

Housing Allocation Consultation

Consultation response analysis report produced by the
Consultation and Engagement Team – Dorset Council

Consultation Response Report

What was the consultation about?	<p>The Council has a public law duty to operate a Housing Allocation Scheme, like all local authorities. This scheme explains how to register for housing, how applications are assessed, and how properties are allocated.</p> <p>Dorset Council is required to periodically review its Housing Allocation Scheme. The current housing allocation scheme was introduced in 2021. The Council intends to amend its Housing Allocation Schemes, so that it continues to meet legal requirements and good practice standards.</p> <p>The proposed policy makes some changes that will affect households on the current housing register. The consultation was to hear the public's views to help shape the new policy.</p>
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation ran from 02/06/25 to 24/08/25.
What consultation methods were used?	<p>This consultation was available through an online survey and a paper version of the survey.</p> <p>The consultation was promoted widely through both the local press and social media. The consultation had a separate communications plan and consultation plan prepared beforehand.</p>
How many responses were received overall?	713 overall responses were received
How representative is the response to the wider population?	<p>53.7% of responses were from Housing Register applicants; 22.0% were members of the public; 16.8% were Social Housing tenants; Registered Providers and Parish/Town Councils were 1.0% respectively; 0.4% were from other organisations, 2.4% were Elected Members; 0.1% were voluntary organisations and 2.7% identified themselves as 'other'.</p> <p>There were significantly more female respondents (71.0%) than male (23.1%). 32.2% of the overall response were from people aged 60 and above, 39.0% from those aged between 40 and 59 with 24.8% 39 or below.</p> <p>37.1% of respondents identified as having a disability.</p>
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk and on Dorset Council's consultation platform
How will the results be used?	Results from this survey will be used to inform the next steps of the process.

Who has produced this report?	Consultation and Engagement Team, Dorset Council, September 2025
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Background

Local authorities are required under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996 to have a housing allocations policy and to ensure social housing allocated accordingly. In 2021 we adopted our first allocations policy. A review of that policy has been carried out along with a consultation, and the findings will inform the new policy due in 2026.

The Consultation

The consultation survey was aimed at Dorset Council residents including those on the current housing register. It asked for their thoughts on the proposed changes.

Analysis Method

Responses to closed questions were reviewed and summarised, with the source of each dataset clearly shown in the report's base notes. All consultation questions and their results are included. For open-ended comments, we looked for common themes where enough people responded to make patterns clear. These themes were grouped and reported based on how often each issue was mentioned.

Note: Figures may not always total precisely due to rounding.

Executive Summary

Dorset Council undertook a public consultation from 2 June to 24 August 2025 to gather feedback on proposed changes to its Housing Allocation Policy. The consultation aimed to ensure the policy remains legally compliant, reflects best practice, and continues to meet the needs of residents. A total of **713 responses** were received, with the majority (53.7%) from current Housing Register applicants.

Key Findings

Criteria Changes:

- **Residency Requirement:** 66% supported the requirement for applicants to be residents in Dorset by choice. However, support dropped to 55% for changing the qualifying period to two years, with higher opposition from the general public.

- **Close Family Connection:** 70.3% agreed with recognising close family ties in Dorset. Support for the two-year timeframe was lower (54.1%), again with higher disagreement among the public.
- **Employment-Based Eligibility:** 62.7% supported recognising employment of 16+ hours/week in Dorset. The two-year employment requirement received 57.6% support, with stronger backing from the public than tenants or applicants.

Removal of Criteria:

- **Criteria 4:** 41.2% supported its removal, but 31.6% were neutral, indicating uncertainty.
- **Older People with No Local Connection:** 74.6% supported removal, with strongest support from the public (88.4%).
- **Housing-Related Debt:** 53.6% supported removal, though 25.9% were neutral and 15.6% opposed.
- **Banding System:**
 - **New Band Names:** 49.2% supported the proposed names, with 29.4% neutral and 18.8% opposed.
 - **Banding Criteria:** 54.6% supported the proposed criteria, with Housing Register applicants showing the highest agreement (58.4%).
- **Special Groups:**
 - **Armed Forces Community:** 53% supported the proposed banding, though 28% were neutral.
 - **Care Leavers & Tenancy Capability:** 54.1% supported the proposed requirements, with 32.1% neutral.
- **Other Proposals:**
 - **Savings & Earnings Thresholds:** 63.3% supported the proposed criteria.
 - **Refusal of Nominations:** 74.2% supported allowing up to three refusals; 59.5% agreed with reducing banding for 12 months after three refusals.
 - **Quotas:** 50.4% supported inclusion of quotas, with 33.2% neutral.
 - **Overcrowding Assessment:** 55.9% supported using the bedroom standard over Local Housing Allowance criteria.
 - **Direct Lets for Homeless Households:** 65.4% supported this approach.

Conclusion

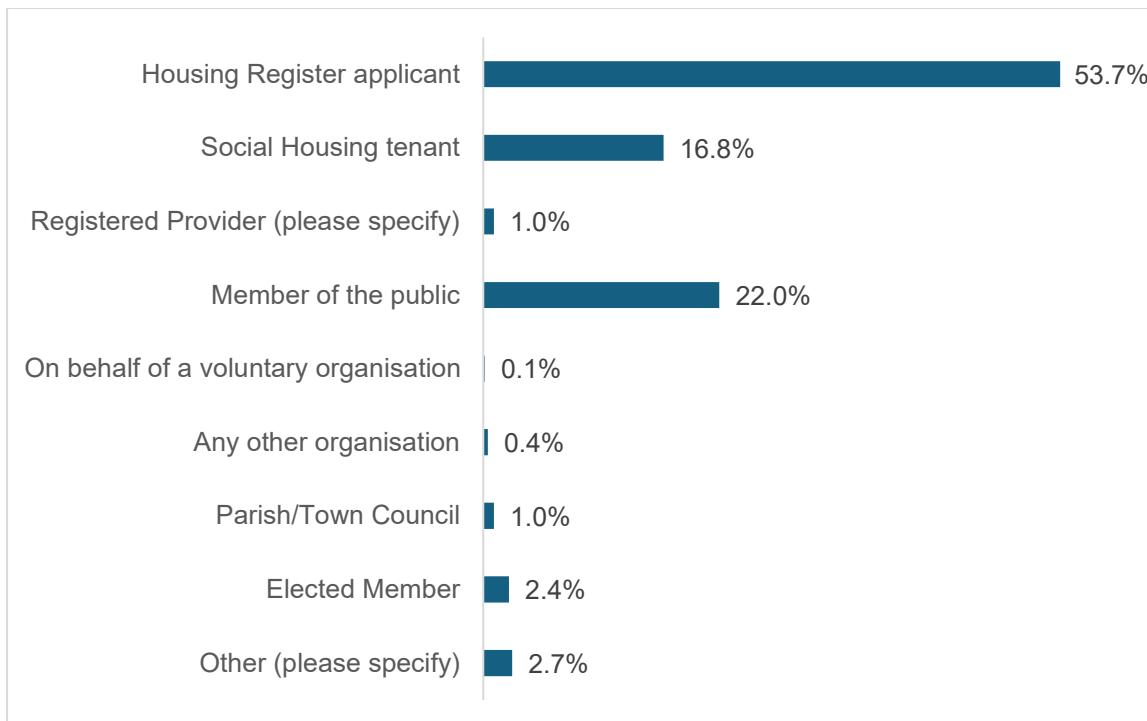
The consultation revealed broad support for many of the proposed changes, particularly around local connection, employment, and simplifying the banding

system. However, some proposals, especially those involving timeframes and removal of certain categories, produced mixed views or uncertainty.

Data Analysis

Q1. I am responding as a:

Base: n=710



Option	Total	Percent
Housing Register applicant	381	53.7%
Social Housing tenant	119	16.8%
Registered Provider (please specify)	7	1.0%
Member of the public	156	22.0%
On behalf of a voluntary organisation	1	0.1%
Any other organisation	3	0.4%
Parish/Town Council	7	1.0%
Elected Member	17	2.4%
Other (please specify)	19	2.7%

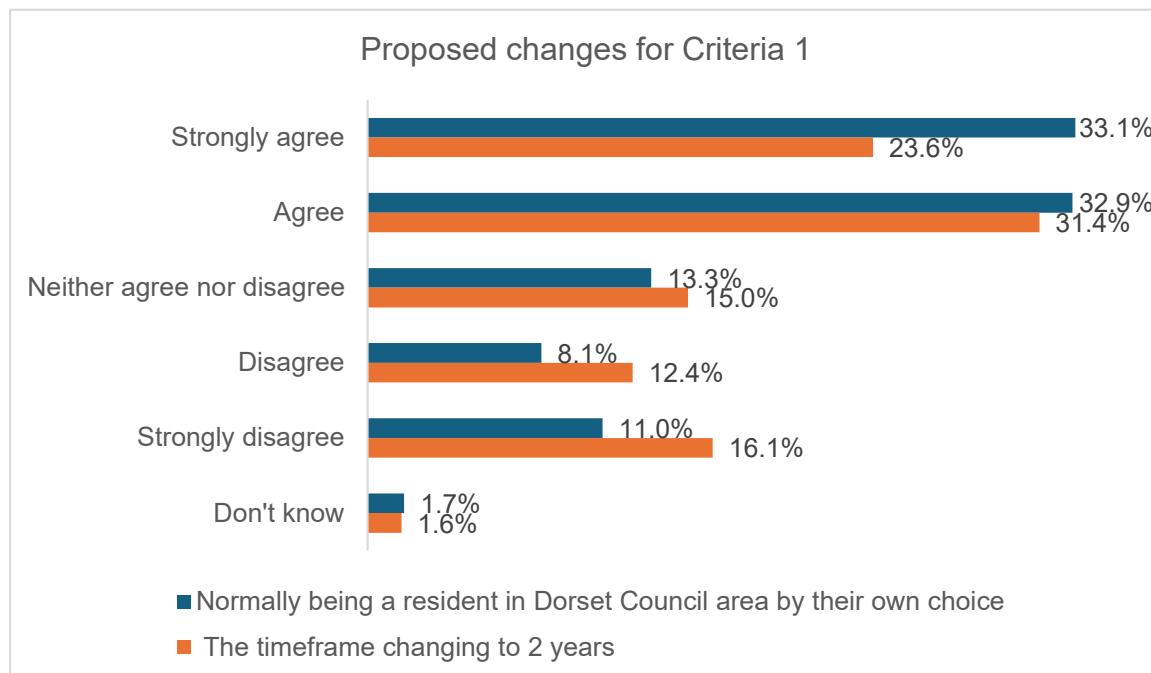
The majority of responses (53.7%) came from Housing Register applicants, indicating a strong interest or concern from individuals actively seeking housing.

Members of the public made up the second-largest group at 22.0%, followed by Social Housing tenants at 16.8%, suggesting broader community engagement beyond those directly involved in housing services. Smaller proportions of responses came from Elected Members (2.4%), Other (2.7%), and Registered Providers and Parish/Town Councils (each at 1.0%). Minimal input was received from voluntary organisations (0.1%) and other organisations (0.4%). Overall, the data suggests that the consultation was most effective in reaching individuals directly affected by housing issues.

Respondent type	Respondent details
Registered Provider	Abri
Registered Provider	Aster Group
Registered Provider	Supported Living
Registered Provider	Aster
Registered Provider	Abri
Registered Provider	Magna Housing
Registered Provider	BCHA
Other	Local person wants housing
Other	Awaiting rehousing from MAGNA
Other	Council house tenant, and currently on bidding site waiting for housing
Other	I'm on the housing register and also work in supported accommodation
Other	Home for Ukraine
Other	Mother of a housing register applicant
Other	I am a tenant but am waiting for a three bed property
Other	Planning consultant
Other	carer for social housing tenant
Other	Housing Register applicant and Social Housing Tenant
Other	Dorset Council
Other	DC employee
Other	Housing Professional
Other	Mother of a tenant
Other	Property landlady
Other	Carer of Social Housing Register Applicant
Other	Householder
Other	Local resident who also works within housing
Other	Professional supporting young people

Q2. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes for Criteria 1?

Base: Normally being a resident in Dorset Council area by their own choice (n -702), The timeframe changing to 2 years (n-695)



Criteria 1: Normally being a resident in Dorset Council area by their own choice	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	232	33.1%
Agree	231	32.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	93	13.3%
Disagree	57	8.1%
Strongly disagree	77	11.0%
Don't know	12	1.7%

Criteria 1: The timeframe changing to 2 years	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	164	23.6%
Agree	218	31.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	104	15.0%
Disagree	86	12.4%
Strongly disagree	112	16.1%
Don't know	11	1.6%

The results for Criteria 1 indicate stronger support for the proposal that individuals should normally be residents in the Dorset Council area by their own choice, with 66% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. In contrast, the proposed change to extend the residency timeframe to two years received comparatively less support, with 55% expressing agreement.

Opposition to the two-year timeframe was notably higher, with 28.5% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, compared to 19.1% for the residency criteria. These findings

indicate that while there is broad support for the principle of voluntary residency, the proposed change to the two-year timeframe appears to be more contentious and may benefit from clearer communication or further justification to enhance public understanding and acceptance.

Looking at different respondent types, females had a sizeable difference for the timeframe changing to 2 years proposal versus males. Respondents identifying as male had lower levels of agreement than both females and the overall data, at 46.2% (73), with higher levels of disagreement at 34.8% (55).

