



## Attitudes to Peace Lines

Technical report prepared for:  
**University of Ulster**

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14 September 2012

Dear Gillian

Enclosed is the technical report detailing the approach to conducting the survey of attitudes to Peace Lines in Northern Ireland. We have enjoyed working with you and the team at University of Ulster.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Warm regards

Maureen Treacy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maureen Treacy'.

Maureen Treacy  
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# 1. Technical details of the survey

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## Introduction

Peace Lines mark the most prominent sectarian interfaces in Northern Ireland and are used as a means of dealing with issues of community conflict and division, particularly in the Belfast area.<sup>1</sup> The last Peace Line was constructed in 2008 in North Belfast after the restoration of the devolved administration to Northern Ireland.

Within neighbourhoods and communities most affected by the presence of Peace Lines there has been substantial qualitative research undertaken. However, there has been minimal quantitative research conducted that has looked at public awareness of and attitudes towards them.

To address the knowledge gap and to help inform policy two postal surveys were undertaken. The first survey focused on a cross section of the population in Northern Ireland. The second survey focused specifically on the population resident in wards adjacent to Peace Lines in the Greater Belfast and Derry/Londonderry areas.

## Ethical approval

In 2012 the Attitudes to Peace Lines Study received ethical approval from the Ethics Filter Committee in the School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy at University of Ulster.

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<sup>1</sup> Belfast: Strategies for a shared City. David Russell. Available at: <http://www.community-relations.org.uk/fs/doc/shared-space-issue-1-c-david-russell-2.pdf>

## 2. Technical details

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### Overview

The surveys were conducted by post, with a reminder sent to non-responders. An incentive was provided to encourage response. A total of 840 Peace Line residents and 611 residents in the rest of Northern Ireland completed and returned questionnaires. This represents response rates of 26% and 32% respectively.

### Survey content

Two separate but similar questionnaires were used for the study. The first questionnaire was designed to gather the views of the wider Northern Ireland population. The second questionnaire was refined to take account of the situation of those living in close proximity to identified Peace Lines.

The questionnaires included the following themes:

- Proximity to a Peace Line and opinions on the area as a place to live;
- Perceptions of why Peace Lines were established;
- Perceptions of the impact of Peace Lines;
- Awareness of policy initiatives;
- Roles and responsibilities in relation to Peace Lines;
- Views on methods of transforming and removing Peace Lines;

Prior to the questionnaires being mailed a concise pilot was conducted with 10 people. The questionnaires were printed in an 8 page A4 booklet format and on coloured paper.

### Sampling design

There were two defined populations for the study; those who live adjacent to peace walls in Belfast and in Derry/Londonderry, and those who reside elsewhere in Northern Ireland. The Peace Line areas were sub-divided into four specific locations; North Belfast, West Belfast, East Belfast and Derry/Londonderry.

The sampling took place in a number of stages:

#### Stage 1: Defining Peace Line areas

This involved reviewing ordnance survey maps, firstly to define the areas that are regarded as North, West and East Belfast, secondly to identify Peace Lines within these areas and thirdly to identify the streets that are located in close proximity to each Peace Line. When selecting the streets account was taken of main thoroughfares that act as boundaries within a defined area. The publication, *Belfast Interfaces; Security Barriers and Defensive Use of Space*<sup>2</sup> was used for reference during this process. The approach to the selection of

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<sup>2</sup> Belfast Interfaces; Security Barriers and Defensive Use of Space, 2012, Belfast Interface Project

addresses in Derry/Londonderry was similar, and included liaising with community representatives to review the streets that were selected for the study to ensure that it was comprehensive.

In total 13 Peace Line areas were identified as shown in Table 2.1

**Table 2.1: Peace Line areas**

Location	Sub area
North Belfast	Hazelwood
	Whitewell
	Ligoneil
	Ardoyne Glenbryn
	Old Park Cliftonville
	Tigers Bay New Lodge
West Belfast	Upper Springfield
	Falls Shankill
	Suffolk Lenadoon
East Belfast	Short Strand Inner East
Derry / Londonderry	Fountain/Bishop St
	Tullyvalley/Curnnerian
	Top of Hill/Irish Street

## Stage 2: Identifying the population of addresses

A postcode was assigned to each identified Peace Line area street. The postcodes were then matched to each residential address within the Pointer<sup>3</sup> database that had the same postcode. This provided the population of households from which to draw the sample.

A random sample of these addresses, stratified by Peace Line location, was chosen to take part in the survey of Peace Line residents. A second random sample was drawn from the remaining residential addresses within the Pointer database to take part in the survey of those who reside elsewhere in Northern Ireland.

