

The impacts of wildlife feeding

Consultation report and findings

August 2024

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THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

The impacts of wildlife feeding - Background

Background

Our enforcement data shows that some residents are concerned about wildlife feeding, in particular pigeon feeding, in some locations in the borough namely:

- The pavement outside South Kensington Station
- The pavement outside Gloucester Road Station
- The area outside Holland Park at the junction with Kensington High Street

What is the definition of wildlife feeding?

Wildlife feeding means providing food for undomesticated animals living in the wild e.g. pigeons, foxes, rats, mice. The consultation did not relate to pets or protected species.

We understand that for some of our residents feeding wildlife, including birds, is important to them. If additional measures are introduced, residents would still be able to do this in public locations not covered in this consultation.

What are the concerns?

Some residents are concerned that wildlife feeding can impact the cleanliness and appearance of the borough. Pigeon droppings, along with discarded food, can attract rats and insects, creating hygiene issues. Pigeon droppings deface buildings and can cause slippery pavements. Pigeon droppings are corrosive and can damage buildings over time.

What was the purpose of the consultation?

The consultation considered whether there is a need to introduce additional measures to manage a minority of people who choose to feed wildlife in the locations listed above and other parts of the borough.

Gathering data on wildlife feeding in the borough will ensure the views of affected local communities are listened to. It will also support a robust evidence base for future interventions. Recommendations made will give the Council and the Police, the best opportunity to continue taking steps towards tackling this practice.



The impacts of wildlife feeding - Consultation

Methodology and report

An online survey was designed to gather the views of stakeholders and was promoted to residents, residents' associations and stakeholders through a variety of means. This included Council newsletters, social media, leaflets and writing to residents' associations.

The consultation was open for six weeks, between 28 June and 9 August 2024. A total of 377 responses were received to the survey.

This report contains an analysis of responses. Where graphs are shown, percentages are used. Examples of comments made are used in the report and the full list of comments are in the appendix document, which is available on request.

Acknowledgements

The Council would like to thank all residents and stakeholders that took the time to take part in the exercise and give their views and particularly.



Section 1:

Summary of findings



Summary of findings

The below is a summary of findings from the consultation. More detail can be found in the main body of the report.

Antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding:

- A total of 92 per cent of respondents reported that **animal/bird faeces on the highway/pavement** caused by wildlife feeding was an issue either frequently (73 per cent) or occasionally (19 per cent).
- Almost nine in ten (89 per cent) respondents felt that **litter/discarded food on the street** was a frequent (68 per cent) or occasional (21 per cent) issue caused by wildlife feeding.
- A total of 85 per cent of respondents felt that wildlife feeding **caused damage to property and spaces e.g. defacing public spaces with faeces or feathers** either frequently (63 per cent) or occasionally (22 per cent).
- Over two-thirds (69 per cent) felt that wildlife feeding had either frequently (47 per cent) or occasionally (22 per cent) resulted in **financial costs, e.g. cleaning, pest control and repairs**.
- Slightly less (63 per cent) had either frequently (32 per cent) or occasionally (31 per cent) encountered **aggressive behaviour from those feeding wildlife**.

Experience of antisocial behaviour

Almost three-quarters of respondents (73 per cent) **had seen antisocial behaviour caused by a person feeding wildlife** and almost half (46 per cent) **had seen the same person causing antisocial behaviour by feeding wildlife more than once**.

Locations of antisocial behaviour

- Locations around underground stations, particularly **Gloucester Road** (111) and **South Kensington** (49), were the most commonly mentioned (163 respondents mentioned this)
- Specific streets were mentioned by 103 respondents. Streets mentioned included **Old Brompton Road** (seven), **Courtfield Road** (six), **Onslow Gardens** (five) and **Cranley Place** (five).
- Park locations were identified by 49 respondents. Parks mentioned included **Holland Park** (13), **Kensington Palace Gardens** (seven) and **Dove House Green** (six).



Summary of findings

Frequency and timing of antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding

Four in ten (40 per cent) respondents reported antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurred **daily or more frequently**, with almost a quarter (24 per cent) reported this occurred **weekly**.

Almost half (49 per cent) reported that antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurs **in the morning**, over half (57 per cent) reported it occurs **in the afternoon** and over a quarter (28 per cent) indicated it occurred **in the evening**.

Introduction of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

There were high levels of support for the introduction of PSPOs in the three areas put forward.

- **Outside South Kensington Station** - 86 per cent either **strongly support** or **support** the introduction of a PSPO
- **Outside Gloucester Road Station** - 84 per cent either **strongly support** or **support** the introduction of a PSPO
- **Outside Holland Park at the junction with Kensington High Street** - 83 per cent either **strongly support** or **support** the introduction of a PSPO

Other measures to tackle wildlife feeding

Respondents were asked what other measures the Council should consider to tackle wildlife feeding. The most common themes of comments were: **Enforcement, issuing fines or arresting offenders, education or awareness raising and signage**.



Section 2:

Consultation findings



Antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding

Respondents were asked if a range of activities caused by wildlife feeding created undue nuisance, annoyance, danger or harm to them or a property.

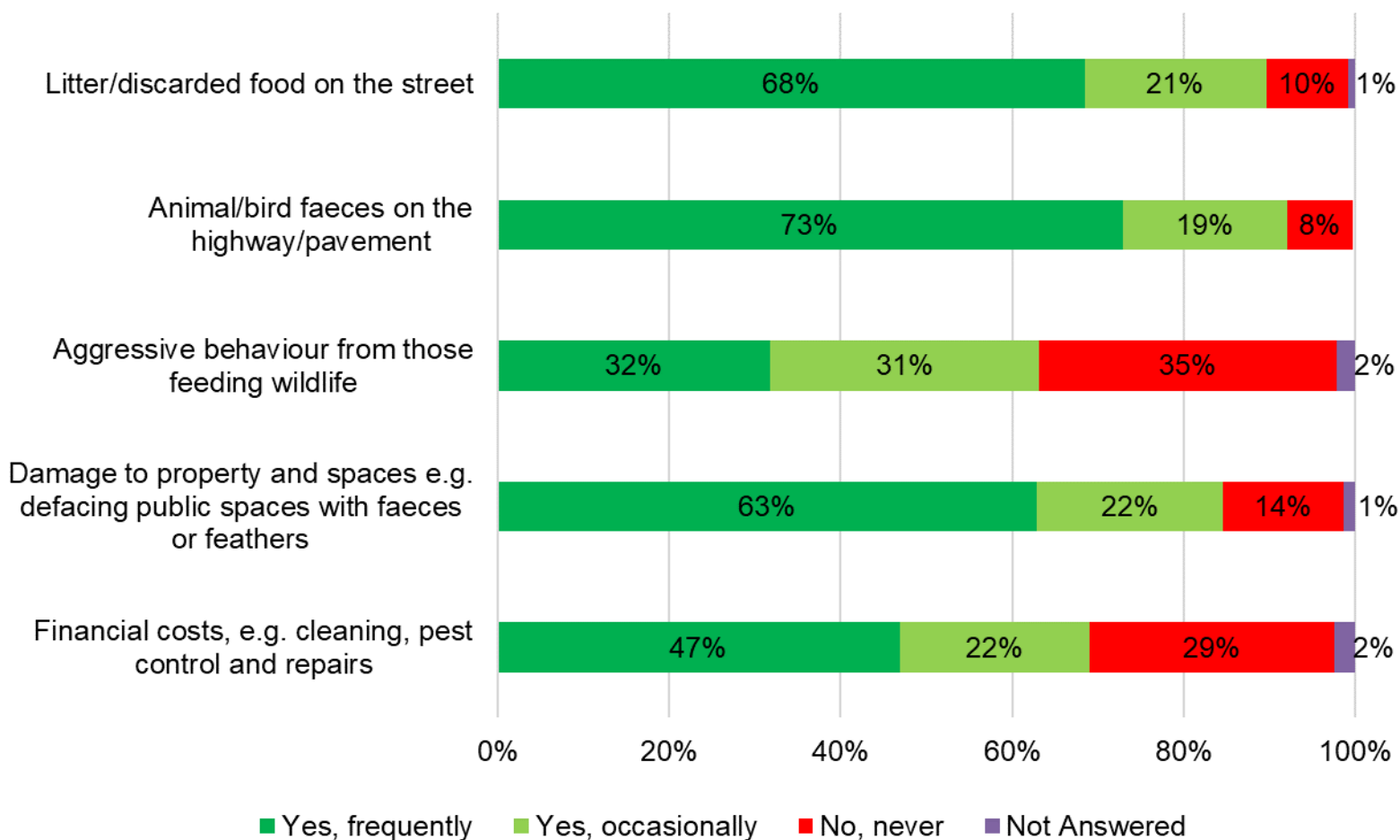
- A total of 92 per cent of respondents reported that **animal/bird faeces on the highway/pavement** caused by wildlife feeding was an issue either frequently (73 per cent) or occasionally (19 per cent).
- Almost nine in ten (89 per cent) respondents felt that **litter/discarded food on the street** was a frequent (68 per cent) or occasional (21 per cent) issue caused by wildlife feeding.
- A total of 85 per cent of respondents felt that wildlife feeding **caused damage to property and spaces e.g. defacing public spaces with faeces or feathers** either frequently (63 per cent) or occasionally (22 per cent).
- Over two-thirds (69 per cent) felt that wildlife feeding had either frequently (47 per cent) or occasionally (22 per cent) resulted in **financial costs, e.g. cleaning, pest control and repairs**.
- Slightly less (63 per cent) had either frequently (32 per cent) or occasionally (31 per cent) encountered **aggressive behaviour from those feeding wildlife**.