Female respondents however were slightly higher than the overall in terms of agreement, and lower for disagreement. 58.5% (288) expressed agreement, with 25.2% (124) disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

Looking across the respondent types in the tables below, support for residency by choice has a majority agreement across all groups. However, overall opposition is higher for members of the public by comparison.

The data for the proposed 2-year timeframe shows a sharp divide, especially among the public. This group had a disagreement rate of (42.1%) compared to social housing tenants (26.9%) and housing register applicants (22.8%).

Criteria 1: Normally being a resident in Dorset Council area by their own choice

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	67.0%	16.1%
Housing Register applicant	67.1%	15.5%
Member of the public	61.3%	29.7%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-118); Housing Register applicant (n-374); Member of the public (n-155)

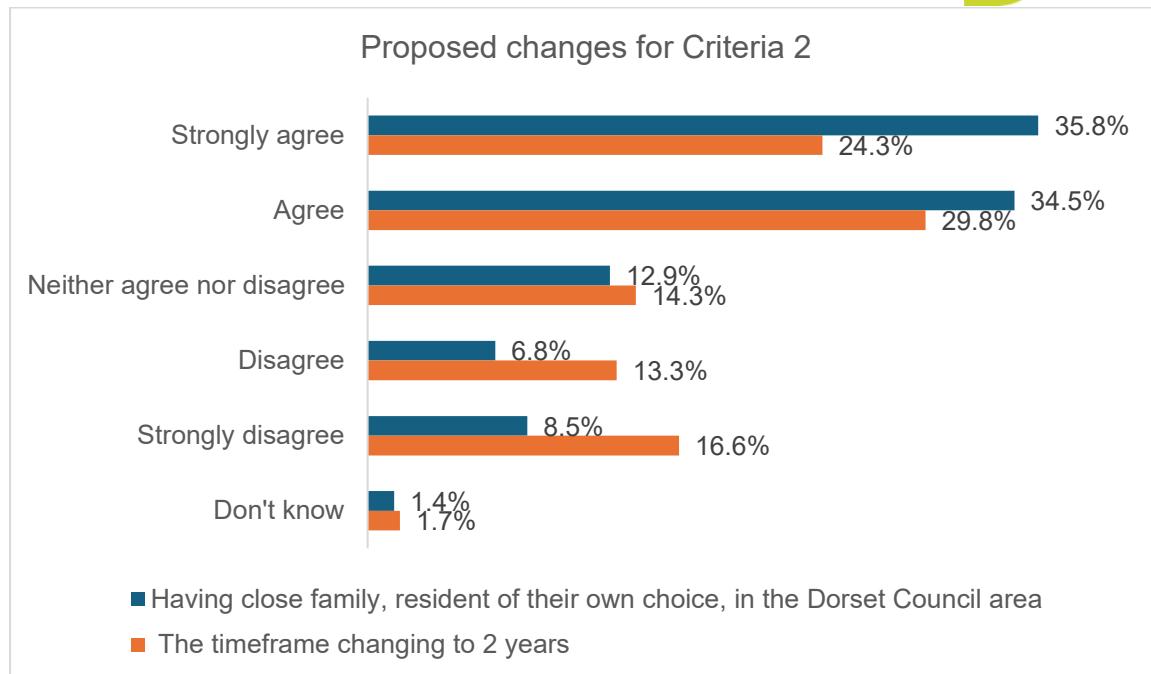
Criteria 1: The timeframe changing to 2 years

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	62.2%	26.9%
Housing Register applicant	55.0%	22.8%
Member of the public	48.0%	42.1%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-369); Member of the public (n-152)

Q3. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes to Criteria 2?

Base: Having close family, resident of their own choice, in the Dorset Council area (n -704), The timeframe changing to 2 years (n-692)



Criteria 2: Having close family, resident of their own choice, in the Dorset Council area	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	252	35.8%
Agree	243	34.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	91	12.9%
Disagree	48	6.8%
Strongly disagree	60	8.5%
Don't know	10	1.4%

Criteria 2: The timeframe changing to 2 years	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	168	24.3%
Agree	206	29.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	99	14.3%
Disagree	92	13.3%
Strongly disagree	115	16.6%
Don't know	12	1.7%

Results for Criteria 2 indicate stronger support for the proposal that individuals should have close family living in the Dorset Council area by their own choice, with 70.3% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. In contrast, the proposed change to reduce the residency timeframe to two years received comparatively less support, with 54.1% expressing agreement.

Opposition to the two-year timeframe was notably higher, with 29.9% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, compared to 15.3% for the close family residency criteria. These findings suggest that while there is broad support for recognising voluntary family connections within the area, the proposed reduction to a two-year timeframe is

more divisive and may require additional explanation or outreach to build broader understanding and support.

For the having close family proposal, there are again similar differences between female and male respondents. As before, female respondents had higher levels of agreement than the both the overall and when compared with males, at 73.4% (365). Conversely, although still showing a clear majority, males had lower levels of agreement at 67.5% (108).

This trend continues for the second proposal too. 57.1% (278) of female respondents expressed agreement for the change to the timeframe, opposed to just under half of males, at 49.4% (48). Males also had higher levels of disagreement compared to the overall data and females in addition to this, with 34.2% (54) either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. 27.1% (132) of female respondents expressed disagreement.

The data in the tables below demonstrate that Social Housing tenants and Housing Register tenants show the strongest agreement with the close family criteria at 70.9% and 70.1% respectively. In contrast, Members of the public show the highest disagreement with the proposed 2-year timeframe (46.4%), significantly more than Social Housing tenants (28.0%) and Housing Register applicants (22.8%).

These differences suggest that the public is more open to stricter residency requirements, while tenants are more supportive of both criteria.

Criteria 2: Having close family, resident of their own choice, in the Dorset Council area

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	70.9%	17.1%
Housing Register applicant	70.1%	12.2%
Member of the public	68.2%	20.1%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-117); Housing Register applicant (n-378); Member of the public (n-154)

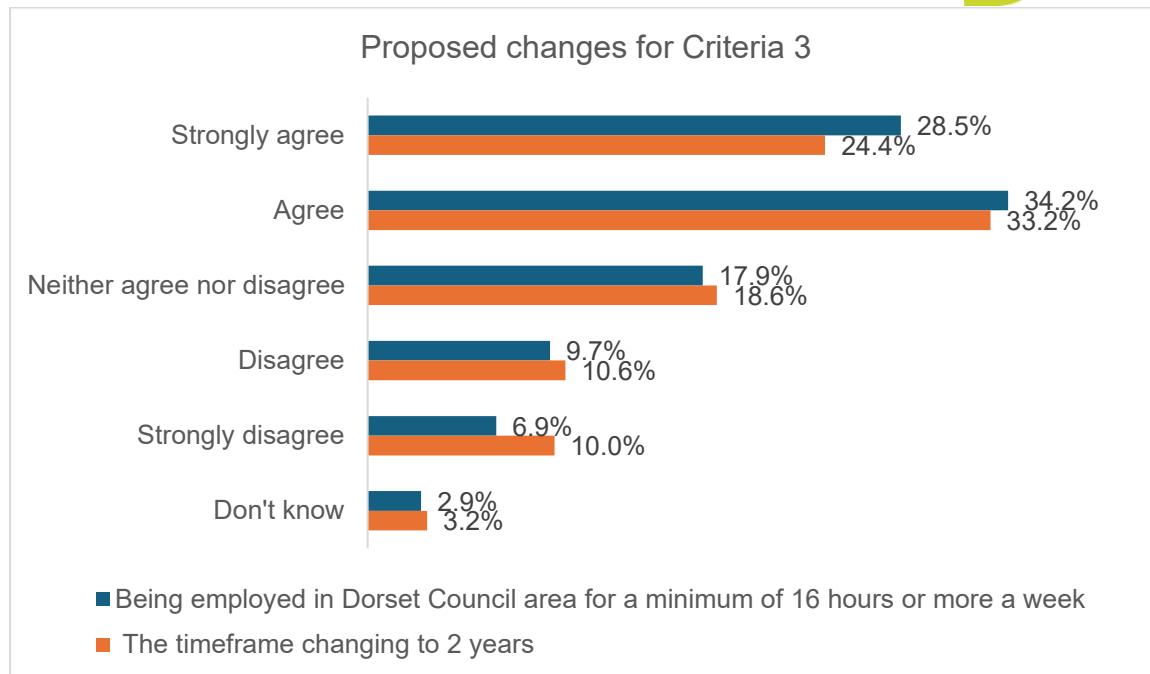
Criteria 2: The timeframe changing to 2 years

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	56.8%	28.0%
Housing Register applicant	57.1%	22.8%
Member of the public	44.4%	46.4%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-118); Housing Register applicant (n-368); Member of the public (n-151)

Q4. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed changes for Criteria 3?

Base: Being employed in Dorset Council area for a minimum of 16 hours or more a week (n-699), The timeframe changing to 2 years (n-692)



Criteria 3: Being employed in Dorset Council area for a minimum of 16 hours or more a week	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	199	28.5%
Agree	239	34.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	125	17.9%
Disagree	68	9.7%
Strongly disagree	48	6.9%
Don't know	20	2.9%

Criteria 3: The timeframe changing to 2 years	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	169	24.4%
Agree	230	33.2%
Neither agree nor disagree	129	18.6%
Disagree	73	10.6%
Strongly disagree	69	10.0%
Don't know	22	3.2%

The findings for Criteria 3 show stronger support for the proposal that individuals working at least 16 hours per week in the Dorset Council area should be recognised, with 62.7% of respondents expressing agreement or strong agreement. In comparison, the proposal to introduce a two-year employment timeframe received slightly lower backing, with 57.6% in favour.

Levels of disagreement were more pronounced for the two-year timeframe, with 20.6% of respondents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing, compared

to 16.6% for the current employment criteria. These results suggest that while the principle of acknowledging local employment is broadly accepted, the proposed timeframe adjustment has raised more concerns and may require additional context or clearer justification to strengthen public understanding and support.

Respondents that identified as disabled had lower levels of agreement compared to the overall for the being employed in the Dorset Council area proposal, with 55.2% (144) agreeing. A higher percentage also remained neutral, with 22.6% (59) neither agreeing nor disagreeing with the proposal.

Similarly, for the timeframe changing to 2 years, 50% (126) of respondents that identified as disabled agreed, which is lower than the overall levels of agreement. Again, a higher percentage responded neutrally, with 23.4% (59) answering so.

Members of the public show the highest agreement with both the employment criteria (71.1%) and the 2-year timeframe (63.8%). This is noticeably more than Social Housing tenants (59.0% and 55.3%) and Housing Register applicants (60.1% and 54.3%). Disagreement levels are similar across all groups for both aspects, but the public's stronger support for the employment-based criteria stands out as the key difference.

Criteria 3: Being employed in Dorset Council area for a minimum of 16 hours or more a week

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	59.0%	18.8%
Housing Register applicant	60.1%	15.2%
Member of the public	71.1%	18.4%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-117); Housing Register applicant (n-376); Member of the public (n-152)

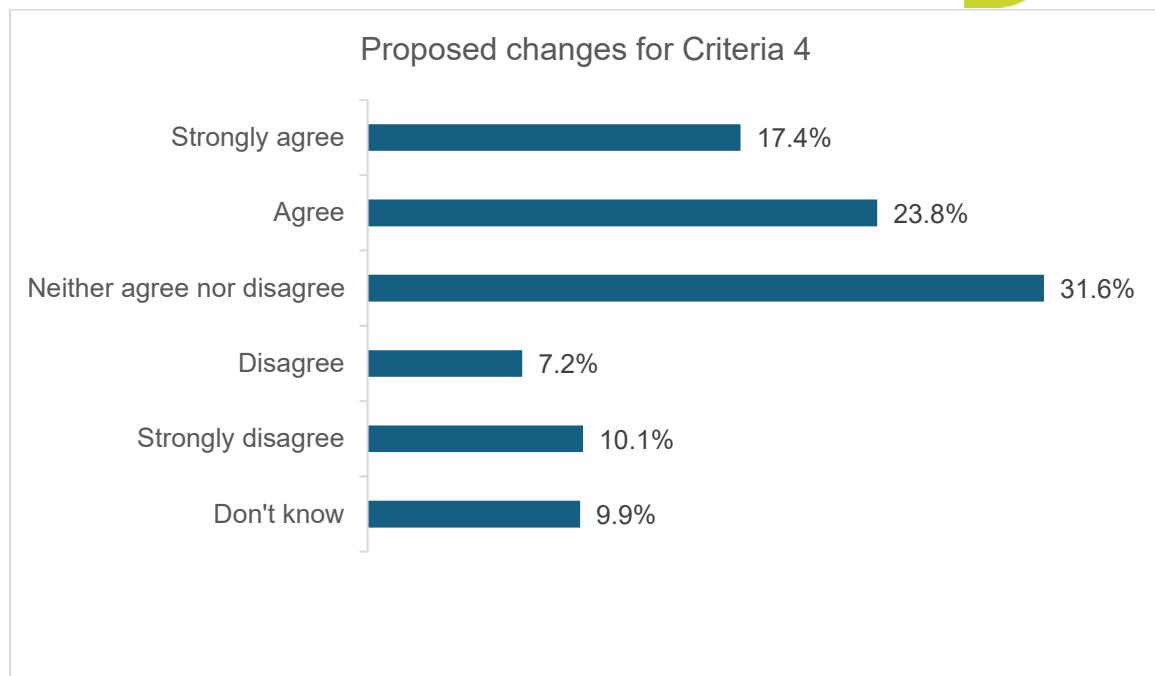
Criteria 3: The timeframe changing to 2 years

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	55.3%	21.1%
Housing Register applicant	54.3%	20.5%
Member of the public	63.8%	20.4%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-114); Housing Register applicant (n-370); Member of the public (n-152)

Q5. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposals for Criteria 4 to be removed?

