

The Dorset Beaches [Studland] Anti-Social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2025

Consultation Response Report

Produced by Consultation and Engagement Team
for Dorset Council

May 2025

Consultation Response Report

What was the consultation about?	The consultation relates to the Dorset Beaches [Studland] Anti-Social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Order 2025. This is a new Order which intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from camping on beaches in Studland. The additional Order has been prepared in consultation with the various landowners including the National Trust. The Order seeks to address the significant issues experienced over recent summers of 'wild camping' on Dorset Beaches which has given rise to a large increase in nuisance complaints, damage to property, accumulation of rubbish and human waste and destruction of natural habitat. The draft Order would make it an offence to camp on designated land, when asked to leave or without the permission of the landowner.
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation ran for 8 weeks finishing on 20 April 2025.
What consultation methods were used?	The consultation was available both electronically online and in paper form via post upon request. The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. The consultation had a separate communications plan and consultation plan prepared beforehand.
How many responses were received overall?	204 overall responses were received.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	From those that answered the demographic questions, 74% of responses were residents from the Dorset Council area, 21.6% were residents from elsewhere, 0.5% from businesses, 0.5% from third sector organisations, 2.5% were Councillors/Politicians and 1% identified as 'other'. There were 34.2% male respondents and 58.2% female. Over half (52.5%) of the overall response were from people aged 60 and above, 36.8% from those aged 40-59, with just 5.6% 39 or below. 90.5% of respondents that answered this question stated their ethnic group was White British. This is representative of the wider Dorset population. Responses from disabled people were at 17.4%.

Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
How will the results be used?	Results from this survey will be used to inform any revisions to the Dorset Beaches Anti-Social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)
Who has produced this report?	Consultation Team, Dorset Council, May 2025.

Background

The Dorset Beaches Anti-Social Behaviour related Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) 2025 (Draft) is a new Order which is intended to tackle issues of Anti-social Behaviour arising from camping on beaches on Studland Beach. The summer of 2020 saw a significant increase in the number of people camping on Dorset's beaches, which continued into the summer season of 2021. The draft Order seeks to address the issues experienced over the last two summers which has given rise to a large increase in nuisance complaints, damage to property, accumulation of rubbish and human waste and destruction of natural habitat. The draft Order would make it an offence to camp on designated land without the permission of the landowner.

The Consultation

This consultation survey was directed at organisations and residents of Dorset Council. It asked for their thoughts on the Dorset Beaches [Studland] Anti-social Behaviour Related Public Spaces Protection Order.

Analysis Method

It is worth noting the low number of responses for this consultation. Typically, open text comments would be coded and themed, but this was not possible in this case due to the small base size. Therefore, all the comments have been left verbatim. Note: some figures may not sum due to rounding.

Executive Summary

Unauthorised camping on beaches

There was a high level of support for unauthorised camping on beaches with 79.4% (162) respondents supporting this section of the proposal.

Of those who don't support the proposal the two top concerns were 40% (14) thought it was too harsh/ petty and 37.1% (13) thought it was a harmless activity.

Of those who support the proposal, the main reason included 92.6% (151) thought it was necessary as it creates a litter problem and 85.9% (140) think it is important to stop before it becomes too widespread

Further comments reinforced the concern over litter left by campers. Many also referred to the fact that this order should be extended to other locations. It is worth noting that this consultation only included Studland beach as PSPOs for other beaches in the Dorset Council area are still in effect.

Other notable references were made to the general support of the protection order, the concern over BBQs and the risk it poses to the environment, other beach users and wildlife. There were also references made to the need for the order to be enforced for it to be effective.

Anti-social behaviour on beaches

There was a high level of support for the anti-social behaviour on beaches section with 88.2% in support of the proposal.

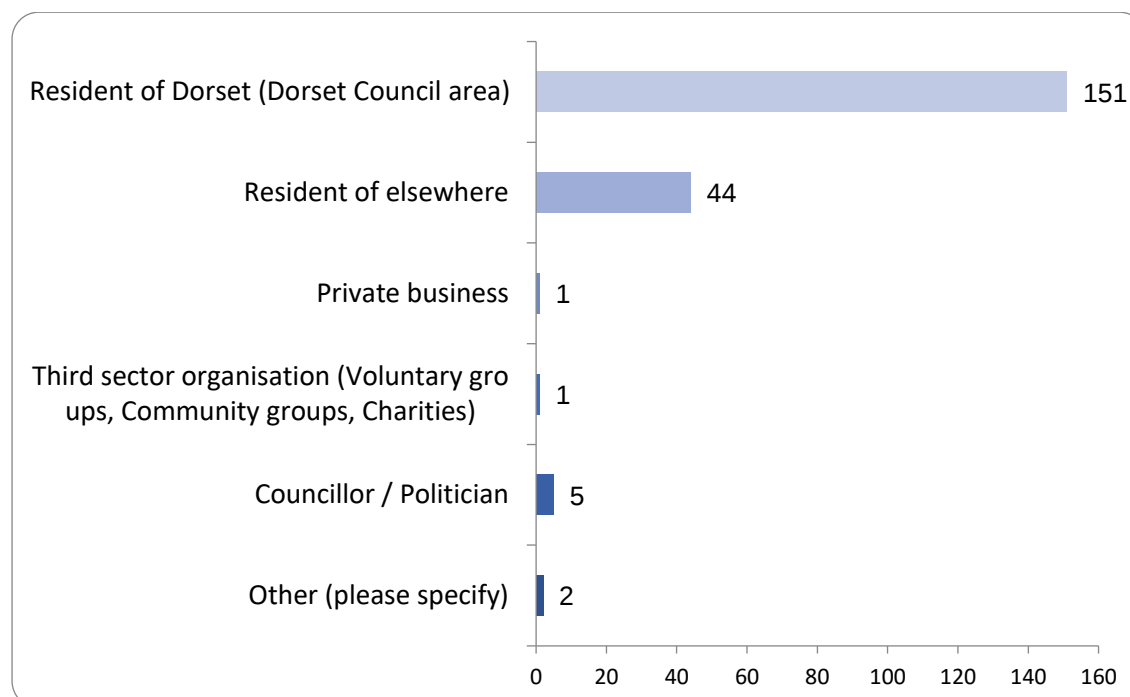
Of those who were not in support, the two main concerns were 31.3% (5) thought the area on the map should be altered and a 31.3% (5) were also concerned it won't be enforced.

Of those who did support the proposal, the primary reason was because 92.7% (166) felt it is necessary as it affects other beach users.

Further comments for anti-social behaviour on beaches show a similar concern for better enforcement for the protection order. Additionally, there were also numerous references to how the order needed to be extended to other locations and areas. There were comments regarding general support for the order. Respondents also made many references to how general anti-social behaviour was not appreciated, with this being inclusive of loud music/noise and alcohol/drug consumption.