A graph detailing these results can be seen on the next page.



Antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding

Do any of the following activities caused by wildlife feeding create undue nuisance, annoyance, danger or harm to you or a property?



Base: 377 (all respondents)



Other types of antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding

Respondents were asked to detail any other type of antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding.

Comments made have been themed and those with six or more comments summarised in the table below. Examples of comments can be seen on the next page, with the full list of themes and comments found in the appendices.

A number of the themes related to areas highlighted in the previous question.

Theme*	Count
Reports of wildlife feeding	46
Dirty/slippery streets caused by faeces	44
Aggressive behaviour of wildlife feeders/disagreements	21
Refuse issues - bags left on street, ripped open by wildlife	19
Increases the population of wildlife (e.g. pigeons and foxes)	18
Pedestrian safety/traffic safety	18
Public health hazard	14
Litter/discarded food	13
Suggestions to tackle the issue	6

* Themes shown with six or more comments



Other types of antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding

“I live in Onslow Gardens and somebody keeps feeding pigeons. Often there are seeds left out for pigeons.”

Reports of wildlife feeding

“Gloucester Road - pigeon droppings on Santander bikes.”

Dirty/slippery streets caused by faeces

“The nuisance caused by pigeons and those who feed them at Gloucester Road station results in a serious health and safety hazard with droppings potentially causing injury to individuals (by slipping or trying to avoid stepping on them) and the stench and actual droppings themselves causing a health hazard.”

Dirty/slippery streets caused by faeces

“I live opposite South Kensington station and the increase in pigeon droppings are affecting my bike, car and balcony because of wildlife feeding. The people doing it are also aggressive and upsetting!”

Aggressive behaviour of wildlife feeders/disagreements



“One of the worst issues for me is how residents and businesses leave rubbish on the streets during the day, which causes an obstacle on the pavement as well as attracting rodents as the bags become ripped out. The Council evidently does nothing about it, never writing to, or fining, offenders.”

Refuse issues - bags left on street, ripped open by wildlife

“Feeding foxes in square gardens creates problems by encouraging the fox population already out of control.”

Increases the population of wildlife

“Obstruction on the pathways. Birds flying quickly to get to the food and a possible hazard to pedestrians.”

Pedestrian safety/traffic safety

“The pigeons outside Gloucester Road tube are a health hazard and a nuisance. Those feeding them should be fined and moved on.”

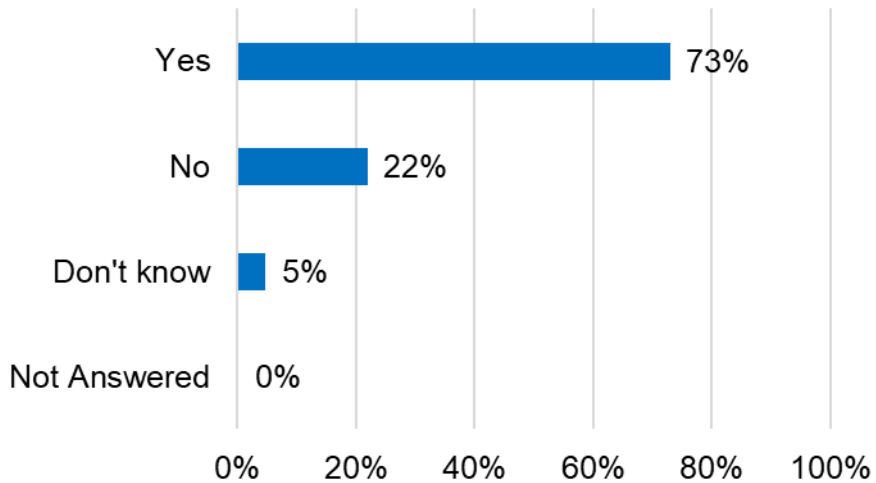
Public health hazard



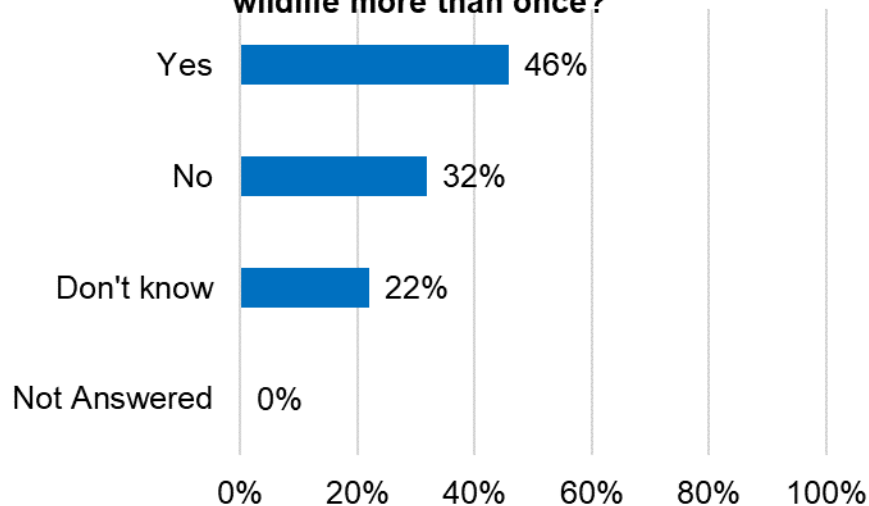
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Experience of antisocial behaviour

Have you seen antisocial behaviour caused by a person feeding wildlife?
e.g. littering the pavement with food



Have you ever seen the same person causing antisocial behaviour by feeding wildlife more than once?



