

Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework

Public opinion from questions on the 2019/20 Continuous Household Survey

Outcomes Bulletin

This report presents the overall results on how people view each of the 12 draft Programme for Government Outcomes.

Available population characteristics:

Sex, Age, Deprivation, Employment status, Religion, Health, Disability, Urban/Rural, Dependants, Sexual identity, Ethnicity, Marital status, Qualifications

Separate bulletins focusing on each of these characteristics and each of the Outcomes is available [on the TEO website](#).

Key findings

- Over 7 in 10 (71%) people agreed with both Outcome 8 (We care for others and we help those in need) and Outcome 12 (We give our children and young people the best start in life), which were the highest across all 12 Outcomes. These Outcomes also had the highest agreement rates in 2018/19, with 70% and 71% respectively.
- Less than a third (32%) of people agreed with both Outcome 1 (We have a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy) and Outcome 2 (We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment) – the lowest rates across all 12 Outcomes. These Outcomes also had the lowest agreement rates in 2018/19, at 33% and 35% respectively.
- These were also the only two Outcomes where more people disagreed than agreed. The difference was greater in Outcome 2 where 40% disagreed, compared with 32% who agreed; while in Outcome 1 35% disagreed, compared with 32% who agreed.
- Outcome 8 had the highest mean score at 3.66, followed by Outcome 12 at 3.65. Scores above 3.00 indicate on average respondents agreed more than they disagreed with this Outcome statement. These two Outcomes also had the top two mean scores in 2018/19, although the order was reversed (Outcome 12 = 3.67 and Outcome 8 = 3.65).
- Outcome 12 had the most statistically significant differences by population characteristics (12 out of 13 characteristics analysed), suggesting a mixed reaction to this statement. Outcome 10 (We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest) had the least, with four of 13.

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Draft Programme for Government & Outcomes Delivery Plan

The former Executive had agreed to develop a Programme for Government (PfG) for Northern Ireland with the stated purpose of “Improving wellbeing for all – by tackling disadvantage and driving economic growth”.

The contents of the PfG were developed following extensive public consultation in 2016-17, to gather citizens’ views on what the priorities of government should be in order to deliver for the population. The [“Our Population: What Matters Most?” publication](#) provides more details on the issues identified that helped develop the subsequent PfG framework.

The draft PfG framework is used as the basis for the Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP) which focuses on 12 stated Outcomes in key areas of economic and societal well-being. More information on the Outcomes Delivery Plan, draft Programme for Government and the Outcomes framework can be found on the [“Making Government Work” page](#).

Data presentation and terms

This report is focussed on the key findings for each of the 12 Outcome statements. There are two ways we measure the results:

- **Percentage** – that is, how many people as a percentage of the total responded with a given answer. For example, “The Outcome with which most respondents disagreed was Outcome 2 at 40%” or “At 28%, Outcome 11 had the highest proportion of neutral responses”
- **Mean score** – responses to the Outcome statements are given a value between 1 and 5, where 1 = “Strongly disagree” and 5 = “Strongly agree”. We use this to calculate the average (mean) response to that Outcome statement. The higher the mean, the more people agreed with the statement. For example, a mean score of 3.00 (exactly in the middle of 1 and 5) tells us that respondents, on average, neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. A mean score of 3.50 would suggest that, on average, respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement

The full list of the 12 Outcome statements are available below.

1. We have a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy
2. We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment
3. We have a more equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
5. We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity
10. We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
11. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
12. We give our children and young people the best start in life

Further information on the analysis and the survey are available in [Annex A](#).

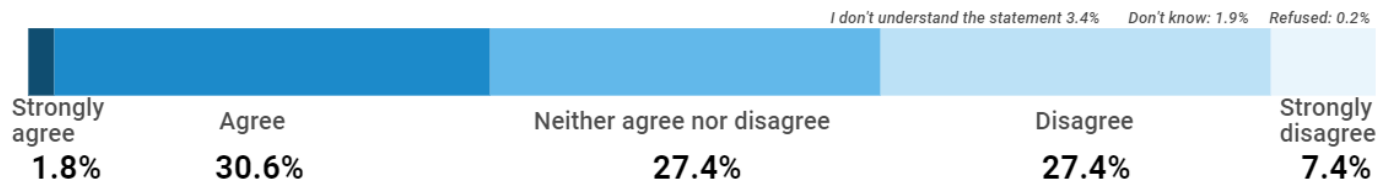
Outcome 1

“We have a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy”

Key findings

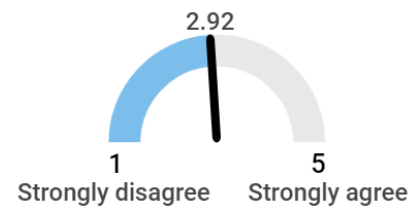
Outcome 1 had the second highest proportion of respondents answering “Neither agree nor disagree”. At 27%, this was less than the proportion of those agreeing (32%) and disagreeing (35%). The agreement rate for this Outcome was the joint lowest of all Outcomes, and is similar to the results in 2018/19 where this Outcome had the lowest agreement rate of all Outcomes at 33%. Outcome 1 also had the second highest proportion of respondents answering “I do not understand the statement” (3.4%).

Figure 1.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 1






When we look at the average score for each Outcome, Outcome 1 is ranked 11th of 12, with a mean score of 2.92. At just below 3.00, this means respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we have a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy”.

Figure 1.2: Mean score for Outcome 1








Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in eight, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. The highest score was found among those from other ethnic groups (3.59). The lowest score was found among respondents with a gay/lesbian/bisexual/other sexual identity (2.65) – this was also the case for four other Outcomes (Outcomes 6, 8, 9 and 11).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.92
 Age	Those aged 45-54 and 55-64 agreed significantly less* than those aged 16-24, 25-34 and 65+.	Aged 16-24: 3.16 Aged 25-34: 3.05 Aged 35-44: 2.89 Aged 45-54: 2.77 Aged 55-64: 2.74 Aged 65 and over: 2.95
 Religion	Protestants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 1 statement than both Catholics and those whose religion was Other/None/Refused/Don't know.	Catholic: 2.85 Protestant: 3.00 Other: 2.86
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 1 statement than those with fair health and those with very bad/bad health.	Very good/good: 2.97 Fair: 2.81 Very bad/bad: 2.70