Base: n-706



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	123	17.4%
Agree	168	23.8%
Neither agree nor disagree	223	31.6%
Disagree	51	7.2%
Strongly disagree	71	10.1%
Don't know	70	9.9%

The responses to the proposal to remove criteria 4 show a relatively mixed picture. A combined total of 41.2% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the removal, while 17.3% expressed disagreement. Notably, the largest proportion of respondents (31.6%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and a further 9.9% selected 'Don't know,' indicating a significant level of uncertainty or ambivalence. These results suggest that while there is some support for removing criteria 4, a substantial portion of respondents are either undecided or unsure. This may reflect a lack of clarity around the implications of the change and could benefit from further explanation or engagement.

Housing Register applicants show the highest agreement with the removal (43.7%) and the lowest disagreement (13.4%). In contrast, members of the public have a higher disagreement (22.9%) than both Social Housing tenants (19.3%) and particularly housing register applicants (13.4%), indicating more concern about removing this criterion.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
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Social Housing tenant	37.0%	19.3%
Housing Register applicant	43.7%	13.4%
Member of the public	37.9%	22.9%

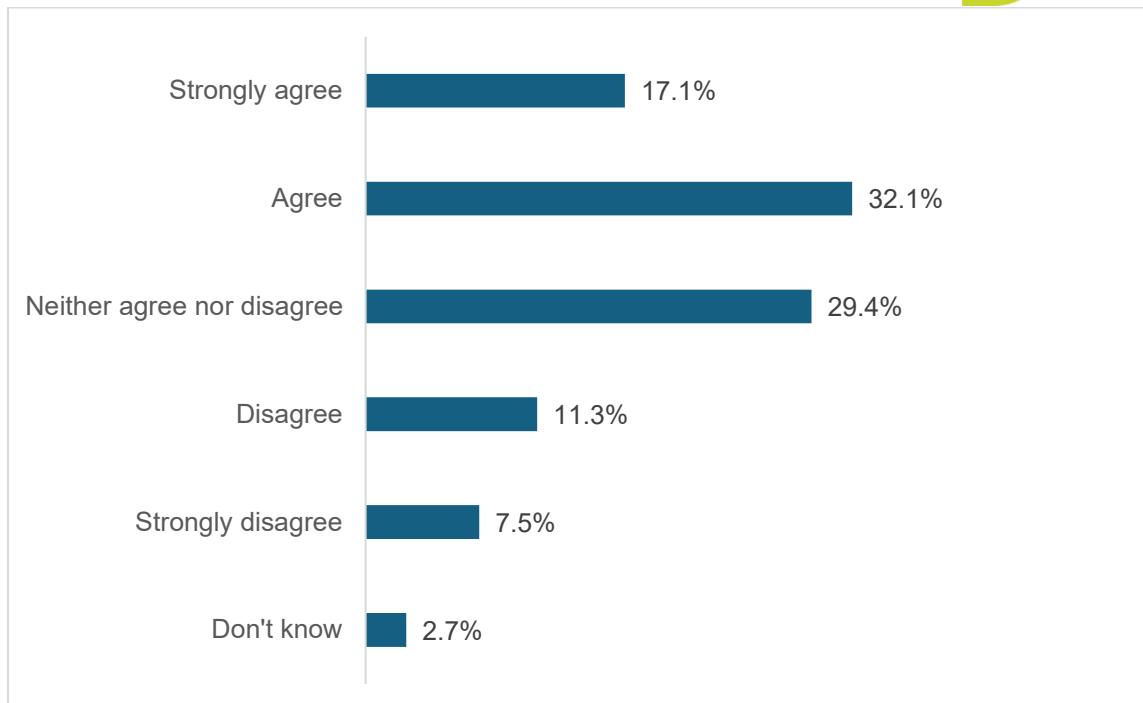
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-380); Member of the public (n-153)

Q6. If you disagree with any of the criteria proposals, please let us know which ones and why

Comment/theme	Total
Comments against proposals re changes to residency in area	101
Comments against changes to close family connection (5yrs to 2 yrs)	86
Local houses for local people / locals should take priority	69
Personal issues re allocation system / comments about personal situation	67
Comments against changes to increase from 1 to 2 yrs in paid employment	66
Comments relating s106 and location requirements	35
Retired / disability category / Equality, Diversity and Inclusion comments	34
Not enough suitable property / property allocation	29
Uncategorised statement	24
Comments supporting changes to close family connection (5yrs to 2 yrs)	20
General comments about accessibility of survey / wording of policy	11
Comments in support of change to residency in area	9
Comments re community and infrastructure needs	7
No change	5
Comments re cross border allocation	4
Comments supporting changes to increase from 1 to 2 yrs in paid employment	4
Need to give single people higher priority / more property availability	2

Q7. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed new band names above?

Base: n-708



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	121	17.1%
Agree	227	32.1%
Neither agree nor disagree	208	29.4%
Disagree	80	11.3%
Strongly disagree	53	7.5%
Don't know	19	2.7%

The responses to the proposed new band names show a moderate level of support, with just under half (49.2%) of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the changes. However, a significant proportion (29.4%) neither agreed nor disagreed, suggesting a degree of ambivalence or uncertainty. Opposition was relatively low, with 18.8% expressing disagreement or strong disagreement, and 2.7% indicating they didn't know.

Members of the public show the lowest agreement (44.1%) and the highest disagreement (22.4%) compared to Social Housing tenants (51.3% agreement, 16.0% disagreement) and Housing Register applicants (51.2% agreement, 17.9% disagreement), indicating greater scepticism among the public toward the proposed naming changes.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	51.3%	16.0%
Housing Register applicant	51.2%	17.9%
Member of the public	44.1%	22.4%

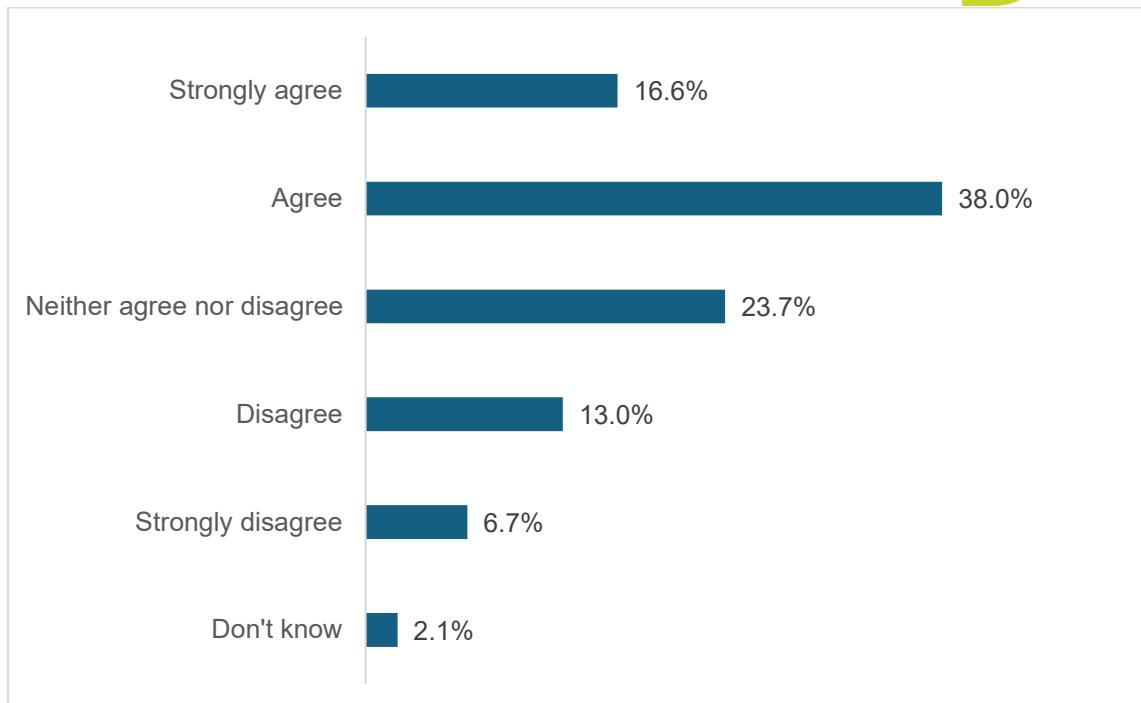
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-381); Member of the public (n-152)

Q8. If you disagree with specific parts of the banding names, please specify which parts you do not agree with and explain your reasons

Comment/theme	Total
It doesn't matter/makes no difference	75
I don't understand the language used	38
Banding system isn't fair	34
Unmet' or 'other' seems disrespectful	22
I don't agree with the banding I am on	19
Priority level is above urgent need	10
Prioritise longer waits	9
Prioritise local people/UK citizens	8
Depends on the criteria for each band	6
You never get moved	5
I like the new criteria	3
Prioritise those who are employed	3
Need more affordable social housing	3
Observe individual cases	3
Band A should be medical and homelessness	3
Replace priority with 'immediate'	1
Basic human rights is an issue	1
Make it easier to downsize or house swap	1
Armed forces should not take priority	1
We need a sub banding system	1
Current banding easier to understand	1

Q9. How much do you agree or disagree with the banding criteria proposed?

Base: n-706



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	117	16.6%
Agree	268	38.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	167	23.7%
Disagree	92	13.0%
Strongly disagree	47	6.7%
Don't know	15	2.1%

The proposal for the new banding criteria received a fair level of support, with an overall agreement of 54.6%. However, 23.7% neither agreed nor disagreed, and a further 2.1% selected 'Don't know,' suggesting that a notable portion of respondents may not feel strongly about the changes or may lack sufficient information to form an opinion.

Although not the majority view, 19.7% of respondents did express some level of opposition. These findings suggest that although the proposed criteria are broadly supported, a notable proportion of respondents remain uncertain or undecided about the changes.

Comparing against different respondents, there was a slight difference for those identifying as male. 60.9% (98) of males either agreed or strongly agreed, showing a higher level of support for the proposed banding criteria than the overall figures. Responses from females were closely aligned to the overall figures.

Housing Register applicants show the highest agreement (58.4%) and lowest disagreement (17.1%), indicating stronger support for the proposed criteria. In

contrast, Social Housing tenants (47.9% agreement, 25.2% disagreement) and members of the public (47.4% agreement, 24.3% disagreement) are more divided, with notably higher levels of disagreement.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	47.9%	25.2%
Housing Register applicant	58.4%	17.1%
Member of the public	47.4%	24.3%

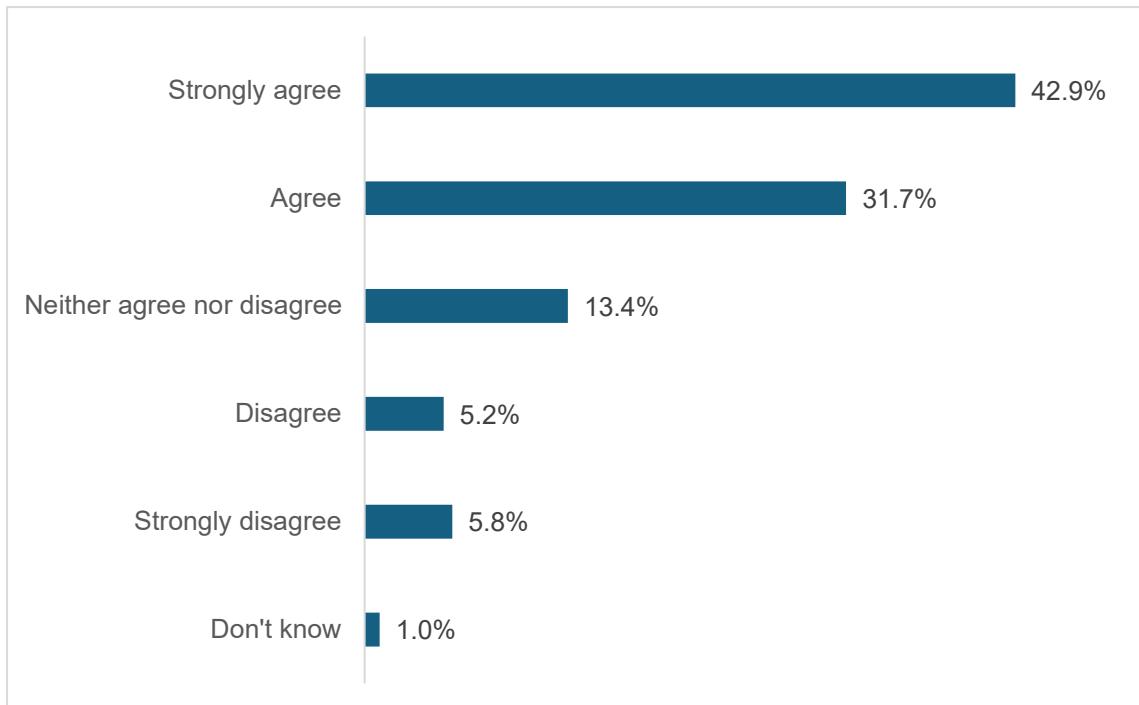
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-380); Member of the public (n-152)

Q10. If you disagree with the banding criteria proposed, let us know why here:

Comment/theme	Total
Disagree with the grouping/banding	63
Other 'priority group' suggestions	44
Relates to personal circumstances	28
Should prioritise UK/local residents	21
Clarify definition/wording	18
Consider medical needs in banding	15
Free up bigger homes when household numbers have reduced	14
Consider disability in banding	9
Agree with proposals	7
Consider length of time on housing list	7
Need detail on 'how' these are changing	5
Groups missing from categories	5
System could be open to abuse	5
Uncategorised comment	5
It is confusing	5
Changing the banding/wording will not change the outcome	4
System is not fair	4
Recognise the varying age/abilities of pensioners	2
Refers to previous answer	2
Single people overlooked	2
People paying unaffordable private rental should be included	2
It is easier to understand	2
Previous banding was better	1
Overcrowding should be 1 or more bedrooms	1
Age should be a consideration	1
Only band 1 will be housed	1
Protections for tenants	1
Should identify affordable housing ownership	1
Consider timescales around age and room sharing	1

Q11. How much do you agree or disagree with removing the category 'Older people with no Local Connection'?

