

**SUPPLEMENTARY ONLINE APPENDIX:  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE AND POLITICAL TRUST DURING THE COVID-  
19 CRISIS: EXPERIMENTAL EVIDENCE FROM IRELAND**

**1. Measurement construction and summary statistics of variables employed in the analysis**

**Table OA1: Dependent variables and their construction**

| <b>Dependent variables</b>            | Description   | N   | Mean | St. Deviation | Minimum | Maximum |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|------|---------------|---------|---------|
| Willingness to trust                  | Composite index combining responses for willingness to trust government, the department of health and the HSE   | 609 | 6.57 | 2.99          | 0       | 10      |
| Perceived capability                  | Composite index combining responses for perceived capability of government, the department of health and the HSE  | 603 | 5.52 | 2.89          | 0       | 10      |
| <b>Components of the indices</b>      |   |     |      |               |         |         |
| Willingness to trust – Government     | Level of agreement with the statement ‘We need to put our trust into the Government in crisis management’ (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)           | 609 | 3.67 | 1.36          | 1       | 5       |
| Willingness to trust – Dep. Of Health | Level of agreement with the statement ‘We need to put our trust into the Department of Health in crisis management’ (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree) | 605 | 3.67 | 1.29          | 1       | 5       |
| Willingness to trust – HSE            | Level of agreement with the statement ‘We need to put our trust into HSE in crisis management’ (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)                      | 609 | 3.60 | 1.27          | 1       | 5       |
| Perceived capability – Government     | Level of agreement with the statement ‘The Government is well able to resolve the crisis’ (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)                           | 607 | 3.26 | 1.33          | 1       | 5       |

|  |   |     |      |      |   |   |
|--|---|-----|------|------|---|---|
| Perceived capability – Dep. Of Health              | Level of agreement with the statement ‘The Department of Health is well able to resolve the crisis’ (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)   | 605 | 3.27 | 1.24 | 1 | 5 |
| Perceived capability – HSE                         | Level of agreement with the statement ‘The HSE is well able to resolve the crisis’ (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)  | 607 | 3.10 | 1.25 | 1 | 5 |
| <b>DV used in robustness checks</b>                |   |     |      |      |   |   |
| Perceived accuracy                                 | Level of agreement that the information about the pandemic disclosed by the Dep. Of Health is accurate (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree)  | 608 | 3.67 | 1.25 | 1 | 5 |
| Performance evaluation of Government crisis policy | Level of confidence that the Government is doing a good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak (1=Not at all confident; 2=Not too confident; 3=Somewhat confident; 4=Very confident)  | 593 | 3.00 | 0.99 | 1 | 4 |
| Support for Government crisis policy               | Level of agreement with the statement <i>I support the government policies on social distancing and restrictions on businesses and movement</i> (1=strongly disagree; 5 = strongly agree) | 607 | 4.15 | 1.18 | 1 | 5 |

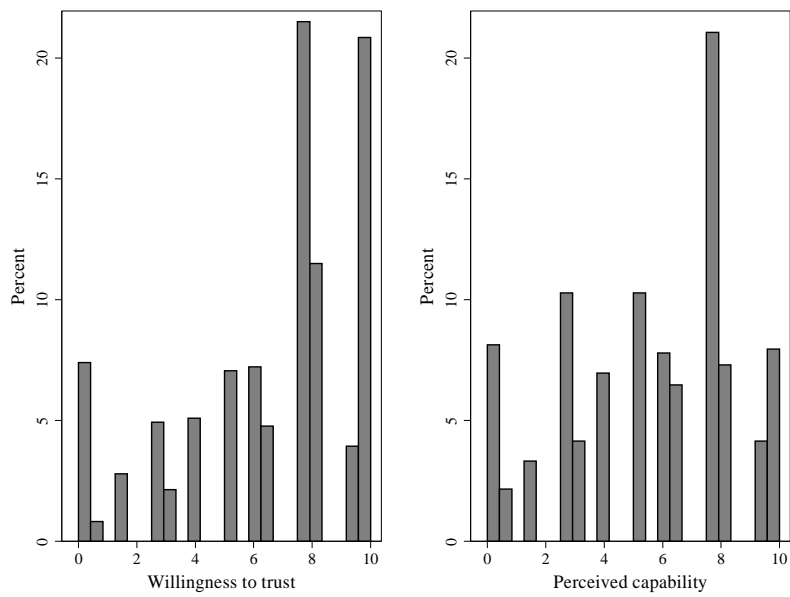
**Table OA2: Independent variables and their construction**

