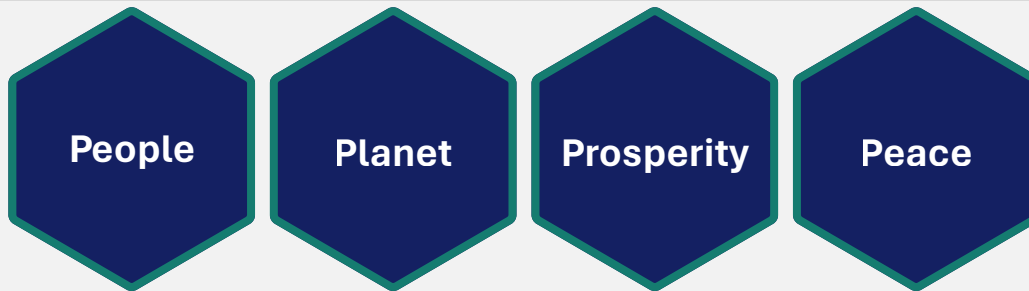




What is the Wellbeing Framework?

The Wellbeing Framework sits alongside the Programme for Government and helps us track long-term wellbeing trends in Northern Ireland. It provides a common goal for government departments, external stakeholders and delivery partners to work towards. Wellbeing is a combination of social, environmental, economic, and democratic factors which are essential for society to flourish. These factors align to the long-term PfG Missions of People, Planet, Prosperity and the cross-cutting commitment to Peace.



The PfG Missions have been broken down across ten strategic domains of wellbeing. These domains describe our state of wellbeing as a society. Each domain is supported by a selection of indicators, all of which are high-quality official statistics.

The indicators are updated throughout the year as and when new data becomes available for reporting on the dashboard. This report presents the performance of the indicators as of the end of **March 2026**. This gives some insight into quality of life here, in the context of the long-term PfG Missions.





The visual below illustrates where the wellbeing domains fit under the long-term PfG Missions of People, Planet, Prosperity and the cross-cutting commitment to Peace.

# People

Working to support everyone at all stages of their life to ensure they have the chance to succeed by improving life opportunities.



# Planet

Harnessing the potential of a green growth economy while ensuring we provide an equitable transition to a sustainable and affordable society as we take responsibility for decarbonising our economy and society.



# Prosperity

Improving our economic productivity while making sure that we have an economy that works for everyone, and our story continues to be an inspiration to others.

