

Petitions Committee

Review of the National Assembly for Wales

Petitions System

Summary of Outreach Work

Background

This document provides a summary of the Outreach work conducted as part of the Petitions Committee review into the Petitions system.

Methodology

As part of the review into the Petitions system the Outreach Team conducted a survey in both online and paper-based formats. Participants were asked a range of questions relating to what matters the Petitions committee should cover, who should be able to use the system and what action the Committee should take on petitions.

One survey was created with the aim of targeting the general public as a whole.

Awareness Raising

In order to promote awareness of the survey and attract participants the Outreach Team contacted a broad-range of organisations. Those contacted were able to raise awareness using a range of methods including – placing articles on websites; signposting on social media including Facebook and twitter; and emailing participants directly.

The surveys were also promoted by Assembly staff with relevant groups visiting the Senedd and receiving education visits, and during the Assembly's presence at summer shows.

Key Statistics

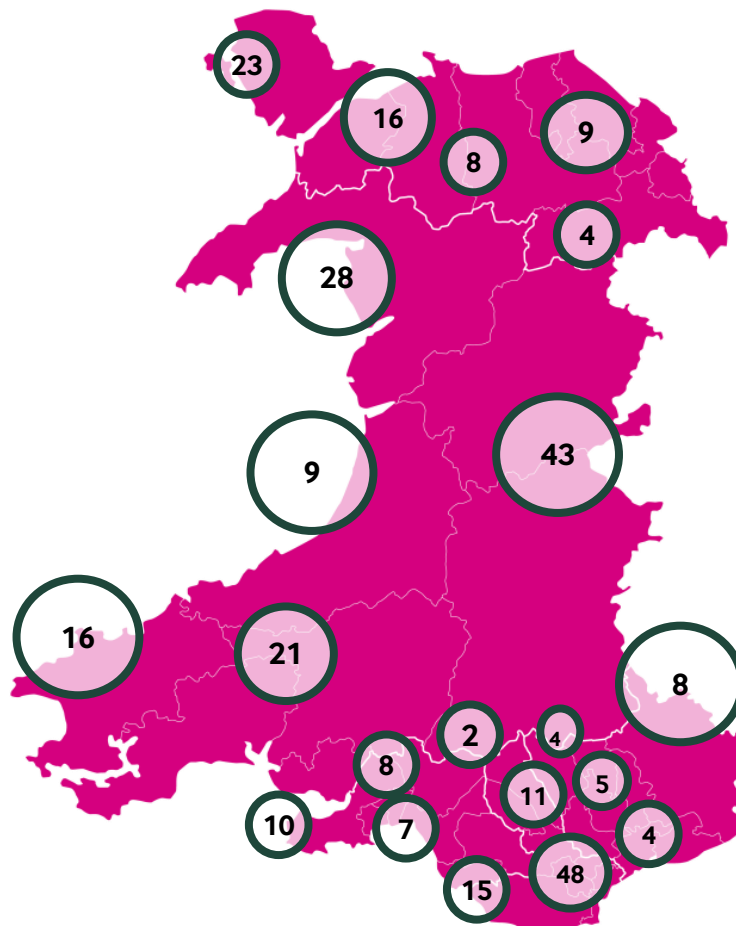
330 Total number of survey responses received

Geographical Summary of Responses

Number of survey responses broken down by local authority area

Total number of responses to this question: 307

Blaenau Gwent: 8
Bridgend: 7
Caerphilly: 5
Cardiff: 48
Carmarthenshire: 21
Ceredigion: 9
Conwy: 16
Denbighshire: 8
Flintshire: 4
Gwynedd: 28
Isle of Anglesey: 23
Merthyr Tydfil: 2
Monmouthshire: 8
Neath Port Talbot: 8
Newport: 4
Pembrokeshire: 16
Powys: 43
Rhondda Cynon Taf: 11
Swansea: 10
Torfaen: 4
Vale of Glamorgan: 15
Wrexham: 9

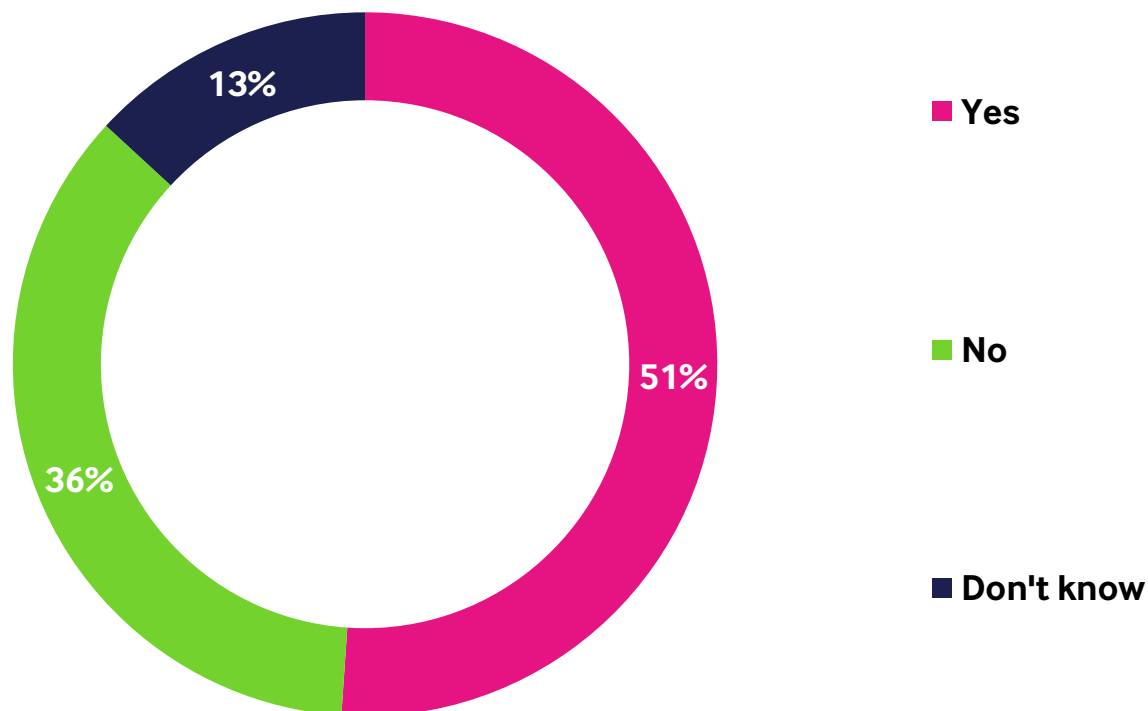


Summary of Responses

Question one - The Assembly currently only considers petitions on matters that the Assembly is responsible for. Should the Assembly be permitted to consider petitions it does not have direct responsibility for? Please explain your answer.

