
Public Perceptions of the Executive

Prepared for OFMDFM

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Red Circle Communications

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the objectives

- To determine the views of the general public in Northern Ireland on the Executive at Stormont
- To assess the level of support/opposition for the transfer of policing and justice powers

methodology

- A telephone survey of 1001 respondents
- Quotas based on the 2005 Northern Ireland Census of Population estimates to ensure the the final sample is representative of the adult population of Northern Ireland

sample

Range	Required	Total
16-29	250	250
30-49	365	365
50-64	210	210
65+	175	176

Class	Required	Total
ABC1	470	470
C2	210	210
DE	320	321

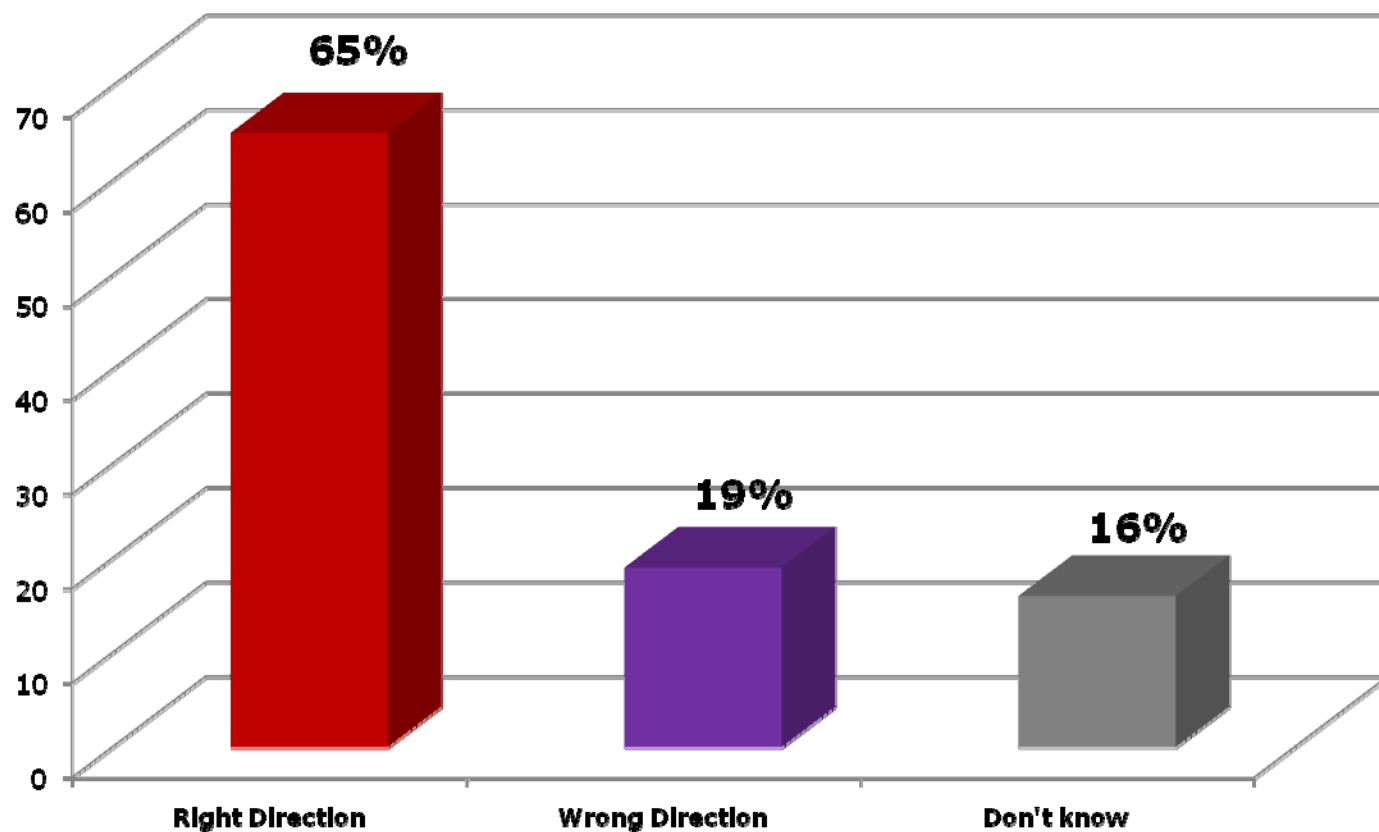
Gender	Required	Total
Male	480	481
Female	520	520

Quotas representative
of 2005 Census

District	Required	Total
Belfast	158	158
Antrim	28	28
Ballymena	37	37
Ards	46	46
Banbridge	25	25
Carrickfergus	23	23
Castlereagh	41	41
Craigavon	48	48
Down	38	38
Larne	19	19
Lisburn	63	63
Newtonabbey	49	49
North Down	47	47
Armagh	33	33
Ballymoney	16	16
Coleraine	33	33
Cookstown	19	19
Derry	60	60
Dungannon	29	29
Fermanagh	35	35
Limavady	18	18
Magherafelt	24	24
Moyle	9	9
Newry & Mourne	51	51
Omagh	28	28
Strabane	23	23

Life in Northern Ireland

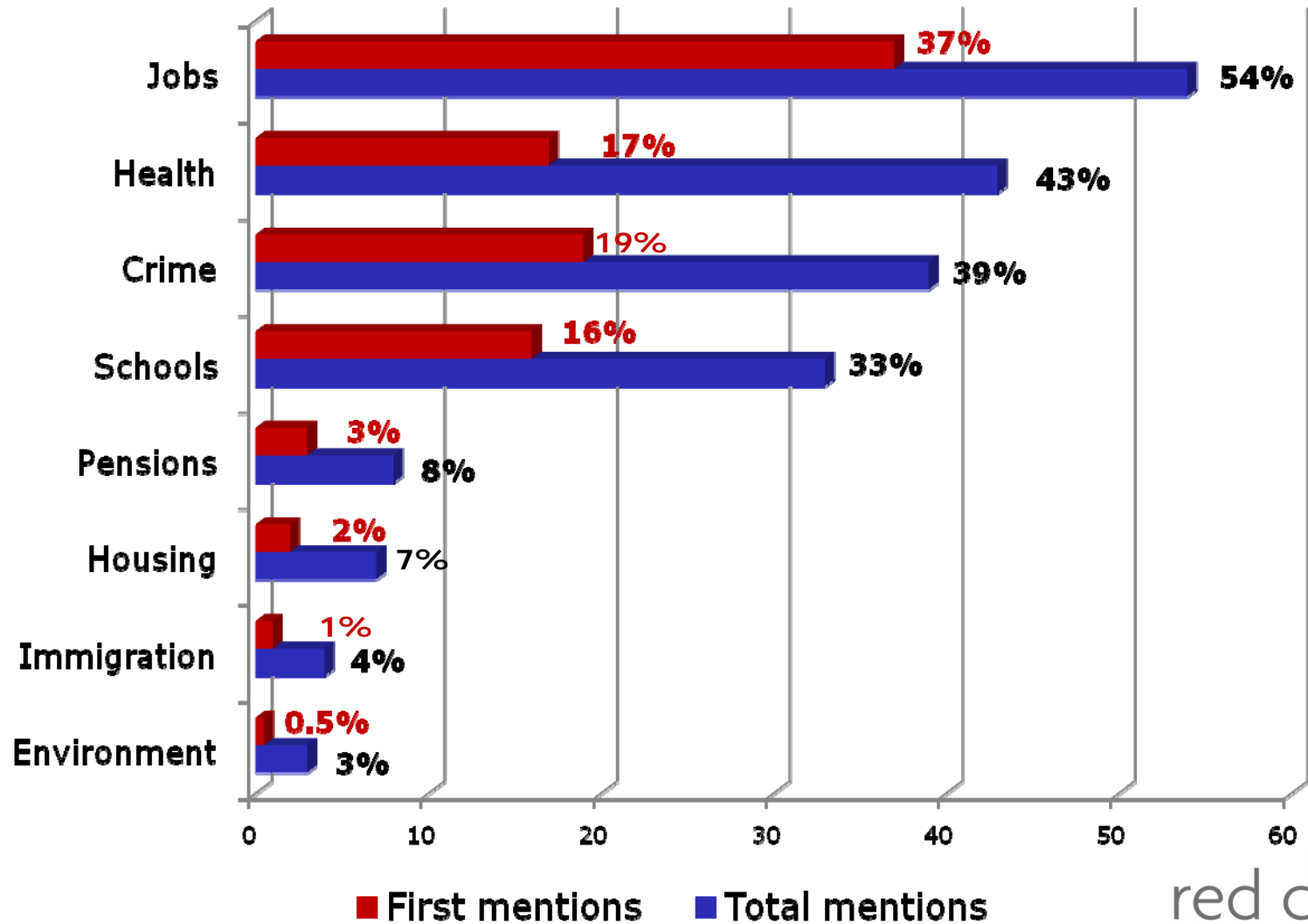
Do you think that things in Northern Ireland are going in the right direction or wrong direction?



