

Public Views on Ulster-Scots Culture, Heritage and Language in Northern Ireland



Findings from the Northern Ireland Omnibus
Survey April 2010

DCAL Research Findings 5/2010

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Introduction

Background

This report has been prepared by the Research and Statistics Branch of the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL). The Ulster-Scots Agency was involved with DCAL in the development of the questions

Under the direction of the Northern Ireland Executive, the department is developing a Regional or Minority Languages Strategy which will seek to enhance and develop the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture and to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language. This report outlines the initial findings from the Ulster-Scots module of the April 2010 Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey. A more detailed report will be published in August and together they will add to the information base for this policy development.

Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey

The sample for the April 2010 survey consisted of a systematic random sample of 2,200 addresses selected from Land and Property Services' list of private addresses. Land and Property Services Agency provides a good sampling frame of addresses, but contains no information about the number of people living at an address. Further selection stages were therefore required to convert the listing of addresses to a listing of individuals, aged 16 or over, from which one person in each household (the 'selected respondent') was chosen to complete the questionnaire. Of the 1,973 people eligible to take part, 1,212 participated, giving a response rate of 61%.

Weighting

Selecting only one individual for interview at each sampled address means that the probability of selection for the survey is inversely related to the size of the household. Therefore, the data are weighted in relation to the number of

eligible adults at each address. This weighting process adjusts the results to those that would have been achieved if the sample had been drawn as a random sample of adults rather than of addresses.

The following should be noted when interpreting figures and tables:

Figure less than 0.5% are denoted by '0'.

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding or where multiple responses are allowed.

The base number of responses to each question is shown in each table as the number of respondents may vary.

Further information

In keeping with government policy, no hard copies of this report have been published, but are available on request. Requests or enquiries concerning this publication should be directed to:

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Findings

- Forty-three percent of respondents agreed with the statement ‘Ulster-Scots is a valuable part of the culture of Northern Ireland’. Sixteen percent disagreed with this statement
- Six percent of respondents reported that in the previous 12 months they had participated in a festival celebrating Ulster-Scots, 4% had played Ulster-Scots music and 3% had taken part in Ulster-Scots dancing. Eighty-eight percent mentioned they had not participated in any Ulster-Scots cultural activities in the last 12 months.
- Six percent of respondents said they had been to an Ulster-Scots parade in the last 12 months. Five percent stated they had been to an Ulster-Scots concert and 4% had been to an Ulster-Scots festival during the previous year.
- Slightly over two-fifths (41%) of respondents mentioned the reason preventing them from attending more Ulster-Scots events was that they were not really interested. One-fifth (20%) said the reason for not attending more Ulster-Scots events was because they were not publicised enough.
- Nearly a half (49%) of respondents agreed with the statement ‘Ulster-Scots plays an important part in the history and heritage of Northern Ireland’. Fifteen percent disagreed with this view.
- When asked if they were aware that 2010 is the 400th year anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster, one-fifth (20%) claimed they were aware of this fact.
- Almost a half (48%) of respondents agreed with the statement “Learning about Ulster-Scots traditions in the school curriculum has educational

benefits for children at school in Northern Ireland". A little over a fifth (21%) of respondents disagreed with this claim.

- Nearly three-fifths (59%) of respondents thought children should have the option to study Ulster-Scots history and 46% believed they should be able to choose to learn about Ulster-Scots culture.
- Over three-quarters (77%) of the people asked considered that children in Northern Ireland should study the history of the Plantation of Ulster.
- Slightly less than three-fifths (57%) of respondents said they were aware of the Ulster-Scots language.
- Eighteen percent of all respondents said that they would like to learn more about the Ulster-Scots language. Of these respondents, 56% indicated they would like to learn more about it through local courses.
- Under a fifth (18%) of respondents perceived themselves to be an Ulster-Scot.

Appendix A – Data Tables

Q1 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement ... Ulster-Scots is a valuable part of the culture of Northern Ireland?

	% of respondents
Strongly agree	10
Agree	33
Neither agree nor disagree	35
Disagree	10
Strongly disagree	6
Don't know	5
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Q2 In the past 12 months, have you participated in any of the Ulster-Scots cultural activities listed?

