

Parliamentary candidates' perceptions of Israel and Palestine

April 2015

Methodology and demographics: Parliamentary candidates

Between 13th and 30th March 2015, Dods interviewed 249 Parliamentary candidates online on their attitudes towards Israel, Palestine and the Middle East peace process. These numbers reflect total interviews actually conducted.

Total	249	Region (totals)	
		East Midlands	17
Gender (%)		Eastern	26
Male	73	London	42
Female	27	North East	7
		North West	36
Party (totals)		Northern Ireland	4
Conservative	33	Scotland	30
Labour	33	South East	38
Liberal Democrat	90	South West	32
UKIP	28	Wales	14
Green	87	West Midlands	28
Other	33	Yorkshire & Humberside	30

NOTE: Figures in the remainder of this presentation are in percentages unless otherwise stated

Methodology and demographics: a note on confidence intervals

The table below shows the confidence intervals for the overall results and the breakdowns for each party. These represent the likely maximum error in each set of results to a confidence level of 95 per cent. That is, in 95 per cent of cases the true answer for all members of a population (for example, for all Conservative candidates) will be within the interval shown.

You will note that the confidence intervals for individual parties are broad, with a range of over 32 per cent for Labour and Conservative candidates.

	Population	Sample	Maximum interval
All candidates	3971	249	+/- 6%
Conservatives	647	33	+/- 16.6%
Labour	631	33	+/- 16.6%
Liberal Democrats	631	90	+/- 9.6%
UKIP	624	28	+/- 18.1%
Green	573	87	+/- 9.7%
Other	865	33	+/- 16.7%

It is therefore not recommended to draw inferences about support levels on a party-by-party basis, although it is acceptable to talk about support levels among Conservative or Labour candidates.

The confidence interval for all PPCs is six per cent, allowing inferences to be drawn for the group as a whole.

Q1: Israel's right to exist

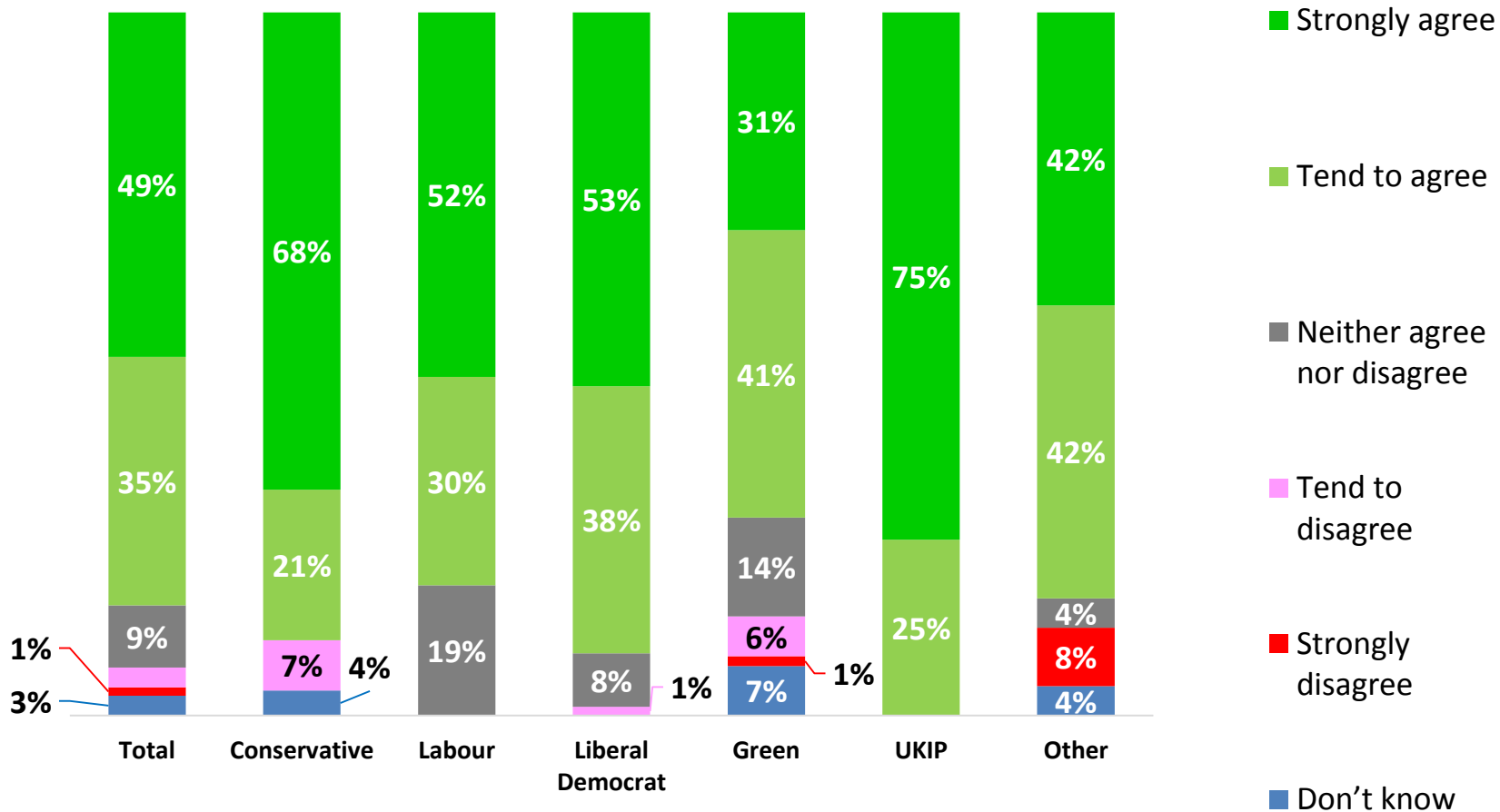
Question one asked respondents whether they agreed with the proposition:

Israel, as recognised by the UK in 1950, has the right to world-wide recognition and peaceful coexistence with her neighbours.

Among candidates in general there is strong support for Israel's right to recognition and coexistence, with 49 per cent strongly agreeing and a further 35 per cent agreeing for a net agreement rate of 84 per cent. Of the main UK parties the Greens were the least supportive, but even among this group 72 per cent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.

Respondents from marginal seats appear slightly less likely to agree with the statement, but the differences are within the margin of error for the group as a whole.

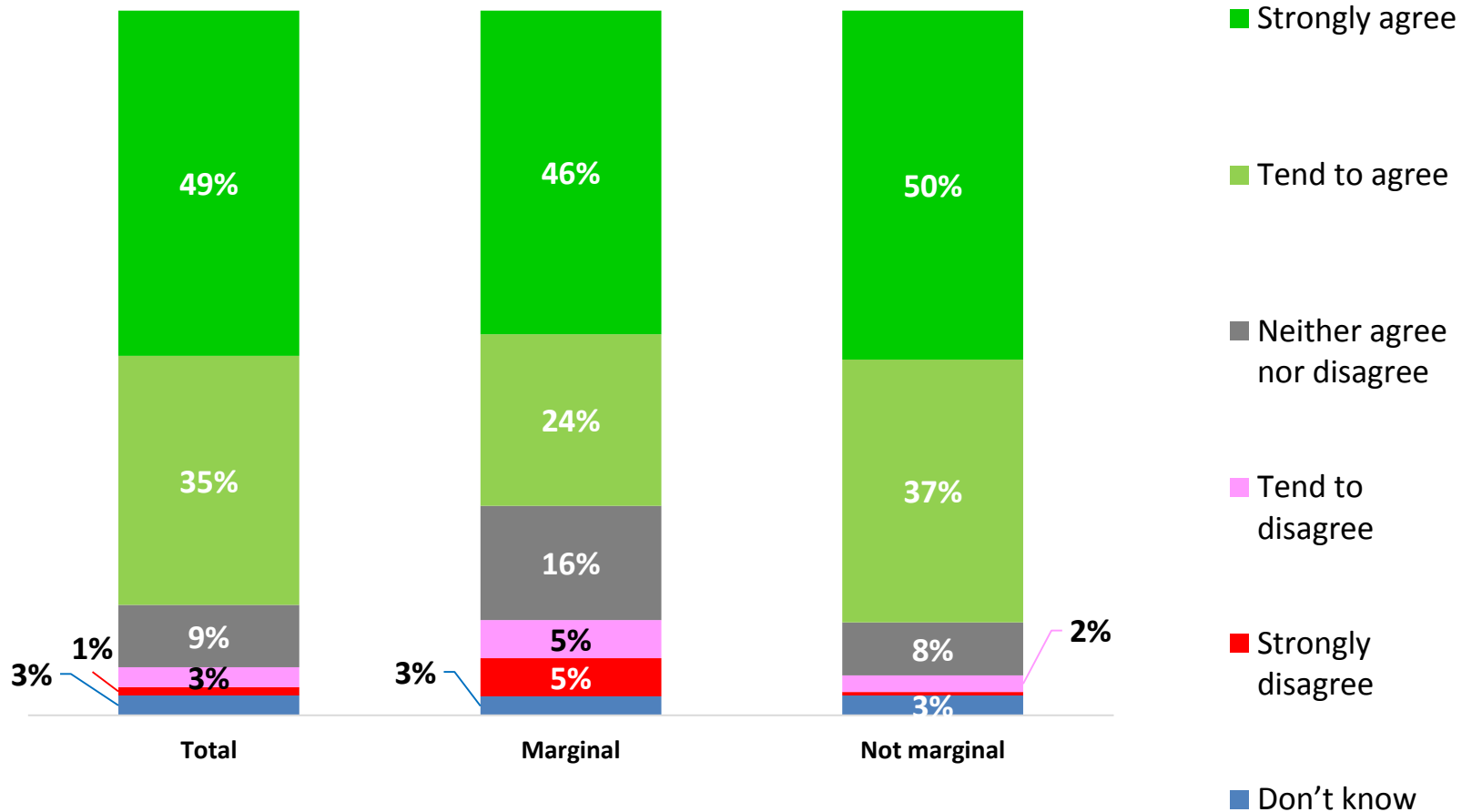
Q1: Israel's right to exist



All respondents

[N=249]

Q1: Israel's right to exist



All respondents

[N=249]

Q2: Statehood for Palestine

Question two asked respondents whether they agreed with the proposition:

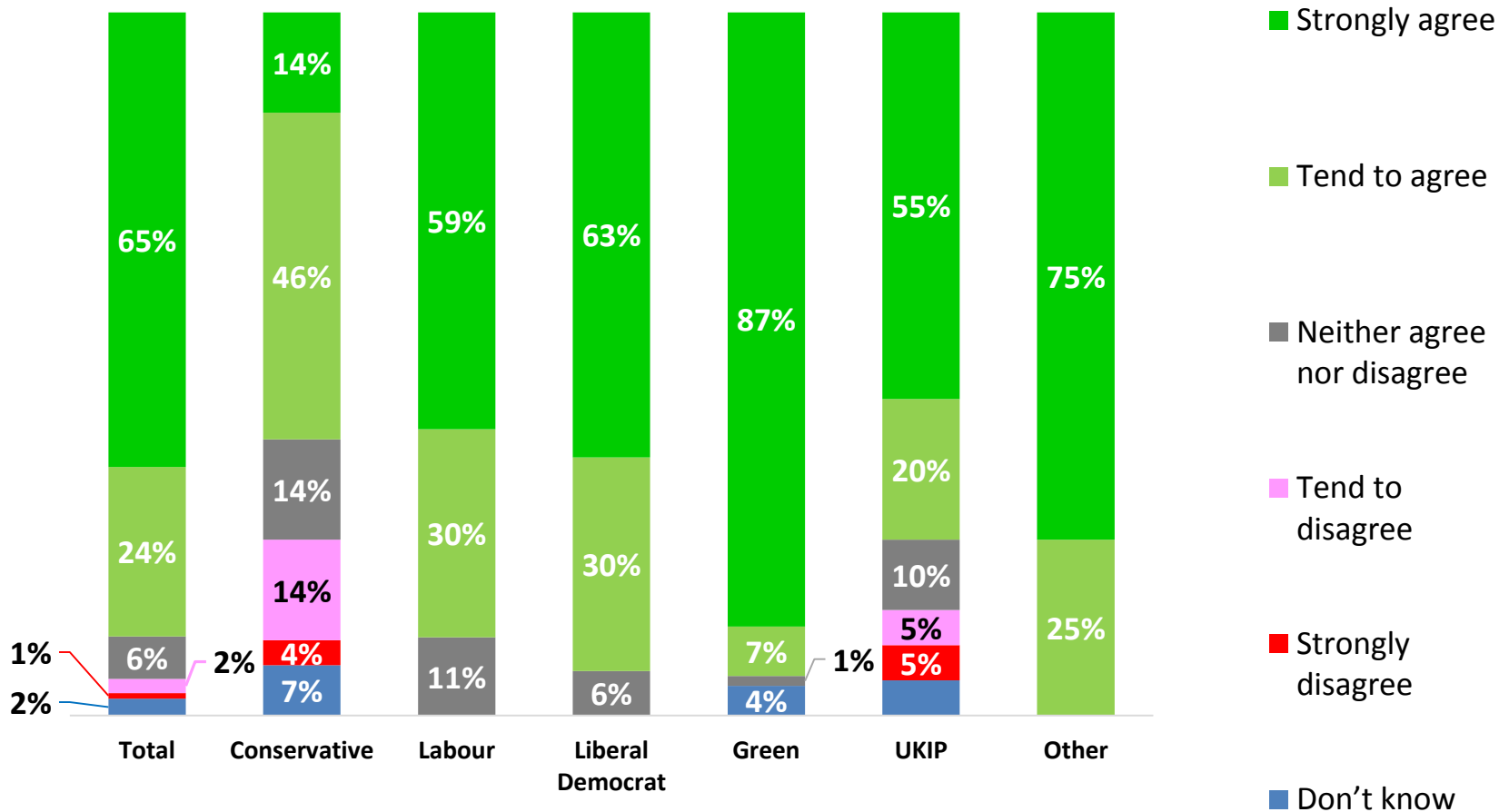
Statehood for Palestine (on 1967 lines) is a right which should be recognised in 2015.

While 65 per cent of respondents strongly agreed with this statement Conservative respondents were less likely to do so. Even allowing for the confidence intervals on both totals there is a significant difference between the response of candidates as a whole and of Conservatives in particular.

All told, only 14 per cent of Conservative respondents strongly agreed with the statement, although a majority of Conservative respondents did agree to some degree (60 per cent in total).

Responses from marginal and non-marginal constituencies were broadly identical.

