

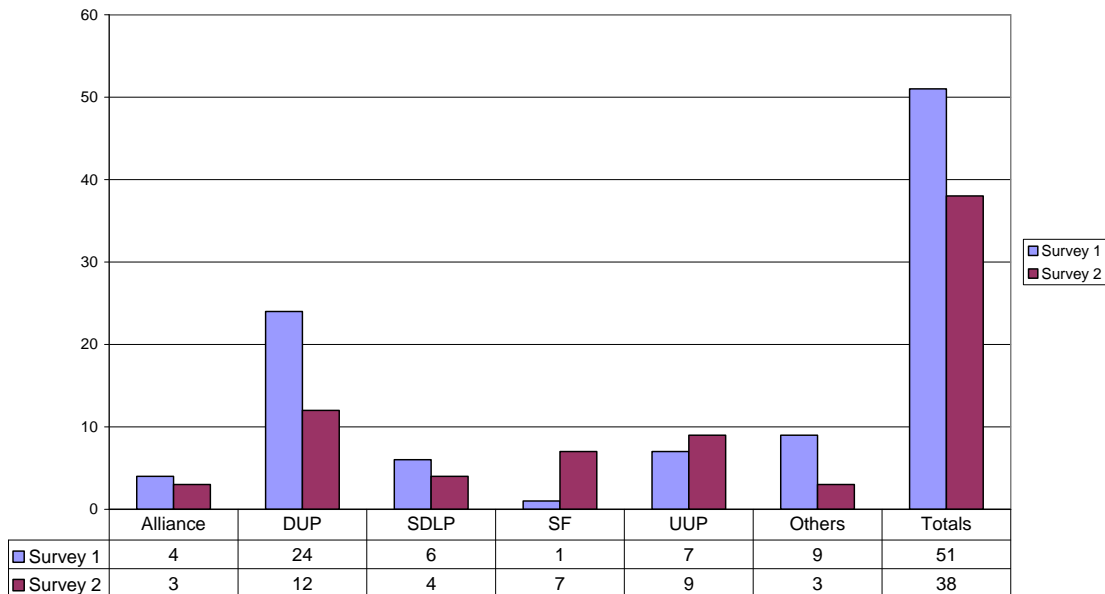
## SURVEY ON ELECTRONIC VOTING - UPDATE

(To be tabled on 28 November 2007)

This paper provides an updated analysis of the electronic voting survey results and incorporates some late replies to the questionnaire received yesterday.

Figure 1 presents an updated breakdown of the response to both surveys. The picture here remains much as it was before as the total response to the second survey has simply gone up to 38 (from 35 in the previous report).

Figure 1. Response to Survey



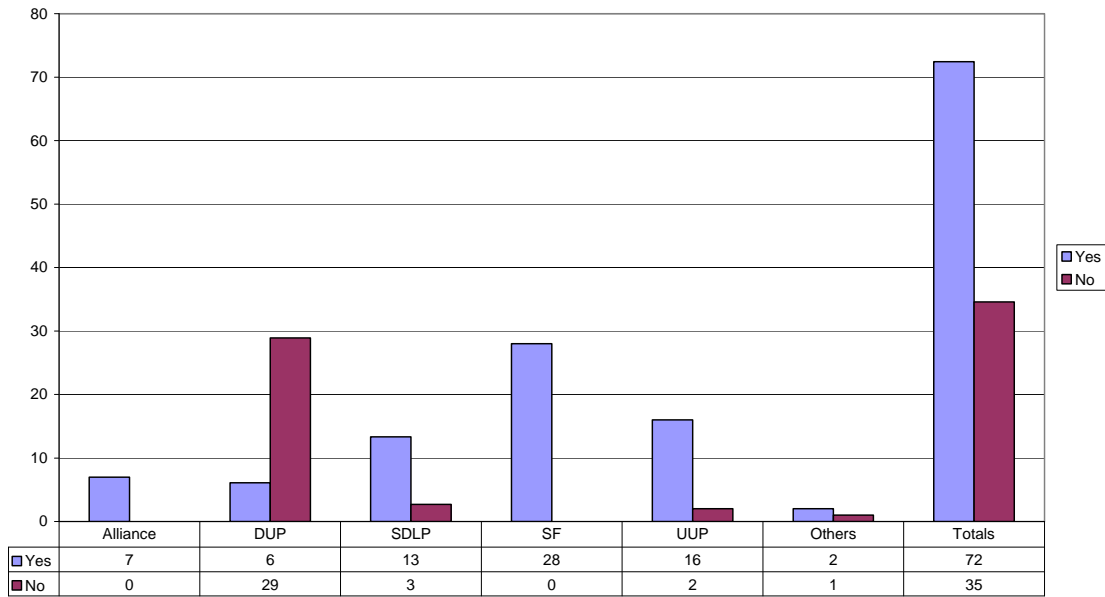
Note: 'Others' includes undisclosed

The main purpose of this update, however, is to provide Members with a better indication of their collective views on this issue by introducing a method for combining the results of the two surveys.

