



**Carbon Neutral Islands**

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# RAASAY

2023

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# Introduction

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This survey was commissioned by the Carbon Neutral Islands Project and Raasay Development Trust. It covers a range of issues relevant to achieving Net Zero and the Island's overall sustainability. The results from this survey will feed into the Community Climate Action Plan and the local 5 year Development Plan. Further community consultation is scheduled that will allow an opportunity to look at possible community action solutions to some of the issues highlighted throughout this survey..

The household survey was designed and carried out by the local Carbon Neutral Development Officers through a mixture of online distribution and home visits. A response rate of 86% was achieved.

The information collected has lead to further work around housing conditions being explored through a partnership with the Energy Advice Services team from Lochalsh and Skye housing association.

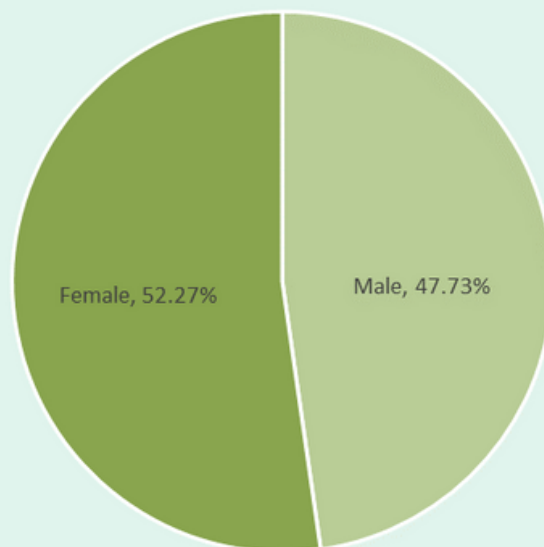
We would like to thank the members of the community who participated and opened their homes to us to chat about all things sustainability. We appreciate all the thought and time that went into the responses!

Rosie & Tom

# Island Population

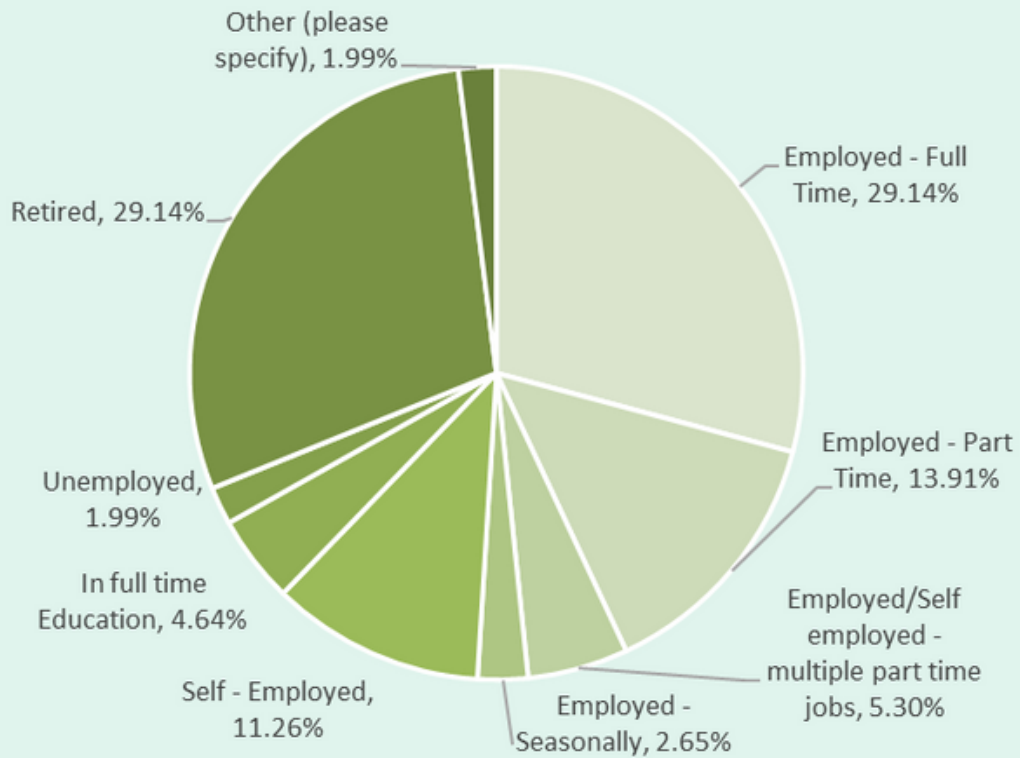
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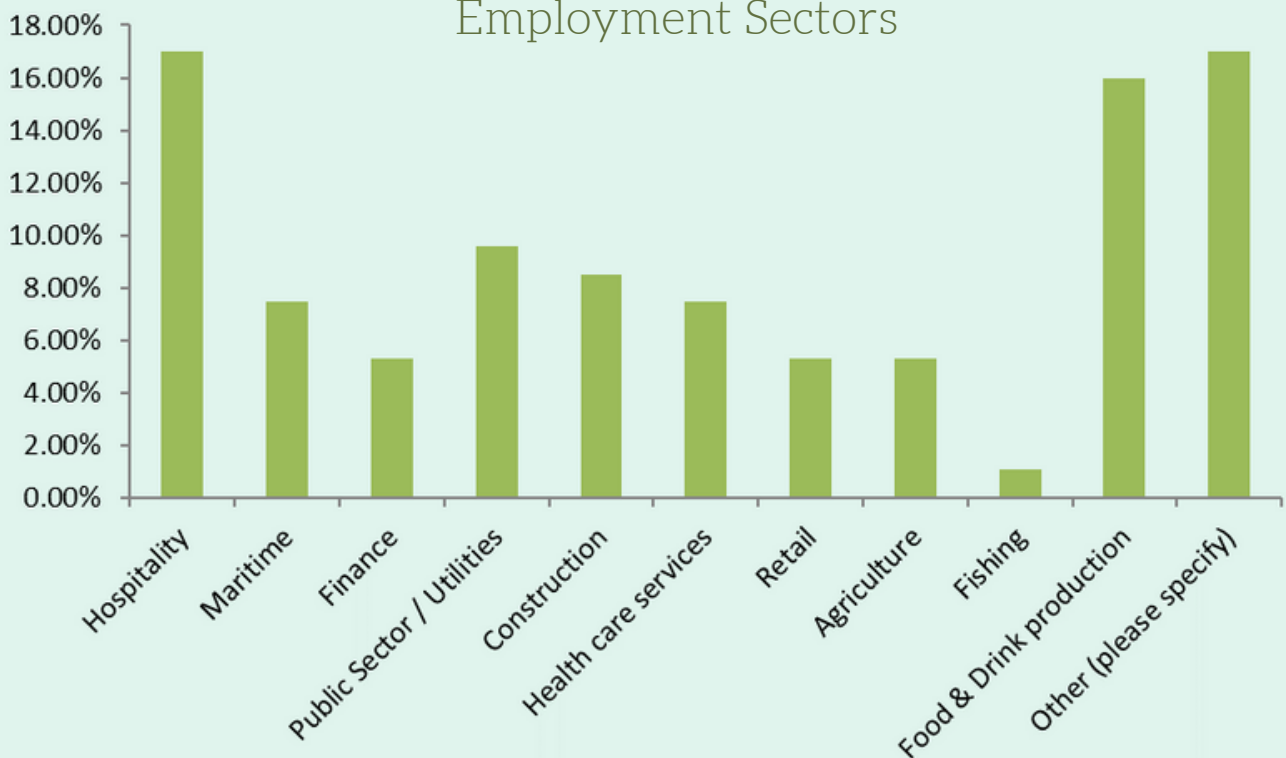


- Primary School and Below 4.5%
- Secondary School 4%
- 18 - 24 8.5%
- 25-35 14.2%
- 36-50 6.8%
- 50 - 65 30.7%
- 65+ 31.3%

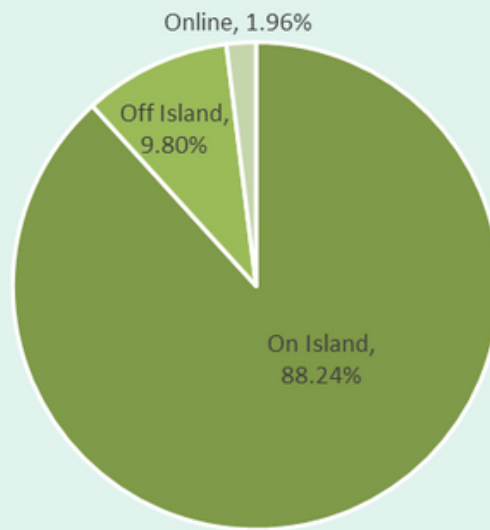
# Employment



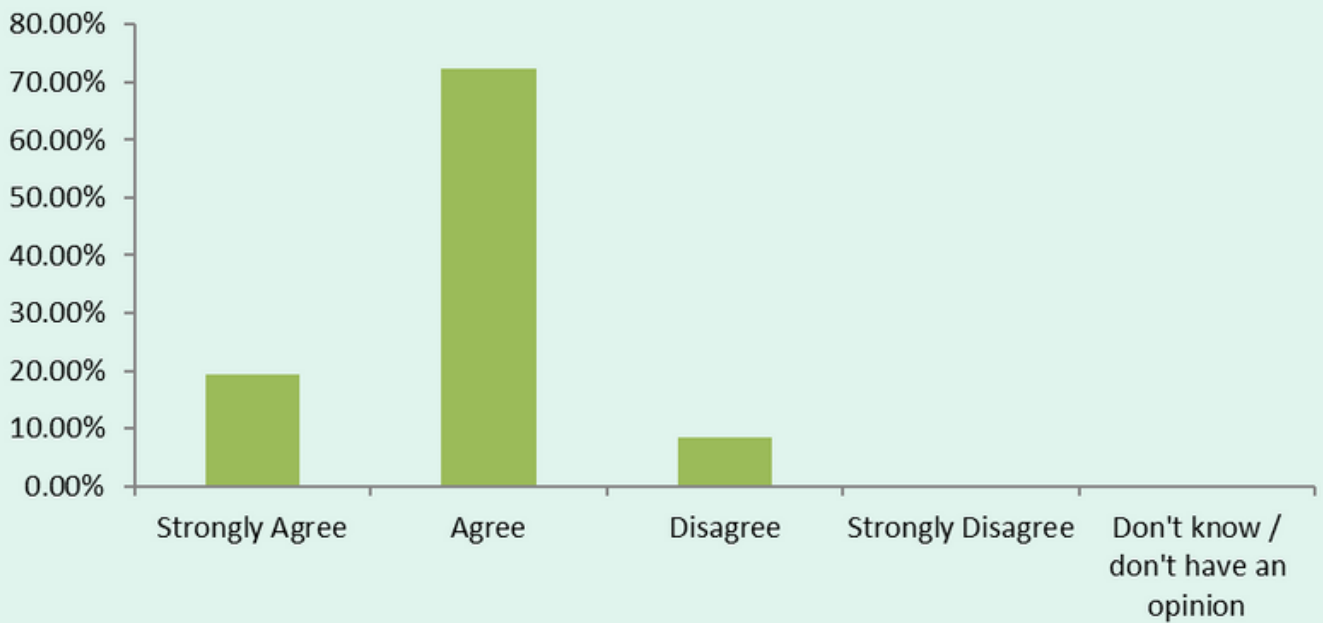
## Employment Sectors



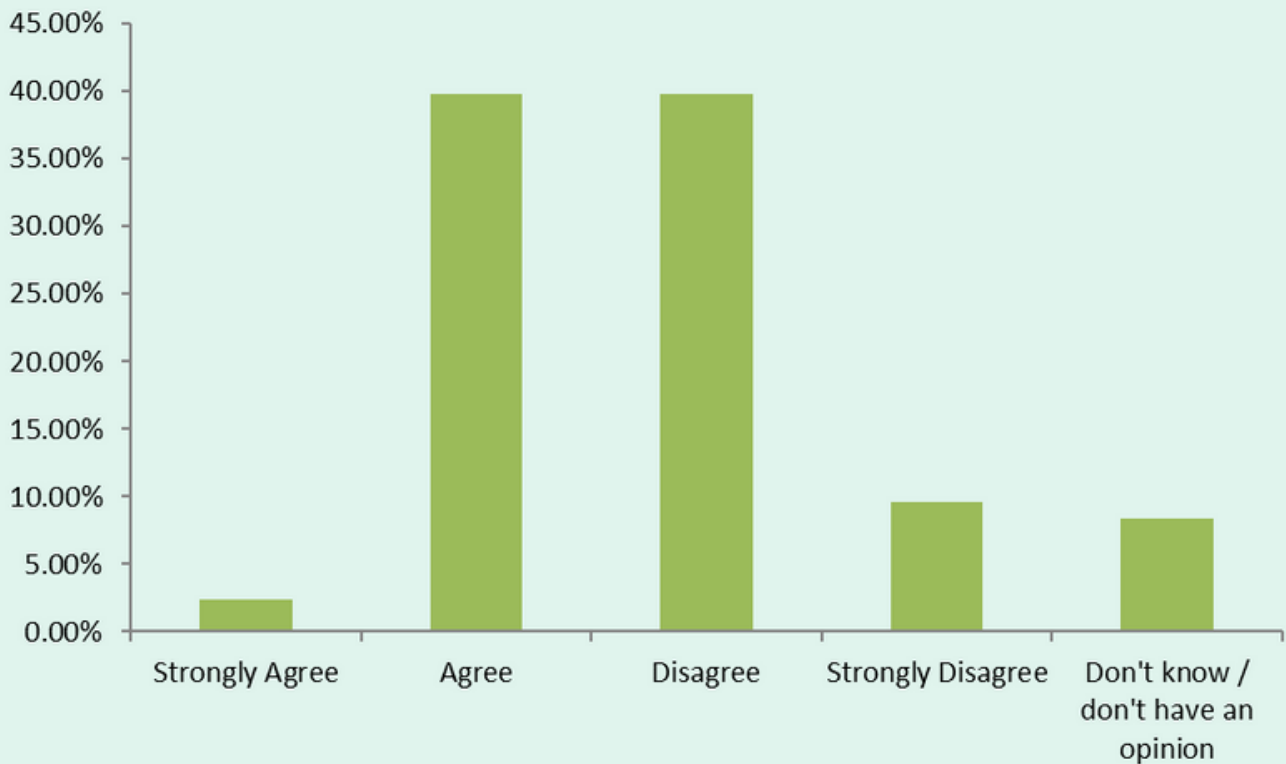
## Where do you access work?



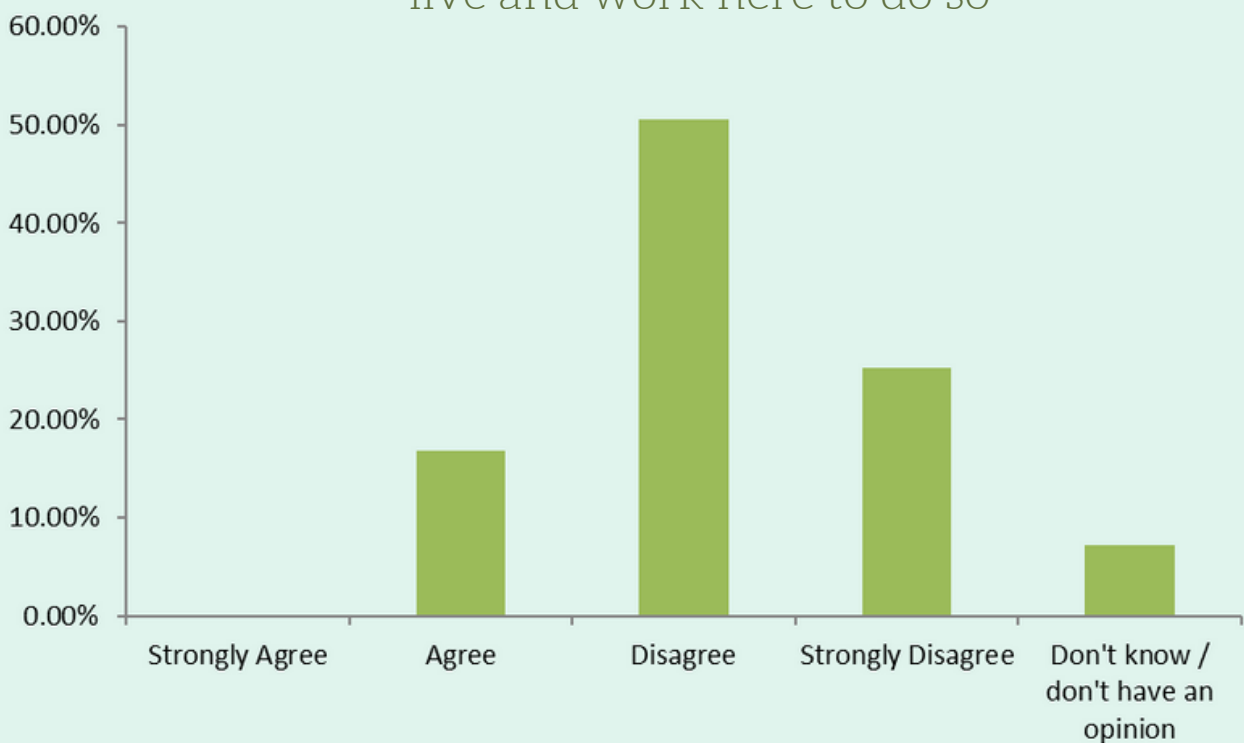
There are employment opportunities on the island.



Jobs are available to suit different interests, skills and ambitions.

