



**The Executive Office**  
**Public Polling on COVID-19**  
**(Survey 1 of 3)**

15 June 2020



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T: **Irrelevant &**  
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## Executive Summary

The Northern Ireland Executive commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake public opinion polling on COVID-19. This survey is the first in a series of three surveys and presents the results from a representative sample of 500 Northern Ireland adults using an online panel methodology. The survey was conducted independently by Social Market Research (SMR) and in accordance with the ISO20252 Standard.

### Key Findings

#### Performance of the NI Executive in Dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 73% believe that the Northern Ireland Executive is performing either very well or quite well in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic (quite or very badly, 20%)
- 67% believe that the First Minister is performing either very well or quite well in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic (quite or very badly, 24%)
- 62% believe that the Deputy First Minister is performing either very well or quite well in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic (quite or very badly, 29%)

#### Measures being put in Place by the NI Executive and Information Provision by NI Executive

- 72% believe that the NI Executive is putting in place the right measures in response to Coronavirus;
- 74% believe they are getting the information they need from the NI Executive
- 71% believe the information they are getting from the NI Executive is accurate
- 68% trust the information they are getting from the NI Executive
- 69% are confident the NI Executive has a clear plan to ease the lockdown and get the country back to normal
- 43% are content with the relaxation measures the NI Executive have put in place (36% believe the Executive have relaxed the restrictions too quickly and 15% believe that the Executive have been too slow in relaxing measures)
- 91% say they have strictly followed social distancing rules for the last week

#### Supporting the Economy to Exit Lockdown

- 63% are confident that businesses and public services will be given the tools and resources they need to get the country back to normal safely
- 49% believe that the NI Executive have the right balance between protecting the economy and healthcare (20% believe there should be more emphasis on protecting the economy and 19% feel there should be more emphasis on healthcare)
- 62% are confident that the Northern Ireland Executive is putting in place the right measures to support the economy

#### Supporting the Health Service

- 83% are confident that the health service in Northern Ireland is able to cope with the outbreak
- 69% are confident that the Northern Ireland Executive put the right measures in place to deal with coronavirus in the health and social care service

- 45% believe that the NI Executive is doing enough to provide Personal Protective Equipment (or PPE) for health staff (34% do not and 21% are undecided)

#### Testing and Contact Tracing

- 39% believe that the NI Executive is putting enough resources into testing (38% said they are not and 23% are undecided)
- 46% of respondents said they would download an app for contact tracing (32% would not and 22% were undecided)

#### Opening and Using Different Services including Intentions Regarding Holidays this Year

- Using an importance scale of 0-10 (0=not at all important: 10=very important), respondents scored the importance of opening a range of services relatively low, with the highest average importance score recorded for churches (4.4 out of 10) and the lowest recorded for bars (3.3 out of 10)
- 17% said they are likely to take a flight before September of this year, with 83% saying they are unlikely to do so
- 35% said they will holiday at home this year, 12% abroad, 4% at home and abroad, and 41% said they will not holiday at all this year

#### Changing Things for the Better Following COVID-19

- Improving the environment (9%), togetherness / improved community spirit (7%) and better funding for the health service (6%), were the most common suggestions when asked what single thing they would like to see changed for the better following Coronavirus

#### Furloughed Employees

- 36% of employees said they have been furloughed by their employer
- Among furloughed employees with school-aged children, and with childminding needs, just over half (54%) said they have childminding arrangements in place should they need to return to work, with 46% saying they do not have childminding arrangements in place

#### Working from Home During the Pandemic

- 60% of non-furloughed employees said they have been able to work from home during the pandemic
- 76% of those able to work from home said they would like to continue to be able to work from home (20% said they would not and 5% were unsure).



## 1. Introduction

In May 2020, the Northern Ireland Executive commissioned Social Market Research (SMR) to undertake polling on public opinion on COVID-19. This report presents the findings from the first in a series of three polls to be conducted.

### 1.1 Survey Focus and Content

The survey included questions on:

- The Northern Ireland Executive's response to COVID-19
- Provision and accuracy of information provided by the NI Executive
- Confidence in the NI Executive's planning and response to COVID-19
- Balance between protecting the economy and healthcare
- Testing and PPE
- Social distancing
- Recovery plan measures and moving out of lockdown
- Taking flights and holidaying in the near future
- Sending children back to school
- Changes for the better following COVID-19 crisis
- Performance of NI Executive and First and Deputy First Ministers

A copy of the survey questionnaire is included as Appendix 1.

### 1.2 Survey Methodology

The survey is based on 500 interviews with the Northern Ireland general public aged 16+. The survey was conducted using an online panel methodology with results representative of the NI adult population in terms of key factors such as age, gender, and social class. The survey has a margin of error of +/-4.4% (at most). Fieldwork was conducted between 6<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2020. The research was conducted in line with ISO20252 of which Social Market Research (SMR) is fully accredited.

#### 1.2.1 Sample Profile

Table 1.1 presents the sample profile weighted by age, sex and social class.

Table 1.1 Sample Profile [n=500]			
		%	n
Sex	Male	49	246
	Female	51	254
Age	16-39	38	190
	40-64	41	204
	65+	21	106
Social Class	ABC1	47	232
	C2DE	53	268
Community Background	Protestant	54	268
	Catholic	35	174
	Not member of either Protestant or Catholic Communities / Refused	11	58

### 1.3 Notes on Reporting

Please note that due to rounding, row and column totals in tables and figures may not sum to 100. Also, please note that any differences between sample subgroups (e.g. age, gender, social class etc.) alluded to in the report commentary are statistically significant to at least the 95% confidence level. The use of [-] within tables denotes less than 1%. Prior to analysis the data have been weighted by age, sex and social class in line with NI census estimates.

## 2. Survey Findings

### 2.1 NI Executive Putting in Place Right Measures in Response to Coronavirus

Figure 1 shows that approximately seven out of ten (72%) respondents believe that the NI Executive is putting in place the right measures in response to Coronavirus, 16% believe they are not putting in place the right measures with 12% unsure.



#### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by gender (74% of males believe that the NI Executive have put in place the right measures compared with 71% females)
- **Age:** There was no statistically significant difference by age (16-39, 72%; 40-64, 70%; 65+, 78%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by social class (ABC1, 74%; C2DE, 71%)
- **Community background:** There was a statistically significant difference by community background, with protestant respondents more likely to believe that the NI Executive is putting in place the right measures in response to Coronavirus (protestant, 78%; catholic, 68%)

## 2.2 Provision of Information by the NI Executive

Respondents were asked to agree or disagree with a number of statements about the NI Executive's provision of information during the pandemic (Figure 2).

**Statement:** 'I am getting the information I need from the NI Executive'

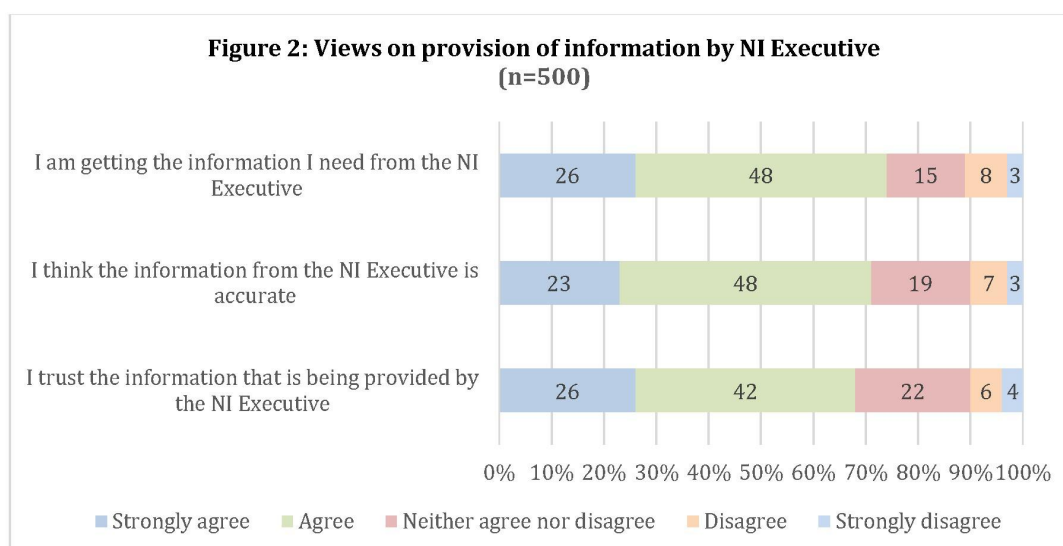
- 74% respondents agreed with this statement (*strongly agree*, 26%; *agree*, 48%), with 11% disagreeing (*disagree*, 8%; *strongly disagree*, 3%). 15% neither agreed nor disagreed.

**Statement:** 'I think the information from the NI Executive is accurate'

- 71% respondents agreed with this statement (*strongly agree*, 23%; *agree*, 48%), with 10% disagreeing (*disagree*, 7%; *strongly disagree*, 3%). 19% neither agreed nor disagreed.

**Statement:** 'I trust the information that is being provided by the NI Executive'

- 68% respondents agreed with this statement (*strongly agree*, 26%; *agree*, 42%), with 10% disagreeing (*disagree*, 6%; *strongly disagree*, 4%). 22% neither agreed nor disagreed.