Do you think that things in Northern Ireland are going in the right direction or wrong direction?

Segment	Right Direction (%)	Wrong Direction(%)	Lead Right over wrong
Male	69	16	+54
Female	62	21	+41
16-29	66	19	+47
30-49	70	17	+53
50-64	70	17	+53
65+	51	23	+28
ABC1	68	17	+51
C2DE	63	20	+43
Belfast	76	13	+63
East of Bann	67	19	+48
West of Bann	60	21	+39
Unionist	67	18	+49
Nationalist/Republican	75	16	+59
Protestant	62	21	+41
Catholic	71	17	+54

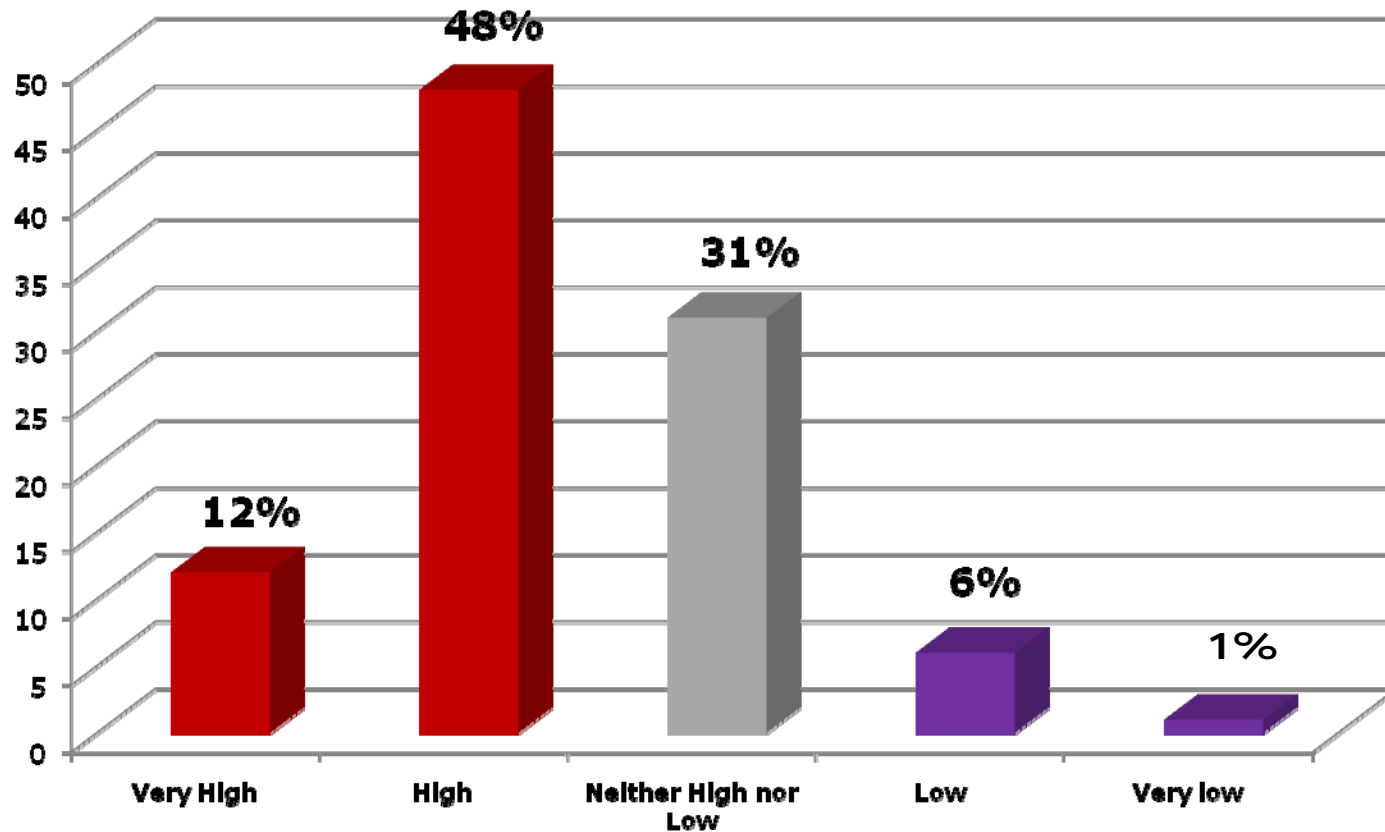
Two main issues of concern



Main issue of concern

- Older people more likely to mention health service and pensions, Younger people more likely to mention jobs and housing
- Men more likely to mention jobs, Women more likely to mention health service
- Catholics and those West of the Bann more likely to mention jobs, Protestants/Unionists and those in Belfast more likely to mention schools
- Working class C2DE respondents more likely to be concerned about crime/ASB
- Those who think things are going in the wrong direction were more likely to be concerned about schools and crime/ASB and less concerned about jobs

Which of the following comes closest to your feelings about the level of crime here today?

