



OPHIR ROAD AND SURROUNDING AREAS PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) CONSULTATION

20 May to 31 August 2022

Report September 2022

Analysis and findings by:



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Summary Findings

BCP Council ran a consultation that asked respondents their views on the proposed implementation of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and restrictions on behaviour around the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) building in Bournemouth. There were 2,241 responses to the survey.

The Proposal

Q. To what extent do you support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building in Bournemouth?

75% of respondents supported the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building in Bournemouth, while 24% did not support it. The vast majority of previous service users, staff, and BCP residents (regardless of whether they lived close to the clinic or not) supported the principle of the PSPO. Individuals living outside of the BCP Council area were significantly less likely to support it. Respondents least likely to support the proposal were aged older than 55 years, male, ethnic minorities, or Christian.

Q. Please explain why you support or do not support the proposal, including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Respondents supported the principle of the PSPO being implemented for a number of reasons. Respondents felt that:

- Service users, and staff, should feel safe and protected and not have to face harassment, interference or intimidation from protestors at what is an already emotionally distressing time
- Service users have a right to privacy when accessing a healthcare service and it is their legal right to choose what happens to their body
- Protestors do not know the individual circumstances of why someone is getting an abortion and it has nothing to do with them
- Protestors should not be allowed anywhere near the BPAS building and they have other locations and mechanisms by which they can protest and lobby for change
- Proposals should be supported because of the negative impact protestors have on local residents.

Respondents did not support the principle of the PSPO being implemented because:

- They believe they were against the fundamental rights and freedoms, as set out by The Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), including their rights to expression, to hold religious beliefs and their right to assemble and protest
- The PSPO would deny those considering using the service the last-minute opportunity to access information about alternative options available to them, as well as other support and counselling
- They felt that there was insufficient evidence to support the implementation, their actions were undertaken peacefully and did not constitute intimidation

and harassment, and that there were already existing laws that could tackle any behaviour that was deemed to be harassment, abuse or intimidation

- They felt that the proposals discriminated against the views of Pro-Life supporters and had not considered their viewpoint prior to the design of the proposals.

Preferred option

Q. If you had to choose a preferred option, which would it be?

66% of respondents indicated that their preferred option was for a Safe Zone with no designated areas (option 1), 4% preferred a Safe Zone with one designated area (option 2), 8% preferred a Safe Zone with two designated areas (option 3), while 22% of respondents did not want any of the proposed options. Respondents who were most likely to not want any of the proposed options were aged older than 55 years, male, heterosexual, ethnic minorities, or Christian.

Q. Please explain the reasons for your preferred option including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Respondents who preferred option 1 did so because:

- They felt protestors should not be allowed anywhere near the clinic for the safety and privacy of service users and staff
- Service users should not have to face harassment, intimidation or interference from protestors when accessing the service, causing more emotional distress which may deter them from accessing the service at a time when it is necessary
- It is the woman's right to choose what happens to their body
- They felt that this option was best for local residents and that designated areas should be out of sight and were too close to the clinic, while protestors have alternative means and locations in which they can lobby against the service and abortion
- They felt that designated areas give credence to the views and behaviours of those protesting and the restricted behaviours would continue as they would be difficult to monitor.

Respondents who preferred option 2 did so because they felt:

- It provides a compromise between the safety of service users and their human rights
- It allows service users to be provided with information about alternative options
- A designated area would be pointless if it were further away from the clinic.

Respondents who preferred option 3 did so because:

- It allows protests and the right to free speech but at a reasonable distance from the clinic, while the designated area in option 2 was too close to the clinic

- It provides the most safety and protection to service users and staff and means that the designated areas could be avoided by service users when accessing the service.

Respondents who did not want any of the proposed options felt that:

- They were against their fundamental rights and freedoms, as set out by The Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), including their freedom of speech and expression, freedom to religious beliefs as well as their freedom to assembly and protest
- The proposed restrictions on behaviour were too extensive and limit the peaceful support and activities that they can take part in
- The proposals would deny service users access to last-minute support, advice and alternative options to abortion
- There was a lack of evidence that the behaviour of Pro-life supporters justified the proposals, while there are also existing laws to tackle any potential harassment or anti-social behaviour
- The proposed options discriminate against Pro-Life supporters and had not considered their views before being developed.

PSPO Orders

Proposals to restrict behaviours in the Safe Zone

Q. To what extent do you support or do not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the Safe Zone?

Roughly two-thirds of respondents supported each proposed restriction on behaviour within the Safe Zone. Respondents who were most likely to support them were:

- Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not
- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Lesbian, Gay or Bi-sexual (LGB) / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian

Q. If applicable, please explain why you do not support any of the proposed restrictions within the Safe Zone, including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Reasons why respondents did not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the Safe Zone included that:

- It was their human right to free speech, express religious beliefs and to protest
- The intentions of those who gather around the clinic are to provide support and information to those considering using the BPAS service who may not be

fully informed of the procedure, consequences and alternative options available to them

- They felt that their behaviours were conducted in a peaceful and respectful manner and there was a lack of evidence that the activities constituted as harassment or intimidation.

However, respondents also commented that they did in fact support the restrictions of behaviours within the Safety Zone for the safety, protection and welfare of service users and staff.

Proposals to restrict behaviours within the designated areas

Q. To what extent do you support or do not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the designated areas?

More than two-thirds of respondents also supported the majority of the proposed restrictions within the designated areas, while 61% supported the limit of no more than four people allowed in them at any one time. Respondents who were most likely to support the restrictions were:

- Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not
- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian

Q. If applicable, please explain why you do not support any of the restrictions within the designated areas, including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Reasons why respondents did not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the designated areas were similar to why they did not support the restrictions within the Safe Zone. Reasons included that:

- It was their human right to free speech, express religious beliefs and to protest
- The intentions of those who gather around the clinic are to provide support and information to those considering using the BPAS service who may not be fully informed of the procedure, consequences and alternative options available to them
- The behaviours were conducted in a peaceful and respectful manner and there was a lack of evidence that it constituted as harassment or intimidation.
- The listed restrictions would make the designated areas redundant as the activities are the same as those restricted within the Safe Zone.

However, respondents also commented that they did in fact support the restriction of the behaviours within the designated areas for the safety, protection and welfare of service users and staff. In addition, respondents commented that it was their legal

right to choose what happened to their body and no one else should interfere with this. The right to protest should not take precedence over this right and protestors add to the emotional distress of their decision. Respondents also expressed support for a Safe Zone with no designated areas at all (option 1) and therefore it is irrelevant if the behaviours are allowed or not.

Times the PSPO could cover

Q. At what times do you think the proposed PSPO should be applicable for?

76% of respondents felt that the proposed PSPO should apply all the time, 1% said they should apply Monday to Friday only, while 23% suggested alternative times. The majority of these indicated that it should never apply, with others feeling that it should only apply during clinic opening hours and 1-2 hours either side of this.

The vast majority of respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before, are a member of staff, or live within the BCP Council area, regardless of whether they live close to it or not, felt that the proposed PSPO should apply all the time.

Respondents who were most likely to indicate that the PSPO should be applicable all of the time were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British or White ethnic minority
- No religion or any religion other than Christian

Behaviour in the area around the BPAS building

Q. Please tell us if you have witnessed and/or experienced any of the following behaviours near the BPAS building in the last 12 months.

When asked what behaviours they have witnessed or experienced near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, the most prevalent behaviours witnessed or experienced were:

- The handing of leaflets (25%)
- Praying (25%)
- Speeches to passers-by (20%)
- Verbal harassment (17%)
- Taking photographs (11%)
- Physical harassment (7%)

BPAS staff members, BCP residents living within 200 metres of the building, as well as those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were most likely to have witnessed or experienced the various behaviours over the last 12 months, while those who live outside of the BCP Council area were least likely to have witnessed or experienced them.

Equalities and Human Rights

Q. Are there any positive or negative impacts of this proposal that you believe that BCP Council should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights? If so, are you able to provide any supporting information and suggest any ways in which the organisation could reduce or remove any negative impacts and increase any positive impacts?

Respondents were asked to provide any positive or negative impacts of this proposal that they believe that BCP Council should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights. Comments that were in support of the proposals related to:

- Improved safety and protection of service users and staff
- The right to protest should not adversely affect the rights of service users and that proposals should prioritise the impact of those using services
- Women's rights need to be protected in general and that it is important to maintain their right to choose to have an abortion.
- Article 8 of The Human Rights Act, and their right of respect for their private and family life
- How the proposed restrictions should consider the thoughts and needs of vulnerable groups, including those with a disability and those on low income and the LGBTQ+ community, particularly trans people.
- The need for protests taking place elsewhere.

Comments that were opposed to the proposals related to them:

- Being against their basic human rights
- Being against their freedom of thought, belief and religion (Article 9)
- Being against their freedom of expression and speech (Article 10)
- Being against their freedom of assembly and association (Article 11), including the right to protest
- Being against Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- Not considering the viewpoint of Pro-Life supporters and removing the right of the unborn to life
- Removing women's right of access to additional support, information and alternative options.

Respondent profile

Respondents were asked a series of demographic questions in order to understand how the proposals could affect different people Respondents were:

- Spread across a range of ages, with 43% of responses coming from those aged 16 – 34 years.
- 68% were female and 25% were male
- 1% of respondents did not identify their gender as the same sex that they were assigned at birth
- 14% had a disability
- 75% were heterosexual, 12% were any other sexuality

- 80% were White British, 6% were White ethnic minority, 4% were an other ethnic minority
- 52% had no religion, 35% were Christian
- 64% were a BCP resident not living near the BPAS Bournemouth building, 10% were someone who has used the BPAS Bournemouth service before, 4% were a BCP resident living within 200 metres of the building, while 2% were BPAS staff. 16% of respondents were individuals living outside of the BCP Council area.

Introduction and background

BCP Council ran a consultation asking BCP residents and key stakeholders for their views on the potential introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the area around the British Pregnancy Advice Service (BPAS) clinic on Ophir Road in Bournemouth.

The consultation ran from 20 July 2022 and closed at midnight on 31 August 2022.

Pro-Life and Pro-Choice

For the purposes of this report, it's important to clearly define what we mean when we refer to "Pro-Life" and "Pro-Choice" groups. We use these terms to define the two broad groups on either side of the abortion debate in the following way:

- **Pro-Life** - people opposed to the belief that a pregnant woman should have the freedom to choose an abortion, i.e., the intentional ending of a pregnancy, if she does not want to have a baby¹
- **Pro-Choice** - people supporting the belief that a pregnant woman should have the freedom to choose an abortion, i.e., the intentional ending of a pregnancy, if she does not want to have a baby².

Introduction

A PSPO allows a council to restrict specified activities, and/or require certain things to be done by people engaged in particular activities, within a defined public area. The council can implement a PSPO if 'satisfied on reasonable grounds that the following two conditions are met':

- a) The activities carried on in a public place within the council area has had, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality
- b) The effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature, such as to make the activities unreasonable, and justifies the restrictions imposed.

A review and analysis of data relating to the impact of Pro-Life and Pro-Choice groups/individuals in the vicinity of the BPAS Clinic was undertaken prior to the consultation. The evidence gathered supported the consideration of introducing a PSPO to deal with the issues identified.

The main aim of the PSPO would be to protect the staff and visitors who have been affected by the behaviour of those who congregate, hold vigils and protest outside. This includes Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters.

Following the consultation, the findings and outcomes of the consultation in this report will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services, who will decide on whether to implement the PSPO.

¹ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pro-life>

² <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/pro-choice>

Background

The British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS) provide an NHS funded service offering consultations, medical abortions i.e., using medication and surgical abortions on site. The service is located at Ophir Road, Bournemouth.

The clinic is in a residential area in a road which comes to a dead-end adjacent to the A338. There is a grassed area opposite the clinic where groups generally congregate.

Ongoing concerns have been reported to BCP Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team by the clinic and its service users about concerns relating to the presence and activities of Pro-Life groups in the immediate area of the clinic, reporting distress to service users caused by this activity.

In deciding whether to undertake a consultation on a PSPO the council has used evidence it has received since February 2019, however, it is acknowledged that information and concerns have been raised to the council since 2018.

The evidence obtained since February 2019 has been subject to legal advice which supported the position that the conditions for introducing a PSPO had been met. This led to the decision to consult service users, clinic staff, BCP residents living close to the BPAS clinic (within 200 metres), BCP residents not living close to the BPAS clinic, Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters and other stakeholders before any decisions to adopt a PSPO in the area were made.

Options considered

A number of options were identified and examined by council officers which can be seen [here](#).

The council tried to set up a negotiated agreement between all represented groups before consulting, however, whilst the known groups had been approached, many of the individuals were not affiliated to a group and could not be identified or contacted.

At the time of consulting, a negotiated settlement agreement had not been achieved. Despite this, the council remained committed to exploring all options, including a negotiated settlement.

A PSPO may not prevent Pro-Life and Pro-Choice activities but could set out clear parameters as to what is prohibited and where.

Methodology

The consultation was hosted on the BCP [Engagement HQ](#) platform and was promoted through various channels including:

- Press release
- Social media posts (Facebook, Twitter)
- Details of engagement rates can be found in the [Engagement HQ Analytics](#) section
- A full breakdown of the communications activity for the consultation can be found in the [Communications Report](#)

The main project page was hosted from the council's Engagement HQ Platform along with a brief description of the project:

<https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ophir-road-pspo>.

The consultation was designed in Engagement HQ (engagement platform software). The online responses were downloaded from the software for analysis. The data was checked and verified in preparation for analysis and held in the Insight Team's secure area.

The online survey was designed in 'Snap' (survey design software). The online responses were downloaded into Snap for analysis. The data was checked and verified in preparation for analysis and held in the BCP Council Insight Team's secure area.

BCP Council commissioned Darmax Research to undertake the analysis and report writing. Darmax Research is an independent, full-service market and social research agency.

Quantitative (tick box questions) analysis was carried out using SPSS statistical software to identify the frequencies for each question. Demographic analysis was carried out to identify any significant differences in views by various characteristics including age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and respondent type.

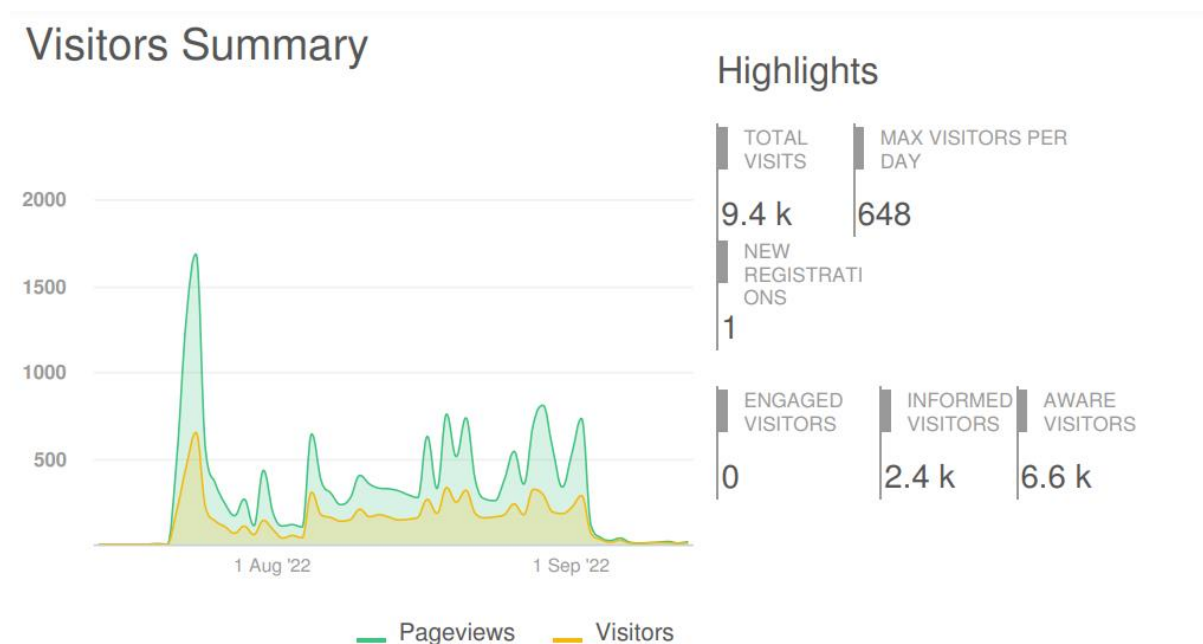
The write in (qualitative) responses were exported into Excel and coded into categories. Qualitative research does not seek to quantify data, instead, its purpose is to provide deeper insights into reasoning and impact and many researchers therefore believe that numbers should not be included in reporting. The numbers of people mentioning the most prevalent codes are provided in this report to give an indication of the magnitude of response. Importantly, however, given the nature of the data, this does not provide an indication of significance or salience in relation to the question asked.

Following the launch of the consultation on the 20th May 2022, some respondents reported that they found the questions about supporting and not supporting the restriction of certain behaviours confusing. We listened to their feedback and published [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the main consultation page the following day to help respondents complete the questions. They could also email the Anti-Social Behaviour Team for further help if needed.

Engagement HQ Analytics

The consultation was hosted on the council's engagement platform [Engagement HQ](#). There were over 9,000 visits to the [consultation page](#) with 6,633 **aware visitors** (i.e. a visitor who has made at least one single visit to the webpage) and 2,398 **informed visitors** (i.e. a visitor who has taken the 'next step' from being aware and clicked on something).

Engagement HQ Measurement Figures



Visitors engaged with the content on the main consultation page as follows:

- 2,757 downloads of the [Consultation Document](#)
- 174 downloads of the consultation [Paper Survey](#)
- 157 downloads of the [Options Appraisal](#)
- 202 views of the [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The majority of visitors to the engagement page on Engagement HQ came via Facebook Mobile (1868 visits), and the BCP Council website (463 visits). A full breakdown of the site referrals can be seen below:

TRAFFIC SOURCES OVERVIEW

REFERRER URL	Visits
m.facebook.com	1104
lm.facebook.com	764
www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk	463
l.facebook.com	318
online1.snapsurveys.com	290
t.co	197
www.sistersupporter.co.uk	152
instagram.com	140
www.google.com	138
l.instagram.com	133
linktr.ee	99
www.google.co.uk	48
christianconcern.com	39
android-app	34
duckduckgo.com	24

Communications Report

A variety of communications methods were used by BCP Council to promote the consultation as widely as possible. Below is a breakdown of the different methods and how effective they were:

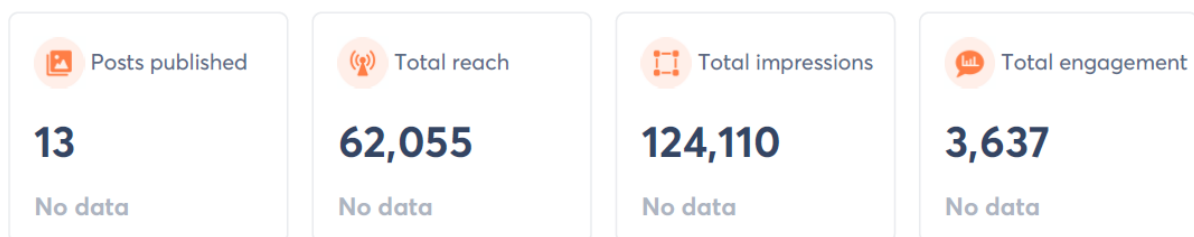
Social media

The consultation was promoted through 13 social media posts. Engagement with these posts was significant as demonstrated in the report below.

The posts were made on BCP Council's Facebook and Twitter feeds. The posts are listed below with the figures for:

- **Reach:** the total number of people who saw the content
- **Impressions:** the number of times people saw the post
- **Engagement:** anytime a user liked or commented on one of the posts
- Likes
- Retweets

Total Overview



Facebook

Reactions	304
Clicks	1.1K
Other clicks	1.9K
Comments	147
Shares	90

Twitter

Likes	31
Retweets	27

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on reach.



Opnir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation	Opnir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation	Opnir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation
  	  	  
Jul. 20 2022	Aug. 3 2022	Aug. 17 2022
HAVE YOUR SAY	We are currently consulting on the possible introd...	A public consultation is the best way to find out ...
 Reach 21K	 Reach 14K	 Reach 12K
 Impressions 22K	 Impressions 14K	 Impressions 12K
 Engagement 1.2K	 Engagement 700	 Engagement 393

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on impressions.



Opnir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation	Opnir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation	Opnir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation
  	  	  
Jul. 20 2022	Aug. 3 2022	Aug. 17 2022
HAVE YOUR SAY	We are currently consulting on the possible introd...	A public consultation is the best way to find out ...
 Reach 21K	 Reach 14K	 Reach 12K
 Impressions 22K	 Impressions 14K	 Impressions 12K
 Engagement 1.2K	 Engagement 700	 Engagement 393

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on engagement.

Have your say

Ophir Road and surrounding area
PSPO Consultation

 Image 

Jul. 20 2022

HAVE YOUR SAY

♥ Likes	11
✈ Retweets	14
📊 Engagement	25

Ophir Road and surrounding area
PSPO Consultation

 Image  

Aug. 24 2022

ONE WEEK LEFT TO HAVE YOUR SAY

♥ Likes	6
✈ Retweets	6
📊 Engagement	12

Ophir Road and surrounding area
PSPO Consultation

 Image  

Aug. 3 2022

We are currently consulting on the possible introd...

♥ Likes	6
✈ Retweets	2
📊 Engagement	8

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on likes.

Have your say

Ophir Road and surrounding area
PSPO Consultation

 Image 

Jul. 20 2022

HAVE YOUR SAY

♥ Likes	11
✈ Retweets	14
📊 Engagement	25

Ophir Road and surrounding area
PSPO Consultation

 Image  

Aug. 24 2022

ONE WEEK LEFT TO HAVE YOUR SAY

♥ Likes	6
✈ Retweets	6
📊 Engagement	12

Ophir Road and surrounding area
PSPO Consultation

 Image  








Aug. 3 2022

We are currently consulting on the possible introd...

♥ Likes	6
✈ Retweets	2
📊 Engagement	8

Top content

Best performing content published during the selected period. Based on retweets.

<p>Have your say</p> <p>Ophir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation</p> <p>  </p> <p>Jul. 20 2022</p> <p>HAVE YOUR SAY</p> <p>❤ Likes 11</p> <p>🔄 Retweets 14</p> <p>📊 Engagement 25</p>	<p>Ophir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation</p> <p>   </p> <p>Aug. 24 2022</p> <p>ONE WEEK LEFT TO HAVE YOUR SAY</p> <p>❤ Likes 6</p> <p>🔄 Retweets 6</p> <p>📊 Engagement 12</p>	<p>Ophir Road and surrounding area PSPO Consultation</p> <p>   </p> <p>Aug. 17 2022</p> <p>A public consultation is the best way to find out ...</p> <p>❤ Likes 2</p> <p>🔄 Retweets 2</p> <p>📊 Engagement 4</p>
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Emails

In addition to the social media promotions, BCP Council sent 6 emails to key stakeholders throughout the duration of the consultation with the following results:

Links included in emails	Total clicks ³	Unique clicks ⁴
https://haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ophir-road-pspo	617	341
https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/news-article.aspx?title=consultation-on-public-spaces-protection-order-has-launched	710	466
TOTAL	1327	807

³ The total number of times the link was clicked.

⁴ The total number of people who clicked the link at least once.

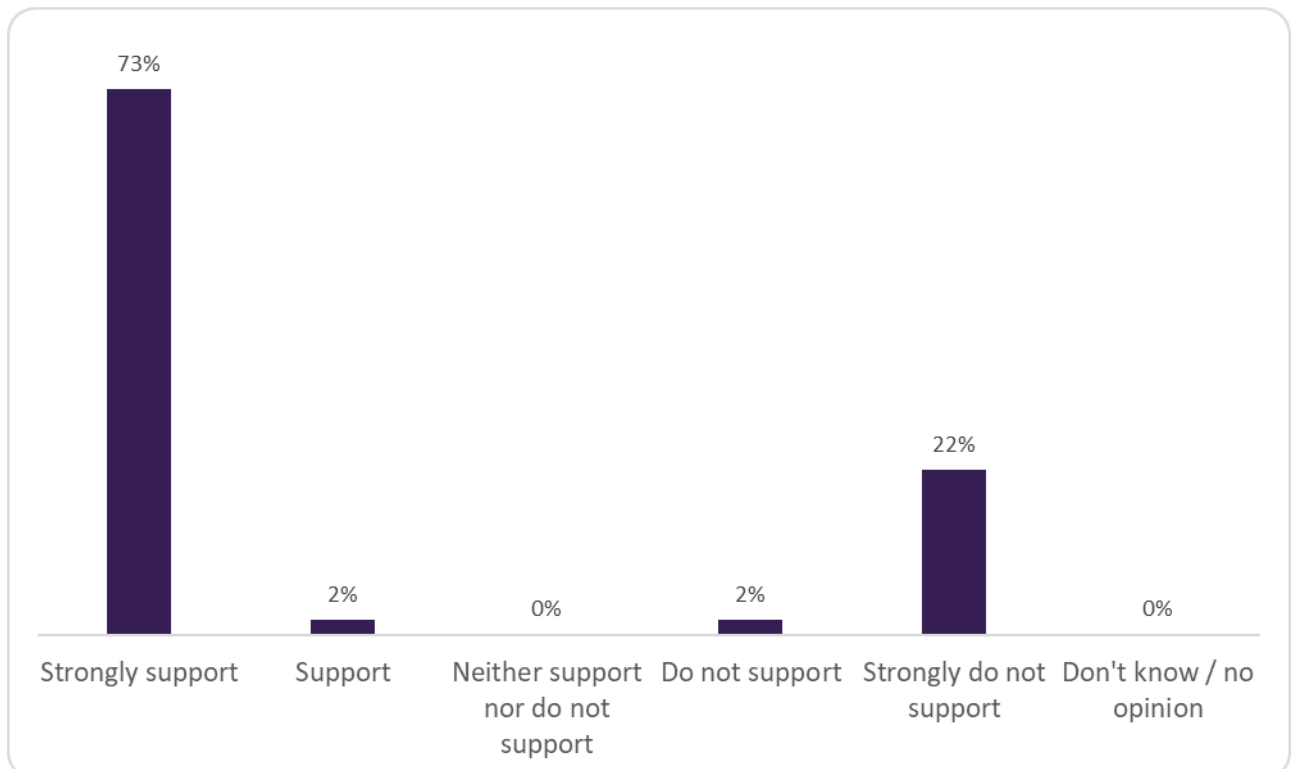
Analysis and results

The Proposal

Level of support

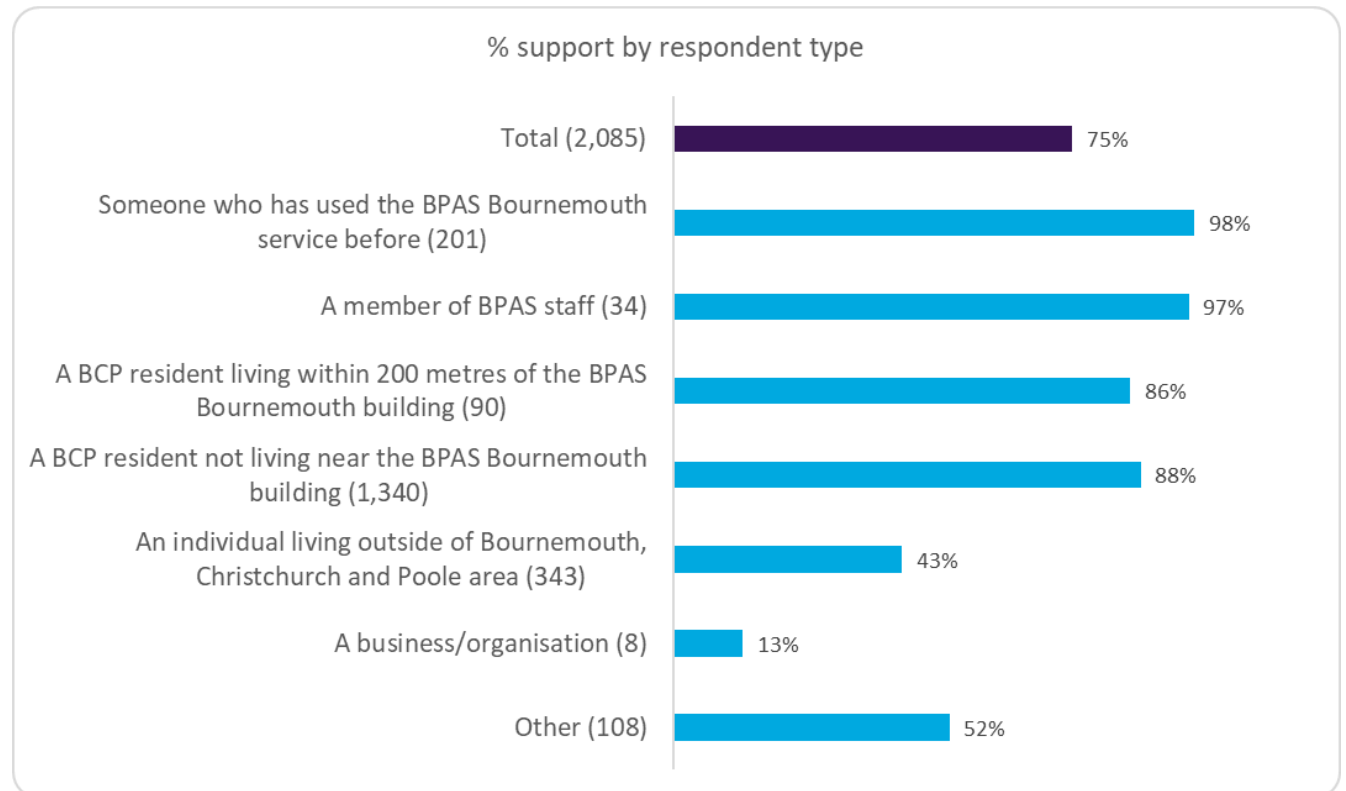
Q. To what extent do you support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building in Bournemouth?

Respondents were asked to indicate to what extent they support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building in Bournemouth. 2,085 respondents provided an answer to this question. 73% of respondents strongly support the principle of a PSPO being implemented, while 22% strongly do not support it.



Base: 2,085

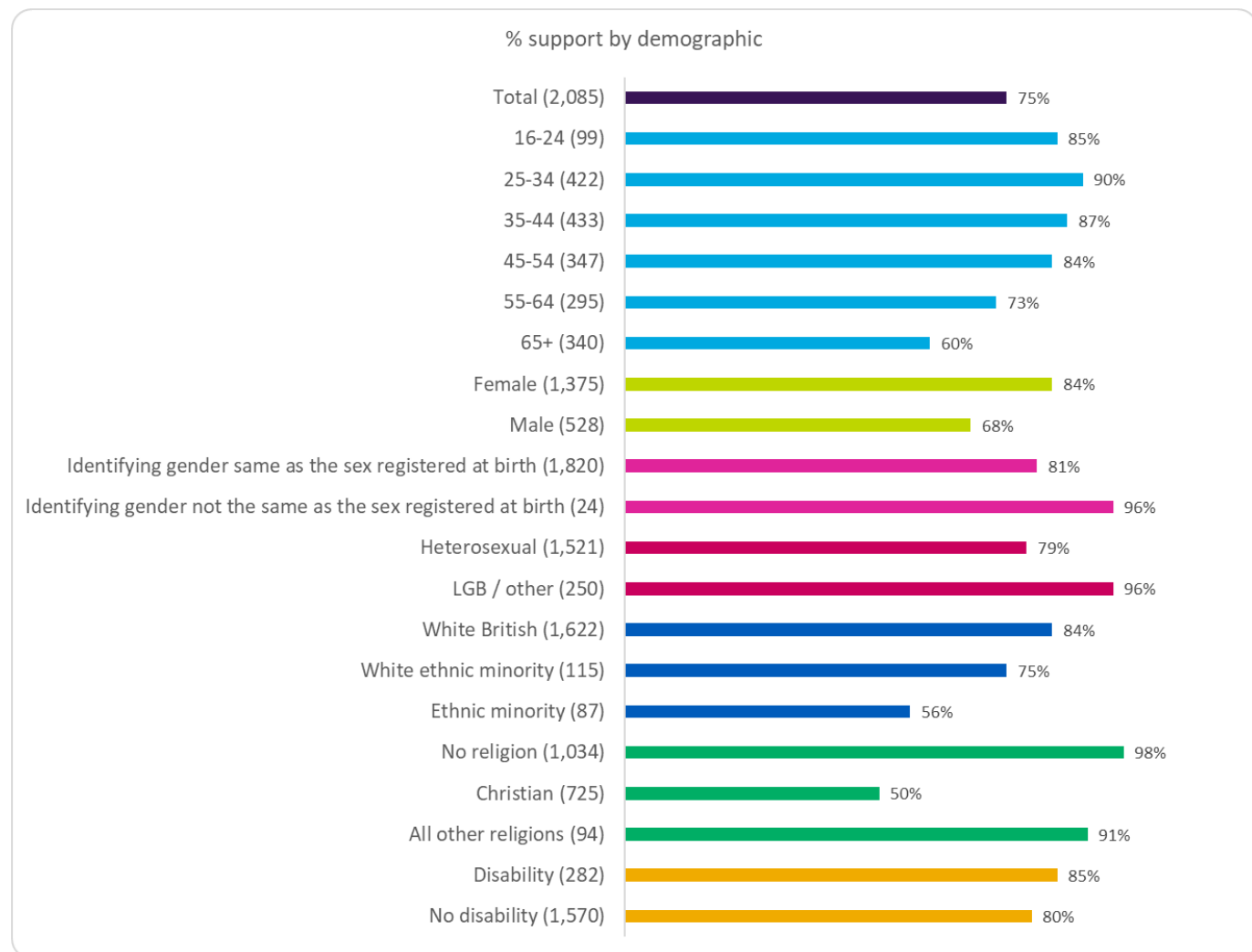
Respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before, as well as members of BPAS staff, were significantly more likely to support the principle of a PSPO than any other respondent type, while 'other' respondents and individuals living outside of the BCP Council area were significantly less likely than any other respondent type to support it.



Base: varied as labelled

In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the principle of a PSPO being implemented were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian
- Disabled



Base: varied as labelled

Reasons for level of support

Q. Please explain why you support or do not support the proposal, including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Respondents were asked to explain why they either support or do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building in Bournemouth. 2,002 respondents provided a response to this question.

1,408 respondents who commented had previously indicated that they support the principle of a PSPO, 481 respondents commented who had indicated that they do not support the principle of a PSPO, 3 respondents commented who neither support nor do not support a PSPO, while 110 respondents who commented had not previously indicated whether they supported the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building in Bournemouth.

Responses have been coded into themes to make them easier to interpret. Please note that where respondents have provided comments that relate to more than one theme, their feedback has been categorised into multiple categories.

Support

There were 2,758 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building.

Responses were coded in to four key themes relating to 'general support', 'impact on service users', 'impact on staff and local residents', and 'other comments and suggestions'.

Theme	Number of comments
General support	88
Impact on service users	2,283
Impact on staff and local residents	353
Other comments and suggestions	34

General support

There were 88 comments that were in general support of the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 30 respondents commented that they **supported the proposals in general**, while 52 respondents specifically commented that they supported the implementation of a **Safe Zone with no designated areas** (option 1). Below is a selection of these comments:



"I believe this is the right course of action to tackle the problem."

"I strongly support the introduction of a PSPO in this area."

“Strongly support the proposal, specifically option 1 with no designated area.”

“There should be no designated protest area in this residential area where families live and where staff are just doing their job HELPING service users who have not made this decision lightly. This should be a safe place for them to attend and not be harassed.”

2 respondents commented that they supported the implementation of a Safe Zone with one designated area (**option 2**), while 1 respondent commented that they supported a Safe Zone with two designated areas (**option 3**).



“Proposal number 3 would seem to be the best option giving those who wish to protest within the guidelines suggested the opportunity to do so, but not within the immediate area.”

“Why should people in need be heckled in their time of need. Let protestors stand in a designated area option 2.”

3 respondents commented that they **did not support the proposed restrictions despite previously indicating that they supported the proposed implementation of a PSPO**.



“As a pro-life Catholic I support any initiative that will increase the chance for life to continue until birth.”

Impact on service users

There were 2,283 comments that related to the impact on service users that the introduction of the proposed restrictions would have. Of these, 871 respondents commented that service users have the right to access the clinic without **harassment, interference or intimidation from protestors** in what is an already upsetting situation. The council has the responsibility to protect service users from this and that the rights of service users to access these services without experiencing these behaviours takes priority over any right that the protestors have with regards to free speech or religious beliefs. Experiencing harassment from protestors also has a negative impact on the mental health of service users, while these comments also referred to potential service users being put off from accessing the service and as a result may resort to unsafe abortion measures putting their own health at risk.



“Vulnerable women visit the clinic; they do not need to be harassed or abused outside of it.”

“Using the BPAS services is one of the single most traumatic and upsetting experiences of my life. Women of all ages and all states of vulnerability use the service and must be able to do so without any fear of harassment or intimidation.”

“I have gone through two abortions in my life and these have been traumatic events for me. It's a very tough decision to make, and a tough process to go through. During my second time going through the abortion process I encountered someone that insulted me because of my choice to get an abortion. That made the recovery process infinitely more difficult, and I had a depressive episode where my dark thoughts were directly related to what that person has said. The impact of the behaviour of the people that would use the designated areas can be devastating for people accessing BPAS services, which are healthcare services, and can last several years.”

“I have often seen protesters gathered outside the clinic. It is intimidating to people who are using a legal service and are already going through a difficult time. They should not be bullied in this way.”

Further to these views, 246 respondents commented that service users should not have to run the gauntlet of protestors and that **having to face protestors to access services increases the traumatic experience** and associated mental health concerns at an already sensitive moment.



“Visiting the BPAS is not an activity that is pleasurable and any harassment or demonstrations makes a difficult visit even more arduous.”

“Generally people going to BPAS are already in an emotionally charged state and need peace and tranquillity - not to have to run the gauntlet of so-called Pro-Life supporters.”

“As a woman who has known friends undergo abortions and seeing the terrible trauma it involved (even though it was the

right decision for them) I can't even begin to imagine the added mental trauma of having protestors accosting women who have made this incredible heart wrenching decision. No one chooses an abortion lightly!"

213 respondents commented that they supported the implementation of a PSPO because it would improve the **safety and protection** of service users.



"Women carrying out a legal activity should feel safe to do so."

"It is extremely important that patients or potential patients of the BPAS building feel safe and capable of using the services available. Speaking from experience, worrying that you may have to endure confrontation or conflict, outside or near the building, can be a huge factor in your decision whether to seek help there."

142 respondents commented that service users have a **right to privacy, peace and dignity** and that they should be able to access services anonymously without the fear of being identified. In addition, 11 respondents commented that the proposed **ban on photography and videoing** was important for these same reasons.



"I support this proposal because I believe that every woman has the right to privacy as they choose what happens with their own body."

"It is absolutely necessary for women already in a vulnerable mental state to be allowed to use this facility in peace and privacy."

"I support the principle of a PSPO as all people accessing abortion care shouldn't have to worry about being hounded and potentially recorded by protestors."

300 respondents commented that it is **their right to choose** what happens to their own body and that protestors should not be able to be close to the clinic to try and influence this, many of whom are described by respondents as being white, Christian males. These comments also reflected that they have a **legal right to abortion** and

that they are pro-choice, while they also referred to the recent changes in legislation in USA and that they should not be allowed to overspill into UK society and beliefs.



“The right of the individual to control over their own body is not a point for debate.”

“This country legalised abortion in 1967. The clinic has a legal right to exist and the women who seek its services have a legal right to do so.”

“As someone who has used the service and also supported a relative using this service I am disgusted that people who have no right (usually male and elderly) should be able to act as they are in view of patients who are vulnerable and in a very difficult position.”

“I am a woman who believes that all women worldwide should be able to have an abortion if they wish without anybody else interfering. I certainly do not want any more American style hysteria coming over here and definitely do not want the absurd ban on abortions that has happened recently in USA to get any sort of following here.”

105 respondents commented that there are many reasons why someone may have an abortion, including due to being a victim of rape/sexual abuse and for medical reasons. These respondents felt that **protestors are unaware of the individual circumstances** of the person getting an abortion and should therefore not force their views on service users.



“Every woman who uses such a facility has their own reasons for doing so. Whether it’s that they became pregnant through a sexual assault, they have been informed their foetus has medical conditions that would prevent a viable birth, their financial situation would not properly support a baby or any other reason, they should be able to terminate their pregnancy in a manner that causes as least stress as possible.”

“I am a carrier of a rare genetic syndrome that is life limiting and can be incompatible with life. I fully support the introduction of a PSPO to stop women from being harassed

or feeling judged when they are having to make the most difficult decision.”

“I do not believe that this kind of protest is in any way appropriate as the protesters cannot know (and should NOT know) the circumstances of each individual case.”

Furthermore, 184 respondents commented that whether someone is getting an abortion has **nothing to do with the protestors and that they shouldn't be subjected to their opinions**, with these respondents also claiming that the protestors are spreading false information and their own religious beliefs.



“I strongly support a PSPO being implemented, as it has nothing to do with anyone else what a woman does with her body.”

“It is a difficult enough time for women without pressure from people who have no stake in the personal matter at all.”

“Because it can be harrowing enough to visit a clinic such as this without people passing judgement. Never mind people actively pushing false information, guilt and shame on you.”

145 respondents commented that **protestors should not be allowed near the clinic at all** and that there are many **alternative methods and locations for them to protest and lobby**. These respondents suggested that protestors are able to pray anywhere so do not need to do so outside the clinic, while they should also lobby government and the local Members of Parliament (MPs) to change laws and regulations regarding abortion. Respondents also suggested that the town hall, town centre as well as local churches should be used for protesting instead.



“Service users should be able to use this service and not have to worry about others being there who object to it.”

“Protesting outside the service location is distressing to staff and service users. It is not the place for it and certainly not the time in the case of service users. If they wish to protest it should be against the law to the lawmakers, and not to the service staff and users.”

“People shouldn't be protesting outside these places, go protest outside Parliament if you don't like what people are doing.”

66 respondents commented that the clinic is a healthcare setting and as such no protesting should take place in the vicinity of it. In addition, these comments suggested that they **would not expect to see protesting at other healthcare settings**, such as at hospitals and outside cancer services so the BPAS clinic should not be any different. Respondents also suggested that the protestors would not expect similar activities to be allowed outside of churches and other religious buildings and therefore should not be allowed to do so outside the clinic.



“Abortion is healthcare. People should not be allowed to protest outside of a health care provider. People would be aghast if there were protests outside of a cancer treatment centre.”

“Women attending clinics for medical treatment of any kind should be free from all forms of harassment. This type of protest activity would never be acceptable around a public hospital so this clinic should be no different.”

“Whilst religious freedom is to be accepted, it does not give the right to harass and intimidate those who don't believe with their way of thinking. The opposite example would be pickets outside of churches. This would also be called out as unacceptable.”

Impact on staff and local residents

There were 353 comments that related to the impact on staff and local residents that the introduction of the proposed restrictions would have. Of these, 246 respondents commented that **BPAS clinic staff should be protected** and be able to go to work without the fear of harassment, intimidation or interference and their safety should be ensured. A number of these staff also commented on the fear of being followed to and from the clinic, while also stating that their vehicles had been damaged in the local area by protestors.



“No one should be harassed for doing their legal job or making their legal choices.”

“I work at BPAS and having to enter work walking past protestors can be intimidating, especially when leaving the building alone.”

“The protesters outside are extremely intimidating and harassing. I have had a number of encounters with them just trying to go to and from work - I find it extremely difficult having to encounter them so I can’t imagine how our women feel who access the clinic. I’ve been called a murderer and been followed to my car whilst being shouted at by the protesters. Their behaviour is unacceptable and they should not be allowed to have a presence.”

107 respondents commented that they supported the proposed restrictions because **local residents are adversely affected** by protestors and groups gathering in the area close to the clinic. Respondents commented that they have been confronted by protestors who thought that they were service users, were unable to enjoy their local area, while others commented that the protestors had a negative impact on parents and children from local schools.



“Not only may I need to use this clinic one day, but as someone who lives close by it affects me seeing the protesters and makes me nervous at the thought that I may one day have to face them.”

“The addition of people stood outside the facility, although not being disruptive per se, are an added distraction to road users, passers-by and school kids leaving the local education facility.”

“For the children that have to go to school near there should not be witnessing such harassment on another human, they are young and impressionable and this behaviour is far from what they should be seeing.”

Other comments and suggestions

There were 34 other comments and suggestions that related to the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 26 respondents suggested that the proposed restrictions would **strike a balance between Pro-Choice and Pro-Life supporters**, provided that no harassment or anti-social behaviour took place.



“Whilst I do believe that people should have a right to protest, I strongly believe that vulnerable people, who are accessing legal HEALTHCARE services, should not be subject to further mental or verbal abuse/trauma from members of the public.”

“I support it to a degree, but as much as I disagree with the protests that happen there, people should have the right to protest and freedom of expression. So I feel we need to strike a balance between the people attending and the people who oppose abortion.”

“People have the right to protest, but service users and staff also have the right to be protected from localised, intense and religious protests that may be traumatic.”

6 respondents suggested that the Safe Zone and designated areas (if applicable) would require **monitoring and restrictions enforced** should they be implemented.



“Police need powers to enable them to move these people on so that BPAS can continue its service unhindered.”

“I also believe that regular monitoring of all entrances to and from the protection zone should be in place to help prevent the protesters just moving further away and disrupting free passage without judgement.”

2 respondents suggested that the **Safe Zone needed to be larger** than proposed.



“I would favour a much larger exclusion zone.”

Do not support

There were 897 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building. A number of those who commented described how they personally attend gatherings outside of the BPAS building.

Responses were coded into four key themes relating to 'general comments', 'human rights', 'evidence and enforcement', and 'consideration of different viewpoints'.

Theme	Number of comments
General comments	27
Human rights	546
Evidence and enforcement	227
Consideration of different viewpoints	97

General comments

There were 27 general comments about the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 23 respondents commented that they were **opposed to the introduction of a PSPO in general**. Conversely, while previously indicating that they opposed the PSPO, 4 respondents commented that they were **in favour** of one being implemented.



"It is unnecessary and a waste of resources."

"No need for a buffer zone at all."

"It is a very difficult decision to attend the clinic without being judged by ignorant people outside."

Human rights

There were 546 comments that related to the impact on human rights that the introduction of the proposed restrictions would have. Of these, 291 respondents commented that the restrictions were against the fundamental rights and freedoms, as set out by **The Human Rights Act 1998** and the **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**. Respondents specifically commented that the restrictions were against their freedom of speech and expression, freedom to religious beliefs as well as their freedom to assembly and protest.



“The right to peaceful protest and pray in public is protected in law.”

“This infringes on freedom of speech and freedom to practise faith and religious conviction.”

“The buffer zone is unnecessary and would prohibit peaceful, protected speech based upon the subject matter, as well as constituting an infringement of freedom of religion in some instances. This would be in contradiction to the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights.”

181 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions would deny service users **access to information, support and alternative options to abortion**, which is not provided by the BPAS clinic. Many of these comments suggested that service users can often feel pressured and coerced into abortions that they do not want to have, and if they were provided the opportunity to talk to groups outside the clinic and receive this support they may not go through with the abortion. Some of these respondents were mothers who had been offered this last-minute support and are pleased that they now have their child.



“I am against a Public Spaces Protection Order for the area around the BPAS Clinic on Ophir Road because I believe that it does not allow women who are seeking an abortion an opportunity to discover that there are other alternatives. I know of a young woman who had an abortion feeling that it was the only answer, in later life she regretted ever having the abortion, which affected her both physically and mentally.”

“I believe that women should be able to talk with others in order to let them know they can receive help if they choose to continue with the pregnancy. There is plenty of help available which many women just do not know about.”

“Many people are being pressured into having an abortion, without being made aware of alternatives and support available.”

8 respondents commented that the range of **restricted behaviours was too extensive**.