| <b>Independent variables</b>     | Description  | N   | Mean | St. Deviation | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------------------------------|--|-----|------|---------------|---------|---------|
| HI treatment                     | Experimental treatment displaying high level information on the Irish Datahub  | 215 |      |               | 0       | 1       |
| LI treatment                     | Experimental treatment displaying low level information on the Irish Datahub   | 200 |      |               | 0       | 1       |
| Control                          | Control condition  | 203 |      |               | 0       | 1       |
| Pre-treatment trust (continuous) | Level of pre-treatment trust measured on a scale from 0-10   | 586 | 4.04 | 2.92          | 0       | 10      |
| Pre-treatment trust              | Level of pre-treatment trust merged in high (3), medium (2) and low categories (1)   | 586 | 1.88 | 0.83          | 1       | 3       |
| <b>Control variables</b>         |  |     |      |               |         |         |
| Age (ordinal)                    | Age measured in 7 categories: 1 = 18-25; 2 = 26-30; 3 = 31-40; 4 = 41-50; 5 = 51-60; 6 = 61-70; 7 = +70  | 618 | 4.66 | 1.47          | 1       | 7       |
| Gender                           | 0 = female; 1 = male   | 618 | 0.43 | 0.49          | 0       | 1       |
| Education                        | Level of education measured in 7 categories: 1 = no formal education; 2 = junior cert or less; 3 = leaving cert; 4= post-cert qualification; 5 = bachelor's degree of equivalent; 6 = master's degree or equivalent; 7 = Ph.D.     | 611 | 3.21 | 1.34          | 1       | 7       |
| Income                           | Monthly income from all sources after taxes measured in 10 categories (in €1,000): 1 = less than €1.2; 2 = €1.2-1.7; 3 = €1.7-2.2; 4 = €2.2-2.7; 5 = €2.7-3.4; 6 = €3.4-4.0; 7 = €4.0-4.8; 8 = €4.8-5.8; 9 = €5.8-7.3; 10 = + €7.3 | 608 | 4.33 | 2.19          | 1       | 10      |
| Urban                            | Geographical origin of respondent (1 = main city or large town including suburbs; 0 = small county town and rural area)  | 618 | 0.59 |               | 0       | 1       |

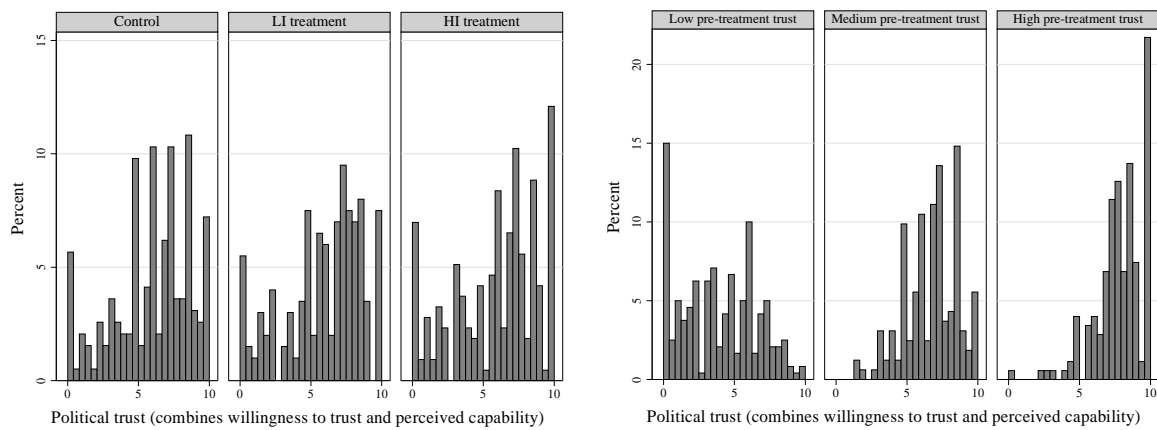
|            |   |     |      |      |   |    |
|------------|---|-----|------|------|---|----|
| Left-right | Left-right placement of political views on a 0-10 scale | 567 | 4.76 | 2.02 | 0 | 10 |
|------------|---|-----|------|------|---|----|

## 2. Descriptive analysis of the dependent variables

**Figure OA1: Distribution of political trust indices**



**Figure OA2: Distribution of political trust by treatment conditions and pre-treatment trust (ordinal categories)**



### 3. Additional results and replication of main analysis using alternative measurements

Our results fully replicate when components of the trust indices are considered separately (Table OA4), when using the continuous (i.e. not collapsed) version of pre-treatment trust variable (Table OA5), and when each interaction in Table 1 is entered separately into the models (Table OA6).

**Table OA3: OLS regressions for direct effects of treatments**

| VARIABLES            | (1)<br>Willingness to trust | (2)<br>Willingness to trust | (3)<br>Perceived capability | (4)<br>Perceived capability |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HI treatment         | -0.333<br>(0.296)           | -0.181<br>(0.296)           | 0.134<br>(0.289)            | 0.269<br>(0.288)            |
| LI treatment         | -0.291<br>(0.302)           | -0.221<br>(0.300)           | 0.184<br>(0.293)            | 0.214<br>(0.292)            |
| Age                  |                             | 0.124<br>(0.085)            |                             | 0.136<br>(0.083)            |
| Gender (ref. female) |                             | -0.259<br>(0.248)           |                             | -0.458*<br>(0.242)          |
| Education            |                             | 0.210**<br>(0.098)          |                             | 0.184*<br>(0.096)           |
| Income               |                             | 0.0910<br>(0.058)           |                             | 0.116**<br>(0.057)          |
| Urban                |                             | 0.747***<br>(0.250)         |                             | 0.508**<br>(0.243)          |
| Left-right           |                             | 0.318***<br>(0.060)         |                             | 0.337***<br>(0.058)         |
| Constant             | 6.783***<br>(0.215)         | 3.225***<br>(0.705)         | 5.415***<br>(0.209)         | 1.921***<br>(0.686)         |
| Observations         | 609                         | 552                         | 603                         | 548                         |
| R-squared            | 0.002                       | 0.081                       | 0.001                       | 0.092                       |

