

Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey Report

DSD Volunteering Module

January 2014

September 2013 Omnibus Survey Executive Summary – DSD Module

Introduction

As part of the Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland, Voluntary and Community Unit (VCU) commissioned a project to collect information to assist with gathering a baseline for volunteering levels throughout NI. Eight questions were designed by VCU in conjunction with the Analytical Services Unit (ASU) and added to the September 2013 Omnibus survey. Fieldwork was undertaken by Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Users should note that while these questions were also asked in the 2012 volunteering survey, the definition of what constitutes ‘volunteering’ has been revised, meaning that results between 2012 and 2013 surveys are not directly comparable. The results presented in this report (2013) will form the new baseline position.

The key themes from responses to each of the eight questions on volunteering are summarised in this report.

Background

A total of 2,200 addresses were selected for interview from which 1,170 completed responses were received. The response rate was 61% (for further information on how response rates are calculated please see Annex A, Technical notes, Section 1.2 – The Fieldwork).

One adult living at the address and aged 16 or over was randomly selected to complete the interview.

Volunteering

Respondents were asked to consider the following definition of volunteering in their responses:

Volunteering is defined as “the commitment of time and energy, for the benefit of society and the community, the environment, or individuals outside (or in addition to) one’s immediate family. It is unpaid and undertaken freely and by choice.”

It is important that your replies refer only to **unpaid** work or activities.

Rounding and Survey Error

It should be noted that in some instances totals may not add up due to rounding or multiple responses.

The results presented in this report are based on sample survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error. This error will be reasonably small for the majority of results but will be larger in those estimates based on small numbers of cases (see base numbers).

Any statements made in this report regarding differences between groups, such as males and females, have been tested and are statistically significant at the 5% significance level. This significance level is the criteria for judging whether differences between groups might have arisen by chance. The standard criteria is the 5% level, i.e. the probability being one in twenty that an observed difference might have arisen by chance factors alone.

Weighting

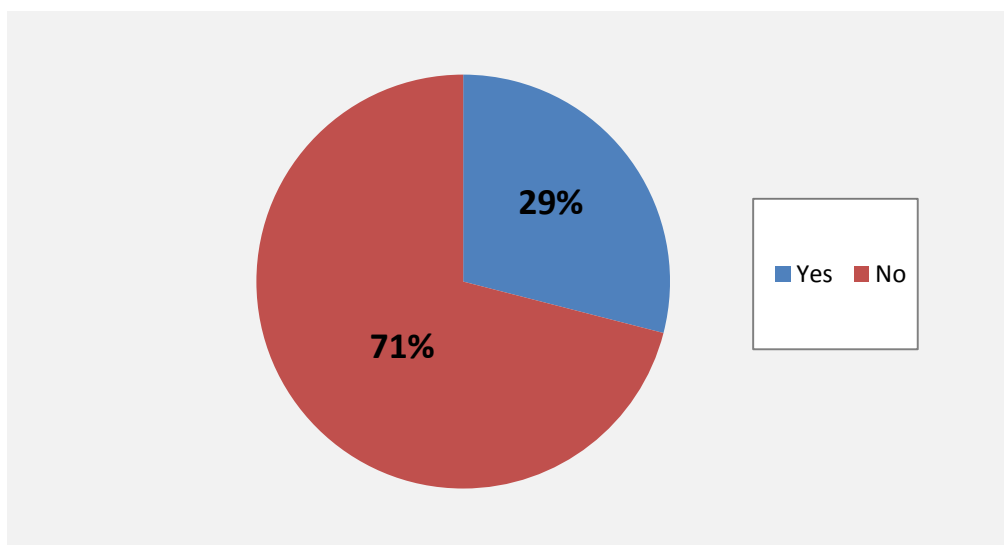
On occasions, in tables showing weighted data, the sum of column totals does not equal the grand total. This is due to the rounding process associated with weighting.

The percentages in the tables are based on weighted data but the totals are unweighted.

For further information on weighting please see Annex A, Technical notes, Section 1.4 – Weighting.

Question 1

Figure 1: Thinking about the definition just given, in the past year, have you carried out any voluntary work or activity?

