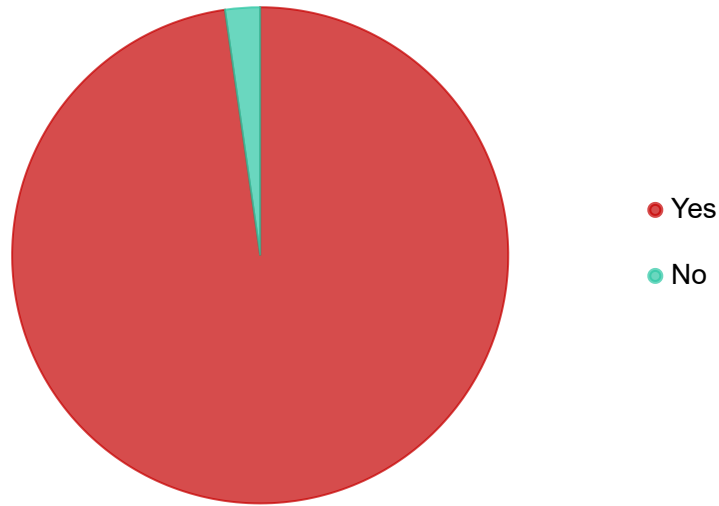


Middlesbrough Council - Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25 Consultation

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Q1. I have read the background information about the Council Tax... *



Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	43	97.73%
No	1	2.27%

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0

Q2. Do you think the Council should keep the current Council Tax...

Response	Count
You should not include extra elements including, children, carers, disability, why should people suffer	1
Yes disregard the income to cover childcare as it is unfair on parents who need to work, it further hinders them, rather than helping them.	1
Would be helpful if got helped a lot more with council tax. I'm a single parent with 4 kids, I work full time but have to pay full council tax which I struggle sometimes to pay	1
There are hundreds of children living in poverty in Middlesbrough so anything that helps them, via their parents income being better supported, is good for their development, learning and life chances	1
There are already many schemes that help parents for example family allowance, child benefit, so many free hours child care etc. When people decide to have children they should consider the financial aspect involved. I thought the council was struggling financially, can it afford to supplement people who choose to have children?	1
The proposed changes seem to be fair and encourage people into employment, I support them.	1
The form is very complicated to fill in and a lot of information is not clear.	1
The council tax reduction scheme needs to change. When I took on a second job and had £800 childcare fees paid back to me via UC my council tax trebled therefore I was actually getting in debt by working and ultimately I had to leave my job as a cleaner for Middlesbrough council as it was also having a negative impact on my mental health working for nothing.	1
The childcare element should not be included in income	1
The childcare element of universal credit should not be taking into account when assessing the claims. The money that's awarded from UC for childcare is not extra money it's money that's been spent on childcare and will be used towards the next months childcare. It's disgusting that this has even been allowed.	1
People working on low income with children are the worst off in the area, they still get charged almost full council tax, slight reduction isn't enough. Make it fair so working poor people aren't penalized for trying to better themselves	1
MORE DISCOUNT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO RESEDINTS WHO ARE SELF EMPLOYED AND AFFECTED BY THE MINIMUM INCOME FLOOR	1
Live in a one bedroom bungalow but in same band as the 3 bedroom houses in TS5 6RU also no garage	1

It's great your thinking about people that are on low income however the council loose £1000's in revenue from people on benefits who move frequently and do not register for reductions . You loose money through couples and families claiming 25% single discount and you loses £10 of thousands with landlords that owe sometimes 30k on properties but still fill out forms for regeneration funding that is offered by the council . Employ a few revenue officers to investigate these issues and you'll soon be out of debt	1
It has changed many lives accross Middlesbrough allowing them to receive the extra support and help they need as it's such a tough place for money at the moment in 2023 with prices rising and wages not increasing.	1
I think the proposed additions for childcare or those leaving care is excellent. It is so important to look after children and young adults, and alleviating the cost of living for them is such a great idea.	1
I lost my full time job now I have a part time job but my council tax bill stays the same or goes higher. £176 a month is my highest direct debit after rent . Please don't increase it again	1
I don't understand why the childcare element was even included to start with. It's a reimbursement not an additional income. That element could also vastly change from month to month eg higher amounts paid out in school holidays would see higher element paid out making the awarded UC higher. The council would do much less recalculating if it just looked at the main part of the award.	1
Give more help to people who work but have no children and live alone. One wage income it's hard. I don't get a top up if I have no money. If I have no money I don't eat.	1
Childcare is undeniably an essential expense for working parents and it is unjust to classify it as income. This practice misrepresents financial circumstances and places an undue burden on families striving to make ends meet. Childcare costs should be disregarded in order to accurately assess the financial situations of families in our community. Childcare costs are not a source of income, failing to acknowledge this distinction can lead to inaccurate financial assessments, potentially denying families access to vital social services and support they rightly deserve. It is essential to recognize that accurate income assessments are crucial in determining eligibility within the scheme. By counting childcare costs as income, we undermine the very purpose of these programs, which is to help those who need it.	1
Child care costs should not be included as they are not disposable income . They are awarded for the hours your child is in childcare and this has to be proven so there is no extra income for the claimant.	1
Changes could add to the bills of people who pay, whose budgets are already stretched.	1
Because we don't any money it goes to a child care provider	1