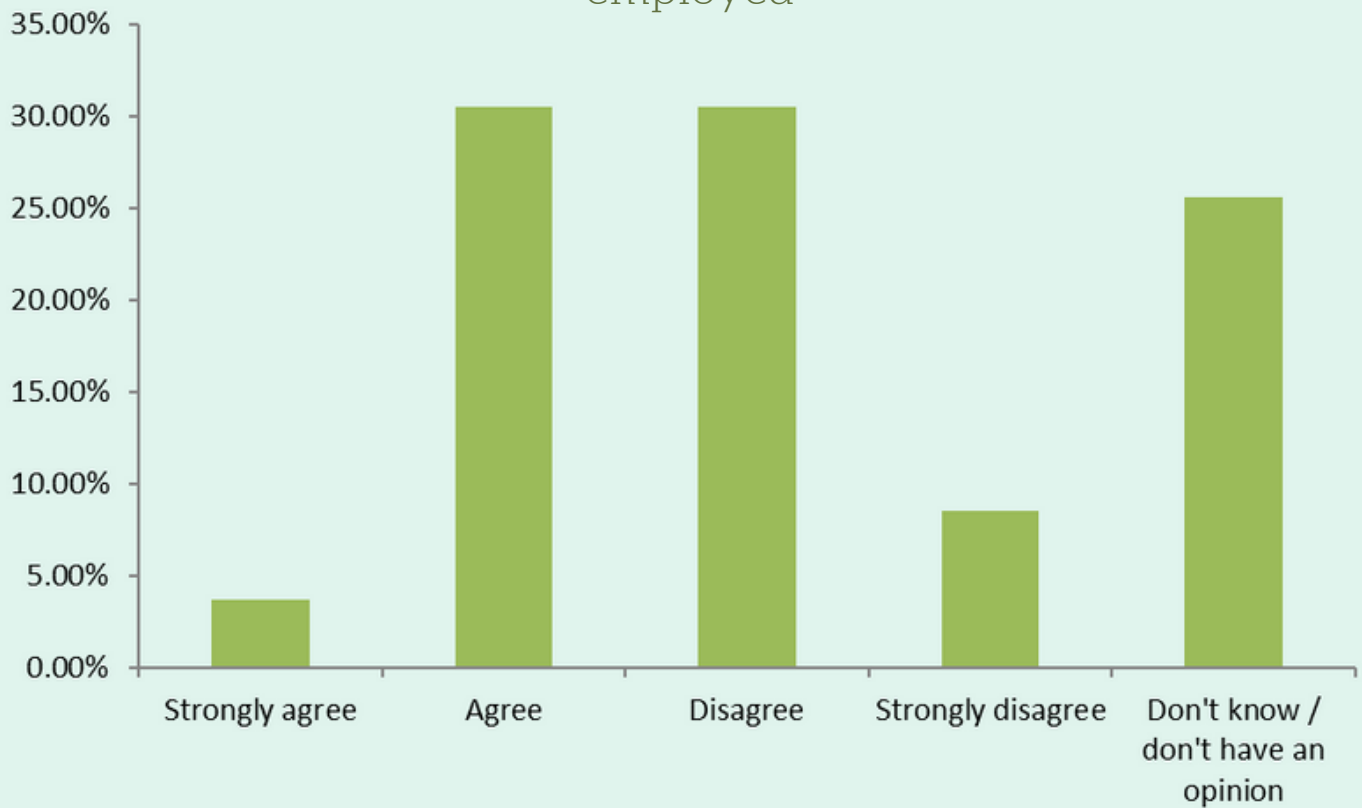


It is easy for young people (under 40) who want to live and work here to do so



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## It is easy to start an enterprise and become self-employed



## Comments...

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### Housing

Lack of affordable housing was highlighted as the main barrier to young people moving to the island. Other issues such as lack of access to land, childcare and infrastructure were also seen as barriers to young people moving to Raasay.

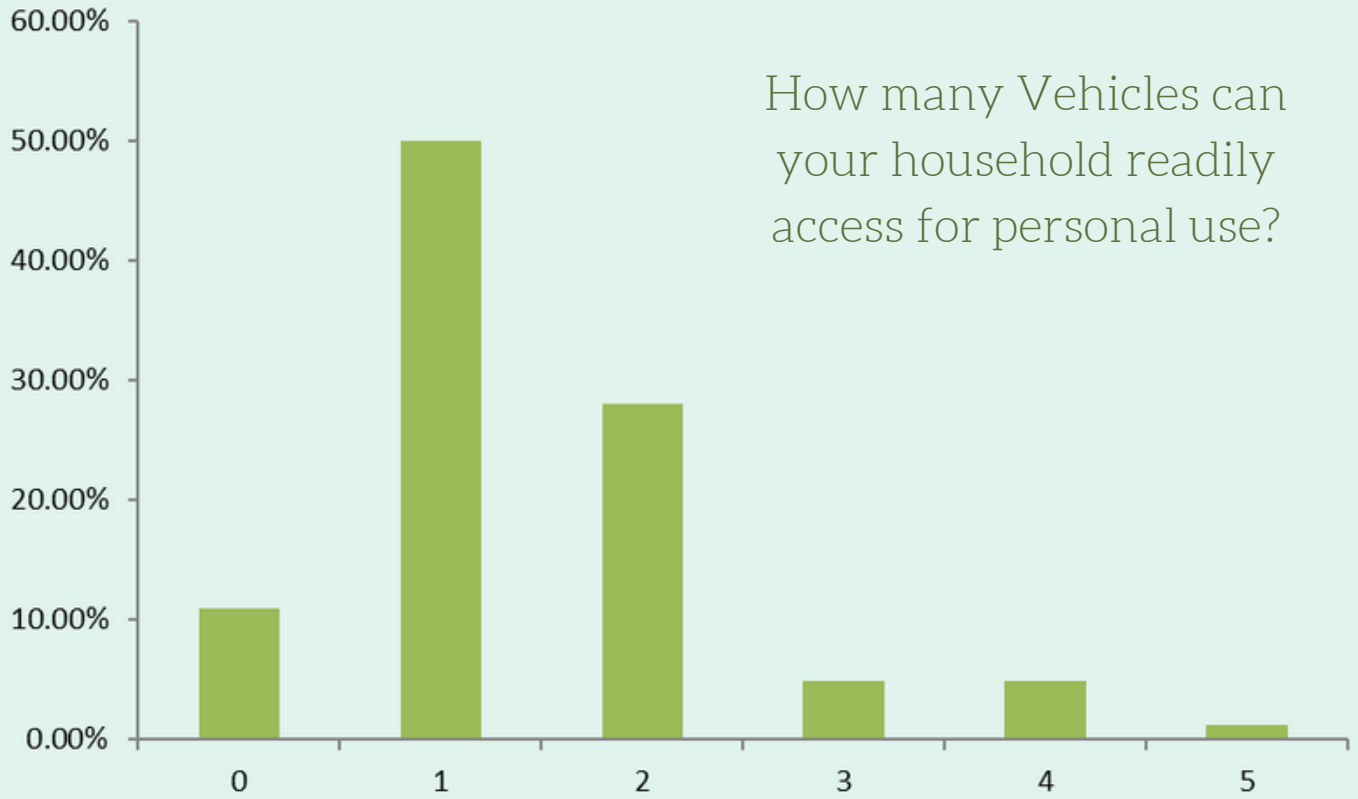
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### Business

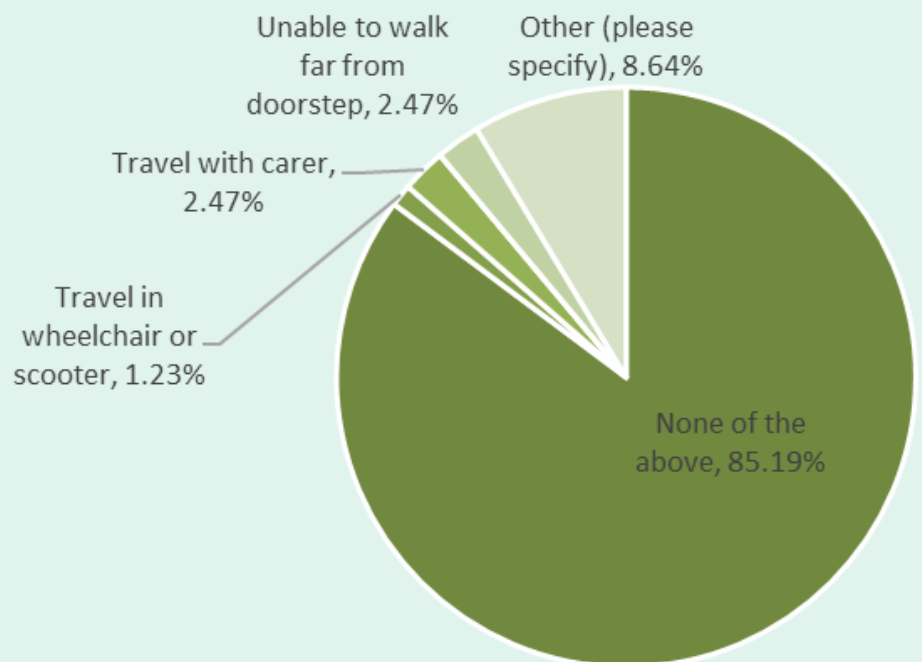
Residents brought up the lack of available land/ premises for businesses as a barrier to local entrepreneurship. It was also raised that the existing funding pots available for business start ups miss the type of businesses that would work on a small island.

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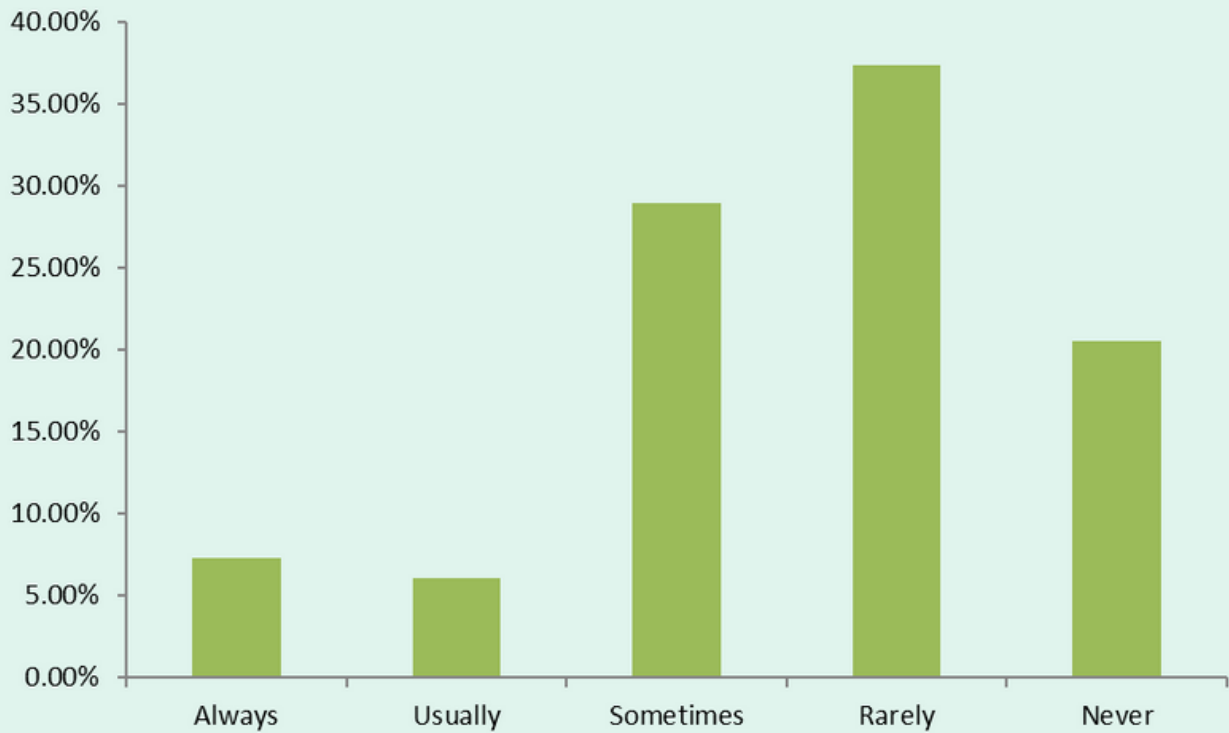
# Transport



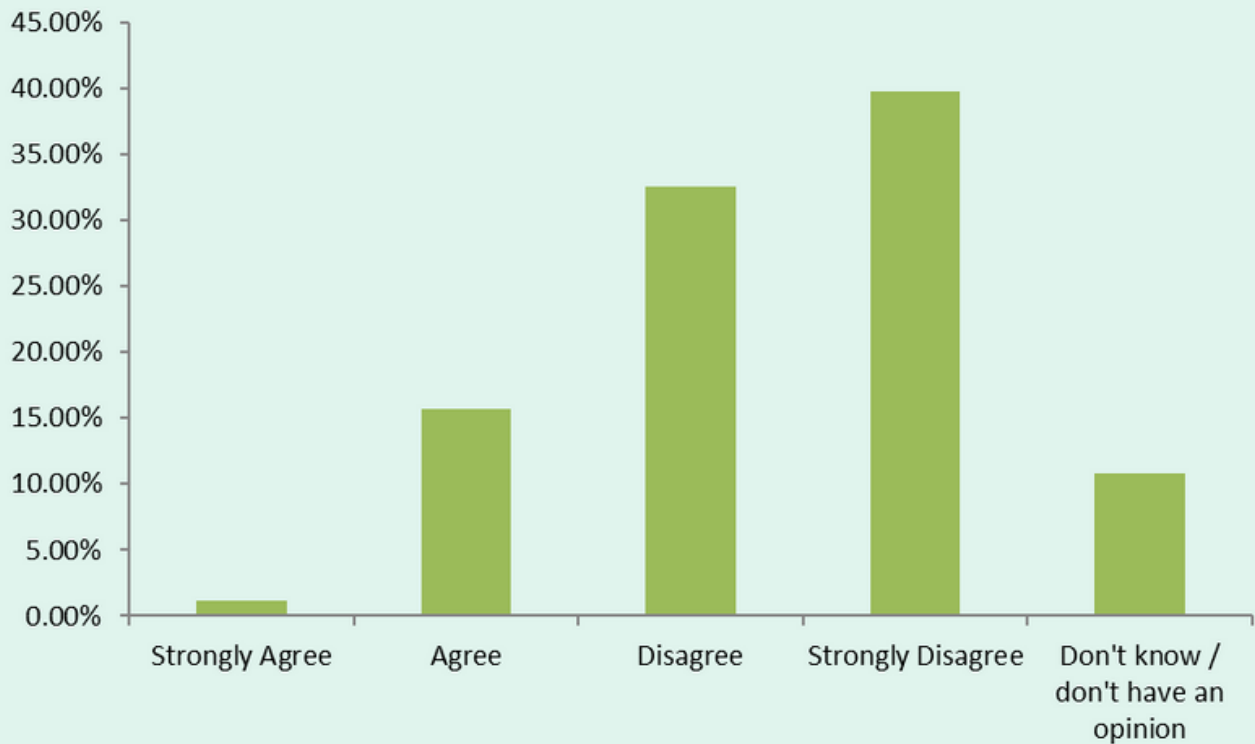
Do you or anyone in your household have special transport needs?



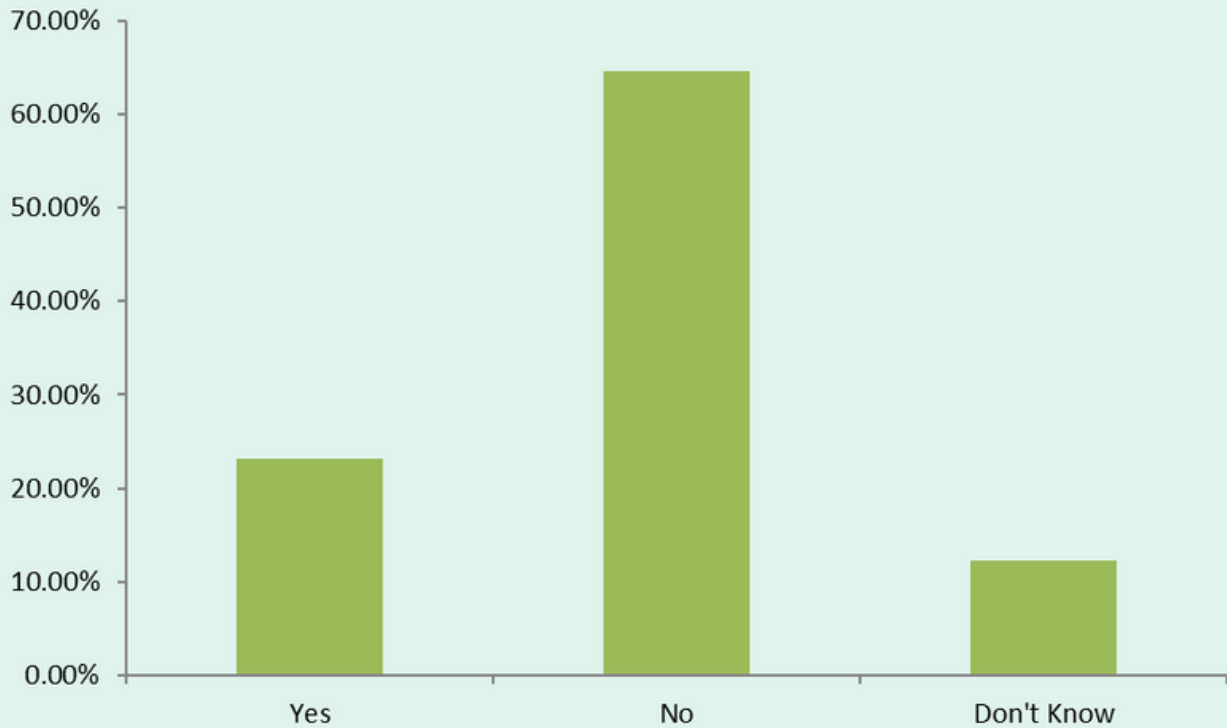
## How often does your household use public transport?