Q. Are you responding as a...?

(n-204)



Option	Total	Percent
Resident of Dorset (Dorset Council area)	151	74.0%
Resident of elsewhere	44	21.6%
Private business	1	0.5%
Public sector organisation (Local council, health organisation etc)	0	0.00%
Third sector organisation (Voluntary groups, Community groups, Charities)	1	0.5%
Councillor / Politician	5	2.5%
Other (please specify)	2	1.0%

The 2 'Other' consisted of:

1. Beach hut owner at Studland
2. West Lulworth Parish Council

2 organisations or groups also gave an official response:

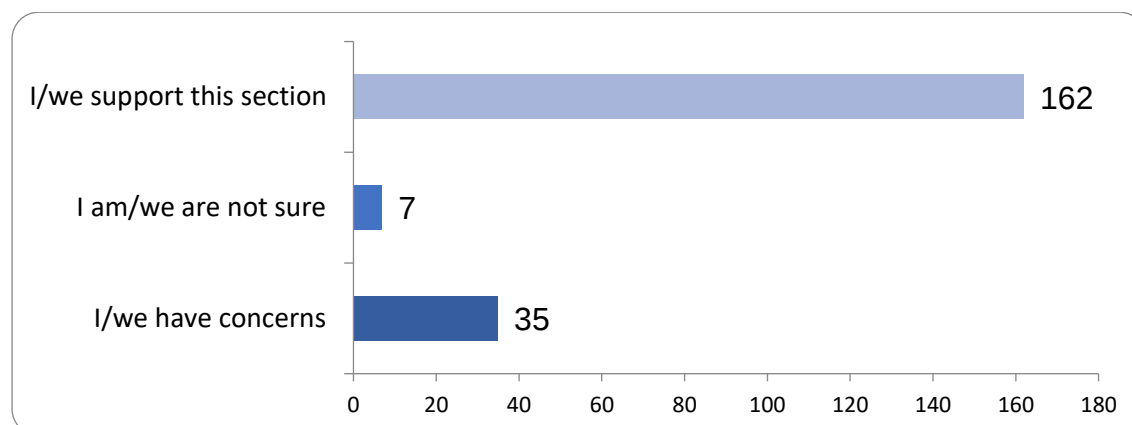
1. Shell Bay Sailing
2. National Trust

Their comments will be left in relevant points throughout the report.

Unauthorised camping on beaches

Q. How do you feel about the unauthorised camping on beaches proposals?

(n-204)



Option	Total	Percent
I/we support this section	162	79.4%
I am/we are not sure	7	3.4%
I/we have concerns	35	17.2%

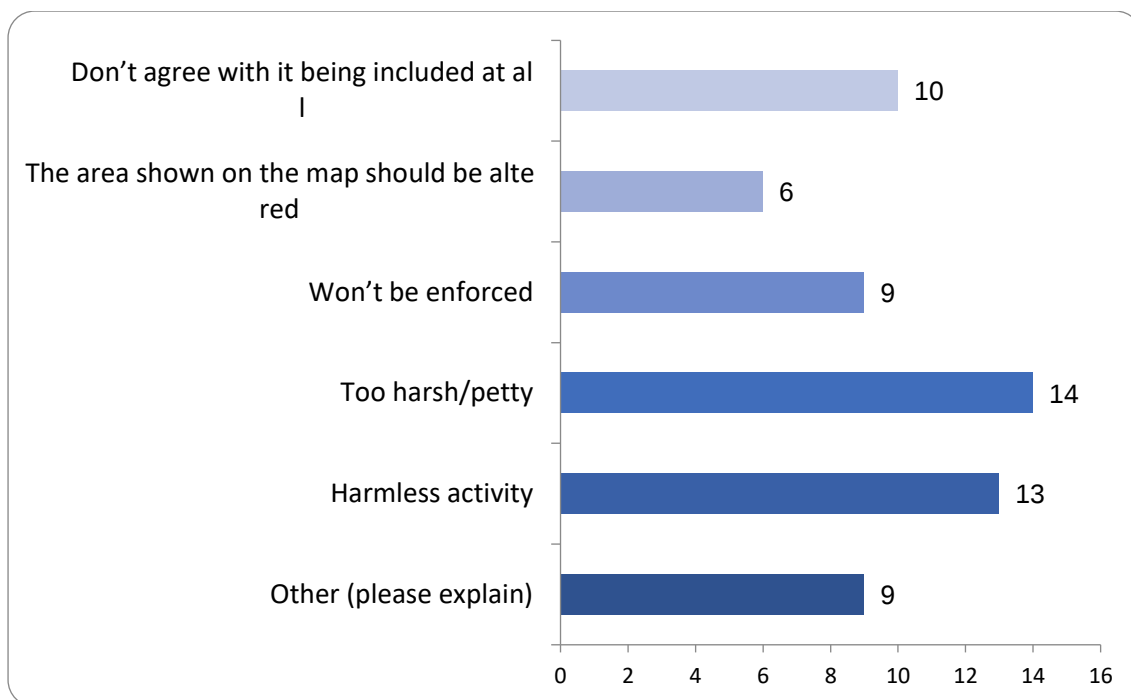
The majority of respondents, 79.4% (162) are in support the proposal of unauthorised camping on beaches an offence. 17.2% (35) had concerns about the proposal and a further 3.4% (7) were unsure.

For respondents who identified as disabled, 70.6% (24) were in support of the proposal and 26.5% (9) had concerns.

80.8% (122) respondents who identified as residents of the Dorset Council area were primarily supportive of the proposal. 16.6% (25) had concerns. In comparison, though visitors were slightly less supportive compared to residents, most, 77.3% (34) agreed and 18.2% (8) were concerned.

Q. What are your concerns about the unauthorised camping on beaches proposals?

(n-35)



Option	Total	Percent
Don't agree with it being included at all	10	28.6%
The area shown on the map should be altered	6	17.1%
Won't be enforced	9	25.7%
Too harsh/petty	14	40.0%
Harmless activity	13	37.1%
Other (please explain)	9	25.7%

Of those who did have concerns, 40% (14) believe the proposal is too harsh/petty and 37.1% (13) believe that camping is a harmless activity. 28.6% (10) don't agree with it being included in the proposal at all. A further 25.7% (9) thought it wouldn't be enforced and finally, 17.1% (6) thought areas on the map should be altered. 25.7% (9) had other reasons, which are specified below.

Other comments – verbatim:

There are other nearby places with beaches, e.g. brands bay where i've seen people often camping just outside of the area proposed. map shown
The area is too small and will just displace campers into more wildlife sensitive areas such as the dunes and Bramblebush bay
Even individual campers need to be restricted to areas near public toilets so they aren't leaving anything behind.
Should be enforced carefully
Seems 1 person can camp. Should be a blanket ban
Why do people need to camp on a beach when there's so many campsites in the Purbecks
Shouldn't be a criminal offence, wild camping should be a basic freedom on common land, however do support the need to stop antisocial behaviour but I don't

think erecting a tent and sleeping constitutes a criminal offence, littering, fires are different but simply a tent on the beach and sleeping

The report risks conflating camping with anti-social behaviour. That is wrong. Camping responsibly will not harm the land.