As a single parent of 3 working 16 hrs p/w, I have no choice but to pay extortionate nursery fees that are double my income in order to attend work as I have no other support. My basic income from employment and UC entitles me to a 72% CTR. When my children attend nursery (during half term for example) and I claim back these costs, my 'income' is boosted so much that I am entitled to 0% CTR, even though my spendable income does not change. I claim that it is unethical to treat an expense as an income considering childcare costs are so out of proportion to my salary and extremely unfair as each parent has differing childcare needs/costs depending on what hours they work and the CTR scheme does not align with UC's values of supporting people back into work. This has left me feeling unable to seek alternative employment or look for additional hours as I would need to claim back even more childcare costs. Finally, I would like to thank the council for taking my complaint seriously.

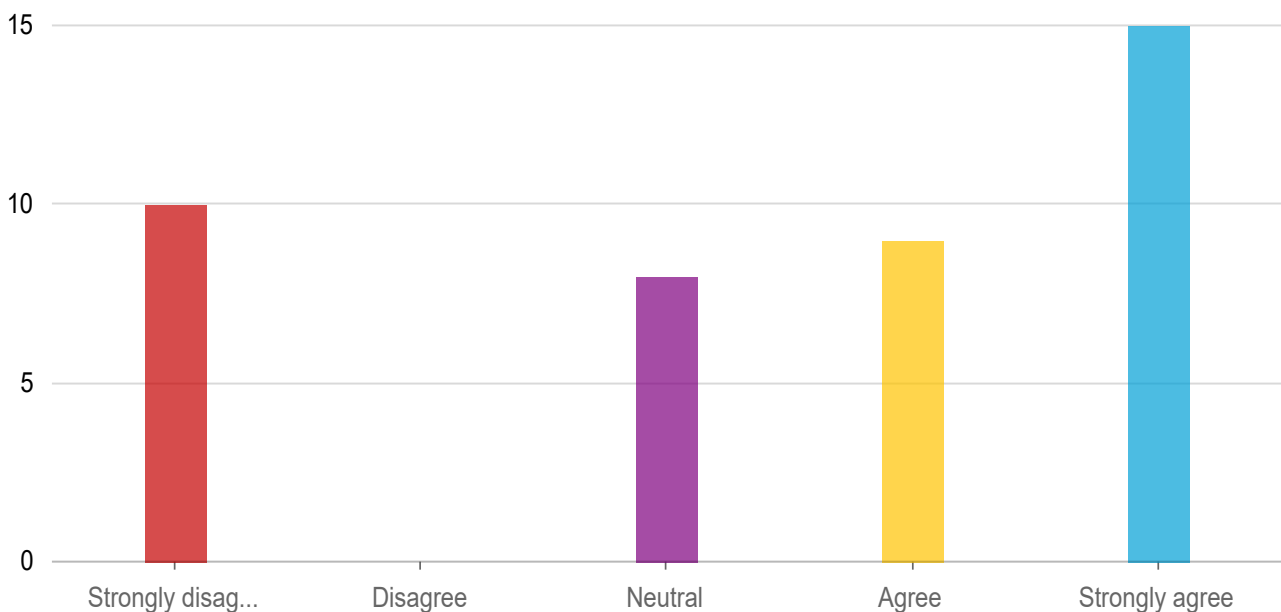
1

Appreciate the cost of living crisis is affecting everyone but it feels like the same households are getting all the support whereas I feel the support should be across the board or directed to those in the lower council tax brackets. Eg I am working, two adults in the house earning salaries just above NMW, and am not entitled to any support.