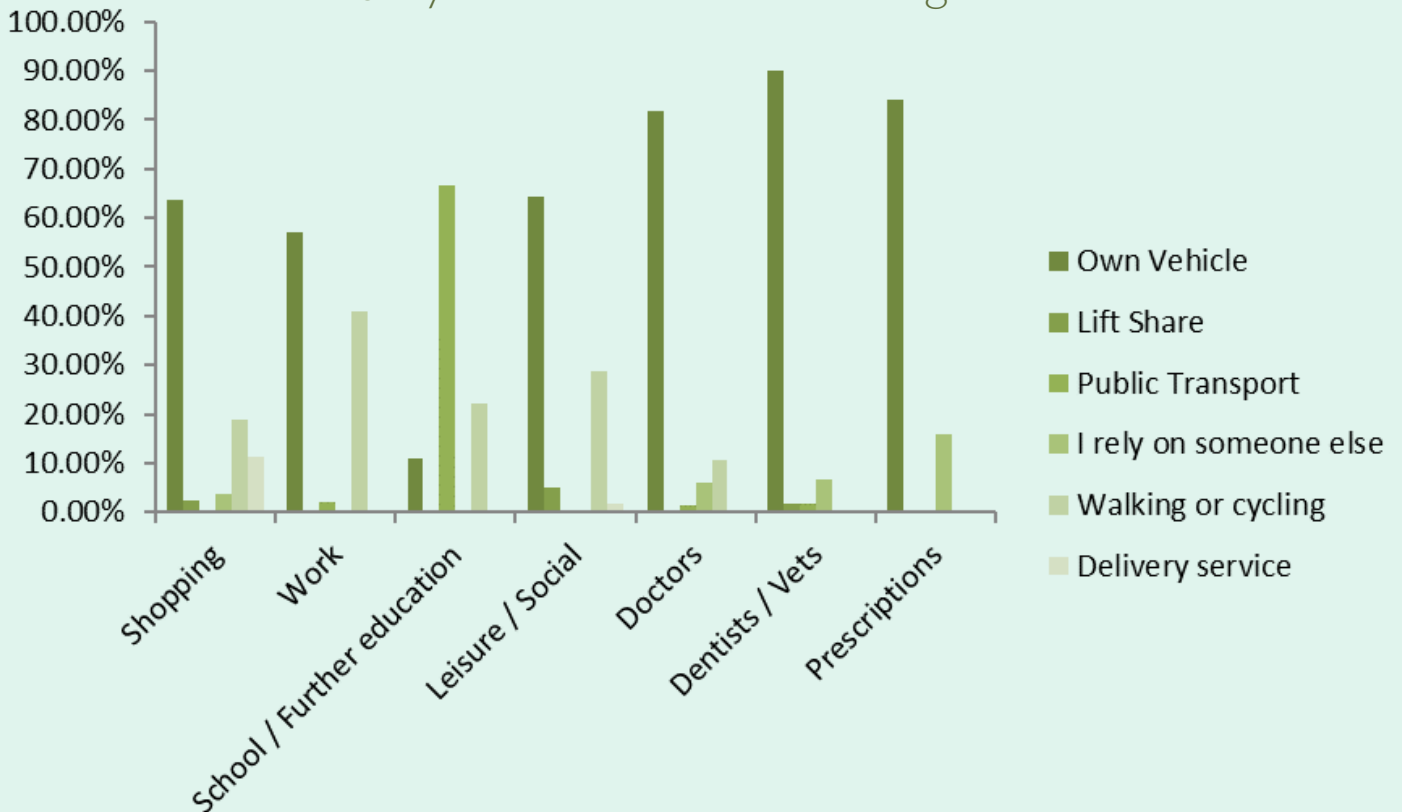
## There is adequate public transport in my area



Are there journeys you or anyone in your household would like to make but are unable to due to lack of accessible or affordable transport?



How do you access the following services?



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# Comments...

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## Transport Connections

The lack of public transport connections linking up with the ferry was the main barrier to using public transport making it inaccessible for many residents.

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## Local Transport

There are no local public transport options making getting around the island and off island difficult for anyone without a car. The survey responses highlighted the need for a community bus.

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## Local Services

Residents praised the local community shop and hall as valuable community assets. The quality of the roads and their lack of maintenance was also highlighted as a significant issue.

The lack of a community hub where people can socialise was also frequently raised throughout this survey.

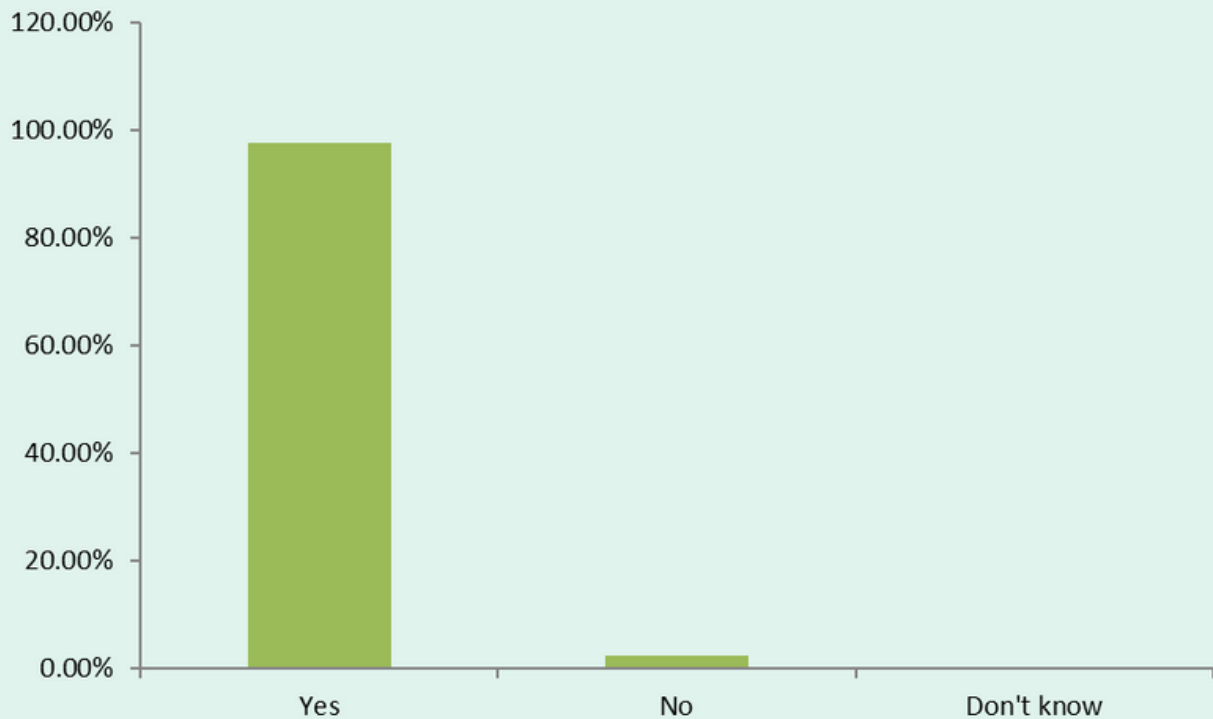
Many residents expressed the view that it is difficult to get a Doctors appointment on the island due to the infrequency of their visits.

Finally, the difficulty in accessing trades people was mentioned by multiple participants.

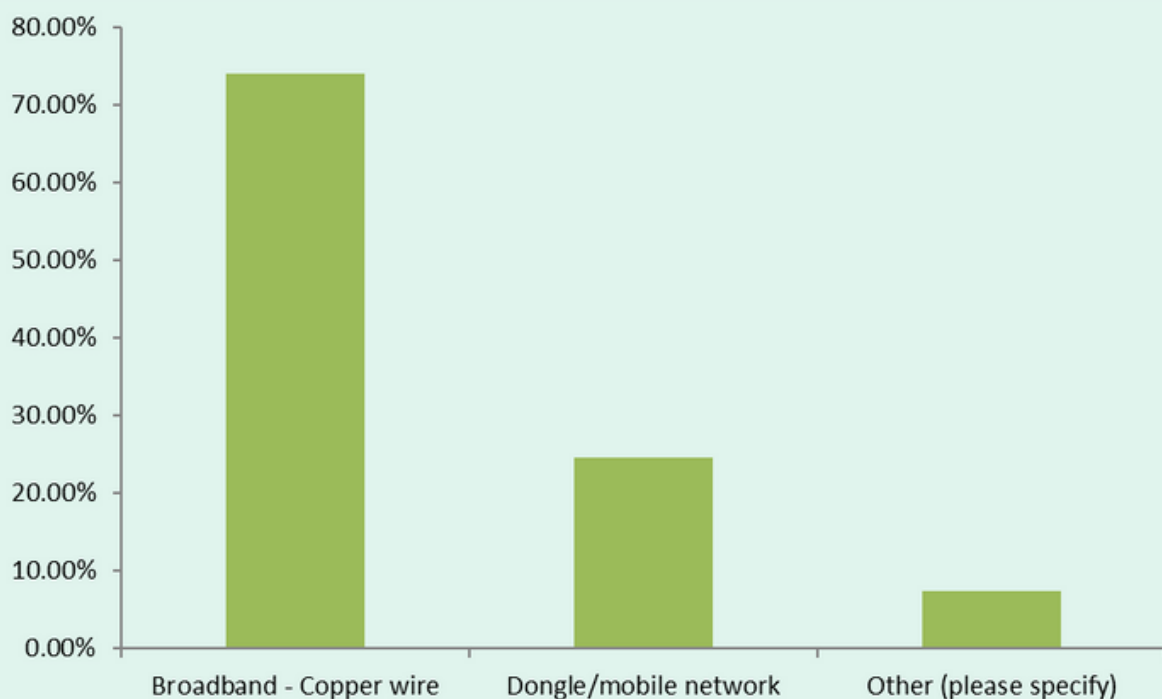
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# Connectivity

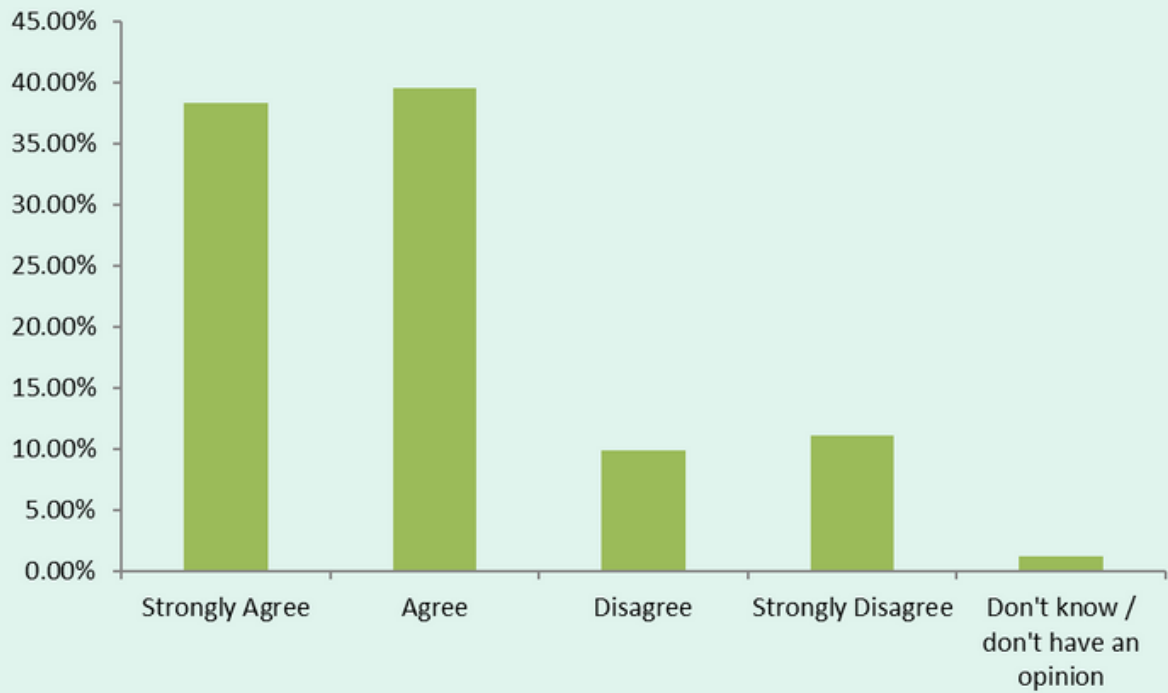
Does your household have access to internet?



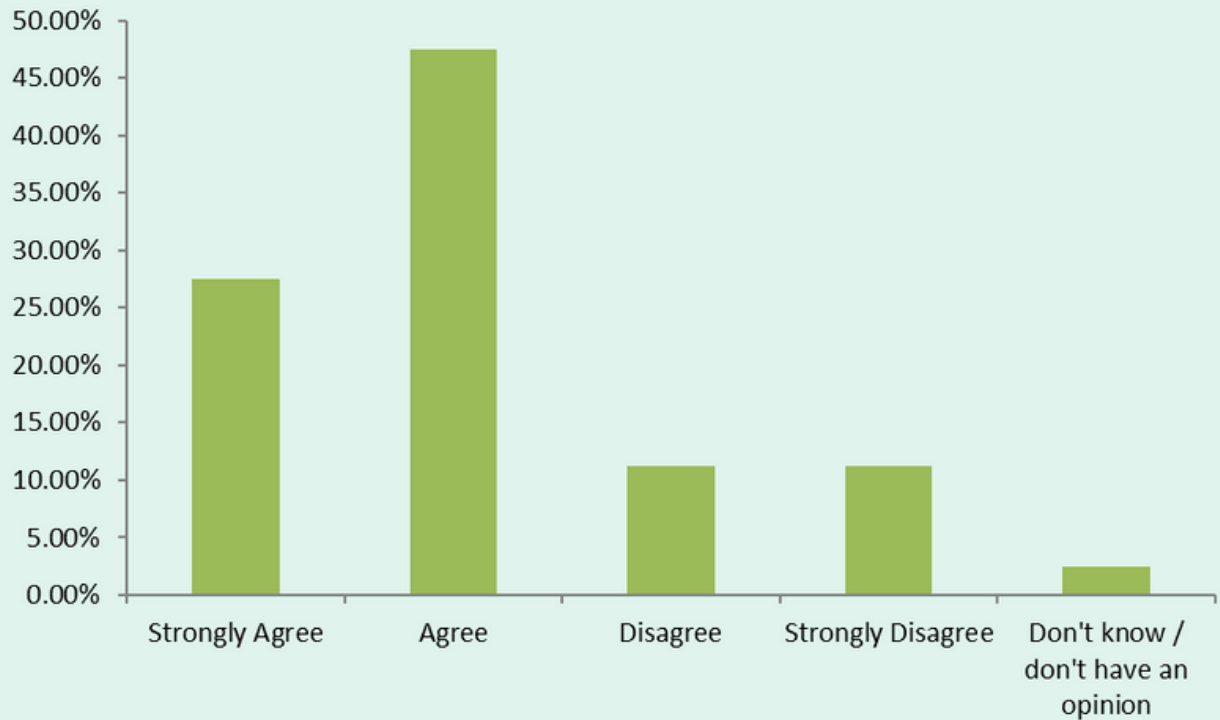
What internet connection does your household have?



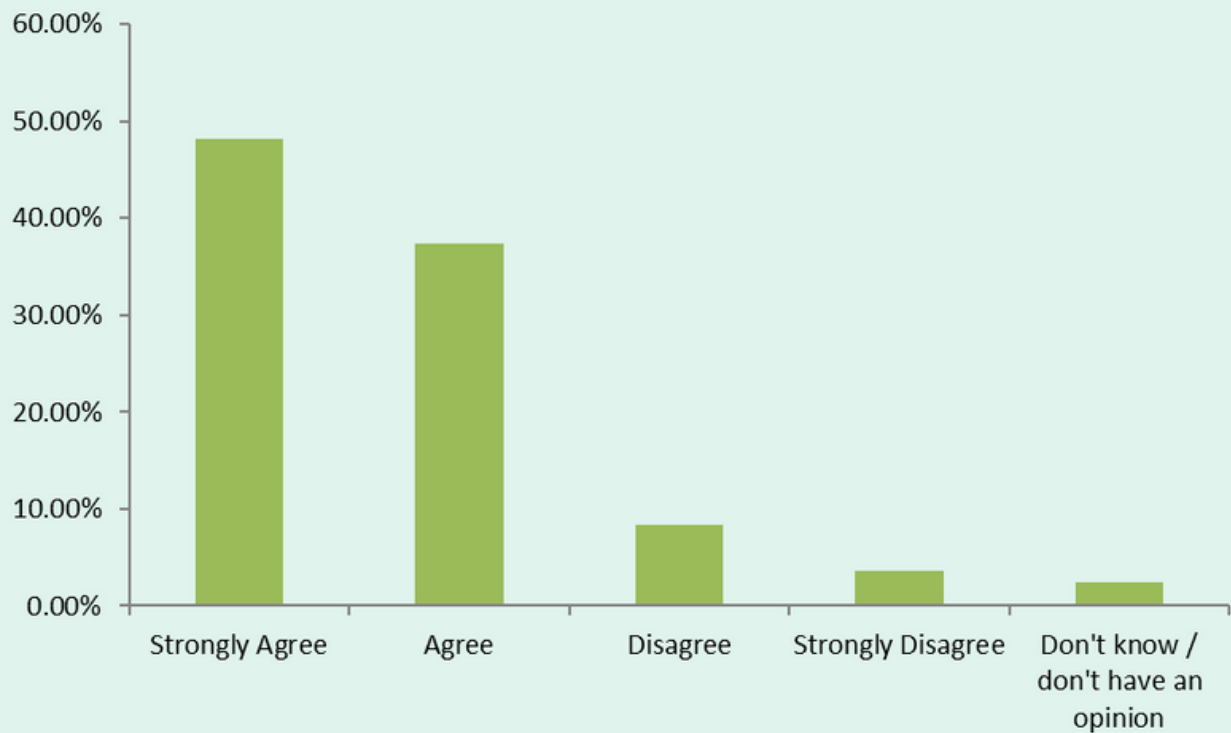
## My internet is fast enough to do what I want online



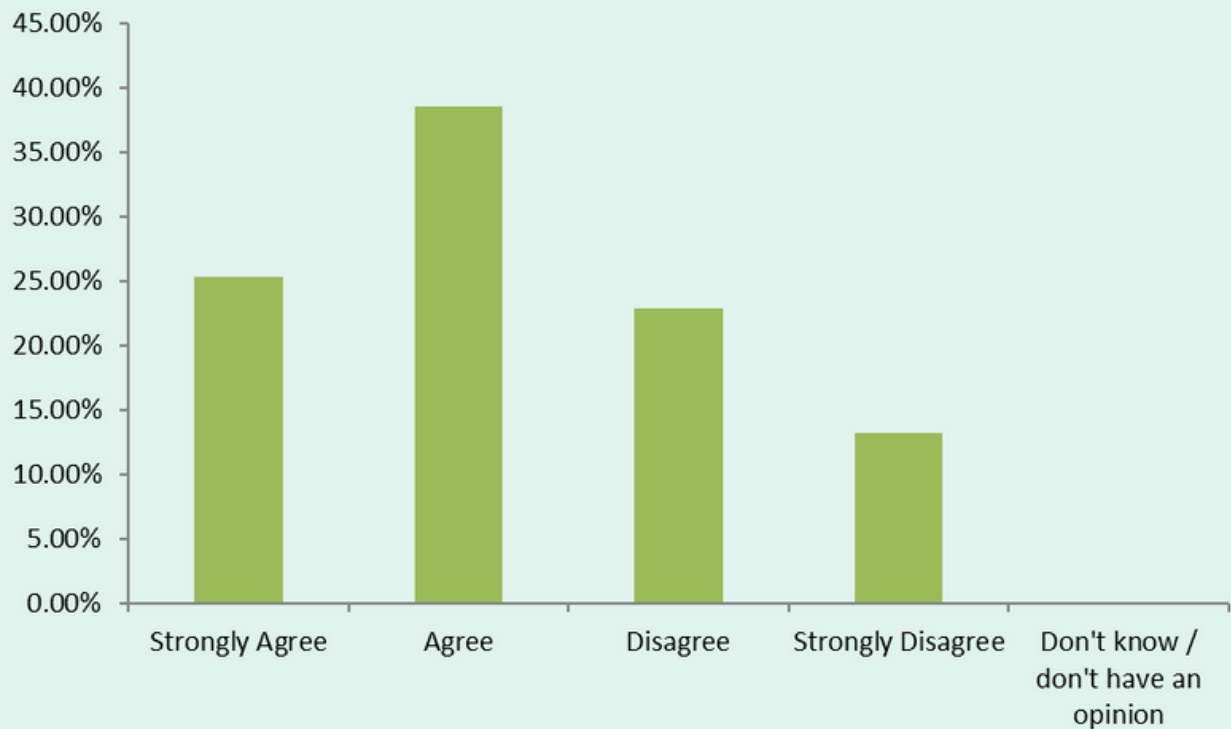
## My internet connection at home is reliable