### Differences between Respondent Groups

**Statement:** 'I am getting the information I need from the NI Executive'

- Gender:** no significant difference in response (males, 77%; females, 71%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- Age:** older respondents were significantly more likely to agree (16-39, 76%; 40-64, 65%; 65+, 87%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- Social class:** no significant difference in response (ABC1, 77%; C2DE, 72%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- Community background:** no significant difference in response (protestant, 75%; catholic, 76%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]

**Statement:** 'I think the information from the NI Executive is accurate'

- **Gender:** no significant difference in response (males, 74%: females, 67%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- **Age:** older respondents were significantly more likely to agree (16-39, 68%: 40-64, 67%; 65+, 84%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- **Social class:** no significant difference in response (ABC1, 71%: C2DE, 71%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- **Community background:** no significant difference in response (protestant, 71%: catholic, 75%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]

**Statement:** 'I trust the information that is being provided by the NI Executive'

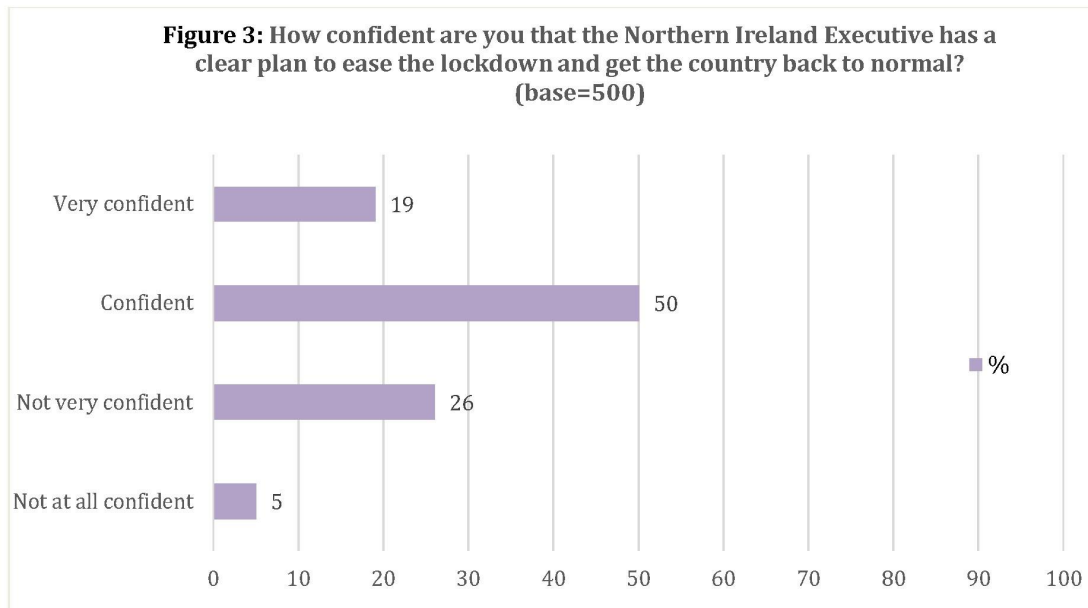
- **Gender:** no significant difference in response (males, 71%: females, 66%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- **Age:** older respondents were significantly more likely to agree (16-39, 66%: 40-64, 66%; 65+, 83%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- **Social class:** no significant difference in response (ABC1, 71%: C2DE, 66%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]
- **Community background:** no significant difference in response (protestant, 67%: catholic, 74%) [% strongly agreeing / agreeing]



### 2.3 Confidence that Executive has Clear Plan to Ease Lockdown

Respondents were asked to say how confident they are that the Northern Ireland Executive has a clear plan to ease the lockdown and get the country back to normal.

Figure 3 shows that almost seven out of ten (69%) respondents are confident that the Northern Ireland Executive has a clear plan to ease the lockdown and get the country back to normal [*very confident*, 19%: *confident*, 50%]. Thirty-one percent are not confident [*not very confident*, 26%: *not at all confident*, 5%].



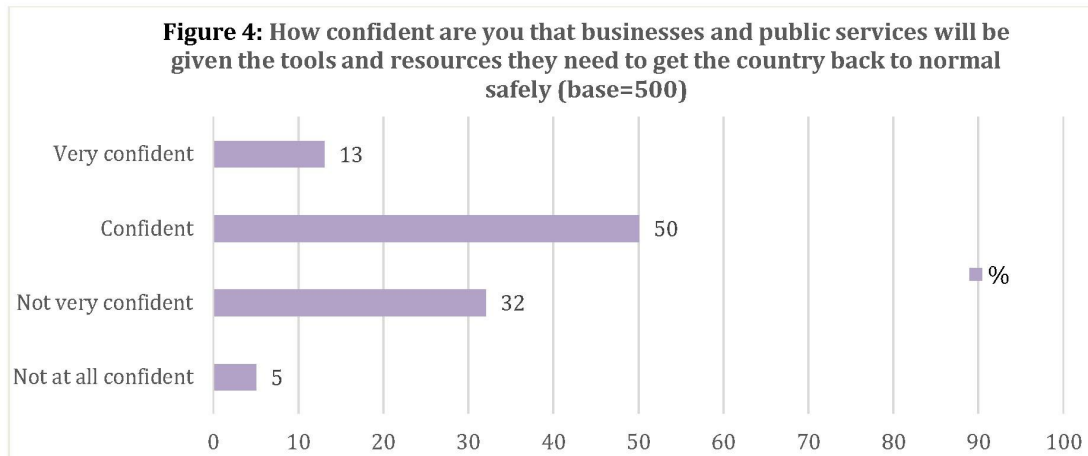
#### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Males were more likely to be confident that the Northern Ireland Executive has a clear plan to ease the lockdown and get the country back to normal (male, 72%: female, 66%)
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to express confidence (16-39, 69%: 40-64, 66%; 65+, 75%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by social class (ABC1, 71%: C2DE, 68%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 70%: catholic, 67%)

## 2.4 Confidence that Businesses and Public Services will be Resourced to get Country Back to Normal

Respondents were asked to say how confident they are that businesses and public services will be given the tools and resources they need to get the country back to normal safely.

Figure 4 shows that 63% of respondents said they are confident that businesses and public services will be given the tools and resources they need to get the country back to normal safely [*very confident*, 13%: *confident*, 50%]. Thirty-seven percent said they are not confident [*not very confident*, 32%: *not at all confident*, 5%].



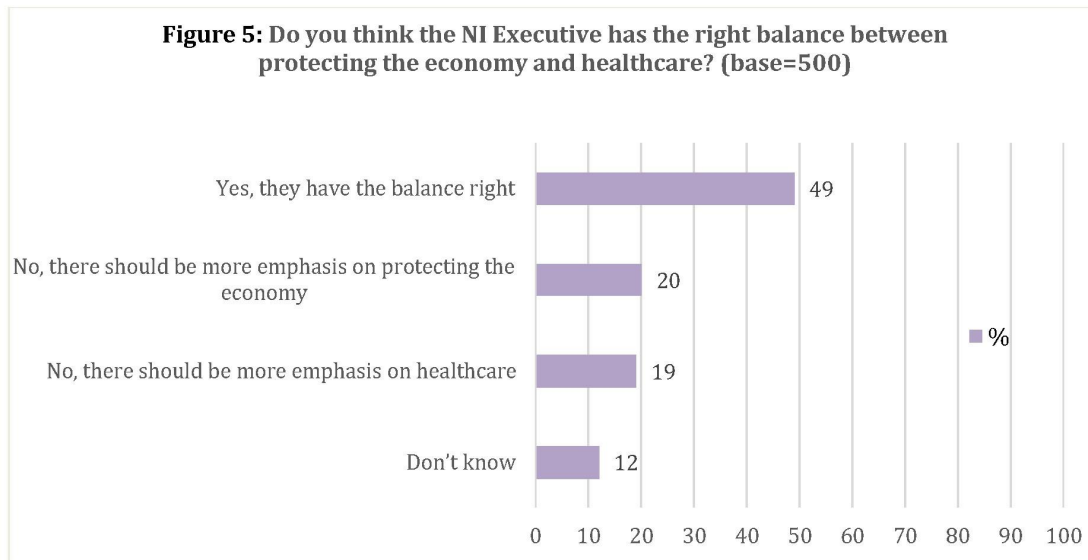
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no statistical difference in the proportions of men (64%) and women (61%) who expressed confidence that businesses and public services will be given the tools and resources they need to get the country back to normal safely
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to express confidence that businesses and public services will be given the tools and resources they need to get the country back to normal safely (16-39, 62%: 40-64, 55%; 65+, 77%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by social class (ABC1, 58%: C2DE, 67%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 63%: catholic, 63%)

## 2.5 Confidence that the Executive has Right Balance Between Economy and Healthcare

Respondents were asked to say if they believe that the Northern Ireland Executive has the right balance between protecting the economy and healthcare.

Figure 5 shows that 49% believe that the Northern Ireland Executive has the right balance between protecting the economy and healthcare, with similar numbers of the view that there should be more emphasis on protecting the economy (20%) and healthcare (19%). Twelve percent answered, 'don't know'.



### Differences between Respondent Groups

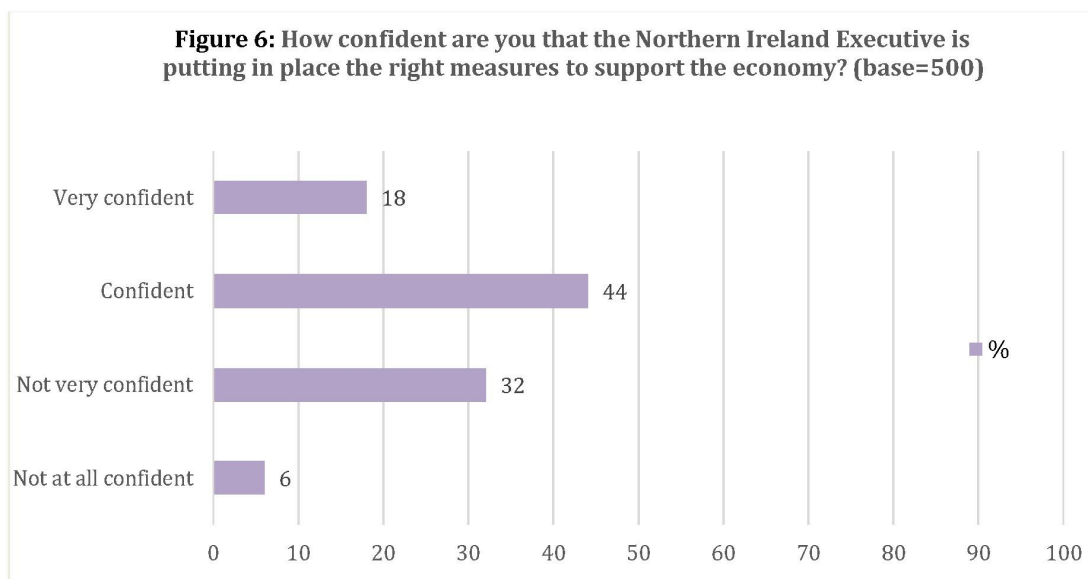
- **Gender:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by gender:
  - (male, right balance, 52%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 21%: more emphasis on healthcare, 19%: don't know, 9%)
  - (female, right balance, 47%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 19%: more emphasis on healthcare, 19%: don't know, 15%)
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to believe that the Executive has the balance right
  - (16-39, right balance, 47%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 20%: more emphasis on healthcare, 24%: don't know, 9%)
  - (40-64, right balance, 46%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 18%: more emphasis on healthcare, 18%: don't know, 19%)
  - (65+, right balance, 59%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 23%: more emphasis on healthcare, 13%: don't know, 5%)
- **Social class:** Those in higher social classes were more likely to believe that the Executive has the balance right
  - (ABC1, right balance, 54%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 15%: more emphasis on healthcare, 21%: don't know, 11%)
  - (C2DE, right balance, 45%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 24%: more emphasis on healthcare, 18%: don't know, 13%)

- **Community background:** There no statistically significant difference by community background
  - (Protestant, right balance, 51%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 20%: more emphasis on healthcare, 16%: don't know, 13%)
  - (Catholic, right balance, 45%: more emphasis on protecting the economy: 22%: more emphasis on healthcare, 20%: don't know, 13%)

## 2.6 Confidence that Executive is Putting in Place Right Measures to Support Economy

Respondents were asked to say how confident they are that the Northern Ireland Executive is putting in place the right measures to support the economy.

