

Consultation on Bucksburn Swimming Pool

The consultation invited pool users to complete the survey. An online survey along with paper copies were available. Focus Groups were also set up to complement the process.

Representation of responses

City population 227,430 ([National Records of Scotland](#))

Number of visitors: 69,089 (2022/23)

Number of respondents: 987 (includes 37 from outwith the city)

Respondents to survey	Attendees focus groups
987*	21
*Any submissions that indicated that they had not used the pool in the last 5 years were discounted. There were 29 in total. Leaving <u>958</u> to be analysed.	

Follow link for [survey questions](#).

Following analysis of the responses, common impact themes were identified from the questionnaire and focus group responses. Free text fields were assessed, and relevant comments were matched to those themes. The key themes have been reported in Figure 7 of this report. 176 respondents did not indicate any impact. That was where the respondents did not provide any answers in the free text fields and/or did not indicate swimming activities had stopped. Alternatively they only provided opinion on the decision to close the pool rather than outline any impact.

Q1: Have you used Bucksburn Swimming Pool in the last five years?

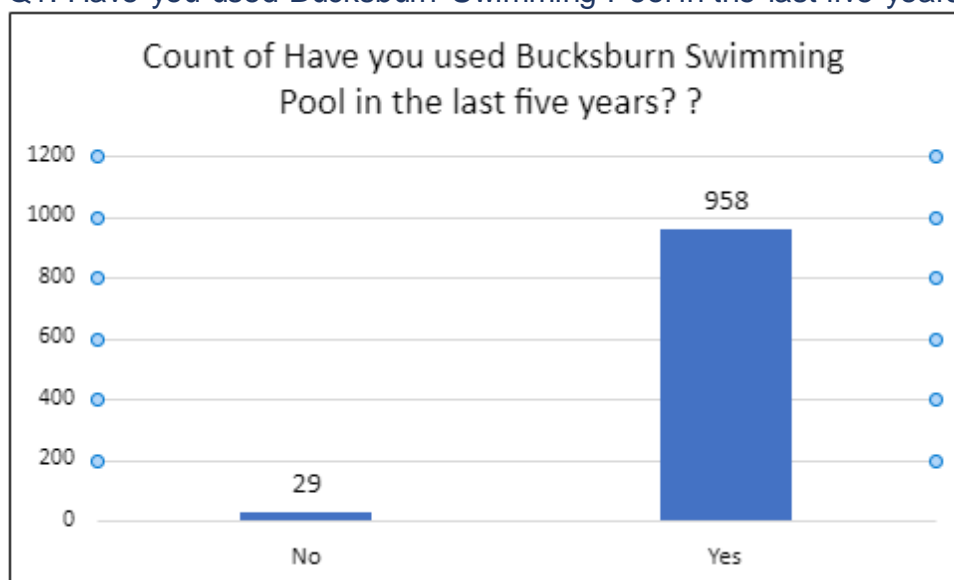


Figure 1: Number of respondents using pool in last 5 years.

Q2 . What is your full name? (Optional)

Responses removed before analysis.

Q3. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City?



Figure 2: Live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen

Q4. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

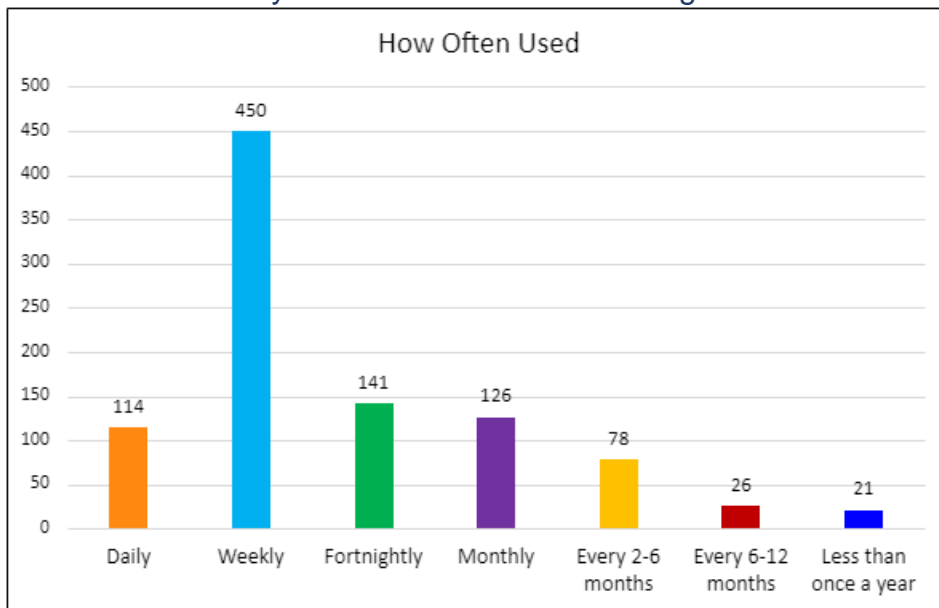


Figure 3: Frequency of pool use

Commentary

The option to select Weekly was not initially available on the online version. The error was flagged on Social Media and steps were taken to rectify this. 122 responses were submitted without the weekly option being available. Comments were made in the Free Text fields to reflect weekly use. It is not considered good practice to manually change questionnaire submissions, so in some cases weekly use will not be captured in the table. However, given the very clear indication of weekly use being the predominant answer in the table the question has provided appropriate data.

Q5. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

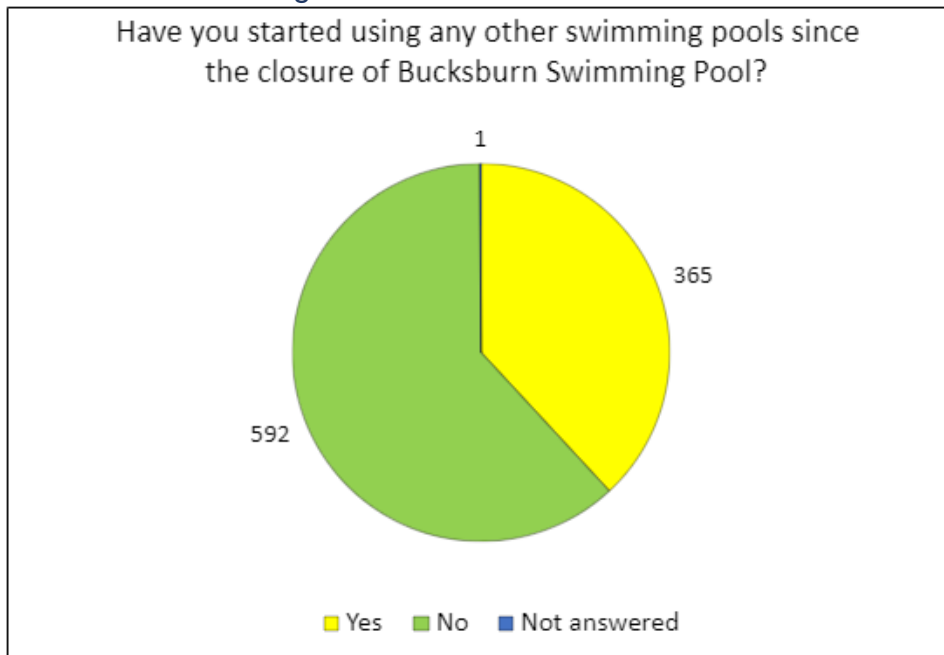


Figure 4: Use of alternatives

Q6. Please select the facilities, services or activities that you accessed at Bucksburn swimming pool?

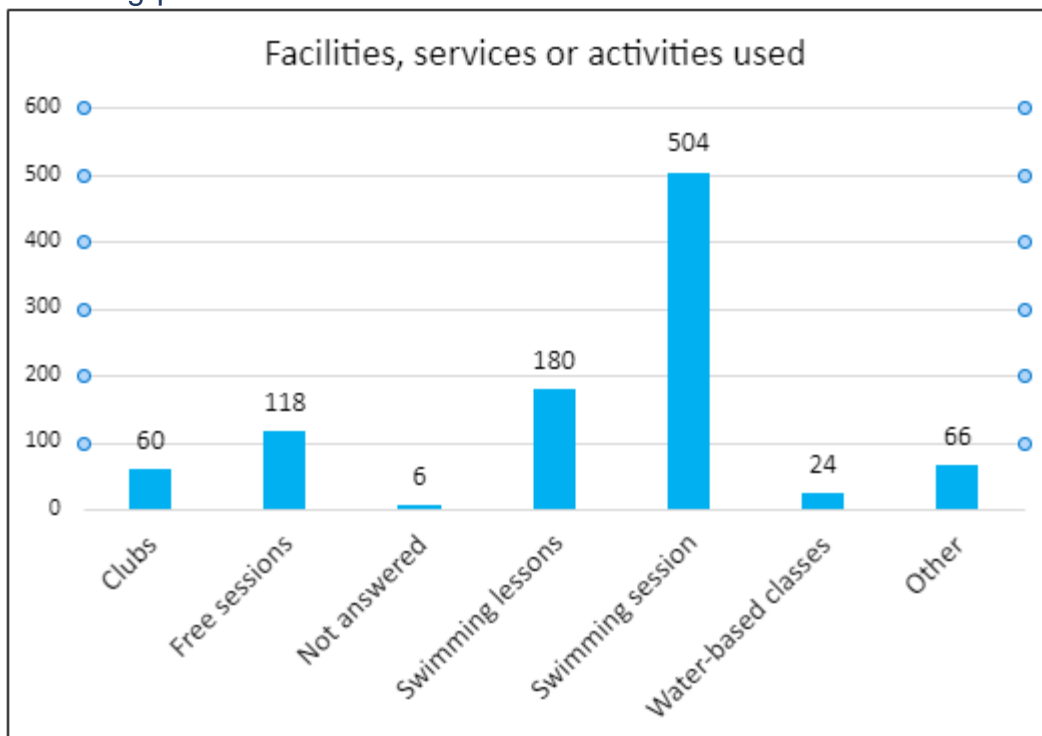


Figure 5: Type of activity

Commentary

The 'Other' free text field in some instances was used to identify impacts by users of the pool. These have been matched against the themes and included in the overall analysis of free text field submissions (see Figure 7).

