



**Law
Commission**
Reforming the law

Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law

Law Commission Consultation Paper

Statistical analysis of responses

GETTING MARRIED: A CONSULTATION PAPER ON WEDDINGS LAW

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

Introduction

- 1.1 This is a statistical analysis of the responses received to the Law Commission's consultation paper *Getting Married: A Consultation Paper on Weddings Law* (Consultation Paper 247).
- 1.2 The purpose of this analysis is to give a statistical overview of consultees' views in respect of the questions we asked in that Consultation Paper. We received over 1,600 responses. The majority of consultees provided their responses on Citizen Space, our online response platform. Some consultees provided answers via email or letters. Most consultees answered at least one question in the Consultation Paper, and their responses are reflected in this statistical analysis.
- 1.3 This analysis is structured by consultation question (and therefore by chapter of the Consultation Paper). Where a question invited consultees' views, the number of consultees who responded to the question is provided.¹ Some questions, for instance those containing a provisional proposal, asked whether consultees agreed, disagreed or had other views – for these questions, the following information is provided:
 - (1) a pie chart, to demonstrate the proportion of consultees who agreed, disagreed, or who had other views;
 - (2) a table showing the number of consultees (broken down by category) who agreed, disagreed, or who had other views; and
 - (3) the number of consultees who provided substantive comments in response to the question.Some questions contained multiple parts.
- 1.4 Confidential responses have been excluded from this statistical analysis.
- 1.5 In carrying out this analysis, we have categorised consultees as best we could, based on the information they have provided to us. The categories that we have adopted are:
 - (1) local authorities (including the Local Government Association);
 - (2) registration officers;
 - (3) Anglicans (including Anglican churches, clergy and other people involved in Anglican preliminaries);
 - (4) religious officials (namely people who conduct or register other religious weddings);

¹ If the question on Citizen Space provided tick boxes for consultees to select, we have included a breakdown of the responses given.

- (5) religious organisations;
 - (6) non-religious belief organisations (NRBOs);
 - (7) NRB celebrants (including people who conduct Humanist weddings whether or not accredited by Humanists UK);
 - (8) independent celebrants (including those with corporate personality);
 - (9) celebrancy organisations;
 - (10) venues (including marine venues other than cruise ship companies, and representative organisations);
 - (11) wedding professionals;
 - (12) other organisations;
 - (13) cruise ship companies;
 - (14) legal professionals and organisations;
 - (15) academics and academic organisations;
 - (16) Members of Parliament and members of the House of Lords;
 - (17) members of the public; and
 - (18) Government bodies.
- 1.6 As these categorisations are based on our own inferences, they are not definitive and may not reflect how particular consultees would self-identify. We have not therefore relied on these categorisations in our decision-making.
- 1.7 Consultees' responses have helped inform the recommendations that we make in the Report. However, we do not make decisions simply on the basis of the numbers of consultees who were in favour of, or against, a proposal. Law Commission consultations inform our recommendations, by gathering views about and experiences with the current law and testing potential reforms, including identifying any gaps in our provisional thinking. They help us to consider the arguments for and against possible reforms, to determine the best way forward. Deciding the best way forward requires us to consider all the evidence that is available to us, and the strength of the arguments made, rather than looking only at the numbers of consultees who favoured a particular approach.

Accuracy of the statistics

- 1.8 It is important to note that the statistics provided below reflect which boxes were ticked by consultees in entering their consultation responses on Citizen Space.
- 1.9 However, it appears that consultees, in some cases, ticked the wrong answer by mistake (choosing, for instance, "yes" when their substantive answer revealed that

they meant “no”). Moreover, there were several questions where a number of consultees misunderstood what was being asked.

- 1.10 Additionally, where consultees have used Citizen Space but in response to any given question did not tick “yes”, “no”, or “other” but gave written responses, we categorised them as “other” in order for their comments to be counted in the number of consultees in total who responded. Where consultees did not use Citizen Space to submit their answers, we interpreted their responses (those expressly to the question or comments which we interpreted as relevant to the question) to attribute “yes”, “no” or “other”, to those responses to the best of our ability.
- 1.11 As a result, while these statistics are a useful guide, they are not necessarily a definitive reflection of consultees’ views.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES BY CHAPTER

Chapter 1

Consultation Question 1

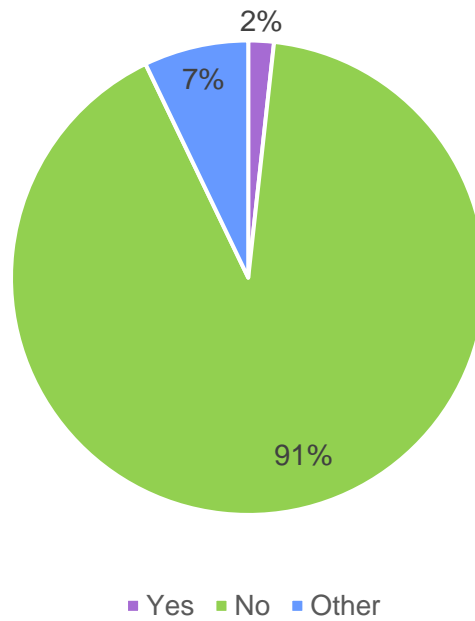
Consultation Question 1.

- 1.58 We invite consultees to tell us if they are in a marriage that is not recognised by the law, whether celebrated in a religious or non-religious ceremony. And if so:
- (1) did you understand that the marriage would not be recognised by the law at the time of the wedding, and if not, when did you find out?
 - (2) was it your choice not to have a legally binding wedding (and if so, what were your reasons for doing so)?
 - (3) have you experienced any consequences from not being in a legally recognised marriage?

- 1.12 Consultation Question 1 was divided into four parts – the main question (para 1.58) and three sub-parts (paras 1.58(1), (2), and (3)).

Main question

- 1.13 In response to the main question (para 1.58), the statistics were as follows:

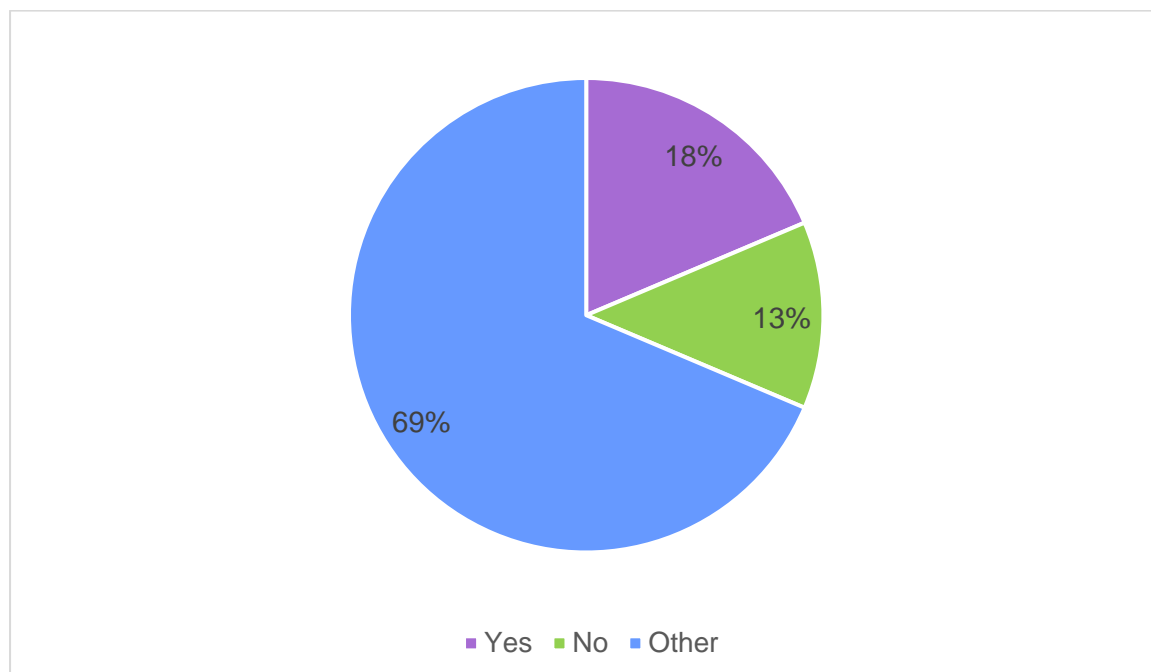


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	0	8	10	18
Registration officer	0	22	3	25
Anglican	0	22	2	24
Religious official	0	31	2	33
Religious organisation	0	18	1	19
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	0	6	17	23
Independent celebrant	6	102	11	119
Celebrancy organisation	0	0	4	4
Venue	1	17	1	19
Wedding professional	0	2	1	3
Other organisation	2	4	2	8
Cruise company	0	0	1	1
Legal	1	6	0	7
Academic	1	9	0	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	10	852	30	892
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	21	1099	86	1206

1.14 439 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 1

1.15 In respect of the sub-part of the question at para 1.58(1), the statistics were as follows:



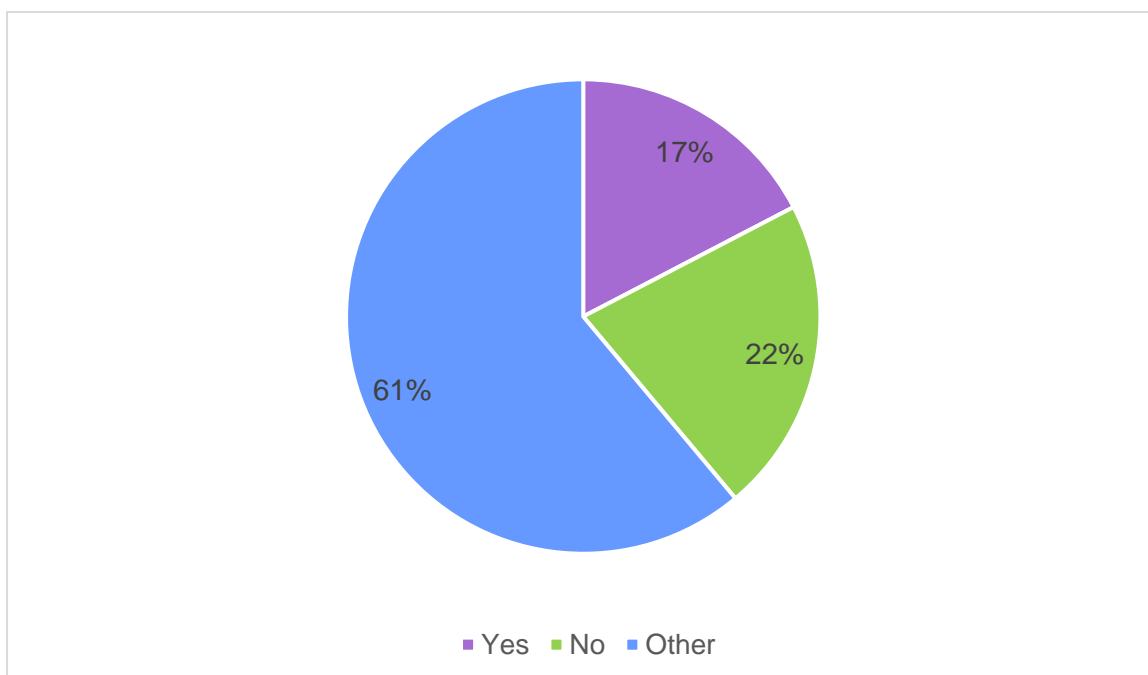
	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	1	2	9	12
Registration officer	0	0	7	7
Anglican	0	1	5	6
Religious official	0	1	6	7
Religious organisation	1	1	2	4
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	15	0	5	20
Independent celebrant	6	4	31	41
Celebrancy organisation	1	0	3	4
Venue	1	1	6	8
Wedding professional	0	0	1	1
Other organisation	0	1	2	3
Cruise company	0	0	1	1
Legal	1	0	1	2
Academic	1	1	2	4
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0

Public	26	25	118	169
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	54	37	199	290

1.16 93 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.17 In respect of the sub-part of the question at para 1.58(2), the statistics were as follows:



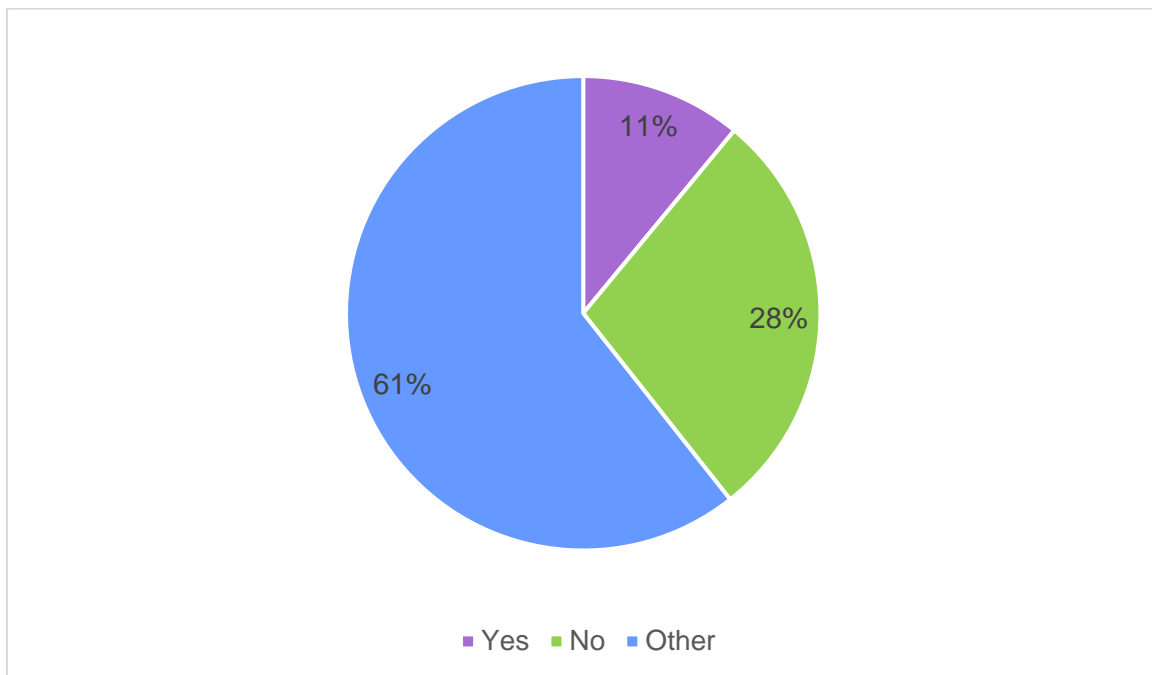
	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	1	1	10	12
Registration officer	0	0	7	7
Anglican	0	1	5	6
Religious official	2	0	6	8
Religious organisation	1	0	1	2
NRBO	0	1	0	1
NRB celebrant	2	15	4	21
Independent celebrant	3	4	33	40
Celebrancy organisation	1	0	3	4
Venue	1	1	5	7
Wedding professional	0	0	1	1

Other organisation	0	1	1	2
Cruise company	0	0	1	1
Legal	1	0	1	2
Academic	1	1	2	4
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	41	42	110	193
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	54	67	190	311

1.18 140 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 3

1.19 In respect of the sub-part of the question at para 1.58(3), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	1	3	9	13
Registration officer	0	0	7	7
Anglican	0	1	5	6
Religious official	1	1	6	8
Religious organisation	0	1	2	3
NRBO	1	0	0	1

NRB celebrant	12	3	3	18
Independent celebrant	2	12	26	40
Celebrancy organisation	0	0	4	4
Venue	0	1	5	6
Wedding professional	0	0	1	1
Other organisation	1	0	1	2
Cruise company	0	0	1	1
Legal	0	1	1	2
Academic	0	3	1	4
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	13	54	99	166
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	31	80	171	282

1.20 115 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 2

Consultation Question 2.

1.59 We invite consultees to tell us about any legal barriers that prevented them from having a legally binding wedding that was meaningful or personal to them, whether they are legally married or not.

1.21 263 consultees responded to Consultation Question 2.

Consultation Question 3

Consultation Question 3.

1.65 We invite consultees to share with us their experience with weddings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.22 457 consultees responded to Consultation Question 3.

Chapters 2 and 3

1.23 There were no consultation questions in Chapters 2 and 3.

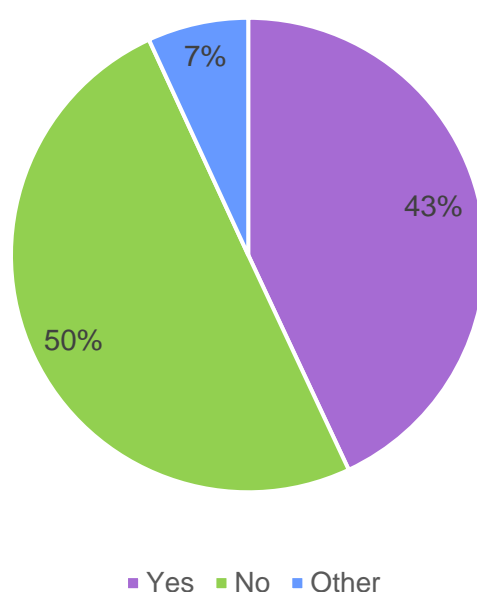
Chapter 4

Consultation Question 4

Consultation Question 4.

4.92 We provisionally propose that the requirement that couples are resident in an English or Welsh registration district for seven days prior to giving notice of their intention to marry to the superintendent registrar should be abolished.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	25	2	4	31
Registration officer	12	10	6	28
Anglican	16	8	1	25
Religious official	22	8	3	33
Religious organisation	18	4	1	23
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	13	0	0	13
Independent celebrant	111	6	4	121
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	2	2	16
Wedding professional	3	1	0	4
Other organisation	6	1	1	8

Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	2	0	9
Academic	9	2	0	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	227	522	56	805
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	488	568	78	1134

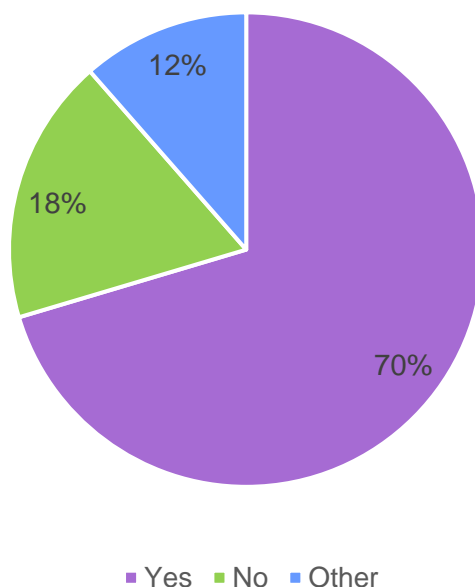
1.24 738 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 5

Consultation Question 5.

4.93 We provisionally propose that it should be possible to start the notice period by giving notice online, by post or in person at any registration district, and that any person giving notice online or by post would be required to attend a separate in-person interview at a later date.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	11	4	17	32
Registration officer	9	9	11	29

Anglican	22	2	2	26
Religious official	31	1	3	35
Religious organisation	21	1	0	22
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	11	0	1	12
Independent celebrant	121	2	1	124
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	15	0	1	16
Wedding professional	4	1	0	5
Other organisation	8	0	2	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	2	2	11
Academic	10	1	1	12
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	522	183	88	793
Government	0	0	1	1
Grand total	799	206	130	1135

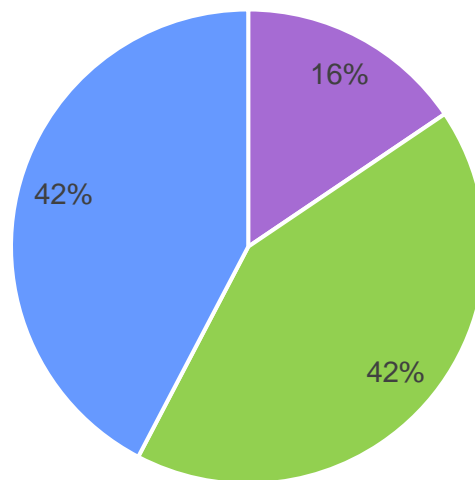
1.25 600 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 6

Consultation Question 6.

4.94 We invite consultees' views as to whether the minimum period between the in-person interviews and the date from which the couple can get married should be:

- (1) three days;
- (2) seven days; or
- (3) another period of time.



■ Three days ■ Seven days ■ Another period of time

	Three days	Seven days	Another period of time	TOTAL
Local authority	2	12	17	31
Registration officer	0	3	24	27
Anglican	5	9	12	26
Religious official	16	6	13	35
Religious organisation	4	4	11	19
NRBO	0	0	2	2
NRB celebrant	3	6	2	11
Independent celebrant	53	40	25	118
Celebrancy organisation	3	1	0	4
Venue	3	4	7	14
Wedding professional	4	0	0	4
Other organisation	3	2	3	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	2	0	5	7
Academic	3	4	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	60	350	314	724
Government	0	0	1	1
Grand total	162	441	439	1042

1.26 683 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 7

Consultation Question 7.

- 4.95 We invite consultees' views as to whether it should be possible for interviews to take place remotely, in the future, with the possibility of an in-person interview being required where concerns arise about sham or forced marriages or the capacity of either party to consent.

1.27 989 consultees responded to Consultation Question 7.

Consultation Question 8

Consultation Question 8.

- 4.96 We invite consultees' views as to whether it should continue to be possible for notice to be given outside England and Wales where one of the couple who is resident in Scotland, or in a specified Commonwealth country or territory, or on a naval ship at sea, and both are relevant nationals or exempt from immigration control.

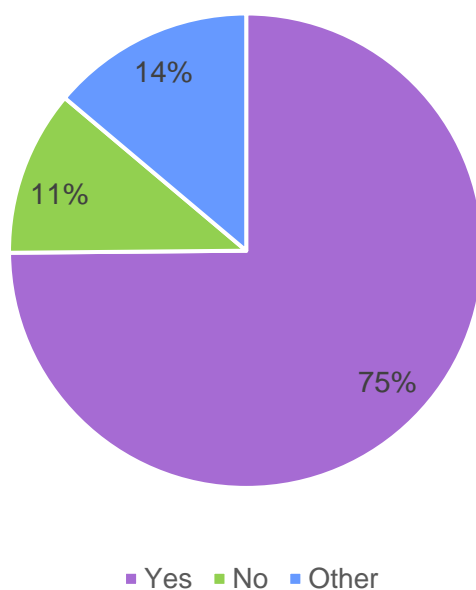
1.28 731 consultees responded to Consultation Question 8.

Consultation Question 9

Consultation Question 9.