Let people be free

Should be allowed unless the individual/s are taking part in antisocial behaviour and lighting fires etc. Those who peacefully wild camp for a singular night and do not disrupt anyone and "leave no trace" should be allowed

It should not be allowed

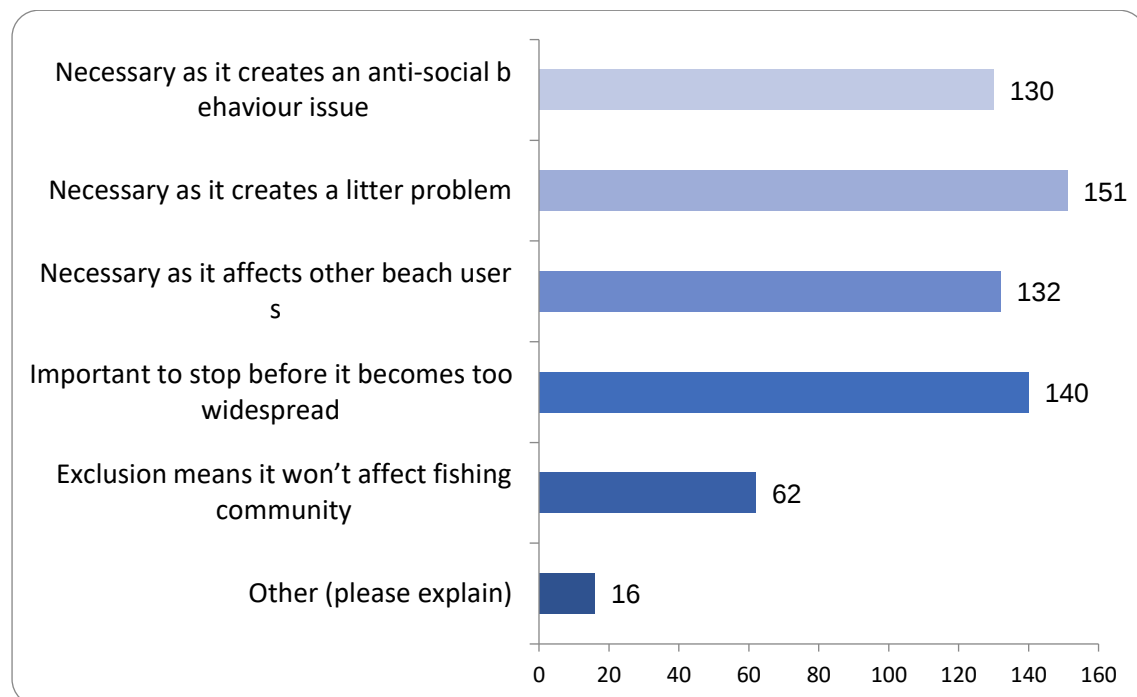
May get groups claiming they are camping individually (one tent each)

It needs to be all of Studland peninsula as people also camp in the dunes and along the heath next to Brands Bay. The fire in August 2022 was started by a BBQ in the heath so not permitting fires anywhere on the peninsula is a better option.

Could be misinterpreted to include daytime beach shelters. Definition needs to be clearer.

Q. What do you particularly support about the unauthorised camping on beaches proposals?

(n-163)



Option	Total	Percent
Necessary as it creates an anti-social behaviour issue	130	79.8%
Necessary as it creates a litter problem	151	92.6%
Necessary as it affects other beach users	132	81.0%
Important to stop before it becomes too widespread	140	85.9%

Exclusion means it won't affect fishing community	62	38.0%
Other (please explain)	16	9.8%

Of those who are in support, 92.6% (151) selected the litter problem as the primary reason for their agreement behind the proposal and 85.9% (140) believing the importance of stopping it before it became too widespread as the next main reason. This was closely followed by 81% (132) who think it's necessary as it affects other beach goers and 79.8% (130) who believe it creates an anti-social behaviour issue.

A lower number of those in support, 38% (62) believe the exclusion means it won't affect the fishing community. 9.8% (16) had 'other' reasons which are detailed below.

Other comments – verbatim:

Just concerned that there is an opportunity to give direction to remove the tent in the first instance rather than immediately fine people.
increases risk of fire from cooking
Have discovered hot coals and broken glass buried in sand where people have camped.
Same restrictions should apply to Chesil Cove & Chesil beach as a whole. Why only applicable to Studland?
The amount of rubbish left is costly to remove, and is damaging the environment of our coastline
Destruction of flora and fauna and wildlife habitat
This already seems fairly widespread and wherever it occurs it unfortunately results in environmental damage from litter human waste fires etc
it has a bad impact on wildlife
Necessary as many people do not know how to behave in these areas and take advantage of the lack of regulations and spoil it for others
No ablutions facilities so human waste is a problem. Danger of fires.
Support wildlife protection
Reduces risk of fires
Using the beach as a public toilet.
Also, would 'open the floodgates' and so many people would do this and it would negatively impact the environment and local infrastructure wouldn't be able to cope either.
It's necessary to protect the environment
We feel that the area of Studland which includes the Poole harbour side from Shell Bay restaurant to the bird lookout should also be included, as we've seen several overnight campers when we walk the dogs in the morning during the summer.
Protecting the environment
I have been verbally abused by people lighting fires on the beaches. I asked them to put it out as it was a very windy evening. I was told to [redacted] , this was a large family group.
Keeps risk of fire lower and preserved the habitat
It is not a campsite and should not be used as such. It does not provide appropriate facilities.

Impact on wildlife
Necessary as it will prevent damage and disturbance to wildlife and habitats in a protected, designated area
It also impacts negatively on the environment and wildlife, both in terms of increased danger of fires and harm to the natural balance of the area. the
Unauthorised campers have caused fires, and also leave human waste. The exclusion should also extend to Bramble Bay, where there has been illegal camping. There is also much unauthorised camping in the form of camper vans - particularly along Ferry Road, near to the ferry, and in Heath Green Road - where residents have witnessed camper van owners having fires on the verge of the road: this is also dangerous and anti-social
The area covered should cover all heaths, forests & other sensitive land eg Durlston NNR not just Studland beach

Q. Further comments

In this section, the organisation responses will be shown verbatim. For the general answers to this question, these have been coded and themed, to highlight the areas of particular importance to the respondents.

Organisation response

Shell Bay Sailing Centre commented "Concerned that Bramble Bush Bay is not included in the scheme as there is widespread camping and bbq use on this beach. Also concerned about camping on ferry road despite overnight parking being banned - this ban is rarely enforced"

National Trust commented "We feel that the geographical area proposed within this order is not extensive enough as it only includes the seaward side beaches and not the inner harbour beaches ie Bramble Bush bay to Jerrys Point. These areas are being used more frequently by campers with the associated BBQs and litter. If they are not included they will act as a displacement area for campers from the main beach. The remnants of camp fires are often found in the summer months and cattle also graze these areas in the summer. The long term overnight camper vans on Ferry Rd is also a major issue increasing fire risk, litter as well as human waste. The services provided by the National Trust such as toilets are not sustainable to be open 24/7 and detract from the beauty and nature of the area. It would be appropriate to tackle all unauthorised overnight camping/parking."

