



Assessing reaction to possible foreign ownership of National Grid gas distribution

Survey powered by: **HARRIS 24**

A report by:



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INTRODUCTION

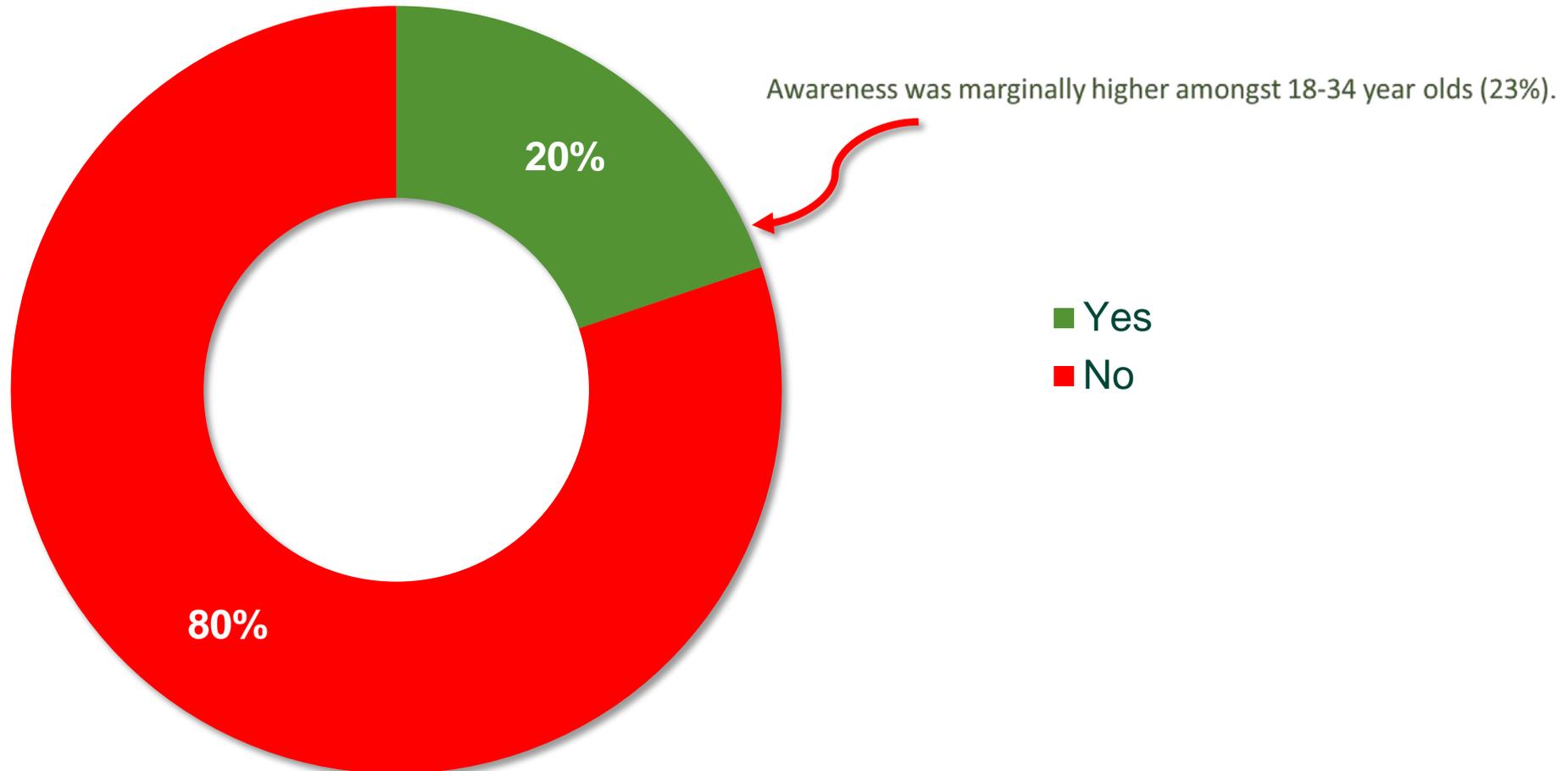
- The prospect of foreign ownership of the National Grid came a step closer recently when it was announced that the main British-backed bid was rejected in the auction process for the gas distribution network.
- The development is significant because at least three other offers for the National Grid network are dominated by Chinese and other overseas bidders. It also comes as the auction comes as Theresa May, the Prime Minister, wants to introduce new tests for foreign ownership of British infrastructure assets.
- To get public reaction, Harris Interactive launched a Harris 24 poll to measure awareness of the story and get thoughts on the decision and any concerns that people might have. The poll got 1,000 responses in under 3 hours.
- This report summarises the key findings from the poll