Q7. Please select where you have taken up separate provision from the list below?

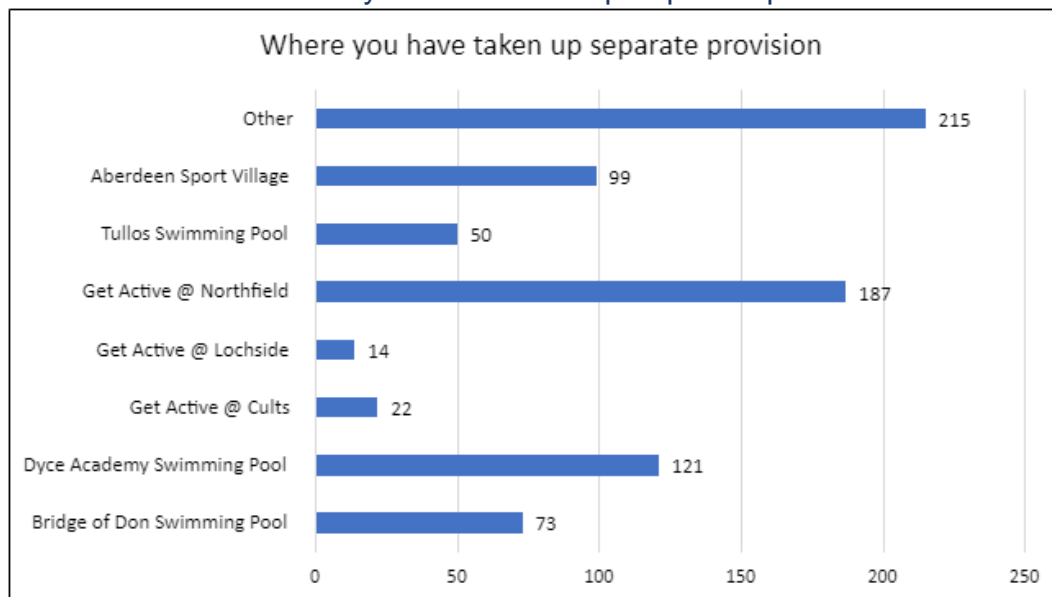


Figure 6: Alternative provision taken up

Private gyms with pools: Warehouse Gym, Bannatynes, David Lloyds, RGU

Hotels with pools: Ardoe, Hilton @ TECA, Thainstone, Village Hotel

Aberdeenshire: Aboyne, Alford, Ellon, Inverurie, Peterhead, Stonehaven, Westhill.

Angus: Brechin.

Outdoor: Cruden Bay Harbour, Knockburn Loch

Commentary

Respondents were not given the choice to select multiple alternative venues. As such the full utilisation of the those venues may not be reflected.

The 'Other' free text field was used by respondents in some cases to indicate that they had reduced their swimming activities or stopped completely following the closure. Other free text fields also included such statements. That alongside the analysis of Question 5 provided a total of 464 respondents indicating that swimming activities had stopped or had been reduced.

Responses indicating that swimming activities were attended less frequently – 23 of 464.

Response indicating that swimming based activities had stopped – 441 of the 464.

Q8 to Q11 all captured within a single table.

Q8. Access to Sport Aberdeen swimming pools is available at 6 locations across Aberdeen City.

If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision, we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Q9. Access to Sport Aberdeen swimming pools is available at 6 locations across the city. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

Q10. Access to swimming lessons are available across the city from Sport Aberdeen, Aberdeen Aquatic centre and private swimming pools. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

Q11. If there are any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming pool provision, please detail them below.

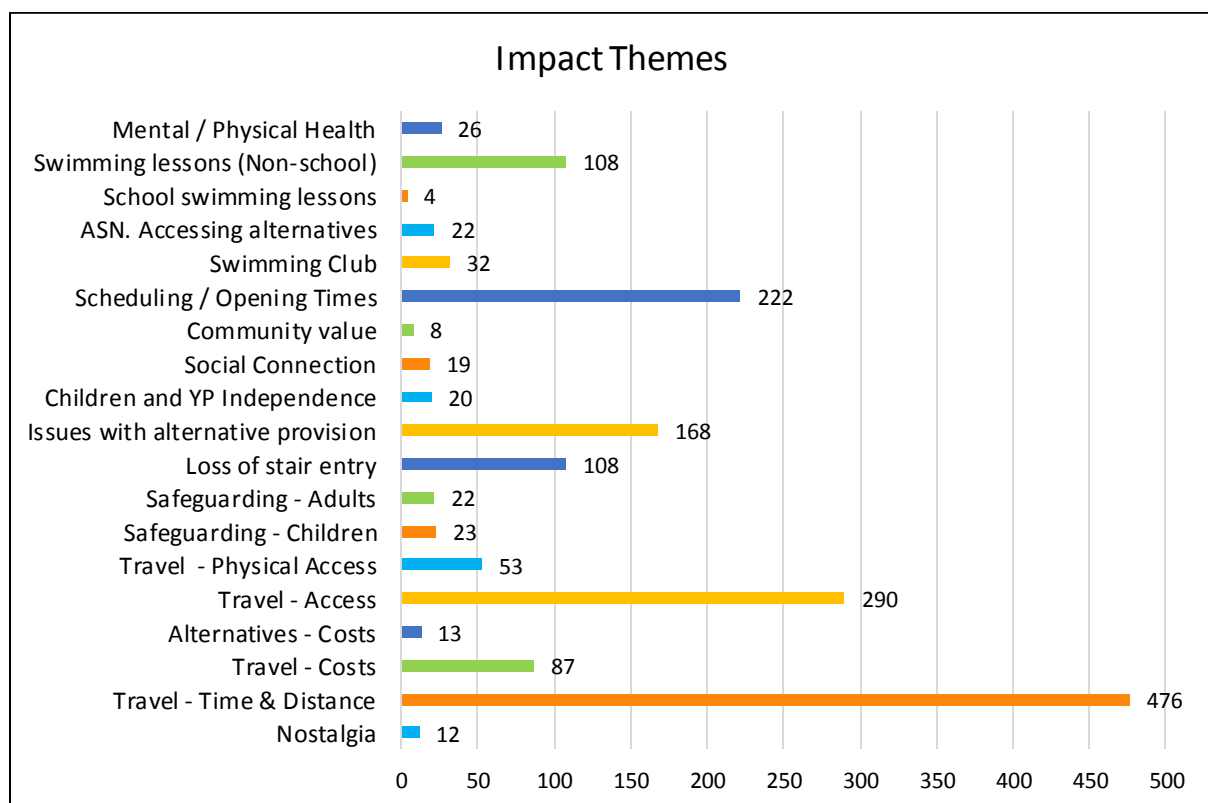


Figure 7: Number of comments identifying an impact against a theme

Q12. Where do you live?

