# Alley Gating Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs)

#### Background to the consultation

In October 2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 (the Act) introduced new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB), including the power to create Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs).

PSPOs can be used to regulate activities in public places that can have a detrimental effect on the local community. They can help by giving local councils and local police additional powers to tackle ASB in specified locations.

These powers have been used in 14 locations across the borough between 2009 and 2023 to create PSPOs to restrict public rights of way over a highway through the installation of alley gates where needed to stop crime and/or ASB from occurring.

There are currently 14 active alley gating PSPOs at the following locations:

- 1. <u>Hazel Road</u>, Chester (Alleyways between Hazel Road to Downfield Road and Hazel Road to Poplar Road).
- 2. <u>Thurston Road</u>, Chester (Alleyway between Thurston Road and Green Lane).
- 3. <u>Westminster Road</u>, Chester (Alleyway between Westminster Road and Hamilton Street).
- **4.** <u>Alexandra Street</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyway between Alexandra Street and Edward Street and Grace Road).
- 5. <u>Beechfield Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyways between Enfield Road, Beechfield Road, Briarfield Road and Priestfield Road).
- 6. <u>Crossley Avenue</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyway between Crossley Avenue and the service area of Himalayan Birch Close).
- 7. <u>Heathfield Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyway between Heathfield Road, Flatt Lane and School Road).
- 8. <u>Holly Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyways between Holly Road, Kingsley Road, Cromwell Road and Cambridge Road).
- **9.** <u>King Street</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyway between King Street and garage area of Westminster Road).
- **10.** <u>Livingstone Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyways between Grafton Road, Livingstone Road and Grace Road).
- **11.**<u>Romiley Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyway between Overpool Road and Christleton Drive).
- **12.** <u>Victoria Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyways between Victoria Road, Enfield Road, Highfield Road, Ashfield Road and Woodfield Road).
- **13.**<u>Woodfield Road</u>, Ellesmere Port (Alleyway between Woodfield Road and the service area of Victoria Road).
- **14.** <u>Pinewood Grove</u>, Winsford (Alleyway between Pinewood Road and Whitby's Lane).

All 14 PSPOs are due to expire on 19 October 2023. The Council is required to carry out a review every three years and consider whether the PSPOs should be renewed.

This report summarises feedback received from residents about the PSPOs relating alleygating and whether the current measures should remain in place.

#### How the consultation was carried out

The consultation was open for a period of eight weeks, starting on 6 July and closing on 31 August 2023. There were multiple ways in which stakeholders could respond to the consultation and ensure their views were heard. Views were gathered using an online survey tool, and, to ensure as many people could take part as possible, respondents could also share their views via email, telephone or in writing. Alternative formats including paper and easy read options were also available.

Targeted communication methods were used to ensure that key stakeholders were made aware of the consultation and given the opportunity to have their say. This included sending direct invitations to 770 residents who live in close proximity to alley gating PSPOs, town and parish councils, statutory consultees and Elected Members.

The consultation was included on Council website and publicised through general communications such as social media posts, and press to engage with a broader range of potential participants.

The online survey received 124 responses, and a further six comments were submitted via email.

#### Overarching key messages

- 95 percent of respondents to the consultation support the renewal of these PSPOs for a further period of three years and there is greater support for the renewal of the alley gating PSPOs than objection in all areas where they are in operation.
- In affected areas 62 percent of respondents said that prior to the installation of the alley gates they witnessed ASB, crime, and / or disorder in these alleyways at least once per month. Since introducing alley gating PSPOs this has reduced to 16 percent of respondents.
- Since introducing alley gating PSPOs in affected areas 67 percent of respondents said that they now witness ASB, crime, and / or disorder in these alleyways 'Rarely or never' compared to just eight percent of respondents before installation.
- In areas where alley gating PSPOs are in place 43 percent of respondents are still very or fairly concerned about ASB, crime, and / or disorder in these alleyways, but 92 percent of respondents said they would be very concerned (85%) or fairly concerned (7%) if the alley gates were to be removed.
- Responses were received for 14 locations where alley gating PSPOs are in operation.