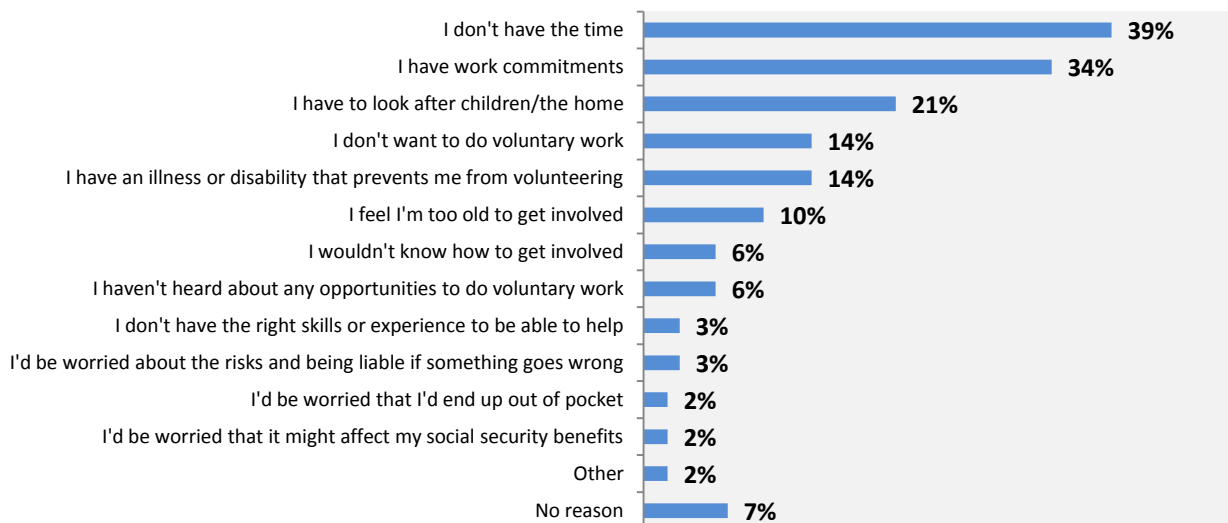


Base: 1,170

- 1,170 responses were received to this question.
- Just under a third (29%) of respondents indicated that they had carried out voluntary work within the past year.
- Over two thirds (71%) of respondents indicated that they had not.
- The same proportion of male and female respondents (29%) said they had volunteered in the past year.
- Analysis by employment status showed that 33% of respondents in paid employment had volunteered, compared to 23% of those not in paid employment.
- Analysis by highest educational qualification showed that the higher the level of qualification achieved, the greater the proportion that have carried out voluntary work within the past year - 41% of those with degree level or higher volunteered, compared to 12% of those with no qualifications.
- Analysis by age group showed that of those respondents aged 16-24, 35% had carried out voluntary work within the past year, compared to 23% of those aged 65 and over. The responses showed a general trend that the older the respondent, the less likely they were to have volunteered in the previous 12 months.
- Analysis by religion showed that 33% of Protestant respondents had volunteered in the past year, compared to 25% of Catholic respondents.
- Analysis by disability status showed that 32% of those without a disability volunteered in the past year, compared to 17% of those with a disability.

Question 2

Figure 2: Are there any reasons why? (asked to those who responded “No” to Question 1)