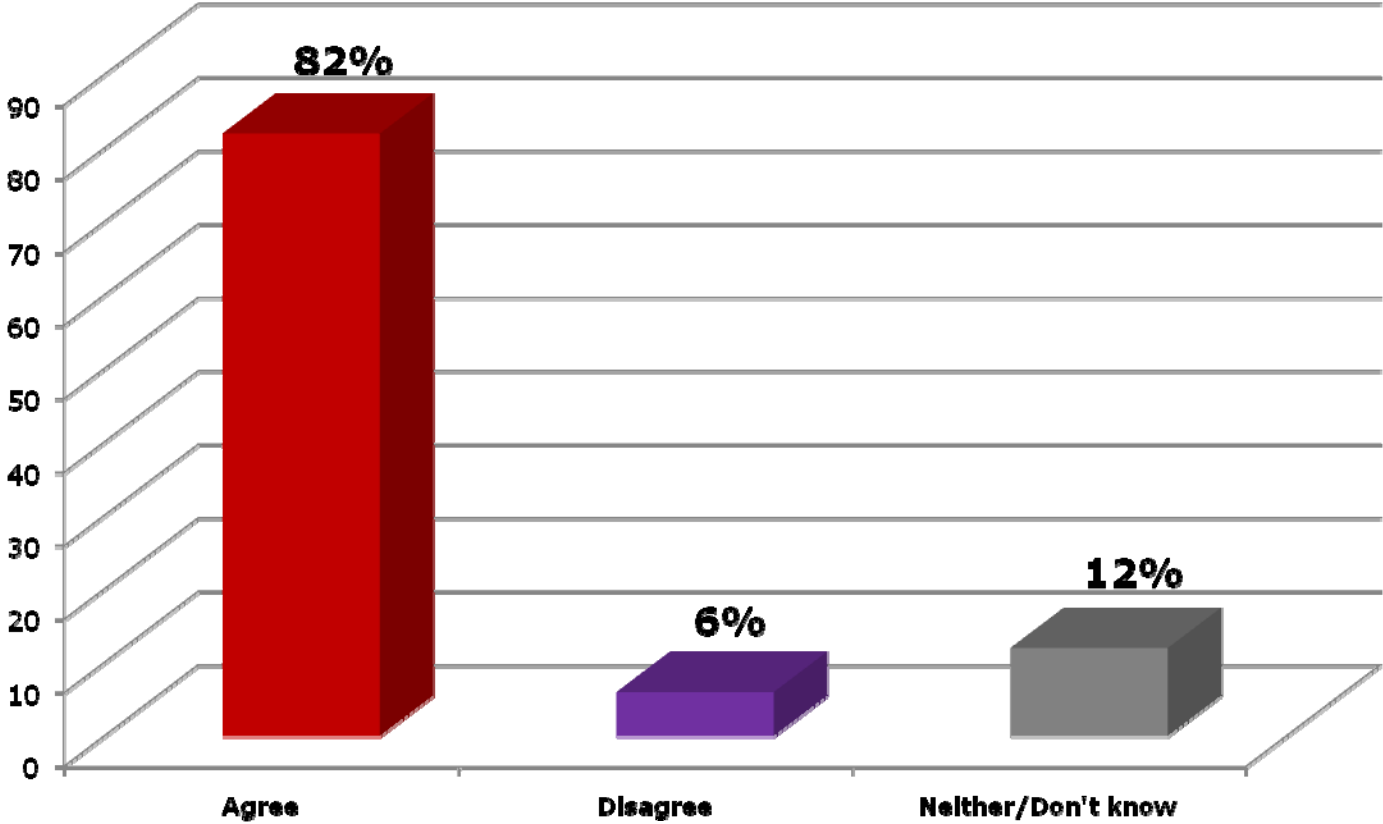


Which of the following comes closest to your feelings about the level of crime here today?

Segment	High (%)	Low (%)	Lead High over Low
Male	56	8	+48
Female	64	5	+59
16-29	61	6	+55
30-49	58	7	+51
50-64	61	6	+55
65+	65	7	+58
ABC1	56	7	+49
C2DE	65	6	+59
Belfast	56	9	+47
East of Bann	60	7	+53
West of Bann	62	6	+56
Unionist	59	8	+51
Nationalist/Republican	57	7	+50
Protestant	61	7	+54
Catholic	62	5	+57

The Executive

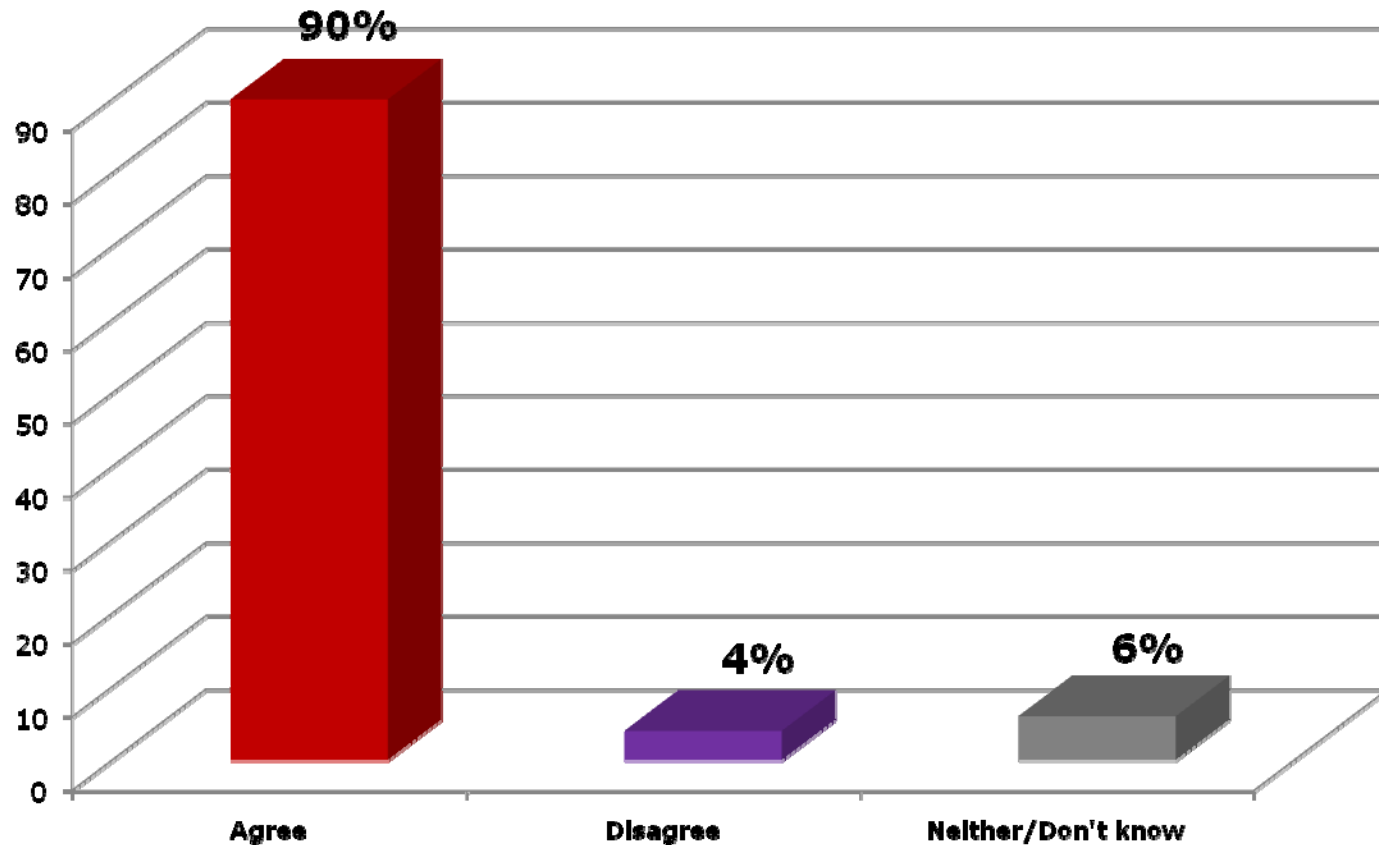
It is a good thing that the executive exists



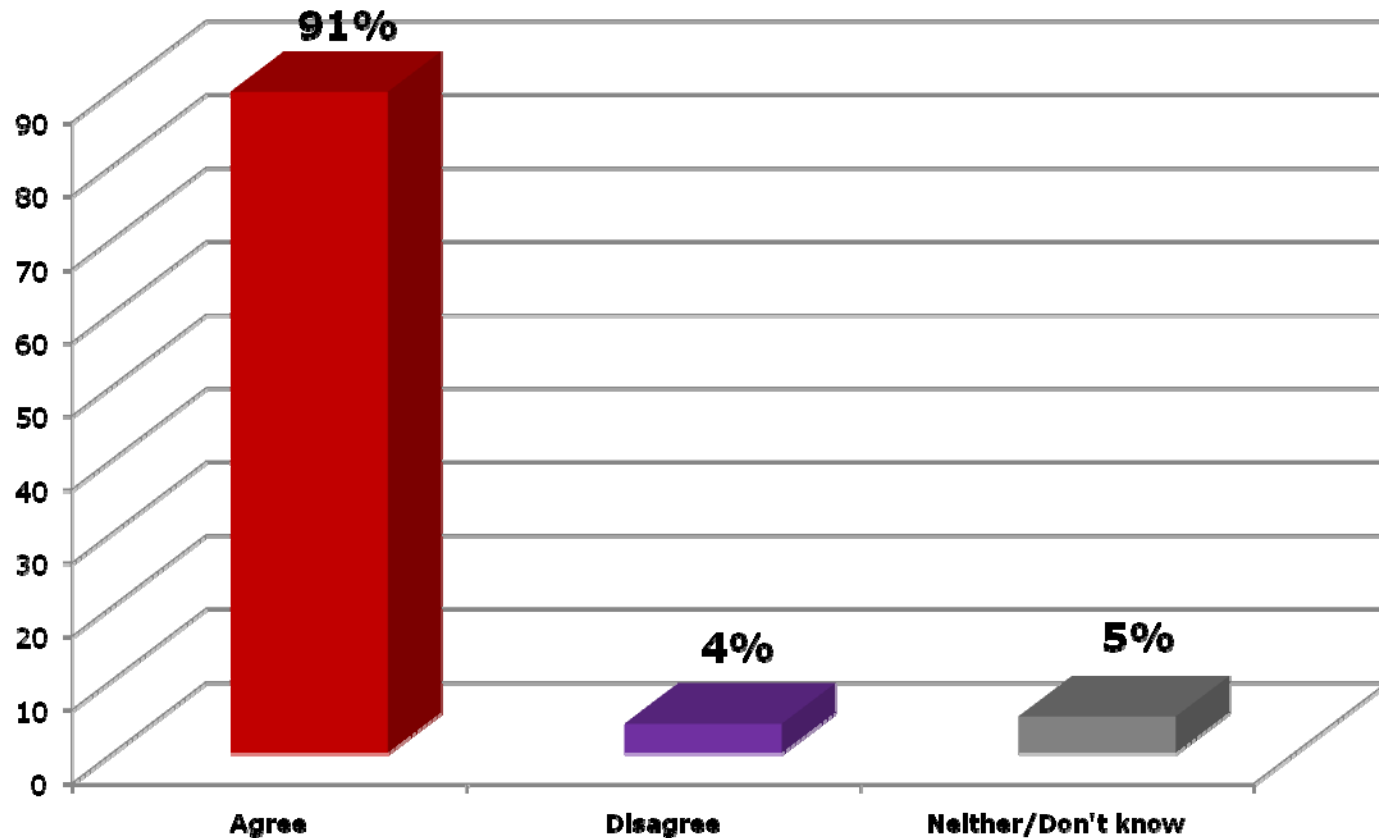
It is a good thing that the executive exists

