

A poll commissioned by Prime Time shows that among protestants in northern Ireland there is still substantial opposition to joint north-south structures which would have real power, and to other changes, for instance in policing, which could follow the ceasefires. The bulk of those interviewed believed the whole process was leading towards a United Ireland.

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To the question "do you think the current political process is leading to some form of unification" forty nine per cent of protestants and forty eight per cent of catholics agreed that it was to some extent

On the framework document

Fifty six per cent of protestants approve of a neighbourly relationship on matters of mutual interest, but no political tie up. That's against 21 per cent of catholics.

Only seven per cent of protestants approve of intergovernmental structures with real powers, as against fifty two per cent of catholics.

On all party talks which would follow the framework, more than half the protestants interviewed didn't want Sinn Fein to be included in the dialogue. Forty six per cent did, and ninety three per cent of catholics wanted sinn fein to be there.

As regards a north-south referendum to be held at the same time on any agreed framework, fifty two per cent of protestants said no, twenty two per cent didn't know. Seventy three per cent of catholics were in favour.

On changes to the RUC protestants were resolutely opposed to any alterations, with only six per cent agreeing it should have a new name, and only seven per cent thinking the uniform should be changed. The bulk of catholics interviewed, believed it should be replaced, given a new name, and fifty eight per cent of catholics thought it should be unarmed.

To the question "do you accept the guarantee of union with Britain as long as the majority in northern Ireland want it" sixty three per cent of