

4th Quarterly Survey on the conditions for North-South and East-West cooperation after Brexit

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Introduction



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4th QUARTERLY SURVEY
ON THE CONDITIONS FOR
NORTH-SOUTH AND EAST-WEST
COOPERATION
NOW OPEN!!

Calling on civic society organisations and local authorities in
Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Please help us to track if the necessary conditions for
cooperation are being maintained and if relations between the
jurisdictions are being safeguarded!

Complete the survey online at:
<https://bit.ly/3oslvfo>
.....
#CCBSQSurvey

- ▶ This quarterly survey is a vital means to give us an understanding of the extent to which **the necessary conditions for North-South cooperation are being maintained, and how relations between civic society organisations and local authorities on the island of Ireland and Great Britain are being safeguarded** following the end of the Brexit transition period and the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland.



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Introduction



- ▶ This survey is aimed specifically at civic society organisations and local authorities in light of the fact that the mapping exercise of North-South cooperation undertaken in 2017 by the UK and EU may have overlooked some of the cooperation they are involved in:
- ▶ *“Further areas of informal, local and community-level cooperation may not have been captured by this exercise”* (para 16 of Department for Exiting the European Union’s December 2018 “Technical Explanatory Note: North-South Cooperation Mapping Exercise”).



Thanks and please!



- ▶ We are enormously grateful to all those who've responded to our survey – especially those who have responded in previous quarters.
- ▶ We need your ongoing help in responding to future surveys so that we can raise the issues that are important to you.
- ▶ This is a marathon, not a sprint.



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How your responses are used

- ▶ The information this survey provides is used by the Centre for Cross Border Studies as we work with other organisations to protect North-South and East-West relations and cooperation, not least through the Ad-Hoc Group for North-South and East-West Cooperation, which the Centre convenes.





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Overview

- Understanding the data
- Respondents
- North-South dimension
- East-West dimension



