



Post-Brexit Governance NI

Testing the Temperature XIV

LucidTalk/QUB poll, 3-6th October 2025

Responses: 1960 (sample 1200 modelled responses)

Margin of error +/- 2.3% at 95% confidence

Report available via:

<https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/post-brexit-governance-ni/ProjectPublications/OpinionPolling/>

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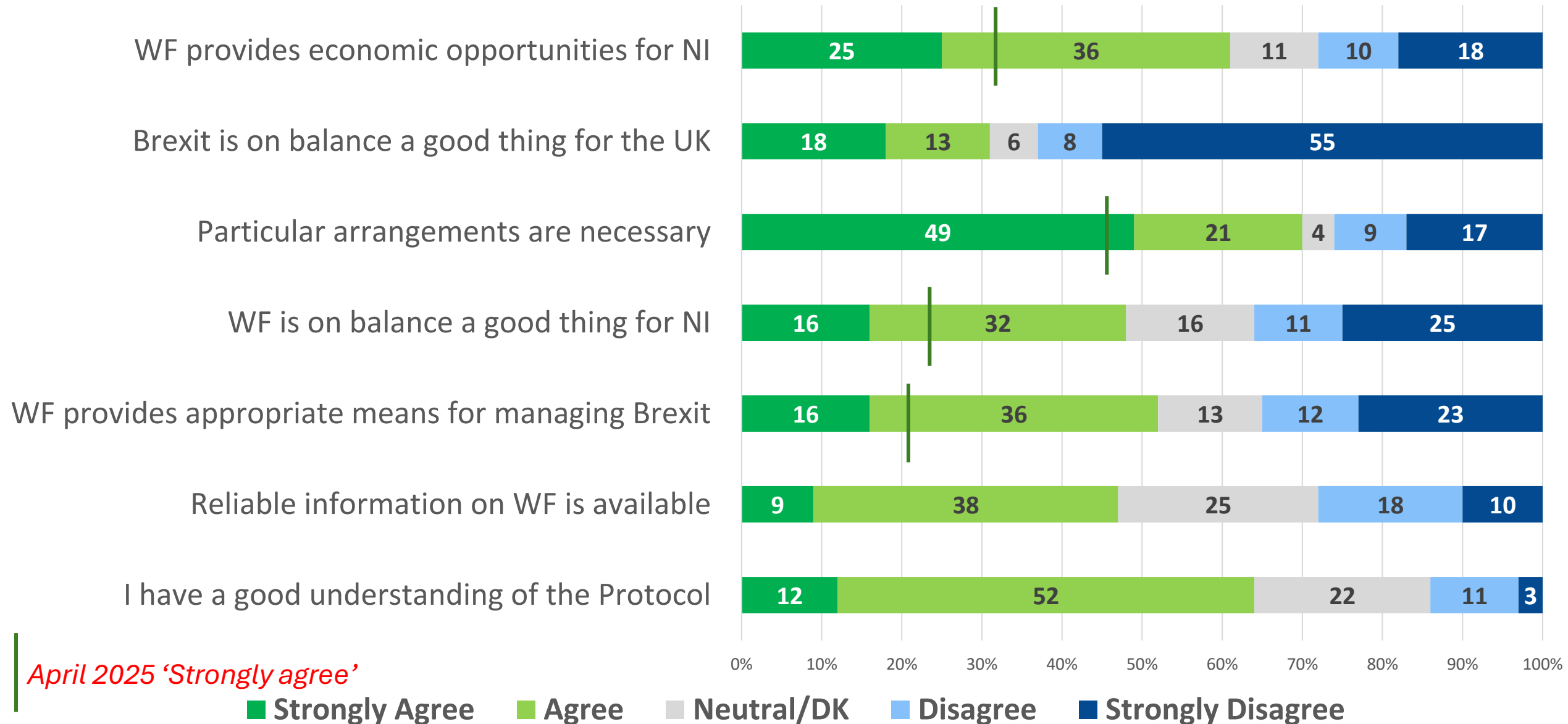
We are grateful to support from the Schools of History, Anthropology, Philosophy & Politics [HAPP] and Social Sciences, Education & Social Work [SSESW] in Queen's University Belfast for making this poll possible.

If a NI Assembly Election were to be held tomorrow which political party would you vote for as first preference?

Showing % difference since previous LucidTalk poll May 2025

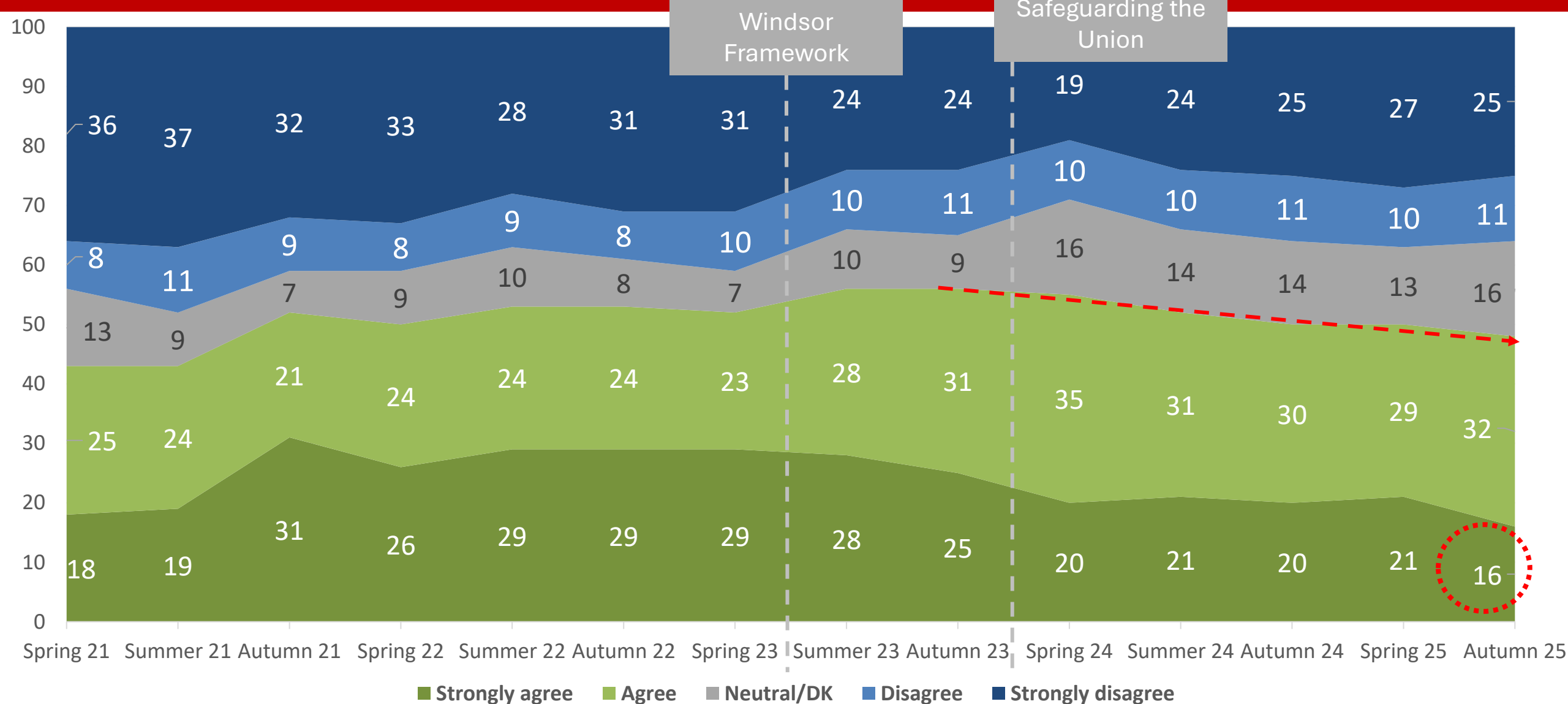


Opinion of the Windsor Framework



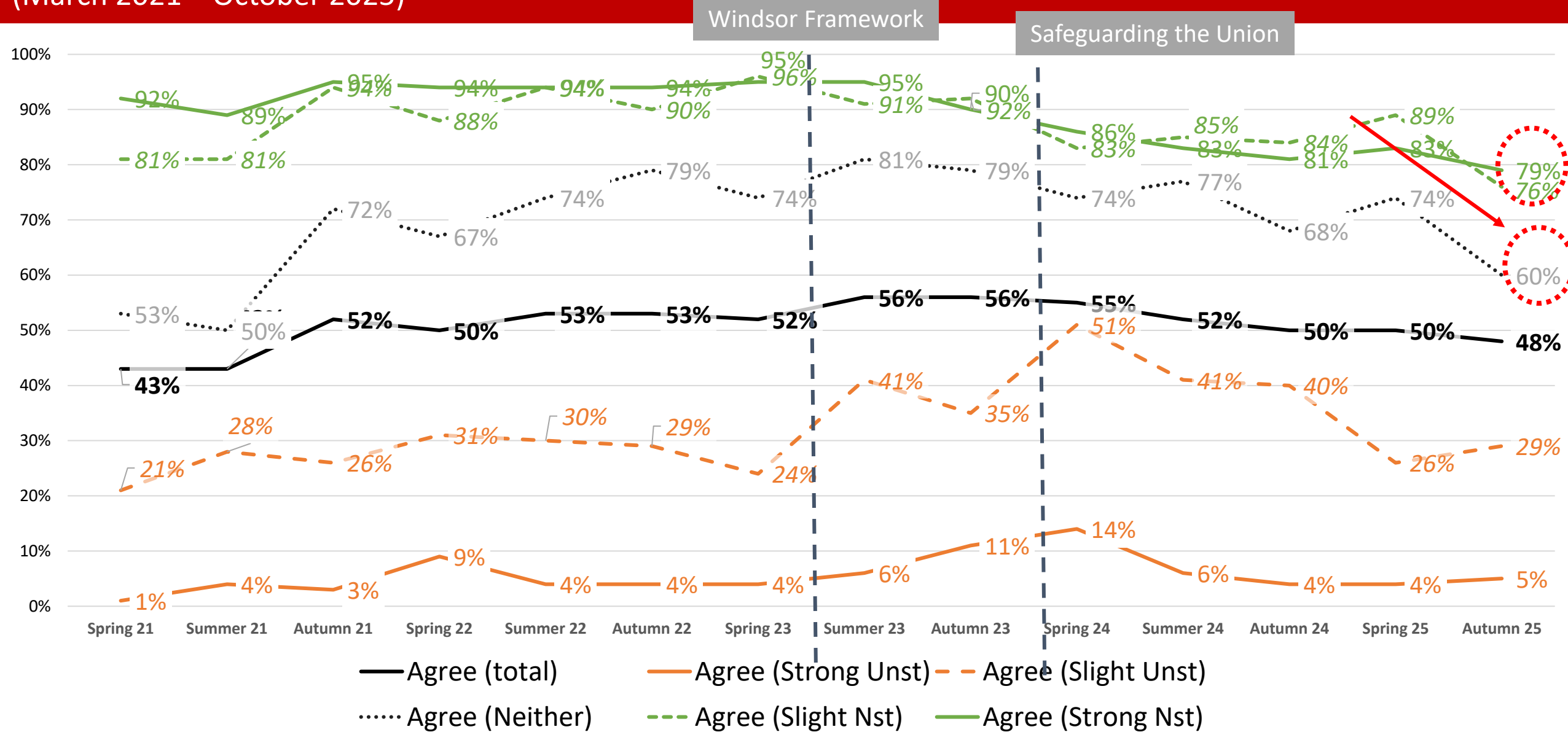
'Protocol/Windsor Framework is on balance a good thing for Northern Ireland'