- 4.97 We provisionally propose that notices of marriage should be publicly displayed online, save where this would expose either of the couple to a risk of harm.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	22	0	9	31
Registration officer	12	4	12	28
Anglican	19	3	4	26
Religious official	32	1	3	36
Religious organisation	20	0	3	23
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	10	0	2	12
Independent celebrant	113	4	5	122
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	0	1	15
Wedding professional	4	1	0	5
Other organisation	8	1	1	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	10	0	2	12
Academic	10	1	0	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	529	107	107	743
Government	0	0	1	1
Grand total	810	122	150	1082

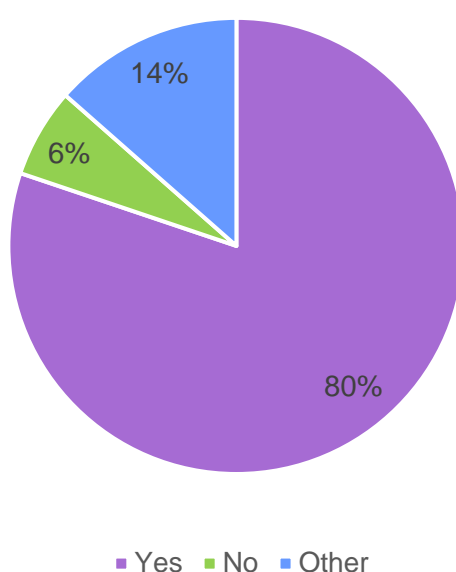
1.29 581 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 10

Consultation Question 10.

4.98 We provisionally propose that the schedule should be valid for 12 months from the date of issue.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	25	2	4	31
Registration officer	23	2	3	28
Anglican	24	0	1	25
Religious official	30	0	4	34
Religious organisation	21	0	0	21
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	2	11
Independent celebrant	112	3	6	121
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	0	2	14
Wedding professional	3	0	1	4
Other organisation	6	0	1	7

Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	9	1	0	10
Academic	6	2	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	462	49	100	611
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	748	59	126	933

1.30 292 consultees provided comments with their answers.

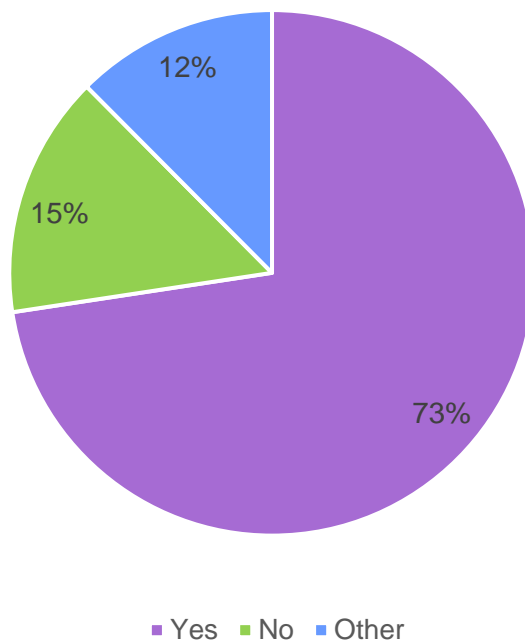
Consultation Question 11

Consultation Question 11.

4.99 We provisionally propose that:

- (1) the schedule should identify the officiant who will officiate at the wedding; and
- (2) at the parties' request, the registration service should issue an amended schedule with a substitute officiant.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	12	11	8	31
Registration officer	5	18	5	28
Anglican	16	4	4	24
Religious official	26	2	7	35
Religious organisation	17	3	2	22
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	9	1	1	11
Independent celebrant	93	11	16	120
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	1	1	15
Wedding professional	2	2	0	4
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	9	2	0	11
Academic	7	3	1	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	482	86	76	644
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	705	145	121	971

1.31 394 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 12

Consultation Question 12.

4.100 We provisionally propose that a substitute officiant should be able to officiate at the wedding if the officiant named in the schedule is unexpectedly unable to act because of death, sudden illness or unavoidable delay.

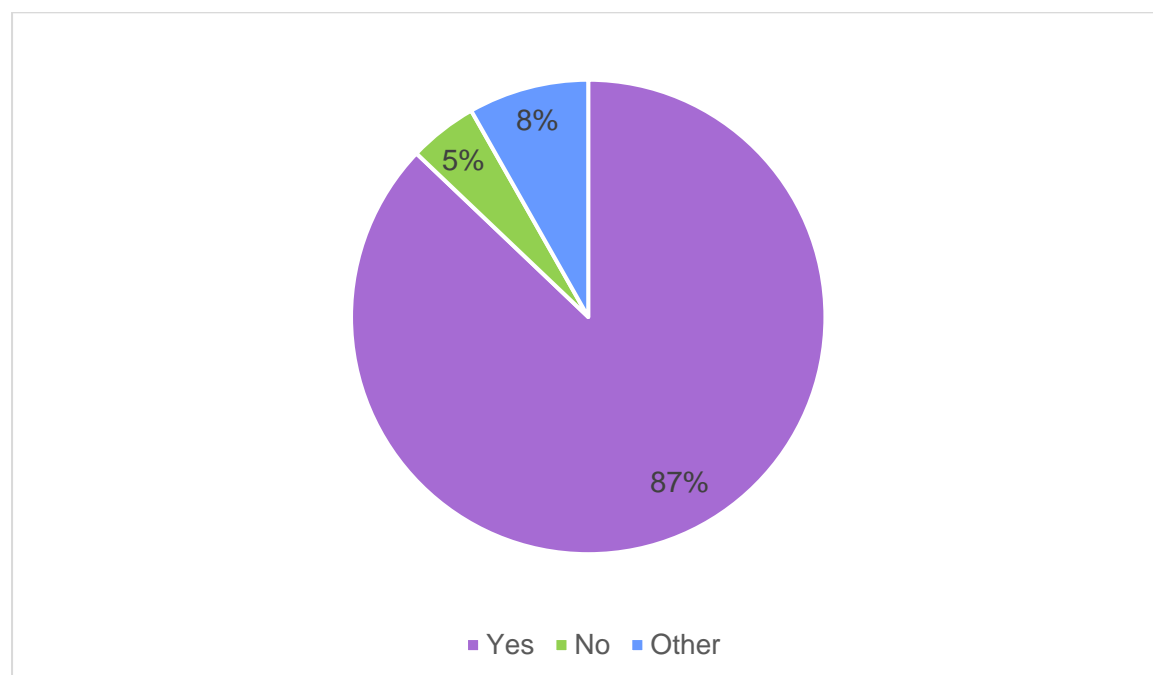
Do consultees agree?

4.101 We invite consultees' views as to whether a substitute officiant should be able to act in other circumstances.

1.32 Consultation Question 12 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.33 In response to the first part (para 4.100), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	23	1	7	31
Registration officer	10	9	9	28
Anglican	20	1	2	23
Religious official	32	1	3	36
Religious organisation	24	0	0	24
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	13	0	0	13
Independent celebrant	119	0	3	122
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	15	0	0	15
Wedding professional	2	1	1	4
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	9	0	1	10
Academic	8	1	2	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	623	34	58	715
Government	0	0	0	0

Grand total	912	49	86	1047
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1.34 409 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

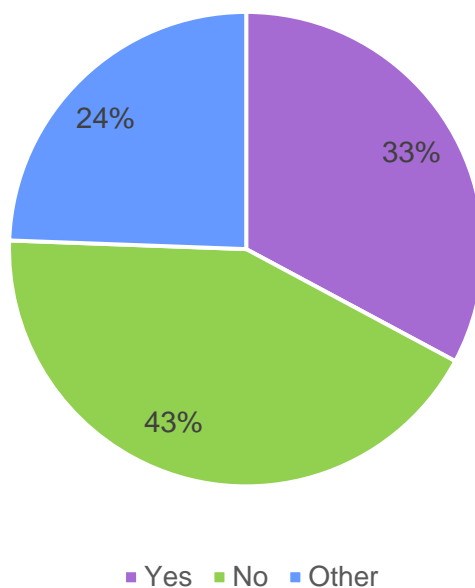
1.35 In respect of the second part of the question (para 4.101), 542 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 13

Consultation Question 13.

4.149 We provisionally propose that banns published in Scotland, Northern Ireland or Ireland should no longer authorise an Anglican wedding in England or Wales.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	8	1	14	23
Registration officer	10	4	9	23
Anglican	10	11	3	24
Religious official	6	7	10	23
Religious organisation	4	6	3	13
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	4	0	4	8

Independent celebrant	41	23	30	94
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	6	1	5	12
Wedding professional	2	2	0	4
Other organisation	3	2	2	7
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	3	2	2	7
Academic	7	1	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	173	305	124	602
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	281	366	209	856

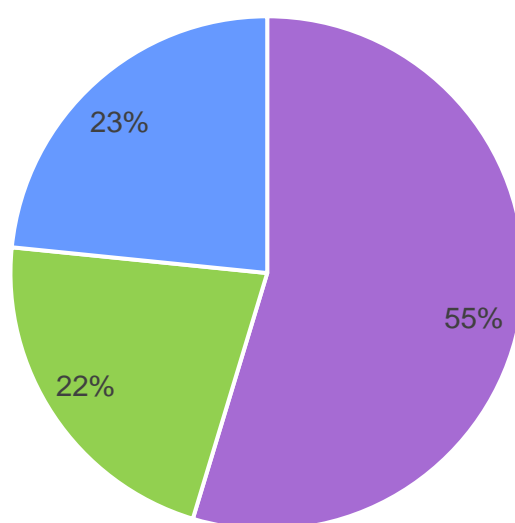
1.36 436 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 14

Consultation Question 14.

4.150 We provisionally propose that the rules about where banns can be published to authorise an Anglican wedding if a church is injured by war damage should be repealed.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	9	1	13	23
Registration officer	13	1	11	25
Anglican	18	3	3	24
Religious official	9	3	9	21
Religious organisation	10	0	3	13
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	5	0	3	8
Independent celebrant	59	5	28	92
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	9	0	3	12
Wedding professional	4	0	0	4
Other organisation	6	1	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	3	1	1	5
Academic	7	0	2	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	287	163	113	563
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	444	178	190	812

1.37 262 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 15

Consultation Question 15.

4.151 We invite consultees' views as to whether banns to authorise an Anglican wedding should be required to be published only in the church where the wedding is to take place.

1.38 662 consultees responded to Question 15.

Consultation Question 16

Consultation Question 16.

4.152 We invite consultees' views as to whether to authorise an Anglican wedding clergy should:

- (1) have the power to call for documentary evidence and be required to check such evidence; and
- (2) be required to meet with each of the couple separately, before banns are published.

1.39 791 consultees responded to Question 16.

Consultation Question 17

Consultation Question 17.

4.153 We invite consultees' views as to whether both of the couple should be required to attend and make separate declarations that there is no impediment to their marriage in order for a common licence to be granted to authorise an Anglican wedding.

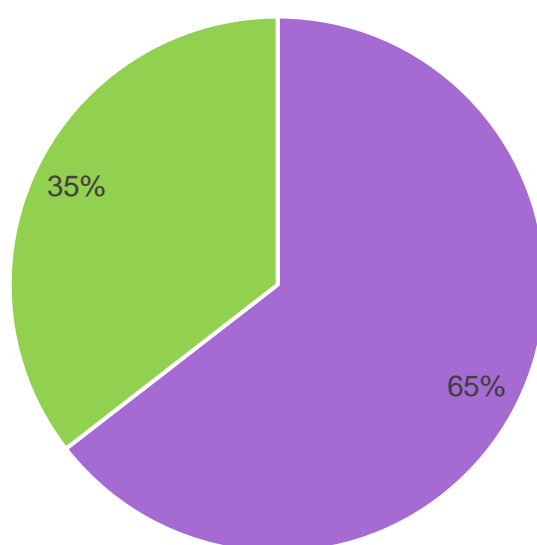
1.40 780 consultees responded to Question 17.

Consultation Question 18

Consultation Question 18.

4.173 We invite consultees' views as to whether:

- (1) Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales; or
- (2) all weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries.



- Anglican preliminaries should continue to be recognised as legal preliminaries to weddings officiated by the Church of England and the Church in Wales
- All weddings should be preceded by civil preliminaries

	Retain Anglican preliminaries	Universal civil preliminaries	TOTAL
Local authority	1	28	29
Registration officer	3	20	23
Anglican	18	9	27
Religious official	11	6	17
Religious organisation	12	5	17
NRBO	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	1	7	8

Independent celebrant	37	48	85
Celebrancy organisation	0	4	4
Venue	7	4	11
Wedding professional	0	4	4
Other organisation	2	6	8
Cruise company	0	1	1
Legal	1	7	8
Academic	4	7	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0
Public	481	161	642
Government	0	0	0
Grand total	578	318	896

1.41 540 consultees provided comments with their answers. Of those, 20 consultees did not tick either option, but provided written comments.

Chapter 5

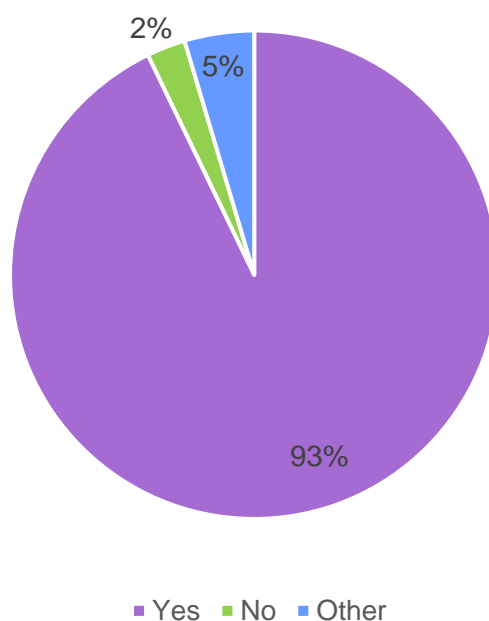
Consultation Question 19

Consultation Question 19.

5.65 We provisionally propose that all weddings should be attended by an officiant who should have a legal duty to:

- (1) ensure that the parties freely express consent to marry each other;
- (2) ensure that the other requirements of the ceremony are met; and
- (3) ensure that the schedule or (if Anglican preliminaries are retained) marriage document is signed.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	31	0	0	31
Registration officer	22	0	6	28
Anglican	23	1	2	26
Religious official	35	2	0	37
Religious organisation	23	1	2	26
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	11	0	3	14
Independent celebrant	118	2	7	127
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	17	0	0	17
Wedding professional	5	0	1	6
Other organisation	9	0	2	11
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	10	0	0	10
Academic	9	0	2	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	767	24	29	820
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	1087	30	54	1171

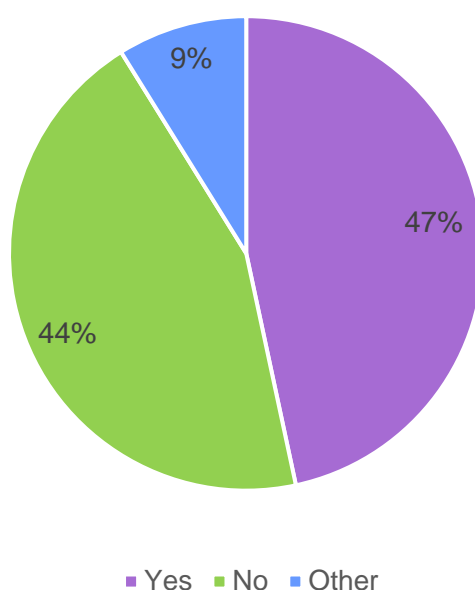
1.42 413 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 20

Consultation Question 20.

5.66 We provisionally propose that registration officers should only be able to officiate at civil weddings.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	17	8	6	31
Registration officer	21	5	2	28
Anglican	16	7	3	26
Religious official	9	11	8	28
Religious organisation	13	11	1	25
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	21	1	0	22
Independent celebrant	47	65	9	121
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	1	3	16
Wedding professional	3	2	0	5
Other organisation	4	1	3	8

Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	8	0	1	9
Academic	9	0	1	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	362	409	67	839
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	548	522	104	1174

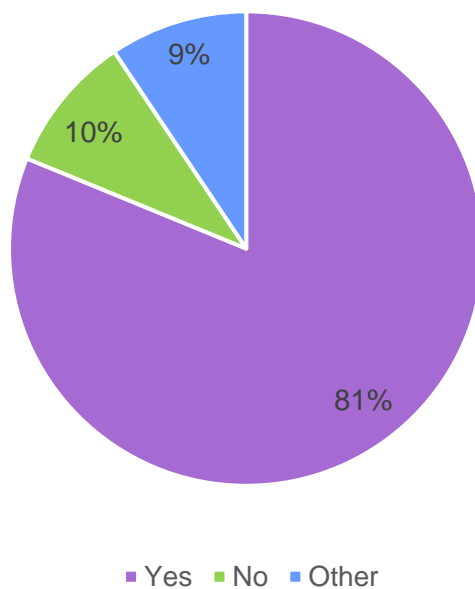
1.43 709 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 21

Consultation Question 21.

5.67 We provisionally propose that only one registration officer should need to officiate at a civil wedding.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	27	2	2	31
Registration officer	11	12	6	29
Anglican	23	0	2	25

Religious official	19	1	6	26
Religious organisation	17	2	0	19
NRBO	0	0	2	2
NRB celebrant	12	0	2	14
Independent celebrant	95	18	11	124
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	1	2	17
Wedding professional	4	0	1	5
Other organisation	8	1	0	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	1	0	8
Academic	9	1	0	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	544	53	58	655
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	795	92	92	979

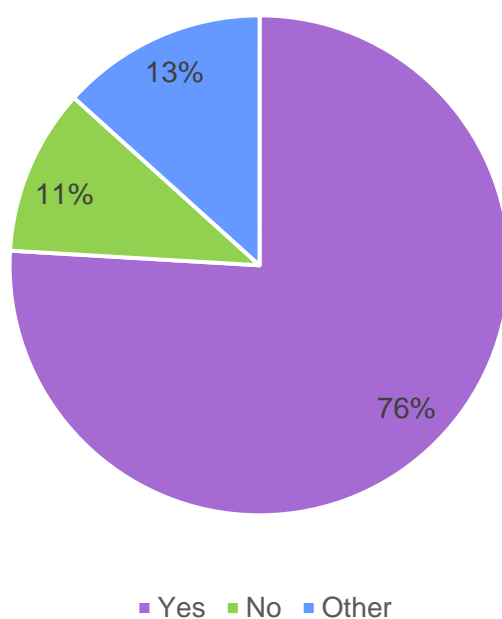
1.44 332 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 22

Consultation Question 22.

5.144 We provisionally propose that clerks in Holy Orders within the Church of England and the Church in Wales should be recognised as officiants by virtue of their office.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	17	0	10	27
Registration officer	9	6	9	24
Anglican	25	0	1	26
Religious official	10	4	9	23
Religious organisation	13	1	4	18
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	3	2	6	11
Independent celebrant	71	22	17	110
Celebrancy organisation	3	1	0	4
Venue	12	4	0	16
Wedding professional	4	0	1	5
Other organisation	6	2	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	0	2	7
Academic	6	0	4	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	585	67	69	721
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	770	109	133	1012

1.45 359 consultees provided comments with their answers.

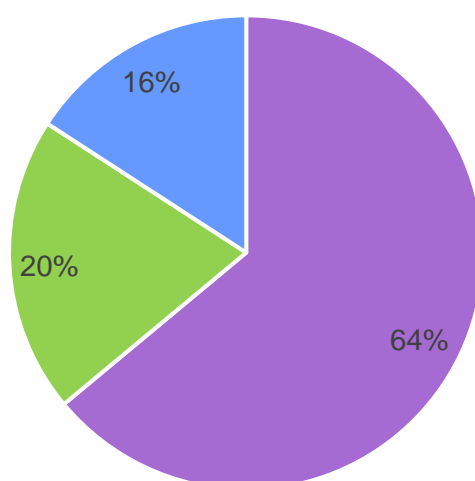
Consultation Question 23

Consultation Question 23.

5.145 We provisionally propose that:

- (1) for religious organisations⁸¹ other than the Church of England or the Church in Wales, the relevant governing authority of the organisation should be responsible for nominating officiants to officiate at weddings; and
- (2) (if Government enables non-religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings) the relevant governing authority of the non-religious belief organisation should be responsible for nominating officiants to officiate at weddings.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	16	6	8	30
Registration officer	8	7	9	24
Anglican	16	2	5	23
Religious official	27	1	7	35
Religious organisation	21	2	7	30
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	21	0	0	21

Independent celebrant	67	25	20	112
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	5	0	16
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	6	3	0	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	0	2	8
Academic	6	1	4	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	429	152	98	679
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	646	204	160	1010

1.46 513 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 24

Consultation Question 24.

5.146 We provisionally propose that, if Government enables non-religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings, such organisations should be defined (to mirror the description of religion in *R (Hodkin) v Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages*⁸²) as

An organisation that professes a secular belief system that claims to explain humanity's nature and relationship to the universe, and to teach its adherents how they are to live their lives in conformity with the understanding associated with the belief system.

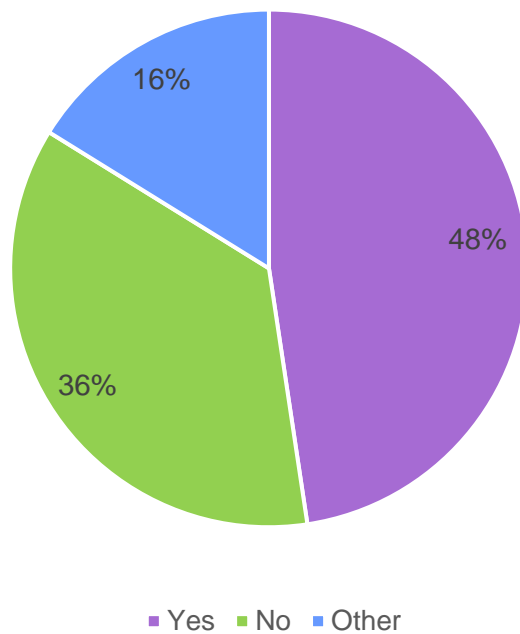
Do consultees agree?

5.147 We invite consultees' views as to whether there should be a list of types of organisations that should not amount to a non-religious belief organisation for the purpose of officiating at weddings, and if so, what types of organisations should be listed.

1.47 Consultation Question 24 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.48 In response to the first part (para 5.146), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	16	4	9	29
Registration officer	7	10	7	24
Anglican	15	7	3	25
Religious official	9	6	9	24
Religious organisation	11	2	8	21
NRBO	0	2	0	2
NRB celebrant	4	19	1	24
Independent celebrant	51	40	20	111
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	4	0	15
Wedding professional	2	3	1	6
Other organisation	6	2	1	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	2	1	7
Academic	5	1	3	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	275	218	80	573
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	421	320	143	884

1.49 428 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.50 In respect of the second part of the question (para 5.147), 525 consultees responded.

