

On the Front-Line:

Exploring the implications of BREXIT for citizen's in Ireland's Border Region



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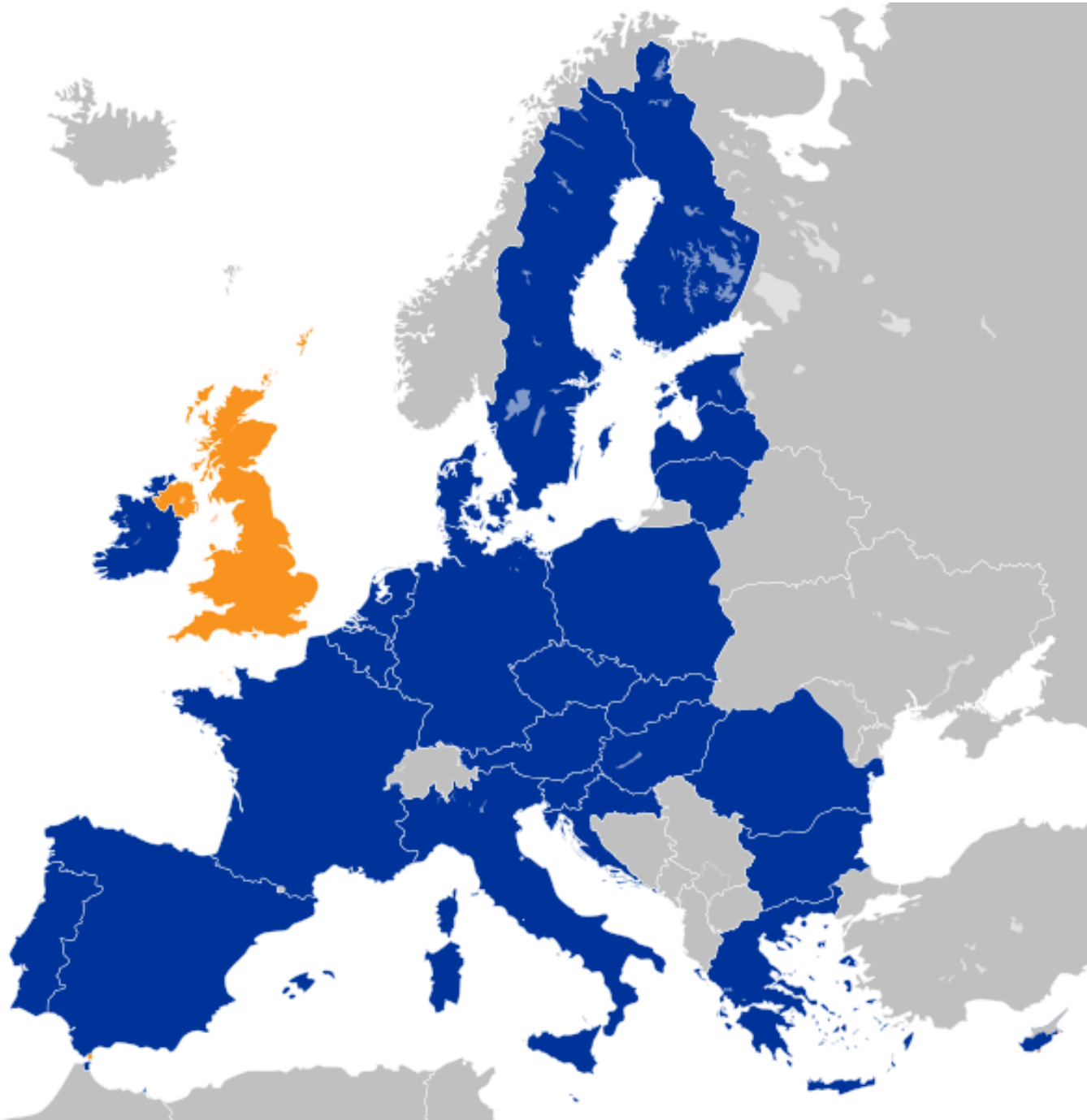
Outline

1. Motivation / Background
2. Research Approach
3. Uncertainties from the Literature
4. Data Insights
5. Identified Challenges and Implications
6. Conclusion



1. Motivation / Background

- UK vote to leave the EU (UKexit not Brexit!)
- Raises particular challenges for Island of Ireland:
 - Economic and Trade: ROI
 - Economic and Trade: NI (less so, but...)
 - Political stability and Peace legacy
- This research focused on citizens
 - North and South
 - Irish or British or another
 - An area a limited focus to date...growing interest
 - Project for Citizen's Information Board in Ireland (forthcoming report)....proviso...
- What does/could this mean; implications; solutions...