*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

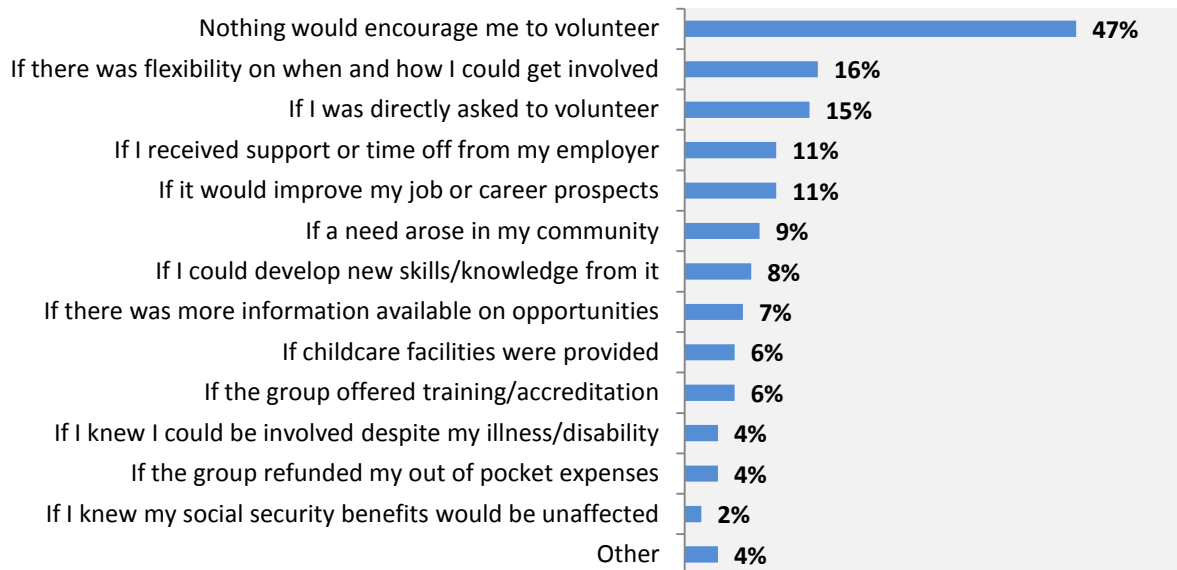
Base: 850

- 850 responses were received to this question.
- Over a third of respondents (39%) indicated that they do not have the time to volunteer.
- Work commitments (34%) and having to look after children/the home (21%) were the second and third most common reasons for not volunteering.
- Analysis by gender indicated that 27% of female respondents said “I have to look after children/the home”, compared with 14% of male respondents.
- Analysis by gender also revealed that male respondents (19%) were more likely to state “I don’t want to do voluntary work” than female respondents (9%).
- Analysis by age group showed that 42% of those aged 25-34 said “I have to look after the children/the home”. This opinion was shared by 40% of those aged 35-49 but only 13% of those aged 50-64. Around two fifths of those aged 65+ said they felt too old to get involved (39%).
- Analysis by dependant status showed that 45% of respondents with dependants gave work commitments as a reason for not volunteering, compared to 27% of those without dependants.

- Analysis by employment status showed that more than half (55%) of respondents in paid employment stated “I don’t have the time”, compared with 20% of those not in paid employment. More than a quarter (28%) of those not in paid employment said that having an illness or disability prevented them from volunteering, compared to 2% of those in paid employment.
- 14% of those who responded to the question stated that they did not want to do voluntary work.
- Other responses received mainly referenced caring duties as a reason for not volunteering.

Question 3

Figure 3: What would encourage you or make it easier for you to become a volunteer?
(asked to those who responded “No” to Question 1)



