

Statistical Briefing No 4

Great Britain versus Northern Ireland in the harmonised UK Omnibus 2012

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Overview

This statistical briefing note builds on Statistical Briefing 3 by comparing differences between Great Britain and Northern Ireland in items reported as ‘necessary’ using the harmonised UK Omnibus dataset. Heat maps and relative risk ratio¹ calculations were carried out separately for adult items (n=32), adult activities (n=14), child items (n=22) and child activities (n=8). The combined data set included a total of 1957 respondents (see tables 1-3 below).

Table 1: Country (unweighted)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Great Britain	1447	73.9
2 Northern Ireland	510	26.1
Total	1957	100.0

Table 2: Country (unweighted and filtered²)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Great Britain	1445	74.6
2 Northern Ireland	493	25.4
Total	1938	100.0

Table 3: Country (weighted by PSPW2* and filtered)

	Frequency	Percent
1 Great Britain	1899	97.3
2 Northern Ireland	53	2.7
Total	1953	100.0

Note: PSPW2 = post-stratification population weighting using mid-year population estimates from GB Census 2011 and NI Census 2011. This re-scales the sample to reflect the population distribution of the GB and NI populations.

Findings

¹ See PSE Statistical Briefing Note 1 (D Gordon)

² Respondents not providing answers to any of the necessities questions (n=76 items in total were filtered out of the analysis (GB=2, NI=17 unweighted)).

Figure 1 plots the proportion of GB and NI respondents reporting that adult items are a 'necessity'. The lack of deviation of the data points from the diagonal line of equality suggests a high degree of consensus. This is confirmed by the data presented in Table 4, below.