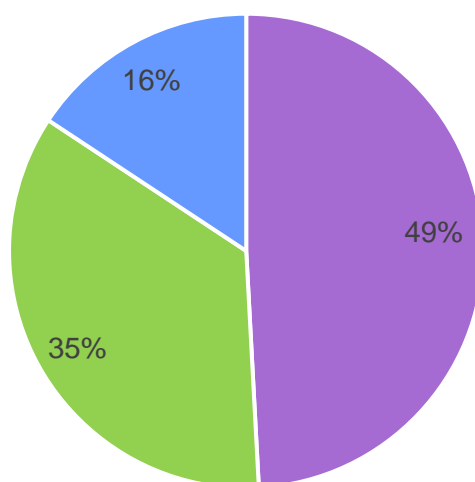
Consultation Question 25

Consultation Question 25.

5.148 We provisionally propose that religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations should be able to nominate officiants if the body has:

- (1) at least 20 members who meet regularly for worship or in furtherance of their beliefs, and
- (2) a wedding service or a sincerely held belief about marriage.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	14	8	8	30
Registration officer	6	12	6	24
Anglican	10	13	1	24
Religious official	21	7	6	34

Religious organisation	15	3	8	26
NRBO	0	2	0	2
NRB celebrant	4	19	1	24
Independent celebrant	58	24	21	103
Celebrancy organisation	3	0	1	4
Venue	9	4	2	15
Wedding professional	4	1	0	5
Other organisation	4	3	1	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	3	3	1	7
Academic	5	2	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	307	229	89	625
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	463	331	148	942

1.51 532 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 26

Consultation Question 26.

5.149 We invite consultees' views as to whether the law should expressly exclude religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations from nominating officiants if the organisation promotes purposes that are unlawful or contrary to public policy or morality.

1.52 1033 consultees responded to Consultation Question 26.

Consultation Question 27

Consultation Question 27.

5.150 We invite consultees' views as to whether religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations should be able to nominate officiants by office, in addition to nominating named individuals.

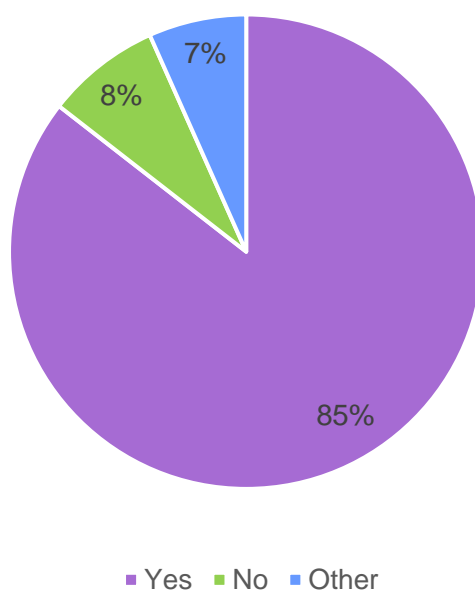
1.53 638 consultees provided an answer to Consultation Question 27.

Consultation Question 28

Consultation Question 28.

5.151 We provisionally propose that nominations of officiants by religious and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations should be made to the General Register Office, which should be responsible for keeping a public list of all nominated officiants.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	25	5	1	31
Registration officer	19	4	3	26
Anglican	23	0	2	25
Religious official	30	1	3	34
Religious organisation	22	0	2	24
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	9	1	1	11
Independent celebrant	104	0	13	117
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	15	2	0	17
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	7	1	1	9

Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	8	0	0	8
Academic	10	0	1	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	537	61	37	635
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	821	75	64	960

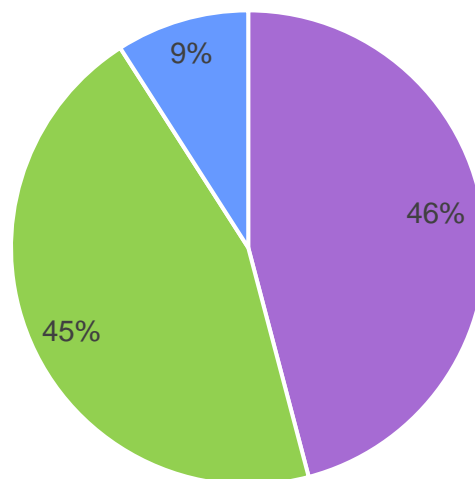
1.54 348 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 29

Consultation Question 29.

5.152 We provisionally propose that (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) independent officiants should be able to apply to the General Register Office to be authorised and included on the public list of officiants.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	20	4	7	31
Registration officer	13	8	7	28

Anglican	9	11	5	25
Religious official	11	9	6	26
Religious organisation	11	11	2	24
NRBO	0	2	0	2
NRB celebrant	5	17	1	23
Independent celebrant	138	0	2	140
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	3	0	17
Wedding professional	6	0	0	6
Other organisation	5	1	3	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	1	1	8
Academic	8	1	1	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	280	453	70	803
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	531	521	105	1157

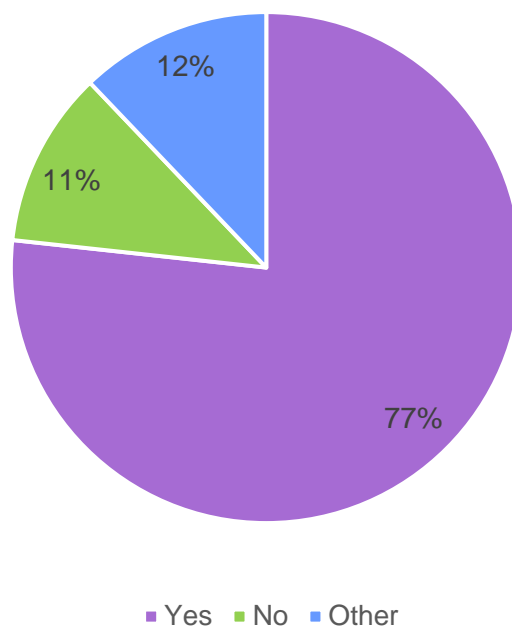
1.55 721 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 30

Consultation Question 30.

5.187 We provisionally propose that religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations should be responsible for ensuring that the persons they nominate as officiants are “fit and proper” persons.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	25	1	4	30
Registration officer	14	9	5	28
Anglican	18	2	3	23
Religious official	31	3	2	36
Religious organisation	25	3	2	30
NRBO	1	0	1	2
NRB celebrant	7	0	14	21
Independent celebrant	108	5	9	122
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	5	1	17
Wedding professional	3	1	0	4
Other organisation	6	1	2	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	8	0	0	8
Academic	6	2	3	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	523	83	79	685
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	791	115	125	1031

1.56 482 consultees provided comments with their answers.

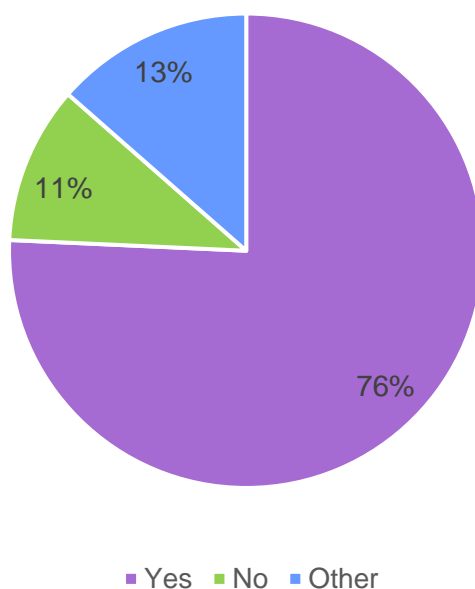
Consultation Question 31

Consultation Question 31.

5.188 We provisionally propose that (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) independent officiants applying to be authorised should be required to demonstrate that they are “fit and proper” persons by proving that they:

- (1) are aged at least 18;
- (2) understand the legal requirements for being an officiant and performing the role; and
- (3) have undergone mandatory training and continuing professional development in the legal aspects of being an officiant, with the content to be determined by the Registrar General.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	24	0	7	31
Registration officer	15	5	8	28
Anglican	17	3	3	23
Religious official	16	1	8	25

Religious organisation	18	2	4	24
NRBO	0	0	2	2
NRB celebrant	10	1	4	15
Independent celebrant	125	0	8	133
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	15	2	0	17
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	7	0	2	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	0	2	8
Academic	6	1	4	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	492	93	84	669
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	761	108	136	1005

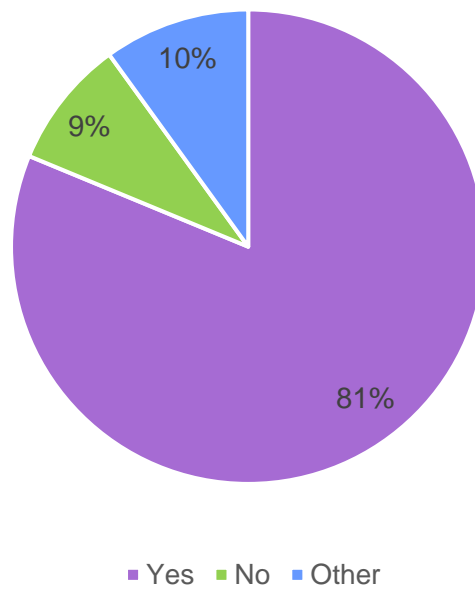
1.57 440 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 32

Consultation Question 32.

5.189 We provisionally propose that officiants nominated by religious and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations should be prohibited from making a business of officiating at weddings, by elevating the making of profits above the expression of their beliefs.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	24	1	5	30
Registration officer	21	1	5	27
Anglican	20	2	2	24
Religious official	28	3	5	36
Religious organisation	20	1	2	23
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	17	2	2	21
Independent celebrant	46	37	27	110
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	3	0	16
Wedding professional	2	1	1	4
Other organisation	4	3	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	0	0	7
Academic	6	2	3	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	608	33	49	690
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	823	89	101	1013

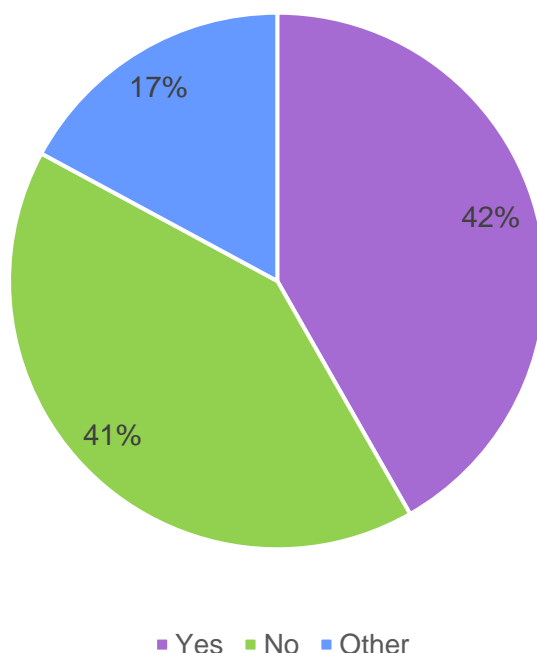
1.58 402 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 33

Consultation Question 33.

5.190 We provisionally propose that (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) independent officiants should be prohibited from acting with a conflict of interest but that there should not otherwise be limits on the fees that they can charge for officiating at a wedding.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	17	9	5	31
Registration officer	12	7	8	27
Anglican	6	15	3	24
Religious official	4	12	10	26
Religious organisation	11	5	5	21
NRBO	0	2	0	2
NRB celebrant	3	13	3	19
Independent celebrant	106	10	11	127
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4

Venue	8	5	4	17
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	2	3	1	6
Academic	5	0	5	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	209	312	109	630
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	400	394	164	958

1.59 575 consultees provided comments with their answers.

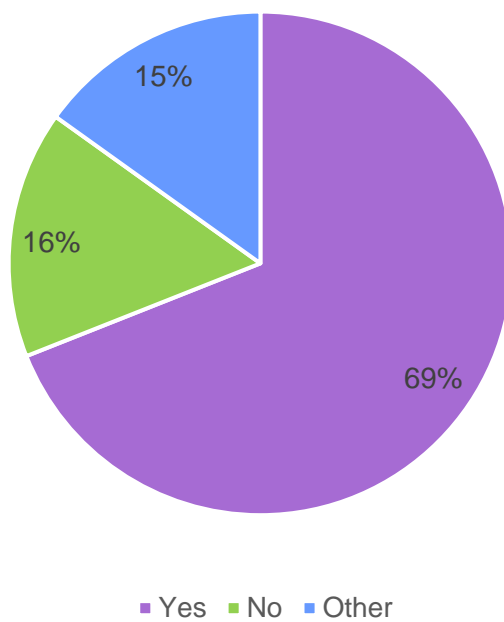
Consultation Question 34

Consultation Question 34.

5.191 We provisionally propose that, if Government enables independent celebrants and/or non-religious belief organisations to officiate at weddings, it should not be possible for the same person to be:

- (1) authorised as an independent officiant and nominated by either a religious or a non-religious belief organisation; or
- (2) nominated by both a religious and a non-religious belief organisation.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	25	0	5	30
Registration officer	17	3	6	26
Anglican	16	6	1	23
Religious official	22	3	7	32
Religious organisation	19	2	2	23
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	8	1	2	11
Independent celebrant	72	32	16	120
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	3	1	16
Wedding professional	3	1	0	4
Other organisation	5	3	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	1	0	8
Academic	4	2	4	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	395	84	90	569
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	612	141	134	887

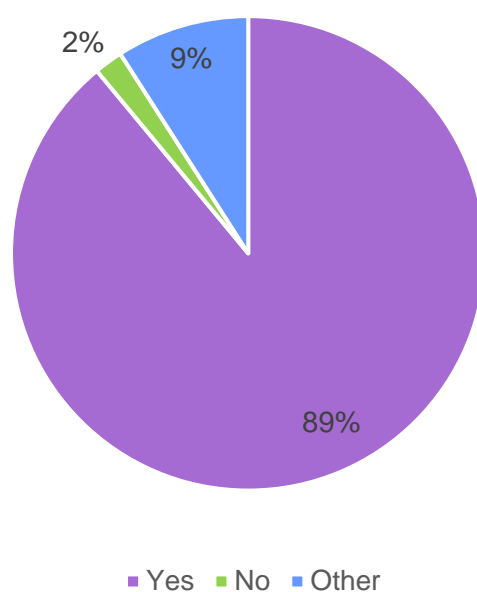
1.60 334 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 35

Consultation Question 35.

5.200 We provisionally propose that officiants should have a responsibility to uphold the dignity and solemnity of marriage.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	30	0	1	31
Registration officer	24	0	4	28
Anglican	22	0	5	27
Religious official	35	0	0	35
Religious organisation	24	1	2	27
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	12	0	1	13
Independent celebrant	121	2	7	130
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	17	0	0	17
Wedding professional	4	0	1	5
Other organisation	9	0	1	10

Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	0	0	7
Academic	9	0	2	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	777	21	88	886
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	1098	24	112	1234

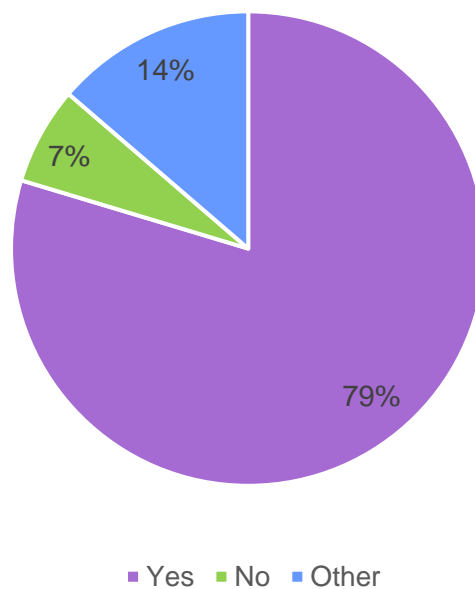
1.61 722 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 36

Consultation Question 36.

5.201 We provisionally propose that the General Register Office should issue guidance to all officiants on how weddings should be conducted.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	29	0	2	31
Registration officer	21	2	5	28
Anglican	19	2	6	27

Religious official	28	0	4	32
Religious organisation	23	0	2	25
NRBO	1	0	1	2
NRB celebrant	9	0	3	12
Independent celebrant	66	27	33	126
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	0	1	17
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	7	0	2	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	0	1	8
Academic	8	0	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	617	41	86	744
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	861	72	148	1081

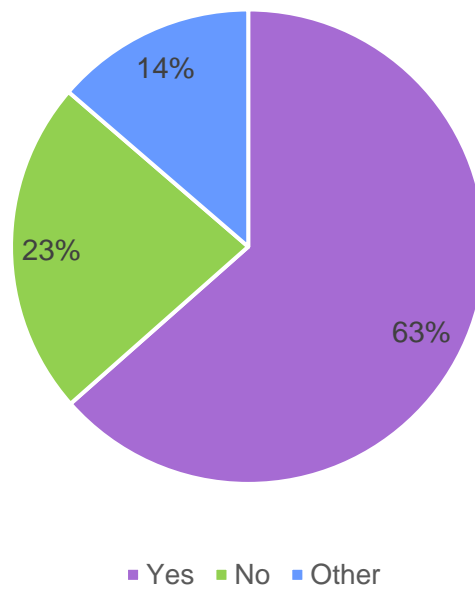
1.62 538 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 37

Consultation Question 37.

5.212 We provisionally propose that the primary responsibility for monitoring officiants and requesting withdrawal of authorisation if they fail to comply with the fit and proper person standard or their duties or responsibilities should lie with the organisation that nominated them.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	14	11	5	30
Registration officer	10	11	7	28
Anglican	14	4	5	23
Religious official	28	3	1	32
Religious organisation	22	3	0	25
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	11	0	0	11
Independent celebrant	94	12	18	124
Celebrancy organisation	3	1	0	4
Venue	9	8	1	18
Wedding professional	1	1	1	3
Other organisation	6	2	0	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	7	1	0	8
Academic	5	2	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	405	167	95	667
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	631	227	136	994

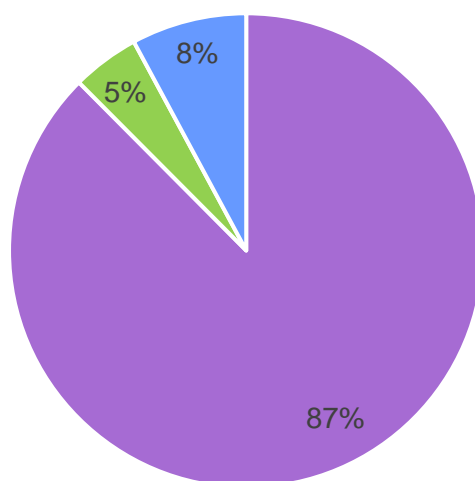
1.63 519 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 38

Consultation Question 38.

5.213 We provisionally propose that the General Register Office should have the power to de-authorise nominated officiants if they fail to comply with the fit and proper person standard or their duties or responsibilities, and if the body who nominated them fails to act.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	30	0	1	31
Registration officer	26	0	2	28
Anglican	22	1	2	25
Religious official	30	0	1	31
Religious organisation	21	1	3	25
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	13	0	0	13
Independent celebrant	106	10	10	126
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	1	1	18
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5

Other organisation	7	0	1	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	8	0	0	8
Academic	7	0	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	615	35	58	708
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	913	48	82	1043

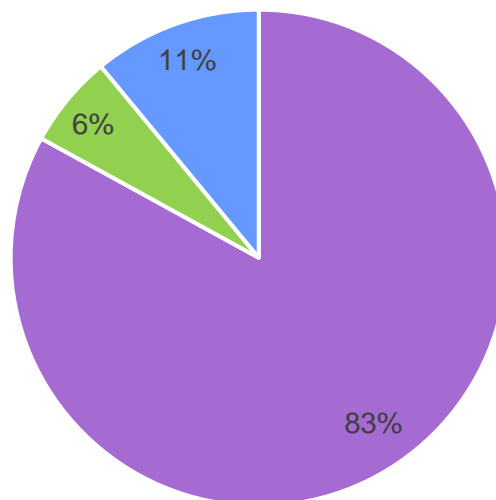
1.64 322 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 39

Consultation Question 39.

5.214 We provisionally propose that the General Register Office should be responsible for monitoring independent officiants and de-authorising those who fail to comply with the fit and proper person standard or their duties and responsibilities, including conducting investigations necessary to exercise its powers.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	23	4	4	31
Registration officer	24	2	2	28
Anglican	21	1	2	24
Religious official	24	2	1	27
Religious organisation	17	0	4	21
NRBO	0	0	2	2
NRB celebrant	7	0	6	13
Independent celebrant	94	15	15	124
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	1	1	18
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	1	1	9
Academic	9	0	1	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	579	35	72	686
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	839	61	111	1011

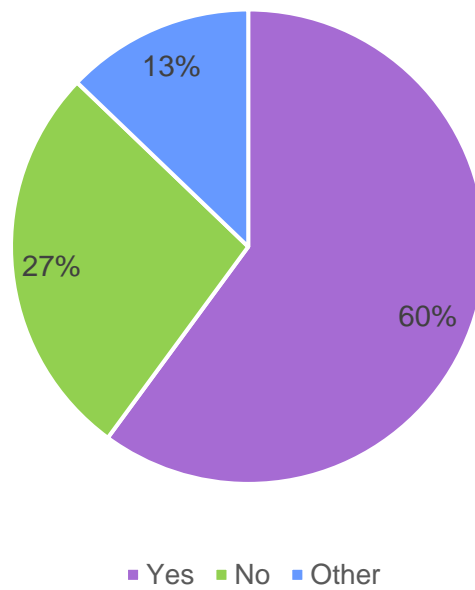
1.65 319 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 40

Consultation Question 40.

5.215 We provisionally propose that there should be no time limit on the authorisation of officiants.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	6	21	4	31
Registration officer	8	11	8	27
Anglican	12	9	1	22
Religious official	24	4	5	33
Religious organisation	17	6	1	24
NRBO	0	1	1	2
NRB celebrant	7	2	1	10
Independent celebrant	95	12	14	121
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	3	1	16
Wedding professional	4	0	0	4
Other organisation	4	2	1	7
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	6	3	0	9
Academic	4	2	4	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	345	170	76	591
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	548	247	117	912

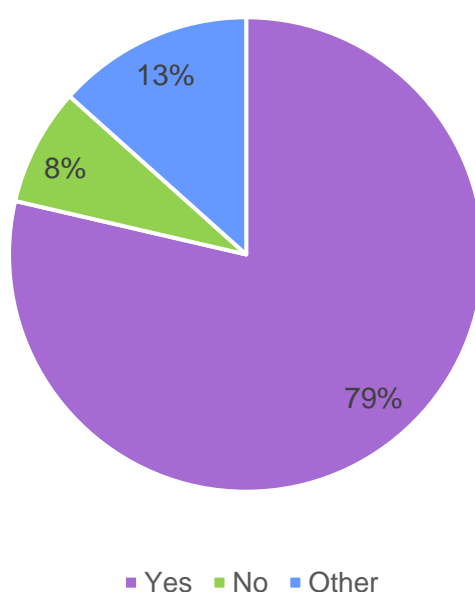
1.66 397 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 41

Consultation Question 41.