(March 2021 – October 2025)

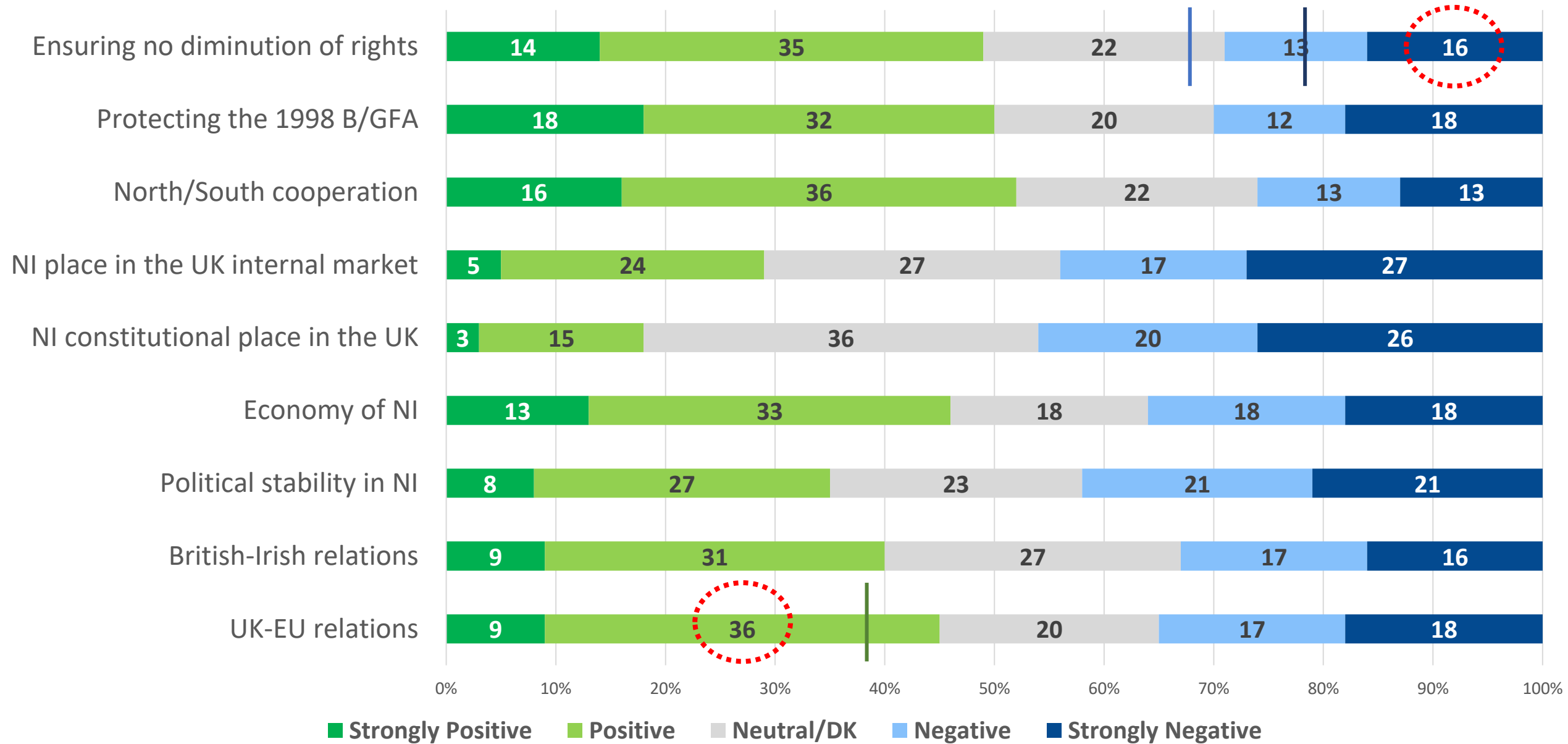


'Protocol/Windsor Framework is on balance a good thing for Northern Ireland'

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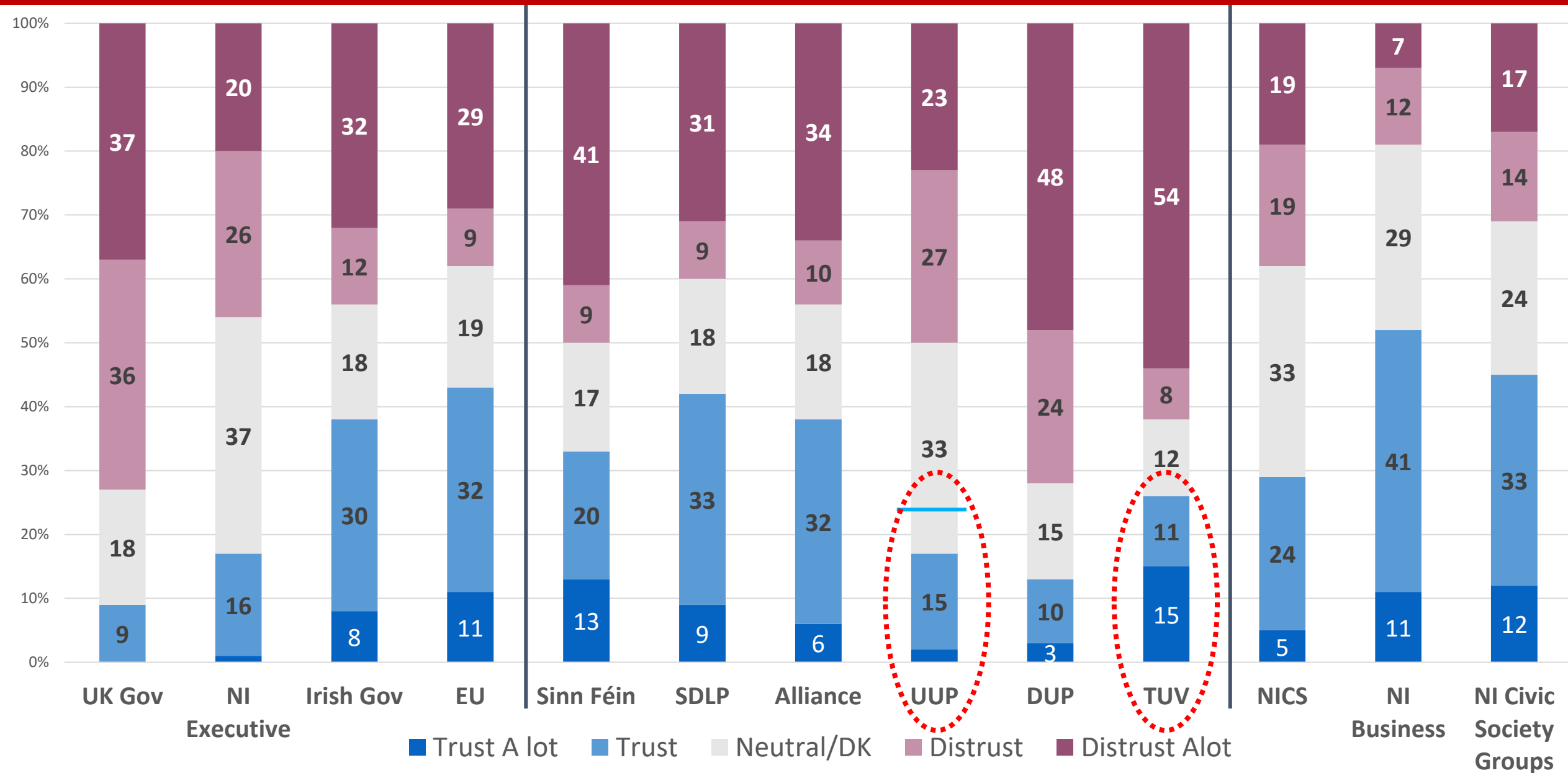
Perceived Impact of the Protocol/Windsor Framework



Testing the Temperature XIV - What do NI Voters Think about the Protocol/Windsor Framework, 3-6 October 2025. Weighted Sample: 1,200

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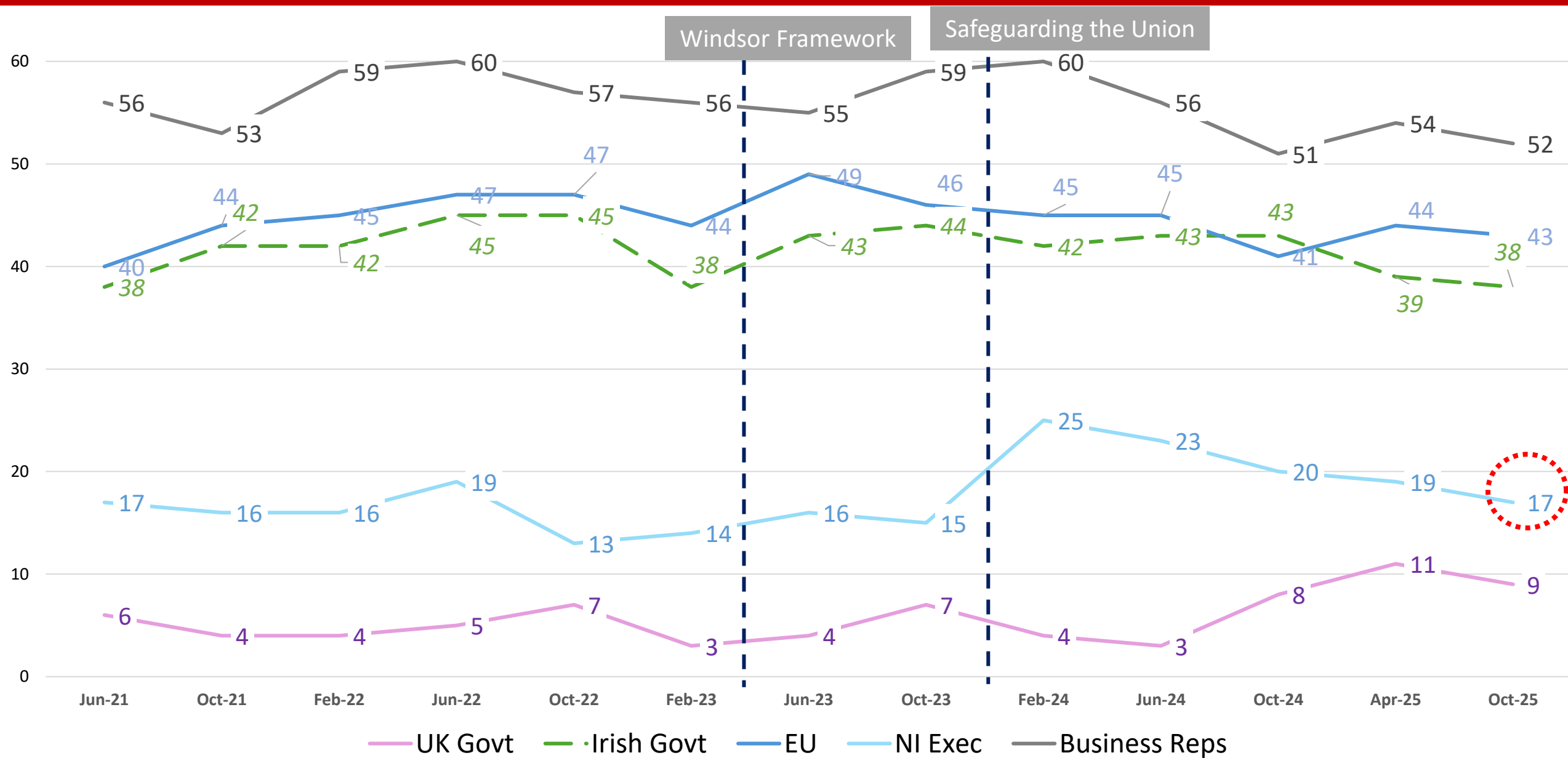
Trust in Managing NI Interests in Relation to the Windsor Framework (%)