Figure 1: Adult items – scatterplot

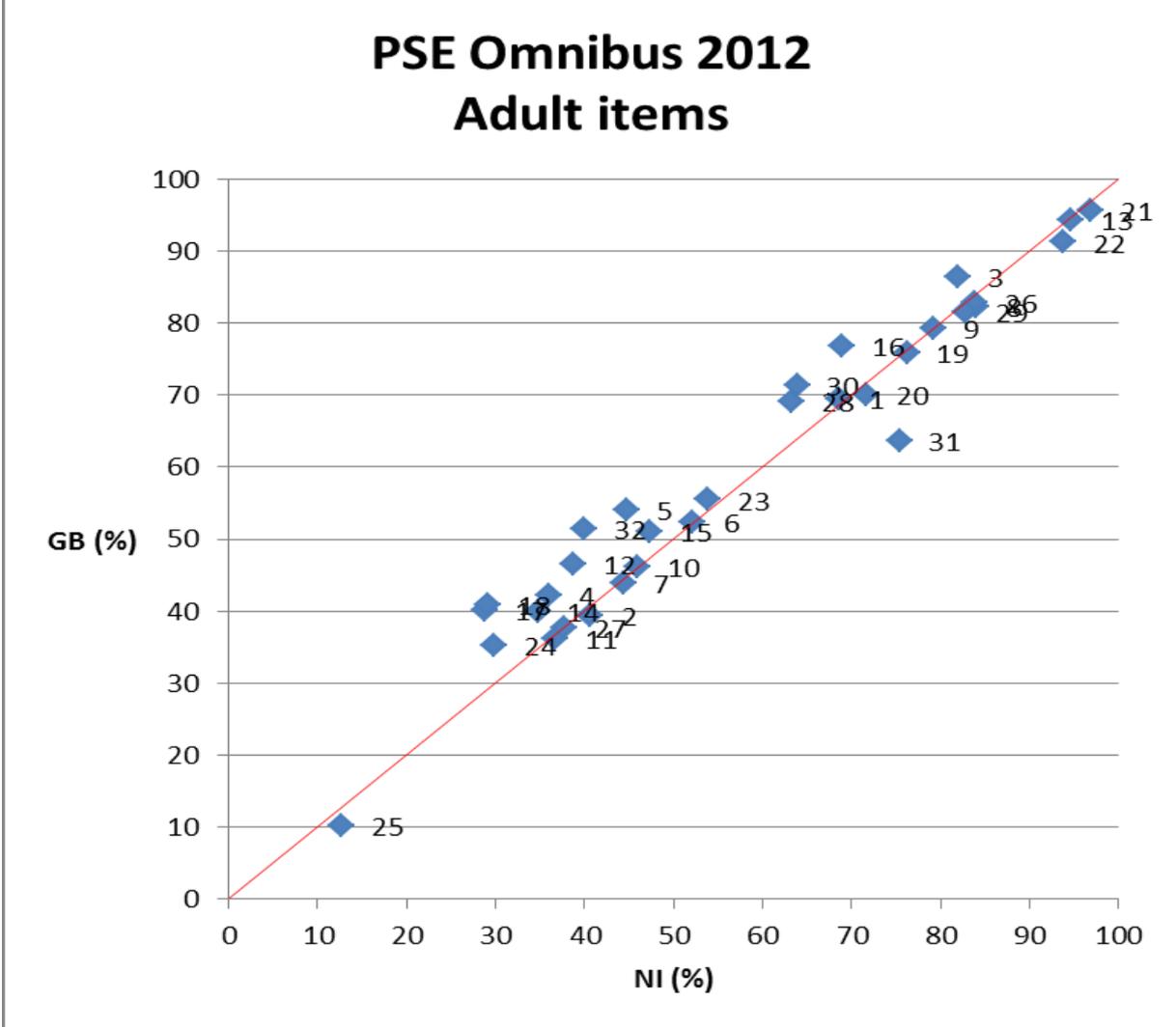


Table 4 presents a summary of the heat maps for GB and NI along with the relative risk (RR) ratios for GB versus NI adult items. As noted in PSE Statistical Briefing Note No.1, RR ratios are used to show the magnitude of differences between two groups (effect sizes). They show the risk, or probability, of one group (e.g. men) thinking an item/activity is a necessity compared with another group (e.g. women). A RR ratio of 2 means twice the relative risk; a RR ratio of 0.33 means one-third the risk, etc. A RR risk of 1 would mean there are no statistically significant differences between groups.

Table 4 shows there were no statistically significant differences in the RR ratios between GB and NI. At the UK level, 20 items were deemed necessities by 50% or

more of the population; at the GB level 20 items crossed the 50%+ threshold, and for NI it was 17 items. The items which 50%+ GB respondents thought were necessities, but NI respondents did not were: two pairs of all-weather shoes, a television, and regular payments into an occupational or private test.

Table 4: Adult items – heat mapping and relative risk ratios

Adult items	Heat mapping (% stating item 'necessary')			Relative risk ratios (Great Britain vs. Northern Ireland)			
	GB	NI	UK	Relative risk	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper	RR Sig
Heating to keep home adequately warm (pov1_21)	96	97	96	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
Damp-free home (pov1_13)	94	95	94	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
Two meals a day (pov1_22)	91	94	91	1.0	0.9	1.0	ns
