll that is above the margin of error (i.e. at 3% or more), these figures are marked in blue. Excludes Don't Knows/Not sure/No opinion/Neutral (0% for all, except 2% for UUP and 3% for business representatives).