## Survey implementation

A questionnaire was sent to each address by post. A cover letter accompanied the questionnaire, which explained the rationale for the study and requested participation. It also informed potential respondents that they would receive a £10 shopping voucher if they returned the questionnaire by the closing date.

The first mail out took place on 12 March 2012 and a reminder questionnaire was posted to non-responders on 22 March 2012. The closing date was set for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. However, all questionnaires that were returned by 30 April 2012 were included in the data set.

<sup>3</sup> Pointer is the address database for Northern Ireland and is maintained by Land & Property Services (LPS), with input from Local Councils and Royal Mail (RM).

## Response rates

The following table details the total number of households in each location and sub-area, the number of addresses selected for the survey, the number of ineligible addresses, the number of completed questionnaires that were returned and the response rates.

**Table 2.2: Response rates by sub area**

Location	Sub area	Population of households	No mailed out	Ineligible addresses	Number returned	Response rate
North Belfast	Hazelwood	34	9	0	2	22%
	Whitewell	297	57	2	25	45%
	Ligoneil	324	61	0	17	28%
	Ardoyne Glenbryn	2,800	511	15	119	24%
	Old Park Cliftonville	1,116	199	16	52	28%
	Tigers Bay New Lodge	1,870	331	45	64	22%
	<i>Sub total</i>	<i>6,441</i>	<i>1,168</i>	<i>78</i>	<i>279</i>	<i>26%</i>
West Belfast	Upper Springfield	1,364	218	1	55	25%
	Falls Shankill	3,242	552	61	140	29%
	Suffolk Lenadoon	2,253	398	5	110	28%
	<i>Sub total</i>	<i>6,859</i>	<i>1168</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>26%</i>
East Belfast	Short Strand Inner East	1,260	500	6	146	30%
	<i>Sub total</i>	<i>1,260</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>30%</i>
LDerry	Fountain/Bishop St	428	200	20	47	24%
	Tullyvalley/Currnerian	389	167	1	31	19%
	Top of Hill/Irish Street	321	133	1	32	24%
	<i>Sub total</i>	<i>1,138</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>23%</i>
Peace Line areas		15,698	3336	109	840	26%
Rest of NI		735,422	2,000	74	611	32%
All		751,120	5,336	183	1,451	28%

## Incentive

On completion of the questionnaire respondents were provided with the option to elect to receive a £10 voucher (as mentioned in the covering letter) or to donate the £10 to one of two charities; Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children or PIPS programme (suicide awareness and support).

The following table summarises the options that respondents chose by location:

**Table 2.2: Incentive choices made by respondents**

	Voucher		PIPS		NICFC		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
North Belfast	137	49%	44	16%	98	35%	279	100%
West Belfast	140	46%	42	14%	123	40%	305	100%
East Belfast	73	50%	21	14%	52	36%	146	100%
LDerry	77	70%	10	9%	23	21%	110	100%
Rest of NI	268	44%	72	12%	271	44%	611	100%
Total	695	48%	189	13%	567	39%	1451	100%

## Confidence intervals

Tables 2.3 and 2.4 set out confidence intervals at the 95% confidence level relating to Systematic Random Sample design. Note that the margin of error for all sample estimates is within the parameters of +/- 3.29% for the Peace Line residents and +/-3.96% for the rest of NI residents.

**Table 2.2: Sampling errors and confidence intervals for key variables (unweighted data)**

		Peace Line residents		Rest of NI residents	
		%	95% confidence limits	%	95% confidence limits
<b>Age</b>	18 to 24	5.3%	3.8% - 6.8%	4.8%	3.11% - 6.49%
	25 to 34	16.4%	14.0% - 18.8%	14.2%	11.43% - 16.97%
	35 to 44	16.8%	14.3% - 19.3%	17.8%	14.77% - 20.83%
	45 to 54	24.1%	21.3% - 26.9%	21.9%	18.62% - 25.18%
	55 to 64	17.6%	15.1% - 20.1%	17.5%	14.49% - 20.51%
	65 and over	19.7%	17.1% - 22.3%	23.8%	20.42% - 27.18%
<b>Sex</b>	Male	37.5%	34.3% - 40.7%	41.8%	37.89% - 45.71%
	Female	62.5%	59.3% - 65.7%	58.2%	54.29% - 62.11%
<b>Religion</b>	Catholic	56.5%	53.2% - 59.8%	35.9%	32.10% - 39.7%
	Protestant	36.0%	32.8% - 39.2%	50.8%	46.84% - 54.76%
	None	5.0%	3.6% - 6.3%	8.9%	6.64% - 11.16%
	Other	2.5%	1.5% - 3.5%	4.3%	2.69% - 5.91%



## Data preparation

The data from the self-completion questionnaires was input using the statistics software package Snap and exported into SPSS prior to analysis. All data were subject to an extensive range of inter and intra variable logic checks.