5.216 We provisionally propose that an independent officiant's authorisation would lapse if they failed to comply with the obligation to engage in continuing professional development.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	27	0	3	30
Registration officer	23	1	4	28
Anglican	17	1	4	22
Religious official	21	4	4	29
Religious organisation	15	1	3	19
NRBO	1	0	1	2
NRB celebrant	10	1	1	12
Independent celebrant	103	9	16	128
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	0	3	17
Wedding professional	2	1	2	5

Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	1	1	8
Academic	7	0	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	517	60	87	664
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	776	79	132	987

1.67 338 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Chapter 6

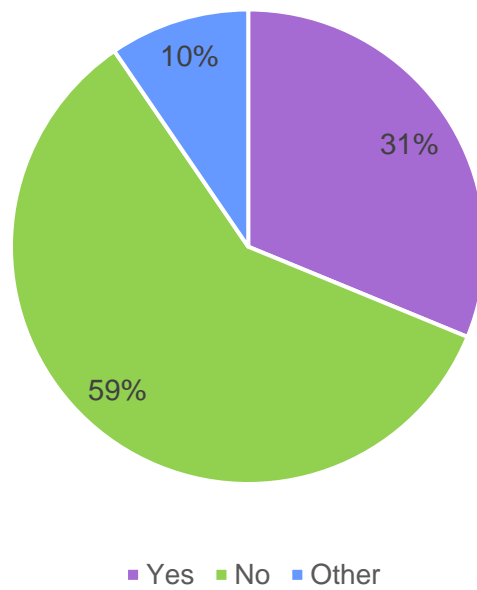
Consultation Question 42

Consultation Question 42.

6.68 We provisionally propose that:

- (1) during every wedding ceremony, the parties:
 - (a) should be required to express their consent to be married to each other, whether orally or otherwise, but
 - (b) should not be required to express that there is no impediment to their marrying each other (with the issue of impediments being addressed during the preliminaries);
- (2) religious organisations and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations should be able to submit details of their wedding ceremonies to the General Register Office, to identify the way(s) each party expresses consent in accordance with their beliefs;
- (3) the schedule (or marriage document) should contain a declaration to be signed by each party that they had during the ceremony expressed consent to be married to the other, or they were now consenting to be legally married to the other, the signing of which would itself be an expression of consent if the ceremony did not contain an expression of consent; and
- (4) the marriage should be formed at the point when both parties have expressed consent to be married to each other, whether during the ceremony or when signing the declaration in the schedule (or marriage document).

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	15	1	16	32
Registration officer	13	7	8	28
Anglican	11	13	3	27
Religious official	20	11	6	37
Religious organisation	14	13	3	30
NRBO	1	0	1	2
NRB celebrant	9	0	2	11
Independent celebrant	117	0	6	123
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	1	1	18
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	5	2	3	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	4	2	10
Academic	9	0	3	12
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	207	804	84	1095
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	451	856	138	1445

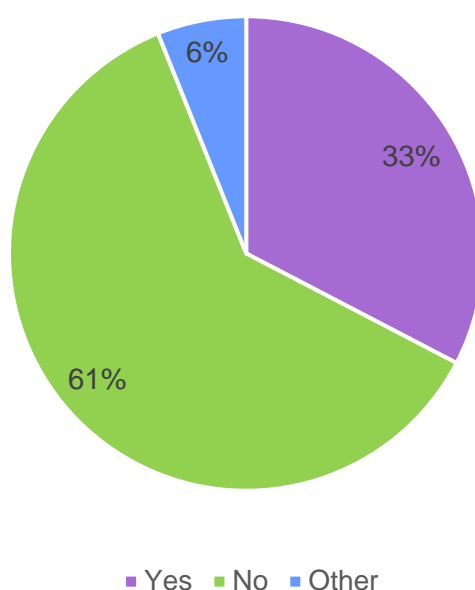
1.68 1063 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 43

Consultation Question 43.

6.69 We provisionally propose that all weddings should take place according to the form and ceremony chosen by the parties and agreed to by the officiant.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	19	2	10	31
Registration officer	14	8	7	29
Anglican	9	15	2	26
Religious official	23	11	2	36
Religious organisation	15	8	5	28
NRBO	0	2	0	2
NRB celebrant	11	0	0	11
Independent celebrant	120	0	0	120
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	18	0	1	19
Wedding professional	4	0	1	5
Other organisation	5	3	2	10

Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	3	1	8
Academic	11	0	2	13
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	199	806	52	1057
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	457	858	85	1400

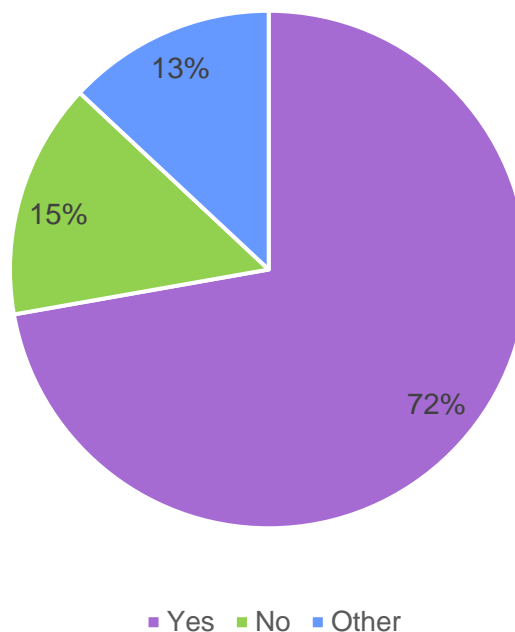
1.69 1017 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 44

Consultation Question 44.

6.70 We provisionally propose that there should be no special rules about the form of Anglican, Jewish or Quaker weddings, and that there should be no legal limitations on who can have those types of wedding (but like all religious groups, Anglican Jewish and Quaker groups will continue to be able to impose their own requirements as a matter of their own practice).

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	18	0	9	27
Registration officer	16	3	5	24
Anglican	19	3	3	25
Religious official	16	3	5	24
Religious organisation	19	1	1	21
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	5	1	4	10
Independent celebrant	109	0	6	115
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	0	0	16
Wedding professional	3	1	0	4
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	1	1	7
Academic	9	0	2	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	429	124	85	638
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	676	138	122	936

1.70 319 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 45

Consultation Question 45.

6.109 We provisionally propose that religious content should be permitted in civil wedding ceremonies, provided that the ceremony remains identifiable as a civil ceremony rather than a religious service.

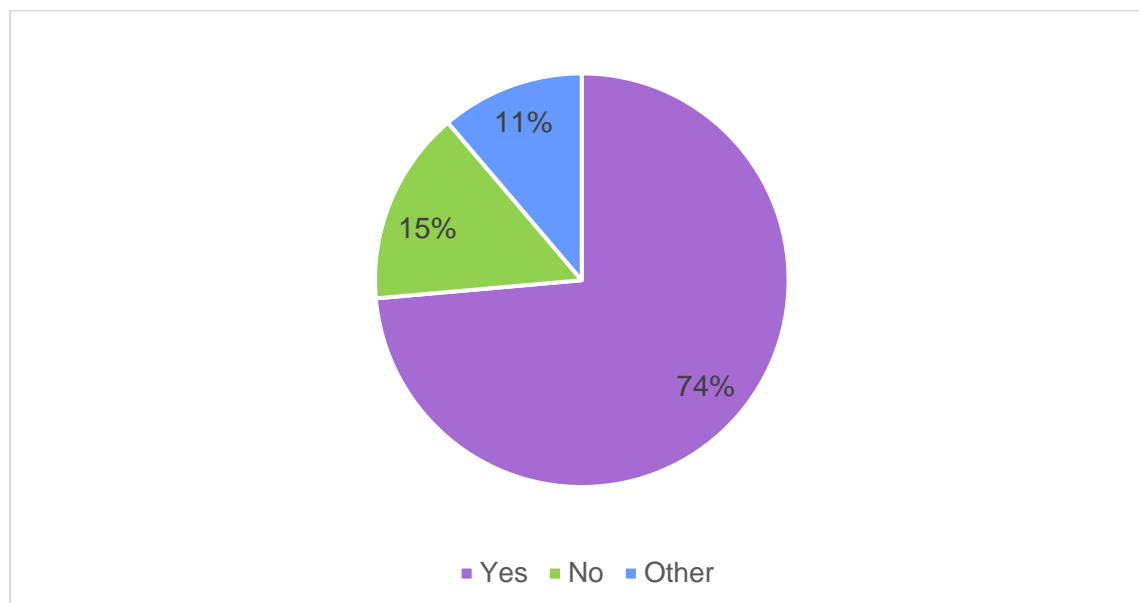
Do consultees agree?

6.110 We invite consultees' views as to whether specific examples of religious content should be expressly allowed at civil weddings, and, if so, what those examples should be.

1.71 Consultation Question 45 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.72 In response to the first part (para 6.109), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	15	5	12	32
Registration officer	16	6	5	27
Anglican	17	6	3	26
Religious official	16	2	8	26
Religious organisation	12	4	6	22
NRBO	0	2	0	2
NRB celebrant	3	18	2	23
Independent celebrant	113	5	4	122
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	2	1	19
Wedding professional	4	1	1	6
Other organisation	8	0	2	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	1	1	7
Academic	11	1	0	12
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	534	107	73	714
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	775	160	118	1053

1.73 452 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

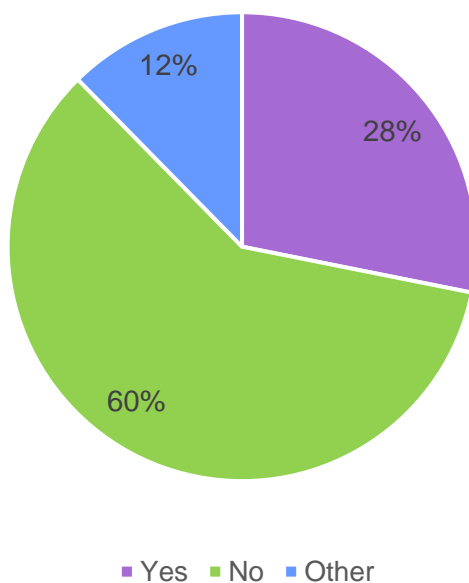
1.74 In respect of the second part of the question (para 6.110), 499 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 46

Consultation Question 46.

6.114 We provisionally propose that the provision to permit a religious service to be conducted after a civil wedding ceremony (section 46 of the Marriage Act 1949) should be repealed.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	19	2	10	31
Registration officer	10	9	6	25
Anglican	7	16	3	26
Religious official	21	11	2	34
Religious organisation	11	9	0	20
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	7	0	1	8

Independent celebrant	61	17	21	99
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	9	4	2	15
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	3	3	2	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	2	5	0	7
Academic	5	4	2	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	108	491	70	669
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	271	573	119	963

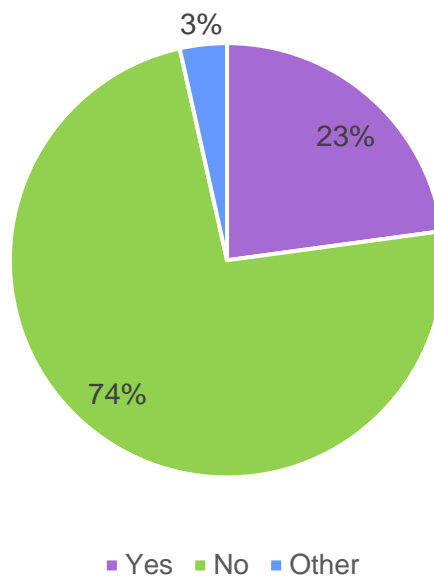
1.75 525 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 47

Consultation Question 47.

6.136 We provisionally propose that the existing requirements for a wedding to take place with open doors, or otherwise for public access to be allowed, should be repealed.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	18	8	6	32
Registration officer	11	10	5	26
Anglican	2	21	4	27
Religious official	18	18	1	37
Religious organisation	9	15	1	25
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	20	1	0	21
Independent celebrant	93	12	10	115
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	18	1	0	19
Wedding professional	3	1	0	4
Other organisation	5	6	0	11
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	4	0	8
Academic	9	1	0	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	103	933	22	1058
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	320	1031	49	1400

1.76 1107 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Chapter 7

Consultation Question 48

Consultation Question 48.

7.158 We provisionally propose that all weddings should be legally permitted to take place anywhere.

Do consultees agree?

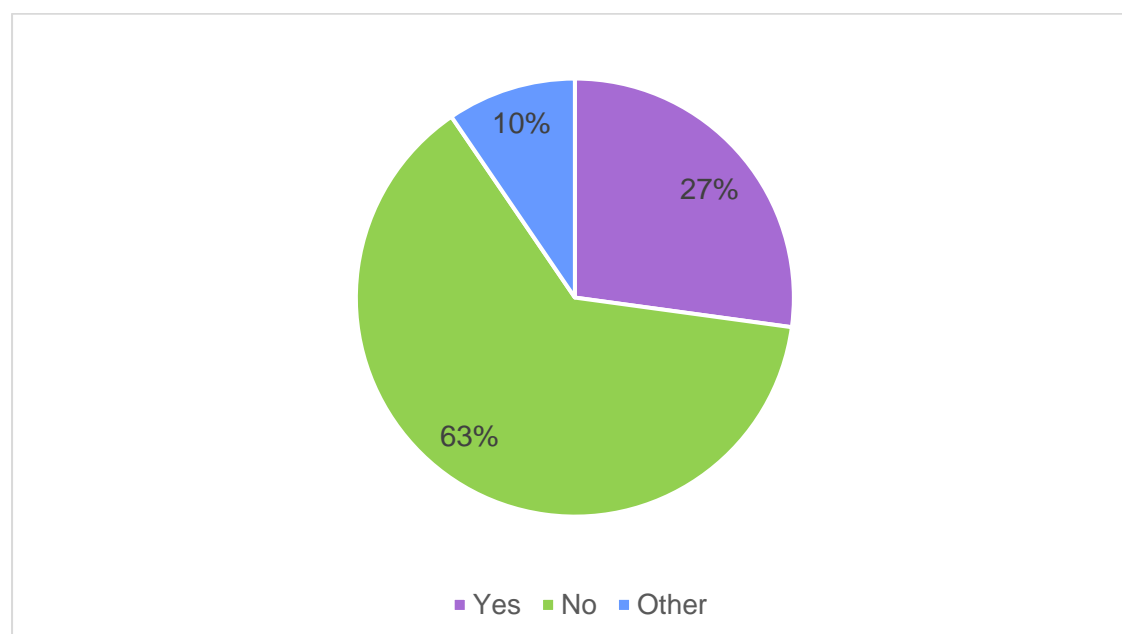
7.159 We invite consultees' views as to whether the law should limit weddings in any particular venues, including:

- (1) outdoors,
- (2) on inland waters such as lakes or rivers,
- (3) in the air, and / or
- (4) in private homes.

1.77 Consultation Question 48 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.78 In response to the first part (para 7.158), the statistics were as follows:



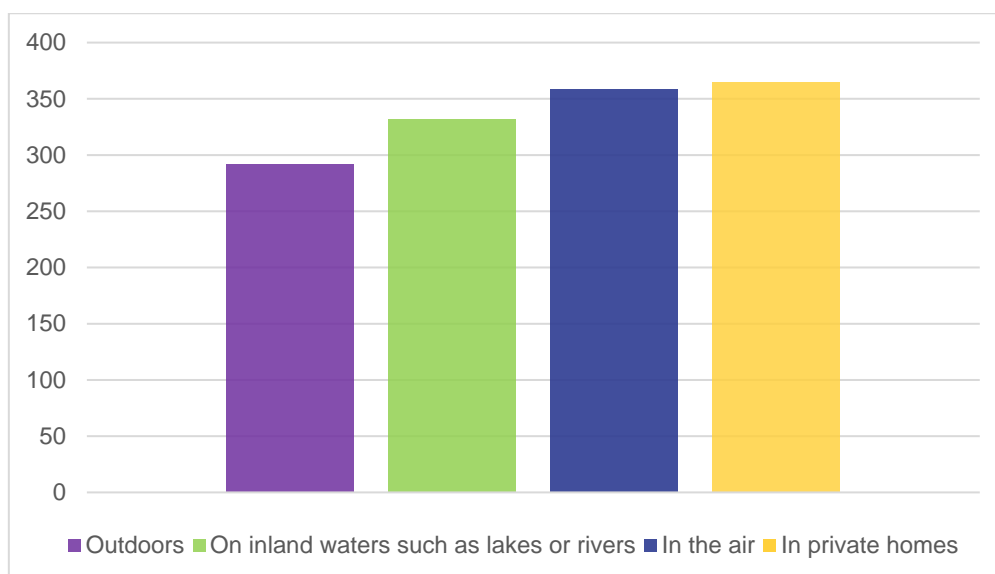
	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	20	6	5	31
Registration officer	4	19	5	28
Anglican	5	17	4	26

Religious official	18	14	4	36
Religious organisation	16	7	8	31
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	23	1	0	24
Independent celebrant	123	0	1	124
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	7	4	25
Wedding professional	4	1	1	6
Other organisation	8	5	0	13
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	8	2	0	10
Academic	11	2	1	14
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	135	841	106	1083
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	396	922	139	1457

1.79 1192 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.80 In respect of the second part of the question (para 7.159), the statistics were as follows:²



² On Citizen Space, consultees were able to select all options which applied.

	Outdoors	Inland waters	In the air	In private homes	TOTAL
Local authority	10	11	10	7	38
Registration officer	10	12	14	11	47
Anglican	9	8	8	7	32
Religious official	10	12	11	14	47
Religious organisation	5	5	5	7	22
NRBO	0	0	0	0	0
NRB celebrant	10	9	9	9	37
Independent celebrant	22	23	27	24	96
Celebrancy organisation	1	1	1	1	4
Venue	9	7	7	7	30
Wedding professional	2	2	1	2	7
Other organisation	2	3	3	3	11
Cruise company	0	0	0	0	0
Legal	0	0	0	1	1
Academic	2	3	3	3	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0	0
Public	200	236	260	260	956
Government	0	0	0	0	0
Grand total	292	332	359	356	1339

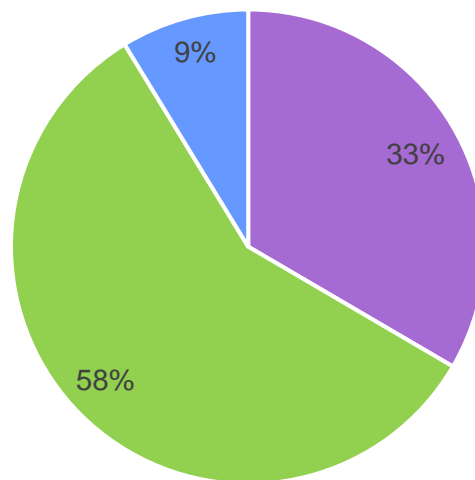
1.81 1014 consultees provided written comments.

Consultation Question 49

Consultation Question 49.

7.160 We provisionally propose that civil wedding locations should not have to be publicly accessible or regularly available to the public for the solemnization of civil marriages.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	22	2	7	31
Registration officer	12	10	4	26
Anglican	8	16	2	26
Religious official	8	11	8	27
Religious organisation	10	12	2	24
NRBO	2	0	0	2
NRB celebrant	9	0	1	10
Independent celebrant	112	2	4	118
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	16	4	0	20
Wedding professional	4	0	0	4
Other organisation	8	3	1	12
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	8	2	0	10
Academic	9	2	0	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	127	559	65	751
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	360	623	94	1077

1.82 570 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 50

Consultation Question 50.

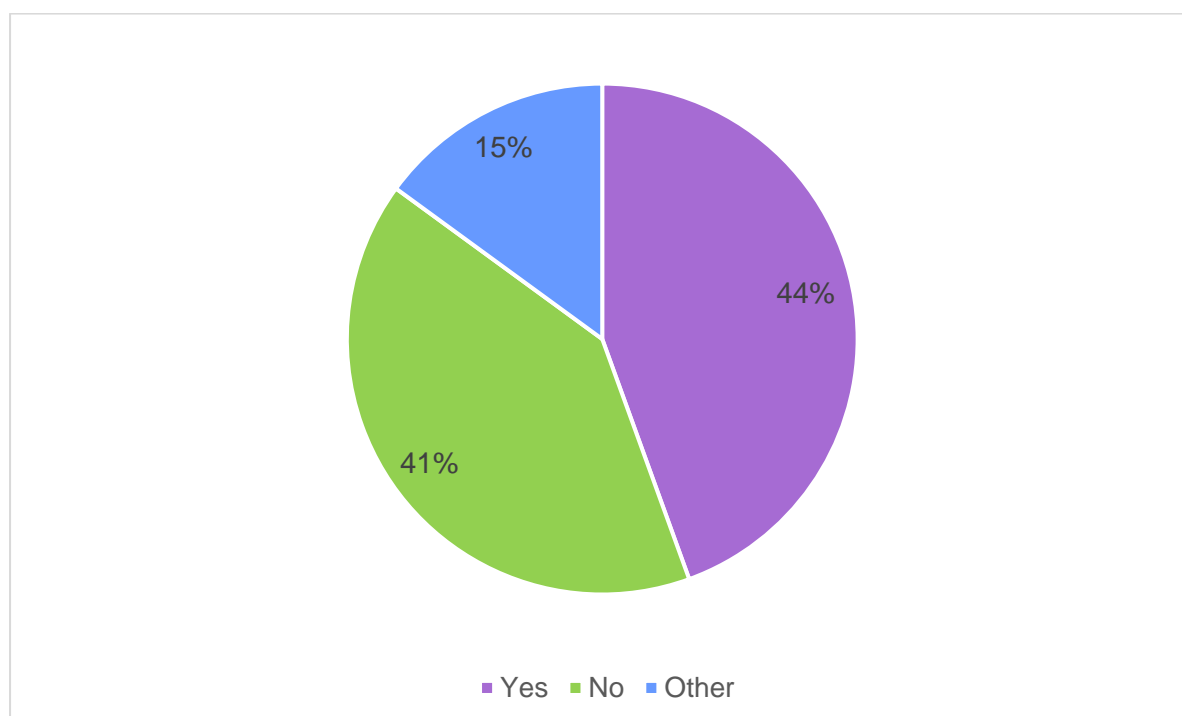
7.161 We invite consultees' views as to whether the law should prohibit:

- (1) civil weddings from taking place in religious venues and (if non-religious belief organisations are enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief venues?
- (2) (if non-religious belief organisations are enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) religious weddings from taking place in non-religious belief venues?
- (3) (if non-religious belief organisations are enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief weddings from taking place in religious venues?