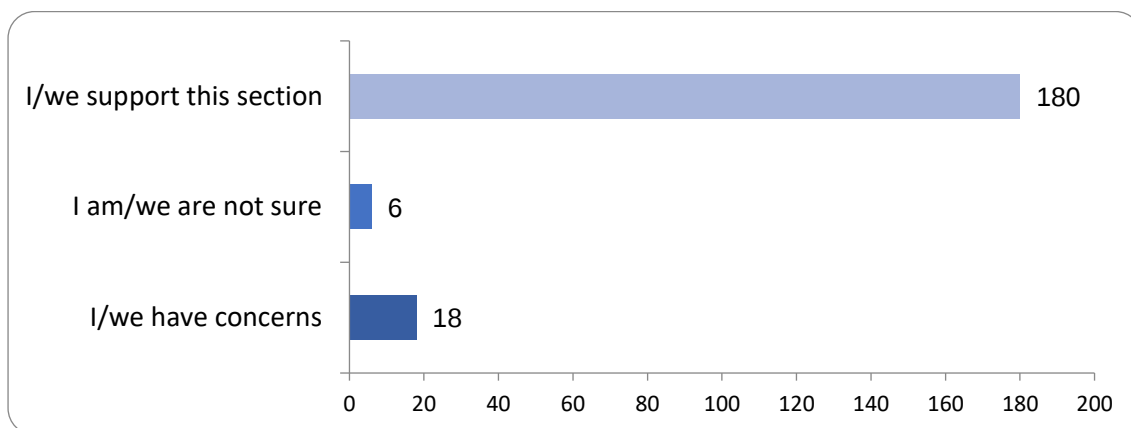
Theme	Total
Litter left behind by campers	21
Other location	17
Support the ban	16
Ban disposable barbeques/hazardous to people and wildlife/campfires/risk of fires	15
Orders need to be enforced	11
Unfair restrictions for wild camping/ some campers are responsible	10
Parking motor homes/camper vans on ferry road	10

Human waste left behind by campers	9
Ban should apply to all beaches/wider areas	7
Educating public/Education needed for litter/bbqs etc	5
Clarity needed on reasons behind single person/groups prohibited	3
Balancing protection and usage	2
Allow temporary day shelter for medical consitions/dogs/babies	2
Provide alternate solutions for camping	2
Risk to natural beauty/wildlife/area need sto be protected	2
Other	10

Anti-social behaviour on beaches

How do you feel about the anti-social behaviour on beaches proposals?

(n-204)



Option	Total	Percent
I/we support this section	180	88.2%
I am/we are not sure	6	2.9%
I/we have concerns	18	8.8%

Most respondents, 88.2% (180) were in support of the proposal to tackle anti-social behaviour on beaches. 8.8% (18) have concerns and 2.9% (6) were unsure.

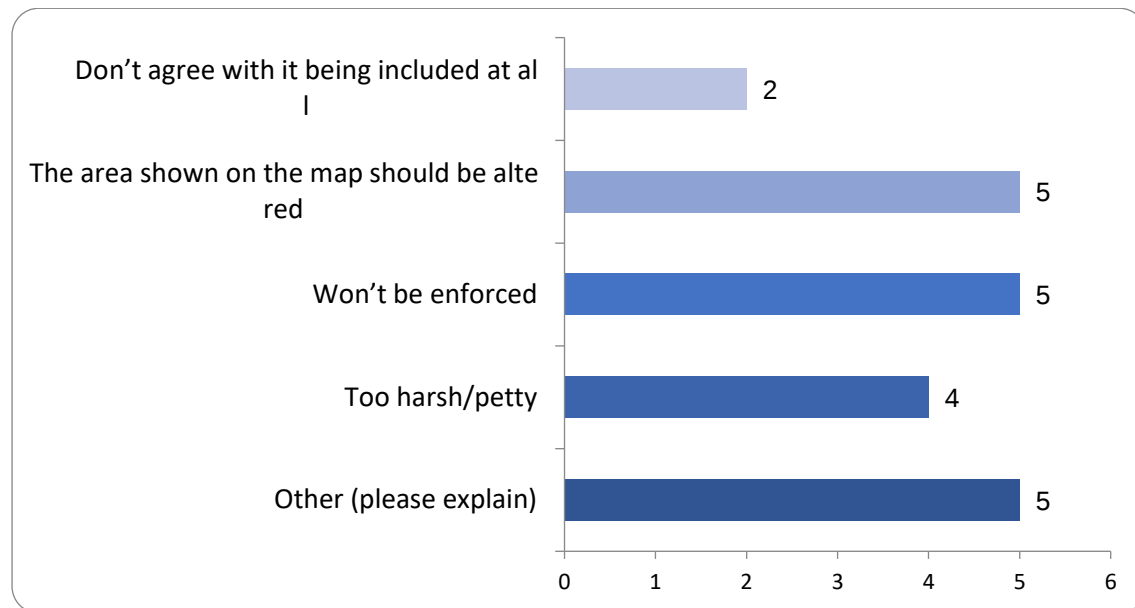
For those respondents who identified as disabled showed a relatively high level of support for the proposal, with 79.4% (27) in support. 14.7% (5) had concerns.

Respondents who identified as residents of the Dorset Council area were similar to the general level of support for the proposals, with 88.1% (133) in support. 9.9% (15) had concerns.

Visitors (residents of elsewhere) were also supportive with most, 86.4% (38) agreeing and 6.8% (3) were concerned.

Q. What are your concerns about anti-social behaviour on beaches proposals?

(n-16)



Option	Total	Percent
Don't agree with it being included at all	2	12.5%
The area shown on the map should be altered	5	31.3%
Won't be enforced	5	31.3%
Too harsh/petty	4	25.0%
Other (please explain)	5	31.3%

It is worth noting the responses to this question have a small base size, however, of those who did have concerns, the three highest rated reasons at 31.3% (5) each were that areas on the map should be altered, the order won't be enforced and 'other' which respondents have detailed their reasons in the table below.

A further 25% (4) thought the proposed order is too harsh/petty and 12.5% (2) don't agree with it being included at all.