Replace or repair broken electrical goods such as refrigerator or washing machine (pov1_03)	87	82	86	1.1	0.9	1.2	ns
Fresh fruit and vegetables every day (pov1_26)	83	84	83	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
Washing machine (pov1_08)	82	84	82	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
All recommended dental work/treatment (pov1_29)	81	83	82	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
A warm waterproof coat (pov1_09)	79	79	79	1.0	0.9	1.2	ns
Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent every other day (pov1_19)	76	76	76	1.0	0.9	1.2	ns
Telephone at home (landline or mobile) (pov1_16)	77	69	77	1.1	0.9	1.3	ns
Household contents insurance (pov1_20)	70	72	70	1.0	0.8	1.2	ns
A table, with chairs, at which all the family can eat (pov1_31)	64	75	64	0.8	0.7	1.0	ns
Enough money to keep your home in a decent state of decoration (pov1_01)	70	69	69	1.0	0.8	1.2	ns
Curtains or window blinds (pov1_30)	71	64	71	1.1	0.9	1.4	ns
Appropriate clothes to wear for job interviews (pov1_28)	69	63	69	1.1	0.9	1.4	ns
To be able to pay an unexpected expense of £500 (pov1_23)	55	54	55	1.0	0.8	1.3	ns
Regular savings (of at least £20 a month) for rainy days (pov1_06)	52	52	52	1.0	0.8	1.3	ns
Two pairs of all-weather shoes (pov1_05)	54	45	54	1.2	0.9	1.6	ns
Television (pov1_15)	51	47	51	1.1	0.8	1.4	ns
Replace worn out clothes with new (not second hand) ones (pov1_10)	46	46	46	1.0	0.7	1.3	ns
Regular payments into an occupational or private pension (pov1_32)	51	40	51	1.3	0.9	1.9	ns
Car (pov1_07)	44	44	44	1.0	0.7	1.4	ns
Presents for friends or family once a year (pov1_12)	46	39	46	1.2	0.8	1.7	ns
Replace any worn out furniture (pov1_02)	39	41	39	1.0	0.7	1.4	ns

