



June 2017 – Post Elections Tracker Poll

LucidTalk Tracker Poll (Northern Ireland) Results Report

Issues: Sinn Fein abstention policy, Unionist party structures, Re-establishing the NI Government institutions, Attitudes to Brexit, Campaign performances, and the DUP-Conservative Party deal at Westminster

POLL QUESTIONS RESULTS - GENERAL REPORT

26th June 2017 – Version 2

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Subject LT Opinion Panel Polling Projects

Issue 25th June: Opinion Panel Poll-Project – Post Election Poll: Final Results – General Report (Version 1)

Date 26th JUNE 2017 (Version 2)

Author(s) Bill White – LucidTalk

LUCIDTALK MONTHLY TRACKER POLLS - Introduction and Background

LucidTalk run scheduled regular 'Tracker' polls of their established Northern Ireland online Opinion Panel - usually on a quarterly basis (every three months). The LucidTalk Opinion Panel (now 8,827 members) consists of Northern Ireland residents (age 18+) and is balanced by gender, age-group, area of residence, and community background, in order to be demographically representative of Northern Ireland. This is the report from LTs Post-Election poll covering post-election issues.

The objective of these scheduled and regular 'Tracker' polls is to research opinion on key issues at key points in time + track changes in trends and opinions about key topics and issues over the period of the NI Westminster Election campaign. These key issues include, in the context of this poll: Sinn Fein Westminster abstention policy, UUP-DUP merger, opinions on re-establishing the Stormont institutions, attitudes to Brexit, and how did the political party campaigns go during the elections?

For this 'Tracker' poll-project our 8,827 member NI Opinion Panel was targeted, and invited to participate, 2,883 responses were received, and after data auditing to ensure:

- (a) 'one person-one vote' responses, and
 - (b) the collation of a balanced representative NI sample,
- 2,080 full responses were recorded and used for analysis in terms of the final results.

Methodology:

Polling was carried out by Belfast based polling and market research company LucidTalk. The project was carried out online for a period of 60 Hours from 11am 21st June to 11pm 23rd June 2017 (60 Hours). The project targeted the established Northern Ireland (NI) LucidTalk online Opinion Panel (8,827 members) which is balanced by gender, age-group, area of residence, and community background, in order to be demographically representative of Northern Ireland. 2,883 full responses were received, and a data auditing process was carried out to ensure all completed poll-surveys were genuine 'one-person, one-vote' responses, and also to collate a robust and accurate balanced NI representative sample. This resulted in 2,080 responses being considered in terms of the final results - the results presented in this report.

All data results have been weighted by gender and community background to reflect the demographic composition of Northern Ireland resulting in 2,080 responses being considered in terms of the final results. All data results produced are accurate to a margin of error of +/-3.0%, at 95% confidence.

All surveys and polls may be subject to sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, and measurement error. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

LucidTalk – Professional Credentials

LucidTalk is a member of all recognised professional Polling and Market Research organisations, including the UK Market Research Society (UK-MRS), the British Polling Council (BPC), and ESOMAR (European Society of Market Research organisations). The BPC are the primary UK professional body ensuring professional Polling and Market Research standards. All polling, research, sampling, methodologies used, market research projects and results and reports production are, and have been, carried out to the professional standards laid down by the BPC.

Note to Publishers: According to agreed British Polling Council and UK IPSO procedure - Parts in Red **MUST** be published - if not in full then in a format that conveys the same meaning. This can be in 'small-type' e.g. in a box at the bottom of the coverage etc. Parts in black type are desirable to be included, but not essential.

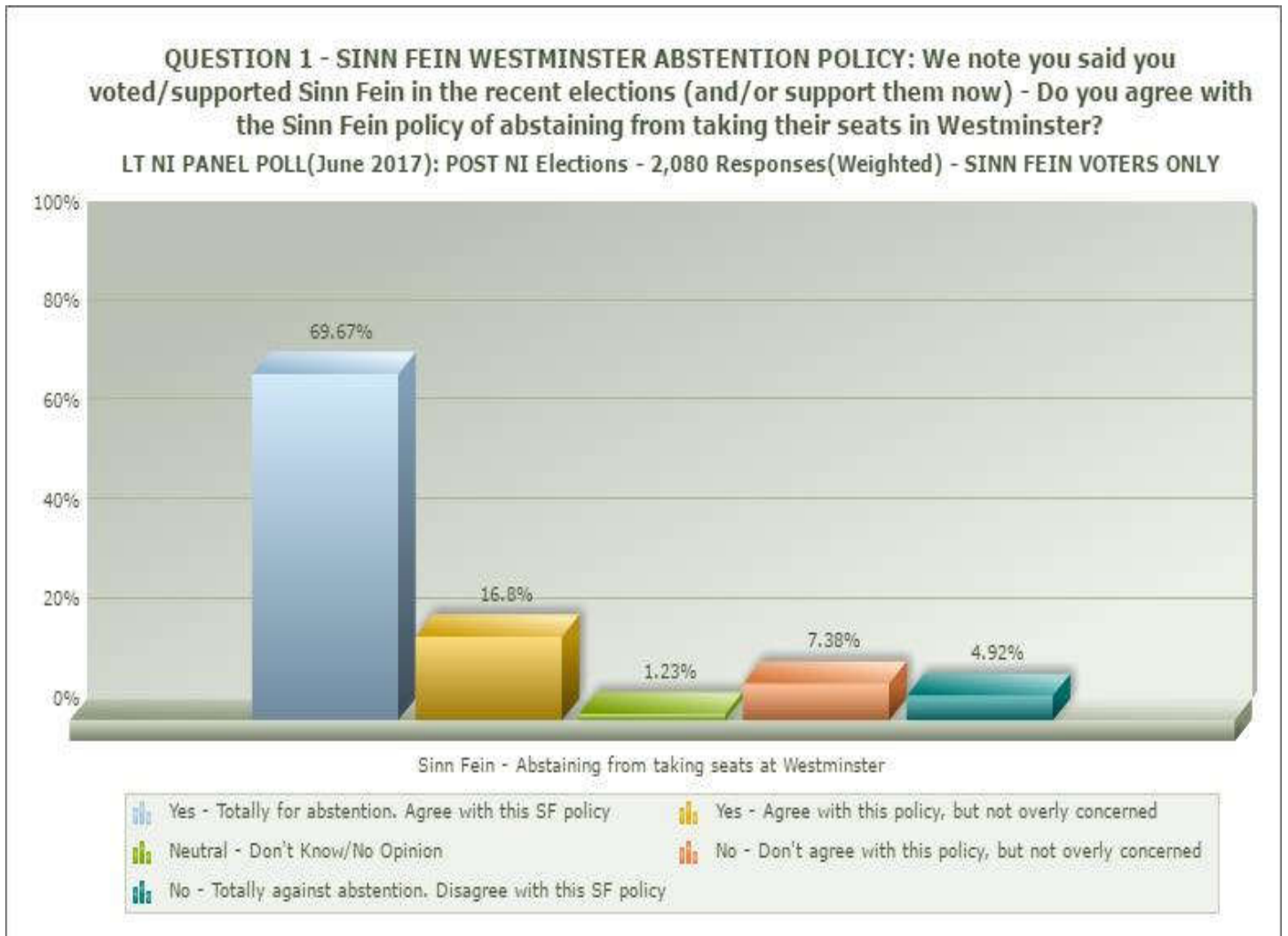
FULL REPORT AND COMMENTARY

LT NI ‘Tracker’ POLLS: POST NI ASSEMBLY AND NI WESTMINSTER ELECTIONS – June 2017 - KEY POINTS AND HEADLINES

The benefit of LucidTalk’s regular scheduled polling is that it shows changes in trends and opinions at regular intervals over the time of the NI Assembly and NI Westminster 2017 Election campaigns – both pre and post elections. This report covers post elections views.

NB All commentary is provided ‘for guidance’ and for information purposes only. Commentary and analysis is not meant to be absolute determinations from the poll results, as poll and market research results can be subject to differing interpretations, commentary, and conclusions.