1

Answered: 25 Skipped: 19

Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed change...



Answers Count Percentage

Answers	Count	Percentage
Strongly disagree	10	22.73%
Disagree	0	0%
Neutral	8	18.18%

Agree	9	20.45%
Strongly agree	15	34.09%

Answered: 42 Skipped: 2

Q5. If you disagree what alternative would you propose?

The word cloud requires at least 20 answers to show.

Response	Count
Working class people should be getting more help not the people who don't work. They get all the child care for free. WHY THEY DONT WORK	1
The council does not take into consideration as to what the child element of universal credit is used for by families. That money could be used for uniforms, food etc for the month, people are literally getting into debt not paying their council tax because their children need essentials throughout the month. It's a biased system	1
Support across the board for those in the lower council tax bands	1
Keep things as they are. Parents choose to have children. They already get so many hours free child care, which wasn't available for many parents in the past, but they still managed. It's about parents deciding on priorities. How many children under 5 now have tablets? As the council should be aware, it's about deciding what you can or can't afford.	1
Keep cost as it is	1
I don't get a childcare element included in my universal credit but I pay for school meals for 2 children everyday while takes a lot out of my income.	1
Disregard any elements on uc	1
Chase debts . At the minute there's a threshold for debt worth chasing . All debt is worth chasing and should be . The council has been a soft touch for too long	1
All should pay council tax. Amounts should be based on combination of income and household size. There should not be reductions for benefits or mental impairment, where the total income into the household is over 28k.	1

Answered: 9 Skipped: 35

Q6. Do you have any further comments, questions or alternative proposals regarding...

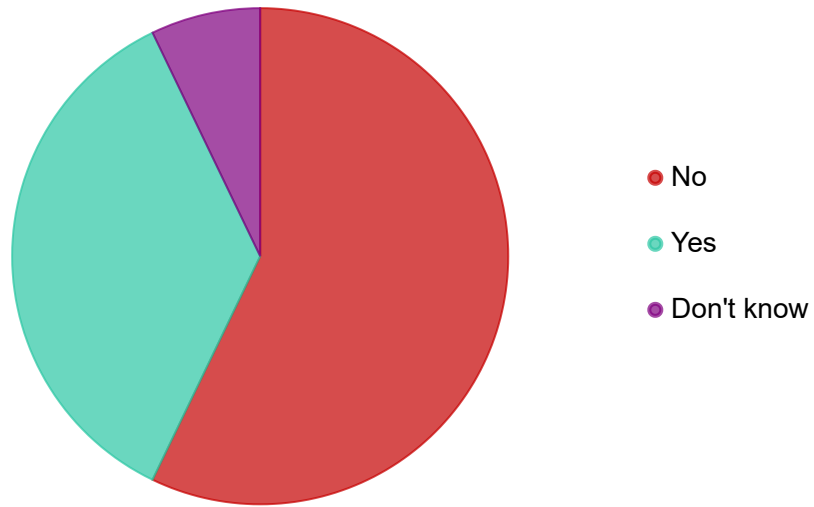
The word cloud requires at least 20 answers to show.

Response	Count
This should never of been allowed, how anyone has sat there and said that the childcare element of universal credit should be taken into account is beyond me.	1
There needs to be a clearer way of adapting to someone's changing circumstances. I've reduced hours so I got a new bill, then got another bill when my hours went up again and then I was declared unfit for work and my bill changed. It's really hard to know how much you should pay. It would be easier to have a set bill and the later reimburse people if they have over paid or get that overpayment put towards their next year. It's very challenging as a dyslexic person to have to read the paperwork and get confused with the bill totals and what is my current expected monthly payment.	1
The childcare element should of never been included in the calculations to start with because it's not income	1
Stop raising council tax every year when my salary is reduced	1
Policing is a joke, bins get emptied when they want. Working class people get nothing but pay for it all.	1
Parents get way too much help as it is. Free milk, free fruit & veg tokens, family allowance, child benefit, so many free hours child care. Soon parents won't be paying anything to support their own children!	1
I'm in one of the top council tax bands, and although our household income is under 35k I would happily see a small rise across the most expensive bands to cover this cost.	1
I hope you're not doing the same to people on legacy benefits	1
I agree to changes It I didn't agree when there brought it in	1
Every time I receive a revised CT bill because of my changing childcare costs, my direct debit does not come out and I miss the payment resulting in the other monthly payments being higher every time, which is annoying, causes stress and inconvenient calls to make manual payments. I don't feel the system is designed to cope with frequent changes to income and I feel disregarding childcare costs would ease pressure on the council customer service team who have to manually have to recalculate these bills and subsequently have to take calls from people who are unhappy about it.	1
25% single reduction needs looking at . Nearly every 3 bed house in Middlesbrough has single adult occupancy both my neighbours claim it and 1 is married with 3 kids ! No wonder the council is in debt giving away 25% of their ctax revenue Willy nilly without checking	1