Standard errors in parentheses  
 \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA4: Models decomposing political trust indices into their components: Results for trust in government**

| VARIABLES                  | (1)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (2)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (3)<br>Perceived<br>capability | (4)<br>Perceived<br>capability |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| HI treatment               | -0.411**<br>(0.170)            | -0.428**<br>(0.173)            | -0.265<br>(0.164)              | -0.249<br>(0.166)              |
| Low pre-treatment trust    | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         |
| Medium pre-treatment trust | 1.313***<br>(0.192)            | 1.091***<br>(0.196)            | 1.209***<br>(0.185)            | 1.023***<br>(0.189)            |
| High pre-treatment trust   | 1.626***<br>(0.198)            | 1.365***<br>(0.205)            | 1.570***<br>(0.192)            | 1.417***<br>(0.198)            |
| Low pre-treat. * HI        | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         |
| Medium pre-treat. * HI     | 0.420<br>(0.265)               | 0.582**<br>(0.270)             | 0.620**<br>(0.257)             | 0.592**<br>(0.260)             |
| High pre-treat. * HI       | 0.548**<br>(0.266)             | 0.634**<br>(0.269)             | 0.656**<br>(0.256)             | 0.608**<br>(0.259)             |
| LI treatment               | -0.233<br>(0.173)              | -0.302*<br>(0.174)             | -0.030<br>(0.167)              | -0.120<br>(0.168)              |
| Low pre-treat. * LI        | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         |
| Medium pre-treat. * LI     | 0.145<br>(0.272)               | 0.158<br>(0.274)               | -0.035<br>(0.263)              | 0.058<br>(0.263)               |
| High pre-treat. * LI       | 0.351<br>(0.269)               | 0.469*<br>(0.271)              | 0.404<br>(0.260)               | 0.476*<br>(0.261)              |
| Age                        |                                | 0.111***<br>(0.032)            |                                | 0.065**<br>(0.030)             |
| Gender (ref. female)       |                                | -0.085<br>(0.093)              |                                | -0.154*<br>(0.089)             |
| Education                  |                                | 0.088**<br>(0.037)             |                                | 0.095***<br>(0.036)            |
| Income                     |                                | 0.017<br>(0.021)               |                                | 0.009<br>(0.021)               |
| Urban                      |                                | 0.202**<br>(0.093)             |                                | 0.057<br>(0.090)               |
| Left-right                 |                                | 0.082***<br>(0.023)            |                                | 0.087***<br>(0.022)            |
| Constant                   | 2.853***<br>(0.124)            | 1.629***<br>(0.269)            | 2.347***<br>(0.120)            | 1.408***<br>(0.259)            |
| Observations               | 577                            | 525                            | 576                            | 524                            |
| R-squared                  | 0.405                          | 0.442                          | 0.420                          | 0.459                          |

Standard errors in parentheses  
\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA4 (continued): Results for trust in the Department of Health**

| VARIABLES                  | (5)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (6)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (7)<br>Perceived<br>capability | (8)<br>Perceived<br>capability |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| HI treatment               | -0.302*                        | -0.230                         | -0.256                         | -0.200                         |
|                            | (0.179)                        | (0.189)                        | (0.167)                        | (0.175)                        |
| Low pre-treatment trust    | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         |
| Medium pre-treatment trust | 1.037***                       | 0.976***                       | 0.990***                       | 0.934***                       |
|                            | (0.202)                        | (0.215)                        | (0.189)                        | (0.199)                        |
| High pre-treatment trust   | 1.146***                       | 1.094***                       | 1.203***                       | 1.072***                       |
|                            | (0.209)                        | (0.225)                        | (0.195)                        | (0.209)                        |
| Low pre-treat. * HI        | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         |
| Medium pre-treat. * HI     | 0.133                          | 0.072                          | 0.274                          | 0.146                          |
|                            | (0.283)                        | (0.299)                        | (0.263)                        | (0.275)                        |
| High pre-treat. * HI       | 0.618**                        | 0.588**                        | 0.721***                       | 0.730***                       |
|                            | (0.280)                        | (0.295)                        | (0.261)                        | (0.274)                        |
| LI treatment               | 0.0253                         | 0.064                          | 0.086                          | 0.097                          |
|                            | (0.183)                        | (0.191)                        | (0.170)                        | (0.177)                        |
| Low pre-treat. * LI        | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                         |
| Medium pre-treat. * LI     | 0.0161                         | -0.0317                        | -0.113                         | -0.193                         |
|                            | (0.287)                        | (0.300)                        | (0.267)                        | (0.278)                        |
| High pre-treat. * LI       | 0.184                          | 0.190                          | 0.344                          | 0.422                          |
|                            | (0.284)                        | (0.298)                        | (0.266)                        | (0.276)                        |
| Age                        |                                | -0.008                         |                                | 0.003                          |
|                            |                                | (0.035)                        |                                | (0.032)                        |
| Gender (ref. female)       |                                | -0.094                         |                                | -0.194**                       |
|                            |                                | (0.103)                        |                                | (0.094)                        |
| Education                  |                                | 0.018                          |                                | 0.009                          |
|                            |                                | (0.041)                        |                                | (0.038)                        |
| Income                     |                                | -0.013                         |                                | 0.007                          |
|                            |                                | (0.024)                        |                                | (0.022)                        |
| Urban                      |                                | 0.093                          |                                | 0.234**                        |
|                            |                                | (0.103)                        |                                | (0.095)                        |
| Left-right                 |                                | 0.011                          |                                | 0.033                          |
|                            |                                | (0.025)                        |                                | (0.023)                        |
| Constant                   | 3***                           | 2.991***                       | 2.547***                       | 2.291***                       |
|                            | (0.131)                        | (0.296)                        | (0.122)                        | (0.273)                        |
| Observations               | 573                            | 522                            | 573                            | 523                            |
| R-squared                  | 0.253                          | 0.242                          | 0.311                          | 0.314                          |

