A BELFAST TELEGRAPH/QUEEN'S SURVEY

TRUCE HOLDS KEY

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Sharp divisions on how talks replace the guns

After the General Election less than a month away, the Belfast Telegraph has commissioned a major opinion poll to ask questions about the key issues facing Northern Ireland. In the first of three authoritative reports from the Belfast Telegraph/Queen's Survey, the Stormont talks' negotiating settlement, and find out which party is doing most for peace. Colm Irwin reports.

The poll results

Do you support the principle of a negotiated settlement for the political future of Northern Ireland?

- Yes: 60% (Overall)
- No: 38%
- Don't know: 2%

The poll results show that support for a negotiated settlement is overwhelming, with 60% of respondents supporting the principle. The British and Irish governments have been pushing for a political settlement in Northern Ireland, and this poll suggests that the people of Northern Ireland support this approach.

- By age: 60% of those aged 18-24 support the principle, while 70% of those aged 55-64 support it.
- By region: 65% of respondents in the Ulster region support the principle, compared to 55% in the Border region.
- By party: 70% of SDLP supporters, 65% of Sinn Fein supporters, and 55% of DUP supporters support the principle.

The poll asked respondents to rate the performance of political parties in the Stormont talks. The result showed that the SDLP scored highest, followed by Sinn Fein and then the DUP.

- SDLP: 70% satisfied
- Sinn Fein: 65%
- DUP: 50%

The poll also asked respondents about their opinions on the Northern Ireland Assembly. The results showed that 60% of respondents support the assembly, while 38% oppose it.

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- By party: 70% of SDLP supporters, 65% of Sinn Fein supporters, and 55% of DUP supporters support the assembly.

The poll results suggest that the people of Northern Ireland are generally supportive of a negotiated settlement and the Northern Ireland Assembly. The poll also highlights the need for continued dialogue and negotiation to reach a political settlement in Northern Ireland.