All members of my household are confident using the internet/accessing internet based services

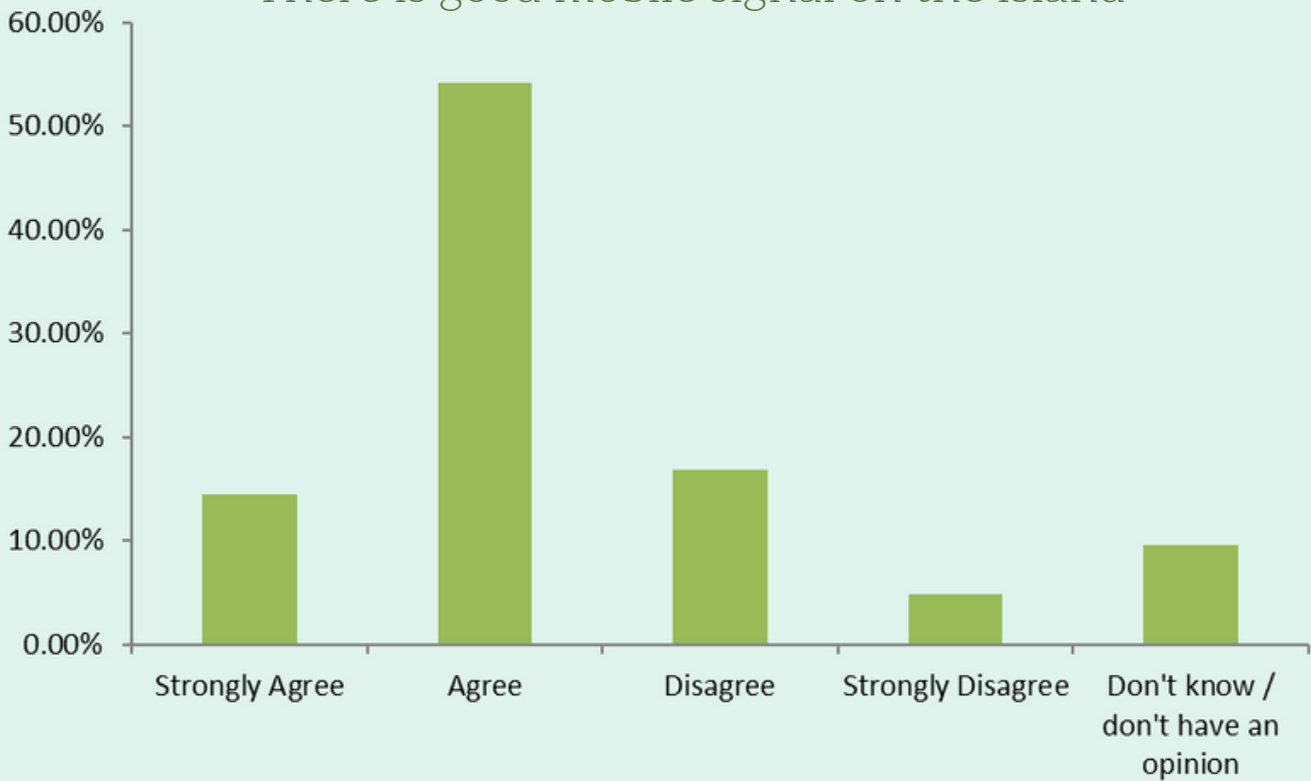


There is good mobile signal in my home



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## There is good mobile signal on the island



## Comments...

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## Alternative Options

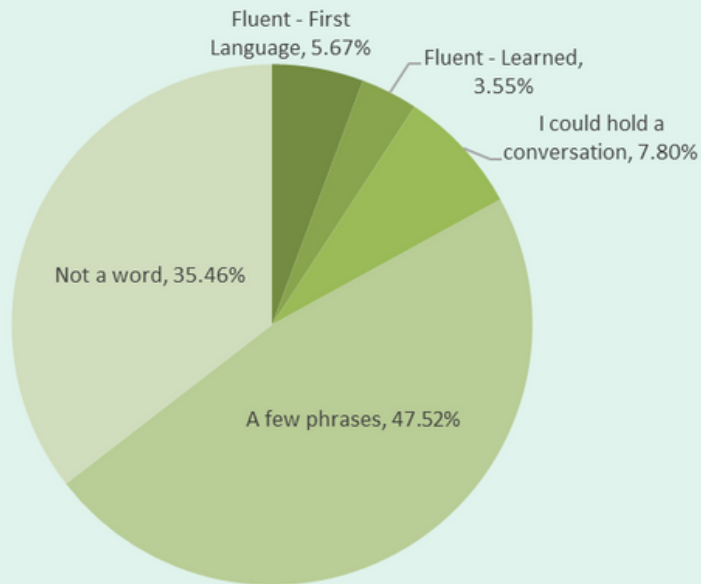
All residents that wanted access to the internet had it however the reliability and speed of the connection varied across the island.

Some residents reported success with providers such as Apple-net, Starlink and mobile data.

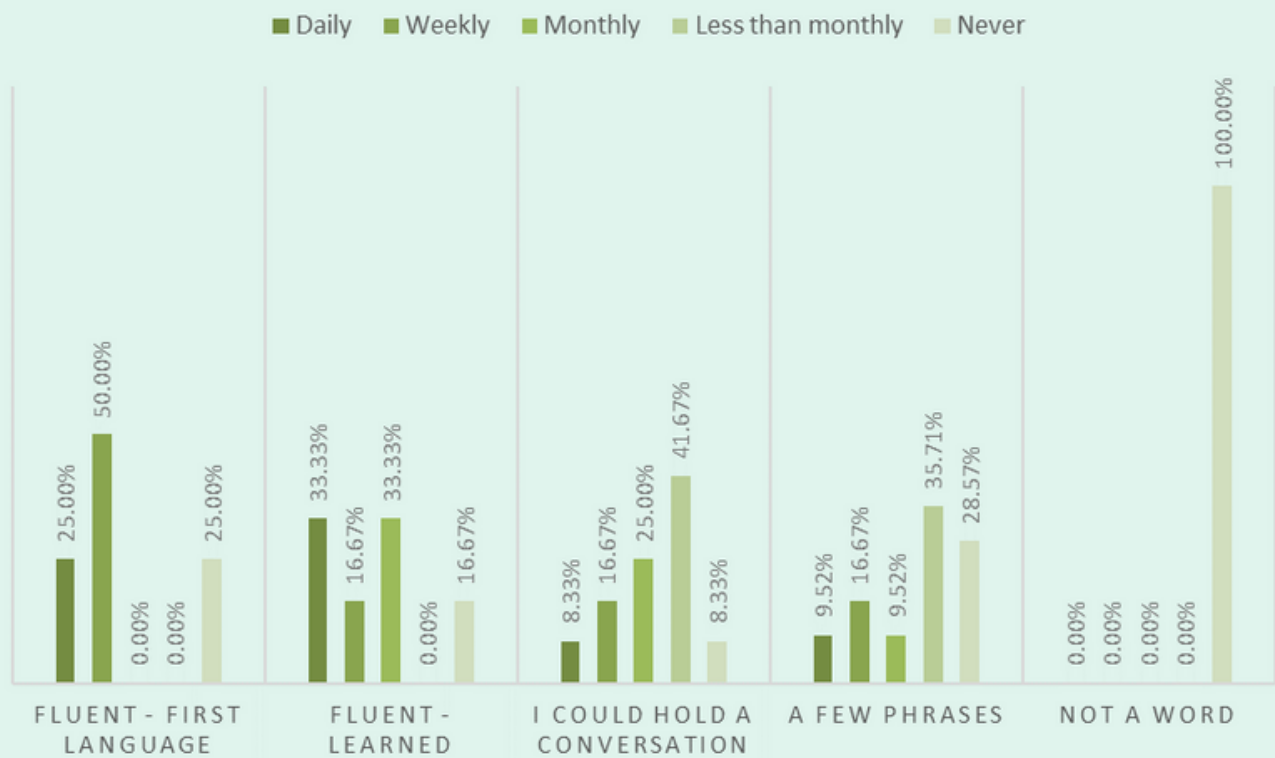
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# Culture & Land

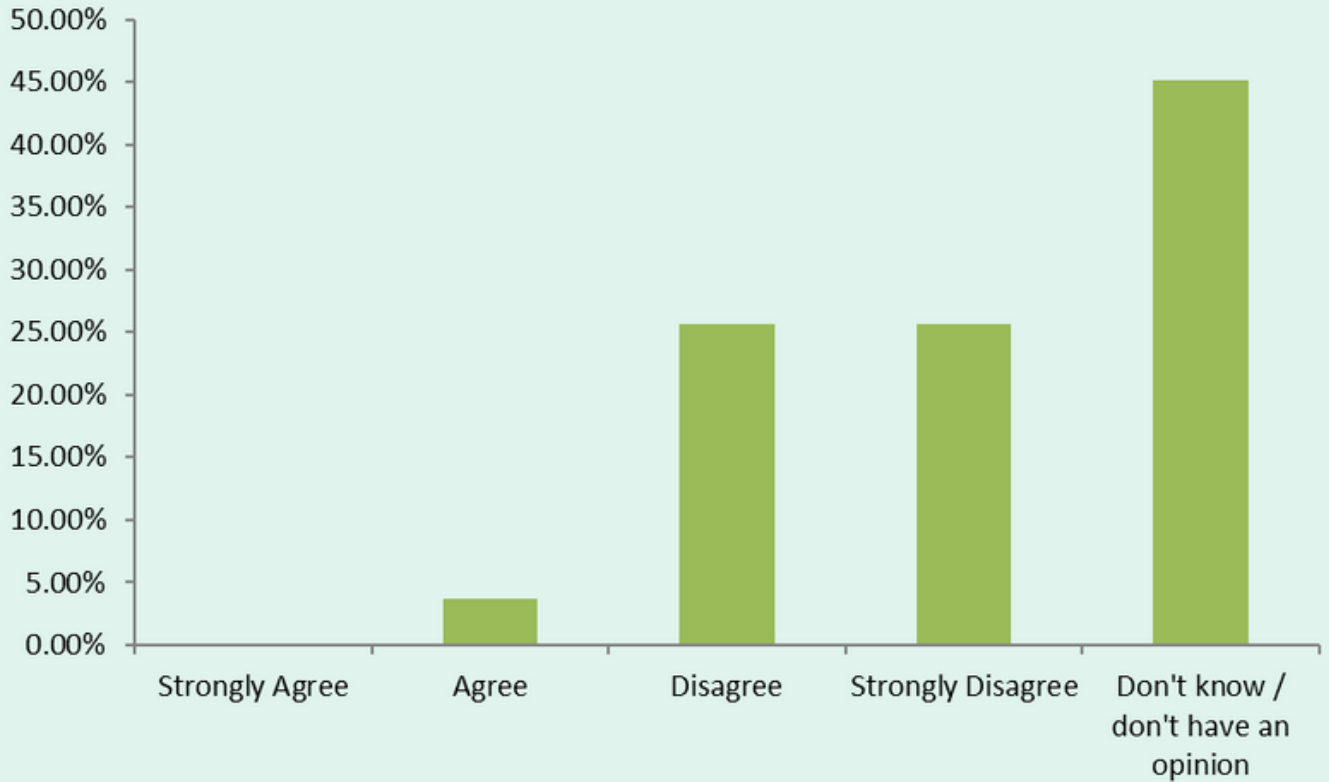
## Level of Gaelic Fluency



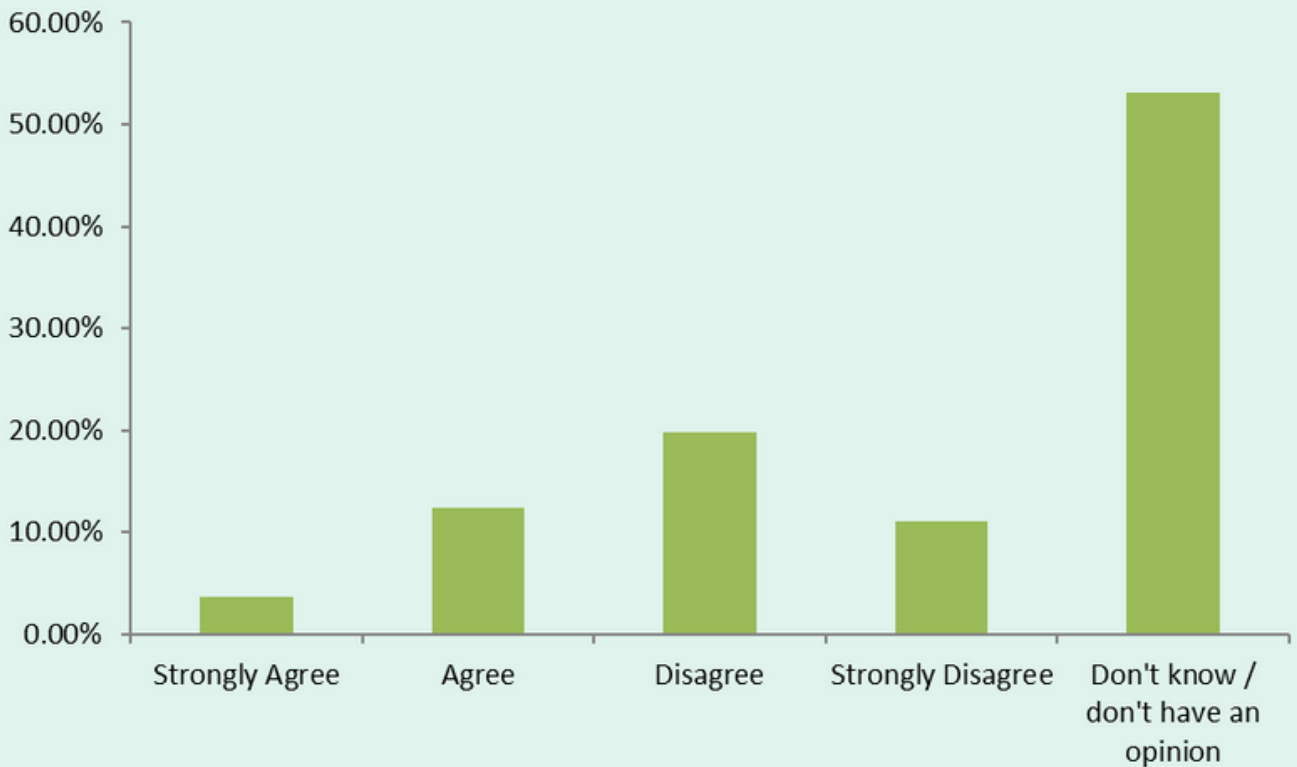
## Frequency of Use



## People who want a croft tenancy can obtain one

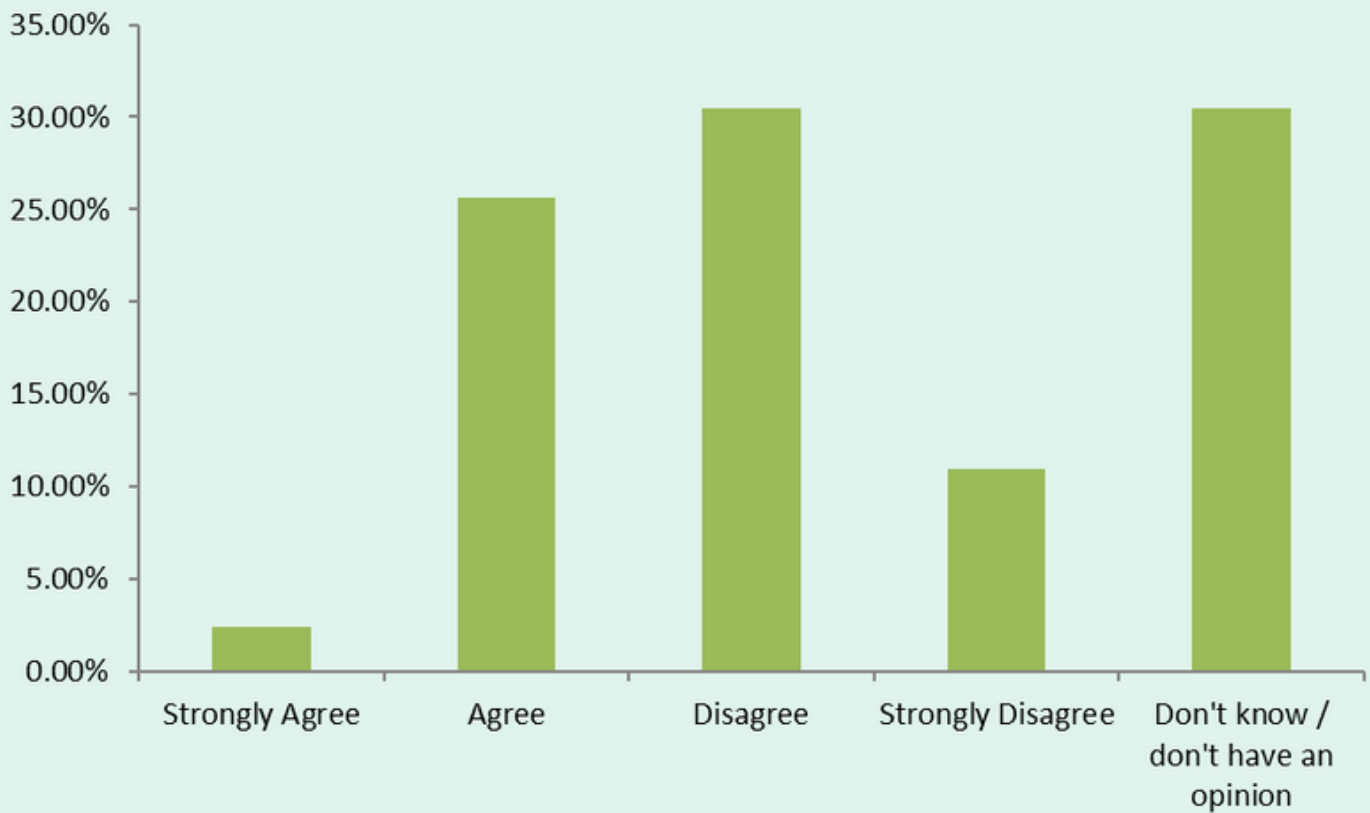


## There are vacant crofts



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There are young crofters (under 40) living and working here