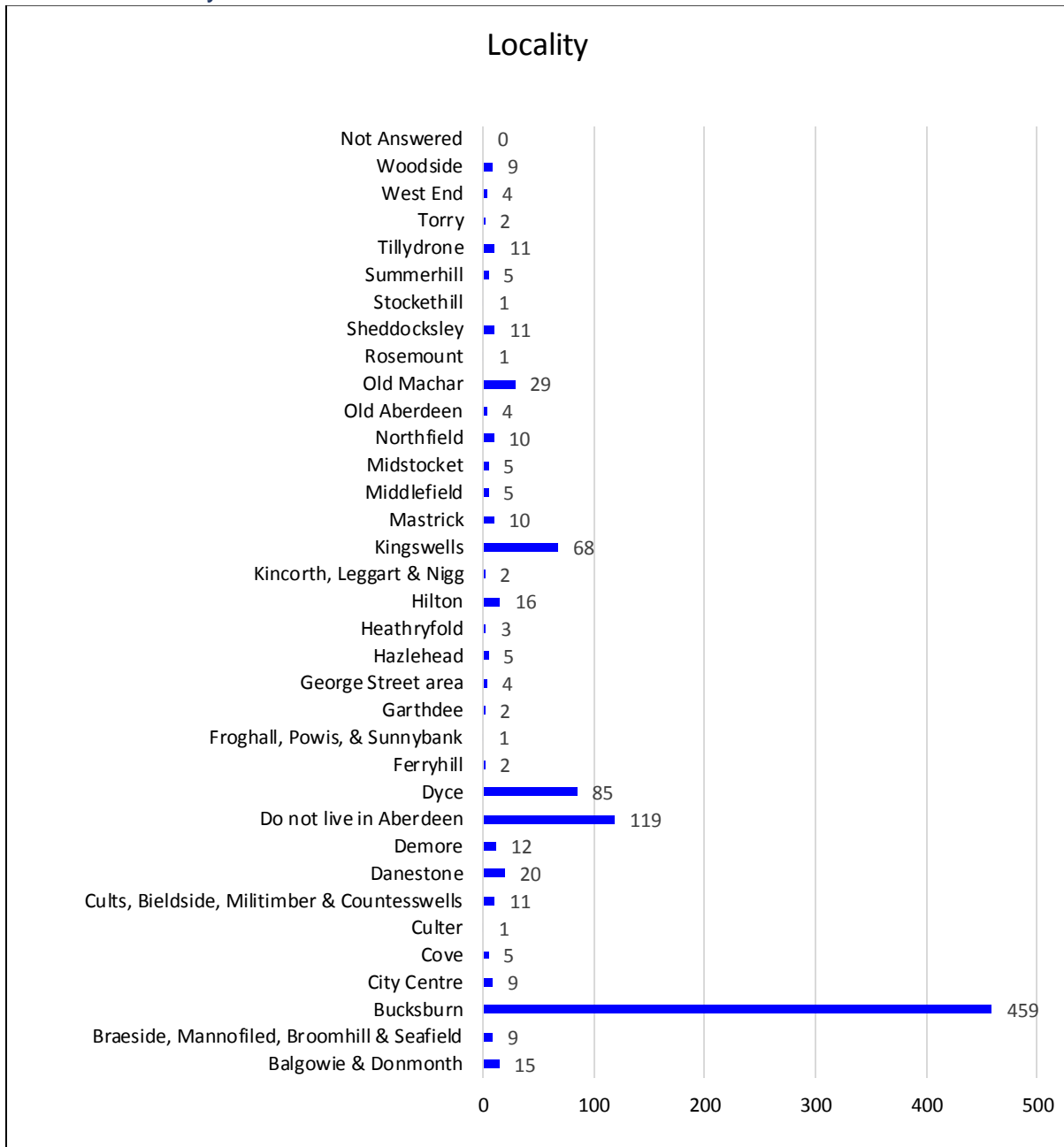


Figure 8: Where the respondents live

Equalities questions Q15-25

The equalities questions were optional. The completion rate was as follows:-

933 completed one or more of the questions.

20 respondents opted out and did not respond to any questions.

By question response rate:-

Age – 933 (including prefer not to say – 29)

Employment status – 938

Sex – 918 (including prefer not to say - 34)

Prefer to self identify – 4

Sexual orientation – 876 (including prefer not to say - 93)
 Sexual orientation description – 3
 Consider yourself to be trans or trans history – 73 (including prefer not to say – 69)
 Ethnicity / Nationality – 863 (including prefer not to say – 22)
 Ethnicity own words – 4
 Religion – 806 (including prefer not to say – 48)
 Religion description – 7.
 Marital status – 872 (including prefer not to say 70)
 Pregnant or on maternity leave – 50 (including prefer not to say - 43)
 Neither pregnant or on maternity leave – 516
 Activities limited – 845
 Activities limited. Deafness or partial hearing loss – 22
 Activities limited. Blindness or partial sight loss – 10
 Activities limited. Learning disability – 12
 Activities limited. Development disorder – 5
 Activities limited. Mental Health – 49
 Activities limited. Physical disability – 85
 Activities limited. Long-term illness, disease or condition – 97
 Activities limited. Prefer not to say – 49
 Caring responsibilities – 860 (including prefer not to say – 63)