*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

Base: 850

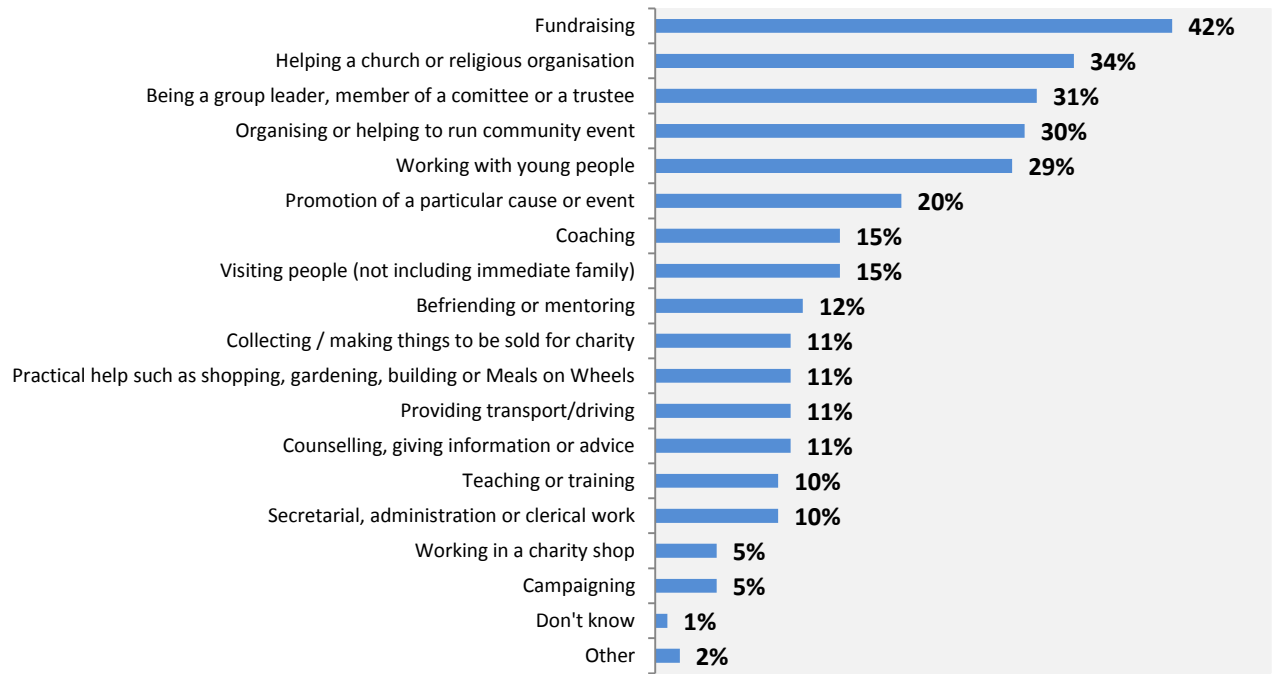
- 850 responses were received to this question.
- Almost half (47%) of respondents stated that nothing would encourage them to volunteer. This was particularly pronounced with regard to the “65 and over” (76%) and “50 – 64” (55%) age groups.
- Analysis by marital status showed that a higher proportion of single respondents (13%) described “developing new skills/knowledge” as an incentive compared to married respondents¹ (6%). 23% of single respondents stated that improving job/career prospects would encourage them to volunteer, compared with 6% of married¹ respondents.
- Married respondents¹ (48%) were more likely than single respondents (34%) to say that nothing would encourage them to volunteer.
- Analysis by dependant status showed that more than half (53%) of those without dependants said that nothing would encourage them to volunteer, compared to 36% of those with dependants.

¹ Married and living with husband/wife

- Analysis by employment status showed that more than half (60%) of those who are not in paid employment answered that “nothing would encourage me to volunteer” compared to 36% of those who are in paid employment.
- 21% of those in paid employment indicated that they would be more likely to volunteer if they received time off or support from their employer.
- Analysis by age group showed that almost a quarter (22%) of those in the 25-34 age group indicated that they would be encouraged to volunteer if it improved their job/career prospects. 10% of those in the 35-49 age group indicated the same.
- Analysis by disability status showed that almost two thirds (65%) of respondents with a disability stated “nothing would encourage me to volunteer”, compared to 41% of those without a disability.
- Other reasons given included needing more time to volunteer, needing to have a personal interest in the volunteering activity, and being in better health.

Question 4

Figure 4: In the last 12 months, what types of voluntary work have you carried out. Please indicate all that apply. Please exclude anything that was carried out as part of a paid job. (asked to those who responded "Yes" to Question 1)