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.92
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.83 Without disability: 2.95
 Dependants	Those with dependants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 1 statement than those without dependants.	With dependants: 2.87 Without dependants: 2.95
 Sexual identity	Those who were heterosexual/straight agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 1 statement than those who were gay/lesbian/bisexual/other.	Heterosexual/Straight: 2.92 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Other: 2.65
 Ethnicity	Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than those from other ethnic groups.	White: 2.90 Other: 3.59
 Qualifications	Those with degree or higher qualifications agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 1 statement than those with all other qualifications and those with no qualifications.	No qualifications: 2.95 Degree or higher: 2.74 All other qualifications: 3.01

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

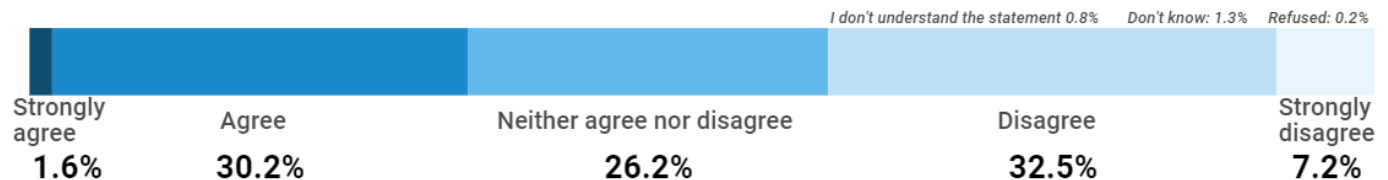
Outcome 2

“We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment”

Key findings

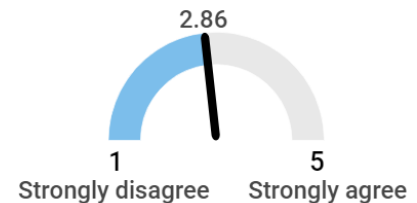
Outcome 2 had the highest proportion of respondents answering “disagree or strongly disagree”. At 40%, this was higher than the proportion of neutral responses (26%) and those agreeing (32%), and one of only two Outcomes where this was the case. At 32%, the agreement rate was the lowest observed across all 12 Outcomes. This agreement rate is lower than the 2018/19 rate (35%), where it was the second lowest for that year.

Figure 2.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 2







As a result of having the highest proportion of “disagree or strongly disagree” responses, Outcome 2 also has the lowest overall mean score across the Outcomes, with a mean score of 2.86. As this is below 3.00, this means respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we live and work sustainably - protecting the environment”.

Figure 2.2: Mean score for Outcome 2





Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in five, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. The lowest score was found among those aged 45-54 (2.69) and the highest score was found among those from other ethnic groups (3.54).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		2.86
 Sex	Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than males.	Male: 2.91 Female: 2.81
 Age	For age group, we see a number of significant differences. As well as having the highest mean score, those aged 65+ agreed significantly more* than those aged 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64. Those aged 45-54 agreed significantly less* than those aged 25-34.	Aged 16-24: 2.89 Aged 25-34: 2.89 Aged 35-44: 2.85 Aged 45-54: 2.69 Aged 55-64: 2.79 Aged 65 and over: 3.02
 Employment status	Those not in paid employment agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 2 statement than those in paid employment.	In paid employment: 2.81 Not in paid employment: 2.92
 Religion	Protestants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 2 statement than Catholics.	Catholic: 2.76 Protestant: 2.96 Other: 2.83

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.86
	<i>Ethnicity</i>	Those from other ethnic groups agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 2 statement than those from a white ethnic group.
	<i>Qualifications</i>	Those with degree or higher qualifications agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 2 statement than those with all other qualifications and those with no qualifications.
		No qualifications: 3.01 Degree or higher: 2.70 All other qualifications: 2.90

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 3

“We have a more equal society”

Key findings

Just under half (49%) of respondents agreed with the Outcome 3 statement “we have a more equal society”. This was higher than both the proportion of neutral responses (21%) and those disagreeing (27%). Outcome 3 also had the third highest proportion of respondents answering “I do not understand the statement” (1.6%).

Figure 3.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 3

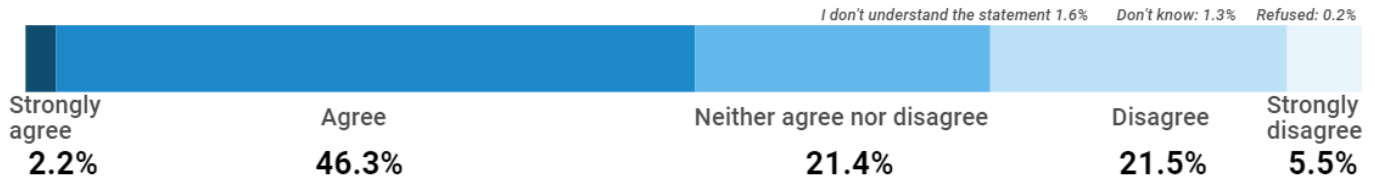
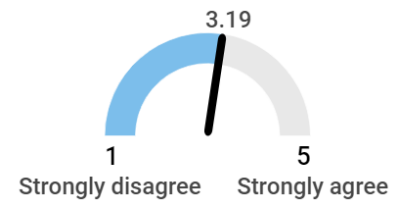


Figure 3.2: Mean score for Outcome 3

Although almost half of respondents agreed with Outcome 3, it ranks 8th of 12 Outcomes with a mean score of 3.19. At just above 3.00, this means on average respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we have an equal society”.




Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. The lowest score was from those with very bad/bad health (2.92) – this was the only mean score below 3.00, indicating this group disagreed more than they agreed with this Outcome statement.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.19
Sex	Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than males.	Male: 3.25 Female: 3.14
Deprivation	Those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1) agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than those from quintile 2 and quintile 4.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.04 Quintile 2: 3.23 Quintile 3: 3.19 Quintile 4: 3.25 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.20
Health	Those with very bad/bad health agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than those with fair health and those with very good/good health.	Very good/good: 3.23 Fair: 3.15 Very bad/bad: 2.92
Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.10 Without disability: 3.22
Dependants	Those with dependants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 3 statement than those without dependants.	With dependants: 3.12 Without dependants: 3.23

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.19
	<i>Ethnicity</i>	Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 3 statement than those from other ethnic groups.
		White: 3.18 Other: 3.54

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

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Outcome 4

“We enjoy long, healthy, active lives”

Key findings

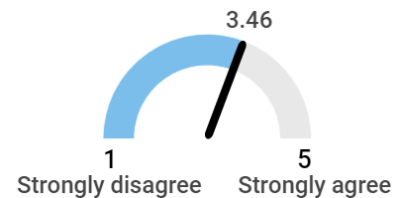
More than 6 in ten (62%) of respondents agreed with Outcome 4. This was higher than both the proportion of neutral responses (19%) and those disagreeing (18%), and was the fourth highest agreement rate across all Outcomes.

