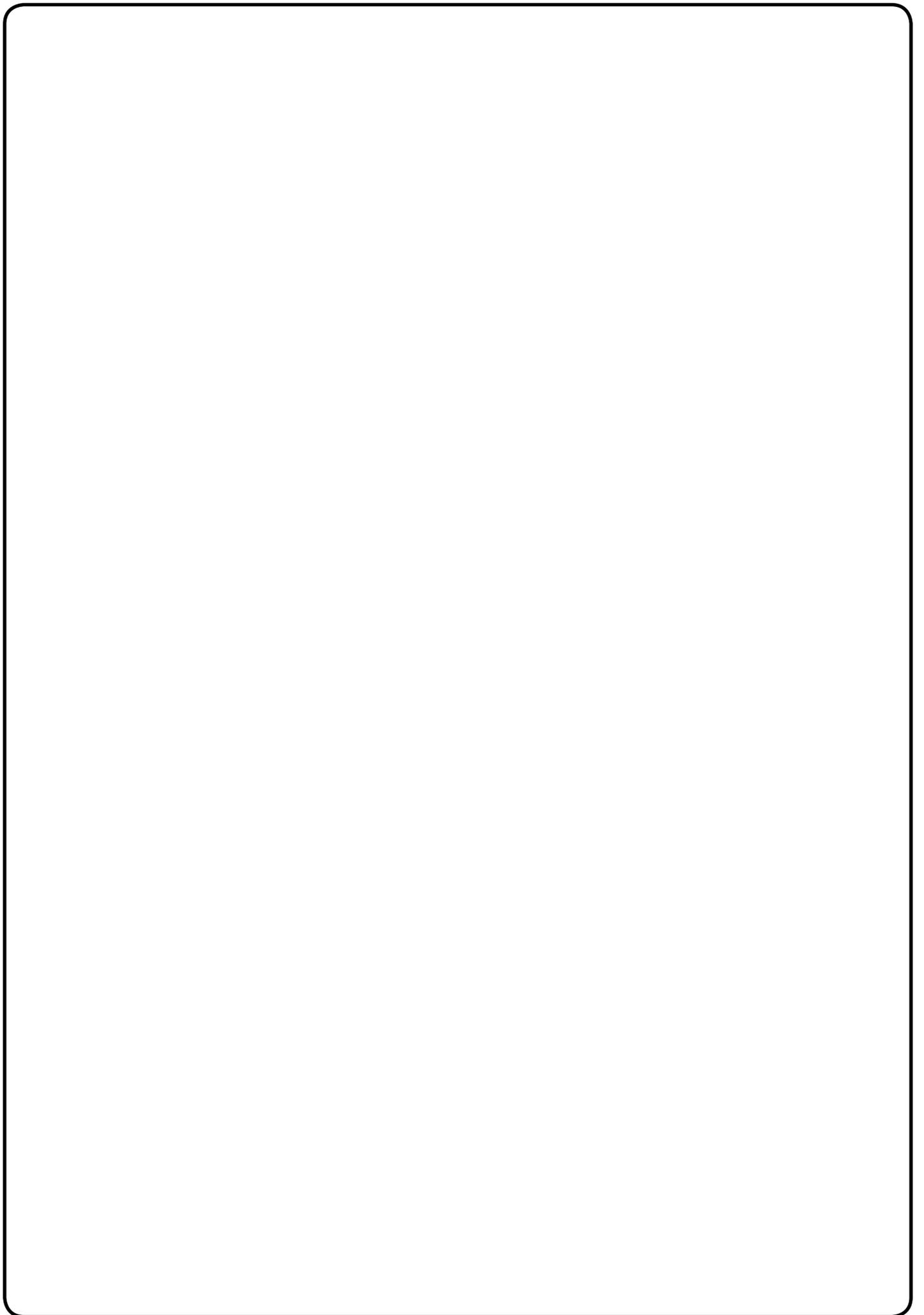




Northern Ireland Pensioners Parliament Brexit Report

October 2017





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Executive summary

Almost two in three (65%) older people in Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU (compared to 56% of all voters in Northern Ireland and 48% of all voters across the UK).

More than one in three (35%) older people voted to leave the EU, with those most likely to vote leave being people aged 80 or over (43%), men (39%) and those from a rural area (38%).