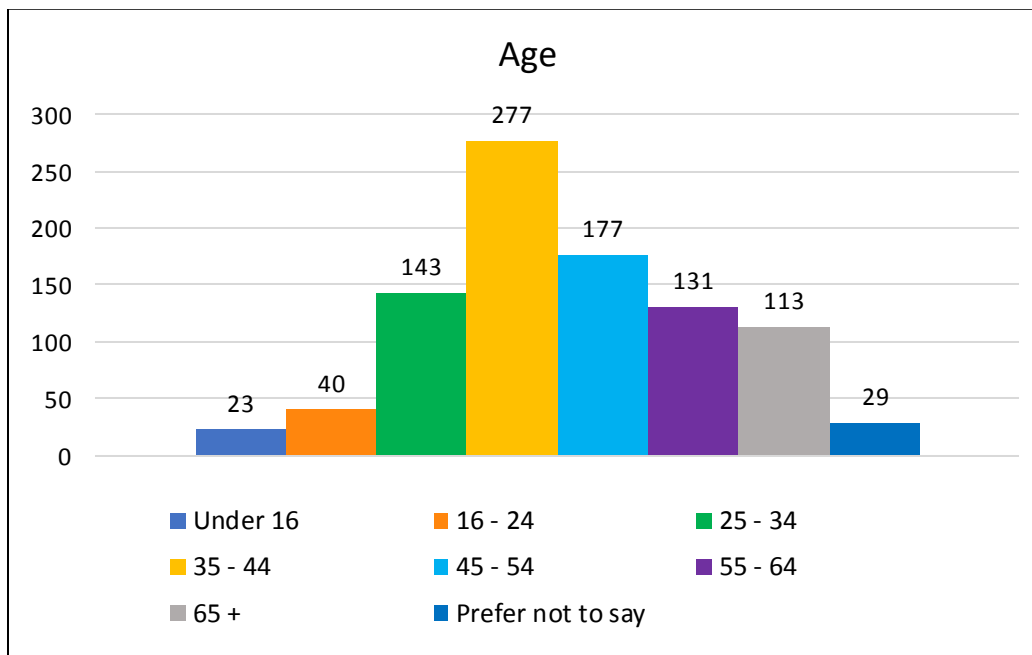


Figure 9: Respondents by age

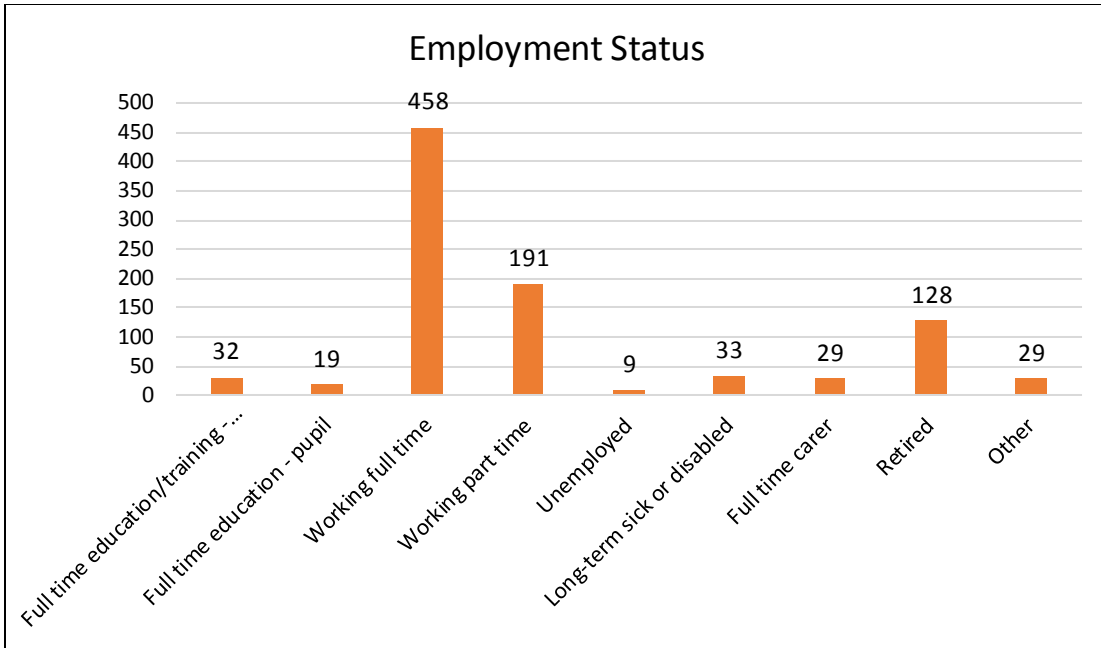


Figure 10: Respondents by Employment Status

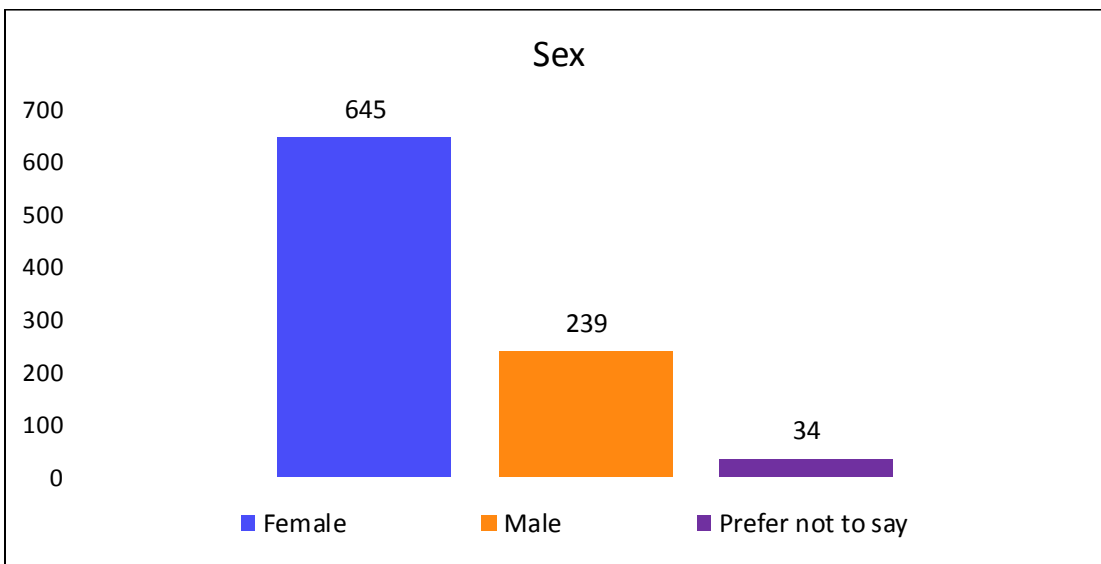


Figure 11: Respondents by sex

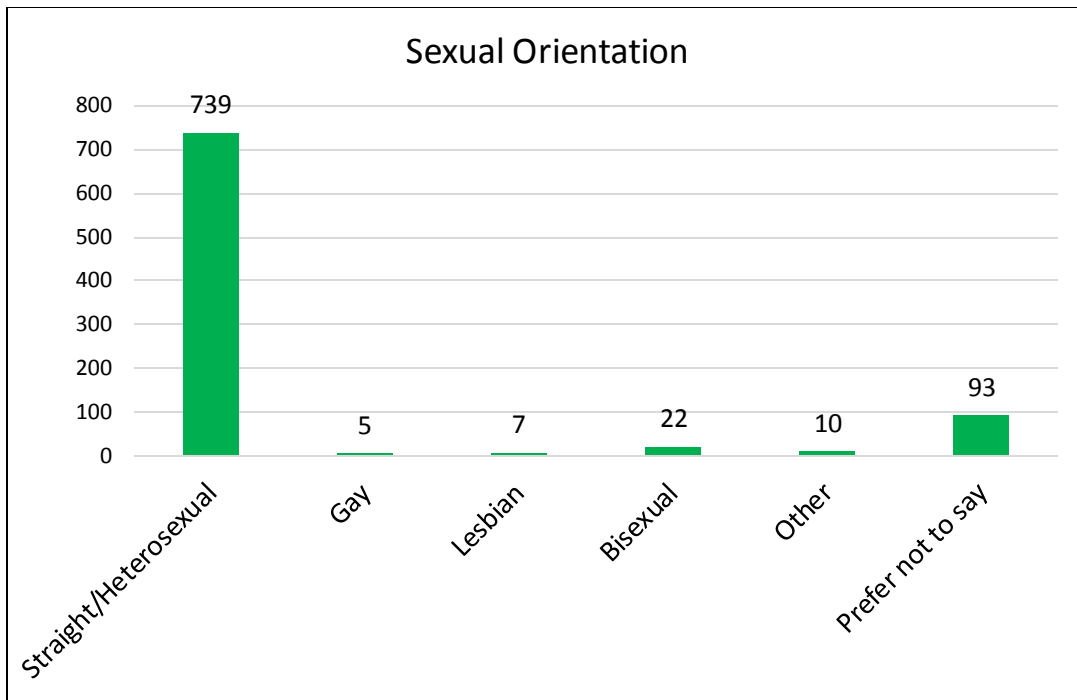


Figure 12: Respondents sexual orientation

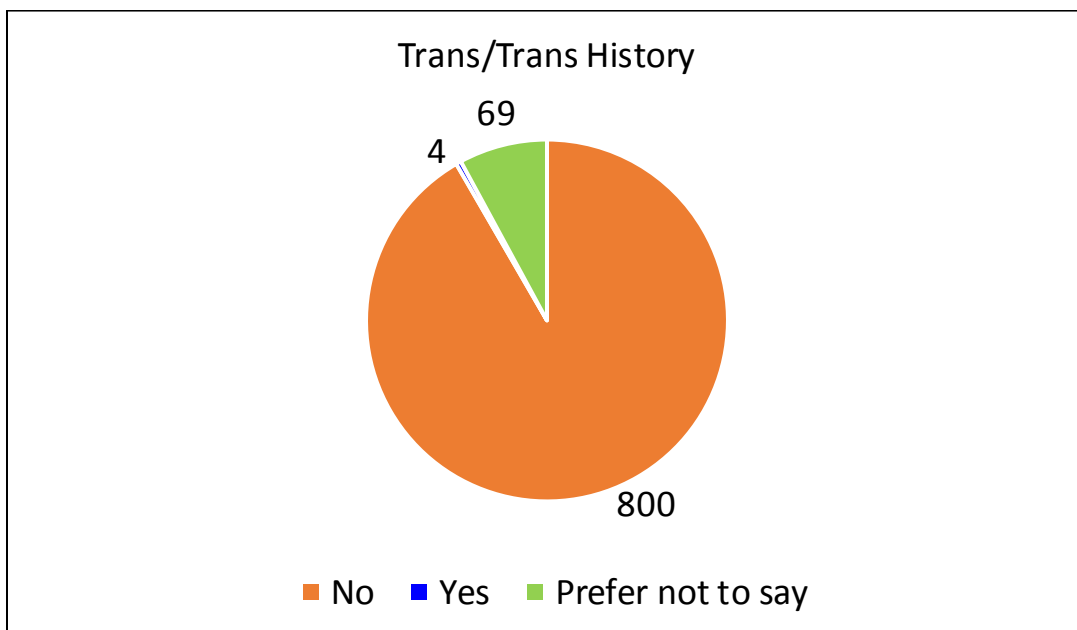


Figure 13: Respondents indicating they are trans or have a trans history

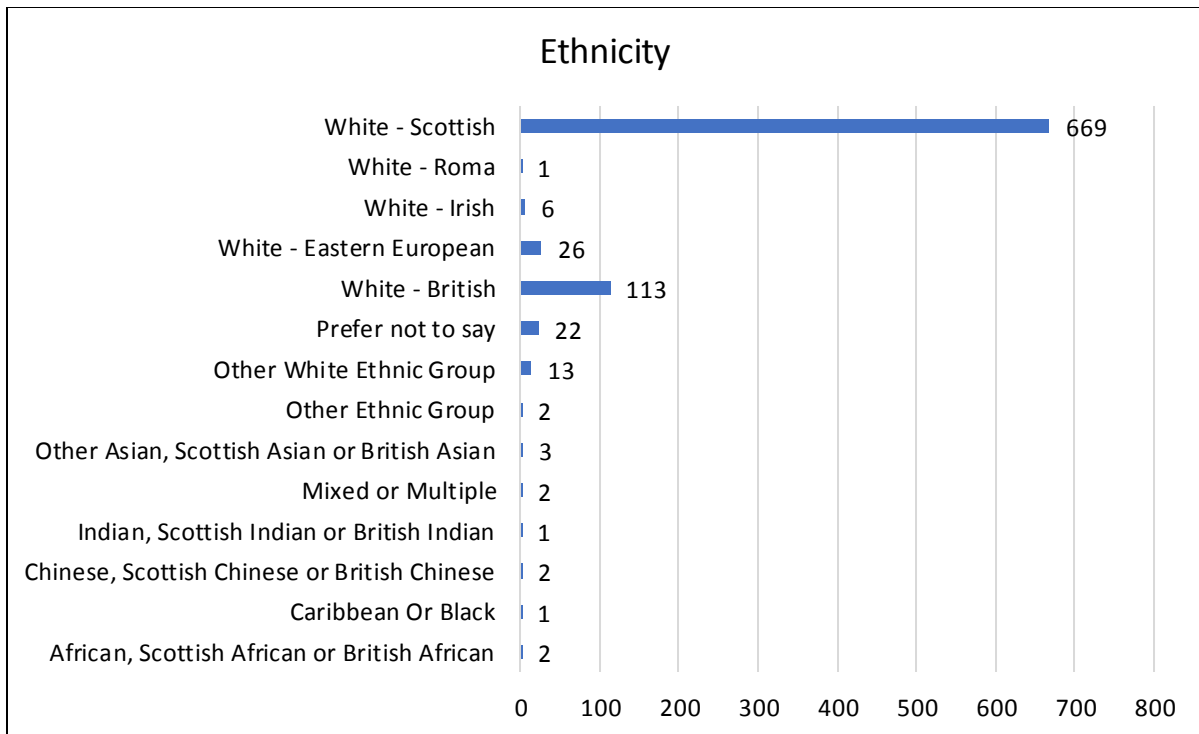