*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

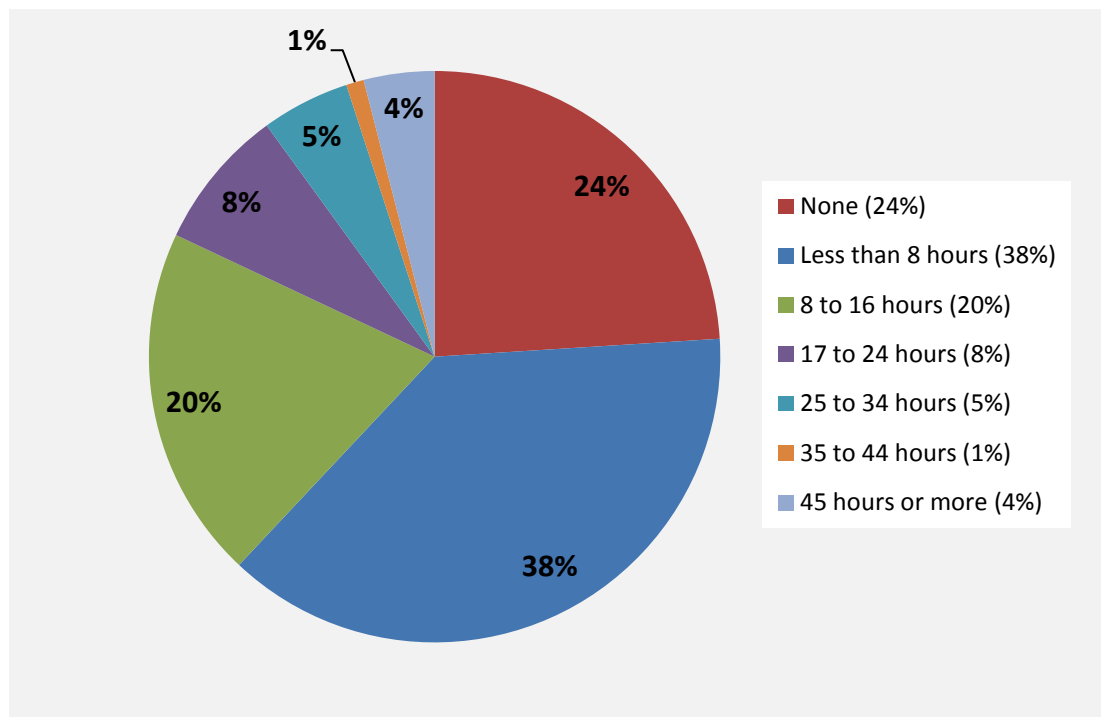
Base: 320

- 320 responses were received to this question.
- 42% of those who had volunteered in the previous 12 months had carried out a fundraising activity, with just over a third (34%) volunteering for a church or religious organisation, and 31% saying they had worked as a group leader, member of a committee or a trustee.
- Analysis by gender indicated that male respondents (23%) were more likely to be involved in coaching as a volunteering activity than female respondents (8%). Meanwhile, female respondents (14%) were more likely than male respondents (6%) to have collected/made things to be sold for charity.
- Protestant respondents (49%), who said they had volunteered in the past year, were more likely to volunteer for a church or religious organisation than Catholic respondents (21%).

- Analysis by religion also showed that Catholic respondents (52%) were more likely to have volunteered through fundraising activities than Protestant respondents (34%), and more likely to have carried out coaching as a volunteering activity (Catholic respondents 20%, Protestant respondents 9%).
- Respondents living in urban areas (16%) were more likely to have volunteered by providing transport/driving than respondents living in a rural location (4%).
- Analysis by employment status showed that 48% of those in paid employment volunteered through fundraising, compared to 31% of those not in paid employment. A greater proportion of those in paid employment (33%) have worked with young people, compared to 12% of those not in paid employment.
- Analysis by area revealed that those in the west of NI (40%) were more likely to volunteer through organising a community event than those in the east of NI (23%).
- Other types of voluntary work carried out by respondents included volunteering as a school governor and donating to a food bank.

Question 5

Figure 5: Approximately how many hours have you spent doing these types of voluntary work in the last 4 weeks? (asked to those who responded "Yes" to Question 1)



Base: 320

- Over a third (38%) of respondents indicated that they had spent less than 8 hours volunteering in the previous 4-week period, with almost a further quarter (24%) stating that they had not volunteered at all within the previous 4 weeks.
- Analysis by employment status showed that 8% of those not in paid employment had contributed 45 hours or more to volunteering in the previous 4 weeks, compared to 2% of those in paid employment.

Question 6

Figure 6: Thinking about the MAIN organisation you volunteer with, which of the statements on the showcard apply? (asked to those who responded "Yes" to Question 1)