Respondents were asked if they had seen antisocial behaviour caused by a person feeding wildlife, e.g. littering the pavement with food.

- Almost three-quarters (73 per cent) **had seen antisocial behaviour**
- Just over a fifth (22 per cent) **had not**

Respondents were also asked if they had ever seen the same person causing antisocial behaviour by feeding wildlife more than once.

- Almost half (46 per cent) **had seen the same person causing antisocial behaviour by feeding wildlife more than once**
- Almost a third (32 per cent) **had not** and just over a fifth (22 per cent) **did not know**

Base: 377 (all respondents)



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Locations of antisocial behaviour

Respondents were asked to list the names of streets where they had witnessed antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding. These comments have been categorised into type of location (e.g. street, underground station, park etc.) and also categorised by ward in which the location is based (this may not be perfectly accurate as some streets/location straddle more than one ward). The tables below show the most commonly mentioned types and wards. A full list of comments can be seen in the appendices.

- Locations around underground stations, particularly **Gloucester Road** (111) and **South Kensington** (49), were the most commonly mentioned (163 respondents mentioned this)
- Specific streets were mentioned by 103 respondents. Streets mentioned included **Old Brompton Road** (seven), **Courtfield Road** (six), **Onslow Gardens** (five) and **Cranley Place** (five).
- Park locations were identified by 49 respondents. Parks mentioned included **Holland Park** (13), **Kensington Palace Gardens** (seven) and **Dove House Green** (six).

Ward of the location*	Count
Courtfield	156
Brompton and Hans Town	67
Holland	18
Chelsea Riverside	15
Campden	12
Stanley	11
Redcliffe	9
Earl's Court	7

* Wards of most commonly mentioned locations

Type of location**	Count
Areas around underground stations	163
Street	103
Park	49
Area	7
Areas around museums	3

** Type of most commonly mentioned locations



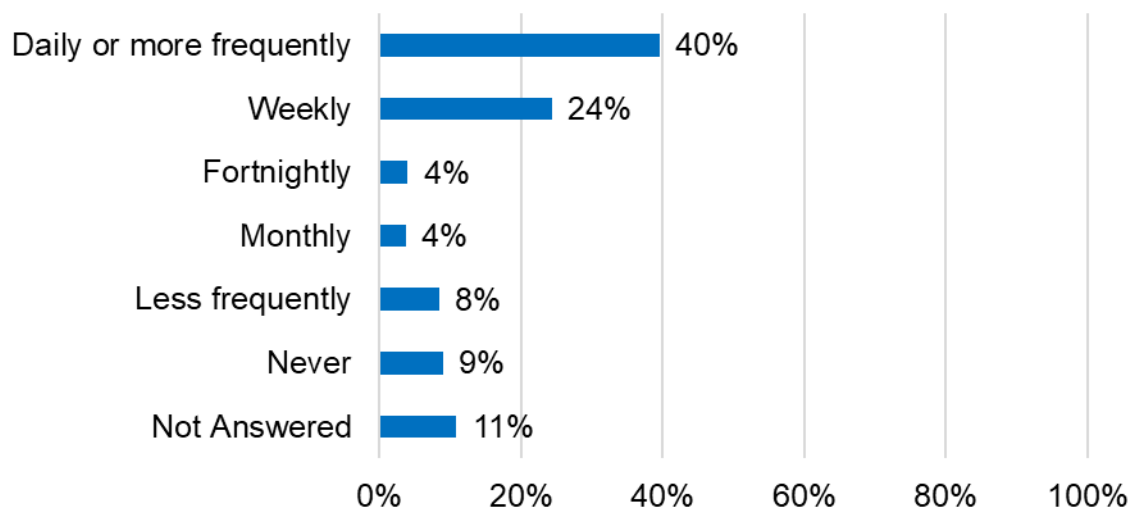
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Frequency of antisocial behaviour

Respondents were asked how frequently antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurred, in the locations they had identified.

- Four in ten (40 per cent) report antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurred **daily or more frequently**
- Almost a quarter (24 per cent) reported this occurred **weekly**
- Eight per cent reported it occurred **less frequently** (than monthly)
- Almost one in ten (nine per cent) reported it **never** occurred

How often does this kind of antisocial behaviour occur in the locations you have listed?



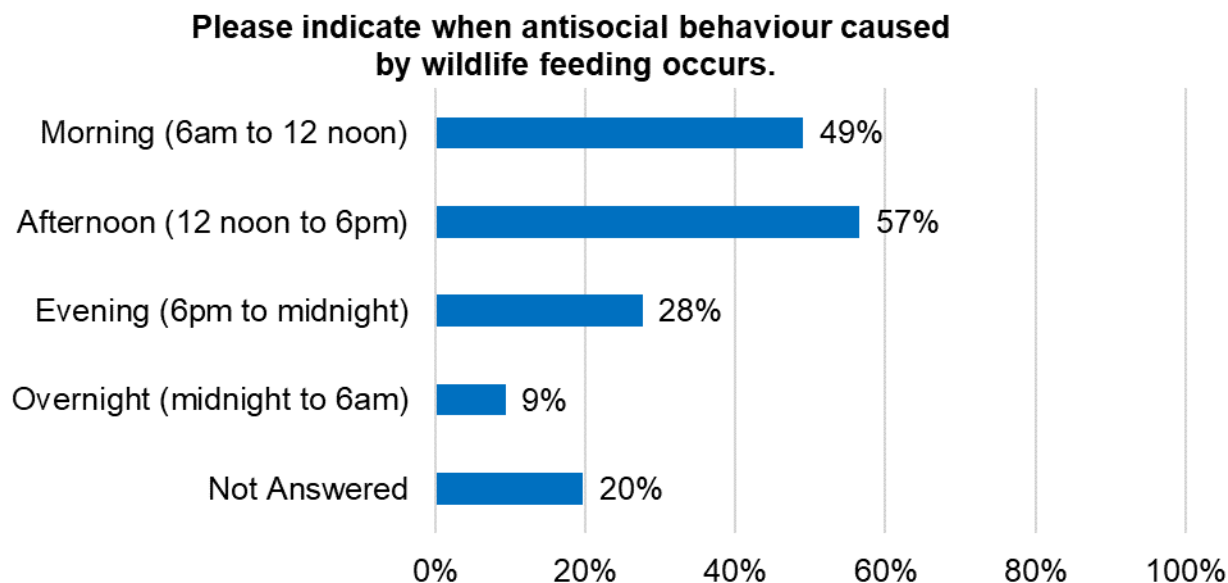
Base: 377 (all respondents)



Timing of antisocial behaviour

Respondents were asked to indicate the time that antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurs. Respondents were able to select all times that applied.

- Almost half (49 per cent) reported that antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurs **in the morning**
- Over half (57 per cent) reported it occurs **in the afternoon**
- Over a quarter (28 per cent) indicated it occurred **in the evening**
- Less, nine per cent, reported that antisocial behaviour caused by wildlife feeding occurs **overnight**



Base: 377 (all respondents)



Public Space Protection Orders

Our enforcement data shows that some residents are concerned about wildlife feeding, in particular pigeon feeding, in some locations in the borough namely:

- The pavement outside South Kensington Station
- The pavement outside Gloucester Road Station
- The area outside Holland Park at the junction with Kensington High Street

One option that the Council is exploring is the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO). A PSPO could make it an offence for any person to feed wildlife in a specific public space. Persons found feeding wildlife could be subject to a fixed penalty notice or a fine.