Figure 14: Respondents ethnicity and nationality

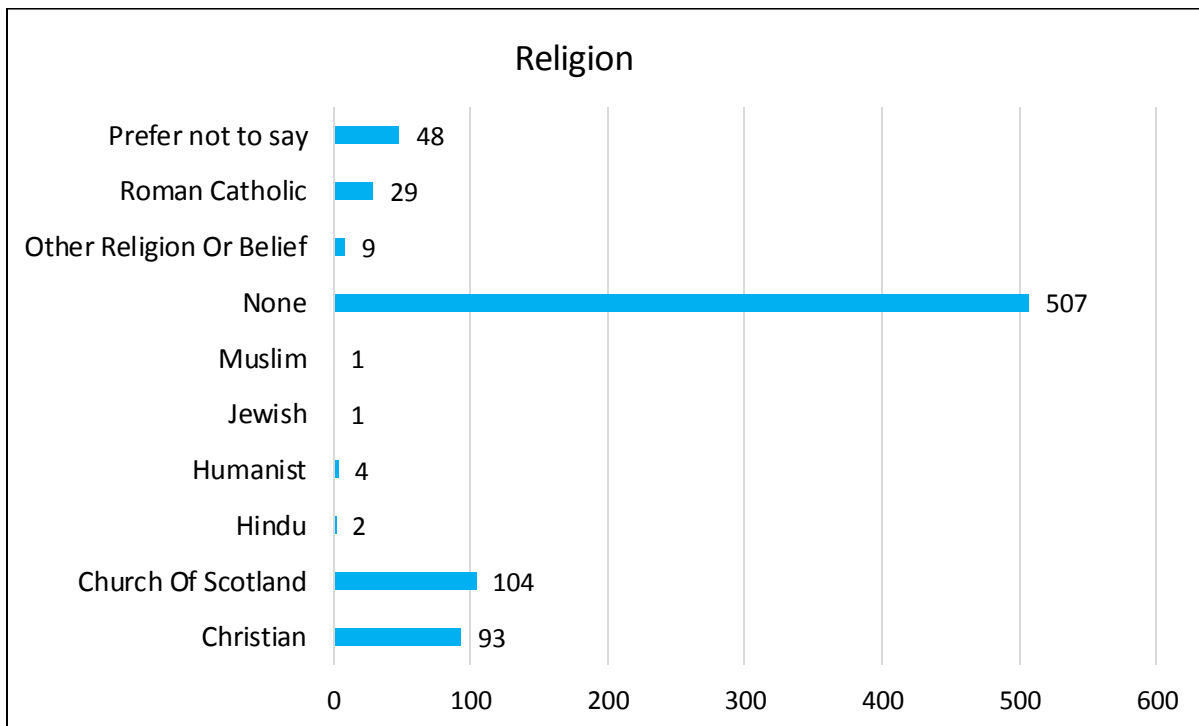


Figure 15: Respondents religion, religious denomination or body they belong to

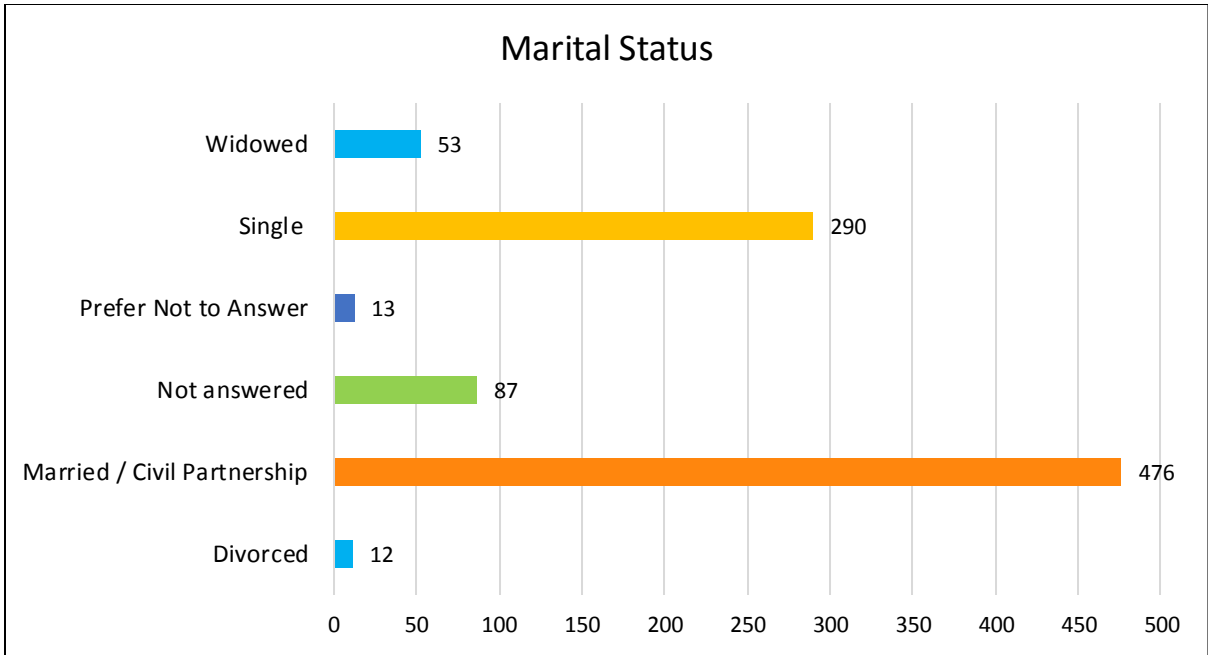


Figure 16: Respondents marital status

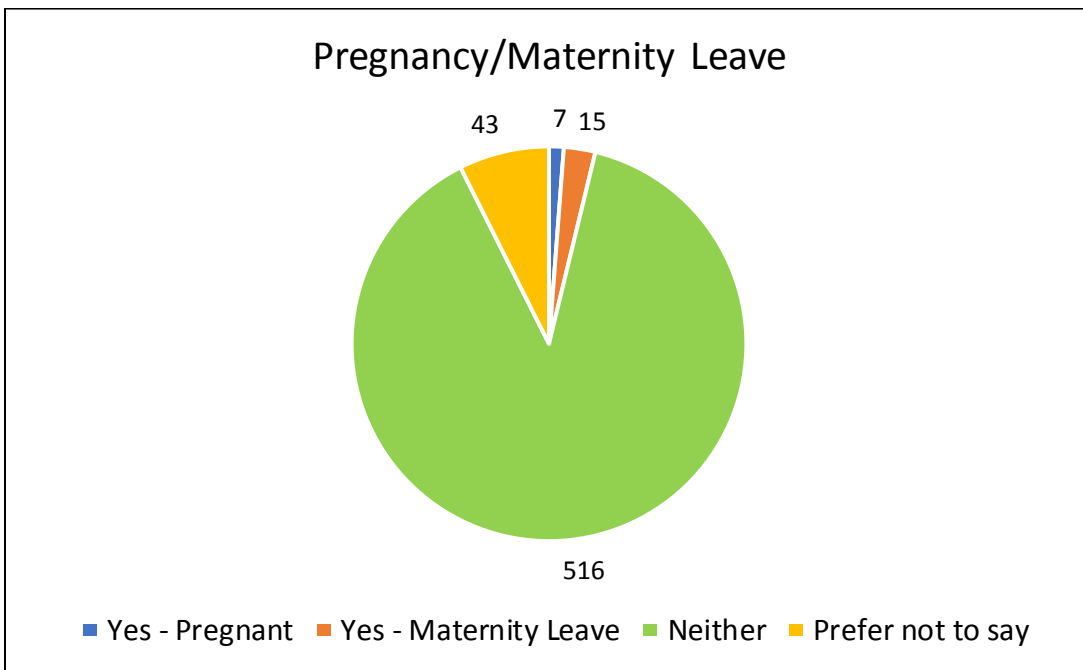


Figure 17: Respondents indicating they are pregnant or on maternity leave

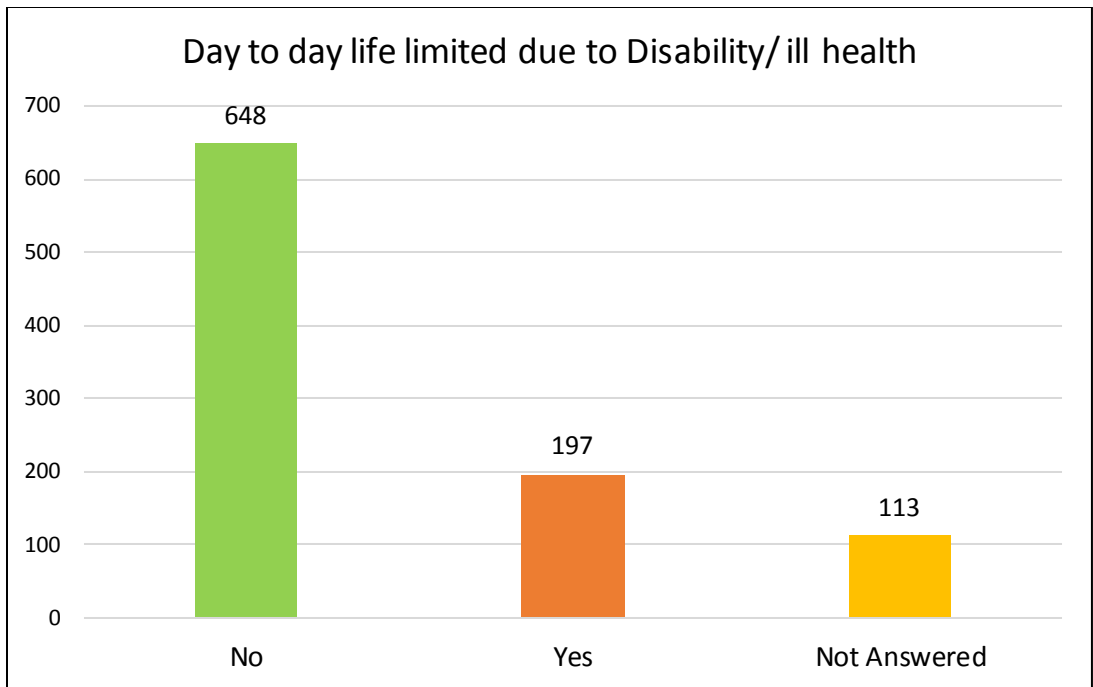


Figure 18: Respondents indicating they have a disability or health condition that limits day-to-day activities