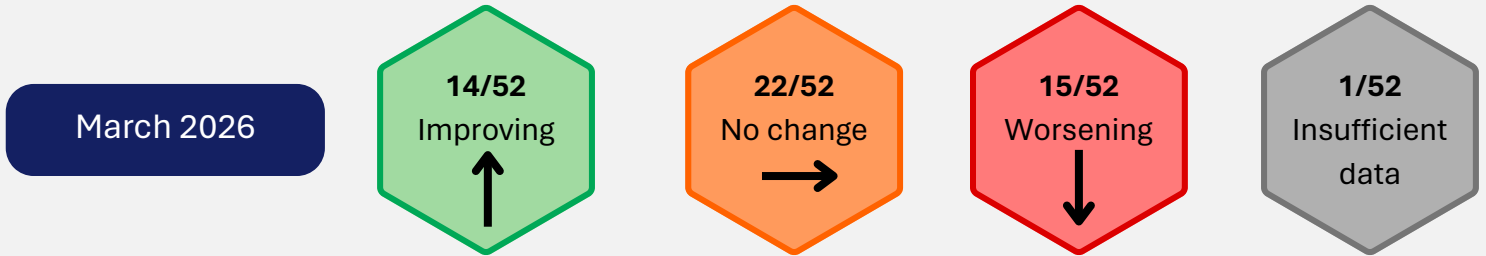


# Peace

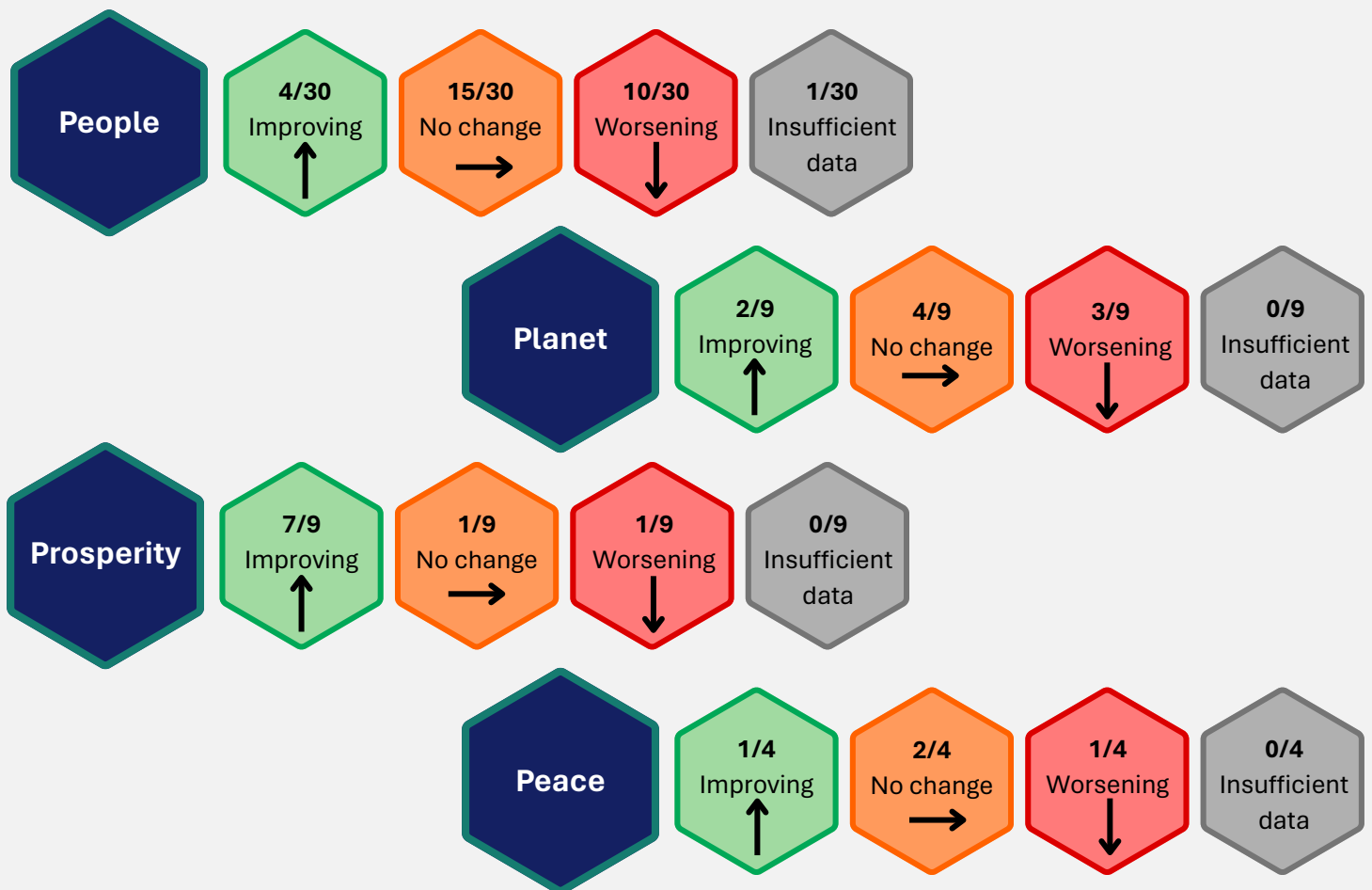
The cross-cutting commitment to Peace will make sure that everyone feels the benefit of a growing economy, improved environment and a safer and fairer society.



As at the end of **March 2026**, the framework comprised **52 indicators** (14 improving, 22 showing no change, 15 worsening, and 1 had insufficient data to assess change).



The visual below summarises the performance of indicators across each Mission.



The assessment of performance is made objectively and impartially based on the comparison year and criteria for change agreed in advance by a Technical Assessment Panel. For transparency, criteria for change are published in the Technical Report accompanying the Wellbeing Framework Dashboard.

**How we assess indicator performance**

Performance for each indicator is assessed based on the change between the comparison year and the latest data point, and is reported as : ‘improving’, ‘no change’, or ‘worsening’. This assessment relates to Northern Ireland–level data only.

An ‘insufficient data’ status is assigned to indicators where there is not yet enough data to assess change between the most recent data point and the comparison year.

Indicator performance reflects the latest available data which covers the period from 2021 to 2025.