## Comments...

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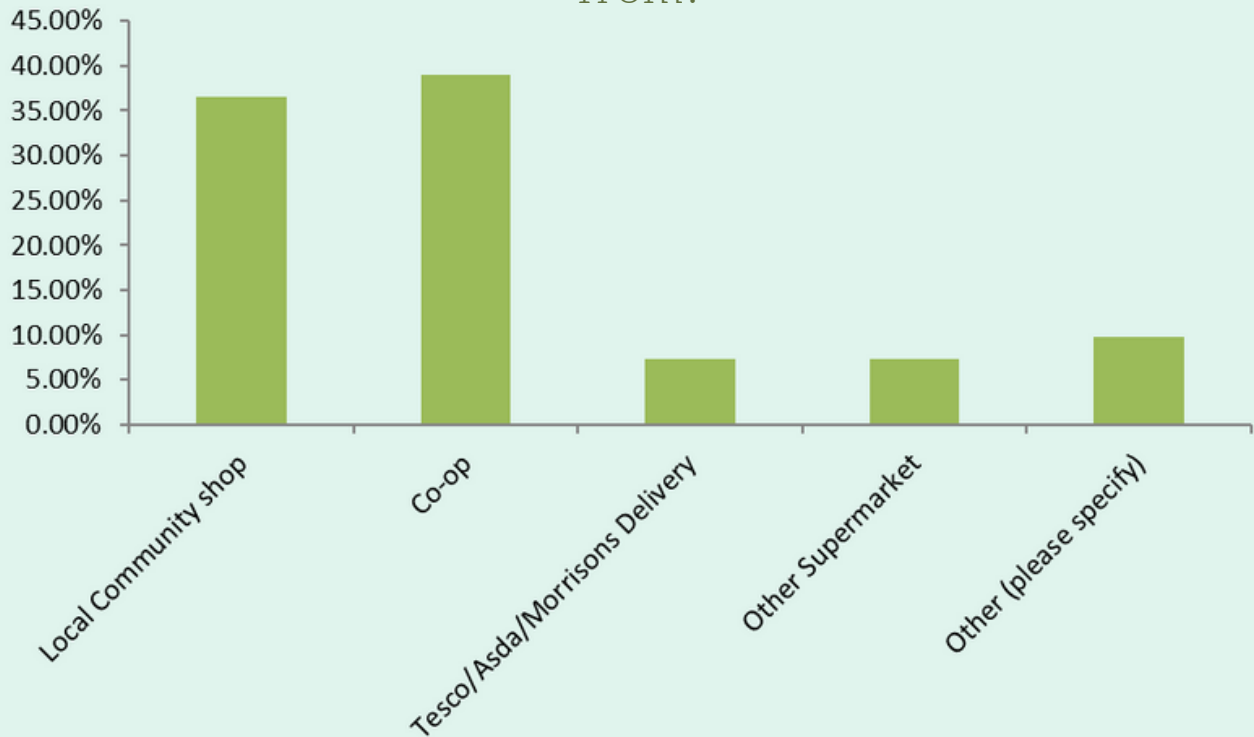
### Land

Residents have raised the issue that the unavailability of land makes crofting inaccessible for the majority of households.

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# Food & Waste

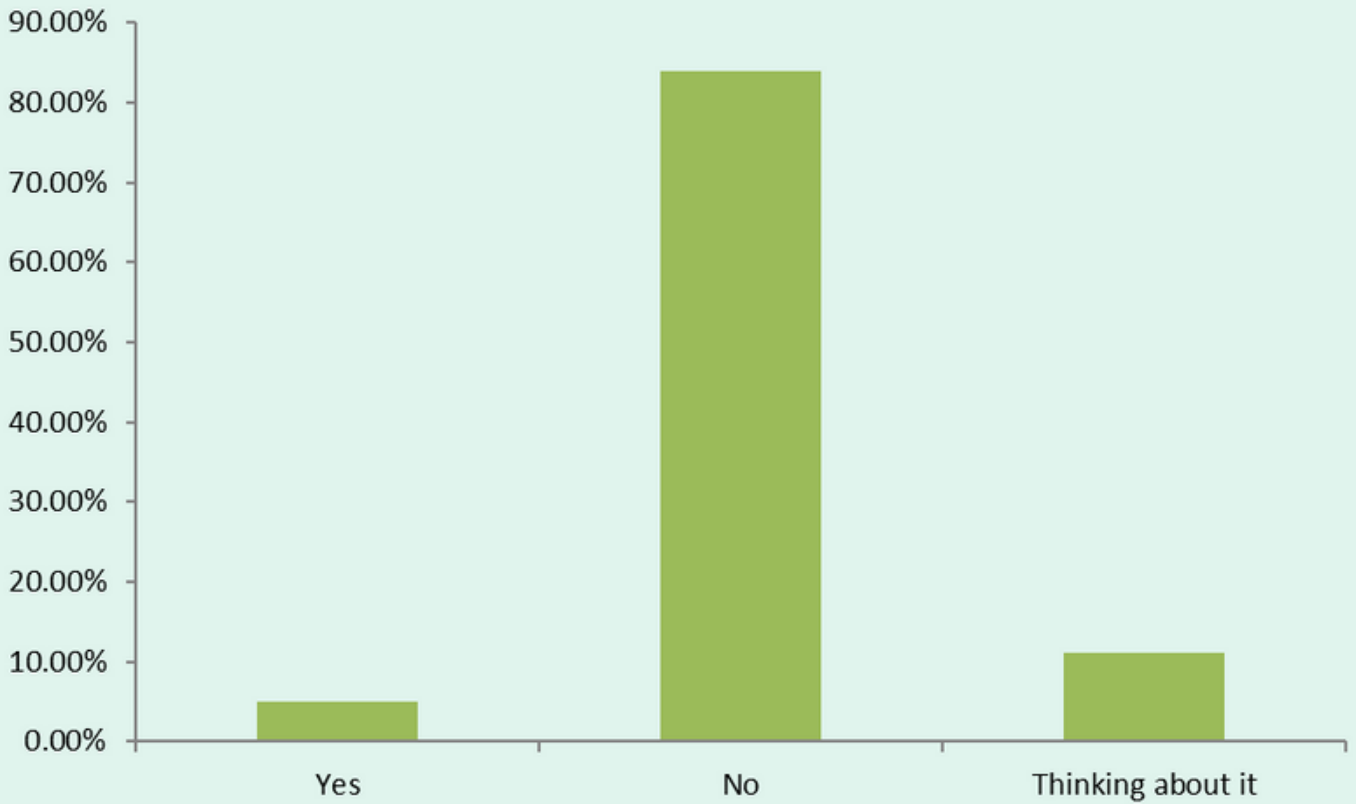
Where do you get the majority of household food from?



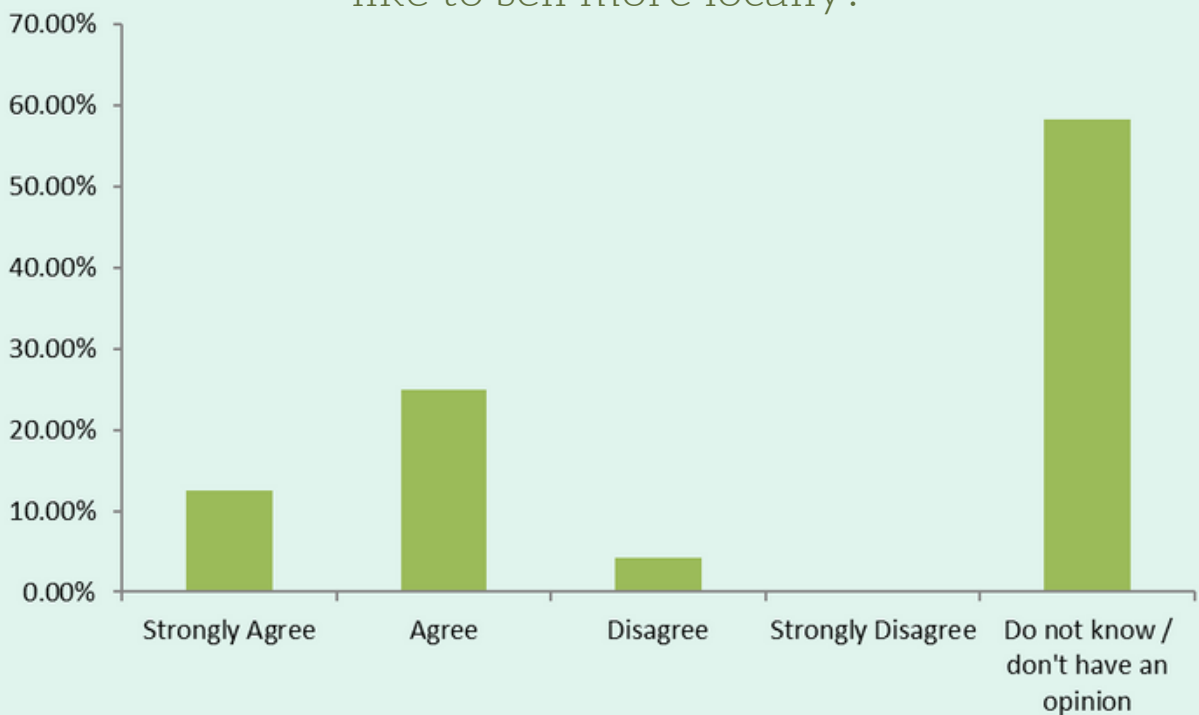
What prevents you from shopping more locally?



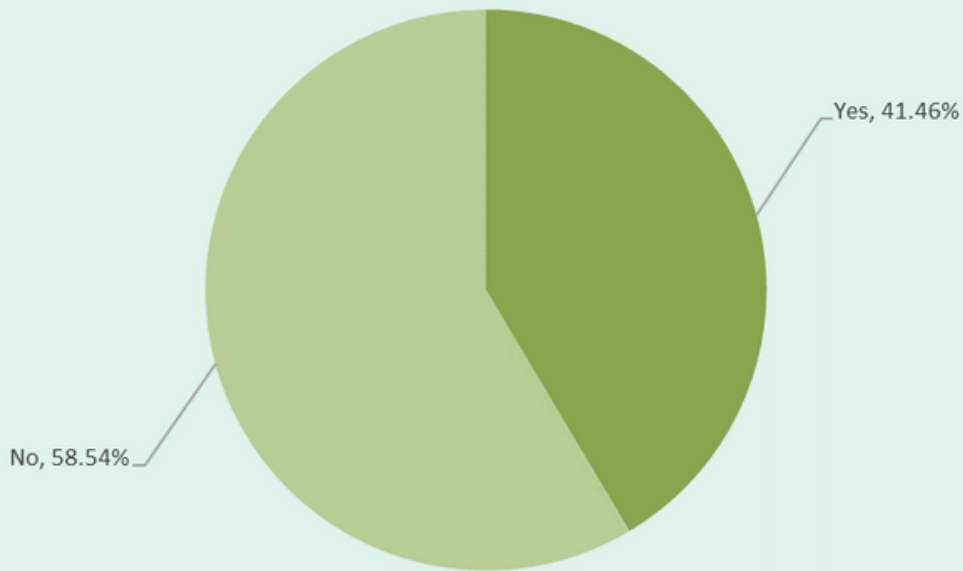
## Are you a local food producer?



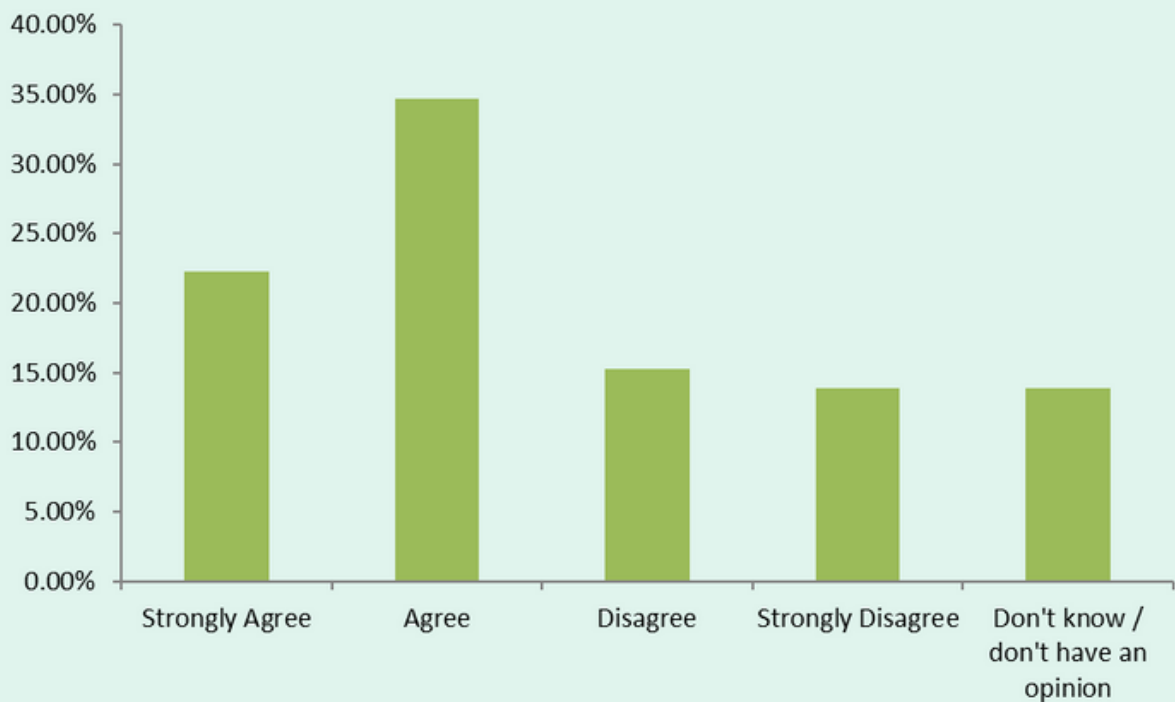
If you answered yes or thinking about it above, would you like to sell more locally?



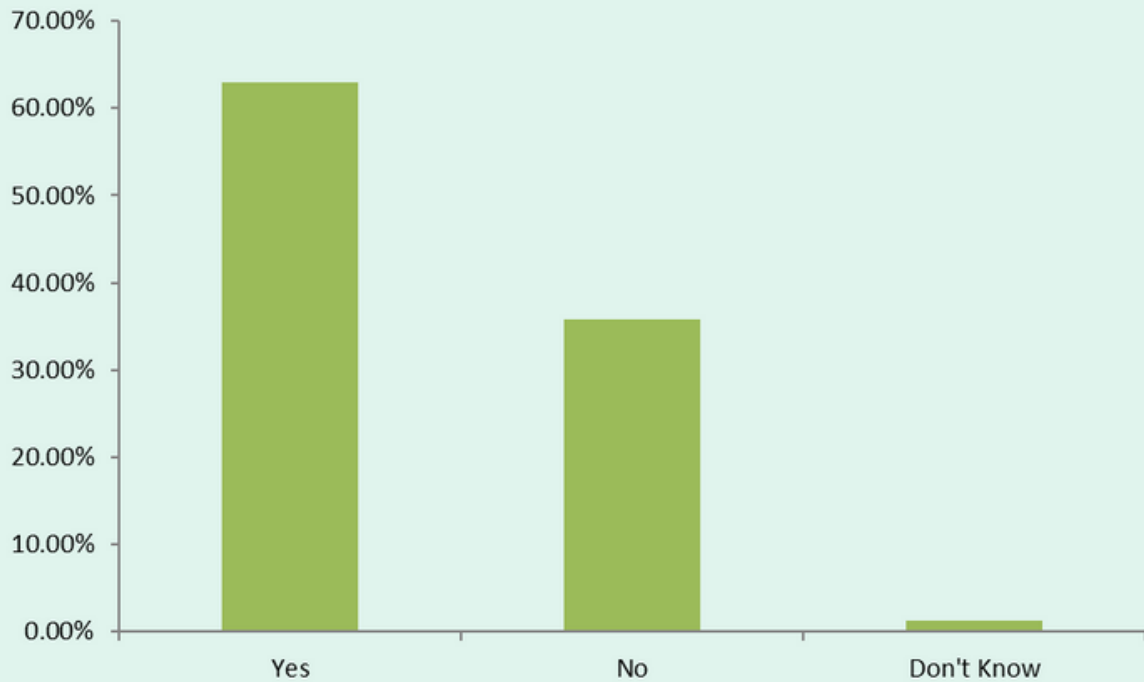
Does your household currently produce food for personal consumption?