“The range of activities covered is too extensive. There should not be a ban on praying as such and displaying of text. It is everyone’s right to express their views publicly.”

30 respondents commented that they were **opposed to abortion in general** because it takes the life of an innocent child, and those who have an abortion can also suffer with both mental and physical health as a result of having one.



“As a Christian, I cannot support any proposal that makes abortion easier. More importantly, however, is my firmly held belief that BCP should not be facilitating the murder of innocent human life.”

“Imposing exclusion zones would not be a “proportionate response”, many people think and believe that abortion is wrong, that what is happening in these clinics is nothing short of the murder of the unborn and so they are moved in compassion to highlight that abortion is not always the right solution.”

36 respondents commented that they were **protecting the rights of the unborn child** who do not yet have a voice in the decision.



“Children having their life ended should be represented and spoken for.”

“If a group of people want to provide a voice for the voiceless then their voices need to be heard for the sake of the voiceless ones.”

Evidence and enforcement

There were 227 comments that related to the evidence supporting the introduction of the proposed restrictions and how they will be enforced. Of these, 132 respondents commented that the consultation **lacked sufficient evidence** of anti-social behaviour taking place by Pro-Life supporters outside the clinic and therefore the restrictions were unjustified. These respondents also commented that any behaviours, including prayer and placards, leaflets and information provision was undertaken peacefully and did not adversely impact service users.



“There is no evidence shown that those using the abortion clinics are being harassed or intimidated. Those doing peaceful demonstrations using prayers and bible readings have a right to freedom of belief and religious expression.”

“The individuals who stand there are not aggressive but offer information and support only if it is requested.”

“I think the proposed restrictions are not justified by any of the stated reasons as the activities of the pro-choice parties do not constitute harassment.”

In addition, 19 respondents commented that it was in fact **Pro-Choice supporters who were the ones that harassed, abused and intimidated Pro-Life supporters**, rather than the other way round.



“Some of my Catholic friends attend the pro-life vigils and are fully aware of the need to avoid all kinds of confrontation. They do however face intimidation and unpleasantness from individuals who vehemently oppose our views on abortion.”

66 respondents commented that there were **existing laws** that could deal with any harassment and other anti-social behaviours.



“Aggressive behaviour is already banned in law, and there is no evidence of this happening at peaceful pro-life vigils.”

“Harassment, intimidation and threatening behaviour are already criminal offences. There is little or no evidence that

people taking part in pro-life vigils engage in any of these offences.”

6 respondents commented that they felt any restrictions would be **difficult to police and enforce**, while 2 respondents felt that the restrictions would lead to an **increase in tensions** between Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters.



“I don't think the restrictions are enforceable: who will decide what praying is? Who will know whether water is Holy or not?”

“I strongly oppose Portchester Place open space being used as a designated area for people to gather. The road has a high rate of anti-social behaviour and this would only encourage further issues.”

2 respondents commented that the proposed **Safe Zone was too large**.



“The proposed area is far too big. It covers two huge blocks. If any area were to be restricted it should only be immediately around the contested area, not around private houses which have nothing to do with the issue.”

Consideration of different viewpoints

There were 97 comments that related to the consideration of different viewpoints when developing the proposed restrictions. Of these, 60 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions **discriminate against Pro-Life supporters without considering their views**, the decision has already been made and are a form of totalitarianism. The proposed restrictions are also considered to be a censorship zone as opposed to a Safe Zone.



“Essentially the order is cited as to exclude pro-life and pro-choice activities around the clinic, however, in your reasons for the PSPO you only cite activities of Pro-life groups, this is clearly targeted.”

“Rather than protecting people, the PSPO seems to be an attempt to prevent people hearing any other point of view than the one being pushed by those proposing it. This is totalitarianism and is never good for a society.”

Furthermore, 15 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions were not warranted because the concept of **buffer zones had been rejected by the Home Office** in 2017.



“The Home Office considered arguments for buffer zones and rejected them in 2017 because existing legislation already dealt with problems that can arise - harassment and threatening behaviour etc, are criminal offences.”

15 respondents were opposed to the proposed restrictions due to the fact that **BPAS operates for profit and holds undue influence** over decision makers.



“BPAS is a highly profit-driven private enterprise which is seeking to use a public authority to police its agenda and provide a kind of bodyguard service for private business.”

“Clinic, although called a charity for tax reasons, has asked for the buffer zone because it is bad for business.”

5 respondents commented that Pro-Life supporters who gather outside the clinic have **no negative impact on local residents**, while 2 respondents questioned whether the restrictions would mean that **children could not gather and play on the grassed area** outside the clinic due to the restriction on the number of people who could gather in one place.



“I don't think the buffer zones are required as, as far as I am aware, there were no complaints from the residents living in the BPAS area that would indicate any kind of harassment took place.”

“I refer to the piece of land (grass) opposite to the abortion clinic which our children regularly play football and

recreational games on and ride push scooters around. My friend does not have a garden so this serves as her garden. The proposal will mean that we will not all be able to play together in this area which will directly impact their mental and social wellbeing.”

Neither support nor do not support

There were 4 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they neither support nor do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building. 1 respondent felt that **both sides of the Pro-Life/Pro-Choice argument have a right to their opinions** and should not be prevented from airing them. 1 respondent felt that **women and staff should be able to access the clinic without being intimidated or harassed**, while 1 respondent felt that **no one has the right to take human life**, which begins before birth, and that **women should receive maximum help and support short of taking the life of the unborn child**.

Did not indicate level of support

There were 255 comments from respondents who had not previously indicated whether they support the principle of a PSPO being implemented around the BPAS building.

Responses were coded in to four key themes relating to ‘comments in support of the proposed restrictions’, ‘comments opposed to the proposed restrictions’, ‘comments considering both viewpoints’, and ‘other comments and suggestions’.

Theme	Number of comments
Comments in support of the proposed restrictions	209
Comments opposed to the proposed restrictions	41
Comments considering both viewpoints	1
Other comments and suggestions	4

Comments in support of the proposed restrictions

There were 286 comments that were in support of the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 33 respondents commented that they were in **general support of a PSPO** being implemented. In addition, 12 respondents felt that **protestors have no place being there and that they should be kept away**, while 9 respondents felt that there **should not be any designated areas** included within the PSPO.



“I fully support protection around the unit.”

“I fully support it. People have a right to seek support and help without being attacked by people when they are trying to make very difficult decisions that affect the rest of their lives.”

“Abortion is healthcare. If the clinic were inside a hospital then protests outside the door would not be allowed so why are they here?”

“I support the application for a buffer zone around the BPAS clinic, without any area for anti-abortion demonstration nearby.”

15 respondents felt that a PSPO would **increase safety and protection** for staff and service users, while 7 respondents felt that the proposed restrictions would help protect the **privacy** of service users.



“I support the safe zone for safety and dignity.”

“People deserve a safe space in such an emotionally heavy and scary time.”

“I care very much about someone who’s taken a very difficult decision, and should be able to access this service privately, without harassment.”

46 respondents commented that service users and staff have the right to access the clinic without **harassment or abuse**, while 15 respondents felt that they would be protected from **intimidation** and 6 respondents felt that it protected them from being **interfered and hassled** by protestors.



“I support the proposal in order to stop the harassment and intimidation of women legally obtaining a medical service.”

“I support this proposal as women in need of BPAS services should not be subjected to harassment.”

“Anyone who is in need of sexual health care whether it’s abortions or sexual health tests deserves to be able to access care without fear or intimidation.”

“Intimidation is unacceptable and anything which prohibits intimidation makes sense in a modern society especially when the individuals doing the intimidation bear no cost for their actions.”

“Women needing the services provided should be supported and should not have to run the gauntlet of those who would try to interfere with their own judgement.”

38 respondents commented that it is their **right to choose** and it should not be negatively impacted by protestors.



“I support the proposal as each individual should have the right to choose without interference from third parties.”

“I think it’s really unfair on the people that need to use this service, it is often an incredibly difficult decision in the first instance.”

“No one should be harassed when making extremely personal decisions related to their own body.”

25 respondents commented that the presence and behaviour of protestors **places stress** on service users.



“This is a really difficult decision for a woman to make and is not undertaken without a lot of soul searching. To have to face protestors when going to this clinic just increases the stress and the feelings of guilt which is what they intentionally do.”

“Women should be able to use the clinic without any additional stress or harassment and what is already a very difficult time.”

1 respondent commented that the **clinic provides additional support and advice** with regards to their choices as well as providing abortion services.



“Completely support, the BPAS service does not just provide abortion, they support women to make the right decision for them. That may be that on discussion they may decide to continue with the pregnancy.”

2 respondents felt that **local residents** have a right to peace and the restrictions would help with this.



“I would also imagine that for residents that would be living next to the proposed protest areas it would be intensely frustrating to have groups of people loitering by their properties – potentially every day the clinic is open.”

Comments opposed to the proposed restrictions

There were 41 comments that were opposed to the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 9 respondents commented that they were **generally against the proposed restrictions**, while 3 respondents felt that there was a **lack of evidence** to support the introduction of a PSPO and 2 respondents felt that the proposed PSPO **discriminates against Pro-Life** supporters.



“I do not support the proposal, as I am anti-abortion.”

“I do not support this proposal. It’s massively offensive to any person using this service.”

“You say that having taken legal advice you believe the conditions for introducing a PSPO are met. You don’t anywhere outline the evidence you have for reaching that conclusion.”

“These zones discriminate against people who hold a pro-life viewpoint.”

8 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions were against their **right to practice religious beliefs**, 8 respondents felt that they were against their **right to free speech** and 2 respondents felt that they were against their **right to protest**.



“People should not be prohibited from praying or peacefully protesting as long as they don’t transgress existing laws by harassment, damage or obstruction because freedom of speech in a public space should be protected.”

“A ban on praying would breach freedom of religion and belief.”

“A PSPO curtails fundamental freedoms enjoyed lawfully by citizens, including but not limited to the right to peaceful protest, the right to free speech and the right to practice and live out one’s religious beliefs e.g. through prayer and public witness.”

8 respondents felt that the proposed PSPO restricted service users their **right to access additional support, information, and advice**.



“I do not support the proposal because I believe that it prevents women from getting help from people who offer roadside counselling to women. This can help the women to continue with pregnancy, something that women I have met who are facing a crisis pregnancy, actually want to do but just feel they can’t.”

1 respondent commented that **abortions should be banned** altogether.



“Please stop abortion, children have the right to live.”

Comments considering both viewpoints

1 respondent considered that **both Pro-Life and Pro-Choice had rights** to express themselves.



“I believe it’s massively important to allow both sides to have equal. To allow whomever to use the services required and also to allow peaceful protests. I think that if there is no option for peaceful protests it wouldn’t make the situation any better.”

Other comments and suggestions

2 of the other comments and suggestions related to **other ways and platforms to direct protests** against abortion, 1 respondent suggested that the **Safe Zone should be made bigger**, and 1 respondent questioned whether the **consultation had been promoted widely enough**.



“If they feel they need to have their voices heard they should direct them towards law makers and positive political action.”

“There needs to be a wider buffer zone.”

“Apart from the four respondent types: BPAS providers; their clients; Sister Supporter members and BCP residents living near the BPAS abortion clinic at Ophir Road (within 200 metres), it is doubtful whether anyone living outside this ghetto will have been aware of this consultation or the existence of the clinic.”

Alternative options

Q. If you would like to suggest any alternative options to this proposal, please write them in below.

Respondents were asked to provide details of any alternative options to the proposal that they may have. 600 respondents provided feedback to this question. Responses were coded in to four key themes relating to 'comments in support of the proposed restrictions', 'comments opposed to the proposed restrictions', 'comments considering both viewpoints', and 'other comments and suggestions'. Please note that where respondents have provided comments that relate to more than one theme, their feedback has been categorised into multiple categories.

Theme	Number of comments
Comments in support of the proposed restrictions	286
Comments opposed to the proposed restrictions	418
Comments considering both viewpoints	81
Other comments and suggestions	55

Comments in support of the proposed restrictions

There were 286 comments that were in support of the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 69 respondents commented that they **supported the implementation of a PSPO** and that they could not think of any alternatives to the options that had been proposed.



"I believe the proposed exclusion zone and restriction on the number of demonstrators are both reasonable and fair."

"No alternative. I fully support the proposal."

"I believe a Public Space Protection Order is the right tool to tackle the behaviour."

In addition, 57 respondents commented that a **complete ban on protests and harassment** of service users and staff was needed.



"Ban these people who object and try to influence, intimidate, completely from the area."

"Just prevent protesters from intimidating the users."

“This type of protest would be moved on if it was outside a sports centre, supermarket etc, it shouldn’t be allowed at all. It’s a personal, individual choice.”

41 respondents specifically commented that a **Safe Zone with no designated area**, as proposed within option 1, should be implemented.



“Proposal one supports the people making a tough decision.”

“There should be no designated protest area at all as in option 1.”

5 respondents suggested that a **Safe Zone with one designated area** should be implemented, while a further 5 respondents commented that a **Safe Zone with two designated areas** should be implemented.



“I would suggest going for Option 2 but allowing people to pray there, as it is far enough away to not be intimidating if people were to feel this way.”

“Option 3 (with the maximum area of safety) is the best but I’d prefer that no pro-life / pro-choice group has line of sight to any part of Ophir Road.”

25 respondents suggested that the **Safe Zone should be made larger**, including a wider radius around the BPAS building, as well as extend to local transport hubs to avoid service users experiencing harassment and protests here.



“Can this be extended to the nearest train station and bus station. Women who have travelled distances should not be subjected to any form of harassment during their personal journey.”

“No protesters at all within a 5-mile radius. Escorts for the women, security to protect all staff and women.”

42 respondents suggested that any **designated areas should be far away from the BPAS building**, including at the town hall or in Bournemouth Square, as well as restricted to places of worship or online.



“Any protesters can voice their opinion in a neutral space outside the immediate approach area to the service.”

“All protests should be held outside or near the town hall.”

“It's usually on religious grounds so they can have their say on the grounds of their church.”

29 respondents commented that anyone that fails to adhere to the restrictions should be **fined or arrested** as appropriate.



“Those who protest within the safe zone should be prosecuted.”

“On the stop fines and arrests for those protesting outside the clinic due to a breach of human rights act as they are not respecting or treating others with respect.”

6 respondents commented that allowing people to gather outside the BPAS building **caused issues for local residents**.



“I believe they should not be allowed anywhere near the site as also causes a nuisance to local residents.”

7 respondents commented that **safe routes to access the clinic** were needed regardless of the proposed restrictions.



“Is it possible to have multiple entrances for the facility and that patients are taxied in and never exposed on foot but driven to a safe disembarkation point out of sight from the road?”

“Give people freedom to move in and out of their appointments at abortion clinics.”

Comments opposed to the proposed restrictions

There were 418 comments that were opposed to the introduction of the proposed restrictions. Of these, 191 respondents commented that a **PSPO is not needed** and they did not want one created. Reasons for these comments included that the PSPO was a restriction on their right to protest, free speech and to pray in public.



“To continue to allow people to express their views. There should be no restrictions to peaceful, prayerful acts.”

“There must be no restrictions on demonstrations and the right to pray with people.”

“I think no restrictions are needed and that things should stay as they are.”

28 respondents commented that there was a **lack of evidence** to support the need for a PSPO and the associated restrictions, while 58 respondents commented that the **law already provides police with the necessary power to intervene** should they need to and therefore the restrictions were unnecessary.



“That in view of no evidence being presented as to the accusations which some have made, and no necessity for police involvement in the past, this PSPO should not go ahead.”

“Where there is evidence of genuine harassment or intimidation taking place then the police should enforce the law against such action. If a person is causing threatening or intimidating behaviour then surely the police should take action against that person rather than the imposition of a censorship and exclusion zone.”

“The clinic should report any offensive material or threats of violence but there probably isn’t any.”

“Proper enforcement according to existing law of any harassment or violence that may arise should be just as sufficient as it is for any other public place.”

“There are many means already available in law to prosecute anyone guilty of harassment or intimidation. For example an injunction. That way those who are not guilty of harassment could continue to offer help to those women in need of it and the Council would not need to impose such a draconian measure.”

15 respondents commented that **peaceful protests and quiet activities**, including silent prayer should be allowed outside the clinic.



“I think the people who gather there are only wanting to do their best to protect the unborn child and if they were quiet and didn’t approach the woman but rather wait for her to approach them then that would be perfectly acceptable in the free and democratic country.”

“People who are Pro-Life and feel so strongly must be allowed to demonstrate in a peaceful way, be it by prayers, rosaries or hymns.”

63 respondents commented that it was important to **allow Pro-Life supporters to continue to provide support, advice and alternative options to potential service users outside the building** so that they are fully informed of their options and can seek alternatives to abortion.



“Supporting the work of people who are there, outside of the abortion facility, to give kind, generous, friendly and caring support for pregnant mothers and their unborn children, and to offer them much needed support and consolation at a time that is likely a very anxious and lonely one, in many cases.”

“I would just like to reiterate the importance for women to be able to have a choice to change their minds and be able to seek help if needed.”

“Allow women genuine choice in receiving alternative forms of help which are not death driven which is what faces them as a non-choice. The coercive nature of abortion cannot be underestimated. Women’s ‘right to choose’ without this

alternative help being offered in close proximity limits their freedom of choice.”

34 respondents commented that it was important **not to ban prayers and vigils**, while 11 respondents commented that **placards and leaflets should continue to be allowed** to be displayed.



“The right to pray must be upheld as a human right and freedom.”

“To allow silent witness and prayers outside the abortion clinic and if a women so wishes to speak with someone outside the clinic then that they feel they are able to with those carrying out the witness being very gentle in their approach.”

“I think there could be a designated area where placards could be displayed by up to four people, but those people must be silent. That way, it would still be possible for them to have freedom of expression.”

18 respondents commented that the **clinic should be closed down** or that there should be a **ban on abortions**.



“Close BPAS and strictly and absolutely prohibit your practice of child murder.”

“No murder clinic [in] the first place.”

Comments considering both viewpoints

There were 81 comments that considered both viewpoints on the proposed restrictions. Of these, 17 respondents commented that the proposals needed to **consider the views of both Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters**, and that relevant authorities should follow and attend activities with Pro-Life supporters to better understand their views. A further 11 respondents commented that there needs to be a **meeting and dialogue between Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters** in order to formulate a compromise.



"I believe it's possible for pro-lifers to remain around the area of the clinic but of course it is important that any people entering the clinic feel safe. I think the proposal must consider both parties with the fact that it is pro-lifers right to be able to somewhat express their beliefs and feelings as long as it is done peaceful and without interfering with those that enter the clinic."

"I would suggest discussing with the organisations who appear in the region of the BPAS clinic how information about the support they seek to offer may be made more widely known."

"Pro-life campaigners and some people representing abortion laws/clinicians/clinics should have an opportunity to present evidence for their opinions in a meeting-style manner at a place and time, rather than being allowed to protest at any time of the day freely in areas of the community."

"If the actions are causing upset, create a dialogue between facility managers and protesters instead of going straight down a legal route."

43 respondents felt that a **service needed to be created within a building that provides information about alternative options**, as well as support services, counselling and advice so that people can consider all options available to them. This service could either be in a separate or shared building to abortion services.



"Establish a centre staffed by pro-life and pro-abortion counsellors to which to direct women experiencing a crisis pregnancy for them to be given advice from all points of view."

"It would be of great benefit to pregnant women if the council, instead of banning normal activities such as counselling provided a room where struggling women could be supported in their pregnancy with practical help e.g. financial, accommodation, friendship, and counselling."

"A separate place for impartial advice with a full discussion of alternative options, to be offered to pregnant women and

girls, to be provided by someone who is not affiliated with the provider of abortion services.”

6 respondents commented that **restrictions on the number of people** within the area at any one time was all that was required, while 3 respondents commented that **Pro-Choice and Pro-Life supporters should each have their own separate designated area**. 1 respondent commented that there should only be a **ban on photography**.



“Restrict the numbers but not freedom of speech or expression.”

“If there are two designated areas, one should be solely for the pro-life contingent, the other for those who support the right for a woman to choose.”

“I would not object to banning recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic.”

Other comments and suggestions

There were 55 other comments and suggestions. Of these, 20 respondents suggested that there should be **security measures in place**, including CCTV, security and police patrols to monitor whether any harassment or anti-social behaviour was taking place.



“Ensure that any restrictions are actively enforced and that breaches of the law by protesters are properly prosecuted.”

“I propose the installation of CCTV cameras outside the clinic. This would allow complete freedom for peaceful pro-life supporters to pray and offer advice in the form of conversation or leaflets to those entering the clinic, but should provide the reassurance of knowing that any harassment of either patients, staff or pro-life supporters would be recorded and handed as evidence to police.”

9 respondents suggested that **abortion services should be provided elsewhere**, including within both primary and acute care settings, away from residential areas.



“Offering these services at GP clinics and hospitals so that it is not so obvious that women are specifically going to have abortions.”

“The abortion clinic should be moved out of a residential area.”

5 respondents suggested that there needs to be **more support services post-abortion**.



“More support for woman before and after to support their personal choice.”

7 respondents suggested that the conversation needed to be part of a **wider national debate and policy** rather than driven locally.



“Seek legislation through the parliamentary process where matters of law and legislative grounds for limiting freedom of speech and action can [be] more properly debated against a backdrop of real consultation and evidential evidence of harm or police action.”

“National, serious debate about abortion.”

6 respondents commented that **harassment of Pro-Life supporters needed to stop**.



“Ask the Police to protect the 'Pro-Lifers' from those favouring abortion.”

“The people of pro-life are attack[ed] [by] the pro-choice people, taking photos and shouting [at] the people who are praying.”

2 respondents commented that **Pro-Life needed to be referred to differently.**



"I believe it's important to refer to these protesters as 'anti-choice', rather than 'pro-life'."

"I would like to suggest that BCP doesn't use the term "pro-life" when referring to anti-abortion or pro-forced-birth activists."

There were 6 other and **miscellaneous** comments about the proposed restrictions.



"I feel any revenue generated from fines etc of those breaching the order should be ringfenced for the sole benefit of BPAS and associated services."

"In addition more education in schools to support critical thinking and raise awareness to [those] people [so they] make informed choices about both abortion and pro-life groups."

PSPO Options

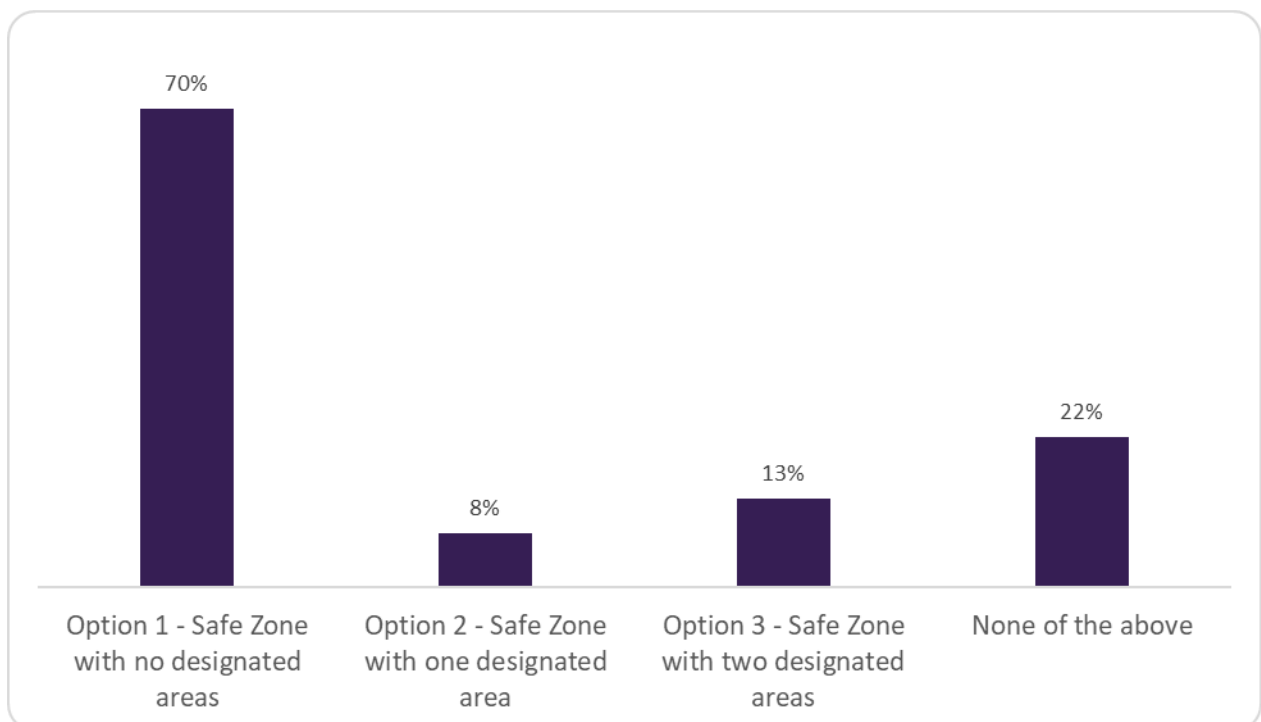
Acceptable options to consider

Q. Please tell us which of the following options you think would be acceptable to consider for the PSPO area?

Respondents were provided with a series of options for the PSPO area. The options presented included:

- A Safe Zone with no designated areas
- A Safe Zone with one designated area
- A Safe Zone with two designated areas
- None of the above

Respondents were then asked which options they thought would be acceptable to consider for the PSPO area. 2,178 respondents provided an answer to this question. Respondents were allowed to choose more than one option that they thought would be acceptable. 70% of respondents felt that a Safe Zone with no designated areas would be acceptable, while 8% felt that a Safe Zone with one designated area would be acceptable and 13% felt that a Safe Zone with two designated areas would be acceptable. 22% of respondents felt that none of the proposed options would be acceptable.

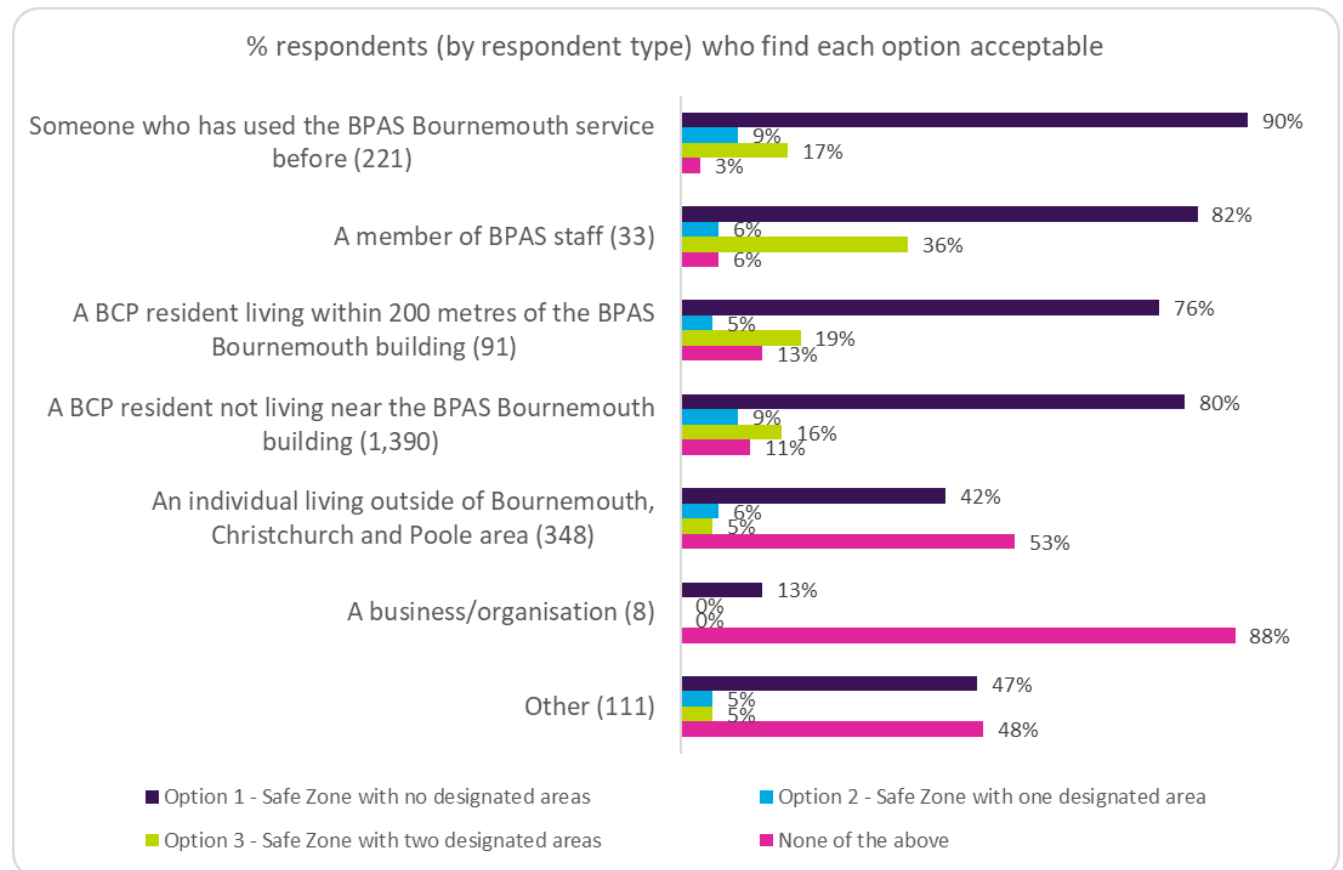


Base: 2,178

The option of a Safe Zone with no designated areas was acceptable to the majority of respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before, members of BPAS staff as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they lived near the BPAS building or not. In addition, the option of a Safe Zone with two designated

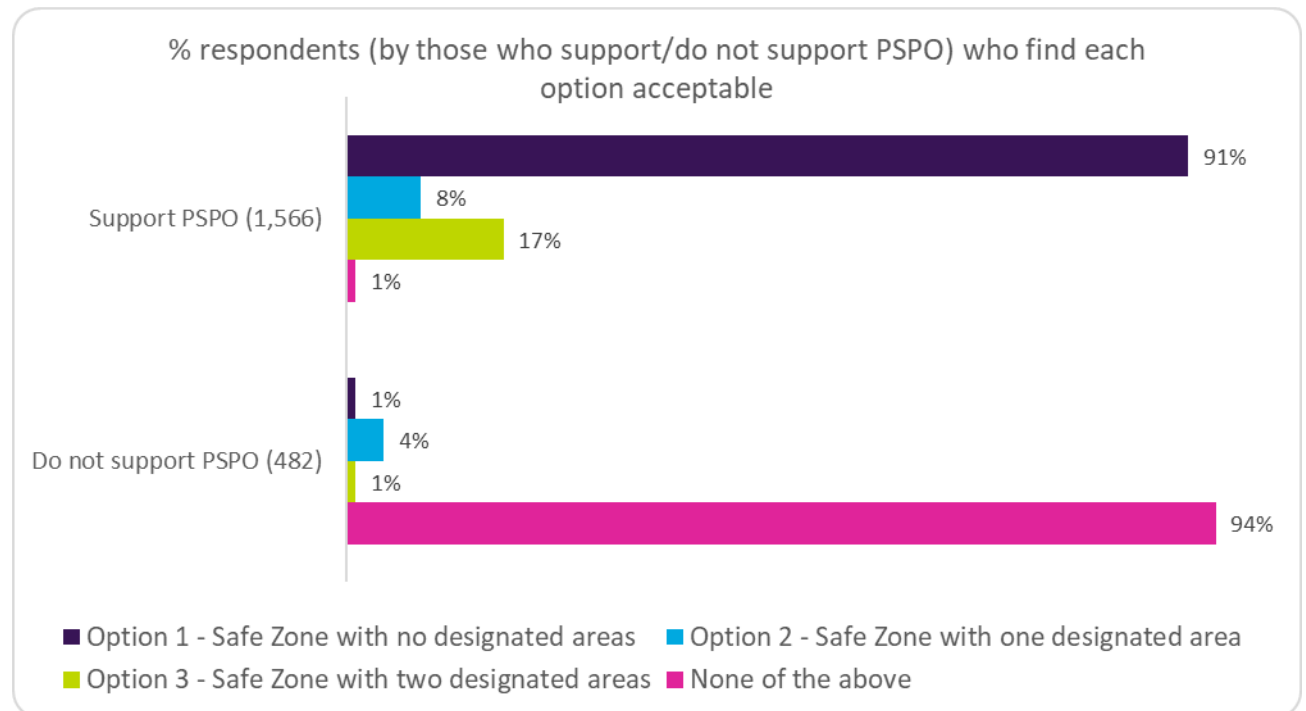
areas was more acceptable to these respondent groups than the option of a Safe Zone with one designated area.

53% of respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area indicated that none of the options were acceptable, while 42% felt that a Safe Zone with no designated areas was acceptable. 'Other' respondents were split between a Safe Zone with no designated areas being acceptable and none of the options being acceptable.



Base: varied as labelled

The vast majority of respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented indicated that the introduction of a Safe Zone with no designated areas would be acceptable, while 17% of these respondents felt that a Safe Zone with two designated areas would be acceptable. Conversely, the vast majority of respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented indicated that none of the proposed options would be acceptable.



Base: varied as labelled

Respondents who were most likely to indicate that a Safe Zone with no designated areas was acceptable were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian

Respondents who were most likely to indicate that none of the options were acceptable were:

- Aged older than 55 years
- Male
- The same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- Heterosexual
- Ethnic minority
- Christian

In addition, respondents aged 16-24 years were more likely than any other age group to indicate that a Safe Zone with either one or two designated area was acceptable.

Demographic Base: varied as labelled	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	None of the above
16-24 (113)	79%	13%	19%	11%
25-34 (452)	85%	6%	14%	10%
35-44 (470)	83%	6%	13%	13%
45-54 (356)	78%	8%	14%	15%
55-64 (302)	64%	9%	13%	26%
65+ (335)	49%	10%	15%	38%
Female (1,464)	78%	9%	14%	15%
Male (528)	61%	5%	16%	30%
Identifying gender same as the sex registered at birth (1,907)	75%	8%	14%	18%
Identifying gender not the same as the sex registered at birth (27)	89%	4%	11%	4%
Heterosexual (1,587)	73%	8%	15%	19%
LGB / other (269)	88%	9%	14%	5%
White British (1,703)	77%	9%	15%	15%
White ethnic minority (121)	68%	4%	12%	23%
Ethnic minority (91)	53%	5%	10%	41%
No religion (1,104)	90%	7%	15%	3%
Christian (739)	46%	8%	13%	46%
All other religions (95)	79%	9%	13%	11%
Disability (296)	78%	10%	13%	15%
No disability (1,645)	73%	8%	15%	19%

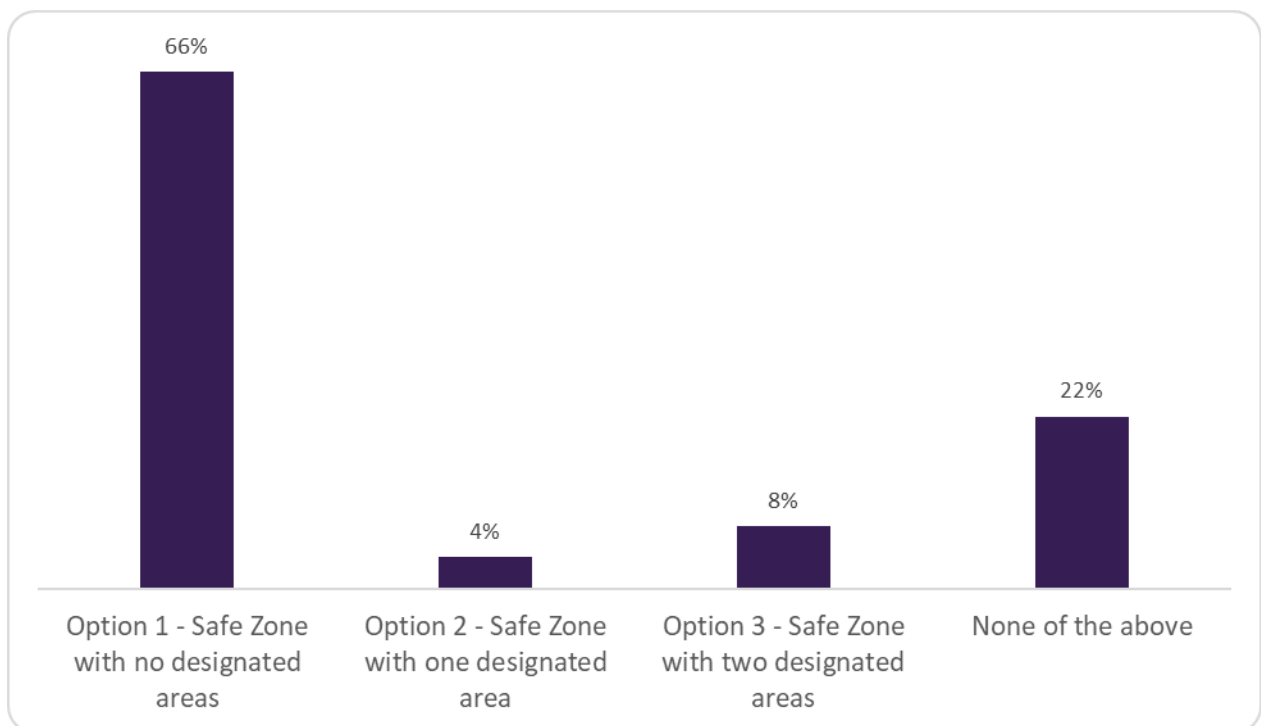
Preferred option

Q. If you had to choose a preferred option, which would it be?

Respondents were then asked if they had to choose a preferred option, which it would be:

- A Safe Zone with no designated areas
- A Safe Zone with one designated area
- A Safe Zone with two designated areas
- None of the above

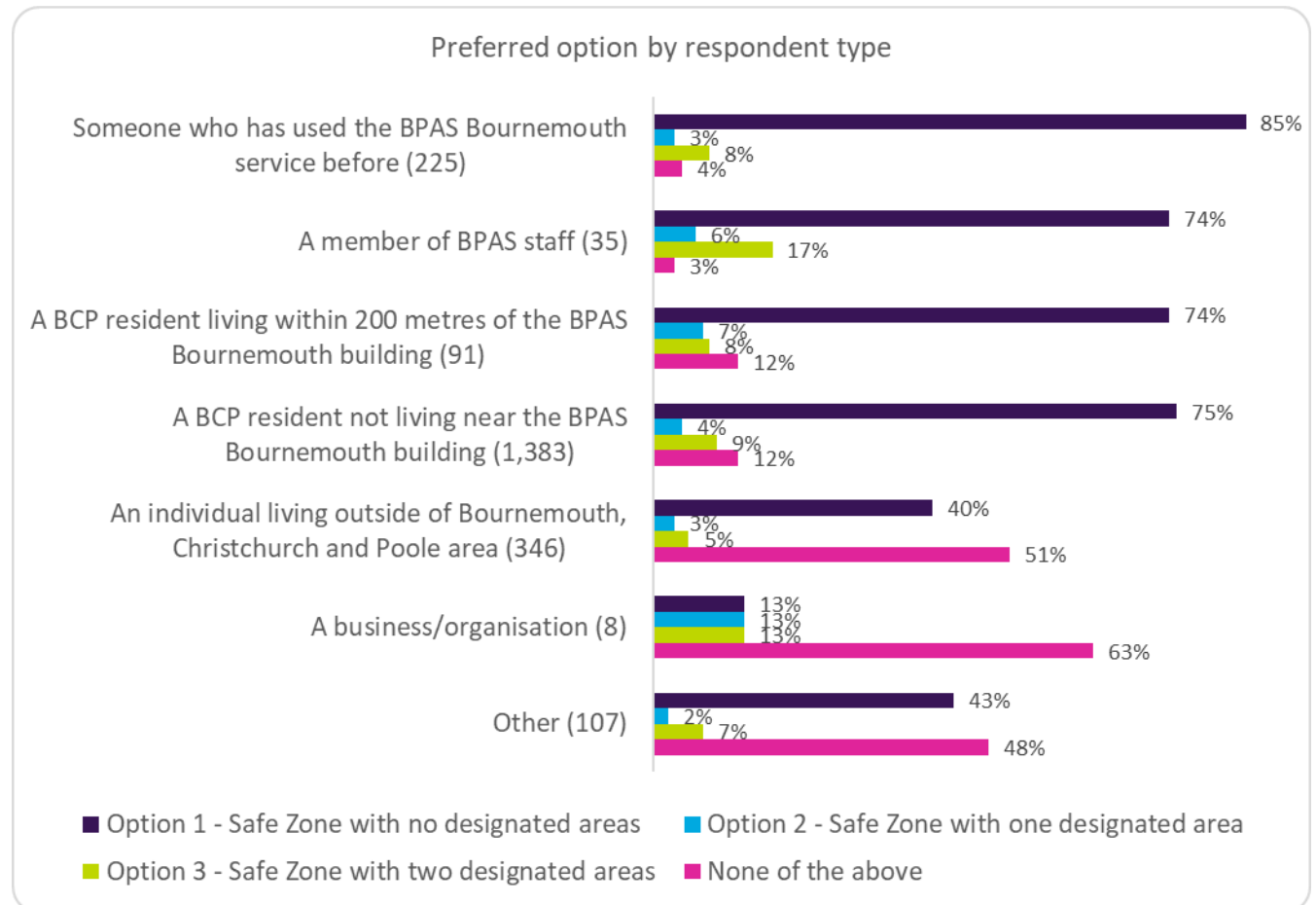
2,172 respondents provided an answer to this question. 66% of respondents felt that a Safe Zone with no designated areas would be their preferred option, while 4% felt that a Safe Zone with one designated area would be and 8% felt that a Safe Zone with two designated areas would be their preferred option. 22% of respondents felt that none of the proposed options would be their preferred option.



Base: 2,172

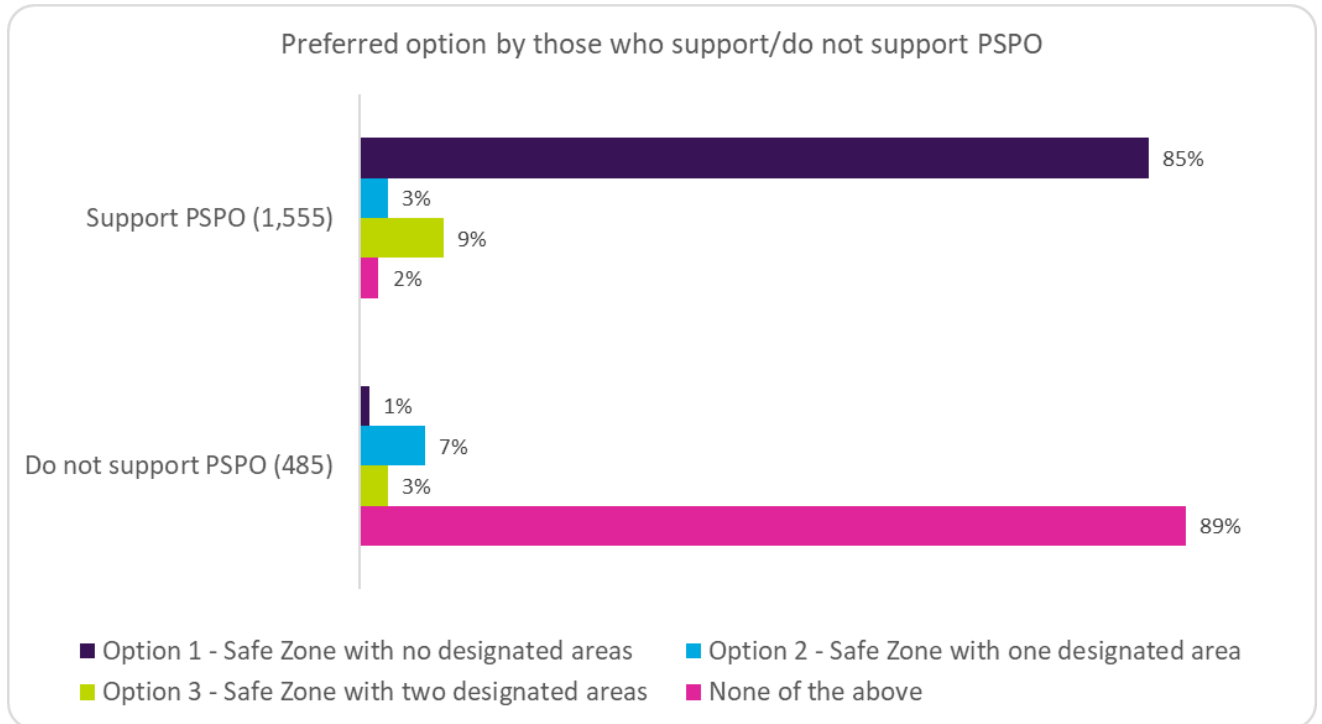
The option of a Safe Zone with no designated areas was the preferred option to the majority of respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before, members of BPAS staff as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they lived near the BPAS building or not.

51% of respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area indicated that none of the options were their preference, while 40% felt that a Safe Zone with no designated areas was their preferred option. 'Other' respondents were split between a Safe Zone with no designated areas being their preferred option and none of the options being their preference.



Base: varied as labelled

The vast majority of respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented indicated that the introduction of a Safe Zone with no designated areas would be their preferred option. Conversely, the vast majority of respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented indicated that none of the proposed options would be their preference.



Base: varied as labelled

While the introduction of a Safe Zone with no designated areas was the preferred option for all demographic groups (with the exception of Christian respondents), respondents who were most likely to indicate that this was their preferred option were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British or White ethnic minority
- No religion or any religion other than Christian

Respondents who were most likely to indicate that none of the options were acceptable were:

- Aged older than 55 years
- Male
- The same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- Heterosexual
- Ethnic minority
- Christian

Demographic Base: varied as labelled	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	None of the above
16-24 (111)	71%	6%	11%	12%
25-34 (453)	80%	3%	6%	11%
35-44 (469)	77%	3%	6%	13%
45-54 (357)	72%	3%	9%	16%
55-64 (306)	58%	7%	9%	25%
65+ (329)	47%	5%	10%	38%
Female (1,462)	73%	4%	8%	15%
Male (530)	57%	4%	9%	29%
Identifying gender same as the sex registered at birth (1,906)	70%	4%	8%	18%
Identifying gender not the same as the sex registered at birth (27)	85%	4%	4%	7%
Heterosexual (1,587)	69%	4%	8%	19%
LGB / other (266)	84%	3%	8%	5%
White British (1,701)	72%	4%	8%	16%
White ethnic minority (120)	66%	3%	9%	23%
Ethnic minority (91)	51%	3%	7%	40%
No religion (1,103)	85%	3%	8%	4%
Christian (741)	42%	6%	8%	45%
All other religions (92)	73%	5%	14%	8%
Disability (296)	73%	4%	8%	14%
No disability (1,640)	69%	4%	8%	19%

Reasons for preferred option

Q. Please explain the reasons for your preferred option including details of any potential impacts you think they may have on you.

1,690 respondents provided an answer to this question. Respondents were asked to explain their reasons for their preferred option. 1,090 respondents commented who had previously indicated that their preferred option was a Safe Zone with no designated areas (Option 1), 67 respondents commented who had indicated that they preferred a Safe Zone with one designated area (Option 2), 123 respondents commented who had indicated that they preferred a Safe Zone with two designated areas (Option 3), 395 respondents commented who had indicated that they do not want any of the proposed options, while 15 respondents who commented had not previously indicated what their preferred option was.

Safe Zone with no designated areas

There were 1,712 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they preferred option 1. Responses were coded in to four key themes relating to 'general comments', 'impact on service users, staff and local residents', 'designated areas', and 'other suggestions'. Please note that where respondents have provided comments that relate to more than one theme, their feedback has been categorised into multiple categories.