#### Summary of consultation findings

**Question 1** - Respondents were asked which of the alley gating PSPOs within Cheshire West and Chester that they wished to provide comment on.

### Q1. Which of the alley gating Order(s) within Cheshire West and Chester listed below do you wish to provide comment on?

(Respondents were asked to select one option)

An	swer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Hazel Road, Chester - (Alleyways between Hazel Road to Downfield Road and Hazel Road to Poplar Road)		6%	7
2	Thurston Road, Chester - (Alleyway between Thurston Road and Green Lane)		20%	24
3	Westminster Road, Chester - (Alleyway between Westminster Road and Hamilton Street)	I	9%	11
4	Alexandra Street, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Alexandra Street and Edward Street and Grace Road)	I	4%	5
5	Beechfield Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Enfield Road, Beechfield Road, Briarfield Road and Priestfield Road)		10%	12
6	Crossley Avenue, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Crossley Avenue and the service area of Himalayan Birch Close)	I	6%	7
7	Heathfield Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Heathfield Road, Flatt Lane and School Road)	I	6%	7
8	Holly Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Holly Road, Kingsley Road, Cromwell Road and Cambridge Road)	I	3%	3
9	King Street, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between King Street and garage area of Westminster Road)	I	1%	1
10	Livingstone Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Grafton Road, Livingstone Road and Grace Road)	I	6%	7
11	Romiley Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Overpool Road and Christleton Drive)		7%	8
12	Victoria Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Victoria Road, Enfield Road, Highfield Road, Ashfield Road and Woodfield Road)		15%	18
13	Woodfield Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Woodfield Road and the service area of Victoria Road)		1%	1
14	Pinewood Grove, Winsford - (Alleyway between Pinewood Road and Whitby's Lane)	I	8%	9

Which of the alley gating Order(s) within Cheshire West and Chester listed below do you wish to provide comment on?

Hazel Road, Chester - (Alleyways between Hazel Road to Downfield Road and Hazel Road to Poplar Road) six percent, Thurston Road, Chester - (Alleyway between Thurston Road and Green Lane) 20 percent, Westminster Road, Chester - (Alleyway between Westminster Road and Hamilton Street) nine percent, Alexandra Street, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Alexandra Street and Edward Street and Grace Road) 4 percent, Beechfield Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Enfield Road, Beechfield Road, Briarfield Road and Priestfield Road) 10 percent, Crossley Avenue, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Crossley Avenue and the service area of Himalayan Birch Close) six percent, Heathfield Road, Ellesmere Port -(Alleyway between Heathfield Road, Flatt Lane and School Road) six percent, Holly Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Holly Road, Kingsley Road, Cromwell Road and Cambridge Road) three percent, King Street, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between King Street and garage area of Westminster Road) one percent, Livingstone Road, Ellesmere Port -(Alleyways between Grafton Road, Livingstone Road and Grace Road) six percent, Romiley

## Q1. Which of the alley gating Order(s) within Cheshire West and Chester listed below do you wish to provide comment on?

(Respondents were asked to select one option)

Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Overpool Road and Christleton Drive) seven percent, Victoria Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyways between Victoria Road, Enfield Road, Highfield Road, Ashfield Road and Woodfield Road)15 percent, Woodfield Road, Ellesmere Port - (Alleyway between Woodfield Road and the service area of Victoria Road) one percent, Pinewood Grove, Winsford - (Alleyway between Pinewood Road and Whitby's Lane) eight percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

Graph 1 above shows that all areas with PSPOs for alleygating were represented in the consultation.

**Question 2** - Respondents were asked whether they currently live in a property adjoining an alleyway where an alley gating PSPO is in operation.

#### Graph 2

Aı	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	68%	82
2	No	23%	27
3	Prefer not to say	9%	11

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Graph 2 above shows that 68 percent of respondents currently live in a property adjoining an alleyway where a PSPO is in operation. 23 percent don't live in a property adjoining one of these alleyways and a further nine percent answered 'Prefer not to say'.