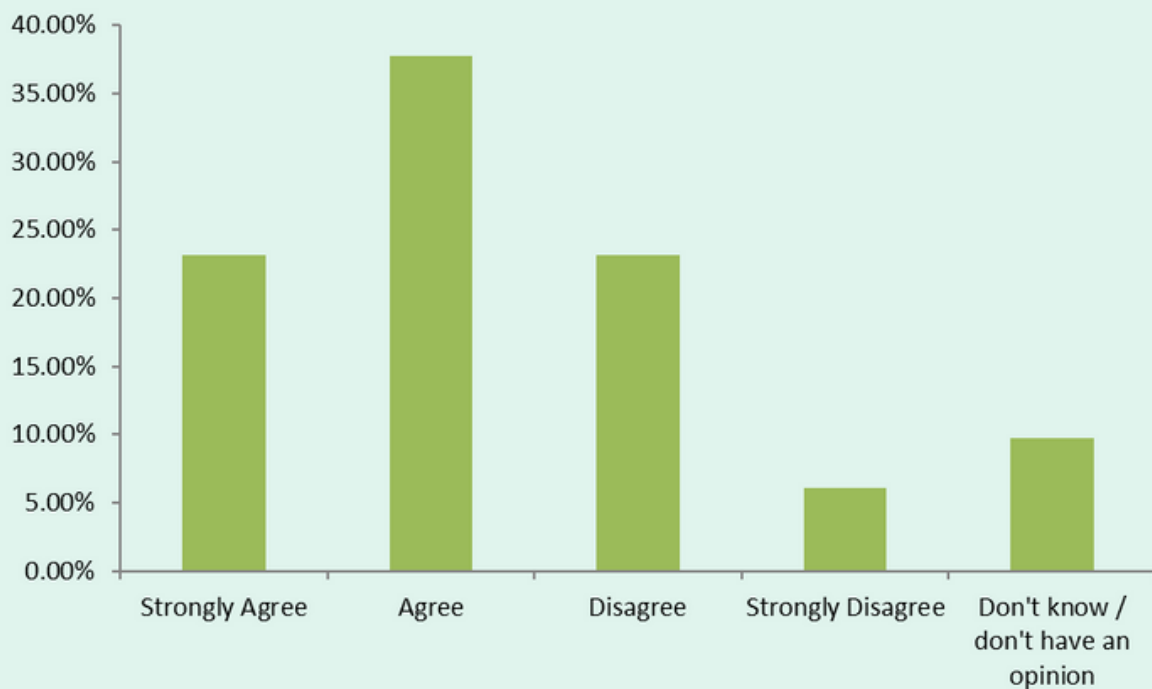
Our household would like to produce food for personal consumption



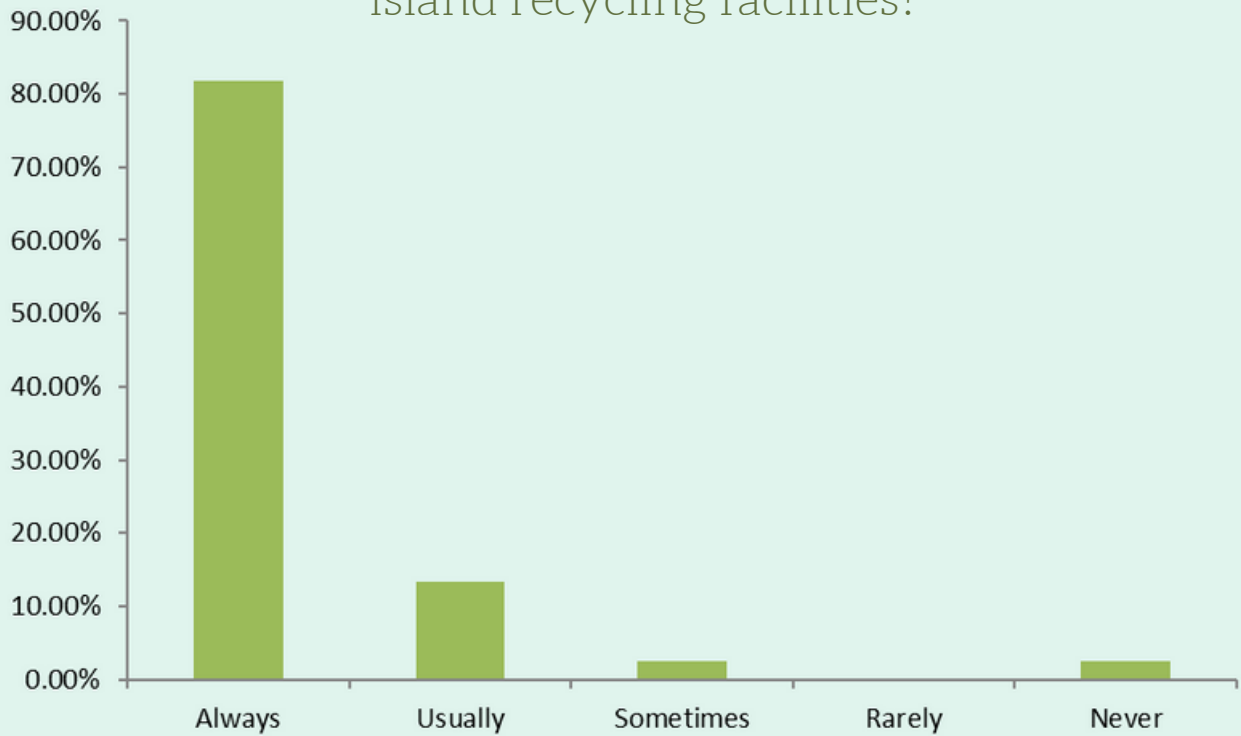
Does your household take part in personal or community composting schemes?



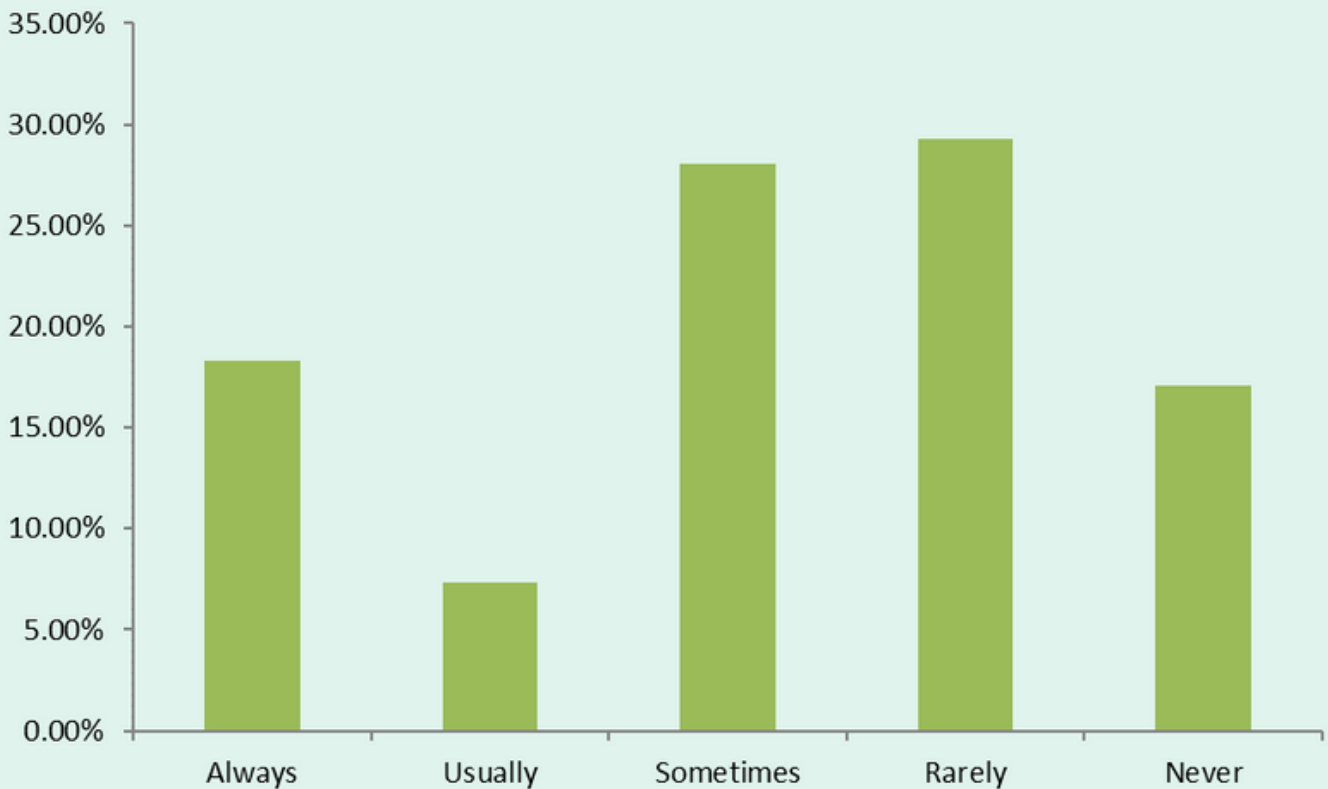
Would your household use a community fridge?



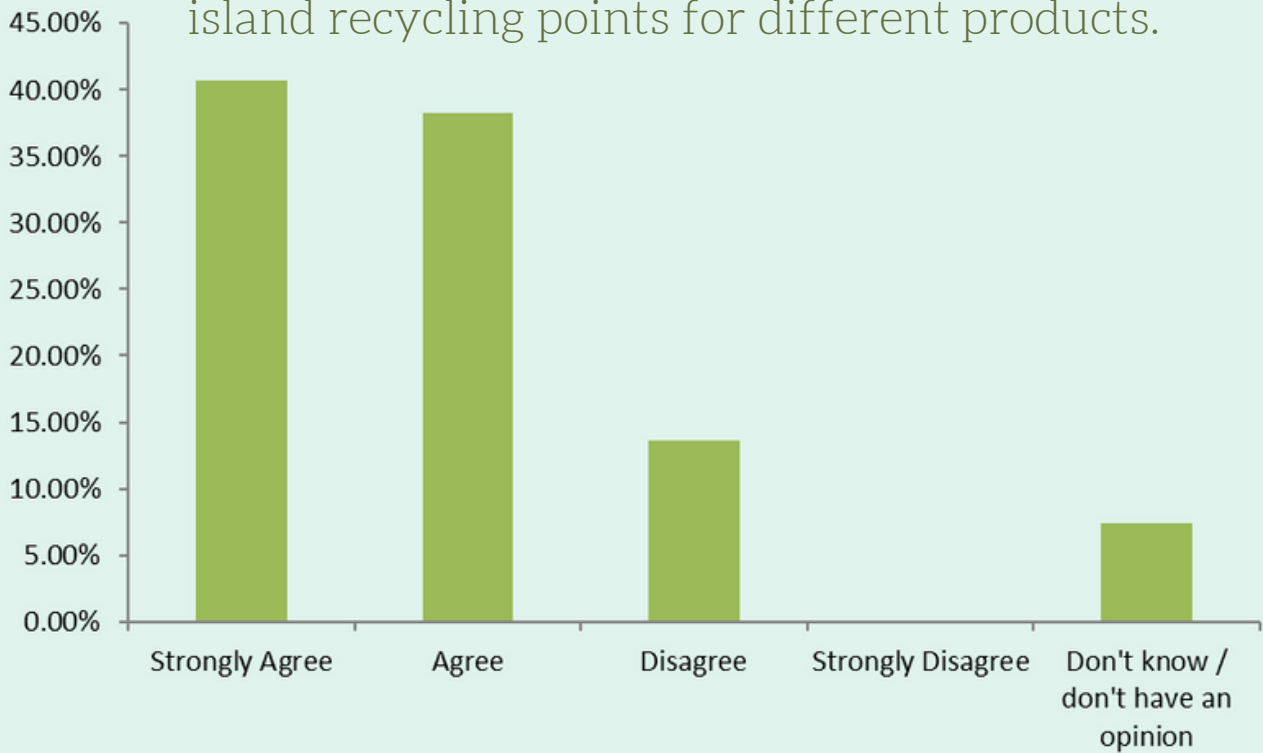
How regularly does your household use local on island recycling facilities?



How regularly do you use off island recycling facilities?  
(electrical waste, metals, household appliances etc.)



I would recycle more if there was a wider range of on island recycling points for different products.



## Comments...

### Local Shop

There is a significant percentage of the population who get their food from the local shop. In addition to the above results, it was highlighted that allergy restrictions prevented residents shopping locally and would like to see more wholefood options and

### Local Food

Results showed that the vast majority of residents would like to buy more locally sourced food. Access to a community polytunnel or greenhouse for growing space, access to more fertile land and gardening lessons would help people grow more food for personal consumption.

It was highlighted that the current regulations are very prohibitive for small local food producers and prevent them from selling locally.

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Lack of funding and access to land was also raised as a barrier, making small scale production and selling unfeasible. Residents also highlighted the need for a local abattoir.

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## Recycling

The time involved, access to a vehicle and cost were the main barriers to using off island recycling points.

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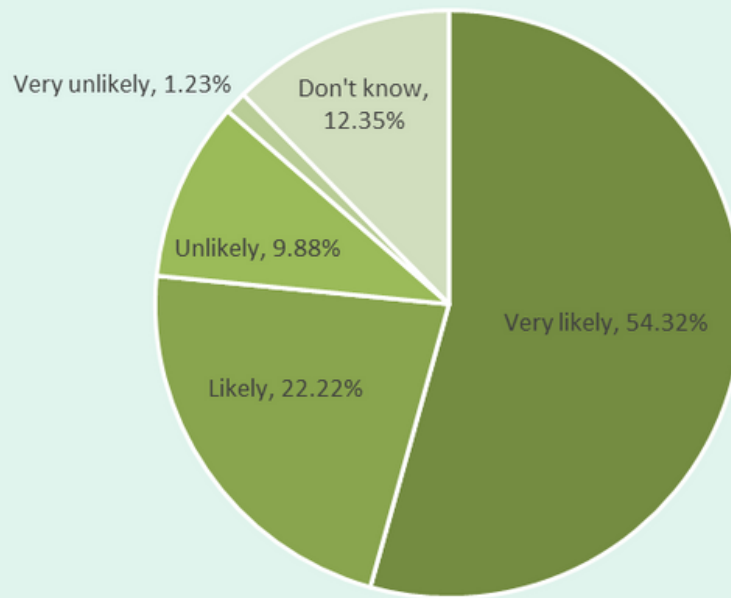
## Sustainability

The following issues were highlighted as barriers to living more sustainably on Raasay

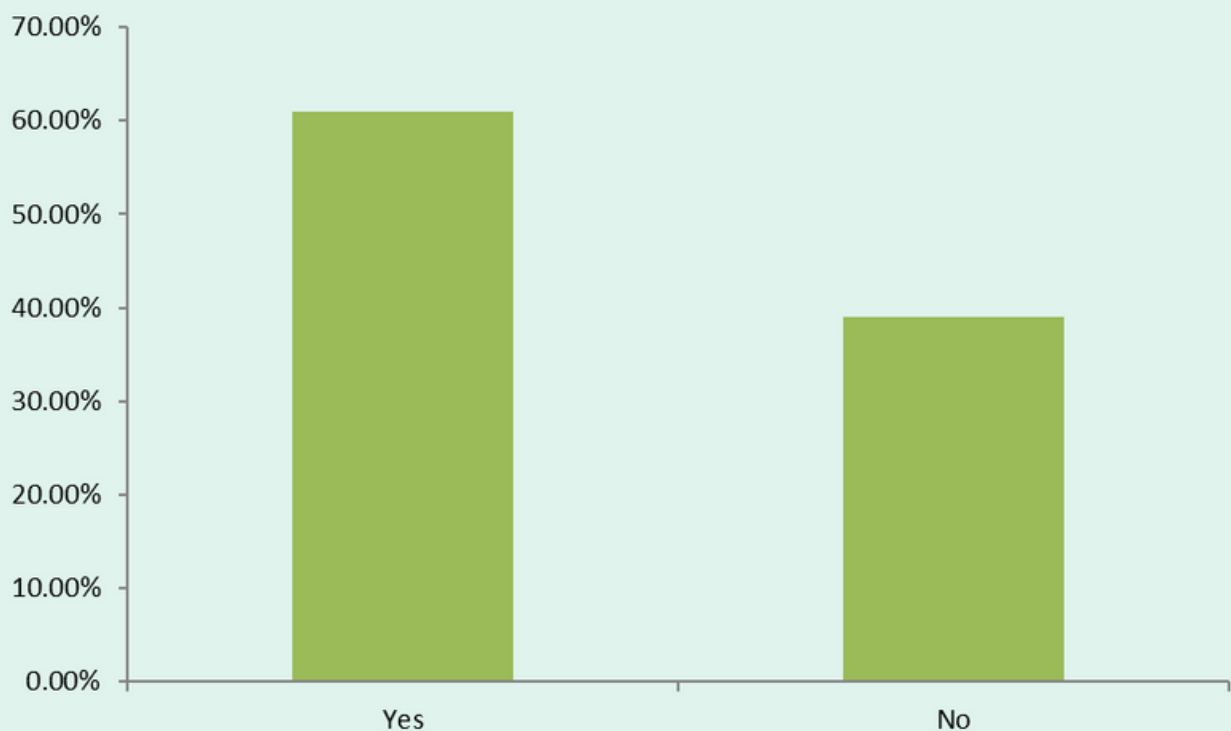
- Lack of housing
- Quality of housing
- Lack of young people
- Access to land
- No social hub / communal spaces
- No wider recycling options with current facilities being inaccessible
- Not enough locally produced food
- Cost of heating
- Affordability
- Deteriorating transport infrastructure
- Need more local knowledge and skills
- Too many community groups with ineffective communication.
- Lack of public/sustainable transport
- Drier wood
- Access to green energy
- Waste from tourism
- Reliance on personal vehicles
- Access to products in sustainable packaging
- No recreational activities for teenagers
- Lack of care capacity for children and elderly.

# Wellbeing

How likely will it be that your household is going to be living on Raasay in 5 years time?

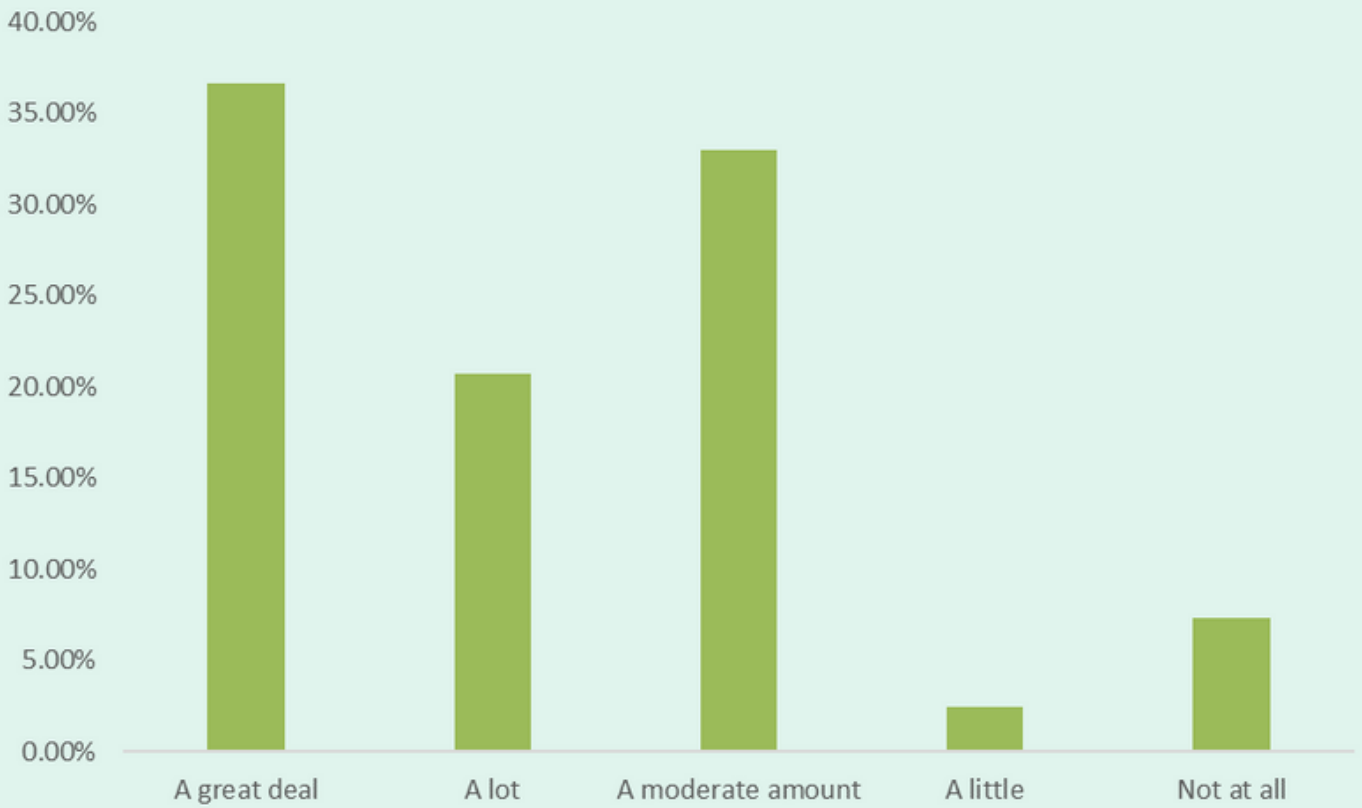


Are you worried about food costs?