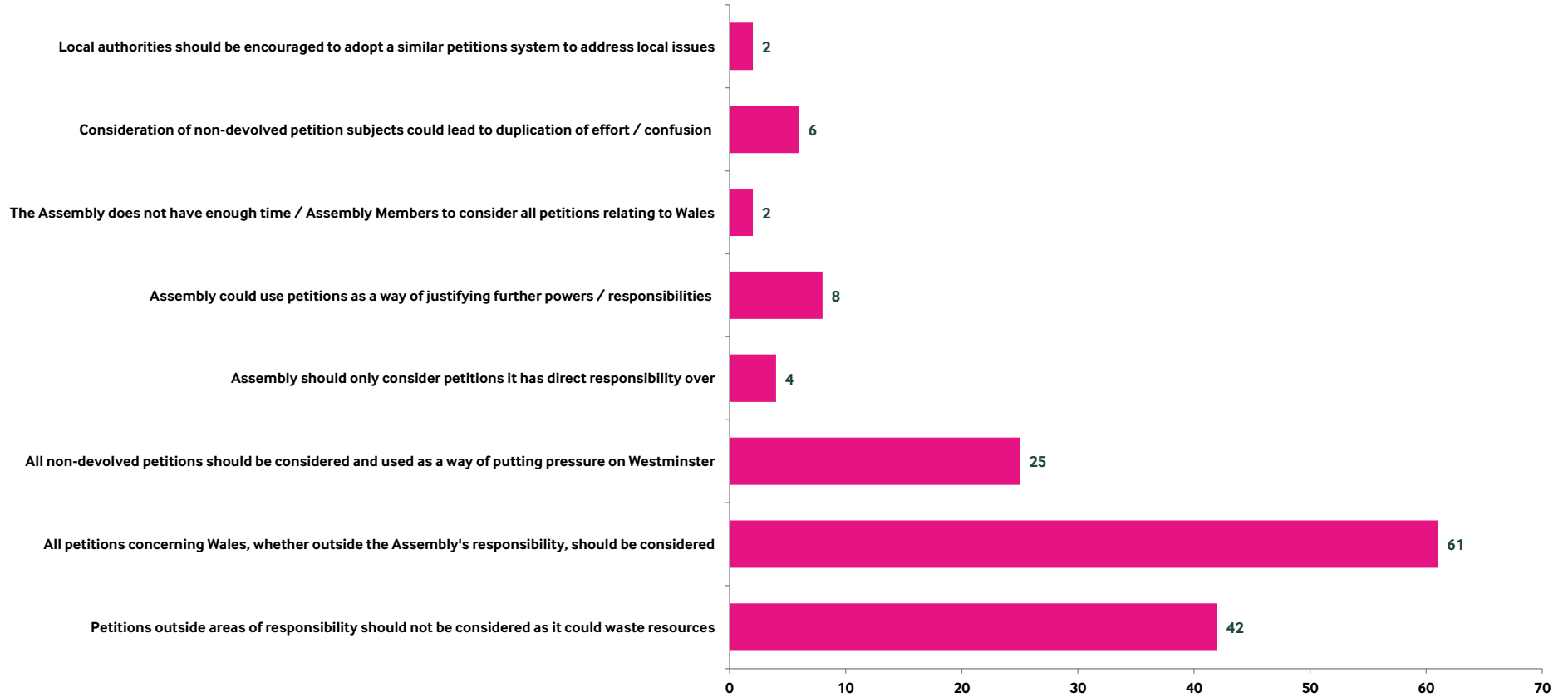
Total number of responses to this question: 327

- Yes: **51.07% (167)**
- No: **35.77% (117)**
- Don't know: **13.14% (43)**



Question one - comments

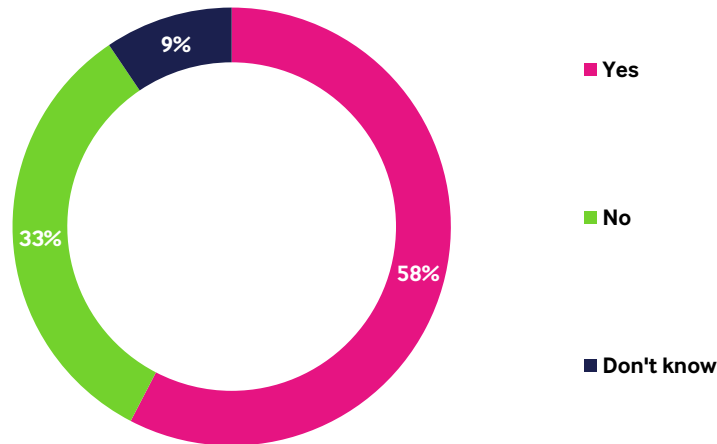
Total number of comments to this question: 150



Question two – The Assembly doesn't currently accept petitions if they are about the decisions or actions of local authorities, or where there is already a legal procedure for decision making (e.g. planning decisions). Should this change?

Total number of responses to this question: 328

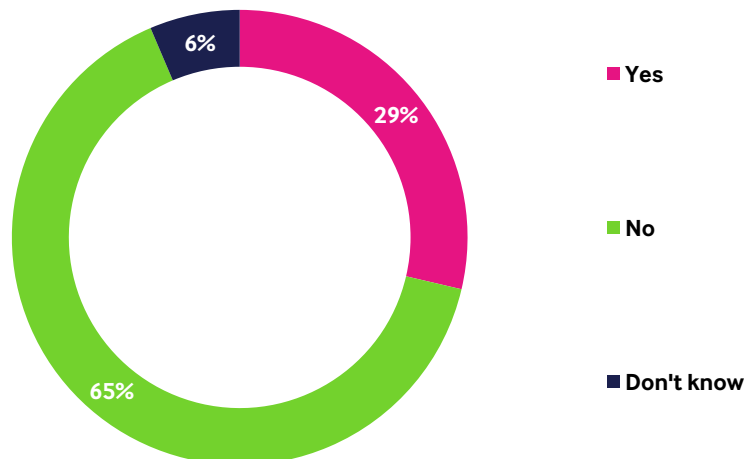
- Yes: **57.62% (189)**
- No: **32.92% (108)**
- Don't know: **9.45% (31)**



Question three - The Assembly does accept petitions about other public bodies in Wales (e.g. Local Health Boards and the decisions they make about local health services). Should this change?

Total number of responses to this question: 328

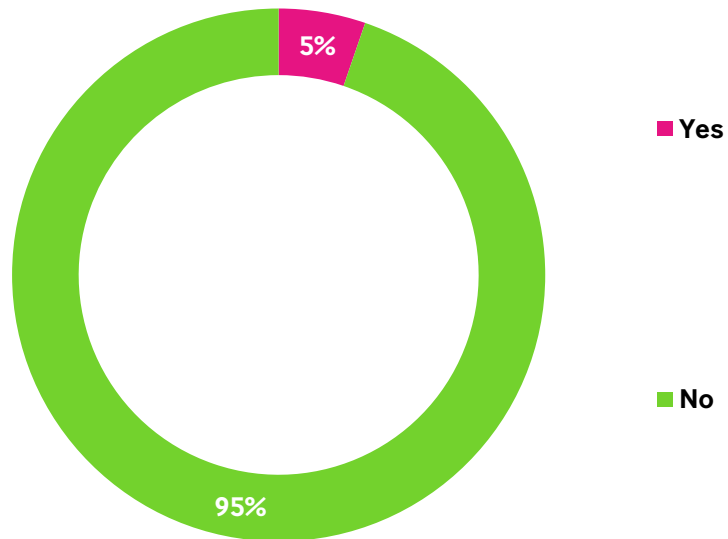
- Yes: **28.65% (94)**
- No: **64.93% (213)**
- Don't know: **6.40% (21)**



Question four - Have you ever submitted a petition to the Assembly?