- Social Policy background & phases:
 - Story of *integration, disintegration, reintegration, dilution*
 - **Integration:** pre-1921 part of embryonic UK welfare state
 - **Disintegration:** Ireland drifts away post independence...
 - **Reintegration:** bilateral agreements on rights (education, healthcare, travel, benefits, voting) further strengthened by EU membership (from 1973) and Good Friday Agreement (1998)
 - Entering new period of **dilution**, as UK drifts away from EU norms yet commits to keep some current rights...

2. Research Approach

- A undefined 'moving' target...uncertainty
- Mixed methods
 - Literature and official documents review
 - Analysis of available official data
 - Analysis of CIB queries (esp cross-border)
 - Semi-structured interviews with key informants:
 - 3 in ROI
 - 3 in NI
 - 3 in Cross-Border roles
 - 1 European Integration academic

- **Research Objectives / Questions:**

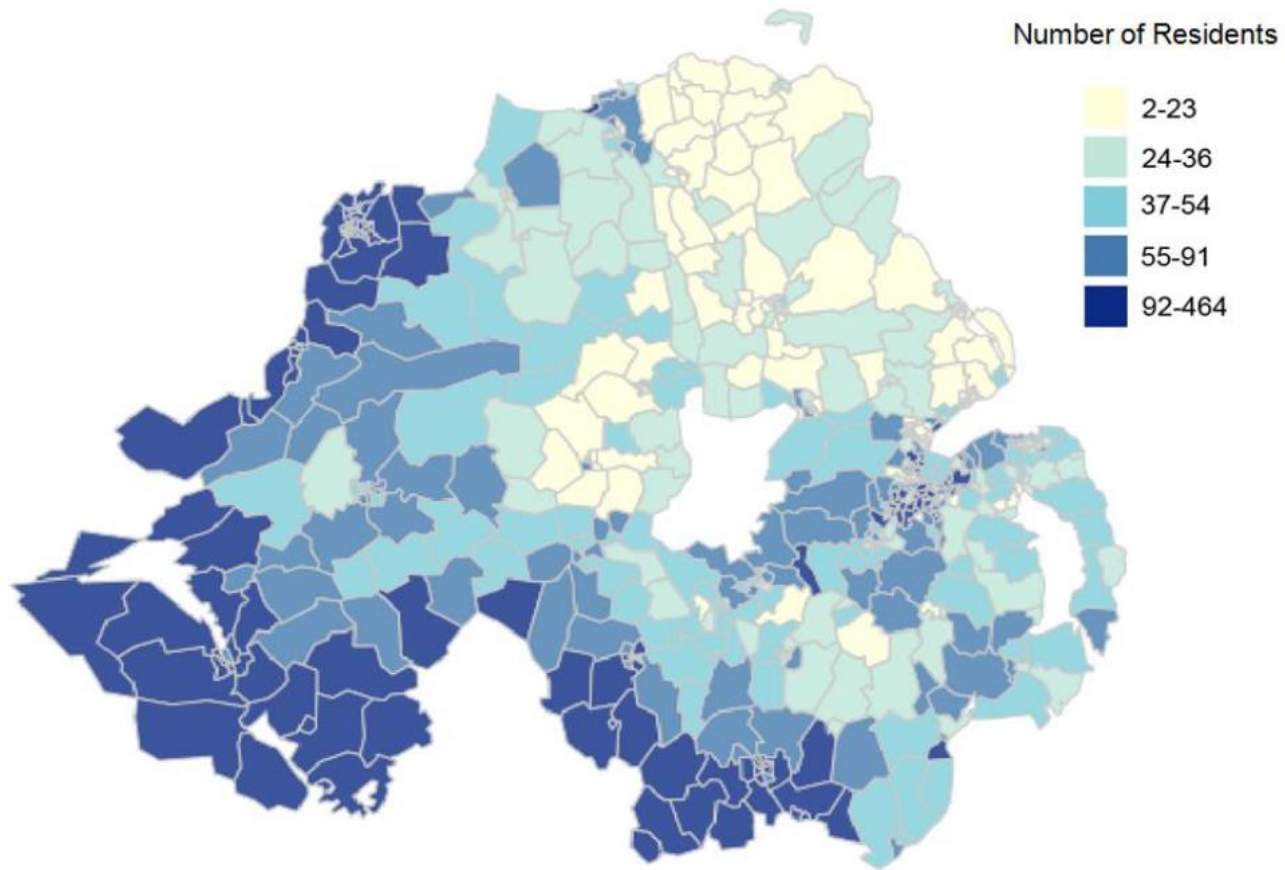
- To identify the social policies and citizens' rights and entitlements likely to be most significantly affected by Brexit.
- To ascertain the number and characteristics of citizens whose rights and access to social security benefits and services are likely to be most seriously affected by Brexit.
- To identify the level and focus of citizens' concerns about Brexit and its implications for their entitlements and access to services.
- To clarify the location of the citizens most likely to be affected by Brexit and most concerned about its implication for their rights and entitlements in order to elucidate Brexit's North/South and East/West implications.
- To identify priorities for policy action by the Irish and UK governments and at European Union level to address the impact of Brexit for citizens' rights and entitlements.
- To identify the challenges created by Brexit for information service providers, particularly the Citizens Information Service, and to formulate recommendations regarding how these challenges can be met.

