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# 65% STILL FOR DEAL

## But Protestant vote is divided

By Noel McAdam  
Political Correspondent

SIXTY five per cent of people in Northern Ireland would vote Yes in a new referendum on the Good Friday Agreement, a major opinion poll reveals today.

More than 70% of Protestants still want the Good Friday Agreement to work, the survey shows.

But a narrow majority of Protestants (51%) say they would now vote 'No' in a Referendum on the Agreement.

A total of 72% of the Protestant community, including half of DUP supporters, and 98% of Catholics say they want the Agreement to work.

The poll — the first to be conducted with the collaboration of all the pro-Agreement parties — also showed an overall majority (73%) believe the politicians are not doing enough to implement the Agreement.

Carried out between October 8 and 15 by Market Research Northern Ireland, the poll of 1,000 people showed Catholic support for the Agreement is holding up.

Yet the Protestant vote fell from 64% to 49% ranging from 31% of the DUP electorate to 56% of UUP supporters.

But the dramatic drop among Protestants wanting the Agreement to work — down from 89% in March — was interpreted today as a protest vote.

Project author Dr Colin Irwin, of the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University, said: "Mr Trimble's voters still want the Agreement to work so most of the shift of 'No' must be seen as protest vote — a mid-term expression of frustration with the implementation of the Belfast Agreement."

He argued that if the Agreement could be made to work, many who voted against it could be persuaded to give their support — but dashed hopes, false expectations and distrust had combined to very nearly destroy it.

If the persistent focus on decommissioning was shifted to give more emphasis to the Mitchell principles on non-violence a consensus might be attainable, his research concluded.

Both Protestants (88%) and Catholics (63%) said they are most disappointed with the lack of progress on disarmament but Catholics are then 'least satisfied' with reform of the RUC.

Eighty per cent of Ulster Unionists back the party's "no guns, no government" stance but a clear majority

of both UUP and Sinn Fein supporters believe an inclusive Executive is a necessary part of the decommissioning process.

The Sinn Fein electorate also believe their party did the best they could during the summer to move the peace process forward — and 88% would blame unionists for the failure of the peace process.

More than 70% of those questioned believe the economy will suffer if the Executive is established or Sinn Fein is excluded, and they also fear:

- community relations will deteriorate,
- more young people will leave, and
- paramilitary activity will increase.

While 85% of Protestants believe republican paramilitaries will become more active, however, only 43% of Catholics agree — but 73% of Protestants and 67% of Catholics say the loyalist paramilitaries will become more active.

Dr Irwin said the implementation of the Agreement would have many difficulties in the years ahead until the parties learn to understand the priorities and concerns of the "other" community.

DUP deputy leader Peter Robinson said the poll had more to do with the hopes of the 'Yes' parties than feeling in the community, and belonged "in the rubbish bin".

See poll results page 13 and Viewpoint page 12.

## Latest Northern Ireland opinion poll

## WHO SUPPORTS GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT NOW?

ALL OF NI	65%
PROTESTANT	49%
CATHOLIC	88%

## £250m plan for city

By Staff Reporters

A £250m plan to transform the heart of Belfast was unveiled today by developers.

The scheme includes a new shopping complex and hotel in the city centre.

The Belfast Gateway partnership, a joint venture between Dunloe Ewart, MEPC and John Laing Property, is one of three

groups which has submitted plans for the key project to the Department of the Environment.

The scheme also includes a pedestrian plaza, shops, restaurants and leisure facilities in Royal Avenue.

It features an extension of the CastleCourt shopping centre and will mean the modernisation of the city's main shopping precinct, Barry Gilligan a director of Dunloe Ewart outlined today.

The business is one of Northern Ireland's largest property firms and has shareholders in Belfast and Dublin.

The development is an opportunity to create 'something special' for the city, Mr Gilligan said.

"Belfast Gateway will regenerate a vast area of unused land. It will create a platform and access route for the Cathedral Quarter. "Gateway will help the city

centre to become a hub during the day and at night," he added.

A detailed description, drawings and a scale model are currently on display in CastleCourt, which is owned by MEPC.

Proposals for the Royal Avenue scheme have also been submitted by Multi Development Corporation and the Land Securities/Deramore group.

## Knife man strikes twice on campus

By Maureen Coleman

STUDENTS in Jordanstown were put on alert today after a man wielding a knife and spanner carried out two attacks at the University of Ulster campus.

In the first attack, the assailant was armed with a large knife. The following day, he used a 10in spanner on a second student.

Detectives investigating the incidents

believe the same man is responsible for both attacks.

They have warned students not to approach him but to contact the RUC immediately if they come across him.

The man is described as about 5ft 10 to 6ft tall, of medium build and was wearing a three-quarter length navy coat and dark trousers.

At the time of the attacks he was also wearing a balaclava, possibly green with white trimming. He may also have facial injuries.

The attacks have prompted calls from the Students' Union for measures to be introduced to improve security, including the restoration of all road-way lighting.

The Union also expressed 'disappointment' that they were only made aware of the attacks by students themselves and by police notices pinned throughout the university.

A spokesperson for the Union said: "It is of paramount importance to all students that the Students' Union is

fully informed as a matter of urgency on any UUU student safety or welfare matter of a personal nature by the university authorities."

"Our security staff are working closely with the RUC to ensure the greatest possible degree of safety for students on all our campuses, as well as to identify and apprehend anyone responsible for breaches of security."

"Security arrangements on all campuses are kept under constant review."

## 'We need IRA peace pledge'

By Chris Thornton

ULSTER Unionist leader David Trimble repeated today that the IRA needs to show it has put violence behind it.

Speaking as pro-Agreement parties prepared to meet for the final stages of Senator George Mitchell's Agreement review, Mr Trimble said a demonstration that violence is over "needs to be clearly delivered".

He added: "Consequently there is a unique responsibility on paramilitary organisations and those that speak for

them to show to the people of Northern Ireland that that change has been delivered."

Senator Mitchell is expected to return to Northern Ireland tomorrow with a set of proposals.

Mr Trimble said he expects Senator Mitchell to consult with the parties before presenting the proposals — and hinted that he believes tomorrow's meeting will end Senator Mitchell's part in the review.

"I think there is a limit to the demands we can place on him and I think that limit has arrived."

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## Weather Outlook

**GREATER BELFAST AREA:** A reasonable night with any clear spells early in the night becoming confined to areas east of Belfast. Cloud is likely to thicken from the west with patchy drizzle possible by morning. Winds increasing fresh, south-westerly. Min temp 6-8C. **SEE BACK PAGE**



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