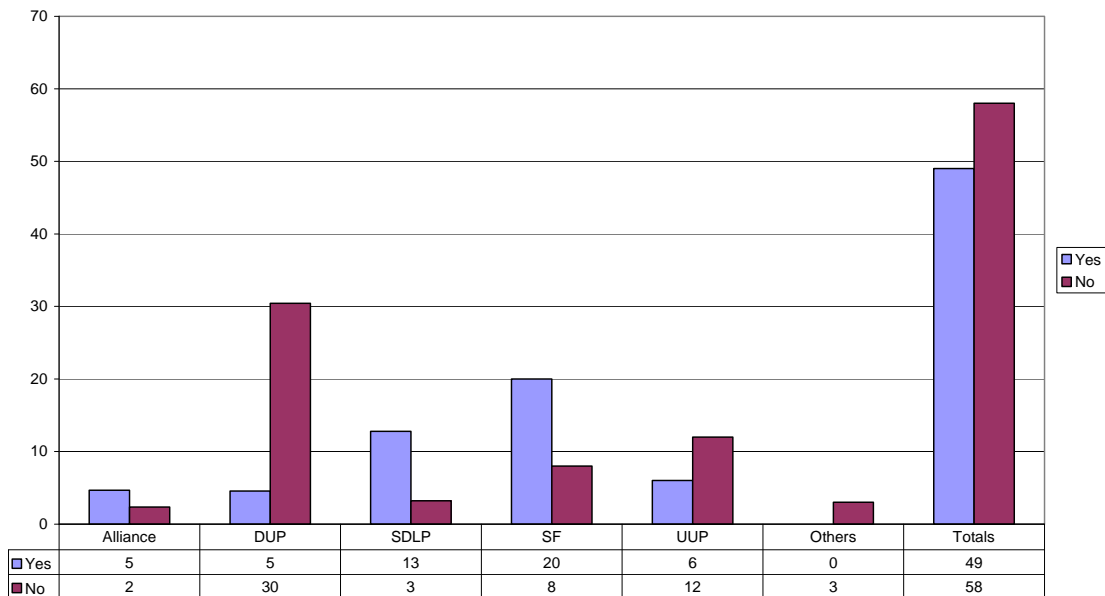
Put simply, I have taken the best information available from both surveys and grossed it up for each party separately. Responses from the DUP, SDLP, Alliance and the three single member parties are therefore taken primarily from the first survey, while the responses for Sinn Fein and the UUP are derived largely from the second survey. These 'best available' response totals were then grossed up to give results that might be obtained if all Members (excluding the Speaker) were to vote today on each of the five survey questions.

The results obtained were as follows:

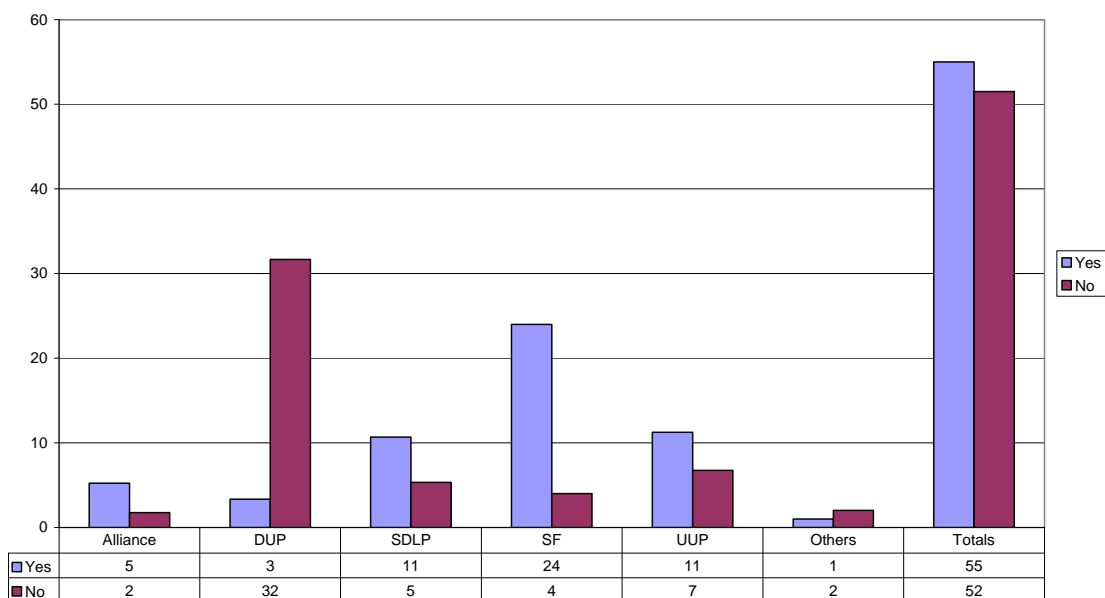
Q1 predicted - In favour of electronic voting?