Key Findings



AWARENESS OF THE STORY

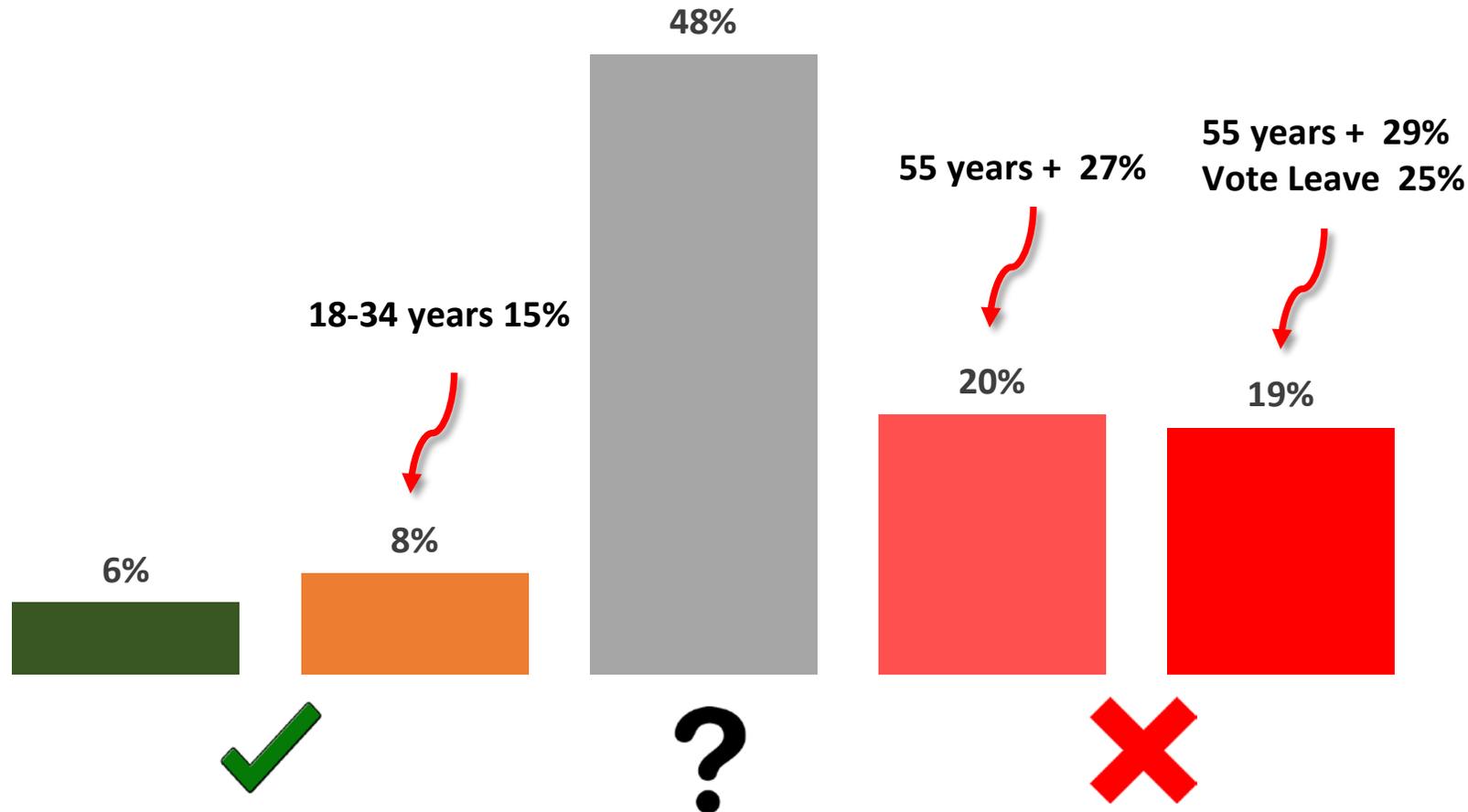
Awareness of the story was unsurprisingly low given that energy is typically a low engagement sector and that the story wasn't picked up by all new services.



AGREEMENT WITH DECISION

In terms of views on the decision, the majority neither agree nor disagree with it but considerably more people disagree than agree, particularly amongst the older age group and those who voted for Brexit.