If given the chance to vote again, around 1 in 12 (8%) older people would vote differently. The response differed according to the original vote cast, with around 1 in 8 (12%) 'leavers' wishing to change their vote and 1 in 20 (5%) 'remainers' wishing to do so.

When voting, more than nine out of ten (92%) older people considered the impact the result would have on younger generations.

More than half (52%) of respondents believe older people have been villainised following the publication of [older vs younger] voting patterns in the EU Referendum vote, with more than half (53%) personally experiencing negativity about the outcome of the Brexit vote.

Three out of four (76%) older people are concerned about the potential impact Brexit will have on them.

The biggest concern amongst older people is regarding freedom of movement e.g. free transport across the border, with seven out of ten (70%) concerned about this issue.

Two in five (39%) believe their rights as an older person will be weakened.

One in three (32%) older people believe Brexit will be a positive change for Northern Ireland.

Who completed the survey?

The survey collected 1,070 responses from older people (aged 50+) across Northern Ireland.

- 50% male
- 50% female

Responses by age group

Age group	%
50-59	6.4%
60 - 64	13.1%
65 - 69	25.8%
70 - 74	30.0%
75 - 79	16.4%
80 or over	8.3%

Responses by Council area

Council	%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	7.7%
Ards & North Down	13.1%
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	5.8%
Belfast City	13.8%
Causeway Coast & Glens	10.5%
Derry City & Strabane	6.3%
Fermanagh & Omagh	11.8%
Lisburn & Castlereagh City	12.3%
Mid & East Antrim	5.8%
Mid Ulster	3.6%
Newry, Mourne & Down	9.3%

60% live in an urban area, 40% in a rural area

The older vote

According to our survey, almost two in three (65%) older people in Northern Ireland voted to remain in the EU. This figure is interesting when considering that only 56% of all voters in Northern Ireland and 48% of all voters in the UK voted to remain - and serves to disprove the assumption that older people's votes across the UK were the reason for Brexit.

More than one in three (35%) older people voted to leave the EU, with those most likely to vote leave being people aged 80 or over (43%), men (39%) and those from a rural area (38%).

Council areas in which older people were most likely to vote remain:

1. Derry City & Strabane (73%)
2. Newry, Mourne & Down (68%)
3. Causeway Coast & Glens (67%)

Council areas in which older people were most likely to vote leave:

1. Mid & East Antrim (47%)
2. Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon (40%)
3. Belfast (39%)

If given the chance to vote again, around 1 in 12 (8%) older people would vote differently. The response to this question differed according to the original vote cast, with around 1 in 8 (12%) 'leavers' wishing to change their vote and 1 in 20 (5%) 'remainers' wishing to do so.

Brexit is and will be a disaster for Northern Ireland - economically, financially and socially.

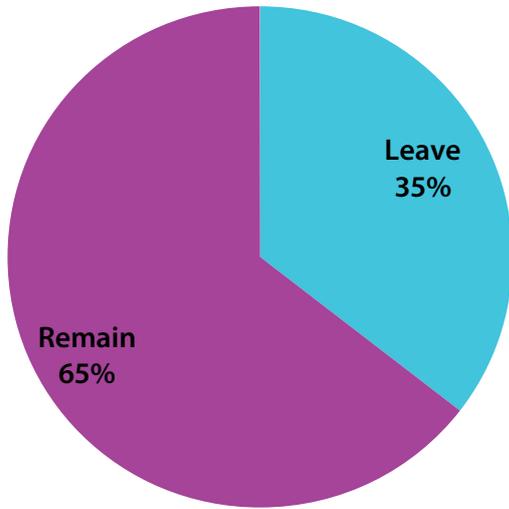
Older people don't like change. For many of them Brexit, when established, will bring about stability. The only concern is the process of getting there.

I'm convinced that if the referendum were to be held again, we would have a much different outcome.