3. Uncertainties from the Literature

- Challenges for Good Friday Agreement and Peace Process
- Loss of European Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Dilution of current rights and opening of divides
- Potential loss of rights to travel, live, work, educate, housing, healthcare...
- Threat to reciprocal rights arrangements
- Effect of UK migration policies for families...
- Loss of EU supports for border initiatives
- The threat of a physical border

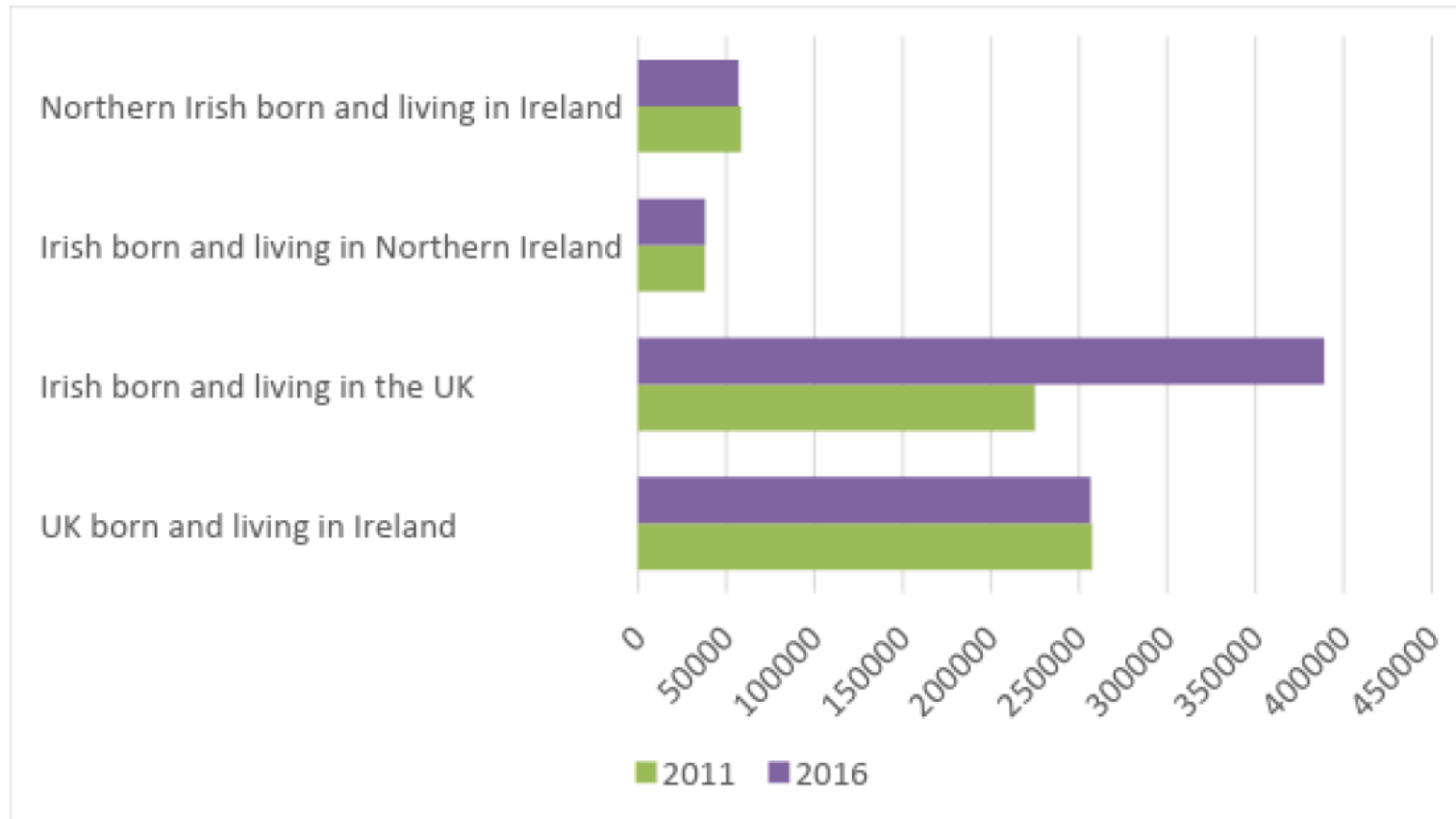
4. Data Insights

Figure 4.2 Spatial Distribution of Residents of Northern Ireland Who Were Born in Ireland, 2011.



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017).

Figure 4.1 Integration of the Irish, Northern Irish and UK Populations



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017).

Table 2.2: Cross-Border Commuters between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2016

Commuters	Number	Percentage
Children at school aged between 5 and 12 years	693	7%
Students at school or college ages between 13 and 18 years	707	8%
Students at school or college ages 19 years and over	899	10%
Population aged 15 years and over at work	7,037	75%
Total	9336	100%

Source: CSO (2017)