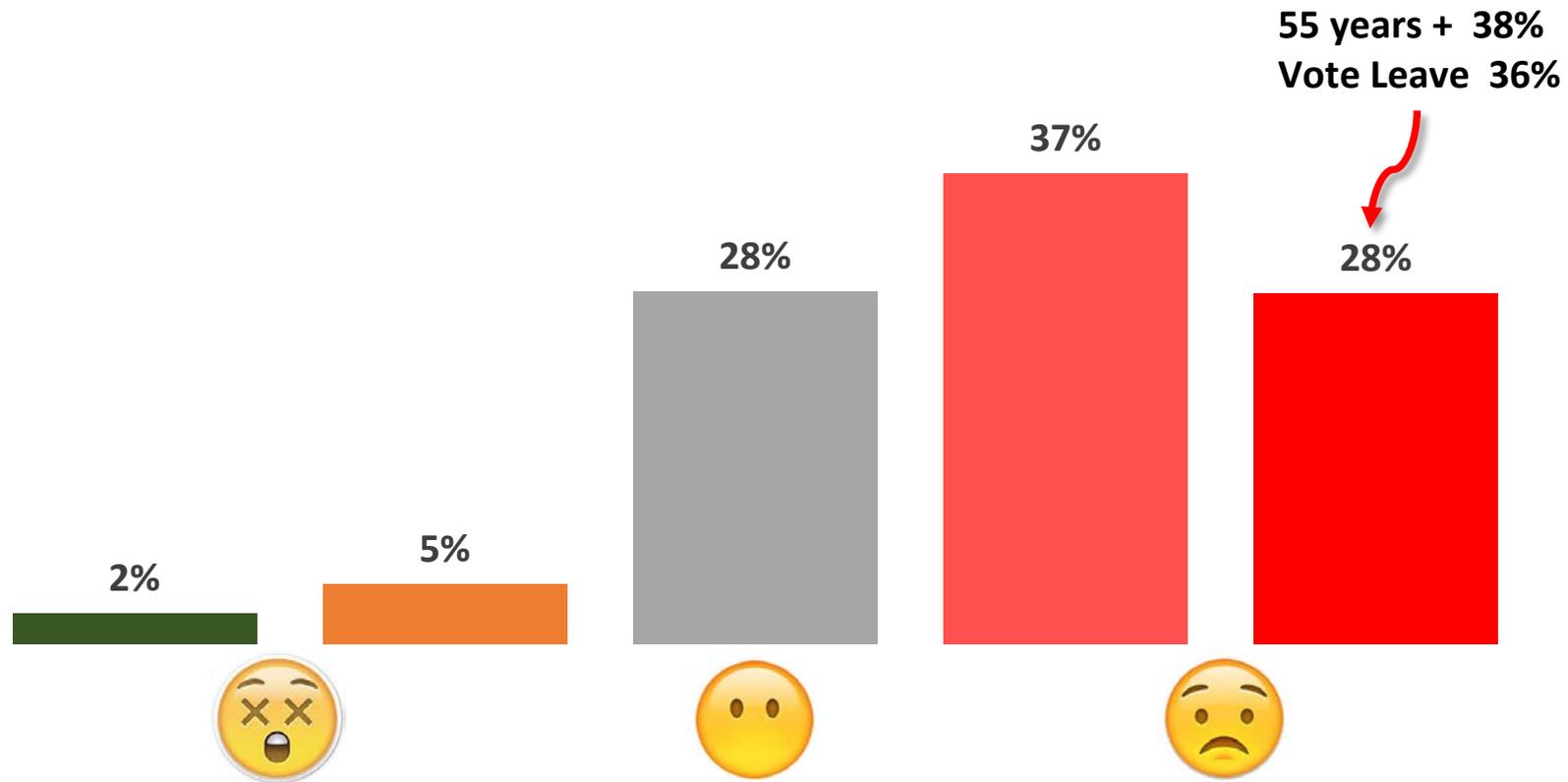
■ Strongly agree ■ Slightly agree ■ Neither agree nor disagree ■ Slightly disagree ■ Strongly disagree



DEGREE OF CONCERN OVER DECISION

Interestingly, despite the majority not able to decide whether they agreed or disagreed about the decision, almost two-thirds of people are concerned about it, with the older age group and Brexit voters most concerned.

■ Very Unconcerned ■ Unconcerned ■ Neither concerned not unconcerned ■ Concerned ■ Very Concerned



Methodology & Contact Details



METHODOLOGY & CONTACT DETAILS

- We surveyed 1009 over a 3 hour period on October 14th 2016 using our **Harris24** online survey.
- Data was weighted to be representative of the UK population in respect of gender, age and region.
- **Harris24** is especially useful for those occasions when you need answers fast from the general population. Covering 30 countries, 1000 –2000 interviews can be completed and reported in less than 24 hours in the UK, US, France, Germany, Spain and Italy.
- For further information about **Harris24** please contact the author of this report:

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