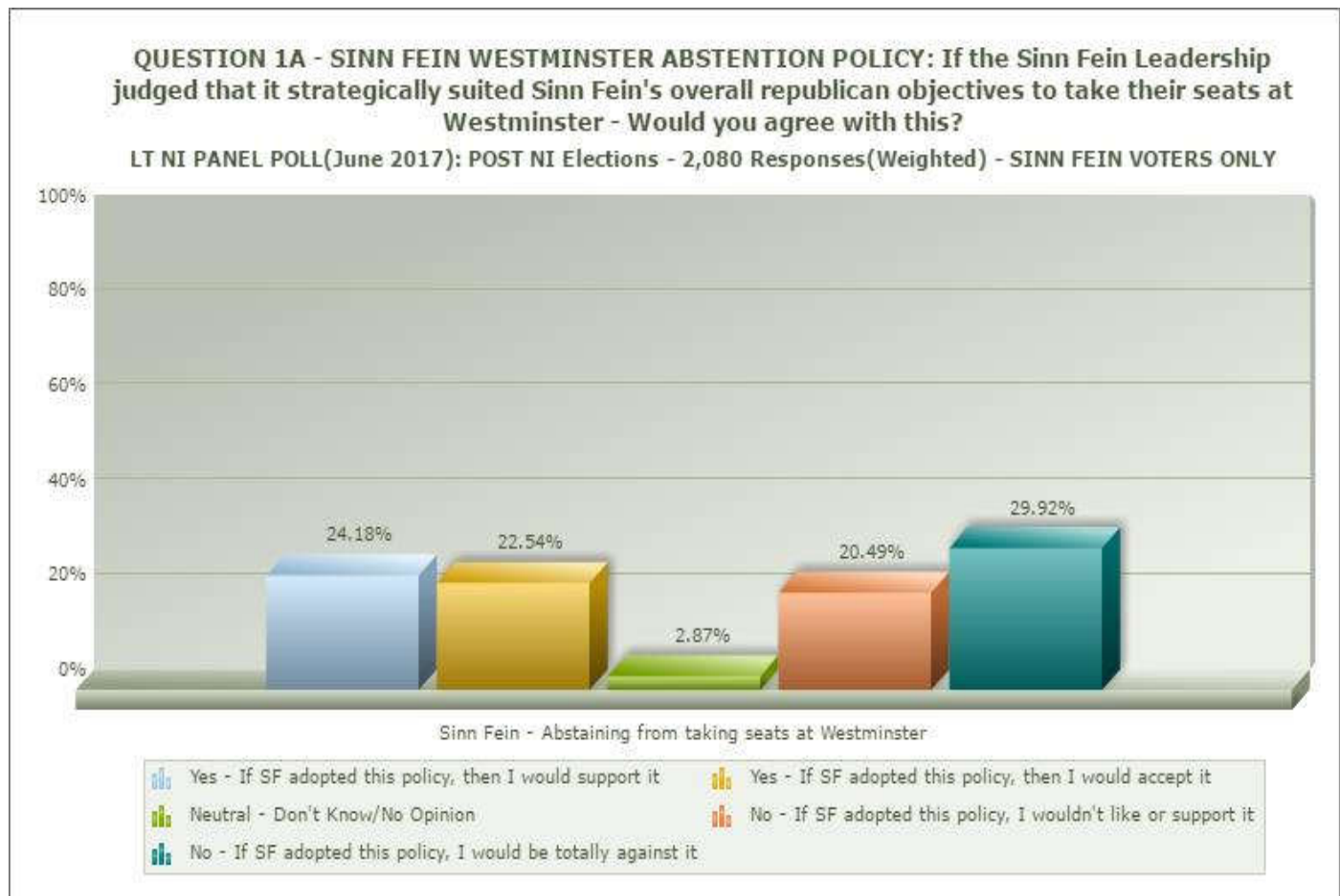
QUESTION: ATTITUDES TO SINN FEIN’S WESTMINSTER ABSTENTION POLICY - SINN FEIN VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



Notes:

- **This an overwhelming endorsement of the Sinn Fein’s leadership position. Remember the above results reflect what Sinn Fein voters only said about the Sinn Fein Westminster abstention policy. 87% fully support the policy, with 70% ‘totally agreeing’ with the policy.**
- **Only 5% (i.e. 1 in 20) of Sinn Fein supporters totally disagree with the policy. 7% don’t agree, but are not overly concerned either way.**

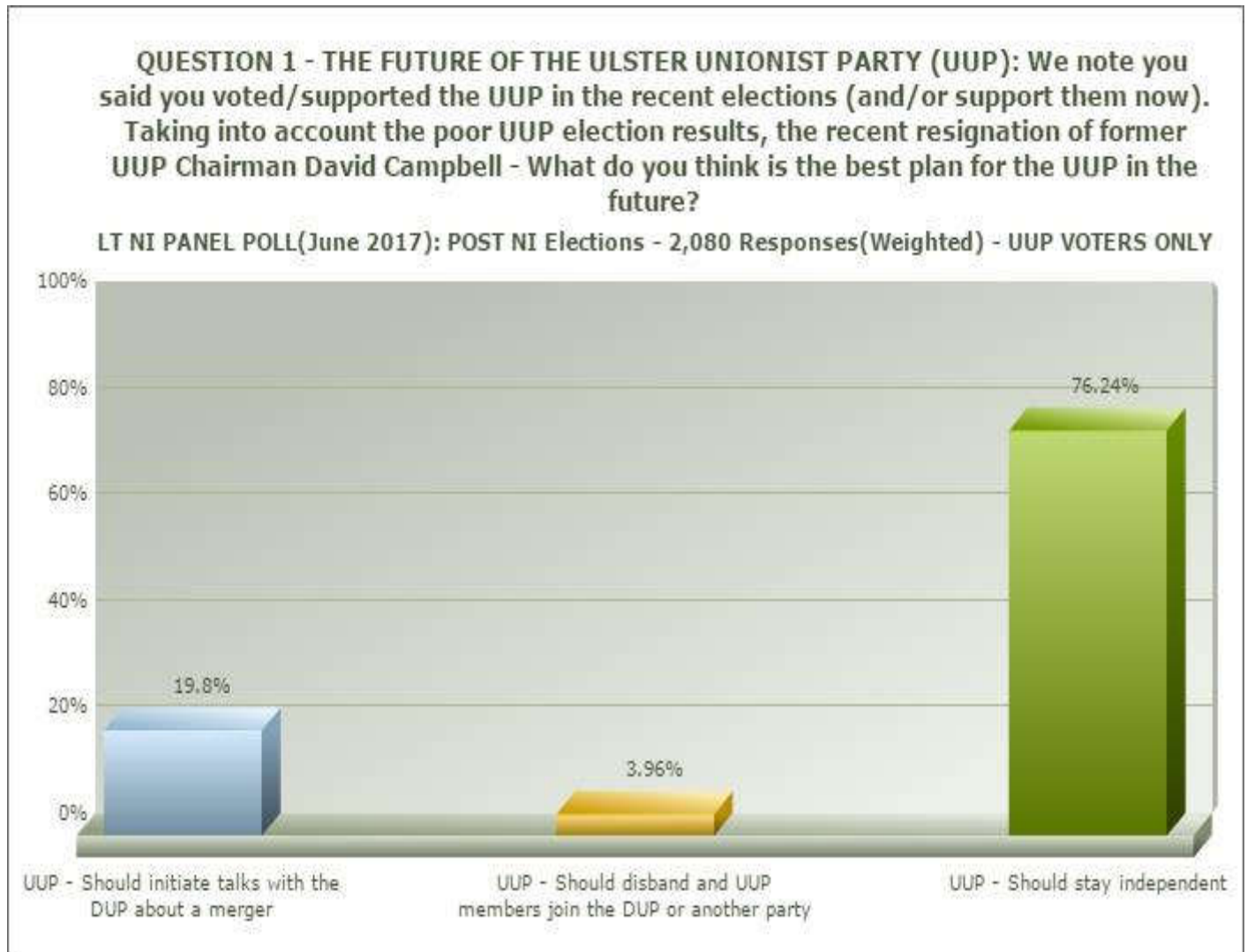
SINN FEIN VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



Notes:

- As per above, then we asked Sinn Fein supporters/voters 'If the Sinn Fein leadership changed their Westminster abstention policy, would you support/accept this?' - Over 50% would either not like this policy change, or would be totally against this policy change, with 30% being totally against this change of policy.
- Overall we see above that the Sinn Fein voter base would be split on this issue – but overall this is a major endorsement of Sinn Fein's current policy position on this issue. Remember again that the above results reflect what Sinn Fein voters only said about the Sinn Fein Westminster abstention policy.
- Following on from the immediate point above, these results show that even if the Sinn Fein leadership wanted to change policy on this issue, the results above show it would be very dangerous for them to change this policy, as a substantial part of their support base would be against this policy change, and may let their views be known.

QUESTION: ATTITUDES TO THE FUTURE OF THE ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY (UUP) - UUP VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