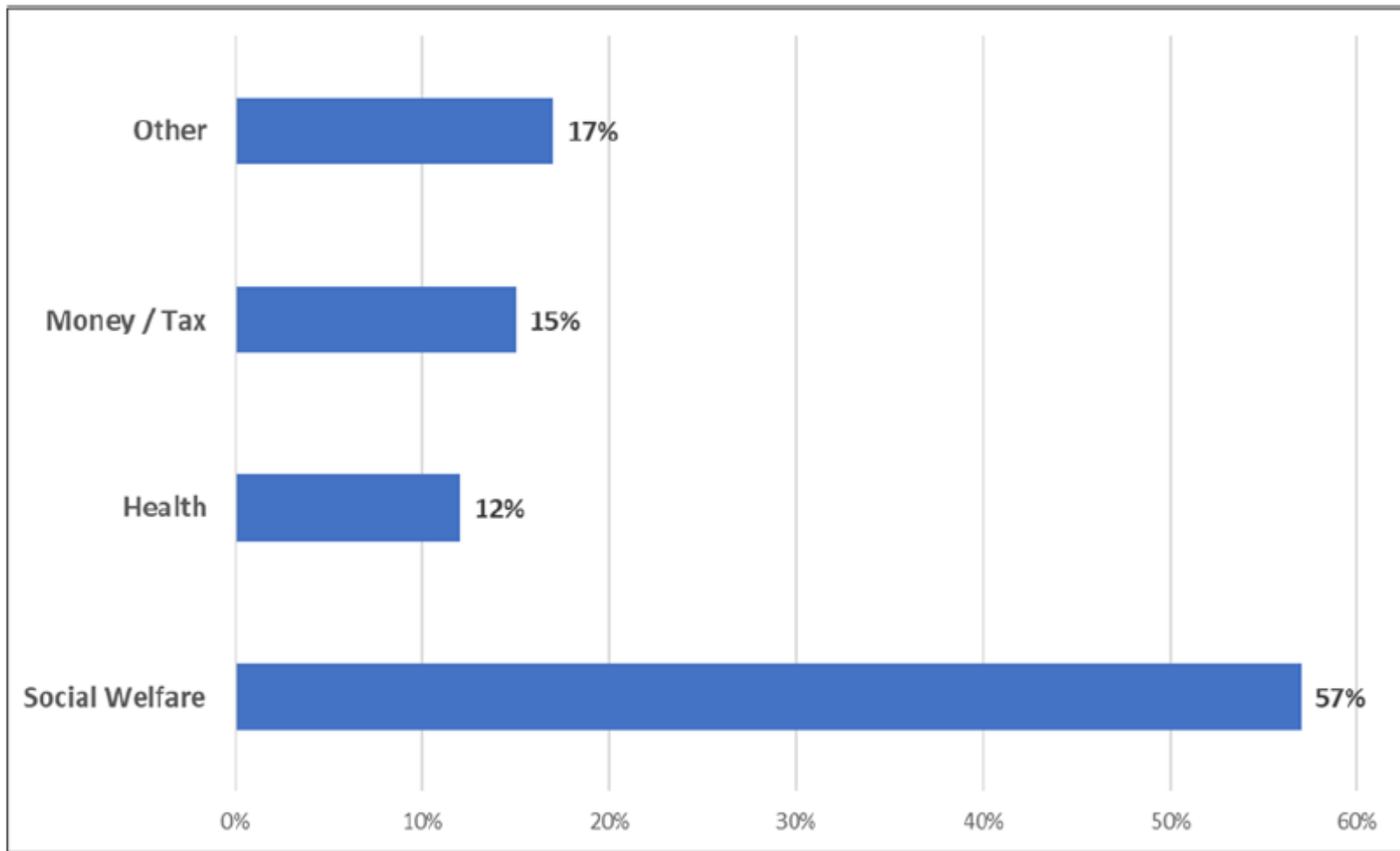
Table 2.5: Profile of Cross Border Shopping Trips to Northern Ireland

Region	Total Household who made shopping trip %	No. of Shopping Trips					Average no. of trips
		0	1	2-5	6-12	13+	
Border	43	57	4	13	10	16	8.6
Midland	15	85	7	7	1	0	0.4
West	11	89	7	3	1	0	0.3
Dublin	15	85	7	7	1	0	0.4
Mid-East	19	81	9	7	2	0	0.6
Mid-West	3	97	2	1	0	0	0.1
South-East	5	95	3	1	0	0	0.1
South-West	2	98	2	0	0	0	0.0
All Households	14	86	5	5	2	2	1.2