Question 3 - Respondents were asked what year they moved into their property.

#### Graph 3

Ar	nswer Choices	Response Percent	e Response Total
1	2023	4%	3
2	2022	10%	8
3	2021	2%	2
4	2020	2%	2
5	2019	2%	2
6	2018	5%	4
7	2017	6%	5
8	2016	2%	2
9	2015	1%	1
10	2014	0%	0
11	2013	0%	0
12	2012	4%	3
13	2011	2%	2
14	2010	0%	0
15	2009	1%	1
16	2008	2%	2
17	2007	1%	1
18	2006 or earlier	55%	46

If yes, what year did you move into this property?

2023 four percent, 2022 10 percent, 2021 two percent, 2020 two percent, 2019 two percent, 2018 five percent, 2017 six percent, 2016 two percent, 2015 one percent, 2014 0 percent, 2013 0 percent, 2012 four percent, 2011 two percent, 2010 0 percent, 2009 one percent, 2008 two percent, 2007 one percent, 2006 or earlier 55 percent.

Answered by 84 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

Graph 3 above shows that 58 percent of respondents who live in properties adjoining an alleyway where an alley gating PSPO is currently in operation have lived in these areas before the first scheme was introduced in 2009. 41 percent of residents now living in properties adjoining an alleyway where an alley gating PSPO is currently in operation have moved in since it was first introduced. **Question 4** - Respondents were asked how frequently they witnessed anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder prior to the installation of the alley gates in the area selected in Question 1.

#### Graph 4

## Q4. Prior to the installation of the alley gates in this area, how frequently did you witness anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder? (Respondents were asked to select one option)

Ar	Answer Choices		Response Total
1	Almost every week	49%	59
2	More than once a month	10%	12
3	Once a month	3%	3
4	About once every two months	3%	4
5	About once every six months	2%	2
6	Less than every six months	0%	0
7	Rarely or never	8%	9
8	Don't know	26%	31

Prior to the installation of the alley gates in this area, how frequently did you witness anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder?

Almost every week 49 percent, More than once a month 10 percent, Once a month three percent, About once every two months three percent, About once every six months two percent, Less than every six months 0 percent, Rarely or never eight percent, Don't know 26 percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

Graph 4 above shows that prior to the installation of alley gates in the selected area 62 percent of respondents witnessed anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in these alleyways at least once per month. Three percent of respondents witnessed this behaviour about once every two months, two percent witnessed it about once every six months, eight percent witnessed it rarely or never and 26 percent of respondents answered 'Don't know'.

**Question 5** - Respondents were asked how frequently they witness anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder since the installation of the alley gates in the area selected in Question 1.

ar		f alley gates in this area how freque ne, and / or disorder in this area? o select one option)	entiy do you witr	1855
Ar	swer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Almost every week		11%	13
2	More than once a month		3%	4
3	Once a month		2%	2
4	About once every two months		4%	5
5	About once every six months		5%	6
6	Less than every six months		3%	4
7	Rarely or never		67%	80
8	Don't know		5%	6

Since the installation of alley gates in this area how frequently do you witness anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in this area?

Almost every week 11 percent, More than once a month three percent, Once a month two percent, About once every two months four percent, About once every six months five percent, Less than every six months three percent, Rarely or never 67 percent, Don't know five percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Graph 5 above shows that since the installation of alley gates in the selected area 67 percent of respondents witnessed anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder 'Rarely or never'. 16 percent of respondents now witness this behaviour at least once a month. Four percent witness it about once every two months, five percent witness it about once every six months, three percent witness it less than every six months and five percent answered 'Don't know'.

The percentage of respondents who said they had witnessed anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder at least once a month reduced from 62 percent prior to the installation of the alley gates to 16 percent since the installation of the alley gates.