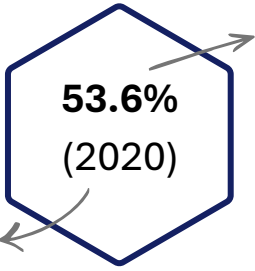


**How to interpret an indicator**

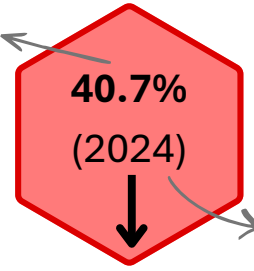
**Comparison year**

**Latest year**

**Comparison year** - the agreed reference year used for comparison against the latest year. It differs across indicators and can be rolling (updated annually), or non-rolling (fixed) depending on the indicator, available data, and contextual factors (e.g. Covid-19).



**Value** - metric value for the specified year, showing the NI-level figure. Expressed as a number that reflects the measure type (e.g. percentage, count, score).



**Latest year** - the most recent year for which data has been collected and is available for reporting.

Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
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**International reputation**

The hexagon above shows the comparison year and its value. This is the value that the figure for the latest year is being compared with.

The colour of the hexagon above and arrow are showing that there has been no real change between the latest year (2025) and the comparison year of 2021.

The **Measure and Performance** section provides context on what the indicator is measuring and how the indicator has performed between the latest year and the comparison year.



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
<b>Children’s social care</b>	63.0% (2018/19)	68.0% (2022/23) ↑	<p>Percentage of care leavers who, aged 19, were in education, training or employment.</p> <p><b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2018/19.</p>
<b>Life satisfaction among young people</b>	7.6 (2016)	6.7 (2022) ↓	<p>Average life satisfaction score for Year 9-12 pupils. Life satisfaction is measured on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all satisfied and 10 is completely satisfied.</p> <p><b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2016.</p>
<b>Self-efficacy among young people</b>	42.9% (2016)	52.8% (2022) ↓	<p>Percentage of Year 9-12 pupils with low self-efficacy (or low confidence in their own abilities).</p> <p><b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2016.</p>
<b>Small for gestational age</b>	6.4ppts (2019)	5.9ppts (2023) →	<p>The gap in percentage points (ppts) between babies born in the most and least deprived areas, who are small for gestational age.</p> <p><b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019.</p>

# Mission: People

## Domain: Equal Society

We have an equal and inclusive society where everyone is valued and treated with respect



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
Cultural identity	49.6% (2020)	55.6% (2024) ↑	Percentage of the population aged 18+ who believe their cultural identity is respected by society. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
Income deprivation	13.0% (2019/20)	15.0% (2023/24) →	Percentage of people living in absolute poverty (before housing costs). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019/20.
Income inequality	17.0% (2019/20)	17.0% (2023/24) →	Percentage of people living in relative poverty (before housing costs). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019/20.
Respect	36.1% (2019)	20.1% (2023) ↓	Percentage of the population aged 18+ who feel respected. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2019.

# Mission: People

## Domain: Healthier Lives

We all enjoy long, healthy active lives



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
Active travel - walking and cycling	56.0% (2022)	56.3% (2023) →	Percentage of journeys under two miles people choose to make by walking or cycling. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2022.
Healthy life expectancy (females)	62.1 (2018-20)	60.2 (2022-24) ↓	Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth for females. This is the average number of years females can expect to live in good health. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2018-20.
Healthy life expectancy (males)	60.1 (2018-20)	59.3 (2022-24) →	Healthy life expectancy (HLE) at birth for males. This is the average number of years males can expect to live in good health. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2018-20.
Mental health	19.5% (2019/20)	18.8% (2023/24) →	Percentage aged 16+ with General Health Questionnaire-12 (GHQ12) scores greater than or equal to 4 (signifying possible mental health problem). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019/20.
Preventable deaths	169 (2015-19)	177 (2019-23) ↓	Age standardised death rate (per 100,000 population) for causes considered preventable. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2015-19.
Sport and physical activity	75.0% (2021/22)	73.0% (2024/25) ↓	Percentage of adults participating in sport and physical activity during the last 4 weeks (including walking). <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.

# Mission: People

## Domain: Brighter Futures

Everyone can reach their potential



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
Arts and cultural activities	62.0% (2021/22)	83.0% (2023/24) ↑	Percentage of adults participating in arts and cultural activities. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.
Life satisfaction	7.7 (2021/22)	7.7 (2024/25) →	Average life satisfaction score for people aged 16 and over. Life satisfaction is measured on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is not at all satisfied and 10 is completely satisfied. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.
School leavers attainment gap	N/A	25.3ppts (2023/24)	Gap between the percentage of non-free school meal entitled (non-FSME) school leavers and the percentage of FSME school leavers achieving at level 2 or above including GCSE English and maths. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There is <b>insufficient data</b> available to determine whether this indicator is improving or worsening (as a result of changes to the processes for awarding qualifications in response to Covid-19).
Self-efficacy	17.6% (2021/22)	20.1% (2024/25) ↓	Percentage of the population aged 16 and over with low self-efficacy (or low confidence in their own abilities). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.