Segment	Agree (%)	Disagree(%)	Lead Agree over Disagree
Male	82	6	+76
Female	82	6	+76
16-29	83	3	+80
30-49	82	6	+76
50-64	82	7	+75
65+	79	9	+70
ABC1	83	6	+77
C2DE	80	6	+74
Belfast	84	7	+77
East of Bann	81	8	+73
West of Bann	82	4	+78
Unionist	83	7	+76
Nationalist/Republican	89	3	+86
Protestant	80	7	+73
Catholic	86	3	+83

It is good that Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness have to work together for the benefit of everyone here



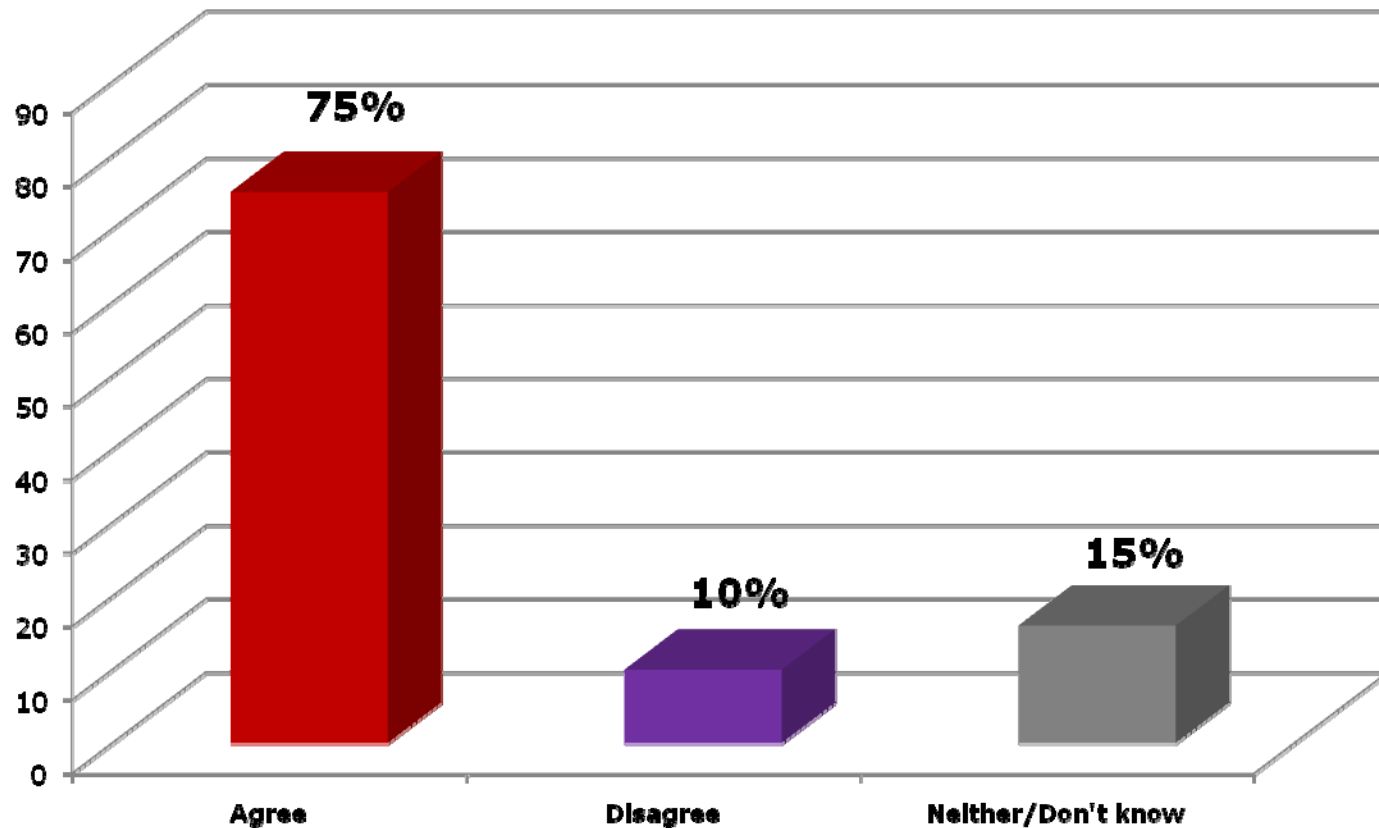
I want Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness to work together to do what is best for people here



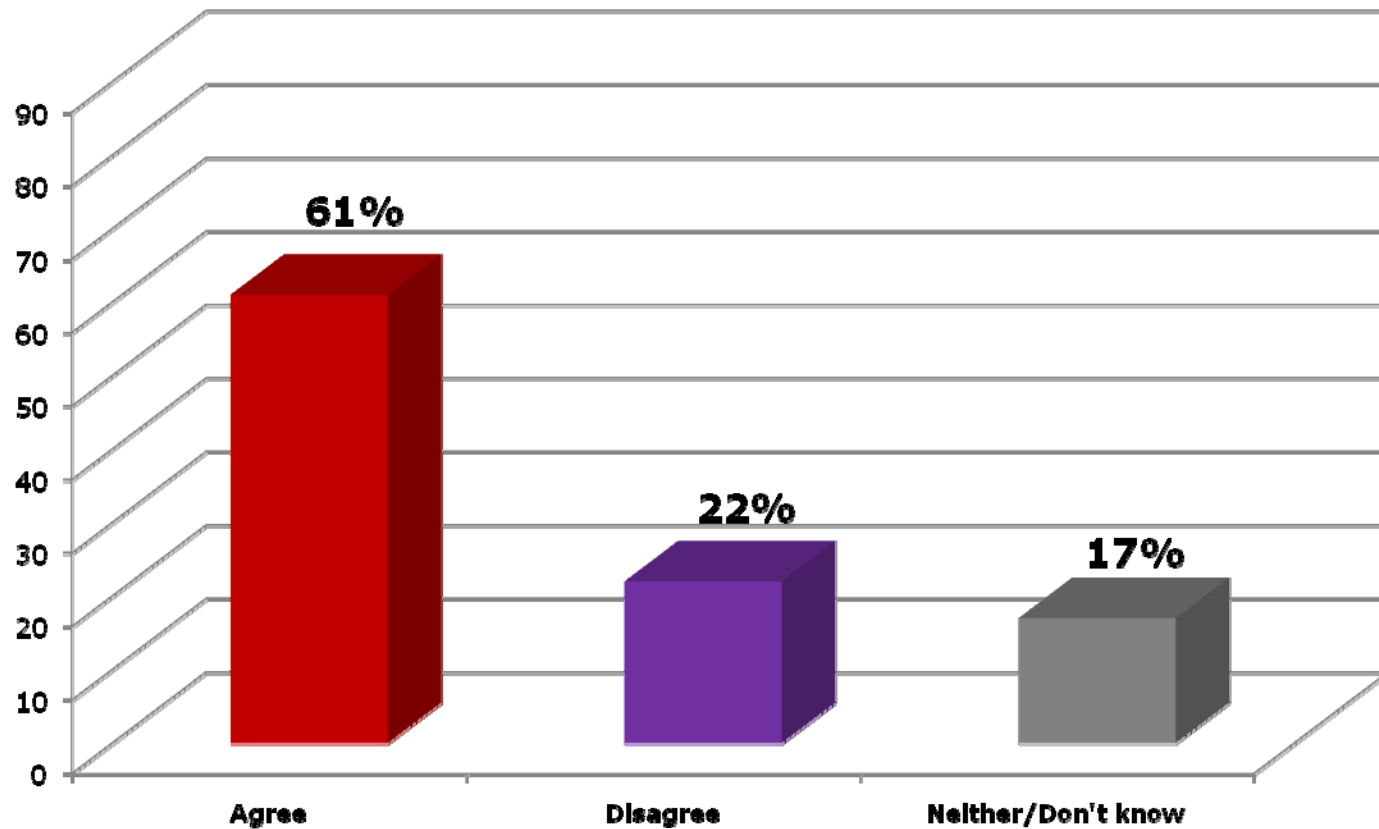
I want Peter Robinson and Martin McGuinness to work together to do what is best for people here