**Question 6** - Respondents were asked how concerned they currently were about anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in the gated area selected in Question 1.

di	Q6. How concerned are you currently about anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in this gated area? (Respondents were asked to select one option)					
Aı	nswer Choices	Response F Percent	Response Total			
1	Very concerned	26%	31			
2	Fairly concerned	17%	20			
3	Neither concerned nor unconcerned	13%	15			
4	Fairly unconcerned	27%	32			
5	Very unconcerned	17%	20			
6	Don't know	2%	2			

How concerned are you currently about anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in this gated area?

Very concerned 26 percent, Fairly concerned 17 percent, Neither concerned nor unconcerned 13 percent, Fairly unconcerned 27 percent, Very unconcerned 17 percent, Don't know two percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

Graph 6 above shows that in areas where alley gating PSPOs are in place 43 percent of respondents are very or fairly concerned about anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in the selected gated area, 13 percent are neither concerned nor unconcerned, 44 percent are very or fairly unconcerned and two percent answered 'Don't know'.

**Question 7** - Respondents were asked how concerned they would be about antisocial behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in area selected in Question 1, if the alley gates were removed.

`	Respondents were asked to select one option)		
Ar	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Very concerned	85%	102
2	Fairly concerned	7%	8
3	Neither concerned nor unconcerned	3%	3
4	Fairly unconcerned	1%	1
5	Very unconcerned	4%	5
6	Don't know	1%	1

How concerned would you be about anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in this area, if the alley gates were removed?

Very concerned 85 percent, Fairly concerned seven percent, Neither concerned nor unconcerned three percent, Fairly unconcerned one percent, Very unconcerned four percent, Don't know one percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

Graph 7 above shows that the majority (92 percent) of respondents would be very or fairly concerned about anti-social behaviour, crime, and / or disorder in alleyways where PSPOs currently apply if these gates were to be removed. Three percent would be neither concerned nor unconcerned, five percent would be fairly or very unconcerned and one percent answered 'Don't know'.

**Question 8** - Respondents were asked whether they wanted the alley gating PSPO selected in Question 1 to be renewed for a further period of three years from October 2023.

Ar	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes	95%	113
2	No	4%	5
3	Don't know	2%	2

Yes 95 percent, No four percent, Don't know two percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

Graph 8 above shows that the vast majority (95 percent) of respondents want their selected alley gating PSPO to be renewed for a further period of three years. Four percent of respondents do not want these orders renewed and two percent answered 'Don't know'.

Alley gating Order respondent was commenting on:	Number of respondents who answered 'Don't know'	Number of respondents who answered 'No'	Number of respondents who answered 'Yes'	Total respondents
Alexandra Street, Ellesmere Port			5	5
Beechfield Road, Ellesmere Port			12	12
Crossley Avenue, Ellesmere Port		1	6	7
Hazel Road, Chester	1		6	7
Heathfield Road, Ellesmere Port			7	7
Holly Road, Ellesmere Port			3	3
King Street, Ellesmere Port			1	1
Livingstone Road, Ellesmere Port		1	6	7
Pinewood Grove, Winsford			9	9
Romiley Road, Ellesmere Port			8	8
Thurston Road, Chester		2	22	24
Victoria Road, Ellesmere Port	1		17	18
Westminster Road, Chester		1	10	11
Woodfield Road, Ellesmere Port			1	1
Grand Total	2	5	113	120
Alexandra Street, Ellesme Crossley Avenue, Ellesme respondents percent Don Holly Road, Ellesmere Po Livingstone Road, Ellesme nine respondents, Romile respondents No two respo respondent, Westminster Port Yes one respondent.	ere Port Yes six resp it know one respond rt Yes three respond ere Port Yes six resp y Road, Ellesmere P ondents, Victoria Ros Road, Chester Yes	oondents percent No ent, Heathfield Road dents, King Street, El pondents No one res Port Yes eight respon ad, Ellesmere Port Ye	one respondent, Haz , Ellesmere Port Yes lesmere Port Yes one pondent, Pinewood G dents, Thurston Road es 17 respondents Do	el Road, Chester six seven respondents, respondent, rove, Winsford Yes d, Chester Yes 22 pn't know one

Graph 9 above shows that there is greater support for the renewal of the alley gating PSPOs in all areas where they are in operation.