Total number of responses to this question: 323

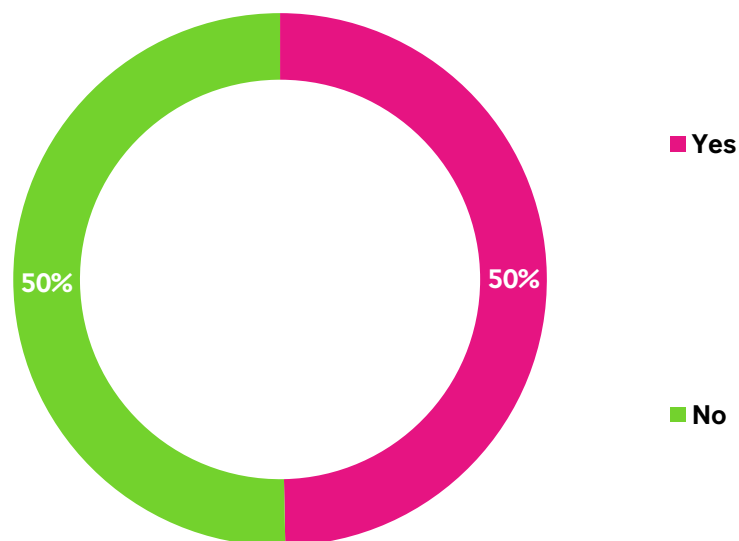
- Yes: **5.26% (17)**
- No: **94.73% (306)**



Question five - Have you ever signed a petition to the Assembly?

Total number of responses to this question: 320

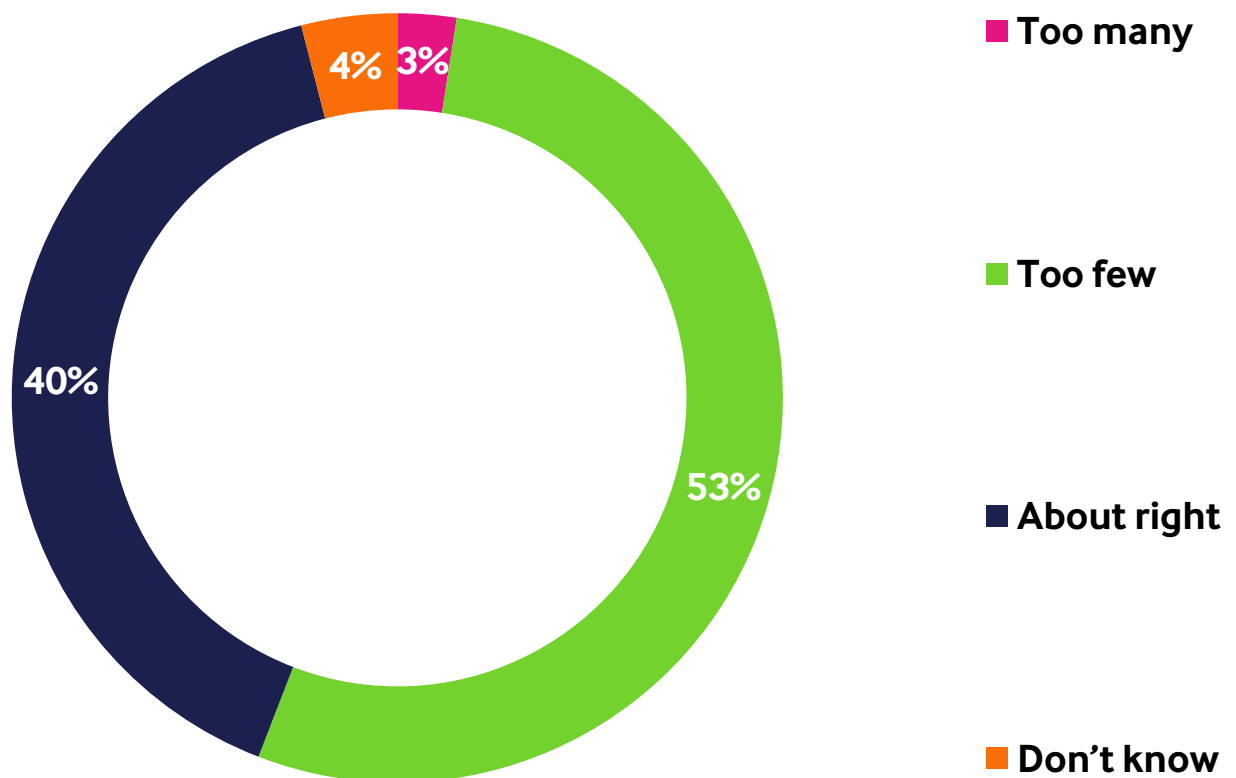
- Yes: **49.68% (159)**
- No: **50.31% (161)**



Question six - Ten signatures are needed for a petition to be considered by the Assembly's Petitions Committee – is this too many, too few or about right?

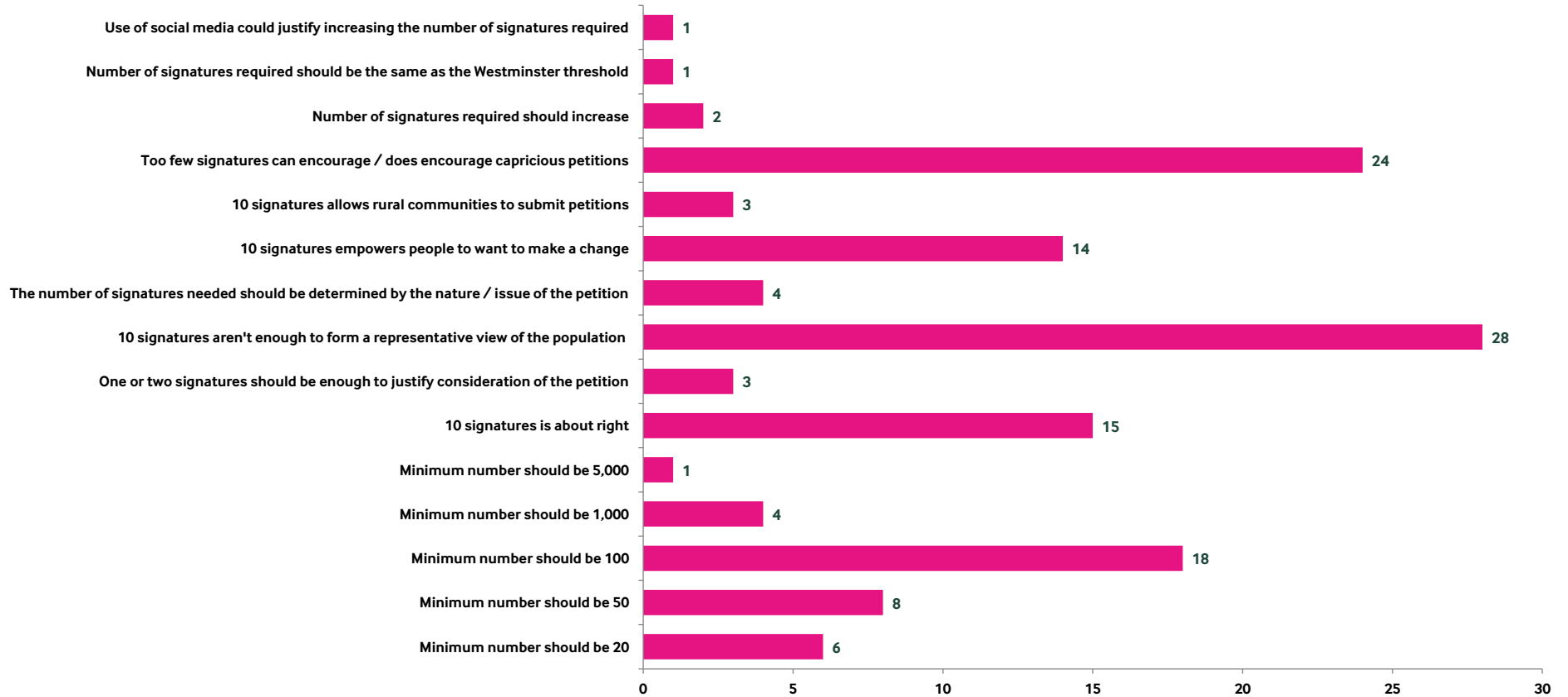
Total number of responses to this question: 324

