



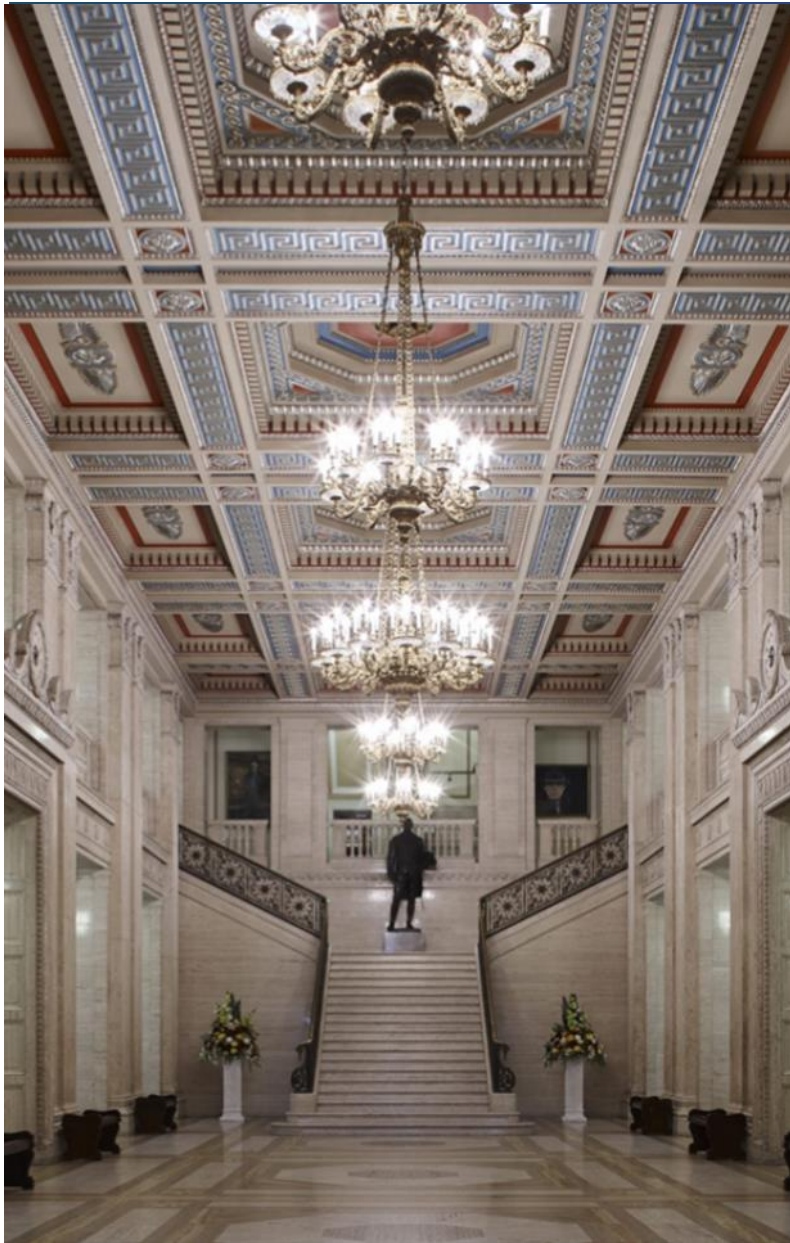
# Key Issues in Northern Ireland Politics 2024

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NOVEMBER 2024



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What's changed?

# 'Safeguarding the Union'

- ▶ Controversial
- ▶ Northern Ireland's status within the UK
- ▶ New bodies, including:
  - Intertrade UK
  - UK East-West Council



# Back again...for now?

Nationalist First Minister for the first time

Executive formation

Official Opposition

Leadership changes

Institutional Reform (?)



# Programme for Government

- 9 priority areas
- Achievable aims?



Northern Ireland  
Executive  
[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)

## Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most

### Draft Programme for Government 2024-2027



# Budgets

## Northern Ireland

First Minister:

“It is critical that the Executive has the right resources to deliver effective public services for all our citizens and we will **engage with the Prime Minister** to achieve our **shared objective**.”

## UK

Finance Minister:

“While this is welcome for our public services, **it still won't address all the pressures** departments have identified this year. That means challenging decisions will still have to be made.”