Source: CSO, 2010

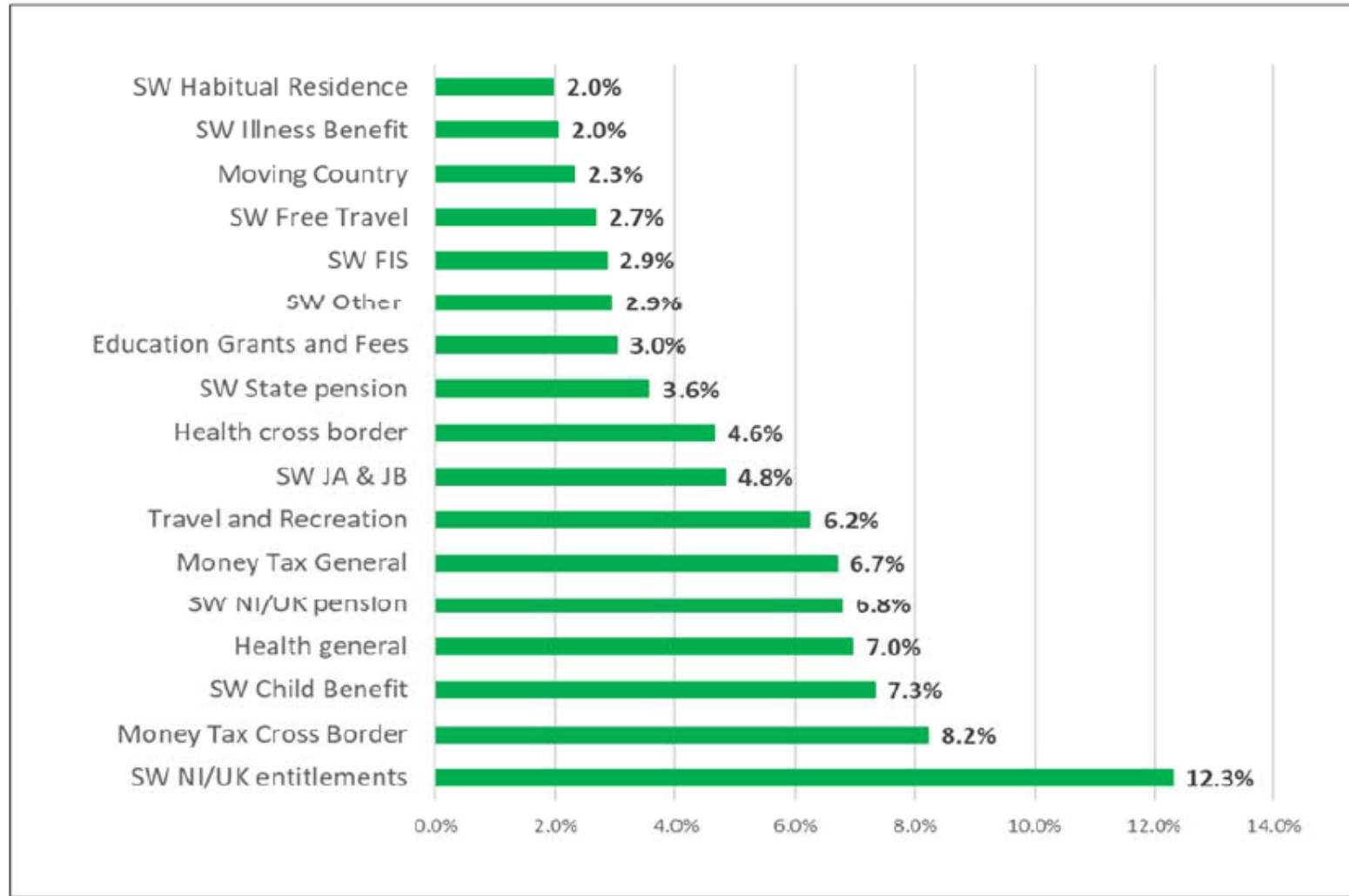
Notes: Data is for trips in the 12 months made prior to the survey in Q2 2010. The border region includes the following counties: Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo.

Chart 2.3: CIB Cross-Border Queries by Public Policy Area, January-Mid November 2017