- Too many: **2.46% (8)**
- Too few: **53.39% (173)**
- About right: **40.12% (130)**
- Don't know: **4.01% (13)**



Question six - comments

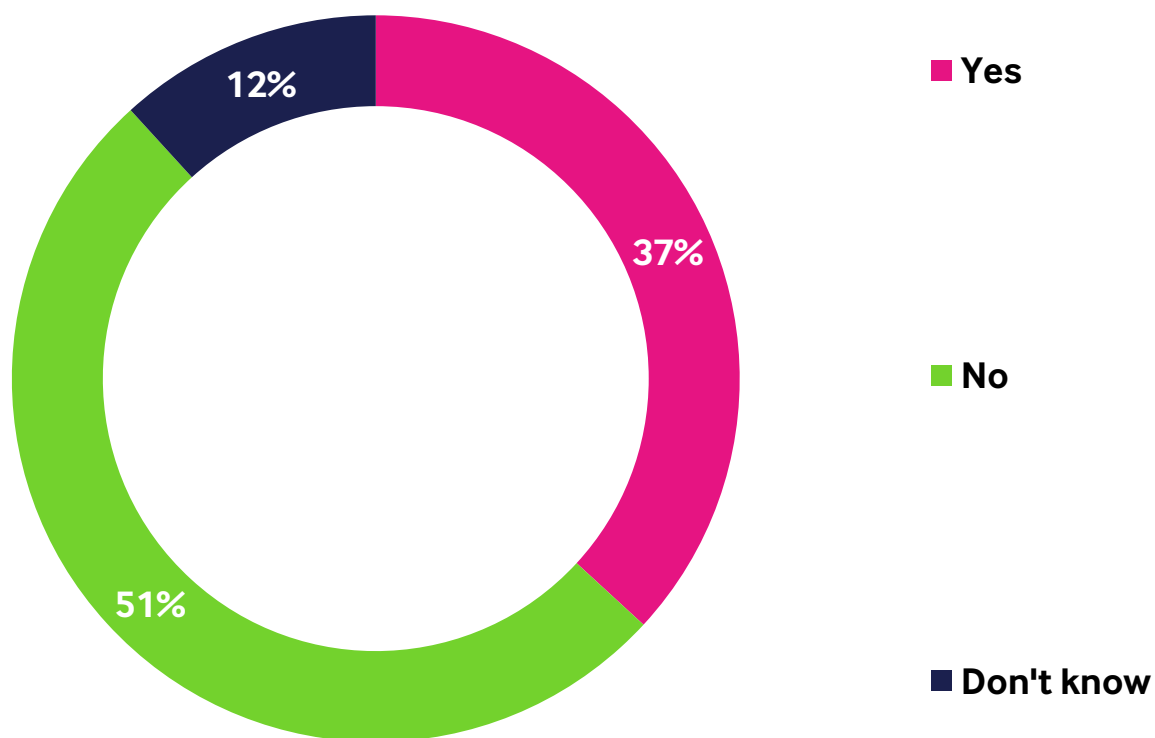
Total number of comments to this question: 132



Question seven - Petitions submitted by an organisation, or by an association or group, do not require a minimum number of signatures. Should this continue?

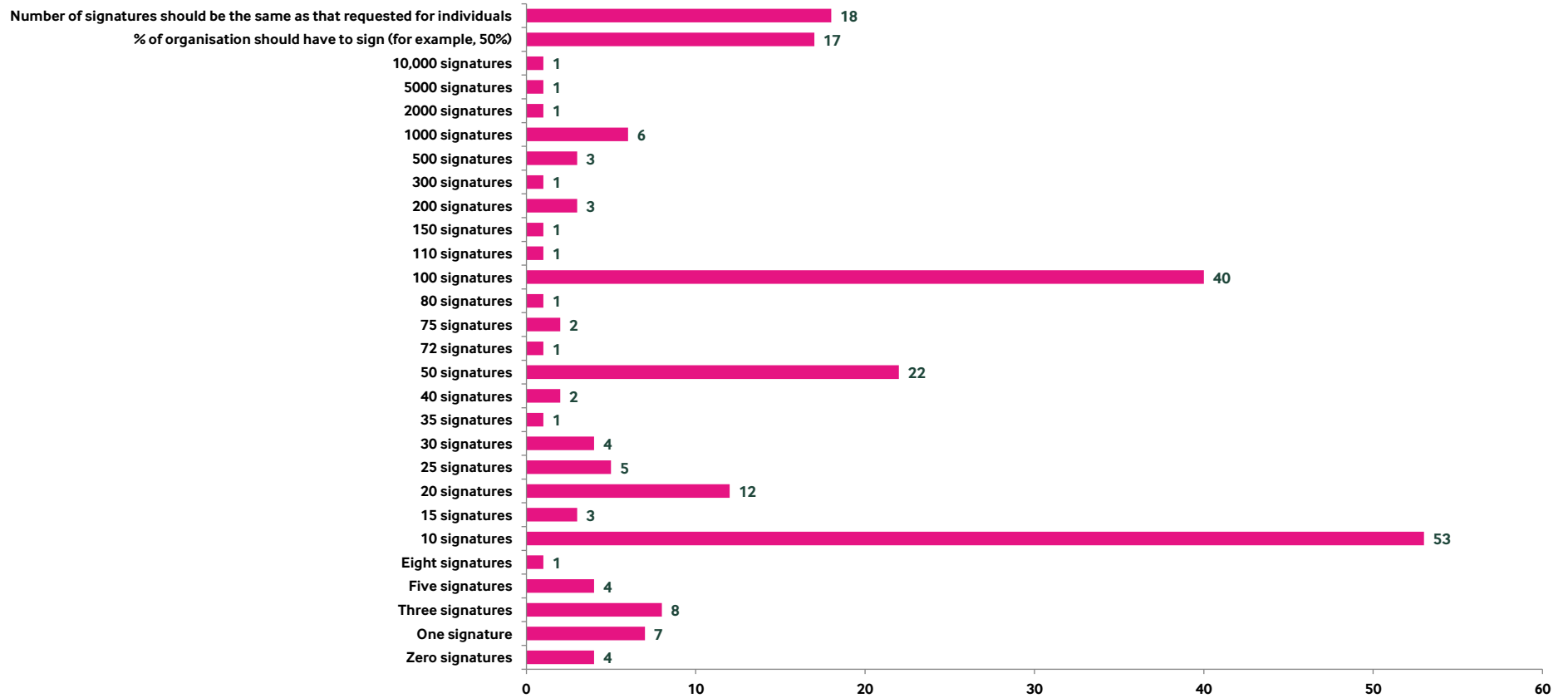
Total number of responses to this question: 323

- Yes: **36.84% (119)**
- No: **51.39% (166)**
- Don't know: **11.76% (38)**



Question eight - What should the minimum number of signatures be for organisations?