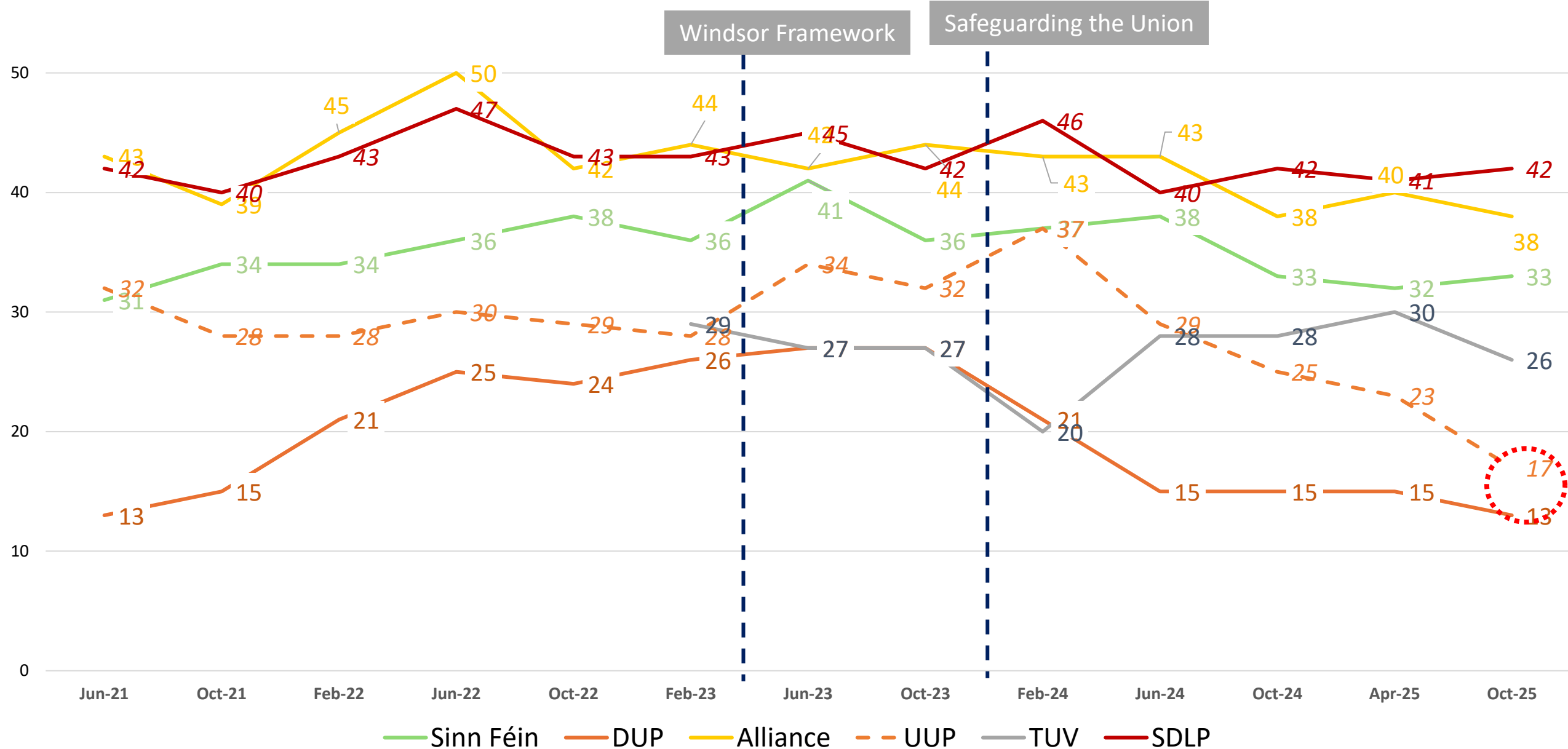
Testing the Temperature XIII - What do NI Voters Think about the Protocol/Windsor Framework, 25-28 April 2025. Weighted Sample: 1,020

(<https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/post-brexit-governance-ni/ProjectPublications/OpinionPolling/>)

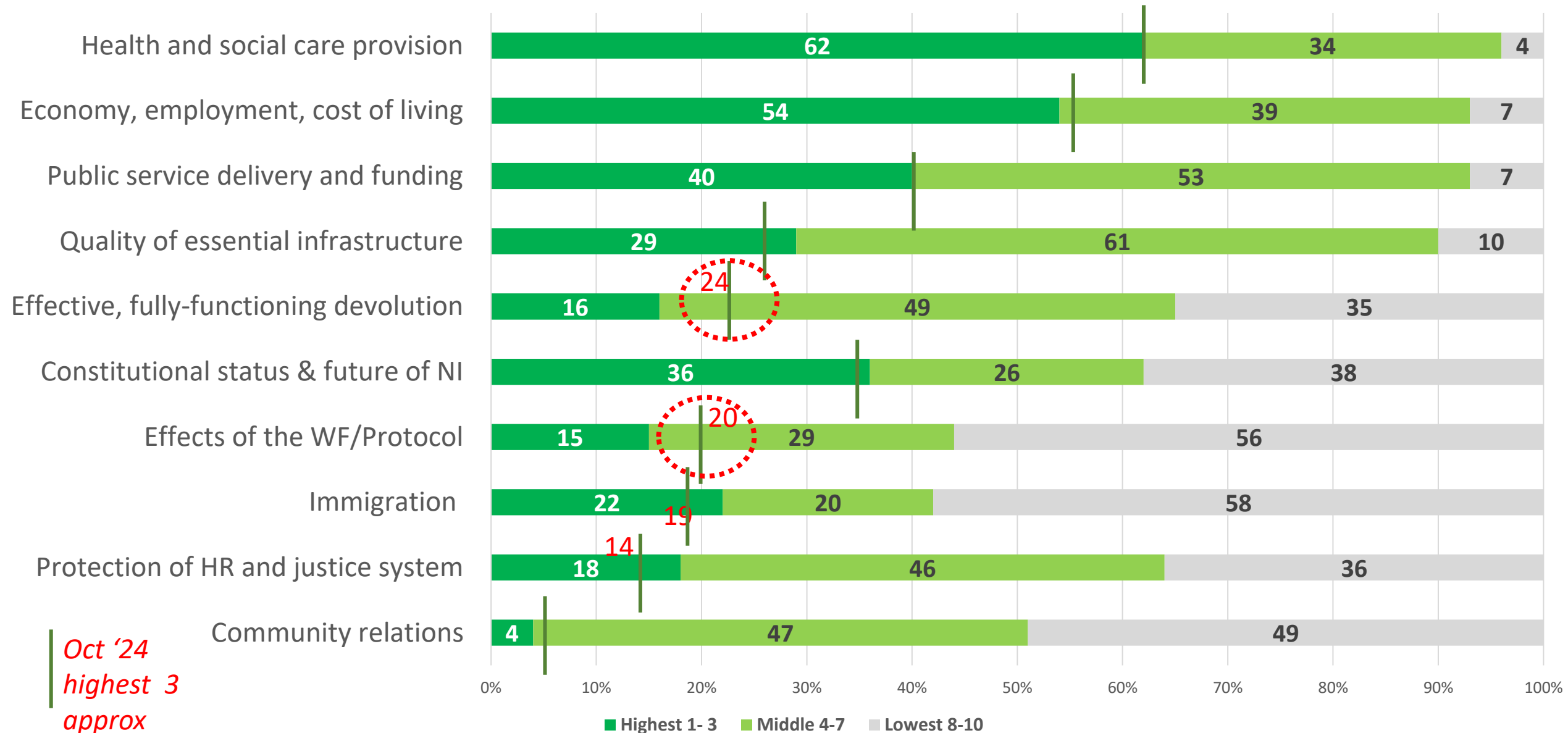
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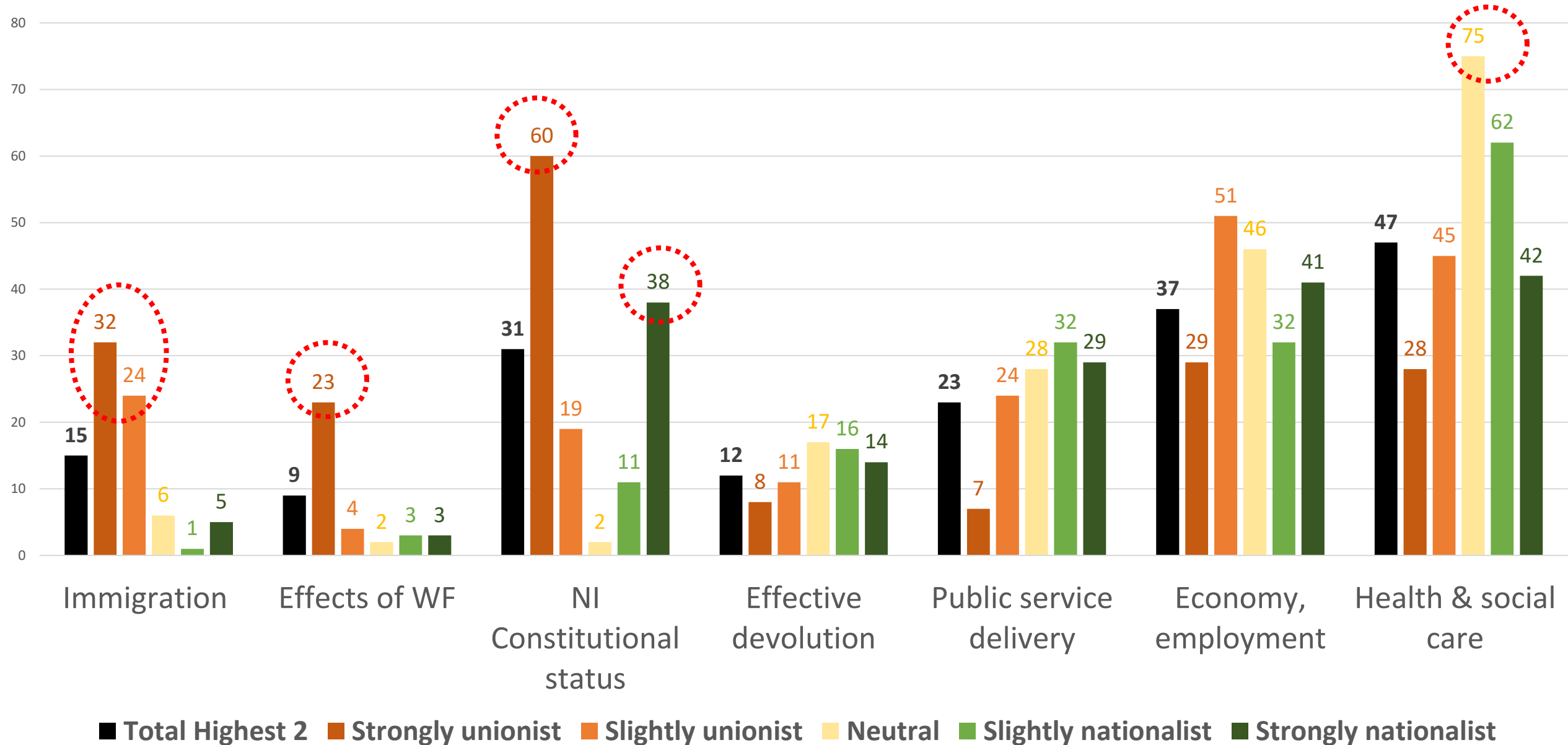
Relative weighting of issues of concern