Segment	Agree (%)	Disagree(%)	Lead Agree over Disagree
Male	91	5	+86
Female	91	4	+87
16-29	87	6	+81
30-49	94	2	+92
50-64	92	4	+88
65+	89	6	+83
ABC1	94	3	+91
C2DE	89	6	+83
Belfast	92	6	+86
East of Bann	90	6	+84
West of Bann	93	2	+91
Unionist	92	4	+88
Nationalist/Republican	95	1	+94
Protestant	89	6	+83
Catholic	95	2	+93

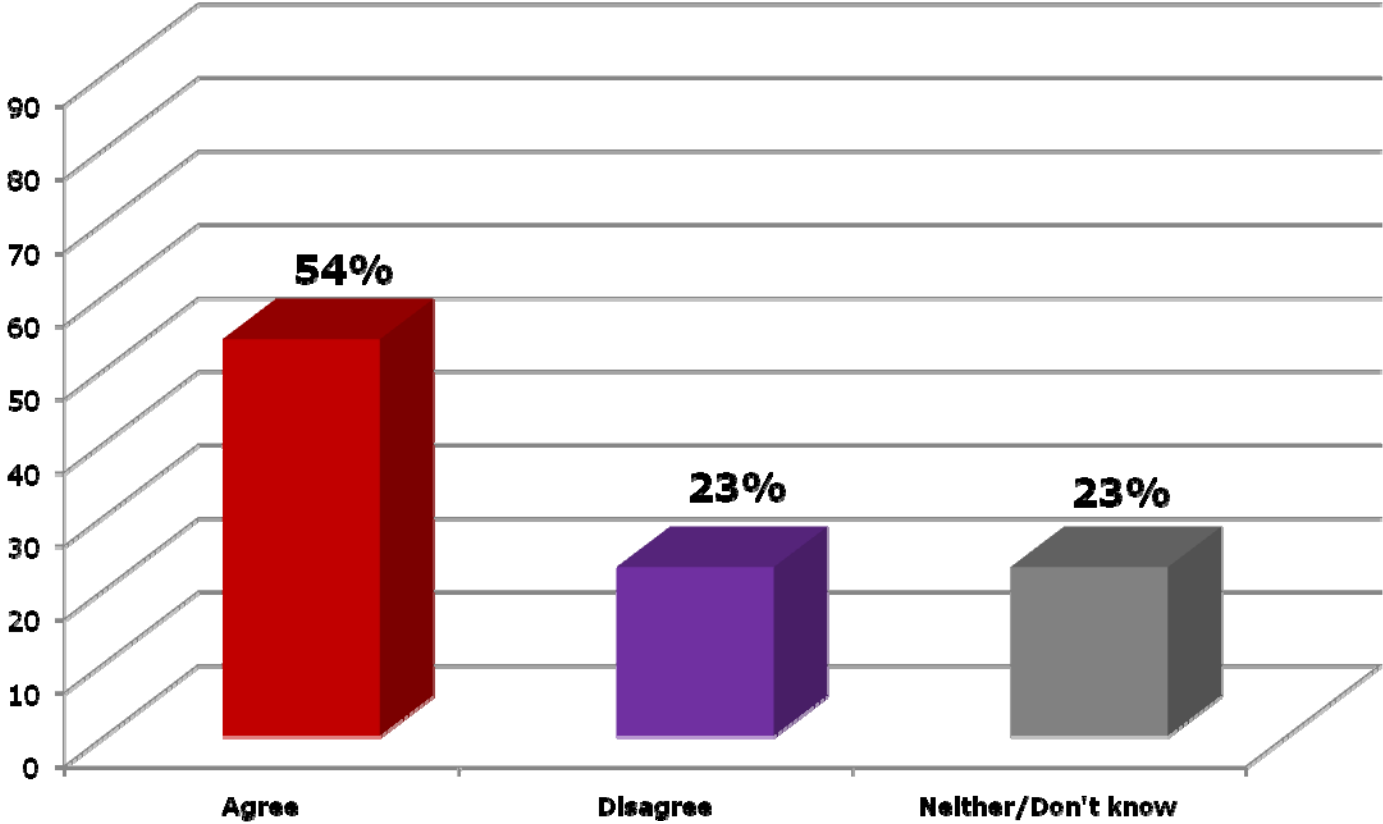
The executive has helped bring peace and stability to Northern Ireland



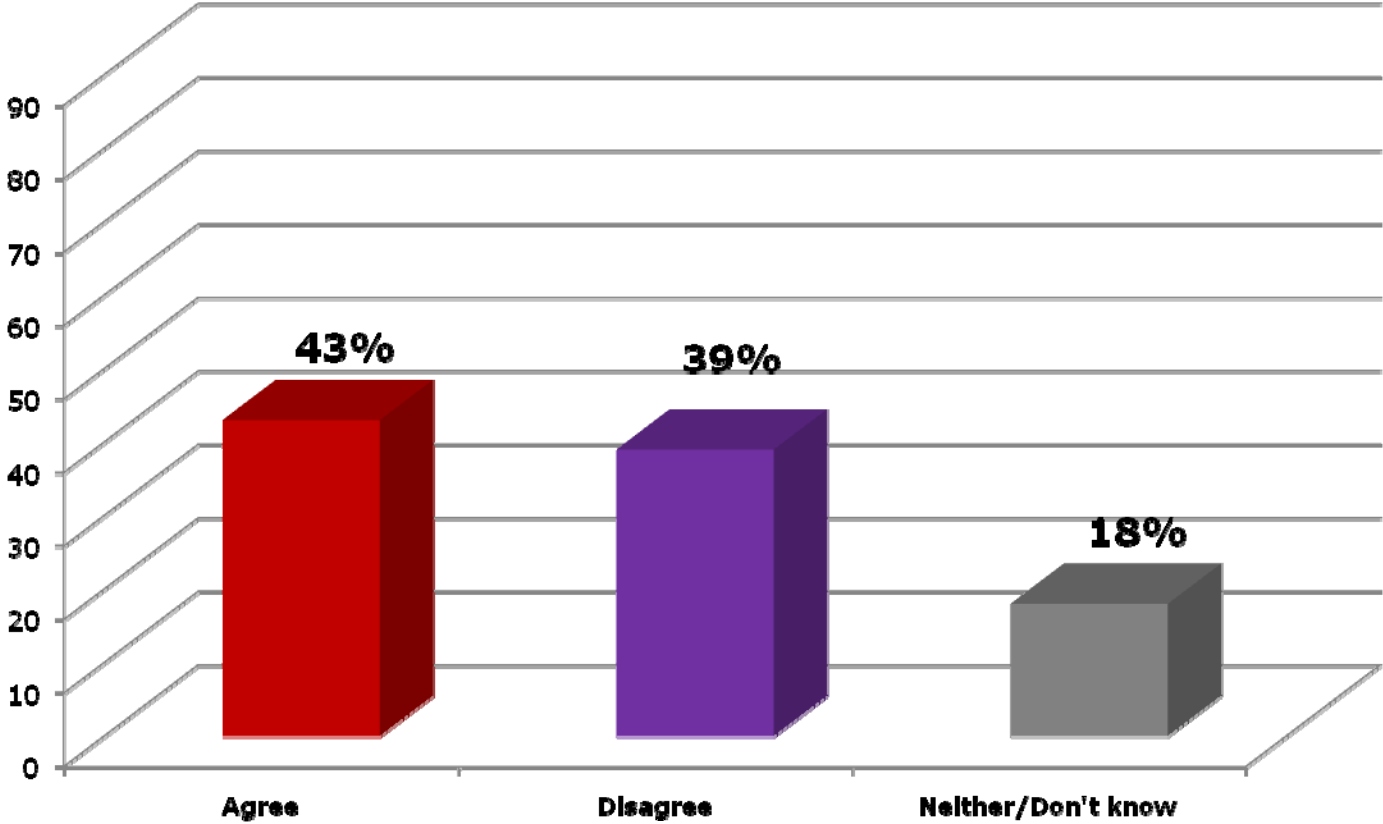
The Executive is working in people's long-term interests