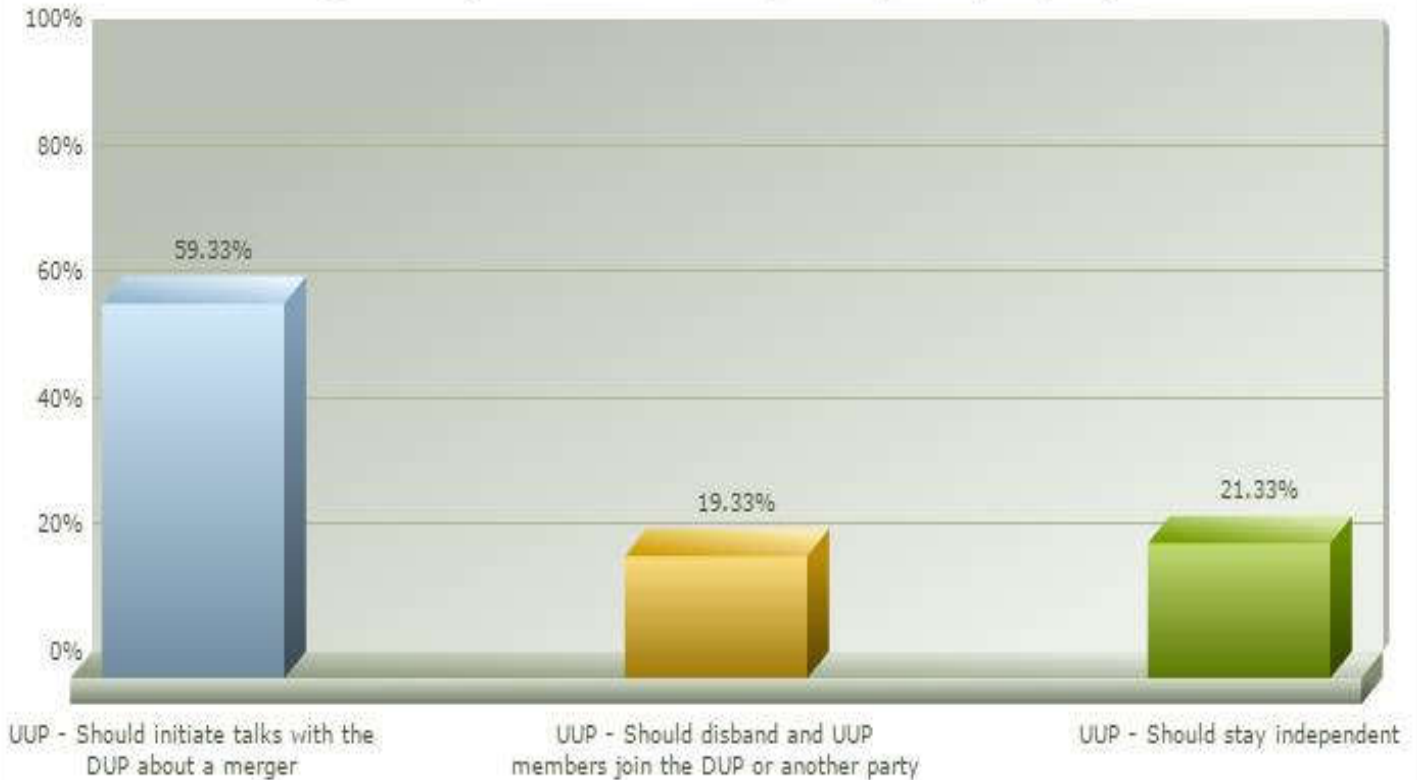
Notes:

- **1 in 5 (i.e. 20%) of UUP voters at the last elections now think the party should initiate talks with the DUP about a merger between the UUP and DUP. This is quite high and should be concerning for the UUP leadership.**
- **Remember the above shows the results for this question from UUP voters/supporters only, so you would expect close to 100% of this demographic would support that the UUP should remain an independent party. In this context, 1 in 5 saying they should now consider merging with the DUP, is high.**

DUP VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

QUESTION 1 - THE FUTURE OF THE ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY (UUP): We note you said you voted/supporting the DUP in the recent elections (and/or support them now). Taking into account the poor UUP election results, the recent resignation of former UUP Chairman David Campbell - What do you think is the best plan for the UUP in the future?

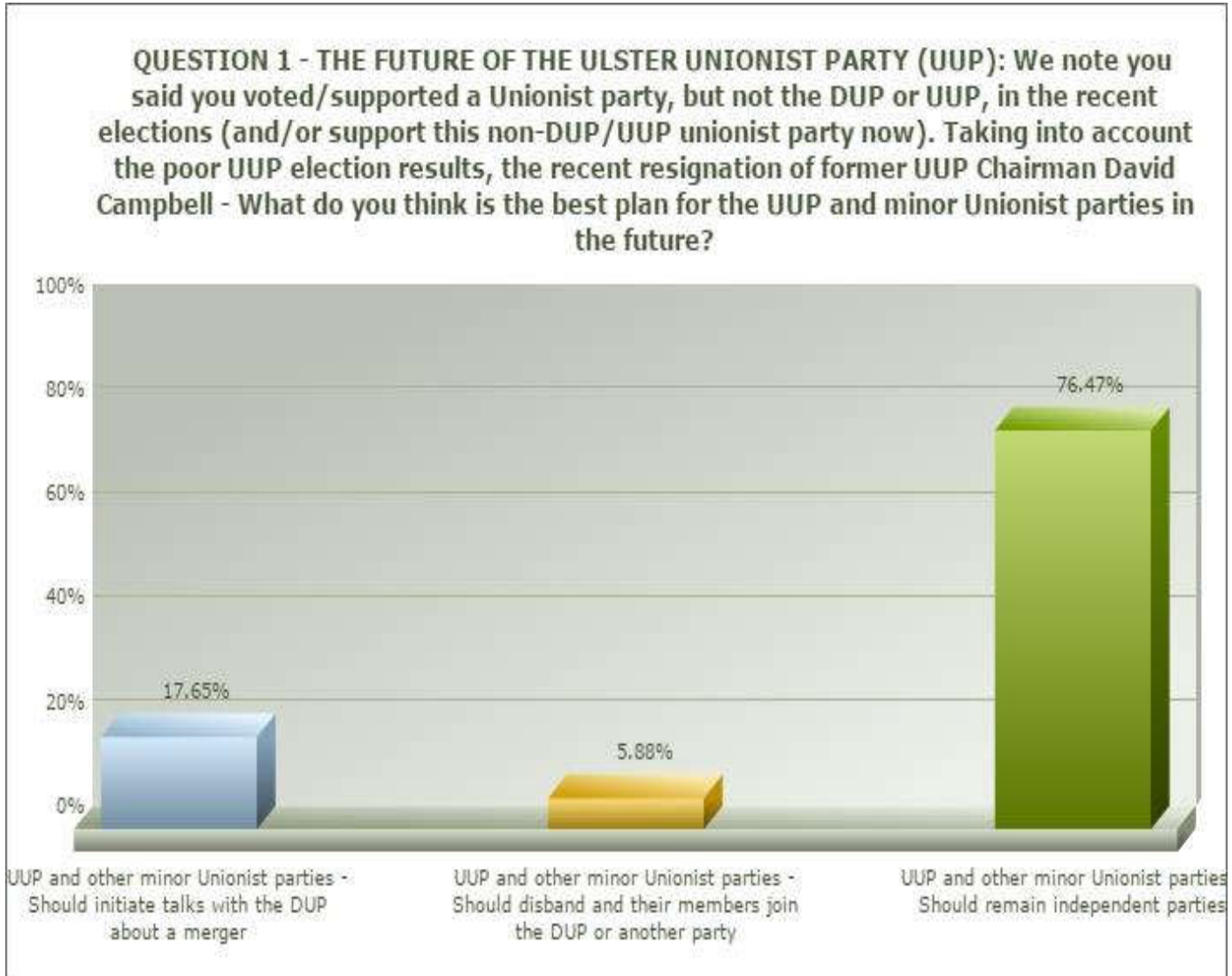
LT NI PANEL POLL (June 2017): POST NI Elections - 2,080 Responses (Weighted) - DUP VOTERS ONLY



Notes:

- **When the same question about the UUP-DUP merging is asked of DUP voters/supporters it is not surprising that a majority i.e. 59% support talks between the DUP and UUP about a merger.**
- **It is interesting to note that 21% (of DUP voters/supporters) don't support a merger with the UUP.**

