



Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK

Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey 2012 Necessities of life module

Esther Dermott, Eldin Fahmy, David Gordon, Pauline Heslop, Ruth Levitas, Shailen Nandy,
Christina Pantazis, Demi Patsios, Sarah Payne, Simon Pemberton (now Birmingham
University), Marco Pomati, Eileen Sutton
(University of Bristol)

Kirsten Besemer, Glen Bramley
(Heriot Watt University)

Nick Bailey, Maria Gannon, Mark Livingstone
(University of Glasgow)

Joanna Mack
(Open University)

Mary Daly, Paddy Hillyard, Grace Kelly, Mike Tomlinson
(Queens University Belfast)

Emma Drever, Joanne Maher
(NatCen)

Jonathan Bradshaw, Gill Main
(York University)

ESRC Grant RES-060-25-0052



Background and aims of the survey

This current survey is an update of the 2002/3 survey carried out by NISRA on behalf of Queen's University Belfast. It is being undertaken by NISRA as part of a UK-wide collaboration on behalf of a consortium of experts in this field from the University of Bristol, Heriot-Watt University, The Open University, Queen's University Belfast, University of Glasgow and the University of York. The survey is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

Respondents to the Omnibus will be given sets of cards and asked to say which items and activities they feel are necessities and which are desirable but not necessary. In this way, it is possible to measure what people think is necessary for an acceptable standard of living in Northern Ireland in 2012.

It is important to know the views of a representative sample of the population about what constitute the necessities of life in present-day Northern Ireland as NISRA will be undertaking a major survey of people's standard of living in the autumn.

Benefits of the Survey

This survey is concerned with the views of people living in Northern Ireland and the rest of the UK but the questionnaire will, in time, also be used in Europe and worldwide. Every UN country is committed to reducing poverty by half by 2015. In the UK, the Government and all political parties are committed to eradicating child poverty by 2020. This survey will provide information that will be used to help form policies to reduce poverty and improve living standards in the UK.

Notes on the percentages in this annotated Questionnaire

- the figures are only means; there are no standard errors

- the analyses are at NI level

- the weights are by POPWEIGHT

Party identification / voting intention

[SupParty]

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a supporter of any one political party?

1	Yes	19%
2	No	76%
8	(Don't know)	4%
9	(Refusal)	-

IF 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [SupParty] [ClosePty]

Do you think of yourself as a little closer to one political party than to the others?

1	Yes	29%
2	No	71%
8	(Don't know)	-
9	(Refusal)	-

IF 'yes' AT [SupParty] OR 'yes', 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [ClosePty]
[PartyFW]

IF 'yes' AT [SupParty] OR AT [ClosePty]: *Which one?*

IF 'no' OR DON'T KNOW AT [ClosePty]: *If there were a General Election tomorrow, which political party do you think you would be most likely to support?*

DO NOT PROMPT

1	DUP	20%
2	Sinn Féin	11%
3	UUP	13%
4	SDLP	12%
5	Alliance	6%
6	Other Party (please specify)	2%
7	Other answer	2%
8	None	26%
20	Refused to say	7%
99	Don't Know	1%
Total		100.0

98 (Don't know)

99 (Refusal)

IF 'other party' AT [PartyFW]

[OthSpec] \$

WRITE IN OTHER ANSWER GIVEN

Open Question (Maximum of 120 characters)

IF 'other answer' AT [PartyFW]

[OthSpec] \$

WRITE IN OTHER ANSWER GIVEN

Open Question (Maximum of 120 characters)

[Intro]

SHUFFLE SET A (PINK) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N1] *On these cards are a number of different items which relate to our standard of living. I would like you to indicate the living standards you feel all adults should have in Britain today by placing the cards in the appropriate box. BOX A is for items which you think are necessary – which all adults should be able to afford and which they should not have to do without. BOX B is for items which may be desirable but are not necessary.*

	SET E (PINK) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETGNEC]		[SETGDK]
(1)	Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration	69%	31%	
(2)	Replace any worn out furniture	40%	60%	
(3)	Replace or repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine	82%	18%	
(4)	A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family	37%	63%	
(5)	Two pairs of all-weather shoes	47%	53%	
(6)	Regular savings (of at least £20 a month) for rainy days	52%	48%	
(7)	Car	45%	55%	
(8)	Washing machine	85%	15%	
(9)	A warm waterproof coat	80%	20%	
(10)	Replace worn out clothes with new (not second hand) ones	45%	55%	
(11)	A roast joint (or vegetarian equivalent) once a week	38%	62%	
(12)	Presents for friends or family once a year	40%	60%	
(13)	Damp-free home	94%	6%	
(14)	Mobile phone	35%	65%	
(15)	Television	48%	52%	
(16)	Telephone at home (landline or mobile)	70%	30%	
(17)	Home computer	28%	72%	
(18)	Internet connection at home	28%	72%	
(19)	Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day	76%	24%	
(20)	Household contents insurance	73%	27%	
(21)	Heating to keep home adequately warm	97%	3%	
(22)	Two meals a day	94%	6%	
(23)	To be able to pay an unexpected expense of £500	53%	47%	
(24)	Hair done or cut regularly	29%	71%	
(25)	Dishwasher	12%	88%	