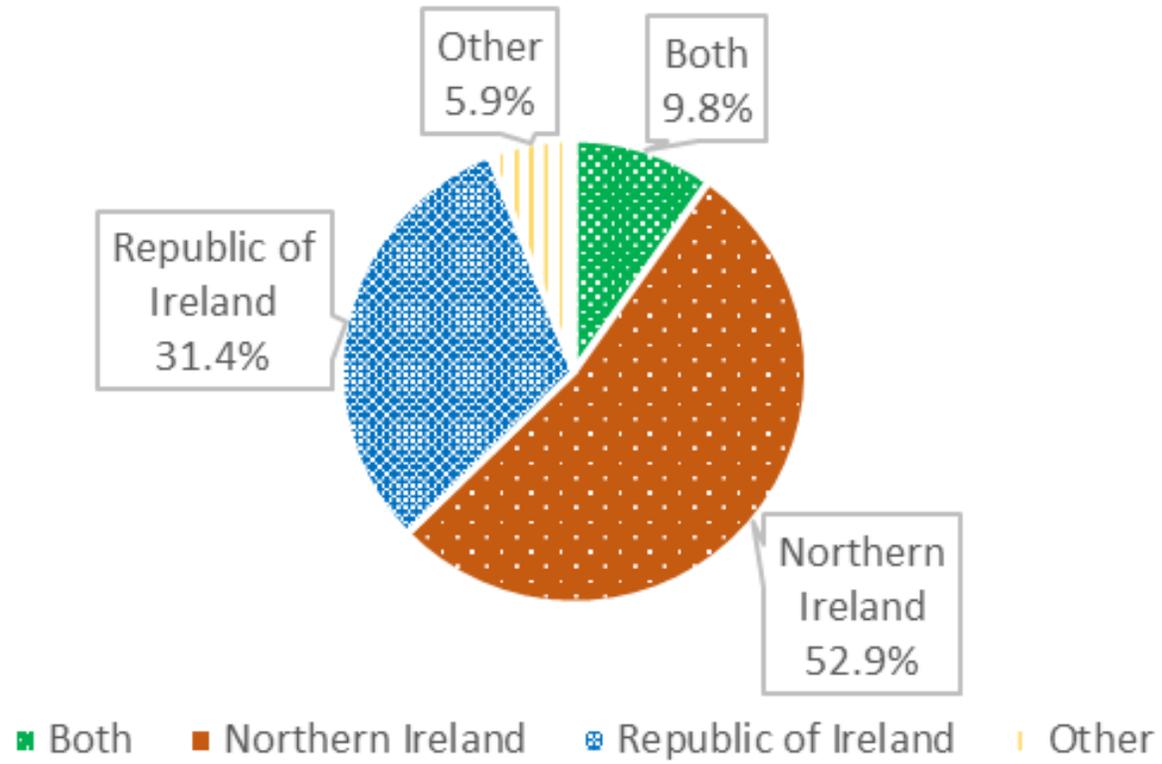


Understanding the data

- The composition of the panel means that we cannot draw direct comparisons between this and previous rounds of the survey. However, the high number of respondents who have participated in at least one of the previous survey rounds means we can begin to infer the shape of some trends over the course of the year in a practical sense
- The quantitative data is given much more context and nuance thanks to the qualitative contributions made by respondents
- The respondents to all rounds of the survey conducted thus far each have a wealth of insight, experience, and expertise of cross-border cooperation and collaboration, and the results should be considered with these valuable insights in mind

Respondents

Where is your organisation based?
(n=51)



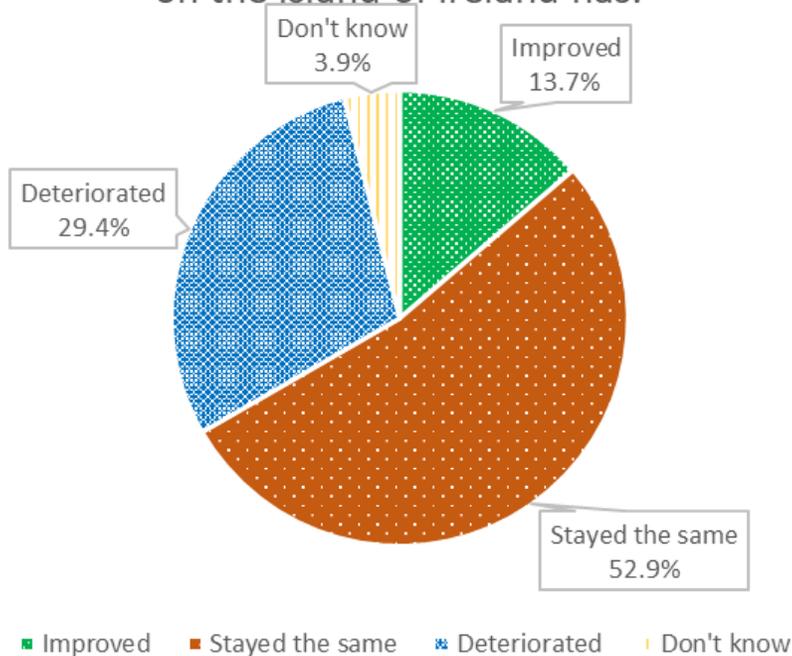


North-South contact and collaboration

- In this quarter 77% of respondents have had meetings with organisations in the other jurisdiction. For 55% of respondents their level of contact this quarter has been at the same level as the last and has increased for 31% of respondents.
- 85% of respondents reported that meetings with organisations in the other jurisdiction discussed challenges to cross-border cooperation to some degree.
- 80% of respondents are currently involved in North-South cross-border collaboration and 75% are actively considering new collaborative projects.
- 56% of respondents currently engaged in collaboration reported that they were in receipt of funding for cross-border collaborative projects

North-South political context

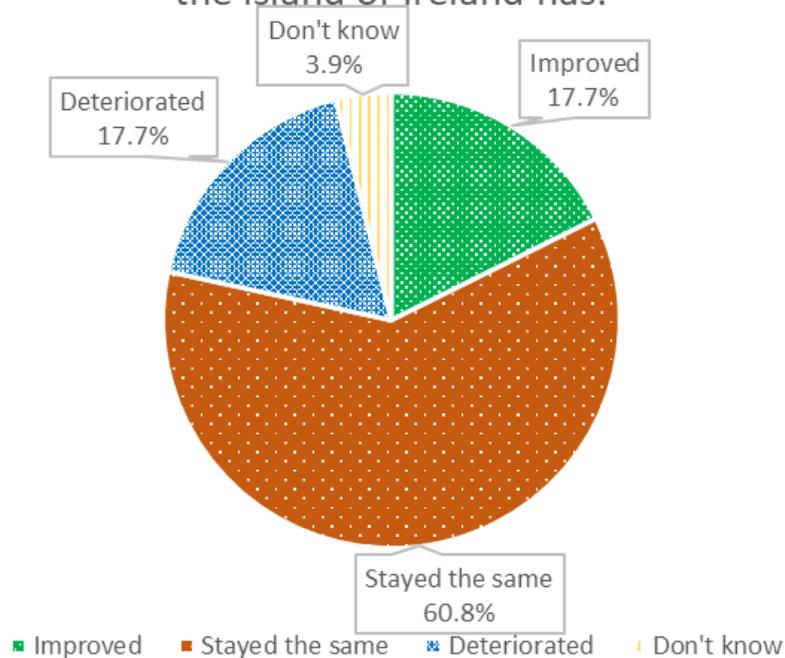
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Political** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “NI Protocol has created political disruption and cast a shadow over areas of mutual collaboration”
- ▶ “There is a continuation of uncertainty due to the repeated references to potential triggering of Article 16”
- ▶ “Positive announcements regarding funding such as Peace Plus, Shared Island and UK Levelling up funds have increased opportunities”