1.83 Consultation Question 50 was divided into three sub-questions (paras 7.161(1), (2), and (3)).

Part 1

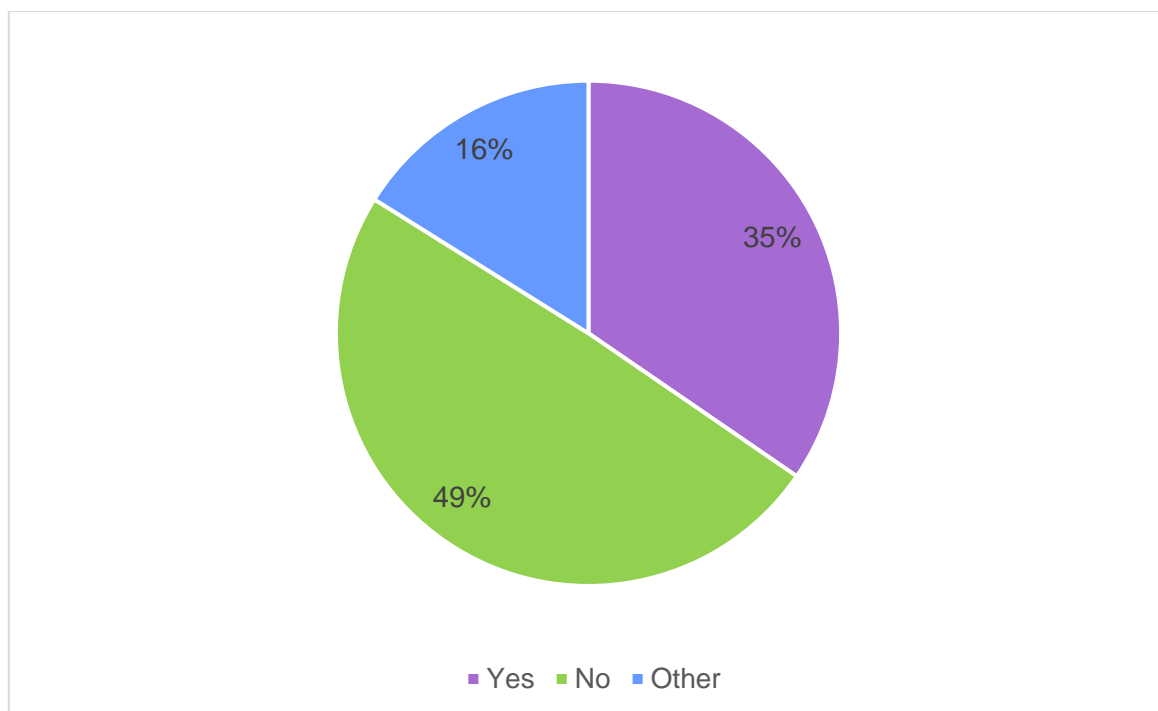
1.84 In respect of the sub-part of the question at para 7.161(1), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	14	8	7	29
Registration officer	9	12	5	26
Anglican	16	3	7	26
Religious official	5	9	9	23
Religious organisation	10	5	6	21
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	5	4	10	19
Independent celebrant	29	66	14	109
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	9	10	1	20
Wedding professional	1	2	0	3
Other organisation	2	5	1	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	1	6	0	7
Academic	2	5	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	303	238	74	615
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	410	374	138	922

Part 2

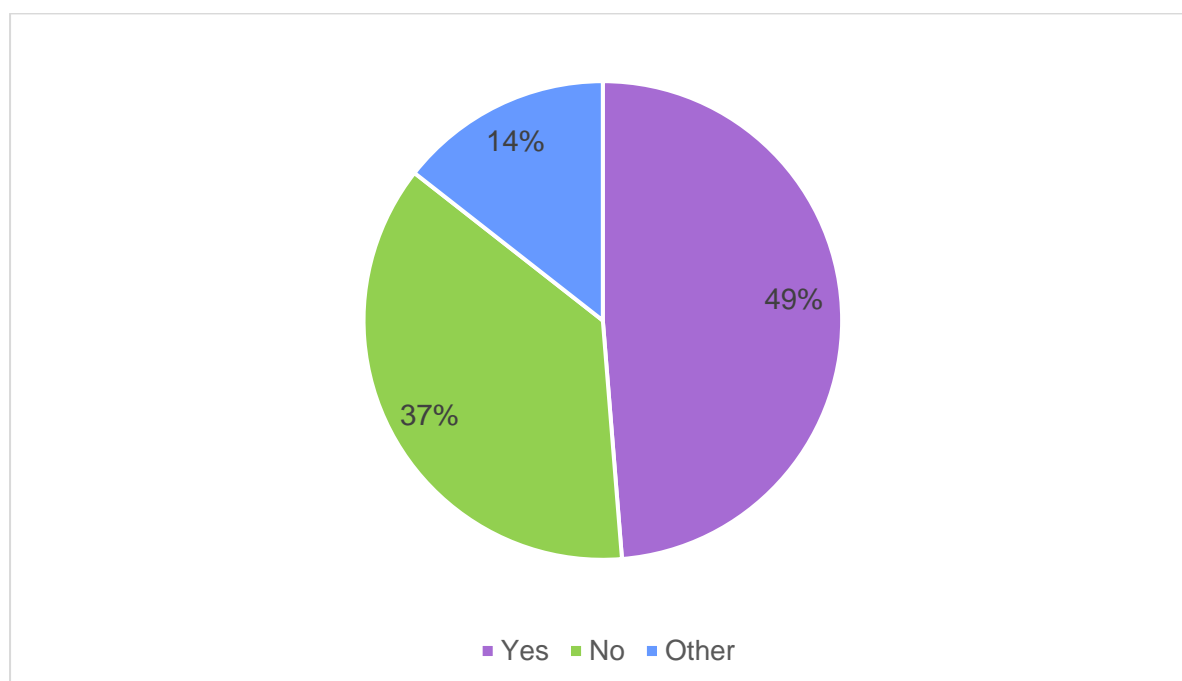
1.85 In respect of the sub-part of the question at para 7.161(2), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	15	7	7	29
Registration officer	12	10	4	26
Anglican	14	6	4	24
Religious official	6	10	7	23
Religious organisation	8	6	6	20
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	4	5	10	19
Independent celebrant	29	67	12	108
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	5	13	1	19
Wedding professional	1	2	0	3
Other organisation	0	6	2	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	1	6	0	7
Academic	1	6	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	207	293	86	586
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	307	438	143	888

Part 3

1.86 In respect of the sub-part of the question at para 7.161(3), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	15	7	6	28
Registration officer	12	9	4	25
Anglican	15	4	4	23
Religious official	8	7	8	23
Religious organisation	12	3	6	21
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	13	4	2	19
Independent celebrant	34	60	13	107
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	6	2	19
Wedding professional	1	2	1	4
Other organisation	1	5	2	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	3	4	0	7
Academic	3	5	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	306	215	80	601

Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	439	332	130	901

1.87 554 consultees provided written comments.

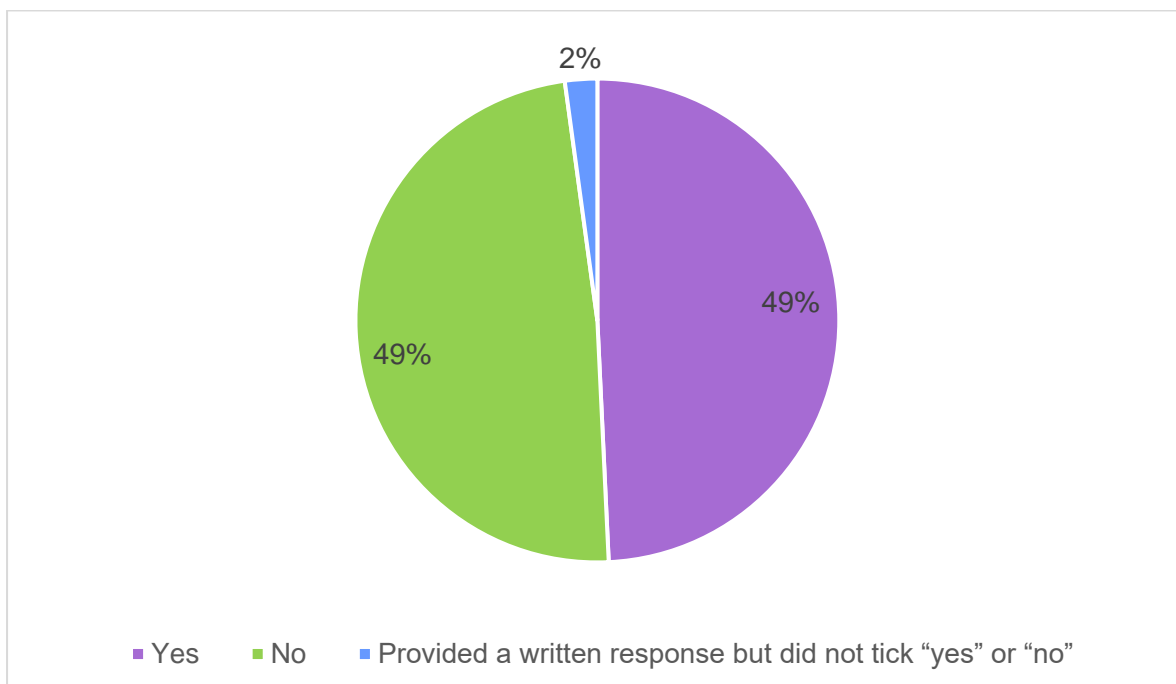
Consultation Question 51

Consultation Question 51.

7.190 We provisionally propose that it should be the responsibility of the officiant to decide whether the location for the wedding should be approved.

Do consultees agree?

1.88 For Consultation Question 51, we mistakenly omitted the “other” option from the Citizen Space form.



	Yes	No	Provided a written response but did not tick “yes” or “no”	TOTAL
Local authority	16	12	4	32
Registration officer	4	24	0	28
Anglican	11	13	0	24

Religious official	25	7	1	33
Religious organisation	17	5	2	24
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	6	3	9	18
Independent celebrant	106	15	0	121
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	8	0	21
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	6	4	0	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	3	0	10
Academic	10	3	0	13
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	294	421	6	721
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	525	518	23	1066

1.89 632 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 52

Consultation Question 52.

7.191 We provisionally propose that, as a part of their responsibilities, officiants should ensure that the wedding location is:

- (1) safe, and
- (2) dignified.

Do consultees agree?

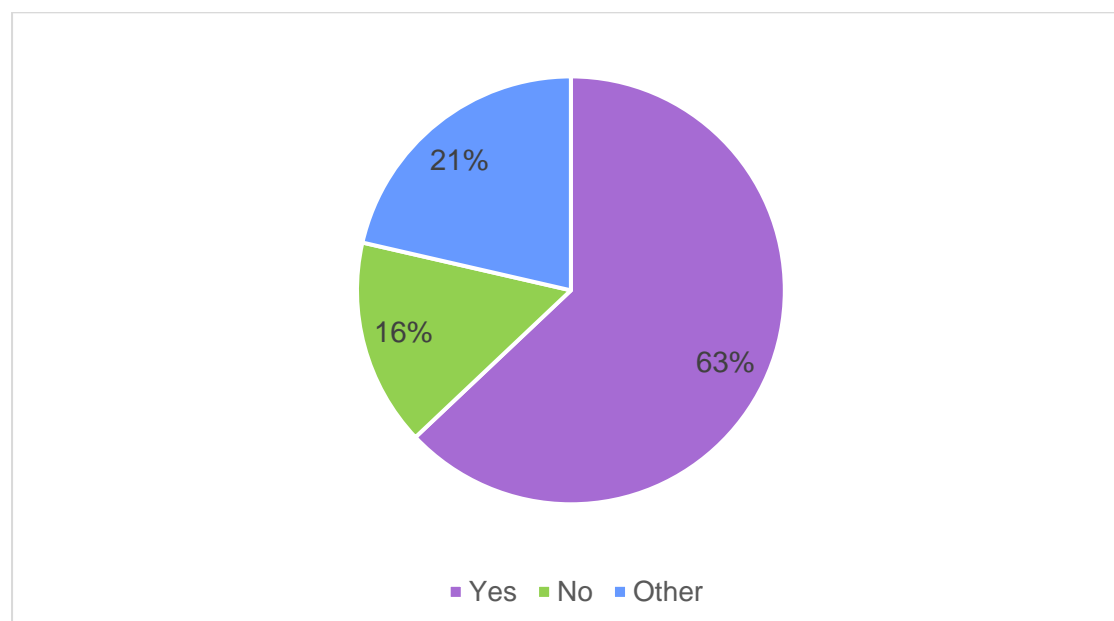
7.192 We provisionally propose that guidance should be produced by the General Register Office to provide advice to officiants on how to assess whether a location is safe and dignified for a wedding.

Do consultees agree?

1.90 Consultation Question 52 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.91 In response to the first part (para 7.191), the statistics were as follows:

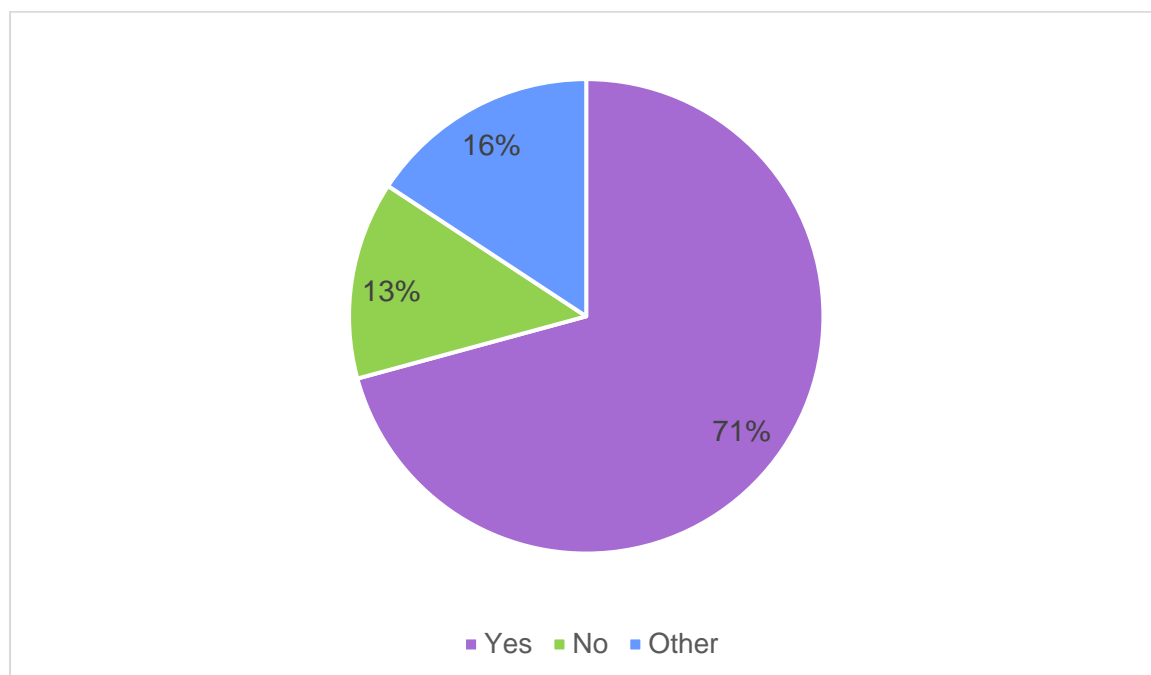


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	19	2	11	32
Registration officer	14	8	5	27
Anglican	20	2	1	23
Religious official	27	3	5	35
Religious organisation	21	4	3	28
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	5	3	11	19
Independent celebrant	104	4	14	122
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	2	3	19
Wedding professional	4	0	1	5
Other organisation	9	1	0	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	2	1	10
Academic	8	1	4	13
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	528	163	207	898
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	785	195	267	1247

1.92 774 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.93 In respect of the second part of the question (para 7.192), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	18	1	10	29
Registration officer	17	2	8	27
Anglican	19	1	4	24
Religious official	26	1	7	34
Religious organisation	21	2	2	25
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	13	1	2	16
Independent celebrant	99	11	13	123
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	2	3	17
Wedding professional	5	0	0	5
Other organisation	8	1	1	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	1	2	10
Academic	9	0	4	13

MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	527	127	119	773
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	787	150	175	1112

1.94 576 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 53

Consultation Question 53.

7.199 We invite consultees' views as to whether there should be an optional pre-approval process available for locations that frequently host weddings, that operates alongside the general rule that the officiant must agree to the location.

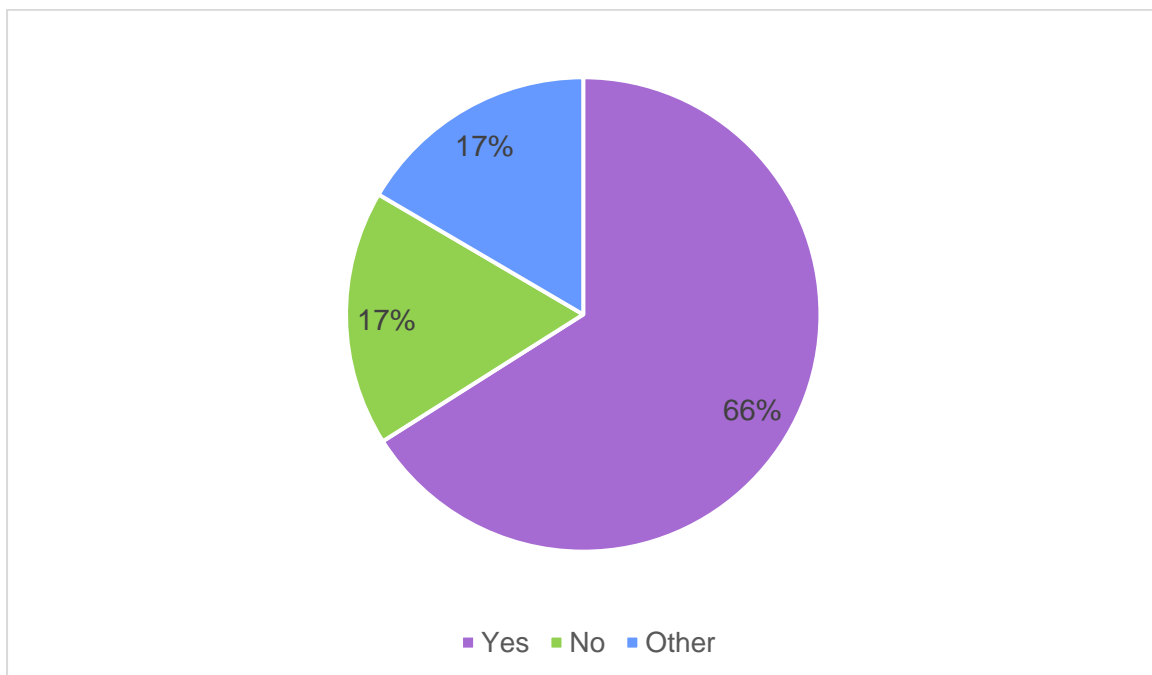
7.200 If consultees agree that there should be such a pre-approval process:

- (1) who should be responsible for it, and
- (2) how should it work?

1.95 Consultation Question 53 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.96 In response to the first part (para 7.199), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	22	0	10	32
Registration officer	18	5	4	27
Anglican	16	4	4	24
Religious official	13	4	7	24
Religious organisation	12	3	3	18
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	12	4	1	17
Independent celebrant	73	28	11	112
Celebrancy organisation	3	0	1	4
Venue	16	1	1	18
Wedding professional	4	0	0	4
Other organisation	3	2	2	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	3	2	2	7
Academic	7	1	4	12
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	410	108	104	622
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	614	162	154	930

1.97 387 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.98 In respect of the second part of the question (para 7.200), 529 consultees responded.

Chapter 8

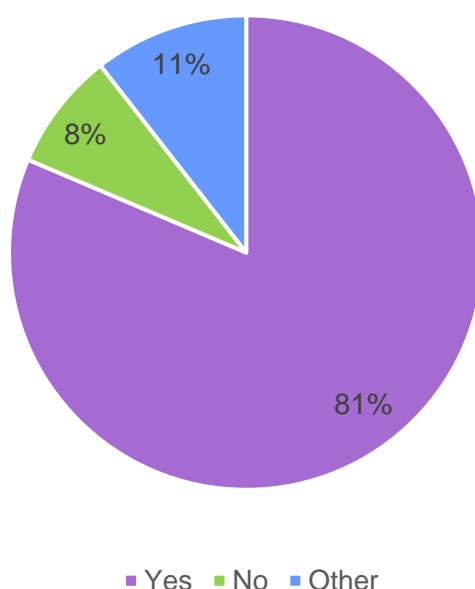
Consultation Question 54

Consultation Question 54.

8.29 We provisionally propose that after a wedding ceremony, the schedule or (if Anglican preliminaries are retained) marriage document should be able to have added to it:

- (1) the date of the wedding;
- (2) the location of the wedding; and
- (3) the names and occupations of the parties' parents, each of whom the parties should be able to identify as "mother", "father", or "parent".

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	20	2	8	30
Registration officer	13	7	8	28
Anglican	20	1	3	24
Religious official	28	1	6	35
Religious organisation	17	0	3	20
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	6	2	1	9

Independent celebrant	99	8	11	118
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	15	0	1	16
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	7	1	0	8
Academic	8	0	3	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	540	54	58	652
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	788	78	102	968

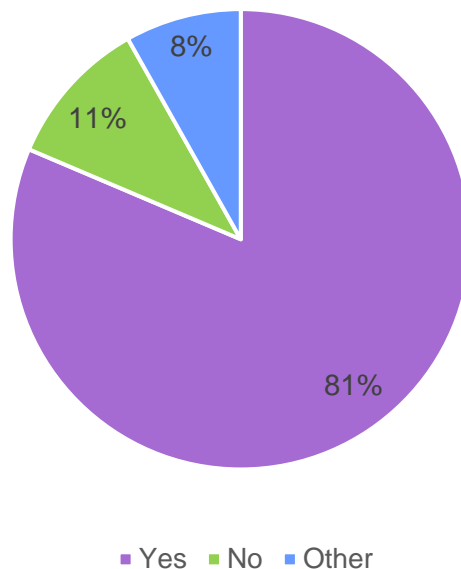
1.99 351 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 55

Consultation Question 55.