Base: n=709



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	304	42.9%
Agree	225	31.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	95	13.4%
Disagree	37	5.2%
Strongly disagree	41	5.8%
Don't know	7	1.0%

The proposal to remove the category 'Older people with no Local Connection' received strong support, with an overall agreement of 74.6%. Only 11% expressed disagreement, while 13.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 1.0% selected 'Don't know.'

These results suggest a clear majority in favour of the removal, with relatively low levels of disagreement or uncertainty. The strength of support may reflect a shared view that local connection should be a consistent requirement across all applicant groups.

Members of the public show the strongest support for removal of 'older people with no local connection' category (88.4%) and the lowest disagreement (7.7%), followed by Social Housing tenants (79.8% agreement). Housing Register applicants are

slightly less supportive (67.3%) and show slightly higher disagreement (12.7%), marking them as the most cautious group on this proposal.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	79.8%	10.9%
Housing Register applicant	67.3%	12.7%
Member of the public	88.4%	7.7%

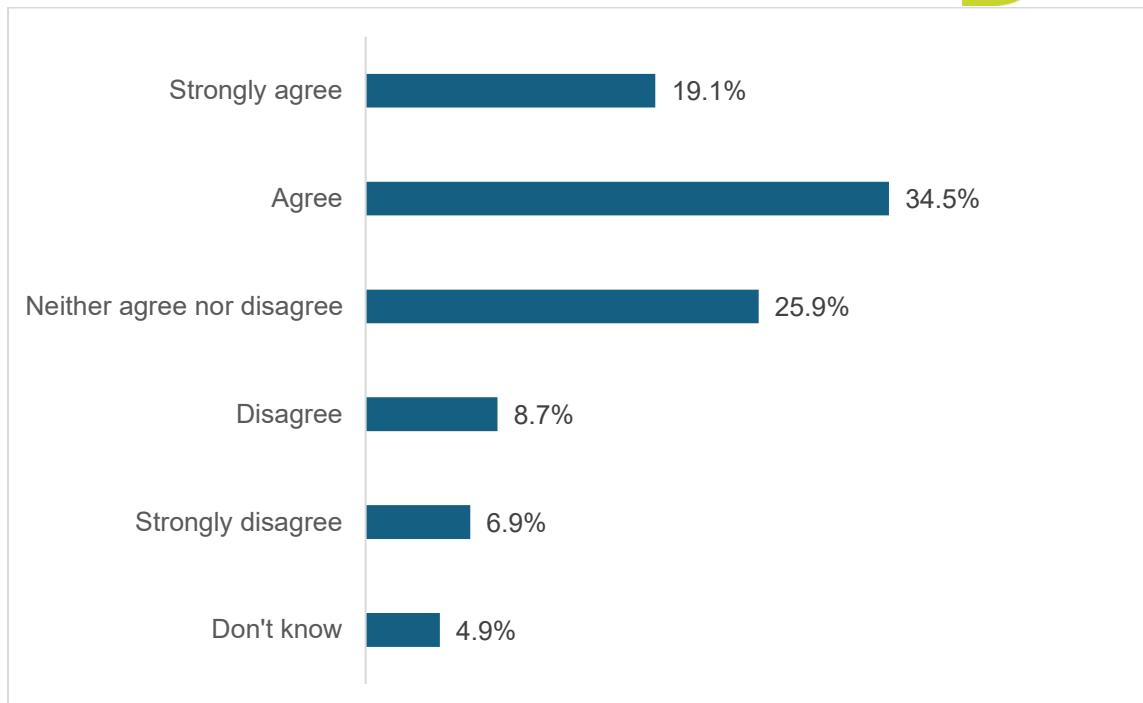
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-379); Member of the public (n-155)

Q11. Disagree comments - Removing older persons housing no local connection

Comment/theme	Total
Locals should have first priority - "born and bred" / lived here for years	19
Need to move closer to family for support	11
Dorset 'local' but have 'no local connection' - either no family or not worked in DC area	11
Older people need support / are vulnerable / social care is expensive / ageing population	11
Support the removal of the 'Older Persons housing with no local connection'	10
Should be able to live where you want in the UK / able to swap	10
Comments relating to personal situation	10
Too much accommodation for older people, not enough for families	10
Disagree - would be unable to retire to the south coast /near the sea	8
Comment not categorised	7
Unclear about what 'local connection' means	6
Properties reserved for older people should not be on open market	6
Should be able to move within the DC area	4
Need to increase housing stock suitable for single AND older people	4
Concern for homeless older people	3
Properties reserved for older people could be used for general use	3
Difficult for older people to downsize to smaller/suitable property	2
Wording of changes don't help	2
Look at individual on case-by-case basis	1

Q12. How much do you agree or disagree with removing the category of 'housing related debt'?

Base: n-711



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	136	19.1%
Agree	245	34.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	184	25.9%
Disagree	62	8.7%
Strongly disagree	49	6.9%
Don't know	35	4.9%

The proposal to remove the category 'Housing-related debt' received moderate support, with an overall agreement of 53.6%. However, 25.9% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 4.9% selected 'Don't know,' indicating a notable level of uncertainty or ambivalence.

Overall disagreement was relatively limited at 15.6%. These results suggest that while the proposal is generally supported, the significant proportion of neutral and unsure responses may reflect a need for greater clarity around the implications of removing this category.

Housing Register applicants show the highest agreement (55.9%) and the lowest disagreement (12.9%), indicating strong support for removal. In contrast, members of the public show similar agreement to Social Housing tenants (49.0% vs. 50.4%) but have a much higher disagreement (23.9%), suggesting greater concern among the public about removing this category.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	50.4%	14.3%
Housing Register applicant	55.9%	12.9%

Member of the public	49.0%	23.9%
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Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-381); Member of the public (n-155)

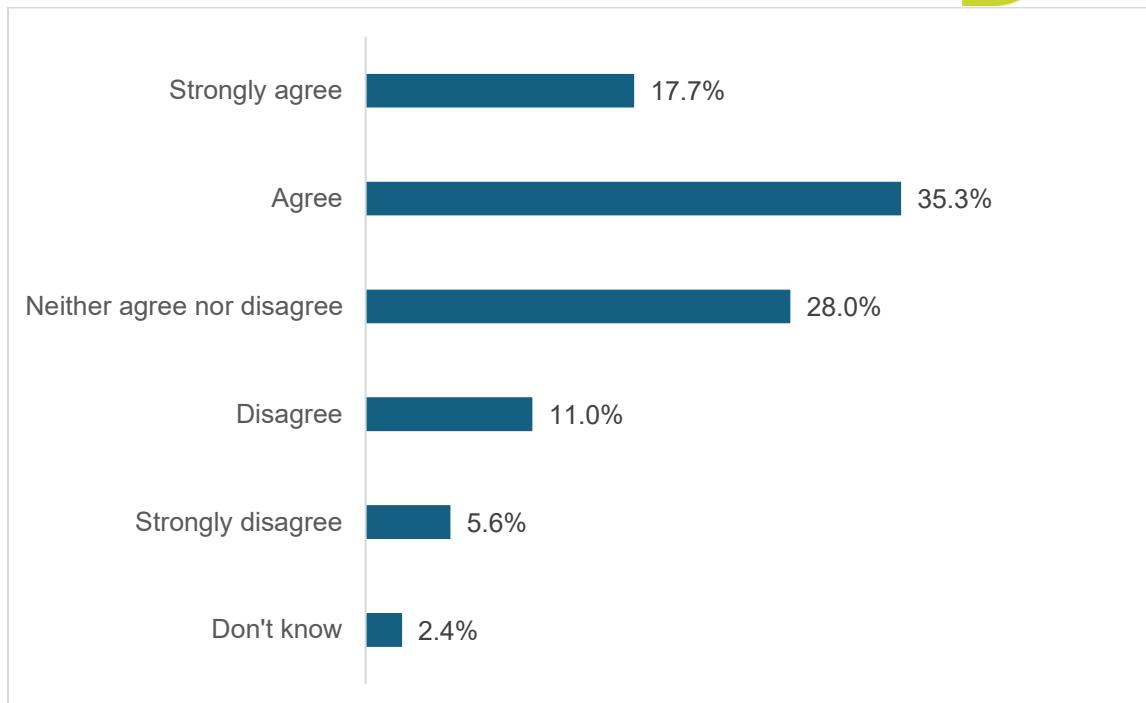
Q13. Removal of housing related debt- disagree comments

Comment/theme	Total
Perceived unfairness	25
Based on individual circumstances - consider the reasons	22
People should learn to budget/ manage debt	16
An 'easy way out' perpetuates the pattern	15
Should be based on people wilfully trying to improve their circumstances	12
Money/rent/debt should be prioritised before re-housing	8
They need help and support	7
Further detail/definition required	6
Non-payment shouldn't be rewarded	5
Personal circumstances comments	4
The state makes it too easy	4
There should be repercussions	3
People should have responsibility for what they owe	3
Don't know enough to comment	2
People without debt should have priority	2
Other	2
Creative ways to pay off the debt	1
Do not disagree - debt creates barriers	1
It will affect our communities negatively	1
No apparent change	1
Financial assessment should be included	1
People who can't pay, won't pay	1
It could make people more vulnerable	1
Moving could help/improve their financial situation	1

Q14. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed banding criteria?

Armed Forces Community

Base: n-711



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	126	17.7%
Agree	251	35.3%
Neither agree nor disagree	199	28.0%
Disagree	78	11.0%
Strongly disagree	40	5.6%
Don't know	17	2.4%

The proposed banding criteria for the Armed Forces Community received a fair level of support, with over half of respondents (53%) either agreeing or strongly agreeing. However, 28% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 2.4% selected 'Don't know,' indicating a degree of uncertainty or lack of strong opinion among a notable portion of respondents.

A smaller proportion of respondents (16.6%) expressed disagreement with the proposal. These findings suggest that while the criteria are generally viewed positively, the relatively high proportion of neutral responses may point to a need for further clarification or awareness around how the changes would affect this group.

Members of the public show the highest agreement (60.0%), noticeably more supportive than Social Housing tenants (47.9%) and Housing Register applicants (50.7%). Social Housing tenants also show the highest disagreement (22.7%), suggesting more reservations within that group compared to others.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	47.9%	22.7%
Housing Register applicant	50.7%	13.1%

Member of the public	60.0%	18.7%
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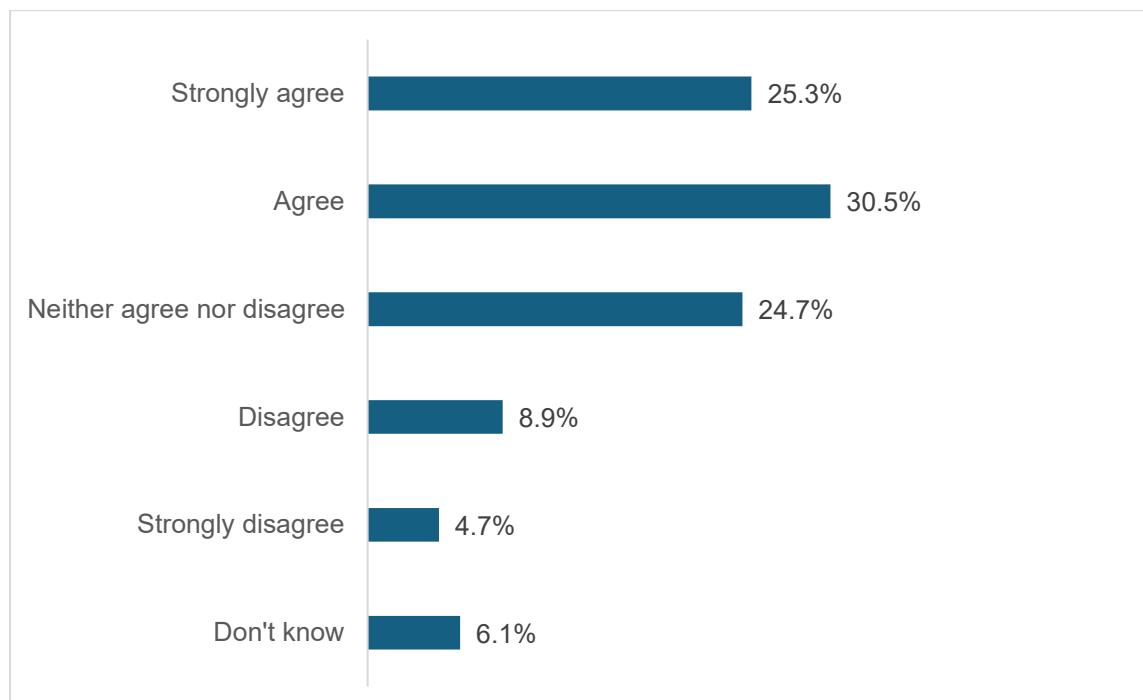
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-381); Member of the public (n-155)

Q15. Disagree - Armed Forces Community

Comment/theme	Total
Placed on list according to need like everyone else / case by case basis/ Shouldn't have preference	28
Don't agree with adult family members	17
Should be higher band	13
MOD should help more / housing via work / not a council issue	13
Not fair / don't agree	13
Other comments	7
Only band 3 if local connection (family or work)	6
Agree with the current banding (3)	5
Should be lower band (4)	4
Comments relating to personal situation	4
Should be housed in county they originated from pre-armed forces	3
Should be for all 'blue light' personnel / why just armed forces	3
Only UK residents	1

Q16. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposal to apply all qualification criteria to those with an accepted homeless duty?