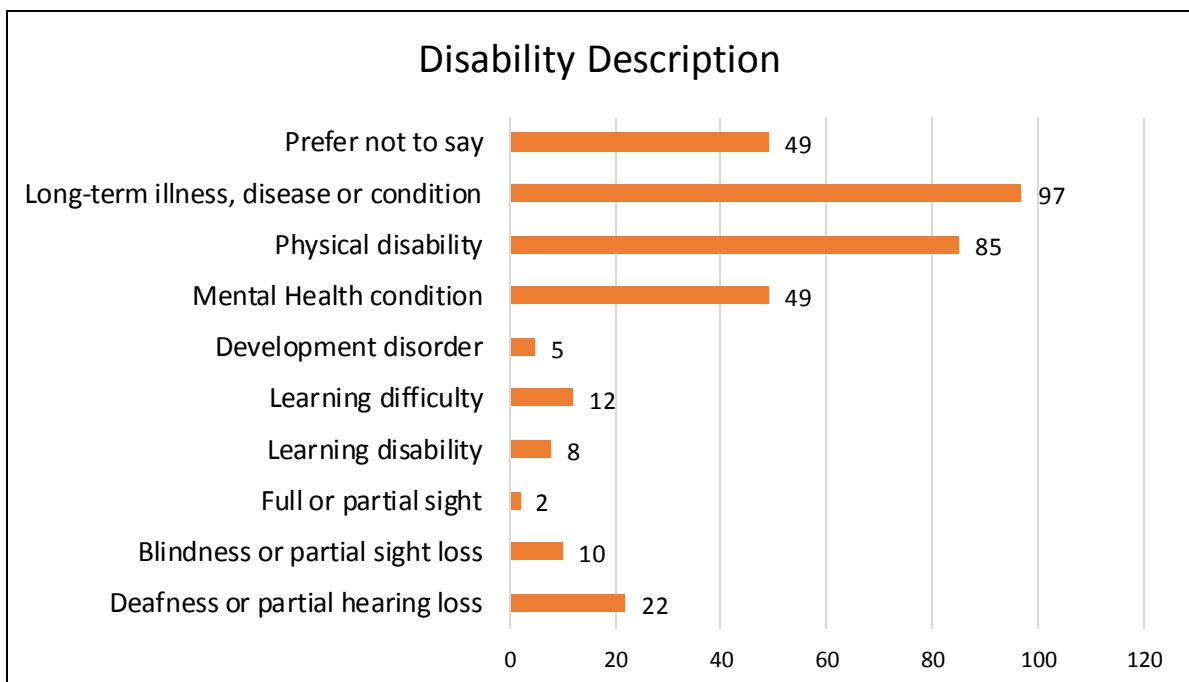


Figure 19: Respondents by disability or health condition

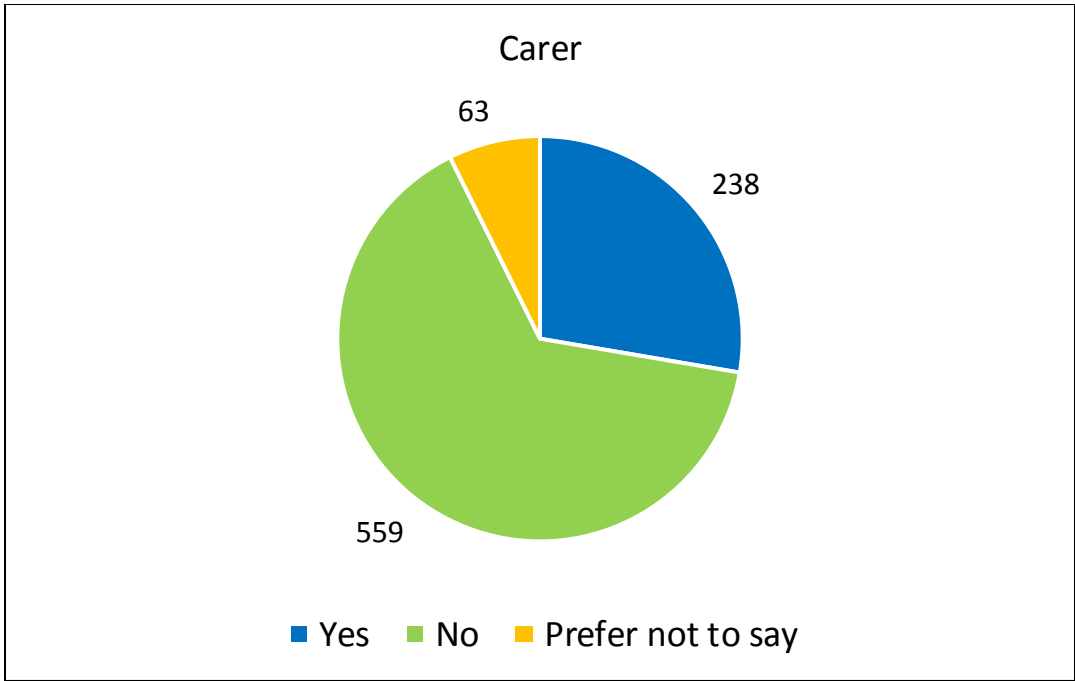


Figure 20: Respondents indicating if they are a carer

Focus Groups

Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation 1 – 2nd November 2023 5:30pm

Attendees – 3 Aberdeen City Council staff, 1 Sport Aberdeen and 6 members of the public.

Most of the participants live in Bucksburn, those that did not, worked in the Bucksburn area.

The members of public were there to represent themselves, their families, Bucksburn Amateur Swimming Club, and the Bucksburn Academy Parents Council.

Here's a summary of the document:

The summary of the document is that it reports on a consultation held on 2nd November 2023 to gather feedback on the impact of the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool, which was attended by 10 people from various backgrounds and interests. The document reveals that all participants used the pool frequently and for various purposes, such as swimming lessons, club sessions, family sessions, relaxed sessions, Aqua Zumba class, and school sessions, and that some of them accessed the pool through the Bucksburn ASN wing. The document also shows that some participants tried other pools after the closure, but faced barriers such as transportation, scheduling, cost, and accessibility, and that the quality of swimming lessons and club sessions was affected by the depth and size of other pools. The document further highlights the concern of many participants about the impact of the pool closure on the primary schools and the Bucksburn ASN wing, which used to have regular sessions at the pool, and the importance of swimming for the physical and mental wellbeing of the ASN children. The document finally indicates the negative effects of the pool closure on the social and health aspects of the participants and the wider community, as some participants lost their only opportunity to socialise, especially the elderly, and some experienced a decline in their physical and mental health, as they could not exercise or enjoy the water as before.

Main ideas:

- **Attendees and purpose of the consultation:** The consultation was held on 2nd November 2023 and attended by 6 members of the public who represented themselves, their families, a swimming club, and a school parents council. The purpose was to gather feedback on the impact of the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool.
- **Frequency and activities of pool usage:** All participants used the pool more than once a week before it closed, for various activities such as lane sessions, swimming lessons, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions, Aqua Zumba class, and school sessions. Some participants accessed the pool through the Bucksburn ASN wing, which catered to children with additional support needs.
- **Alternative pool provision and barriers:** Some participants tried other pools such as private ones, Aberdeen Sports Village, Northfield, Bridge of Don, and Dyce, but faced barriers such as transportation, scheduling, cost, and accessibility. The loss of the graduated stairs at Bucksburn Pool made it difficult for some groups to enter the water easily, such as ASN, disabled, elderly, and children. The depth and size of other pools also affected the quality of swimming lessons and club sessions.
- **Impact on schools and ASN wing:** Many participants expressed concern about the impact of the pool closure on the primary schools and the Bucksburn ASN wing, which used to have regular sessions at the pool. They felt that the schools had not been consulted and that the alternative provision was inadequate, costly, and

disruptive. They also highlighted the importance of swimming for the physical and mental wellbeing of the ASN children.

- **Social and health implications:** The pool closure also had negative effects on the social and health aspects of the participants and the wider community. Some participants lost their only opportunity to socialise, especially the elderly. Some also experienced a decline in their physical and mental health, as they could not exercise or enjoy the water as before. The pool was seen as a valuable asset for the Bucksburn area, and its closure was felt as a loss of identity and pride.

According to the document: The key themes in the feedback from the consultation are:

1. **Frequency and activities of pool usage:** All participants used the pool more than once a week for various activities such as lane sessions, swimming lessons, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions, Aqua Zumba class, and school sessions. Some participants accessed the pool through the Bucksburn ASN wing, which catered to children with additional support needs.
2. **Alternative pool provision and barriers:** Some participants tried other pools such as private ones, Aberdeen Sports Village, Northfield, Bridge of Don, and Dyce, but faced barriers such as transportation, scheduling, cost, and accessibility. The loss of the graduated stairs at Bucksburn Pool made it difficult for some groups to enter the water easily, such as ASN, disabled, elderly, and children. The depth and size of other pools also affected the quality of swimming lessons and club sessions.
3. **Impact on schools and ASN wing:** Many participants expressed concern about the impact of the pool closure on the primary schools and the Bucksburn ASN wing, which used to have regular sessions at the pool. They felt that the schools had not been consulted and that the alternative provision was inadequate, costly, and disruptive. They also highlighted the importance of swimming for the physical and mental wellbeing of the ASN children.
4. **Social and health implications:** The pool closure also had negative effects on the social and health aspects of the participants and the wider community. Some participants lost their only opportunity to socialise, especially the elderly. Some also experienced a decline in their physical and mental health, as they could not exercise or enjoy the water as before. The pool was seen as a valuable asset for the Bucksburn area, and its closure was felt as a loss of identity and pride.