MINOR UNIONIST PARTY VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

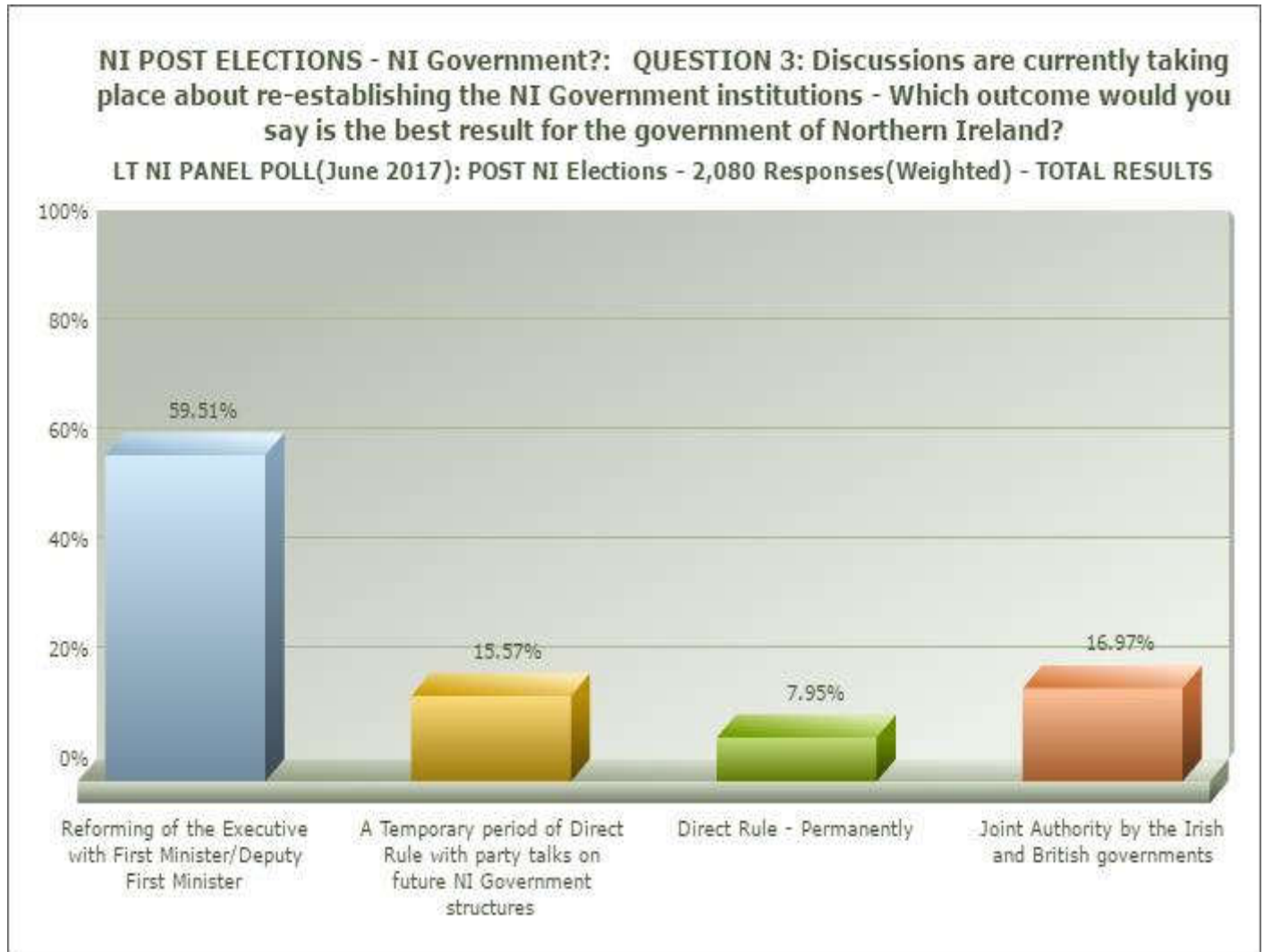


Notes:

- When the same question about the UUP-DUP merging is asked of the minor Unionist party supporters i.e. TUV, PUP, UKIP, NI Conservatives, then they have slightly less support for their parties (and the UUP) to engage in talks with the DUP about a merger with their parties i.e. 18% compared to 20% for the UUP voters/supporters only.

QUESTION: RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NI GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS - WHICH OUTCOME WOULD YOU SAY IS THE BEST RESULT FOR NI.

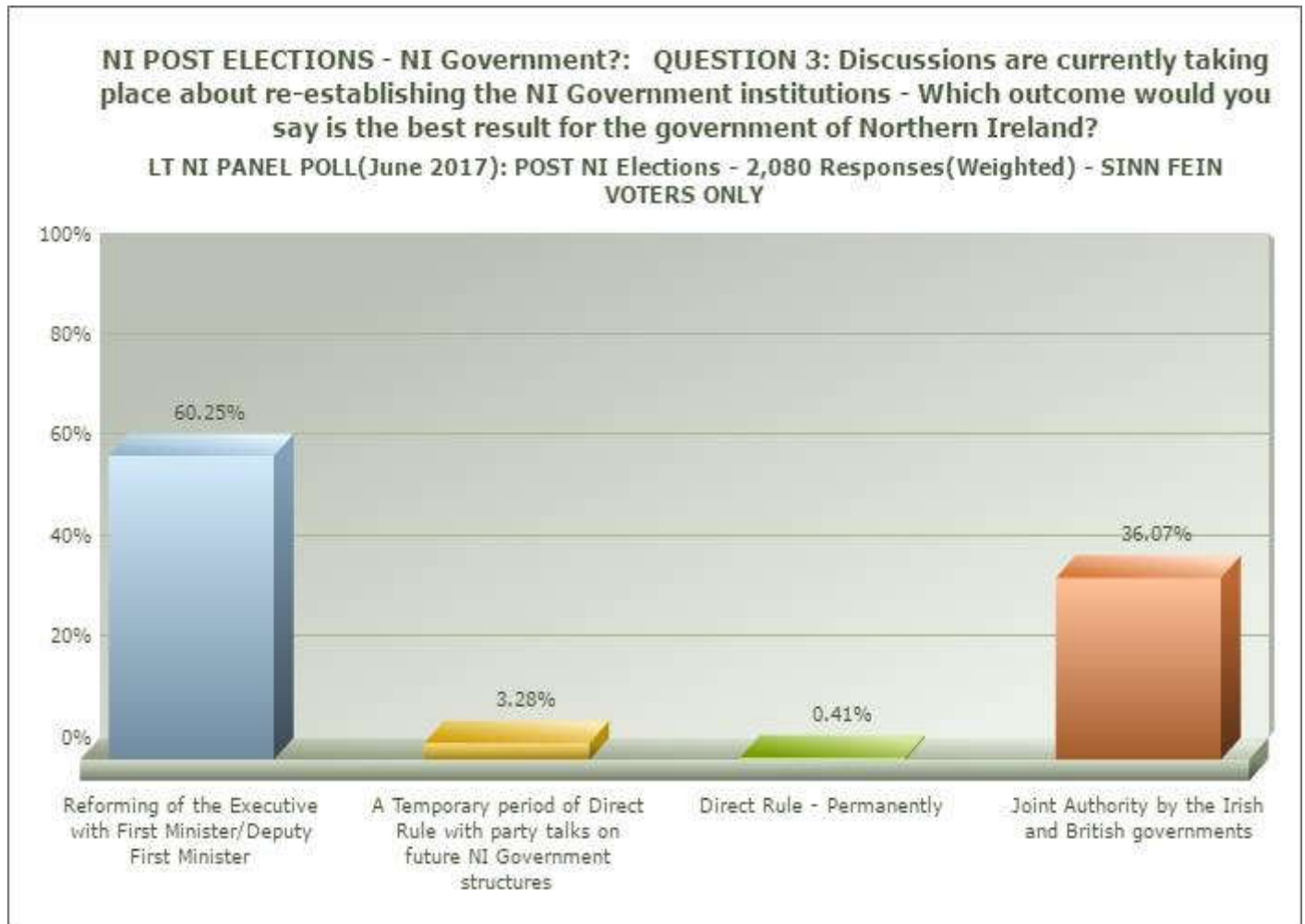
TOTAL RESULTS – All voters from NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



Notes:

- **60% of the NI voter base want the NI Government institutions reformed.**
- **Note that although 16% want a period of Direct rule, but with the long-term objective to get the NI Government institutions up and working again i.e. basically this 16 % also support the reformation of the NI Government institutions but after it has been ‘well sorted out’ as one comment put it (i.e. a period of direct rule with ongoing discussions).**

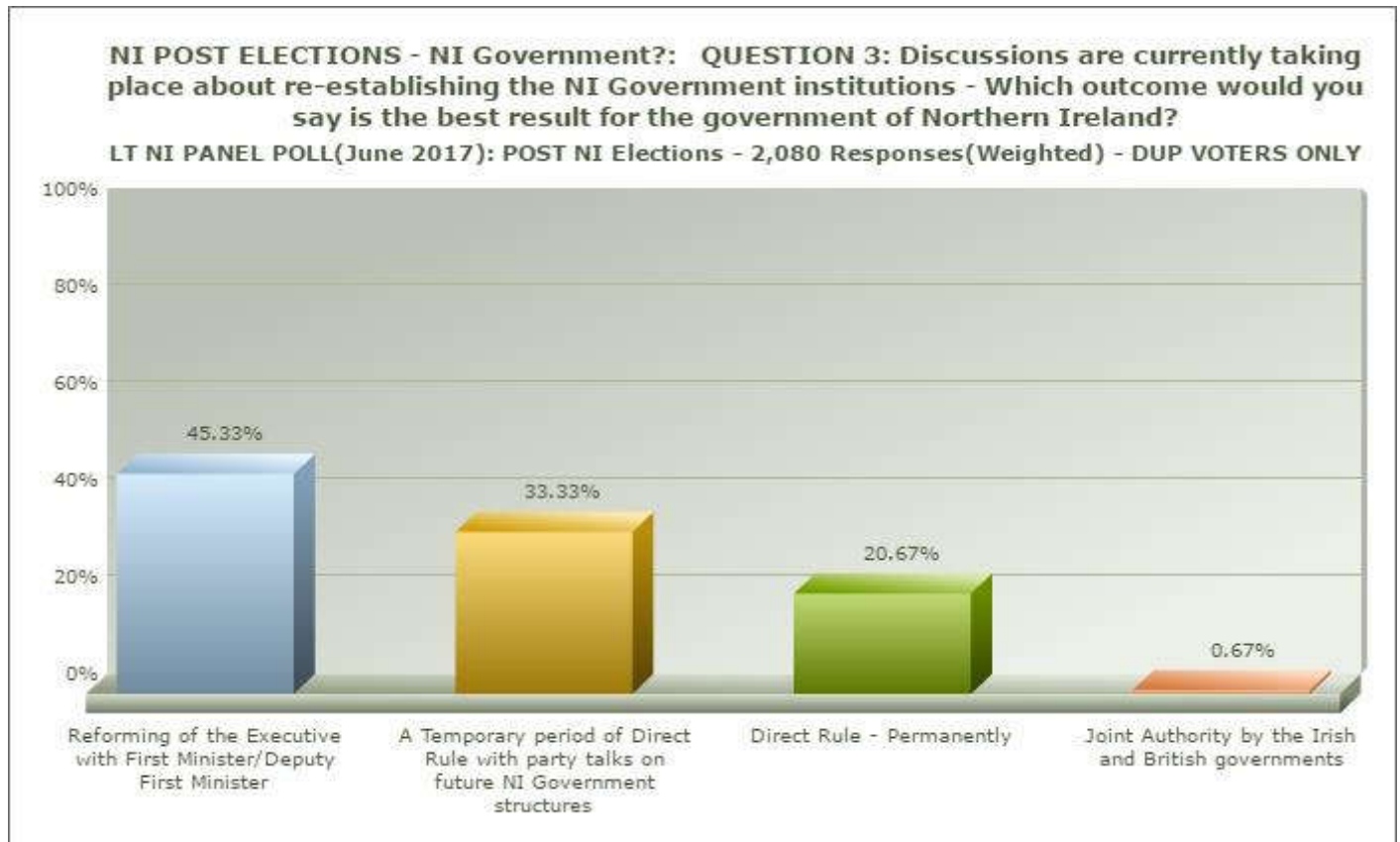
SINN FEIN VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