Standard errors in parentheses  
\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1



**Table OA4 (continued): Results for trust in the HSE**

| VARIABLES                  | (9)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (10)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (11)<br>Perceived<br>capability | (12)<br>Perceived<br>capability |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| HI treatment               | -0.532***<br>(0.179)           | -0.531***<br>(0.188)            | -0.367**<br>(0.172)             | -0.297<br>(0.182)               |
| Low pre-treatment trust    | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                          | (ref.)                          | (ref.)                          |
| Medium pre-treatment trust | 0.729***<br>(0.202)            | 0.582***<br>(0.213)             | 0.845***<br>(0.195)             | 0.789***<br>(0.206)             |
| High pre-treatment trust   | 0.965***<br>(0.210)            | 0.807***<br>(0.223)             | 1.014***<br>(0.202)             | 0.848***<br>(0.216)             |
| Low pre-treat. * HI        | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                          | (ref.)                          | (ref.)                          |
| Medium pre-treat. * HI     | 0.538*<br>(0.280)              | 0.537*<br>(0.293)               | 0.561**<br>(0.271)              | 0.441<br>(0.284)                |
| High pre-treat. * HI       | 0.807***<br>(0.280)            | 0.870***<br>(0.293)             | 0.892***<br>(0.270)             | 0.912***<br>(0.284)             |
| LI treatment               | -0.173<br>(0.183)              | -0.190<br>(0.189)               | -0.001<br>(0.176)               | 0.002<br>(0.184)                |
| Low pre-treat. * LI        | (ref.)                         | (ref.)                          | (ref.)                          | (ref.)                          |
| Medium pre-treat. * LI     | 0.127<br>(0.287)               | 0.152<br>(0.297)                | -0.234<br>(0.276)               | -0.253<br>(0.288)               |
| High pre-treat. * LI       | 0.209<br>(0.284)               | 0.315<br>(0.295)                | 0.270<br>(0.274)                | 0.379<br>(0.286)                |
| Age                        |                                | -0.018<br>(0.034)               |                                 | 0.023<br>(0.033)                |
| Gender (ref. female)       |                                | 0.002<br>(0.101)                |                                 | 0.0106<br>(0.098)               |
| Education                  |                                | 0.031<br>(0.040)                |                                 | 0.004<br>(0.039)                |
| Income                     |                                | -0.008<br>(0.023)               |                                 | 0.004<br>(0.023)                |
| Urban                      |                                | 0.280***<br>(0.102)             |                                 | 0.263***<br>(0.098)             |
| Left-right                 |                                | 0.029<br>(0.025)                |                                 | 0.020<br>(0.024)                |
| Constant                   | 3.160***<br>(0.131)            | 2.948***<br>(0.293)             | 2.507***<br>(0.126)             | 2.145***<br>(0.283)             |
| Observations               | 577                            | 525                             | 575                             | 525                             |
| R-squared                  | 0.225                          | 0.223                           | 0.266                           | 0.254                           |

Standard errors in parentheses  
\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA5: OLS models replicating Table 1 using a continuous measure of pre-treatment trust**

| VARIABLES                  | (1)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (2)<br>Willingness to<br>trust | (3)<br>Perceived<br>capability | (4)<br>Perceived<br>capability |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| HI treatment               | -1.146***<br>(0.439)           | -1.275***<br>(0.456)           | -0.726*<br>(0.411)             | -0.706<br>(0.430)              |
| Pre-treatment trust (0-10) | 0.523***<br>(0.063)            | 0.455***<br>(0.067)            | 0.524***<br>(0.059)            | 0.475***<br>(0.063)            |
| HI * Pre-treatment trust   | 0.189**<br>(0.084)             | 0.239***<br>(0.087)            | 0.206***<br>(0.078)            | 0.219***<br>(0.082)            |
| LI treatment               | -0.624<br>(0.455)              | -0.745<br>(0.469)              | -0.311<br>(0.426)              | -0.422<br>(0.442)              |
| LI * Pre-treatment trust   | 0.0923<br>(0.087)              | 0.122<br>(0.089)               | 0.118<br>(0.081)               | 0.142*<br>(0.084)              |
| Age                        |                                | 0.039<br>(0.072)               |                                | 0.0528<br>(0.068)              |
| Gender (ref. female)       |                                | -0.173<br>(0.210)              |                                | -0.378*<br>(0.198)             |
| Education                  |                                | 0.090<br>(0.084)               |                                | 0.0544<br>(0.079)              |
| Income                     |                                | 0.005<br>(0.049)               |                                | 0.023<br>(0.047)               |
| Urban                      |                                | 0.538**<br>(0.212)             |                                | 0.345*<br>(0.200)              |
| Left-right                 |                                | 0.088*<br>(0.0531)             |                                | 0.098*<br>(0.050)              |
| Constant                   | 4.389***<br>(0.328)            | 3.508***<br>(0.628)            | 3.029***<br>(0.306)            | 2.183***<br>(0.592)            |
| Observations               | 577                            | 525                            | 572                            | 522                            |
| R-squared                  | 0.377                          | 0.386                          | 0.423                          | 0.430                          |