The Executive is making a real difference to life here



I feel well informed about what the Executive is doing

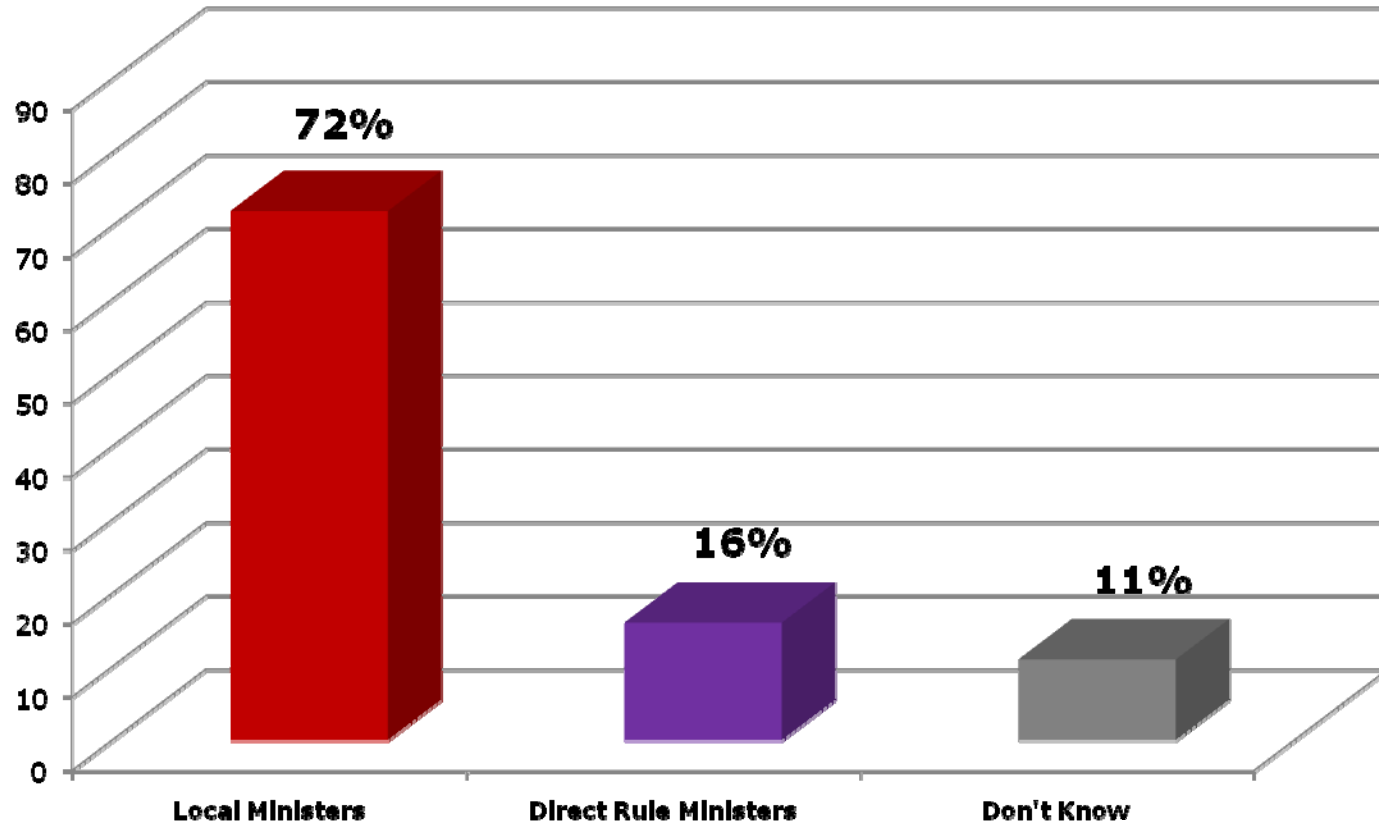


I feel well informed about what the Executive is doing

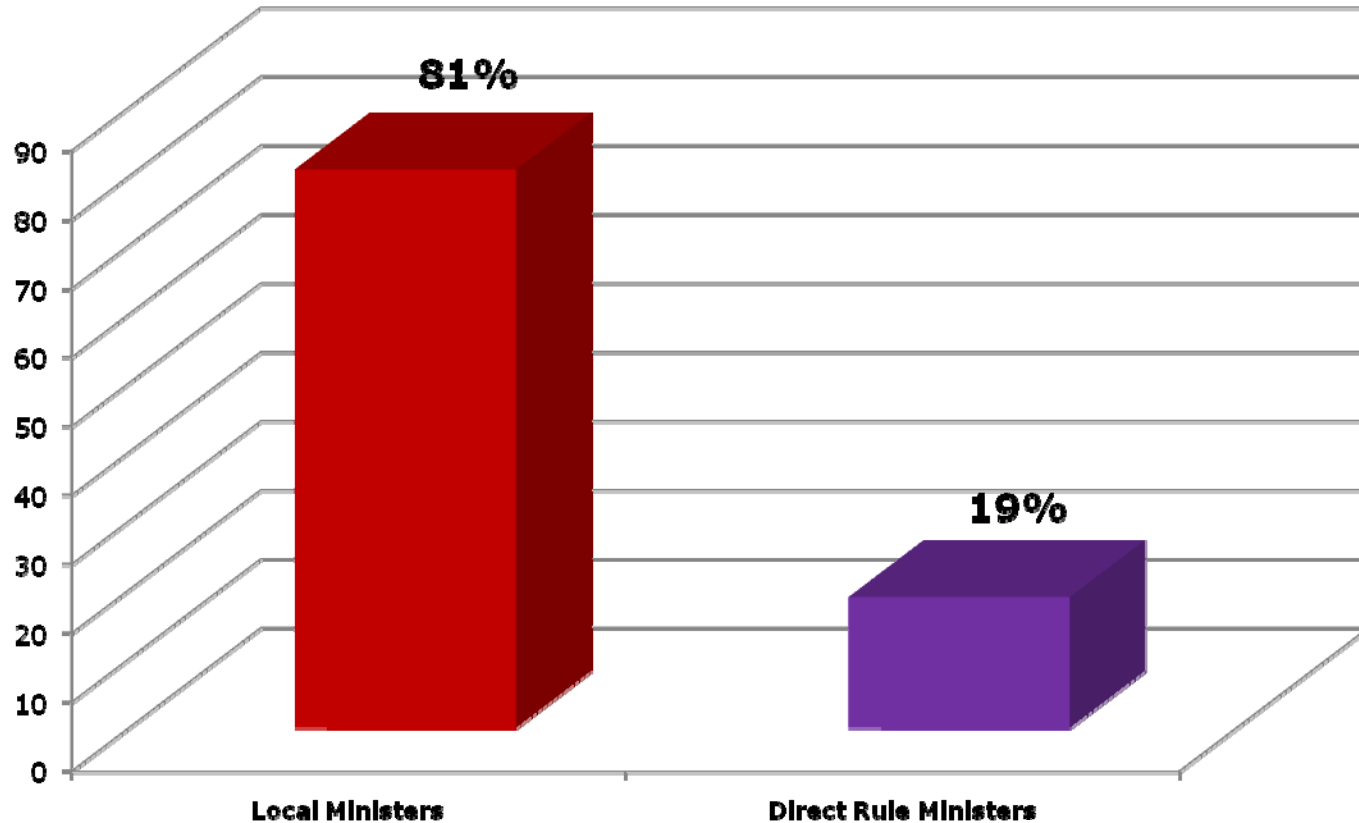
Segment	Agree (%)	Disagree(%)
Male	47	37
Female	40	41
16-29	42	37
30-49	41	43
50-64	44	38
65+	49	34
ABC1	41	42
C2DE	46	36
Belfast	42	40
East of Bann	44	40
West of Bann	43	38
Unionist	43	40
Nationalist/Republican	54	29
Protestant	42	41
Catholic	47	33