8.30 We provisionally propose that couples should have the choice of registering their marriage in English only, in Welsh only, or in both English and Welsh.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	27	0	2	29
Registration officer	21	1	5	27
Anglican	17	4	3	24
Religious official	19	0	7	26
Religious organisation	19	0	0	19
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	10	0	1	11
Independent celebrant	105	3	7	115
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	15	0	1	16
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	8	1	0	9
Academic	11	0	0	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	479	87	49	615
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	748	96	75	919

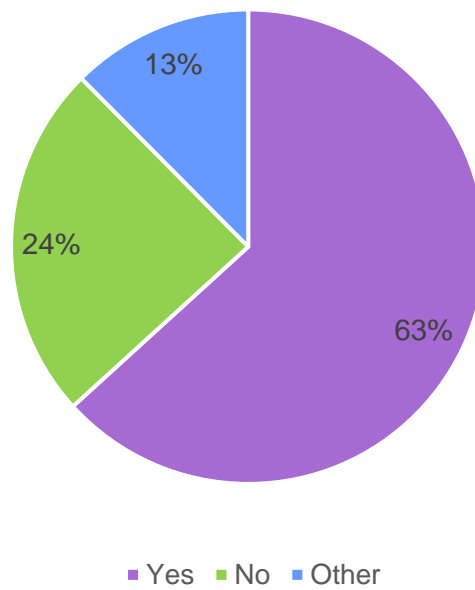
1.100 253 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 56

Consultation Question 56.

8.31 We provisionally propose that an option for electronic registration should be introduced at a later date when infrastructure is in place to provide a high level of security.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	23	1	6	30
Registration officer	13	7	9	29
Anglican	13	4	7	24
Religious official	23	5	4	32
Religious organisation	19	1	0	20
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	1	10
Independent celebrant	112	4	6	122
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	3	0	16
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	9	1	0	10
Academic	9	0	2	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	327	198	79	604
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	585	225	115	925

1.101 396 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Chapter 9

1.102 There were no consultation questions in Chapter 9.

Chapter 10

Consultation Question 57

Consultation Question 57.

10.128 We provisionally propose that any one of the following factors on its own should render a marriage void:

- (1) the failure of both or either party to give notice of the intended marriage to the registration service, or (if Anglican preliminaries are retained) the relevant Church authority;
- (2) the wedding taking place after authority to marry had lapsed;
- (3) the knowledge of both parties that the ceremony was not officiated by an authorised officiant; or
- (4) the knowledge of both parties that the necessary opt into same-sex marriage had not been given by the relevant religious governing authority, in the case of same-sex marriages.

Do consultees agree?

10.129 We provisionally propose that the following factors should not render a marriage void:

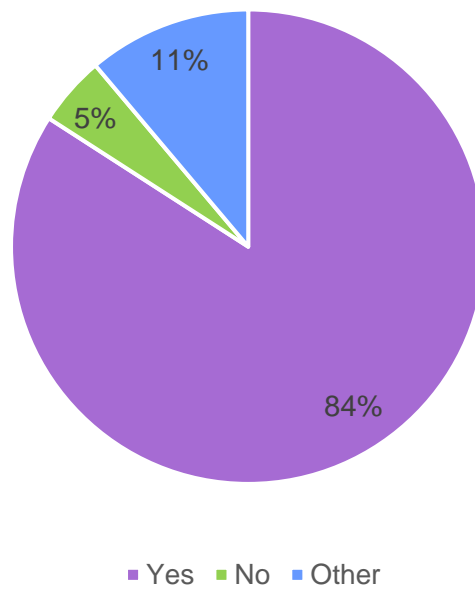
- (1) mistakes in the issuance of the schedule or (if Anglican preliminaries are retained) marriage document;
- (2) the absence of witnesses; and
- (3) a failure to sign the schedule or (if Anglican preliminaries are retained) marriage document, or to register the marriage.

Do consultees agree?

1.103 Consultation Question 57 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.104 In response to the first part (para 10.128), the statistics were as follows:

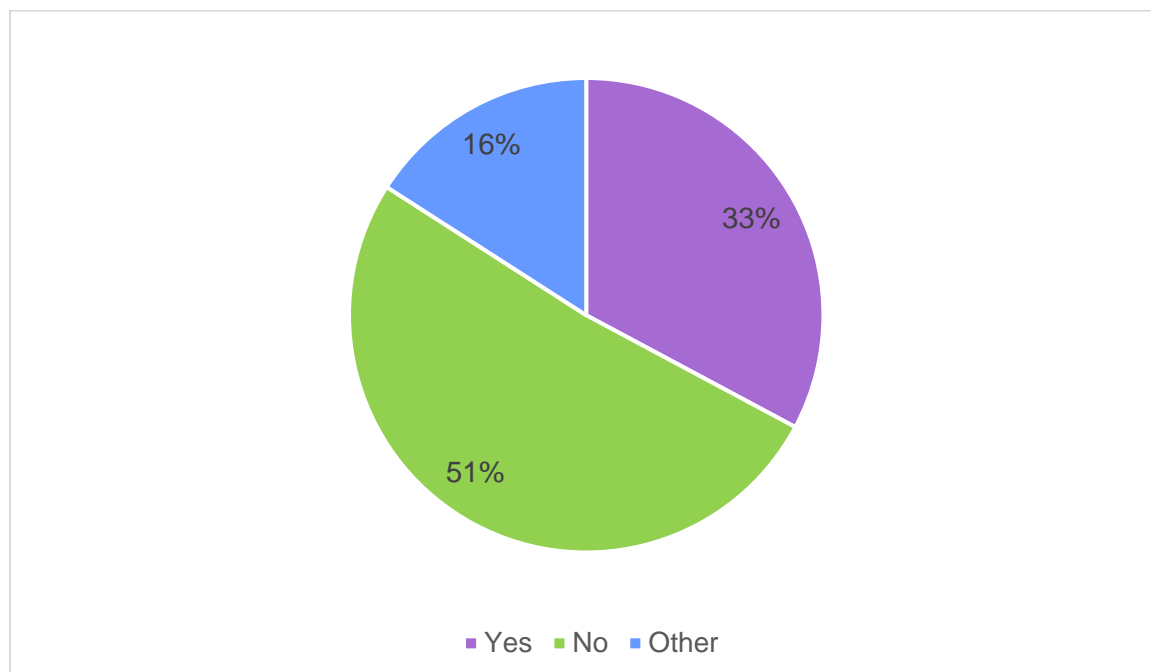


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	21	0	8	29
Registration officer	25	1	0	26
Anglican	19	1	2	22
Religious official	31	1	2	34
Religious organisation	17	0	3	20
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	1	10
Independent celebrant	86	8	13	107
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	0	2	14
Wedding professional	2	1	1	4
Other organisation	7	2	1	10
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	2	4	11
Academic	5	2	3	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	517	25	61	603
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	762	43	101	906

1.105 217 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.106 In respect of the second part of the question (para 10.129), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	4	1	25	30
Registration officer	4	17	5	26
Anglican	7	8	7	22
Religious official	13	13	6	32
Religious organisation	9	6	4	19
NRBO	0	1	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	1	0	10
Independent celebrant	76	16	13	105
Celebrancy organisation	3	0	1	4
Venue	9	3	2	14
Wedding professional	1	2	1	4
Other organisation	3	4	2	9
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	4	3	4	11
Academic	4	2	4	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0

Public	151	386	70	607
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	297	464	144	905

1.107 533 consultees provided comments with their answers.

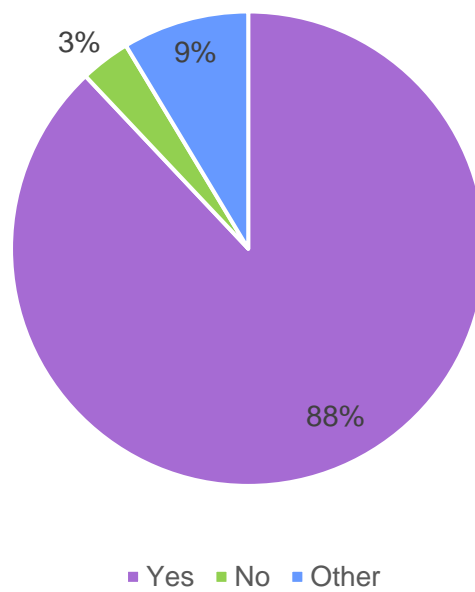
Consultation Question 58

Consultation Question 58.

10.130 We provisionally propose that the following factors should result in a non-qualifying ceremony:

- (1) both:
 - (a) failure of one or both parties to the marriage to give notice of the intended marriage, and
 - (b) either:
 - (i) the knowledge of both parties that the ceremony was not officiated by an authorised officiant, or
 - (ii) in the case of same-sex marriages the knowledge of both parties that the necessary opt into same-sex marriage had not been given by the relevant religious governing authority; or
- (2) failure of one or both parties to express consent to the marriage.¹⁰⁹

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	19	2	9	30
Registration officer	22	2	2	26
Anglican	17	0	4	21
Religious official	28	1	3	32
Religious organisation	19	0	1	20
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	1	10
Independent celebrant	91	2	10	103
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	0	2	13
Wedding professional	2	1	1	4
Other organisation	6	2	1	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	1	4	11
Academic	6	2	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	533	17	36	586
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	775	30	76	881

1.108 194 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 59

Consultation Question 59.

10.131 We provisionally propose that a presumption in favour of the validity of a marriage should arise where:

- (1) the couple have signed the schedule or (if Anglican preliminaries are retained) marriage document, or
- (2) the couple have given notice and gone through a ceremony with a person acting as officiant,

but should not require the couple to have cohabited for any period after its celebration.

Do consultees agree?

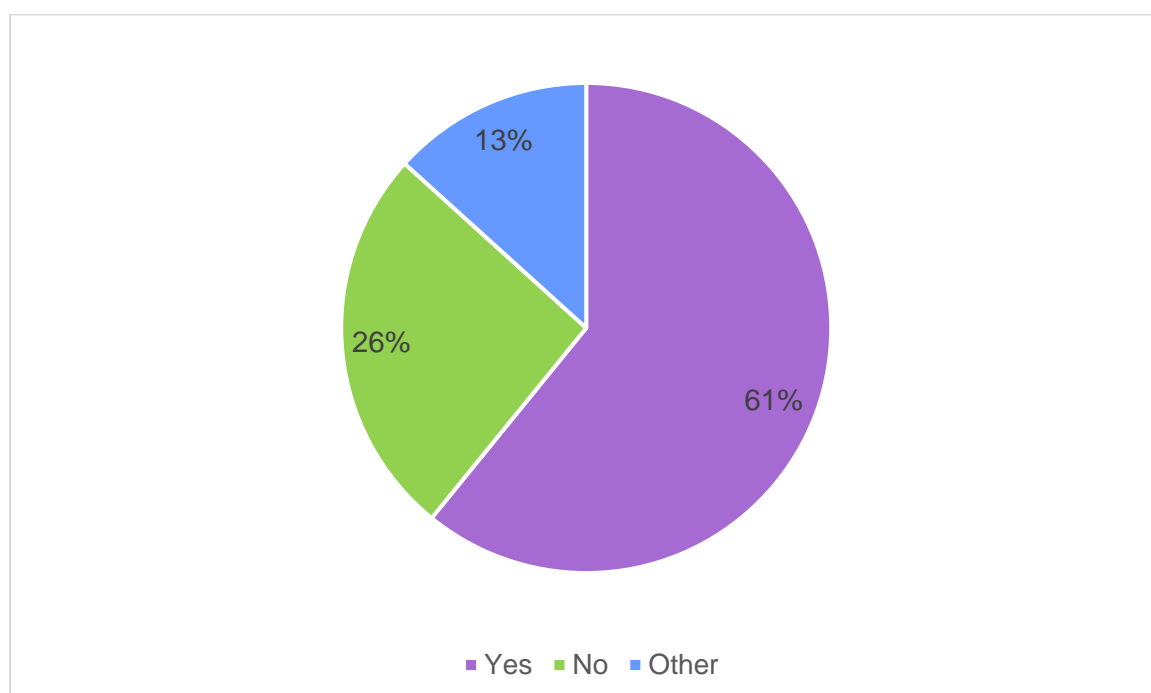
10.132 We provisionally propose that the presumption that a couple is married if they have cohabited for a long period of time and are believed to be married by friends and family should be abolished.

Do consultees agree?

1.109 Consultation Question 59 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.110 In response to the first part (para 10.131), the statistics were as follows:

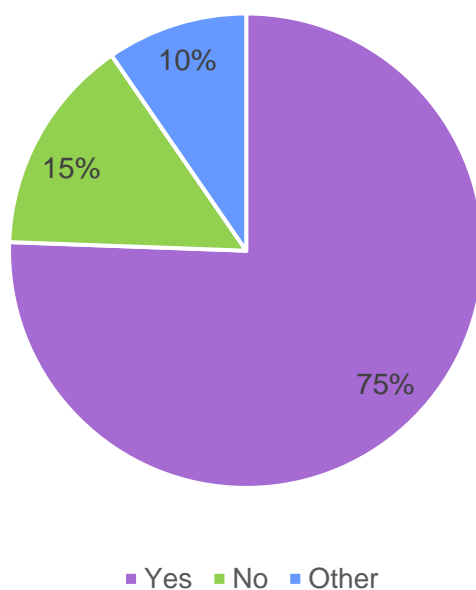


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	15	2	13	30
Registration officer	15	4	5	24
Anglican	14	4	3	21
Religious official	13	4	9	26
Religious organisation	15	2	0	17
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	1	10
Independent celebrant	95	5	3	103
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	10	1	2	13
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	6	3	1	10
Academic	9	0	0	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	274	181	70	525
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	490	208	107	805

1.111 299 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.112 In respect of the second part of the question (para 10.132), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	25	1	2	28
Registration officer	19	3	3	25
Anglican	18	2	2	22
Religious official	25	1	4	30
Religious organisation	15	2	0	17
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	7	2	0	9
Independent celebrant	76	13	13	102
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	10	1	2	13
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	3	4	4	11
Academic	7	1	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	433	96	51	580
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	653	128	83	864

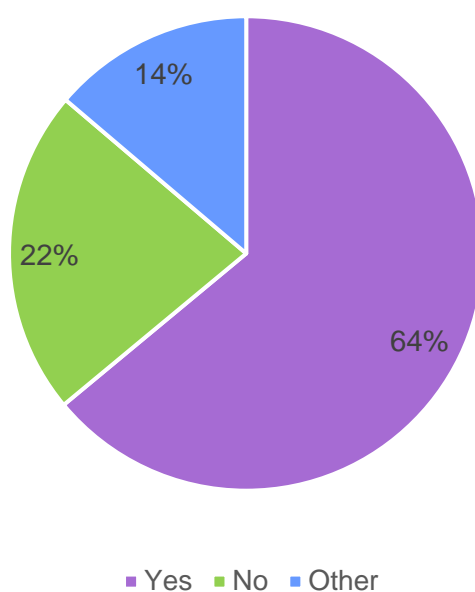
1.113 332 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 60

Consultation Question 60.

10.143 We provisionally propose that the three-year time limit on petitioning for nullity on the basis of lack of consent should be abolished.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	24	1	3	28
Registration officer	17	1	4	22
Anglican	15	1	6	22
Religious official	11	5	6	22
Religious organisation	10	2	1	13
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	0	9
Independent celebrant	75	6	16	97
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	9	0	3	12
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	8	1	0	9

Cruise company	0	1	0	1
Legal	8	2	0	10
Academic	9	0	1	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	290	150	66	506
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	492	171	106	769

1.114 223 consultees provided comments with their answers.

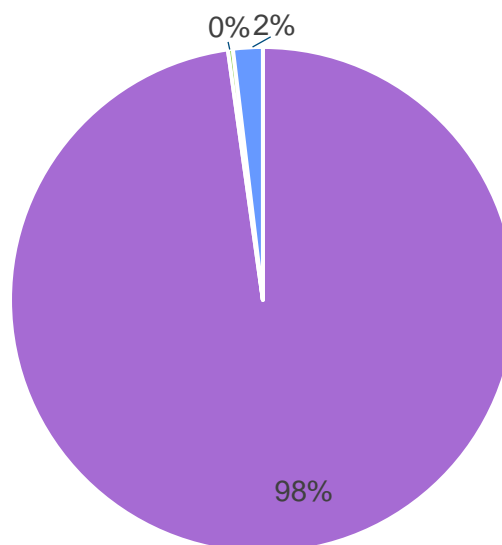
Consultation Question 61

Consultation Question 61.

10.170 We provisionally propose that it should be an offence:

- (1) for any person to purport to be an officiant and deliberately or recklessly mislead either of the couple about their status or the effect of the ceremony;
or
- (2) for an officiant deliberately or recklessly to mislead either of the couple about the effect of the ceremony.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	29	0	2	31
Registration officer	26	1	0	27
Anglican	21	0	0	21
Religious official	34	0	0	34
Religious organisation	21	0	1	22
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	11	0	0	11
Independent celebrant	110	0	2	112
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	0	2	13
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	8	0	1	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	9	0	0	9
Academic	10	1	1	12
MP/Lord	1	0	0	1
Public	627	1	9	637
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	927	3	18	948

1.115 153 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Chapter 11

Consultation Question 62

Consultation Question 62.

11.17 We invite consultees' views as to whether there are any problems with the law governing weddings of persons who have a terminal illness, are detained in a prison or hospital, or are housebound.

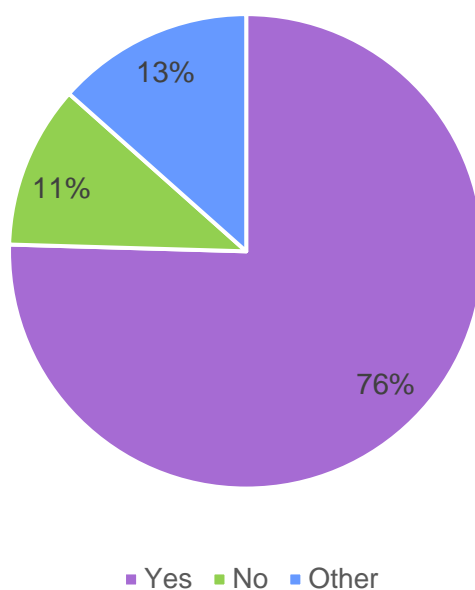
1.116 385 consultees responded to Consultation Question 62.

Consultation Question 63

Consultation Question 63.

11.26 We provisionally propose that parties who have a terminal illness should be required to give notice of their intention to marry and be interviewed by a registration officer prior to the schedule being issued.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	16	7	7	30
Registration officer	17	5	4	26
Anglican	17	5	2	24
Religious official	12	2	9	23
Religious organisation	17	1	1	19
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	4	3	3	10
Independent celebrant	55	29	23	107
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	1	1	13
Wedding professional	4	0	0	4
Other organisation	6	0	1	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1

Legal	3	2	1	6
Academic	7	0	0	7
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	443	36	58	537
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	618	91	110	819

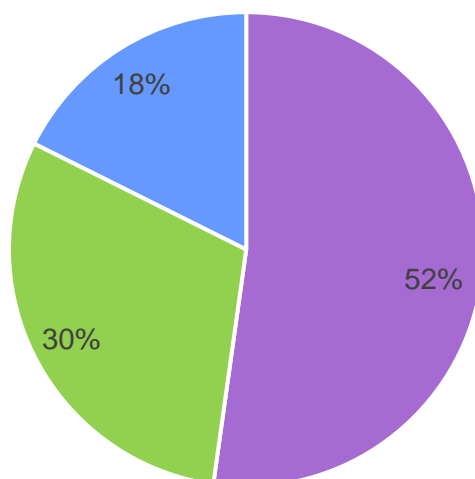
1.117 343 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 64

Consultation Question 64.

11.35 We provisionally propose that the Registrar General's licence should be abolished, and that there should be a single form of civil authority to marry – a schedule – issued by registration officers.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	20	4	6	30
Registration officer	11	7	8	26
Anglican	14	1	6	21

Religious official	19	6	4	29
Religious organisation	18	1	1	20
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	8	1	1	10
Independent celebrant	84	10	10	104
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	10	2	2	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	6	1	1	8
Cruise company	0	0	0	0
Legal	8	0	0	8
Academic	6	1	2	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	176	190	90	456
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	388	224	131	743

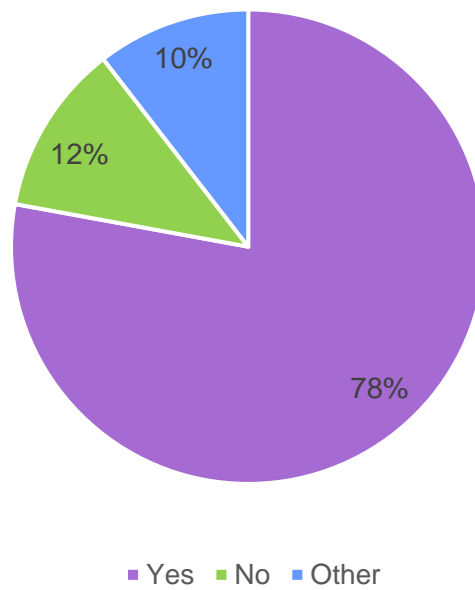
1.118 240 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 65

Consultation Question 65.

11.37 We provisionally propose that schedules issued to couples where one or both parties has a terminal illness should be valid for 12 months.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	14	11	4	29
Registration officer	17	5	4	26
Anglican	21	1	2	24
Religious official	14	1	7	22
Religious organisation	19	0	0	19
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	8	0	2	10
Independent celebrant	95	6	7	108
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	0	1	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	7	0	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	3	4	0	7
Academic	6	2	0	8
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	369	59	53	481
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	595	89	80	764

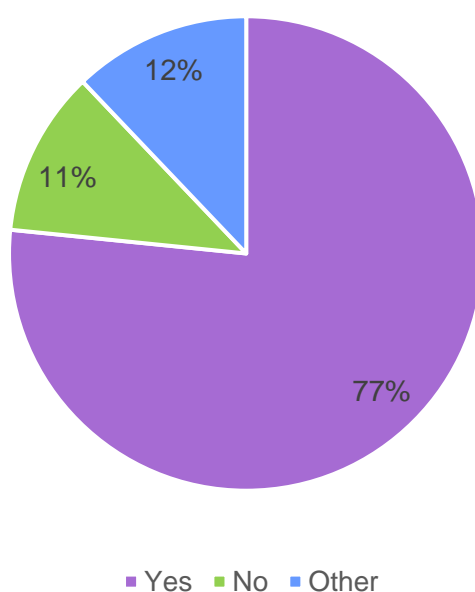
1.119 175 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 66

Consultation Question 66.

11.44 We provisionally propose that schedules issued to couples where one or both parties are detained in prison or hospital or are housebound should be valid for 12 months.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	27	1	1	29
Registration officer	19	1	4	24
Anglican	19	0	2	21
Religious official	14	1	7	22
Religious organisation	15	1	0	16
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	7	1	1	9
Independent celebrant	90	8	6	104
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	0	2	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3

Other organisation	6	1	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	2	4	0	6
Academic	7	1	0	8
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	336	64	66	466
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	563	83	89	735

1.120 168 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 67

Consultation Question 67.