# Challenges

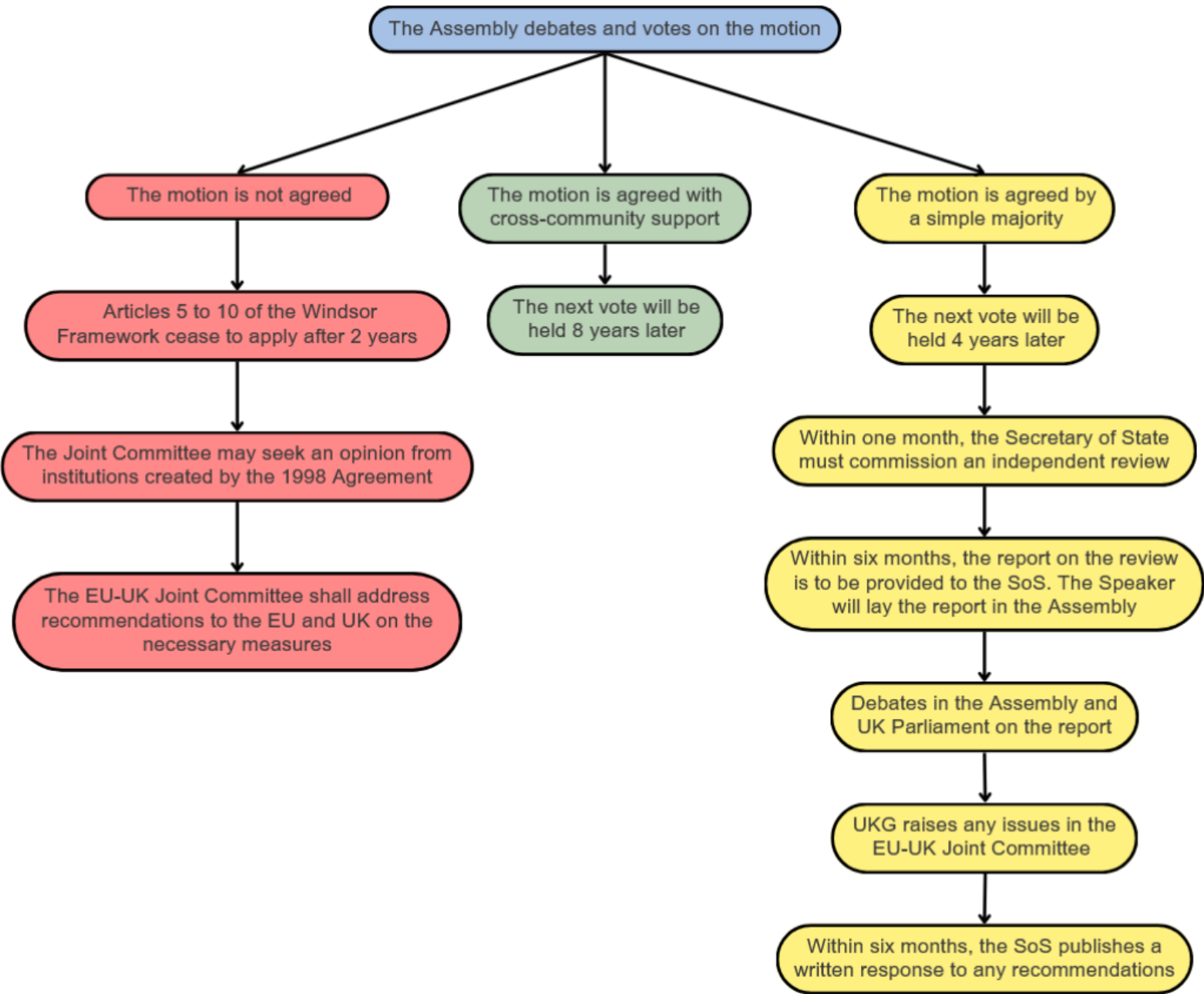
Intra-party controversies and inter-party relationships