Base: n-709



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	179	25.3%
Agree	216	30.5%
Neither agree nor disagree	175	24.7%
Disagree	63	8.9%
Strongly disagree	33	4.7%
Don't know	43	6.1%

A majority of respondents (55.8%) expressed support for applying all qualification criteria to individuals with an accepted homeless duty. Just under a quarter (24.7%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 6.1% selected 'Don't know,' indicating that a significant portion of respondents may be uncertain or undecided about the implications of the change.

A smaller share of respondents (13.6%) expressed disagreement with the proposal. These findings suggest that while the proposal is generally supported, the level of neutrality and uncertainty may point to a need for clearer explanation of how the criteria would be applied in practice.

Social Housing tenants (59.7%) and Housing Register applicants (56.3%) show stronger agreement than members of the public (49.4%), who also show the highest disagreement (19.5%). This suggests the public is more cautious about applying full qualification criteria to those with a homeless duty.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	59.7%	15.1%
Housing Register applicant	56.3%	10.5%
Member of the public	49.4%	19.5%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-380); Member of the public (n-154)

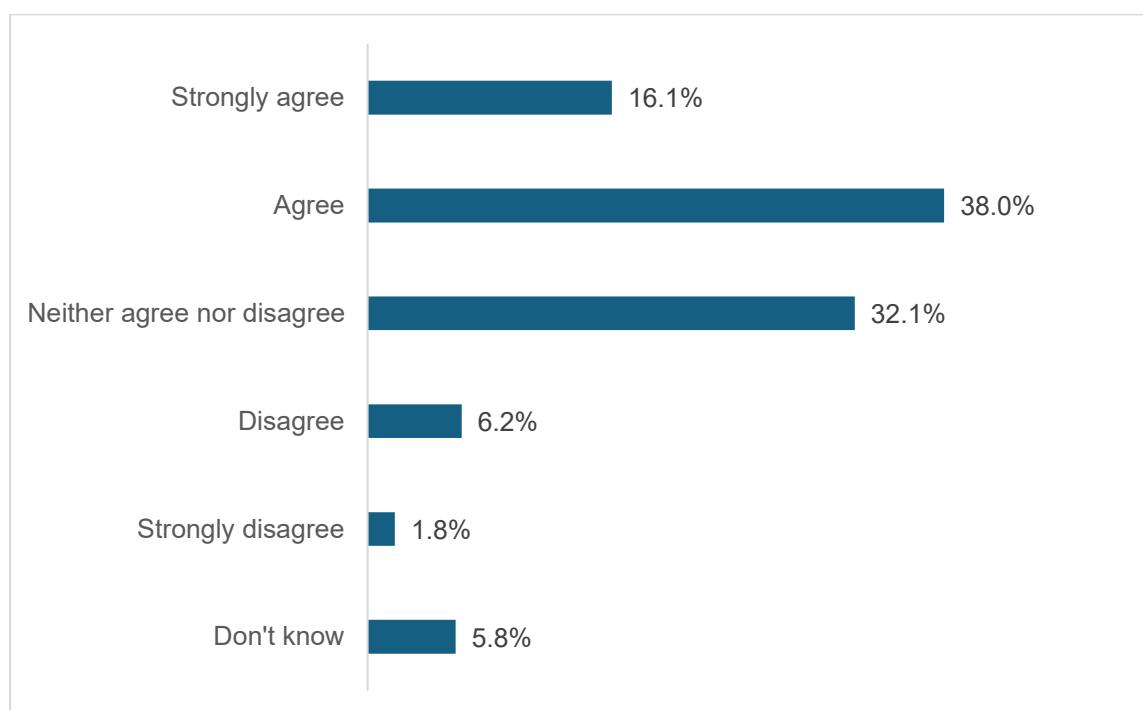
Q17. Disagree - Unacceptable Behaviour

Comment/theme	Total
Rent arrears on case by case / genuine reasons e.g. illness, cost of living / support re anti-social behaviour	33
Don't understand wording / proposal	23
Unacceptable behaviour shouldn't be tolerated / taken more seriously – anti-social behaviour affects neighbours - needs better policing	20
Don't agree with rent arrears - should be separate from noise / abuse	16
Homeless - not their fault, make difficult situation worse	13
Uncategorised comment	12
Rent arrears are unacceptable / pay on time / prioritise	11
Unacceptable behaviour should apply to everyone	9

Anti-social behaviour - respect property or should be moved out of area / not entitled to social housing	9
Should be at bottom of list / banned from social housing / penalty in allocation	9
Personal situation comment	6
Need more supported housing	2
Council has a responsibility for everyone	1

Q18. How much do you agree or disagree with the requirements proposed above for care leavers and for anyone that is incapable of holding a tenancy?

Base: n=708



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	114	16.1%
Agree	269	38.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	227	32.1%
Disagree	44	6.2%
Strongly disagree	13	1.8%
Don't know	41	5.8%

The proposal received a fair level of support, with an overall agreement of 54.1%. Nearly a third of respondents (32.1%) neither agreed nor disagreed, and 5.8% selected 'Don't know,' suggesting that many respondents may be uncertain or lack strong views on the proposed changes.

Although not widespread, 8% of respondents did express disagreement. While the proposal was met with overall support, the significant number of neutral responses may point to a lack of clarity regarding how it would be implemented.

Members of the public show the highest agreement (57.4%) and the lowest disagreement (5.8%), indicating strong support and minimal concern. Housing Register applicants (51.9%) and Social Housing tenants (52.1%) also show support, but with higher disagreement levels (8.2% and 10.9% respectively) highlighting that the public is notably more unified in support compared to the other groups

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	52.1%	10.9%
Housing Register applicant	51.9%	8.2%
Member of the public	57.4%	5.8%

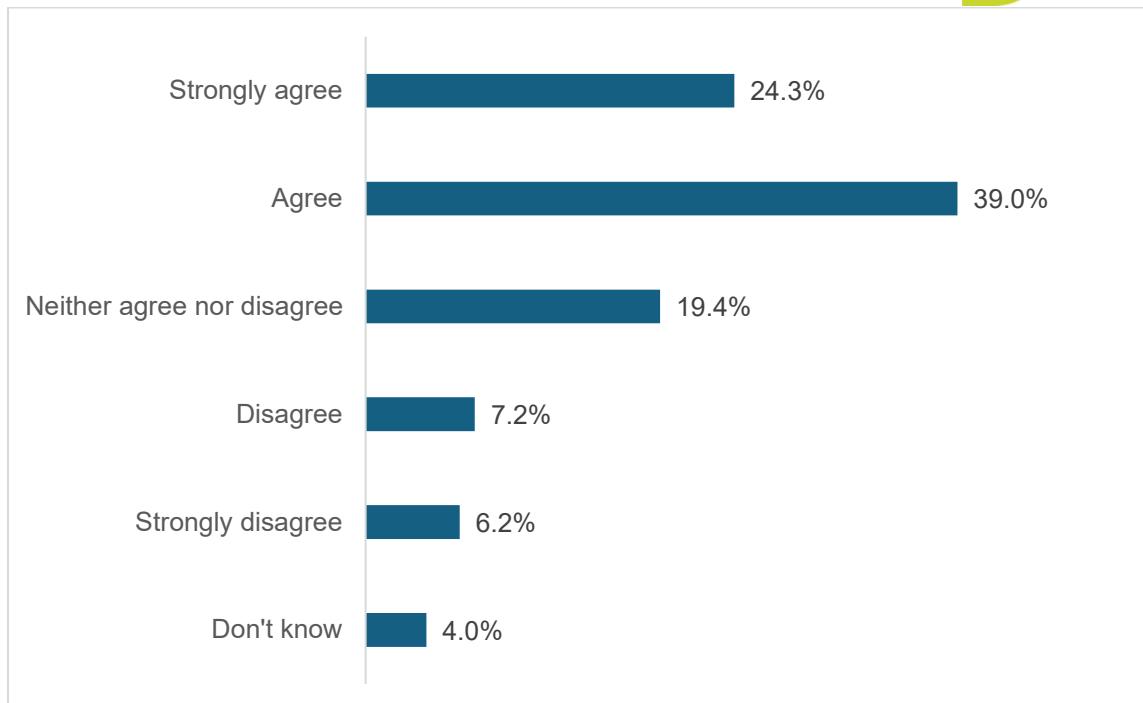
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-119); Housing Register applicant (n-378); Member of the public (n-155)

Q19. Guarantor requirements - disagree comments

Comment/theme	Total
Give people support when they are unable to reach out	10
Care leavers should be priority	9
Not everyone can get a guarantor	9
Young people need more than a guarantor	9
Treat all fairly	4
Not all care leavers can live independently	4
Guarantors are necessary	3
This will create issues	3
Depends on suitability of guarantor	2
Guarantors not necessary	2
Decisions are necessary	1
All rent needs to be guaranteed	1
All cases should be assessed individually	1
Don't take credit score into account	1
Alternative options needed	1
Guarantor in place before joining the register	1

Q20. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed savings and earning criteria?

Base: n-708



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	172	24.3%
Agree	276	39.0%
Neither agree nor disagree	137	19.4%
Disagree	51	7.2%
Strongly disagree	44	6.2%
Don't know	28	4.0%

The proposal to introduce savings and earning criteria received a good level of support, with 63.3% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. However, 19.4% neither agreed nor disagreed, and 4.0% selected 'Don't know,' suggesting that some respondents may not have formed a clear opinion on the proposal.

Disagreement was relatively limited, with 13.4% expressing opposition. Although the proposal was positively received, the high proportion of neutral responses may signal that its practical implications are not yet fully understood.

Social Housing tenants show the highest agreement (67.5%), followed by members of the public (63.2%) and Housing Register applicants (61.3%). However, disagreement levels vary more noticeably: members of the public show the highest disagreement (18.1%), compared to Social Housing tenants (15.4%) and Housing Register applicants, who show the lowest disagreement (10.0%). This suggests that while support is generally strong, the public expressed more concern about the criteria than those directly engaged with housing services.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	67.5%	15.4%

Housing Register applicant	61.3%	10.0%
Member of the public	63.2%	18.1%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-117); Housing Register applicant (n-380); Member of the public (n-155)

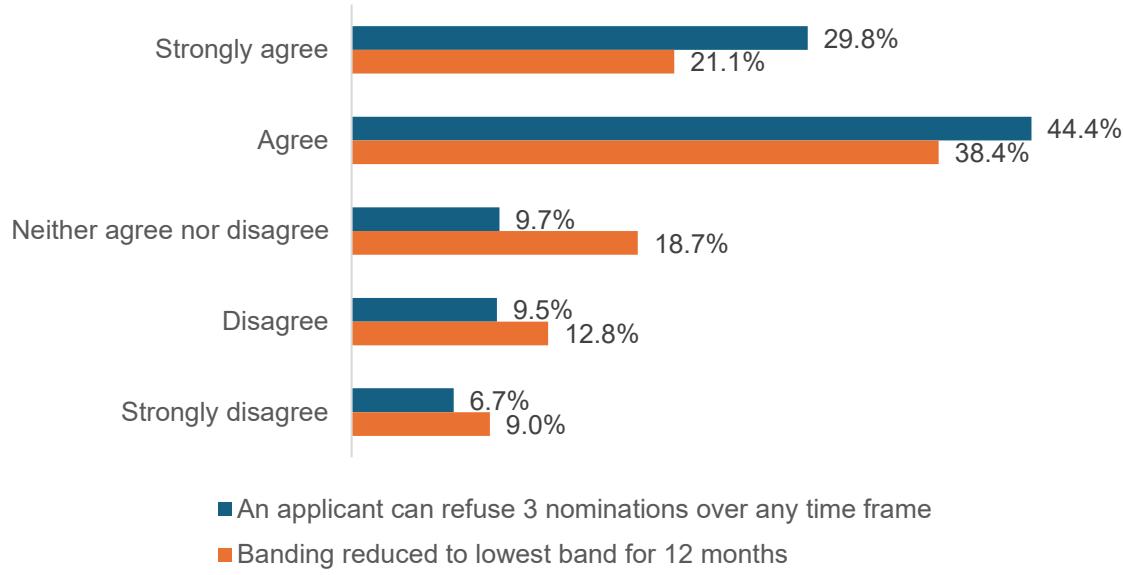
Q21. Disagree - savings and earning criteria

Comment/theme	Total
£16k is too low given current housing market / cost of living	22
60K salary cap is too high	20
Uncategorised comment	19
60k salary should be able to rent on private market	11
Social housing should be for those in need e.g. disability / on small income	10
Comments related to personal circumstances	10
Savings cap too low - means can't save deposit for own property /mortgage	9
£16k savings is too high	9
Not eligible if own property	7
Should not include pensioners/pensions	6
Income and savings should be checked for current social housing tenants every 5 years	4
Should include assets like cars, motorhomes etc / include deprivation clause	4
Criteria should remain the same	2

Q22. How much do you agree or disagree with the rules for refusal of nominations proposal?