Figure 4.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 4







With a high agreement rate, and relatively low disagreement rate, the mean score for Outcome 4 ranks 4th of 12 Outcomes with a mean score of 3.46. As this is above 3.00, this means on average, respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we enjoy long, healthy, active lives”.

Figure 4.2: Mean score for Outcome 4









Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in ten, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. With no mean scores below 3.00, this means that on average all groups agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we enjoy long, healthy, active lives”.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.46
 Sex	Females agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than males.	Male: 3.53 Female: 3.39
 Age	Those aged 65+ agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 4 statement than all other age groups except those aged 16-24.	Aged 16-24: 3.51 Aged 25-34: 3.43 Aged 35-44: 3.35 Aged 45-54: 3.31 Aged 55-64: 3.39 Aged 65 and over: 3.68
 Deprivation	Those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1) agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those from all other areas.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.30 Quintile 2: 3.49 Quintile 3: 3.49 Quintile 4: 3.48 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.50
 Employment status	Those not in paid employment agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 4 statement than those in paid employment.	In paid employment: 3.42 Not in paid employment: 3.51

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.46
 Health	The mean scores for all types of health in Outcome 4 were significantly different* from each other, with very bad/bad agreeing the least and very good/good agreeing the most.	Very good/good: 3.53 Fair: 3.34 Very bad/bad: 3.08
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.33 Without disability: 3.51
 Urban/ Rural	Those from urban areas agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those from rural areas.	Urban: 3.41 Rural: 3.53
 Dependants	Those with dependants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 4 statement than those without dependants.	With dependants: 3.38 Without dependants: 3.51
 Marital status	Those who were divorced/civil partnership legally dissolved agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those who were married/in a civil partnership, and with those who were widowed/civil partner died.	Single: 3.41 Married/in civil partnership: 3.50 Separated: 3.45 Divorced: 3.29 Widowed: 3.55
 Qualifications	Those with degree or higher qualifications agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 4 statement than those with no qualifications.	No qualifications: 3.55 Degree or higher: 3.38 All other qualifications: 3.47

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

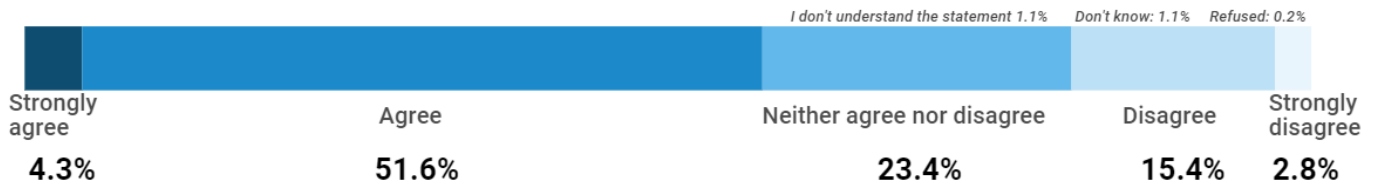
Outcome 5

“We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential”

Key findings

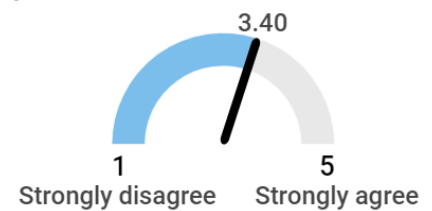
More than half (56%) of respondents agreed with Outcome 5 - the fifth highest agreement rate across all Outcomes. This was twice as high as the proportion of neutral responses (23%), and more than double the proportion of those disagreeing (18%).

Figure 5.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 5






With a high proportion of “agree or strongly agree” responses, Outcome 5 is ranked 5th of 12 Outcomes, with a mean score of 3.40. At above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential”.

Figure 5.2: Mean score for Outcome 5






Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in six, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note are very small in real terms. The highest mean score was from those from other ethnic groups (3.82), while the lowest mean score was from those whose health was very bad/bad (3.25). No population characteristic group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.40
 Age	Those aged 65+ agreed significant more* with the Outcome 5 statement than both those aged 45-54 and 55-64.	Aged 16-24: 3.46 Aged 25-34: 3.44 Aged 35-44: 3.41 Aged 45-54: 3.29 Aged 55-64: 3.28 Aged 65 and over: 3.51
 Deprivation	Those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1) agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 5 statement than those from the least deprived areas (quintile 5).	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.29 Quintile 2: 3.44 Quintile 3: 3.43 Quintile 4: 3.36 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.47
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 5 statement than those with very bad/bad health.	Very good/good: 3.42 Fair: 3.38 Very bad/bad: 3.25

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.40
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 5 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.34 Without disability: 3.43
 Dependants	Those without dependants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 5 statement than those with dependants.	With dependants: 3.36 Without dependants: 3.43
 Ethnicity	Those from other ethnic groups agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 5 statement than those from a white ethnic group.	White: 3.39 Other: 3.82

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

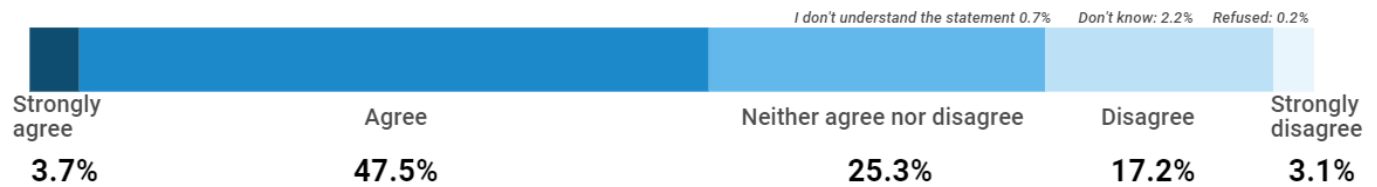
Outcome 6

“We have more people working in better jobs”

Key findings

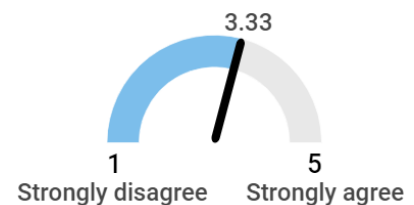
More than half (51%) of respondents agreed with the Outcome statement “we have more people working in better jobs”. This was higher than the proportion of neutral responses (25%) and of those disagreeing (20%).