Budgetary constraints

Legacy

Brexit

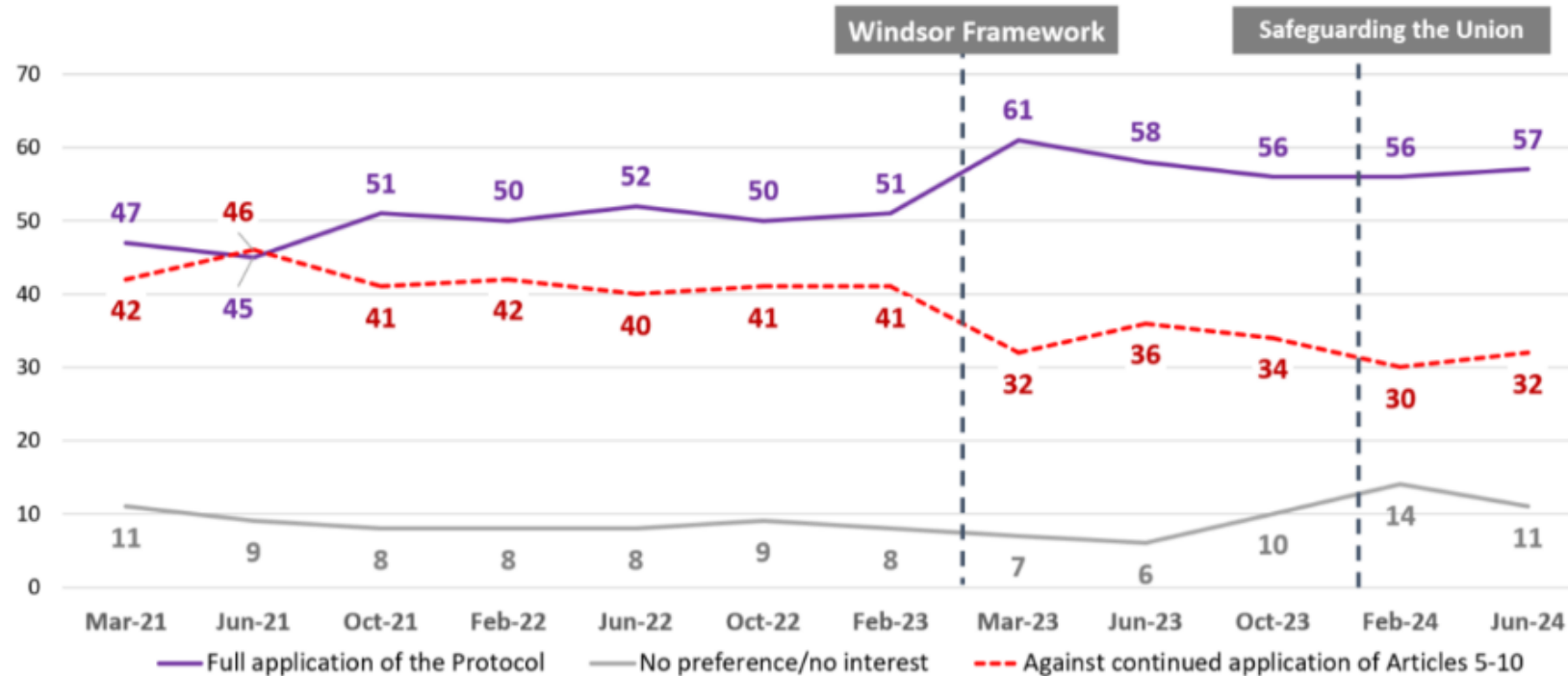
Article 18 Democratic Consent Vote



# Article 18 – Democratic Consent Mechanism



# Public Opinion (1)



*Figure 5. Democratic Consent: Based on what you currently know, and are experiencing now, how would you like the MLAs for whom you vote[d] in the 2022 NI Assembly election to vote in 2024 on the Protocol/Windsor Framework? (All polls)*