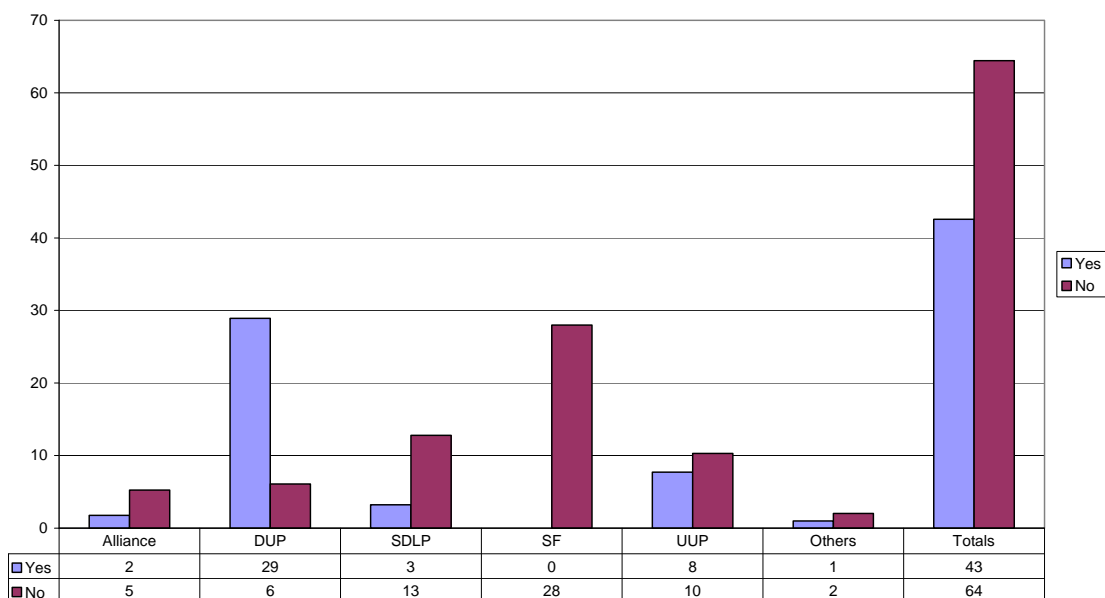
Q2 predicted - In favour of "decision time"?



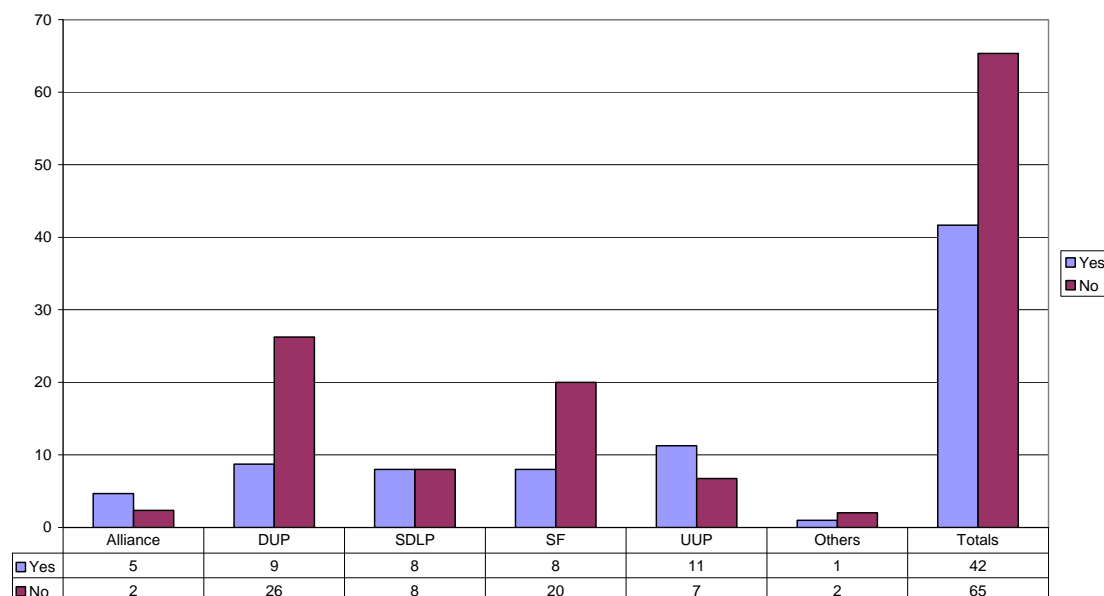
**Q3 predicted - In favour of electronic voting for all votes?**



**Q4 predicted - Do you feel current system is sufficient?**



Q5 predicted - Do you feel that improvements could be made without electronic voting?



## Conclusions

Using this methodology for combining the survey results helps to predict the likely outcome of any vote in the chamber on the issue of electronic voting. It is predicted that there would be a majority in favour of electronic voting, with a small majority of Members opposing the idea of a “decision time”. The issue of whether such a system should be used for all votes or just divisions remains too close to call, while the responses to the last two questions appear simply to reflect the response to the first question i.e. Members in favour of electronic voting are less likely to be content with the existing system and/or some alternative improvements to it.