Policing and Justice

Who do you personally think is best placed to make decisions on policing in Northern Ireland?



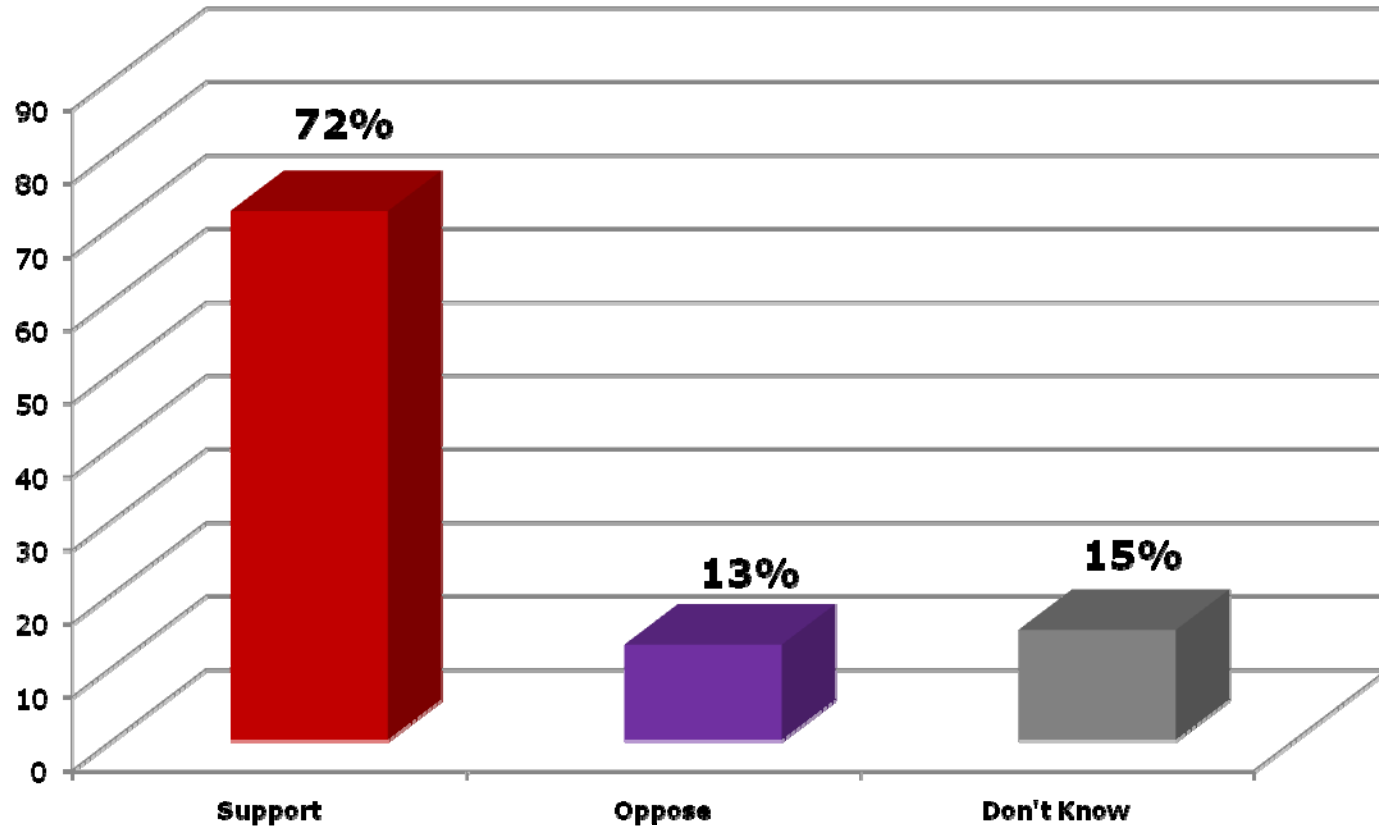
Who is best placed to make decisions on policing in Northern Ireland (Excluding the Don't Knows)



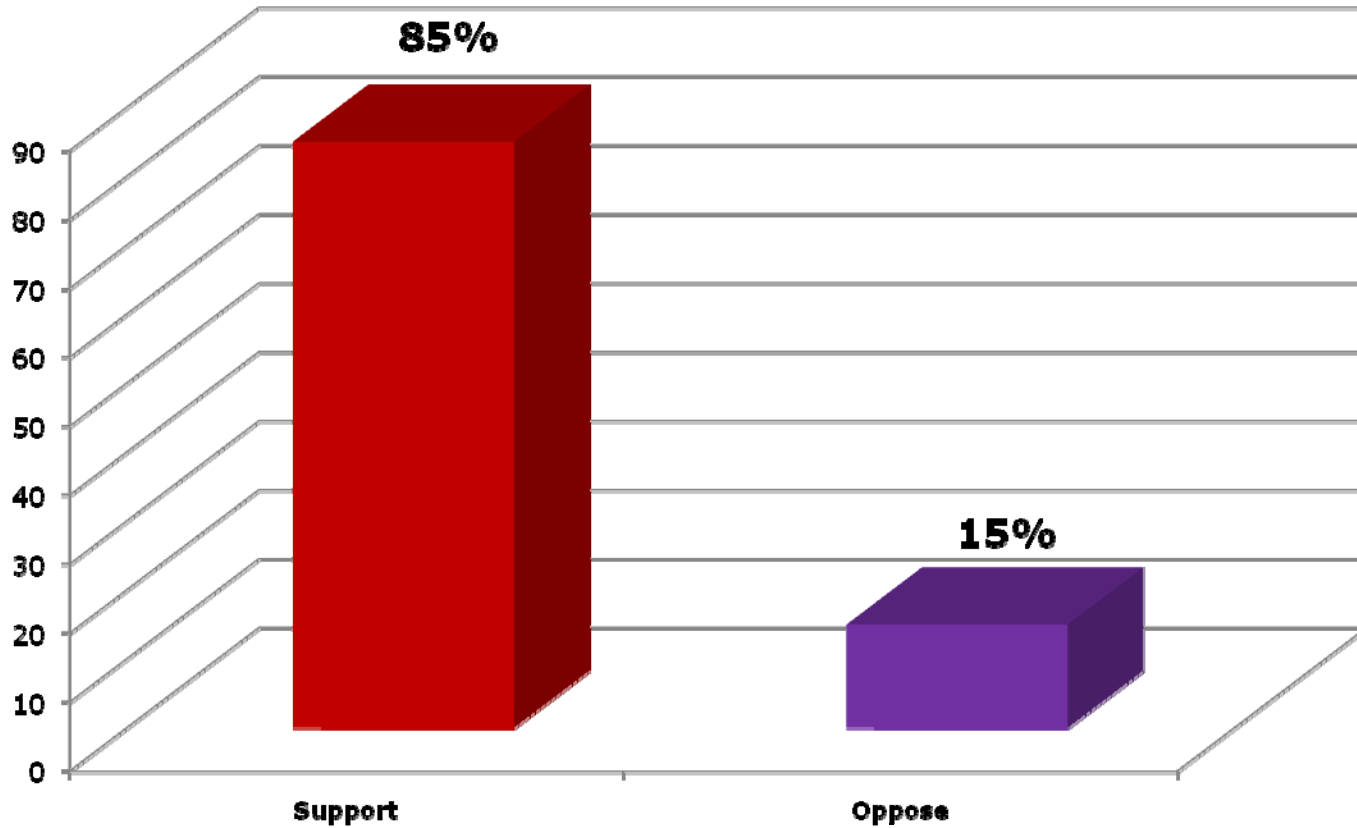
Who is best placed to make decisions on policing in Northern Ireland?

