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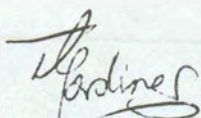
Date: 29 March 1994

*To: Mr Canavan
Dr McCoy
Ms McAlister
Mr Corbett*

*cc Mr Watkins
Mr Jardine*

NORTHERN IRELAND SOCIAL ATTITUDES SURVEY 1993 - RESULTS

1. I have received from Statistics and Social Division's Central Survey Unit the advance information requested by CCRU from the fourth (1993) NI Social Attitudes Survey (NISAS). Some of these results will be referred to in the main report to be published by Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR) later this year, and in the subsequent NI book. The detailed analyses are attached at Tab 2. The main findings from the community relations module, with comparisons from earlier years, are outlined at Tab 1, with some brief comments. The results are for **internal use only** and should not be quoted publicly until after publication of the main report by SCPR.
2. There have been a number of interesting shifts in respondents attitudes since the last survey was carried out in 1991 (there was no survey in 1992 as is always the case in a general election year). However, when comparing the results with previous years, it is important to bear in mind that attitudes and perceptions will fluctuate year on year in response to extraneous and transient events. The Warrington bomb, for example, occurred just before the beginning of fieldwork for this survey. Furthermore, there will be year on year variations arising from the variability between the different samples. What is important is the underlying trend, and this is what NISAS attempts to chart. The 1993 results should be read with this in mind. Further years data will be necessary to confirm whether some of the apparent changes in attitude are merely blips along the way or point to a new direction.
3. I am happy to discuss further.


T. Gardiner

Community Relations

Table 1: Respondents' perceptions of relations between Protestants and Catholics now compared to five years ago

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	Better	About the same	Worse	Better	About the same	Worse
1986	9	45	46	11	41	47
1989	23	44	31	20	50	26
1991	31	50	16	28	53	15
1993	27	46	24	25	46	28

Between the 1991 and 1993 NISAS there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of respondents, in both communities, indicating that they believe community relations have improved over the previous five years (from approximately 30% in 1993 to approximately 25% in 1991). The overall trend, however, remains upward. As the figures indicating improving perceptions of community relations have been one of the main indicators used, not only by CCRU, but also by government in general, to assess the success of community relations policies, the apparent downturn in optimism is disappointing, even though it is slight.

Of more concern, should it continue, is the significant increase between 1991 and 1993 in the proportion of respondents from both communities expressing the opinion that relations between the communities have deteriorated (approximately 25% of all respondents in 1993 compared with approximately 15% in 1991). This downturn should, however, be seen in the light of events such as the Teebane, Ormeau Road and Greysteel shootings, bombs in Lurgan, Portadown and Coleraine and the Warrington bomb etc). As the NISAS aims to chart underlying trends, results from the 1994 NISAS will be important to see if the changes in optimism between 1991 and 1993 are maintained.

Table 2: Respondents' perceptions of relations between Protestants and Catholics in five years time

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	Better	About the same	Worse	Better	About the same	Worse
1989	30	51	16	22	56	16
1991	40	50	4	29	55	10
1993	32	51	11	27	46	22

A similar pattern of views as to future relations between Protestants and Catholics is evident from Table 2. However, unlike in Table 1, there do appear to be differences in the way attitudes have shifted in each community. On the Catholic side the proportion believing relations will remain the same is more or less unchanged, while there has been a decrease in the proportion believing relations will improve and a corresponding increase in the proportion believing they will get worse. Among Protestants, the proportion of respondents feeling that relations will improve has remained virtually unchanged since 1991. However, fewer Protestants now say that relations will remain the same and there is an increase in those saying things will get worse.

Table 3: Respondents' perceptions of prejudice against the two communities

	<u>Catholic</u>		<u>Protestant</u>	
	1991	1993	1991	1993
Against Catholics				
Some	89	85	63	64
Hardly any	8	13	32	34
Against Protestants				
Some	71	69	67	72
Hardly any	25	28	28	26

While there has been little overall change in respondents' perceptions of prejudice against the two communities, there are, perhaps, two points to note. Firstly, the five percentage point increase between 1991 and 1993 in the proportion of Catholics saying that there is hardly any prejudice now against Catholics. Secondly, the five percentage point increase in Protestant respondents saying there is some prejudice against Protestants, which may be indicative of the reported feeling of alienation amongst the Protestant community.

Attitudes to Fair Employment

Table 4: Respondents' views on the chances of Protestants and Catholics getting a job

	<u>Catholic</u>				<u>Protestant</u>			
	1986	1989	1991	1993	1986	1989	1991	1993
The same	26	30	29	41	68	60	62	59
Different	67	60	59	55	27	30	30	33

Table 5: If the chances are different, which group do respondents perceive as more likely to get a job

	<u>Catholic</u>				<u>Protestant</u>			
	1986	1989	1991	1993	1986	1989	1991	1993
Protestants	84	89	82	86	28	34	26	27
Catholics	-	1	2	2	25	43	49	41
DK/Depends	16	10	16	12	46	22	25	32

There has been little change in Protestant respondents' views on the chances of either community getting a job, particularly over the period 1989-93, the majority feel that the labour market provides equality of opportunity. A majority of Catholics, however, support the opposite view. Encouragingly, though there has been a substantial increase between 1991 and 1993, in the proportion of Catholics believing that Protestants and Catholics chances of getting a job are the same.