Figure 6 shows that 62% of respondents are confident that the Northern Ireland Executive is putting in place the right measures to support the economy [very confident, 18%: confident, 44%]. Thirty eight percent are not confident [not very confident, 31%: not at all confident, 6%].



### Differences between Respondent Groups

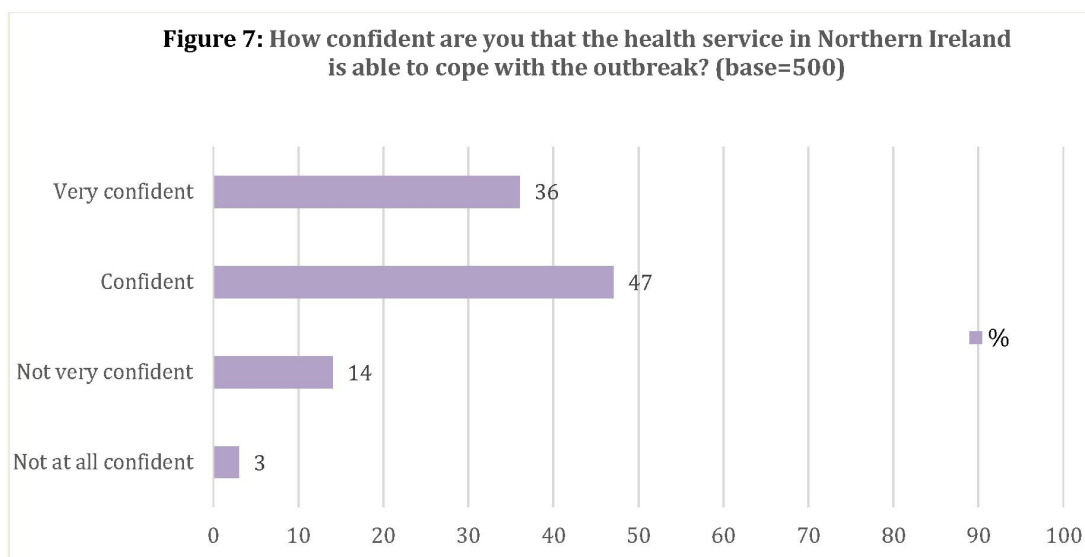
- **Gender:** There was no significant difference between men and women in terms of the level of confidence in the Northern Ireland Executive putting in place the right measures to support the economy (male, 61%: female, 64%);
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to express confidence (16-39, 62%: 40-64, 55%: 65+, 73%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by social class (ABC1, 62%: C2DE, 62%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 60%: catholic, 63%)



## 2.7 Confidence In the Health Service in N Ireland being able to Cope with the Outbreak

Respondents were asked to say how confident they are that the health service in Northern Ireland is able to cope with the outbreak.

Figure 7 shows that 83% of respondents are confident that the health service in Northern Ireland is able to cope with the outbreak [*very confident*, 36%: *confident*, 47%]. Seventeen percent were not confident [*not very confident*, 14%: *not at all confident*, 3%].



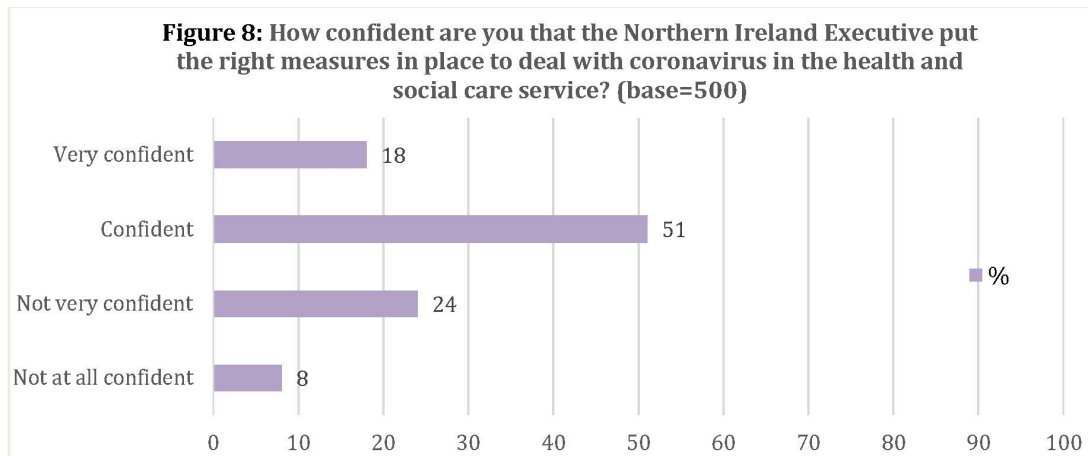
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no significant difference in response by gender (male, 85%: female, 82%);
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to express confidence (16-39, 74%: 40-64, 85%: 65+, 96%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by social class (ABC1, 82%: C2DE, 85%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 85%: catholic, 82%)

## 2.8 Confidence Right Measures in Place to Deal with Coronavirus in Health and Social Care Service

Respondents were asked to say how confident they are that the Northern Ireland Executive put the right measures in place to deal with coronavirus in the health and social care service.

Figure 8 shows that 69% of respondents are confident that the Northern Ireland Executive put the right measures in place to deal with coronavirus in the health and social care service [*very confident, 18%: confident, 51%*]. Thirty two percent are not confident [*not very confident, 24%: not at all confident, 8%*].



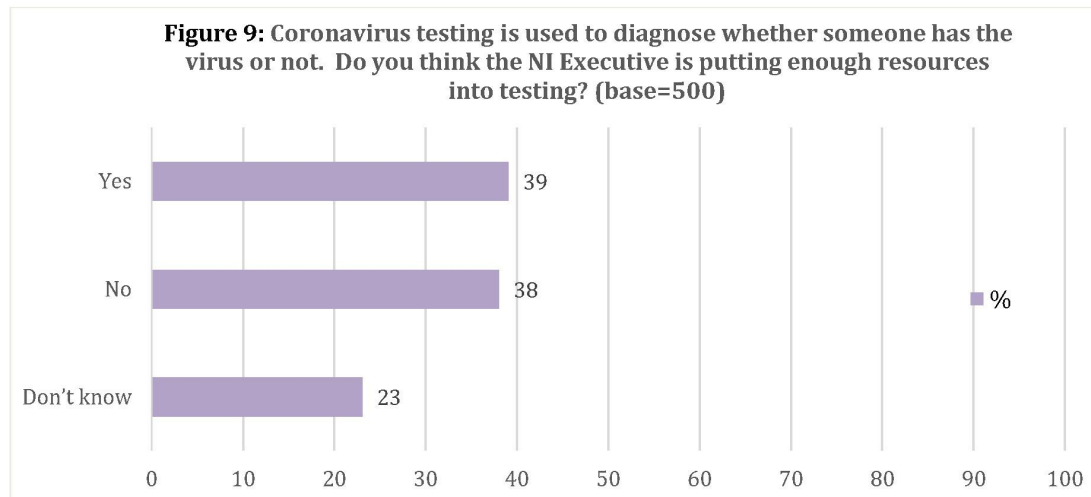
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Males were more likely to express confidence that the Northern Ireland Executive put the right measures in place to deal with coronavirus in the health and social care service (male, 73%: female, 64%);
- **Age:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by age (16-39, 72%: 40-64, 65%; 65+, 69%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by social class (ABC1, 68%: C2DE, 69%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 70%: catholic, 69%)

## 2.9 NI Executive Putting Enough Resources into Testing

Respondents were advised that coronavirus testing is used to diagnose whether someone has the virus or not. With this information, respondents were then asked if they think the NI Executive is putting enough resources into testing.

Figure 9 shows that 39% believe that NI Executive is putting enough resources into testing, with 38% saying they are not and 23% unsure.