Base: An applicant can refuse 3 nominations over any time frame (n-705), Banding reduced to lowest band for 12 months (n-631)

Rules for refusal of nominations proposal



An applicant can refuse 3 nominations over any time frame	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	210	29.8%
Agree	313	44.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	68	9.7%
Disagree	67	9.5%
Strongly disagree	47	6.7%

Banding reduced to lowest band for 12 months	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	133	21.1%
Agree	242	38.4%
Neither agree nor disagree	118	18.7%
Disagree	81	12.8%
Strongly disagree	57	9.0%

Note: Due to a minor error, this question was slightly different from others in that it did not include a 'Don't know' answer option. While this was not intentional, the question was not set as mandatory, allowing respondents to skip it if they chose. Given this flexibility, the absence of a 'Don't know' option is unlikely to have had a significant impact on the overall results.

The proposal allowing applicants to refuse up to three nominations over any time frame received strong support, with 74.2% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing. In comparison, the proposal to reduce banding to the lowest level for 12 months following three refusals was less popular, with 59.5% expressing agreement.

Neutral responses were notably higher for the banding reduction proposal (18.7%) than for the nomination refusal rule (9.7%), suggesting greater uncertainty or hesitation about the consequences of refusal. Similarly, 21.8% of respondents expressed disagreement with the banding reduction, compared to 16.2% for the refusal rule. Although the option to refuse nominations is well-supported, the idea of reducing banding for doing so seems to be met with greater hesitation.

When looking at the data for respondents who identified as disabled, there was a slight disparity when compared to the overall response for the proposal allowing applicants to refuse up to 3 nominations. 79.3% (207) either agreed or strongly agreed, showing a slightly higher level of support. In turn, the level of disagreement for the proposal was lower too, with 12.6% (33) either disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

For the first criteria (refusing 3 nominations), Housing Register applicants show the highest agreement (77.4%) and lowest disagreement (11.6%), while members of the public show lower agreement (67.3%) and the highest disagreement (26.1%), indicating more concern about this rule.

For the second criteria (banding reduced to lowest band for 12 months), members of the public show the highest agreement (61.0%), but disagreement remains high across all groups, especially among Social Housing tenants (25.9%) and the public (25.5%) suggesting mixed views on the penalty aspect.

First criteria: An applicant can refuse 3 nominations over any time frame

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	75.4%	15.3%
Housing Register applicant	77.4%	11.6%
Member of the public	67.3%	26.1%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-118); Housing Register applicant (n-380); Member of the public (n-153)

Second criteria: Banding reduced to lowest band for 12 months

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	54.6%	25.9%
Housing Register applicant	58.9%	19.9%
Member of the public	61.0%	25.5%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-108); Housing Register applicant (n-331); Member of the public (n-141)

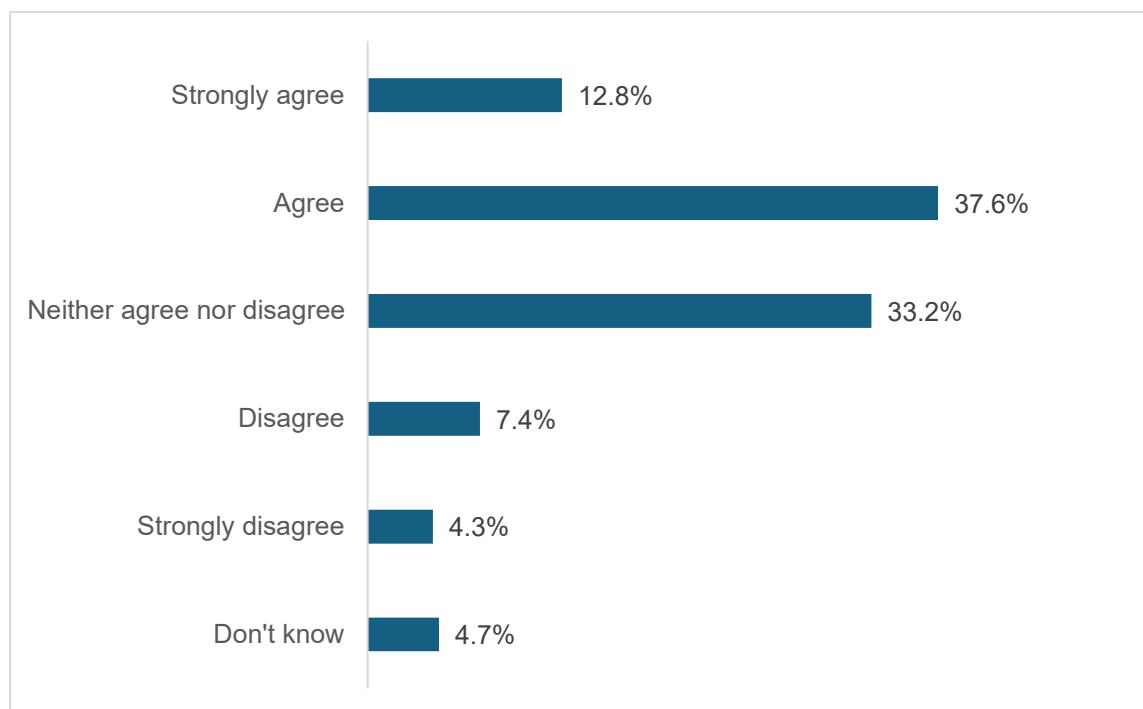
Q23. Disagree - rules for refusal of nominations

Comment/theme	Total

Don't limit refusals	47
People should have one or two chances	45
Limit refusals	31
People shouldn't get to choose if they are in need	27
Penalising refusals is unfair	19
Remove refusals from register	16
More chances for disabilities	13
Provide property images	8
Judge on individual cases	5
Original version better	4
Terms and language are hard to understand	4
12 months is a long time to reduce banding	4
Let people arrange as many viewings as necessary	2
Other	1

Q24. How much do you agree or disagree with the proposed inclusion of quotas?

Base: n-704



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	90	12.8%
Agree	265	37.6%
Neither agree nor disagree	234	33.2%
Disagree	52	7.4%
Strongly disagree	30	4.3%

Don't know

33

4.7%

The data suggests a generally positive reception toward the inclusion of quotas, with over half of respondents expressing support, with 12.8% strongly agreeing and 37.6% agreeing, totalling 50.4% in favour. A third of respondents, 33.2%, remained neutral, highlighting the need for possible further communication or engagement to clarify the proposal and address any concerns or gaps in understanding. Opposition was relatively low, with an overall disagreement of 11.7%. Additionally, 4.7% of respondents selected 'Don't know,' suggesting some uncertainty or lack of information.

Members of the public show the highest level of disagreement (19.5%), indicating more concern or opposition to the proposal. This contrasts with Social Housing tenants (16.9%) and especially Housing Register applicants, who show the lowest disagreement (5.6%), suggesting they are significantly more supportive or less opposed to the inclusion of quotas.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	50.9%	16.9%
Housing Register applicant	52.8%	5.6%
Member of the public	48.7%	19.5%

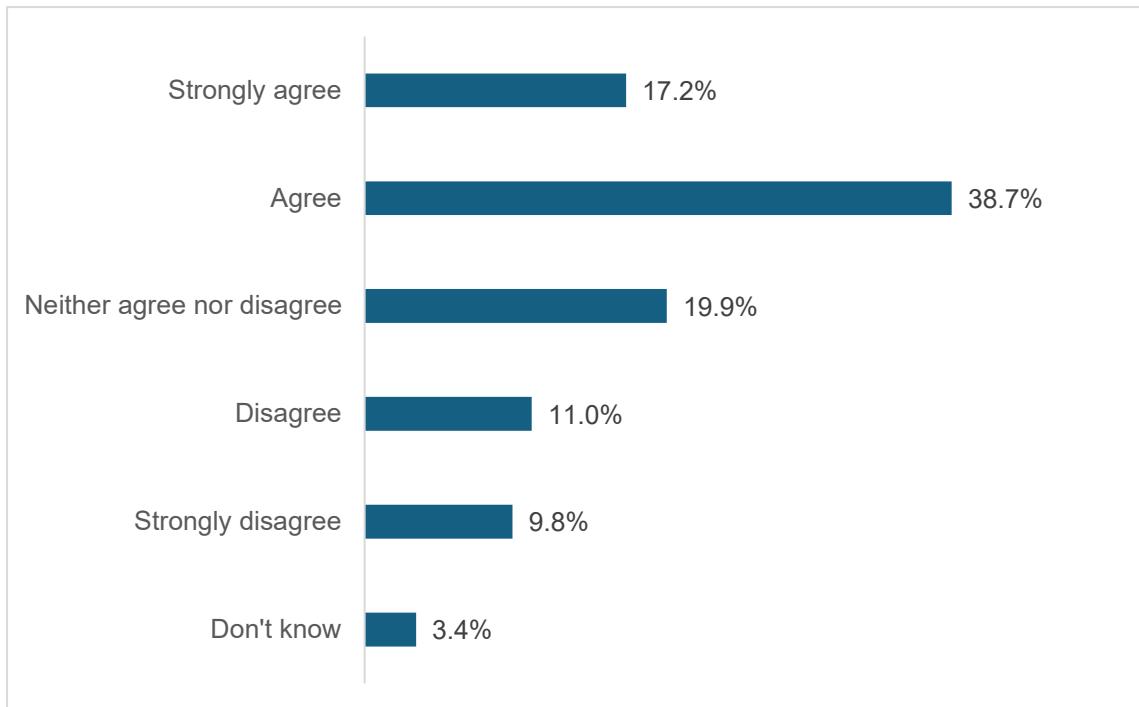
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-118); Housing Register applicant (n-377); Member of the public (n-154)

Q25. Disagree - inclusion of quotas

Comment/theme	Total
Uncategorised comment	33
Comments relating to quotas managed / how allocated etc	32
Should be case by case basis	12
Should be equal / fair for everyone	11
People on the waiting list should be housed first	11
Disagree with Armed forces personnel	7
Need quotas for local people / prioritise local people	7
Agree with Children leaving in care	4
Agree with Armed Forces personnel	3
Don't agree with proposals	3
Need more supported accommodation / accommodation for disabled people	2
Agree with all criteria	1
comment related to personal situation	1

Q26. How much do you agree or disagree with assessing overcrowding using the bedroom standard rather than the Local Housing Allowance criteria?

Base: n=708



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	122	17.2%
Agree	274	38.7%
Neither agree nor disagree	141	19.9%
Disagree	78	11.0%
Strongly disagree	69	9.8%
Don't know	24	3.4%

A majority of respondents support assessing overcrowding using the bedroom standard rather than the Local Housing Allowance criteria, with an overall agreement (55.9%) indicating general support for this approach. Meanwhile, 19.9% neither agreed nor disagreed, suggesting some uncertainty or neutrality. Opposition accounted for 20.8%, with 11.0% disagreeing and 9.8% strongly disagreeing. A small proportion, 3.4%, selected 'Don't know.' This suggests that while the proposal is broadly accepted, there remains a significant minority who are either unconvinced or require further information or reassurance.

Responses from males were slightly different to the overall, showing higher levels of agreement and lower levels of disagreement. 61.7% (100) expressed they either agreed or strongly agreed, while 16.7% (27) disagreed or strongly disagreed. Female respondents were closely aligned to the overall figures.

