

BACKGROUND QUALITY REPORT

A Respect Index for Northern Ireland (as measured by the Everyday Discrimination Scale): 2016 – 2021

Dimension	Assessment by the author
Introduction	<p><i>Context for the quality report.</i></p> <p>The Executive Office (TEO) adheres to the UK Code of Practice for Statistics and the National Statistician’s guidance on quality. This document provides a summary of how A Respect Index for Northern Ireland (as measured by the Everyday Discrimination Scale): 2016 – 2021 report adheres to the code in terms of quality.</p> <p>Each year, the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) survey takes a snapshot of the attitudes and beliefs of adults in Northern Ireland to a range of societal issues including housing, identity, sports and community relations. The issues covered within the survey differ each year depending on interest, however, a respect module is included annually.</p> <p>The respect module includes a set of nine questions known as the Everyday Discrimination Scale (EDS). This measures perception of discrimination experienced by individuals in their daily lives. Responses to the nine questions are collated to report proportions who ‘feel respected’ and ‘do not feel respected’ – the Respect Index.</p> <p>The report has been prepared by Statistics & Research Branch (SRB) in The Executive Office (TEO) and published on the TEO website.</p>
Relevance	<p><i>The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.</i></p> <p>The survey is asked to a representative sample of the Northern Ireland population aged 18+. The sample consists of a systematic random sample of addresses selected from the Postcode Address File database of addresses. Private business addresses are removed from the database prior to sample selection. To achieve a sample of approximately 1,200, a total of 2,250 addresses are selected for interview with the option to randomly select up to a further 1000 addresses if required. This approach to sampling ensures there is a robust representative sample obtained each year which covers all Northern Ireland.</p> <p>In 2020 and 2021, the NILT survey was administered online. However, no other changes were made so as to enable the continuation of the time series.</p> <p>The Respect Index was published for the first time in March 2019 (in relation to the data from 2017 and the baseline data from 2016). This</p>

	<p>followed extensive work by SRB to develop the Index, obtain the data and prepare the Statistical Bulletin.</p> <p>An iterative approach that has included continuous engagement with stakeholders throughout, commenced with a comprehensive literature review and has been followed by small scale pilot testing through data collection, revision of the model and engagement with an expert Technical Assessment Panel. This has ensured the Respect Index provides users robust statistics that meet their needs.</p>
<p>Accuracy & Reliability</p>	<p><i>The proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value.</i></p> <p>Data are drawn from a survey sample, which means the questions are not asked of the whole population of Northern Ireland. A sample is drawn from the Postcode Address File database of addresses, using a methodology which is designed to provide representative geographic coverage across Northern Ireland.</p> <p>As estimates from a sample survey depend on the particular sample chosen, they may differ from the true values of the population. This variance from the true population value is measured using a confidence interval. The confidence intervals published for NILT data are 95% confidence intervals. This means there is a 95% probability that the true population value is contained within the range of values given. Confidence intervals for the NILT surveys are published in the technical notes on ARK website.</p> <p>When reporting differences in the publication, the data are tested to see if they are statistically significant at the 5% level. A reported increase or decrease means there is at least a 95% probability that there is a genuine difference between results and the difference is not simply explained by random chance or sampling error.</p> <p>Quality assurance checks are carried out when the NILT databases are received to ensure data are complete and there are no inconsistent cases. All inconsistencies are thoroughly investigated with Access Research Knowledge (ARK), who oversee the survey. Validation checks are also carried out on every piece of analysis to ensure they are in line with other results from the same data source and with previous trends (for example, any large increases or decreases are investigated).</p> <p>Some figures may differ slightly to figures published on the ARK website due to different approaches to rounding.</p> <p>Whilst working on the current report, an error was uncovered in the Respect Index 2020 report (pertaining to 2018 data); the percentage of respondents aged 65+ who felt respected is 46% and not 47%, as reported in 2020. This error was due to a mistake in recoding the variable. It does not affect the conclusions, which remain unchanged.</p>
<p>Timeliness & Punctuality</p>	<p><i>Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.</i></p>

	<p>Data collection for the NILT survey is typically scheduled for September – December of the calendar year to which the report time period refers (for example, data for 2018 was scheduled to be collected between September and December 2018). However, there have been occasions when this schedule has been impacted by external factors. For example, the data collection period for 2018 had to be extended into 2019 for a six-week period due to the difficulty of gaining participation in the survey that was attributed to new data protection regulations coming into force in that year. Difficulties such as this have been encountered previously and consequently this extension to the fieldwork is not considered to have affected the quality of the data for time series analysis.</p> <p>The time lag for the publication of the Respect Index 2019 was 24 months. This was primarily due to staffing issues and the COVID-19 pandemic. A decision was made within the SRB to publish a six-year report, covering the years from 2016 – 2021, to bring the publication up to date.</p> <p>Publication dates are available on the GOV.UK website in the upcoming statistical releases section.</p> <p>In the event of a change to a pre-announced release date, the delay would be announced and explained and the new publication date specified. If necessary, updates would be given regularly.</p>
<p>Accessibility & Clarity</p>	<p><i>Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.</i></p> <p>The current Respect Index report is available free of charge in an HTML format on the TEO website. Previous Respect Index reports are available in PDF format here.</p> <p>The statistical tables are also available to download in Microsoft Excel and Open Document Spreadsheet formats, from the above webpages. If requested, SRB can provide hard copies.</p> <p>The publications are also accessible through the UK Official and National Statistics Publication Hub.</p> <p>The report contains contact details of SRB in case further information is required. Additional ad-hoc analysis will be considered and provided if possible on request.</p>
<p>Coherence & Comparability</p>	<p><i>Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar. Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain.</i></p> <p>There have been several academic studies which have applied the nine questions of the Everyday Discrimination Scale to understand the perception of discrimination experienced by individuals in their</p>