North-South social context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Social** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



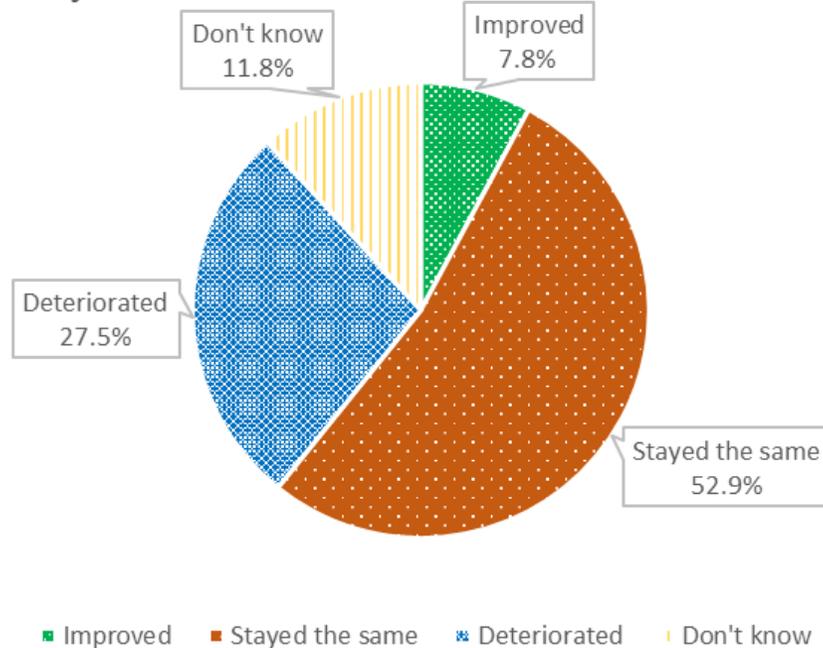
- ▶ “Continuing negotiations on Brexit have impacted on community relations between communities and ensured that people are still concerned about where borders will be eventually sited and how these might be managed and responded to”
- ▶ “Covid seemed to have retreated a little increasing social 'traffic' . At Community and community organisation level this has enabled re-engagement at more social level but incremental rather than significant change.”



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North-South regulatory context

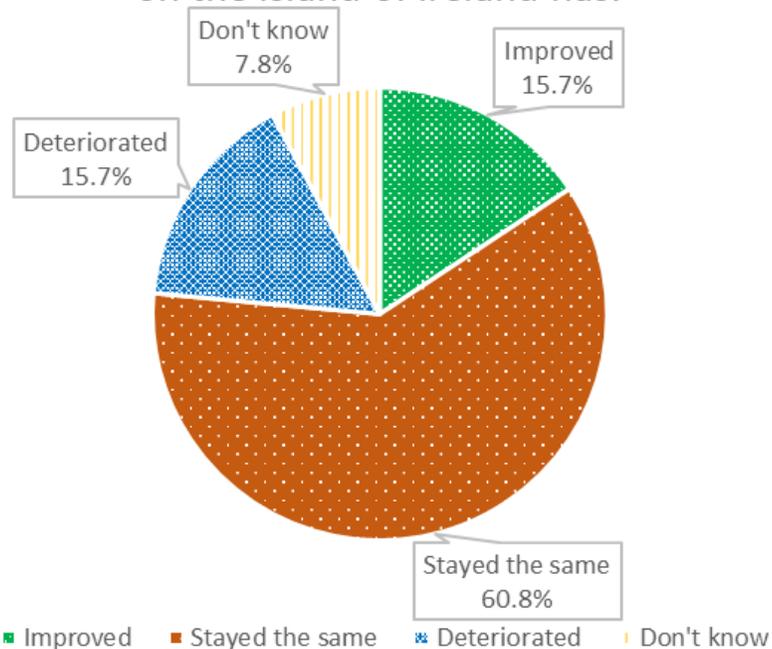
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Regulatory** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “The consideration of the UK Government on introducing the need for travel documents for other EU/EEA citizens resident in either Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland to cross the border”
- ▶ “Business seems to be adapting to relatively new regulatory environment, but potential changes or talk of such changes creates uncertainty”