Members of the public show the highest agreement (63.6%), indicating stronger support for the proposed change. In contrast, Social Housing tenants show the lowest agreement (50.0%) and the highest disagreement (30.5%), suggesting more concern or resistance within that group. Housing Register applicants fall in between, with moderate agreement (54.6%) and lower disagreement (17.3%), showing a more balanced view.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	50.0%	30.5%
Housing Register applicant	54.6%	17.3%
Member of the public	63.6%	20.1%

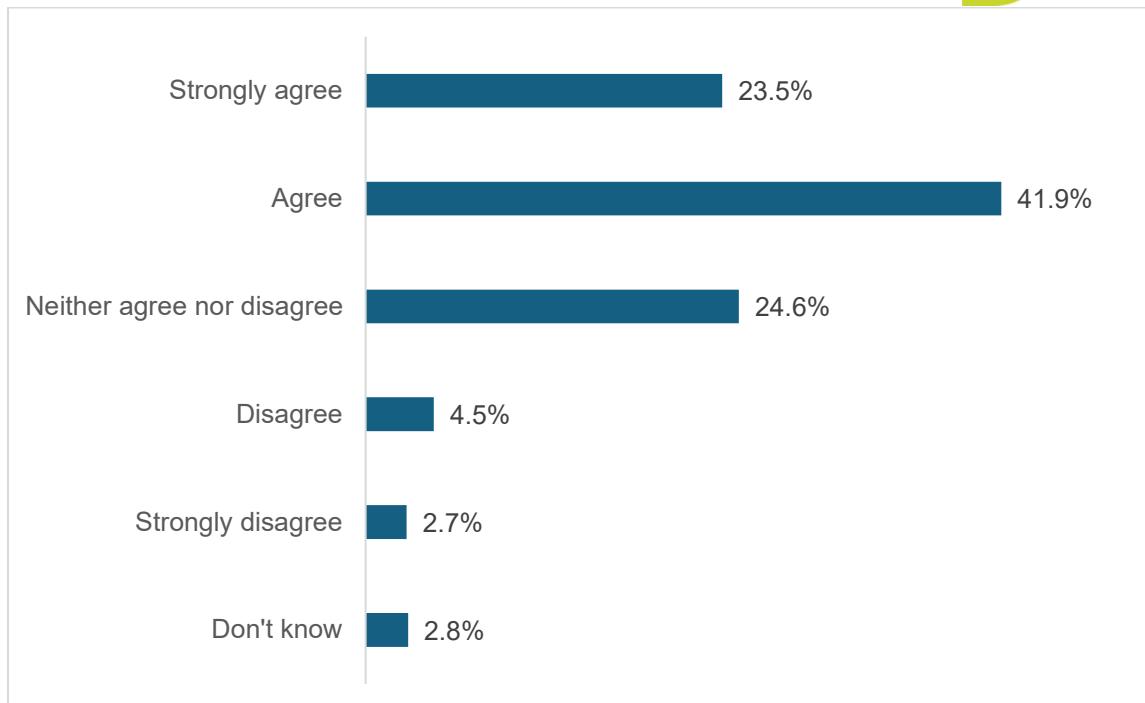
Base: Social Housing tenant (n-118); Housing Register applicant (n-381); Member of the public (n-154)

Q26. Disagree - assessing overcrowding

Comment/theme	Total
Limit needs lowering, 20/21 is too old. 18+ are adults	45
Children need their own privacy	39
It's inappropriate for mixed sex children to share	28
None of these limits are practical	19
My children struggle sharing	11
Puberty is starting earlier	10
Children with health needs need privacy	9
Children should share if they have to	6
People have children to get a bigger house	6
I don't understand the language being used	5
Children are more aware of sexuality	3
Overcrowding shouldn't be an issue	2
Criteria is too vague	1
These limits are practical	1
Overcrowding is common	1
Needs to be more info on overcrowding	1
Rooms not big enough for separate beds	1
Non-blood siblings should not share	1

Q27. How much do you agree or disagree with direct lets for homeless households?

Base: n-707



Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	166	23.5%
Agree	296	41.9%
Neither agree nor disagree	174	24.6%
Disagree	32	4.5%
Strongly disagree	19	2.7%
Don't know	20	2.8%

A clear majority of respondents reflects the overall support for the use of direct lets for homeless households, with 23.5% strongly agreeing and 41.9% agreeing, totalling 65.4% in favour. Just under a quarter of respondents remain neutral, (24.6%) indicating a notable level of neutrality or uncertainty. The low overall level of disagreement (7.2%) suggests that this approach is broadly accepted and may be seen as a positive step toward addressing homelessness. Additionally, just 2.8% selected 'Don't know.'

All groups show strong support, with members of the public showing the highest agreement (69.9%). However, the most notable difference is in overall disagreement: Housing Register applicants show the lowest disagreement (3.9%), compared to Social Housing tenants (12.7%) and members of the public (8.5%), indicating that applicants are the most unified in support of this proposal.

	Overall agreement	Overall disagreement
Social Housing tenant	65.3%	12.7%
Housing Register applicant	64.0%	3.9%
Member of the public	69.9%	8.5%

Base: Social Housing tenant (n-118); Housing Register applicant (n-381); Member of the public (n-153)

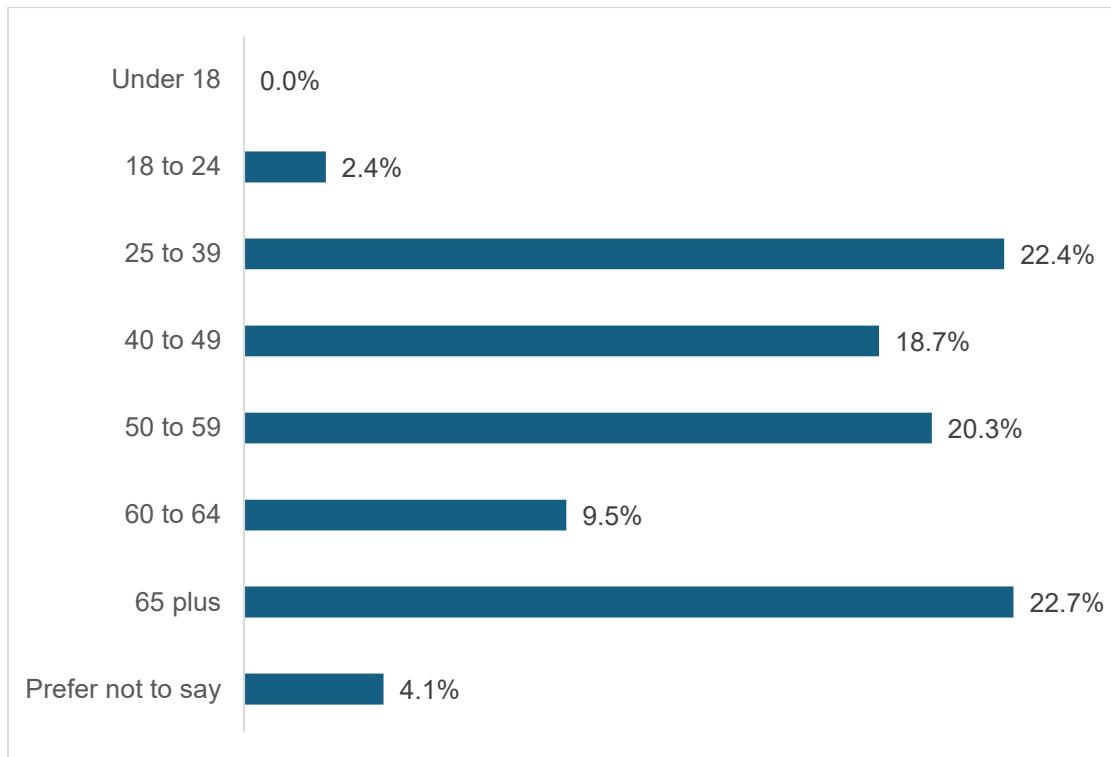
Q28. Disagree - direct lets

Comment/theme	Total
Other uncategorised comment	16
Should be on a case-by-case basis according to need / vulnerability	14
People should have choice	13
Jobs / transport / family support affect where people can live	10
Comments relating to personal situation	9
Should be more than one offer of suitable accommodation	8
Need to prioritise local people	8
Agree with policy	5
The system needs to be fair / equal / transparent	5
Private Lets not stable / secure as landlord can sell / landlords profiteering /private let properties substandard	5
Should explore other options first	3
Don't use expensive hotels / temporary housing is a waste of money	3
Direct Lets need to be within the Dorset area	3
Don't understand policy / wording	2
Private housing much more expensive than social housing	2
Singles and couples without children shouldn't be eligible	1

About You

Q29. Please select your age group.

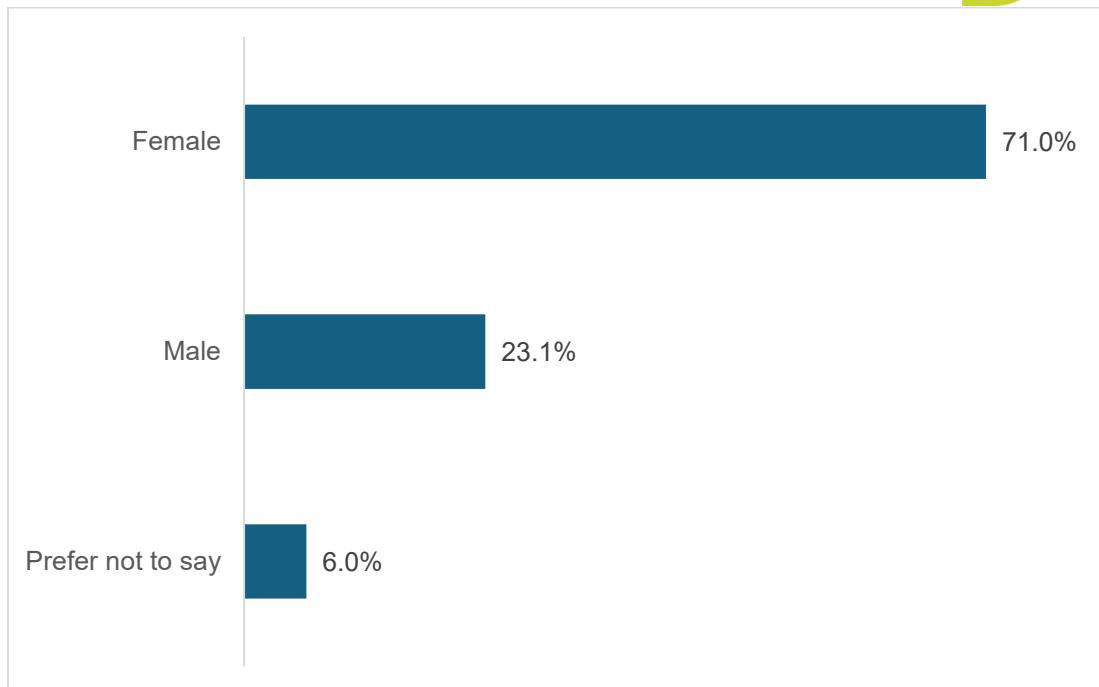
Base: n-706



Option	Total	Percent
Under 18	0	0.0%
18 to 24	17	2.4%
25 to 39	158	22.4%
40 to 49	132	18.7%
50 to 59	143	20.3%
60 to 64	67	9.5%
65 plus	160	22.7%
Prefer not to say	29	4.1%

Q30. What is your sex?