Theme	Number of comments
General comments	29
Impact on service users, staff and local residents	1,090
Designated areas	587
Other suggestions	6

General comments

There were 29 general comments. Of these, 25 respondents commented that option 1 was their general preference and that it was the **best option**. Conversely, 4 respondents commented that they were **opposed to the proposed options**.



"It seems the most straightforward option."

"I think it's better having no designated areas for such an activity."

"I believe that a lot of females appreciate the views and opinions of others and are not fully committed to abortion."

Impact on service users, staff and local residents

There were 1,090 comments relating to the impact that option 1 would have on service users, staff and local residents. Of these, 413 respondents commented that service users and staff should not have to face **harassment, interference or intimidation**, as this causes additional emotional distress and service users may be unduly deterred from accessing the service. These respondents also commented that the rights of service users and staff to not have to face harassment should take priority over other people's right to protest.



"I don't think protesters should be outside intimidating users and staff."

"It is upsetting enough to be having a termination, without the added fear that you are going to turn the corner and walk into people protesting against it."

"All patients, staff and visitors need to be able to enter BPAS without harassment. There is enough impact on social, emotional and mental health without having to field those who protest outside."

"The right to free protest is superseded by the right to access healthcare without being harassed."

120 respondents commented that the **safety and protection** of service users and staff was paramount and would be improved through the implementation of option 1.



"A safe area should be safe with no option for those who want to intimidate to be present."

"Ensuring service users and staff can access the building safely."

"I believe that having this buffer zone with no protest area would allow individuals to access healthcare in a safe manner, would allow staff to work without being harassed"

and would ensure that the neighbourhood around the clinic is more calm/peaceful.”

An additional 68 respondents commented that they should be able to **choose which route they took to access** the clinic without fear of encountering protestors and harassment, which neither of the other two options provided.



“If I used this service and saw there were protesters in a “designated” area (essentially protected to abuse clients) I don’t think I could bring myself to use this service. As someone with anxiety even normal social interactions scare me, the idea of walking past protesters is terrifying. People deserve to use a medical service with privacy, dignity and respect.”

“This would allow women to access the clinic from several directions without having to face protesters close to the entrance to the clinic.”

“Even if the demonstrators are not directly outside the clinic, having to pass them on their way to or from the clinic is still potentially harmful.”

135 respondents commented that **protesting should not be allowed** and this option provided the greatest assurance against this. In addition, 35 respondents commented that protesting **wouldn’t be allowed outside other healthcare settings**, or churches, so should not be allowed to occur outside the BPAS building.



“Keep the protestors completely away from it.”

“Anti-abortion groups need to be kept far away from the clinic.”

“I do not feel they should be allowed to protest in any location near to the premises.”

“I feel that no other medical establishment would tolerate any type of physical presence with persistent protesting over such a prolonged period of time. Having a physical presence within a restricted area is just as intimidating as it is now.”

56 respondents commented that the **privacy**, anonymity and dignity of service users and staff was important and that option 1 would allow this best. Respondents commented that they were fearful of being videoed and photographed and were at risk of being exposed within social and other media platforms.



“For me it’s the principle of confidentiality for staff and service users as well as maintaining their mental health.”

“It is important for women to have access to services with dignity and privacy. We are entitled to privacy and confidentiality in all other aspects of health care, this should not be any different.”

“A safe zone with no designated areas would allow patients and staff to travel to and from the building anonymously, without being harassed and without the potential for people to take down identifying details such as car number plates or photographs.”

148 respondents commented that abortion was legal and that it was their **right to access these services** for a multitude of health and personal reasons, while the views of other people who were anti-abortion should have no platform to be expressed with regards to such a sensitive and personal topic.



“I feel others’ views ([pro-life] campaigners) are irrelevant, it is the choice of the female attending the clinic as to whether to have an abortion. It is their body and theirs alone.”

“As a woman who had a termination due to an abusive relationship, I know that women need to be able to make choices without coercion or pressure from anyone else.”

“A woman who is coming to the clinic does not need to see photos, placards or people praying for them. No woman takes this decision lightly and they will have considered their decision very carefully.”

A further 7 respondents commented that **protestors do not care about the individual** women or their unborn child, while 5 respondents commented that anti-abortion groups **spread hate** and are effectively supporting sexual abuse and rape.



"I am pro-choice. Anti-abortionists do not care about a child born from rape or incest. What these protests do is victimise, stigmatise and cause additional trauma and should be considered abuse."

"Some service users have been raped, the protesters are supporting rape as acceptable by their actions."

103 respondents commented that **local residents are adversely affected** by protestors and groups gathering near their homes and that option 1 would improve the area for them. In addition, respondents specifically commented that the designated areas proposed in option 3 would just move the issue and impact on other local residents instead.



"No tolerance for protest protects the peace for the people living in that area also."

"I feel the further designated areas are still in a residential area thus pushing this activity onto another residential road. A large public space is better."

"Having a designated zone for protestors is unfair on the nearby residents."

Designated areas

There were 587 comments relating to designated areas. Of these, 145 respondents commented that the **designated areas should be out of sight and were too close** to the BPAS building, especially the one proposed in option 2. This area is where groups currently gather and therefore would not change the current issues experienced by service users and staff. In addition, some of these respondents reflected that other clinics around the UK do not have designated areas within them and that the BPAS Bournemouth building and the surrounding area should follow suit.



"The designated area should not be closely located to the clinic. Across the street is not acceptable."

“The proposed designated area for protest is too close to the clinic in both options that include this. I think the exclusion area should be absolute - no protest near the clinic at all.”

“The designated area in option 2 is directly opposite the clinic - if you are going to allow that, what is the point of the PSPO in the first place?”

175 respondents commented that **Pro-Life supporters have alternative means, platforms and locations in which they can voice their opposition** to abortion. These include within their own homes, online, at local churches, outside the town hall and via lobbying their MP or central government.



“If people want to protest against abortion, fine, but that can be done through general demonstrations e.g. town centre or town hall, not through the specific targeting of the BPAS building and the intimidation and harassment of people working there or using the services.”

“There is no need for people to have designated protest areas. If they want to protest they should go to places where laws are put into policy [to] not target individuals.”

“Whilst the right to protest is important, this right can be upheld in a multitude of locations across [the] BCP area without severely impacting the lives, judgements and mental health of those needing to use the services.”

211 respondents commented that if the PSPO incorporated designated areas then nothing would change in terms of the harassment and intimidation experienced by service users and staff. Providing **designated areas gives credence to the views and behaviours of those protesting** and that the restricted behaviours would be abused and continue.



“Although I understand why designated areas suggests a compromise approach, it also appears to support the concept of 'acceptable' harassment. As a potential Bournemouth BPAS service user, I don't think this solves the problem as to properly protect people, it relies on them not taking a route past these designated areas in order to keep safe. That isn't always going to be a viable option (may not

know; may not be able to). In general it just looks like BCP Council are saying that the harassment is OK in principle (i.e. it is endorsed) but just has to be a bit tidier so as to annoy fewer people.”

“Allowing designated areas completely defeats the point of the PSPO by legitimising harmful behaviour by protesters. This does not protect patients.”

“Any 'foothold' within the Safe Zone (either option 2 or 3) will give the harassers opportunity to push beyond those boundaries or provide 'excuse' i.e. “I was just on my way to vigil within the designated zone, when I saw someone entering BPAS and my moral convictions took over”.”

A further 56 respondents commented that it would be **difficult to monitor and enforce** the restrictions within the designated areas and that they would continue to occur as a result, making the areas meaningless.



“To include a designated zone will mean that there are difficulties in enforcement and deciding whether someone in that zone is breaching the rules.”

“I don't believe there should be any designated areas within the safe zone as it is fully apparent why they are stood there even if they adhere to the rules and it's not possible to monitor these safe zones continuously to ensure they are adhering to the rules.”

Other suggestions

There were 6 comments relating to other suggestions. Of these, 5 respondents felt that the **Safe Zone should be extended** from what is proposed, while 1 respondent commented that it is **too big**.



“I would actually prefer a larger safe zone. A few streets I feel is not enough.”

“Area is far too large, needs to be drastically reduced to one that can be covered by CCTV - of which there is none in the area.”

Safe Zone with one designated area

There were 101 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they preferred option 2. 8 respondents commented that option 2 **protects their right to free speech**, while 8 respondents commented that it protects their **right to pray**. 12 respondents commented that option 2 provides the opportunity to **protest peacefully**.



“Option 2 gives the right to express your views.”

“This option would allow peaceful prayer to take place outside clinic.”

“Option 2 gives peaceful protestors and those who wish to gather to pray an area in the vicinity.”

In addition, 8 respondents commented that option 2 provides a **space close to the clinic where service users can be provided with further information**, options and support as alternatives to abortion.



“In the best interest of the patient attending, they should be able to make informed decision & allowed to speak to anyone even a pro-lifer.”

“Option 2, because it offers a safe distance from the clinic but also within reach of helping women who might be being forced into a termination against their better judgement.”

4 respondents commented that option 2 provides assurances of a **safe route to the clinic**, while 14 respondents felt that option 2 is a **compromise** between the safety of service users and the right of free speech. A further 12 respondents commented that the designated area would mean that protests will be able to be **controlled, regulated and monitored**.



“I think that there needs to be a designated area so that users would know what area to avoid when visiting the clinic.”

"I understand that people are entitled to their own opinion and that it is their right to voice that opinion but I believe it is so important the people who visit the BPAS clinic feel safe."

"I believe the right to free speech is an important part of our democratic society so would not wish to curtail this fully. Proposal 2 would allow some personal opinions to be shared but in a controlled manner."

"If there has to be a designated area then it would be better to be somewhere it can be monitored and service users protected from abuse."

"The protesters have a right to their opinions but it needs to be in a controlled area, with strict rules around acceptable behaviour."

15 respondents commented that a designated area would be **pointless if it were placed further away from the clinic** and out of sight, while 7 respondents felt that **one designated area is sufficient** and that two would be harder to manage.



"A safe zone out of sight of the clinic would be pointless."

"Designated area is specifically close to the BPAS entrance."

"One designated area is a reasonable compromise."

"Two areas are harder to manage and not needed."

7 respondents commented that they would prefer there to be **no designated areas**.



"Safer for women if protesters are kept completely out of the zone. If there's a designated area the protesters will simply shout louder to be heard."

"I see no real benefits for allowing protesting to continue, I don't believe my beliefs should be allowed to protest others. If anti-abortion protesters are allowed to continue it will only be too soon that we see violence emerge. The excellent proposal above will mitigate this risk and keep BCP safe."

6 respondents commented on the impact that the proposed restrictions would have on **local residents**.



“The zone should try not to impact too much on the locality.”

“To the residents around the BPAS centre I offer my heartfelt condolences that they have to live near such abominable activity.”

“As they are protesting peacefully, it doesn’t have a negative impact on local residents. Therefore a PSPO is not required.”

Safe Zone with two designated areas

There were 157 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they preferred option 3. There were 45 comments that felt that option 3 **allows protests and the right to free speech but at a reasonable distance from the clinic**.



“People do have the right to protest and express their views, but not at the expenses of other people’s mental and physical safety. Option 3 allows for this.”

“Allows free speech without overly exposing women going through a difficult time to potential trauma.”

“Gives the protestors their right to protest but excludes them from a zone that could be intimidating for staff, users, and residents going about their lawful and day-to-day activities.”

21 respondents commented that the **designated area in option 2 was too close to the clinic**.



“I prefer that peaceful protest should be allowed as part of democratic freedom of expression. However, use of the grass right by the clinic is too intimidating.”

“Option 2 does not solve the problem of the intimidation/trauma/confusion that protestors cause for the people accessing BPAS.”

“Option two, the designated area is far too close to the clinic.”

38 respondents felt that option 3 provides the most **safety and protection**, particularly to service users and staff of the clinic. In addition, 12 respondents felt that their location meant that service users could **avoid the designated areas**.



“Anything that provides the upmost security is needed.”

“Maximum protection is required for these vulnerable women.”

“I would urge you to go for the maximum protection possible for people attending BPAS.”

“The options for approach to the BPAS clinic make the designated areas easy to miss.”

10 respondents felt that it was important to protect the **right to free speech**, protest and pray in the area.



“Because I believe in peaceful, respectful freedom of speech.”

“We live in a country where free speech is allowed, any restrictions on gagging individuals who are peacefully demonstrating against a cause they genuinely disagree with would be seen by many as enforced bias from the local council.”

3 respondents felt that having **2 designated areas would allow more opportunity to provide support**, alternative options and advice to potential service users.



“Two safe areas means more opportunities to share advice and to show that it is accepted practice.”

4 respondents felt that there **should not be any designated areas**.



“There should be no designated areas within the safe zone - that defeats the object of having a safe zone.”

2 respondents commented that they would prefer there to only be **1 designated area but is further away** than that proposed in option 2, while 9 respondents felt that **more and bigger designated areas** were better.



“The designated areas with the 2 proposed spaces are further from the clinic than the single designated area. Ideally I’d prefer one further away.”

“The more safe zones, the better.”

“Having 2 safe zones is the best option for the area.”

3 respondents felt that having 2 designated areas meant that both Pro-Life and Pro-Choice groups would have their **own designated spaces** to provide information and support.



“I think option 3 would allow demonstrations for both sides of the issue - pro in one area and anti in the other, whereas option 2 may mean that these two groups would clash (creating a security nightmare for the police) or that only one group can demonstrate at a time.”

2 respondents questioned how the areas would be able to be **monitored**.



“I’m assuming people will continue to protest with a PSPO in place. But if there are designated areas with specific maximum numbers, this could be managed more easily. I would assume there would be clear signage detailing what is permitted in the designated areas. Who would monitor to check for breaches?”

4 respondents commented on the impact that the proposed restrictions would have on **local residents**, while 4 respondents made other, general comments.



“Option 3 also allows other routes to the clinic without having to pass such groups and be intimidated by them. One would hope that local residents - lone females walking that way would not be assumed to be heading towards the clinic.”

“As I live in Ophir Road I am conscious that simply moving protest to different areas will not be popular with people in those areas.”

“In theory designated areas are ok but stipulations on what can be done in those designated areas needs to be changed as it’s an infringement on freedom of speech and expression if there are rules forbidding talking to the women/ singing, praying, handing out information leaflets etc. As long as there are no complaints of harassment from the women themselves and nothing of a criminal nature occurs, then peaceful protests should be permitted.”

None of the proposed options

There were 558 comments from respondents who had previously indicated that they did not support any of the proposed options. Responses were coded in to five key themes relating to ‘general opposition of the proposed restrictions’, ‘human rights’, ‘evidence/enforcement’, ‘consideration of different viewpoints’, and ‘comments in support of the proposed restrictions’. Please note that where respondents have provided comments that relate to more than one theme, their feedback has been categorised into multiple categories.

Theme	Number of comments
General opposition of the proposed restrictions	40
Human rights	320
Evidence/enforcement	113
Consideration of different viewpoints	48
Comments in support of the proposed restrictions	37

General opposition of the proposed restrictions

There were 40 comments that were in **general opposition** of the proposed options.



“I do not believe a Safe Zone is necessary or desirable.”

“No PSPO should be implemented at all.”

Human rights

There were 320 comments that related to the human rights of Pro-Life supporters and those who gather outside BPAS clinic. Of these, 150 respondents commented that the proposed options were against their fundamental rights and freedoms, as set out by **The Human Rights Act 1998** and the **European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**. Respondents specifically commented that the restrictions were against their freedom of speech and expression, freedom to religious beliefs as well as their freedom to assembly and protest.



“Any buffer zone would be a threat to freedom of speech and would criminalise peaceful pro-life citizens.”

“This is limiting freedom that should be freely given to those who, without any malicious intention, are offering free support to those who may want it.”

“Establishing these ‘safe zones’ would have a highly detrimental effect in meaning that prayer would be illegal. This is not a communist country and it is a human right to have freedom of speech.”

In addition, 28 respondents commented that the range of **prohibited activities is too extensive** and effectively **limits the peaceful support and activities that they can take part in** within the designated areas and Safe Zone. A further 10 respondents commented that Pro-Life supporters **should not be out of sight of the clinic** and that the proposals meant that they would be too far away, while 8 respondents commented that **peaceful, respectful activities should still be allowed** to take place.



“Even the options involving designated areas would place unjustifiable restrictions on freedom of worship and freedom of assembly and would deny charitable assistance to pregnant women in crisis.”

“All of these options essentially eliminate any impact gatherings outside the BPAS building can have. Even within the designated ‘allowed’ area all you can realistically do is stand in silence with only four people being able to be there. Since people that gather outside the BPAS building already essentially do that, by quietly praying, but in larger numbers there is no need for the PSPO.”

“What is the point of moving the helpers to somewhere where they are out of sight.”

“Peaceful vigils should be allowed. I have personally participated in vigils. These have not disrupted communities and have taken into consideration the general public in the access we have taken up on the pavements.”

80 respondents commented that the proposals would **deny service users access to last-minute support, advice and alternative options** to abortion which is not provided by the clinic. Respondents commented that they and others would not have been born if it were not for the additional information, alternative options and counselling that Pro-Life supporters offer at this point in the decision process for potential service users.



“It would be good for women to be shown an alternative option to abortion, before it is too late and they make a decision for abortion that they may permanently regret.”

“Many women have reported that the presence of pro-life people has given them more information that abortion is not the only option, and many have benefited from their services e.g. support and helping with expenses of having a baby.”

“These vulnerable women need to make informed choices so denying them this right to hear of the alternatives is unfair to the women. Also there are those who may have been pressured into terminating the pregnancy. The counsellors

are peaceful and have helped many women know that they are there to help them and their unborn child."

31 respondents commented that **abortion should not be allowed**, and that the use of **the word 'safe' was inappropriate**, as they believe that the act of an abortion is not safe for the mother or unborn child. A further 13 respondents commented that they provide a **voice for the unborn child** who has the right to live.



"Murdering children deserves no 'safe zone'. That is a misnomer."

"Abortion is not safe."

"The use of the word 'safe' is ironic."

"The silencing of prayer and peaceful protest will silence the voice of the unborn and of expectant mothers in physical, emotional and mental distress."

Evidence/enforcement

There were 113 comments that related to evidence that supported the proposed options and enforcement of the restrictions. Of these, 73 respondents commented that the activities undertaken by Pro-Life supporters are peaceful, they do not harass or intimidate service users or staff and that there was a **lack of evidence** to support the proposed options and restricted behaviours.



"It's being called a 'safe zone' but it's not a safe zone for people who want to reach out to others on the basis of care and a belief in the sanctity of life. There is no forthcoming evidence of any distress caused by people praying or reciting scripture."

"The consultation document does not provide any evidence or explanation of how pro-life groups are causing 'distress' to the public and has not laid out what 'concerns' have been raised by users."

"Unless you can prove that the protesters are threatening clients by handing leaflets out or violently intimidating them when these individuals are acting on the welfare of the service users or clients, that can't be any Safe Zones."

13 respondents commented that it was **Pro-Life supporters who received harassment and abuse** from Pro-Choice groups and BPAS staff.



"It is not a safe zone for pro-lifer[s]. They are the ones often harassed and opposed by certain people who are pro-choice (or rather pro-death)."

"I disagree with these [have] been safe zones as peaceful protesters have been harassed by members of the public."

22 respondents commented that there was no need for the proposed PSPO because there are **existing laws** that can tackle any potential harassment or anti-social behaviours.



"There is no need for a 'safe' zone. Existing laws can be used to tackle any violent or harassing behaviour. Praying is not dangerous."

"Existing law can already deal with potential anti-social behaviour."

3 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions would be **difficult to enforce**, while 2 respondents felt that they would actually **increase tension** between supporters of the two viewpoints.



"This is an assault on freedom of speech and additionally would cost a large amount in policing (as has happened where it has been implemented in Ealing)."

"It should be left as it is or I feel it will [cause] extreme groups to arrive at designated areas and cause unrest if they feel there is an official designated area to protest support."

Consideration of different viewpoints

There were 48 comments that related to considering the viewpoints of both Pro-Life and Pro-Choice supporters. Of these, 33 respondents commented that the options **discriminate against Pro-Life supporters** and had not considered their views before formulating the proposals.



“Because it is not right that only pro-abortion spaces deserve safe zones, whilst pro-life spaces do not. Equality for all.”

“The zones are not safe for pro-lifers; it would be more accurately be a censor zone around the clinic. It discriminates anybody who holds a pro-life view.”

10 respondents commented that **BPAS is only concerned about profit** and have undue influence on whether there are restrictions surrounding the clinic.



“I think this consultation is an example of an opinionated group (BPAS and Sister Supporter) wanting to shut down any opposition.”

“BPAS are a business and a multimillion pound one at that, and they object to anyone whom they feel might have an adverse impact upon their profits.”

5 respondents commented on the impact the restrictions would have on **local residents**, with opinion split whether they would benefit them or not.



“This is a residential area. Protesters will not only potentially intimidate female members of the public attending the BPAS Building but also disturbing the peace in the surrounding areas.”

“How can you possibly ban people from the list of activities within their own homes or gardens? These areas are included in the “safe zone”!”

Comments in support of the proposed restrictions

There were 37 comments that indicated support for the different options and proposed restrictions. Of these, 24 respondents commented that they **supported the restrictions** on protesting and harassment of BPAS service users and staff, while 6 respondents commented that they supported the implementation of a **Safe Zone with no designated areas**. 3 respondents commented that a **larger Safe Zone** was needed, 3 respondents suggested that only **1 designated area was needed but should be further away** from the clinic than suggested in option 2, while 1 respondent commented that it was **good to have 2 designated areas**.



“The protesters should not be allowed at all. The clinic, patients, staff and all surrounding areas should be protected by the PSPO.”

“Provides greater protection for individuals visiting the clinic from intimidation.”

“The ONLY option is a safe zone with NO designated areas. If there is a 'designated area' allowed then this gives credence to the protesters.”

“Safe zone needs to cover a larger area in close proximity to the clinic.”

“The designated area highlighted in option 2 is far too close. If there was an option to have a designated area as the second area highlighted in option 3, that would be acceptable.”

No previous indication of preference

There were 19 comments from respondents who had not previously indicated their preferred option. 7 respondents commented that service users and staff should be able to **access the clinic without being subject to harassment** and able to feel safe, while 3 respondents commented that **protests should not be allowed close to the clinic**.



“People should be able to go to the clinic without having to see protesters at all anywhere near the clinic.”

“I believe any area for protest should not be in the vicinity of the clinic as this may impact on the confidence of patients in

being able to access the clinic at an already distressing time.”

However, 3 respondents commented that there **should not be a Safe Zone or designated area** implemented, while 4 respondents commented that they have a **right to free speech** and that peaceful protesting should be allowed.



“Free and peaceful speech should be allowed. People have varying opinions and should be allowed to express them peacefully.”

“We are a free country and should have all spaces free.”

1 respondent commented that protests should **only take place in designated areas**, while 1 respondent commented that protests need to be **adequately monitored and policed**.



“Safe control of any protesters. There should be adequate enforcement including CCTV.”

“Protestors have the right to express their views but this should be in a designated area which is published and so those entering the building have the option to avoid contact with them should they wish to do so.”

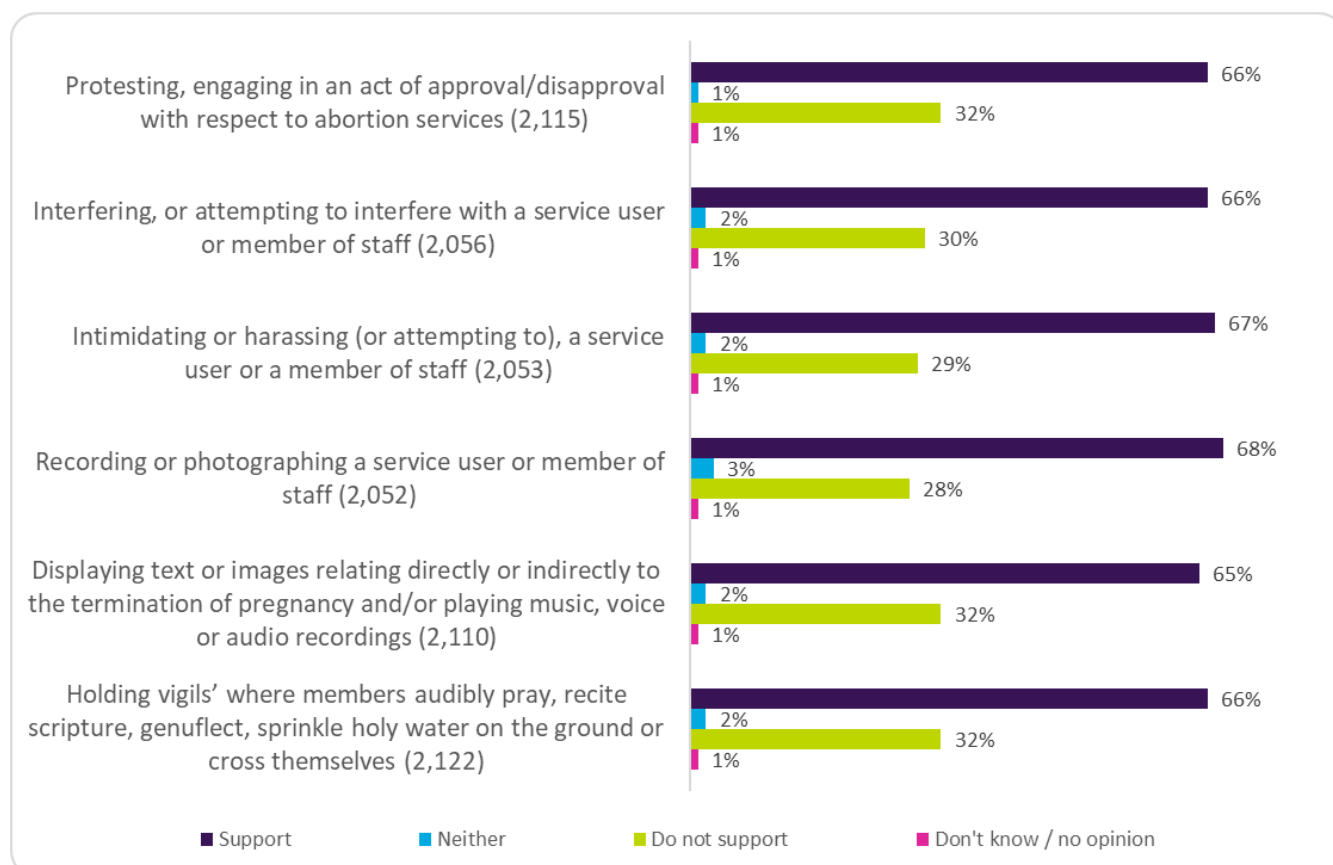
PSPO Orders

Support for proposed restrictions within the Safe Zone

Q. To what extent do you support or do not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the Safe Zone?

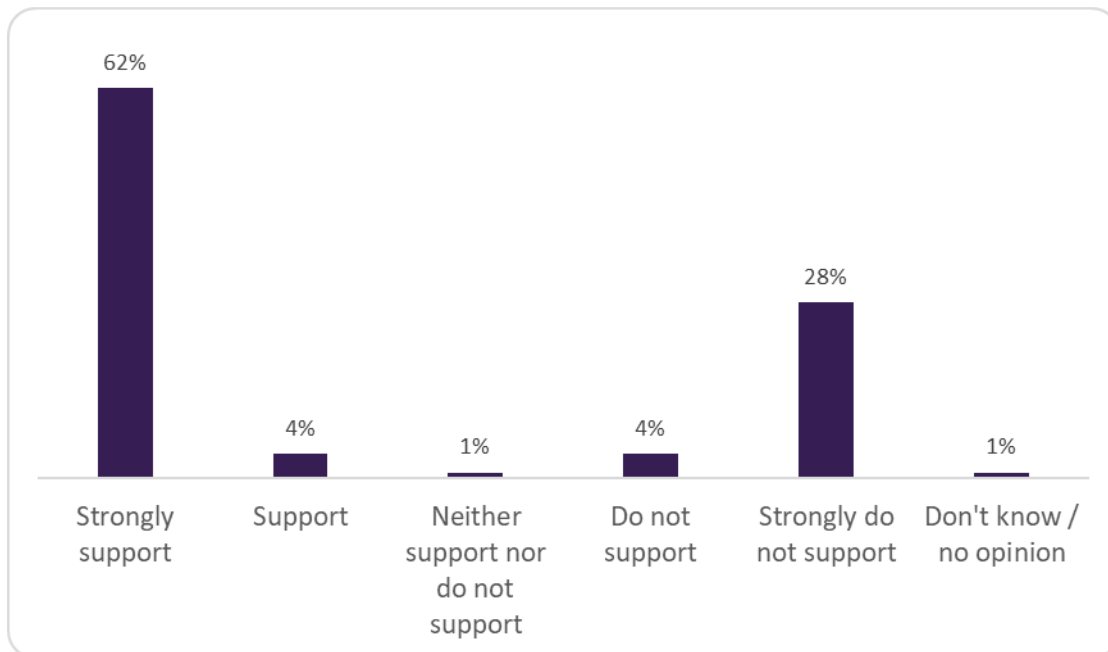
The survey then described that each option for the proposed PSPO around the BPAS building would have their own PSPO Orders which define the restricted behaviours within the Safe Zone and/or in the designated areas. Respondents were asked to what extent they support or do not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the Safe Zone. Different numbers of respondents provided an answer to each restricted behaviour. Number of responses to each option are shown in brackets in the chart below.

Roughly two-thirds of respondents supported each of the proposed restricted behaviours.



Base: varied as labelled

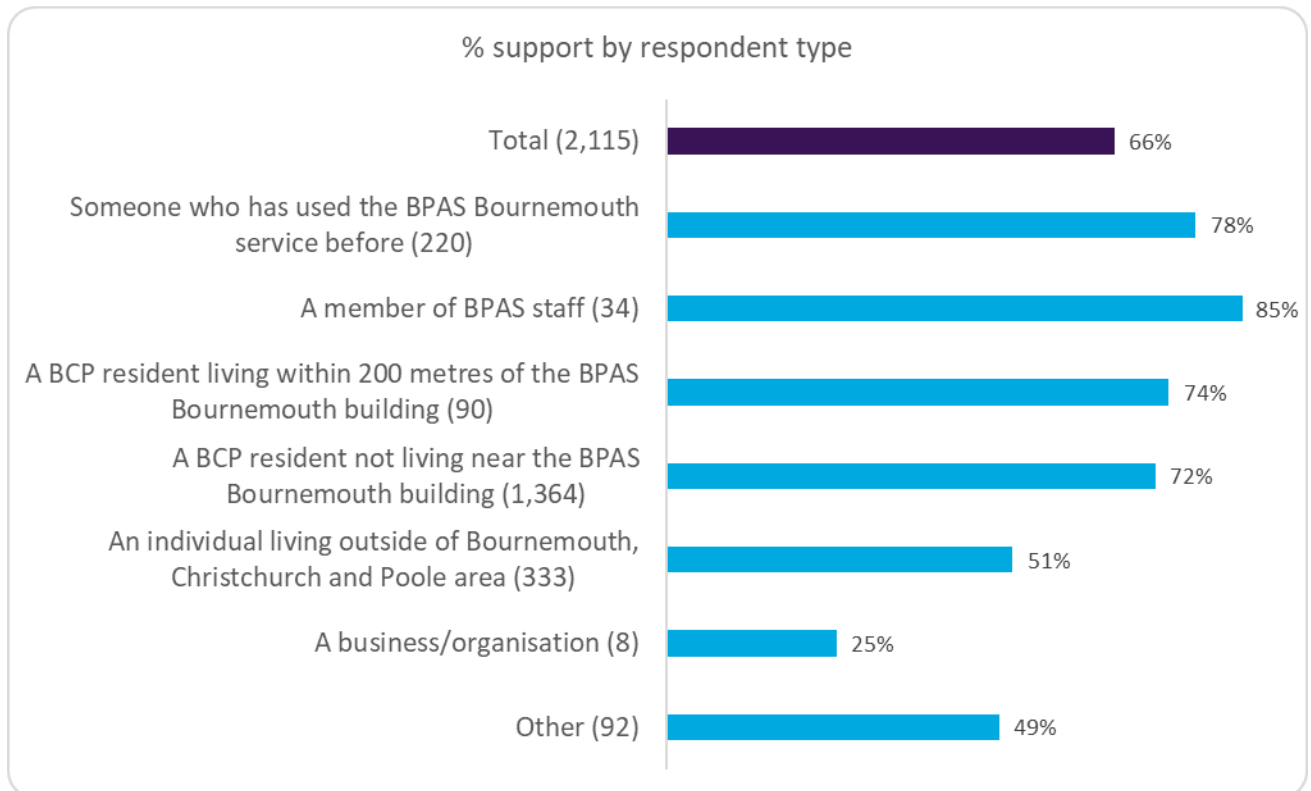
Protesting, engaging in an act of approval/disapproval with respect to abortion services



Base: 2,115

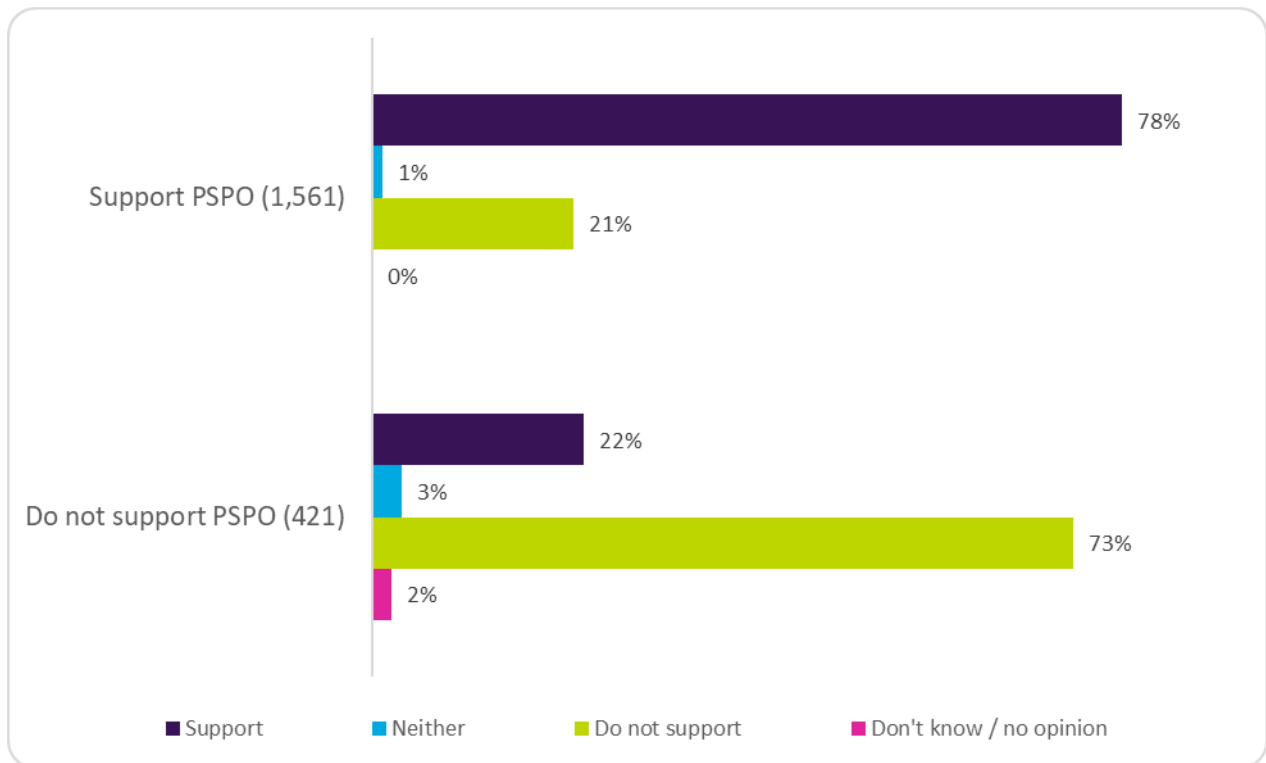
2,115 respondents provided an answer to this question. 66% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on protesting within the Safe Zone, namely engaging in an act of approval/disapproval or attempted act of approval/disapproval, with respect to issues related to abortion services, by any means, including (but not limited to) graphic, verbal or written means, prayer or counselling. 32% of respondents did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on protesting within the Safe Zone than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

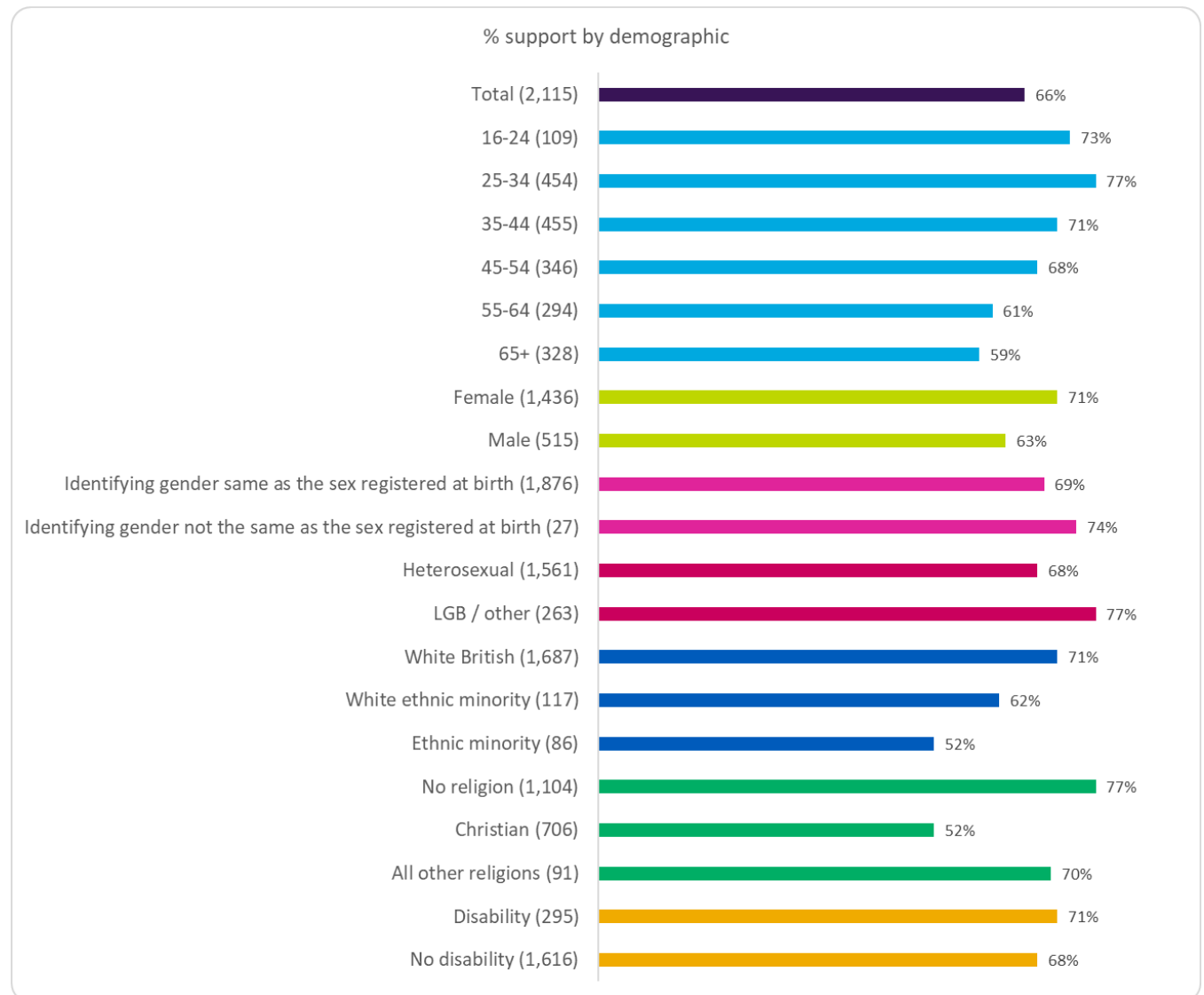
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on protesting within the Safe Zone than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

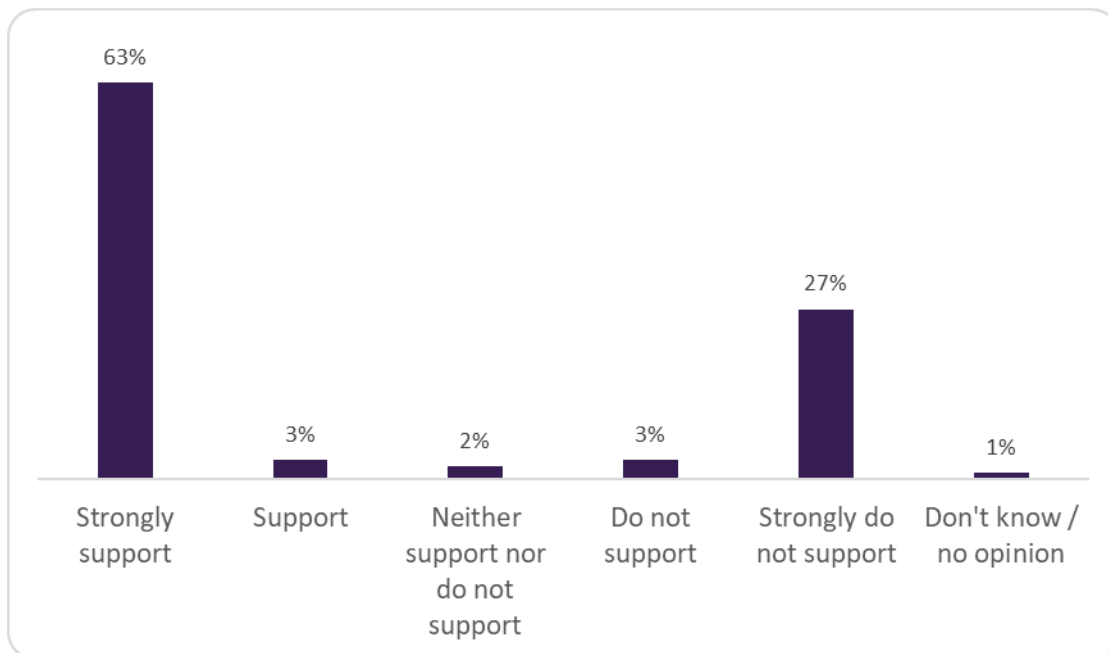
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **protesting** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

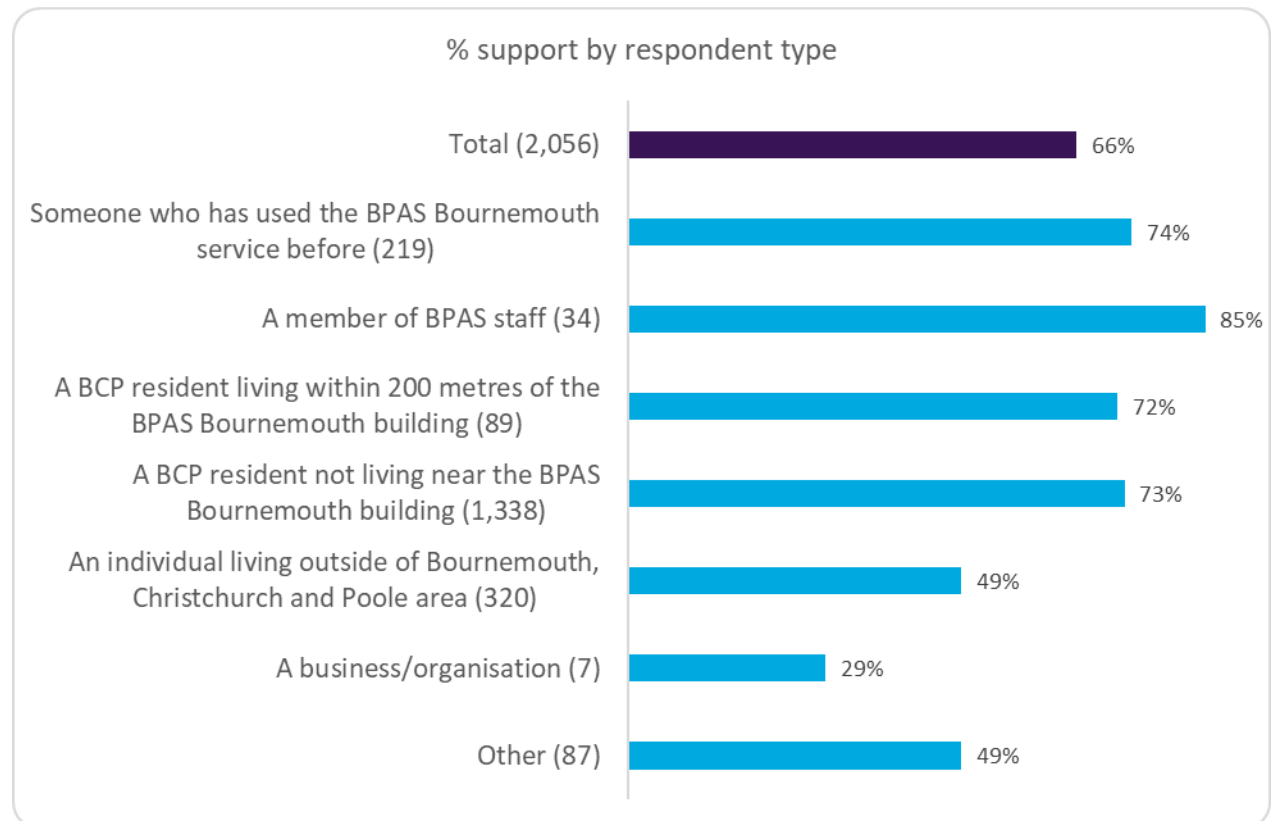
Interfering, or attempting to interfere with a service user or member of staff



Base: 2,056

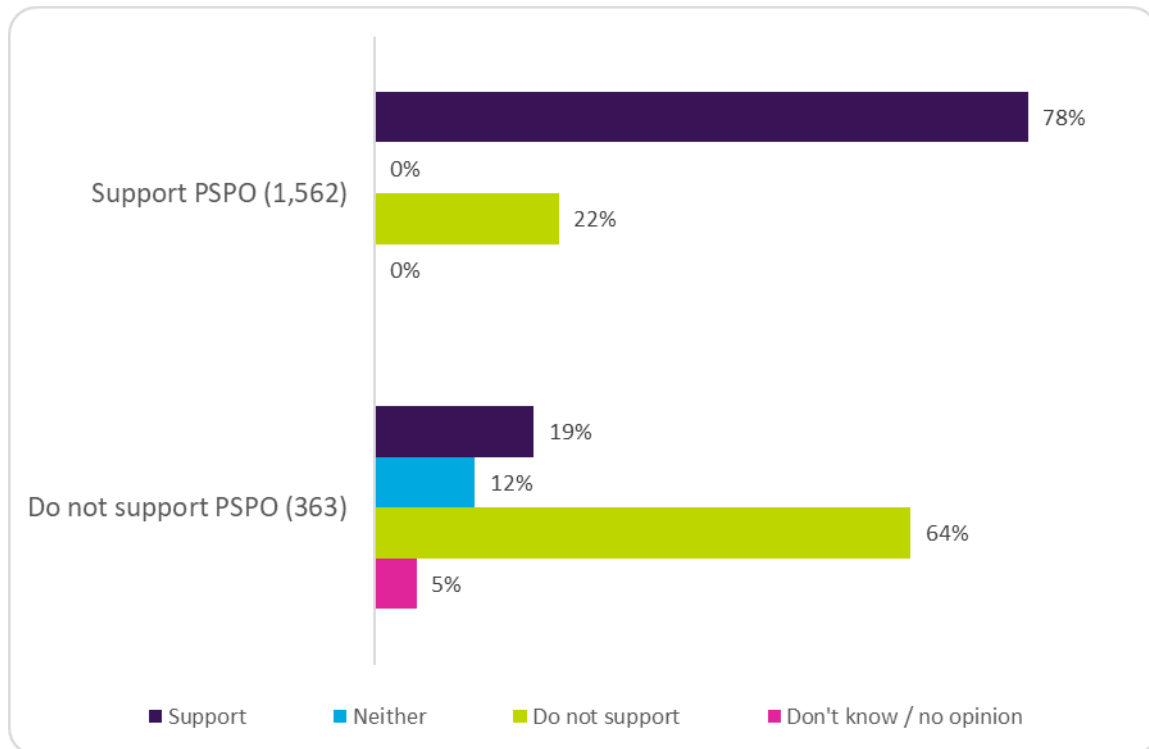
2,056 respondents provided an answer to this question. 66% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone. 30% of respondents did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