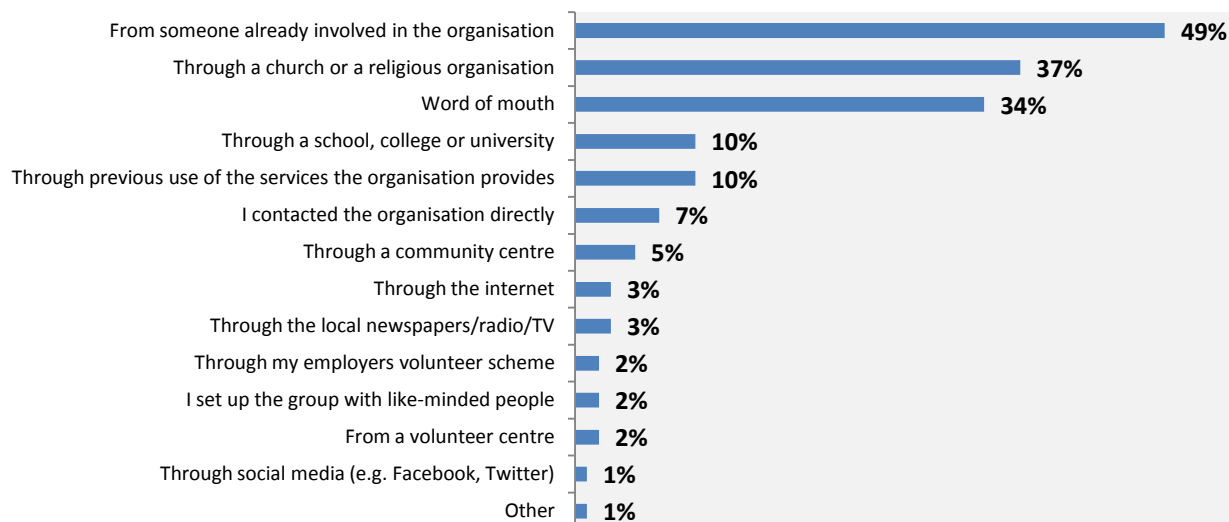
*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

Base: 320

- A majority of respondents (83%) stated that their efforts are recognised/appreciated by the organisation for which they volunteer.
- More than two thirds (69%) indicated that they are able to cope with what they are asked to do. Almost half of respondents (46%) said they are given the opportunity to do the things they like, while just over a third (37%) of respondents agreed that the organisation for which they volunteer has reasonable expectations in terms of workload.
- Analysis by employment status revealed that 73% of those in paid employment indicated that they can cope with the things they are asked to do in their volunteering role, compared with 58% of those not in paid employment.

Question 7

Figure 7: How did you find out about your present volunteering role/roles? (asked to those who responded “Yes” to Question 1)



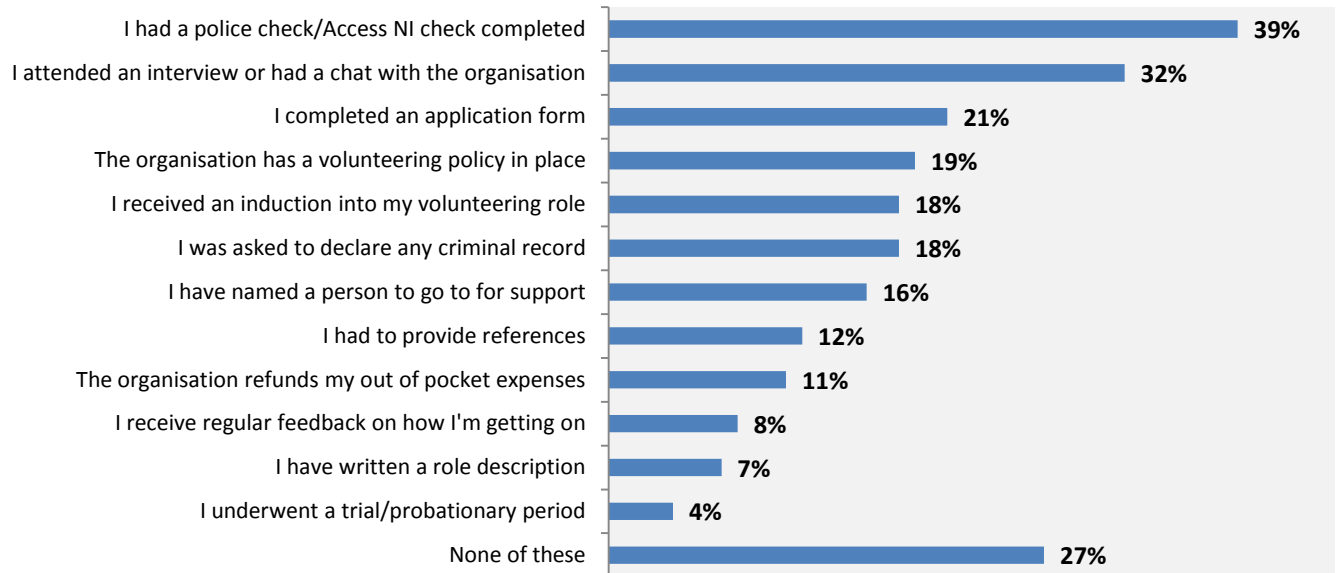
*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