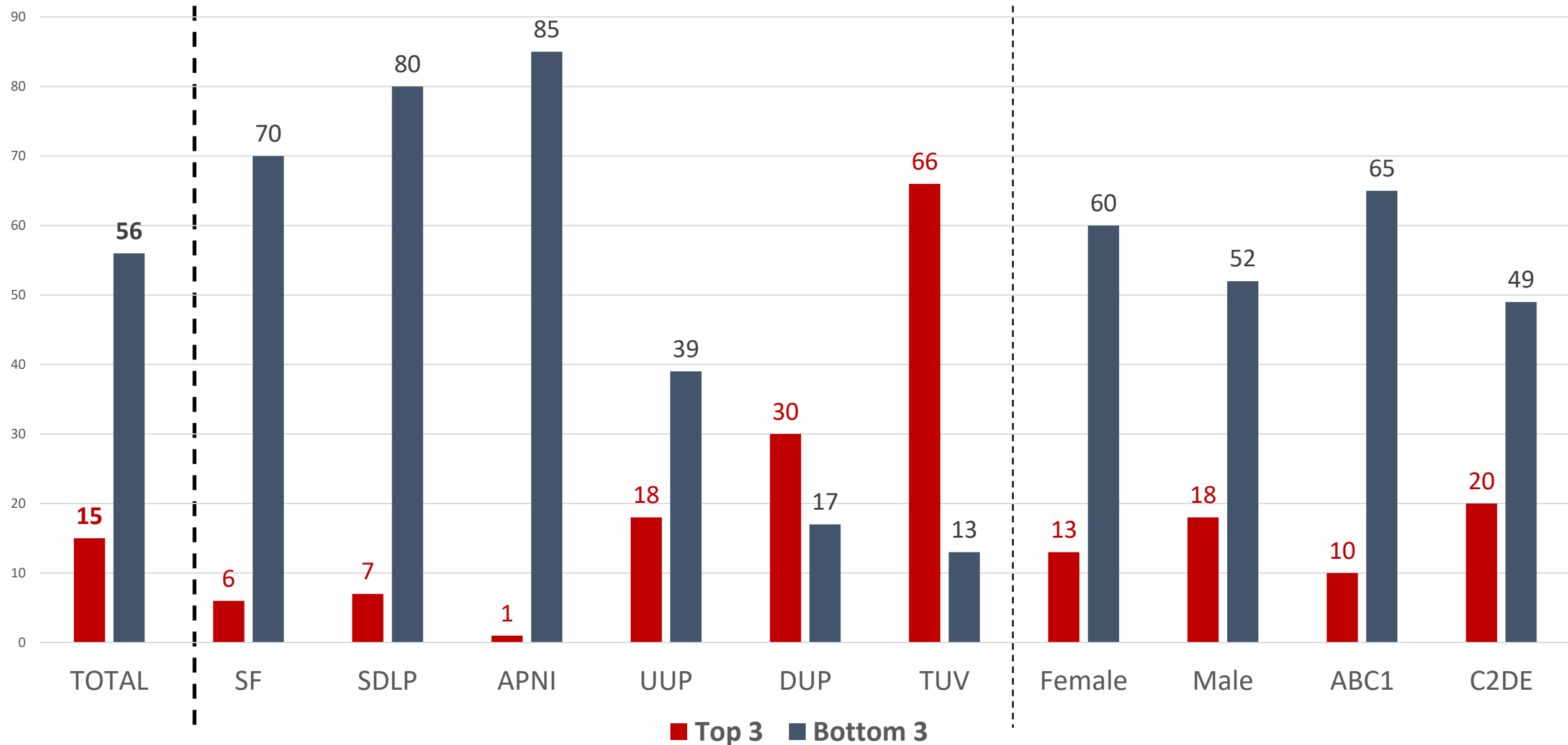
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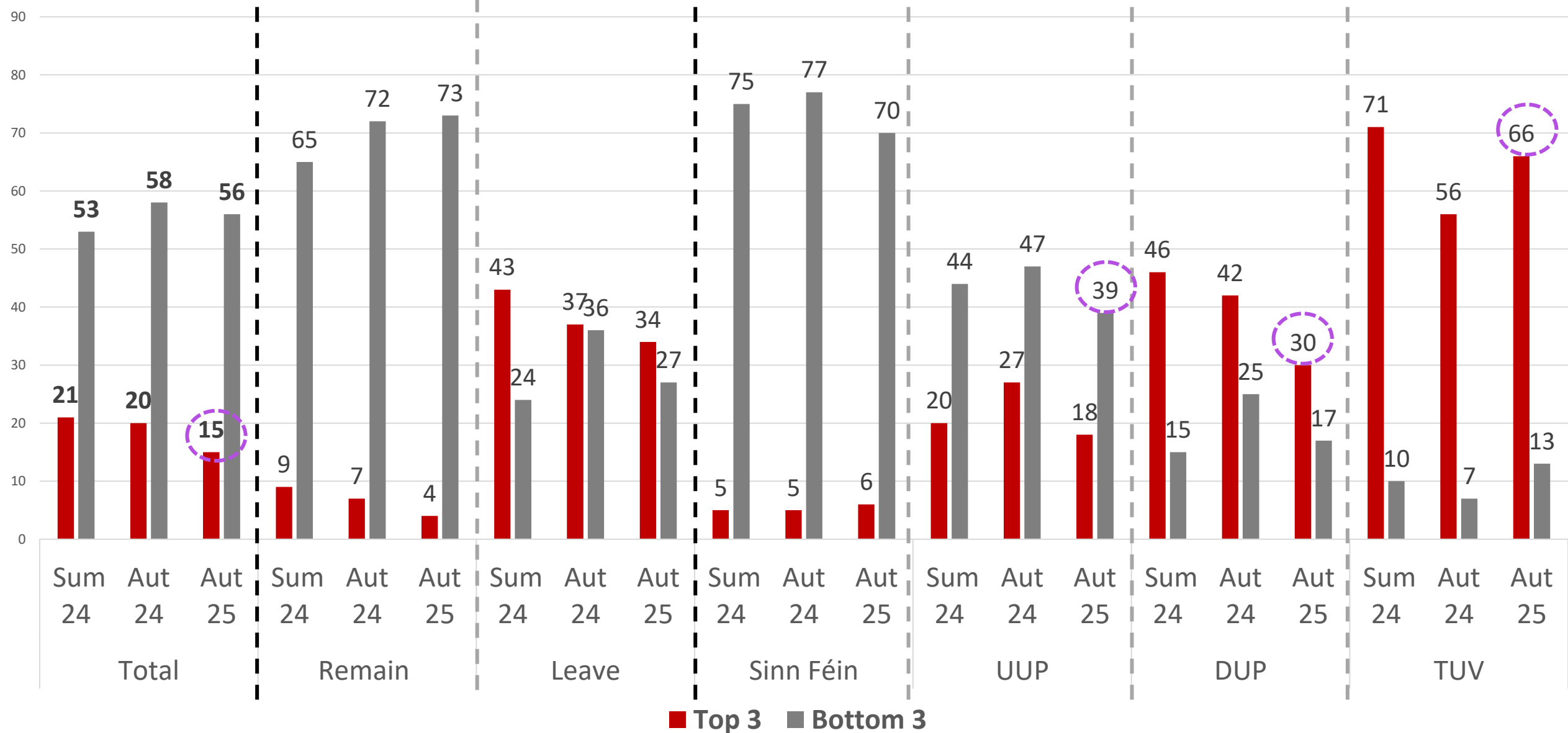
Top 2 ranking for issues of concern