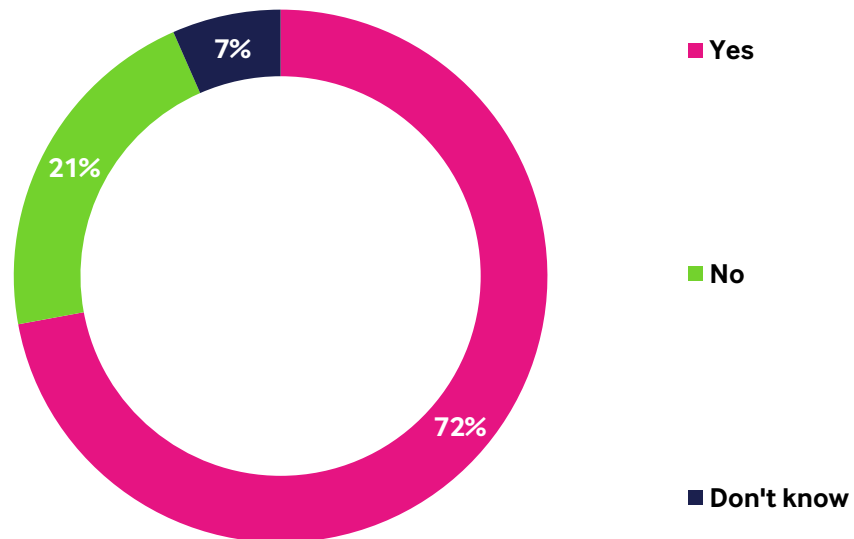
Total number of responses to this question: 223



Question nine - Should only people who live in Wales be allowed to submit a petition?

Total number of responses to this question: 319

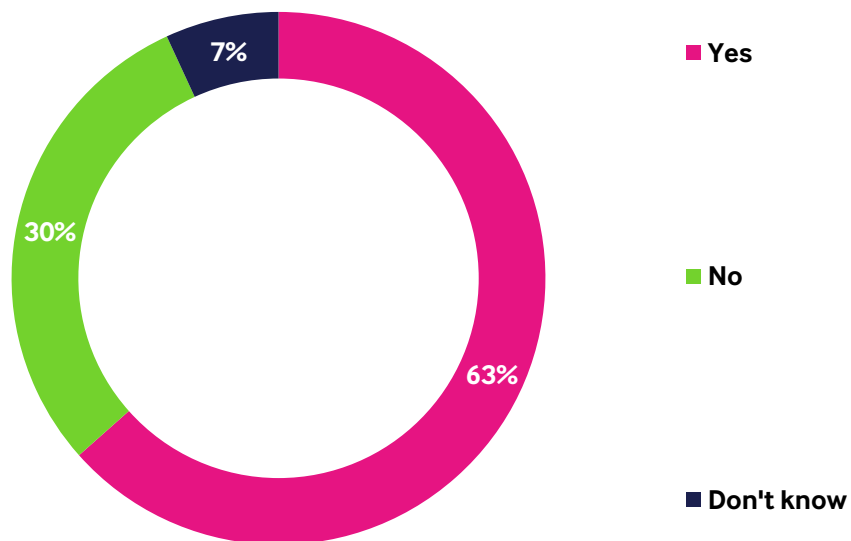
- Yes: **72.10% (230)**
- No: **21.31% (68)**
- Don't know: **6.58% (21)**



Question 10 - Should only people who live in Wales be allowed to sign a petition?

Total number of responses to this question: 320

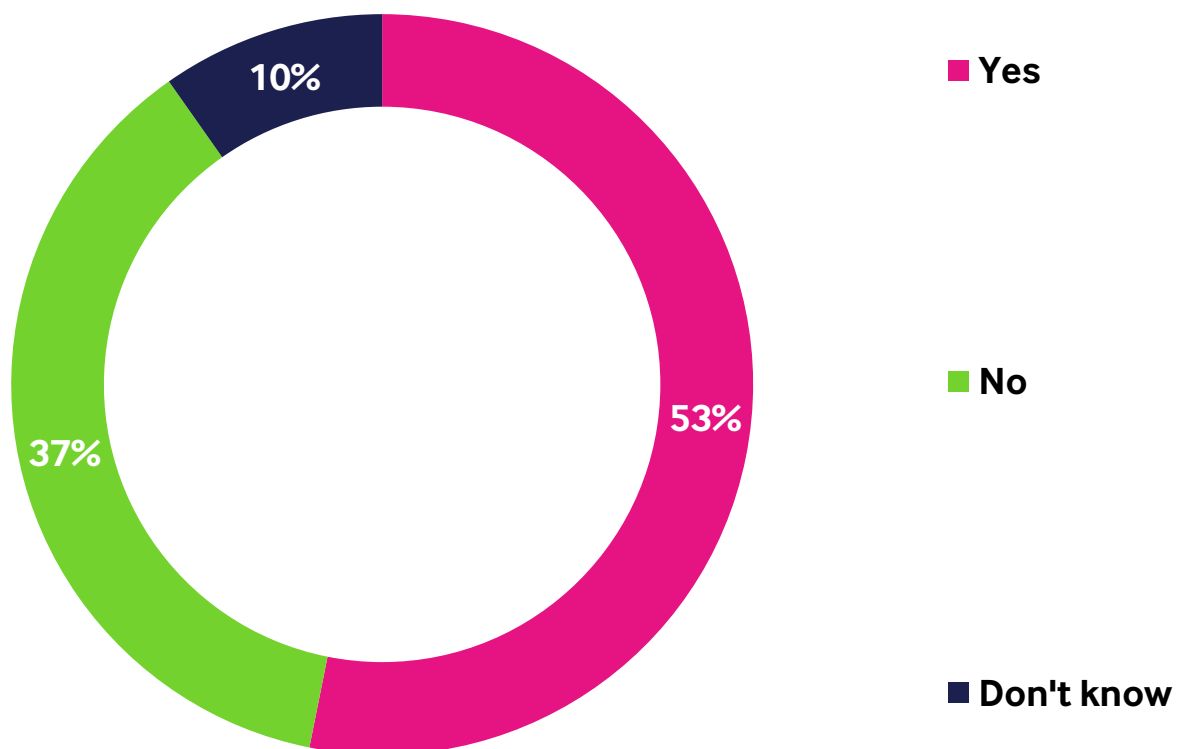
- Yes: **63.43% (203)**
- No: **29.68% (95)**
- Don't know: **6.87% (22)**



Question 11 - Should there be a minimum age to submit a petition? What do you think the minimum age should be?