North-South material context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Material** context for collaboration with the other jurisdiction on the island of Ireland has:



- ▶ “We're probably buying more within Ireland than previously as shipping from GB is a nightmare, some suppliers have just opted out of supplying NI, although they could and orders have also been accepted and cancelled at short notice”
- ▶ “The growth of trade in goods and services between North and South, as a direct result of Brexit, has highlighted the distinct opportunities and benefits that exist to expand trading relationships with both the UK and the EU”



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East-West contact and collaboration

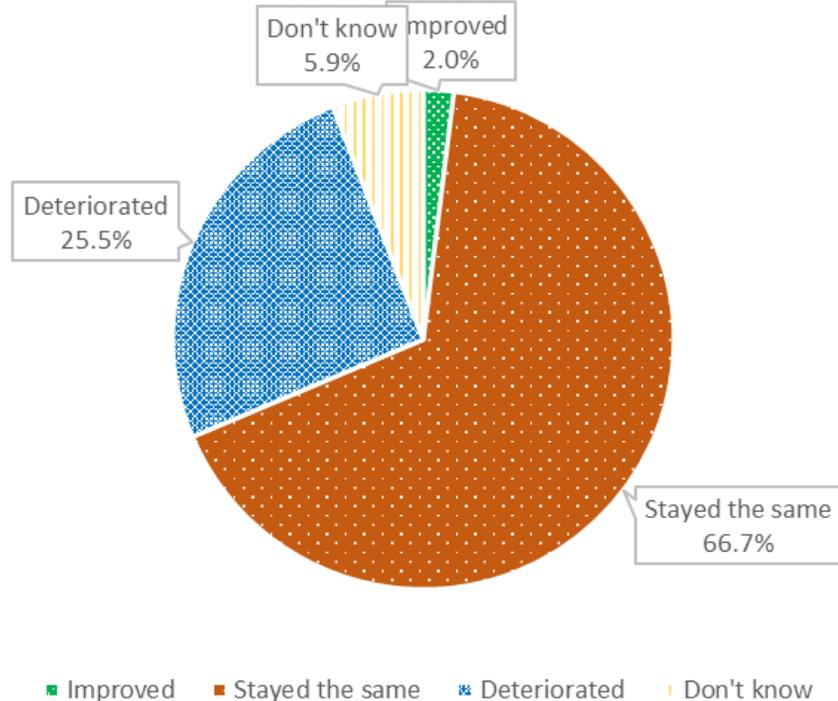
- This quarter more than half of respondents reported having meetings with organisations in GB (57%). 77% of respondents say that this is the same level of contact as the last quarter, and 14% reported that their level of contact had decreased on the previous quarter
- 59% of respondents reported that meetings with partners in Great Britain discussed challenges to cooperation either on occasion (41%) or to a significant extent (17%)
- This quarter 49% of respondents say they are currently involved in collaboration with a GB-based organisation but only 26% of respondents are actively considering new collaborative projects.
- 48% of respondents currently engaged in collaboration reported that they were in receipt of funding for cross-border collaborative projects.