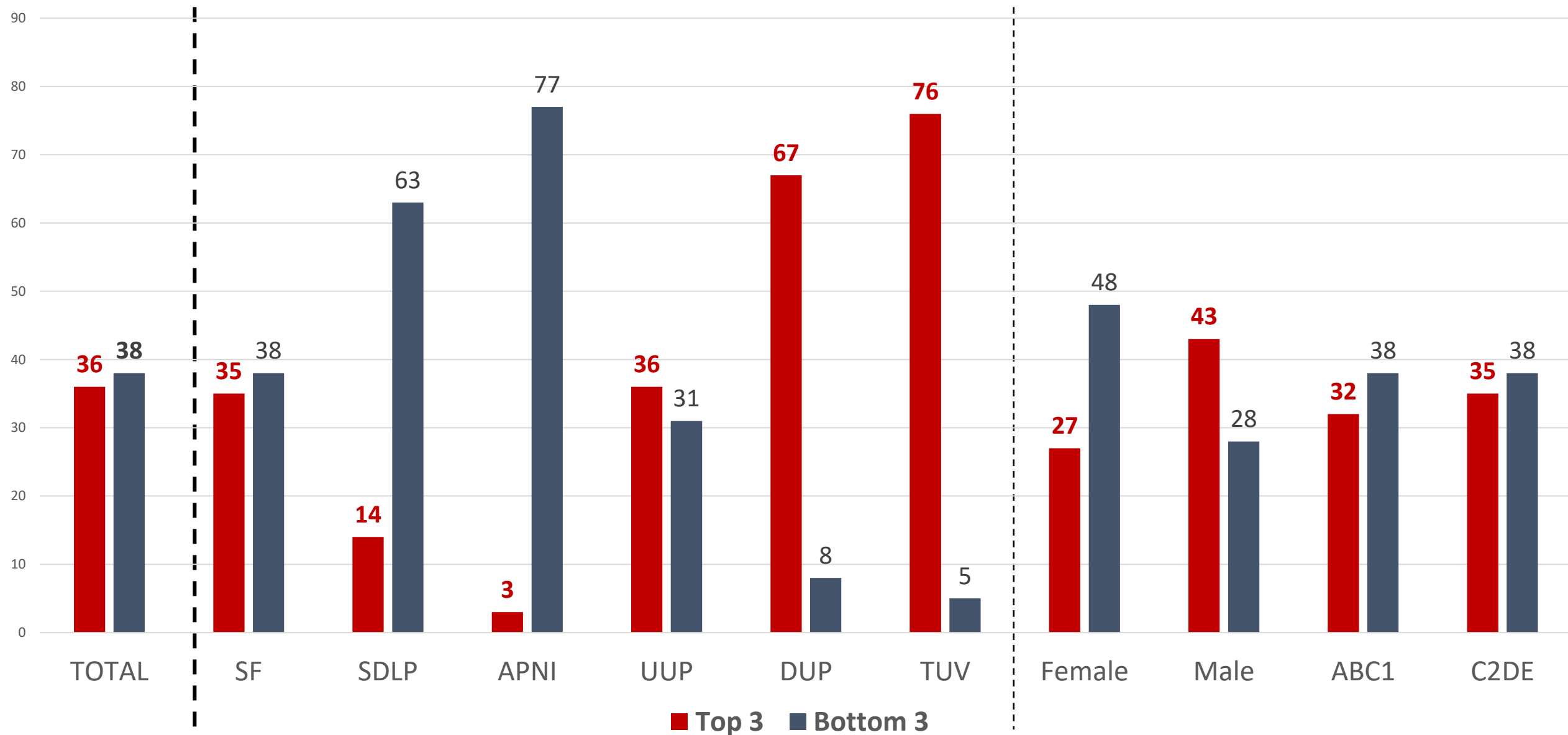
Top 3 and Bottom 3 ranking for Windsor Framework



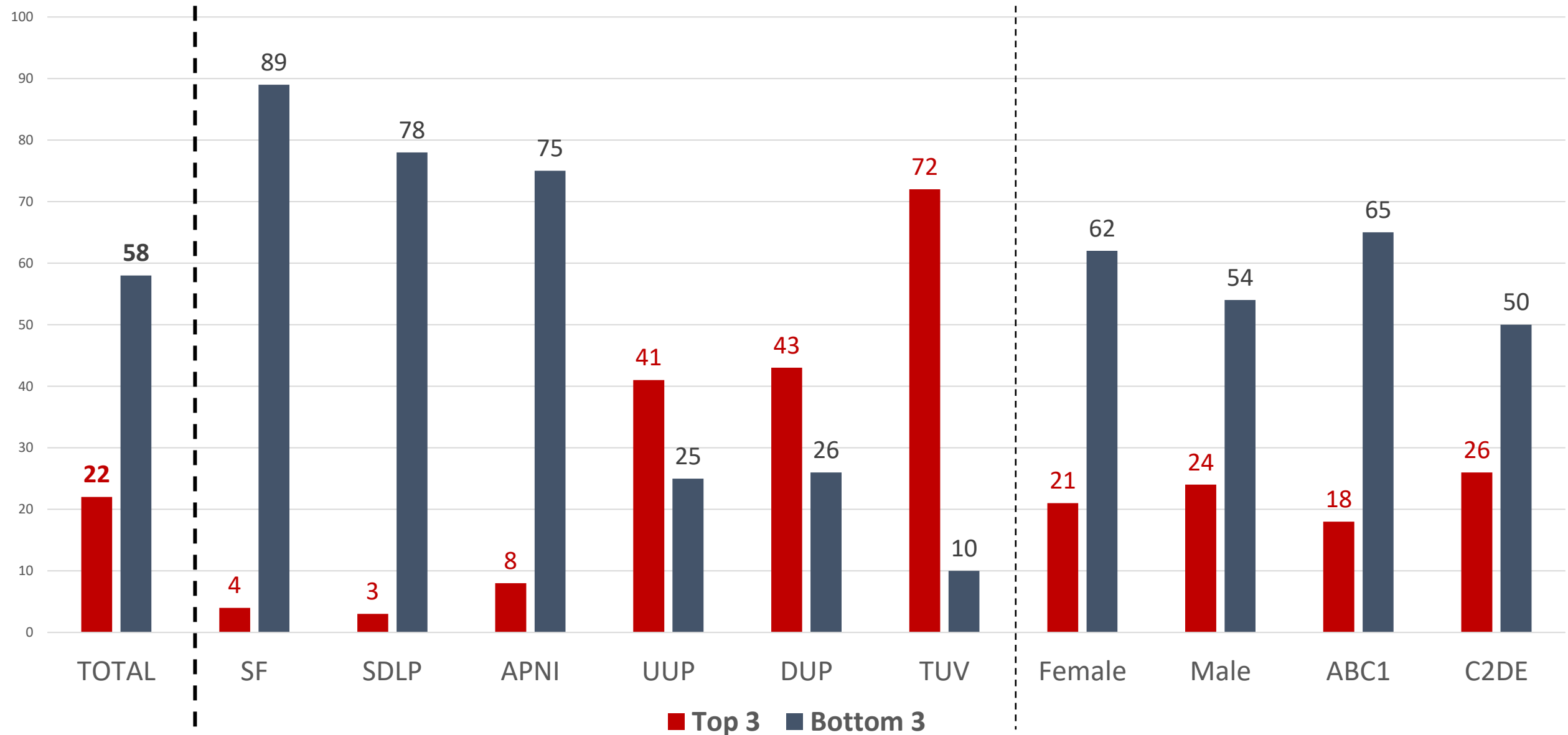
'The effects of the Windsor Framework' (Ranking out of ten) (%)



Top 3 and Bottom 3 ranking for Constitutional Status



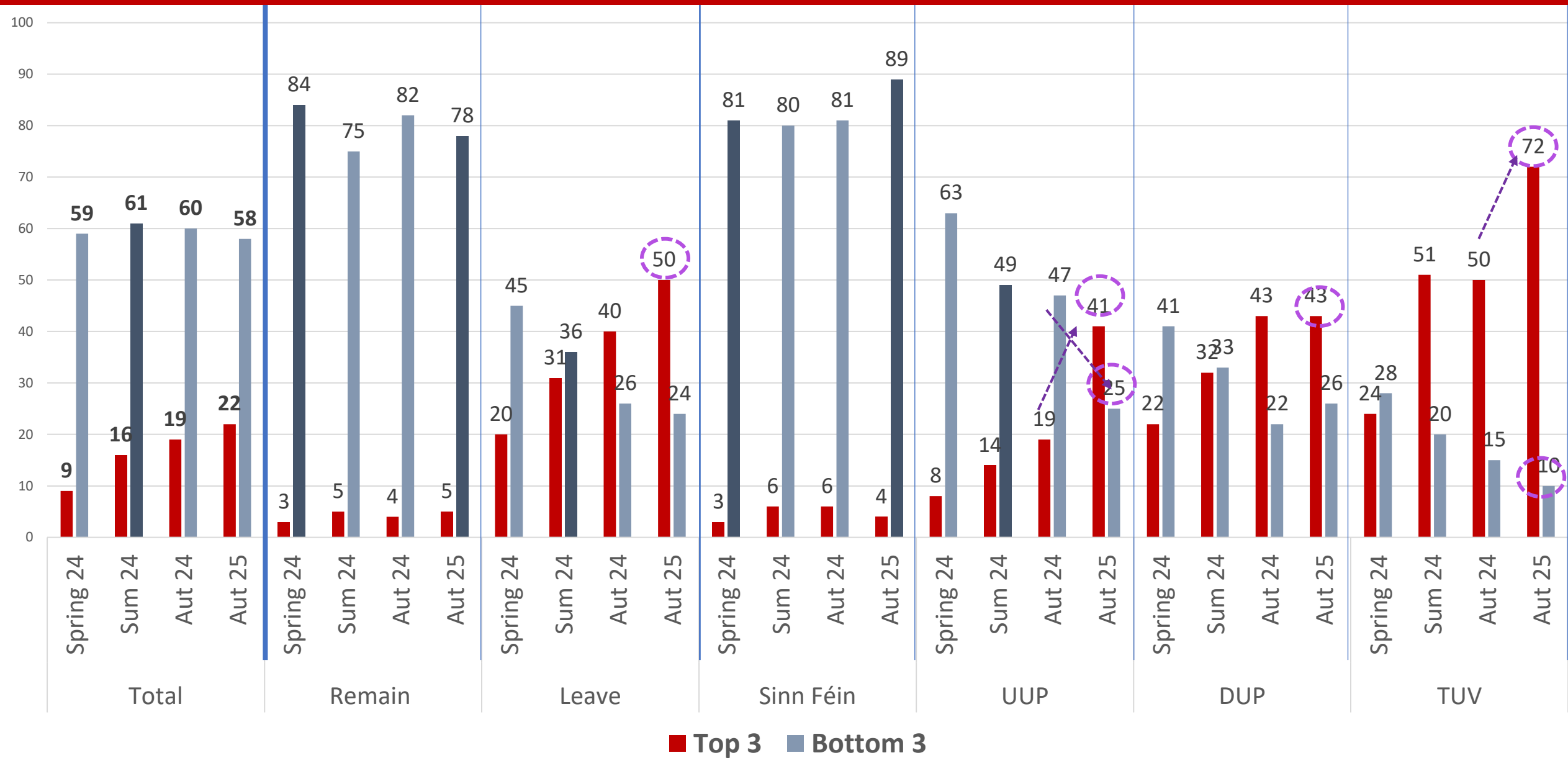
Top 3 and Bottom 3 ranking for Immigration