Adult items	Heat mapping (% stating item 'necessary')			Relative risk ratios (Great Britain vs. Northern Ireland)			
	GB	NI	UK	Relative risk	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper	RR Sig
A small amount of money to spend each week on yourself, not on your family (pov1_04)	42	36	42	1.2	0.8	1.8	ns
An outfit to wear for social or family occasions such as parties and weddings (pov1_27)	38	38	38	1.0	0.7	1.4	ns
Mobile phone (pov1_14)	40	35	40	1.2	0.8	1.7	ns
A roast joint (or its equivalent) once a week (pov1_11)	36	37	36	1.0	0.7	1.5	ns
Internet connection at home (pov1_18)	41	29	41	1.4	0.9	2.2	ns
Home computer (pov1_17)	40	29	40	1.4	0.9	2.1	ns
Hair done or cut regularly (pov1_24)	35	30	35	1.2	0.8	1.9	ns
Dishwasher (pov1_25)	10	13	10	0.8	0.4	1.7	ns

Figure 2 plots the proportion of GB and NI respondents reporting that adult activities are a 'necessity'. Once again, a high degree of consensus is apparent.

Figure 2: Adult activities

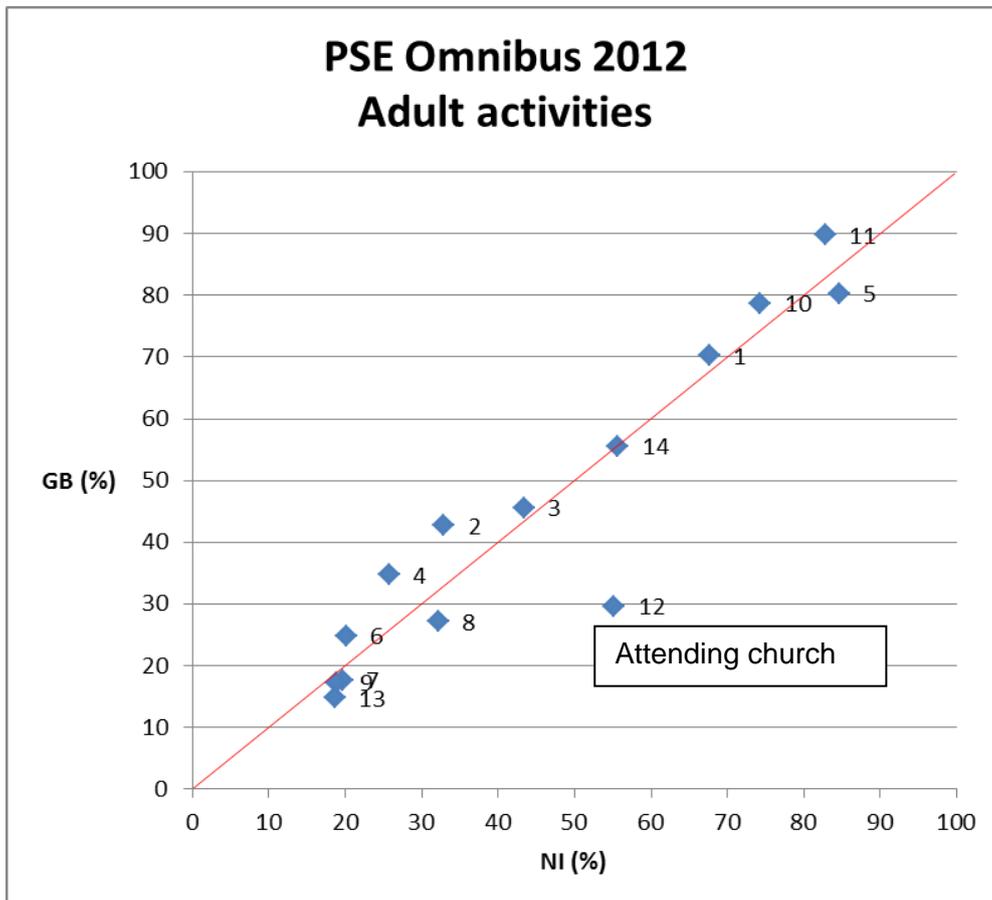


Table 5 presents a summary of the heat maps for GB and NI along with the relative risk ratios for GB versus NI for adult activities. At the UK and GB level, over 50% of respondents considered 5 activities to be necessities, compared to 6 activities identified by NI respondents. The only statistically significant difference between GB and NI was with regards attending a place of worship, where a majority of respondents in NI (55%) thought this a necessity compared with only 30% of respondents in Britain.

Table 5: Adult activities– heat mapping and relative risk ratios

Adult activities	Heat mapping (% stating item 'necessary')			Relative risk ratios (Great Britain vs. Northern Ireland)			
	GB	NI	UK	Relative risk	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper	RR Sig
Visiting friends or family in hospital or other institutions (pov2_11)	90	83	90	1.1	0.9	1.2	ns
Celebrations on special occasions such as Christmas (pov2_05)	80	85	80	1.0	0.8	1.1	ns
Attending weddings, funerals and other such occasions (pov2_10)	79	74	79	1.0	0.9	1.2	ns
A hobby or leisure activity (pov2_01)	70	68	70	1.0	0.9	1.3	ns
Taking part in sport/exercise activities or classes (pov2_14)	56	56	56	1.0	0.8	1.3	ns
Friends or family round for a meal or drink at least once a month (pov2_03)	46	43	46	1.1	0.8	1.5	ns
Attending church, mosque, synagogue or other places of worship (pov2_12)	30	55	30	0.5	0.4	0.7	*
A holiday away from home for one week a year, not staying with relatives (pov2_02)	43	33	42	1.3	0.9	2.0	ns
Going out socially once a fortnight (pov2_04)	35	26	34	1.3	0.8	2.1	ns
Visits to friends or family in other parts of the country 4 times a year (pov2_08)	27	32	27	0.8	0.5	1.3	ns
A meal out once a month (pov2_06)	25	20	25	1.2	0.7	2.1	ns
Holidays abroad once a year (pov2_07)	18	20	18	0.9	0.5	1.7	ns
Going out for a drink once a fortnight (pov2_09)	17	19	17	0.9	0.5	1.6	ns
Going to the cinema, theatre or music event once a month (pov2_13)	15	19	15	0.8	0.4	1.4	ns

Figure 3 plots the proportion of GB and NI respondents reporting that child items are a 'necessity'. Consensus between GB and NI respondents is again very clear.