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East-West political context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Political** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



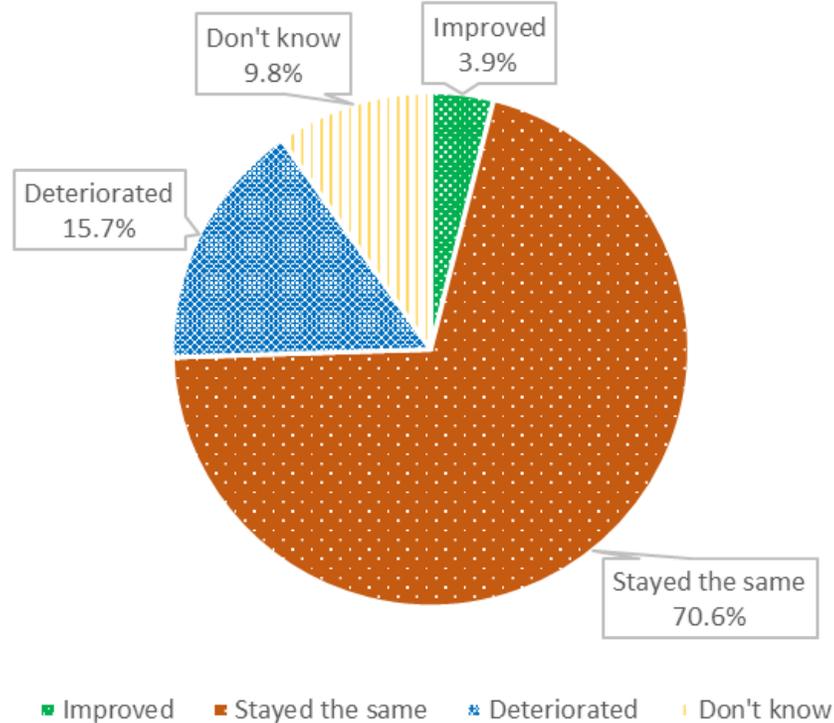
- ▶ “Failure to move on from the Brexit agreement and implementation of the protocol are facilitating the deterioration of relationships within NI Great Britain is increasingly 'distant' or isolated from our concerns”
- ▶ “There appears to be a complete lack of trust between NI and GB. Neither side fully listening to the other”



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East-West social context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Social** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



“It's a matter of balance. One side will possibly feel that they have improved if the role of the British Government is seen to reflect its aspirations (removal of the protocol), whilst the other might consider it's deteriorating as the British Government is seen to have reneged on its legal responsibilities. This is further seen in the approach being taken to Legacy Legislation and an Irish Language Act at Westminster”

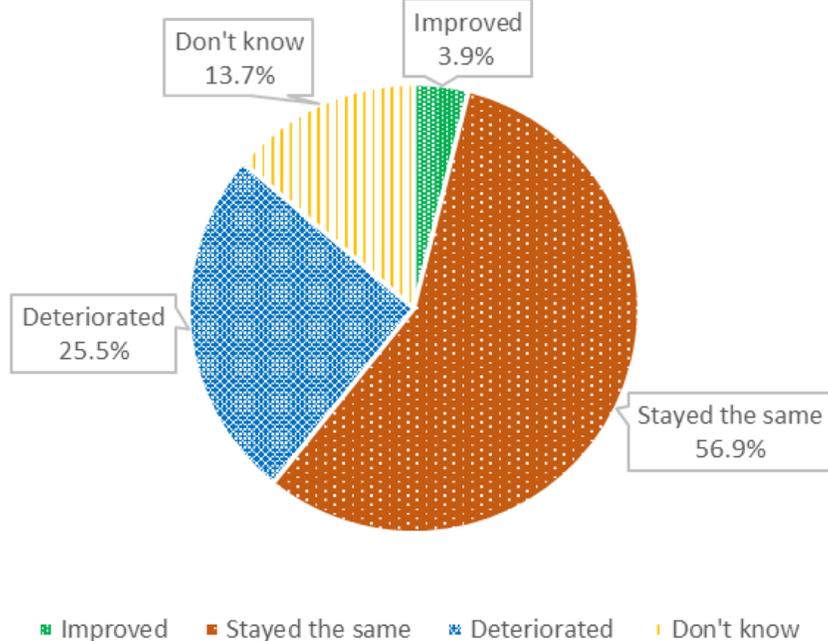


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East-West regulatory context

In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Regulatory** context for collaboration with the Great Britain

has:



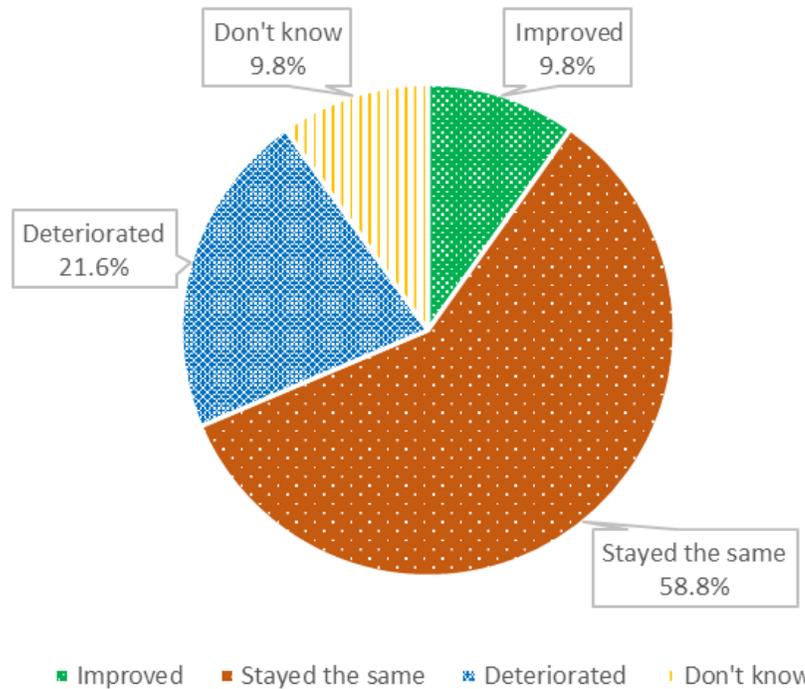
- ▶ “The government has taken a harder approach to the protocol Unilateral actions around the NI protocol on the part of the UK government are undermining confidence & trust”
- ▶ “The government has taken a harder approach to the protocol”



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East-West material context

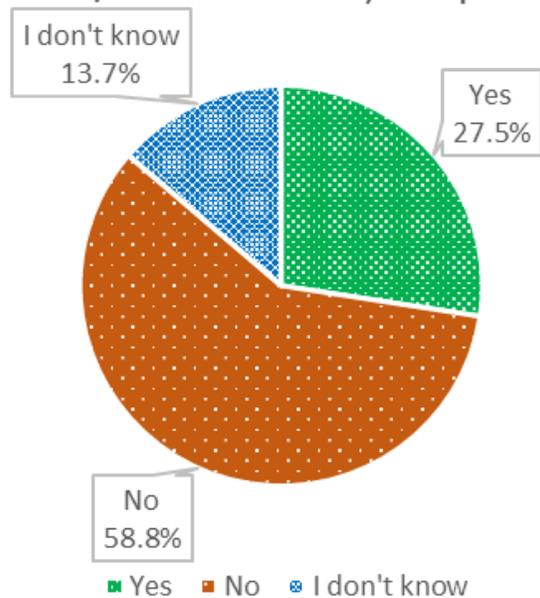
In comparison with the previous quarter, do you think the **Material** context for collaboration with Great Britain has:



- ▶ “Covid restrictions eased, more flights and face to face meetings in GB”
- ▶ “An item ordered online costing €22, ended up costing €50 when delivered”

Protocol

Do you think there is enough relevant information on the Protocol available to those involved in cross-border (North-South and/or East-West) cooperation activities



- ▶ 59% of respondents reported that they do not feel there is enough information on the protocol available compared to 28% who do
- ▶ 10% of respondents feel very informed about the protocol and 78% feel somewhat informed, with the press and social media being one of the primary sources of information, with the Irish government in second place.



Comments from respondents

- “As a microbusiness importing mainly from GB and trading in an all-Ireland connection it would be helpful if a simpler way could be found to record the necessary data required”
- “Extending the Common Travel Area to everyone lawfully resident in either jurisdiction would solve a lot of problems at a stroke”
- “There are so many opportunities for exchanging information, working together, collaborating, and developing better integration that have been either lost or ignored -- and this has led to a feeling of frustration, though not to any reduction in the desire to work together, North and South”



Conclusion

- The overall context of the conditions for cooperation between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and between Northern Ireland and Great Britain in this quarter are predominantly the same as the previous quarter.
- There is a clear trend appearing over the course of the year whereby, at the beginning of 2021 there were clear indications that conditions were deteriorating across all dimensions. By the end of 2021 there is strong evidence that these now deteriorated conditions have become normalised and that there are very few signs of improvements
- At the end of the first year of Brexit following the end of the transition period (and even with many grace periods and mitigations in operation) is that much work is still to be done in order to recover from the disruption caused (and in some cases still being caused) by Brexit.