11.82 We provisionally propose that weddings legislation should contain a power for secondary legislation to make emergency provisions that would permit:

- (1) the validity of schedules and other forms of authority to marry to be extended until after a national emergency;
- (2) both stages of civil preliminaries to take place entirely remotely;
- (3) the officiant, the couple, and the witnesses to each attend the wedding ceremony remotely; and
- (4) the schedule to be signed by each of the officiant, the couple, and the witnesses remotely, or for each to sign a different copy of the schedule.

Do consultees agree?

11.83 We provisionally propose that the emergency provisions should be able to apply to all couples, depending on the nature and length of the emergency.

Do consultees agree?

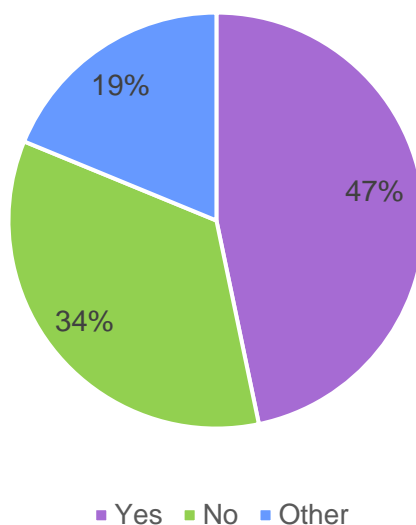
11.84 We provisionally propose that the emergency provisions should facilitate weddings of those who might be at risk of death, rather than requiring evidence that the person is seriously ill and is unlikely to recover.

Do consultees agree?

1.121 Consultation Question 67 was divided into three parts.

Part 1

1.122 In response to the first part (para 11.82), the statistics were as follows:

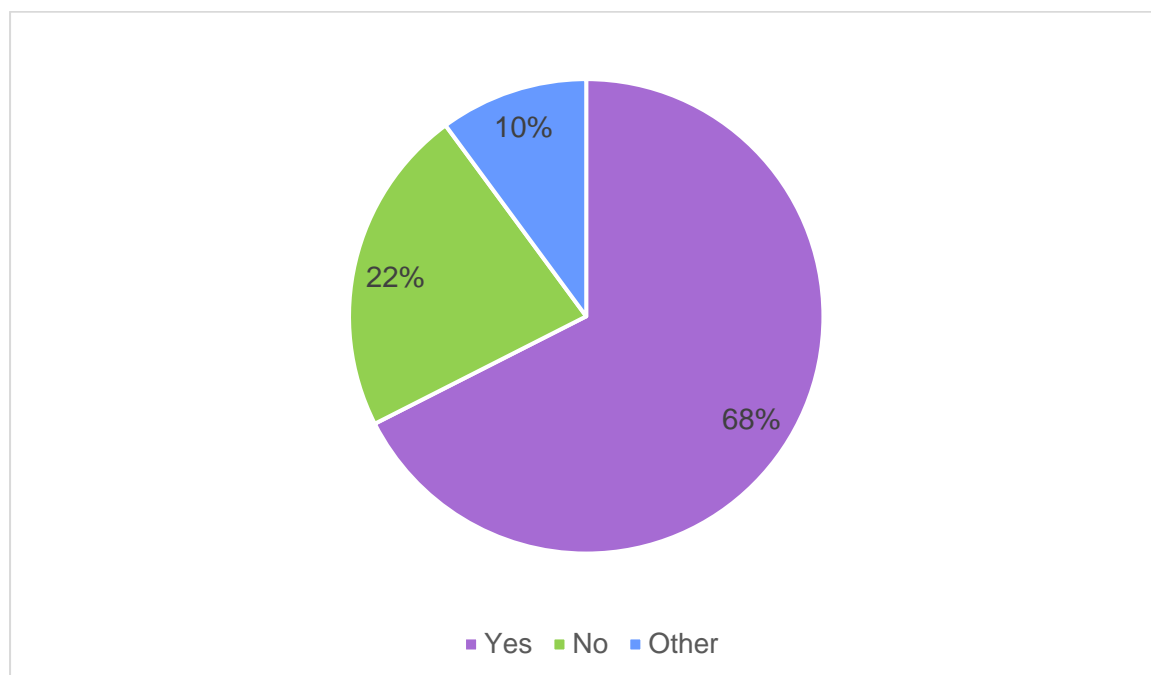


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	16	0	15	31
Registration officer	5	11	10	26
Anglican	7	9	6	22
Religious official	10	8	8	26
Religious organisation	12	3	4	19
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	10	0	0	10
Independent celebrant	94	7	4	105
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	0	2	15
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	4	4	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	1	3	8
Academic	7	1	1	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	188	235	98	521
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	378	279	152	809

1.123 423 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.124 In respect of the second part of the question (para 11.83), the statistics were as follows:



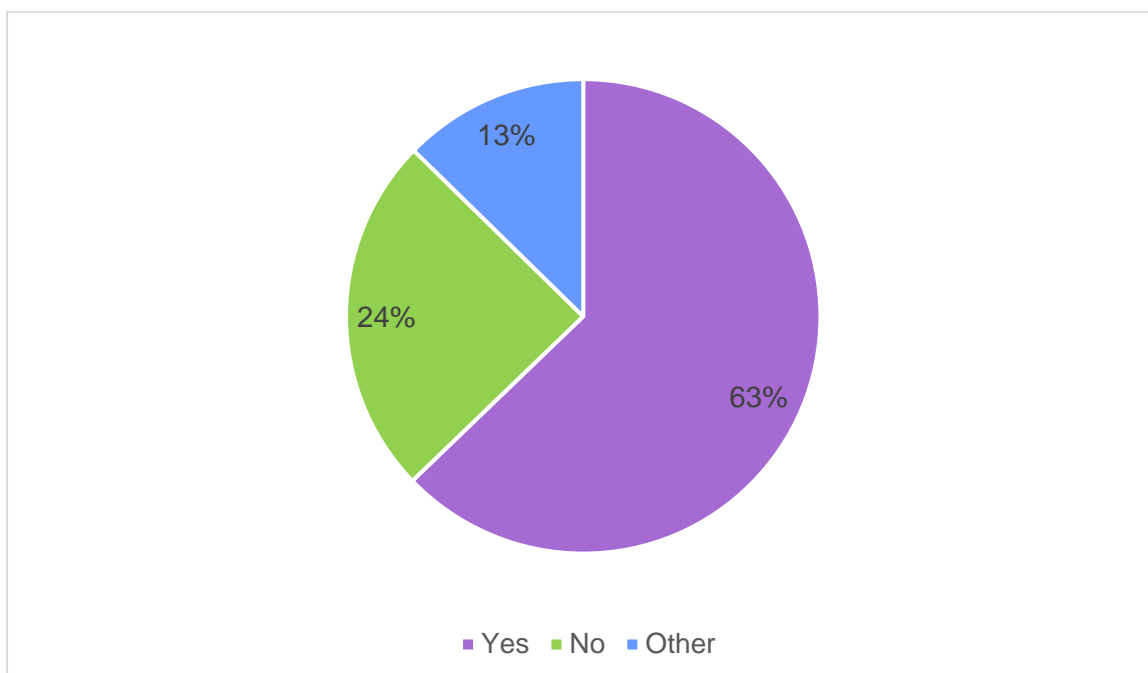
	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	23	3	2	28
Registration officer	17	7	2	26
Anglican	12	4	4	20
Religious official	14	3	5	22
Religious organisation	14	2	1	17
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	10	0	0	10
Independent celebrant	105	0	2	107
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	0	1	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	5	2	2	9
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	1	0	7
Academic	7	0	1	8

MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	267	144	54	465
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	501	166	75	742

1.125 172 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 3

1.126 In respect of the third part of the question (para 11.84), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	14	9	4	27
Registration officer	9	11	6	26
Anglican	14	3	4	21
Religious official	12	6	6	24
Religious organisation	15	0	2	17
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	10	0	1	11
Independent celebrant	98	2	4	104
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	0	1	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3

Other organisation	4	3	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	1	0	6
Academic	7	0	1	8
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	256	147	65	468
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	466	182	94	742

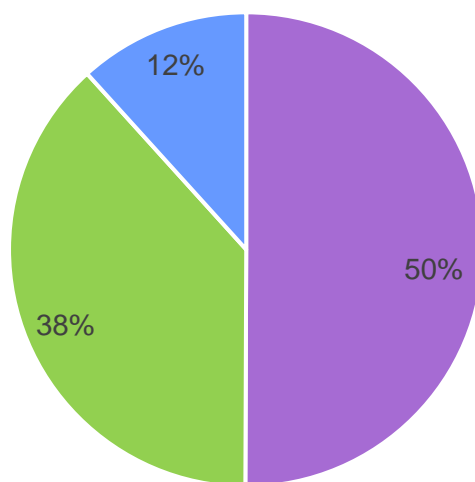
1.127 223 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 68

Consultation Question 68.

11.145 We provisionally propose that weddings should be able to take place in the territorial sea, and in bays and other coastal waters, adjacent to England and Wales.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	18	2	7	27
Registration officer	15	5	6	26

Anglican	12	9	2	23
Religious official	9	10	5	24
Religious organisation	11	4	2	17
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	11	0	0	11
Independent celebrant	109	0	2	111
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	8	4	1	13
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	7	1	1	9
Cruise company	2	0	1	3
Legal	6	2	0	8
Academic	8	1	0	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	196	281	71	548
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	419	320	98	837

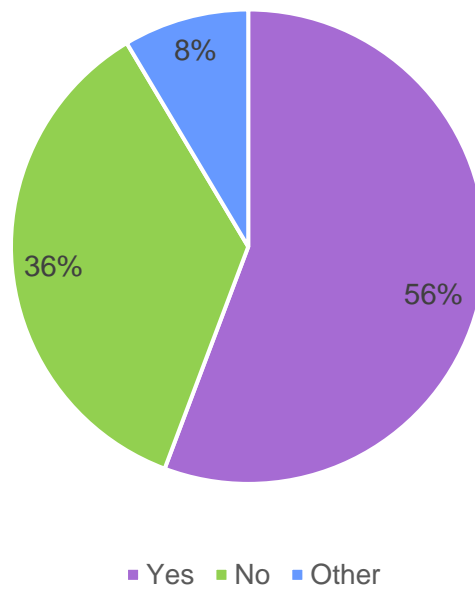
1.128 348 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 69

Consultation Question 69.

11.146 We provisionally propose that weddings should be able to take place in international waters under the law of England and Wales, on board cruise ships registered in the United Kingdom with a port of choice in England or Wales.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	20	3	4	27
Registration officer	12	7	6	25
Anglican	12	7	2	21
Religious official	10	8	5	23
Religious organisation	11	2	2	15
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	10	0	1	11
Independent celebrant	110	0	1	111
Celebrancy organisation	3	0	1	4
Venue	10	2	1	13
Wedding professional	3	1	0	4
Other organisation	7	2	0	9
Cruise company	3	0	0	3
Legal	7	1	0	8
Academic	8	1	0	9
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	231	258	48	537
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	458	292	71	821

1.129 271 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 70

Consultation Question 70.

11.147 We invite consultees' views as to whether weddings should be able to take place in international waters under the law of England and Wales, on board vessels other than cruise ships, and if so, which types of vessel.

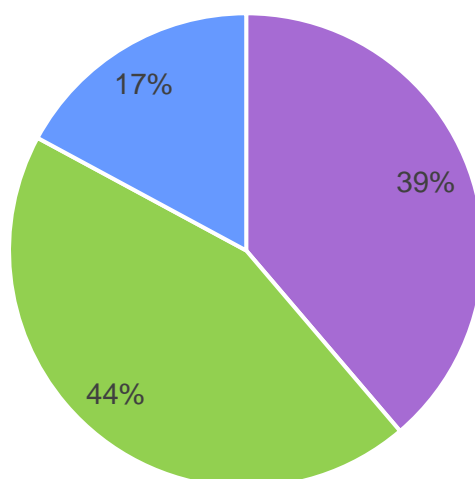
1.130 477 consultees responded to Consultation Question 70.

Consultation Question 71

Consultation Question 71.

11.148 We provisionally propose that couples should be required to give the name and registration number of the ship on which they intend to marry in international waters, when giving notice of their intention to marry, but should not be required to give the name of the officiant.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	21	3	3	27
Registration officer	11	5	7	23

Anglican	7	11	2	20
Religious official	6	10	5	21
Religious organisation	6	7	1	14
NRBO	0	1	0	1
NRB celebrant	2	2	5	9
Independent celebrant	85	13	8	106
Celebrancy organisation	3	0	1	4
Venue	6	4	1	11
Wedding professional	1	2	0	3
Other organisation	2	5	1	8
Cruise company	2	1	0	3
Legal	3	1	3	7
Academic	6	1	0	7
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	122	256	88	466
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	283	322	125	730

1.131 320 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 72

Consultation Question 72.

11.149 We provisionally propose that weddings on ships in international waters should be officiated by:

- (1) deck officers who have been authorised by the Registrar General as maritime officiants; and
- (2) (if independent officiants are enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) other members of the ship's crew who have been authorised as independent officiants.

Do consultees agree?

11.150 We provisionally propose that maritime officiants should be subject to the same rules as we have provisionally proposed should apply to independent officiants.

Do consultees agree?

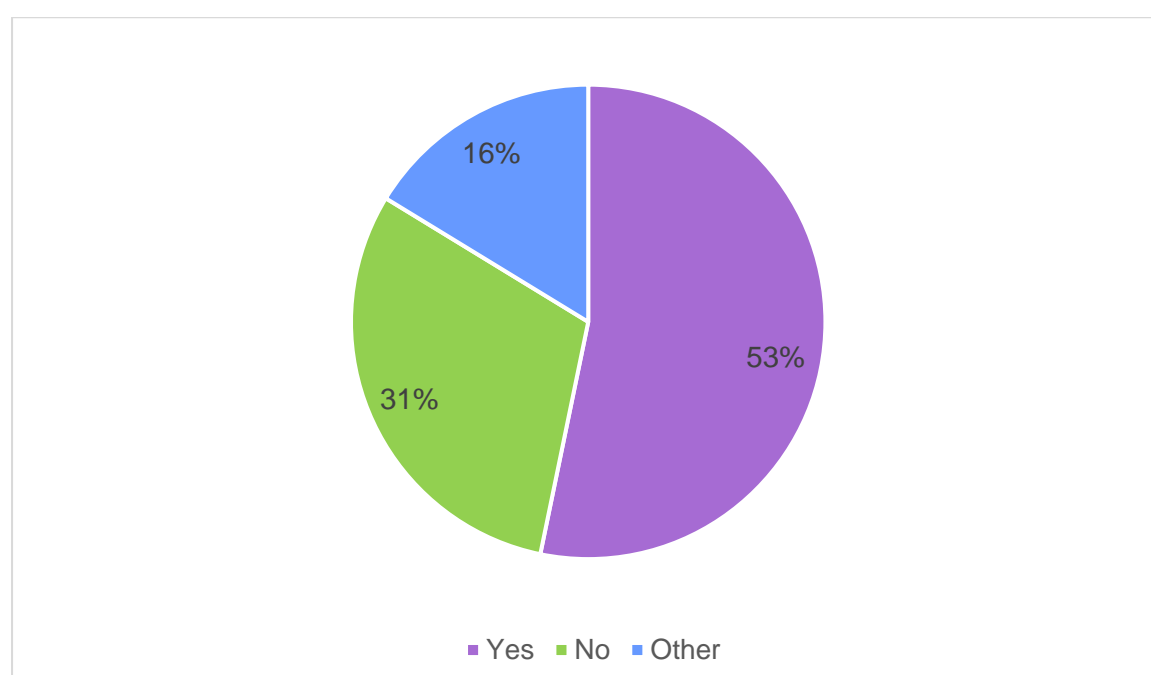
11.151 We provisionally propose that weddings on ships in international waters should be void if they are not officiated by a maritime officiant or a member of crew who is an independent officiant.

Do consultees agree?

1.132 Consultation Question 72 was divided into three parts.

Part 1

1.133 In response to the first part (para 11.149), the statistics were as follows:

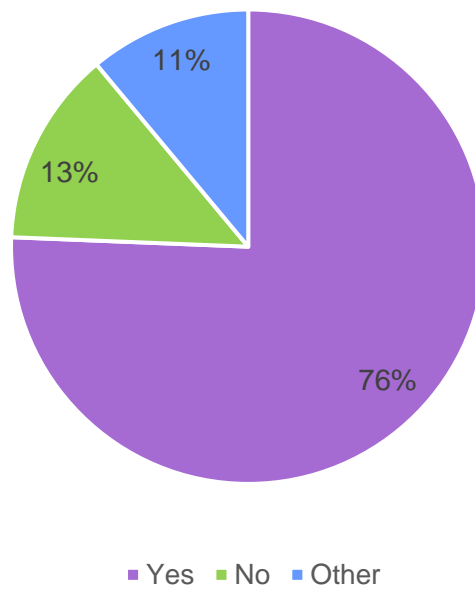


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	20	1	5	26
Registration officer	11	8	3	22
Anglican	9	7	4	20
Religious official	7	8	5	20
Religious organisation	11	3	3	17
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	5	2	3	10
Independent celebrant	91	7	8	106
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	9	0	2	11
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	5	1	3	9
Cruise company	2	1	0	3
Legal	4	1	1	6
Academic	5	1	2	8
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	201	180	78	459
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	386	221	118	725

1.134 259 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 2

1.135 In respect of the second part of the question (para 11.150), the statistics were as follows:

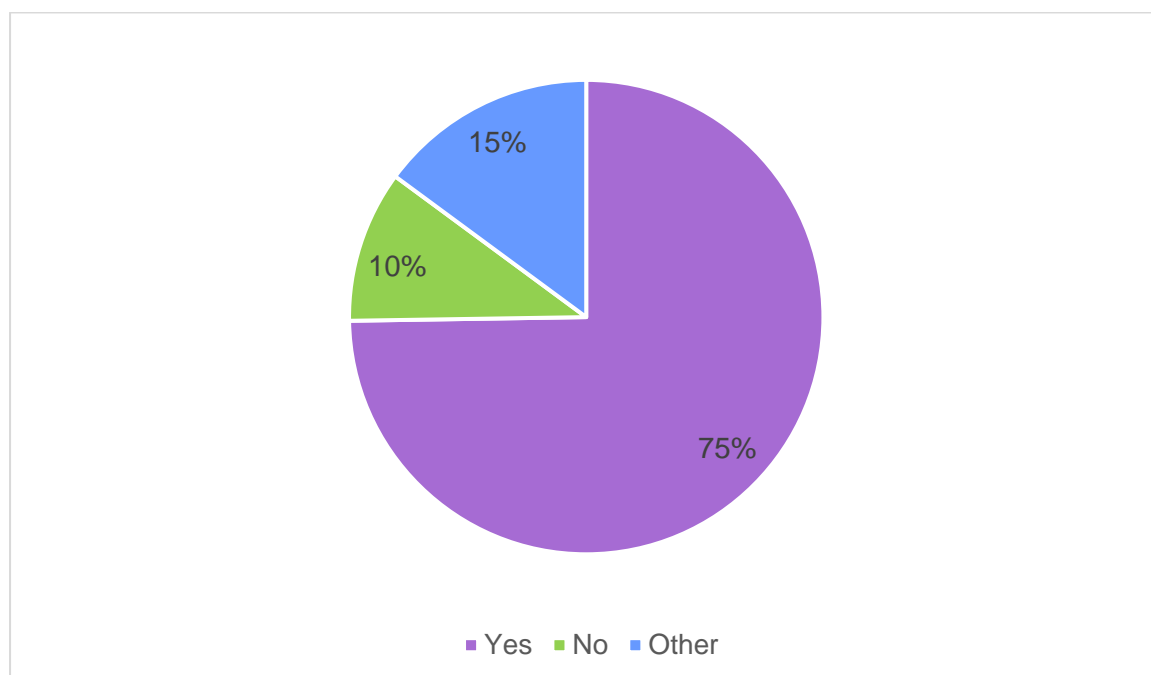


	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	22	0	2	24
Registration officer	17	2	3	22
Anglican	13	4	2	19
Religious official	11	1	7	19
Religious organisation	11	3	1	15
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	6	2	2	10
Independent celebrant	107	0	0	107
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	10	0	1	11
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	9	0	0	9
Cruise company	3	0	0	3
Legal	4	1	1	6
Academic	7	0	0	7
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	308	80	58	446
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	534	94	78	706

1.136 156 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Part 3

1.137 In respect of the third part of the question (para 11.151), the statistics were as follows:



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	24	1	0	25
Registration officer	17	3	3	23
Anglican	13	1	3	17
Religious official	8	3	8	19
Religious organisation	10	2	3	15
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	5	1	3	9
Independent celebrant	79	16	5	100
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	9	0	2	11
Wedding professional	2	0	1	3
Other organisation	6	1	0	7
Cruise company	2	1	0	3
Legal	5	0	1	6
Academic	5	1	1	7
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	338	43	74	455

Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	527	73	105	705

1.138 168 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 73

Consultation Question 73.

11.152 We invite consultees' views about whether there is any demand for religious or non-religious belief weddings in international waters.

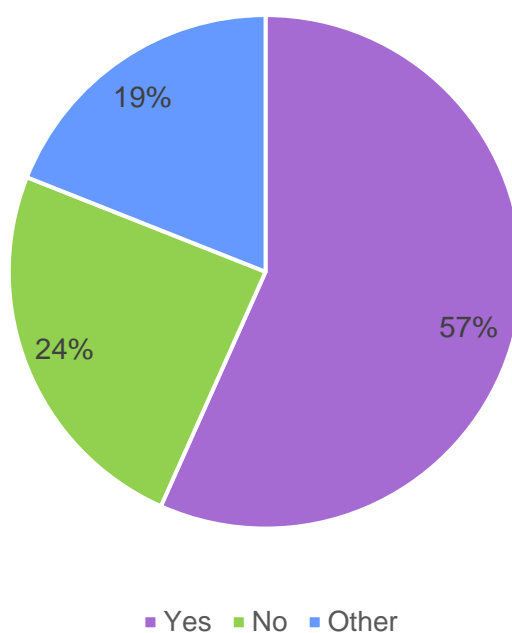
1.139 367 consultees responded to Consultation Question 73.

Consultation Question 74

Consultation Question 74.