Standard errors in parentheses  
\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA6: Interaction effects in Table 1 modelled separately**

|                       | (1a)                 | (1b)                 | (2a)                | (2b)                 | (3a)                | (3b)                 | (4a)                 | (4b)                 | (5a)                | (5b)                 | (6a)                | (6b)                 |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|                       | Will. to trust       | Will. to trust       | Will. to trust      | Will. to trust       | Will. to trust      | Will. to trust       | Cap.                 | Cap.                 | Cap.                | Cap.                 | Cap.                | Cap.                 |
| LI Treatment          | 0.0704<br>(0.341)    | 0.170<br>(0.350)     | -0.0538<br>(0.366)  | -0.0435<br>(0.367)   | -0.412<br>(0.341)   | -0.480<br>(0.341)    | 0.410<br>(0.318)     | 0.470<br>(0.330)     | 0.560<br>(0.356)    | 0.571<br>(0.357)     | -0.145<br>(0.319)   | -0.218<br>(0.321)    |
| HI Treatment          | 0.353<br>(0.335)     | 0.523<br>(0.346)     | -0.335<br>(0.361)   | -0.226<br>(0.363)    | -0.779**<br>(0.333) | -0.753**<br>(0.337)  | 0.892***<br>(0.315)  | 0.921***<br>(0.327)  | 0.201<br>(0.350)    | 0.361<br>(0.353)     | -0.376<br>(0.314)   | -0.316<br>(0.318)    |
| Low pre-trust         | -2.617***<br>(0.380) | -2.159***<br>(0.402) |                     |                      |                     |                      | -2.828***<br>(0.354) | -2.512***<br>(0.378) |                     |                      |                     |                      |
| Moderate pre-trust    |                      |                      | 1.153**<br>(0.485)  | 0.729<br>(0.488)     |                     |                      |                      |                      | 1.305***<br>(0.471) | 1.000**<br>(0.474)   |                     |                      |
| High pre-trust        |                      |                      |                     |                      | 1.997***<br>(0.464) | 1.550***<br>(0.474)  |                      |                      |                     |                      | 2.094***<br>(0.434) | 1.676***<br>(0.446)  |
| HI * Low pre-trust    | -1.583***<br>(0.518) | -1.761***<br>(0.537) |                     |                      |                     |                      | -1.632***<br>(0.484) | -1.541***<br>(0.507) |                     |                      |                     |                      |
| HI * Medium pre-trust |                      |                      | 0.352<br>(0.669)    | 0.379<br>(0.676)     |                     |                      |                      |                      | 0.262<br>(0.658)    | 0.0496<br>(0.661)    |                     |                      |
| HI * High pre-trust   |                      |                      |                     |                      | 1.351**<br>(0.620)  | 1.523**<br>(0.625)   |                      |                      |                     |                      | 1.528***<br>(0.581) | 1.601***<br>(0.589)  |
| LI * Low pre-trust    | -0.552<br>(0.528)    | -0.742<br>(0.543)    |                     |                      |                     |                      | -0.363<br>(0.492)    | -0.496<br>(0.511)    |                     |                      |                     |                      |
| LI * Medium pre-trust |                      |                      | -0.0960<br>(0.686)  | -0.124<br>(0.685)    |                     |                      |                      |                      | -0.832<br>(0.666)   | -0.892<br>(0.666)    |                     |                      |
| LI * High pre-trust   |                      |                      |                     |                      | 0.571<br>(0.628)    | 0.846<br>(0.630)     |                      |                      |                     |                      | 1.041*<br>(0.589)   | 1.279**<br>(0.594)   |
| Age                   |                      | 0.0656<br>(0.0761)   |                     | 0.115<br>(0.0876)    |                     | 0.0815<br>(0.0812)   |                      | 0.0811<br>(0.0718)   |                     | 0.134<br>(0.0854)    |                     | 0.0936<br>(0.0766)   |
| Gender (Ref. female)  |                      | -0.00124<br>(0.221)  |                     | -0.115<br>(0.256)    |                     | -0.274<br>(0.236)    |                      | -0.196<br>(0.208)    |                     | -0.328<br>(0.249)    |                     | -0.491**<br>(0.222)  |
| Education             |                      | 0.116<br>(0.0886)    |                     | 0.224**<br>(0.102)   |                     | 0.218**<br>(0.0940)  |                      | 0.0776<br>(0.0836)   |                     | 0.200**<br>(0.0996)  |                     | 0.185**<br>(0.0886)  |
| Income                |                      | -0.00909<br>(0.0520) |                     | 0.0534<br>(0.0598)   |                     | 0.0635<br>(0.0553)   |                      | 0.0106<br>(0.0491)   |                     | 0.0810<br>(0.0583)   |                     | 0.0805<br>(0.0522)   |
| Urban                 |                      | 0.595***<br>(0.222)  |                     | 0.713***<br>(0.257)  |                     | 0.774***<br>(0.238)  |                      | 0.385*<br>(0.210)    |                     | 0.534**<br>(0.250)   |                     | 0.595***<br>(0.225)  |
| Left-right            |                      | 0.130**<br>(0.0557)  |                     | 0.301***<br>(0.0619) |                     | 0.211***<br>(0.0583) |                      | 0.135**<br>(0.0524)  |                     | 0.317***<br>(0.0601) |                     | 0.216***<br>(0.0549) |
| Constant              | 7.761***<br>(0.247)  | 5.921***<br>(0.696)  | 6.301***<br>(0.268) | 3.114***<br>(0.725)  | 6.111***<br>(0.242) | 3.507***<br>(0.670)  | 6.495***<br>(0.230)  | 4.866***<br>(0.655)  | 4.898***<br>(0.260) | 1.659**<br>(0.705)   | 4.729***<br>(0.226) | 2.262***<br>(0.631)  |
| Observations          | 577                  | 525                  | 577                 | 525                  | 577                 | 525                  | 572                  | 522                  | 572                 | 522                  | 572                 | 522                  |
| R-squared             | 0.318                | 0.321                | 0.037               | 0.097                | 0.177               | 0.226                | 0.372                | 0.372                | 0.036               | 0.110                | 0.236               | 0.284                |