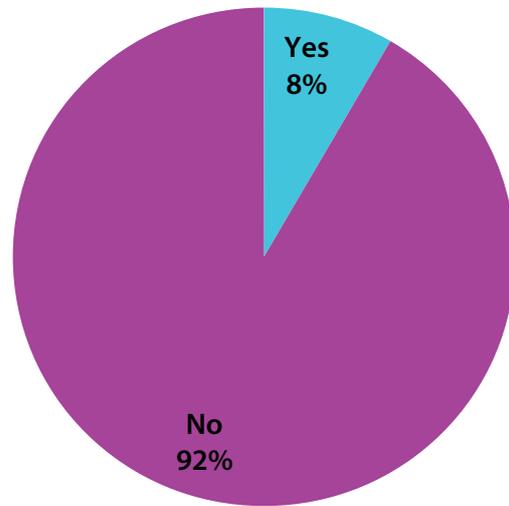
In hindsight I would now vote remain. The information at the time focussed on immigration and the cost of EU membership. Neither will be resolved by Brexit.

We were told lies by both sides which affected the way people voted especially the older generation.

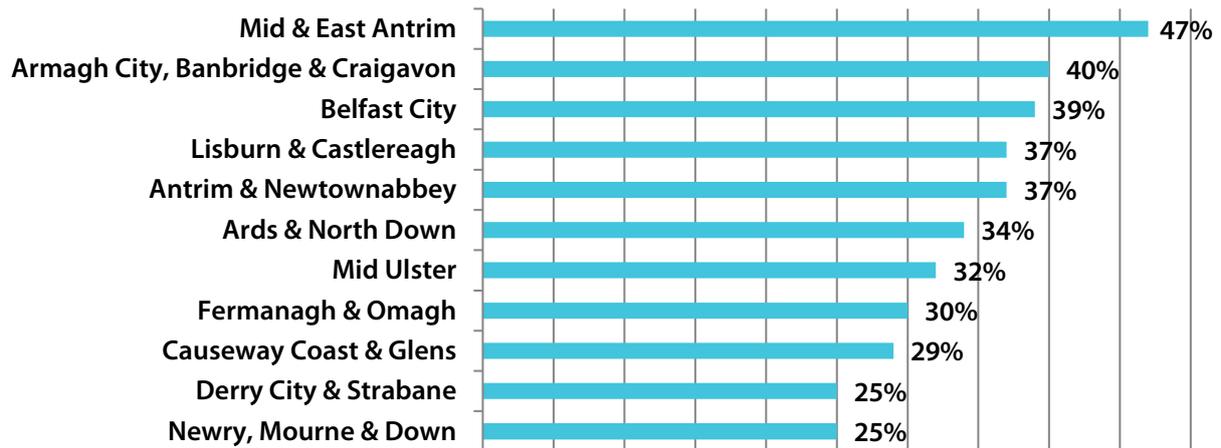
How did you vote in the EU Referendum?



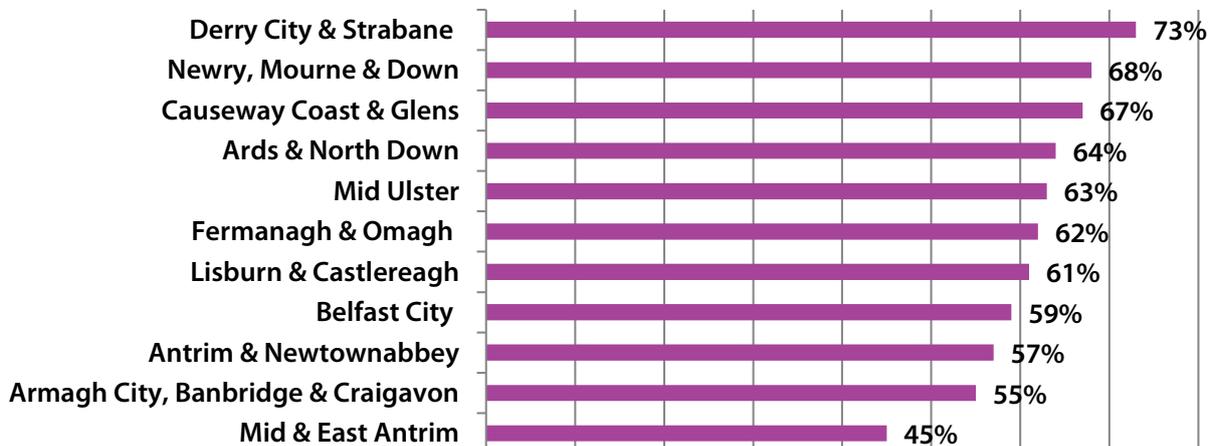
If you were to vote again today, would you vote differently?