Notes

1. Have you used the pool in the last five years?

All participants used the pool within the last weeks and days of the pool being open.

2. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? What area of Aberdeen do you stay?

All yes.

3. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

All participants used the pool more than once a week – several mornings a week, a morning lane session then fun session with family as weekend. Children went several time - with school then swimming lessons and family sessions.

Children accessed through Bucksburn ASN wing, swimming lessons, lane sessions, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions Aqua Zumba class.

4. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

Yes

5. What activities did you access at Bucksburn swimming pool?

Early morning lane session, fun session with family as weekend. Children went several time - with school then swimming lessons and family sessions. Children accessed through Bucksburn ASN wing. Swimming lessons, lane sessions, club swimming, family sessions, relaxed sessions and Aqua Zumba class.

6. Where have you taken up separate provision? e.g. Get Active @ Northfield

Other provision has been tried including private (Bannatyne), Aberdeen Sports Village for swimming lessons, Northfield, Bridge of Don and Dyce.

Swimming Club time is now split between Dyce and Northfield.

7. If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Transportation – no longer able to walk to pool, children no longer independent and rely on parents to drive. Getting to Northfield requires 2 buses. The additional time required to get to and from them. The cost of transportation.

Scheduling – lack of appropriate sessions for example lunch time or no family session on Saturday mornings. There is only 1 ASN session at Northfield that lasts 1 hour and it at tea time, which creates challenges.

8. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

The depth of the deep end of Dyce swimming pool is not as deep, meaning children can not learn how to dive or swim out of their depth. There is no viewing area at Dyce for parent to watch club sessions. Dyce pool is smaller which means less children can attend each session so the club have had to increase the number of sessions. Some participants felt Dyce Pool was in poor condition.

The club have to share Northfield pool with the public which has resulted in a increase in hours and costs as they can not have the same number of children at the sessions. Also the public use the club lanes. The change to locations has directly led to a loss of 20-25 members. Attendance at Dyce is below numbers achieved at Bucksburn.

9. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

Many have continued swimming lessons, however the scheduling is less suitable. Some have paid more for lessons at the Sports Village.

A number of participants were very considered that the primary schools that were using Bucksburn had been significantly impacted. That impact being that some may no longer be

getting lessons, that additional costs to the school were being incurred and that additional travel time was now required.

10. Are there any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming alternative pool provision?

The loss of the graduated stairs which allowed ASN, disabled, those with health conditions and the elderly to enter the water easily. The stairs also helped children to play independently.

Other Issues / Comments

The lack of alternative provision for ASN wing sessions and the interruption of routines. There was very strong sentiment that this was a major impact.

When Bucksburn Academy (including the ASN wing) was built they were told a pool would not be included as there was swimming facilities at Bucksburn pool, as there had been provision at previous ASN service at Marlpool.

There was concern that the school, especially the ASN wing, had not been consulted on the impact of the closure of the pool. Also that the ASN wing have only had 2 short sessions since the closure.

There was concern for elderly people who have lost a socialising for some their only opportunity to do so.

For those that have not access alternative provision there has been a detrimental impact on their physical and mental health wellbeing

The question was raised if Aberdeen City Council had received any funding from the UK Governments Swimming Pool Support Fund. Officers advised that this was not the case.

The loss of publicly accessible pools in the North of the city.

Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation 2 – 2nd November 2023 6.45pm

Attendees – 3 Aberdeen City Council staff, 1 Sport Aberdeen and 10 members of the public.

Almost all the participants lived in Bucksburn, and those that did not worked in Bucksburn

The members of public were there to represent themselves, their families, neighbours, colleagues and the Bucksburn Amateur Swimming Club.

Here's a summary of the document:

The document is a summary of a consultation that was held on 2nd November 2023 to gather feedback from the public on the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool and its impact on their swimming activities. The attendees included three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and 10 members of the public who lived or worked in Bucksburn. The participants reported that they used the pool regularly, ranging from weekly to daily, for various activities such as early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family sessions, lessons and club sessions for their children. They also said that they had tried other public and private pools in the city, but faced several barriers such as scheduling, transportation, cost, time, quality and accessibility. They expressed that the pool had a social value for them, as it was a place where they could interact with their neighbours, colleagues, club members and pool staff, and that swimming at the pool had a positive effect on their mental health and well-being. The consultation also received two letter submissions from a user who had a disability and a health condition that made swimming the only possible activity for them, and from a club that had lost 35% of its membership due to the closure.

According to the document: The key themes in the feedback are:

1. **Usage and activities of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants used the pool regularly, ranging from weekly to daily, for various activities such as early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family sessions, lessons and club sessions for their children.
2. **Alternative swimming pool provision and the barriers to access them:** The participants said that they had tried other public and private pools in the city, but faced several barriers such as scheduling, transportation, cost, time, quality and accessibility. They also mentioned that some pools did not have suitable facilities for their needs, such as stepped access, deep end, diving, viewing area, communal changing rooms and ASN provision.
3. **Social and mental value of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants expressed that the pool had a social value for them, as it was a place where they could interact with their neighbours, colleagues, club members and pool staff. They also said that swimming at the pool had a positive effect on their mental health and well-being, and that the closure had negatively affected them.

Main ideas:

- **The purpose and participants of the consultation:** The consultation was held to gather feedback from the public on the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool and its impact on their swimming activities. The attendees included three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and 10 members of the public who lived or worked in Bucksburn.
- **The usage and activities of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants reported that they used the pool regularly, ranging from weekly to daily, for various activities

such as early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family sessions, lessons and club sessions for their children.

- **The alternative swimming pool provision and the barriers to access them:** The participants said that they had tried other public and private pools in the city, but faced several barriers such as scheduling, transportation, cost, time, quality and accessibility. They also mentioned that some pools did not have suitable facilities for their needs, such as stepped access, deep end, diving, viewing area, communal changing rooms and ASN provision.
- **The social and mental value of Bucksburn Swimming Pool:** The participants expressed that the pool had a social value for them, as it was a place where they could interact with their neighbours, colleagues, club members and pool staff. They also said that swimming at the pool had a positive effect on their mental health and well-being, and that the closure had negatively affected them.
- **The letter submissions from a user and a club:** The consultation also received two letter submissions from a user who had a disability and a health condition that made swimming the only possible activity for them, and from a club that had lost 35% of its membership due to the closure. Both letters highlighted the importance and benefits of Bucksburn Swimming Pool for their personal and club activities.

Notes

1. Have you used the pool in the last five years?

They all used the pool in the weeks/days before it closed.

2. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? What area of Aberdeen do you stay?

All yes.

3. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

The participants used the pool weekly, several times a week up to daily usage. This included early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family session. Plus lessons and club session for their children.

4. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

Yes.

5. What activities did you access at Bucksburn swimming pool?

Early morning, lunch time, evening, weekend family session. Plus lessons and club session for their children.

6. Where have you taken up separate provision? e.g. Get Active @ Northfield

Other provision has been tried including private (The Village and Hilton Hotel), Aberdeen Sports Village, Northfield, Bridge of Don, Westhill and Dyce.

7. If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Barriers include scheduling, transportation, cost and the additional time required to travel to and from the pool. Those costs included fuel, bus travel and prices at alternatives. Bus travel was seen as very problematic as it is not possible to get to public pools without two buses, along with some walking. Bus travel was particularly challenging for the elderly and those with young children.

The appropriate sessions at Northfield are later in the evening plus additional travel mean they are challenging to attend. Loss of lane swimming at suitable times was flagged as an issue.

Many families only have 1 car and as a result find it challenging to fit all activities in.

One participant commented that they have taken children out of Nursery early to attend swimming lessons due to the additional time required to travel to Northfield.

Children were able to walk to the pool independently now rely on parents to get them to Dyce or Northfield.

Several people did not like the communal changing rooms at Northfield.

8. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

The depth of the deep end at Dyce was a concern as it is shallower and does not allow swimmers to get out of there depth therefore this skill can not be taught or tested. Diving is not possible at Dyce. The general quality of Dyce as a facility was considered poor and that it was very much a downgrade. That includes lack of a spectating and waiting area. The lack of spectating and waiting area results in less parental interaction with club representatives. This has made it harder to get parents involved in club activities.

There is no viewing area for parents during club sessions and swimming lessons, this can lead to disruptive behaviour. Parents also can not wait in foyer and during an ASN session there was an incident where a life guard had to try to find the parent in the car park.

Club fees have been increased due to the additional number of sessions put in place to accommodate the swimmers at alternative venues. There were concerns with club times at Northfield which coincided with the Street sport activities which results in the reception area being very overcrowded.

9. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

Although children's swimming lessons continued they some had not been swimming as a family since the closure. The lack of suitable family sessions that were accessible and at appropriate times were a major barrier to those continuing.