(26)	Fresh fruit and vegetables every day	85%	15%	
(27)	An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings	38%	62%	
(28)	Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews	62%	38%	
(29)	All recommended dental work/treatment	83%	17%	
(30)	Curtains or window blinds	65%	35%	
(31)	A table, with chairs, at which all the family can eat	75%	25%	
(32)	Regular payments into an occupational or private pension	40%	60%	
(33)	No cards selected			

NOW, SHUFFLE SET B (GREEN) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N2] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the adult's activities on this set of cards – set H.*

	SET H (GREEN) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETHNEC]		[SETHDK]
(1)	A hobby or leisure activity	67%	33%	
(2)	A holiday away from home for one week a year, not staying with relatives	33%	67%	
(3)	Friends or family round for a meal or drink at least once a month	44%	56%	
(4)	Going out socially once a fortnight	25%	75%	
(5)	Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas	86%	14%	
(6)	A meal out once a month	20%	80%	
(7)	Holidays abroad once a year	19%	81%	
(8)	Visits to friends or family in other parts of the country 4 times a year	31%	69%	
(9)	Going out for a drink once a fortnight	18%	82%	
(10)	Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions	75%	25%	
(11)	Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions	83%	17%	
(12)	Attending church, mosque, synagogue or other places of worship	56%	44%	
(13)	Going to the cinema, theatre or music event once a month	18%	82%	
(14)	Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes	55%	45%	
(15)	No cards selected			

NOW, SHUFFLE SET C (BUFF) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N3] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the items on this set of cards, set I, but this time thinking of children.*

	SET I (BUFF) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETINEC]		[SETIDK]
(1)	Three meals a day	92%	8%	
(2)	New, properly fitting, shoes	90%	10%	
(3)	Some new, not second-hand clothes	65%	35%	
(4)	Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day	94%	6%	
(5)	Outdoor leisure equipment such as roller skates, skateboards, footballs, etc.	59%	41%	
(6)	Enough bedrooms for every child of 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom	64%	36%	
(7)	A warm winter coat	96%	4%	
(8)	Books at home suitable for their ages	88%	12%	
(9)	A garden or outdoor space nearby where they can play safely	90%	10%	
(10)	Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day	88%	12%	
(11)	A suitable place at home to study or do homework	87%	13%	
(12)	Indoor games suitable for their ages (building blocks, board games, computer games, etc.)	74%	26%	
(13)	At least 4 pairs of trousers, leggings, jeans or jogging bottoms	49%	51%	
(14)	Construction toys such as Duplo or Lego	52%	48%	
(15)	Bicycle	50%	50%	
(16)	Pocket money	53%	47%	
(17)	Money to save	52%	48%	
(18)	Designer/brand name trainers	9%	91%	
(19)	MP3 player such as an iPod	10%	90%	
(20)	Clothes to fit in with friends	30%	70%	
(21)	Computer and internet for homework	66%	34%	
(22)	Mobile phone for children aged 11 or older	28%	72%	
(23)	No cards selected			

NOW, SHUFFLE SET D (BLUE) CARDS AND SORT BOX

[N4] *Now, I would like you to do the same thing for the children's activities on this set of cards – set J.*

	SET J (BLUE) CARDS	A	B	Unallocated
		Necessary	Desirable but not necessary	Does not apply
		[SETJNEC]		[SETJDK]
(1)	A hobby or leisure activity	84%	16%	
(2)	Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays Christmas or other religious festivals	88%	12%	
(3)	Friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight	43%	57%	
(4)	A holiday away from home for at least one week a year	43%	57%	
(5)	Toddler group or nursery or play group at least once a week for pre-school aged children	82%	18%	
(6)	Going on a school trip at least once a term	50%	50%	
(7)	Day trips with family once a month	57%	43%	
(8)	Children's clubs or activities such as drama or football training	78%	22%	
(9)	No cards selected			

Public Services

Access to local services is also believed to affect people's standard of living. Good local services can improve people's standard of living (also known as the 'social wage'). The importance of good local services increases according to people's lack of income. Someone lacking in social networks may be able to call on local services for support. Local services may also provide a means of participating in the community (e.g. attending an evening class or going to activities in a community hall).

[LcSvPr] *The next question is about services which may exist in your local area and which affect our standard of living.*

[PubSrv] *On this card are a number of services which are usually provided or subsidised by local councils or other public bodies. Please could you tell me if you think that these services are essential and should be available?*

READ OUT SHOWCARD AND CODE ALL ANSWERS

		(1) Essential	(2) Not essential
[Libris]	Libraries	74%	26%
[SprtFc]	Public sports facilities (e.g. swimming pools)	73%	27%
[MusGal]	Museums and galleries	28%	72%
[EveCls]	Evening classes	35%	65%
[VilgHl]	Public/Community/Village Hall	46%	54%
[Hosptl]	Hospital with an Accident and Emergency Department	92%	8%
[Doctor]	Doctor	93%	7%
[Dentst]	Dentist	85%	15%
[Opticn]	Optician	71%	29%
[PostOf]	Post Office	75%	25%

(SHOWCARD A)