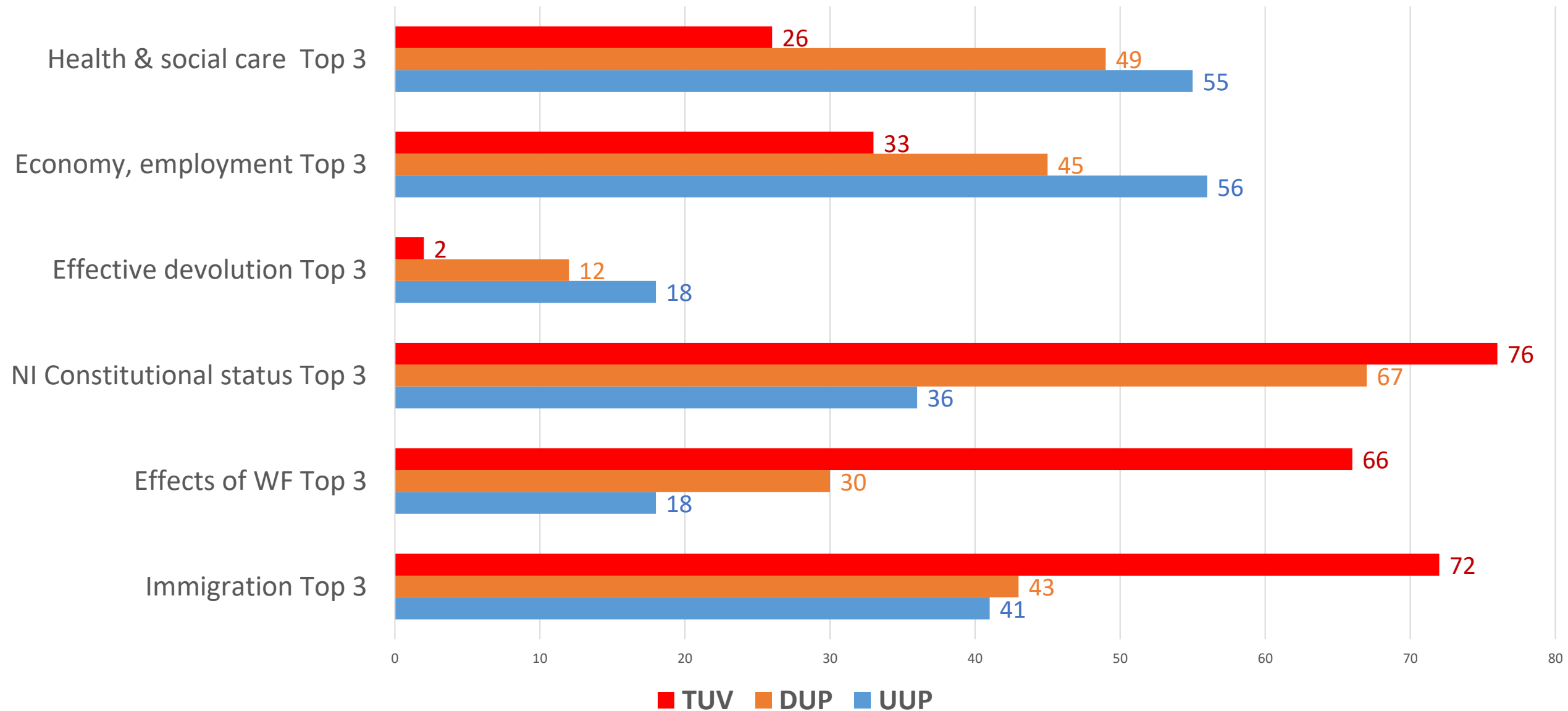
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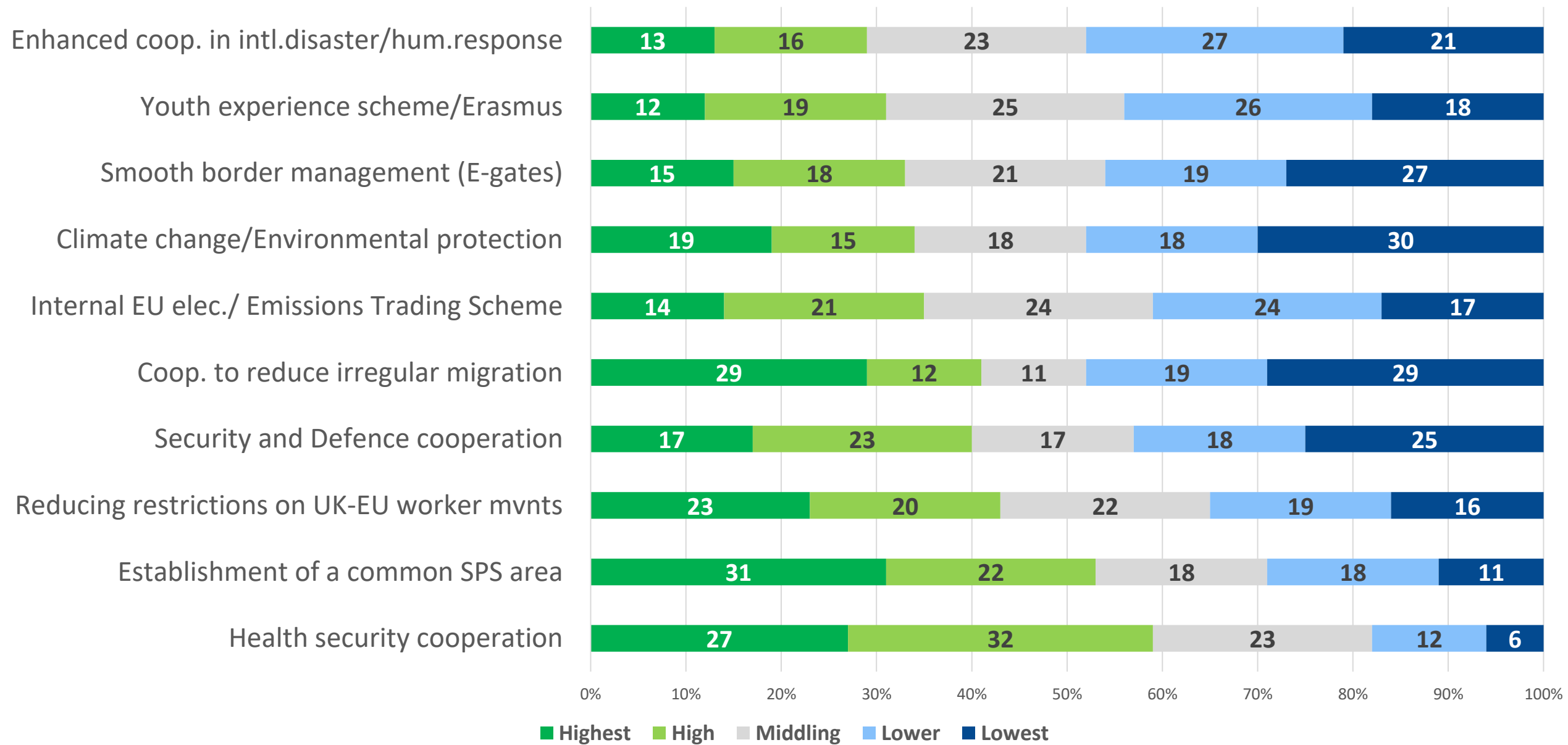
Ranking of Immigration (out of 10)



Top 3 ranking for Unionist parties



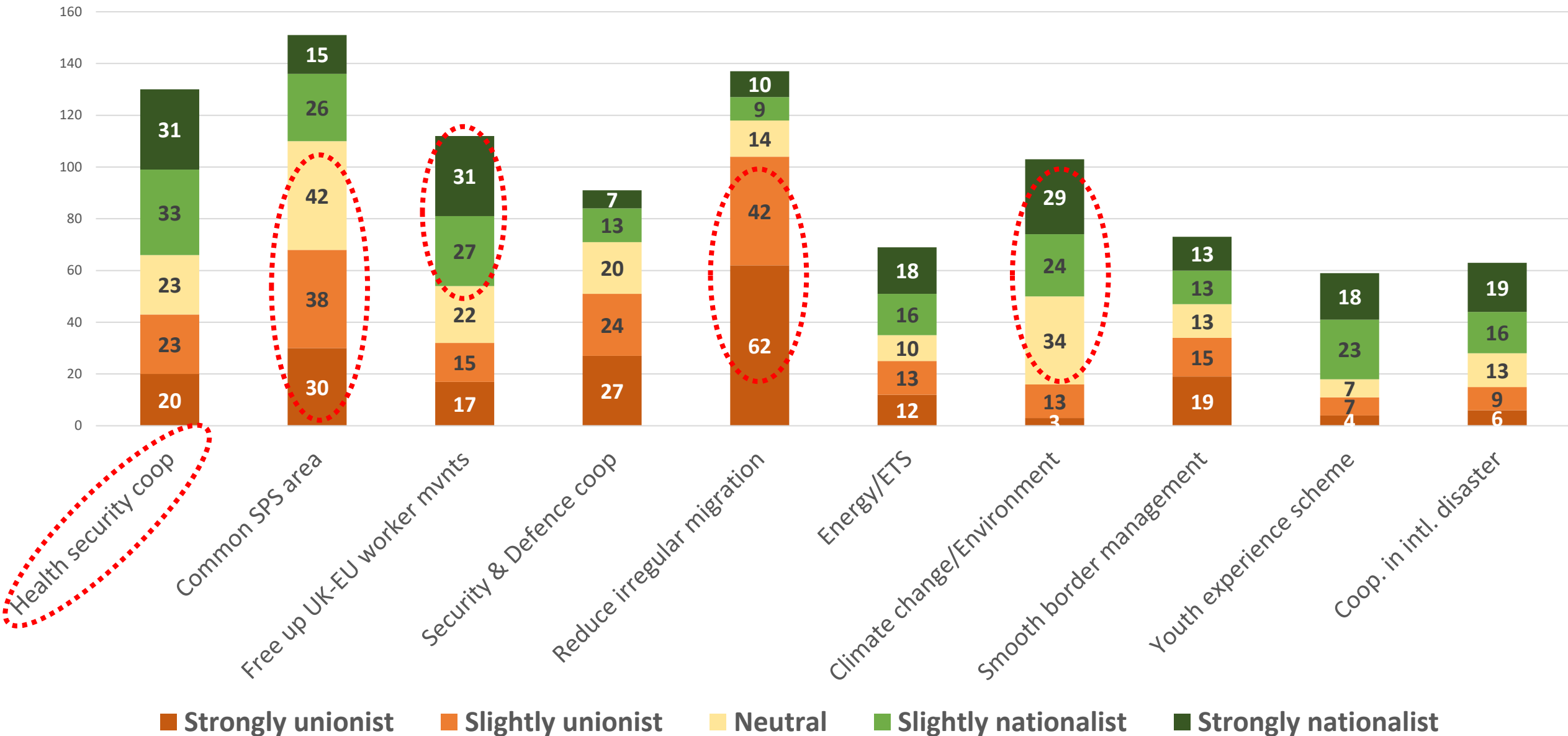
Relative ranking of Priorities for UK-EU relationship