Respondents were also asked to say why they had chosen their selected option.

Below are the key messages from the 109 comments received in response to this question:

- Many of the respondents said that they alley gates made the area feel safer and reduced ASB in these areas.
- Many of the respondents had previously witnessed crime and / or ASB in the alleyway.
- Many of the respondents said that they had been victims of at least one previous incident or crime associated with the alleyway (theft and criminal damage were the most prevalent offences detailed).
- Many of the respondents said that there had been issues with fly tipping in the alleyway.
- Many of the respondents said that there would be increased costs and/or demand for public services if the gates were removed.
- Many of the respondents said that they had concerns about crime and people congregating in the alleyways if they were to be removed.
- Some of the respondents said that there had been issues with the maintenance within gated alleyways since installation.
- A few of the respondents said that the gates should be open during daytime hours.
- A few of the respondents said that the gates increased the distances they had to walk to get around where they were installed.

**Question 9** - Respondents were asked if there were further comments they would like to make about the alley gating PSPOs.

Below are the key messages from 61 comments received in response to this question:

- Many of the respondents said that they felt the gates made the area feel safer.
- Some of the respondents said that there had been issues with maintenance of the gated alleyways.
- Some of the respondents said that demand for police and other public services would increase if the gates were to be removed.
- Some of the respondents said that they had witnessed crime or ASB in the alleyway previously.
- Some of the respondents said that there had been issues with waste in the alleyways.
- A couple of the respondents said that the gates should be open during daytime hours.
- A couple of respondents said they had concerns about crime continuing to occur in alleyways that are gated.

#### Other comments:

There were six email responses to the consultation, below are the key messages from these emails:

- Some support renewal of the PSPOs.
- Comments that the alley gates make the respondents feel safer, reduced fear of crime and prevented ASB from occurring.
- Comments reporting previous experiences of ASB and crime in the alleyway prior to the installation of the gates.

#### Next steps.

Feedback from the consultation on the current alley gating PSPOs will be presented to the Councils Head of Service for Public Protection in October 2023 for a decision on whether to renew the PSPOs for a further period of up to three years.

#### Appendices

#### **Appendix 1 - Profile of respondents**

#### Graph 10: Type of respondent

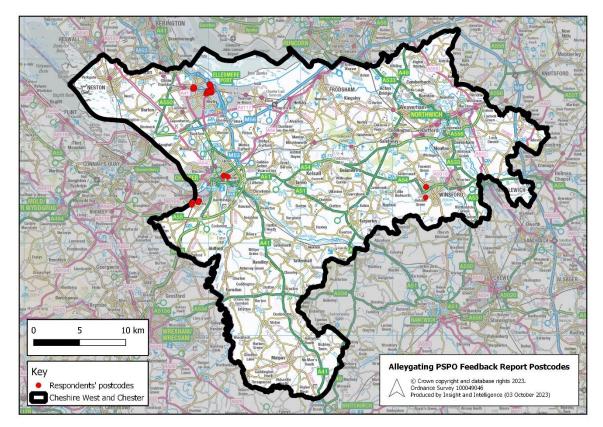
A	nswer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total
1	A resident of Cheshire West and Chester		97%	116
2	An employee of Cheshire West and Chester Council		2%	2
3	A representative of a local business		3%	4
4	An elected Member of Cheshire West and Chester Council		0%	0
5	A local Town or Parish Councillor		0%	0
6	A representative of a voluntary or community organisation	I	1%	1
7	Prefer not to say		0%	0
8	Other (please specify):		3%	4

A resident of Cheshire West and Chester 97 percent, An employee of Cheshire West and Chester Council two percent, A representative of a local business three percent, A representative of a voluntary or community organisation one percent, Other (please specify) three percent

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that percentages do not total 100% as the respondents could select more than one answer and the percentages have also been rounded to the nearest whole number.