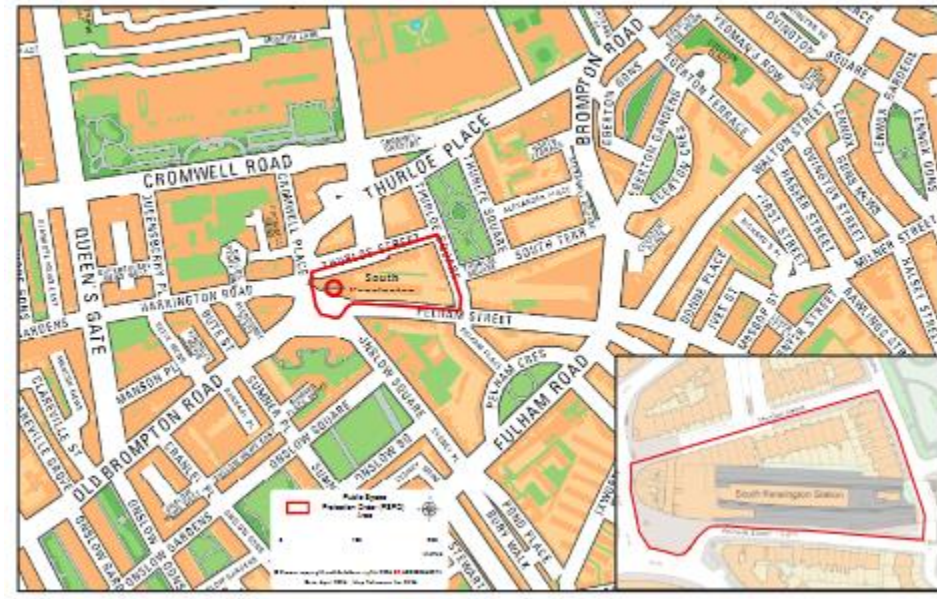
The consultation sought to understand how strongly stakeholders supported, or opposed, the introduction of PSPOs in the above locations



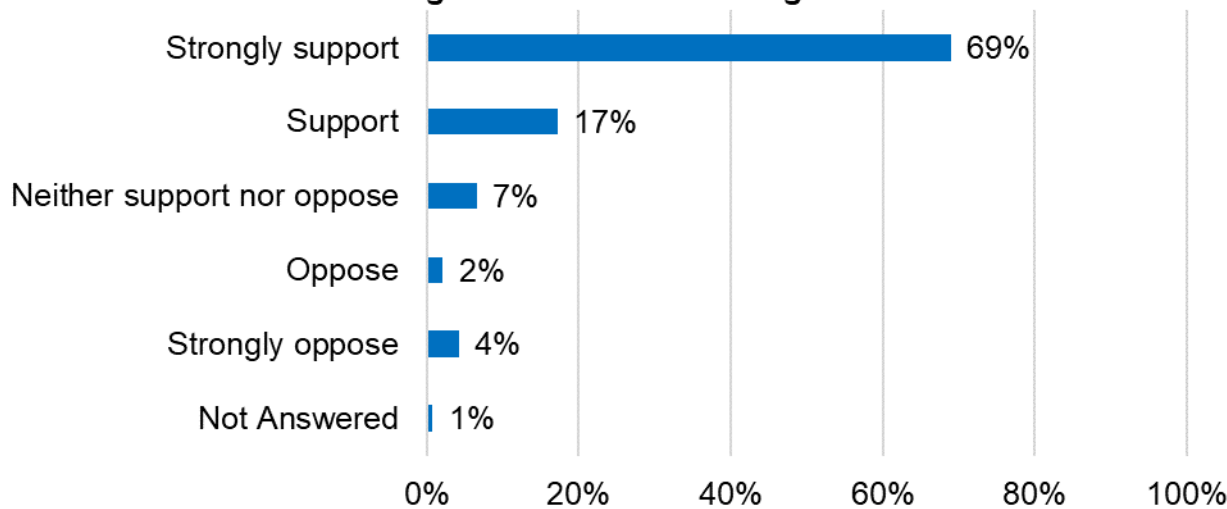
South Kensington PSPO

Respondents were asked how strongly they supported the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding outside South Kensington Station.

- A total of 86 per cent indicated that they either **strongly support** or **support** the introduction of a PSPO
- A total of six per cent either **opposed** or **strongly opposed** its introduction



Would you support the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding outside South Kensington Station?



Base: 377 (all respondents)



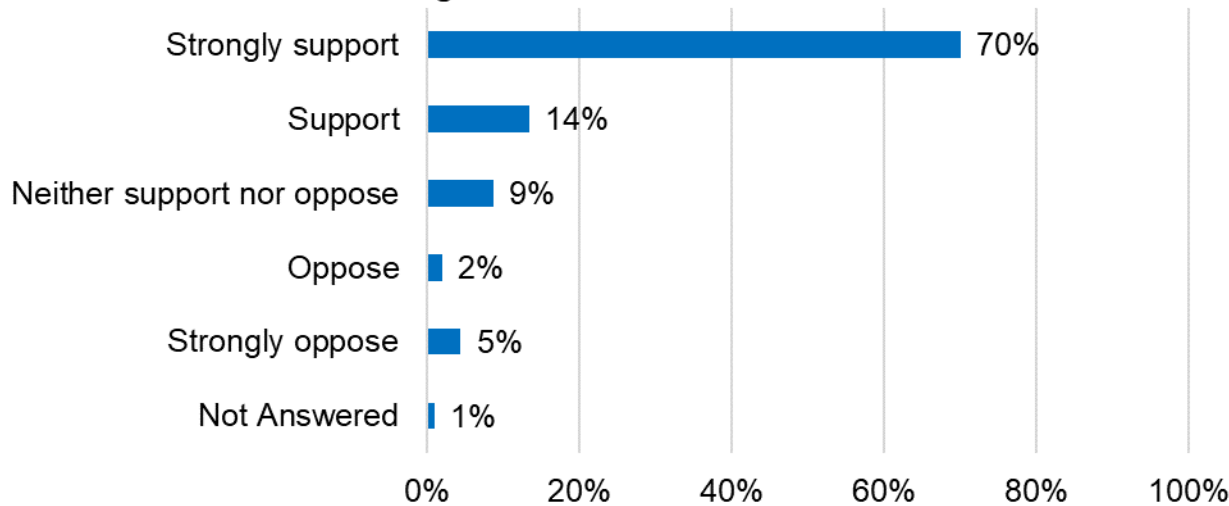
Gloucester Road PSPO

Respondents were asked how strongly they supported the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding outside Gloucester Road Station.

- A total of 84 per cent indicated that they either **strongly support** or **support** the introduction of a PSPO
- A total of seven per cent either **opposed** or **strongly opposed** its introduction



Would you support the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding outside Gloucester Road Station?