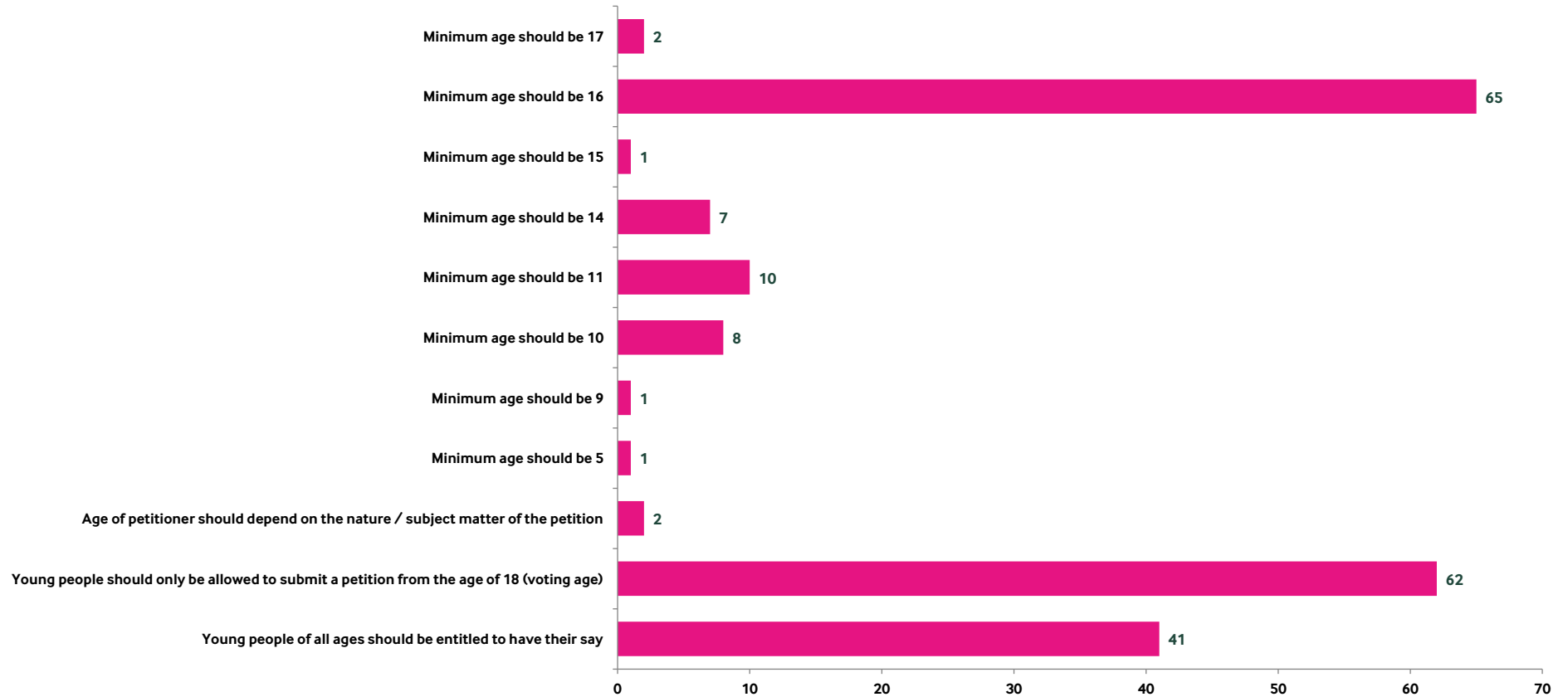
Total number of responses to this question: 321

- Yes: **52.64% (169)**
- No: **36.76% (118)**
- Don't know: **9.65% (31)**



Question 11 - comments

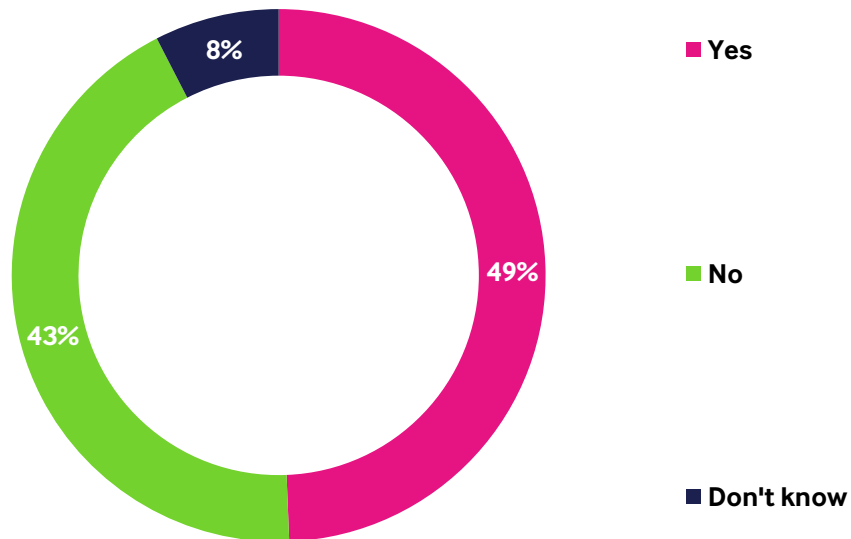
Total number of comments to this question: 200



Question 12 - Assembly Members are not allowed to submit petitions. Should the same rule apply to staff who work for Assembly Members or to staff who work for the National Assembly for Wales?

Total number of responses to this question: 218

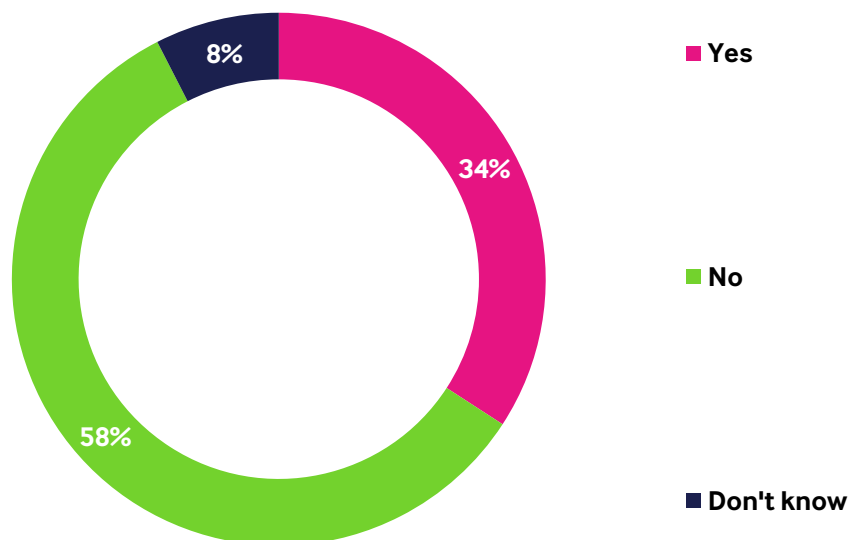
- Yes: **49.37% (157)**
- No: 43.08% (137)
- Don't know: **7.54% (24)**



Question 13 - Should political parties be allowed to submit petitions?