# Mission: People

## Domain: Safer Communities

Everyone feels safe, we all protect the law and each other

Performance key



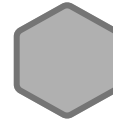
Improving



No change



Worsening



Insufficient data

Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
<b>Crime prevalence rate</b>	3.8% (2021/22)	4.5% (2023/24) →	Percentage of people who were a victim of any NI Safe Community Survey Crime. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.
<b>Personal safety</b>	5.7% (2021/22)	5.7% (2023/24) →	Percentage of people feeling very unsafe walking alone in their area after dark. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.
<b>Processing times for criminal cases</b>	193 (2020/21)	189 (2024/25) →	The effectiveness of the criminal justice system can be measured by examining the average (median) number of days to complete criminal cases, from the date an offence is reported to the date a case is dealt with at court. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2020/21.
<b>Safe towns and city centres</b>	53.6% (2020)	40.7% (2024) ↓	Percentage aged 18+ who see towns and city centres in Northern Ireland as safe and welcoming places for people of all walks of life. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
<b>Worry about crime</b>	4.9% (2021/22)	5.2% (2023/24) →	Percentage of people who, when thinking about all types of crime in general, are very worried about being a victim of crime. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.

# Mission: People

## Domain: Caring Society

We have a caring society that supports people throughout their lives



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
Adult social care	68.4% (2019)	69.2% (2023) →	<p>Number of adults receiving social care services at home, or self directed support for social care, as a percentage of the total number of adults receiving care.</p> <p><b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019.</p>
Loneliness	20.2% (2021/22)	17.9% (2024/25) ↑	<p>Percentage of people aged 16+ who reported feeling lonely 'often/always' or 'some of the time'.</p> <p><b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.</p>
Volunteering	47.0% (2023/24)	46.0% (2024/25) →	<p>Percentage of adults volunteering.</p> <p><b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b></p> <p><b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2023/24.</p>

# Mission: People

## Domain: Better Homes

Everyone has access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes that are appropriate for their needs



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
Availability of suitable housing	90.0% (2021/22)	91.0% (2024/25) →	Proportion of households who report being either 'very satisfied' or 'fairly satisfied' with their house or flat. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.
Homelessness	10,135 (2021/22)	10,855 (2024/25) ↓	Number of households accepted by the Housing Executive as statutorily homeless. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2021/22.
Housing costs as a proportion of household income	8.0% (2019/20)	7.0% (2023/24) →	Proportion of households spending 30% or more of household income on housing costs. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019/20.
Housing stress	30,288 (2020/21)	37,635 (2024/25) ↓	Number of households in housing stress. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2020/21.

# Mission: Planet

## Domain: Cleaner Environment

We live and work sustainably - protecting, improving and enjoying the environment

Performance key



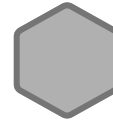
Improving



No change



Worsening



Insufficient data

Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
Air pollution	31.4 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (2019)	25.9 µg/m <sup>3</sup> (2024) ↑	Annual mean roadside levels of nitrogen dioxide as measured by micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2019.
Coastal water condition	13 (2019)	13 (2024) →	Number of coastal water bodies in good ecological condition. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019.
Condition of protected sites	54.8% (2019/20)	54.3% (2024/25) ↓	Percentage of features within protected sites in favourable condition. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2019/20.
Greenhouse gas emissions	20.6 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e (2019)	18.2 MtCO <sub>2</sub> e (2023) ↑	Net greenhouse gas emissions as measured by million tonnes carbon dioxide equivalents (MtCO <sub>2</sub> e). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2019.
Outdoor recreation	47.9% (2023)	47.8% (2025) ↓	Percentage of households with accessible natural space within 400 metres. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2023.
Recycled waste	51.9% (2019/20)	51.0% (2024/25) →	Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019/20.
Renewable electricity	49.2% (2020)	43.5% (2024) ↓	The proportion of electricity consumption that is renewably generated. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
River water quality	0.063 mg/l (2019)	0.065 mg/l (2024) →	Levels of nutrients in our rivers as measured by soluble reactive phosphorus (mg/l). <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2019.
Sustainable travel - public transport	3.8% (2022)	3.9% (2023) →	Percentage of journeys people choose to make by public transport. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2022.