Source: Authors calculations using data from CIB

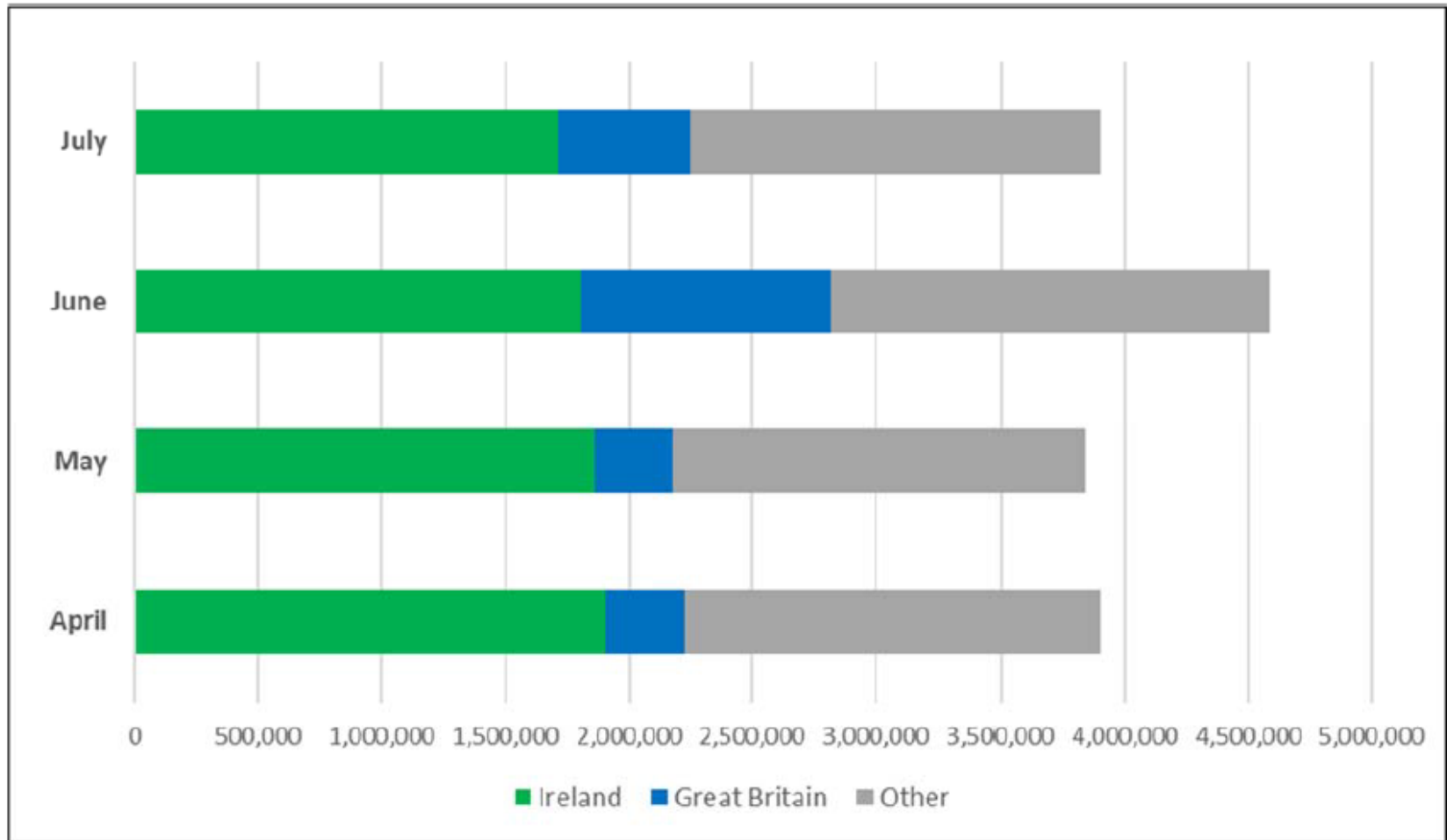
Chart 2.4: CIB Cross-Border Queries by Specific Policy Area, January-Mid November 2017