Figure 6.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 6






With relatively high proportions of agreement, and a generally low disagreement rate have driven a rank of 7th of 12 for Outcome 6, with a mean score of 3.33. At above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we have more people working in better jobs”.

Figure 6.2: Mean score for Outcome 6











Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in 11, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. The highest score was found among respondents from other ethnic groups (3.52). The lowest score was found among respondents with a gay / lesbian / bisexual / other sexual identity (3.03) – this was also the case for four other Outcomes (Outcomes 1, 8, 9 and 11). No population characteristic group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.33
 Age	Those aged 65+ agreed significant more* with the Outcome 6 statement than those aged 35-44.	Aged 16-24: 3.30 Aged 25-34: 3.29 Aged 35-44: 3.24 Aged 45-54: 3.30 Aged 55-64: 3.30 Aged 65 and over: 3.47
 Deprivation	Those from quintile 4 agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than those from those the least deprived areas (quintile 5).	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.27 Quintile 2: 3.30 Quintile 3: 3.38 Quintile 4: 3.25 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.41
 Religion	Those who religion was Other / None / Refused / Don't know agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than both Catholics and Protestants.	Catholic: 3.38 Protestant: 3.35 Other: 3.14

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.33
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 6 statement than those with fair health and those with very bad/bad health.	Very good/good: 3.39 Fair: 3.18 Very bad/bad: 3.14
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.19 Without disability: 3.38
 Urban/ Rural	Those from urban areas agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than those from rural areas.	Urban: 3.28 Rural: 3.40
 Dependants	Those without dependants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 6 statement than those with dependants.	With dependants: 3.28 Without dependants: 3.35
 Sexual identity	Those who were heterosexual/straight agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 6 statement than those who were gay/lesbian/bisexual/other.	Heterosexual/Straight: 3.34 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Other: 3.03
 Ethnicity	Those from other ethnic groups agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 6 statement than those from a white ethnic group.	White: 3.32 Other: 3.52
 Marital status	Those who were single agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 6 statement than those married/in a civil partnership and living with their partner, and with those widowed/civil partner died.	Single: 3.24 Married/in civil partnership: 3.38 Separated: 3.26 Divorced: 3.21 Widowed: 3.49
 Qualifications	Those with no qualifications agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 6 statement than those with all other qualifications (excluding degree or higher).	No qualifications: 3.43 Degree or higher: 3.34 All other qualifications: 3.28

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

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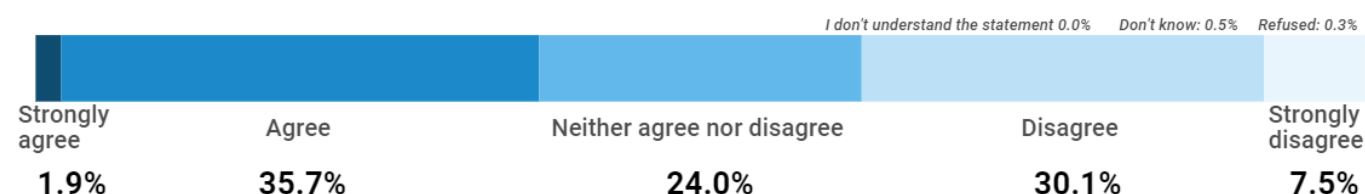
Outcome 7

“We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”

Key findings

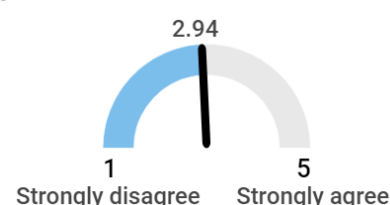
At 38%, the proportion of respondents who agreed with Outcome 7 was equal to those who disagreed. This was the third lowest agreement rate, and the second highest proportion of respondents disagreeing across all 12 Outcomes.

Figure 7.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 7







With a high proportion of respondents disagreeing, and a low proportion agreeing with the statement, Outcome 7 is ranked 10th of 12 Outcome, with mean score of 2.94. As this is below 3.00 it means respondents disagreed more than they agreed with the statement “we have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”.

Figure 7.2: Mean score for Outcome 7








Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in nine, which are detailed below. The highest score was found among respondents from other ethnic groups (3.66). The lowest mean score was from those who health was very bad/bad (2.62).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		2.94
 Age	Those aged 55-64 agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those aged 25-34, 35-44 and 65+.	Aged 16-24: 3.00 Aged 25-34: 2.99 Aged 35-44: 2.98 Aged 45-54: 2.94 Aged 55-64: 2.78 Aged 65 and over: 2.96
 Deprivation	Those from the most deprived areas (quintile 1) agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those from quintile 3 and quintile 5 (the least deprived areas).	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 2.80 Quintile 2: 2.95 Quintile 3: 3.04 Quintile 4: 2.90 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.01
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 7 statement than those with fair health and those with very bad/bad health.	Very good/good: 3.03 Fair: 2.75 Very bad/bad: 2.62
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.72 Without disability: 3.03

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 2.94
 Urban/ Rural	Those from urban areas agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those from rural areas.	Urban: 2.87 Rural: 3.06
 Sexual identity	Those who were heterosexual/straight agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 7 statement than those who were gay/lesbian/bisexual/other.	Heterosexual/Straight: 2.95 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Other: 2.68
 Ethnicity	Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those from other ethnic groups.	White: 2.92 Other: 3.66
 Marital status	Those who were divorced/civil partnership legally dissolved agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those who were married/in a civil partnership and living with their partner.	Single: 2.94 Married/in a civil partnership: 2.99 Separated: 2.89 Divorced: 2.72 Widowed: 2.84
 Qualifications	Those with all other qualifications agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 7 statement than those with no qualifications and those with degree or higher qualifications.	No qualifications: 3.01 Degree or higher: 3.04 All other qualifications: 2.87

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 8

“We care for others and we help those in need”

Key findings

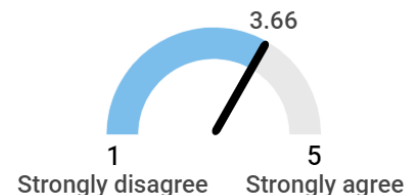
Outcome 8 had the joint highest proportion of respondents who agreed with the statement (71%), and the lowest proportion who disagreed (12%). Agreement rates were similarly high in 2018/19 at 70%, when this Outcome had the second highest agreement rate. This Outcome also had the second lowest proportion of neutral responses (16%).

Figure 8.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 8







With both the highest agreement rate and lowest proportion disagreeing, Outcome 8 had a mean score of 3.66, placing it 1st of 12 Outcomes. This means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we care for others and we help those in need”. In 2018/19, this Outcome also had a similar score of 3.65 and had the second highest score that year.