# Mission: Prosperity

## Domain: Stronger Economy

Our economy is globally competitive, regionally balanced and carbon-neutral



Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
<b>Economic inactivity</b>	21.7% (2020)	17.9% (2024) ↑	Percentage of the population aged 16 to 64 who are economically inactive for any reason other than being a student. <b>For this indicator a lower figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
<b>Employment rate</b>	69.8% (2020)	74.3% (2024) ↑	Percentage of the population aged 16 to 64 who are in employment. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
<b>External sales rate</b>	25.7% (2020)	29.9% (2024) ↑	Proportion of all survey eligible businesses that sell outside Northern Ireland. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
<b>Good jobs</b>	66.9% (2021)	69.0% (2025) ↑	Percentage of employees in NI (aged 16-64) in good jobs. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2021.
<b>International reputation</b>	61.27 (2021)	62.21 (2025) →	Northern Ireland's score on the Nation Brands Index (NBI). <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> There has been <b>no real change</b> since the comparison year in 2021.
<b>Labour productivity</b>	92.8 (2019)	99.5 (2023) ↑	Economic output (Gross Value Added) divided by total hours worked as an index and adjusted for inflation. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2019.
<b>Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index</b>	96.3 (2021)	104.4 (2025) ↑	An index of Northern Ireland's economic output. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2021.
<b>Research and development</b>	£1,170.4m (2020)	£1,000.7m (2024) ↓	Total General Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) in millions of pounds. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>worsened</b> since the comparison year in 2020.
<b>Skills</b>	76.3% (2020)	80.4% (2024) ↑	Proportion of the population aged 16-64 with qualifications at Level 2 and above. <b>For this indicator a higher figure is better.</b> <b>Performance:</b> Things have <b>improved</b> since the comparison year in 2020.

# Mission: Peace

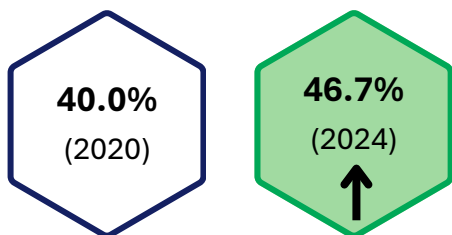
## Domain: Living Peacefully

We have a lasting peace, ensuring a stable and harmonious society for all



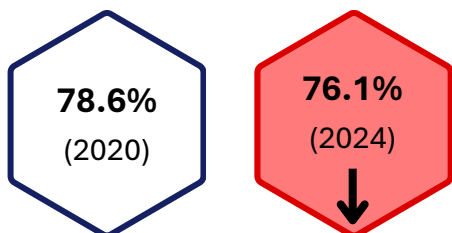
Indicator	Comparison year	Latest year	Measure and performance
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### Community relations



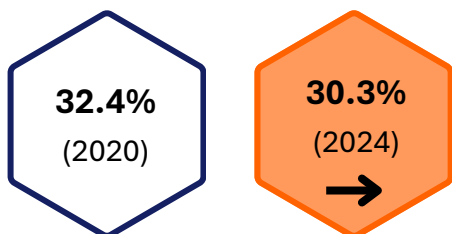
Percentage aged 18+ who think that relations between Protestants and Catholics are better now than they were five years ago.  
**For this indicator a higher figure is better.**  
**Performance:** Things have **improved** since the comparison year in 2020.

### Shared community



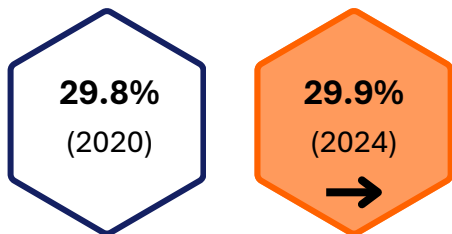
Percentage aged 18+ who would prefer a mixed religion neighbourhood.  
**For this indicator a higher figure is better.**  
**Performance:** Things have **worsened** since the comparison year in 2020.

### Trust in the media



Percentage of the population aged 16+ who said they tend to trust the media, or trust the media a great deal.  
**For this indicator a higher figure is better.**  
**Performance:** There has been **no real change** since the comparison year in 2020.

### Trust in the NI Assembly



Percentage of the population aged 16+ who said they tend to trust the Northern Ireland Assembly, or trust it a great deal.  
**For this indicator a higher figure is better.**  
**Performance:** There has been **no real change** since the comparison year in 2020.