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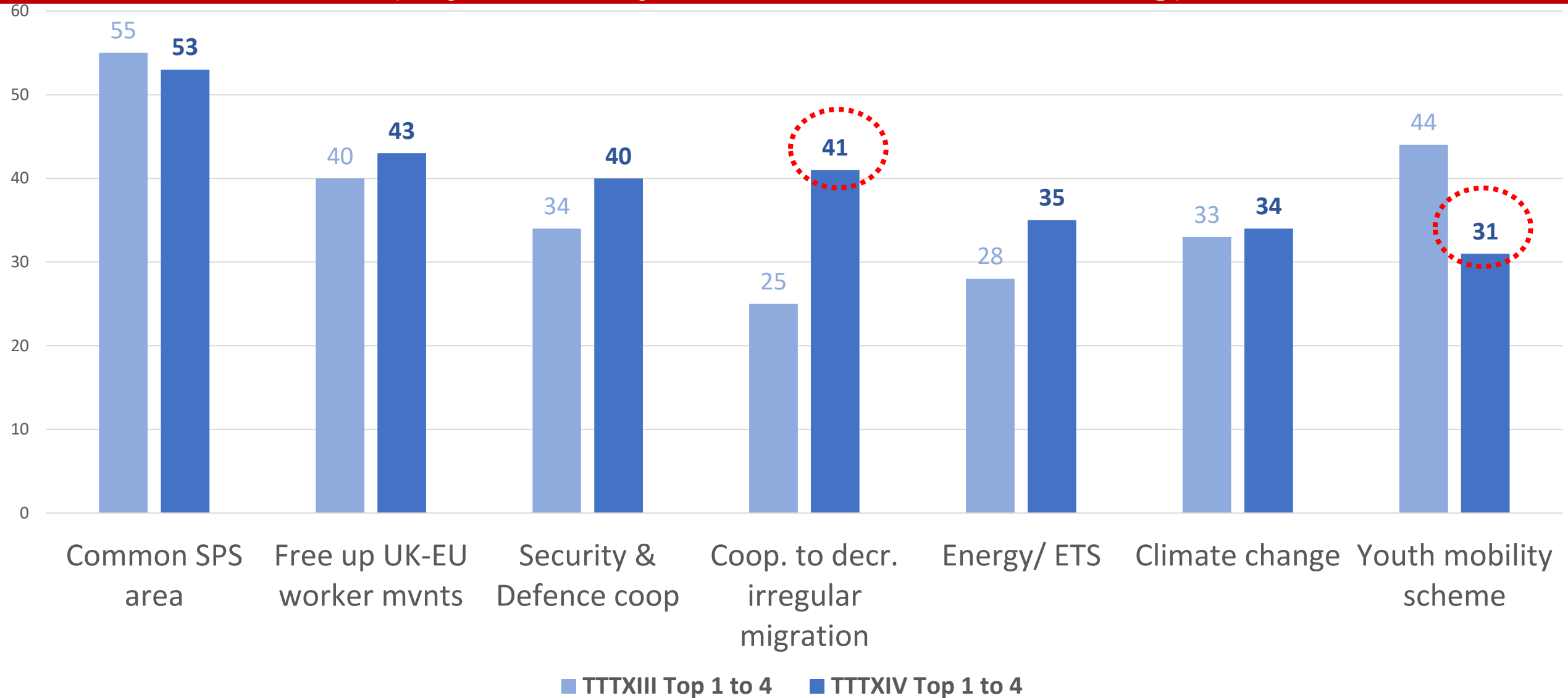
(<https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/post-brexit-governance-ni/ProjectPublications/OpinionPolling/>)

Top 2 Priorities for UK-EU relationship



Relative ranking of Priorities for UK-EU relationship

(Before and after Common Understanding)

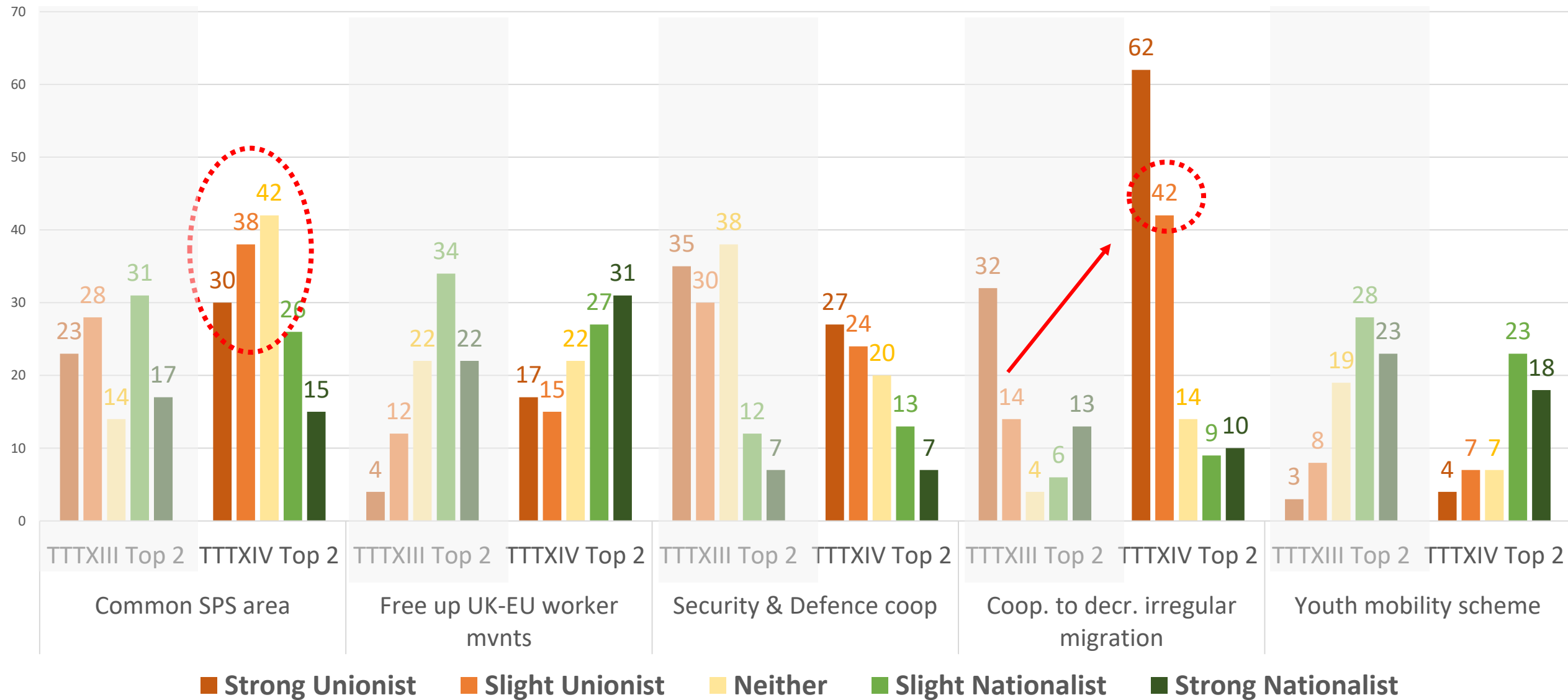


Testing the Temperature XIII & XIV - What do NI Voters Think about the Protocol/Windsor Framework, 3-6 October 2025. Weighted Sample: 1,200

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Priorities for UK-EU - % highest ranking by Political affiliation

(Before and after Common Understanding)



Testing the Temperature XIII & XIV - What do NI Voters Think about the Protocol/Windsor Framework, 3-6 October 2025. Weighted Sample: 1,200

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Relative ranking of Recommendations from Lord Murphy's Report

Size of Office of NI Exec in Brussels shd be increased

NIA Democ Scrutiny Cttee shd have more expert advice

More coordn. so NI civil servants can incr. advice on WF

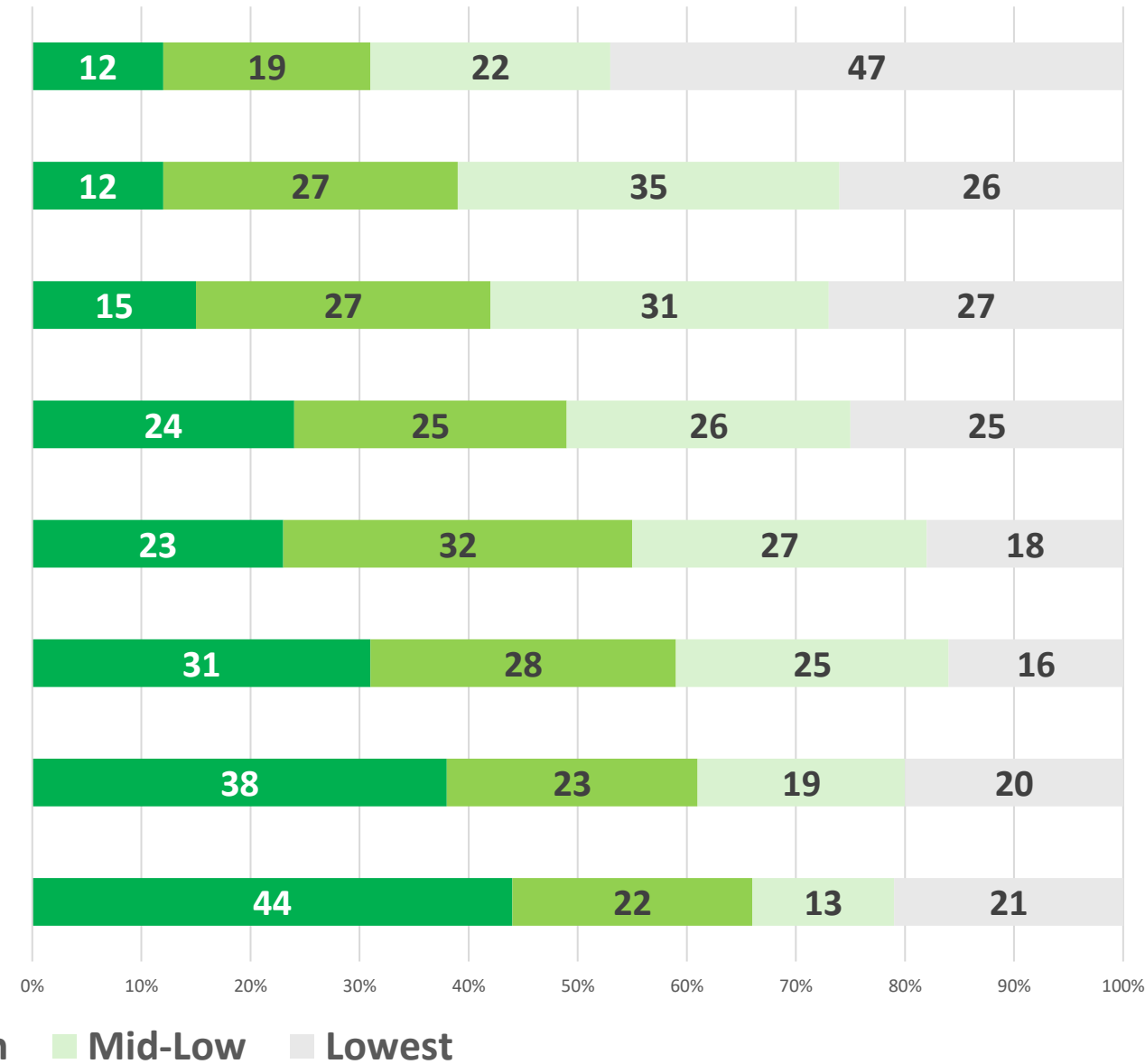
UKG & NIE gtr regard for Art 2 in drafting legisln