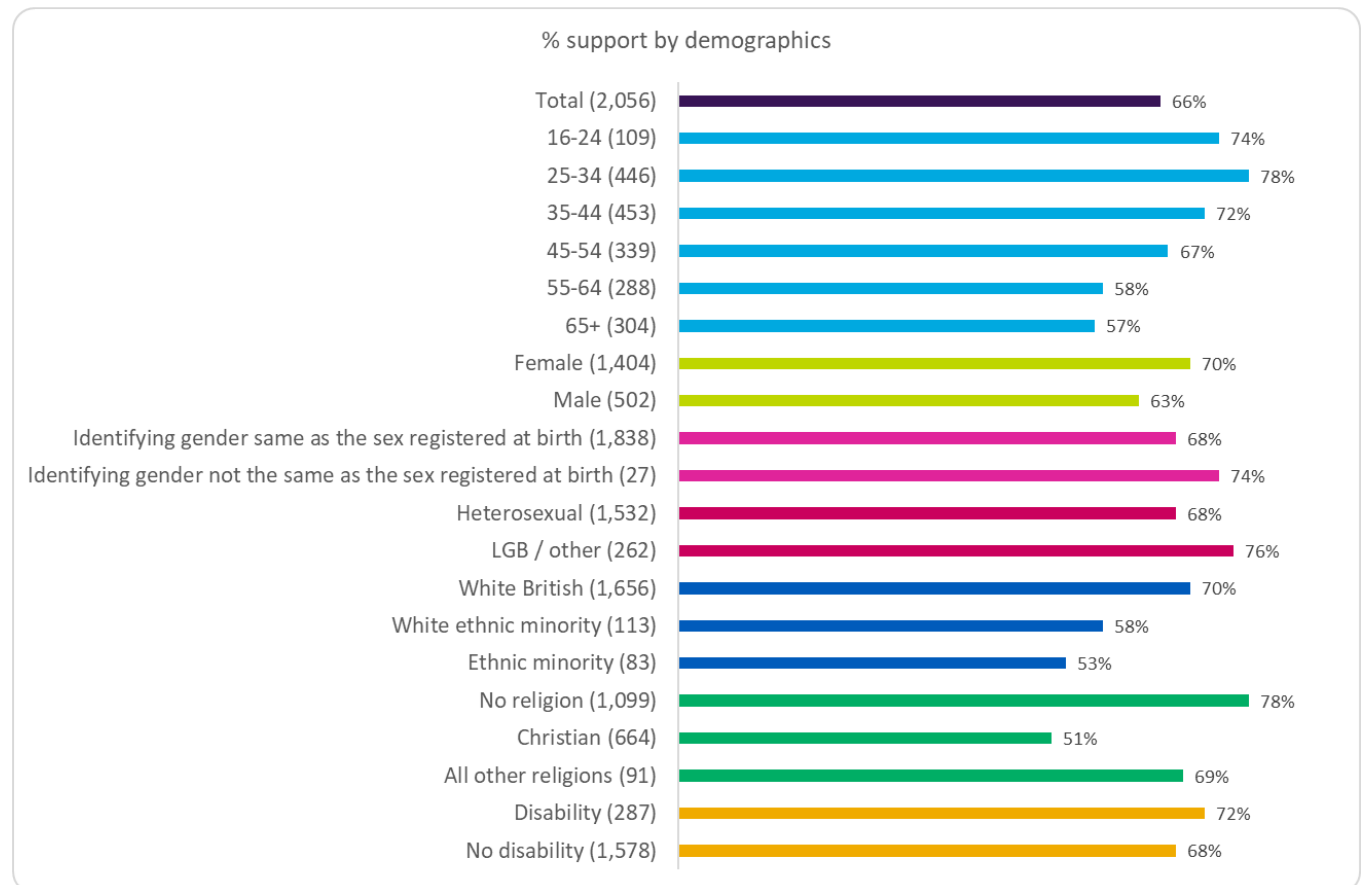
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

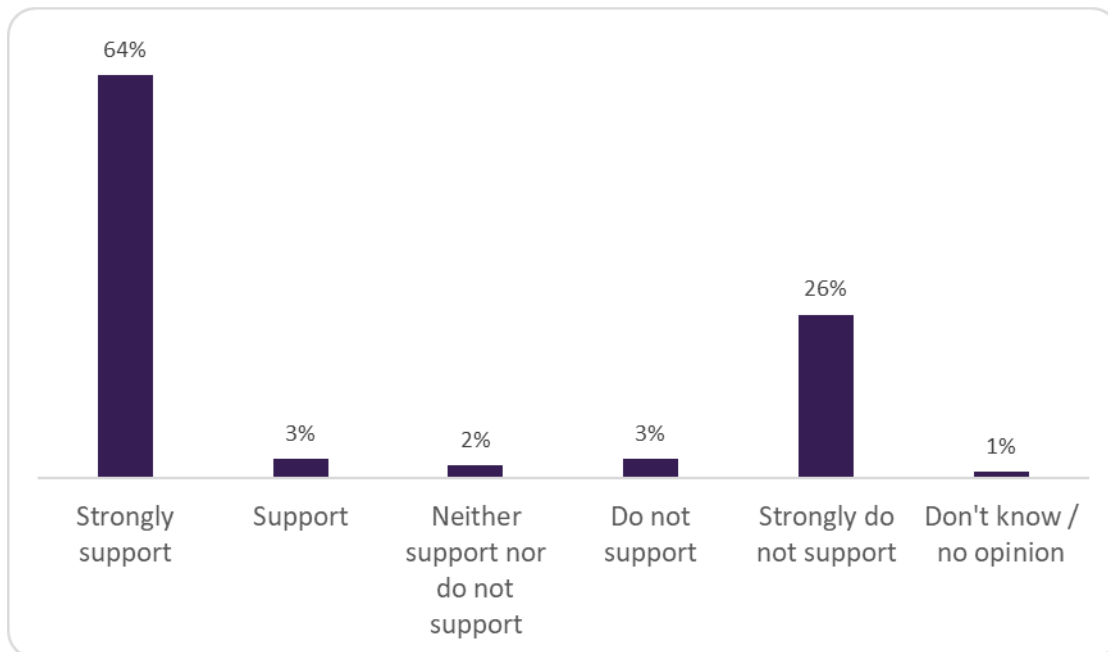
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

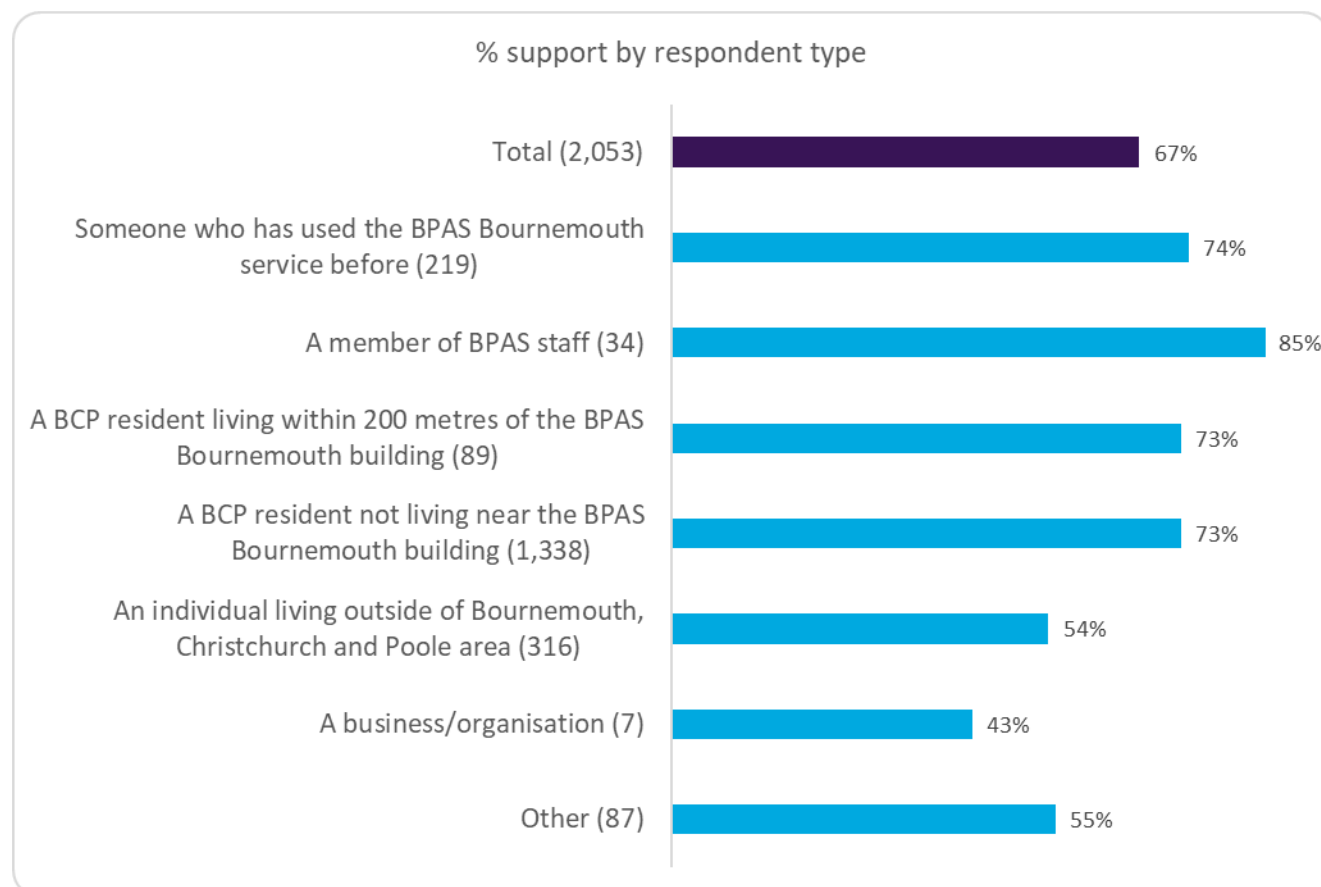
Intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass a service user or member of staff



Base: 2,053

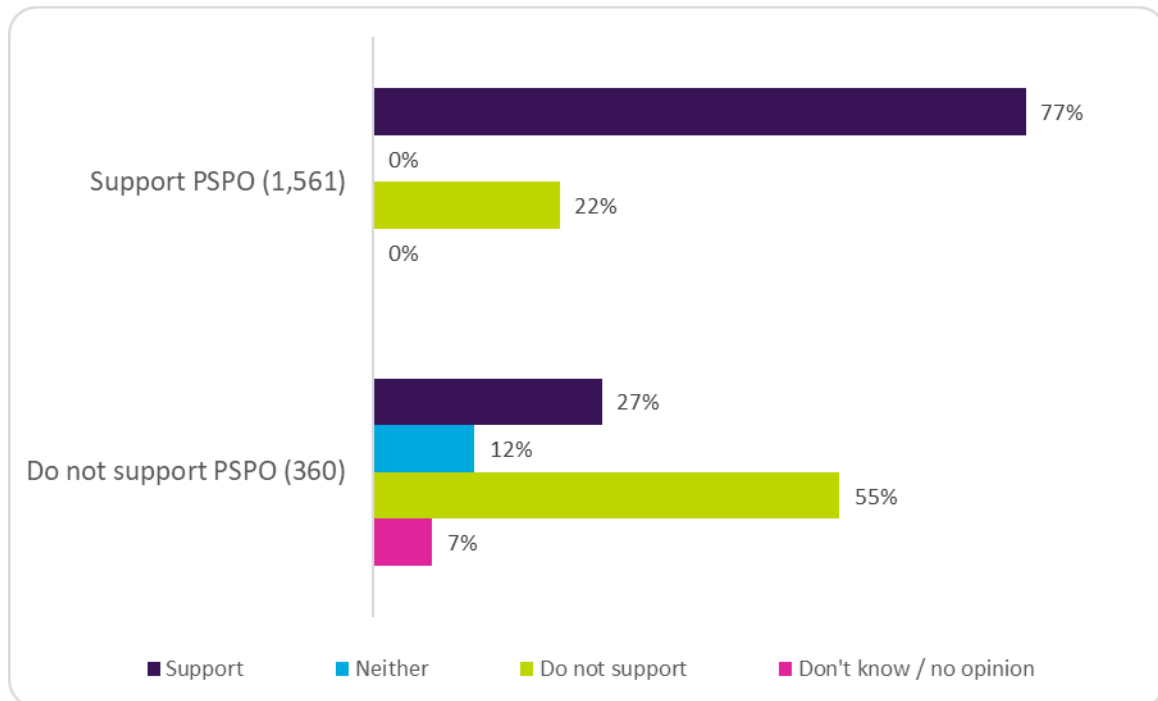
2,053 respondents provided an answer to this question. 67% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone. 29% of respondents did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

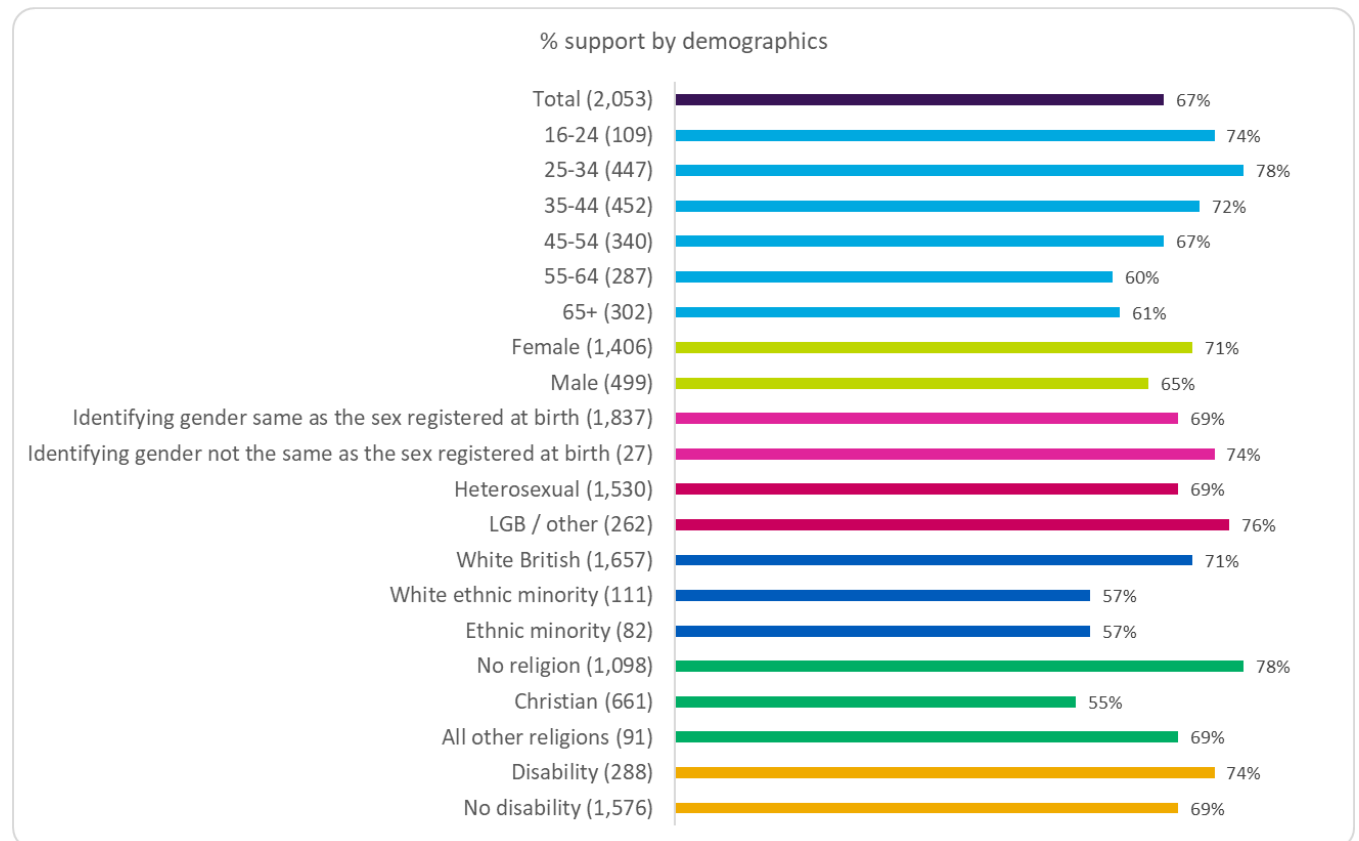
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

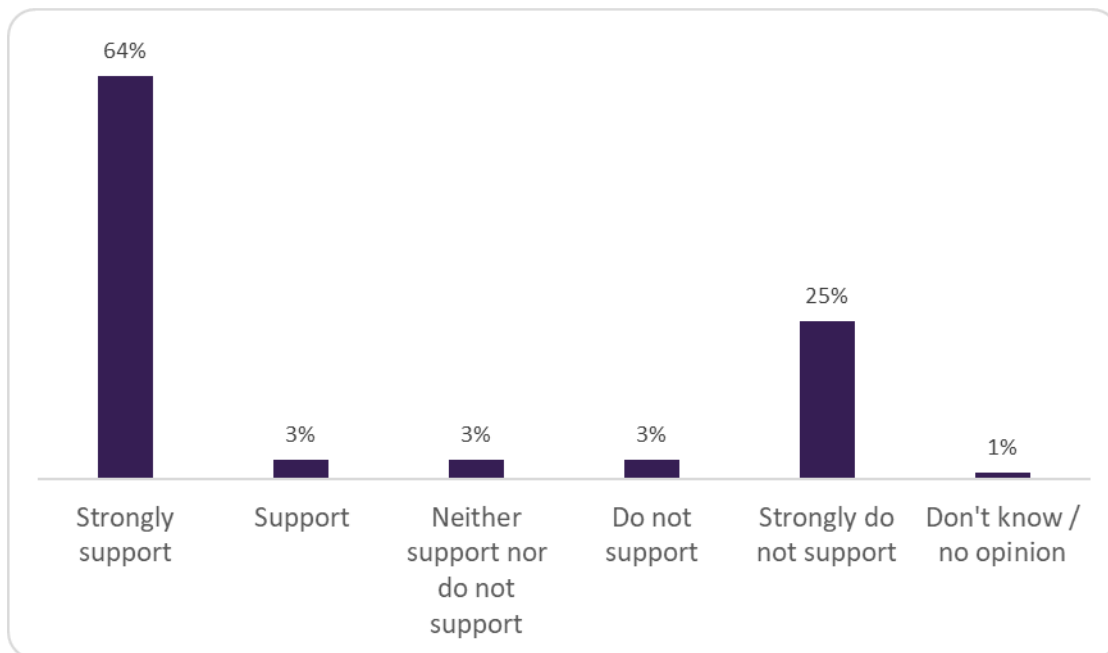
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

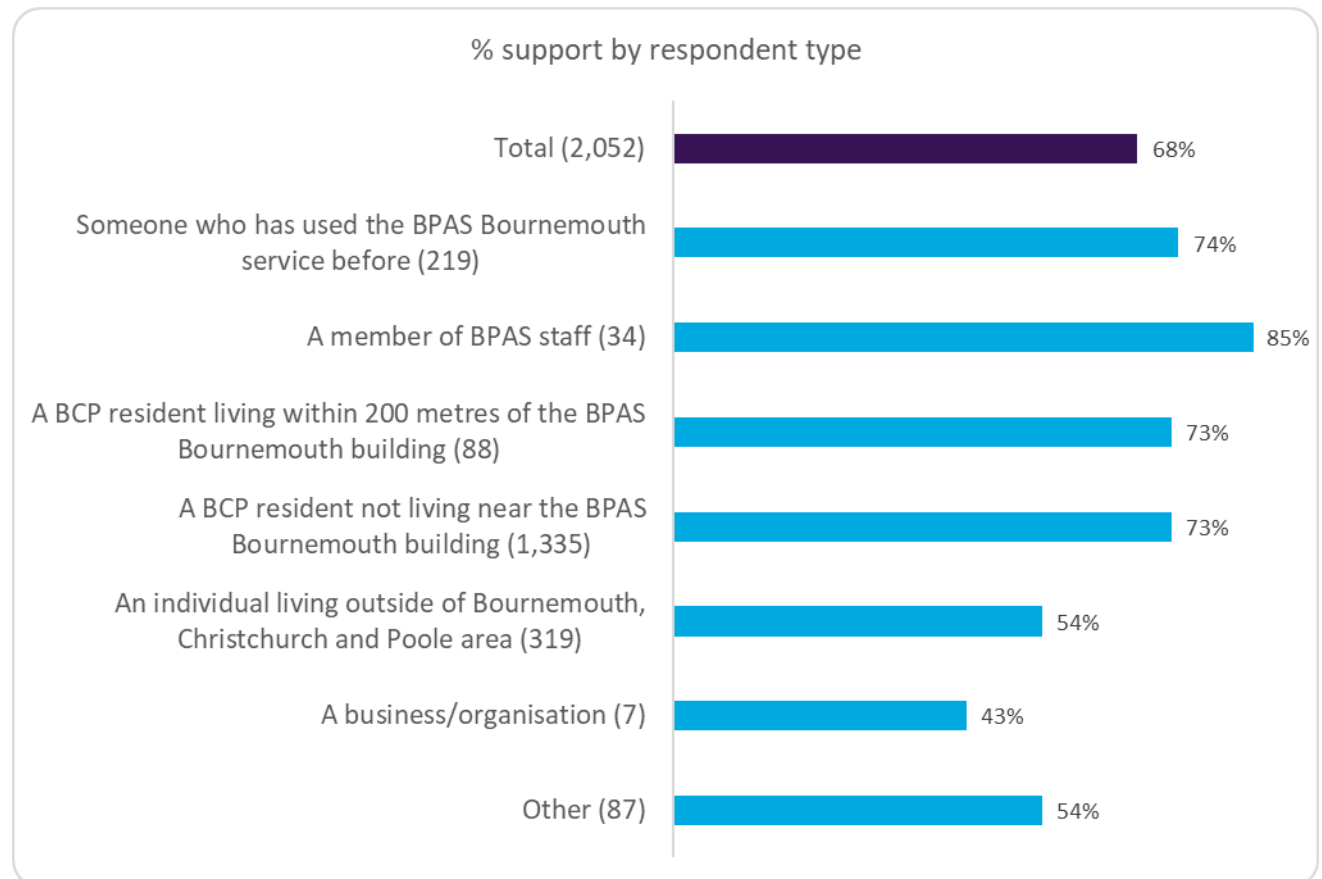
Recording or photographing a service user or member of staff



Base: 2,052

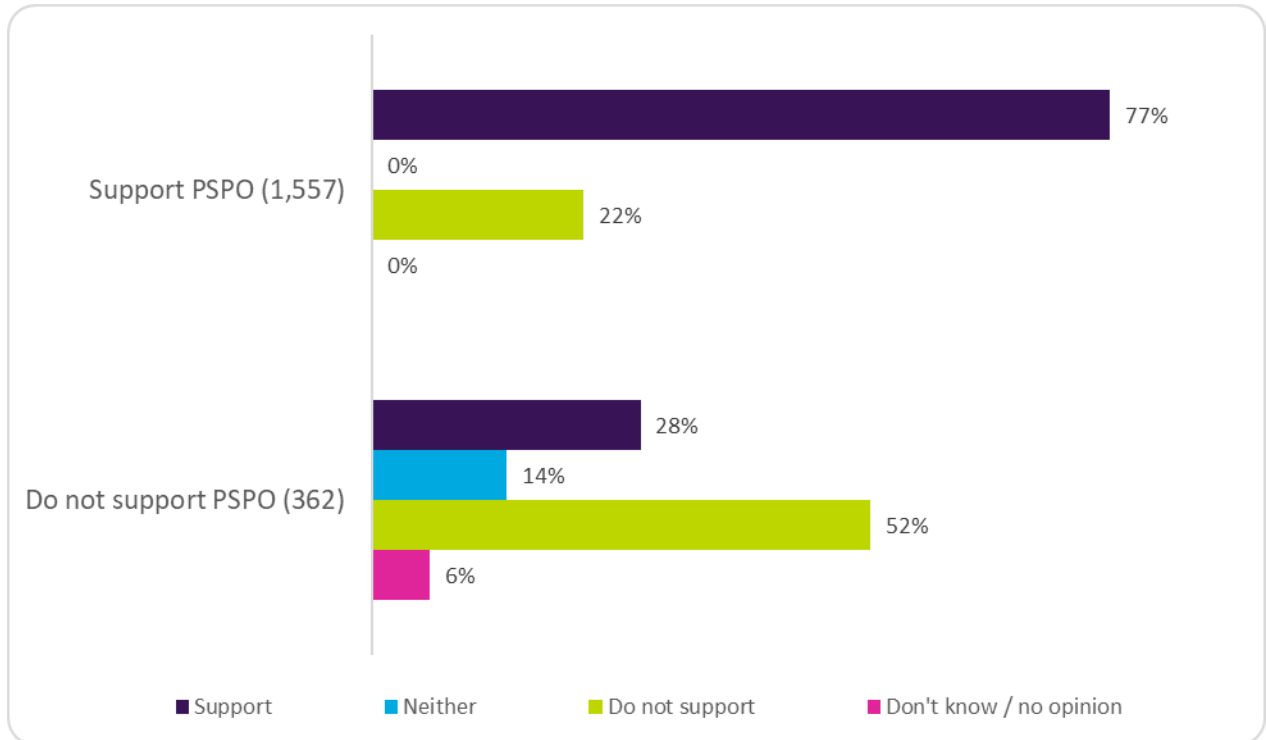
2,052 respondents provided an answer to this question. 67% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone, while 28% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

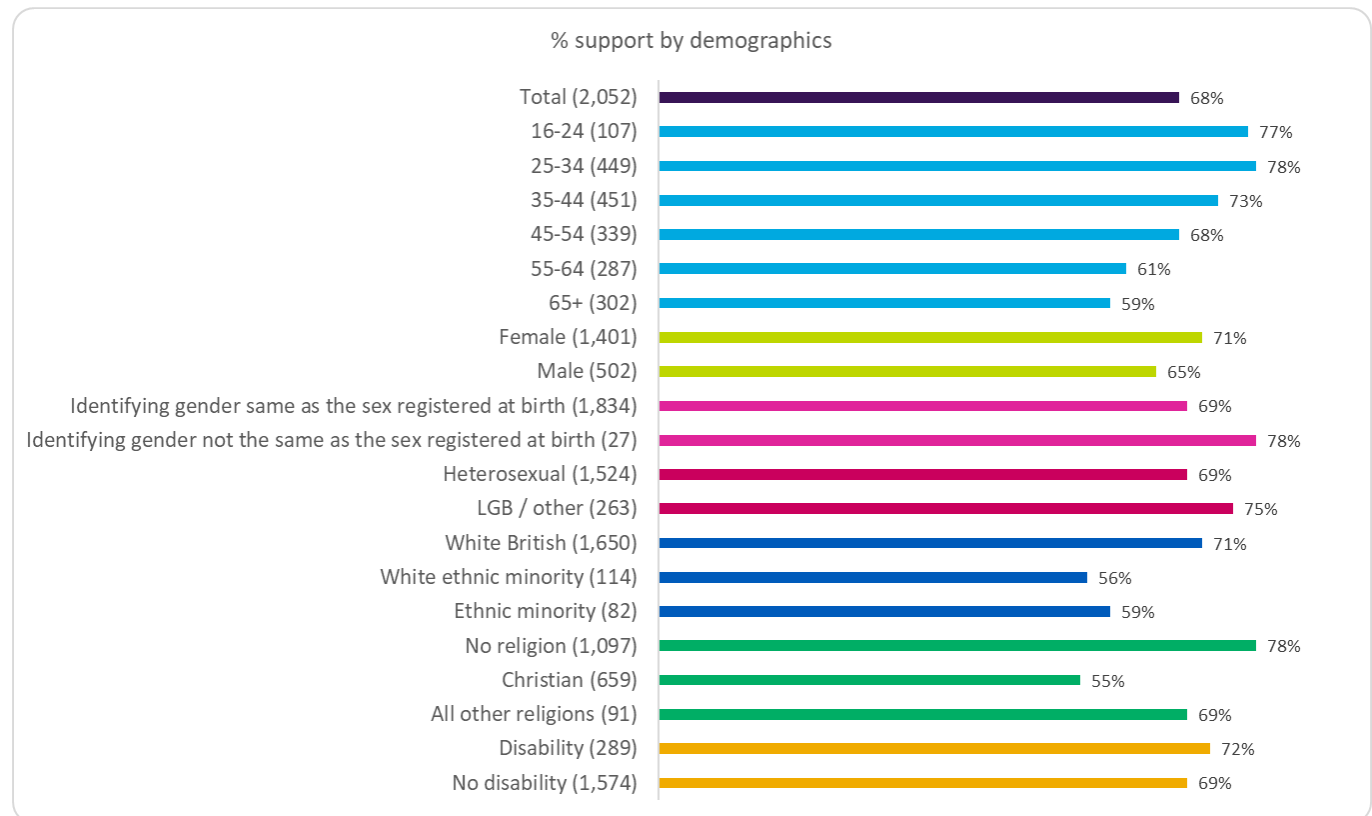
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the Safe Zone than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

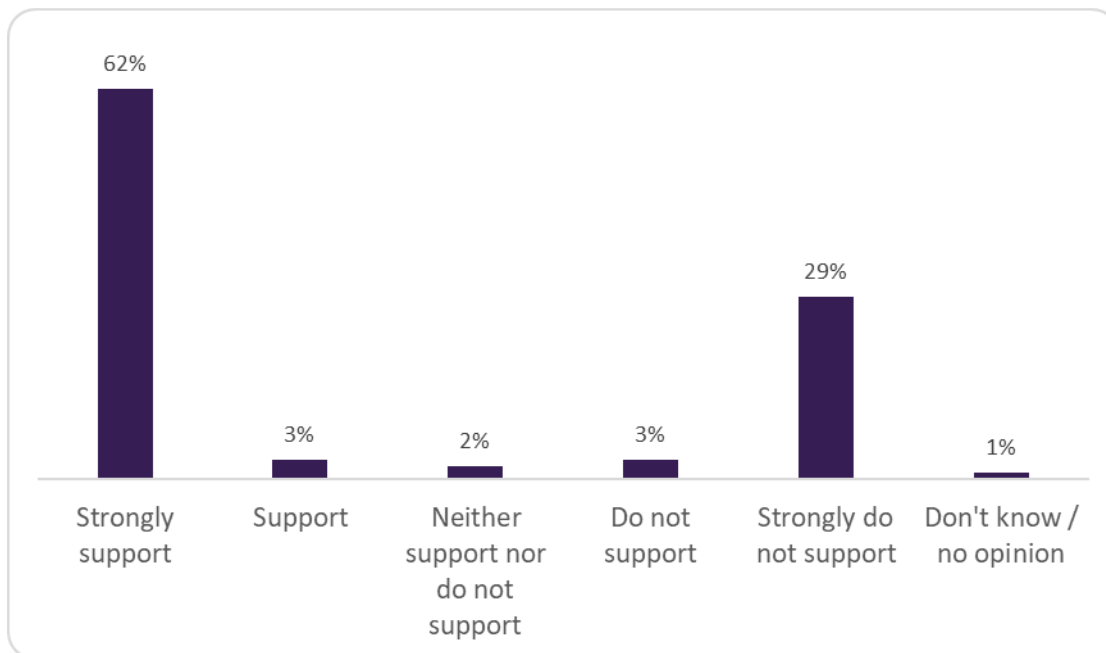
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

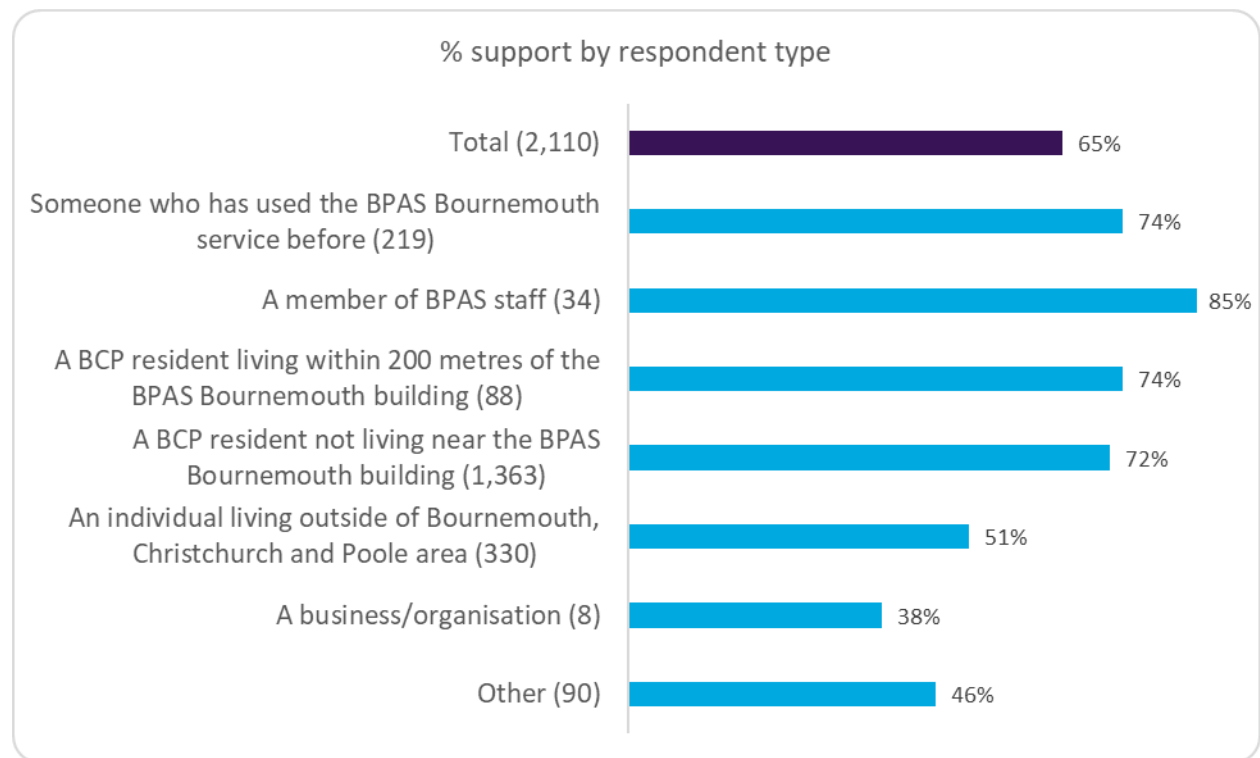
Displaying text or images relating to the termination of pregnancy and/or playing of audio



Base: 2,110

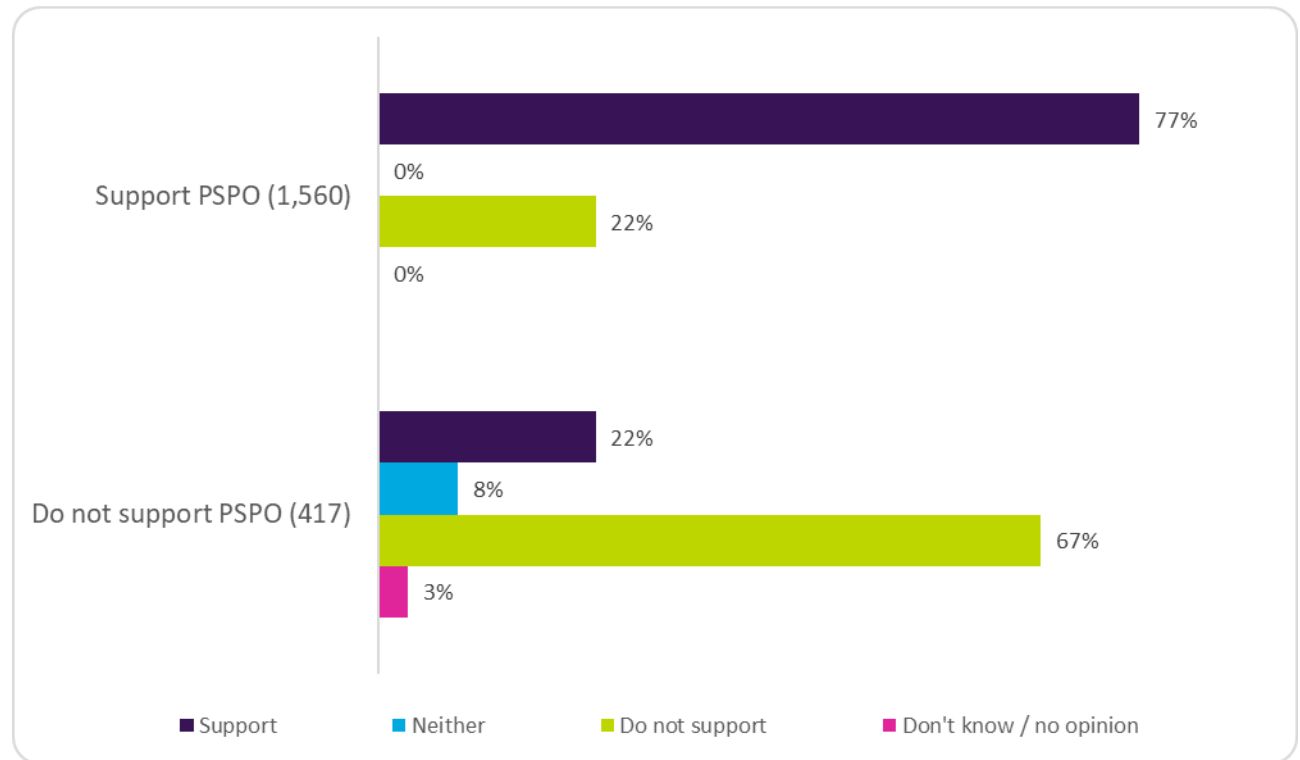
2,110 respondents provided an answer to this question. 65% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy and/or playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the Safe Zone. 32% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy and/or playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the Safe Zone than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

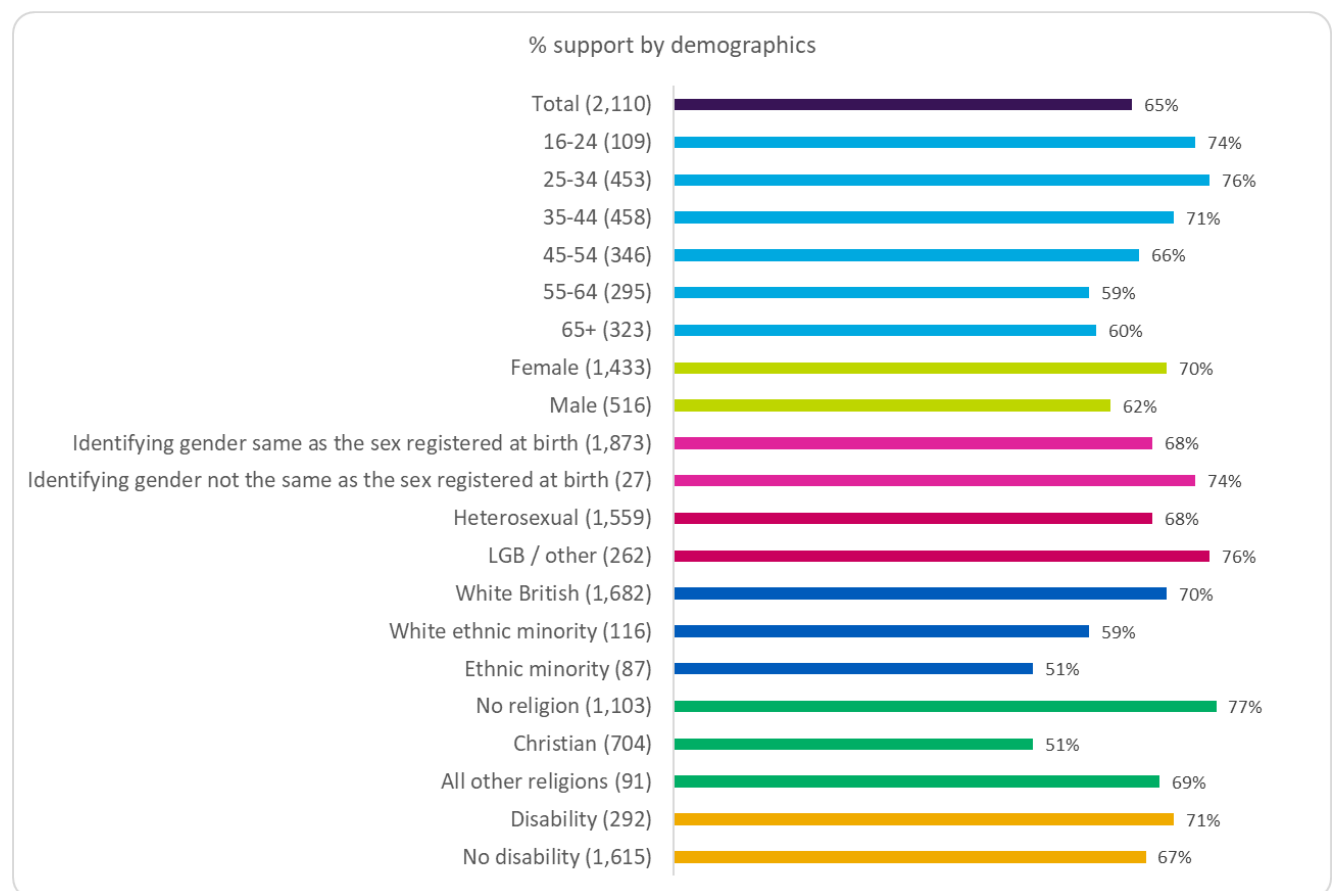
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy and/or playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the Safe Zone than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

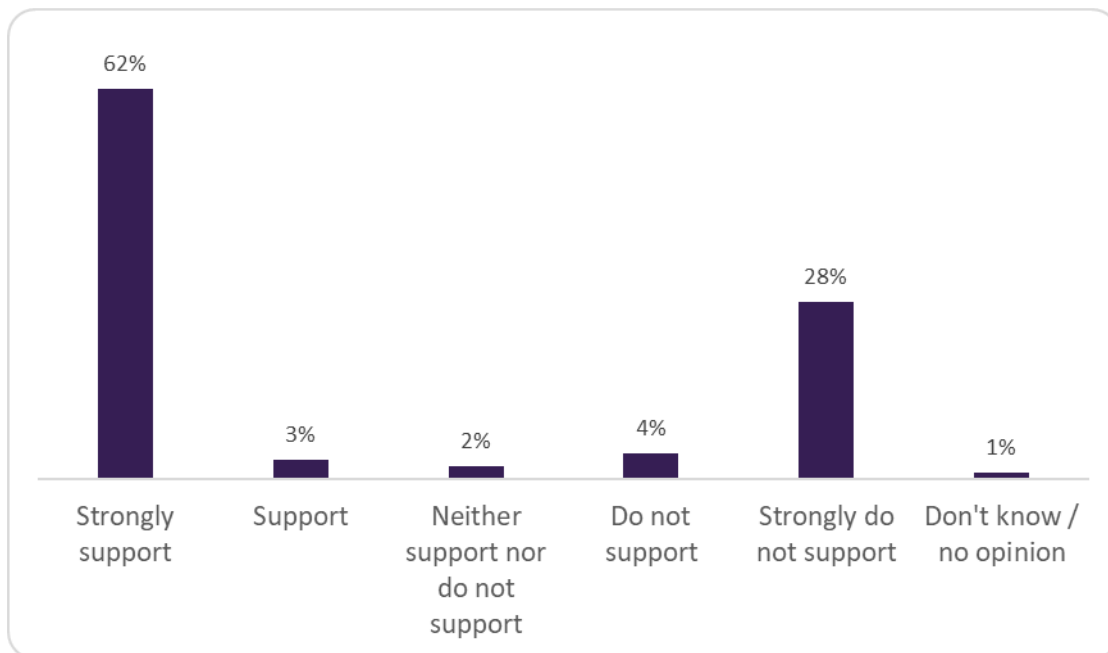
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy and/or playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

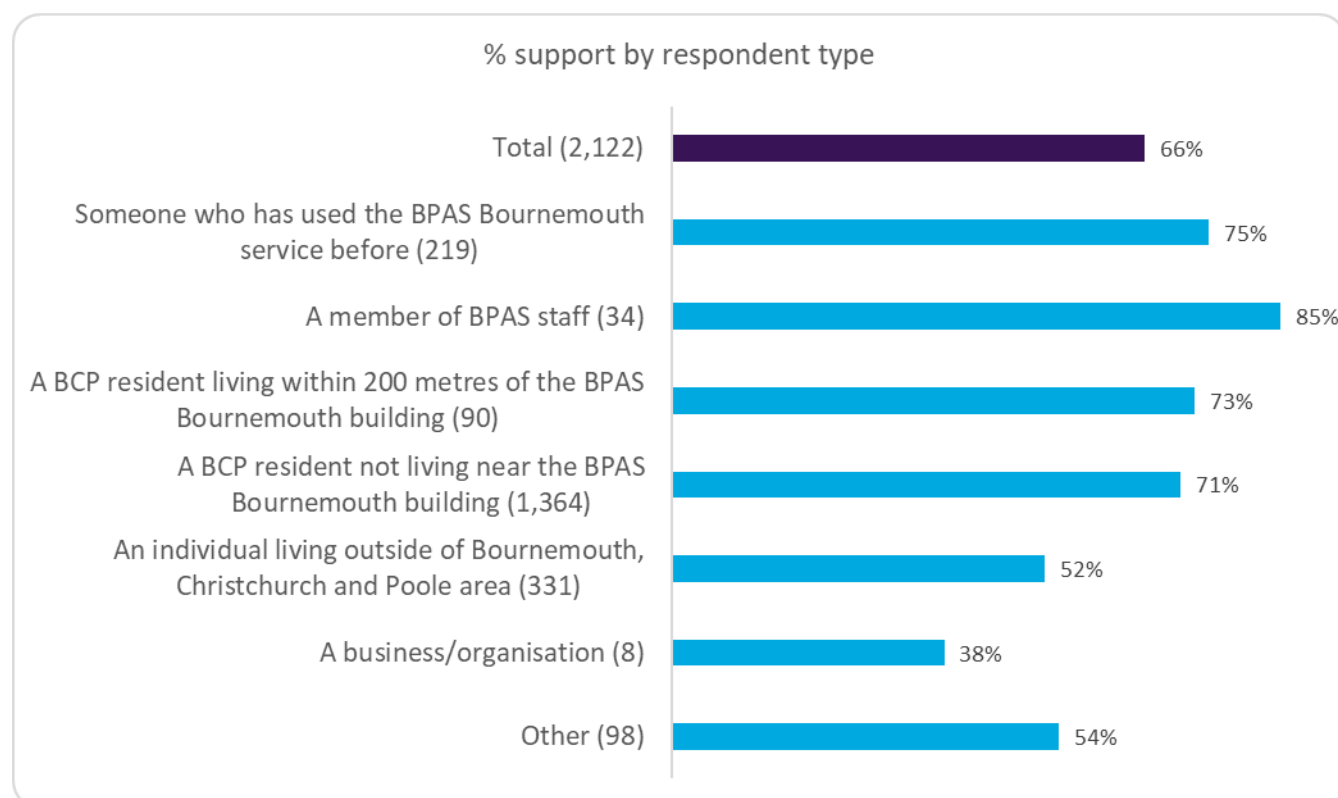
Holding vigils



Base: 2,122

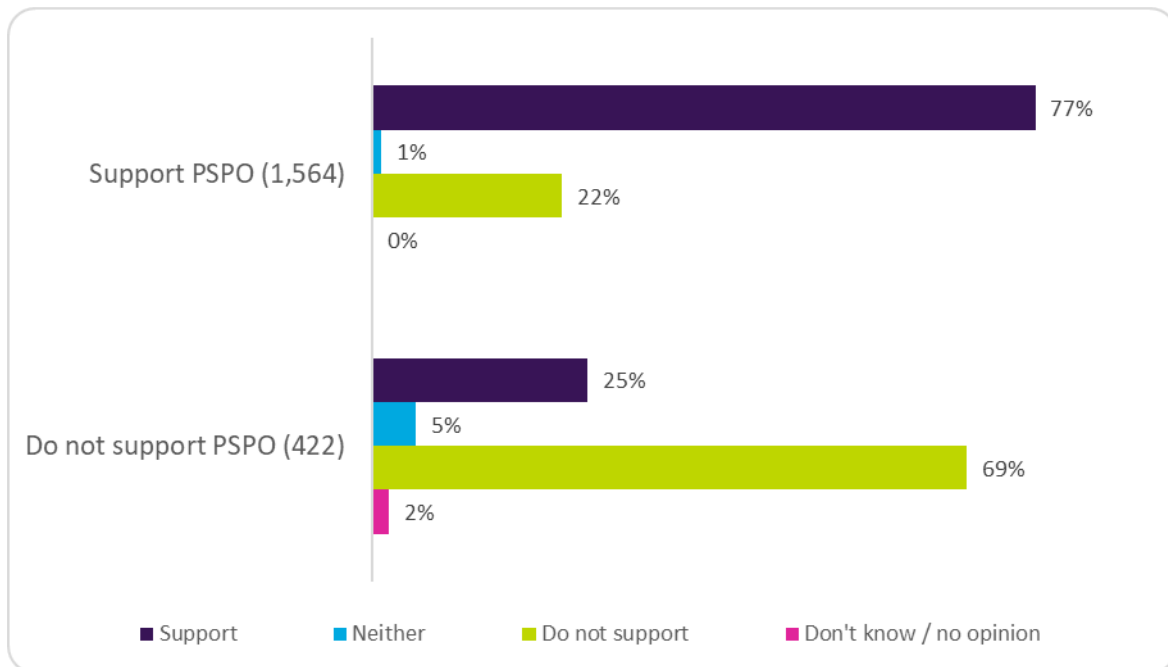
2,112 respondents provided an answer to this question. 66% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the Safe Zone. 32% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the Safe Zone than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

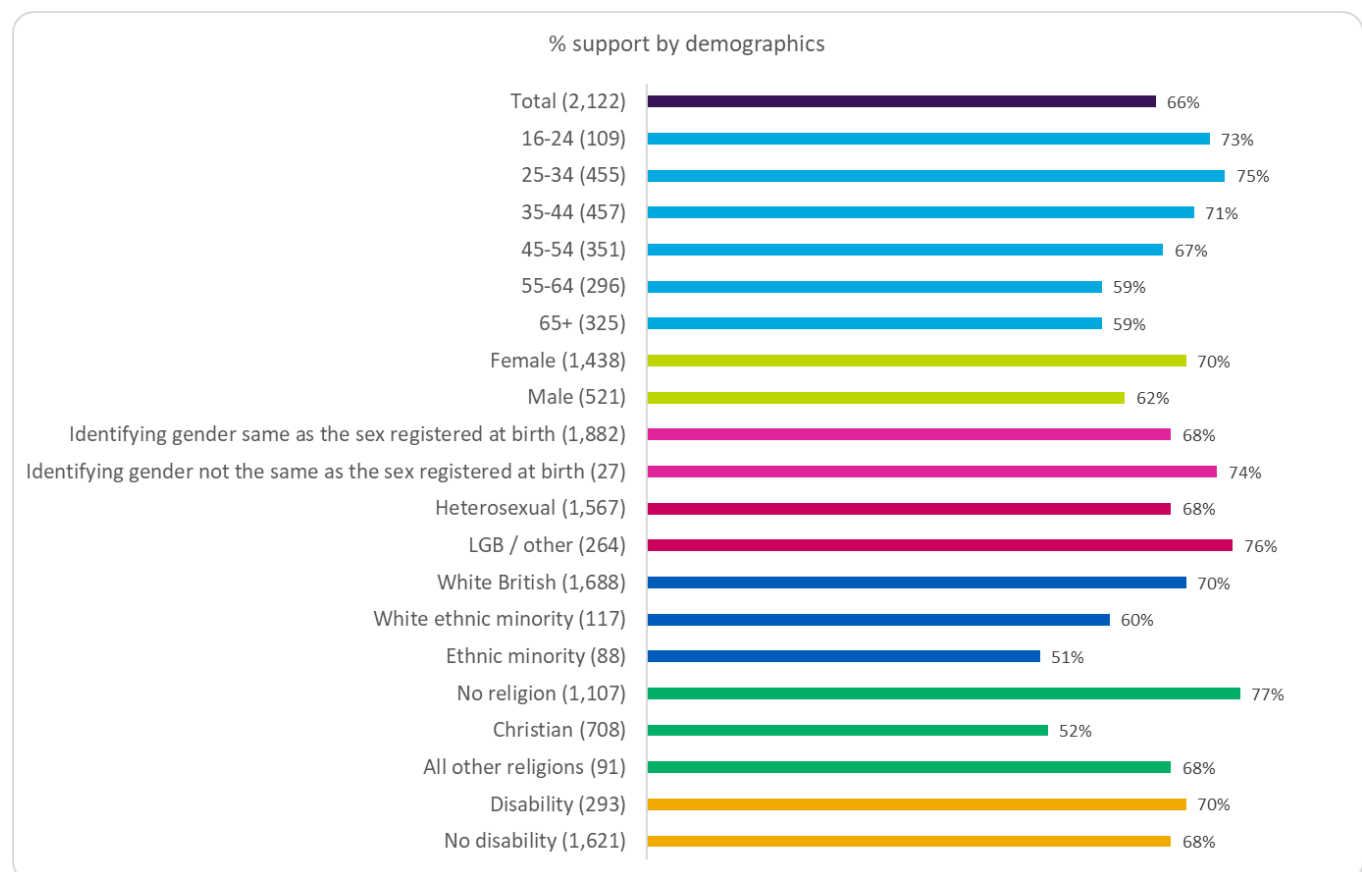
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the Safe Zone than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

Reasons for not supporting proposed restrictions within the Safe Zone

Q. If applicable, please explain why you do not support any of the restrictions within the Safe Zone, including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Respondents were asked to provide reasons as to why they do not support the restrictions within the Safe Zone. 877 respondents provided feedback to this question. Responses were coded to 7 key themes relating to 'protesting', 'interference', intimidation and/or harassment', 'recording or photographing', 'displaying text', 'holding vigils', and 'other/general comments'.