Base: 320

- The most common methods of identifying volunteering roles were from someone already involved in the organisation (49%), through a church or religious organisation (37%) and by word of mouth (34%).
- Analysis by religion showed that 52% of Protestant respondents had found out about volunteering roles through a church or religious organisation, compared to 21% of Catholic respondents.
- Analysis by dependant status showed that 58% of those with dependants had found out about volunteering roles through someone already involved in the organisation, compared to 43% of those without dependants.
- Analysis by employment status shows that 43% of those not in paid employment had found out about potential volunteering roles through word of mouth, compared to 29% of those in paid employment.
- Other means of identifying volunteering opportunities included through advertisements and notice boards.

Question 8

Figure 8: Thinking about your volunteering role and the main organisation you volunteer with, which of the following statements apply? (asked to those who responded “Yes” to Question 1)



*Percentages may add to more than 100% due to multiple responses

Base: 320

- Around two fifths (39%) of respondents indicated that a police or Access NI check was carried out, while almost a third of respondents (32%) had an interview or chat with the organisation prior to taking up their volunteering role. 12% were asked to provide references.
- Analysis by gender showed that 17% of male respondents were asked to provide references, compared to 8% of female respondents.
- Analysis by employment status showed that 18% of those not in paid employment have had their expenses refunded by the organisation, compared to 9% of those in paid employment.
- 25% of respondents living in an urban area have had to complete an application form, compared to 15% of respondents living in a rural area.
- 14% of respondents from urban areas said the organisation for which they volunteer refunds out of pocket expenses, compared to 7% of those from rural areas.
- More than a quarter of respondents (27%) indicated that none of these statements apply to them.

Annex A – The Technical Notes

1.1 The Sample

A systematic random sample of 2,200 addresses is drawn from the Land and Property Services Agency list of private addresses. This is the most up-to-date listing of private households and is made available to the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency for research purposes. People living in institutions (though not in private households in such institutions) are excluded.

Interviewers are instructed to call at each address issued in their assignments. At the first stage of the survey, they have to count the number of households that currently exist at the address (for example, a building may have been converted into more than one flat/household) and, where necessary, number each household and select one using a selection table (Table 1.1).

Number of households	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Household selected	1	1	2	3	4	4	2	7	6	8	6	6

As an example, consider the address '1 Greenwood Road' which contains three separate properties; Flat 1a, Flat 1b and Flat 1c. According to Table 1.1 the second of these properties (Flat 1b) should be selected.

The 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. For example, there may be one person at an address or there may be five people at an address. Further selection stages were therefore required to convert the listing of addresses to a listing of individuals from which one person (the 'selected respondent') is chosen to complete the questionnaire. In this way the survey becomes a population survey rather than a household survey as each individual in the population has an equal chance of being selected.

The interviewers then list all members of the household who are eligible for inclusion in the sample: that is, all persons currently aged 16 or over living at the address. From this listing of eligible adults, the interviewer's computer randomly selects one adult. This person, the selected respondent, is then asked to complete the interview. Once this person is identified, they cannot be replaced by any other adult in the household.

1.2 The Fieldwork

Addresses were issued to a panel of 186 interviewers in the middle of August 2013. The fieldwork period was 2nd September to the 5th October 2013.

	Number	Percent
Set sample of addresses	2200	
- Ineligible known	283	
- Ineligible unknown (pre-	18	
- Eligible known (pre-adjustment)	1899	
- Ineligible (after adjustment)	285	
Eligible (after adjustment) ¹	1915	100
Fully co-operating	1166	61
Partially co-operating	4	0
Total co-operating	1170	61
Refusal to co-operate	521	27
Non-contact	208	11

¹ The adjusted eligible households include all pre-adjustment eligible households and a proportion of the pre-adjustment "eligibility unknown" households. The proportion of the pre-adjustment 'eligibility unknown' households reclassified as eligible is set at the proportion of pre-adjustment eligible households in the set sample of households: 87%.