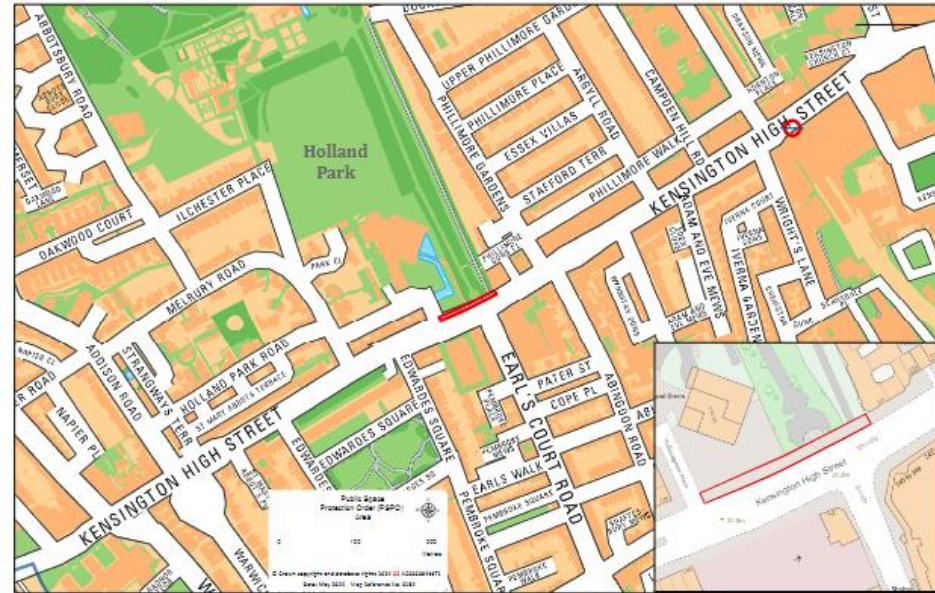
Base: 377 (all respondents)



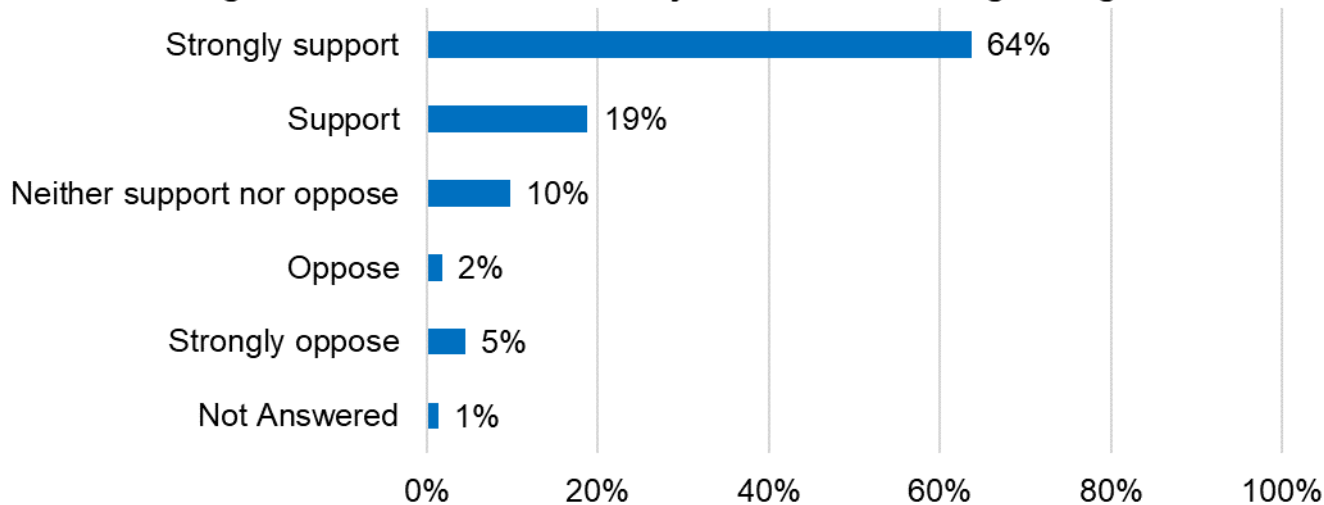
Holland Park PSPO

Respondents were asked how strongly they supported the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding outside Holland Park at the junction with Kensington High Street.

- A total of 83 per cent indicated that they either **strongly support** or **support** the introduction of a PSPO
- A total of seven per cent either **opposed** or **strongly opposed** its introduction



Would you support the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding outside Holland Park at the junction with Kensington High Street?



Base: 377 (all respondents)



Other measures to tackle wildlife feeding

Respondents were asked what other measures the Council should consider to tackle wildlife feeding. Comments made have been themed and those with eight or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments can be seen on the next page, with the full list of themes and comments found in the appendices.

- **Enforcement, issuing fines or arresting offenders** was the most common theme (69)
- A total of 34 respondents felt **education or awareness raising** was another measure to take
- **Signage** was raised by 29 respondents

Theme*	Count
Enforcement/issue fines/arrest offenders	69
Education/awareness raising	34
Signage	29
Expand the areas for PSPOs or areas highlighted where feeding occurs	18
Refuse left on street/litter/refuse bag issues (residential and commercial)	16
Birds of prey	15
Culling pigeons/wildlife	15
Cleaning of pavements	13
Monitoring/CCTV	8

* Themes shown with eight or more comments



Other measures to tackle wildlife feeding

“Enforcement is essential. No point in having a PSPO without strict enforcement and punishment.”

Enforcement/issue fines/arrest offenders

“Fine people. Make them do community service and clean it up.”

Enforcement/issue fines/arrest offenders

“A programme of educating persons involved.”

Education/awareness raising

“Awareness raising of the impact of wildlife feeding.”

Education/awareness raising

“Perhaps putting up signs around the affected area or a campaign on buses and tube stations that are close to the area explaining that many unnecessary urban issues are created by wildlife feeding.”

Signage

“I think they should make it a borough wide policy as there are offenders in other areas other than the ones you are proposing to tackle.”

Expand the areas for PSPOs or areas highlighted where feeding occurs

“Limit rubbish from businesses to restricted hours. There is constantly rubbish out on Old Brompton Road. It's unsightly and it fuels the wildlife feeding.”

Refuse left on street/litter/refuse bag issues (residential and commercial)

“Flying birds of prey to deter pigeons.”

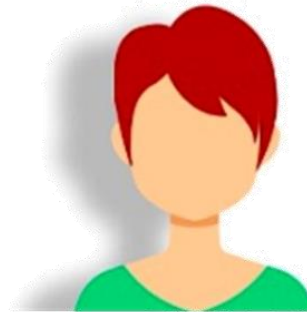
Birds of prey

“More frequent and regular pavements cleaning.”

Cleaning of pavements

“Cull some of the pigeons.”

Culling pigeons/wildlife



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Concerns about the introduction of a PSPO

Respondents were asked to detail any concerns they had about the introduction of a PSPO in relation to wildlife feeding.

Comments made have been themed and those with six or more comments are summarised in the table below. Examples of comments can be seen on the next page, with the full list of themes and comments found in the appendices.

- The majority of comments made (43) indicated that **they had no concerns about the introduction of a PSPO**
- A total of 17 respondents made comments indicating that **they were against the introduction of a PSPO or against fines**
- Five respondents were concerned about the **impact on vulnerable residents or those with mental health issues.**
- Three respondents raised each of the following concerns about the introduction of a PSPO: **need to educate or raise awareness, that there were other priorities or it was a waste of money** and that **it would move the issue elsewhere.**

Theme*	Count
No concerns/happy with introduction of a PSPO	43
Against the PSPO/fines	17
Need for enforcement	12
Vulnerable residents/those with mental health issues	5
Additional measures suggested	4
Need to educate/raise awareness	3
Other priorities/waste of resources	3
Will move the issue elsewhere	3

* Themes shown with three or more comments

Concerns about the introduction of a PSPO

“No concerns, PSPO should be an effective deterrent.”

No concerns/happy with introduction of a PSPO

“No concerns. Thoroughly support.”

No concerns/happy with introduction of a PSPO

“None except that to be effective it must actually be enforced.”

Need for enforcement

“Need to be clear on what’s acceptable. Need to understand that some of the feeders have mental health issues.”

Clarity on rules/PSPO

“Some of the people leaving food have obvious mental health issues. I don’t know how a PSPO will help tackle wildlife feeding with these other issues involved.”

Vulnerable residents/those with mental health issues

“Attacking good hearted people with fines in my opinion is disgusting. Try fining the people who dump coffee cups, take out trays all over London.”