Figure 3: Child items

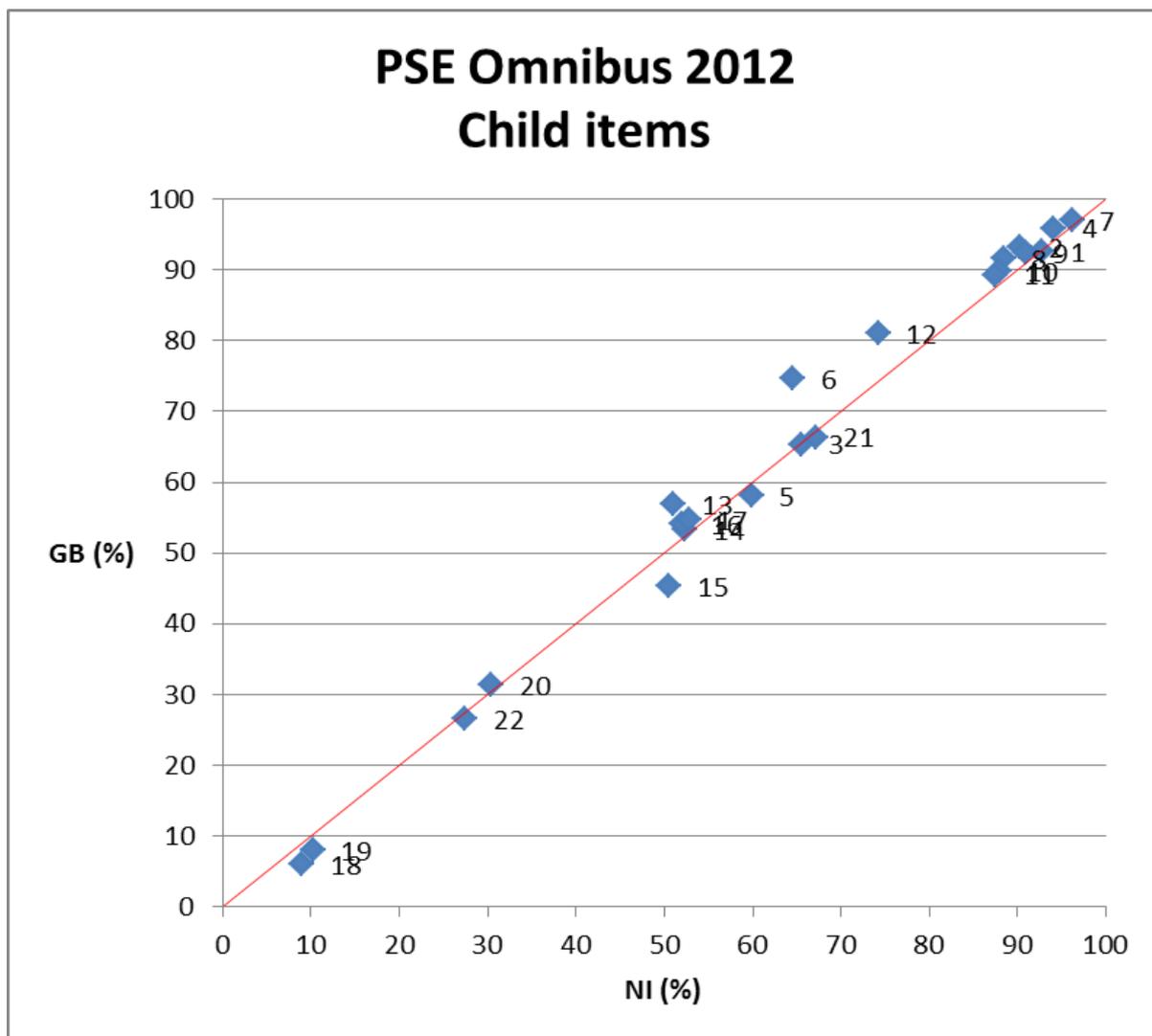


Table 6 presents a summary of the heat maps for GB and NI along with the RR ratios for GB versus NI for child items. There were no significant statistical differences in the RR ratios. Seventeen child items were reported by 50%+ of UK and GB respondents, compared to 18 items from NI respondents; the difference was for bicycle.