Answered: 11 Skipped: 33

About you

Q7. Are you, or someone in your household, getting a Council Tax...

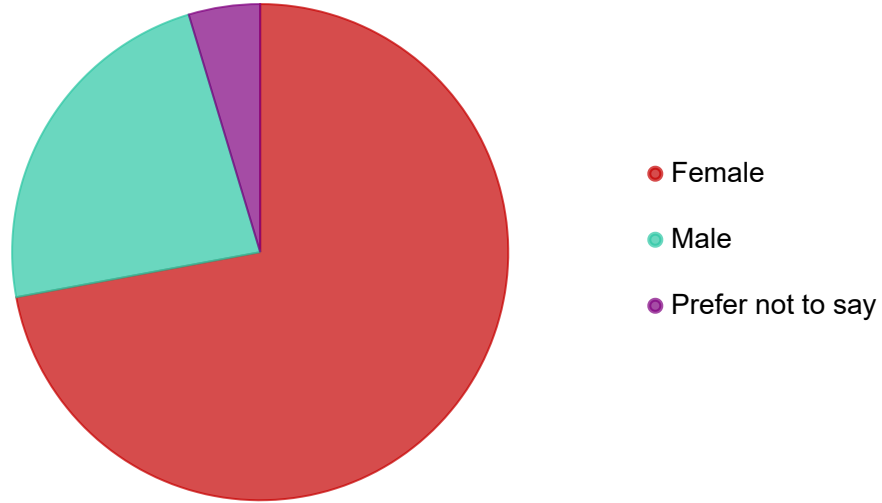


Answers	Count	Percentage
No	24	54.55%
Yes	15	34.09%
Don't know	3	6.82%

Answered: 42 Skipped: 2

About you > GENDER

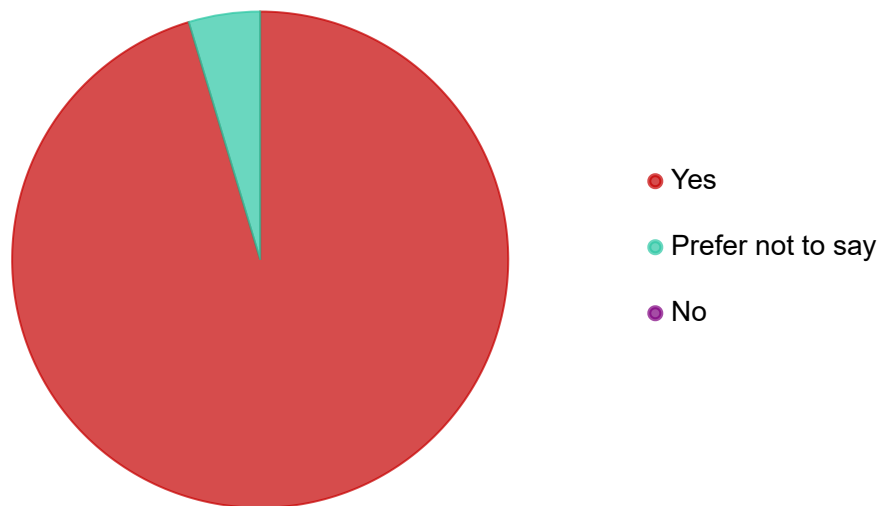
Q8. Are you male or female?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Female	31	70.45%
Male	10	22.73%
Prefer not to say	2	4.55%

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

Q9. Is your gender the same now as it was when it was assigned at...