Total number of responses to this question: 319

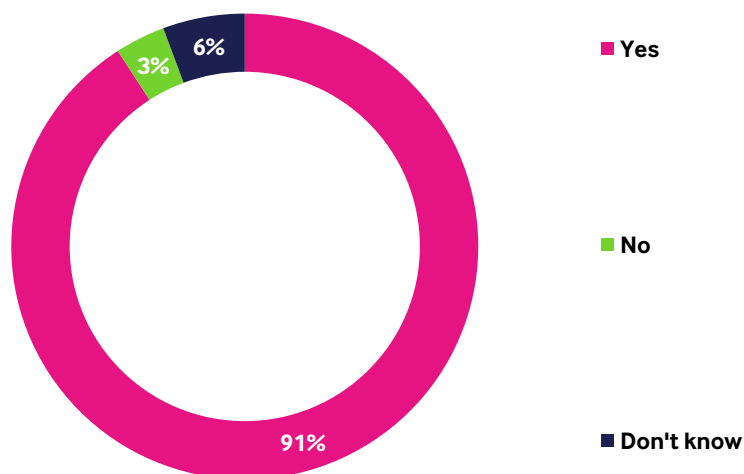
- Yes: **34.16% (109)**
- No: **58.30% (186)**
- Don't know: **7.52% (24)**



Question 14 - Should the Assembly's Petitions Committee be able to refer petitions to the Ombudsman, where they believe there are grounds for him/her to investigate?

Total number of responses to this question: 317

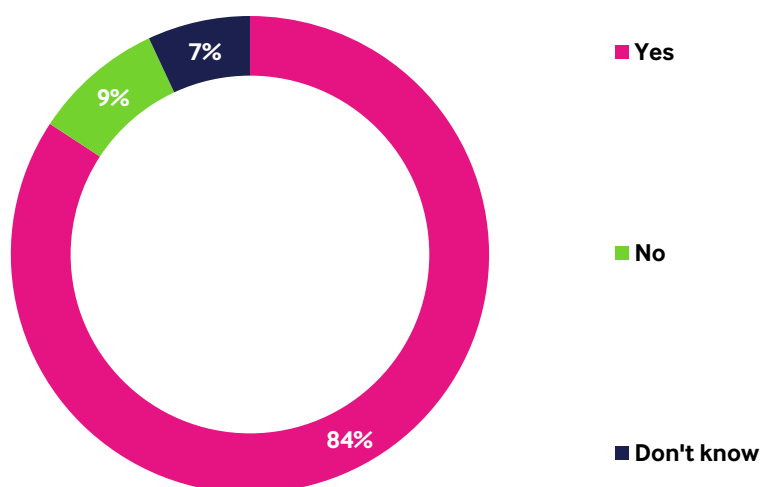
- Yes: **90.85% (288)**
- No: **3.47% (11)**
- Don't know: **5.67% (18)**



Question 15 - Should the Assembly's Petitions Committee be able to refer petitions to other organisations and offices such as the Children's, Older People's and Welsh Language Commissioners who are responsible for championing the rights of children, older people and the Welsh language?

Total number of responses to this question: 317

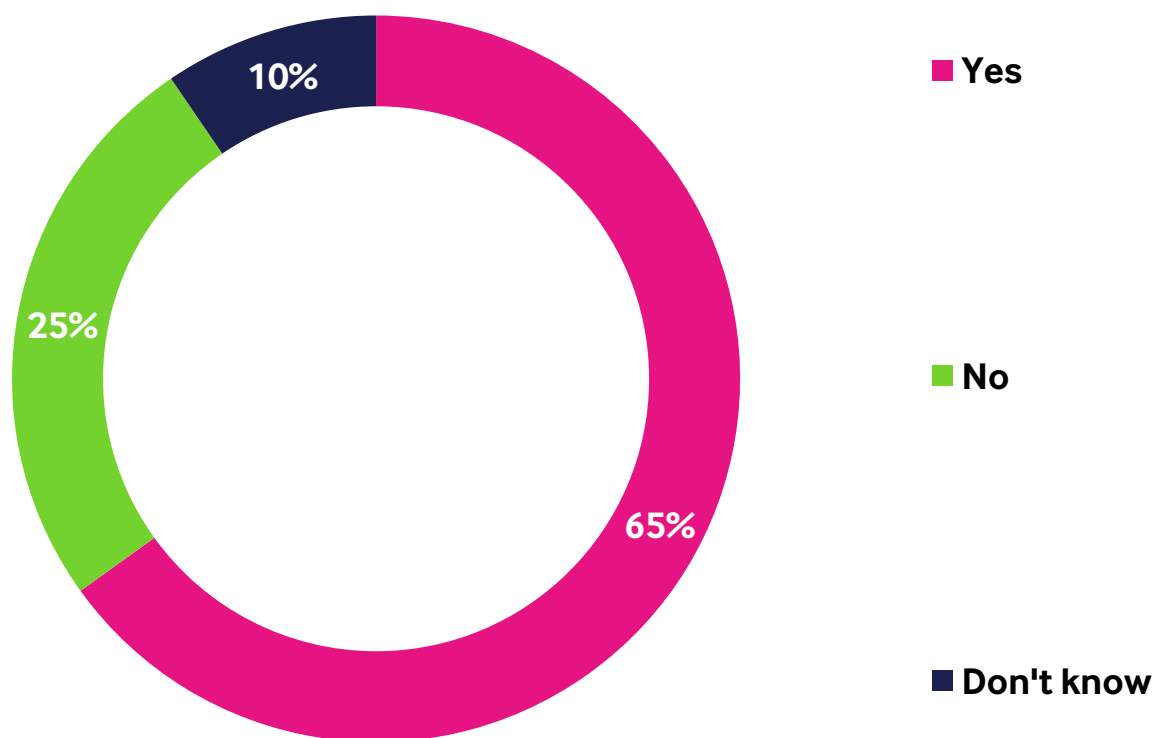
- Yes: **84.22% (267)**
- No: **8.83% (28)**
- Don't know: **6.94% (22)**



Question 16 - Should petitioners have tried to resolve a matter in another way before they raise a petition? For example, by using an organisation's complaints procedure or contacting their local Assembly Member or Councillor?

Total number of responses to this question: 315

- Yes: **65.07% (205)**
- No: **25.39% (80)**
- Don't know: **9.52% (30)**



Question 17 – What is your age?