Table 6: Child items– heat mapping and relative risk ratios

Child items	Heat mapping (% stating item 'necessary')			Relative risk ratios (Great Britain vs. Northern Ireland)			
	GB	NI	UK	Relative risk	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper	RR Sig
A warm winter coat (pov3_07)	97	96	97	1.0	1.0	1.1	ns
Fresh fruit or vegetables at least once a day (pov3_04)	96	94	96	1.0	1.0	1.1	ns
Three meals a day (pov3_01)	93	93	93	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
New, properly fitting, shoes (pov3_02)	93	90	93	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
A garden or outdoor space nearby where they can play safely (pov3_09)	92	91	92	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
Books at home suitable for their ages (pov3_08)	92	88	91	1.0	0.9	1.2	ns
Meat, fish or vegetarian equivalent at least once a day (pov3_10)	90	88	90	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
A suitable place at home to study or do homework (pov3_11)	89	88	89	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
Indoor games suitable for their ages (building blocks, board games, computer games, etc.) (pov3_12)	81	74	81	1.1	0.9	1.3	ns
Enough bedrooms for every child of 10 or over of a different sex to have their own bedroom (pov3_06)	75	65	74	1.1	0.9	1.4	ns
Computer and internet for homework (pov3_21)	66	67	66	1.0	0.8	1.2	ns
Some new, not second-hand clothes (pov3_03)	65	66	65	1.0	0.8	1.2	ns
Outdoor leisure equipment such as rollerskates, skateboards, footballs etc. (pov3_05)	58	60	58	1.0	0.8	1.2	ns
At least 4 pairs of trousers, leggings, jeans or jogging bottoms (pov3_13)	57	51	57	1.1	0.8	1.5	ns
Money to save (pov3_17)	55	53	55	1.0	0.8	1.3	ns
Pocket money (pov3_16)	54	52	54	1.0	0.8	1.4	ns
Construction toys such as Duplo or Lego (pov3_14)	53	52	53	1.0	0.8	1.3	ns
Bicycle (pov3_15)	45	50	45	0.9	0.7	1.2	ns
Clothes to fit in with friends (pov3_20)	31	30	31	1.0	0.7	1.6	ns
Mobile phone for children aged 11 or older (pov3_22)	27	27	27	1.0	0.6	1.5	ns
MP3 player such as an iPod (pov3_19)	8	10	8	0.8	0.3	1.8	ns
Designer/brand name trainers (pov3_18)	6	9	6	0.7	0.3	1.8	ns

Figure 4 plots the proportions of GB and NI respondents reporting that child activities are a 'necessity'. Consensus, again, is clear.