Older 'leave' vote by council area



Older 'remain' vote by council area



Impact on younger generations

When voting, more than nine out of ten (92%) older people considered the impact the result would have on younger generations, with two out of three (65%) giving 'full consideration' to that impact. 1 in 12 (8%) gave 'no consideration' to younger generations when voting.

More than half (54%) believe "Brexit will negatively impact on creating a better future for younger generations and for us all as we age".

With five grandchildren aged 17 to 22, I think Brexit damages their future prospects. That's why I voted remain.

I voted to remain against my better judgement for the sake of the younger generation who look at things quite differently.

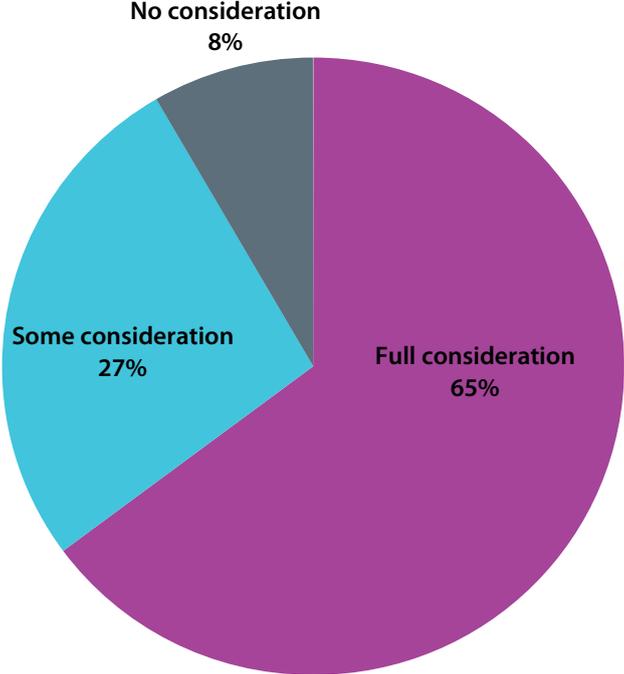
I have three children in their 20s and I was very mindful of their position when I voted. I did not want to see their liberties eroded in the same way as mine have been as a result of the increasing development of the EU.

My concerns are for my grandchildren and great grandchildren and the future they face as outsiders in Europe.

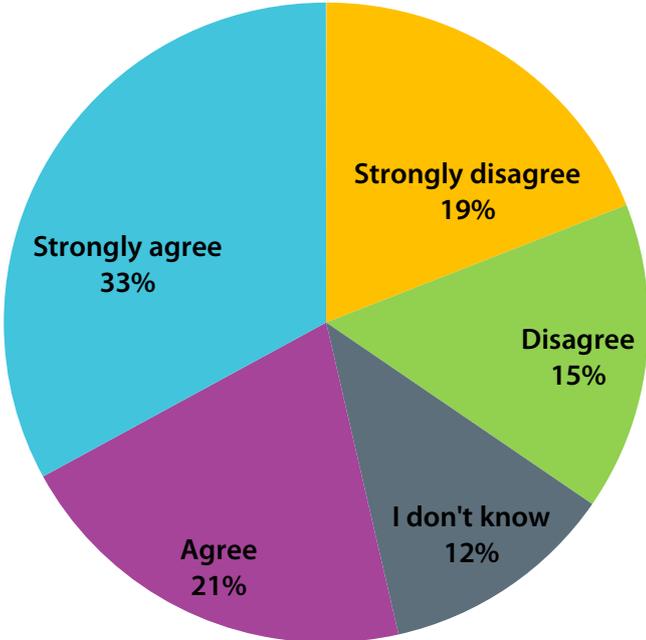
I don't think there has been so much of a generational divide here over Brexit because the majority here voted to stay. I think Brexit is a retrograde step for everyone.

The older people are the guardians for the younger generations coming behind us.

When you voted, how much consideration did you give to the impact the result would have on younger generations?



Agree or disagree? Brexit will negatively impact on creating a better future for younger generations and for us all as we age.



Older people...the villain of the Brexit vote

Political and media commentary on the demographic breakdown of leave and remain voters has certainly created an accepted notion that older people are 'to blame' for Brexit, however it's important to highlight that our earlier findings in relation to Northern Ireland's older vote challenges this notion.