#### Postcode of respondents

The map below shows all of the postcodes given by respondents that could be mapped (113 postcodes):



113 respondents' postcodes were from within the Cheshire West and Chester boundary. Respondents' postcodes are likely to be condensed in areas where alley gating PSPOs are in operation, as people living in these areas are key stakeholders. Targeted communications were applied to residents living in these areas. Please note that we were unable to map the postcodes for all respondents as some were not provided, were incomplete or unmatched to our records.

N	Which age group do you belong to?					
A	nswer Choices	Response Percent	Response Total			
1	Under 16 (with consent of a parent/guardian/teacher)	0%	0			
2	16 - 24	3%	3			
3	25 - 34	8%	9			
4	35 - 44	15%	18			
5	45 - 54	27%	32			
6	55 - 64	19%	23			
7	65+	27%	32			
8	Prefer not to say	3%	3			

#### Graph 11: Age profile

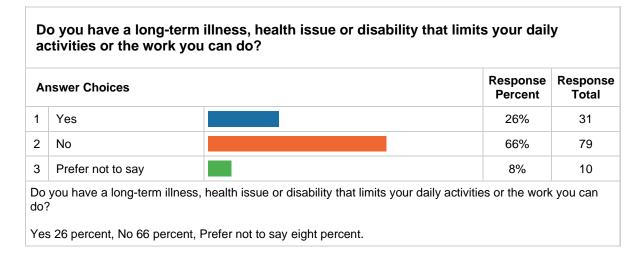
#### Which age group do you belong to?

Which age group do you belong to?

Under 16 (with consent of a parent/guardian/teacher) 0 percent, 16 to 24 three percent, 25 to 34 eight percent, 35 to 44 15 percent, 45 to 54 27 percent, 55 to 64 19 percent, 65 + 27 percent, Prefer not to say three percent.

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

#### Graph 12: Long term illness, health issues or disabilities



Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

#### Graph 13: Long term illness, health issues or disabilities

	If you answered 'yes' please indicate which of the following applies to you? (Please select all that apply)					
A	nswer Choices		Response Percent	Response Total		
1	Physical impairment that causes mobility issues, e.g. wheelchair user		39%	12		
2	Visual impairment		3%	1		
3	Hearing impairment		10%	3		
4	Learning disability or difficulty		3%	1		
5	Mental Health issue		23%	7		
6	Long standing illness or health condition		68%	21		

If you answered 'yes' please indicate which of the following applies to you? (Please select all that apply)					
7	Prefer not to say	6%	2		
8	Other (please specify):	10%	3		
Ph im pe	you answered 'yes' please indicate which of the follo hysical impairment that causes mobility issues, e.g. y pairment three percent, Hearing impairment 10 perc prcent, Mental Health issue 23 percent, Long standin efer not to say six percent, Other (please specify) 10	wheelchair user 39 percent, Visi cent, Learning disability or difficung illness or health condition 68	ulty three		

Answered only by the 31 respondents who said that they had a long-term illness, health issue or disability. Please note that percentages do not total 100% as the respondents could select more than one answer and the percentages have also been rounded to the nearest whole number.

#### Graph 14: Gender

Answer Choices			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Male		40%	47
2	Female		56%	67
3	Prefer not to say		5%	6
4	Other (please specify):		0%	0

Answered by 120 respondents. Please note that due to rounding to the nearest whole number, percentages do not total 100%.

#### Ethnicity

The majority of respondents (93 percent) identified as 'White British'.

#### **Religious Belief/Faith**

51 percent of respondents said they were 'Christian', 41 percent said they said they followed no religion, eight percent preferred not to say, three percent said they were Muslim, and two percent answered 'Other'.

#### **Sexual Orientation**

The majority of respondents identified as 'heterosexual/straight' (90 percent), seven percent preferred not to say, and three percent identified as gay/lesbian and two percent said 'Other'.