Other comments – verbatim:

Same comment as before, there are more beaches than on the map
Could be used against people just having fun; or racially
Too lax
Concern that you will add prohibitions against walking dogs off lead in these areas
Are you going to include nudists in your definition of anti social behaviour?
I'd like to know how you propose to enforce this. I totally agree that these disgusting people are not allowed on our beaches
Feel the nudist area is too large. It takes up a very large bit of the beach that is increasingly used by my males in an exhibitionist manner. Nudist beach area has

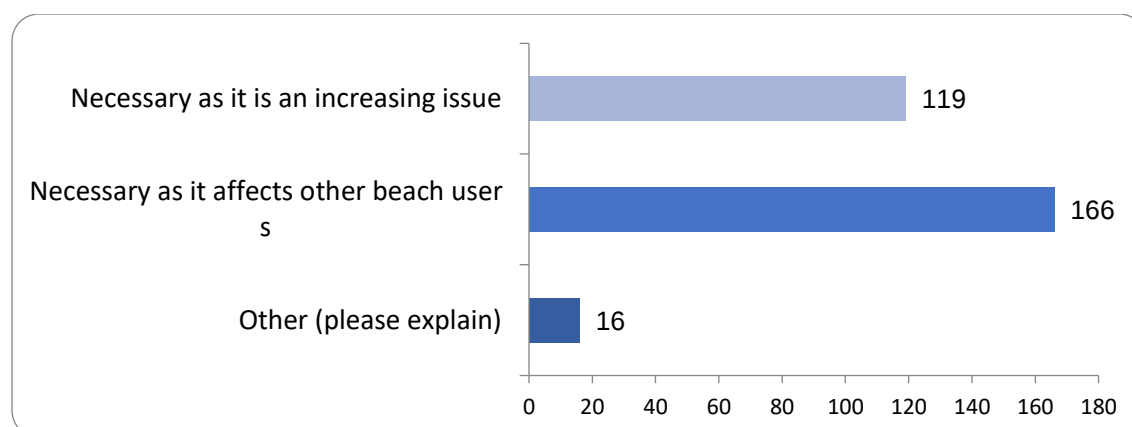
become a no go zone for my family. It's at least needs to be in a smaller area or stopped completely

The naturist area needs to go. The exhibitionist behaviour ([redacted]) has always bothered me so needs to be monitored and quick response when reported me

Too easy to misinterpret, for the rule to be applied incorrectly. What is your definition of anti-social behaviour?

Q. What do you particularly support about the anti-social behaviour on beaches proposals?

(n-179)



Option	Total	Percent
Necessary as it is an increasing issue	119	66.5%
Necessary as it affects other beach users	166	92.7%
Other (please explain)	16	8.9%

Of those who support this section of the order, most, 92.7% (166) feel that it is necessary as it affects other beach users. 66.5% (119) think it is necessary as it is an increasing issue and 8.9% (16) have 'other' reasons which are detailed in the table below.

Respondents who identified as disabled showed a similar view to the general level of support with 85.7% (24) who thought it is necessary as it affects other beach users and 64.3% (18) think it is necessary as it is an increasing issue.

Other comments – verbatim:

I do not know if it is an increasing issue but it feels important to try and prevent it becoming more commonplace.

I don't think it's necessary but it's not unreasonable.

It affects the wildlife too if rubbish is left behind

It affects wildlife and biodiversity.

What is 'Reasonable Excuse'? There is NO EXCUSE for antisocial behaviour.

it has an adverse effect on wildlife and flora

This problem can set a bad example for young people and can normalise anti-social behaviour so it becomes acceptable to some.
Danger to human life and of fires.
Dorsets growing popularity with people not from here who have no respect for the area and do not know how to behave
Because of its wildlife impact
Impact on the natural environment. Fauna and flora.
The beach should a special place for everyone.
Large groups of young people drinking is intimidating and ruins the beach experience for others
particularly bad on nudist section of beach. predatory males waiting for females to pass by before walking out of dunes to walk in front of, purposely undress in front of even masturbating,
Pre emptive!
Good as long as there is a distinction between anti-social behaviour and wild camping. True, some campers might be anti-social but the majority are not.
To be honest in most of the time we have been using the controlled area there doesn't seem to be much anti social behaviour.
Necessary as staff and volunteers experience abusive behaviour abd should not be subjected to this
Some activities have a harmful impact on wildlife
Necessary as it affects wildlife and habitats
Most people on the beach are well behaved. However of concern are: barbecues / fires, and uncontrolled dogs
Support but please see previous comments in relation to the coverage of this Order
Should cover all areas not just limited to Studland

Q. Further comments

In this section, the organisation responses will be shown verbatim. For the general answers to this question, these have been coded and themed, to highlight the areas of particular importance to the respondents.

Organisation response

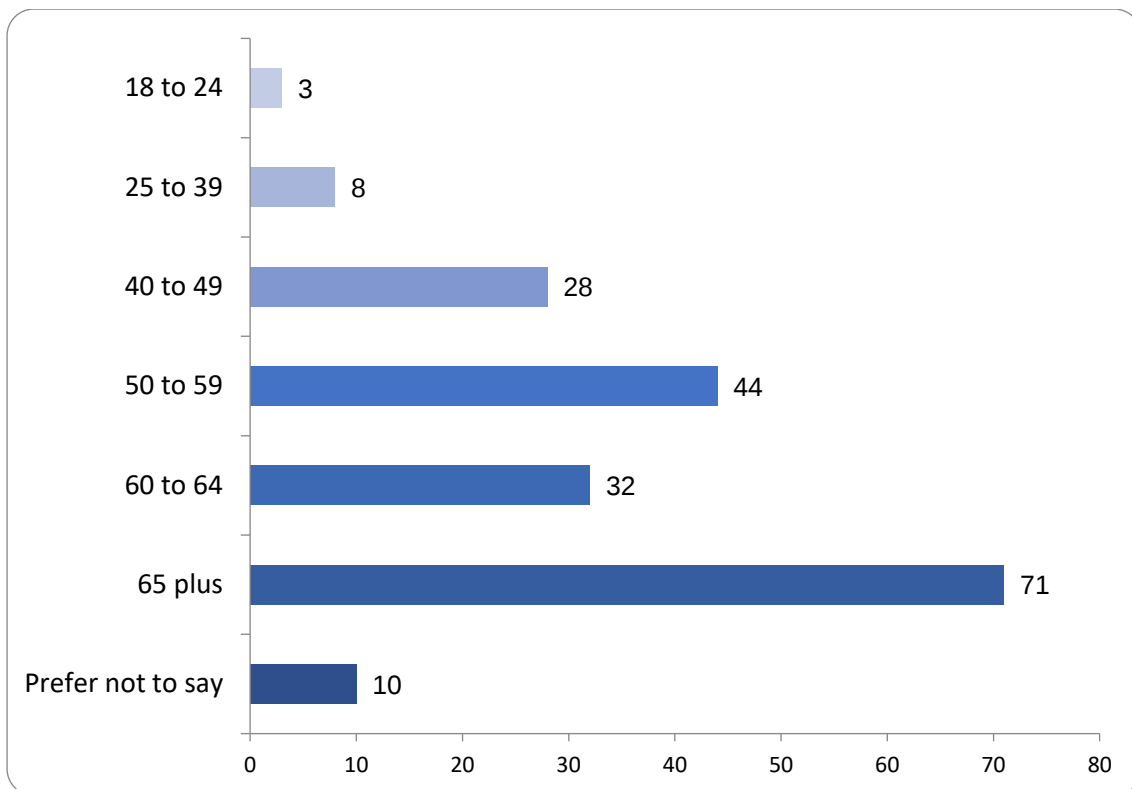
National Trust commented "With a population of over 25,000 people on a busy summer day there will inevitably be an element of antisocial behaviour. To assist the National Trust team security guards are employed during the summer months. An anti social PSPO would greatly help their ability to deal efficiently and effectively with antisocial behaviour and would enhance visitors ability to enjoy a beautiful, natural environment in peace and safety. Being a rural community with a large tourism influx at times the local emergency services including the police can struggle to deal in a timely manner with incidents so on the spot assistance is a great help."