Theme	Number of comments
Protesting	329
Interference	222
Intimidation and/or harassment	551
Recording or photographing	56
Displaying text	45
Holding vigils	38
Other/general comments	394

Protesting

There were 320 comments relating to protesting. Of these, 123 respondents commented that they have a **right to free speech and movement**, while 40 respondents commented that they have a **right to protest**.



"The proposed restrictions restrict freedom of speech and assembly."

"People should have the freedom to protest."

"Being offended is not grounds for limiting people's right to protest."

In addition, 199 respondents commented that they have a **right to pray and freedom of religion**, while 21 respondents commented that **prayer and offering counselling does not constitute protesting**.



"We have freedom of religion in this country, there should not be restrictions on where citizens can pray."

"Any restrictions on people to pray, protest or read from the Bible would infringe on their freedoms of religion and belief, their human rights. It will severely impact on free speech and expression."

"I believe people should be able to openly and peacefully pray for people."

"Prayer and counselling is not protesting."

"I would like to emphasise - in the first point that "praying" and "counselling" is a respectful way of supporting women."

Conversely, 12 respondents commented that **protesting should be banned** and not allowed at or around the clinic.



"I don't think protesting is appropriate anywhere near BPAS clinics."

"Having witnessed vigils and solo protestors over many years it is time that this stopped."

While 4 respondents commented that if **an area were allowed for protesting within the Safe Zone it would be abused** in terms of the behaviours within it, 1 respondent commented that **protest would be peaceful if either Option 2 or 3** were implemented.



"If you give them a safe zone (even if only 4 people are allowed) it will be abused. It will cause more trouble than its worth."

"If there are designated areas away from the clinic they should only be able to protest peacefully without any music/images/recording devices."

9 respondents commented that **residents** would be adversely impacted if protestors were allowed to be present in the local area.



“Although having no direct impact on myself I can sympathise with residents near the clinic also, being caught up in the protests even if it is simply being exposed to the chant⁶, prayers or music.”

Interference

There were 222 comments relating to interference. Of these, 83 respondents commented that **their intentions were to help women and provide information** and alternative options to abortion. In addition, 32 respondents commented that these **activities did not constitute interference**.



“‘Safe Zone’ is a misnomer. Telling the truth about abortion is not unsafe. The telling of hard truths should not be outlawed, introducing any of these bans will cause untold harm, including the death of many innocent babies. It would also be unfair to the women involved as they would be deprived of important information at a crucial time.”

“Because people should be able to offer an alternative as the clinic will only offer one option which is termination and the user may not realise that there could be financial support for a child. How can they know that if the information is not given to them.”

“I do not support buffer zones because they prevent women from accessing information and support which would allow them to know they have the choice to continue their pregnancy where they might not otherwise know they have this choice and support.”

“These statements are very biased. The words “interfering with”, “intimidating”, “harassing” seem to have a very broad interpretation. A single volunteer handing out a leaflet cannot be described by any reasonable person as “interfering with”, “intimidating” or “harassing”. Nobody is forced to take a leaflet or engage with the volunteer.”

“I do not think you should be able to physically interfere with someone, but you won’t unless you are allowed to talk to

someone how do you know if they want to hear what you have to say?"

3 respondents commented that the **counselling services offered to women by the clinic were minimal and not sufficient.**



"Abortion clinics are predominantly there for the monies and not the patient. The amount of counselling is not sufficient and the patient needs Christian or pro-life advice."

However, 28 respondents commented that it was **inappropriate for pro-life groups to impose their views** on to others, while 76 respondents commented that it was the woman's **right to make their own decision** and have privacy when accessing healthcare.



"Every person has a right to their view on abortion, but there is NO RIGHT to inflict or pressurise their view upon another person, especially a vulnerable person who may already be in the position have having to visit the clinic."

"There's freedom of religion and forcing someone else's views onto others is not desired under any circumstance."

"Women have the right to choose whatever decision is right for them, no one has the right to fight against that."

"These actions violate a person's right of choice, privacy and mental health."

Intimidation and/or harassment

There were 551 comments relating to intimidation and/or harassment. Of these, 99 respondents commented that they **did not believe that harassment and/or intimidation was happening** in or around the clinic, while 49 respondents commented that their **activities were conducted in a peaceful manner** and did not constitute harassment.



“As outlined in our complementary submission we believe the notion that people are actively engaging in systematic harassment and intimidation is false. We believe point b) and c) of this question choose words that deliberately play into this false notion.”

“Harassment and intimidation do not need to be banned because they do not happen at pro-life vigils.”

“I cannot say I accept restrictions which refer to things we do not do. If politely offering a leaflet ,or counselling (listening) or speaking to anyone at all, or praying on the green opposite is seen as interference /harassment, intimidating etc then we are effectively being silenced.”

“The above options are "biased" written. They talk about intimidation and similar situations, when in reality this does not happen.”

“People are just praying peacefully not disturbing.”

“The people who pray outside are peaceful so should not be restricted in any way with any restrictions.”

In addition, 28 respondents commented that there was **no evidence of harassment or intimidating** behaviours to support claims that this is present at BPAS.



“No evidence has been provided that prayer vigils cause disruption or harassment to people attending the clinic.”

“People have been praying in the area surrounding the centre and offering help for more than 40 years with no police charge or formal caution, so likewise no such restriction on our freedom of expression is needed since only formal caution justifies formal restriction like this.”

A further 68 respondents commented that there are **existing laws** that govern intimidation and/or harassment and therefore no further measures were necessary.



“Any activities seen as intimidation and harassment are covered by existing Laws.”

“I understand that in 2017 the Home Office rejected the proposal of buffer zones around abortion clinics as there is already existing legislation to cover harassment, intimidation etc. I do not believe there is much evidence of pro-lifers infringing the existing legislation but buffer zones will deny the opportunity for freedom of expression.”

In contrast, 253 respondents commented that service users and staff have the **right to access the clinic and its services without facing intimidation, interference and harassment.**



“A woman seeking abortion is making, quite literally, a life terminating decision, she does not need harassment on top of that.”

“All of the behaviours above amount to harassment of service users and staff and violate the privacy of those using or working at the centre.”

“Protesters should not be there lobbying or interfering in such an emotional, upsetting procedure. These women seeking this service need protecting from such hateful, hurtful spew.”

22 respondents commented that while they recognise people’s right of freedom to their views, they **should not be allowed to do so outside and near the clinic.**



“None of these are appropriate. If people of faith want to pray, it is just as effective elsewhere. Passive aggressive prayer in the presence of those who access the service is manipulation of the highest degree.”

“While everyone has the right to protest abortions, these should not be taking place around the abortion clinics where threatening and abusive behaviour can take place on

woman who are in a vulnerable and possibly emotional state.”

In addition, 30 respondents commented that the activities undertaken by Pro-Life supporters was intimidating and adversely **impacted their mental health and well-being**.



“The mental health issues post abortion will be compounded and increased one hundred fold by this horrendous behaviour. The safety of people attending and staff should be paramount, to allow harassment of any kind is inconceivable.”

“These actions are extremely disturbing and have no place in modern day Britain. The consequences of such actions include further harm mentally and physically to those already mentally and physically vulnerable from using BPAS services. BCP council has a duty to protect it's local women.”

2 respondents commented that the behaviours of Pro-Life supporters were **judgemental** and not peaceful.



“Because they are deliberately judgemental and confrontational, with no acceptance of the individual circumstances of those they impact, and often no willingness to understand.”

Recording or photographing

There were 56 comments relating to recording or photography. Of these, 22 respondents commented that they **do not believe that recording or photography is happening**, and that it is not a crime even if it was taking place. A further 11 respondents commented that it was in fact **staff members and Pro-Choice supporters who were taking photos of the Pro-Life supporters**.



“I am not aware of points (a) to (d) taking place by pro-life people outside of clinics.”

*“I have never seen any of my pro-life compatriots take any photos of individuals, groups or passers-by. I have been subject to, and witnessed, photos & videos being taken of *us* on numerous occasions. Why do we not take photos? Because we don’t want to shame and ‘dox’ the clients and/or staff.”*

23 respondents commented that **recording or photography should not be allowed**.



“Any of the above do not give users a safe space to walk to the clinic and especially the use of photography could put users in danger if in abusive relationship.”

Displaying text

There were 45 comments relating to displaying text or images, or the playing or using of amplified music. Of these, 23 respondents commented that they **do not support the banning of text, images or sound** in general and that potential service users need to be presented with the full details of abortion which the clinic do not show them or provide. In addition, the text displayed includes phone numbers for additional support and therefore should be shown.



“Whilst I would accept prohibition of graphic images I would not support the prohibition of text which may encourage a potential user to reconsider the action they are about to undertake.”

10 respondents commented that **amplified music and audio recordings were not used** by those who gather outside the clinic.



“Points a, e, f include aspects of behaviour that no one on the pro-life side would engage in anyway, especially amplified music etc.”

7 respondents commented that **amplified music, video and audio recordings should be restricted** in general and that it disturbs local residents. 5 respondents commented that **graphic images** should not be displayed by Pro-Life supporters.



“Playing amplified music, voice or audio recordings, can unnecessarily bother people and should obviously be restricted.”

“I think there could be a case for requiring silence or banning graphic posters.”

Holding vigils

38 respondents commented that they **support vigils** and that they do not want these to be included in the proposed restrictions.



“I am totally against any restrictions on vigils as described. The other behaviours describes have no bearing whatsoever on vigils - all vigil-keepers sign a statement of peace. Furthermore, vigil-keepers would intervene if any intimidatory/ aggressive behaviour took place... such behaviour completely goes against the whole spirit of vigils which is to bring a spirit of compassion, support and fellowship.”

“I do not support any restrictions on vigils outside BPAS.”

Other/general comments

There were 394 other and general comments relating to the proposed restrictions and the PSPO. Of these, 96 respondents commented that they do not support the proposal in general and that the **PSPO was unnecessary**.



“A buffer zone is deemed unnecessary and an unjustifiable restriction on freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Also, explicitly banning prayer and other religious activities is a draconian attack on freedom of religion. There seems to be no evidence that people partaking in pro-life vigils engage in any of these offenses.”

“These are unnecessary because we are peaceful and only offer prayer and support. It is an impingement on religious freedom.”

“None of the above is necessary.”

4 respondents commented that they **had not experienced or witnessed the restricted behaviours**, while 10 respondents were **concerned as to what other restrictions might be implemented** should these be imposed. 2 respondents felt that there should be more of a **police presence** in the area.



“I haven't experienced any of the actions in the list.”

“These types of zones open the door wide to future legislation banning all forms of prayer, and even reading from the Bible in public.”

“I am really concerned over the future implications if this were to be expanded into other areas.”

“As a resident living close by I feel a better police presence would be more justified. People can protest peacefully and those visiting the clinic would feel safe knowing the police are in the local area.”

5 respondents commented that the **BPAS clinic was only interested in making money** and should be closed.



“Abortion clinics are predominantly there for the monies and not the patient.”

“Abortion IS murder. BPAS must be completely shut down immediately.”

1 respondent commented that they **neither support nor do not support** the proposal, while 1 respondent commented that they felt that **option 2 and 3 were the same** and therefore could not comment.



“The wording of questions is already painting negative images of prayer, people who pray and pro-lifers - hence my responses of neither support/ do not support.”

“Options b and c are essentially the same, so I cannot support either: again this is the thin end of a nasty wedge.”

17 respondents commented that they **support the proposals in general**, while 185 respondents commented that they support the proposed **Safe Zone with no designated area** (option 1).



“I strongly support the proposed restrictions.”

“A SAFE ZONE should be that. There should be no protesting within this area.”

“All restriction strongly supported because everyone has a right to healthcare without discrimination, harassment and abuse.”

“As set out above, I believe that a buffer zone with no designated areas is the only acceptable option because allowing any allocated spaces for anti-abortion activities means that people who work at the clinic, use its services or live in the nearby area will still be subjected to harassment, intimidation and disruption. Only a complete buffer zone will properly protect them.”

7 respondents commented that they were **Pro-Choice** in general, while 6 respondents made **other suggestions** for the proposal.



“The councillors should visit and see what actually happens at vigils, which is nothing like the “pro-choice” campaigners suggest.”

60 respondents commented on the **survey wording** and whether it would be understood by all that completed it.



“The questions are written in very emotive language, and obviously intended for the public to vote in favour of the PSPO.”

“These questions are linguistically heavily-loaded towards the ‘do not support’ end of the spectrum.”

“This question and some of those following is ambiguous in the way in which it is worded.”

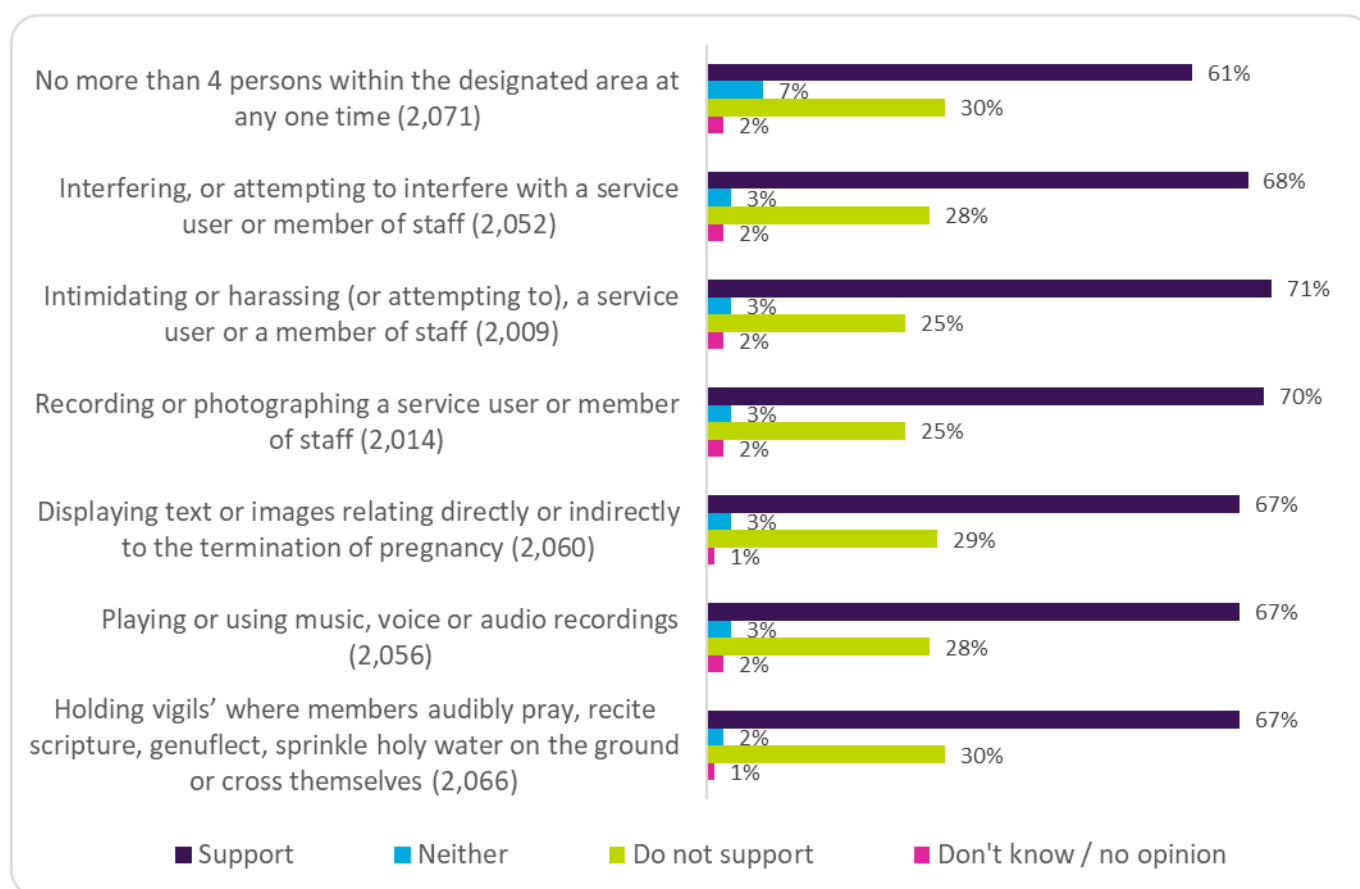
“This question is really confusing. I hope it comes across that I strongly support any restrictions, I do not strongly support the behaviours. I wonder if people will read this and answer incorrectly because of the wording.”

“This set of questions are worded terribly. It is not clear at all. Does choosing ‘strongly support’ mean I support restrictions or the named behaviours?”

Support for proposed restrictions within the designated areas

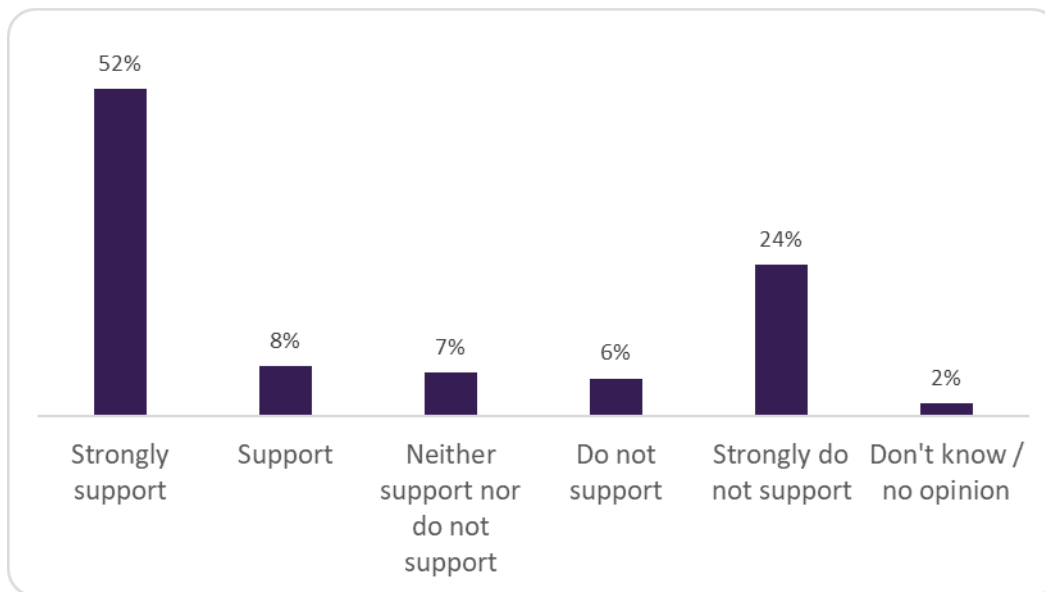
Q. To what extent do you support or do not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the designated areas?

Respondents were next asked to what extent they support or do not support the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the designated areas. Different numbers of respondents provided an answer to each restricted behaviour. The number of responses to each option are shown in brackets in the chart below. More than two-thirds of respondents supported each of the proposed restrictions within the designated areas. However, respondents were least likely to support the limit of no more than four people within the designated area at any one time.



Base: varied as labelled

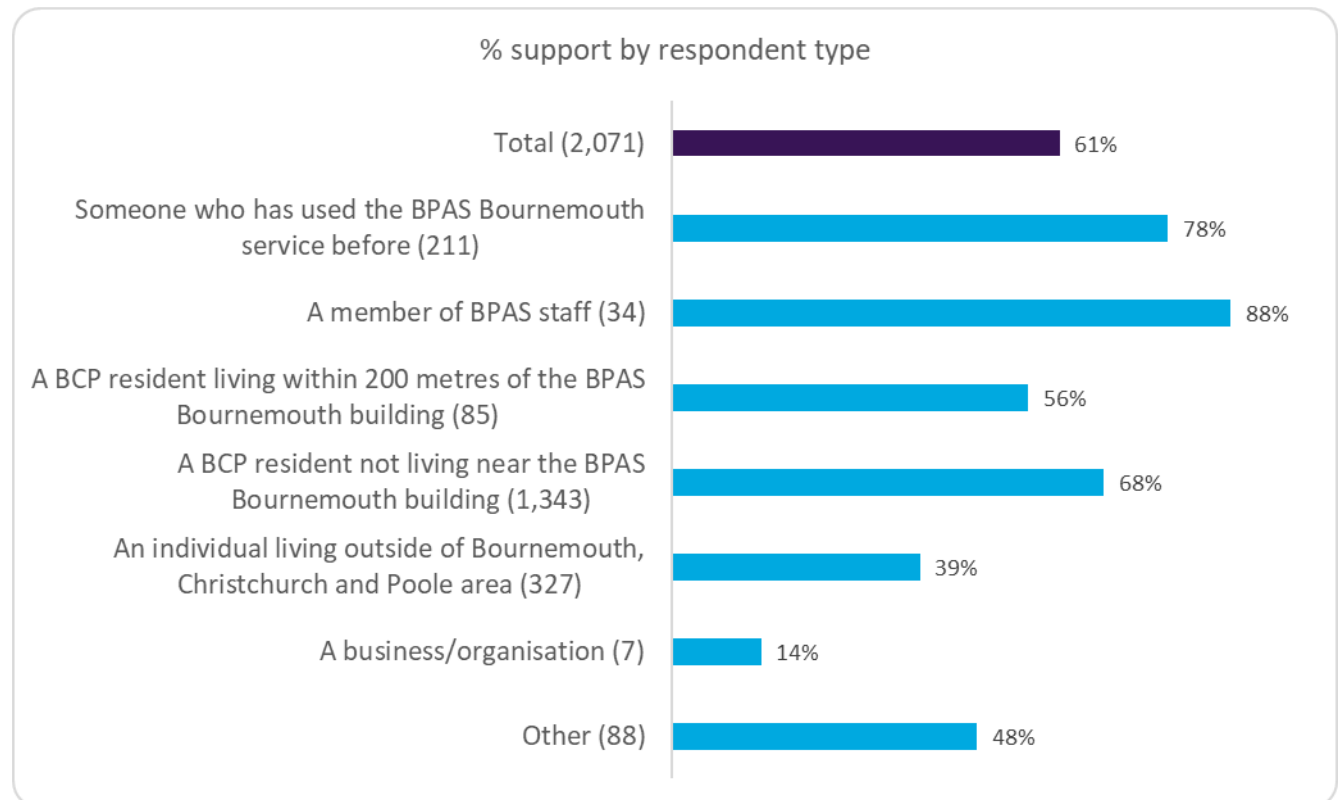
Limit of people within designated areas



Base: 2,071

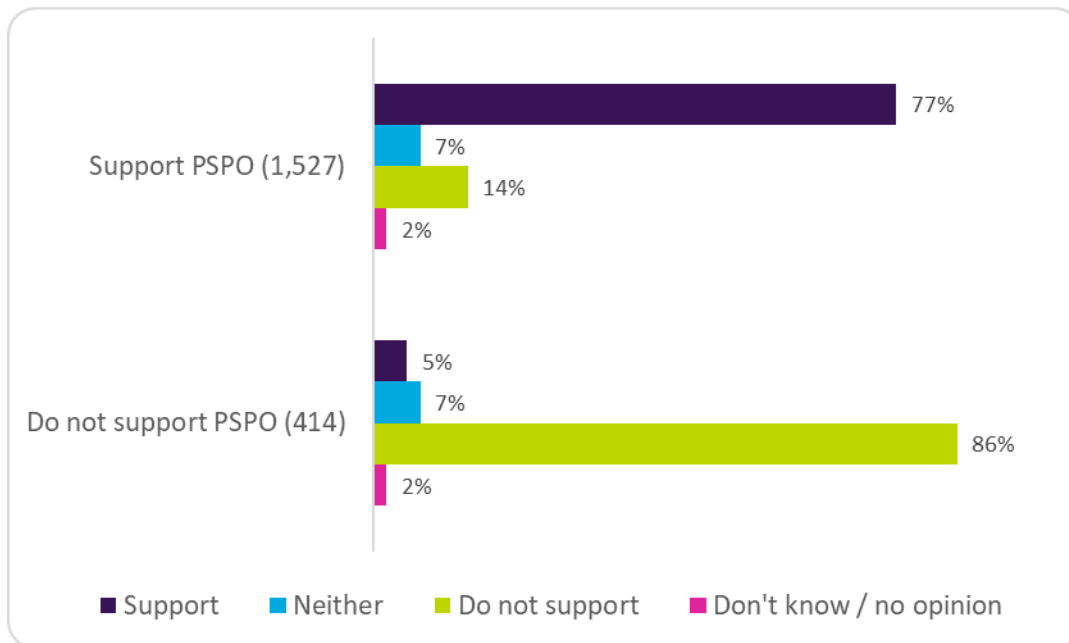
2,071 respondents provided an answer to this question. 60% of these respondents supported the proposed limit of no more than four people within the designated area at any one time. 30% of respondents did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents who do not live near the BPAS building were significantly more likely to support the proposed limit of no more than four people within the designated area at any one time than BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building, respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

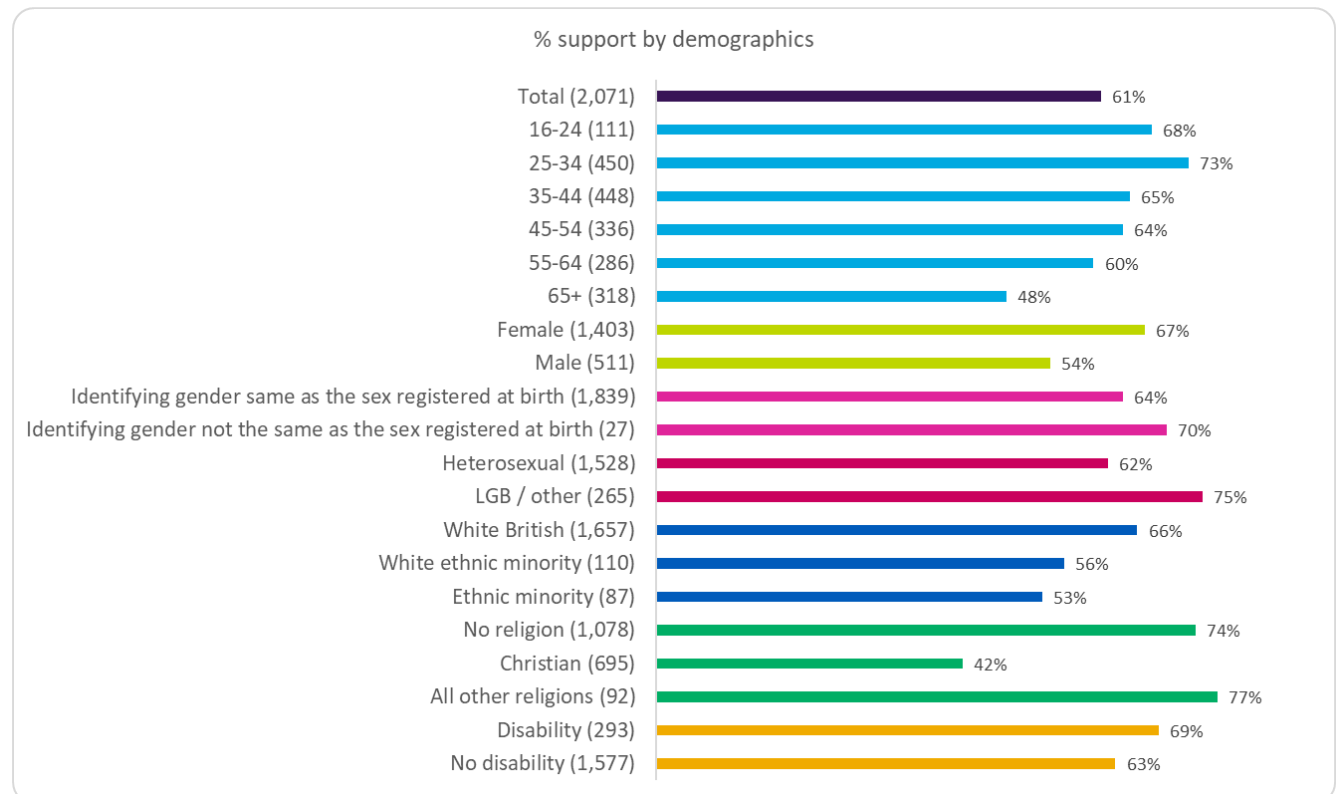
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed limit of no more than four people within the designated area at any one time than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

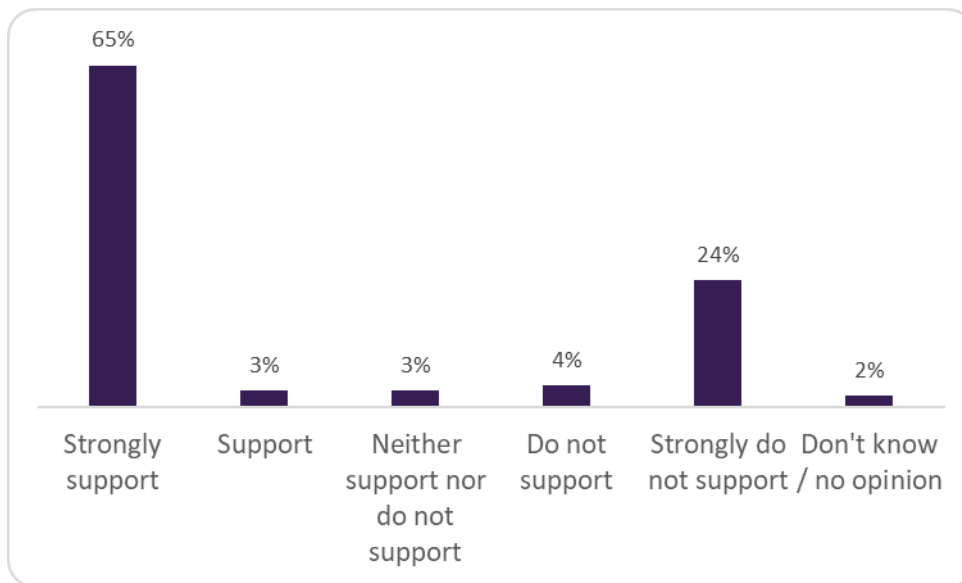
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed limit **of no more than four people within the designated area** at any one time were:

- Aged younger than 65 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian
- Have a disability



Base: varied as labelled

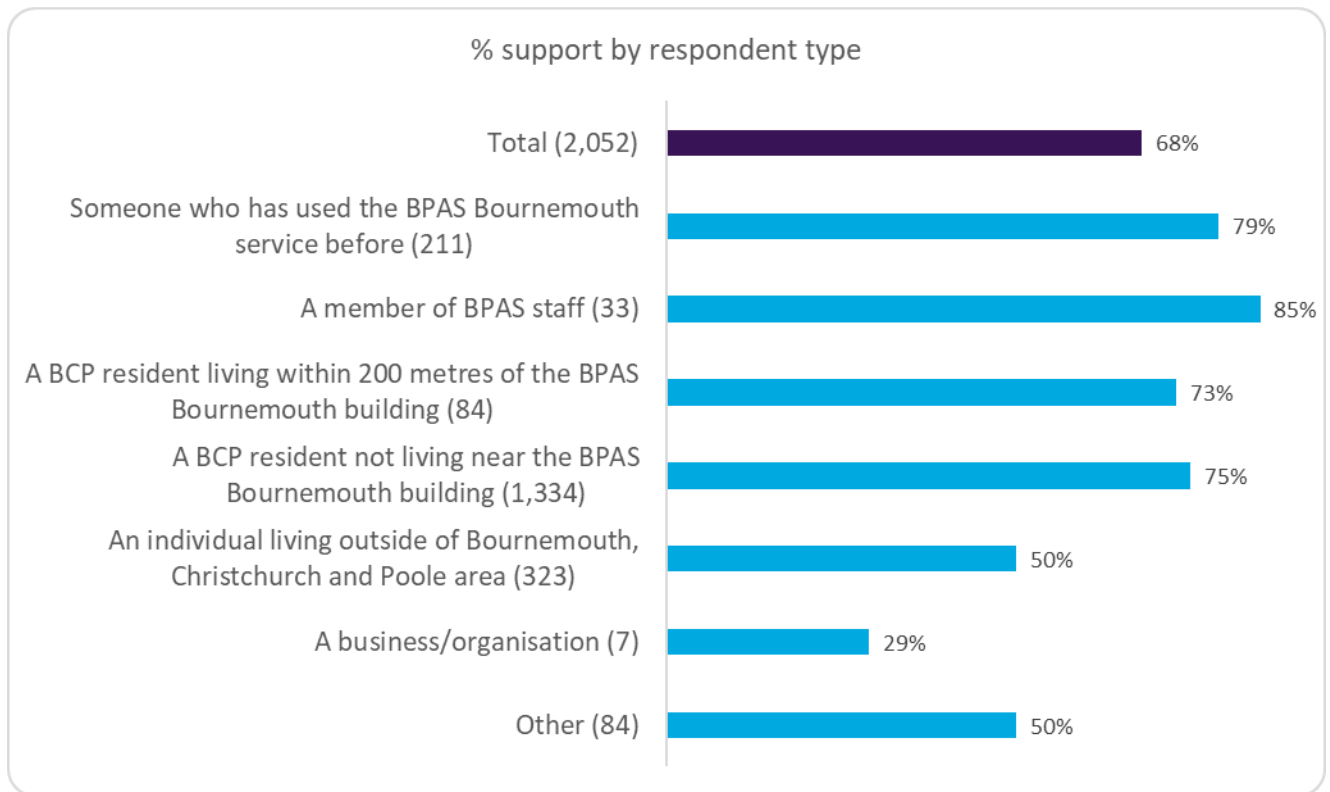
Interfering, or attempting to interfere with a service user or member of staff



Base: 2,052

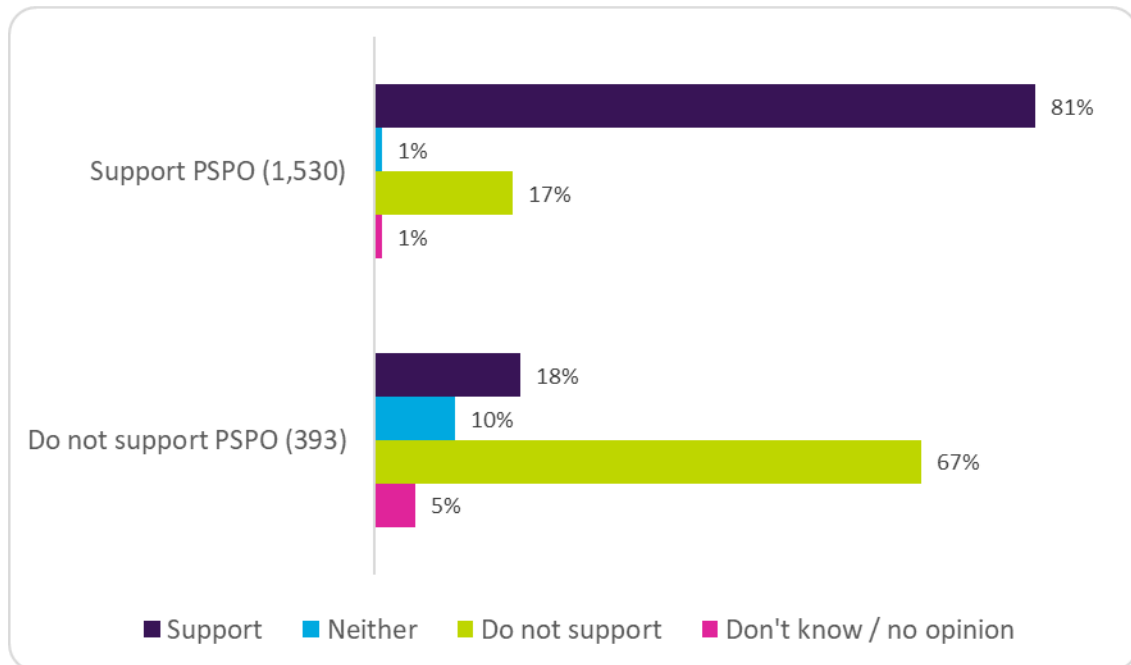
2,052 respondents provided an answer to this question. 68% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the designated areas. 28% of respondents did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the designated areas than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

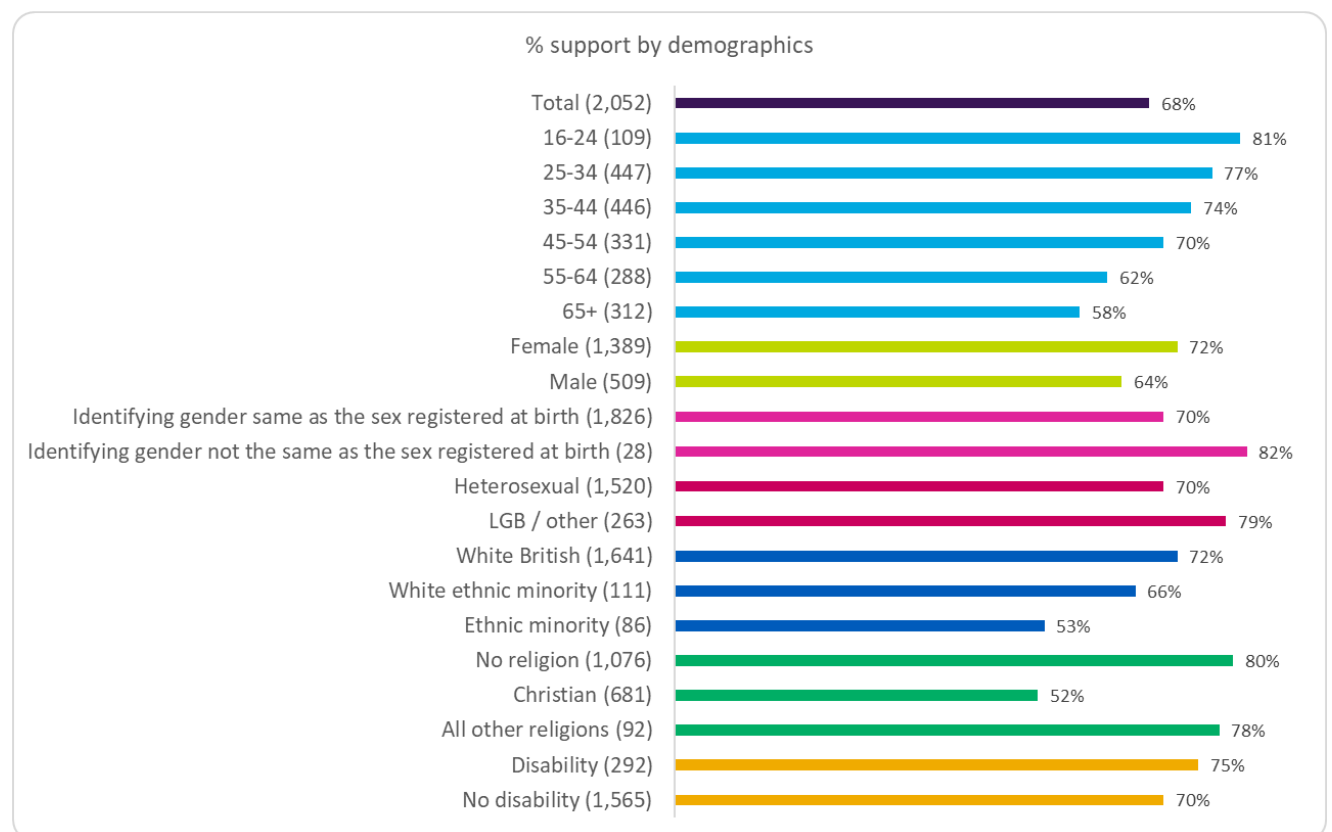
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the designated areas than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

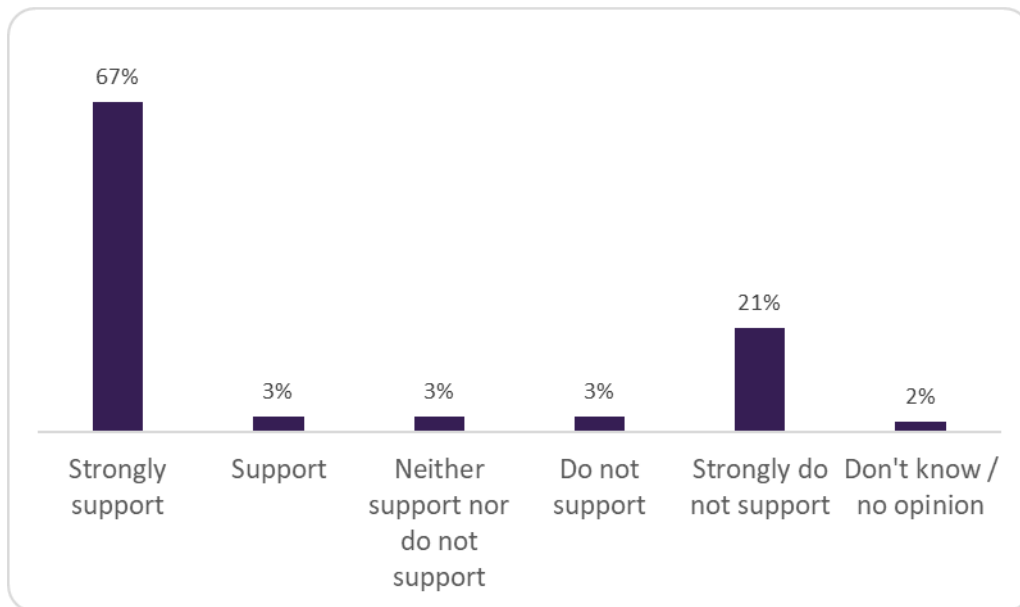
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **interfering, or attempting to interfere, whether verbally or physically, with a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic** within the designated areas were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British or White ethnic minority
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