	<p>daily lives. These studies have examined perceptions of discrimination on the basis of gender, age, and race/ethnicity in a range of geographies (for example, North America, Europe, South Africa, Australia).</p> <p>These studies have found that the Everyday Discrimination Scale is a robust and coherent instrument for understanding the perception of discrimination experienced by individuals in their daily lives across different locations and different bases of discrimination.</p> <p>Nevertheless, the NILT survey is the only source of data on the nine questions of the Everyday Discrimination Scale in the UK which is published regularly as part of an on-going examination of discrimination and respect in relation to religious background. As such, there are no direct comparisons with other data sources.</p> <p>However, comparisons can be made over time and data are available back to the 2016 NILT survey when the questions were asked for the first time. The latest data are always compared with the baseline data, where appropriate, and any significant changes are thoroughly checked and validated by SRB.</p>
<p>Trade-offs between Output Quality Components</p>	<p><i>Trade-offs are the extent to which different aspects of quality are balanced against each other.</i></p> <p>It could be considered that there is some trade-off between 'relevance' and 'accuracy and reliability'. The sample size of the survey is around 1,200. While this is sufficient to conduct the single year analysis required for reporting purposes, any analysis requested by Local Government Districts or some other sub-population breakdowns (for example, sexual orientation) may not be possible due to low sample size. SRB will consider these requests, but data will only be analysed if the sample size is large enough for robust analysis.</p>
<p>Assessment of User Needs and Perceptions</p>	<p><i>The processes for finding out about users and uses, and their views on the statistical products.</i></p> <p>The initial development of the Respect Index was in response to an identified user need as a consequence of the preparation of the Programme for Government (PfG) and subsequent Outcomes Delivery Plan (ODP).</p> <p>The development of the Respect Index was an iterative approach that has included continuous engagement with stakeholders throughout, commenced with a comprehensive literature review and has been followed by small scale pilot testing through data collection, revision of the model and engagement with an expert Technical Assessment Panel. This has ensured the Respect Index provides users with robust statistics that meet their needs.</p> <p>Data presented in this report help to meet the information needs of a wide range of internal and external users. In addition to the report, data for the Respect Index is used to answer ad-hoc queries.</p> <p>A readership survey is available to provide comments on the report.</p>

<p>Performance, Cost and Respondent Burden</p>	<p><i>The effectiveness, efficiency and economy of the statistical output.</i></p> <p>The NILT Survey was launched by Queen’s University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU) in the autumn of 1998 and is overseen by ARK on behalf of the two universities. The mission of NILT is to monitor the attitudes and behaviour of people in Northern Ireland annually to provide a time-series and a public record of how our attitudes and behaviour develop on a wide range of social policy issues. The survey is run on a modular format and while two modules are repeated every year (Political Attitudes and Community/Good Relations) the rest of the survey varies annually, with all the modules designed to be repeated in years to come.</p> <p>The NILT survey is a unique survey product in Northern Ireland. Costs are shared across all those purchasing modules of questions in the survey. SRB procures at least two modules each year and since 2016 this has included the nine Everyday Discrimination Scale questions.</p> <p>Like costs, respondent burden is shared across all public sector organisations purchasing modules within the survey. The total time for these modules is subsequently apportioned across all public sector organisations required to report respondent burden. As with all public sector surveys which meet the criteria for inclusion, a survey control return is completed by SRB for the NILT module(s). The compliance burden is calculated from the median time taken to complete the survey and the number of respondents.</p>
<p>Confidentiality, Transparency and Security</p>	<p><i>The procedures and policy used to ensure sound confidentiality, security and transparent practices.</i></p> <p>NILT data received by SRB are anonymised (name/address information is not contained in the database). In addition, the data represent a sample of the population and there is no way for SRB to identify the sample that was chosen from the population.</p> <p>The databases are held on a network that is only accessible to SRB statisticians.</p> <p>Analysis is only carried out if the sample size is large enough and the data are presented as averages or percentages. There are therefore no small cells which need to have disclosure control methods applied.</p> <p>Both the report and statistical tables provide detail to assist user interpretation. If any gaps persist, users are invited to contact SRB directly.</p>