Source: Authors calculations using data from CIB

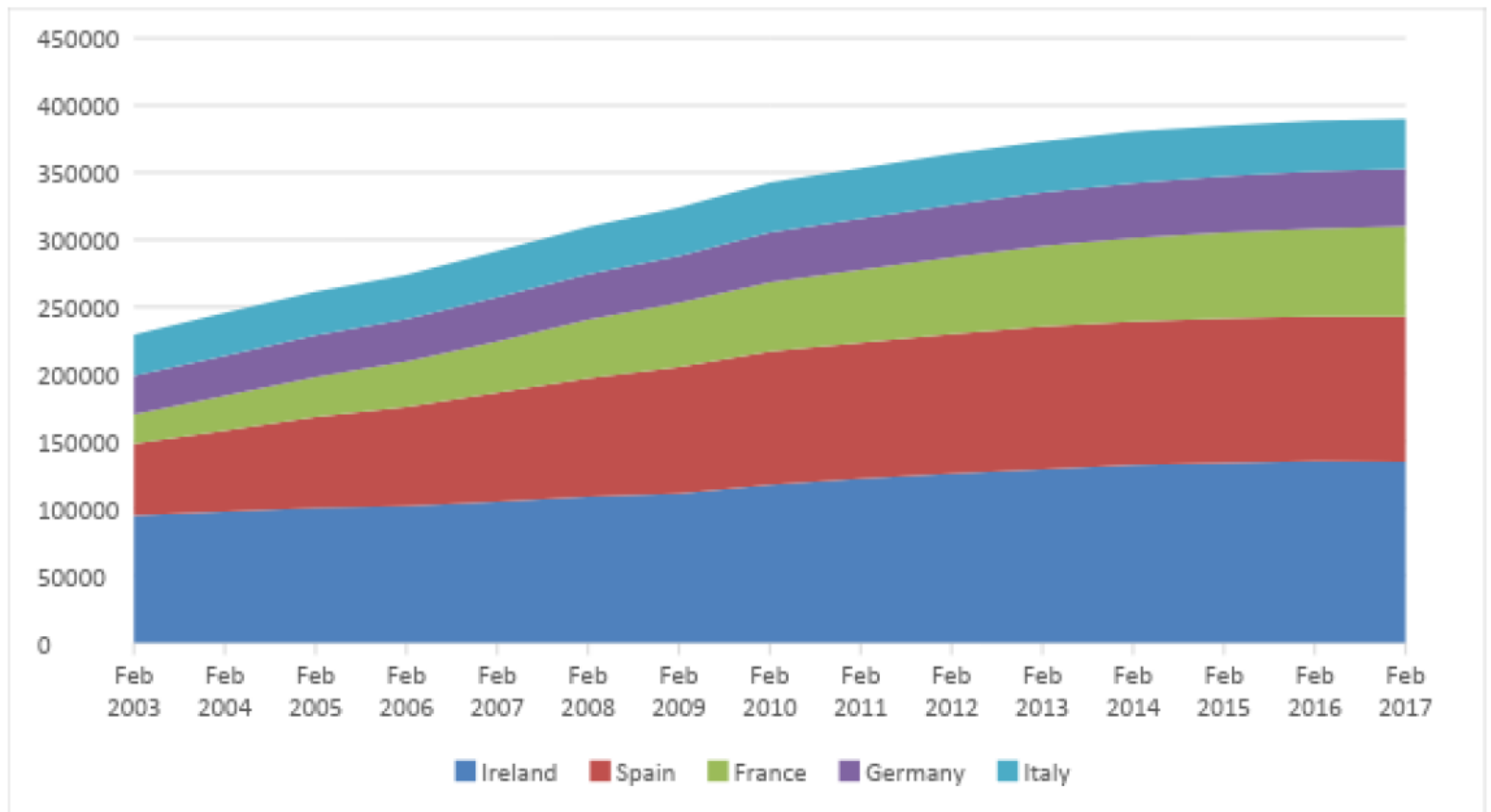
Note: Covers the top 17 queries which account for more than 85% of the total

Chart 2.2: Citizensinformation.ie Monthly Website Hits by Geographic Location, April-July 2016



Source: Authors calculations using data from CIB

Figure 4.3 Recipients of the UK State Pension living in Other EU Member States, 2003-2017.



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017).

5. Identified challenges and implications

- Leaving out some of the report here...
- Outcomes possible from 'hard' to 'soft'
 - Hardest = UK crashes out with no deal
 - Softest = protracted slow exit
- 1. A hard Brexit is highly likely: prepare
- 2. Bilateral agreements are key to citizens wellbeing post Brexit
- 3. The opportunity costs of uncertainty
- 4. Managing new divisions in NI society
- 5. Spillover effects on employment, trade, education, families and information services

6. Conclusion

- Brexit would be easy if it meant Brexit...rather than UKexit
- Northern Ireland context is central to final outcome
- Considerable impacts on people's lives
- Manageable, but only in context of softer-Brexit (or with backstop)
- Citizen's rights need:
 - Added focus in the transition period
 - Inevitable reform of Common Travel Area & linked 'rights'
 - Assistance and protection
 - Clarity re information provision

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