Theme	Total
Better enforcement/ fines needed	11
Locations need to be extended to other areas	11
Support for proposal	10
People don't want anti-social behaviour including alcohol/drug consumption/ loud noises & music	10
Litter/discarded items left behind	4
Prevention from access to dunes needed/heathland/ protection from BBQs & fires	4
Needs to be a safe place	3
Harassment from some naturists	3
Map area too small	2
Should not affect naturists following rules	2
Behaviour of dog owners	2
Concerns over behaviour from naturists	2
Other	13

Demographic Information

Please select your age group.

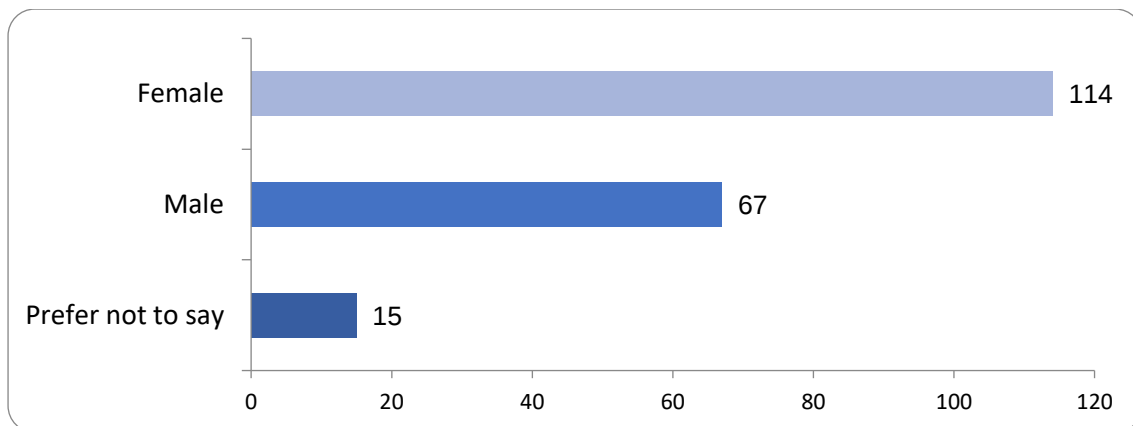
(n-196)



Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.0%
18 to 24	3	1.5%
25 to 39	8	4.1%
40 to 49	28	14.3%
50 to 59	44	22.5%
60 to 64	32	16.3%
65 plus	71	36.2%
Prefer not to say	10	5.1%

What is your sex?

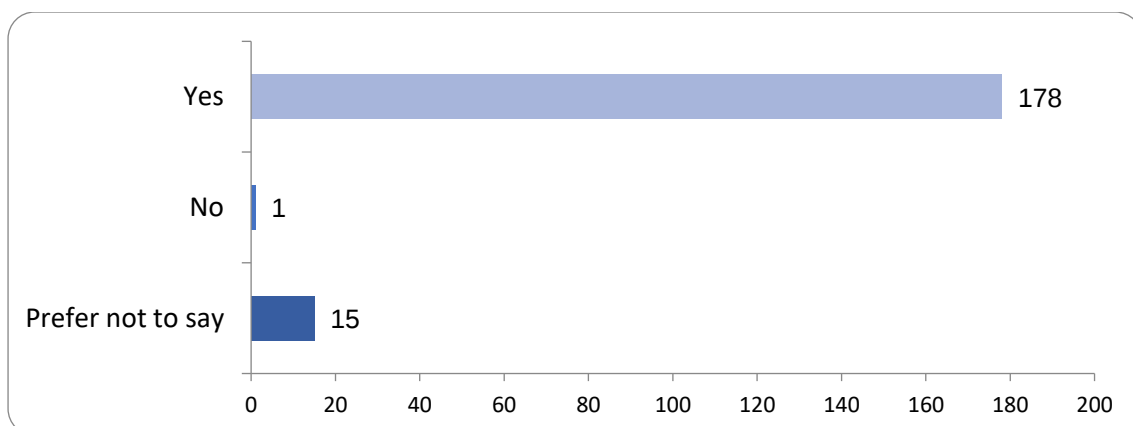
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Option	Total	Percent
Female	114	58.2%
Male	67	34.2%
Prefer not to say	15	7.7%

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

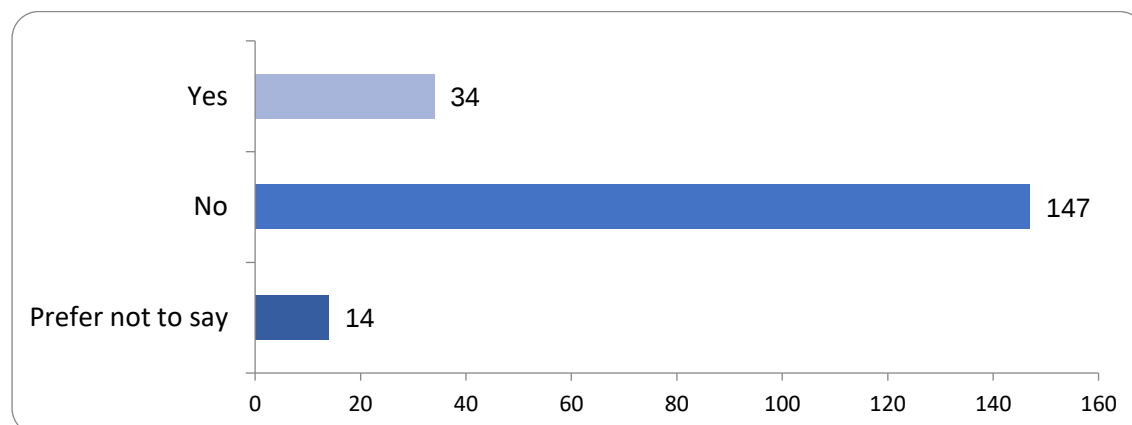
(n-194)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	178	91.8%
No	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	15	7.7%

The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed. Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