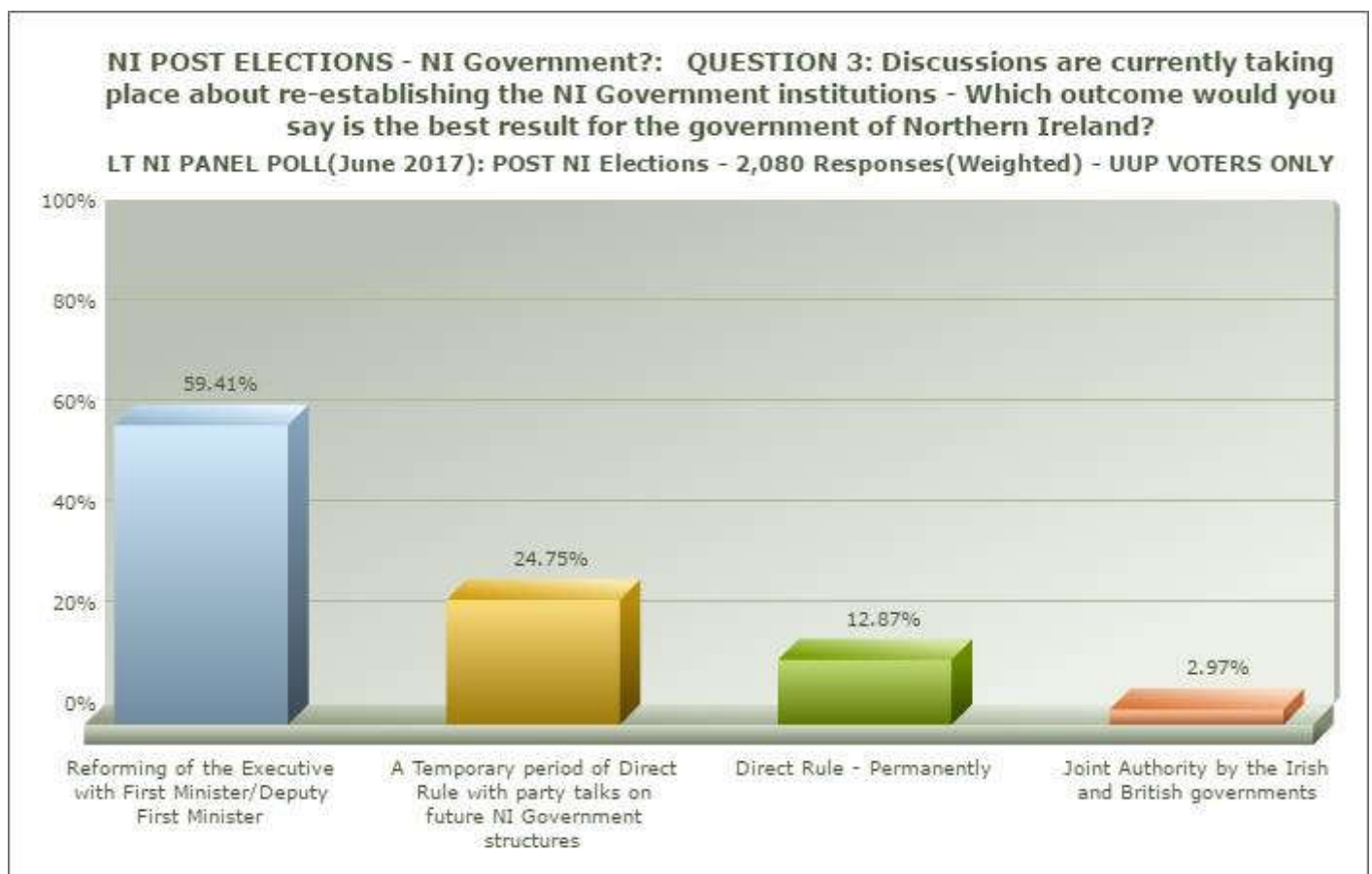
Notes:

- **Note that Sinn Fein voters match the total NI results on the reforming of the NI Government and executive.**
- **However, 36% of Sinn Fein voters (more than 1 to 3) support joint authority by the British and Irish governments.**

DUP VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



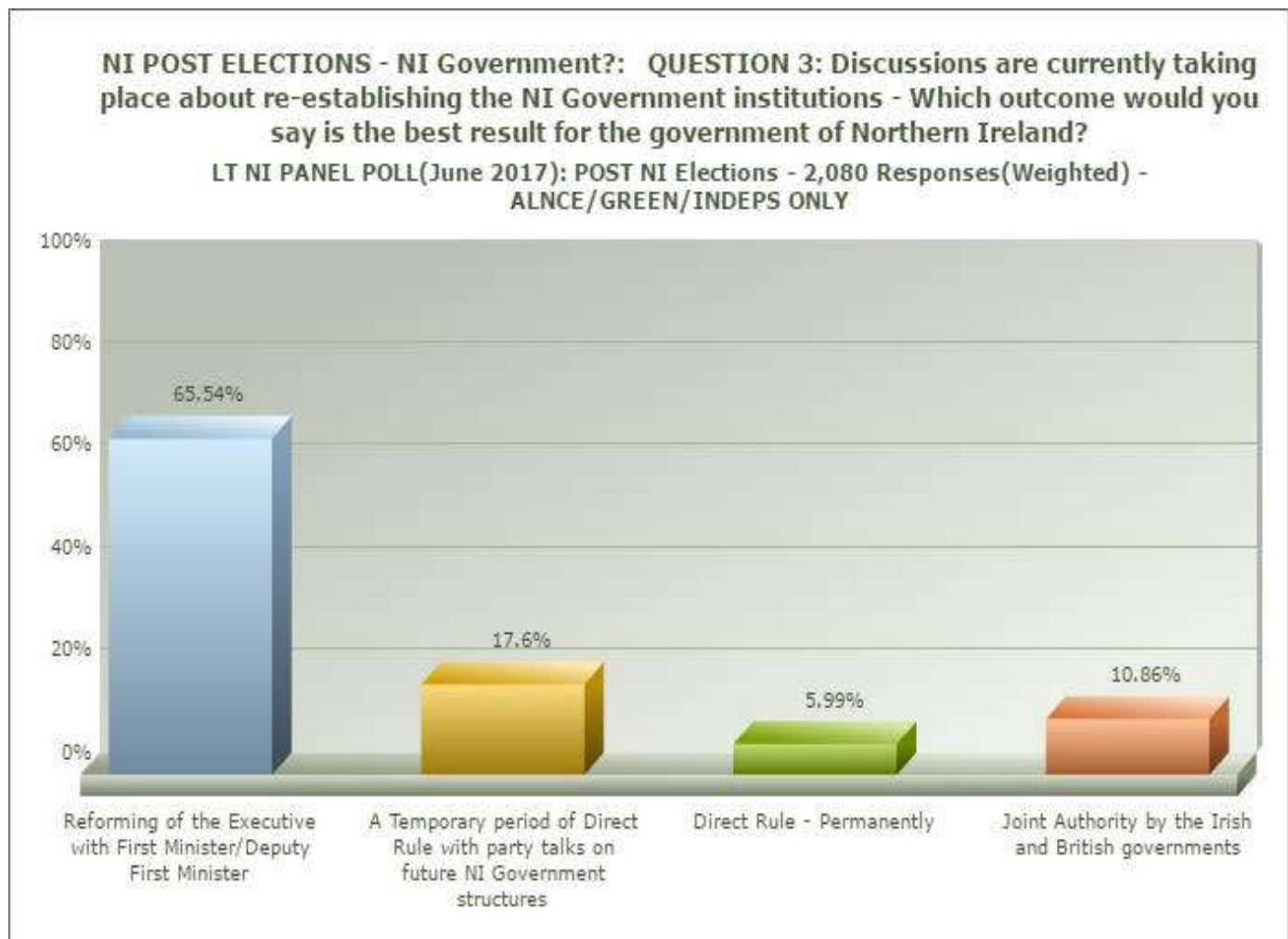
UUP VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



Notes:

- Only 45% of DUP voters support the reformation of the Stormont institutions, compared to 59% of UUP voters. This is significant, maybe showing that DUP supporters see the 'power' their MPs now have in London, and are therefore less interested in getting the Stormont institutions up & working again, at least in the short-term.
- 1 in 3 DUP voters want a period of direct rule with discussions on future NI government institutions.
- The above point also probably feeds into the fact that only 13% of UUP voters want direct rule permanently, compared to 21% of DUP voters who want this solution (i.e. this is over 1 in 5 of current DUP voters).