Against the PSPO/fines

“I do not want people being unnecessarily criminalised or harassed for doing something they think is kind. There are worse problems which should be a priority.”

Against the PSPO/fines

“Hefty fines and if they are council/housing association tenants, then they should lose their home as well.”

Additional measures suggested



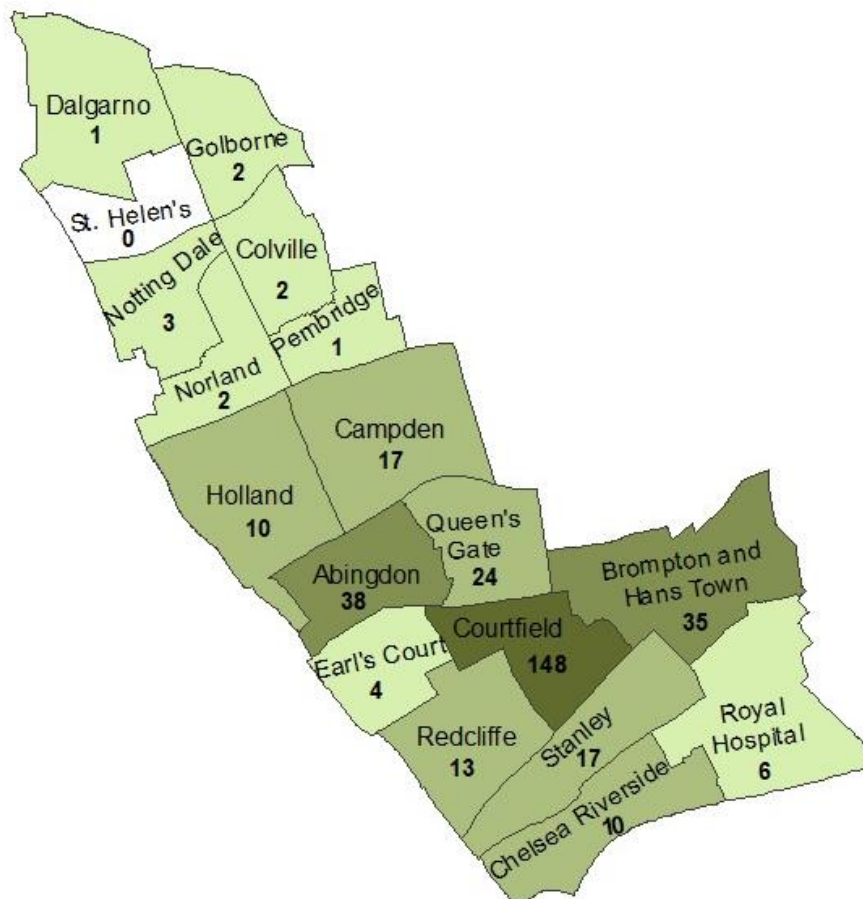
“If you only ban it in a few selected places. It will simply move the problem to a new place.”

Will move the issue elsewhere



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About the respondents



Respondents were asked a series of questions about themselves, to understand more about those responding. The following pages detail respondents' answers.

The map details the number of responses per ward received to the consultation, using respondents' postcodes to determine their ward.

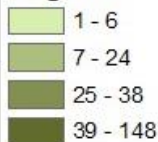
The map excludes incomplete postcodes and postcodes outside the borough, where a ward could not be determined.



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Responses per ward

Legend

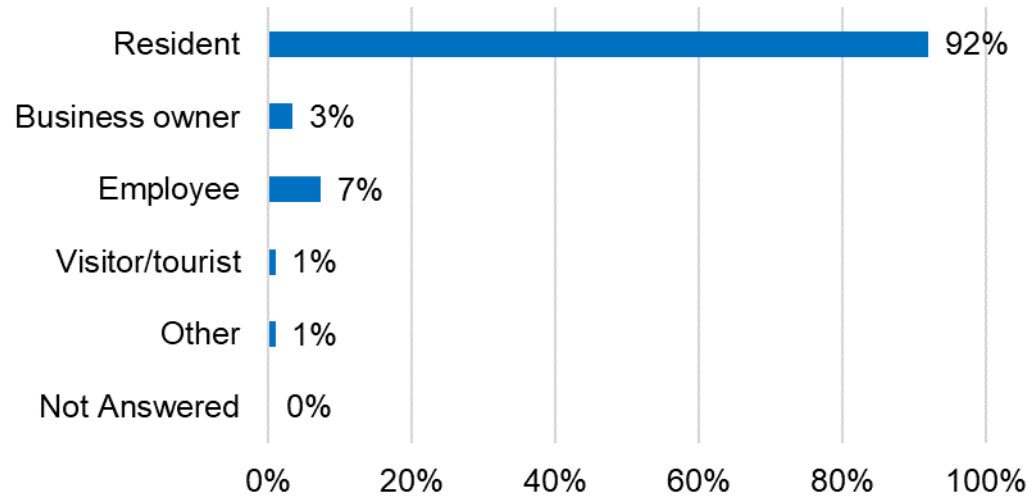


Author: Consultation and Participation Team

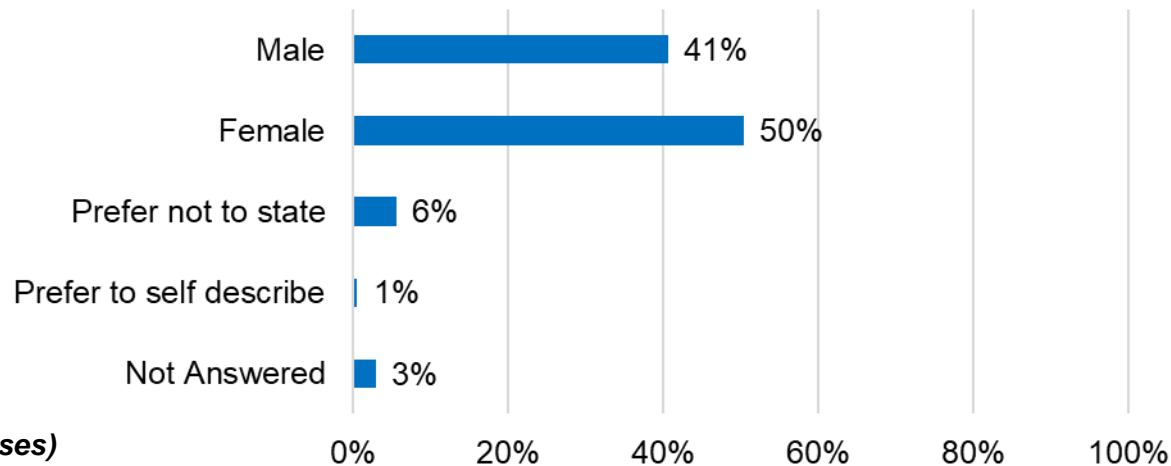
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About the respondents

What is your connection to the borough?