Standard errors in parentheses  
\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.10

#### **4. Robustness checks and further analysis**

Earlier studies suggested that citizens' ability to comprehend and digest the information provided may moderate the effect of information disclosure (Porumbescu et al., 2017). Using the level of education and political interest as a proxy for the ability to comprehend the information (Cicatiello et al., 2018), we do not find evidence of a moderating effect (Table OA7 and OA8). In addition, we do not find political ideology to moderate the effect of information disclosure either (Table OA9).

We also perform robustness checks in which we change the DV: To assess one's evaluation of the Government's performance we use *the level of confidence that the Government is doing a good job responding to the Coronavirus outbreak* (Table OA10). To assess one's support for the Government in the management of the crisis we use *the level of support for government crisis management policy* (Table OA11). To evaluate the level of perceived accuracy of the disclosed information we use *the level of perceived accuracy of the data disclosed by the Department of Health* (Table OA12).

**Table OA7: OLS models exploring the moderating effect of education**

| VARIABLES            | (1)<br>Willingness to trust | (2)<br>Willingness to trust | (3)<br>Perceived capability | (4)<br>Perceived capability |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HI treatment         | -0.981<br>(0.763)           | -0.581<br>(0.800)           | 0.255<br>(0.748)            | 0.806<br>(0.778)            |
| Education            | 0.0718<br>(0.158)           | 0.116<br>(0.162)            | 0.174<br>(0.154)            | 0.192<br>(0.157)            |
| HI * Education       | 0.196<br>(0.219)            | 0.123<br>(0.225)            | -0.0430<br>(0.214)          | -0.159<br>(0.219)           |
| LI                   | -1.227<br>(0.785)           | -0.749<br>(0.790)           | -0.577<br>(0.765)           | -0.238<br>(0.772)           |
| LI * Education       | 0.290<br>(0.227)            | 0.163<br>(0.226)            | 0.234<br>(0.221)            | 0.138<br>(0.220)            |
| Age                  |                             | 0.120<br>(0.0862)           |                             | 0.137<br>(0.0839)           |
| Gender (ref. female) |                             | -0.256<br>(0.249)           |                             | -0.458*<br>(0.242)          |
| Income               |                             | 0.0909<br>(0.0586)          |                             | 0.115**<br>(0.0570)         |
| Urban                |                             | 0.731***<br>(0.251)         |                             | 0.482**<br>(0.245)          |
| Left-right           |                             | 0.320***<br>(0.0605)        |                             | 0.338***<br>(0.0587)        |
| Constant             | 6.556***<br>(0.545)         | 3.551***<br>(0.832)         | 4.864***<br>(0.530)         | 1.903**<br>(0.809)          |
| Observations         | 609                         | 552                         | 603                         | 548                         |
| R-squared            | 0.016                       | 0.082                       | 0.015                       | 0.095                       |