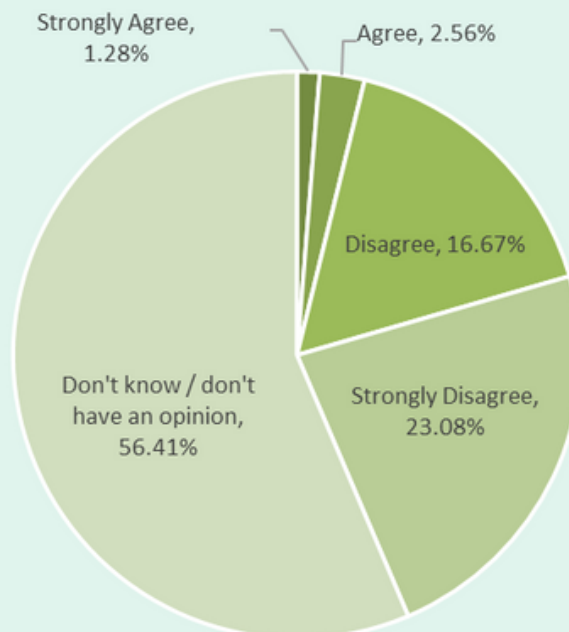


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## Are you worried about the effects of climate change?

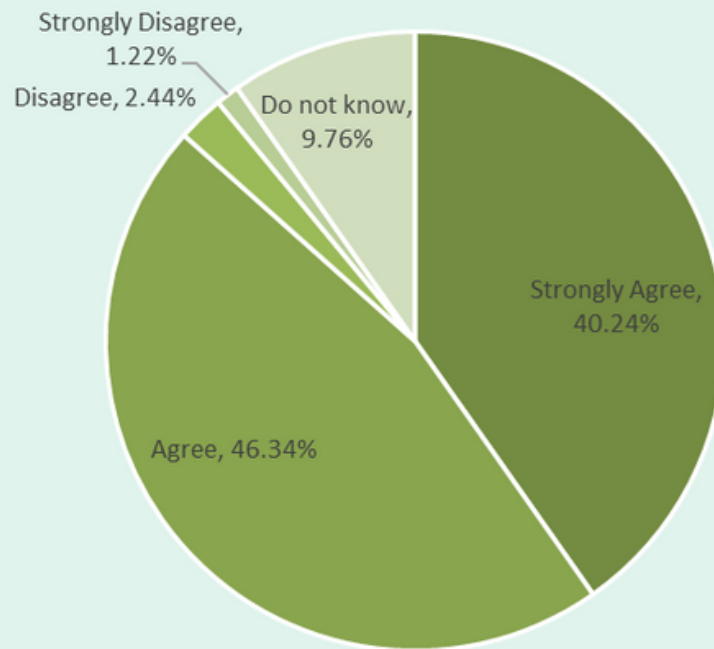


## Parents have access to childcare services to suit their working hours

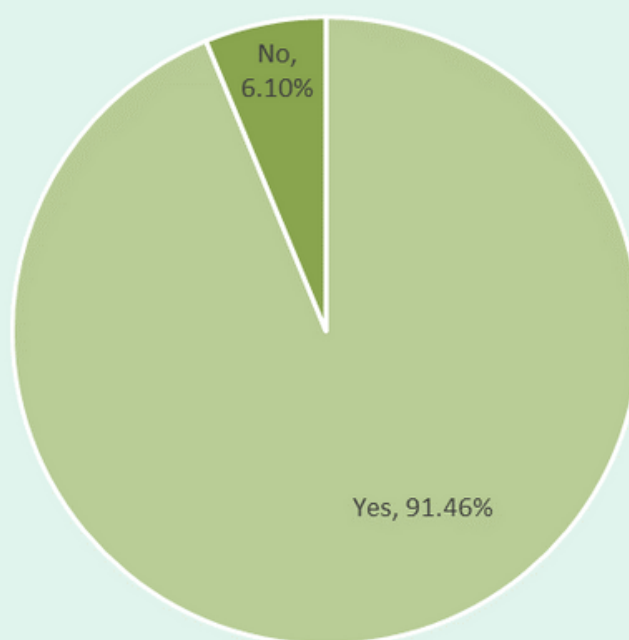


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I see myself as belonging to my local community



Do you think community led action can have a significant impact on Raasay's net-zero and sustainable goals?



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# Comments...

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## Community

Whilst the majority of residents believe that community action can have an impact on Raasay's sustainable and net zero goals, it was raised that this can only be the case if the right funding and support is received from external bodies and reliance on volunteers is reduced.

A large number of respondents believe that there are too many community groups and the structure of these need to change and involve the younger population more.

The number of empty houses and holiday homes on the island was also a concern and many residents felt that population growth would make the community stronger.

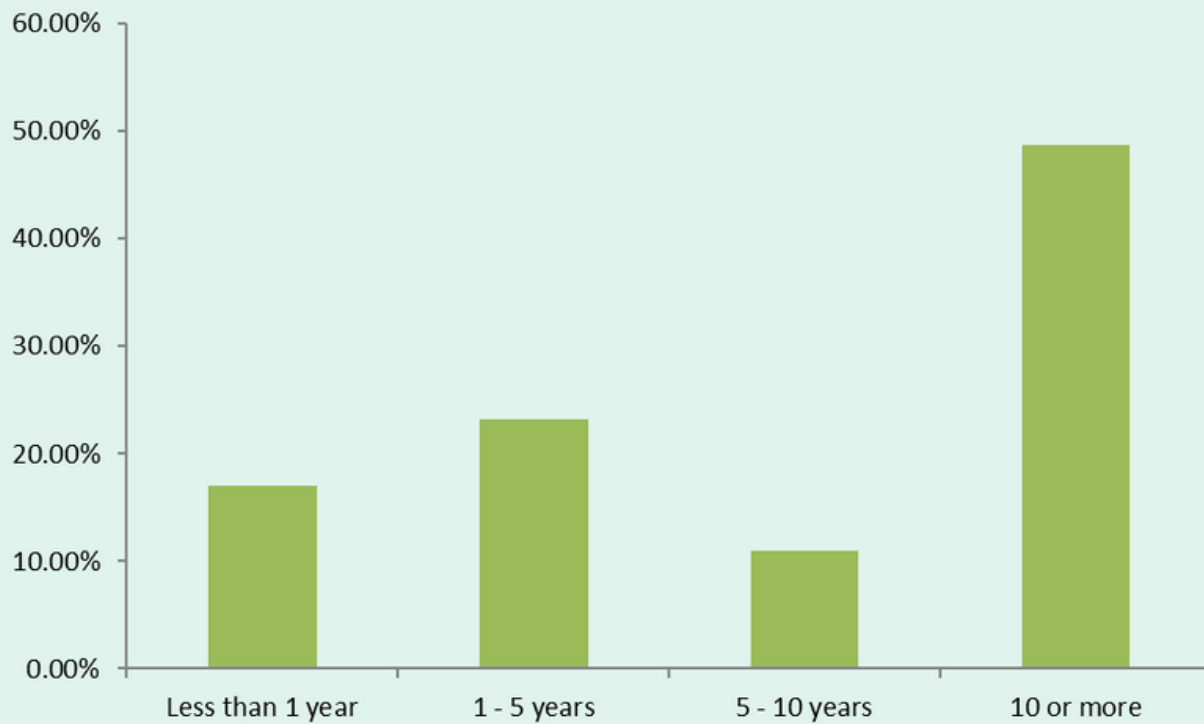
The need for more social events bringing the different generations of the island together was a common response along with a year round space for these things to happen. The most common suggestion being a pub or cafe.

The Heritage Centre is something many residents would like to see completed, run by the community.

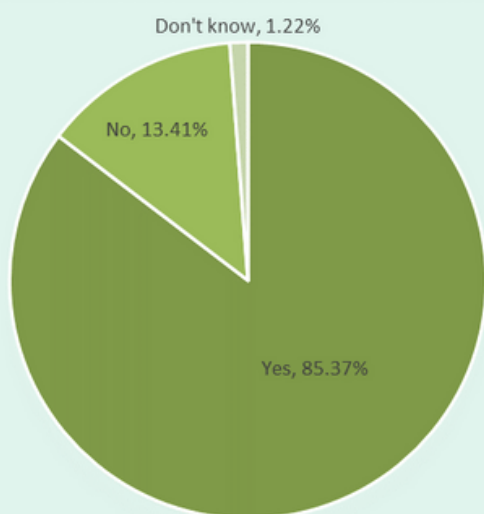
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# Housing

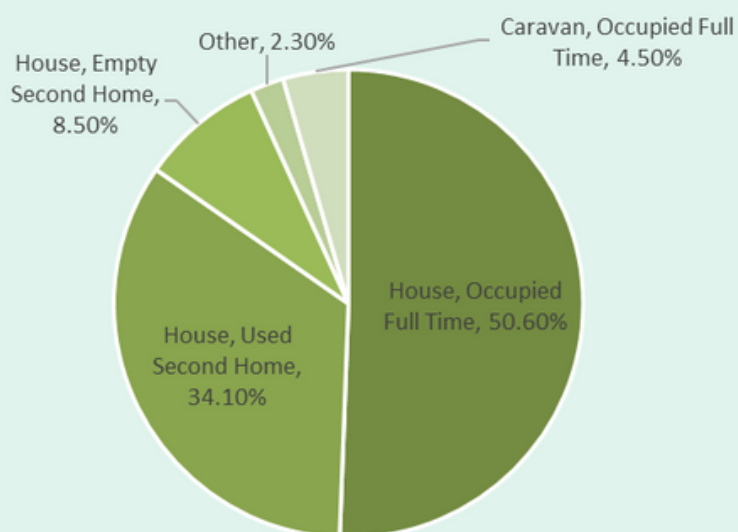
How long have you lived in your home?



Everyone in our household is adequately housed.



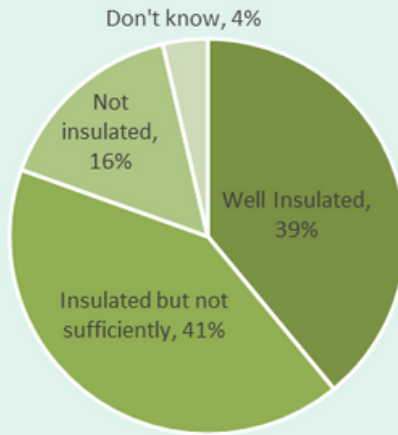
Accommodation Stock Use



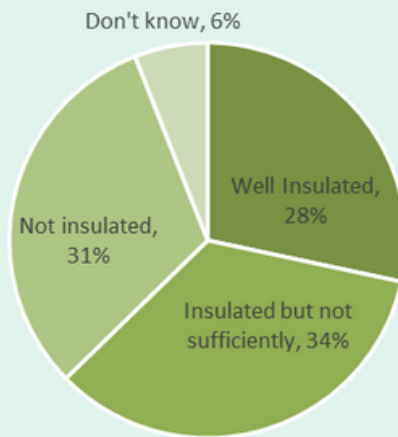
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# Insulation levels

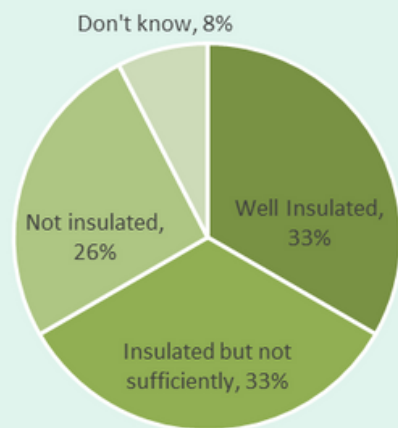
## Roof



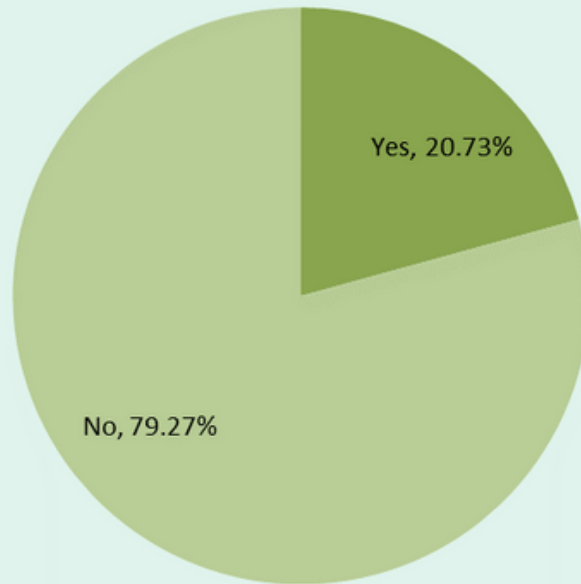
## Floors



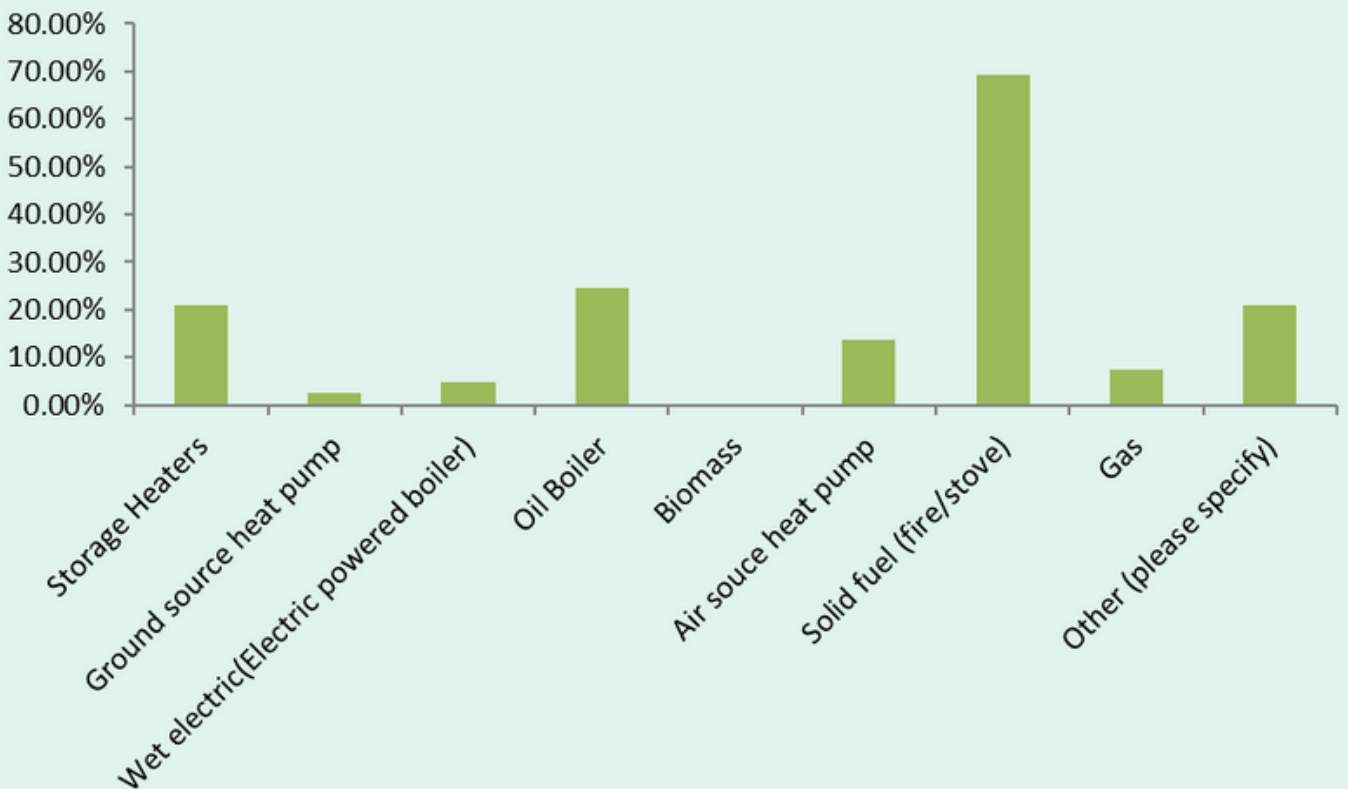
## Walls



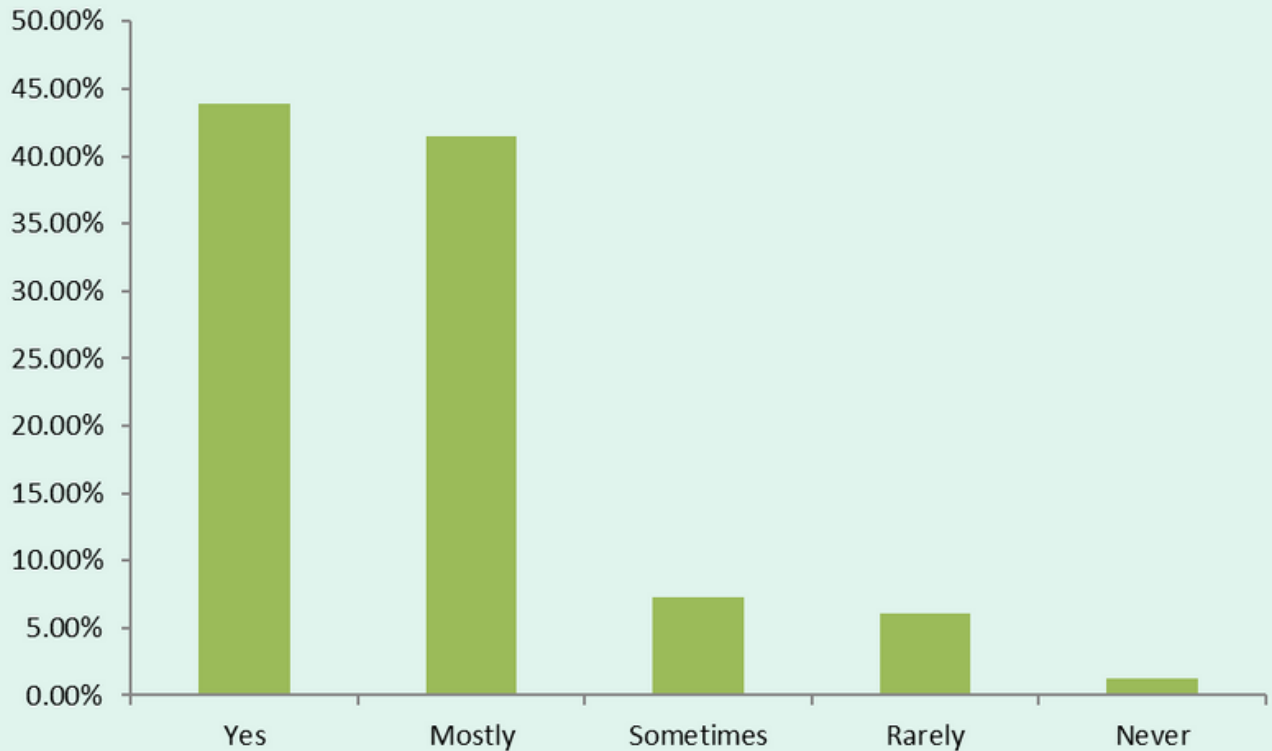
Is anyone in your household looking for housing on Raasay?