Children liked the friendly atmosphere of Bucksburn and did not continue swimming lessons when they changed to Aberdeen Sports Village.

The lack of swimming in PE lessons at Bucksburn Academy was a concern.

The limited amount of ASN swimming provision since the closure, previously the wing had 2-3 sessions per week, however they have only managed 2 short sessions since the closure.

10. Are there any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming alternative pool provision?

The lunch time sessions are much shorter plus the additional travel time means some are no longer able to attend.

The cost of going private was flagged as an issue. Some the private facilities are not child friendly.

No steps into the pool make baby and toddler sessions very difficult try to climb in/out of pool with child. The stepped access was also hugely beneficial to

Some participants had reduced or stopped swimming activities.

Other Issues / Comments

Bucksburn is considered to have social value in addition to just being a centre for physical activity.

The impact on mental health was concern was as physical health, as many felt their mental well being has been negatively affected since the closure.

The closure came as shock as they felt the pool was well attended.

A concern there was limited swimming facilities for the north side of the city.

There were concerns for the loss of social interaction especially for the elderly.

The question was raised if Aberdeen City Council had received any funding from the UK Governments Swimming Pool Support Fund. Officers advised that this was not the case.

Letter submission 1 - A letter was submitted on behalf of a user who was unable to attend. The content was read out by a participant who was there to represent the user. That letter detailed their disability associated with a health condition and the severe challenges that it brings. Swimming is the only activity that is now possible for them. The proximity of the pool and the stepped access are perfect for their needs. Furthermore the user had planned to take their young children for lessons at Bucksburn. They are now concerned that their children will not be able to attend lessons as her deteriorating health may well limit how far they can travel. They firmly believe that learning to swim are a vital life saving skill.

Letter submission 2 – A letter was submitted by a swimming club that were a user of the pool. It detailed six reasons which led to a 35% reduction in club membership. Reasons directly associated with the closure included lateness of sessions, reliance on parental travel, increased fees associated with taking on additional lanes and issues with alternative provision at Dyce Academy. The loss of older members has brought challenges with resources around competitive swimming. Parental engagement has reduced at Dyce due to lack of a spectating area. They indicate that many people think the club has shut down along with the pool and feel the club has lost its identity. Noting that membership from the Bucksburn area has reduced. The closure has reduced capacity, availability and pushed up costs for parents.

Bucksburn Swimming Pool Consultation 3 – 3rd November 2023 9.30am

Attendees – 3 Aberdeen City Council staff, 1 Sport Aberdeen and 5 members of the public.

Almost all the participants lived in Bucksburn, those that didn't live in Dyce and had childcare in Bucksburn.

The members of public were there to represent themselves and their families.

Here's a summary of the document:

The document is a summary of a consultation session held on 3rd November 2023 about the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool, which was attended by three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and five members of the public. The participants shared their dissatisfaction with the pool closure, as they faced several barriers to access alternative pools, such as transportation, cost, availability, quality and suitability. They also highlighted the loss of social interactions and the negative effects on their physical and mental health, especially for the elderly and the additional support needs (ASN) children, who used to benefit from the pool at Bucksburn. They gave some feedback on the consultation process, such as the technical issues with booking the sessions, the lack of publicity and the short notice, and suggested that the council should have consulted the public before deciding to close the pool and considered the wider impacts on the community.

Main ideas:

- **The purpose and participants of the consultation:** The document reports on a consultation session held on 3rd November 2023 about the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool. The attendees were three Aberdeen City Council staff, one Sport Aberdeen staff and five members of the public who lived or worked in Bucksburn or Dyce.
- **The impact of the pool closure on the public:** The participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the pool closure, as they used it regularly for various activities and had difficulties accessing alternative pools. They mentioned several barriers such as transportation, cost, availability, quality and suitability of other venues. They also highlighted the loss of social interactions and the negative effects on their physical and mental health.
- **The concerns about the provision for ASN children:** Some participants raised concerns about the lack of adequate provision for additional support needs (ASN) children, who used to benefit from the pool at Bucksburn. They said that there were only two short sessions for ASN children since the closure, and that the disruption to their routine and the unfamiliarity of new places caused stress and anxiety. They also pointed out that Bucksburn Academy did not have a pool to cater for ASN children, unlike the previous Marlpool school.
- **The feedback on the consultation process:** The participants gave some feedback on the consultation process, such as the technical issues with booking the sessions, the lack of publicity and the short notice. They also suggested that the council should have consulted the public before deciding to close the pool, and that they should have considered the wider impacts on the community.

According to the document: The key themes in the feedback are:

1. **The impact of the pool closure on the public:** The participants expressed their dissatisfaction with the pool closure, as they used it regularly for various activities and had difficulties accessing alternative pools. They mentioned several barriers

such as transportation, cost, availability, quality and suitability of other venues. They also highlighted the loss of social interactions and the negative effects on their physical and mental health.

2. **The concerns about the provision for ASN children:** Some participants raised concerns about the lack of adequate provision for additional support needs (ASN) children, who used to benefit from the pool at Bucksburn. They said that there were only two short sessions for ASN children since the closure, and that the disruption to their routine and the unfamiliarity of new places caused stress and anxiety.
3. **The feedback on the consultation process:** The participants gave some feedback on the consultation process, such as the technical issues with booking the sessions, the lack of publicity and the short notice.

Notes

1. Have you used the pool in the last five years?

They used the pool in the weeks before it closed up to the point it closed.

2. Do you live, work, study or care for someone in Aberdeen City? What area of Aberdeen do you stay?

All yes.

3. How often did you use Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

The participants used the pool weekly or several times a week.

4. Have you started using any other swimming pools since the closure of Bucksburn Swimming Pool?

Yes

5. What activities did you access at Bucksburn swimming pool?

Open toddler/baby, relaxed sessions and weekend family sessions, as well as Aqua Aerobics. Some of their children used it at least twice weekly as it was activity they could attend independently. That has now been lost as they can no longer walk to a pool.

6. Where have you taken up separate provision? e.g. Get Active @ Northfield

Northfield, Dyce and Bridge of Don .

Private swimming lessons.

Stonehaven as only suitable session at suitable time.

7. If you are not able to access alternative swimming pool provision we would like to understand more as to the reasons and factors why.

Unfamiliarity of new places causes panic attacks and anxiety.

Lack of transportation – no car. Driving is really the only option for some venues.

Cost of hotels pools - £25 per session or £60 for family.

Relative with Dementia is unable to use alternatives.

Travel – requires 2 buses to get Northfield or 40 minutes on bus to Bridge of Don on a good day. 2 buses from Dyce to Northfield took 2 hours.

Sessions are full so no point travelling to check.

Difficulties booking into Aqua Aerobics classes as always full.

The shorter sessions at lunch time are no longer a suitable option

Scheduling / timing – only suitable session are later in evening which is not suitable for children.

A participant advised that they no longer took their child to lessons.

8. If you have a connection to a swimming club that accessed Bucksburn Swimming Pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access city pools for swimming club activity?

No connection to swimming clubs

9. If you attended swimming lessons at Bucksburn pool, what has your experience been in continuing to access lessons?

The loss of the steps into the pool was seen as a significant issue. They helped learners gain confidence.

The shallow end at Dyce end is deeper than at Bucksburn .

10. Are there are any other factors or barriers that impacted your ability to access swimming alternative pool provision?

Dyce and Bridge of Don not nice alternative provisions – mould, broken tiles, bad smell, need a good clean and not very unappealing.

Children can no longer travel independently to a swimming pool.

Other Issues / Comments

- Technical issues booking consultation sessions. The lack of publicity around the consultations – sessions only advertised on social media.
- ASN provision – as only 2 short sessions since closure. The disruption to routine which has detrimental effect. Additional travel time, which can be stressful. Previously ASN galas were held. It was some of theirs central focus and joy in life.
- Swimming pool not built in when Bucksburn Academy was built as Bucksburn pool already there which could service mainstream and ASN children. Concerns raised at time as previous ASN provision at Marlpool school had a pool.
- The loss in social interactions especially for the elderly.
- Only 1 pool open to public on the north side of the city. There has been a general loss of public sessions.
- One participant felt that the closure of the pool was putting children's lives at risk.

Equalities Questions – Focus Groups

The equalities questions were optional. The completion rate was as follows:-

6 completed one or more of the questions.

15 respondents opted out and did not respond to any questions.

By question response rate:-

Age – 6

Employment status – 6

Sex – 6 (including prefer not to say - 1)

Prefer to self identify – 0

Sexual orientation – 5 (including prefer not to say - 1)

Sexual orientation description – 0

Consider yourself to be trans or trans history – 5 (including prefer not to say – 3)

Ethnicity / Nationality – 6 (including prefer not to say – 1)

Ethnicity own words – 0

Religion – 6

Religion description – 0.

Marital status – 6 (including prefer not to say - 1)

Activities limited – 5

Activities limited. Mobility – 2.

Caring responsibilities – 6 (including prefer not to say – 1)

Other Correspondence Received

Letter submission 3 – A letter was submitted by Scottish Swimming the National Governing Body for Swimming. They advised of their support for the consultation and hope that the decision to close the pool will be reconsidered. Furthermore they explained the importance of community pools in general and how that those without cars were being disadvantaged by the closure. An impact on the mental and physical health of children, and the elderly was of particular concern. They view the pool as “a vital part of the country’s armoury in keeping the population, safe, fit and mentally and physically healthy”.