More than half (52%) of respondents believe older people have been villainised following the publication of [older vs younger] voting patterns in the EU Referendum vote, with more than half (53%) personally experiencing negativity about the outcome of the Brexit vote.

Two younger members of my own family were insulting about the fact that my husband and I voted leave. One of them even believed the elderly should not have a vote!

Many younger voters chose not to exercise their vote which is disappointing. It is unfair to vilify older voters for exercising their democratic right to vote.

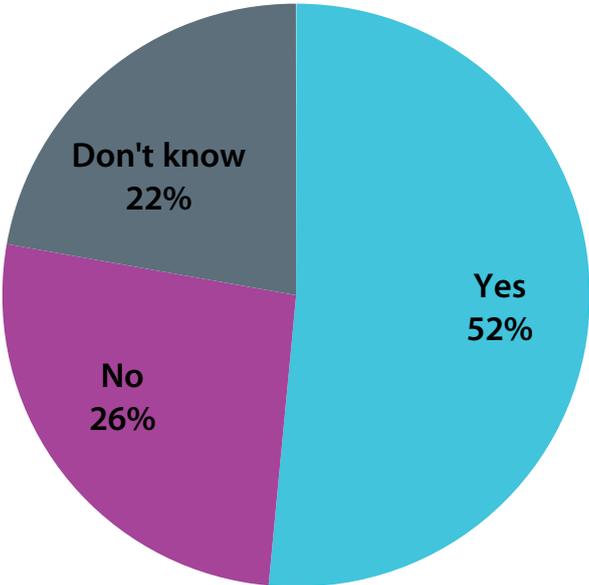
I feel we are being unfairly blamed for Brexit, but Northern Ireland voted remain. I feel that some older people hanker after an idealised past which can never be created.

I have experienced negativity both here and in France because I voted for Brexit.

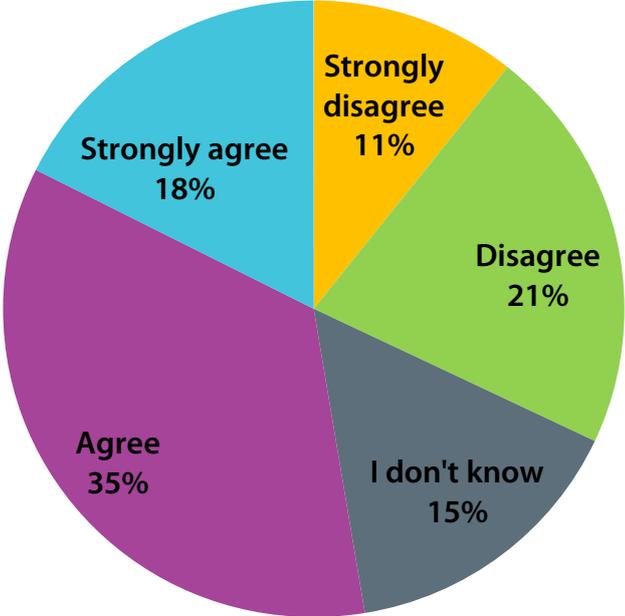
The media are not providing a balanced commentary. From time to time there is a voice vilifying the older generation blaming them for destroying the future for the younger generation by voting for Brexit.

The older generation have just as much right to express their opinion and have many experiences that mould their ideas whether it is for or against Brexit.

Do you believe older people have been villainised following the publication of [older vs younger] voting patterns in EU Referendum vote?



Agree or disagree? As an older person I have experienced negativity about the outcome of the Brexit vote.



The impact of Brexit on older people

Three out of four (76%) older people are concerned about the potential impact Brexit will have on them.

The biggest concern amongst older people is regarding freedom of movement e.g. free transport across the border, with seven out of ten (70%) concerned about this issue. Two in five (39%) believe their rights as an older person will be weakened.

One in three (32%) older people believe Brexit will be a positive change for Northern Ireland.

I feel that the decision to leave the EU is unbelievably damaging to all aspects of our life for everyone. It will impact on trade, agriculture, health provision, education and businesses for the foreseeable future.

I am already seeing the effects of Brexit in my shopping bills. The price of many items have risen between ten and twenty per cent.

Our country was great before joining the EU and so it will be after we leave. At least we will be making our own decisions and we choose what is best for our country.