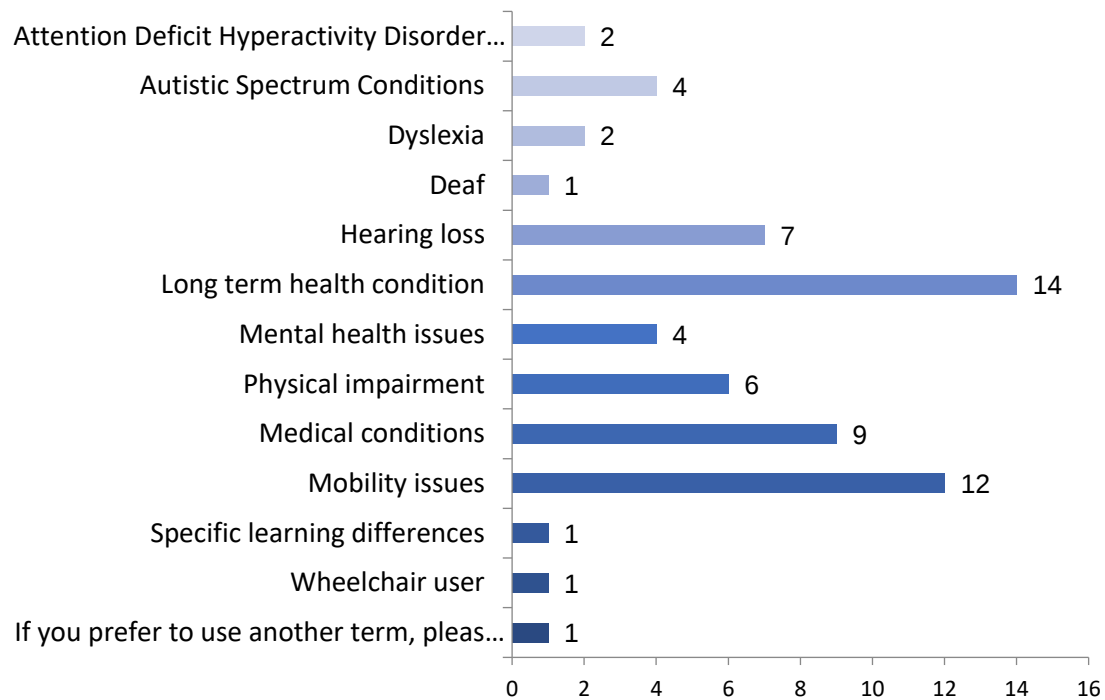
(n-195)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	34	17.4%
No	147	75.4%
Prefer not to say	14	7.2%

If at the previous question you stated you consider yourself to have a disability, please state the type of disability which applies to you.

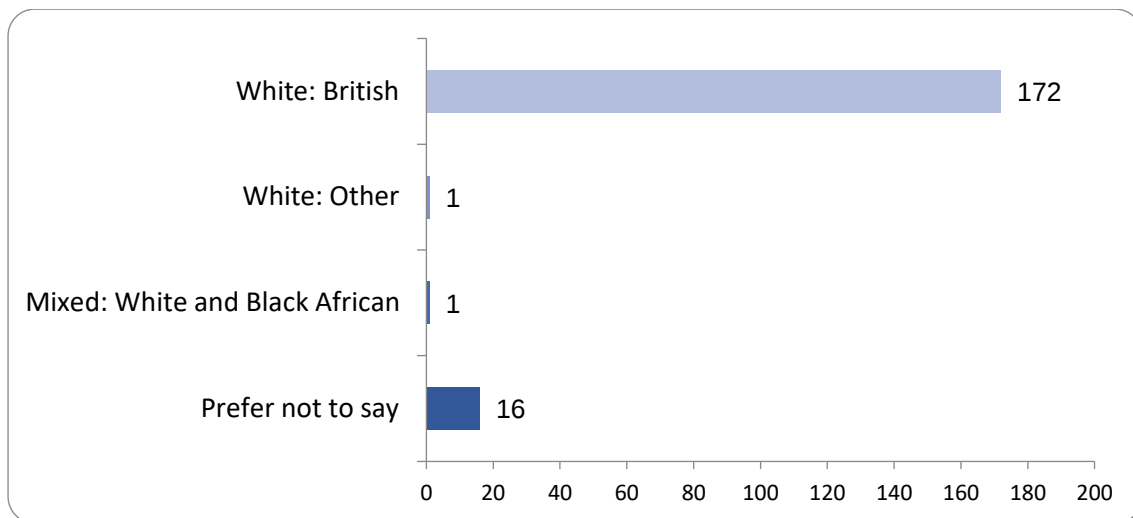
(n- 35)



Option	Total	Percent
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	0	0.0%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	2	5.7%
Autistic Spectrum Conditions	4	11.4%
Blind	0	0.0%
Dyscalculia	0	0.0%
Dyslexia	2	5.7%
Dyspraxia	0	0.0%
Deaf	1	2.9%
Hearing loss	7	20.0%
Long term health condition	14	40.0%
Mental health issues	4	11.4%
Physical impairment	6	17.1%
Sign Language User	0	0.0%
Visually impaired	0	0.0%
Medical conditions	9	25.7%
Mobility issues	12	34.3%
Learning disability	0	0.0%
Specific learning differences	1	2.9%
Wheelchair user	1	2.9%
If you prefer to use another term, please write in the box below	1	2.9%

What is your ethnic group?

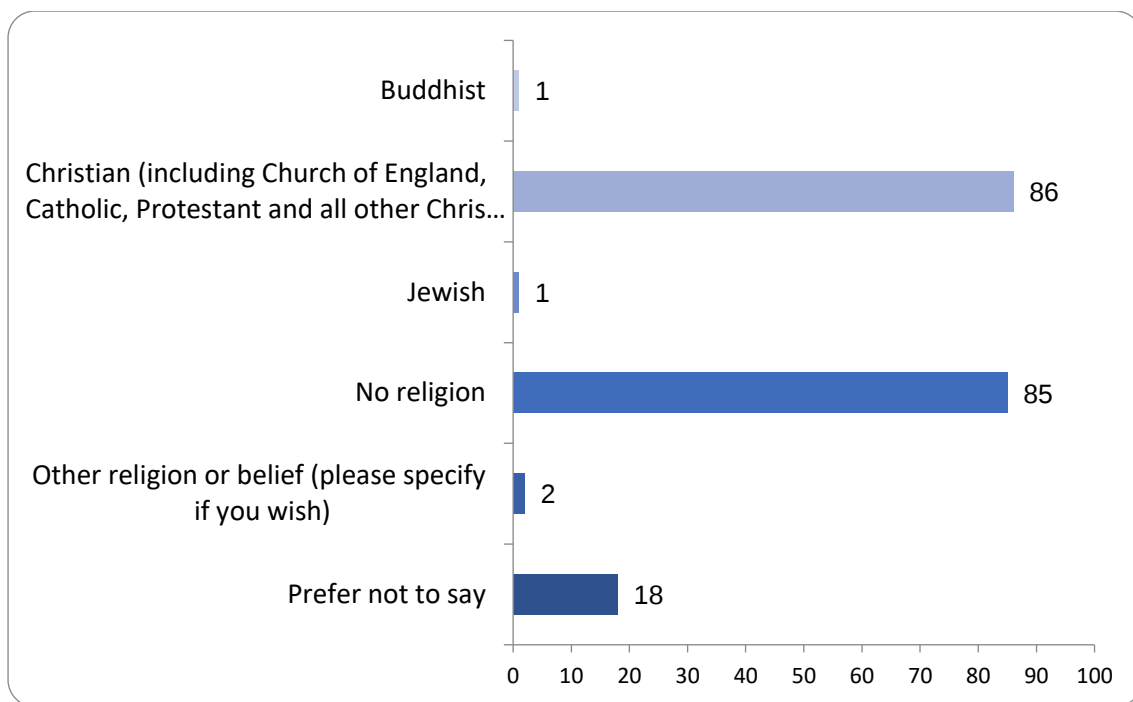
(n-190)



Option	Total	Percent
White: British	172	90.5%
White: Irish	0	0.0%
White: Gypsy	0	0.0%
White: Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White: Other	1	0.5%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0	0.0%
Mixed: White and Black African	1	0.5%
Mixed: White and Asian	0	0.0%
Mixed: Other	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistan	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Other	0	0.0%
Black or Black British	0	0.0%
Arab	0	0.0%
Other ethnic group	0	0.0%
Prefer not to say	16	8.4%

What is your religion or belief?