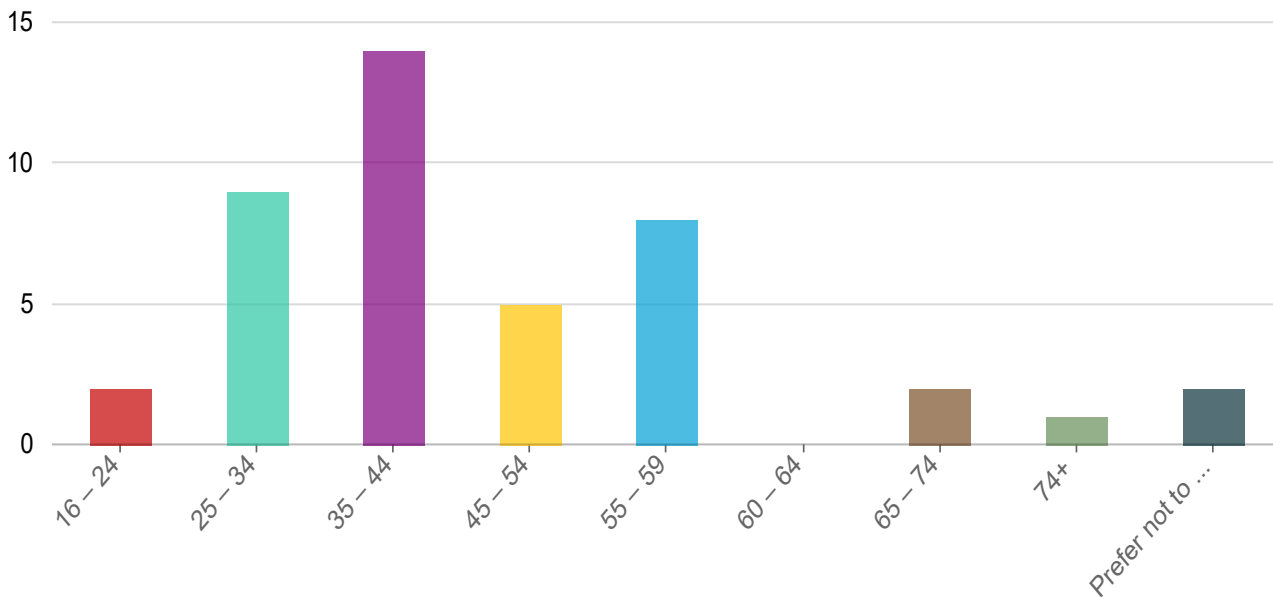
Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	41	93.18%

Prefer not to say	2	4.55%
No	0	0%

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

About you > AGE

Q10. Please indicate which of these age bands you fit into?

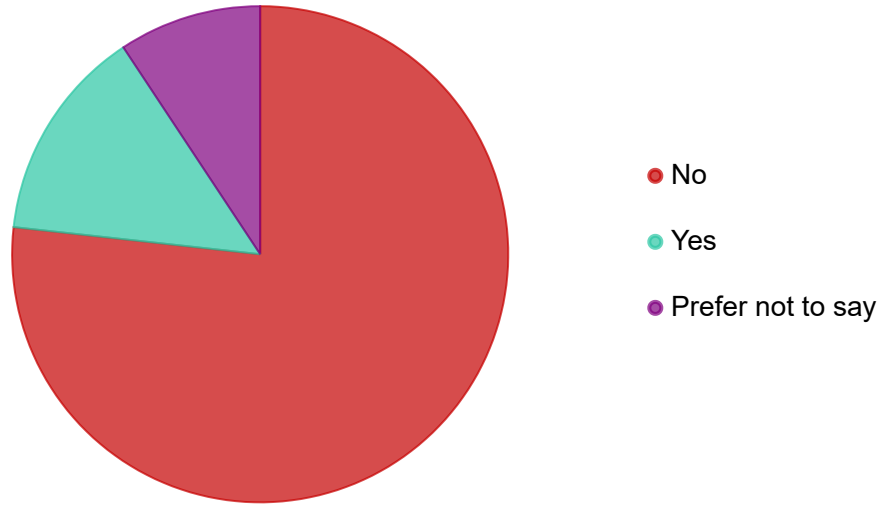


Answers	Count	Percentage
16 – 24	2	4.55%
25 – 34	9	20.45%
35 – 44	14	31.82%
45 – 54	5	11.36%
55 – 59	8	18.18%
60 – 64	0	0%
65 – 74	2	4.55%
74+	1	2.27%
Prefer not to say	2	4.55%