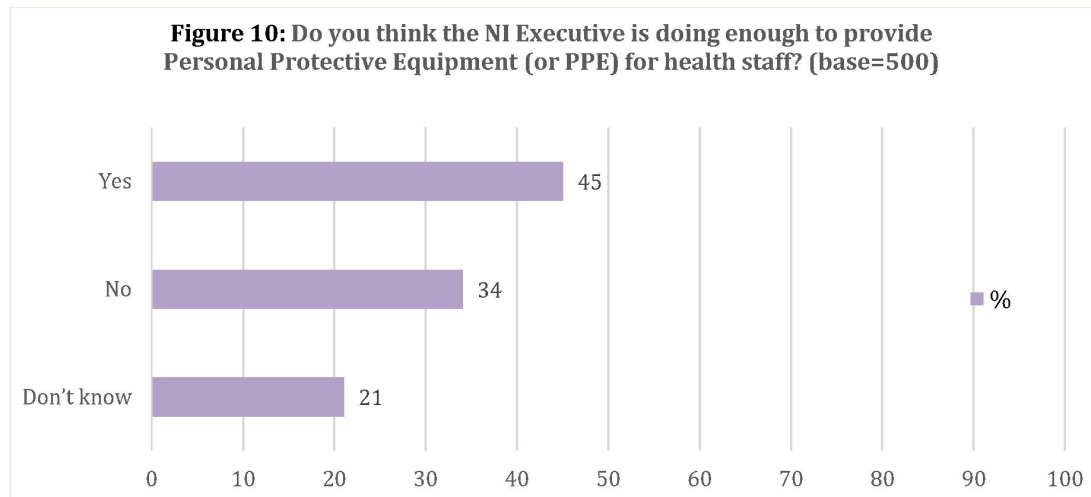
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found a greater proportion of males believe that the NI Executive is not putting enough resources into testing, whereas a greater proportion of females were unsure
  - (male, yes, 40%: no, 43%: don't know, 17%)
  - (female, yes, 38%: no, 34%: don't know, 29%)
- **Age:** Those aged 40-64 were less likely to believe that the NI Executive is not putting enough resources into testing whereas a greater portion of older respondents were unsure
  - (16-39, yes, 45%: no, 40%: don't know, 15%)
  - (40-64, yes, 31%: no, 46%: don't know, 24%)
  - (65+, yes, 43%: no, 21%: don't know, 36%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class
  - (ABC1, yes, 41%: no, 38%: don't know, 21%)
  - (C2DE, yes, 37%: no, 38%: don't know, 25%)
- **Community background:** There no statistically significant difference by community background
  - (Protestant, yes, 36%: no, 40%: don't know, 24%)
  - (Catholic, yes, 44%: no, 36%: don't know, 20%)

## 2.10 NI Executive Doing Enough to Provide PPE for Health Staff

Respondents were asked if they believe the NI Executive is doing enough to provide Personal Protective Equipment (or PPE) for health staff.

Figure 10 shows that 45% believe that the NI Executive is doing enough to provide Personal Protective Equipment (or PPE) for health staff, with 34% of the view that the Executive is not doing enough and 21% unsure.



### Differences between Respondent Groups

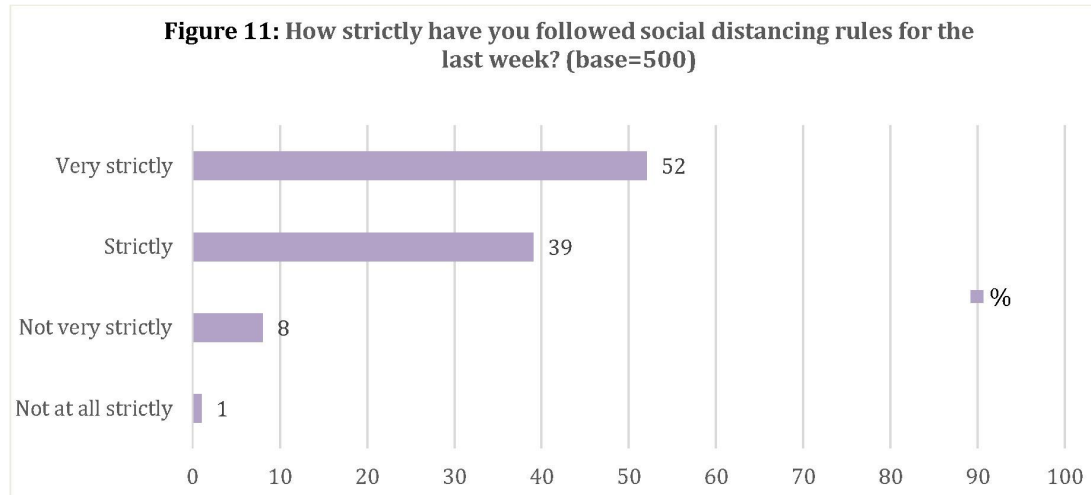
- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found no significant difference in response to the question on whether or not the Executive is doing enough to provide Personal Protective Equipment (or PPE) for health staff
  - (male, yes, 49%: no, 34%: don't know, 17%)
  - (female, yes, 42%: no, 33%: don't know, 25%)
- **Age:** There was no statistically significant difference by age
  - (16-39, yes, 44%: no, 37%: don't know, 20%)
  - (40-64, yes, 45%: no, 34%: don't know, 21%)
  - (65+, yes, 49%: no, 26%: don't know, 25%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class
  - (ABC1, yes, 44%: no, 34%: don't know, 22%)
  - (C2DE, yes, 46%: no, 33%: don't know, 21%)
- **Community background:** There no statistically significant difference by community background
  - (Protestant, yes, 48%: no, 33%: don't know, 19%)
  - (Catholic, yes, 43%: no, 32%: don't know, 25%)



## 2.11 Following Social Distance Rules for the Last Week

Respondents were asked how strictly they followed social distancing rules for the last week.

Figure 11 shows that 91% of respondents said they have strictly followed social distancing rules for the last week [*very strictly*, 52%; *strictly*, 39%]. Nine percent said they did not strictly follow social distancing rules [*not very strictly*, 8%; *not at all strictly*, 1%].



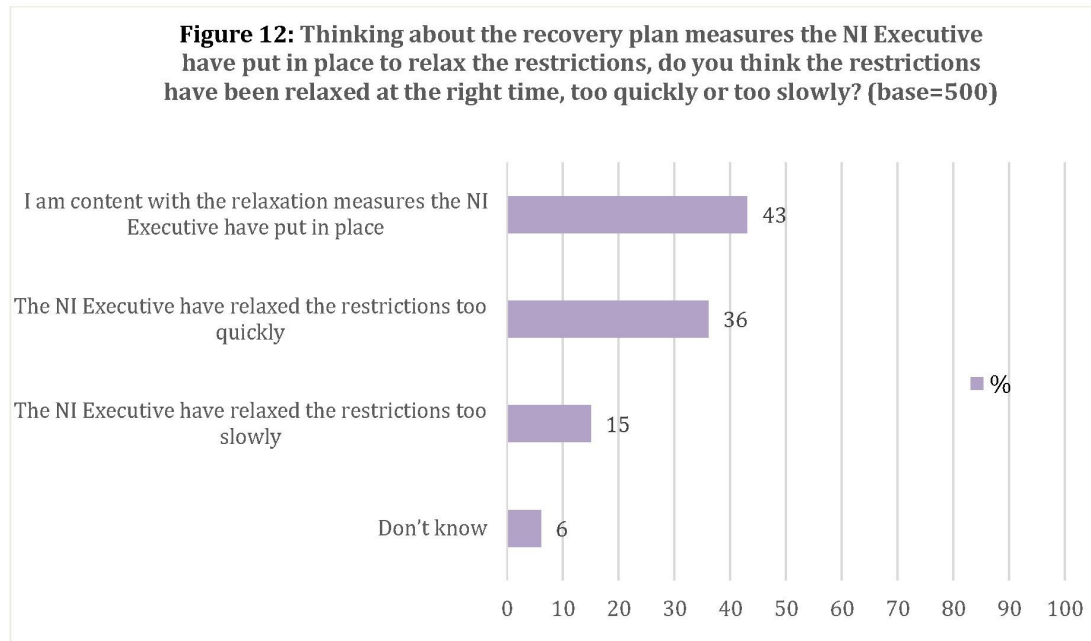
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no statistically significant difference by gender in terms of the proportion of males and females 'very strictly' or 'strictly' following social distancing rules for the last week (male, 92%; female, 90%)
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to say they followed social distancing rules either 'very strictly' or 'strictly' for the last week (16-39, 86%; 40-64, 92%; 65+, 98%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class (ABC1, 90%; C2DE, 91%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 93%; catholic, 90%)

## 2.12 Speed at Which Measures being Relaxed by NI Executive

Respondents were asked to think about the recovery plan measures the NI Executive have put in place to relax the restrictions, and to say if they believe the restrictions have been relaxed at the right time, too quickly or too slowly.

Figure 12 shows that 43% are content with the relaxation measures the NI Executive have put in place, with 36% believing that the Executive have relaxed the restrictions too quickly and 15% of the view that the NI Executive have been too slow in relaxing measures. Six percent answered, 'don't know'.



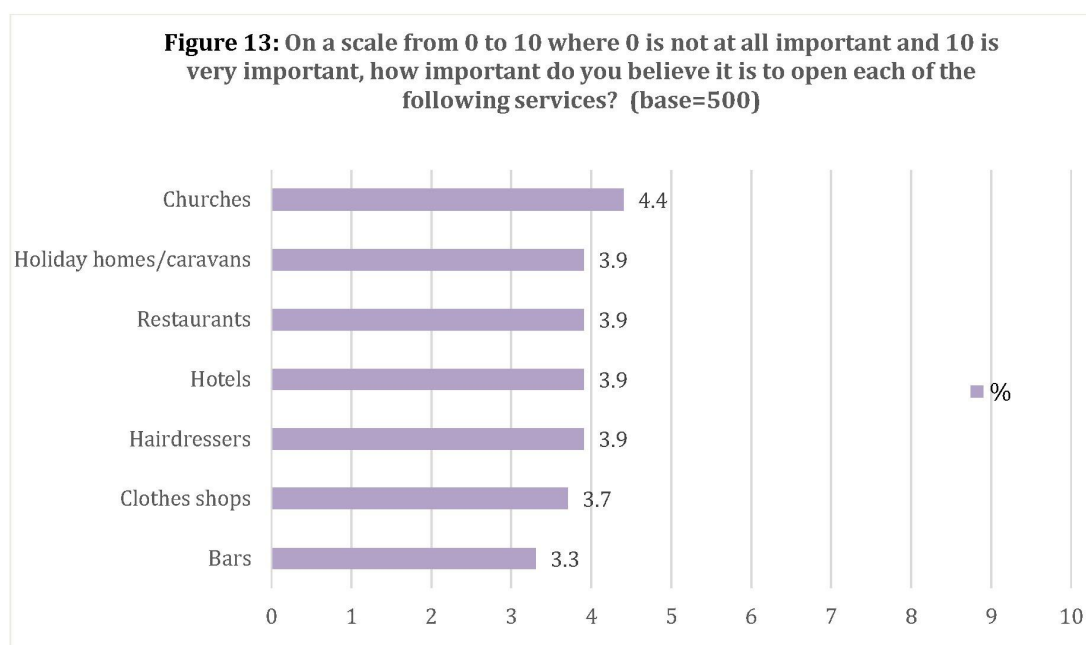
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found no significant differences in response to the question on the speed at which the NI Executive has relaxed measures
  - (male, content, 48%: too quickly, 32%: too slowly, 15%: don't know, 5%)
  - (female, content, 39%: too quickly, 39%: too slowly, 16%: don't know, 6%)
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to be content with the speed at which the NI Executive has relaxed measures
  - (16-39, content, 45%: too quickly, 38%: too slowly, 13%: don't know, 4%)
  - (40-64, content, 38%: too quickly, 40%: too slowly, 13%: don't know, 9%)
  - (65+, content, 51%: too quickly, 24%: too slowly, 23%: don't know, 3%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class
  - (ABC1, content, 47%: too quickly, 36%: too slowly, 13%: don't know, 4%)
  - (C2DE, content, 40%: too quickly, 36%: too slowly, 18%: don't know, 7%)
- **Community background:** Protestant respondents were more likely to be content with the speed of relaxing measures whereas proportionately more catholic respondents believe that the NI Executive has moved to quickly
  - (Protestant, content, 49%: too quickly, 33%: too slowly, 15%: don't know, 3%)
  - (Catholic, content, 35%: too quickly, 40%: too slowly, 18%: don't know, 7%)

## 2.13 Importance of Opening Different Services

Respondents were asked on a scale from 0 to 10 (*where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important*), how important they believe it is to open a range of services.