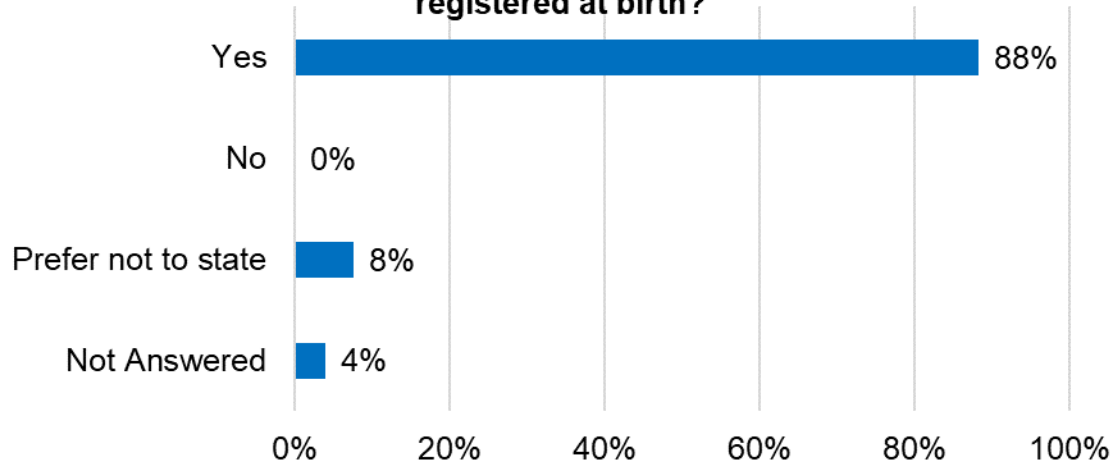
What is your sex?



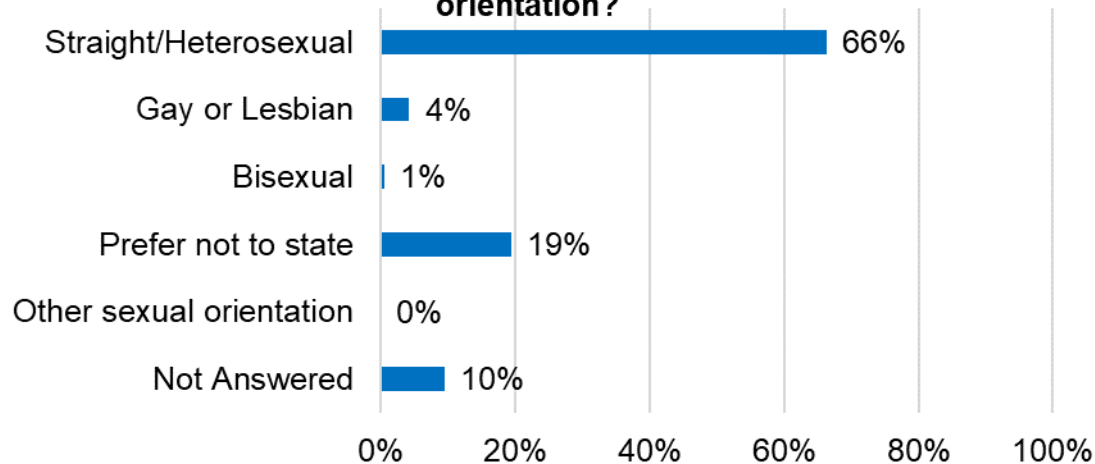
Base: 377 (all responses)

About the respondents

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?



Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

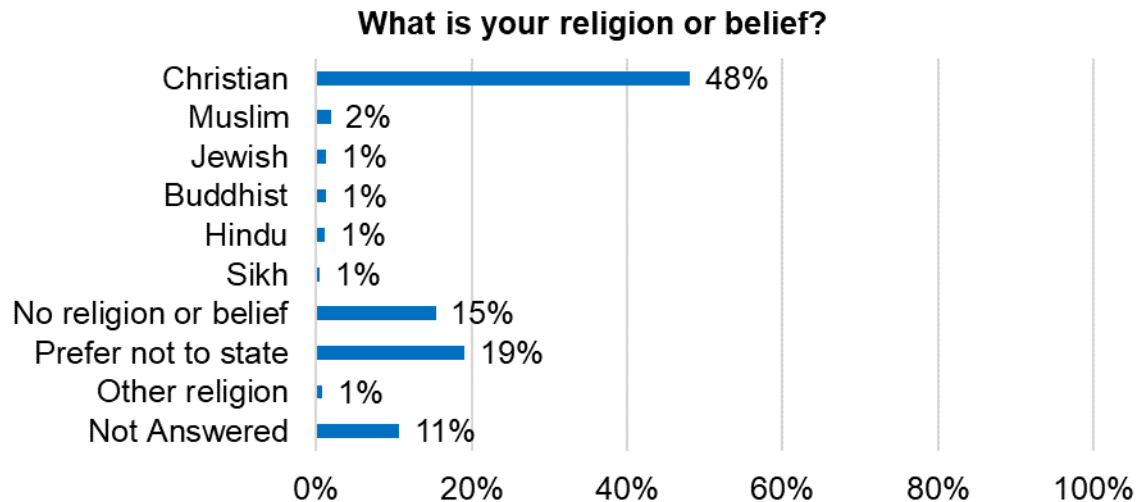
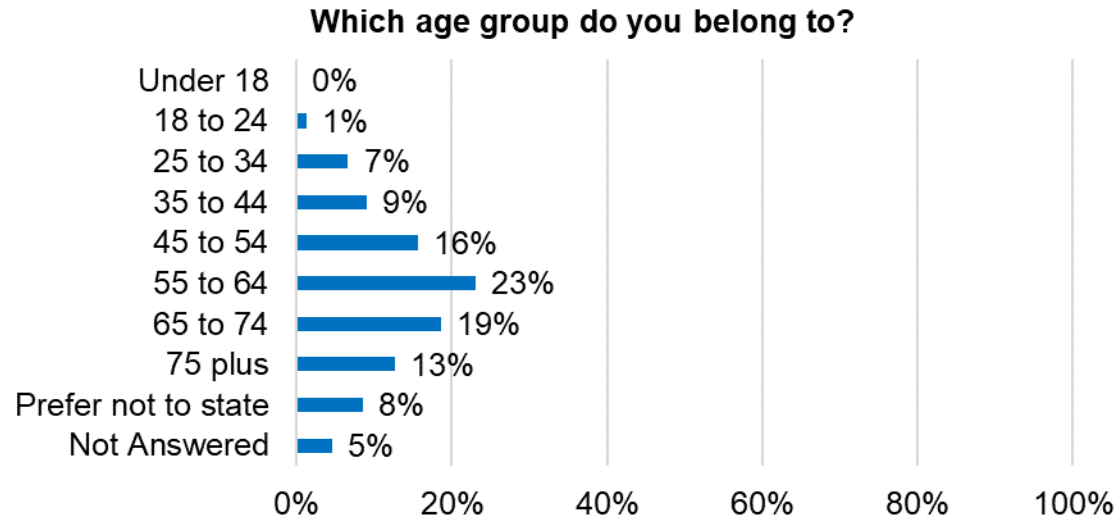


Base: 377 (all responses)