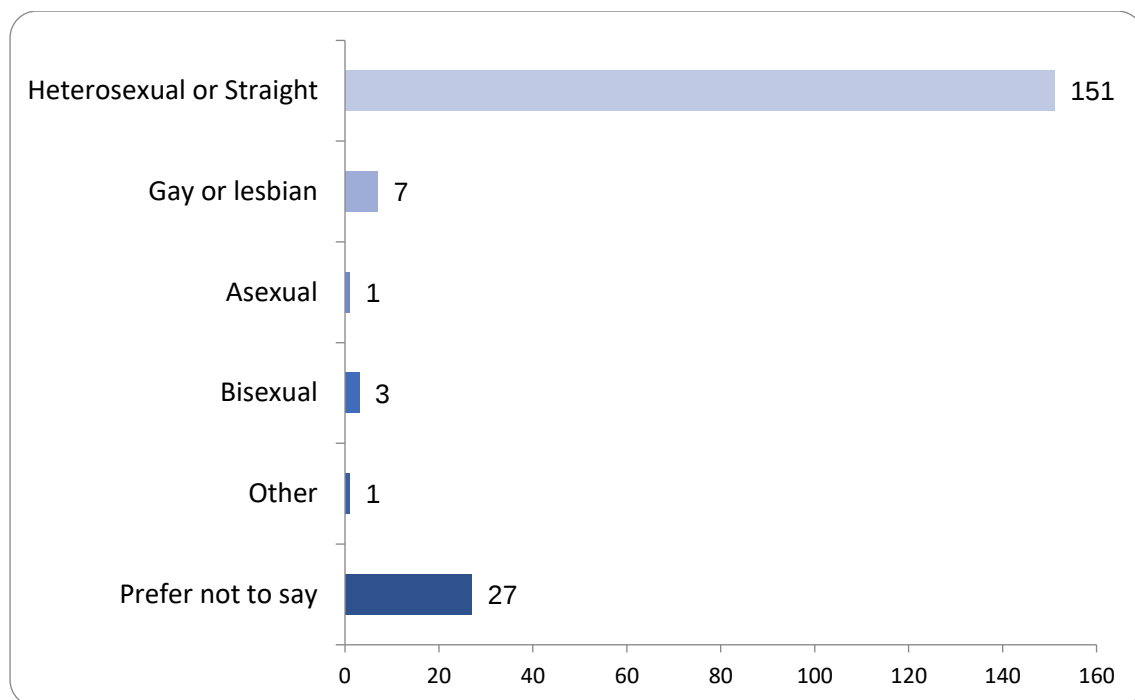
(n-193)



Option	Total	Percent
Buddhist	1	0.5%
Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	86	44.6%
Hindu	0	0.0%
Jewish	1	0.5%
Muslim	0	0.0%
Sikh	0	0.0%
No religion	85	44.0%
Other religion or belief (please specify if you wish)	2	1.0%
Prefer not to say	18	9.3%

What is your sexual orientation?

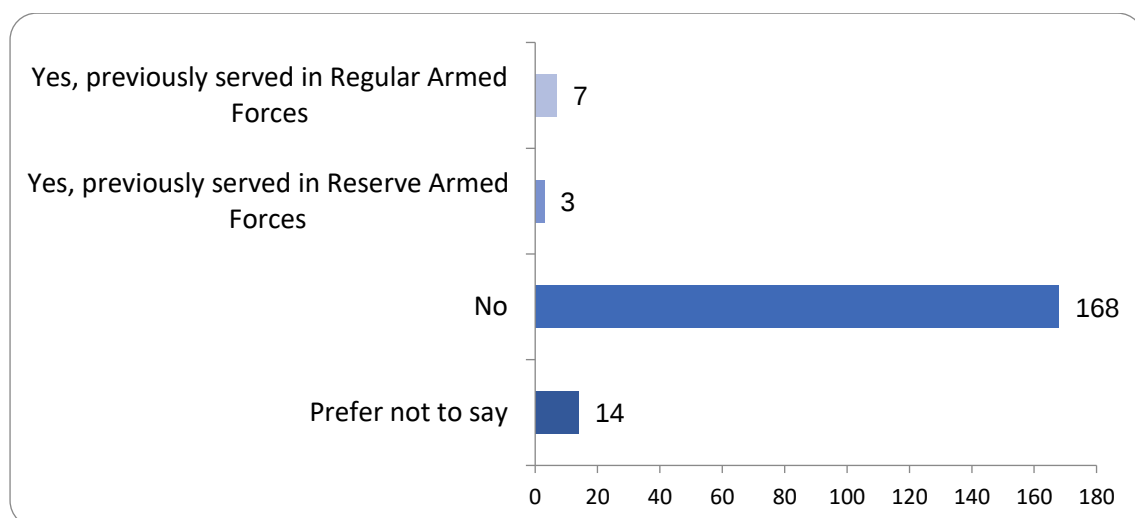
(n-190)



Option	Total	Percent
Heterosexual or Straight	151	79.5%
Gay or lesbian	7	3.7%
Asexual	1	0.5%
Bisexual	3	1.6%
Other	1	0.5%
Prefer not to say	27	14.2%

Have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?

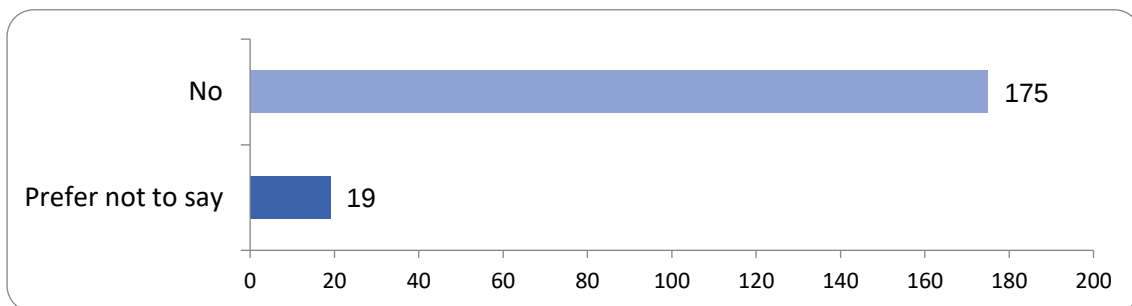
(n-192)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes, previously served in Regular Armed Forces	7	3.7%
Yes, previously served in Reserve Armed Forces	3	1.6%
No	168	87.5%
Prefer not to say	14	7.3%

Are you currently pregnant or have you been pregnant in the last year?

(n-194)



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	0	0.0%
No	175	90.2%
Prefer not to say	19	9.8%