Figure 4: Child activities

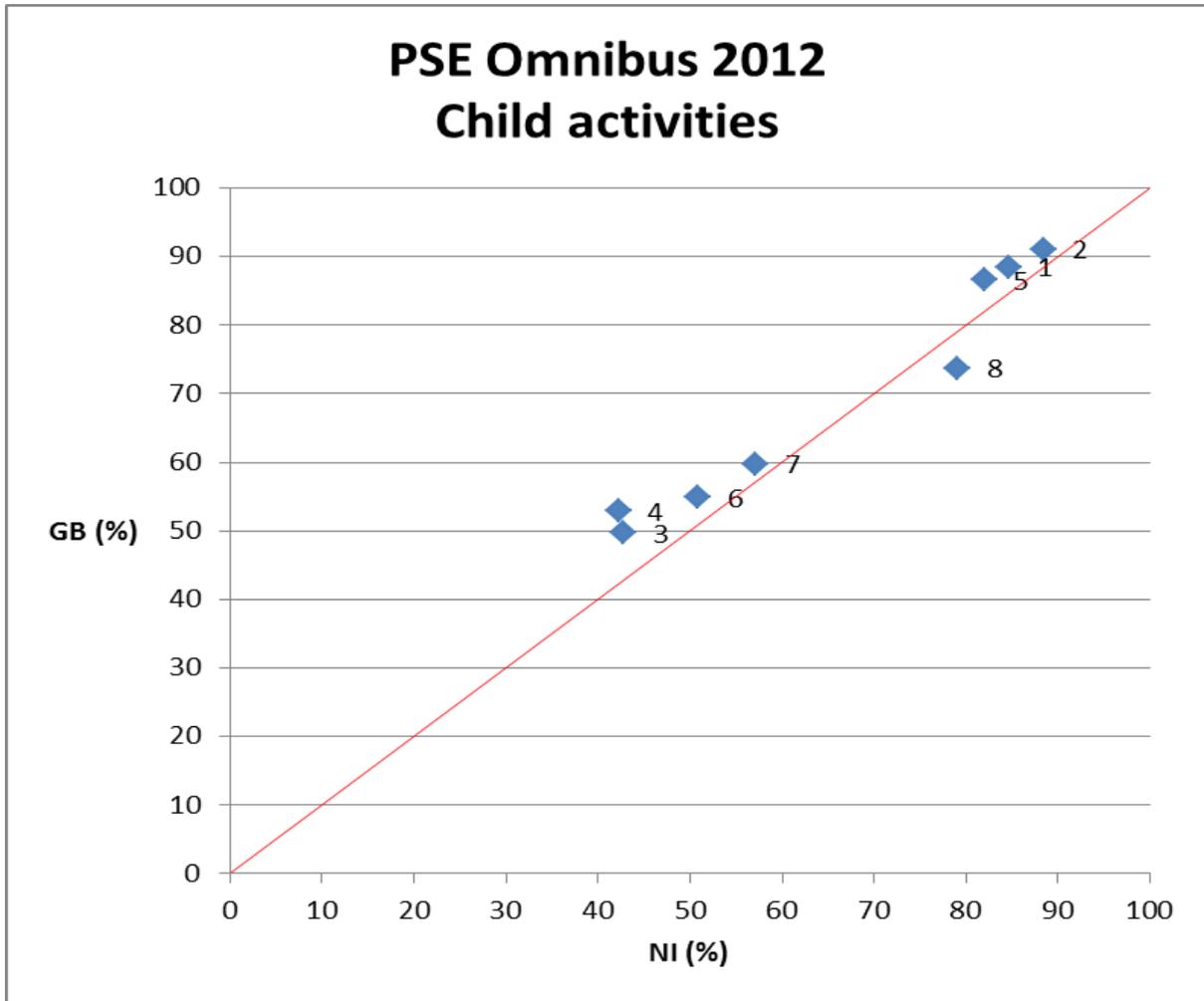


Table 7 presents a summary of the heat maps for GB and NI along with the RR ratios for GB versus NI for child activities. No significant differences in the relative risk ratios emerged. For the UK and GB, 8 items were above the 50% threshold; in NI it was 6 items, with the differences being for a holiday away from home and having friends round for tea or a snack.

Table 7: Child activities– heat mapping and relative risk ratios

Child items	Heat mapping (% stating item 'necessary')			Relative risk ratios (Great Britain vs. Northern Ireland)			
	GB	NI	UK	Relative risk	95% CI Lower	95% CI Upper	RR Sig
Celebrations on special occasions such as birthdays, Christmas or other religious festivals (pov4_2)	91	88	91	1.0	0.9	1.1	ns
A hobby or leisure activity (pov4_1)	89	85	88	1.0	0.9	1.2	ns
Toddler group or nursery or play group at least once a week for pre-school aged children (pov4_5)	87	82	86	1.1	0.9	1.2	ns
Children's clubs or activities such as drama or football training (pov4_8)	74	79	74	0.9	0.8	1.1	ns
Day trips with family once a month (pov4_7)	60	57	60	1.0	0.8	1.3	ns
Going on a school trip at least once a term (pov4_6)	55	51	55	1.1	0.8	1.4	ns
A holiday away from home for at least one week a year (pov4_4)	53	42	53	1.3	0.9	1.7	ns
Friends round for tea or a snack once a fortnight (pov4_3)	50	43	49	1.2	0.8	1.6	ns

Concluding remarks

The scatter plots presented show there is a high degree of consensus between GB and NI as to what items and activities are necessities. No major differences are apparent between respondents about which items rated as necessities, although respondents in NI were twice as likely to report that attending a place of worship (church, mosque, synagogue) was a 'necessary' activity which people should be able to do.

At the UK level, there were 20 adult items, 5 adult activities, 17 child items and 8 child activities which 50% or more respondents believed to be necessities. These items will form the basis of the deprivation index, which will be constructed with data from the PSE 2012 UK Main stage survey.