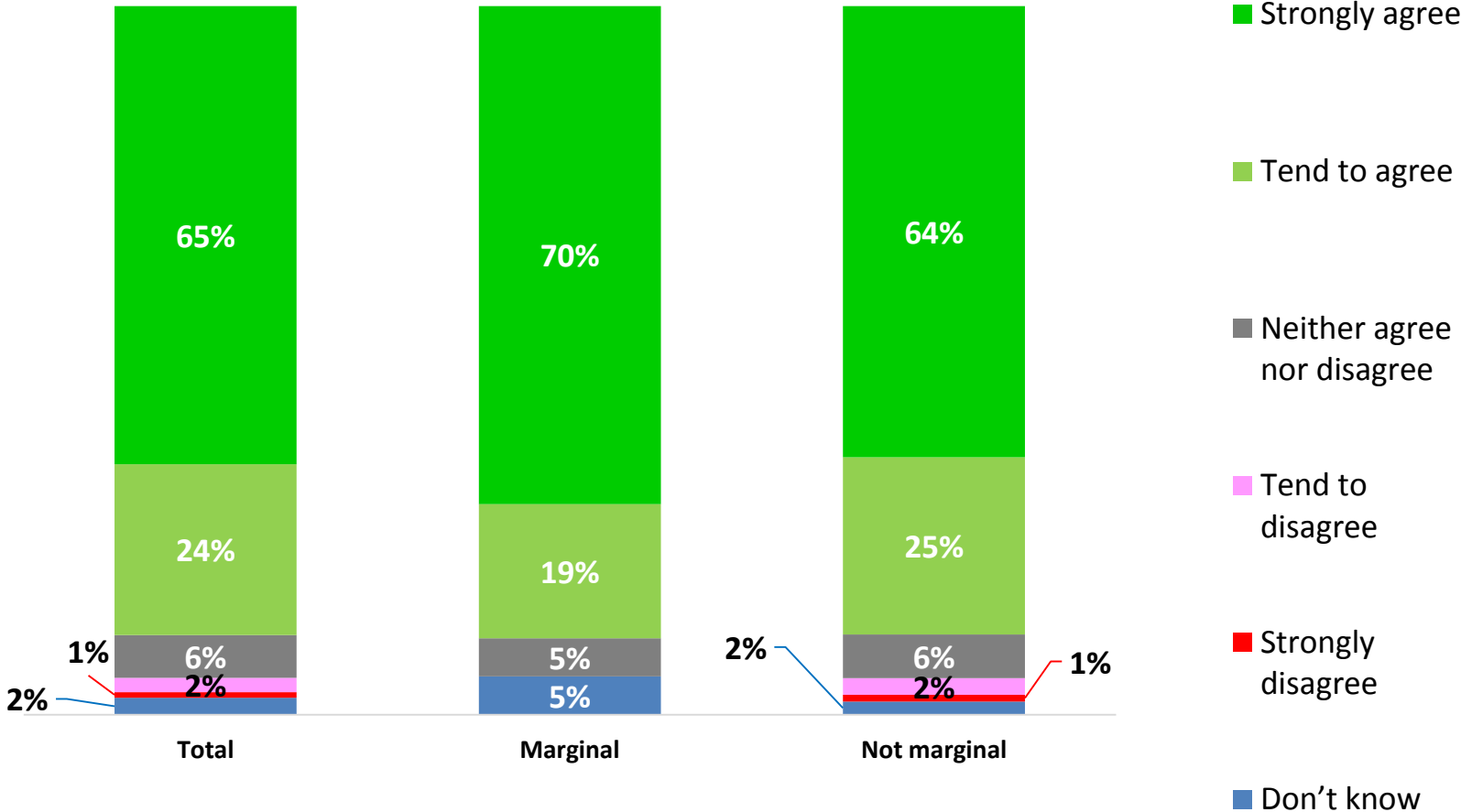
Q2: Statehood for Palestine



All respondents

[N=249]

Q2: Statehood for Palestine



All respondents
[N=249]

Q3: Obstacles to peace

Question three asked respondents whether they agreed with the proposition:

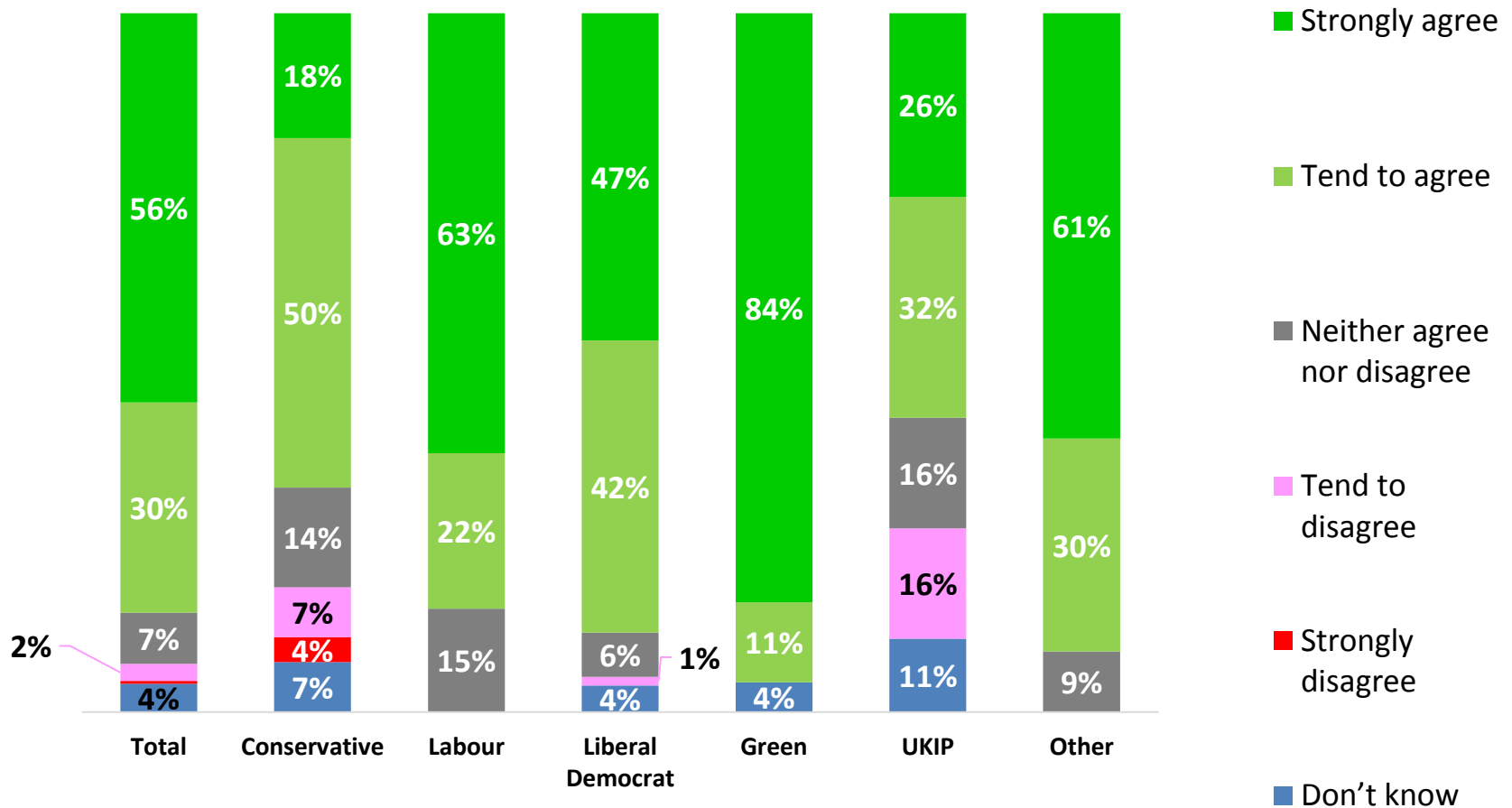
Illegal settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza are major obstacles to a durable agreement, supported by the UK, based upon the co-existence of two states, Israel and Palestine.

Again, Conservative respondents were significantly less likely to strongly agree with the above proposition than were candidates in general. A total of 18 per cent of Conservatives strongly agreed as compared to 56 per cent of all respondents.

Respondents from UKIP were also significantly less likely to strongly agree with the proposition although it must be stressed that a majority of respondents from both UKIP and the Conservatives agreed to some degree.

Responses from marginal and non-marginal constituencies did not display any significant differences.