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

About you > DISABILITY

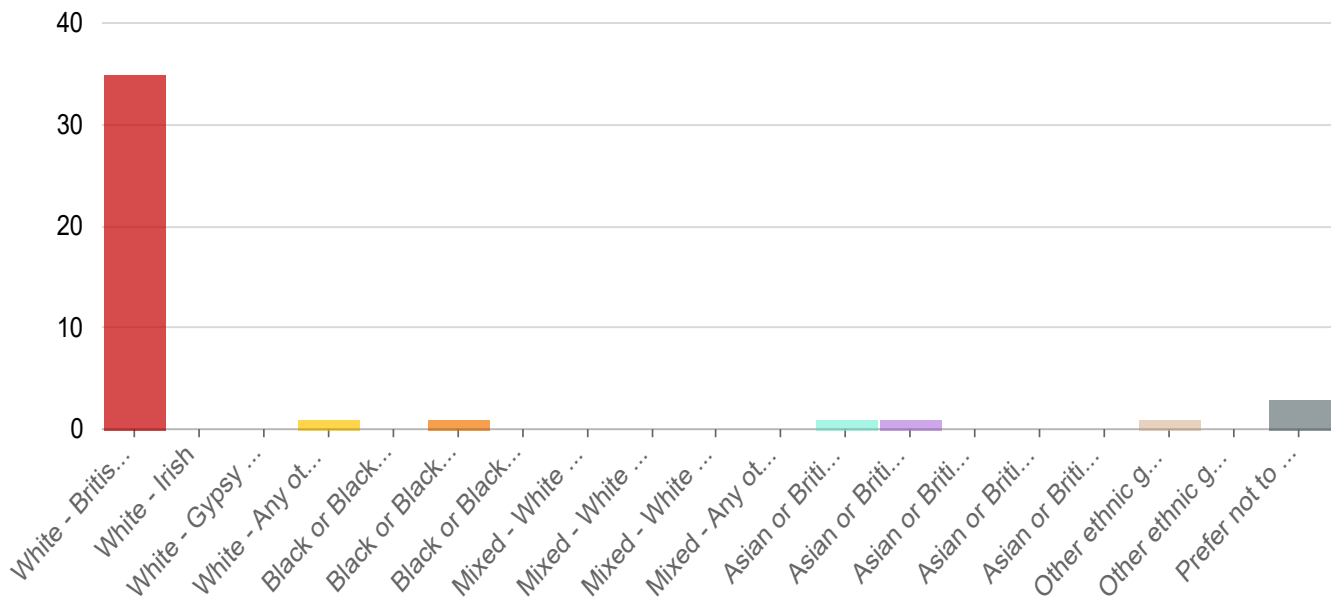
Q11. Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?



Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

About you > ETHNICITY

Q12. To which of these groups do you consider you belong?



Answers	Count	Percentage
White - British	35	79.55%
White - Irish	0	0%
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0	0%
White - Any other White background (please write below)	1	2.27%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	0	0%
Black or Black British - African	1	2.27%
Black or Black British - Any other Black background (please write below)	0	0%
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	0	0%
Mixed - White and Black African	0	0%
Mixed - White and Asian	0	0%
Mixed - Any other Mixed background (please write below)	0	0%
Asian or British Asian - Indian	1	2.27%
Asian or British Asian - Pakistani	1	2.27%
Asian or British Asian - Bangladeshi	0	0%
Asian or British Asian - Chinese	0	0%

Asian or British Asian - Any other Asian background (please write below)	0	0%
Other ethnic group - Arab	1	2.27%
Other ethnic group - Any other background (please write below)	0	0%
Prefer not to say	3	6.82%