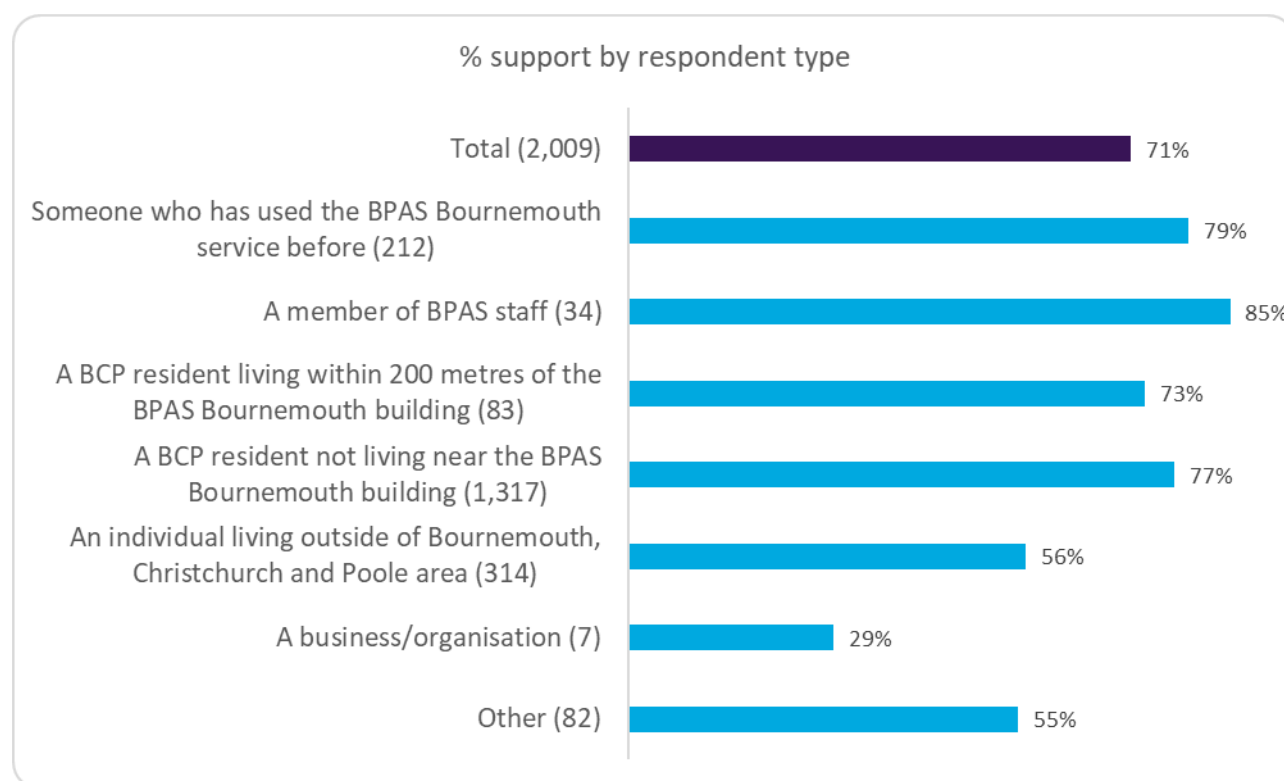
Intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass a service user or member of staff



Base: 2,009

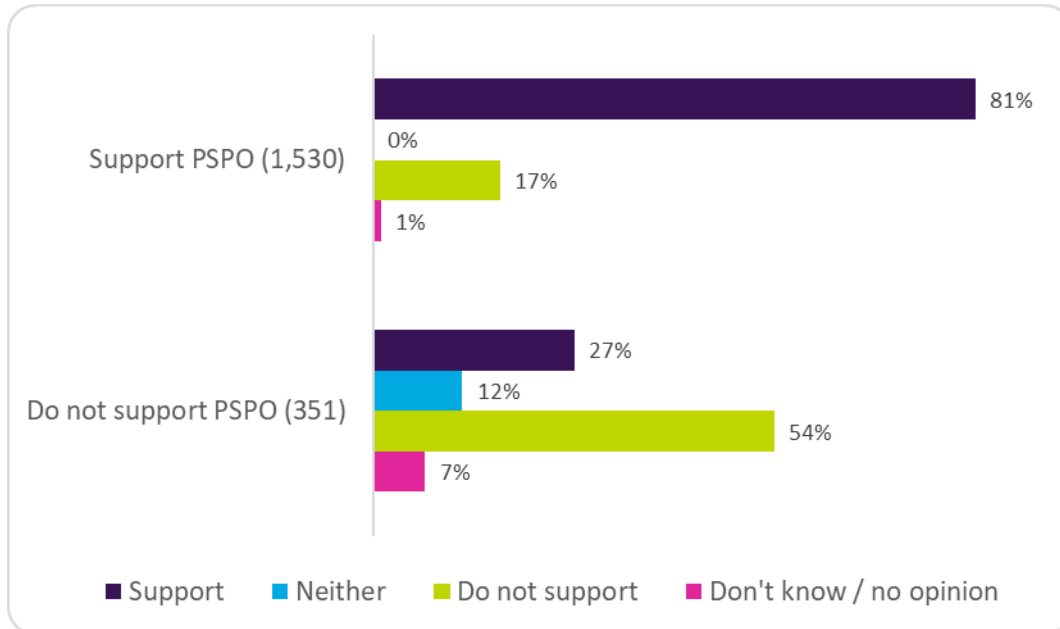
2,009 respondents provided an answer to this question. 70% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the designated areas. 24% of respondents did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the designated areas than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

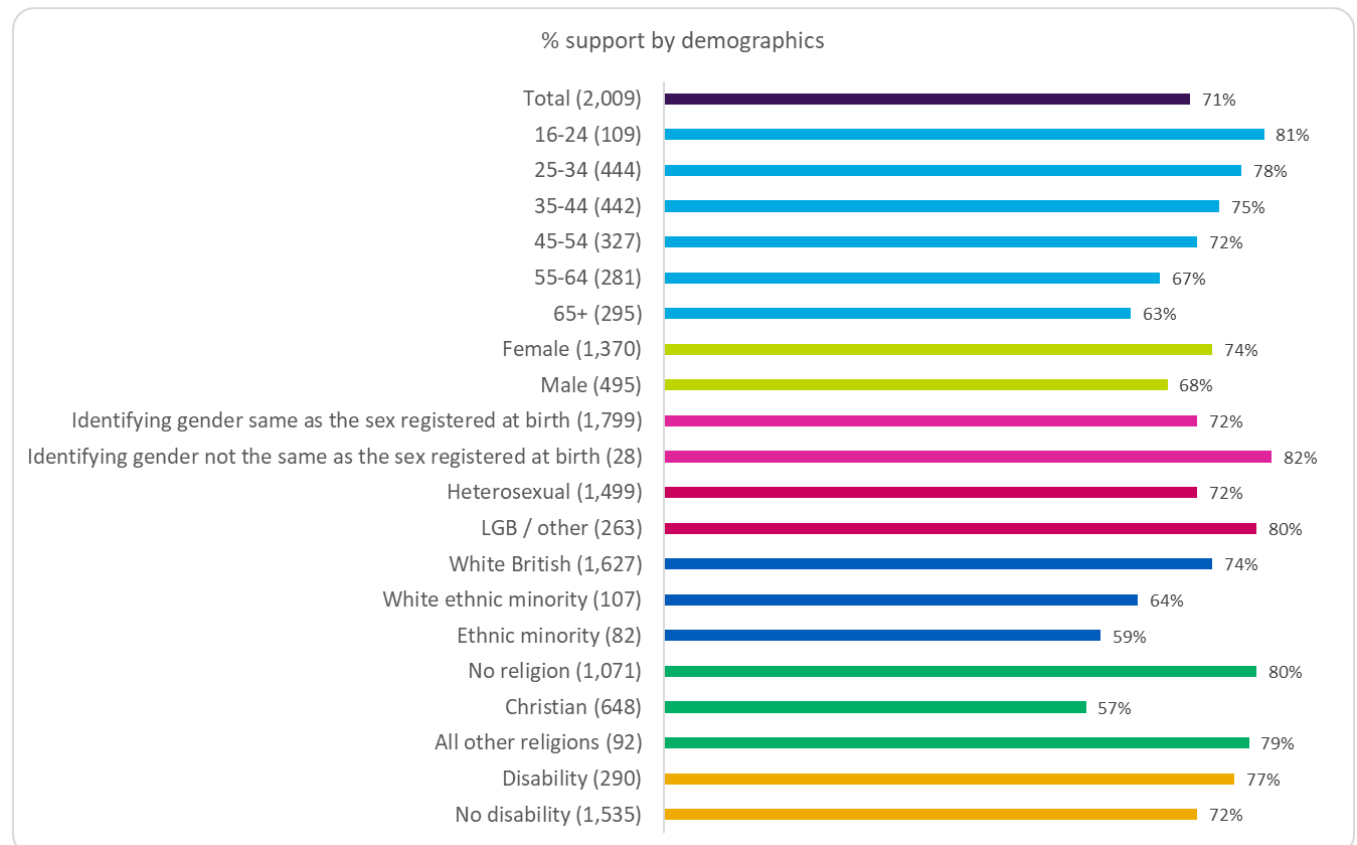
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic within the designated areas than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

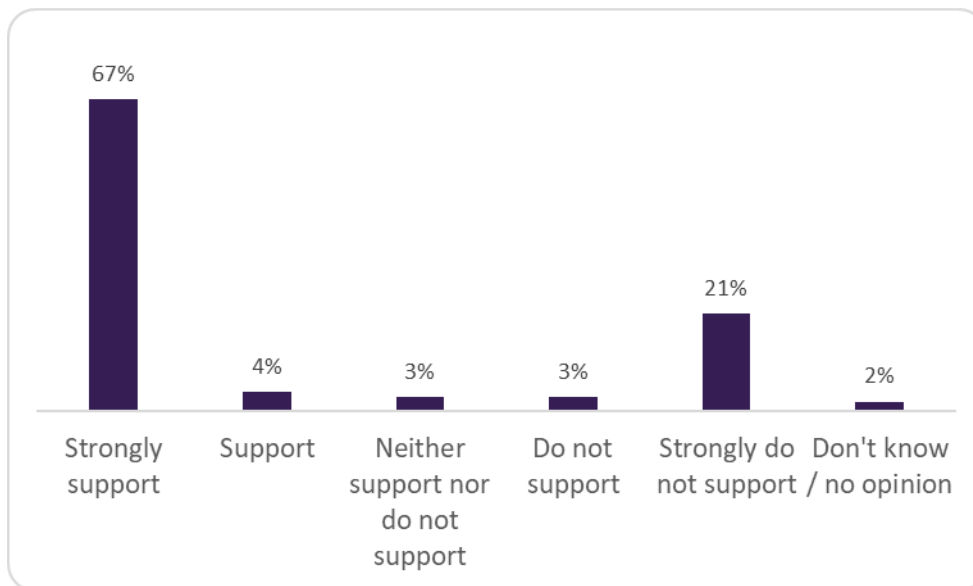
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **intimidating or harassing, or attempting to intimidate or harass, a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic** within the designated areas were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

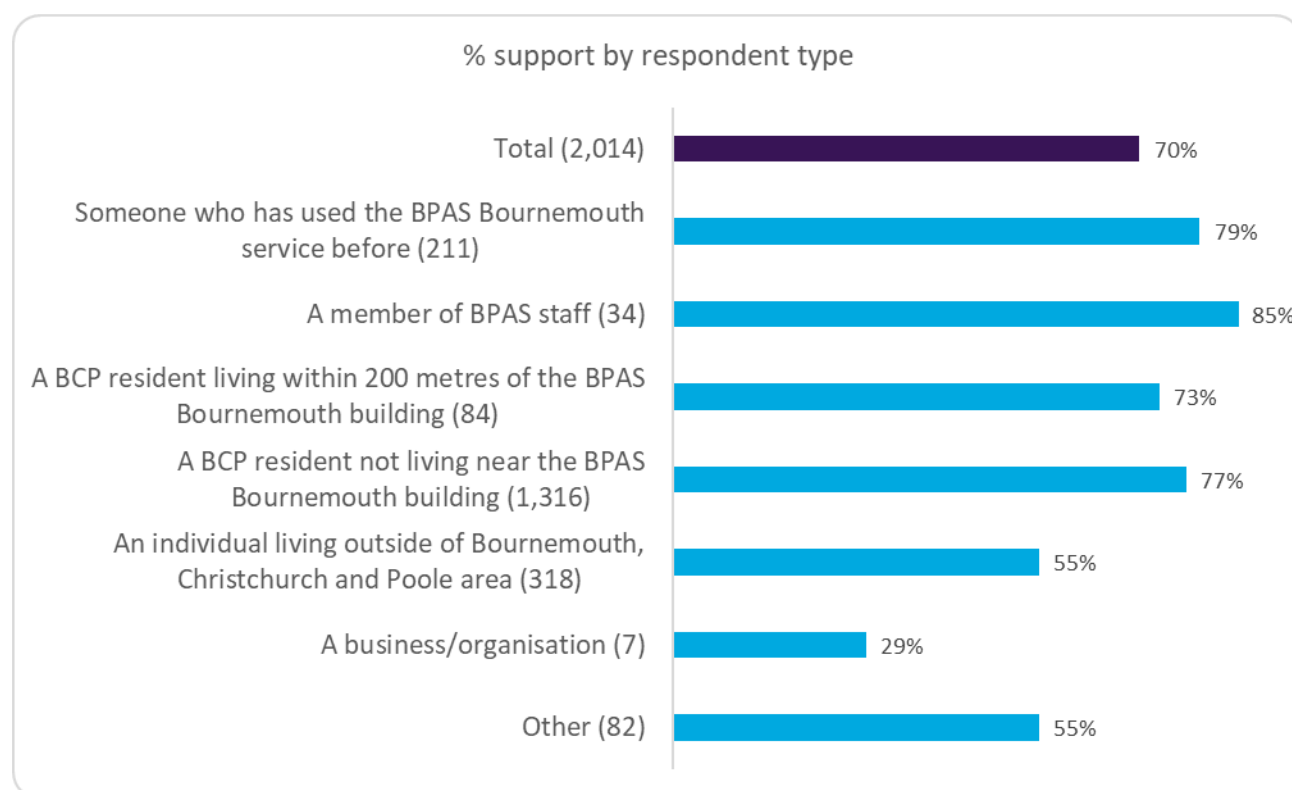
Recording or photographing a service user or member of staff



Base: 2,014

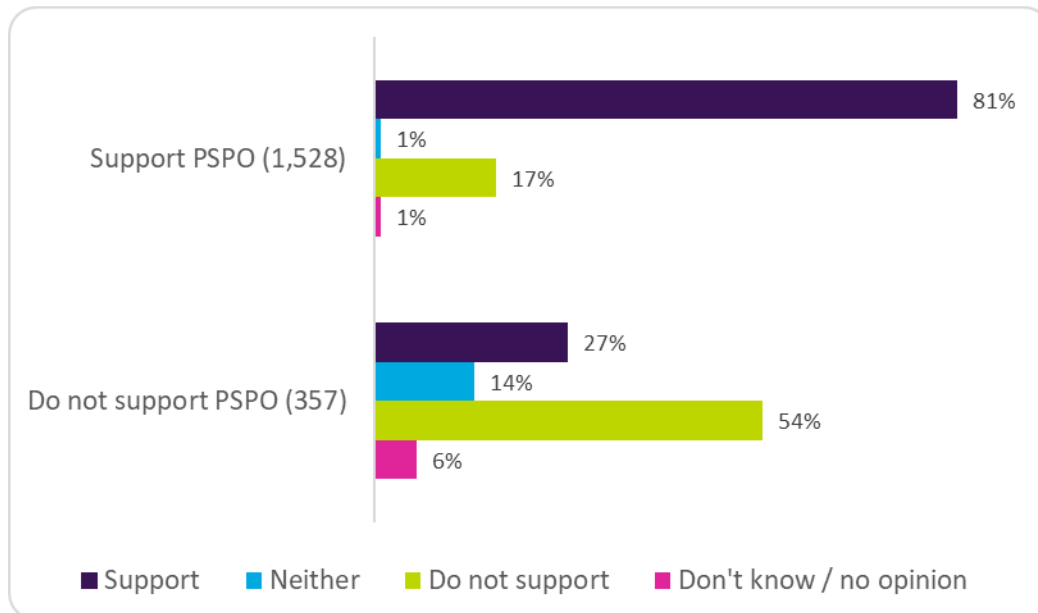
2,014 respondents provided an answer to this question. 71% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic whilst they are in the Safe Zone, while 24% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic from within the designated areas than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

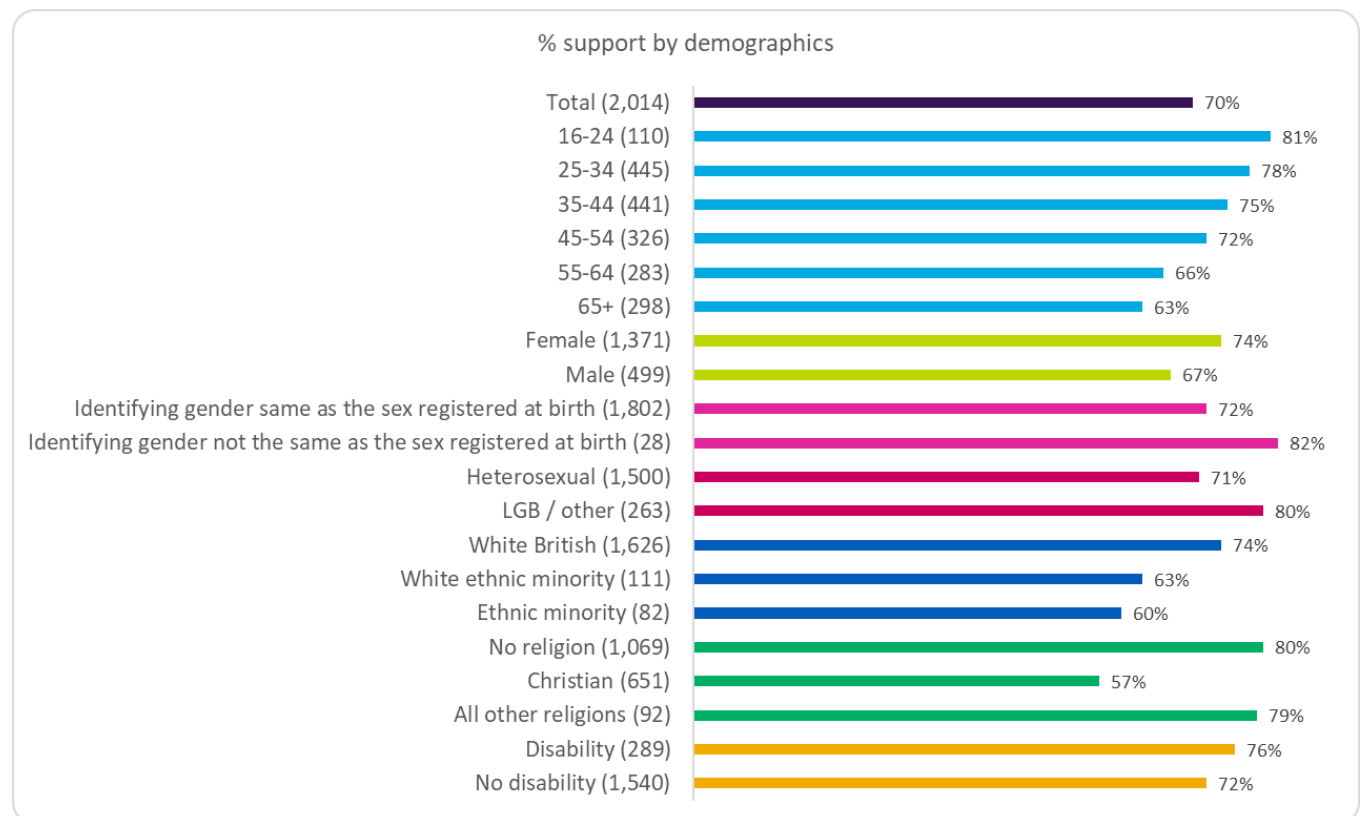
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic from within the designated areas than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

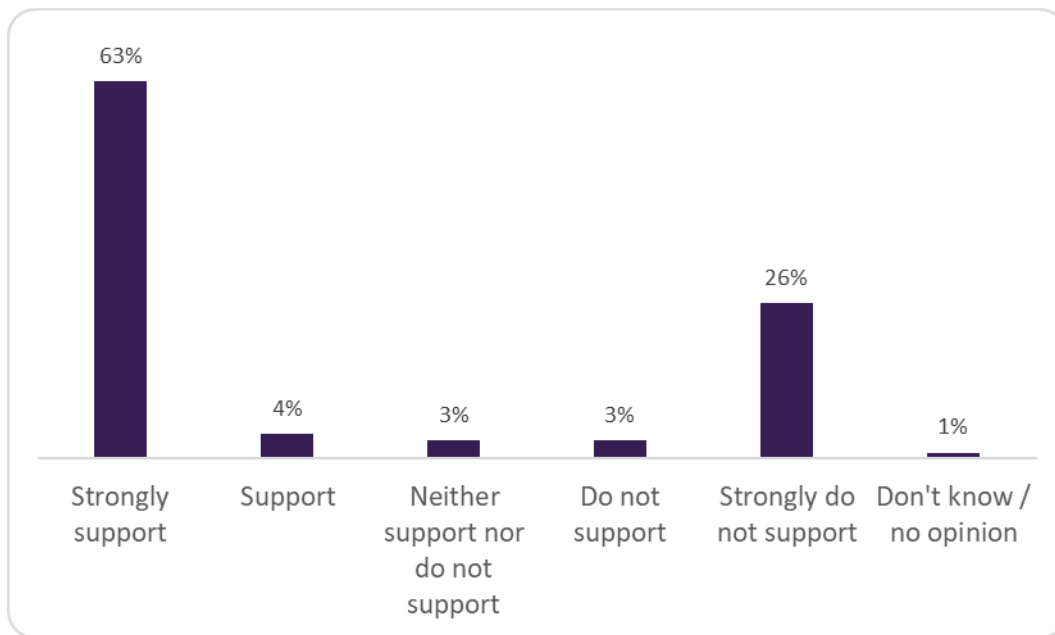
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **recording or photographing a service user or member of staff of the BPAS clinic** from within the designated areas were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

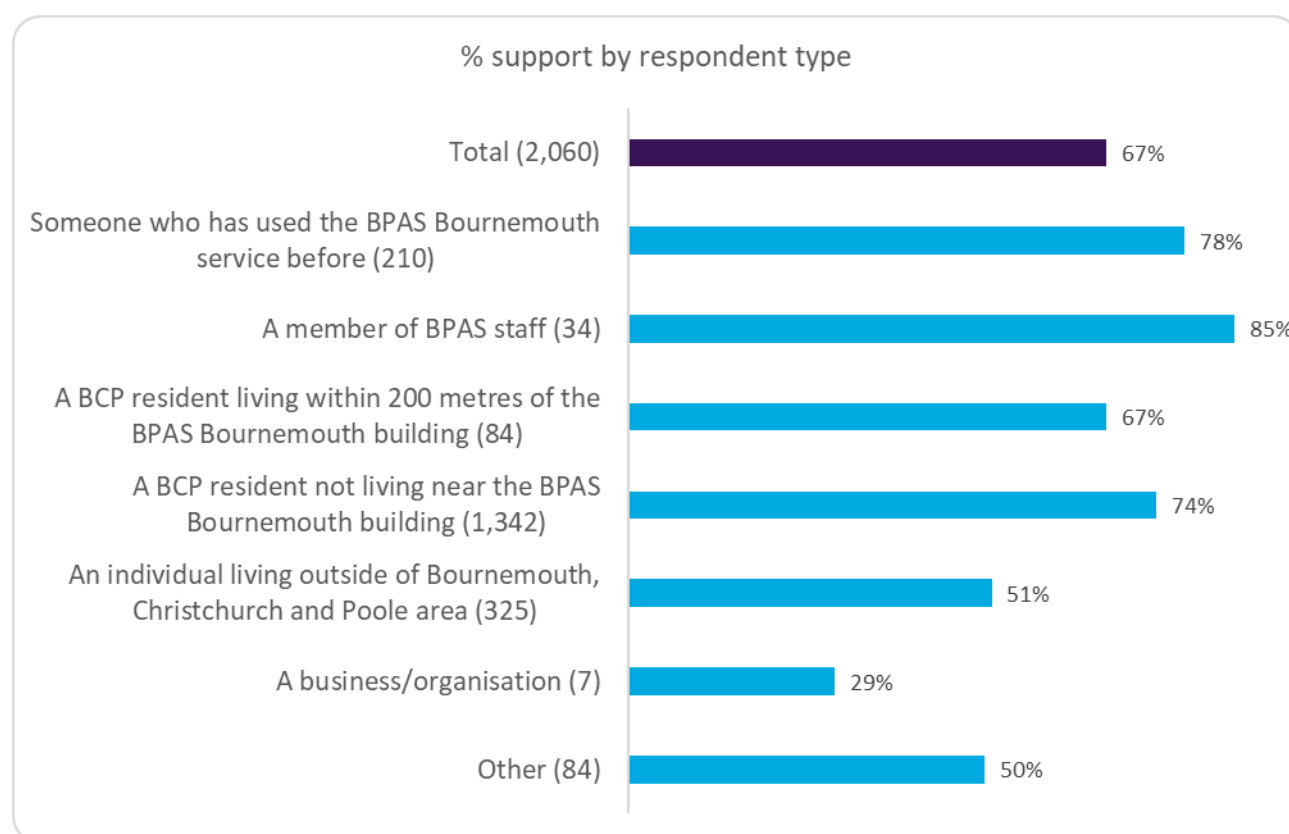
Displaying text or images relating to the termination of pregnancy



Base: 2,060

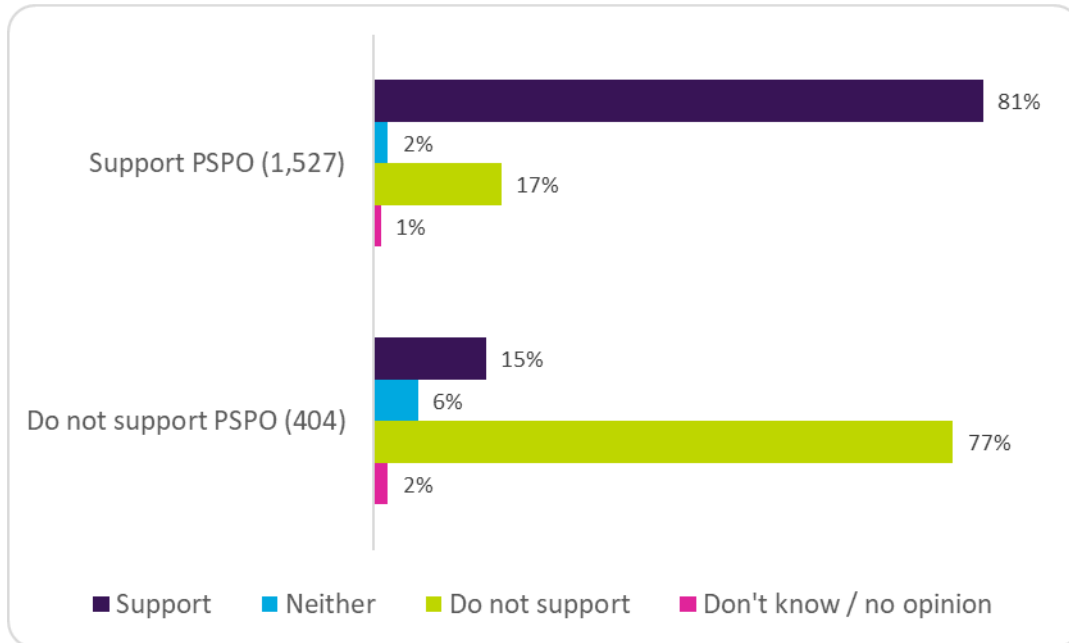
2,060 respondents provided an answer to this question. 67% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy (whether this is Pro-Life or Pro-Choice) within the designated areas. 29% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents who do not live near to the clinic were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy within the designated areas than any other respondent. In addition, BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the clinic were significantly more likely than those who live outside of the BCP Council area and ‘other’ respondents to support the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images.



Base: varied as labelled

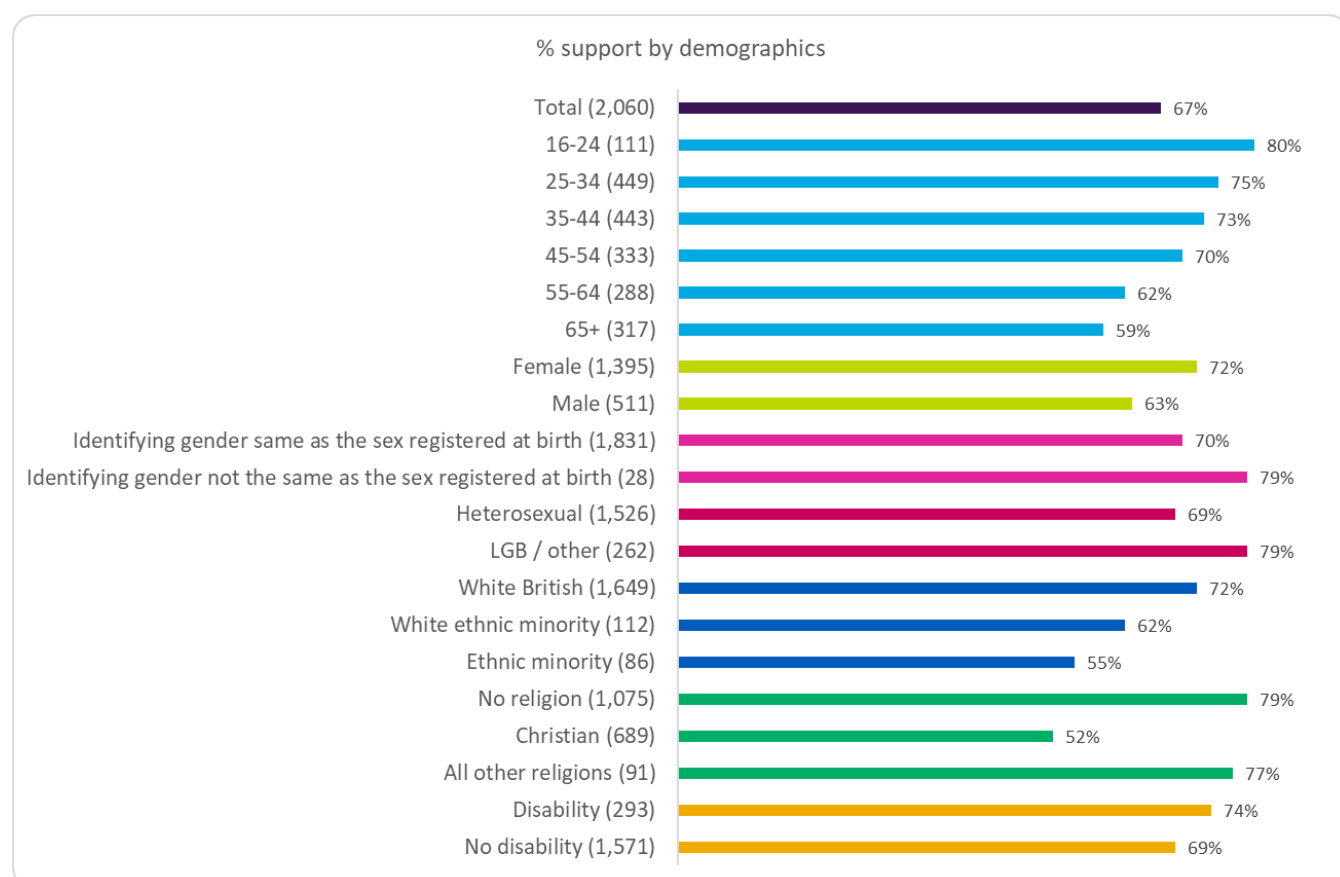
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy within the designated areas than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

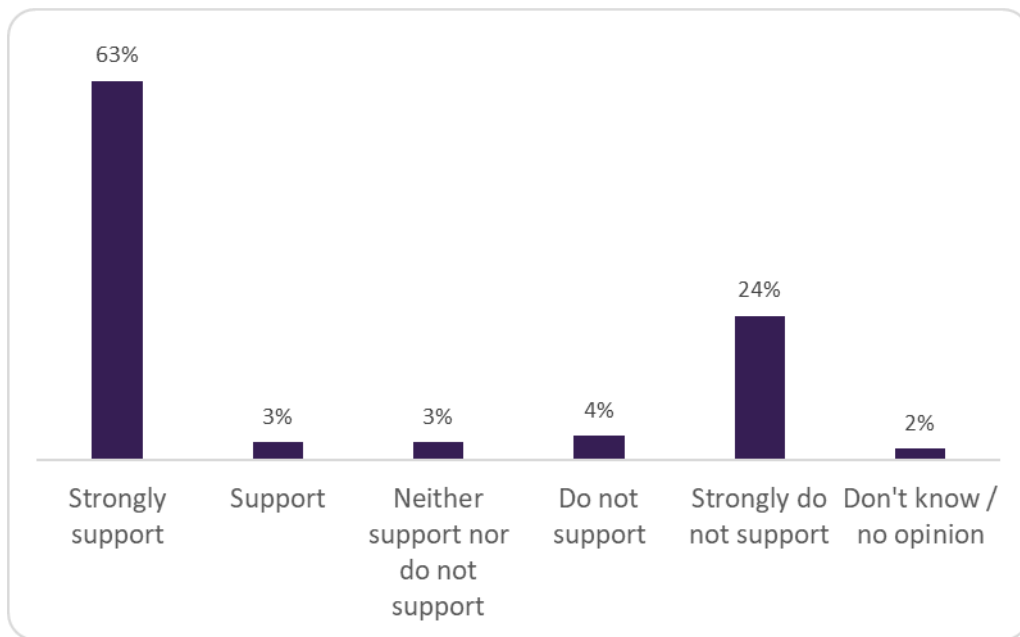
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on **displaying text or images relating directly or indirectly to the termination of pregnancy within the designated areas** within the Safe Zone were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

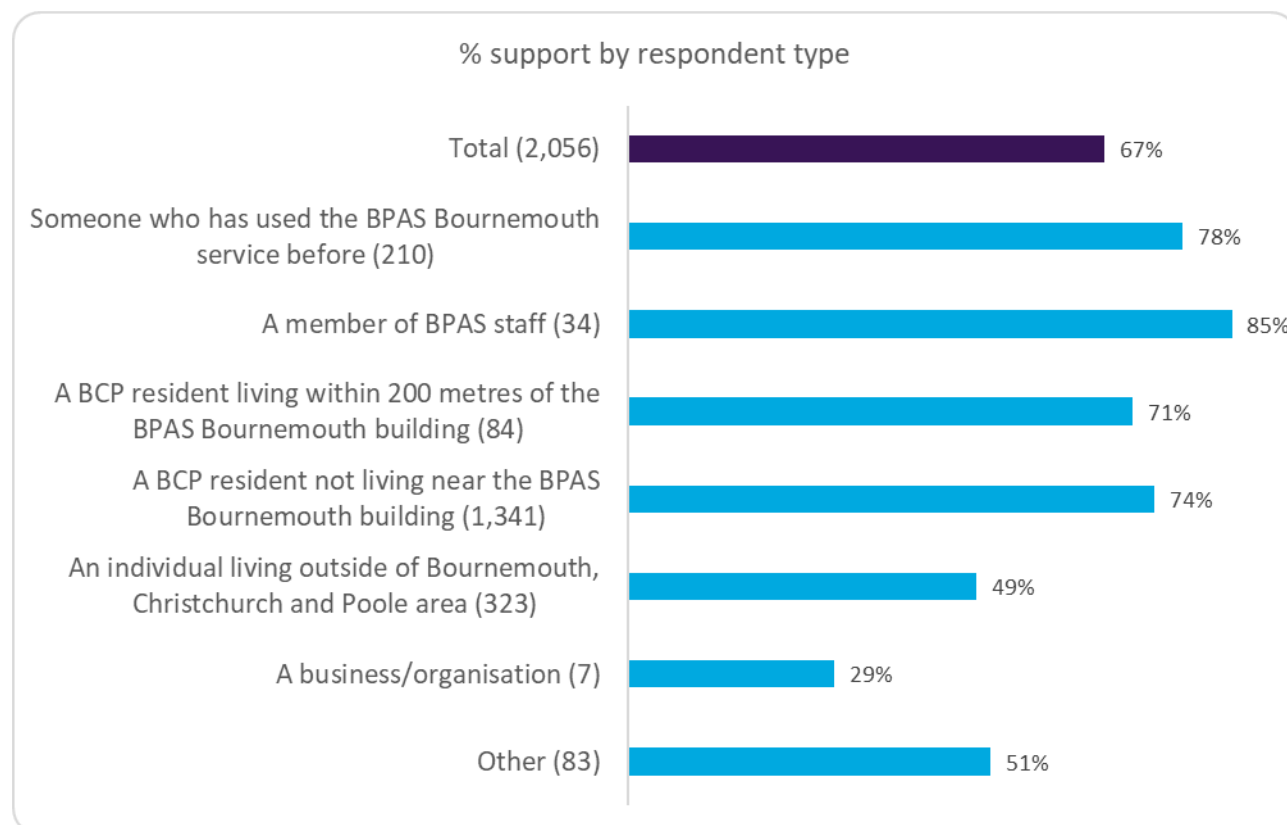
Playing of amplified music, voice or audio recordings



Base: 2,056

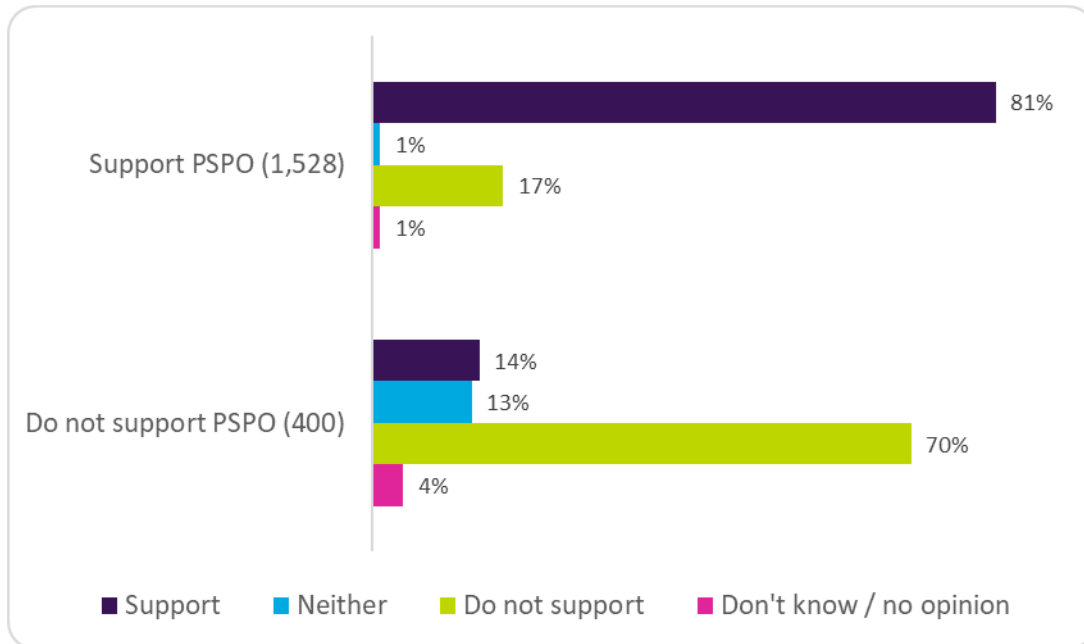
2,056 respondents provided an answer to this question. 66% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the designated areas. 28% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the designated areas than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

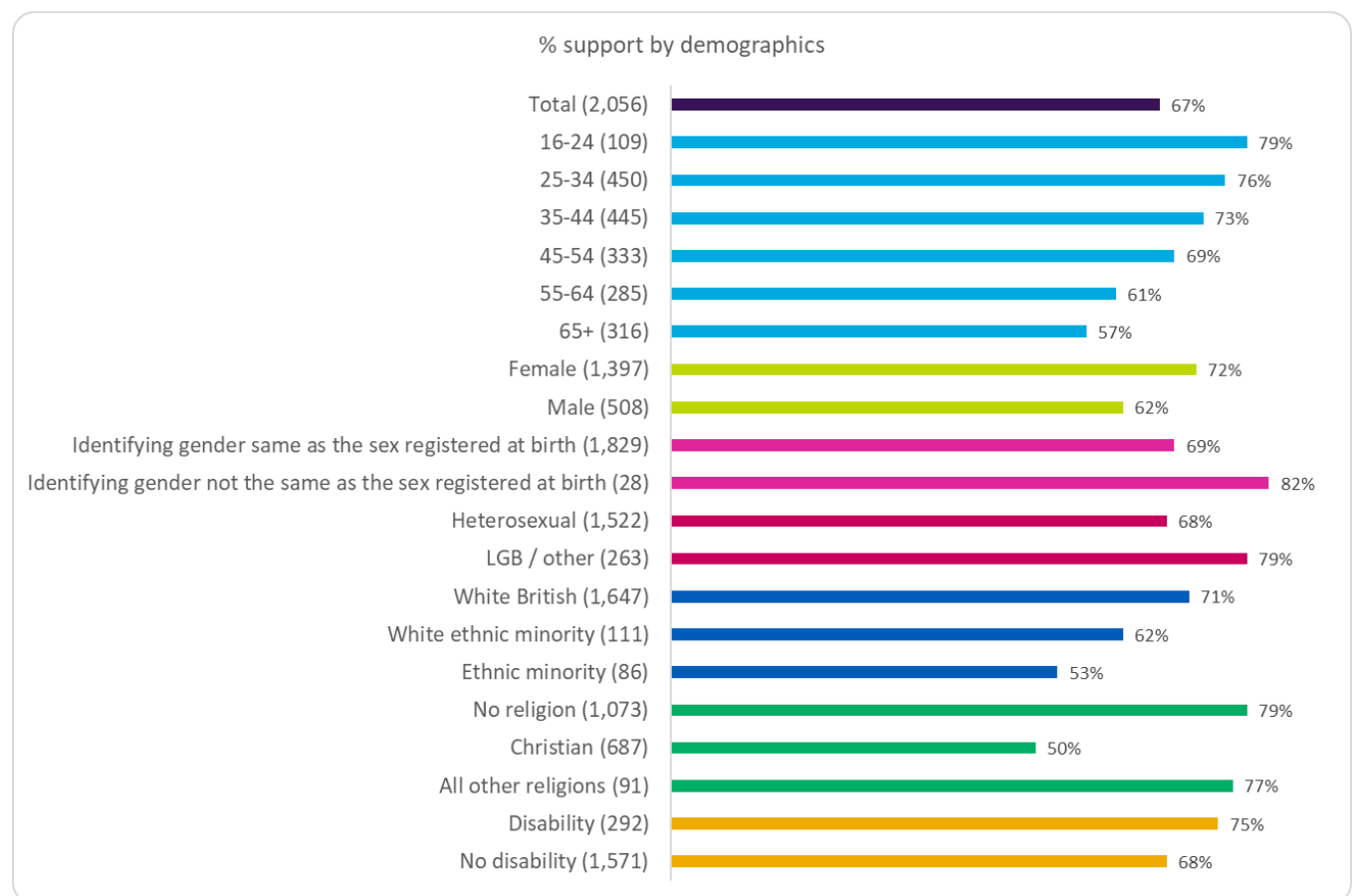
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the designated areas than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

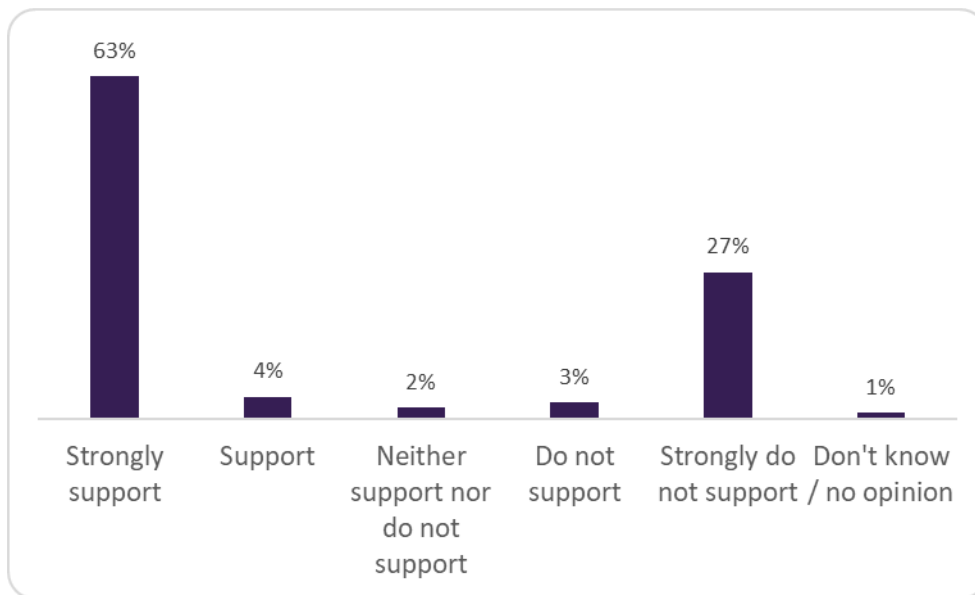
In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions **on playing or using amplified music, voice or audio recordings within the designated areas** were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British
- No religion or any religion other than Christian
- Have a disability



Base: varied as labelled

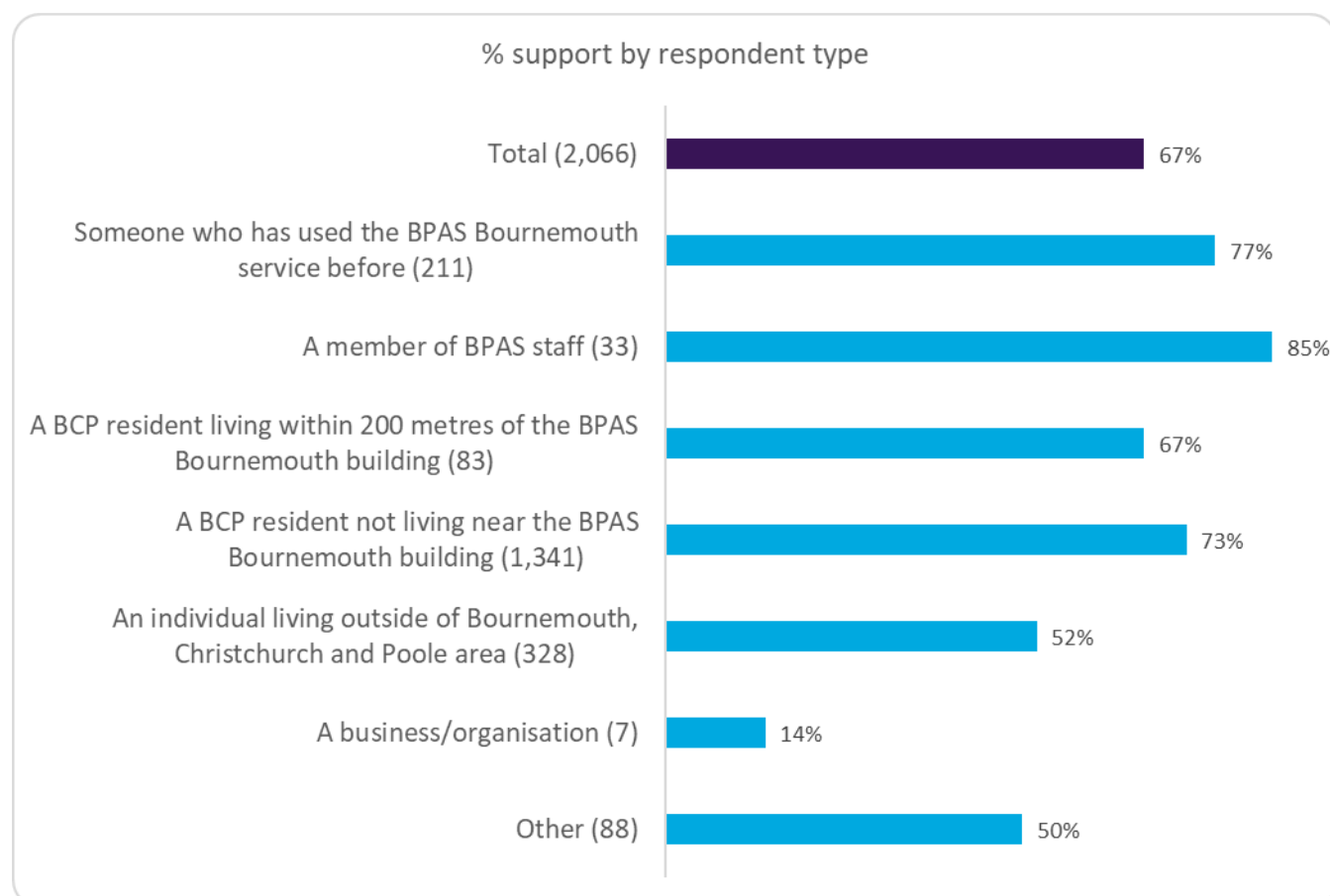
Holding vigils



Base: 2,066

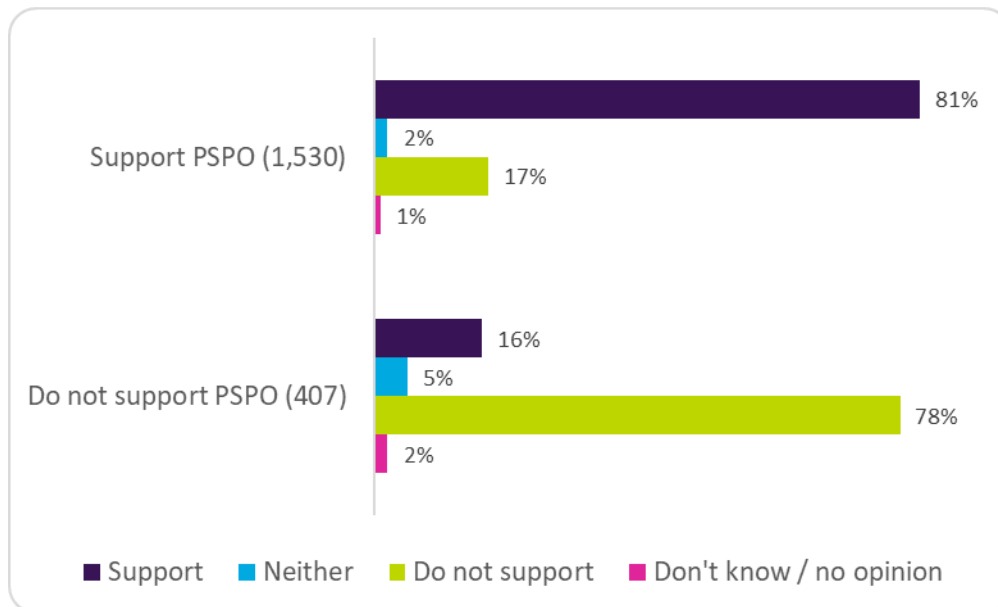
2,066 respondents provided an answer to this question. 67% of these respondents supported the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the designated areas. 30% did not support this proposed restriction.