Respondents scored all services relatively low in terms of the importance of opening each (Figure 13). However, relative to other services, opening churches scored the highest level of importance (4.4 out of 10) whereas opening bars scored the lowest level of importance (3.3).



### Differences between Respondent Groups

#### Importance of Opening Hairdressers

- No statistically significant difference by gender
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 3.4: 40-64, 4.2: 65+, 4.6)
- No statistically significant difference by social class
- No statistically significant difference by community background

#### Importance of Opening Clothes Shops

- No statistically significant difference by gender
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 3.1: 40-64, 3.7: 65+, 4.8)
- No statistically significant difference by social class
- No statistically significant difference by community background

#### Importance of Opening Hotels

- No statistically significant difference by gender
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 3.3: 40-64, 3.9: 65+, 5.0)
- No statistically significant difference by social class
- No statistically significant difference by community background

#### Importance of Opening Restaurants

- Males recorded a higher mean importance score (male, 4.2: female, 3.6)
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 3.5: 40-64, 4.0: 65+, 4.7)
- No statistically significant difference by social class

- No statistically significant difference by community background

### Importance of Opening Bars

- Males recorded a higher mean importance score (male, 3.7: female, 2.9)
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 2.9: 40-64, 3.3: 65+, 4.0)
- No statistically significant difference by social class
- No statistically significant difference by community background

### Importance of Opening Churches

- No statistically significant difference by gender
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 3.9: 40-64, 4.4: 65+, 5.0)
- No statistically significant difference by social class
- No statistically significant difference by community background

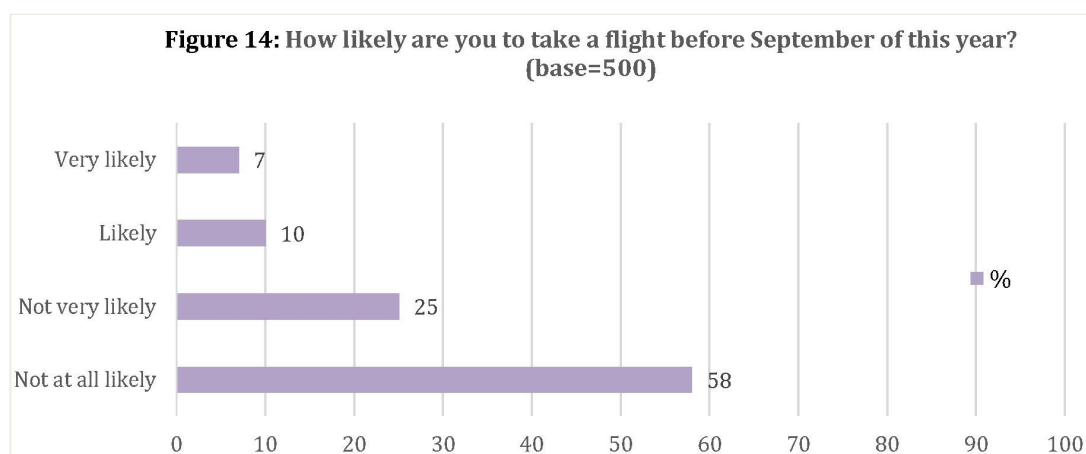
### Importance of Opening Holiday Homes / Caravans

- No statistically significant difference by gender
- Older respondents recorded a higher mean importance score (16-39, 3.5: 40-64, 4.1: 65+, 4.6)
- No statistically significant difference by social class
- No statistically significant difference by community background

## 2.14 Likelihood of Taking a Flight Before September

Respondents were asked how likely they are to take a flight before September of this year.

Figure 14 shows that 17% said they are likely to take a flight before September of this year [*very likely*, 7%: *likely*, 10%], with 83% saying they are not likely to take a flight this year [*not very likely*, 25%: *not at all likely*, 58%].



### Differences between Respondent Groups

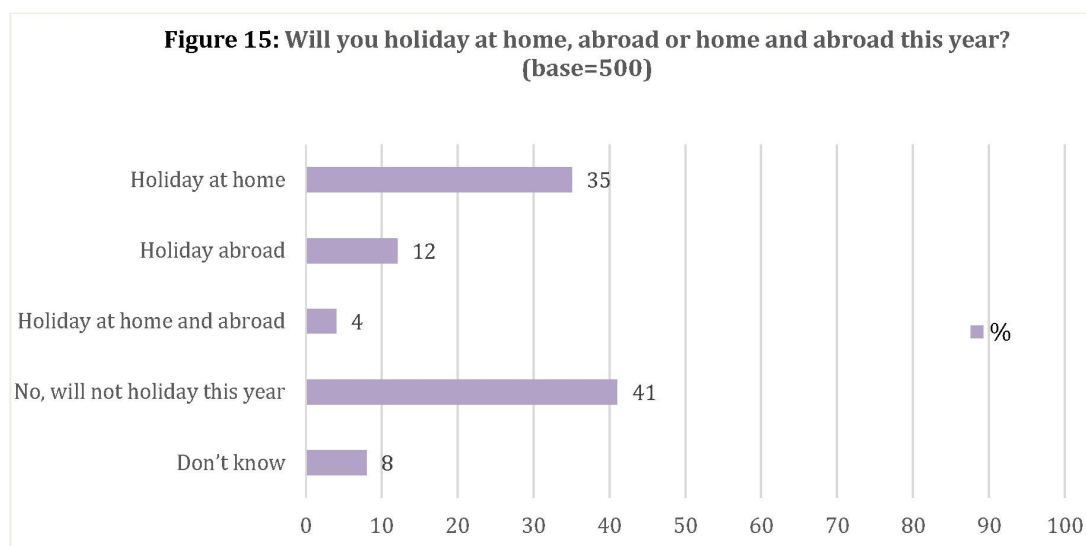
- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found that males (22%) compared with females (13%) were significantly more likely to say that they will take a flight before September of this year;
- **Age:** Younger respondents were significantly more likely to say that they will take a flight before September of this year (16-39, 30%: 40-64, 11%: 65+, 7%)
- **Social class:** There was no significant difference by social class (ABC1, 16%: C2DE, 20%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 16%: catholic, 17%)



## 2.15 Holiday Intentions

Respondents were asked if they will holiday at home or abroad this year.

Figure 15 shows that 35% of respondents reported that they will holiday at home this year, 12% abroad and 4% both home and abroad. Forty-one percent said they will not be holidaying this year with 8% unsure.



### Differences between Respondent Groups

#### Holidaying Abroad this Year

16% of respondents indicated that they intend to holiday abroad this year

- **Gender:** There was no statistically significant difference in response between men (18%) and women (14%)
- **Age:** There was no statistically significant difference by age (16-39, 20%; 40-64, 13%; 65+, 13%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class (ABC1, 15%; C2DE, 17%)
- **Community background:** Catholic respondents were more likely to say they will holiday abroad this year (protestant, 12%; catholic, 22%)

#### Holidaying at Home this Year

39% of respondents indicated that they intend to holiday at home this year

- **Gender:** Men were more likely to say they will holiday at home this year (43%) and women (35%)
- **Age:** Those aged 40-64 were less likely to say they will holiday at home this year (16-39, 44%; 40-64, 32%; 65+, 45%)
- **Social class:** Those in higher social classes were more likely to say they will holiday at home this year (ABC1, 43%; C2DE, 35%)
- **Community background:** Protestant respondents were more likely to say they will holiday at home this year (protestant, 44%; catholic, 30%)

## 2.16 One Thing that Respondents Would Use Coronavirus to Change for the Better

Respondents were asked to list one thing they would change for the better following coronavirus, with the most common changes listed including environmental concerns / improvement (9%), togetherness / improved community spirit (7%) and better funding for the health service (6%).