ALLIANCE/GRN/INDS VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



Notes:

- As expected there is strong support from the Alliance/Green/Indeps group of voters for the reformation of the NI Government institutions i.e. 66% support this, i.e. 2 out of 3.
- However, it's noteworthy that an additional 18% (i.e. apart from the 66% above) support a period of direct rule with ongoing discussions to get the institutions on a 'totally sound footing' as one comment put it.
- Its also noteworthy that 11% would prefer joint authority by the British and Irish governments.

QUESTION: OUTCOME OF BREXIT AND IMPACT ON NI.

TOTAL RESULTS – All voters from NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

NI POST ELECTIONS - EU and BREXIT?: QUESTION 5: The UK and the EU have started negotiations on Brexit. Please rank the following 3 possible outcomes for Northern Ireland (NI) from best to worst, in terms of which outcome you think is the best result for NI? PLEASE DRAG/DROP THE OPTIONS INTO YOUR DESIRED ORDER OF PRIORITY, AND/OR CLICK ON THE NO. BOXES AT THE LEFT-HAND-SIDE OF EACH OPTION. – TOTAL RESULTS

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
The UK leaves the EU - NI has special EU status (but not the rest of the UK) and remains in the Single Market and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (between EU and NI, not GB)	6083	1
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, but stays in the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (i.e. so called 'Soft Brexit')	6045	2
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with control of people movement (i.e. so called 'Hard Brexit')	4256	3
¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	2,080
	skipped	0

Notes:

- NI having a 'special status' in the EU is the 1st preferred solution for NI in the context of the UK leaving the EU. However, it's really a joint top with a UK 'Soft Brexit' with NI not having any special status – as the two top scores are practically the same with only 38 of a difference out of scores of 6,000.

UNIONIST VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

NI POST ELECTIONS - EU and BREXIT?: QUESTION 5: The UK and the EU have started negotiations on Brexit. Please rank the following 3 possible outcomes for Northern Ireland (NI) from best to worst, in terms of which outcome you think is the best result for NI? PLEASE DRAG/DROP THE OPTIONS INTO YOUR DESIRED ORDER OF PRIORITY, AND/OR CLICK ON THE NO. BOXES AT THE LEFT-HAND-SIDE OF EACH OPTION. – UNIONISTS ONLY

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with control of people movement (i.e. so called 'Hard Brexit')	3828	1
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, but stays in the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (i.e. so called 'Soft Brexit')	3558	2
The UK leaves the EU - NI has special EU status (but not the rest of the UK) and remains in the Single Market and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (between EU and NI, not GB)	1221	3
¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	2,080
	skipped	0

Notes:

- Unlike the total results we see that Unionists rank 'NI special status' the lowest, and prefer a full UK 'Hard Brexit'.

NATIONALIST/REPUBLIC VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

NI POST ELECTIONS - EU and BREXIT?: QUESTION 5: The UK and the EU have started negotiations on Brexit. Please rank the following 3 possible outcomes for Northern Ireland (NI) from best to worst, in terms of which outcome you think is the best result for NI? PLEASE DRAG/DROP THE OPTIONS INTO YOUR DESIRED ORDER OF PRIORITY, AND/OR CLICK ON THE NO. BOXES AT THE LEFT-HAND-SIDE OF EACH OPTION. – NATIONALISTS/REPUBLICANS ONLY

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
The UK leaves the EU - NI has special EU status (but not the rest of the UK) and remains in the Single Market and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (between EU and NI, not GB)	3002	1
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, but stays in the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (i.e. so called 'Soft Brexit')	2194	2
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with control of people movement (i.e. so called 'Hard Brexit')	1266	3
¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	2,080
	skipped	0

Notes:

- In a sort of reverse of the Unionist position, Nationalists/Republicans are very much in favour of 'NI special status' with a large weighted score of 3002.
- We see that a UK 'Hard Brexit' scores very low with this group on 1,266.

ALLIANCE/GRN/INDEPS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

NI POST ELECTIONS - EU and BREXIT?: QUESTION 5: The UK and the EU have started negotiations on Brexit. Please rank the following 3 possible outcomes for Northern Ireland (NI) from best to worst, in terms of which outcome you think is the best result for NI? PLEASE DRAG/DROP THE OPTIONS INTO YOUR DESIRED ORDER OF PRIORITY, AND/OR CLICK ON THE NO. BOXES AT THE LEFT-HAND-SIDE OF EACH OPTION. – ALLIANCE/GREEN/INDEPS ONLY

Item	Total Score ¹	Overall Rank
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, but stays in the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (i.e. so called 'Soft Brexit')	1850	1
The UK leaves the EU - NI has special EU status (but not the rest of the UK) and remains in the Single Market and the Customs Union - with free movement of people (between EU and NI, not GB)	1820	2
The UK (including NI) leaves the EU, the Single Market, and the Customs Union - with control of people movement (i.e. so called 'Hard Brexit')	831	3
¹ Score is a weighted calculation. Items ranked first are valued higher than the following ranks, the score is a sum of all weighted rank counts.	answered	2,080
	skipped	0

Notes:

- As expected Alliance/Green/Indeps voters are very much in favour of a 'Soft Brexit', and/or NI having a special EU status. Both the top two had very close, and high scores, and were a long way ahead i.e. of the UK hard Brexit option with this group, which came in a distant 3rd.
- We see that a UK 'Hard Brexit' scores very low with this group on 831.

QUESTION: POLITICAL PARTY CAMPAIGN PERFORMANCES.

TOTAL RESULTS – All voters from NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections

POST NI ASSEMBLY ELECTION & NI WESTMINSTER ELECTION 2017 - CAMPAIGNS: QUESTION 2:
Taken 'in the round' - How do you rate each of the NI Political Parties campaign performances during the NI Assembly Election, and the NI Westminster Elections 2017? e.g. Party Leader performance, Policy decisions, Media performance, Campaigning/Speeches, Policy presentation, etc.. (please answer neutrally and honestly i.e. disregard your personal political views). For each Political Party - Score 0% to 100% on the slider scale (just move the button up/down the scale) where 0% = Disastrous/Couldn't be worse, 50% = Neutral, to 100% = Excellent/Couldn't be better.
- TOTAL NI RESULTS: BALANCED AND WEIGHTED NI SAMPLE OF 2,080

Item	Average	Min	Max	Std. Deviation	Total Responses
DUP	74.63	0.00	100.00	28.98	2080
SINN FEIN	55.71	0.00	100.00	25.58	2080
UUP	29.73	0.00	100.00	19.68	2080
SDLP	36.99	0.00	100.00	23.67	2080
ALLIANCE	52.58	0.00	100.00	23.80	2080
GREEN PARTY	37.84	0.00	100.00	24.50	2080
PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT	21.26	0.00	100.00	22.08	2080
TUV	12.71	0.00	100.00	20.95	2080
				answered	2,080
				skipped	0

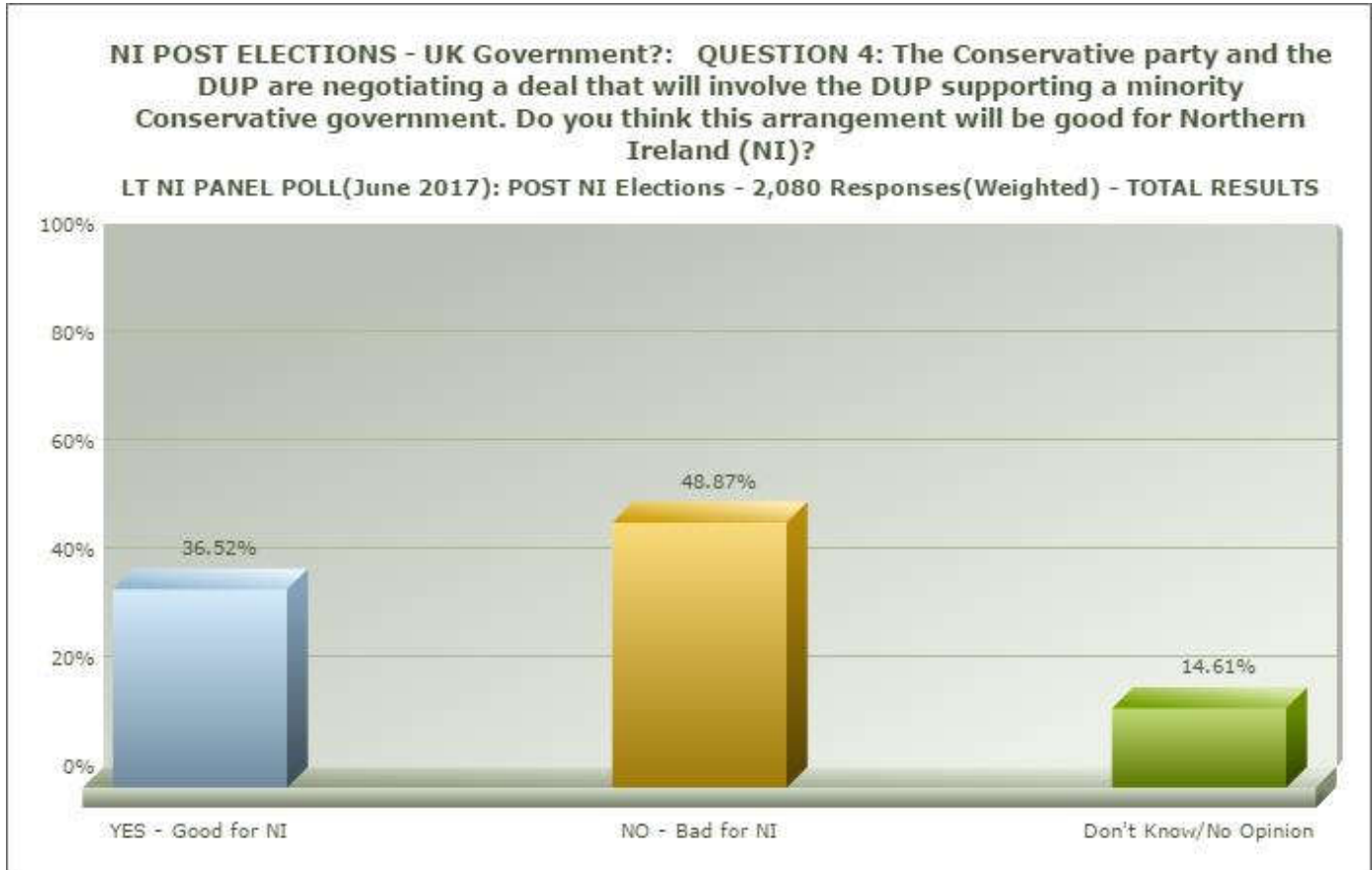
Notes:

