

Dev. Ref. JC/SI

18th December, 1979

Mr. Gordon Reece,
Conservative Central Office,
32 Smith Square,
London,
SW1

Jim
3/1
Mr Hopkins
2 cc
PS/S d/3(B)
PS/Ministers (L & B)
PS/PUS ("")
PS/Mr Bell
Mr Hannigan
Mr Marshall
Mr Moriarty
Mr Wynth
Mr Gilliland
Mr Gee

Dear Gordon,

You may have seen our poll on Northern Ireland on Panorama last night: but I thought I'd send you a copy of the results. In addition we did trail on the survey a question directly related to the idea you had.

This question was "Some people have suggested that a solution for the Northern Ireland problems would be for Northern Ireland and Eire to unite and become part of the United Kingdom. This united Ireland would have its own elected Assembly totally responsible for all domestic matters. (a) Do you think this suggestion would be acceptable to the majority of people in Northern Ireland? (b) Is this suggestion acceptable to you?".

The results of this were quite interesting. The answers to Q.4(a) was 20% "Yes"; 60% "No"; and 20% "Don't Know"; the answers to Q.4(b) were 43% "Yes"; 45% "No"; and 12% "Don't Know". I find this very interesting as it implies that, although most people think that this solution would be rejected by a majority, almost 50% of people in Northern Ireland

3. SJB - to S
(This came from Mr Reece with a copy slip).

Mr Wilson
Mr Corbett



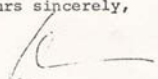
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find it personally an acceptable solution. It seems, therefore, that there might be some mileage in it, though I'd think the political implications are quite horrendous.

Please let me know if you want any further breakdowns on this question - or any others.

Best wishes.
Yours sincerely,



JOHN CLEMENS
Chairman.

Enc.

R.51891

POLL IN NORTHERN
IRELAND - CONSTITUTIONAL
REFORM

Prepared for:
BBC PANORAMA

Prepared by:
MARPLAN LIMITED

DW/k.f
DECEMBER, 1979

METHODOLOGY

Marplan Limited interviewed a total of 809 adults aged 15+, demographically representative of the adult population of Northern Ireland.

Interviewing took place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December, 1979 in the following areas:-

Belfast	-	South Constituency
		East Constituency
		North Constituency
		West Constituency
Newton-Abbey		
Castlereagh		
Ards		
Larne		
Londonderry		
Craigavon		
Coleraine		
Limnavady		
Down		
Banbridge		
Newry and Mourne		
Cookstown		
Ballymoney		
Strabane		
Fermanagh		

Quota controls were imposed on sex, age (15-44, 45+) and social class (ABC1, C2DE). The achieved sample was composed as follows:-

TOTAL	%
Men	49
Women	51
15 - 34	39
35 - 54	37
55+	24
ABC1	33
C2	35
DE	32

Interviewers were also instructed to ensure that approximately 30 - 40% of their respondents were Catholic. Within the achieved sample, 34% were Catholic, and 63% Protestant.

Claimed voting behaviour at the last General
Election broke down as follows:-

TOTAL	809
	%
D.U.P.	15
S.D.L.P.	13
O.U.P.	9
Alliance	9
U.U.	6
Independent Unionist	4
U.P.N.I.	4
U.U.U.P.	2
Republican Clubs	2
Others	2
Did Not Vote	26
Refuse to say	10

RESULTS

BASE: All respondents

%

Q.1. Do you think that the leaders of the four main political parties should now take part in joint talks with the British Government?

YES	84
NO	6
DON'T KNOW	10

Q.2. Which one of the following solutions would you prefer for Northern Ireland?

SHOW CARD A.

CARD A

To remain part of the United Kingdom as now	70
Total independence for Northern Ireland	9
To unite with the Republic of Ireland and be independant of the United Kingdom	20

- Q.3. If Northern Ireland is to remain part of the United Kingdom, which one of the following options would you prefer?

SHOW CARD B.

CARD B

Direct rule from Westminster	32
Majority rule in a devolved Parliament	21
Legally-enforced power-sharing in a devolved Parliament with an Irish dimension (e.g. a Council of Ireland)	12
Legally-enforced power-sharing in a devolved Parliament without an Irish dimension	4
Voluntary power-sharing by a coalition of parties in a devolved Parliament	21
DON'T KNOW	10