The impact is already being felt with the weakened pound, loss of EHIC cards and reduction in economic migrants particularly in the health service.

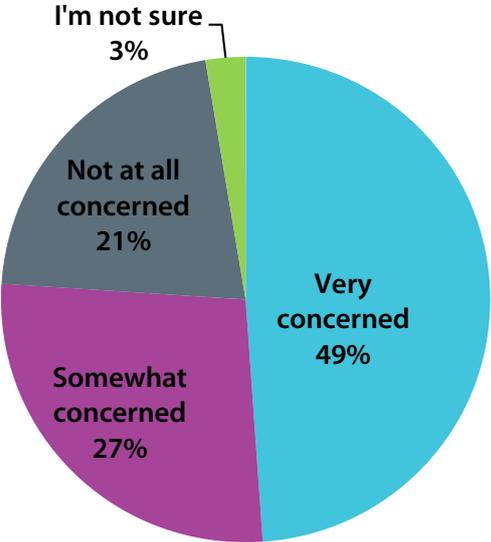
As one of the older generation who remembers the situation when there were borders on both sides - between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - there is no way I would support going back to the introduction of such controls again.

Lack of free movement would make us more insular. The border issue looks impossible to solve - all the good work since the Good Friday Agreement will be lost.

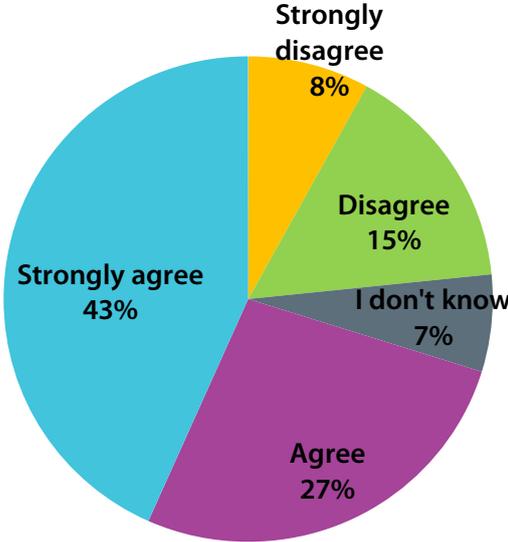
What will happen to the cross border free transport card for people over 65?

No one knows what the final Brexit picture will be and that is a concern.

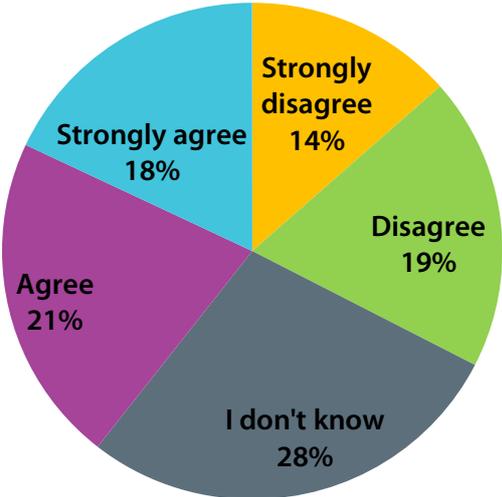
How concerned or otherwise are you with Brexit and any potential impact on you as an older person living in Northern Ireland?



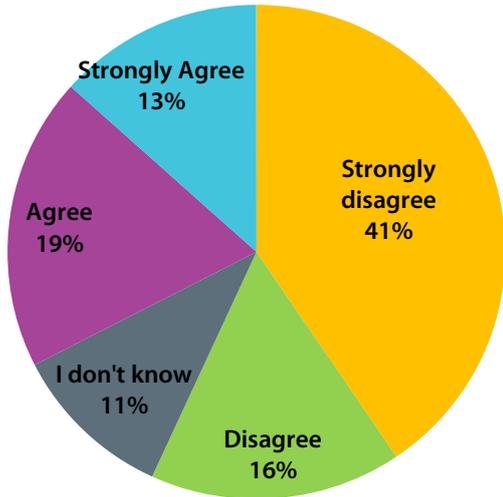
Agree or disagree? I am concerned about freedom of movement e.g. free transport across the border.



Agree or disagree? My rights as an older person will be weakened.



Agree or disagree? Brexit will be a positive change for Northern Ireland.



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