Total number of responses to this question: 316

- 16 or under: **7.59% (24)**

- 17 – 24: **14.24% (45)**

- 25 – 34: **13.29% (42)**

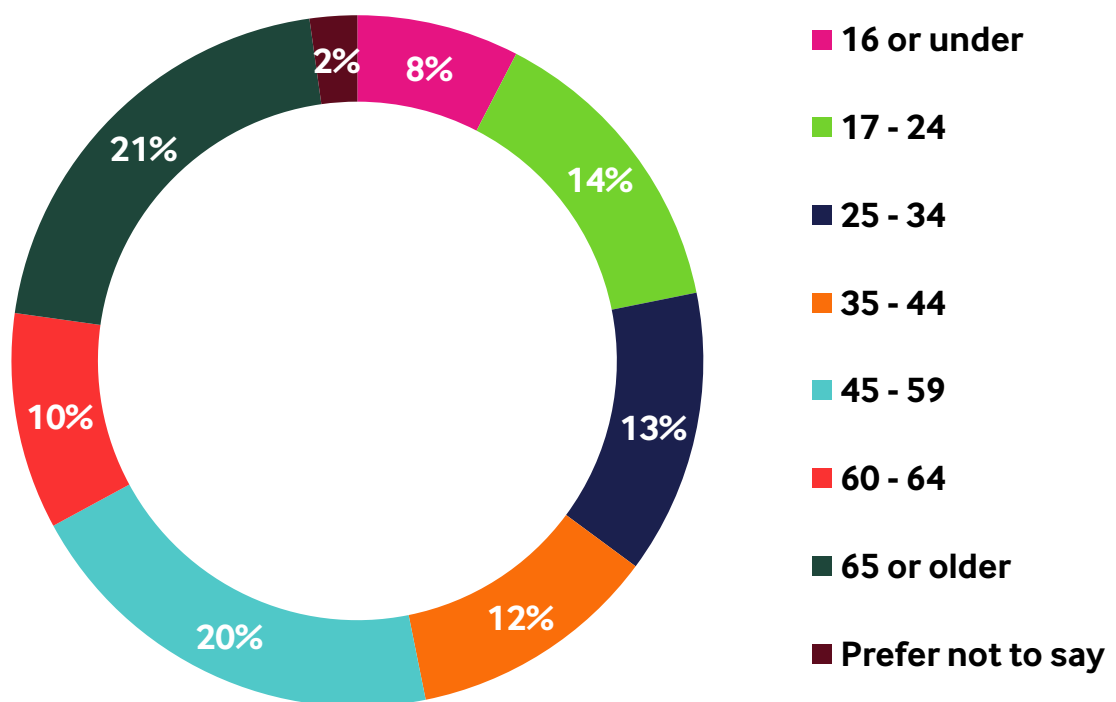
- 35 – 44: **11.70% (37)**

- 45 – 59: **20.25% (64)**

- 60 – 64: **10.12% (32)**

- 65 or over: **20.56% (65)**

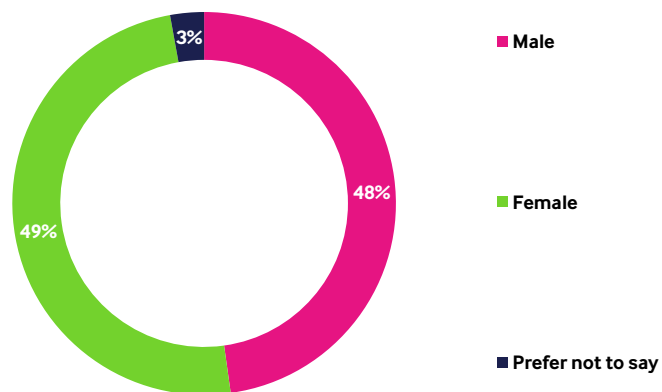
- Prefer not to say: **2.21% (7)**



Question 18 – What is your gender?

Total number of responses to this question: 316

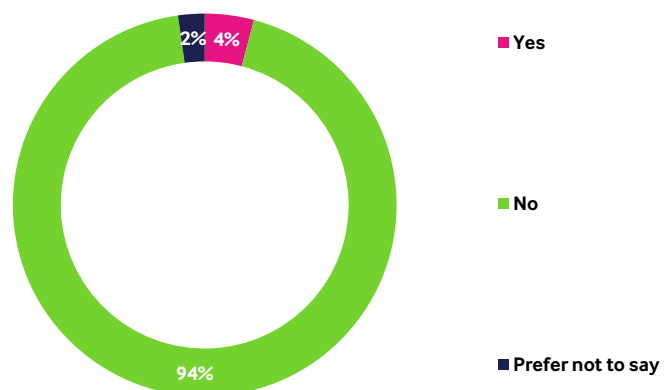
- Male: **47.78% (151)**
- Female: **49.36% (156)**
- Prefer not to say: **2.84% (9)**



Question 19 – Are you a disabled person, or a person with a learning difficulty?

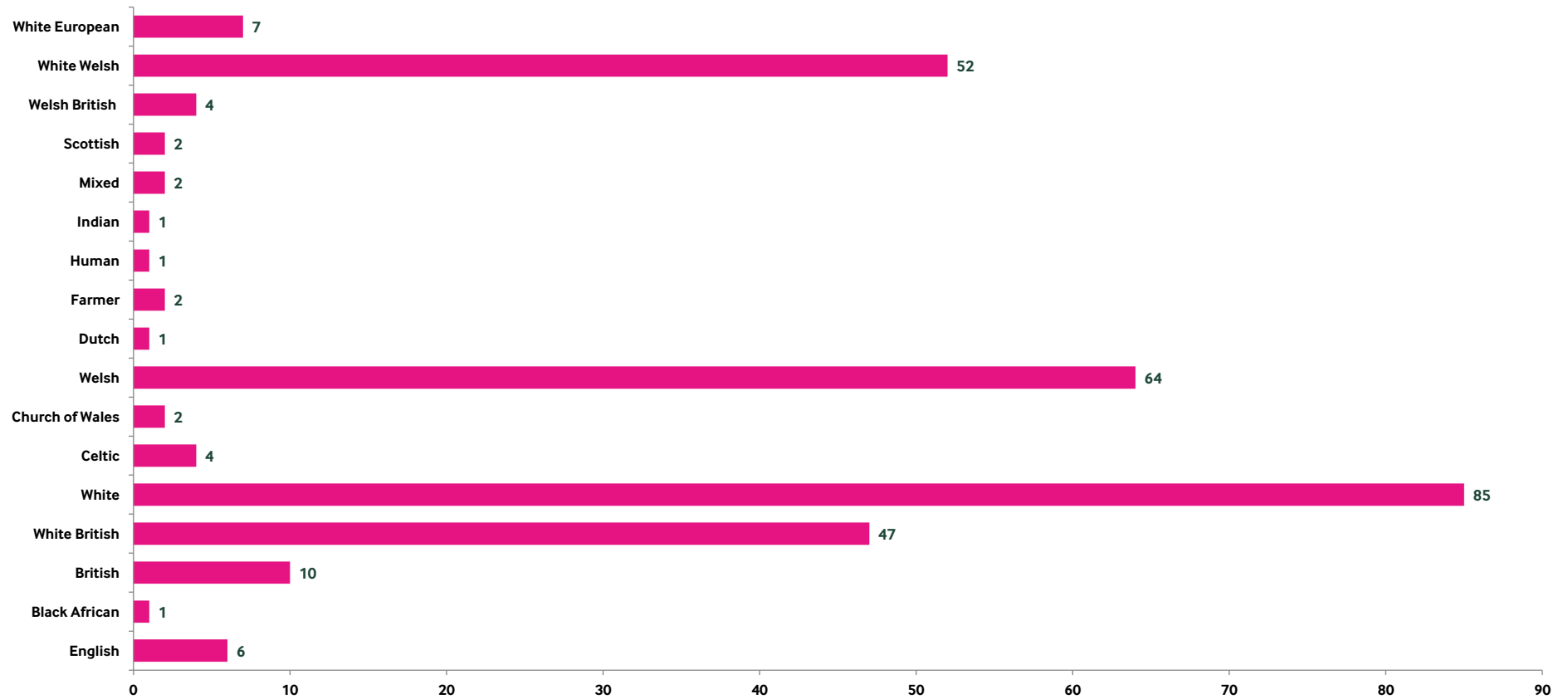
Total number of responses to this question: 314

- Yes: **4.14% (13)**
- No: **93.63% (294)**
- Prefer not to say: **2.22% (7)**



Question 20 – How would you best describe your ethnic group or background?

Total number of responses to this question: 309



Question 21 – In which local authority area do you live?

Total number of responses to this question: 307