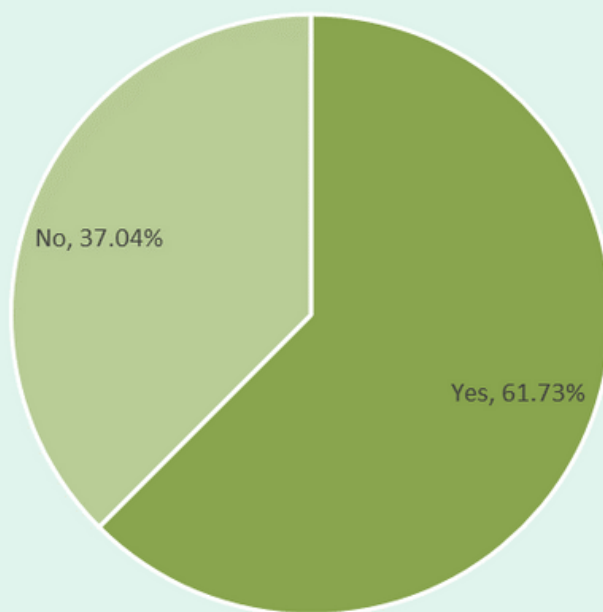
What heating systems are in place in your house?



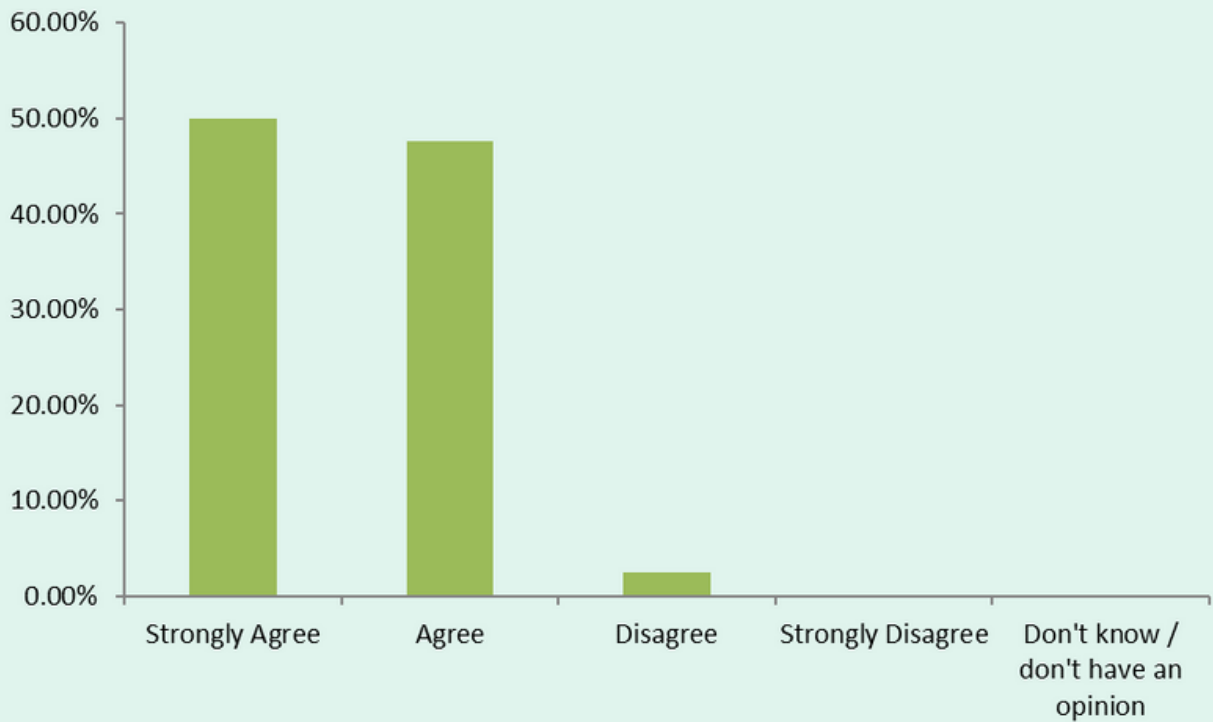
## Are you warm enough in winter?



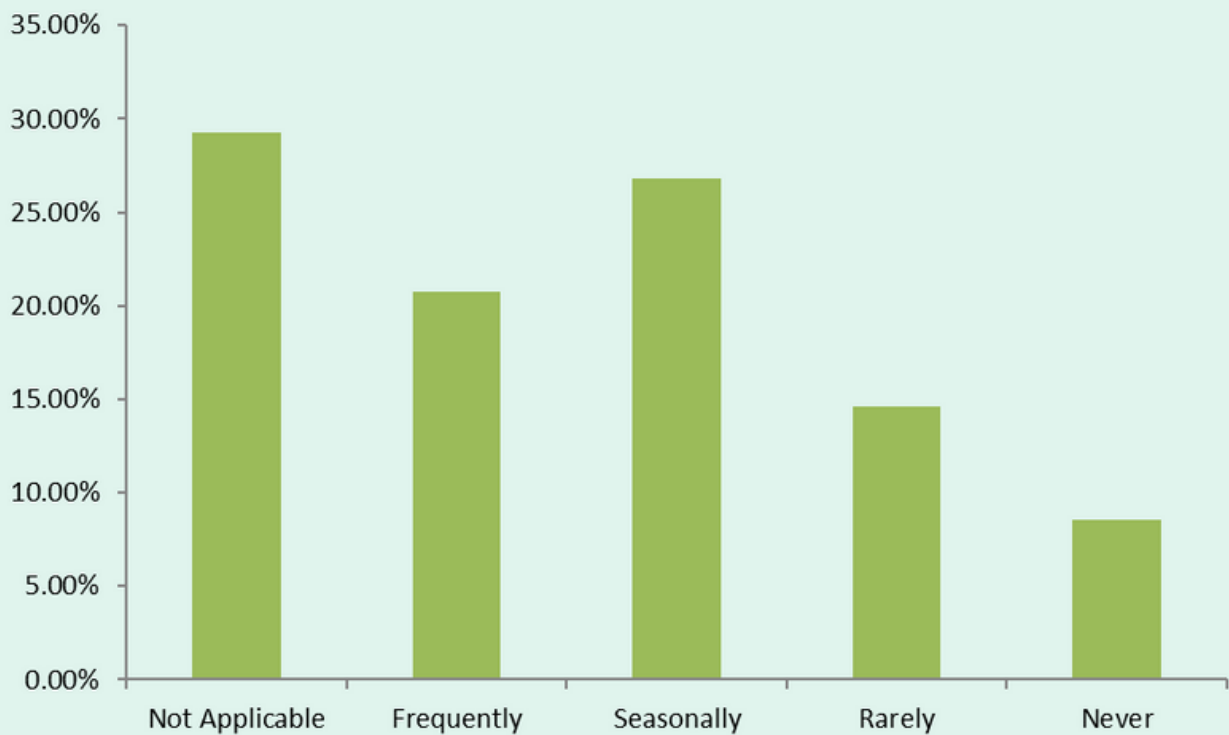
Do you ever use portable heating or use other ways to keep warm such as hot water bottles or electric blankets?



I understand how to use and operate my heating system.

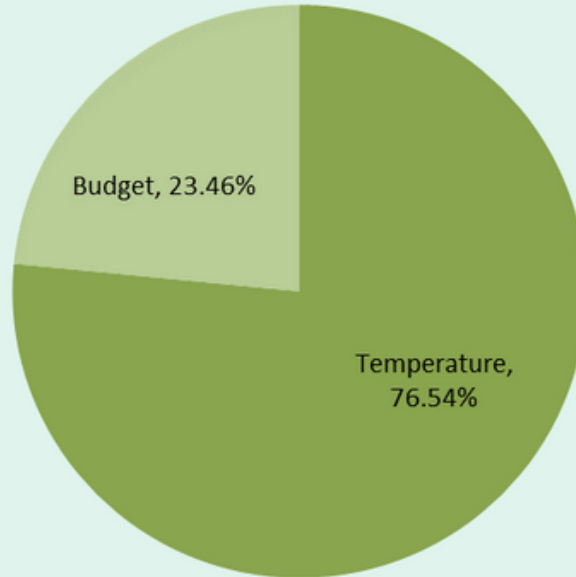


How often do you change the heating control settings?

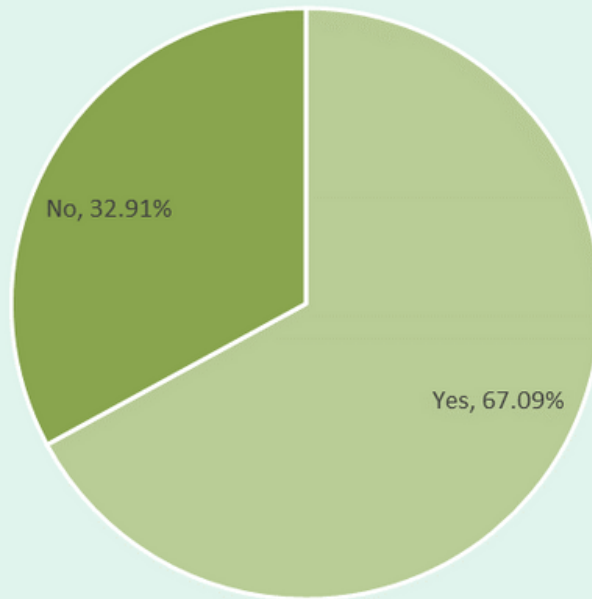


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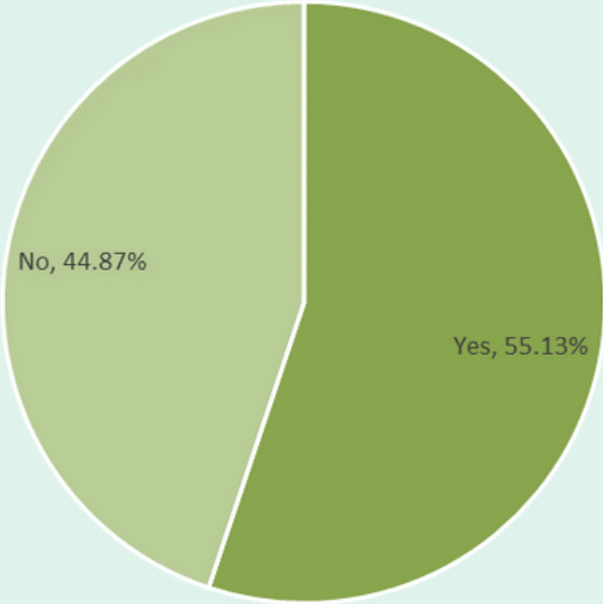
As a rule, are you heating to a temperature or to a budget?



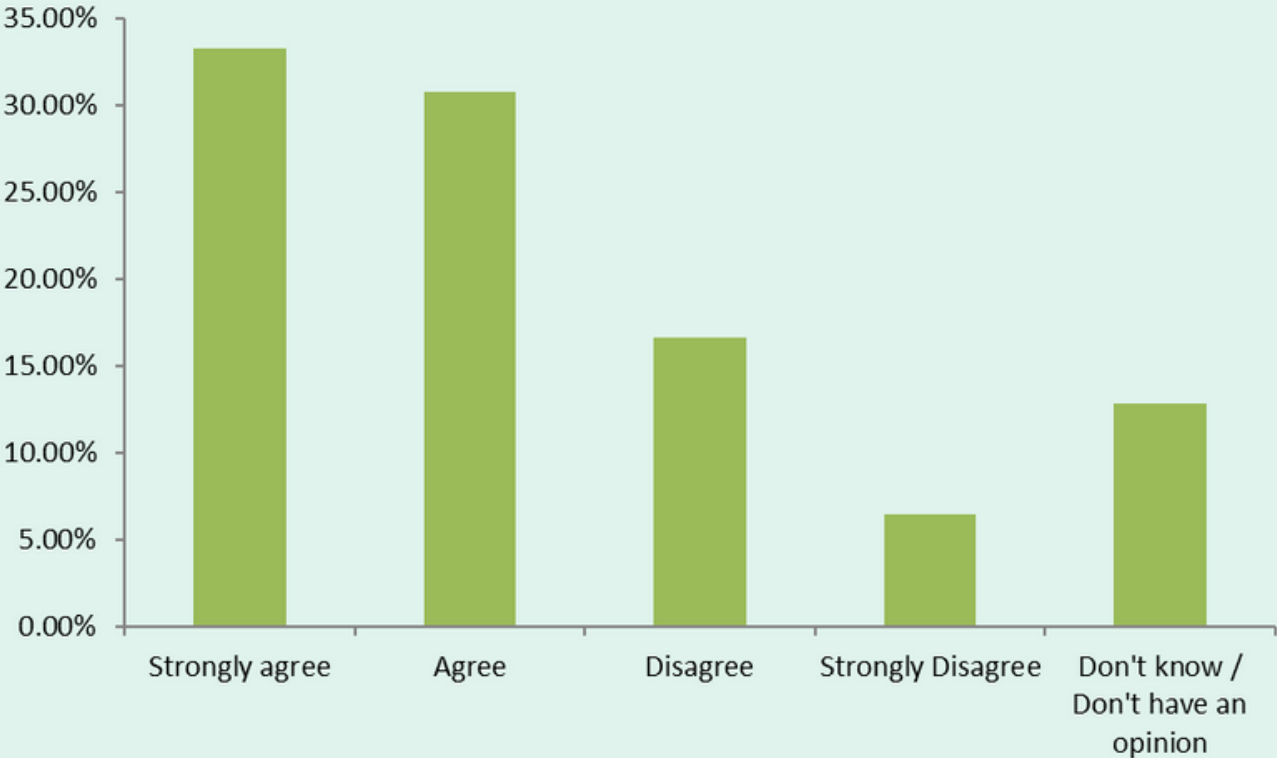
Are you worried about your energy costs?



Do you ever feel like you are rationing your purchase of heat?

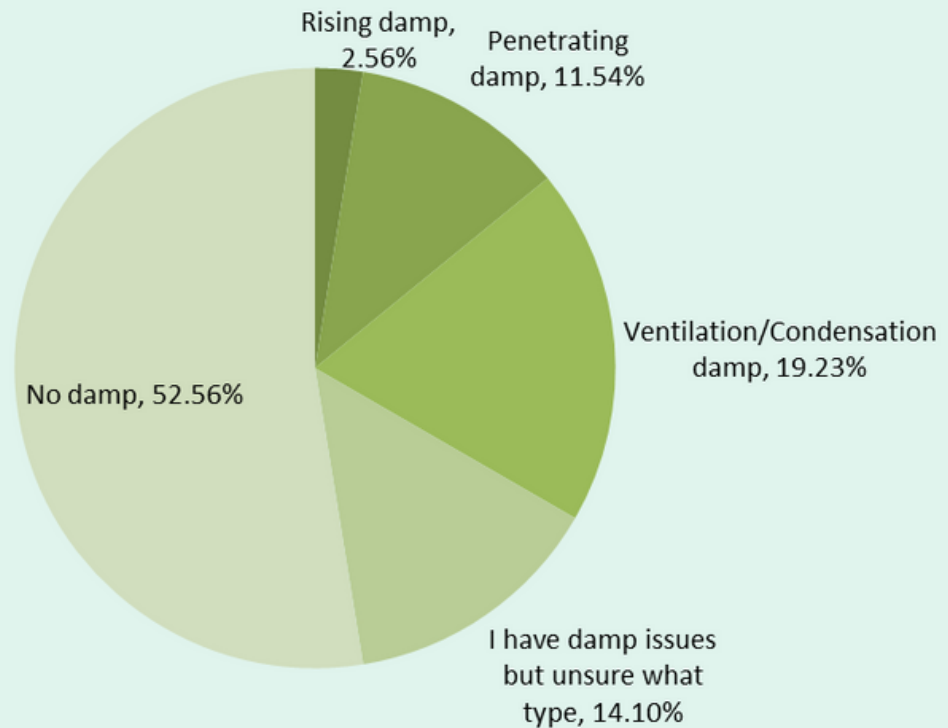


I would have a smart meter fitted if it helped reduce electricity bills



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Do you have any problems managing the following types of damp



## Comments...

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### Place

There is a strong attachment to place, nature and landscapes amongst residents. Easy access to walks and quiet areas is highly valued.

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### Conditions

Housing quality whether lack of insulation, type of heating system or amount of damp were the main issues in homes. The difficulties in getting trades people to carry out work adds to the above problems.

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### Heating

Comments made around heating systems were centered around a theme of inefficiency, the cost to run them and the unaffordability of more eco friendly options.

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The main reasons behind households using portable heating were:

- Cheaper to use than the house heating system
- A small space can be heated instead of the whole room/house
- Heating System is not effective in creating a warm and comfortable environment

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## Cost

On average households are spending £2309 per year on energy..

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## Future Work

Draught proofing, installing a new heating system and getting loft insulation were the improvements most households were planning to make in the next 2-3 years.

40% of respondents said they already have installed double/triple glazing..



RAASAY 2023