Figure 8.2: Mean score for Outcome 8









Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in ten, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. No population characteristic group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.66
 Sex	Females agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than males.	Male: 3.63 Female: 3.70
 Age	Those aged 65+ agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than those aged 25-34, 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64.	Aged 16-24: 3.69 Aged 25-34: 3.64 Aged 35-44: 3.63 Aged 45-54: 3.60 Aged 55-64: 3.58 Aged 65 and over: 3.80
 Deprivation	Those from quintile 4 agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than those from quintile 3.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.65 Quintile 2: 3.70 Quintile 3: 3.73 Quintile 4: 3.58 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.62
 Employment status	Those not in paid employment agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than those in paid employment.	In paid employment: 3.62 Not in paid employment: 3.71

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.66
 Religion	Those who religion was Other / None / Refused / Don't know agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than both Catholics and Protestants.	Catholic: 3.69 Protestant: 3.68 Other: 3.53
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than those with fair health and those with very bad/bad health.	Very good/good: 3.70 Fair: 3.59 Very bad/bad: 3.46
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.56 Without disability: 3.70
 Ethnicity	Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 8 statement than those from other ethnic groups.	White: 3.65 Other: 3.96
 Marital status	Those married/civil partnership and separated agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than those who were single and those who were divorced/civil partnership legally dissolved.	Single: 3.63 Married/in a civil partnership: 3.67 Separated: 3.81 Divorced: 3.55 Widowed: 3.72
 Qualifications	Those with no qualifications agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 8 statement than those with degree or higher qualifications and all other qualifications.	No qualifications: 3.77 Degree or higher: 3.66 All other qualifications: 3.63

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

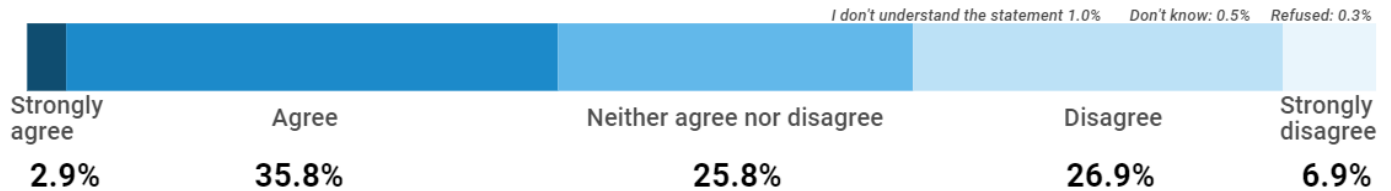
Outcome 9

“We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity”

Key findings

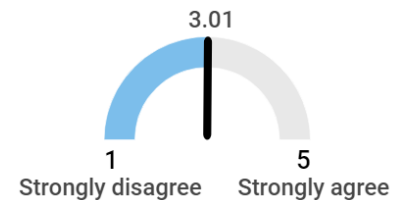
Less than four in 10 respondents (39%) agreed with the statement “we are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity”, the fourth lowest proportion of all 12 Outcomes. More than a third (34%) of respondents disagreed with this Outcome, with just over a quarter (26%) having a neutral response.

Figure 9.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 9







High proportions of disagreement, and a low agreement rate have driven a rank of 9th of 12 for Outcome 9, with a mean score of 3.01. Despite this, at just above 3.00, this means respondents agreed slightly more than they disagreed with the statement “we are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity”.

Figure 9.2: Mean score for Outcome 9








Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences were found in nine, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note are very small in real terms. The highest score was found among respondents from other ethnic groups (3.78).

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.01
 Sex	Males agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 9 statement than females.	Male: 2.97 Female: 3.05
 Age	Those aged 65+ agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 9 statement than those aged 55-64.	Aged 16-24: 3.11 Aged 25-34: 2.96 Aged 35-44: 2.99 Aged 45-54: 2.98 Aged 55-64: 2.87 Aged 65 and over: 3.12
 Deprivation	Those from both quintile 4 and quintile 5 agreed significantly less* than those from quintiles 1, 2 and 3.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.12 Quintile 2: 3.06 Quintile 3: 3.11 Quintile 4: 2.89 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 2.86
 Employment status	Those not in paid employment agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 9 statement than those in paid employment.	In paid employment: 2.96 Not in paid employment: 3.09

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.01
 Religion	Those who religion was Other / None / Refused / Don't know agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 9 statement than both Catholics and Protestants.	Catholic: 3.04 Protestant: 3.03 Other: 2.87
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 9 statement than those with fair health.	Very good/good: 3.05 Fair: 2.93 Very bad/bad: 2.89
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 9 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 2.94 Without disability: 3.04
 Ethnicity	Those from other ethnic groups agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 9 statement than those from a white ethnic group.	White: 2.99 Other: 3.78
 Qualifications	The mean scores for all qualification groups in Outcome 9 were significantly different* from each other, with those with no qualifications agreeing the most, and those with degree or higher qualifications agreeing the least.	No qualifications: 3.24 Degree or higher: 2.87 All other qualifications: 3.02

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Outcome 10

“We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest”

Key findings

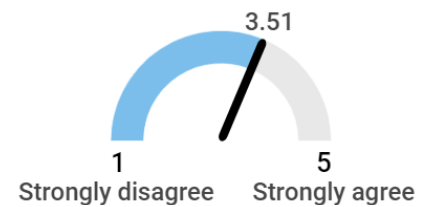
Over 3 in 5 (63%) respondents agreed with Outcome 10 - the third highest across all Outcomes. Outcome 10 also had the joint third lowest proportion of respondents disagreeing (16%), and the joint third lowest neutral responses (19%).

Figure 10.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 10







As Outcome 10 had the third highest agreement and joint third lowest disagreement rates, it is ranked 3rd of the 12 Outcome statements, with a mean score of 3.51. This means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest”.