11.153 We provisionally propose that any fixed time limit for couples to return the schedule after their wedding should not apply to weddings in international waters, but instead couples should be required to return the schedule as soon as is reasonably possible.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	10	6	11	27
Registration officer	9	10	4	23
Anglican	9	5	5	19
Religious official	9	3	8	20
Religious organisation	12	3	1	16
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	0	1	10
Independent celebrant	78	15	5	98
Celebrancy organisation	2	0	2	4
Venue	9	0	1	10
Wedding professional	1	1	1	3
Other organisation	4	2	1	7
Cruise company	2	0	0	2
Legal	4	2	1	7
Academic	6	0	1	7
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	208	113	83	404
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	373	160	125	658

1.140 238 consultees provided comments with their answers.

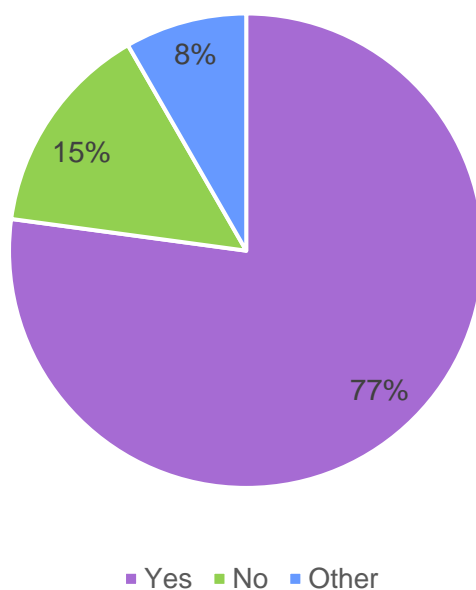
Chapter 12

Consultation Question 75

Consultation Question 75.

12.22 We provisionally propose that there should be an additional, standard fee charged in cases where the registration officer must travel to one of the persons giving notice because that person is housebound or detained. The fee should be set nationally on a cost-recovery basis.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	26	4	1	31
Registration officer	21	2	3	26
Anglican	18	4	1	23
Religious official	16	4	4	24
Religious organisation	14	3	1	18
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	6	2	1	9
Independent celebrant	85	10	11	106
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	1	1	13
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3
Other organisation	7	0	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	2	0	6
Academic	6	2	2	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	410	84	42	536
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	631	119	68	818

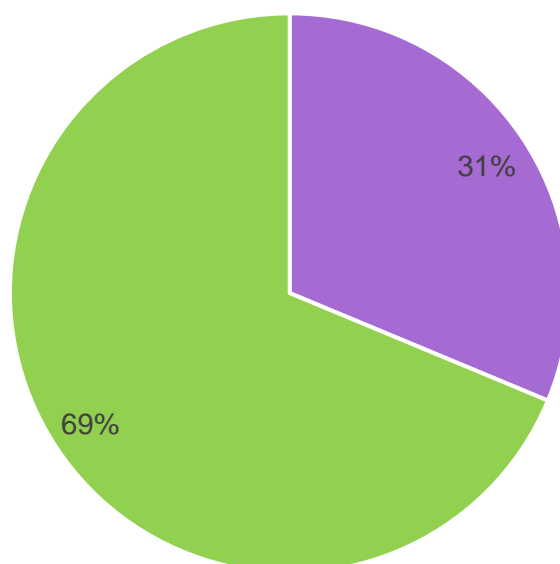
1.141 238 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 76

Consultation Question 76.

12.23 We invite consultees' views as to whether the fee for both parties to give notice of a wedding involving a person who is terminally ill should be:

- (1) the same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis; or
- (2) a separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level.



- The same fee as other cases in which the registration officer must travel to the person giving notice, set nationally on a cost-recovery basis
- A separate fee from other forms of giving notice, set nationally on compassionate grounds at below cost level

	Same fee	Separate fee	TOTAL
Local authority	22	4	26
Registration officer	9	14	23
Anglican	8	11	19
Religious official	5	13	18
Religious organisation	2	14	16
NRBO	0	1	1

NRB celebrant	0	5	5
Independent celebrant	24	69	93
Celebrancy organisation	0	4	4
Venue	6	5	11
Wedding professional	3	0	3
Other organisation	1	5	6
Cruise company	1	0	1
Legal	1	5	6
Academic	2	8	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0
Public	129	310	439
Government	0	0	0
Grand total	213	468	681

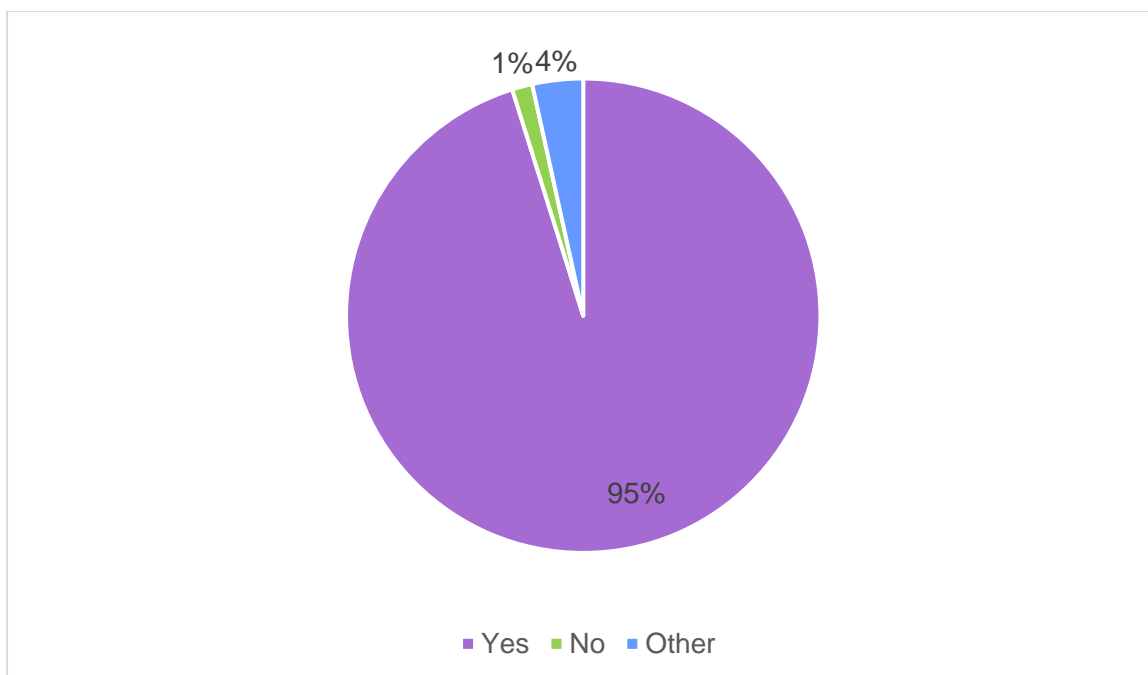
1.142 217 consultees provided comments with their answers. Of those, 50 consultees did not tick either option, but provided written comments.

Consultation Question 77

Consultation Question 77.

12.37 We provisionally propose that it should continue to be possible for couples to have a civil wedding in a register office, for a fee prescribed by regulation.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	26	4	2	32
Registration officer	23	2	2	27
Anglican	22	0	1	23
Religious official	18	0	6	24
Religious organisation	16	0	0	16
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	20	1	0	21
Independent celebrant	114	1	3	118
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	14	0	0	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	0	0	6
Academic	11	0	0	11
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	540	4	15	559
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	826	12	30	868

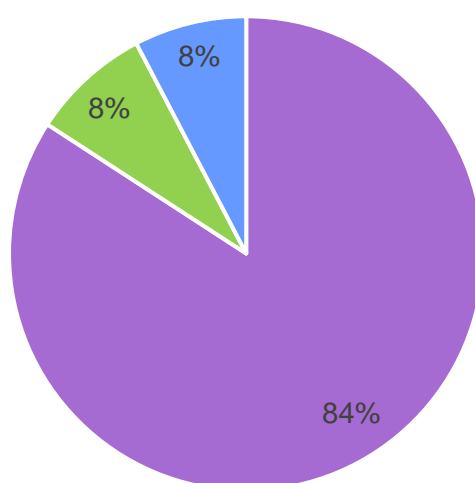
1.143 176 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 78

Consultation Question 78.

12.43 We provisionally propose that if any fee is charged for registration officers to ensure that a location is safe and dignified, that fee should be set by the local authority on a cost-recovery basis.

Do consultees agree?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Other

	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	28	1	1	30
Registration officer	21	3	3	27
Anglican	20	2	0	22
Religious official	16	2	6	24
Religious organisation	13	1	2	16
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	9	1	1	11
Independent celebrant	87	16	6	109
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	0	1	14
Wedding professional	2	1	0	3

Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	1	0	6
Academic	9	0	1	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	455	38	42	535
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	691	67	63	821

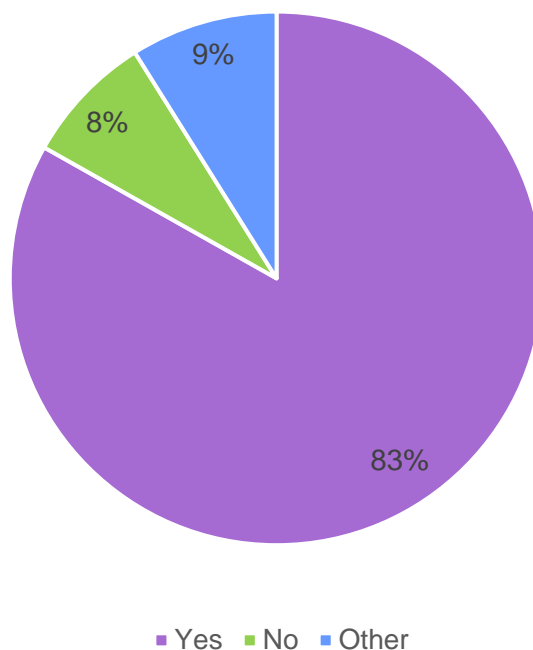
1.144 187 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 79

Consultation Question 79.

12.46 We provisionally propose that if there is an optional pre-approval process for wedding locations that regularly host weddings, any fee for pre-approval should be set by the local authority or Government body responsible for it, on a cost-recovery basis.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	26	1	5	32
Registration officer	21	3	2	26
Anglican	19	0	2	21
Religious official	16	3	5	24
Religious organisation	10	2	4	16
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	7	2	1	10
Independent celebrant	87	15	9	111
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	11	1	3	15
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	7	1	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	5	0	1	6
Academic	8	1	1	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	436	34	38	508
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	662	63	71	796

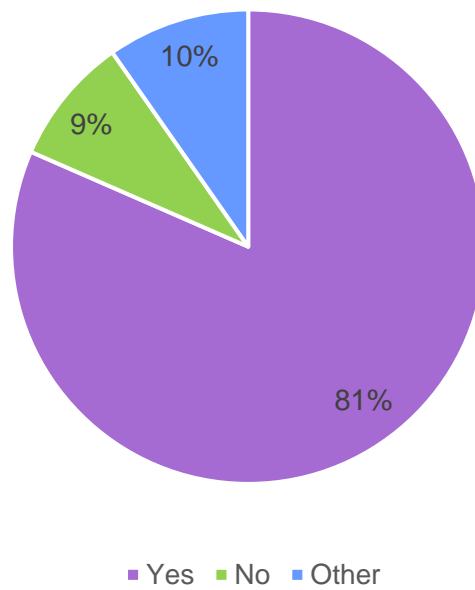
1.145 168 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 80

Consultation Question 80.

12.55 We provisionally propose that there should be an additional fee for a registration officer to officiate at a civil wedding outside the register office, which should be a standardised hourly rate to reflect the cost of the registration officer's time in travelling to and from the wedding, prescribed by regulations to apply across England and Wales.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	6	17	9	32
Registration officer	17	7	4	28
Anglican	21	0	1	22
Religious official	15	1	7	23
Religious organisation	13	0	1	14
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	15	1	2	18
Independent celebrant	83	12	14	109
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	1	1	14
Wedding professional	2	0	0	2
Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	0	0	6
Academic	9	1	0	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	451	31	39	521
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	663	71	79	813

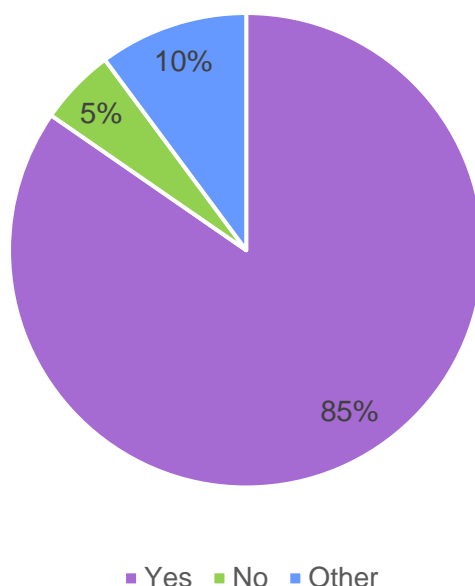
1.146 207 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 81

Consultation Question 81.

12.56 We provisionally propose that the principle that fees for discretionary services should be determined on a cost-recovery basis should continue to apply to additional services that local authorities provide, including for services registration officers provide beyond officiating at a civil ceremony.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	19	11	1	31
Registration officer	22	3	2	27
Anglican	19	1	2	22
Religious official	18	1	5	24
Religious organisation	12	0	2	14
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	6	0	3	9
Independent celebrant	83	6	10	99
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	12	0	1	13
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3

Other organisation	8	0	0	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	0	0	6
Academic	9	1	0	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	410	16	50	476
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	633	39	76	748

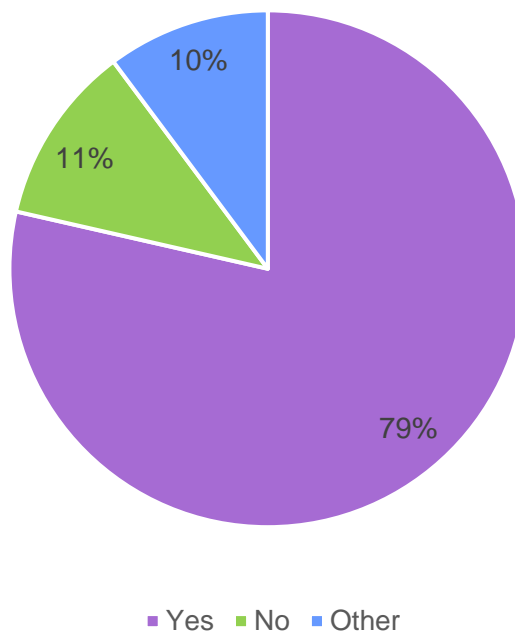
1.147 128 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 82

Consultation Question 82.

12.61 We provisionally propose that the fees for a registration officer to officiate at a wedding at the place where a person is housebound or detained should be the same fees as prescribed for the registration officer to officiate at any other wedding outside the register office.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	15	10	5	30
Registration officer	18	4	5	27
Anglican	19	1	2	22
Religious official	15	2	6	23
Religious organisation	11	3	1	15
NRBO	0	0	1	1
NRB celebrant	6	1	2	9
Independent celebrant	80	15	10	105
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4
Venue	13	0	1	14
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	7	0	0	7
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	4	2	0	6
Academic	10	0	0	10
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	395	48	45	488
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	601	86	78	765

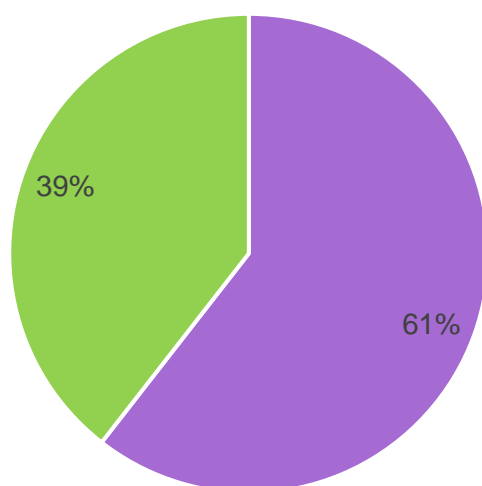
1.148 193 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Consultation Question 83

Consultation Question 83.

12.62 We invite consultees' views as to whether, for a registration officer to officiate at a wedding involving a party who is terminally ill

- (1) the fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery; or
- (2) there should be no fee.



- The fee should be set by regulation at a level below cost-recovery
- There should be no fee

	Fee below cost-recovery	No fee	TOTAL
Local authority	11	1	12
Registration officer	18	6	24
Anglican	7	11	18
Religious official	11	7	18
Religious organisation	4	10	14
NRBO	0	0	0
NRB celebrant	4	1	5
Independent celebrant	54	40	94
Celebrancy organisation	1	3	4
Venue	8	2	10
Wedding professional	3	0	3
Other organisation	4	2	6
Cruise company	1	0	1
Legal	1	5	6
Academic	4	4	8
MP/Lord	0	0	0
Public	254	159	413
Government	0	0	0
Grand total	385	251	636

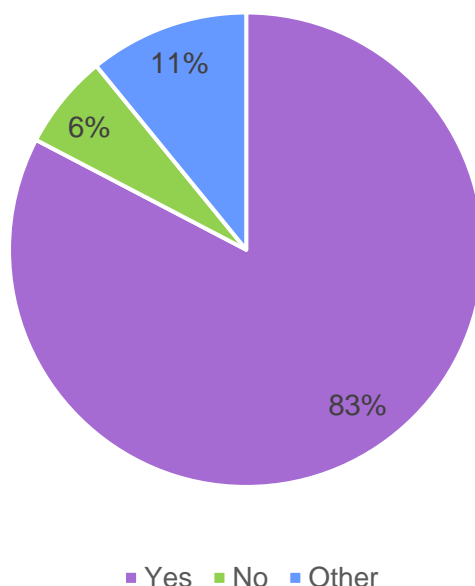
1.149 237 consultees provided comments with their answers. Of those, 98 consultees did not tick either option, but provided written comments.

Consultation Question 84

Consultation Question 84.

12.69 We provisionally propose that the Registrar General should be able to prescribe a fee for an application to authorise an officiant, set at a level to recover any costs incurred in assessing the application.

Do consultees agree?



	Yes	No	Other	TOTAL
Local authority	24	0	6	30
Registration officer	22	2	3	27
Anglican	19	0	2	21
Religious official	12	5	6	23
Religious organisation	15	3	2	20
NRBO	1	0	0	1
NRB celebrant	4	2	3	9
Independent celebrant	89	8	12	109
Celebrancy organisation	4	0	0	4

Venue	10	1	1	12
Wedding professional	3	0	0	3
Other organisation	7	0	1	8
Cruise company	1	0	0	1
Legal	6	0	1	7
Academic	7	0	1	8
MP/Lord	0	0	0	0
Public	391	27	43	461
Government	0	0	0	0
Grand total	615	48	81	744

1.150 169 consultees provided comments with their answers.

Chapter 13

Consultation Question 85

Consultation Question 85.

13.17 We invite consultees' views on:

- (1) whether the current law discourages or prevents couples from getting married; and
- (2) whether our provisional proposals would facilitate couples getting married leading to an increase in the number of couples who are legally married.

Please provide us with any evidence you have of the scale of the impact of the law or any benefits.

1.151 680 consultees responded to Consultation Question 85.

Consultation Question 86.

13.42 We invite consultees' views on the impact of the current law on couples including in relation to:

- (1) the availability and costs of register office weddings;
- (2) the costs of marrying on approved premises;
- (3) the costs of marrying in registered places of worship;
- (4) the costs of marrying in locations that are not authorised for weddings under the current law; and
- (5) the necessity and costs of a having a separate, legally recognised wedding.

13.43 We invite consultees' views on the potential benefits to couples of our proposed scheme, including benefits relating to:

- (1) the availability of register office weddings and any savings in relation to them;
- (2) savings from being able to marry in locations without the need for a pre-approval process, including places of worship, locations that could currently be approved premises, and locations that could not be approved under the current law, such as outdoors or in private homes; and
- (3) the necessity of a separate, legally recognised wedding and any consequent savings.

If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.

1.152 Consultation Question 86 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.153 In response to the first part (para 13.42), 506 consultees responded.

Part 2

1.154 In response to the second part (para 13.43), 406 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 87

Consultation Question 87.

13.61 We invite consultees' views on the impact of the current law on venues, including in relation to:

- (1) the costs resulting from the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005,⁴⁰ including the costs of complying with them and any lost opportunities arising from being unable to fulfil the requirements; and
- (2) the availability of registration officers to attend weddings on approved premises and the costs of their attendance.

13.62 We invite consultees' views on the potential benefits to venues of our proposed scheme, including benefits relating to:

- (1) hosting weddings without requiring Government pre-approval;
- (2) the availability of registration officers for civil weddings;
- (3) the ability of venues to host weddings officiated by religious officiants, and (if enabled by Government to officiate at weddings) non-religious belief organisations and independent officiants; and
- (4) the business opportunities arising from an increase in the number of weddings in England and Wales.

If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it. We would also welcome any data on the size of businesses that are affected by the law or will be impacted under our proposed reforms.

1.155 Consultation Question 87 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.156 In response to the first part (para 13.61), 216 consultees responded.

Part 2

1.157 In response to the second part (para 13.62), 297 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 88

Consultation Question 88.

13.66 We invite consultees' views on the impact of the current law on local authorities.

13.67 We invite consultees' views on the potential benefits to local authorities of our proposed scheme.

If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.

1.158 Consultation Question 88 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.159 In response to the first part (para 13.66), 159 consultees responded.

Part 2

1.160 In response to the second part (para 13.67), 158 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 89

Consultation Question 89.

13.82 We invite consultees' views on the impact of the current law on:

- (1) residents of England and Wales travelling to other jurisdictions to get married; and
- (2) residents of overseas jurisdictions travelling to England and Wales to get married.

13.83 We invite consultees' views on the potential benefits of our proposed scheme relating to:

- (1) residents of England and Wales travelling to other jurisdictions to get married; and
- (2) residents of overseas jurisdictions travelling to England and Wales to get married.

If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.

1.161 Consultation Question 88 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.162 In response to the first part (para 13.82), 216 consultees responded.

Part 2

1.163 In response to the second part (para 13.83), 175 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 90

Consultation Question 90.

13.94 We invite consultees' views on the impact of the current law on the United Kingdom ship register and the maritime industry.

13.95 We invite consultees' views on the potential benefits to the United Kingdom ship register and the maritime industry of our proposed scheme.

If you have any evidence to support your answers, or which might help us assess the extent of possible benefits, please provide it.

1.164 Consultation Question 90 was divided into two parts.

Part 1

1.165 In response to the first part (para 13.94), 84 consultees responded.

Part 2

1.166 In response to the second part (para 13.95), 82 consultees responded.

Consultation Question 91

Consultation Question 91.

13.111 We invite consultees to tell us their views on the potential costs of our provisional proposals, including costs to:

- (1) Government and local authorities;
- (2) businesses;
- (3) religious (and non-religious belief) organisations;
- (4) independent officiants; and / or
- (5) couples.

1.167 320 consultees responded to Consultation Question 91.