	% of respondents
A festival celebrating Ulster-Scots	6
Playing music	4
Dancing	3
A history class	2
Drama activity	1
Other	1
A literature class	0
A language class	0
None of these	88
Don't know	1
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Percentages may add to more than 100 due to multiple responses

Q3 In the last 12 months, have you been to any of the events within the Ulster-Scots culture listed?

	% of respondents
Parade (includes seasonal marches)	6
Concert	5
Festival	4
Dance	4
Play	1
Lecture	1
Other	0
None of these	85
Don't know	0
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Percentages may add to more than 100 due to multiple responses

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Q4 Do any of these things prevent you from attending more Ulster-Scots events?

	% of respondents
I am not really interested	41
Events are not publicised enough	20
It is difficult to find the time	9
Not enough facilities close to where I live	7
My health isn't good enough	4
I might feel uncomfortable or out of place	4
Other	2
I don't have anyone to go with	2
It costs too much	1
The venues are of poor quality	1
Performance and events are poor quality	1
None of these	28
Don't know	0
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Percentages may add to more than 100 due to multiple responses

Q5 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement ... Ulster-Scots is an important part in the history and heritage of Northern Ireland?

	% of respondents
Strongly agree	12
Agree	37
Neither agree nor disagree	33
Disagree	9
Strongly disagree	6
Don't know	3
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Q6 Are you aware that 2010 is the 400th year anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster?

	% of respondents
Yes	20
No	79
Don't know	0
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Q7 How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement ... Learning about Ulster-Scots traditions in the school curriculum has educational benefits for children at school in Northern Ireland?

	% of respondents
Strongly agree	7
Agree	41
Neither agree nor disagree	29
Disagree	15
Strongly disagree	6
Don't know	2
Refusal	0
Base	1212

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Q8 Which of the following Ulster-Scots subjects should children have the option to study?

	% of respondents
History	59
Culture	46
Music	34
Language	22
Literature	22
Drama	18
None of these	16
Don't know	4
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Percentages may add to more than 100 due to multiple responses

Q9 Should children in Northern Ireland study the history of the Plantation of Ulster?

	% of respondents
Yes	77
No	17
Don't know	7
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Q10 Are you aware of the Ulster-Scots language?

	% of respondents
Yes	57
No	42
Don't know	0
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Q11 Would you like to learn more about it?

	% of respondents
Yes	18
No	80
Don't know	1
Refusal	0
Base	1212

Q12 How would you like to learn more about it?

	% of respondents
Local courses	56
Phrase books	34
Schools	16
Other	15
Poetry	12
Dictionary	10
Don't know	0
Base	224

Base: all respondents who stated they would like to learn more about the Ulster-Scots language
Percentages may add to more than 100 due to multiple responses

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Q13 Have you heard of any of the following in relation to Ulster-Scots?

	% of respondents
The Ulster-Scot	29
Historical leaflets	18
Heritage trails	16
Oot An Aboot	16
Poetry books	11
Language books	7
None of these	52
Don't know	
Refusal	0
	0
Base	1212

Percentages may add to more than 100 due to multiple responses

Q14 Do you perceive yourself to be an Ulster-Scot?

	% of respondents
Yes	18
No	80
Refusal	0
Don't know	2
Base	1212

Appendix B – Other information supplied by respondents

Other Ulster-Scots cultural activities specified in Q2b

- Summer scheme
- Ulster Scots cookery classes/ Stew night
- Listening to music/programmes on radio

Other Ulster-Scots cultural events specified in Q3b

- TV programme
- Wedding
- Football game
- Social evening
- Band contest

Other factors preventing respondents from attending Ulster-Scots events Q4b

- Not interested
- Never heard / know nothing about them
- Don't fully understand
- Don't know what part they play in Northern Ireland
- Nothing common with this culture
- Few / no events in local area
- I don't know where to go
- I believe it to be a sectarian organisation
- Events need more funding
- Not native of Northern Ireland
- I can't go out because of mine or family member's health (suggestion that events should be televised)

Other ways respondents would like to learn more about the Ulster-Scots language

- Internet
- Television/radio
- Books
- Events/festivals
- Talking to local people, hearing different opinions and perceptions
- Local Ulster-Scots enthusiasts
- A talking Ulster-Scots paper
- Electronic public historic information and audio display