Figure 10.2: Mean score for Outcome 10



Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Outcome 10 had the lowest number of population characteristics with significant differences*, with differences found in four of the 13 characteristics and suggesting more consistent response from respondents. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. No population characteristic group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.51
 Deprivation	Those from the least deprived areas (quintile 5) agree significantly more* with the Outcome 10 statement than those from the least deprived areas (quintile 1) and quintile 3.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.44 Quintile 2: 3.50 Quintile 3: 3.44 Quintile 4: 3.55 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.62
 Religion	Protestants agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 10 statement than both Catholics and those who religion was Other / None / Refused / Don't know.	Catholic: 3.45 Protestant: 3.59 Other: 3.45
 Urban/ Rural	Those from rural areas agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 10 statement than those from urban areas.	Urban: 3.55 Rural: 3.45
 Ethnicity	Those from a white ethnic group agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 10 statement than those from other ethnic groups.	White: 3.50 Other: 3.98

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

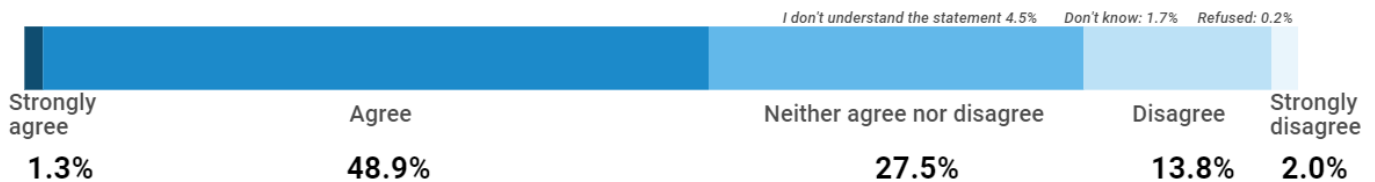
Outcome 11

“We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure”

Key findings

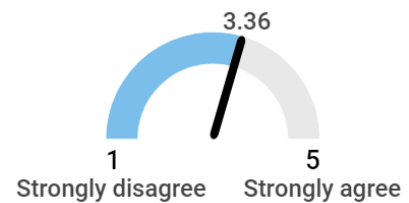
At 28%, the proportion of neutral responses was the highest across all 12 Outcomes. In addition, Outcome 11 also had the highest proportion of respondents who answered “I do not understand the statement” at 4.5%, 2.5 percentage points lower than the 2018/19 result when this Outcome also had highest rate for this response. However, half of respondents (50%) also agreed with the Outcome 11 statement.

Figure 11.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 11






As a result of having a high proportion of neutral responses, and the joint third lowest disagreement rate, Outcome 11 has a rank of 6th of 12 statements, with a mean score of 3.36. Above 3.00, this means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure”.

Figure 11.2: Mean score for Outcome 11









Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Significant differences* were found in nine, which are detailed below. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some of these are very small in real terms. No population characteristic group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.36
 Sex	Males agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than females.	Male: 3.33 Female: 3.40
 Age	Between the six age groups, we see a number of significant differences. Those aged 16-24 agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 11 statement than those aged 35-44, 45-54 and 55-64. Those aged 55-64 agreed significantly less* than those aged 16-24, 25-34 and 65+.	Aged 16-24: 3.53 Aged 25-34: 3.41 Aged 35-44: 3.30 Aged 45-54: 3.27 Aged 55-64: 3.25 Aged 65 and over: 3.41
 Deprivation	Those from quintile 4 agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than those from quintile 3.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.39 Quintile 2: 3.38 Quintile 3: 3.44 Quintile 4: 3.24 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.34

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.36
 Religion	Those who religion was Other / None / Refused / Don't know agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than both Catholics and Protestants.	Catholic: 3.36 Protestant: 3.41 Other: 3.22
 Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 11 statement than those with fair health and those with very bad/bad health.	Very good/good: 3.41 Fair: 3.27 Very bad/bad: 3.15
 Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.24 Without disability: 3.40
 Sexual identity	Those who were heterosexual/straight agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 11 statement than those who were gay/lesbian/bisexual/other.	Heterosexual/Straight: 3.37 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Other: 3.06
 Ethnicity	Those from other ethnic groups agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 11 statement than those from a white ethnic group.	White: 3.35 Other: 3.65
 Qualifications	Those with degree or higher qualifications agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 11 statement than those with no qualifications and those with all other qualifications.	No qualifications: 3.42 Degree or higher: 3.26 All other qualifications: 3.40

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

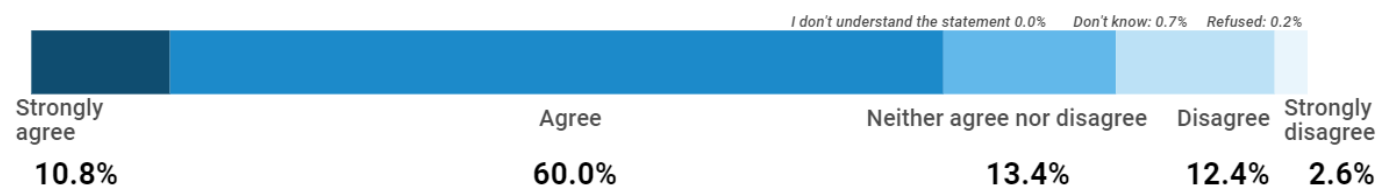
Outcome 12

“We give our children and young people the best start in life”

Key findings

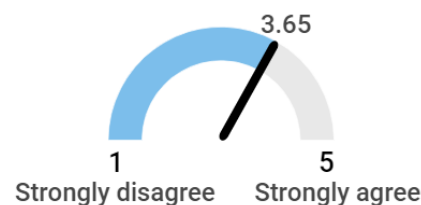
Outcome 12 had the joint highest agreement rate, with more than 7 in 10 (71%) respondents agreeing with the statement “we give our children and young people the best start in life”. This Outcome also had the highest agreement rate in 2018/19 at 71%. Outcome 12 had the lowest proportion of neutral responses (13%) and the second lowest proportion of disagreement (15%).

Figure 12.1: Percentage agreement with Outcome 12






Driven by a high agreement rate and a low proportion of respondents disagreeing or neutral responses, Outcome 12 has a mean score of 3.65, placing it 2nd of 12. This means respondents agreed more than they disagreed with the statement “we give our children and young people the best start in life”. This Outcome also had a relatively high score in 2018/19 at 3.67 and had the highest mean score that year.

Figure 12.2: Mean score for Outcome 12












Group differences

Mean scores were estimated (on a scale from 1 to 5) for 13 population characteristics. Outcome 12 had the highest number of population characteristics with significant differences*, with differences found in 12 of the 13 characteristics, suggesting a somewhat mixed response. While these differences were significant, it is important to note some are very small in real terms. No group had a mean score below 3.00, suggesting that on average all groups agreed with the statement more than they disagreed.

Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score
		3.65
 Sex	Males agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than females.	Male: 3.56 Female: 3.74
 Age	Those aged 65+ agreed significant more* with the Outcome 12 statement than all other age groups.	Aged 16-24: 3.54 Aged 25-34: 3.65 Aged 35-44: 3.59 Aged 45-54: 3.59 Aged 55-64: 3.62 Aged 65 and over: 3.85
 Deprivation	Those from the least deprived areas (quintile 5) agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those from quintile 2 and quintile 3.	Quintile 1 (most deprived): 3.66 Quintile 2: 3.68 Quintile 3: 3.73 Quintile 4: 3.62 Quintile 5 (least deprived): 3.52

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

	Breakdown	Significant differences	NI mean score 3.65
	Employment status	Those not in paid employment agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than those in paid employment.	In paid employment: 3.61 Not in paid employment: 3.70
	Religion	Those who religion was Other / None / Refused / Don't know agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than both Catholics and Protestants.	Catholic: 3.72 Protestant: 3.71 Other: 3.31
	Health	Those with very good/good health agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than those with fair health.	Very good/good: 3.68 Fair: 3.57 Very bad/bad: 3.54
	Disability	Those with a disability agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those without a disability.	With disability: 3.56 Without disability: 3.68
	Urban/ Rural	Those from urban areas agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those from rural areas.	Urban: 3.59 Rural: 3.74
	Sexual identity	Those who were heterosexual/straight agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than those who sexual identity was gay/lesbian/bisexual/other.	Heterosexual/Straight: 3.66 Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Other: 3.33
	Ethnicity	Those from other ethnic groups agreed significantly more* with the Outcome 12 statement than those from a white ethnic group.	White: 3.64 Other: 3.98
	Marital status	Those who were single agreed significantly less* with the Outcome 12 statement than those who were married/in a civil partnership and living with their partner, and with those who were widowed/civil partner died.	Single: 3.53 Married/in a civil partnership: 3.73 Separated: 3.65 Divorced: 3.51 Widowed: 3.78
	Qualifications	The mean scores for all qualification groups in Outcome 12 were significantly different* from each other, with those with no qualification agreeing the most, and those with degree or higher qualifications agreeing the least.	No qualifications: 3.86 Degree or higher: 3.54 All other qualifications: 3.64

Definitions of the different categories are available in [Annex A](#), and all data for all population characteristics, including agreement rates and mean scores are available in the [data tables](#).

* Significance refers to [statistical significance](#) with a 95% confidence that the difference is not by chance

Data

All data in this statistical bulletin is available in the [data tables](#) (available in Excel and ODS formats. Other formats available on request).

Table 1: 2019/20 Continuous Household Survey – Outcomes mean score

	Mean Score ¹
Outcome 1 - We have a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy	2.92
Outcome 2 - We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment	2.86
Outcome 3 - We have a more equal society	3.19
Outcome 4 - We enjoy long, healthy, active lives	3.46
Outcome 5 - We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential	3.40
Outcome 6 - We have more people working in better jobs	3.33
Outcome 7 - We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other	2.94
Outcome 8 - We care for others and we help those in need	3.66
Outcome 9 - We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity	3.01
Outcome 10 - We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest	3.51
Outcome 11 - We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure	3.36
Outcome 12 - We give our children and young people the best start in life	3.65

¹Mean score agreement - responses to the questions have been given a numeric weight from 1 to 5, where 1 = “Strongly disagree” and 5 = “Strongly agree”. The mean (average) of these scores is then taken; the higher the number, the more people agreed with the statement.

Glossary and data presentation

Programme for Government – The PfG is the Executive’s highest level strategic document. It determines the direction of travel and provides the basis for the work of every government department. Since 2016, and in line with recommendations of the OECD and consistent with a commitment contained in the Fresh Start Agreement, the local administration has been following an “Outcomes-based approach” to the PfG which puts a focus on achieving real world impacts in the things that people have told us matter most to them.

Outcomes – Focusing on Outcomes of societal wellbeing transforms the way public services are delivered. It removes organisational barriers and helps drive the collaborative working practices that are needed to effect meaningful and lasting change. The key principle is about government working in partnership with people and communities everywhere to identify and deliver improved quality of life conditions for people. In Northern Ireland’s current draft Programme for Government framework, there are 12 Outcomes – for example, “We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other”.

Population characteristics – to help identify any inequalities that may exist in how the Outcomes are being perceived, the report presents data that allows the views from smaller groups within society to be monitored. For example, we can look at there is a difference between Males and Females in how those groups agree with the Outcome statements in this report.

Measuring the data

The data in this report are collected using responses to the Continuous Household Survey (CHS). This survey data uses a systematic random sample of Northern Ireland households. Approximately 3,000 individuals from these households are asked a variety of questions, including the ones in this report on the extent to which they agree with 12 statements that reflect the Outcomes in the Outcomes Delivery Plan.

A list of the statements can be found in [Annex A](#). More information on the CHS can be found on the [NISRA Central Survey Unit page](#).

Strengths and limitations

This bulletin explores the views of people in Northern Ireland on the 12 draft Programme for Government Outcomes and the differences between groups on those views, for example between males and females. The results are based on a sample. So, when a difference or change is described as “significant”, this means we are 95% confident there is an actual difference at population level. Where we cannot be confident (at the 95% level) of an actual difference or change, the result is not considered to be statistically significant.

Where there is a significant difference it does not necessarily mean one group agrees with a statement and another disagrees. A small difference may still be significant; for example, perhaps both males and females agree with a statement but the average for females is higher, indicating they agree more strongly than males.

This bulletin also references one or more groups having a “significantly higher” or “significantly lower” score than others. In all cases, the same thing could be said by changing the order around. For example, where the score for females is significantly higher than the score for males, it could also be said that the score for males is significantly lower than the score for females.

Related links

This report is part of a series: “Improving wellbeing for all”, which aims to collect information on what matters to the people of Northern Ireland and the public’s perception of the Outcomes within the draft PfG framework. This series includes:

- [Our Population: What Matters Most?](#) – exploring the day-to-day issues that were most important to the people of Northern Ireland.
- [Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework](#) – this publication aims to explore the extent to which people agree with the 12 Outcomes in the draft Programme for Government framework, using questions in the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey (CHS). Both the 2018/19 series, and this current release include a headline report, an outcomes bulletin (this document) and a population characteristics bulletin.
- [Our Young People: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework](#) - this publication aims to explore the extent to which young people agree with the 12 Outcomes in the draft Programme for Government framework, using questions in the Young Persons’ Behaviour and Attitudes Survey (YPBAS). This series includes a headline report, an outcomes bulletin and a population characteristics bulletin.