Standard errors in parentheses  
 \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA8: OLS models exploring the moderating effect of political interest**

| VARIABLES              | (1)<br>Willingness to trust | (2)<br>Willingness to trust | (3)<br>Perceived capability | (4)<br>Perceived capability |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HI treatment           | 0.889<br>(1.728)            | 1.478<br>(1.772)            | -1.191<br>(1.679)           | 0.284<br>(1.730)            |
| Interest politics      | -0.470<br>(0.365)           | -0.604*<br>(0.358)          | -0.770**<br>(0.356)         | -0.765**<br>(0.349)         |
| HI * interest politics | -0.342<br>(0.485)           | -0.462<br>(0.494)           | 0.375<br>(0.471)            | 0.00242<br>(0.482)          |
| LI treatment           | -0.937<br>(1.646)           | -1.221<br>(1.686)           | -1.849<br>(1.597)           | -1.617<br>(1.643)           |
| LI * interest politics | 0.175<br>(0.468)            | 0.278<br>(0.477)            | 0.571<br>(0.454)            | 0.516<br>(0.465)            |
| Age                    |                             | 0.131<br>(0.0855)           |                             | 0.139*<br>(0.084)           |
| Gender (ref. female)   |                             | -0.0923<br>(0.251)          |                             | -0.317<br>(0.245)           |
| Education              |                             | 0.230**<br>(0.098)          |                             | 0.203**<br>(0.096)          |
| Income                 |                             | 0.101*<br>(0.058)           |                             | 0.126**<br>(0.057)          |
| Urban                  |                             | 0.798***<br>(0.248)         |                             | 0.543**<br>(0.242)          |
| Left-right             |                             | 0.309***<br>(0.060)         |                             | 0.329***<br>(0.059)         |
| Constant               | 8.427***<br>(1.296)         | 5.148***<br>(1.424)         | 7.298***<br>(1.263)         | 4.442***<br>(1.388)         |
| Observations           | 609                         | 552                         | 603                         | 548                         |
| R-squared              | 0.017                       | 0.103                       | 0.023                       | 0.109                       |

Standard errors in parentheses  
 \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA9: OLS models exploring the moderating effect of political ideology**

| VARIABLES             | (1)<br>Willingness to trust | (2)<br>Willingness to trust | (3)<br>Perceived capability | (4)<br>Perceived capability |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HI treatment          | -0.262<br>(0.748)           | -0.060<br>(0.745)           | 1.018<br>(0.724)            | 1.237*<br>(0.722)           |
| Left right (ideology) | 0.327***<br>(0.108)         | 0.355***<br>(0.109)         | 0.483***<br>(0.105)         | 0.494***<br>(0.105)         |
| HI * Left right       | 0.018<br>(0.146)            | -0.026<br>(0.146)           | -0.164<br>(0.141)           | -0.208<br>(0.141)           |
| LI                    | 0.075<br>(0.787)            | 0.177<br>(0.785)            | 1.442*<br>(0.761)           | 1.386*<br>(0.761)           |
| LI * Left right       | -0.069<br>(0.153)           | -0.083<br>(0.152)           | -0.257*<br>(0.148)          | -0.248*<br>(0.148)          |
| Age                   |                             | 0.121<br>(0.086)            |                             | 0.129<br>(0.084)            |
| Gender (ref. female)  |                             | -0.257<br>(0.249)           |                             | -0.442*<br>(0.242)          |
| Education             |                             | 0.208**<br>(0.099)          |                             | 0.178*<br>(0.096)           |
| Income                |                             | 0.089<br>(0.059)            |                             | 0.111*<br>(0.057)           |
| Urban                 |                             | 0.758***<br>(0.251)         |                             | 0.544**<br>(0.244)          |
| Constant              | 5.218***<br>(0.545)         | 3.076***<br>(0.811)         | 3.095***<br>(0.527)         | 1.238<br>(0.786)            |
| Observations          | 562                         | 552                         | 557                         | 548                         |
| R-squared             | 0.047                       | 0.082                       | 0.066                       | 0.098                       |

Standard errors in parentheses  
 \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

**Table OA10: Ordered logit model exploring the effects of treatments on evaluation of government performance**

| VARIABLES             | (Ologit 1)<br>Government performance | (Ologit 2)<br>Government performance |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| LI Treatment          | -0.135<br>(0.302)                    | -0.154<br>(0.321)                    |
| HI Treatment          | -0.363<br>(0.294)                    | -0.269<br>(0.313)                    |
| Low pre-trust         | (ref.)                               | (ref.)                               |
| Moderate pre-trust    | 2.557***<br>(0.372)                  | 2.265***<br>(0.397)                  |
| High pre-trust        | 3.703***<br>(0.433)                  | 3.528***<br>(0.469)                  |
| HI * Low pre-trust    | (ref.)                               | (ref.)                               |
| HI * Medium pre-trust | 0.820*<br>(0.473)                    | 0.861*<br>(0.507)                    |
| HI * High pre-trust   | 0.216<br>(0.515)                     | 0.372<br>(0.553)                     |
| LI * Low pre-trust    | (ref.)                               | (ref.)                               |
| LI * Medium pre-trust | 0.663<br>(0.485)                     | 0.718<br>(0.515)                     |
| LI * High pre-trust   | 0.720<br>(0.550)                     | 0.830<br>(0.586)                     |
| Controls              | No                                   | Yes                                  |
| Observations          | 561                                  | 510                                  |
| Adj. R-sq.            | 0.236                                | 0.266                                |

Standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

DV: Survey item formulation - How confident, if at all, that the Government is doing a good job responding to the coronavirus outbreak? Not at all confident (1); Not too confident (2); Somewhat confident (3); Very confident (4)