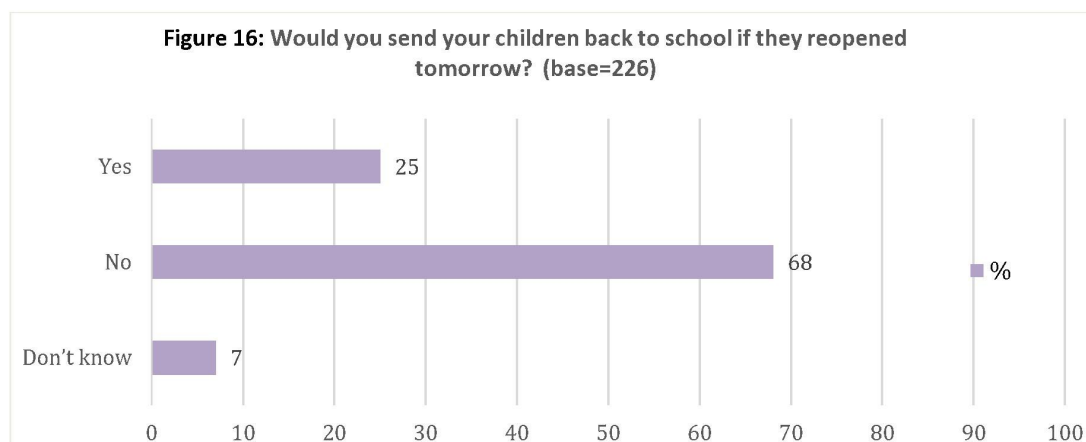
Table 2.1: If you could use the Coronavirus crisis to change one thing for the better, what would it be? (n=500)

	%	n
Environmental concerns / improve the environment	9.4	47
Togetherness improved community spirit bringing communities together	6.6	33
For health service to be better funded and prepared for any sort of outbreak	6.2	31
Making the world a better place to live - show kindness/ensure equality	5.0	25
Reduction in traffic/less traffic	3.7	19
Stay in contact with family and friends	3.6	18
My personal health	3.6	18
Working from home/flexible working	3.4	17
Fairer/better wages for essential and key workers	3.4	17
For people to appreciate what is important more	3.3	16
Better work/life balance	3.1	15
Less pollution/better air quality	2.2	11
Cleanliness - public and personal	2.2	11
More care and help for older people who live at home or in care homes/hospitals	2.0	10
Change the way NI Executive is constituted to make governing the country better	2.0	10
More appreciation for NHS	2.0	10
Don't come out of lockdown too soon/get rid of the virus	2.0	10
Stay in , keep safe and maintain social distancing	2.0	10
The economy/unemployment	1.9	9
Less materialism/save more/reduce amount of money spent on unnecessary things	1.8	9
Increased community co-operation - be more active in the community	1.4	7
Do not let so called experts determine government policy	1.1	5
Mental health/reach out to lonely people	1.1	5
Education/training	0.9	5
Help people more	0.8	4
Better public understanding of important issues	0.8	4
Benefits/universal income	0.8	4
Take more exercise	0.7	4
To be able to socialize	0.7	4
Crime levels	0.6	3
Getting rid of the Tory Government	0.4	2
Reducing fatality levels/less deaths	0.4	2
Shop local	0.4	2
For people to realise how quick things can change	0.4	2
Efficient testing	0.4	2
Improve supply chain	0.3	2
Lower fuel costs	0.2	1
Less party politics - single community spirit	0.2	1
Politicians to be honest	0.2	1
Buy British/supply British	0.2	1
Innovation	0.2	1
Over population	0.2	1
Other	6.5	33
Don't know/unsure	11.8	59

## 2.17 Children Returning to School

Parents with school-aged children were asked if they would send their child (ren) back to school if schools reopened tomorrow.

Figure 16 shows that one in four (25%) parents with school-aged children said they would send their child (ren) back to school if schools reopened tomorrow, with 68% saying they would not and 7% undecided.



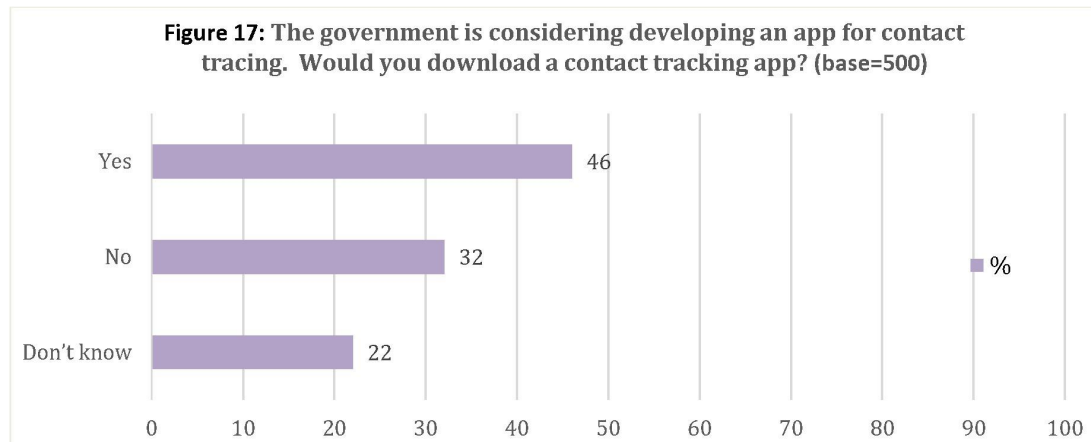
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no statistically significant difference in response by gender with 27% of men and 21% of women saying they would send their child back to school
- **Age:** There was no statistically significant difference by age (16-39, 18%; 40-64, 31%; 65+, 29%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class (ABC1, 23%; C2DE, 26%)
- **Community background:** There was no statistically significant difference by community background (protestant, 27%; catholic, 22%)

## 2.18 Downloading a Contact Tracing App

Respondents were advised that the government is considering developing an app for contact tracing, with respondents then asked if they would download the app.

Just under half (46%) of respondents said they would download an app for contact tracing, with 32% saying they would not and 22% undecided.



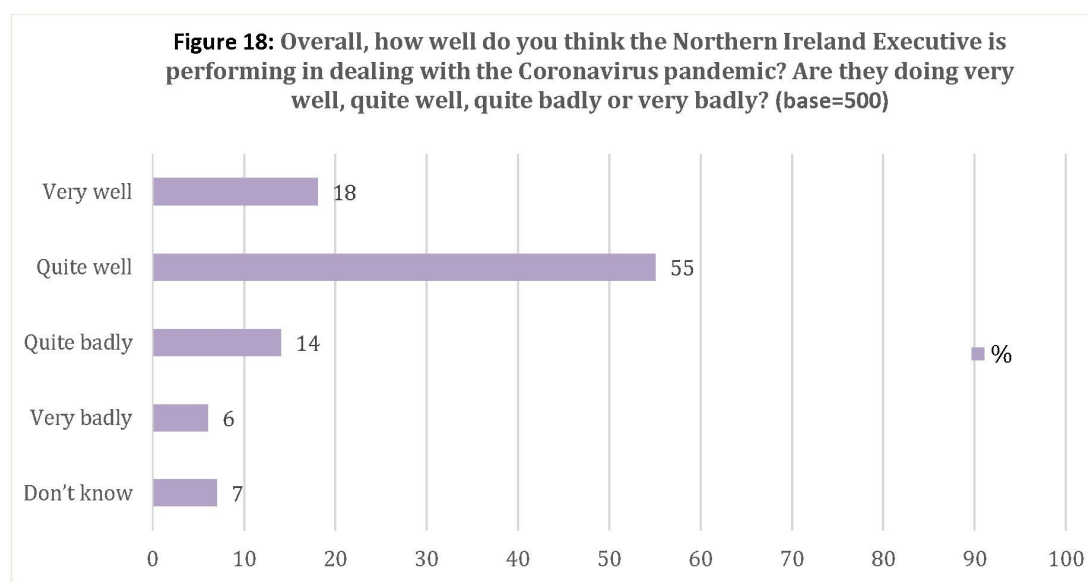
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no statistically significant difference between men (48%) and women (44%) in terms of the likelihood of downloading a contact tracing app
- **Age:** Respondents aged 40-64 were less likely to say they would download a contact tracing app (16-39, 51%; 40-64, 40%; 65+, 48%)
- **Social class:** Those in higher social classes were more likely to say they would download a contact tracing app (ABC1, 55%; C2DE, 38%)
- **Community background:** There was no significant difference by community background in relation to the likelihood of downloading a contact tracing app by (protestant, 49%; catholic, 42%)

## 2.19 Performance of NI Executive in Dealing with Coronavirus Pandemic

Respondents were asked to say overall, how well they think the Northern Ireland Executive is performing in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

A majority 73% of respondents believe that the NI Executive is performing well in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic [very well, 18%: quite well, 55%], with 20% saying that the Executive is performing badly [quite badly, 14%: very badly, 6%]. Seven percent answered, 'don't know'.



### Differences between Respondent Groups

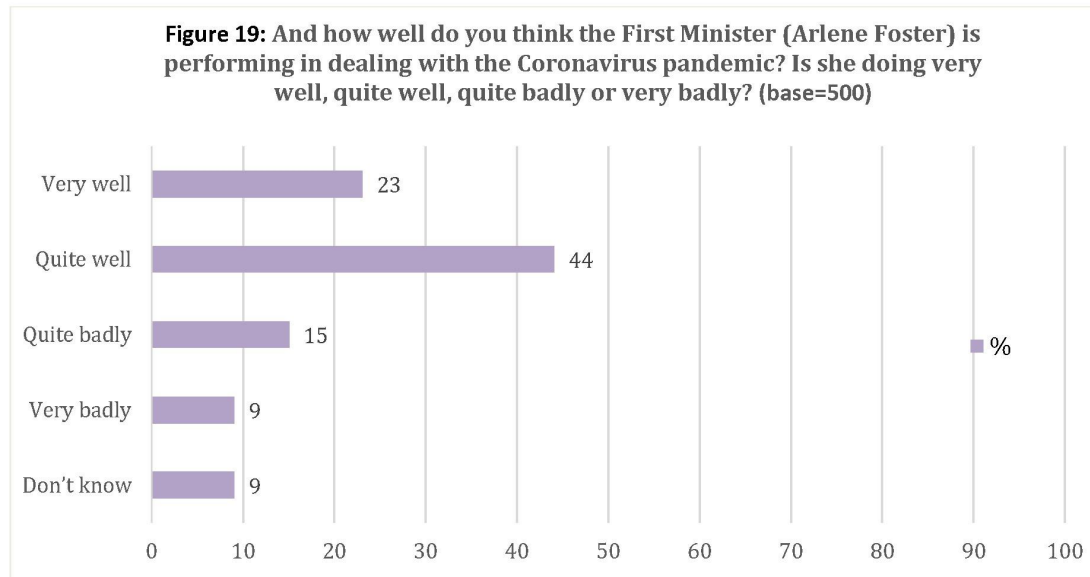
- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found no significant difference in response to the question on NI Executive performance in dealing with the pandemic
  - (male, very well or quite well, 77%: quite badly or very badly, 18%: don't know, 5%)
  - (female, very well or quite well, 71%: quite badly or very badly, 21%: don't know, 8%)
- **Age:** There was no significant difference by age in relation to NI Executive performance in dealing with the pandemic
  - (16-39, very well or quite well, 74%: quite badly or very badly, 21%: don't know, 5%)
  - (40-64, very well or quite well, 72%: quite badly or very badly, 20%: don't know, 8%)
  - (65+, very well or quite well, 77%: quite badly or very badly, 16%: don't know, 7%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class
  - (ABC1, very well or quite well, 78%: quite badly or very badly, 17%: don't know, 5%)
  - (C2DE, very well or quite well, 71%: quite badly or very badly, 22%: don't know, 8%)
- **Community background:** Protestant respondents were more likely to say the NI Executive is performing either 'very well' or 'quite well' in dealing with the pandemic
  - (Protestant, very well or quite well, 78%: quite badly or very badly, 18%: don't know, 5%)
  - (Catholic, very well or quite well, 67%: quite badly or very badly, 22%: don't know, 10%)



## 2.20 Performance of First Minister (Arlene Foster) in Dealing with Coronavirus Pandemic

Respondents were asked to say overall, how well they think the First Minister (Arlene Foster) is performing in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Approximately two out of three (67%) respondents believe that the First Minister is performing well in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic [*very well*, 23%; *quite well*, 44%], with 24% saying that the First Minister is performing badly [*quite badly*, 15%; *very badly*, 9%]. Nine percent answered, 'don't know'.