Annex A: Technical notes

Survey Questionnaire

To collect the data for this report, individuals were asked to respond to statements about Northern Ireland society today as listed below. The responses included a 5 point Likert scale from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The instructions and statements were:

“For the last few questions I am going to read some statements about Northern Ireland society today. Can you tell me whether you agree or disagree, choosing your answers from this card?”

1. We have a strong, competitive, regionally balanced economy
2. We live and work sustainably - protecting the environment
3. We have a more equal society
4. We enjoy long, healthy, active lives
5. We are an innovative, creative society, where people can fulfil their potential
6. We have more people working in better jobs
7. We have a safe community where we respect the law, and each other
8. We care for others and we help those in need
9. We are a shared, welcoming and confident society that respects diversity
10. We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest
11. We connect people and opportunities through our infrastructure
12. We give our children and young people the best start in life

Continuous Household Survey

This report presents findings from the 2018/19 Continuous Household Survey (CHS) on the extent to which the Northern Ireland population agree with 12 statements that reflect the Outcomes in the Outcomes Delivery Plan. The CHS is carried out by the Central Survey Unit (CSU) within the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The CHS has been in existence since 1983 and is designed to provide a regular source of information on a wide range of social and economic issues relevant to Northern Ireland.

More information can be found on the [NISRA CHS page](#).

Sample

The 2019/20 CHS is based on a systematic random sample of 9,000 addresses drawn each year from the Pointer list of domestic addresses. Pointer is the address database for Northern Ireland and is maintained by Land & Property Services, with input from Local Councils and Royal Mail. The findings reported for 2018/19 for Our Population: Perceptions of the Outcomes Framework are based on responses from the full achieved sample of 5,918 respondents – approximately half of these were asked to respond to questions 1-6 and the other half were asked to respond to questions 7-12.

Data are collected by personal interview using Computer Assisted Personal Interviews, and the interviews are spread equally over the 12 months from April to March.

Sampling error and weights

As the CHS is a sample survey there is a certain level of sampling error, i.e. the characteristics of the group sampled may differ slightly from the population as a whole. To account for this sampling error, the data has been weighted in order to produce estimates that better represent the population. The adjustment may be less than or greater than 1, but is generally close to 1. Three separate weights were produced for age, sex and age and sex combined. This reduces (but does not completely eliminate) error. All reported means / percentages have been weighted.

Statistical significance

Statistically significant differences between groups (at the 95% level) have been highlighted throughout the report. This means that we can be 95% confident that the differences between groups are actual differences and have not just arisen by chance. The base numbers, mean scores and percentages have an effect on statistical significance. Therefore on occasion, a difference between two groups may be statistically significant while the same difference in mean score or percentage points between two other groups may not be statistically significant. The reason for this is because the larger the base numbers or the closer the percentages are to 0 or 100, the smaller the standard errors. This leads to increased precision of the estimates which increases the likelihood that the difference between the proportions is actually significant and did not just arise by chance.

Available population characteristics:

Sex

The CHS outlines two sex categories for respondents: Male and Female.

Age

The CHS asks respondents for their age at their last birthday. For the purposes of this report, the ages were coded into the following groups: aged 16-24, aged 25-34, aged 35-44, aged 45-54, aged 55-64, aged 65 and over.

Deprivation

Deprivation figures presented in this report are based on the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017, which is a measure of deprivation at the small area level. Quintiles of deprivation categorise an area of deprivation; quintile 1 (Q1) represents the 20% most deprived areas, and quintile 5 (Q5) represents the 20% least deprived.

Employment status

Respondents are defined as being in paid employment if they worked last week (either as an employee or self-employed), have a job/business but were away from it last week, or are on a government training scheme. Respondents are defined as not in paid employment if they are waiting to take up a job, looking for work, not looking due to temporary sickness or injury or economically inactive.

Religion

Interviewers for the CHS collected information on the religion of residents aged 16 and over in each household, the religious categories represented within the questionnaire were as follows: Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Methodist, Baptist, Free Presbyterian, Brethren, Protestant – not specified, Christian – not specified, Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Any other religion, No religion. For the purposes of this report, the aforementioned religious groups were coded into three distinct categories, as follows:

- 1) Catholic
- 2) Protestant – to include Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Methodist, Baptist, Free Presbyterian, Brethren, Protestant – not specified and Christian – not specified.
- 3) Other/non-determined – to include Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, any other religion, respondents that did not specify a religion, and for those for whom religion could not be determined.

Health

The CHS outlines 5 distinct health categories by which respondents report on their general health. For the purposes of this report, responses were recoded into three groups; 1) Very good/good, 2) Fair, 3) Very bad/bad.

Disability - limiting long-standing illness

Respondents are defined as having a limiting long-standing illness if they have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last for 12 months or more, and these condition(s) or illness(es) reduce their ability to carry out day to day activities.

Urban/Rural

Respondents are classified as either Urban or Rural using the “Settlement 15” geography classification. More information on the definitions for urban/rural classifications can be found on the [NISRA geography page](#).

Dependants

An individual is defined as having dependants if they have responsibility for the care of: a child(ren); a person with a disability; and/or a dependant elderly person.

Sexual identity

The CHS outlines 4 distinct groups for sexual identity for respondents: Heterosexual/straight, Gay/Lesbian, Bisexual, Other. For the purposes of this report, the aforementioned groups were coded into two distinct categories, as follows:

- 1) Heterosexual/Straight
- 2) Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Other

Ethnicity

The CHS outlines 16 distinct ethnic groups for respondents. For the purposes of this report, the aforementioned groups were coded into two distinct categories, as follows: 1) White 2) Other – to include Irish Traveller, White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian, Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other Asian background, African, Caribbean, Any other Black / African / Caribbean background, Arab, and Any other ethnic group.

Marital status

The CHS outlines nine distinct marital status categories for respondents. For the purposes of this report, the responses were coded into five categories, as follows:

- 1) Single, never married
- 2) Married and living with husband/wife / In a registered same-sex civil partnership
- 3) Married and separated from husband/wife / Separated, but still legally in a same-sex civil partnership
- 4) Divorced / Formerly in a same-sex civil partnership which is now legally dissolved
- 5) Widowed / Surviving partner from a same-sex civil partnership

Qualifications

Interviewers collected information on the highest level of qualification obtained by respondents. For the purposes of this report, responses were coded into three categories, as follows:

- 1) No qualifications
- 2) Degree or higher
- 3) All other qualifications

Feedback

We are interested in understanding more about the quality of this publication and how it is used. This will help us provide a high quality service which meets users’ needs. We would be grateful if you could spend a couple of minutes answering our [User Feedback Survey questions](#).

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