- As expected the DUP score very strongly with this question (scoring 75), with Sinn Fein coming in second (on 56). Remember these results are from a NI representative sample of 2,080 from the LT NI Opinion Panel, and as per above we asked all respondents to answer 'neutrally' and disregard their own political views and references.
- The UUP score very poorly on 29.7, with only PBP and the TUV behind them in the scoring, and to be fair to the PBP party and the TUV they only ran in 1-2 constituencies so this shows how bad a result this is for the UUP. Taking into account the earlier poll results about merging with the DUP (see above), this score should concern the UUP.
- It's somewhat noteworthy that the DUP had the highest standard deviation with this question, showing that some respondents scored them very high at around 95-100, but also that some respondents scored them around 40-45 i.e. at the low end – i.e. some respondents thought that the DUP campaign was brilliant, or that they 'weren't that fussed about it' i.e. at the lower end!

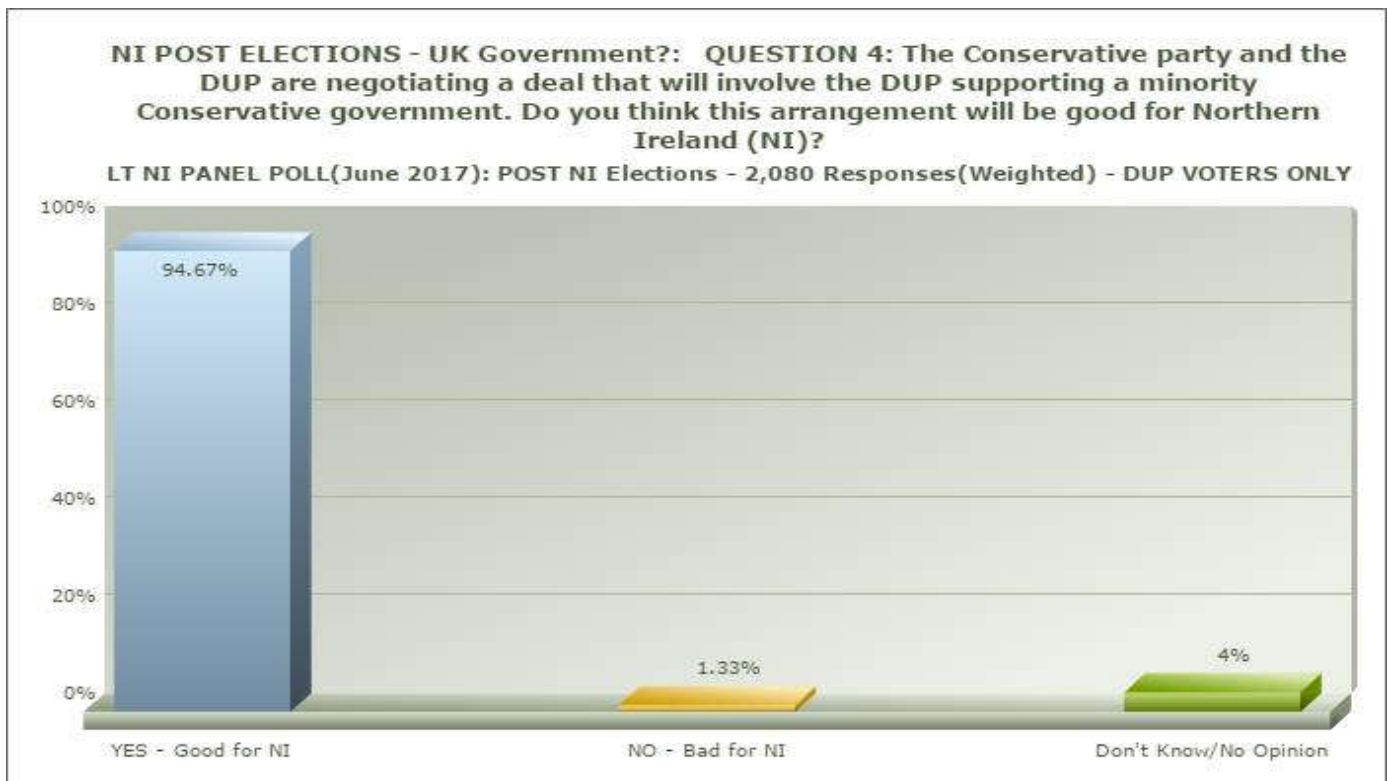
QUESTION: THE DUP – CONSERVATIVE DEAL AT WESTMINSTER.

NB As per the poll timescales detailed above, this was researched BEFORE the agreement between the Conservatives and the DUP was announced (i.e. on 26th June 2017).

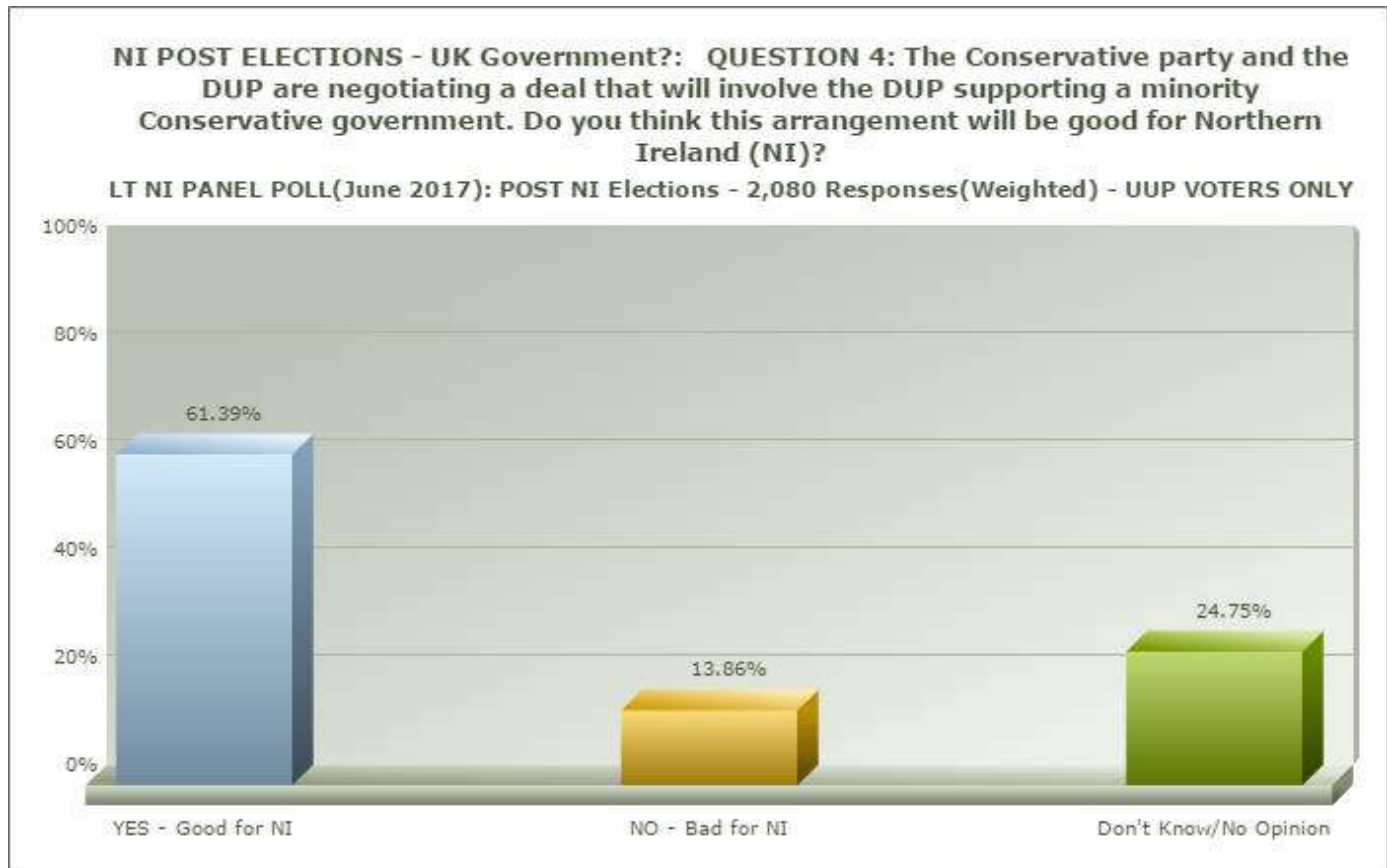
TOTAL RESULTS – All voters from NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