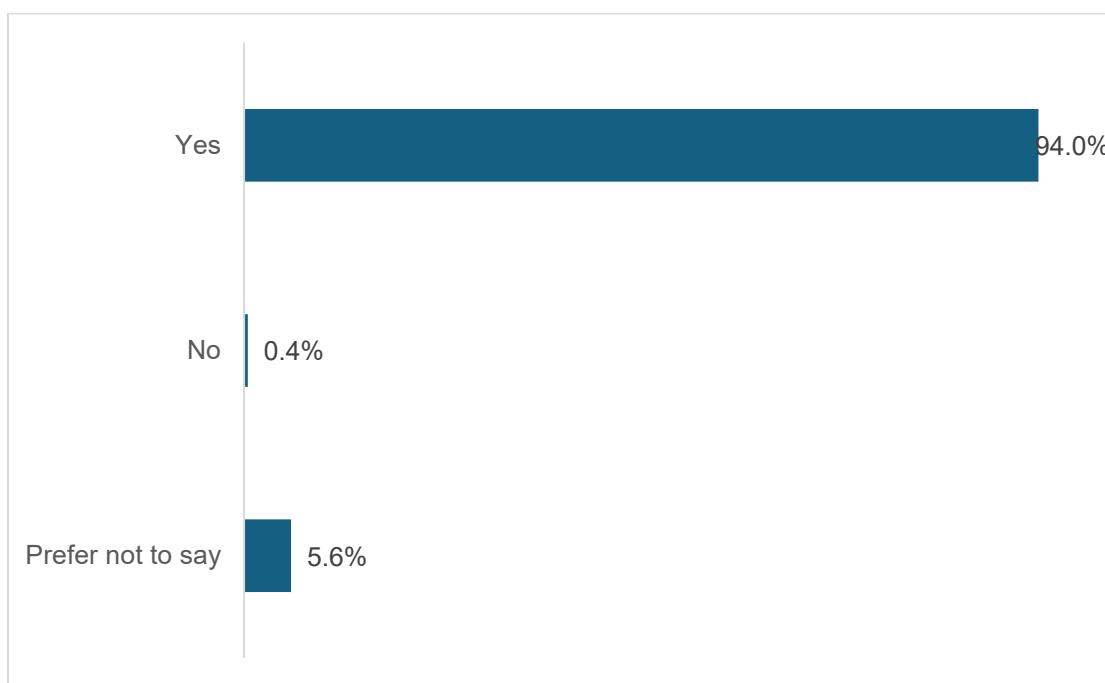
Base: n-706



Option	Total	Percent
Female	501	71.0%
Male	163	23.1%
Prefer not to say	42	6.0%

Q31. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

Base: n-703



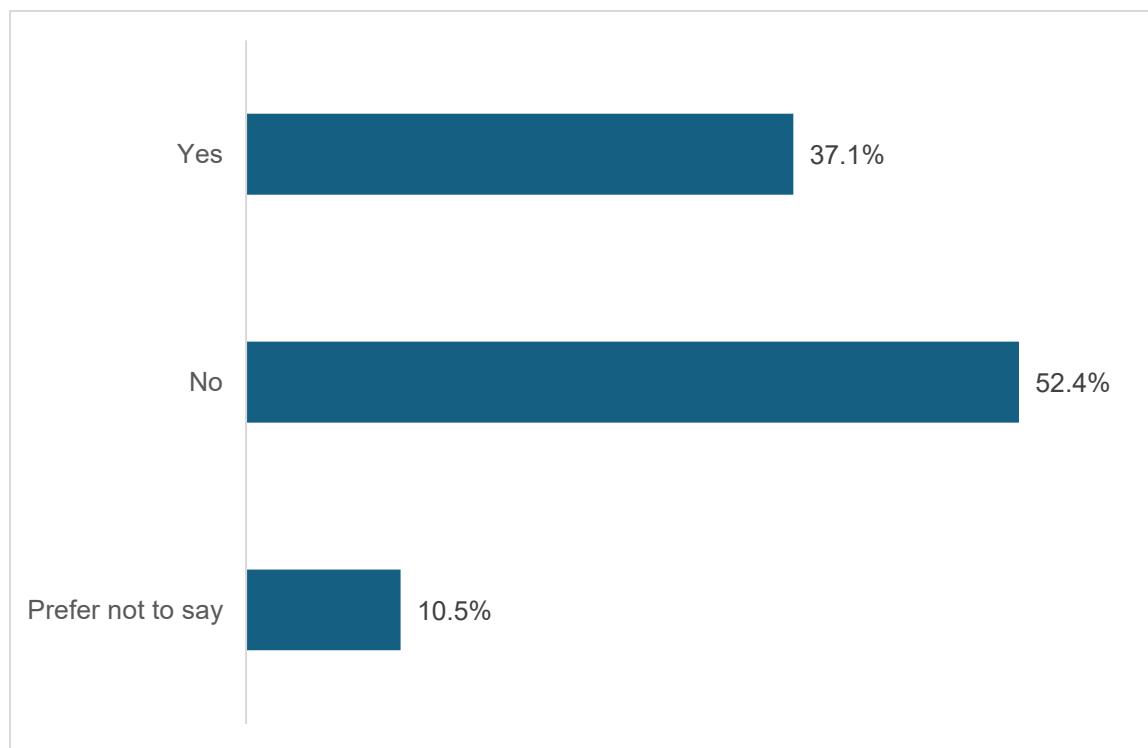
Option	Total	Percent
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Yes	661	94.0%
No	3	0.4%
Prefer not to say	39	5.6%

Q32. The Equality Act 2010 describes a person as disabled if they have a longstanding physical or mental condition that has lasted or is likely to last 12 months; and this condition has a substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. People with some conditions (cancer, multiple sclerosis and HIV/AIDS for example) are considered to be disabled from the point that they are diagnosed.

Do you consider yourself to be disabled as set out in the Equality Act 2010?

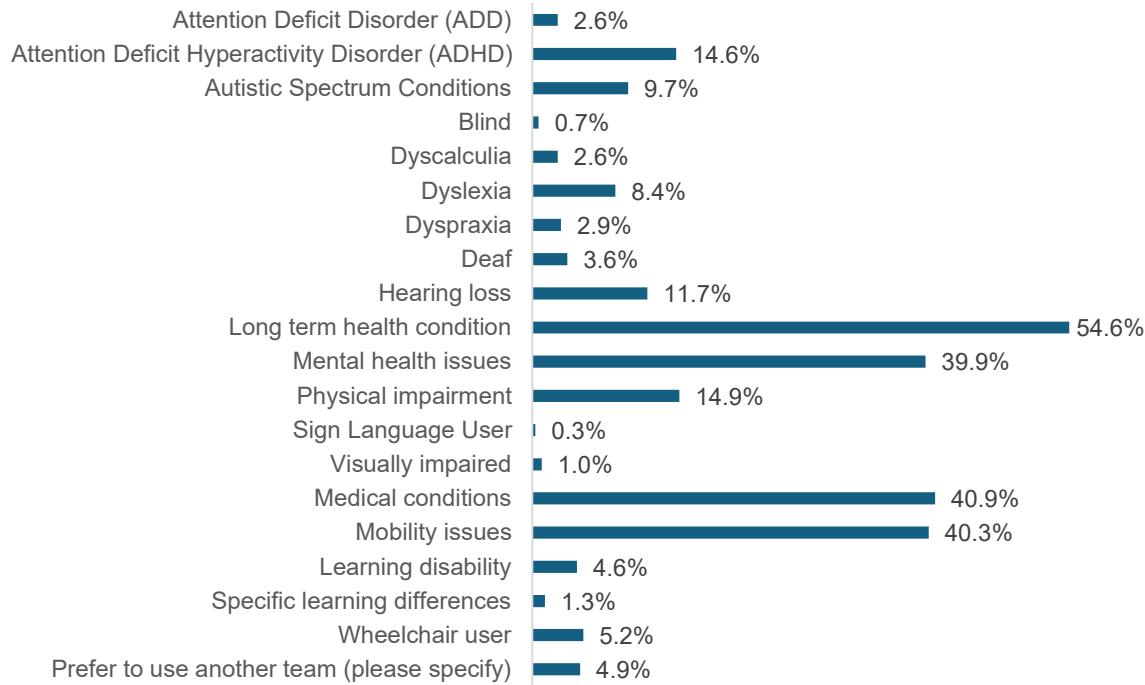
Base: n-706



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	262	37.1%
No	370	52.4%
Prefer not to say	74	10.5%

Q33. If at the previous question you stated you consider yourself to have a disability, please state the type of disability which applies to you.

Base: n-308



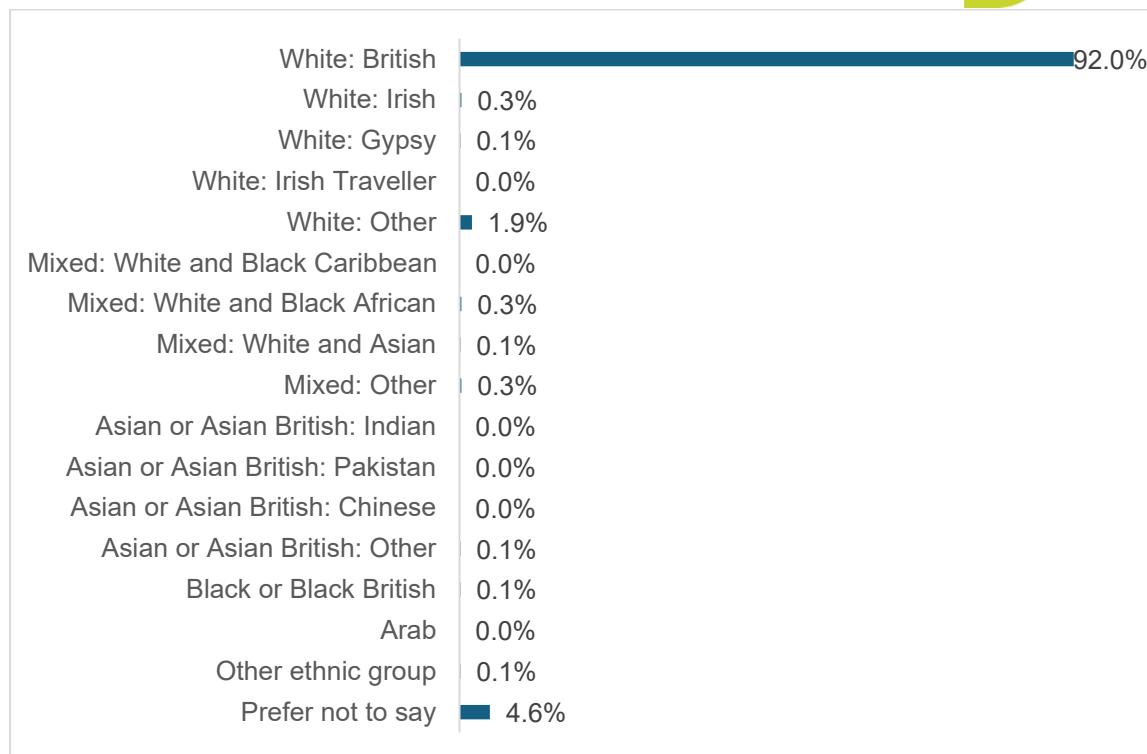
Option	Total	Percent
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)	8	2.6%
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	45	14.6%
Autistic Spectrum Conditions	30	9.7%
Blind	2	0.7%
Dyscalculia	8	2.6%
Dyslexia	26	8.4%
Dyspraxia	9	2.9%
Deaf	11	3.6%
Hearing loss	36	11.7%
Long term health condition	168	54.6%
Mental health issues	123	39.9%
Physical impairment	46	14.9%
Sign Language User	1	0.3%
Visually impaired	3	1.0%
Medical conditions	126	40.9%
Mobility issues	124	40.3%
Learning disability	14	4.6%
Specific learning differences	4	1.3%
Wheelchair user	16	5.2%
Prefer to use another team (please specify)	15	4.9%

Other - disability type
Lung disease

Polymyalgia fibromyalgia osteoporosis primary biliary sclerosis
Fibromyalgia
Also my daughter [redacted] with Down's syndrome autism bad eyesight and anxiety
x
Bipolar and arthritis
A typo above. I ticked - Prefer to use another 'team' . It should say - another term.
My son is these and I have fubromialja
I have rheumatoid inflammatory arthritis
Fibromyalgia
Arthritic
Crone's disease
Chronic back pain. Anxiety. Insomnia
Addiction issues
Stroke
Anxiety
Spinal cord injury resulting in severe disability
Mobility scooter needed for extended mobility
Depression exacerbated by little opportunity to rent on the private market or get allocated a council place
my son is on the housing list he has severe learning disabilities
COPD & Emphysema
Is it team or term - spelling error above
Ability
Ongoing health issues
PTSD
Paralysed
Fibromylga
PTSD, Depression & anxiety
Many issues not happy to state
Heart Failure
Cancer

Q34. What is your ethnic group?

Base: n-701



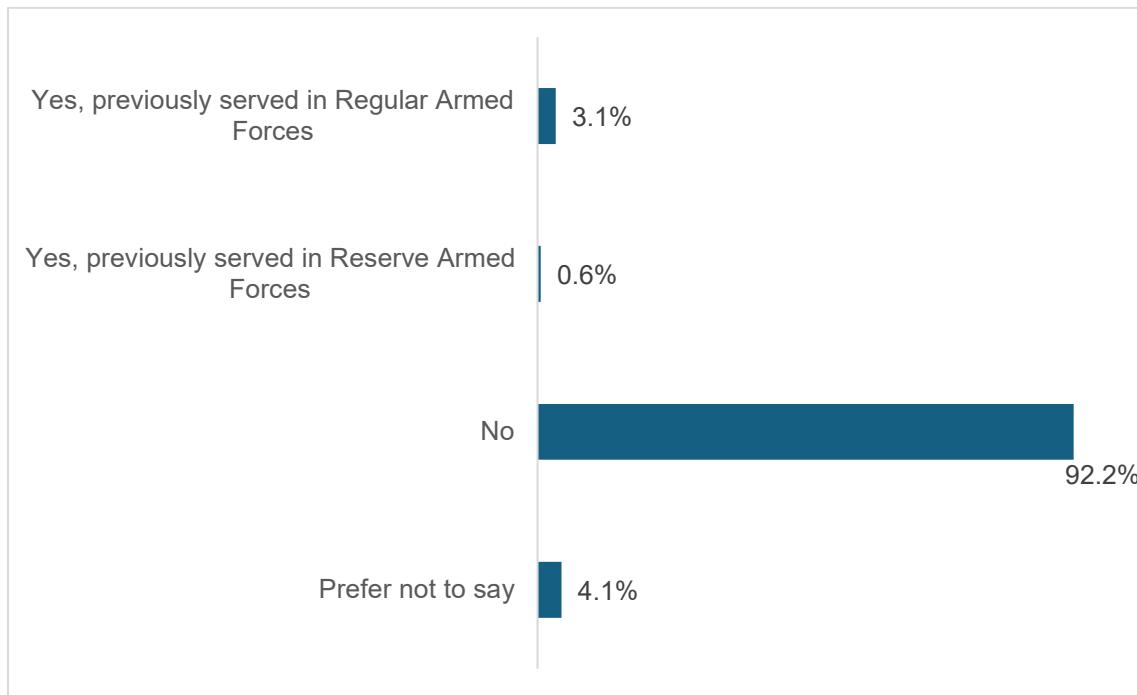
Option	Total	Percent
White: British	645	92.0%
White: Irish	2	0.3%
White: Gypsy	1	0.1%
White: Irish Traveller	0	0.0%
White: Other	13	1.9%
Mixed: White and Black Caribbean	0	0.0%
Mixed: White and Black African	2	0.3%
Mixed: White and Asian	1	0.1%
Mixed: Other	2	0.3%
Asian or Asian British: Indian	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Pakistan	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Chinese	0	0.0%
Asian or Asian British: Other	1	0.1%
Black or Black British	1	0.1%
Arab	0	0.0%
Other ethnic group	1	0.1%
Prefer not to say	32	4.6%

Other - Ethnicity
White British English
Minority (White, English, Born in Dorset, Fully employed and not claiming anything!)
Mixed - white/Fijian

White English

Q35. Have you previously served in the UK Armed Forces?

Base: 702



Option	Total	Percent
Yes, previously served in Regular Armed Forces	22	3.1%
Yes, previously served in Reserve Armed Forces	4	0.6%
No	647	92.2%
Prefer not to say	29	4.1%