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About the respondents

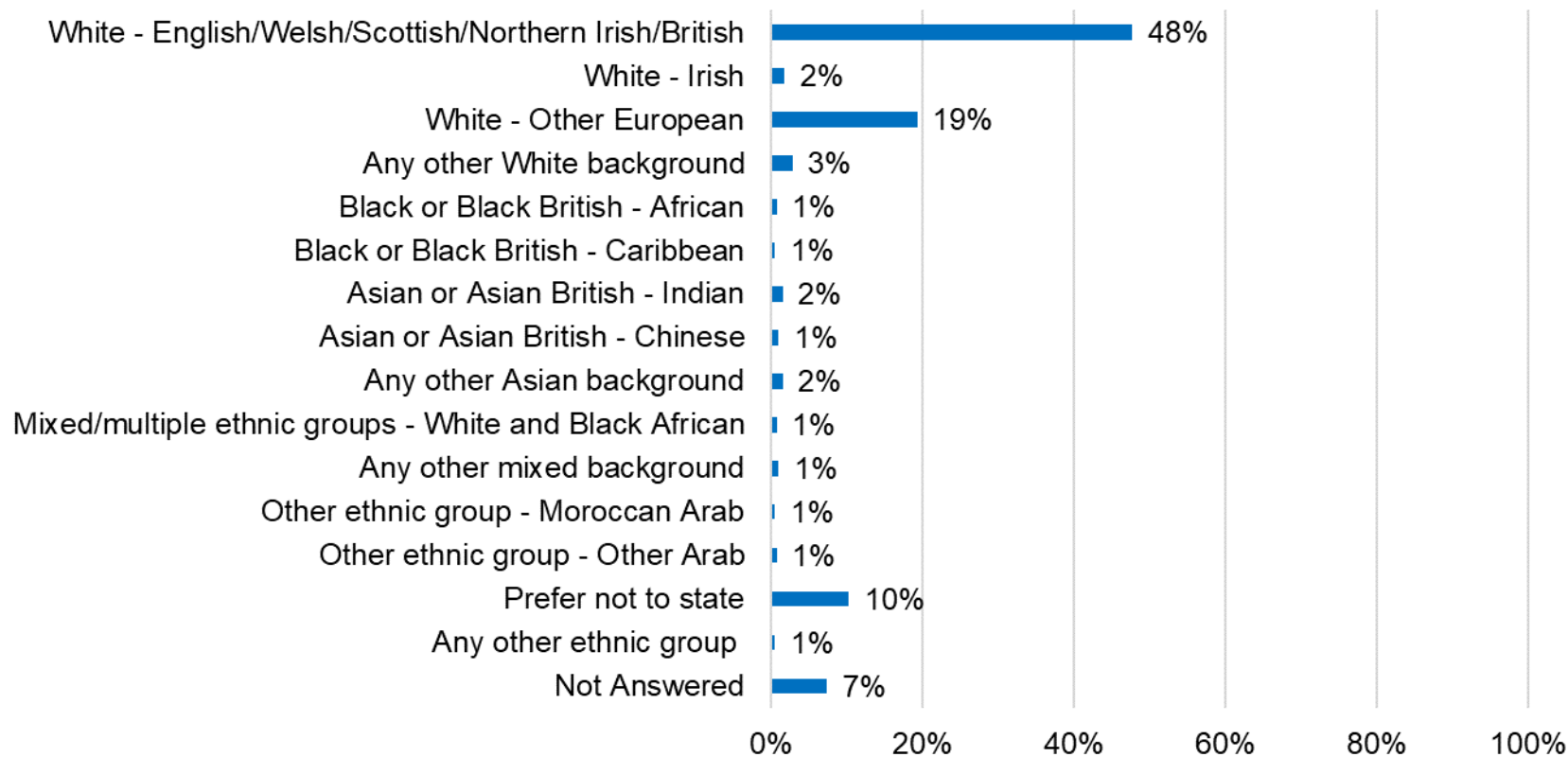


Base: 377 (all responses)



About the respondents

How do you describe your ethnic origin?



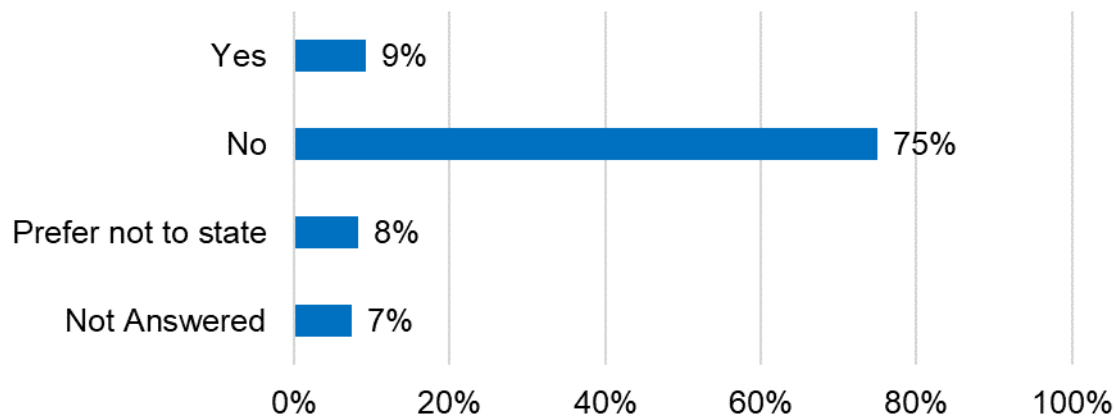
Only ethnicities included in the graph where we have received responses

Base: 377 (all responses)



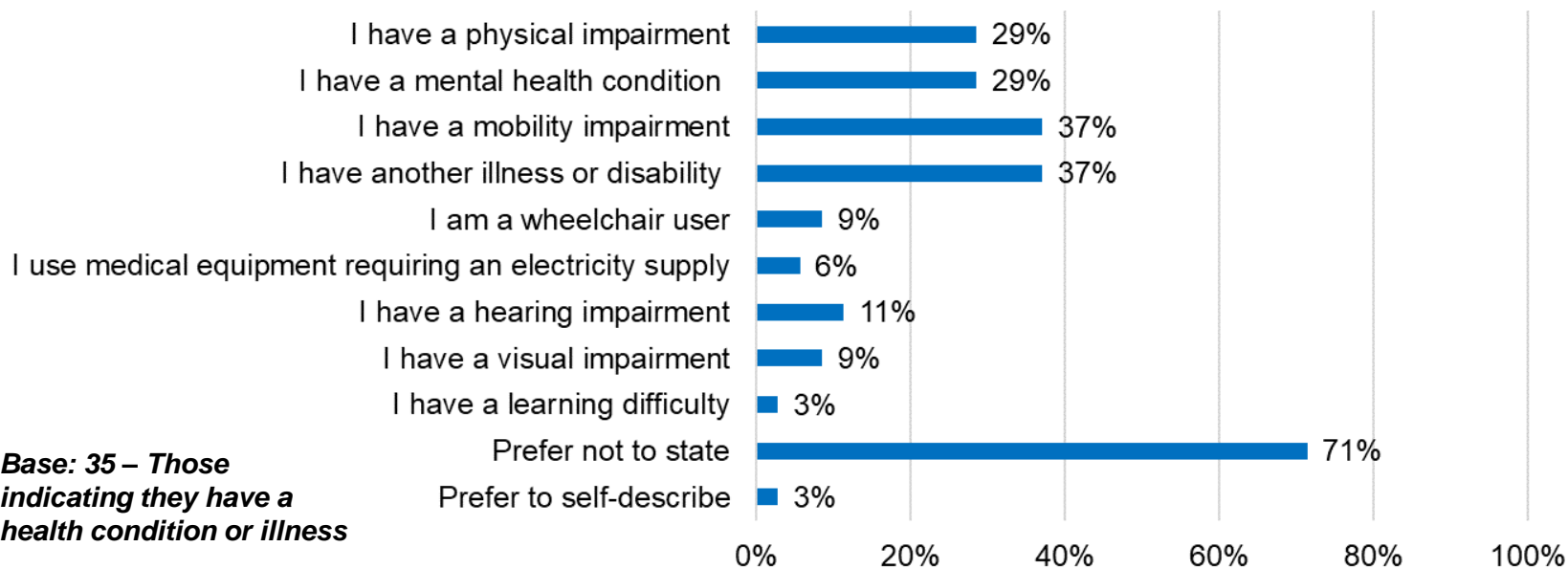
About the respondents

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?



Base: 377 (all responses)

If yes, what is the nature of your physical or mental health condition or illness?



Base: 35 – Those indicating they have a health condition or illness