1.3 Representativeness of the Sample

In any survey there is a possibility of non-response bias. Non-response bias arises if the characteristics of non-respondents differ from those of respondents in such a way that they are reflected in the responses given in the survey. Accurate estimates of non-response bias can be obtained by comparing characteristics of the achieved sample with the distribution of the same characteristics in the population at the time of sampling. Such comparisons are usually made to the current Census of Population data.

To assess how accurately the Omnibus Survey sample reflects the population of Northern Ireland the sample has been compared with characteristics of the Northern Ireland population from Mid Year Population Estimates (Table 1.3). The Omnibus Sample has also been compared to the achieved sample of the Continuous Household Survey (CHS).

	Mid Year Population Estimates 2010	CHS 2012/13 (all members of household 16+)	Omnibus (all members of household 16+)	Selected Respondent
Age				
16-24	16	14	15	14
25-34	17	16	13	13
35-49	27	27	27	27
50-64	21	23	25	26
65 and over	18	20	20	20
Gender				
Male	49	48	47	45
Female	51	52	53	55
Base=100%	1,417,370	5,197	2,274	1,170

1.4 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. In other words individuals living in large households have a lower chance of being included in the sample than individuals in small households.

Before analysis, all households which provided a selected respondent are examined and the data are weighted in relation to the number of eligible adults at the address derived from the details of household structure recorded by interviewers on the questionnaire. 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. In this sample 33% of households consisted of one adult, while 48% of households consisted of two adults. 12% of households contained three adults, while 7% of households consisted of four or more adults.

Note: on occasions, in tables showing weighted data, the sum of column totals does not equal the grand total. This is due to the rounding process associated with weighting.

The percentages in the tables are based on weighted data but the totals are unweighted.

Number of adults 16 and over	Number of Households	Number of Adults x Number of Households	Relative Scaled Weight
1	389	389	0.5145118734
2	562	1124	1.0290237467
3	138	414	1.5435356201
4	59	236	2.0580474934
5	21	105	2.5725593668
6	1	6	3.0870712401
Total	1170	2274	

The Relative Weighted Scale (R) is calculated as the ratio between the total number of people/households cooperating (responding) and the total number of people that could have potentially responded had every adult in each household been included in the sample.

$$R = \frac{1170 \text{ (Total no. of households in sample responding)}}{2274 \text{ (Total number of potential respondents in sample)}} = 0.5145118734$$

To demonstrate the effects of weighting on the responses given by selected respondents, the question “Thinking about the definition just given, in the past year, have you carried out any voluntary work or activity. This may include unpaid work in, for example, community development, arts, culture, sport, faith based, education, neighbourliness, youth, environmental, health, direct care and animal welfare?” was analysed both weighted and unweighted (Tables 1.5 and 1.6).

Table 1.5 (Weighted)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	339	29.0
No	831	71.0
Total	1170	100.0

Table 1.6 (Unweighted)

	Frequency	Valid Percent
Yes	320	27.4
No	850	72.6
Total	1170	100.0

1.5 Sampling Error

No sample is likely to reflect precisely the characteristics of the population it is drawn from because of both sampling and non-sampling errors. An estimate of the amount of error due to the sampling process can be calculated. For a simple random sample design, in which every member of the sampled population has an equal and independent chance of inclusion in the sample, the sampling error of any percentage, p , can be calculated by the formula:

$$\text{s.e. } (p) = \sqrt{p*(100 - p)/n}$$

where n is the number of respondents on which the percentage is based. The sample for the NI Omnibus Survey is drawn as a random sample, and thus this formula can be used to calculate the sampling error of any percentage estimate from the survey.

A confidence interval for the population percentage can be calculated by the formula

$$95 \text{ per cent confidence interval} = p \pm 1.96 * \text{s.e. } (p)$$

If 100 similar, independent samples were chosen from the same population, 95 of them

would be expected to yield an estimate for the percentage, p , within this confidence interval.

The absence of design effects in the survey, and therefore of the need to calculate complex standard errors, means that standard statistical tests of significance (which assume random sampling) can be applied directly to the data.

1.6 Notation

The percentages quoted in tables have been rounded to the nearest number. Where the base was less than 100, the actual number is given rather than the percentages denoted by the column label.

The following symbols are used:

Category not applicable - cell is empty

Figure less than 0.5% - cell is '0'