**Table OA11: Ordered logit models exploring the effects of treatments on perceived accuracy of information**

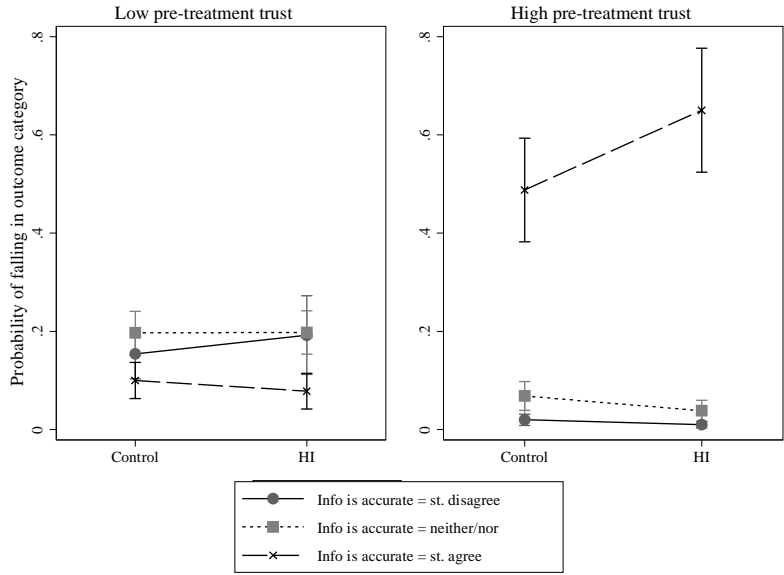
| VARIABLES             | (Ologit 1)<br>Perceived Accuracy | (Ologit 2)<br>Perceived Accuracy |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| LI Treatment          | -0.600**<br>(0.293)              | -0.480<br>(0.306)                |
| HI Treatment          | -0.413<br>(0.282)                | -0.272<br>(0.298)                |
| Low pre-trust         | (ref.)                           | (ref.)                           |
| Moderate pre-trust    | 1.340***<br>(0.330)              | 1.267***<br>(0.352)              |
| High pre-trust        | 1.975***<br>(0.365)              | 1.920***<br>(0.385)              |
| HI * Low pre-trust    | (ref.)                           | (ref.)                           |
| HI * Medium pre-trust | 0.925**<br>(0.454)               | 0.805*<br>(0.483)                |
| HI * High pre-trust   | 1.060**<br>(0.475)               | 0.954*<br>(0.497)                |
| LI * Low pre-trust    | (ref.)                           | (ref.)                           |
| LI * Medium pre-trust | 0.783*<br>(0.464)                | 0.618<br>(0.485)                 |
| LI * High pre-trust   | 0.914*<br>(0.479)                | 0.812<br>(0.497)                 |
| Controls              | No                               | Yes                              |
| Observations          | 576                              | 525                              |
| Adj. R-sq.            | 0.119                            | 0.116                            |

Standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

DV: Survey item note - Please indicate to what extent you agree/disagree with the following statements about the current situation of Coronavirus in Ireland: *“The information disclosed by the Department of Health are accurate”* (1-5 Likert agreement scale)

**Figure OA3: Predicted marginal effect of HI condition (vs Control) on perceived accuracy of information with 95% Confidence Intervals (Based on model Ologit 2 in Table OA12)<sup>1</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> For clarity only 3 of the 5 outcomes of the DV are shown in Figure OA3.

**Table OA12: Ordered logit models exploring the effects of treatments on the support for government crisis management policy**

| VARIABLES             | (Ologit 1)<br>Support for government | (Ologit 2)<br>Support for government |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| LI Treatment          | -0.456<br>(0.294)                    | -0.272<br>(0.308)                    |
| HI Treatment          | -0.625**<br>(0.292)                  | -0.543*<br>(0.309)                   |
| Low pre-trust         | (ref.)                               | (ref.)                               |
| Moderate pre-trust    | 0.788**<br>(0.343)                   | 0.784**<br>(0.365)                   |
| High pre-trust        | 0.727**<br>(0.365)                   | 0.787**<br>(0.384)                   |
| HI * Low pre-trust    | (ref.)                               | (ref.)                               |
| HI * Medium pre-trust | 0.908*<br>(0.488)                    | 0.956*<br>(0.522)                    |
| HI * High pre-trust   | 1.148**<br>(0.489)                   | 1.119**<br>(0.516)                   |
| LI * Low pre-trust    | (ref.)                               | (ref.)                               |
| LI * Medium pre-trust | 0.398<br>(0.488)                     | 0.183<br>(0.508)                     |
| LI * High pre-trust   | 1.009**<br>(0.498)                   | 1.007*<br>(0.526)                    |
| Controls              | No                                   | Yes                                  |
| Observations          | 575                                  | 523                                  |
| Adj. R-sq.            | 0.05                                 | 0.06                                 |

Standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

DV: Survey item note - Please indicate to what extent you agree/disagree with the following statements about the current situation of Coronavirus in Ireland: *"I support the government policies on social distancing and restrictions on businesses and movement"* (1-5 Likert agreement scale)