## Deriving occupational groupings

Occupational grouping is based on the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) 2000 and was derived using the three classes of socio-economic classification where ABC1 is higher managerial, administrative, professional and intermediate occupations, C2D is routine and manual occupations and E is never worked, long term unemployed and retirees without pension.

## Weighting the data

Two weights have been included in the data set to take account of sample design effects which occur due to selecting participants based on households and stratifying the sample by Peace Line location

**Weight1** should be applied to both data sets to take account of disproportionate household size.

**Weight2** should be applied to the Peace Lines residents dataset to take account of the fact that we sampled within Peace Line location to try to ensure sufficient numbers to allow analysis by location. Weight2 weights back to the Peace Lines location population.

It should be applied to all analysis involving the full Peace Line residents dataset. It is not required for analysis by location or sub-area.

### 3. Comparison with other surveys

**Table 3.1: Comparison of individual characteristics**

		Peace Line residents	Rest of NI residents	NILT 2010 (weighted)	CHS 09/10	Census 2001
		%	%	%	%	%
<b>Age</b>	18 to 24	5%	5%	11%	12%	13%
	25 to 34	16%	14%	17%	16%	20%
	35 to 44	17%	18%	19%	18%	20%
	45 to 54	24%	22%	19%	18%	16%
	55 to 64	18%	18%	16%	15%	13%
	65 and over	20%	24%	18%	20%	18%
<b>Sex</b>	Male	38%	42%	48%	47%	48%
	Female	62%	58%	52%	53%	52%
<b>Religion</b>	Catholic	56%	36%	37%	39%	48%
	Protestant	36%	51%	47%	54%	48%
	None/other	8%	13%	16%	6%	<1
	Missing	1%	1%	1%	1%	13% <sup>4</sup>
<b>Base</b>		840	611	1,205	5,205	1,216,257

<sup>4</sup> Includes 'no religion' and religion not stated

## 4. Other variables on the dataset

**Table 4.1: Derived variables – Rest of NI residents**

Weight1	Household size	
Q18 Age	Age of respondent categorised (6 categories)	
	1	18-24
	2	25-34
	3	35-44
	4	45-54
	5	55-64
	6	65+
Age	Age of respondents categories (3 categories)	
	1	18 to 34
	2	35 to 54
	3	55 plus
Q20cat	Number of people in household categorised	
	1	One
	2	Two
	3	Three
	4	Four
	5	Five
	6	Six
	7	Seven
	8	More than 7
Q21cat	Number of people in household categorised	
	1	One
	2	Two
	3	Three
	4	Four
	5	Five
	6	Six
	7	Seven
	8	More than 7
SEG	Socio-economic group	
	1	ABC1
	2	C2DE

**Table 4.2: Derived variables – Peace Line residents**

Weight1	Household size	
Weight2	Peace Line location	
Q24 Age	Age of respondent categorised (6 categories)	
	1	18-24
	2	25-34
	3	35-44
	4	45-54
	5	55-64
	6	65+
Age	Age of respondents categories (3 categories)	
	1	18 to 34
	2	35 to 54
	3	55 plus
Q26cat	Number of people in household categorised	
	1	One
	2	Two
	3	Three
	4	Four
	5	Five
	6	Six
	7	Seven
	8	More than 7
Q27cat	Number of adults in household categorised	
	1	One
	2	Two
	3	Three
	4	Four
	5	Five
	6	Six
	7	Seven
	8	More than 7
SEG	Socio-economic group	
	1	ABC1
	2	C2DE
Q21first/ Q21second/ Q21third	Q21 coded responses	

SubArea	1	Hazelwood
	2	Whitewell
	3	Ligoneil
	4	Ardoyne Glenbryn
	5	Old Park Cliftonville
	6	Tigers Bay New Lodge
	7	Upper Springfield
	8	Falls Shankill
	9	Suffolk Lenadoon
	10	Short Strand Inner East
	11	Fountain/Bishop St
	12	Tullyvalley/Currnerian
	13	Top of Hill/Irish Street
Location	Location	
	1	North Belfast
	2	West Belfast
	3	East Belfast
	4	LDerry