Of those who felt that the chances were different, Catholics believed they were severely disadvantaged, while Protestants views would continue to suggest that they believe each side looks after its own.

Table 6: Respondents agreeing that employers are more likely to give jobs to...

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	1989	1991	1993	1989	1991	1993
Protestants						
A lot	26	31	28	6	11	7
A little	54	53	52	43	50	45
Hardly at all	13	9	16	42	32	41
Catholics						
A lot	6	9	7	13	13	11
A little	43	57	52	44	54	49
Hardly at all	42	25	38	33	26	33

While the overwhelming majority of respondents (98%) thought that all applicants for the same job should have an equal chance of getting it, when asked about the two communities employment chances separately, about 60% of Protestants and Catholics thought that some employers were more likely to give jobs to their co-religionists than to people of the opposite religion, this was slightly lower than in 1991.

Table 7: Respondents saying they support or oppose the fair employment law requiring employers to monitor employees' religion

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	1989	1991	1993	1989	1991	1993
Strongly support	47	67	73	20	31	34
Give some support	17	21	19	22	29	29
Oppose	27	7	6	49	34	33

While a majority of both Catholics and Protestants support the statutory monitoring of employees' religion, support is strongest in the Catholic community, with around three quarters of respondents indicating strong support (an increase of 26 percentage points since 1989) compared with one third of Protestants (an increase of 14 percentage points since 1989). One third of Protestant respondents also indicated opposition to the legislation

Education

Table 8: Respondents saying they would prefer to send their children to a school that is...

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	1989	1991	1993	1989	1991	1993
Own religion only	37	42	45	41	45	44
Mixed religion	54	49	52	52	50	53

There is a small majority in both the Catholic and Protestant communities in favour of sending their children to mixed-religion schools. However, there is also a strong desire in both communities for own-religion schooling which would appear to be increasing in the Catholic community

Table 9: Respondents agreeing that all secondary and grammar school pupils should have to study

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	1989	1991	1993	1989	1991	1993
The history of						
Northern Ireland	69	82	77	73	80	80
Britain	63	68	62	80	85	81
Republic of Ireland	71	73	69	50	57	55
Protestant religious belief	52	57	51	37	49	42
Catholic religious belief	60	63	57	29	35	31
Irish language and culture	59	64	56	23	18	13

While there is majority support amongst Catholic respondents for the teaching of a variety of subjects which would lead to a more plural post-primary curriculum, amongst Protestant respondents this has been limited to support for the teaching of history. Overall, attitudes have fluctuated over the three surveys with no definite trends emerging, except, that is, for the teaching of Irish language and culture, support for which amongst the Protestant community has shown a decline of 10 percentage points over the period 1989-93.

Trust in Government and social institutions

Table 10: Respondents saying Protestants and Catholics are treated equally by

	<u>Catholic</u>			<u>Protestant</u>		
	1989	1991	1993	1989	1991	1993
the NHS in treating patients	94	92	94	86	88	85
the courts in treating those accused of non-terrorist offences	76	80	79	84	87	86
Government unemployment schemes in treating applicants for a place	81	75	73	70	68	66
the NIHE in treating applicants for a new home	71	63	67	64	63	58
the courts in treating those accused of terrorist offences	54	52	53	79	79	79
Central Government in Stormont in treating job applicants	42	47	46	56	59	59
district councils in treating job applicants	45	42	43	55	57	57
the RUC in treating the public	38	39	41	71	71	71
The army in treating the public	43	38	43	74	70	70
The UDR (RIR) in treating the public	22	20	30	62	57	60

Respondents were asked whether they felt that a number of public institutions treated Protestants and Catholics fairly, or whether one group received better treatment than the other. There is a great deal of consistency in the responses in the three survey years. Whilst a majority of Protestants feel that all these institutions provide equal treatment, there is a wider range of opinions amongst Catholics. A clear majority of Catholics believe equality of treatment is provided by the NHS, NIHE, government programmes for the unemployed and the courts in dealing with non-terrorist offences. Protestants by and large hold similar views. More mixed views are held by Catholics on the treatment of terrorist offences by the courts, and how Stormont and district councils deal with job applications. Views on equality of treatment by the security forces, particularly the UDR/RIR, are largely negative, Protestants are thought to

receive better treatment. Interestingly, there was a marked rise in 1993 in the proportion of Catholics who thought both sides were treated equally by the UDR/RIR. The fact that the question in 1993 related specifically to the RIR may be significant.