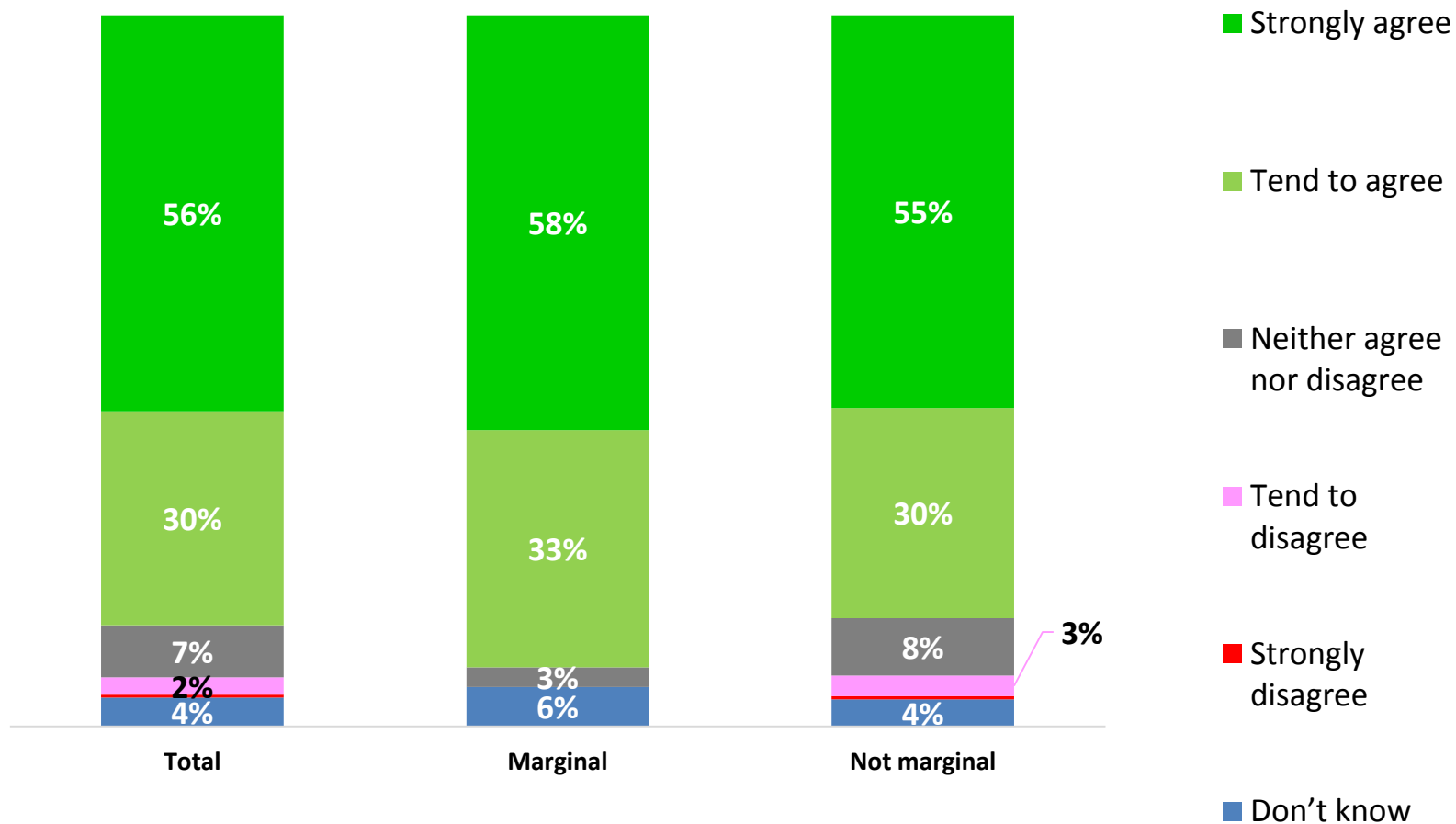
Q3: Obstacles to peace



All respondents

[N=246]

Q3: Obstacles to peace



All respondents

[N=246]

For more information, please contact
David Bowers
david.bowers@dods.co.uk
020 7593 5642