

# Fan Mandate and Risk Radar

Reddit discourse snapshot | Post-consultation window 2025-10-01 to 2026-02-23 | Source: wru\_reddit.sqlite

## Headline numbers (scale and signal)

All post-consultation: 58,853 comments | 8,423 distinct authors

WRU-referential: 12,770 comments | 3,061 authors

Plan and governance debate: 719 comments | 367 authors

Interpretation: the plan debate is smaller but higher-signal and not dominated by a single account.

## Fan Mandate (what engaged debate is demanding) Risk Radar (what can blow up)

- Explain the deal mechanics in plain terms: who controls decisions, who pays, what investors get, and how debt is handled.
- Do not shrink professional opportunity without explicit offsets for pathways, identity, and regional engagement.
- Governance reform is treated as the route to legitimacy, not an optional extra.
- Cardiff ownership/transaction clarity is a system

### Legitimacy risk

Governance and control mechanics dominate debate. Without legitimacy, every option is contested and

### Contraction backlash risk

Among stance-taking comments, opposition outweighs support. This can mobilise clubs, fans, and media.

### Investor viability risk

Perceived mismatch between private capital and union control weakens the investment case.

### Cardiff transaction risk

If Cardiff cannot be stabilised credibly, confidence in wider restructure collapses.

### Process credibility risk

Consultation and survey references do not function as a legitimacy shield. Substance is still

## Charts (high-signal cohort: plan and governance debate)

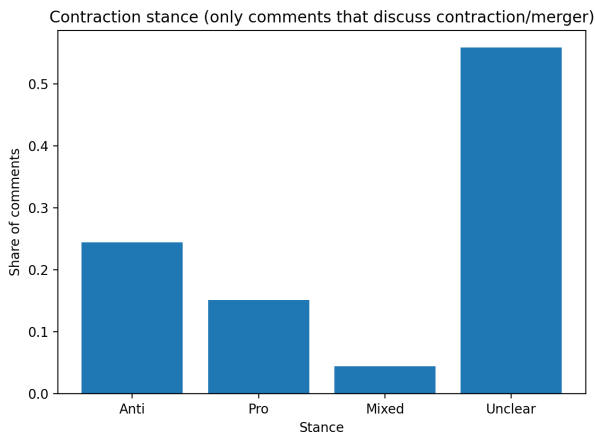


Chart 1: Contraction stance within comments that discuss contraction/merger (n=290).

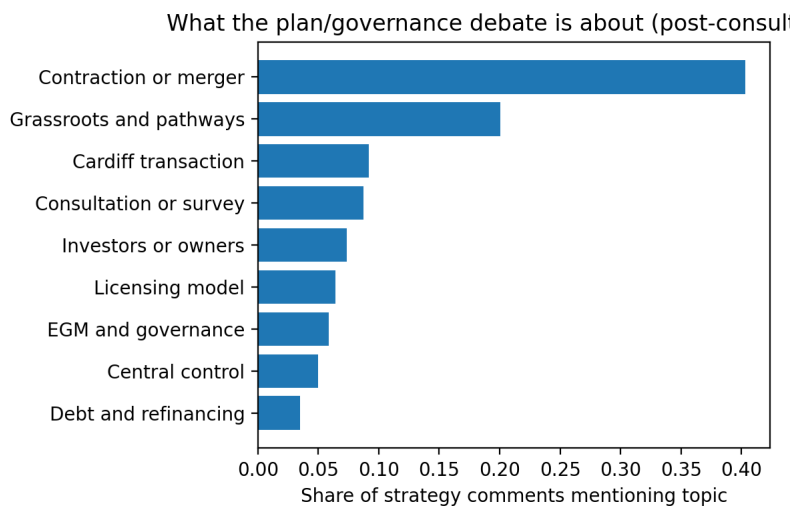


Chart 2: Topic salience in plan/governance debate (n=719). Multiple topics can co-occur in one comment.