# Public Opinion (2)

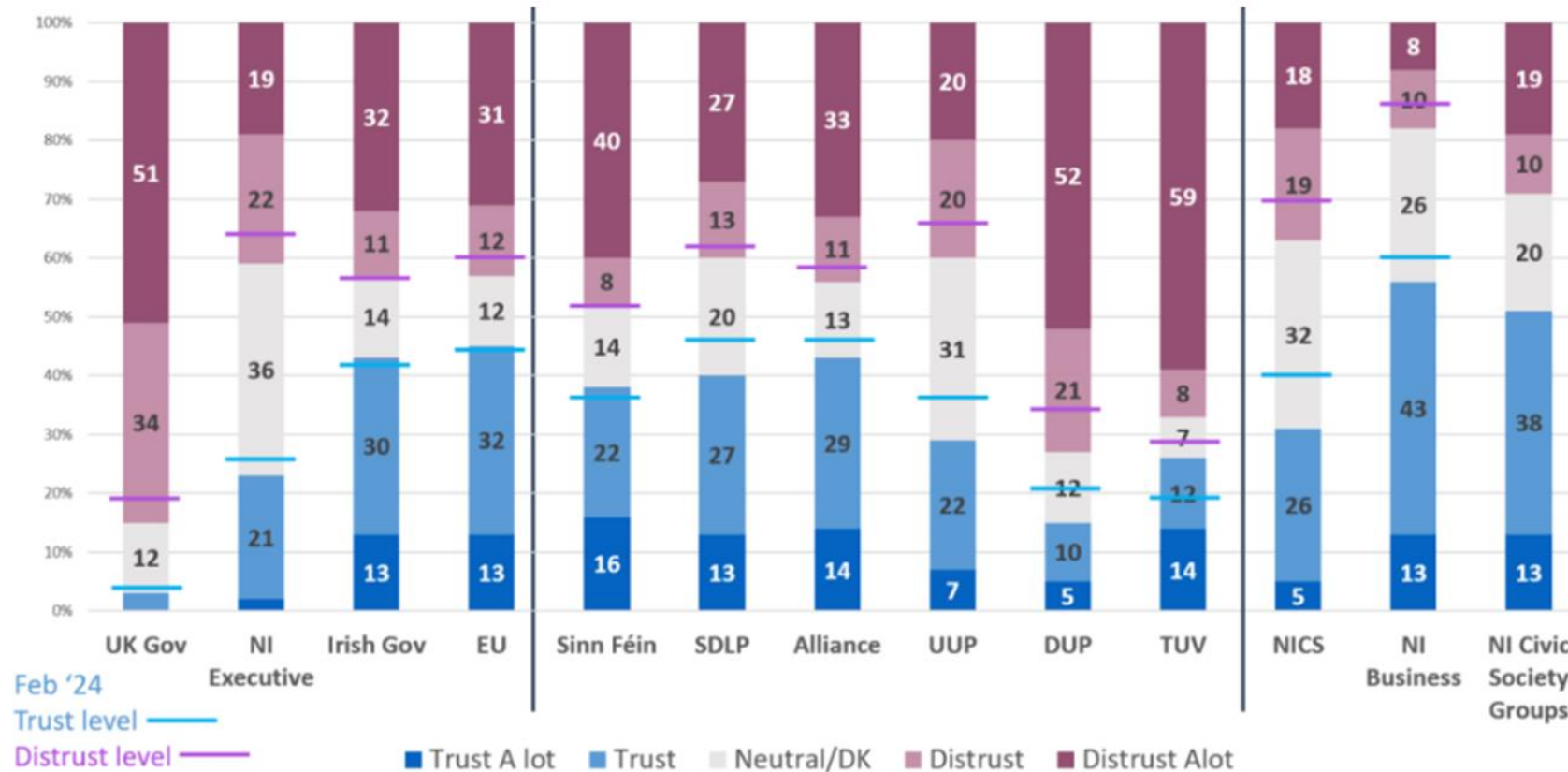


Figure 4. Levels of trust in/distrust of actors to manage the interests of Northern Ireland with respect to the Protocol/Windsor Framework (%)

# “Reset”

- 2024 UK General Election
- New Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
- Positive initial meetings





Looking Ahead...

# Further Resources

- ❑ 'The Democratic Consent Mechanism', Northern Ireland Assembly Windsor Framework Scrutiny Committee (2024): <https://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/committee-blocks/windsor-framework-democratic-scrutiny-committee/9.-the-democratic-consent-mechanism.pdf>
- ❑ Torrance, D (2024) 'Democratic consent mechanism and the Northern Ireland Assembly': <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/democratic-consent-mechanism-and-the-northern-ireland-assembly/>
- ❑ Pivotal Public Policy Forum NI (2024) 'The first seven months of the restored Northern Ireland Executive': <https://www.pivotalppf.org/cmsfiles/Publications/20240902-First-seven-months-of-restored-Northern-Ireland-Executive-Sept-2024-FINAL.pdf>
- ❑ QUB 'Taking the Temperature' Surveys (2021-): <https://www.qub.ac.uk/sites/post-brexit-governance-ni/ProjectPublications/OpinionPolling/>
- ❑ UK in a Changing Europe (2024) 'A beginner's guide to general elections': <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/reports/a-beginners-guide-to-general-elections/>

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