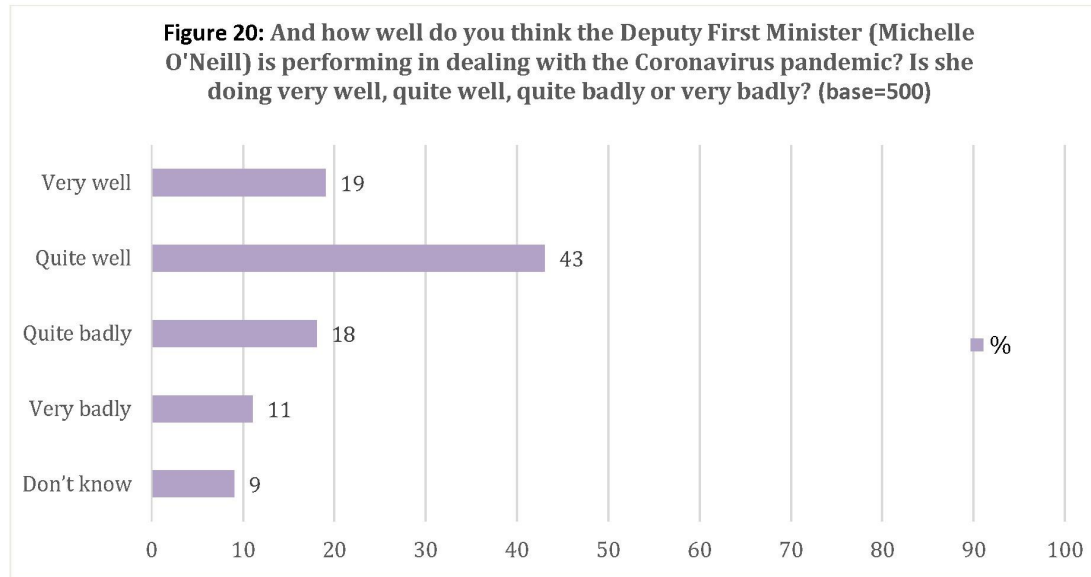
### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found no significant differences in response to the question on the First Ministers performance in dealing with the pandemic
  - (male, very well or quite well, 68%: quite badly or very badly, 24%: don't know, 7%)
  - (female, very well or quite well, 65%: quite badly or very badly, 23%: don't know, 12%)
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to say that the First Minister is performing either 'very well' or 'quite well' in dealing with the pandemic
  - (16-39, very well or quite well, 60%: quite badly or very badly, 29%: don't know, 11%)
  - (40-64, very well or quite well, 70%: quite badly or very badly, 24%: don't know, 7%)
  - (65+, very well or quite well, 75%: quite badly or very badly, 13%: don't know, 12%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class
  - (ABC1, very well or quite well, 69%: quite badly or very badly, 25%: don't know, 7%)
  - (C2DE, very well or quite well, 66%: quite badly or very badly, 23%: don't know, 12%)
- **Community background:** Protestant respondents were more likely to say the First Minister is performing either 'very well' or 'quite well' in dealing with the pandemic
  - (Protestant, very well or quite well, 76%: quite badly or very badly, 19%: don't know, 5%)
  - (Catholic, very well or quite well, 52%: quite badly or very badly, 33%: don't know, 15%)

## 2.21 Performance of Deputy First Minister (Michelle O'Neill) in Dealing with Coronavirus Pandemic

Respondents were asked to say overall, how well they think the Deputy First Minister (Michelle O'Neill) is performing in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic.

Approximately six out of ten (62%) respondents believe that the Deputy First Minister is performing well in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic [*very well*, 19%: *quite well*, 43%], with 29% saying that the Deputy First Minister is performing badly [*quite badly*, 18%: *very badly*, 11%]. Nine percent answered, 'don't know'.

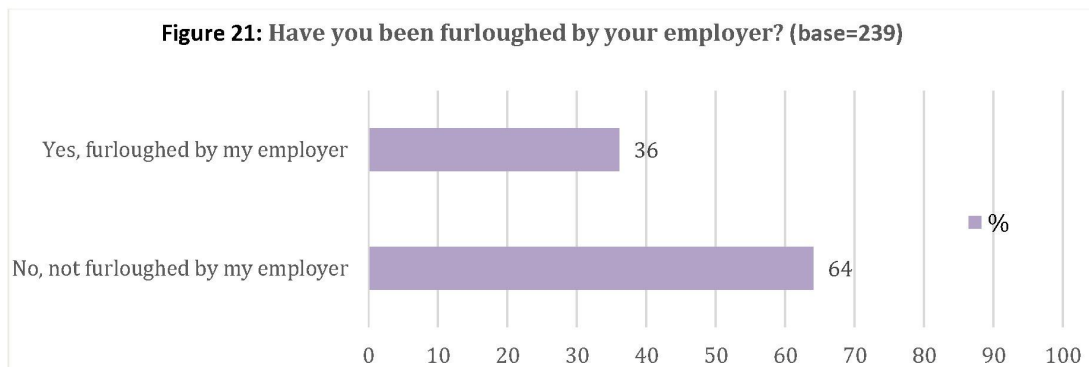


### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Analysis by gender found no significant differences in response to the question on the Deputy First Ministers performance in dealing with the pandemic
  - (male, very well or quite well, 61%: quite badly or very badly, 32%: don't know, 7%)
  - (female, very well or quite well, 64%: quite badly or very badly, 24%: don't know, 12%)
- **Age:** Older respondents were more likely to say that the Deputy First Minister is performing either 'very well' or 'quite well' in dealing with the pandemic
  - (16-39, very well or quite well, 61%: quite badly or very badly, 28%: don't know, 12%)
  - (40-64, very well or quite well, 64%: quite badly or very badly, 28%: don't know, 8%)
  - (65+, very well or quite well, 63%: quite badly or very badly, 31%: don't know, 7%)
- **Social class:** There was no statistically significant difference by social class
  - (ABC1, very well or quite well, 67%: quite badly or very badly, 26%: don't know, 8%)
  - (C2DE, very well or quite well, 59%: quite badly or very badly, 31%: don't know, 11%)
- **Community background:** Catholic respondents were more likely to say the Deputy First Minister is performing either 'very well' or 'quite well' in dealing with the pandemic
  - (Protestant, very well or quite well, 55%: quite badly or very badly, 39%: don't know, 7%)
  - (Catholic, very well or quite well, 71%: quite badly or very badly, 17%: don't know, 12%)

## 2.22 Furloughed Employees

Approximately one in three (36%) employees said they have been furloughed by their employer, with most furloughed employees (63%) working in the private sector [31% are employed in the public sector and 6% in other sectors (charity, voluntary, community and other)].

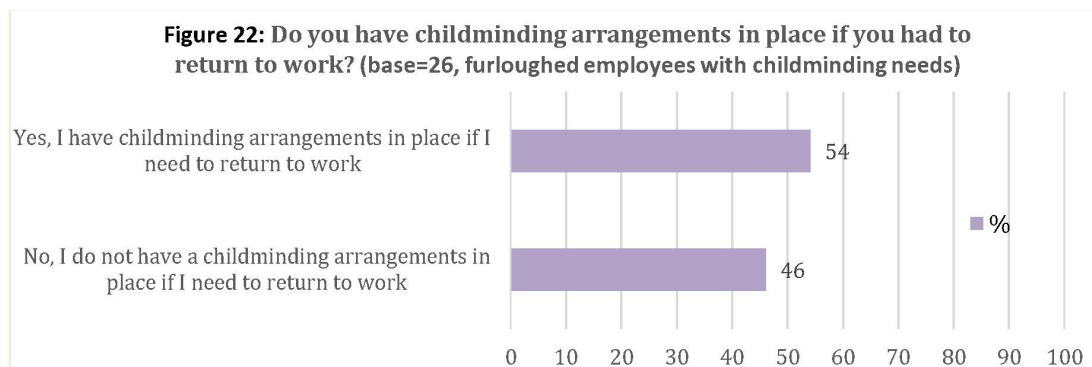


### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** Male employees (42%) were more likely to report being furloughed compared with female employees (29%)
- **Age:** Younger respondents were more likely to report being furloughed (16-39, 41%; 40-64, 32%; 65+, 21%)
- **Social class:** Those in lower social classes were more likely to report being furloughed (ABC1, 29%; C2DE, 45%)
- **Community background:** There was no significant difference by community background in relation to the likelihood of being furloughed (protestant, 33%; catholic, 39%)

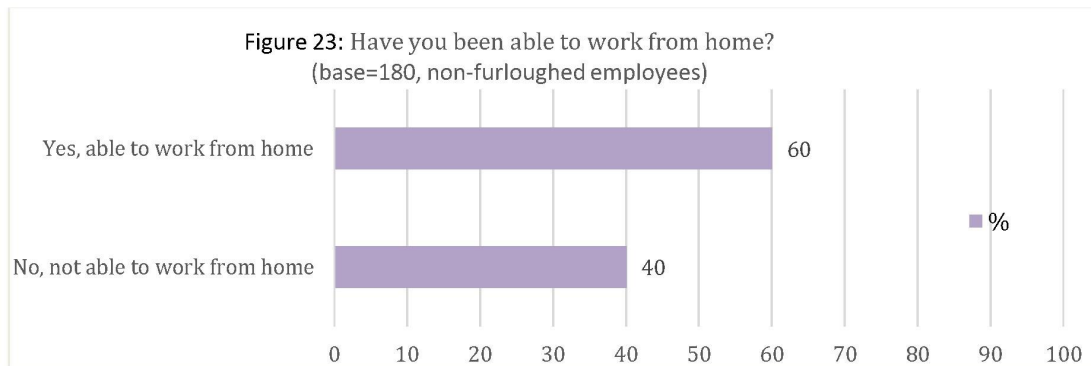
### 2.22.1 Furloughed Employees and Childminding Arrangements Should they Need to Return to Work

Among furloughed employees with school-aged children, and with childminding needs (n=26), just over half (54%) said they have childminding arrangements in place should they need to return to work, with 46% saying they do not have childminding arrangements in place.