Segment	Local Ministers (%)	Direct Rule Ministers (%)	Don't Know
Male	74	18	8
Female	71	15	14
16-29	72	14	14
30-49	73	18	10
50-64	76	16	8
65+	69	18	13
ABC1	73	17	11
C2DE	72	16	12
Belfast	76	14	10
East of Bann	69	21	10
West of Bann	75	12	13
Unionist	70	22	8
Nationalist/Republican	83	9	8
Protestant	70	21	9
Catholic	80	10	10

Overall, do you support or oppose the agreement to transfer policing and justice powers to the Executive at Stormont?



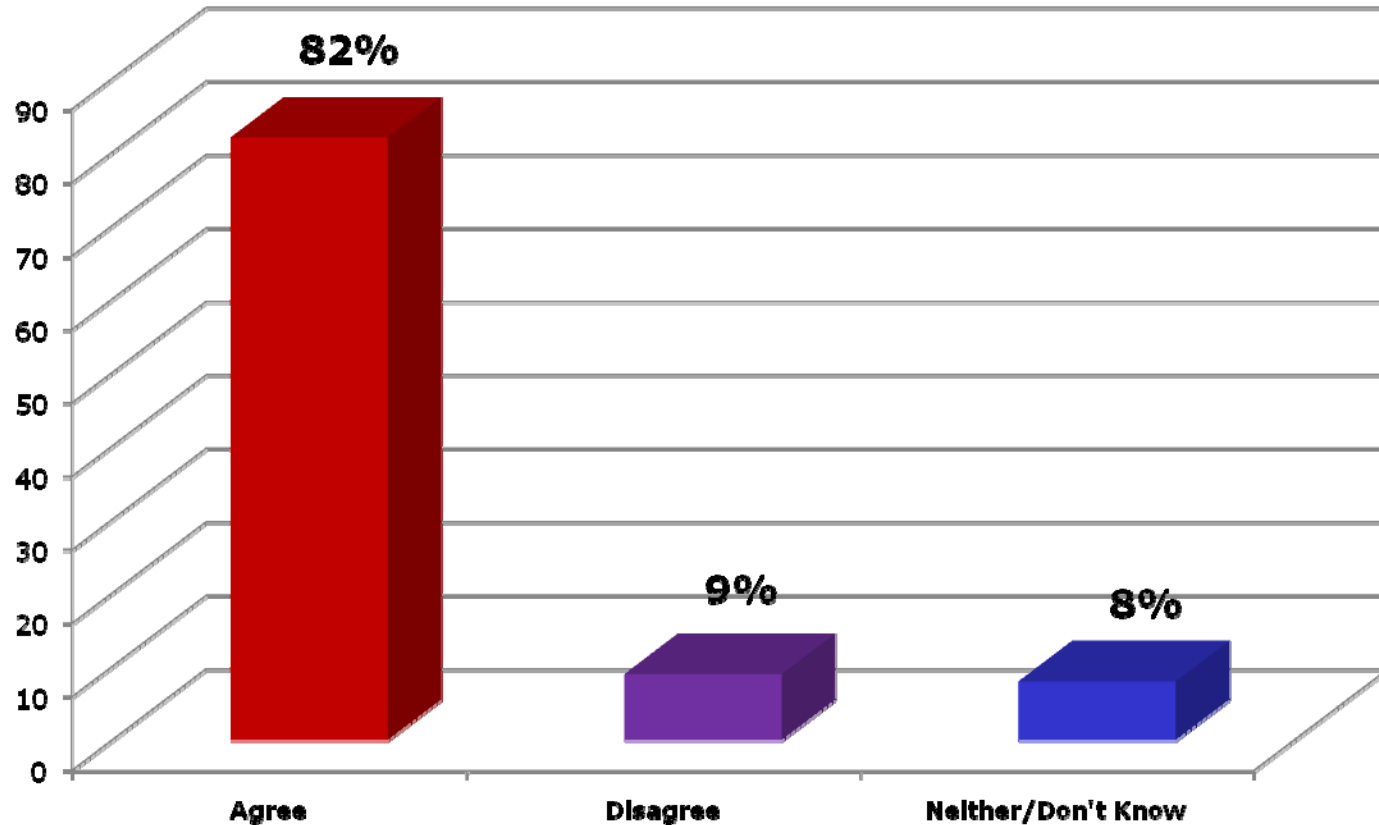
Support or oppose the agreement to transfer policing and justice powers (Excluding the Don't Knows)



Overall, do you support or oppose the agreement to transfer policing and justice powers to the Executive at Stormont?

Segment	Support (%)	Oppose(%)	Lead Support over Oppose
Male	73	14	+59
Female	72	11	+61
16-29	69	11	+58
30-49	71	14	+57
50-64	77	12	+65
65+	73	14	+59
ABC1	73	13	+60
C2DE	71	12	+59
Belfast	77	10	+67
East of Bann	69	17	+52
West of Bann	74	9	+65
Unionist	70	17	+53
Nationalist/Republican	86	5	+81
Protestant	68	17	+51
Catholic	82	5	+77

I believe we should transfer policing and justice powers to Stormont so that the Executive can get on with the job of improving life for everyone in Northern Ireland



I believe we should transfer policing and justice powers to Stormont so that the Executive can get on with the job of improving life for everyone in Northern Ireland

Segment	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)	Lead Agree over Disagree
Male	81	11	+70
Female	84	8	+76
16-29	81	7	+74
30-49	83	10	+73
50-64	83	9	+74
65+	82	13	+69
ABC1	83	10	+73
C2DE	82	9	+73
Belfast	78	10	+68
East of Bann	78	13	+65
West of Bann	89	5	+84
Unionist	77	13	+64
Nationalist/Republican	94	2	+92
Protestant	77	14	+63
Catholic	91	2	+89

Conclusions

Life in Northern Ireland

- The overwhelming majority feel that Northern Ireland is moving in the right direction
- The main issues of concern focus around the following issues:
 - Jobs (top issue)
 - Health
 - Education
 - Crime
- Most people think that the level of crime is either 'high' or 'very high'

The Executive

- There is overwhelming majority support in principle for the existence of the Northern Irish Executive and for joint working
- Almost three quarters of people in Northern Ireland believe that the Executive has helped bring peace and stability
- A majority believe that the Executive is working in people's long term interests and making a real difference to life here
- There appears to be an issue around communication with less than half of respondents feeling well informed about the work of the Executive

Policing and Justice

- The majority feel that Local Ministers at Stormont are best placed to make decisions on policing and justice
- There is widespread support for the devolution of policing and justice to the Executive at Stormont with support not effected by age, sex or class.
- Direct opposition to the devolution of policing and justice to the Executive at Stormont is confined to less than 1 in 7 respondents
- Support is slightly lower amongst Unionists, Protestants and those living East of the Bann - but even amongst these segments opposition is below 20% and a majority still support the devolution of policing and justice powers