Members of BPAS staff, respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before as well as BCP residents, regardless of whether they live close to the clinic or not, were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the designated areas than respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

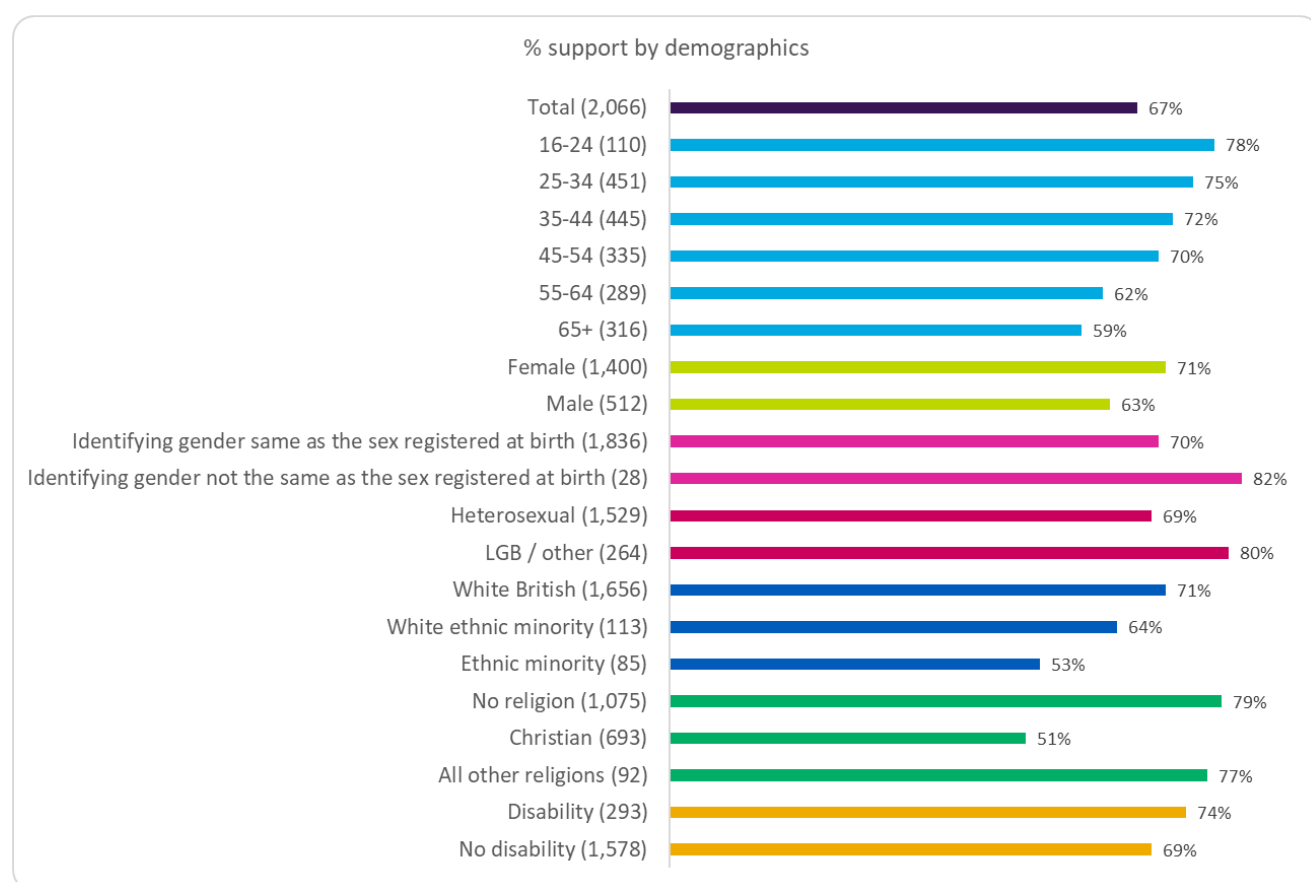
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to support the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the designated areas than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

In addition, respondents who were most likely to support the proposed restrictions on holding vigils' where members audibly pray, recite scripture, genuflect, sprinkle holy water on the ground or cross themselves if they perceive a service user is passing by within the designated areas were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British or White ethnic minority
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

Reasons for not supporting proposed restrictions within the designated areas

Q. If applicable, please explain why you do not support any of the restrictions within the designated areas, including details of any potential impacts you think it may have on you.

Respondents were asked to explain why they did not support any of the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the designated areas. 877 respondents provided feedback to this question. Responses were coded to 8 key themes relating to 'the limit on number of people gathering', 'interference', 'intimidation and/or harassment', 'recording or photographing', 'displaying text or images', 'playing or amplified music, voice or audio recordings', 'holding vigils', and 'other/general comments'.

Theme	Number of comments
Limit on number of people gathering	161
Interference	296
Intimidation and/or harassment	172
Recording or photographing	37
Displaying text or images	34
Playing of amplified music, voice or audio recordings	16
Holding vigils	93
Other/general comments	432

Limit on number of people gathering

There were 161 comments relating to the proposed limit on the number of people allowed within the area at any one time. Of these, 37 respondents commented that **no one should be able to gather**, and 15 respondents commented that allowing 4 people to gather is too many and that the **limit should be less than 4 people**. 4 people commented that a **limit of 4 people is adequate**.



"I don't think there should be 4 people allowed. I would prefer zero but if there has to be a presence then one or two maximum."

"There shouldn't be ANY protesting persons within the area at any one time."

"Restriction a) I think is too many people. 2 would be better. The current groups of protesters are small, but it doesn't make it less intimidating."

"Four protestors is more than enough."

In addition, 36 respondents commented that **protesting should not be allowed** anywhere near the clinic, while 13 respondents commented that **protestors can go elsewhere** to voice their views.



“There should be no protesters permitted anywhere near the clinic site.”

“I feel that no protesting should be allowed in the vicinity of the BPAS centre.”

“Their designated areas are their churches and I don't make the rules there.”

“Protests should be directed towards policymakers in government not at the point of service delivery. They can then be subject to informed debate not abuse of those utilising perfectly legal services.”

However, 14 respondents commented that the **limit should be more than 4 people**, while 7 respondents felt that the restriction on how many people could gather was unnecessary as there is **rarely that many people there anyway**.



“More than 4 people might be restrictive at busy clinic times and some people may need supporting friends or family. More important to ensure not even 1 person is doing any of the intimidating behaviours.”

“I see no harm in more than 4 people gathering to pray quietly.”

“At any time there are never any more than one or two people praying silently either on the pavement outside the BPAS building, or on the grassed area opposite.”

18 respondents queried how this would work in reality, and whether **other groups of people**, including service users, local residents and school children would also be prevented from using the space if there was more than 4 people there.



“This is a public area and people come from all sorts of reasons including walking dogs etc. If more than 4 people come to that area, all who come as individuals who is to decide who should go?”

“4 people restriction? There is a school where groups of people have to go.”

9 respondents questioned how the limit on the number of people will be **monitored and enforced**.



“Impossible to 'police' the area to ensure there's only 4 people in a space at any one time.”

5 respondents questioned whether **protests on other topics would be restricted**, both outside the clinic and in general.



“Wouldn't want this max 4 people thing to be used to prevent other protests within the area e.g. about air quality, traffic, cost of living etc.”

“I do not support the proposed restriction on e and g when members of LGBTQ and other organisations are freely able to protest in public against those who do not support their views.”

2 respondents suggested that restrictions should **only apply during clinic opening hours**, while 1 respondent suggested that **an area for Pro-Choice protests** should also be provided.



“Any restrictions should only be during facility opening hours.”

“There should not be any designated safe protest zones. If there are any there should be safe zones for counter protest.”

Interference

There were 296 comments relating to the proposed restrictions on interfering, or attempting to interfere with service users or members of staff. Of these, 42 respondents commented that they **do not support allowing people to interfere** with service users or staff in general. In addition, 34 respondents commented that it was a legal **right to choose** what happened to their own body and to have an abortion, while 12 respondents commented that the **right to protest should not take precedence** over the right to choose to have an abortion. A further 6 respondents felt that there was **already enough information** for women to access and that they would have accessed this prior to attending the clinic, thus making the need for others to interfere unnecessary.



“There should not be any zones in which people can interfere with the patients.”

“It’s not anything to do with them, this is up to the individual.”

“I don’t believe protestors’ rights should outweigh the rights of the women involved nor of the staff going about their daily business.”

“People going to the clinic will already be aware of the information.”

However, 36 respondents commented that they opposed the restrictions because they have a **right to free speech and expression**, while 53 respondents commented that they had a **right to protest**. 14 respondents commented that they had a right to protest as long as it was **done peacefully**.



“We live in a free and democratic society where people are allowed to interact publicly. The council does not have the right to prevent peaceful public social interaction and communication.”

“I do not support restrictions as they impact on freedom of speech and religious freedom and also on real help that can be offered to both mother and baby.”

"I don't believe protestors' rights should outweigh the rights of the women involved nor of the staff going about their daily business."

"I do not support any restrictions to our right to protest, nor do I support any restrictions on our right to inform, to pray, or to gather in numbers."

"Should be peaceful demonstration no force on both sides."

17 respondents commented that they have a **duty to protect the unborn** who do not yet have a voice.



"Because we need to defend the unborn, because they can't talk and defend themselves."

"I consider human life to commence at conception. I cannot therefore support any action which may kill that life."

52 respondents commented that potential service users have the **right to be presented with information and alternatives to abortion**, which they felt is not provided by the clinic.



"Everyone can change their mind in the last minute."

"People have the right to know that there are alternatives to abortion."

30 respondents commented that those who gather near the clinic **do not interfere with service users and staff** and that talking to them and offering support, information and prayer **does not constitute interfering behaviour**.



"Items b, c, & d are misrepresentative of what really happens outside the clinic."

"I did not give an opinion on b) and c) because these behaviours are not being practised."

Intimidation and/or harassment

There were 172 comments relating to the proposed restrictions on intimidation, or attempting to intimidate or harass service users or staff. Of these, 41 respondents commented that they supported the restriction because **harassment and intimidation is unacceptable**, while 28 respondents commented that the **safety and privacy** of service users, staff and local residents is paramount.



"I am supporting them all to protect women from harassment, intimidation and disruption."

"Every person should be able to access health care without being harassed."

"I want everyone to feel safe in their place of work and carrying out their choice and the neighbours deserve their privacy and peace."

"I believe that everyone needs to feel safe and none of those options seem applicable to have outside a place of healing like that."

A further 33 respondents commented that they supported this restriction because the behaviours of Pro-Life supporters adds to the **emotional distress** of service users, while 7 respondents felt that **protestors would push the boundaries** of acceptable behaviour should these restrictions not be in place.



"All of these activities would be highly distressing to anyone using the clinic."

"I do not feel protesters should be allowed to add stress to an already stressful time most people know their views so do not need them thrust at them in any format whilst they go about their legitimate business."

"The problem with designated areas is that it almost promotes protest and may well cause a nuisance to residents, completely unrelated to the site itself."

However, 21 respondents felt that the restrictions were unnecessary because there is no evidence of harassment or intimidation, while 8 respondents commented that

the **Pro-Life supporters are actually the ones who are harassed** by staff and Pro-Choice supporters.



Pro-choice people have the right to choose and feel safe without intimidation.”

“I am not aware of pro-life people outside clinics harassing others, however, I have heard many cases of pro-life people feeling/being harassed.”

21 respondents commented that the restrictions were unnecessary because there are already **existing laws** in place that protect against harassment and intimidation if it were taking place.



“Existing laws and approaches are adequate to address intimidation and harassment should this occur.”

“The police and council already have the powers necessary to stop anti-social or harassing behaviour without the need for this PSPO.”

4 respondents commented that while it was important to **restrict physical abuse**, the verbal support provided should not be restricted.



“It is only the 'physical' that should be restricted.”

9 respondents commented that the **interpretation of harassment and intimidation is subjective** and therefore difficult to monitor and enforce restrictions.



“These restrictions could easily be misinterpreted e.g. any attempt to converse with another person could be interpreted as harassment.”

"We do not wish to threaten or intimidate or harass anyone, but if everything we do or say is interpreted in this distorted way then we cannot agree to any of the restrictions."

Recording or photographing

There were 37 comments relating to the proposed restrictions of recording or photographing service users or staff. Of these, 10 respondents commented that they **support the restriction** of recording or photographing.



"Recording, interference or harassment isn't on regardless of where people are."

However, 20 respondents commented that they did not support the restriction because it **does not actually happen**, while 1 respondent commented that it should be allowed if it is **peaceful and respectful**. 1 respondent commented that they do it for their **own protection**.



"I have been praying and offering support and help to women entering abortion centres in other towns and I have never witnessed any harassing to staff nor women. No photography."

"People who do vigils record for their own protection against allegations of harassment by abortion campaigners and employees. There are no instances where such recordings have been used irresponsibly."

4 respondents commented that they felt it was actually **Pro-Choice and BPAS staff who videoed and photographed** those who were there as part of the Pro-Life support.



"Obviously photos should never be taken but abortion 'activists' take photos of the people silently praying - and other intimidating behaviour has occurred."

1 respondent questioned how it would be possible to **prove and monitor** this activity if it were restricted.



“How could you tell if someone is photographing someone else without arresting them, gaining access to their mobile phone and then proving an intent? What a waste of police resources!”

Displaying text or images

There were 34 comments relating to the proposed restrictions of displaying text or images. Of these, 6 respondents commented that it **should not be allowed**.



“Again I do not think it’s acceptable for protestors to be displaying images or texts that could be potentially harmful to anyone visiting the clinic.”

4 respondents commented that the displaying of text and images should be allowed because it is a **normal part of any protest**.



“Placards are part of normal protest and should not be stopped: however ludicrous or plainly ignorant/wrong.”

14 respondents commented that restricting this activity **prevents providing access to information and support** available to potential service users, while 10 respondents commented that graphic images need to be allowed so that **all abortion information is presented** to potential service users before they make their decision.



“I think it is important to allow the public to respond to the vigil, e.g. by displaying the name and phone number of a pro-life / pro-choice organisation.”

“The truth of what happens to a baby in abortion should be made known.”

Playing of amplified music, voice or audio recordings

There were 16 comments relating to the proposed restrictions on playing amplified music, voice or audio recordings. Of these, 7 respondents commented that music is **not threatening** and should be allowed, while 2 respondents commented that it should be allowed to be played **quietly and peacefully**.



"I believe music should be allowed to be played if it is solely for the purpose of creating a welcoming environment for anyone wanting to visit the clinic."

"Noise and music levels must be kept to reasonable levels."

5 respondents commented that the playing of amplified music should be banned because it **impacts on local residents**, while 2 respondents commented that it should be banned because it has a **negative impact on service users**.



"As the area is residential, any loud persistent protest - e.g. singing, chanting, amplified sound should be banned."

"I would say that an audio recording, music or video that relates directly or indirectly to the termination of a pregnancy should not be played, whether amplified or not."

Holding vigils

There were 93 comments relating to the proposed restrictions on holding vigils. Of these, 54 respondents commented that the restrictions were **against their right to hold religious beliefs** and to pray. Respondents also felt that the restrictions were specifically discriminatory against those who hold Christian beliefs.



"The criminalisation of silent prayer is an extraordinary overreach of power."

"You have no right to take away our freedom to practice our faith."

“Other actions such as prohibiting prayer or holy water are religious discrimination as targeted at a particular group.”

30 respondents commented that prayer and other related activities were done peacefully, is **not intrusive** and does not constitute harassment.



“I really find the thought that praying is offensive is an astonishing concept in what purports to be a Christian country.”

“Praying is nothing bad they are just there to support those women who desperately need some support.”

4 respondents commented that the **lives of many children had been saved** due to their prayers and vigils undertaken near to the clinic.



“Many babies have been saved by the prayers and the actions of people outside the BPAS centre.”

3 respondents commented that the **vigils were not aimed directly at passers-by**, while 2 respondents commented that passers-by were **free to ignore** these actions should they wish to.



“I have joined with The Light pro-life group Bournemouth who pray on the other side of the road from the clinic and these activities are inaudible from the opposite side of the road. Also these activities are never aimed at a passing service user, rather ongoing prayer.”

“Passers-by have the choice to notice or ignore such behaviour; they are not being forced to watch.”

Other/general comments

There were 432 general and other comments relating to the proposed restrictions on behaviour within the designated areas. Of these, 147 respondents commented that there should be **no designated areas within the Safe Zone at all**, while 10

respondents commented that the restrictions would be **difficult to monitor** and therefore there should be no designated area.



"I do not support having a designated area - it should be a safe zone with no designated areas."

"I do not support the principle of a designated area. The safe zone should be a safe zone, with no exceptions."

"It will be near impossible to police anything other than a complete safe zone with no designated area/amount of people."

98 respondents commented that if there was to be a designated area then **all of the proposed restrictions should apply**.



"Any behaviour of this order is harassment under all circumstances, and should be completely forbidden and illegal."

"I do not believe there should be "designated areas" within the proposed PSPO area. However if the decision is made that there will be designated areas. I strongly support the restriction of all of the above behaviours within those areas."

In contrast, 62 respondents commented that there should be **no restrictions** in place in the area around the clinic at all, and that the **restrictions would make the designated area redundant** as the activities are the same as the restricted behaviours within the Safe Zone overall.



"Designated zones" are not a concession, as the proposals include the same draconian restrictions as in the rest of the "safe zone".

"The 'designated areas' are not a concession because the proposals include the same heavy handed restrictions as are included in the rest of the safe zone."

44 respondents commented that there is **no evidence** of the restricted behaviours in general and therefore restrictions were unnecessary, while 24 respondents commented that there are **existing laws** that can already tackle the range of behaviours.



"I have never seen any unlawful behaviour to have any restriction to be put in place."

"I didn't offer an opinion on some of the restrictions as I do not believe that the behaviour they supposedly are designed to prevent are actually happening."

"There should be no restrictions. Apply the existing laws if they have been infringed."

"We have existing laws to prevent criminal activity, which is why we do not need PSPOs."

45 respondents commented that the **survey questions were confusing** as to whether they should state that they were in support of the restrictions or in support of allowing the behaviours within the designated area.



"I am struggling to understand the wording of the question. Are the above options suggestions that should be allowed or suggestions that are not allowed?? I strongly support not allowing any of the above."

2 respondents questioned **why the council were getting involved** in this topic.



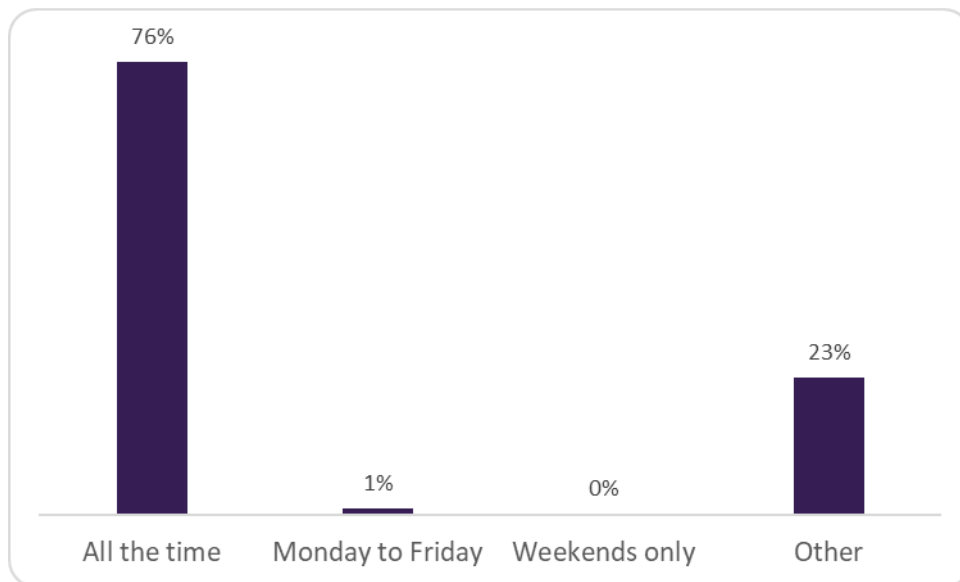
"Really, the council is having to spend time on this?"

Times the PSPO could cover

When the PSPO should be applicable

Q. At what times do you think the proposed PSPO should be applicable for?

Respondents were asked at what times they thought the proposed PSPO should be applicable for. 2,164 respondents provided an answer to this question.

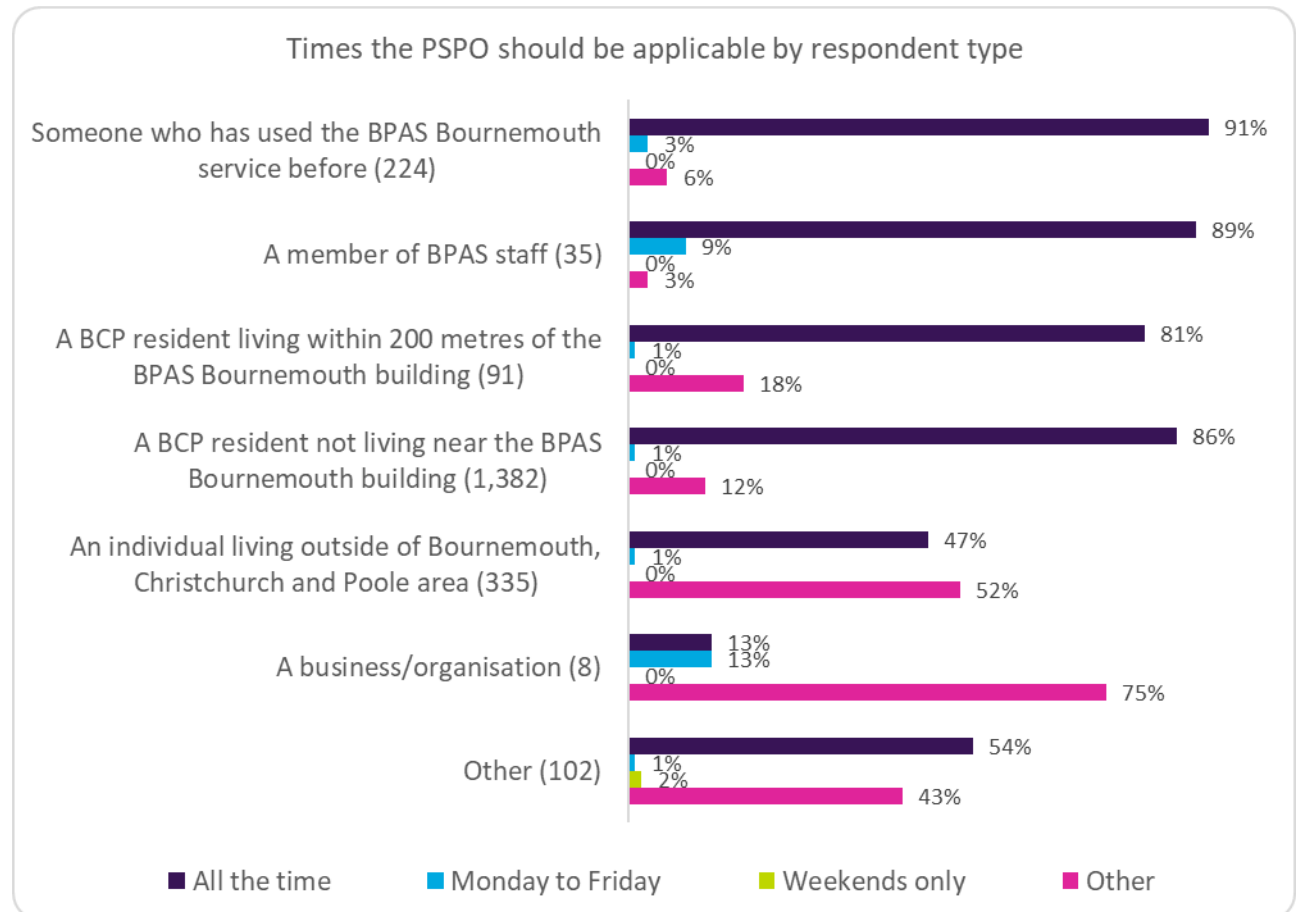


Base: 2,164

76% of respondents felt that the proposed PSPO should apply all the time, while 23% suggested alternative times. Respondents who replied that the PSPO should be applicable at other times were asked to specify what times that they thought it should apply.

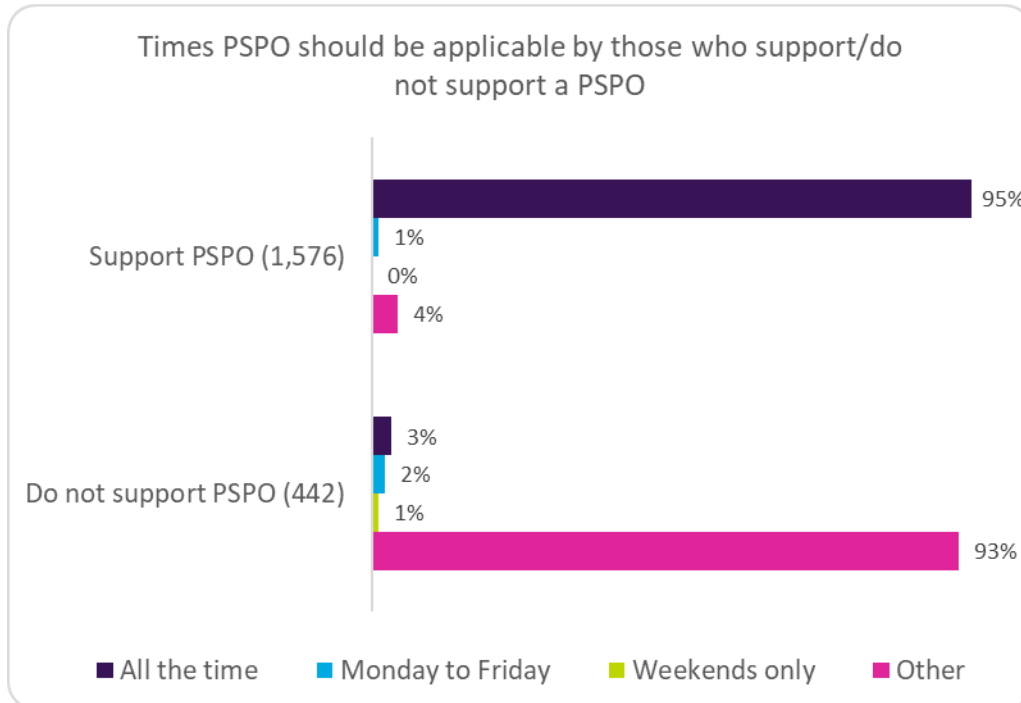
Of the 481 respondents who proposed alternative times, 412 stated that it **should never apply** and that they did not support the PSPO. 64 respondents suggested that the PSPO should only apply **during clinic opening hours with restrictions also covering 1-2 hours either side** of these to allow staff and service users to arrive and leave. 3 respondents suggested that it should apply during **night-time hours only**, while 1 respondent suggested weekdays only and 1 suggested weekends only.

The vast majority of respondents who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before, are a member of staff, or live within the BCP Council area, regardless of whether they live close to it or not, felt that the proposed PSPO should apply all the time. Respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents were split between whether it should apply all of the time or 'other' times.



Base: varied as labelled

The vast majority of respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented felt that the proposed PSPO should apply all the time, while the vast majority of respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented felt that it should be open at 'other' times, with the majority of these comments being that it should never apply.



Base: varied as labelled

While all demographic groups indicated that their preference was for the PSPO to be applicable all of the time, respondents who were most likely to indicate that this was their preferred option were:

- Aged younger than 55 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- White British or White ethnic minority
- No religion or any religion other than Christian

Respondents who were more likely to indicate that the PSPO should apply at 'other' times were:

- Aged older than 55 years
- Male
- The same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- Heterosexual
- Ethnic minority
- Christian

Demographic Base: varied as labelled	All the time	Monday to Friday	Weekends only	Other
16-24 (115)	83%	1%	1%	15%
25-34 (462)	87%	0%	0%	12%
35-44 (471)	84%	1%	0%	15%
45-54 (354)	83%	1%	1%	16%
55-64 (305)	70%	3%	1%	27%
65+ (320)	64%	1%	0%	35%
Female (1,471)	83%	1%	0%	16%
Male (520)	68%	2%	1%	30%
Identifying gender same as the sex registered at birth (1,906)	80%	1%	0%	19%
Identifying gender not the same as the sex registered at birth (28)	89%	0%	0%	11%
Heterosexual (1,591)	79%	2%	0%	20%
LGB / other (268)	92%	0%	1%	7%
White British (1,708)	82%	1%	0%	16%
White ethnic minority (121)	76%	2%	1%	21%
Ethnic minority (89)	58%	0%	0%	42%
No religion (1,124)	94%	1%	0%	6%
Christian (719)	53%	2%	1%	44%
All other religions (95)	87%	2%	0%	11%
Disability (301)	85%	1%	0%	14%
No disability (1,641)	79%	1%	0%	20%

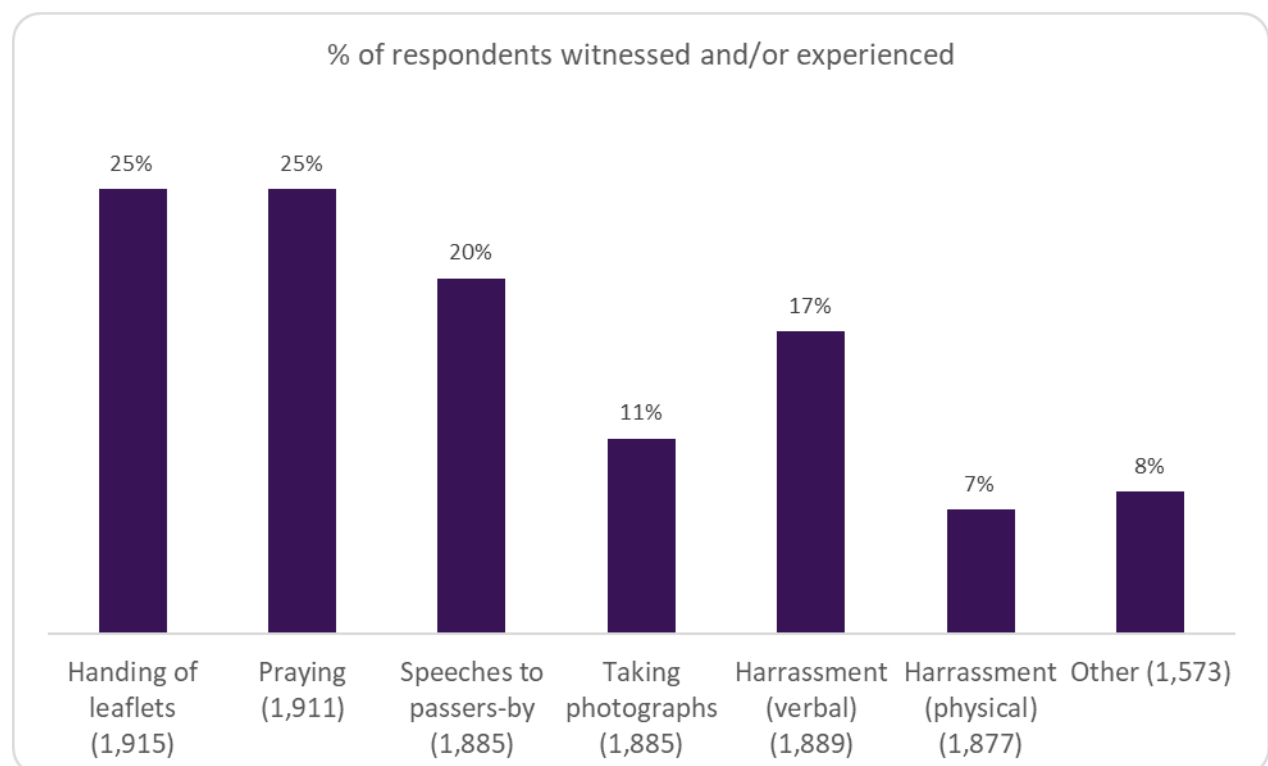
Behaviour in the area around the BPAS building

Experiences with behaviours near the BPAS building

Q. Please tell us if you have witnessed and/or experienced any of the following behaviours near the BPAS building in the last 12 months.

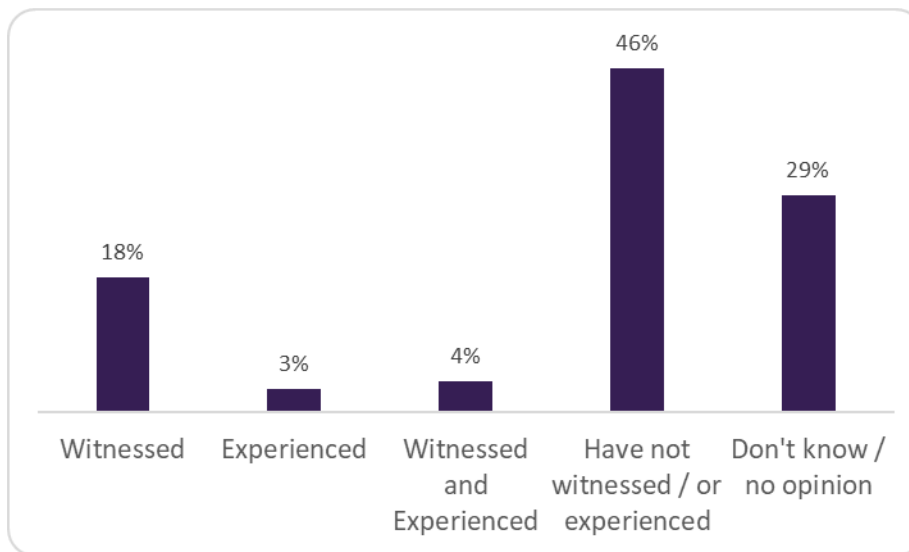
Respondents were asked whether they have witnessed and/or experienced a range of behaviours near the BPAS building in the last 12 months. Different numbers of respondents provided an answer to each behaviour. The number of responses to each behaviour are shown in brackets in the chart below.

25% of respondents have either witnessed or experienced the handing of leaflets and praying near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 20% have witnessed and/or experienced speeches to passers-by.



Base: varied as labelled

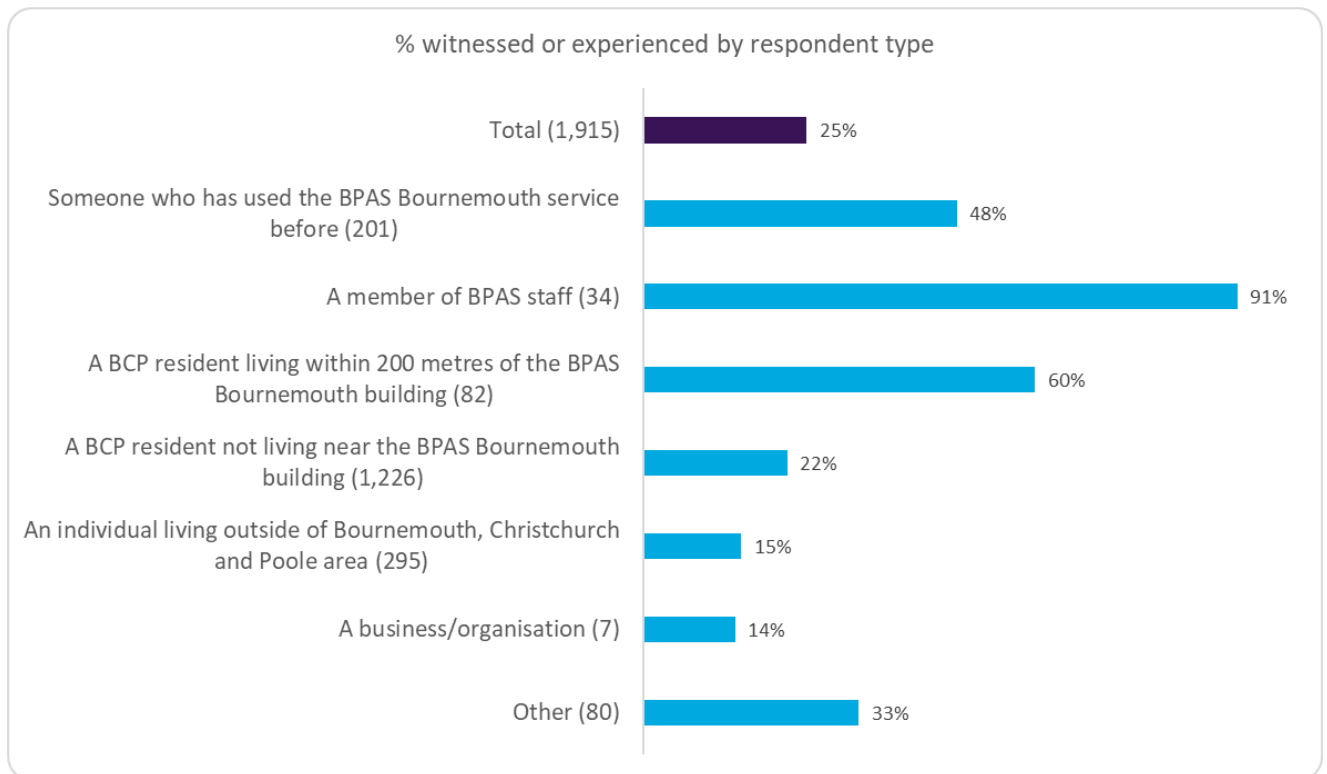
Handing of leaflets



Base: 1,915

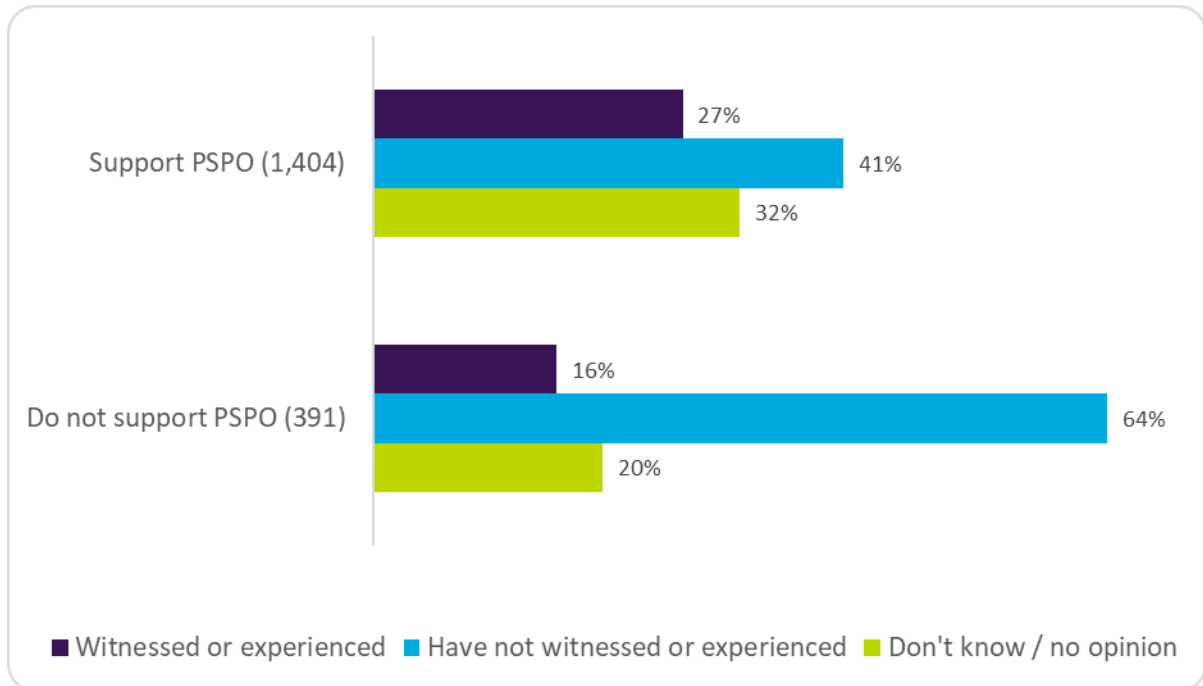
1,915 respondents provided an answer to this question. 18% of these respondents have witnessed the handing of leaflets near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 4% have witnessed and experienced it and 3% have experienced it.