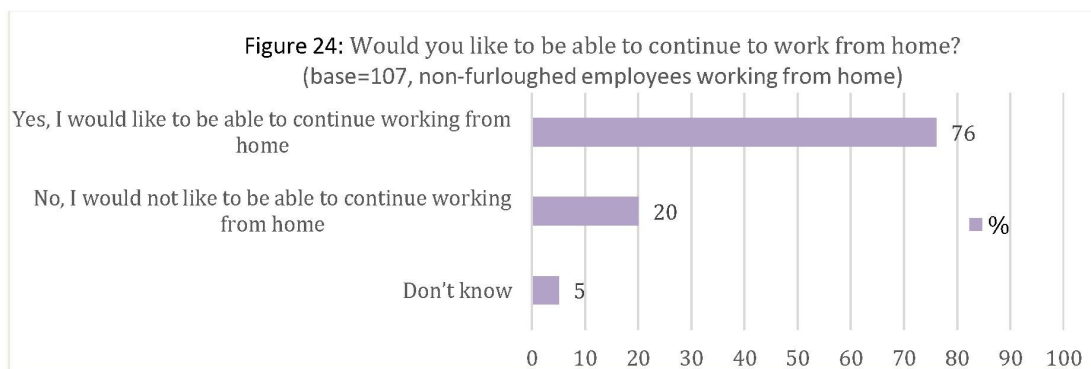
## 2.23 Working from Home During the Pandemic

Among non-furloughed employees, 60% said they have been able to work from home during the pandemic, with 40% unable to work from home.



### 2.23.1 Like to Continue Working from Home

Non-furloughed employees were asked if they would like to continue to be able to work from home, with 76% saying they would, 20% said they would not and 5% were unsure.



### Differences between Respondent Groups

- **Gender:** There was no significant difference by gender in relation to wanting to be able to continue to work from home (male, 71%: female, 82%)
- **Age:** There was no significant difference by age in relation to wanting to be able to continue to work from home (16-39, 74%: 40-64, 73%: 65+, 92%)
- **Social class:** There was no significant difference by social class in relation to wanting to be able to continue to work from home (ABC1, 73%: C2DE, 79%)
- **Community background:** There was no significant difference by community background and wanting to be able to continue to work from home (protestant, 77%: catholic, 78%)

## Appendix 1 (Questionnaire)



**SECTION A: PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS**

**First I want to ask you about Coronavirus and the measures the NI Executive are putting in place.**

- A1. Is the Northern Ireland Executive putting in place the right measures in response to Coronavirus? **(Single code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

- A2. Please say if you agree or disagree with the following statements in relation to the Northern Ireland Executive and Coronavirus. **(Single code for each statement)**

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
I am getting the information I need from the NI Executive	1	2	3	4	5
I think the information from the NI Executive is accurate	1	2	3	4	5
I trust the information that is being provided by the NI Executive	1	2	3	4	5

- A3. How confident are you that the Northern Ireland Executive has a clear plan to ease the lockdown and get the country back to normal? **(Single code)**

Very confident	1
Confident	2
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	4

- A4. How confident are you that businesses and public services will be given the tools and resources they need to get the country back to normal safely? **(Single code)**

Very confident	1
Confident	2
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	4

- A5. Do you think the NI Executive has the right balance between protecting the economy and healthcare? **(Single code)**

Yes, they have the balance right	1
No, there should be more emphasis on protecting the economy	2
No, there should be more emphasis on healthcare	3
Don't know	4

- A6. How confident are you that the Northern Ireland Executive is putting in place the right measures to support the economy? **(Single code)**

Very confident	1
Confident	2
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	4

- A7. How confident are you that the health service in Northern Ireland is able to cope with the outbreak? **(Single code)**

Very confident	1
Confident	2
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	4

- A8. How confident are you that the Northern Ireland Executive put the right measures in place to deal with coronavirus in the health and social care service? **(Single code)**

Very confident	1
Confident	2
Not very confident	3
Not at all confident	4

## SECTION B: PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

These next questions ask you about measures to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

- B1. Coronavirus testing is used to diagnose whether someone has the virus or not. Do you think the NI Executive is putting enough resources into testing? **(Single code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

- B2. Do you think the NI Executive is doing enough to provide Personal Protective Equipment (or PPE) for health staff? **(Single code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

- B3. How strictly have you followed social distancing rules for the last week? **(Single code)**

Very strictly	1
Strictly	2
Not very strictly	3
Not at all strictly	4

- B4. Thinking about the recovery plan measures the NI Executive have put in place to relax the restrictions, do you think the restrictions have been relaxed at the right time, too quickly or too slowly. **(Single code)**

I am content with the relaxation measures the NI Executive have put in place	1
The NI Executive have relaxed the restrictions too quickly	2
The NI Executive have relaxed the restrictions too slowly	3
Don't know	4

- B5. On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important, how important do you believe it is to open each of the following services? **(Score each service)**

	Score (0-10)
Hairdressers	
Clothes shops	
Hotels	
Restaurants	
Bars	
Churches	
Holiday homes/caravans	

- B6. How likely are you to take a flight before September of this year? **(Single code)**

Very likely	1
Likely	2
Not very likely	3
Not at all likely	4

- B7. Will you holiday at home, abroad or home and abroad this year? **(Single code)**

Holiday at home	1
Holiday abroad	2
Holiday at home and abroad	3
No, will not holiday this year	4
Don't know	5

- B8. If you could use the Coronavirus crisis to change **one thing** for the better, what would it be?

--

- B9. Would you send your children back to school if they reopened tomorrow? **(Single code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't have any school-aged children	3
Don't know	4

- B10. The government is considering developing an app for contact tracing. Would you download a contact tracking app? **(Single code)**

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

- B11. Overall, how well do you think the **Northern Ireland Executive** is performing in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic? Are they doing very well, quite well, quite badly or very badly?

Very well	1
Quite well	2
Quite badly	3
Very badly	4
Don't know	[5]

- B12. And how well do you think the **First Minister** (Arlene Foster) is performing in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic? Is she doing very well, quite well, quite badly or very badly?

Very well	1
Quite well	2
Quite badly	3
Very badly	4
Don't know	[5]

- B13. And how well do you think the **Deputy First Minister** (Michelle O'Neill) is performing in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic? Is she doing very well, quite well, quite badly or very badly?

Very well	1
Quite well	2
Quite badly	3
Very badly	4
Don't know	[5]

### SECTION C: ABOUT YOU

- C1. Are you...? (Single Code)

Male	Female	Prefer not to say
1	2	3

- C2. What age are you?

- C3. What is your current employment status? (Single Code)

Self-employed	1
Working full-time	2
Working part-time	3
Seeking work for the first time	4
Unemployed, i.e. not working but actively seeking work	5
Not actively seeking work but would like to work	6
Not working and not seeking work	7
Looking after home and family	8
Unable to work due to permanent illness or disability	9
Student (full time)	10
Student (part time)	11
On a government or other training scheme / apprenticeship	12
Retired	13
Other (please specify)	14

### ASK IF C3 EQ 1, 2 OR 3

- C4. Do you work in the public sector, private or voluntary/community/ charity sector? (Single code)

Public sector	1
Private sector	2
Voluntary, community or charity	3

**ASK IF C3 EQ 1, 2 OR 3**

C5. Have you been furloughed by your employer?

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF C3 EQ 1, 2 OR 3**

C6. Do you have school-aged children under the age of 16?

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF C3 EQ 1, 2 OR 3 AND C7 EQ 1**

C7. Do you have childminding arrangements in place if you had to return to work?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't have any childminding needs	3

**ASK IF C3 EQ 1, 2 OR 3 AND C6 EQ 2**

C8. Have you been able to work from home?

Yes	1
No	2

**ASK IF C3 EQ 1, 2 OR 3 AND C9 EQ 1**

C9. Would you like to be able to continue to work from home?

Yes	1
No	2
Don't know	3

C10. Which council area do you live in? **(Single code)**

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	1
Ards and North Down	2
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	3
Belfast	4
Causeway Coast and Glens	5
Derry and Strabane	6
Fermanagh and Omagh	7
Lisburn and Castlereagh	8
Mid and East Antrim	9
Mid Ulster	10
Newry, Mourne and Down	11

C11. Are your day to day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last, at least 12 months? Include problems which are due to ageing. **(Single Code)**

Yes, limited a lot	1
Yes, limited a little	2
No	3



C12. What is your highest educational qualification? **(Single Code)**

Degree Level or higher	1
BTEC (Higher), BEC (Higher), TEC (Higher), HNC, HND	2
GCE A 'Level (including NVQ Level 3)	3
BTEC (National), BEC (National), TEC (National), ONC, OND	4
GCSE (including NVQ Level 2), GCE O' Level (including CSE Grade 1), Senior Certificate, BTEC (General), BEC (General)	5
CSE (Other than Grade 1)	6
Other (Please specify)	7
No formal qualification	8

**ADDITIONAL PANEL VARIABLES**

Community background [protestant/catholic/none/other/refused]

SEG [A,B,C1,C2,D,E]