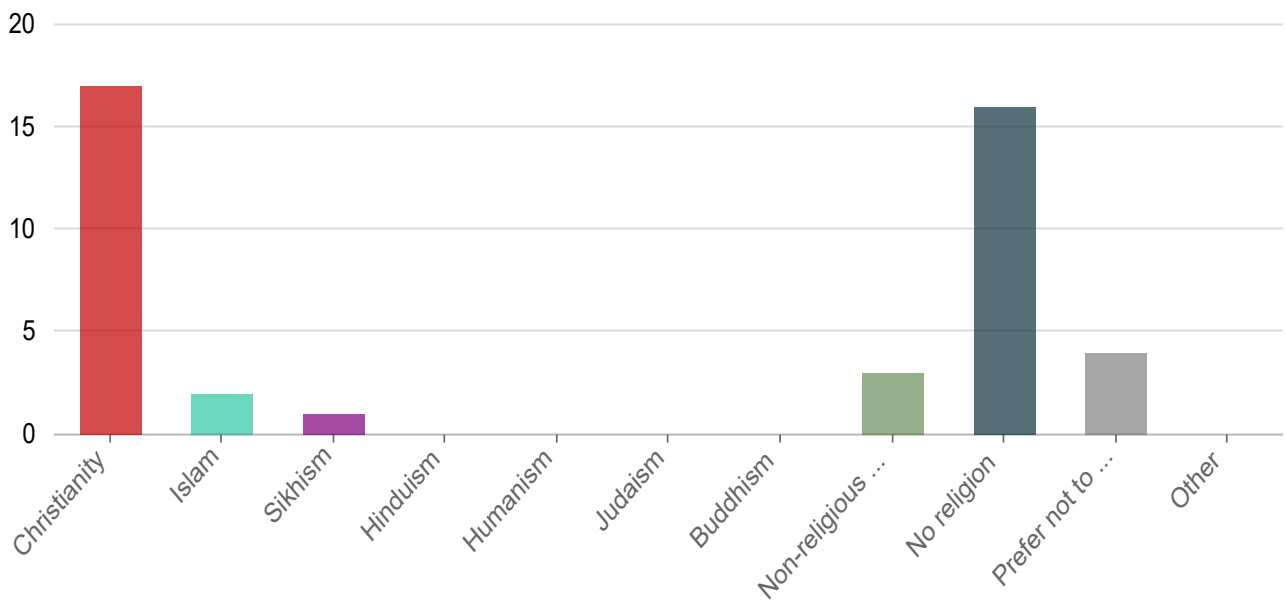
Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

Q12a. If you have selected an 'Any other' ethnic group, please provide details below.

There are no answers to this question yet.

About you > RELIGION OR BELIEF

Q13. What is your religion or belief?



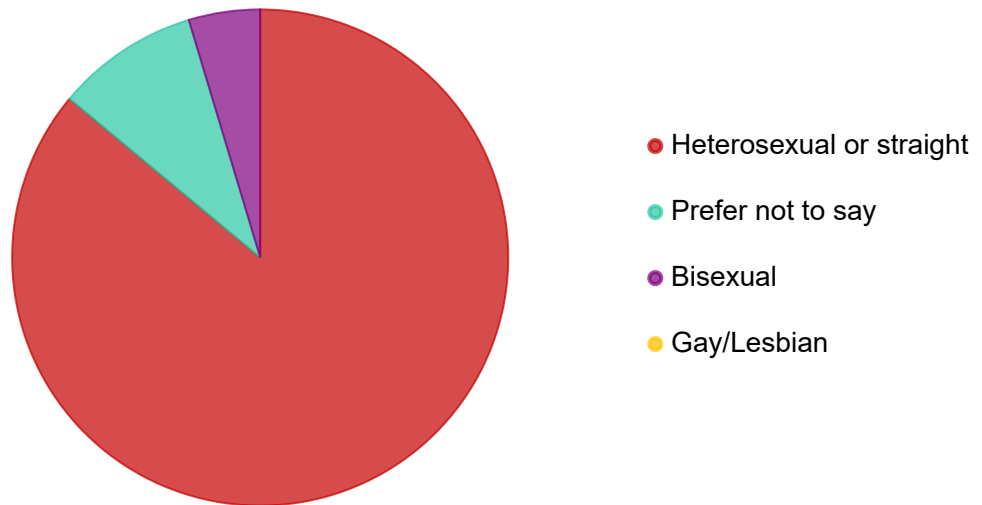
Answers	Count	Percentage
Christianity	17	38.64%
Islam	2	4.55%
Sikhism	1	2.27%
Hinduism	0	0%

Humanism	0	0%
Judaism	0	0%
Buddhism	0	0%
Non-religious belief	3	6.82%
No religion	16	36.36%
Prefer not to say	4	9.09%
Other	0	0%

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

About you > SEXUAL ORIENTATION

Q14. What is your sexual orientation/sexuality?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Heterosexual or straight	37	84.09%
Prefer not to say	4	9.09%
Bisexual	2	4.55%
Gay/Lesbian	0	0%

Answered: 43 Skipped: 1