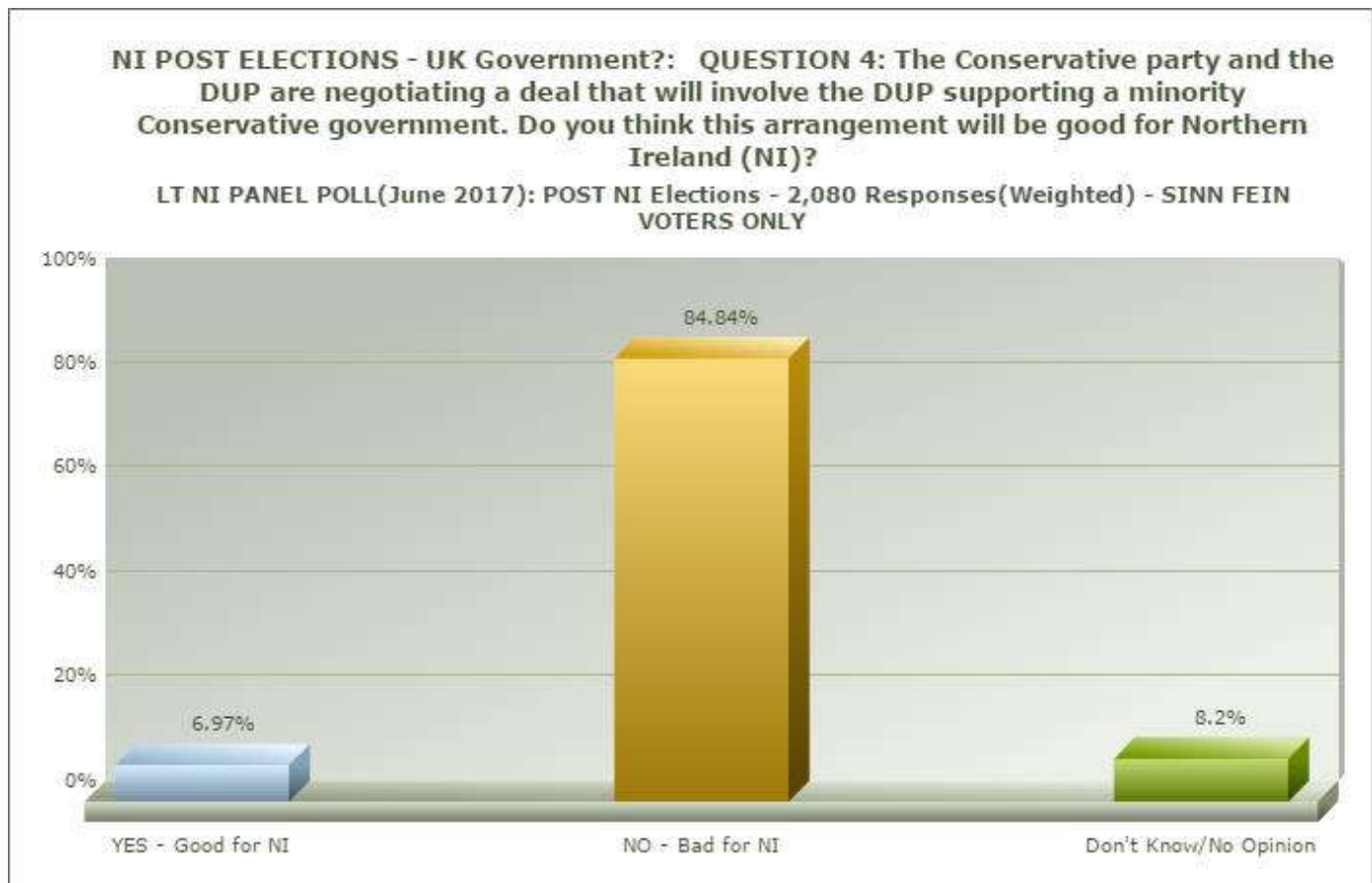
DUP VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



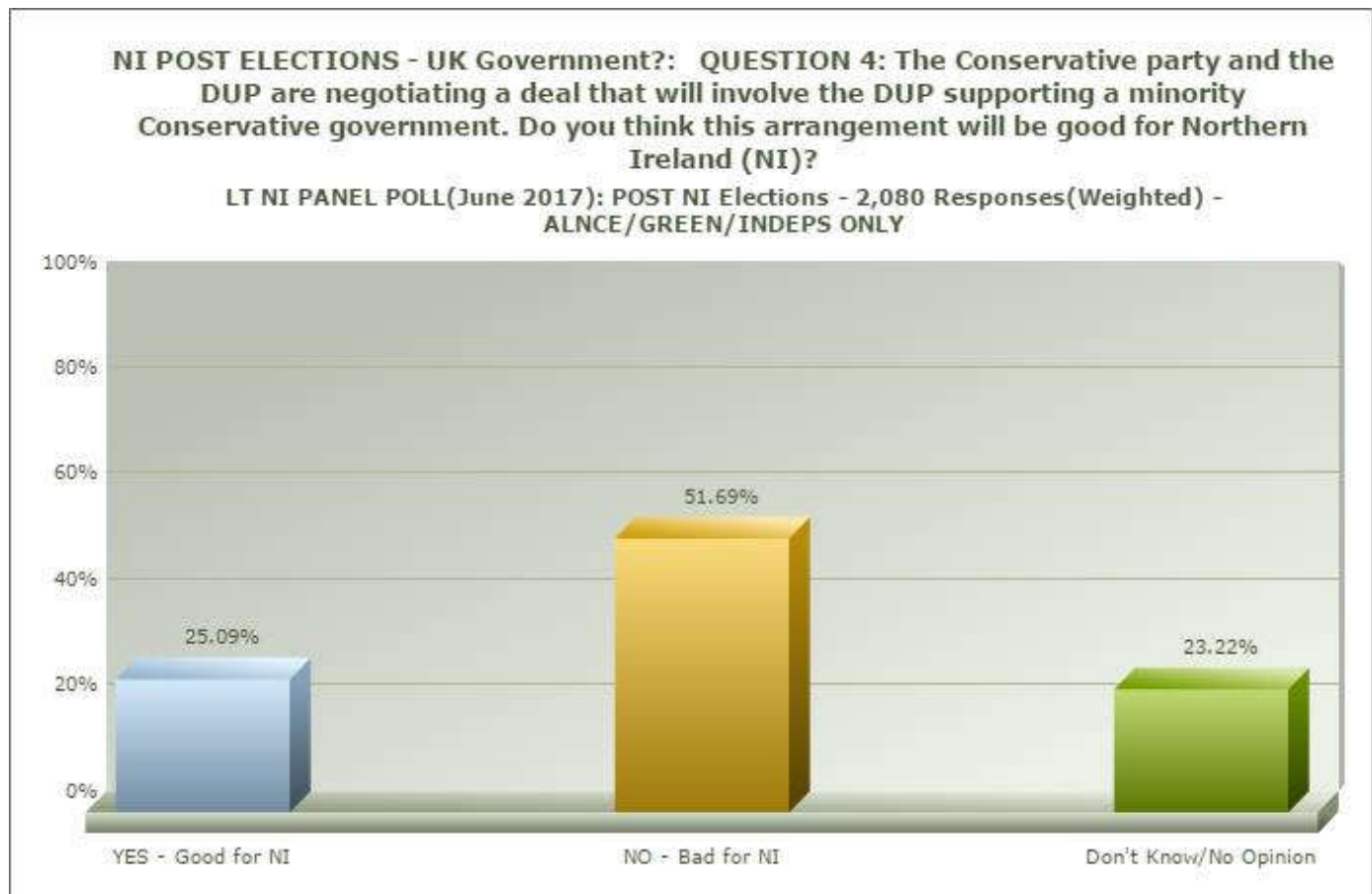
UUP VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



SINN FEIN VOTERS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



ALLIANCE/GREEN/INDEPS ONLY – From NI Assembly and NI Westminster Elections



Notes:

- As can be seen above, 49% of the total NI results think the DUP-Conservatives deal is/will be 'Bad for NI' compared to 37% who think it is/will be a good deal for NI, with approx. 14% 'Don't Know/No Opinion'.
- Not surprisingly 95% of DUP supporters think the deal will be good for NI. However, 85% of Sinn Fein supporters think the deal will be bad for NI.
- Although 61% of UUP supporters think the deal will be good for NI, its noticeable that 14% think it will be bad for NI.
- It's also noteworthy that only 25% of Alliance/Green/Independents think the deal will be good for NI, but 52% of this group think the deal will be bad for NI, with nearly 1 in 4 (23%) of this group i.e. Alliance/Green/Independents are 'Don't Know/No Opinion' as far as this question is concerned.