Broader UKG engagement w/ NI stakeholders on WF

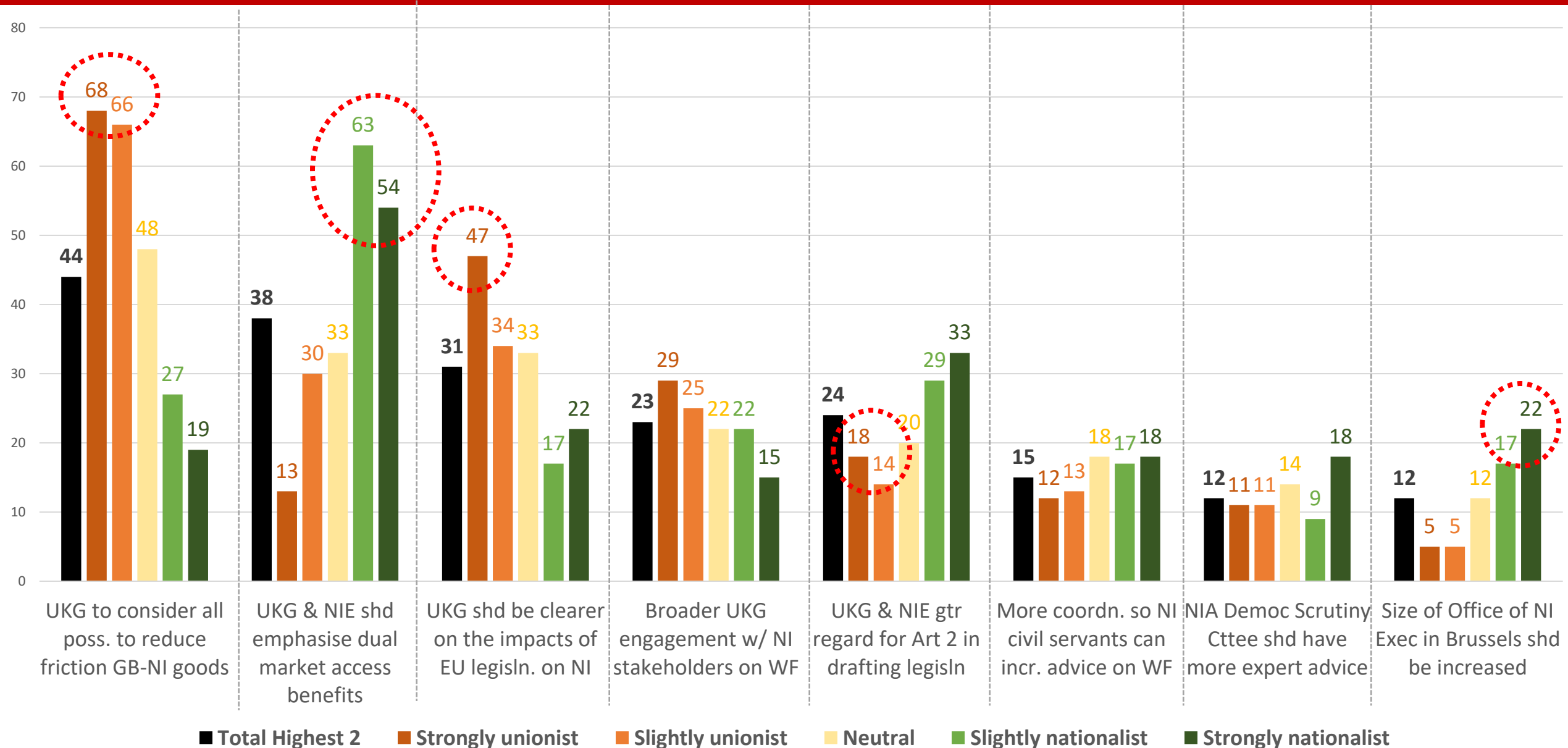
UKG shd be clearer on the impacts of EU legisln. on NI

UKG & NIE shd emphasise dual market access benefits

UKG to consider all poss. to reduce friction GB-NI goods



Top 2 ranking of Murphy's Recommendations by Community



Testing the Temperature XIV - What do NI Voters Think about the Protocol/Windsor Framework, 3-6 October 2025. Weighted Sample: 1,200

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Qualitative comments – Brexit and the WF

1. Brexit: Disillusionment and Division

- Many view Brexit as a “disaster,” citing broken promises, economic harm, and political instability.
- Others support Brexit but feel it was poorly implemented or that Northern Ireland didn’t receive the full benefits.

2. Windsor Framework and the Irish Sea Border

- Many comments criticize the WF for creating trade barriers and undermining NI’s place in the UK.
- Some see it as a deliberate step toward Irish reunification or a betrayal of the 1998 Agreement.

3. Trade, Goods, and Everyday Frustrations

- Respondents report difficulties ordering goods, increased costs, and bureaucratic red tape.
- Frustration with postal delays and customs checks (including north/south)
- Some wish to see more made of NI’s dual market access
- Criticism around lack of information

4. Distrust in political institutions and leadership

- Many express dissatisfaction with the NI Assembly, UK Government, and political parties.
- Some call for non-partisan experts or structural reform.

5. Hard-right comments

- Some respondents express scepticism about climate change, immigration, and EU governance.
- A few mention conspiracy-like fears about digital IDs or globalist agendas.
- There are criticisms of the survey itself

Qualitative comments – Brexit and the WF

1. Brexit: Disillusionment and Division

- Many view Brexit as a “disaster,” citing broken promises, economic harm, and political instability.
- Others support Brexit but feel it was poorly implemented or that Northern Ireland didn’t receive the full benefits.

“Brexit has been a complete disaster and we’re still trying to repair the pointless damage done.”

“Brexit has been and will continue to be an utter shitshow”

“I’m a Brexiteer but we was sold something that isn’t this Brexit.”

“Brexit is a good thing just needs properly implemented to lose all EU laws and echr etc.”

“The Windsor Framework needs scrapped altogether... NI didn’t get Brexit so the people of NI were robbed.”

“We voted for Brexit, but got the Windsor Framework instead 🤔”

2. Windsor Framework and the Irish Sea Border

- Many comments criticize the WF for creating trade barriers and undermining NI’s place in the UK.
- Some see it as a deliberate step toward Irish reunification or a betrayal of the 1998 Agreement.

“The Windsor Agreement increasingly undermines the Union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland”

“Stop trying to sell out Northern Ireland and preparing to hand it over to [the] republic”

“The Windsor Framework drove a horse and coaches through the principle of consent set out in the GFA.”

“The very existence of this internal UK [border] is breaking The Belfast Agreement which I now regard as null and void.”

“The Protocol and WF are all designed to economically align NI with RoI, and bring forward the conditions for a united Ireland. They must be resisted! ”

“It was clearly imposed vindictively upon Northern Ireland by the European Union and Republic of Ireland at their behest. The effects of such has created an enormous amount of ill feeling towards both parties and has set community relations on the back foot ...

Generations of Unionists will harbour resentment of all involved in the Windsor Framework and never forgive them”

Qualitative comments – Practical difficulties

3. Trade, Goods, and Everyday Frustrations

- Respondents report difficulties ordering goods, increased costs, and bureaucratic red tape.
- Frustration with postal delays and customs checks (including north/south)
- Some wish to see more made of NI's dual market access
- Criticism around lack of information

"Being unable to purchase simple items from UK is very frustrating."

"You know the UK/NI link is broken when a £1-99 packet seeds from GB needs a £200 phytosanitary-sanitary certificate."

"The bureaucracy that discourages GB retailers from dealing with potential customers in NI should be removed."

"Do not want to find an alternative to UK goods from Ireland which seems to be what's happening. Costs going up and standards going down because of this."

"The impact on the postal service and "customs" checks between the Republic of Ireland and NI. Days from posting in

Republic to delivery in NI is often up to 12 days. Is NI in the single market or not?"

"Promotion of Northern Ireland's position in relation to UK and EU access is not being shouted about across the globe enough."

"Our unique circumstance in Northern Ireland has been the biggest financial & economic opportunity ever for us. However our politicians have spectacularly failed to take advantage of this situation "

"Both the UK and N.I. governments should provide quick rebuttals to false claims put out by people and parties regarding the effects of the Windsor framework. i.e recent claim by TUV that customs forms were needed to post chocolates from GB to N.I. when the error was made by an ill informed GB post office."

Qualitative comments – Scepticism and extremism

4. Distrust in political institutions and leadership

- Many express dissatisfaction with the NI Assembly, UK Government, and political parties.
- Some call for non-partisan experts or structural reform.

“The devolved government in NI simply doesn't work.”

“Our politicians should come together to embrace the Framework, rather than promoting division.”

“The EU should have zero say in anything to do with Northern Ireland.”

“The British governments have proven to be pro-Irish Republican, as are the Irish government, the USA and EU. There is no effective voice for Unionists at any level, other than the TUV, which I hadn't expected to ever be writing.”

“The GFA now longer exists as its main Tenet has been broken. Not a single Unionist agrees with the Protocol or Windsor Agreement. I am Incandescent!”

5. Hard-right comments

- Some respondents express scepticism about climate change, immigration, and EU governance.
- A few mention conspiracy-like fears about digital IDs or globalist agendas.
- There are criticisms of the survey itself

“Needs to be a 3rd world war to stop woke thinking. ”

“I want nothing to do with the EU and I do not believe there is a climate crisis. ”

“The EU is a joke... a corrupt money grab.”

“I believe the EU is dangerously influencing Digital IDs and the tyrannical control that this can permit.”

“The Unionist parties should become persuaders of the republic to also leave the EU. Hopefully, when Reform UK forms the next Westminster Government, all immigrants and asylum seekers will be deported back to their country of origin.”

“Your survey seems biased in favour of globalist policies. We see you.”
“We are being dragged back into EU by the REMOANERS... We want nothing to do with military coalitions , Human Rights coalitions etc. Von Der Leyen is a War Monger. This Survey is Tainted.”

Key points

- **Slight decline in people thinking the WF is on balance good** for NI (48% down from 50%. *NB less than margin of error*)
 - Cooling towards WF particularly notable among nationalists & others
 - No diminution of rights being picked up by strong unionists
- **Priorities on WF**
 - Dual market access priority for nationalists
 - Reducing frictions on GB-NI priority for unionists
- **Post-UK-EU Common Understanding**
 - Health security cooperation most popular
 - Slight improvement in perceived impact of WF on UK-EU relations
- **Issues of concern**
 - WF slightly declining in importance for DUP but rising for TUV
 - UUP has moved to same realm as DUP re: immigration, inc. in wish to see UK-EU tackle the issue