Members of BPAS staff were significantly more likely than any other respondent type to have experienced or witnessed the handing out of leaflets in the last 12 months. In addition, BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building as well as those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed the handing out of leaflets than BCP residents not living near the BPAS building, respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

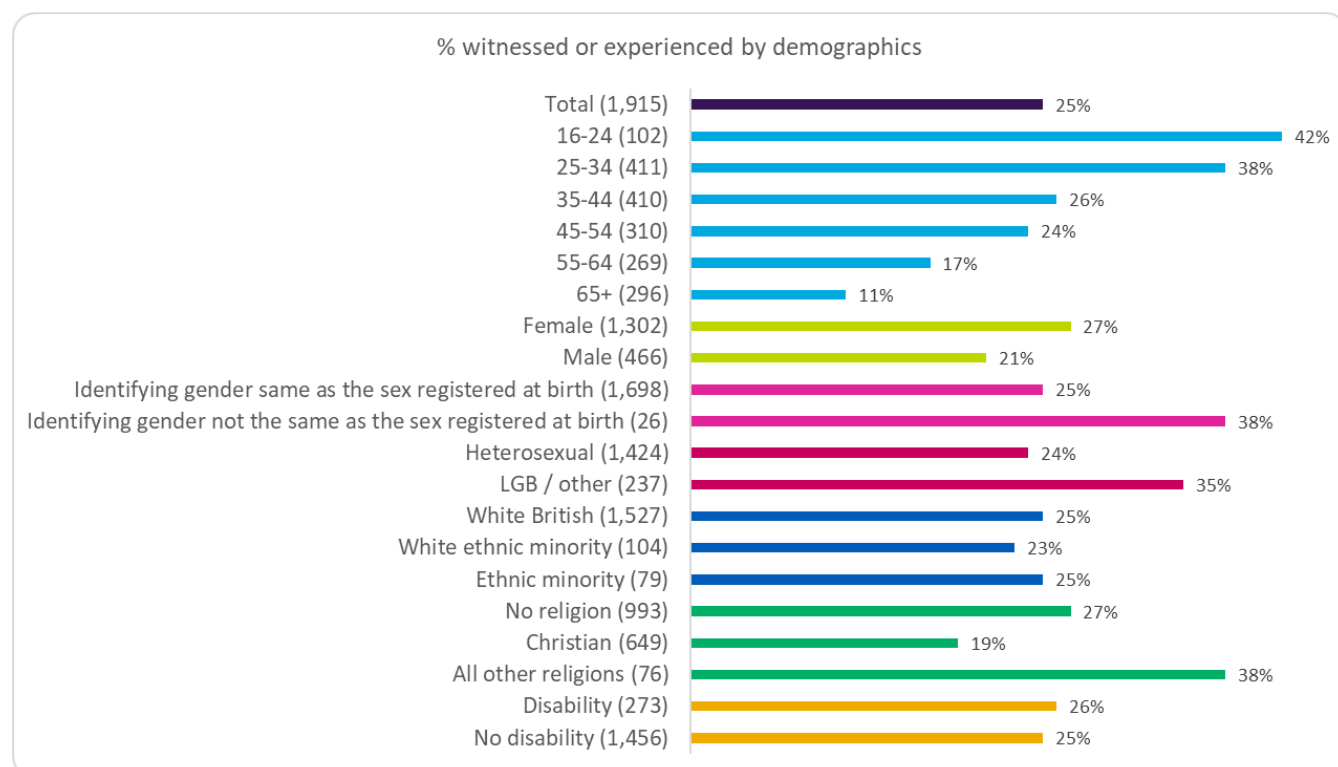
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed the handing out of leaflets in the last 12 months than respondents who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

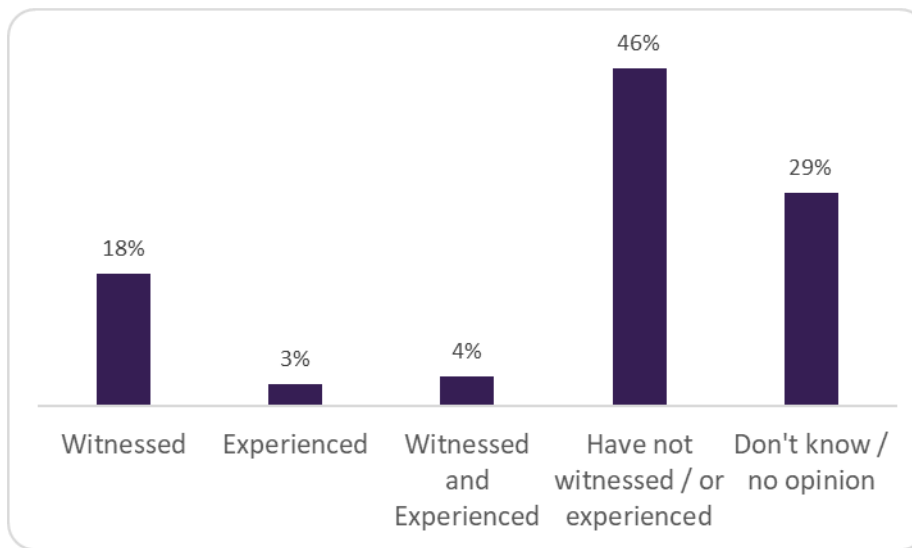
In addition, respondents who were most likely to have experienced or witnessed the **handing out of leaflets** in the last 12 months were:

- Aged younger than 35 years
- Female
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

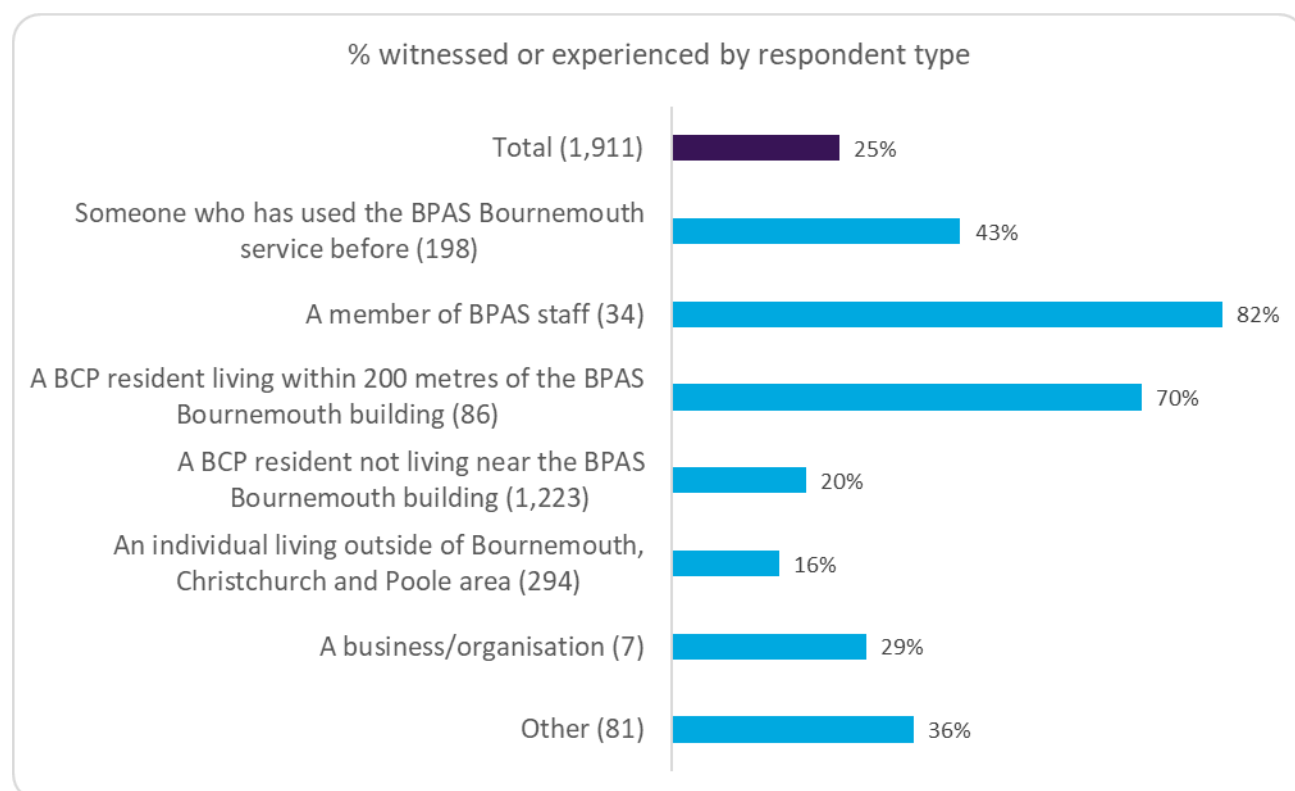
Praying



Base: 1,911

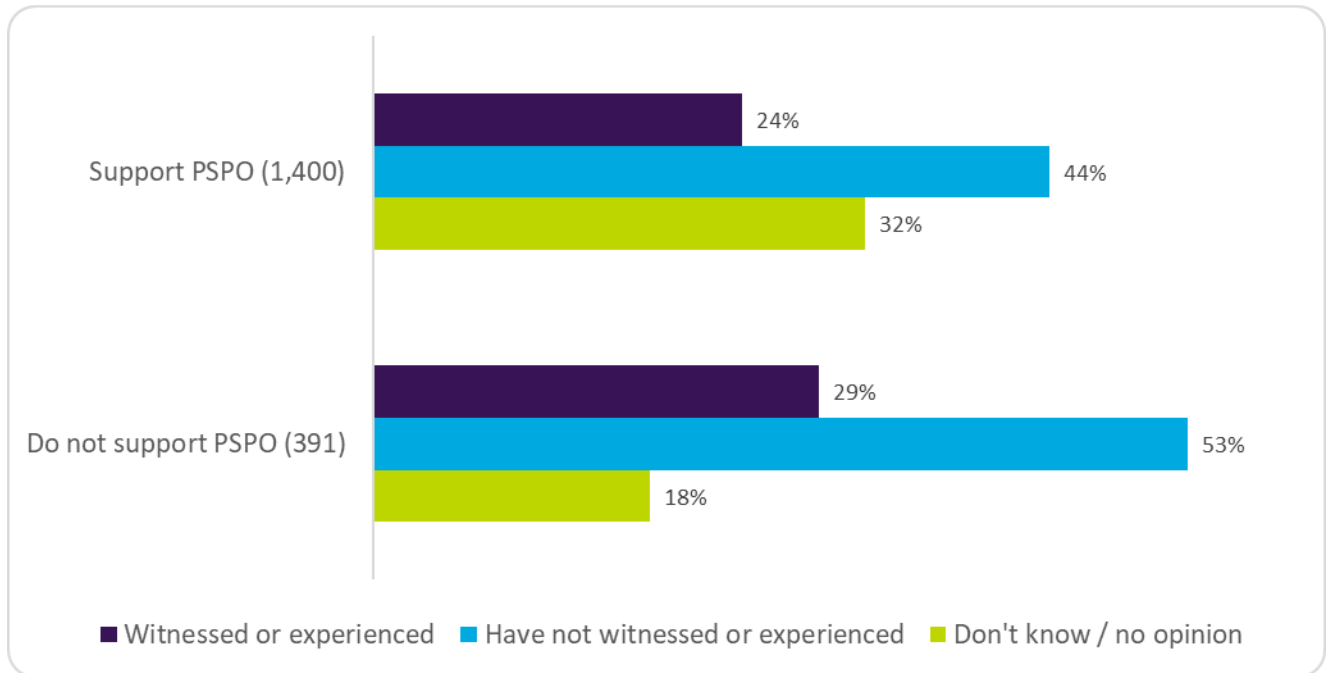
1,911 respondents provided an answer to this question. 18% of these respondents have witnessed praying near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 4% have witnessed and experienced it and 3% have experienced it.

Members of BPAS staff and BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building were significantly more likely than any other respondent type to have experienced or witnessed praying in the last 12 months. In addition, those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed praying than BCP residents not living near the BPAS building, respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

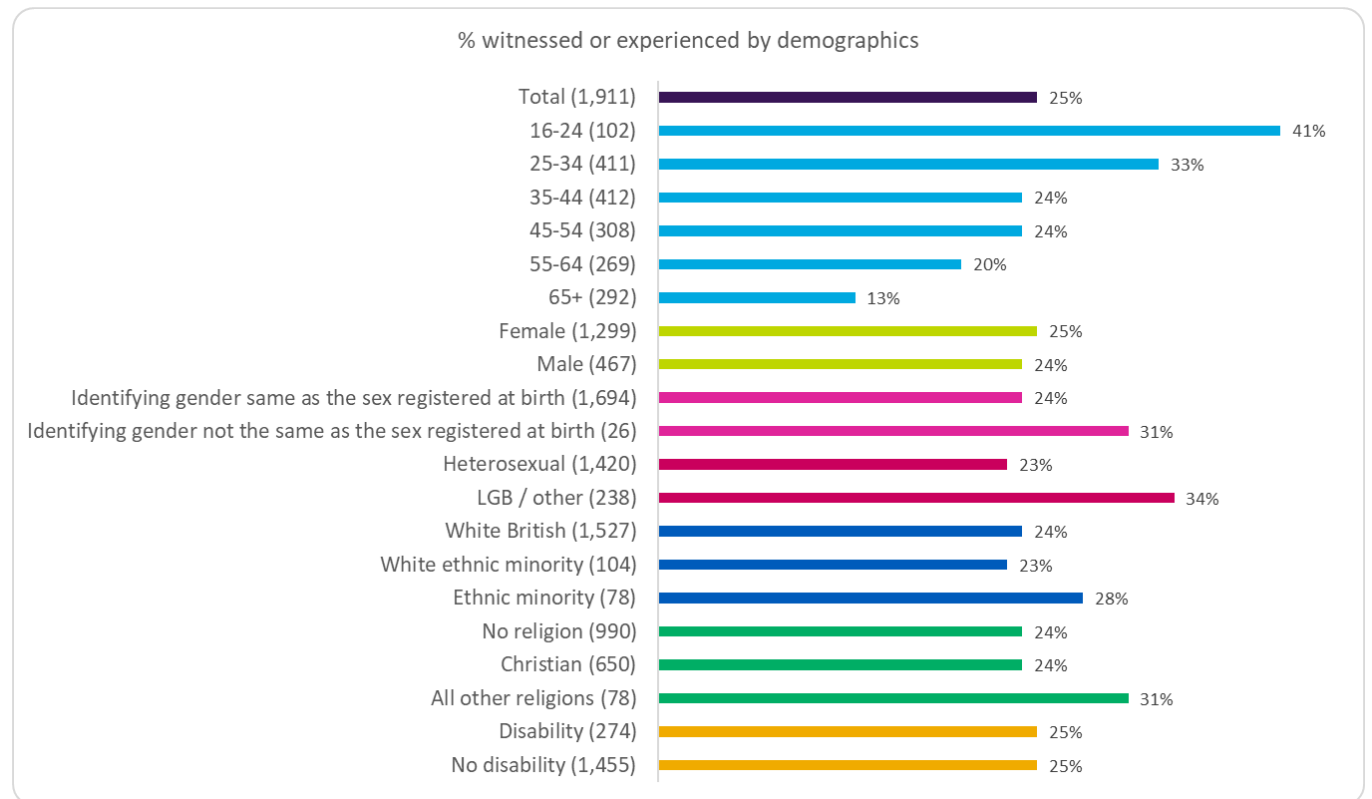
There were no significant differences between respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall and those who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall in terms of witnessing or experiencing praying in the last 12 months.



Base: varied as labelled

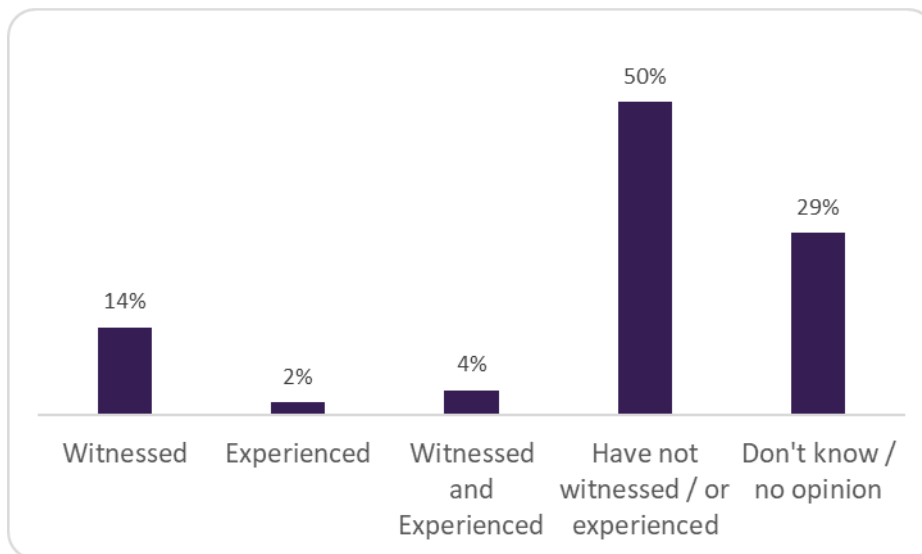
In addition, respondents who were most likely to have experienced or witnessed **praying** in the last 12 months were:

- Aged younger than 35 years
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- Any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

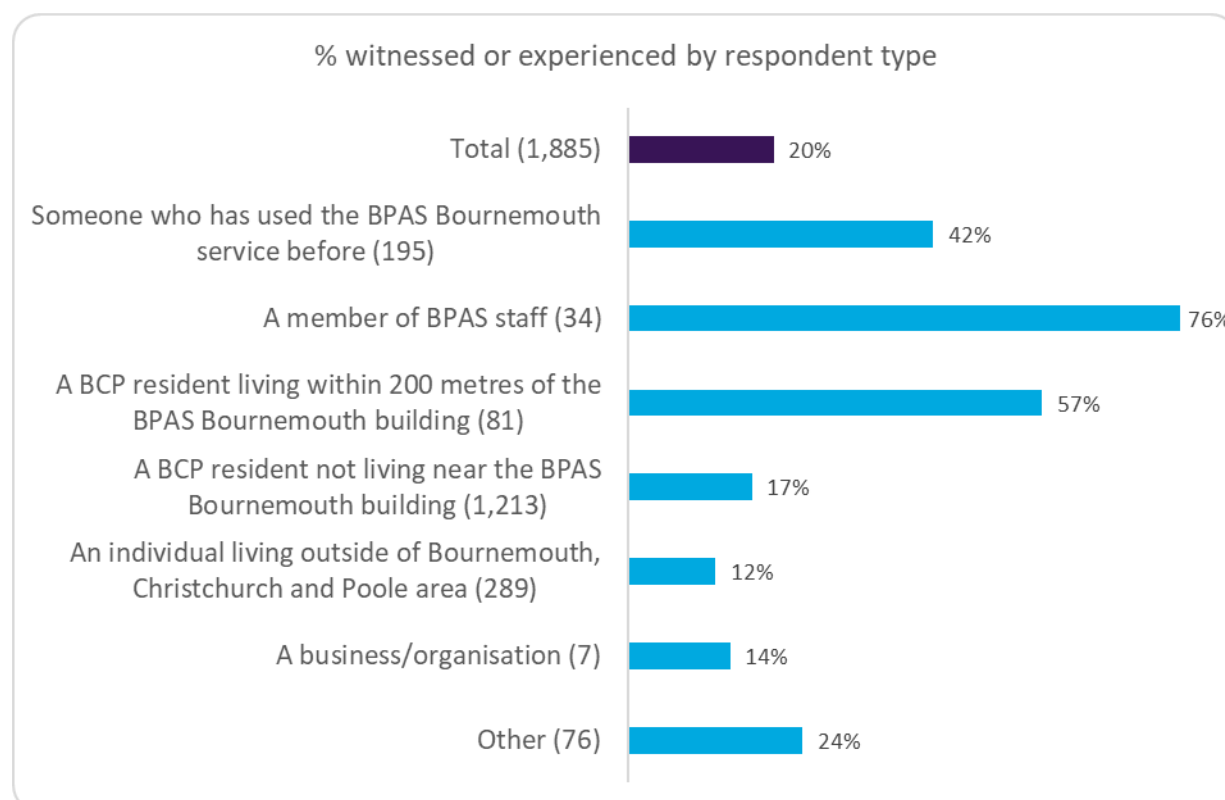
Speeches to passers-by



Base: 1,885

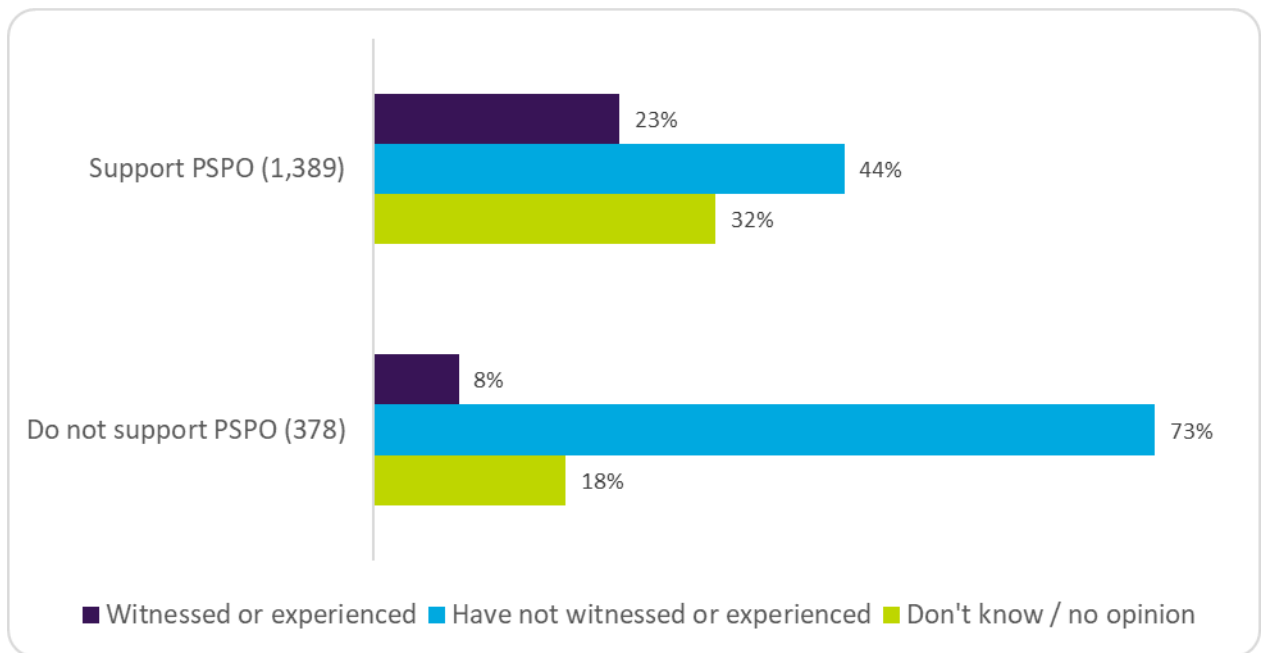
1,885 respondents provided an answer to this question. 14% of these respondents have witnessed speeches to passers-by near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 4% have witnessed and experienced it and 2% have experienced it.

Members of BPAS staff and BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building were significantly more likely than any other respondent type to have experienced or witnessed speeches to passers-by in the last 12 months. In addition, those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed speeches to passers-by than BCP residents not living near the BPAS building, respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

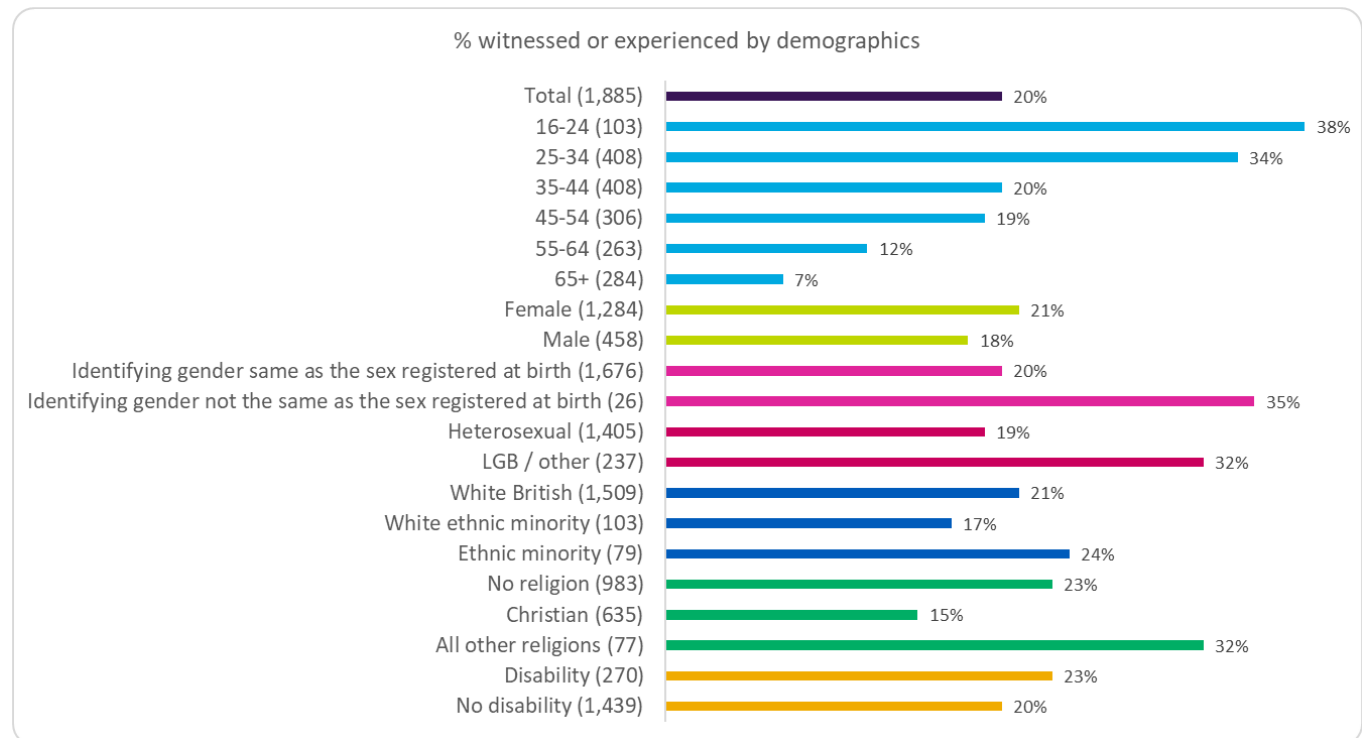
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to have witnessed or experienced speeches to passers-by than those who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

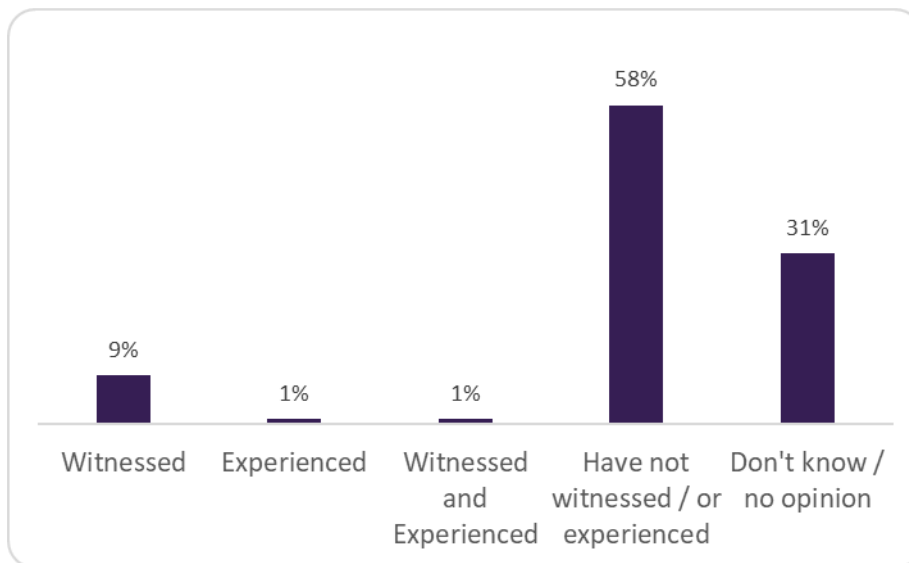
In addition, respondents who were most likely to have experienced or witnessed **speeches to passers-by** in the last 12 months were:

- Aged younger than 35 years
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

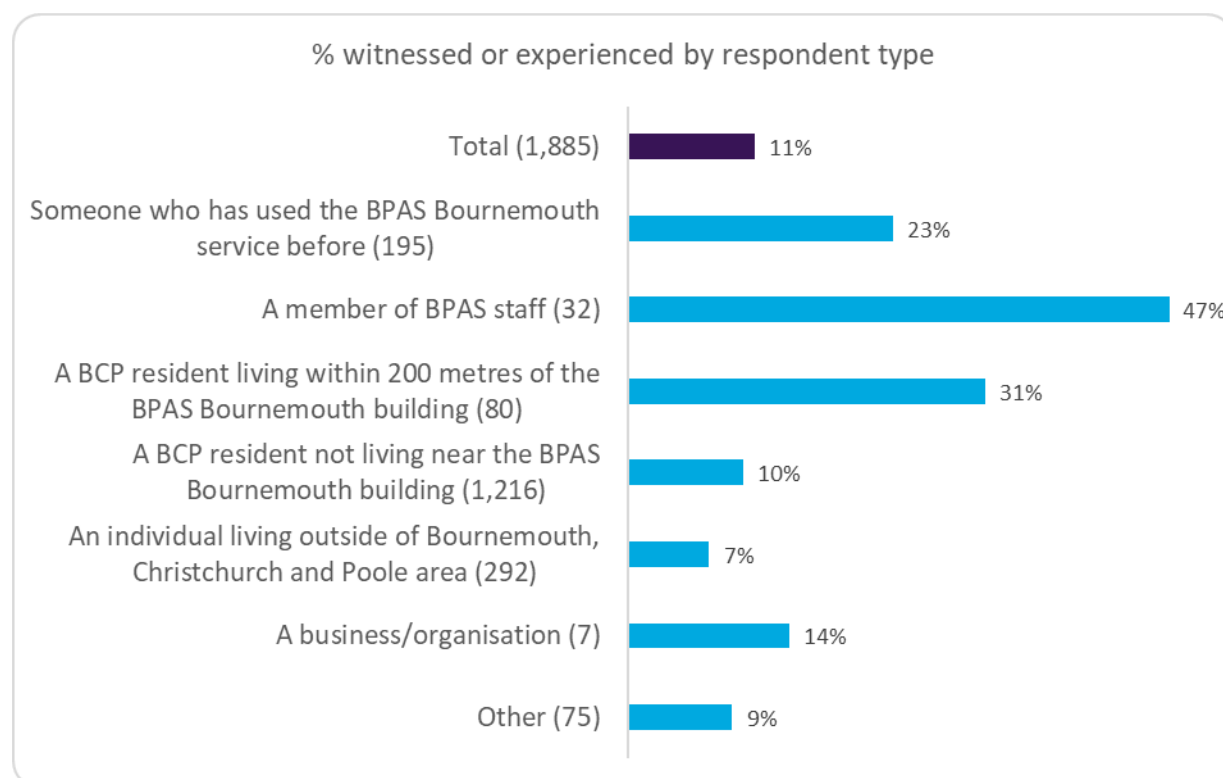
Taking photographs



Base: 1,885

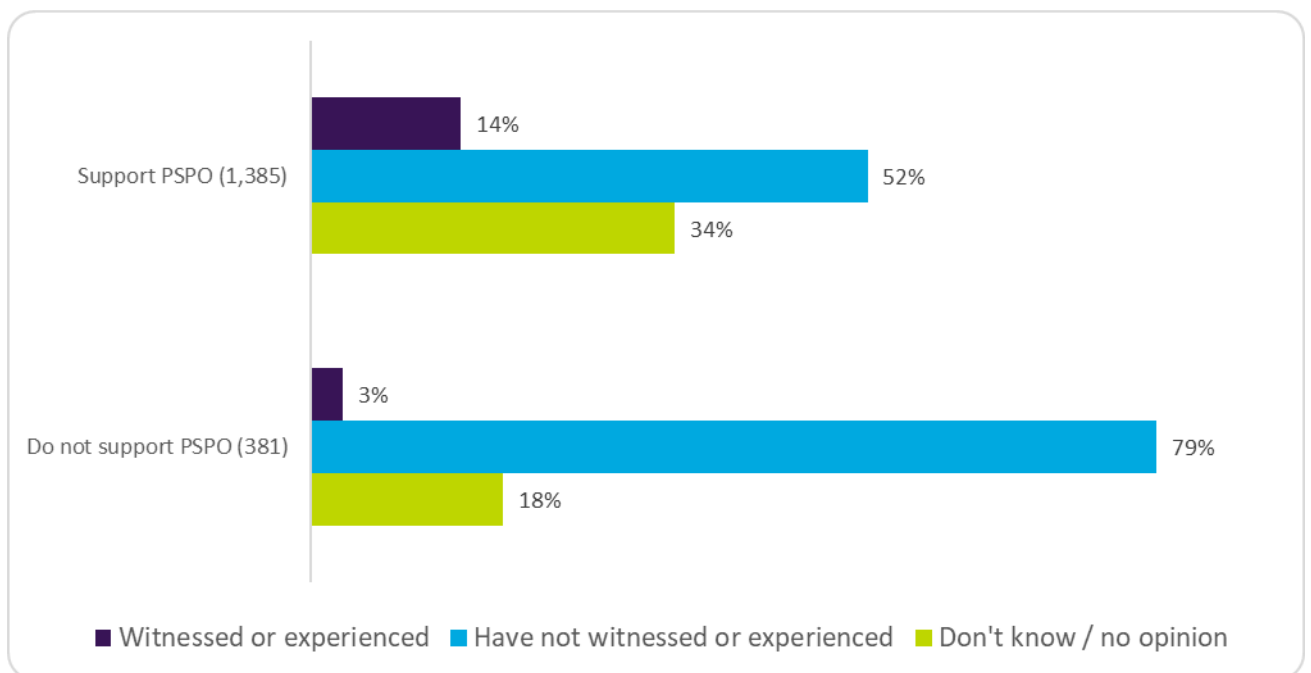
1,885 respondents provided an answer to this question. 9% of these respondents have witnessed the taking of photographs near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 1% have witnessed and experienced it and 1% have experienced it.

Members of BPAS staff were significantly more likely than any other respondent type to have experienced or witnessed the taking of photographs in the last 12 months. In addition, BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building and those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed the taking of photographs than BCP residents not living near the BPAS building, respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

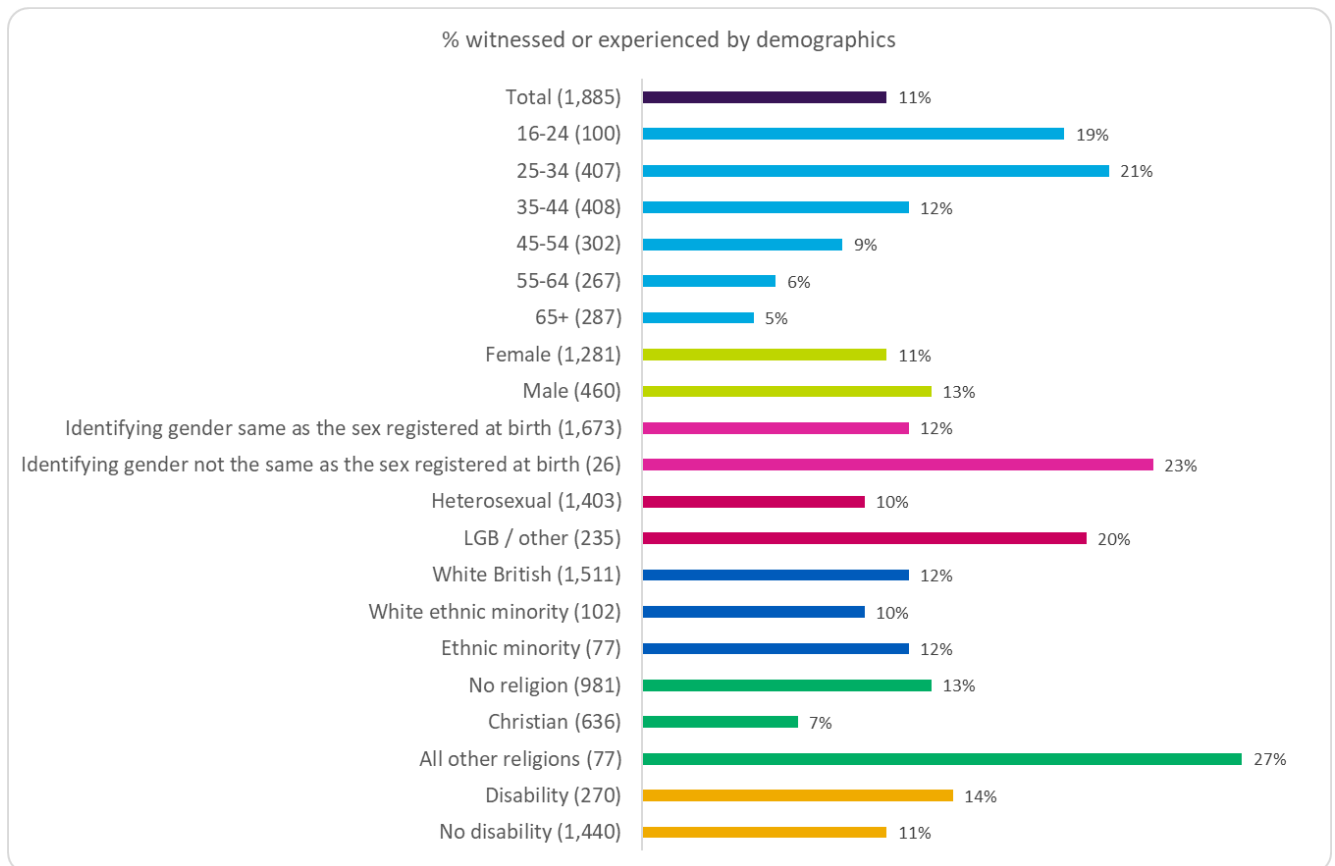
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to have witnessed or experienced the taking of photographs than those who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

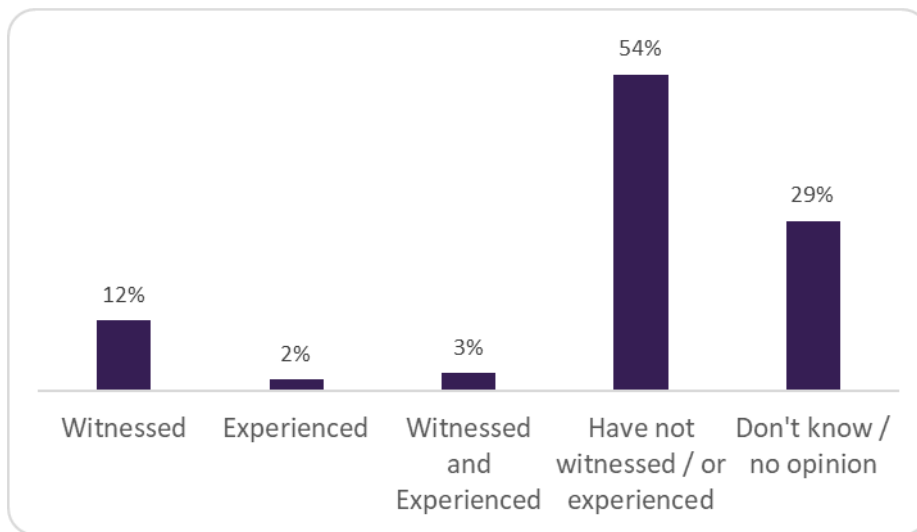
In addition, respondents who were most likely to have experienced or witnessed the **taking of photographs** in the last 12 months were:

- Aged younger than 35 years
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- Any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

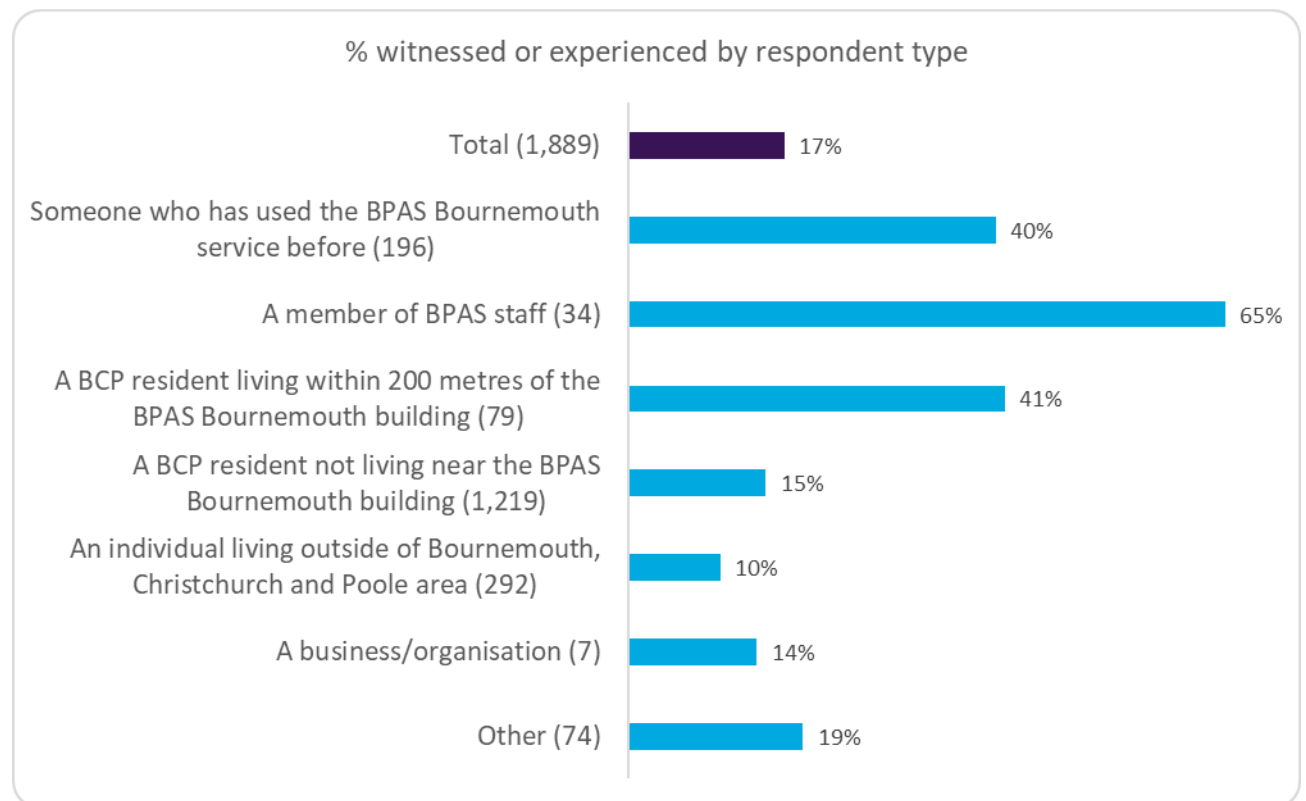
Verbal Harassment



Base: 1,889

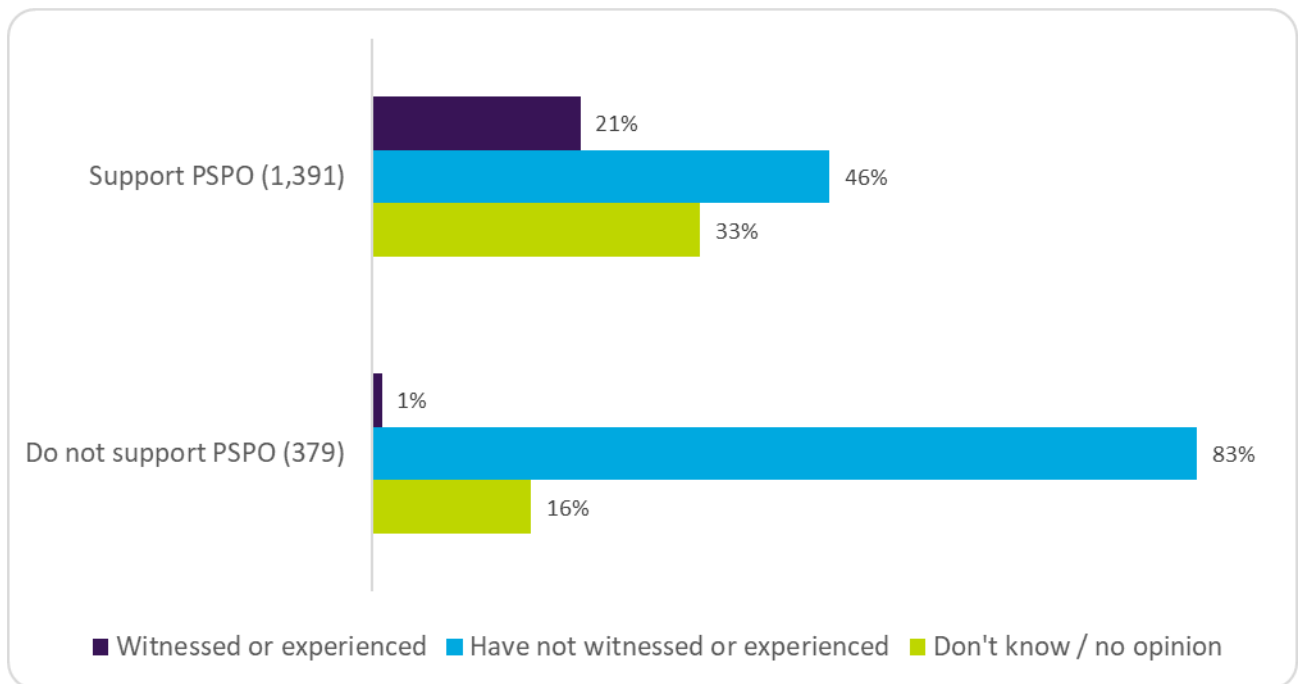
1,889 respondents provided an answer to this question. 12% of these respondents have witnessed verbal harassment near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 3% have witnessed and experienced it and 2% have experienced it.

Members of BPAS staff were significantly more likely than any other respondent type to have experienced or witnessed verbal harassment in the last 12 months. In addition, BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building and those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed verbal harassment than BCP residents not living near the BPAS building, respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area and 'other' respondents.



Base: varied as labelled

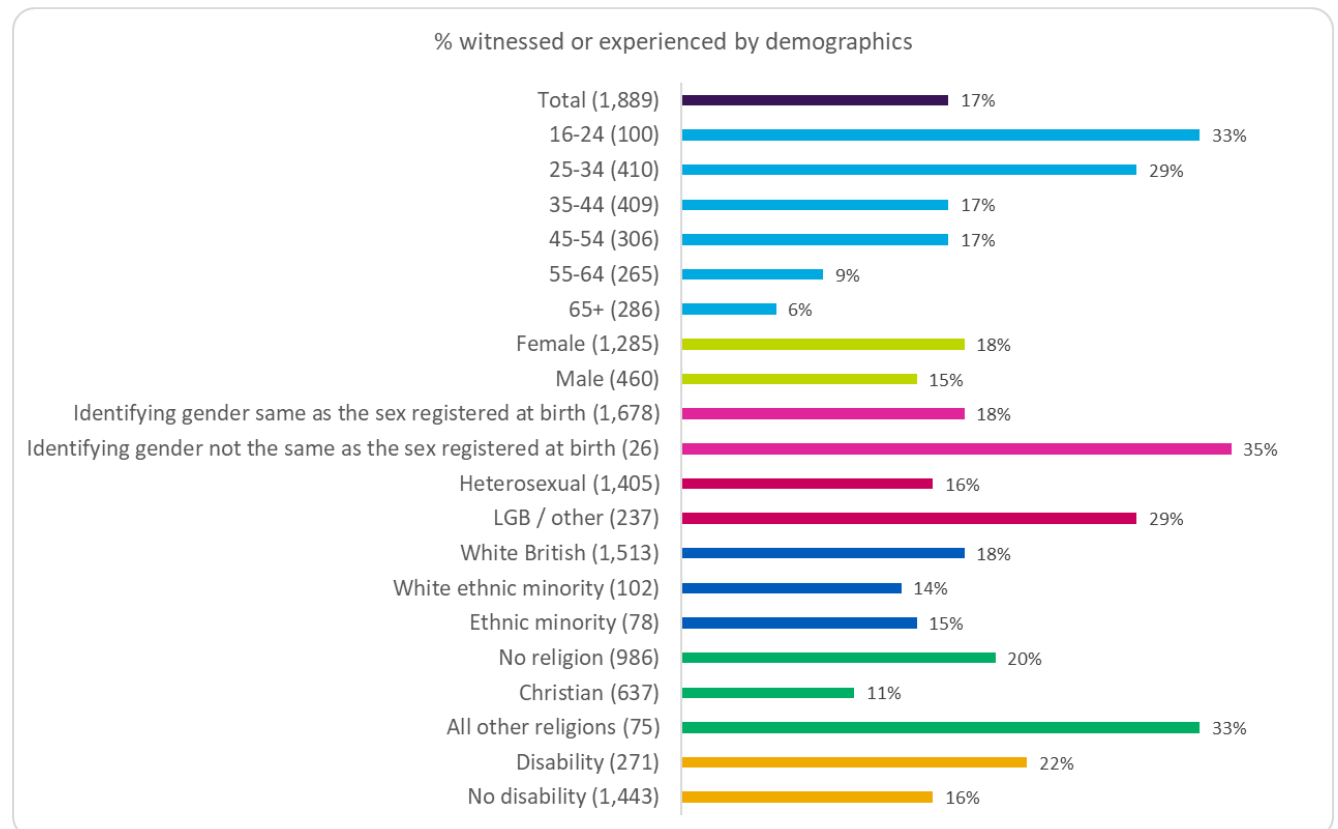
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to have witnessed or experienced verbal harassment than those who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

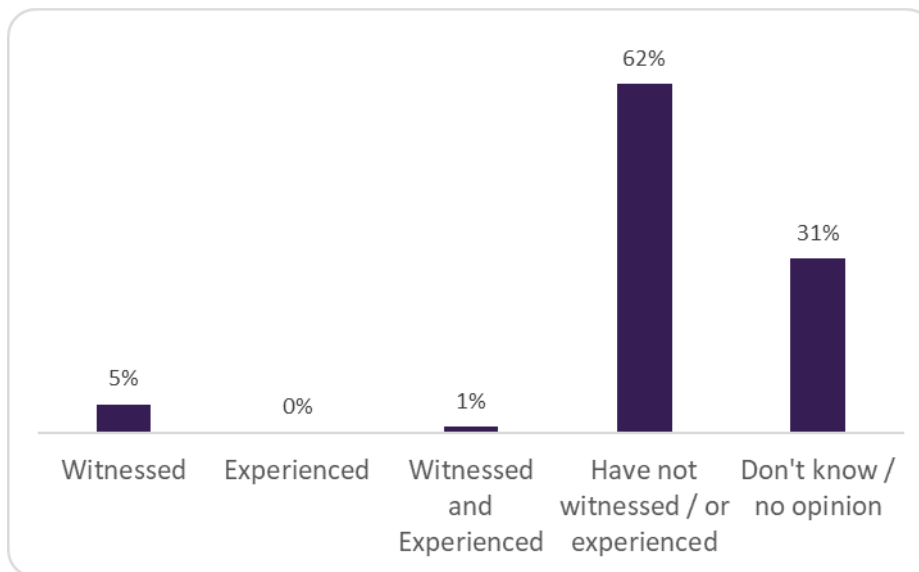
In addition, respondents who were most likely to have experienced or witnessed verbal harassment in the last 12 months were:

- Aged younger than 35 years
- Not the same gender identity as the sex they were registered at birth
- LGB / other sexuality
- No religion or any religion other than Christian
- Have a disability



Base: varied as labelled

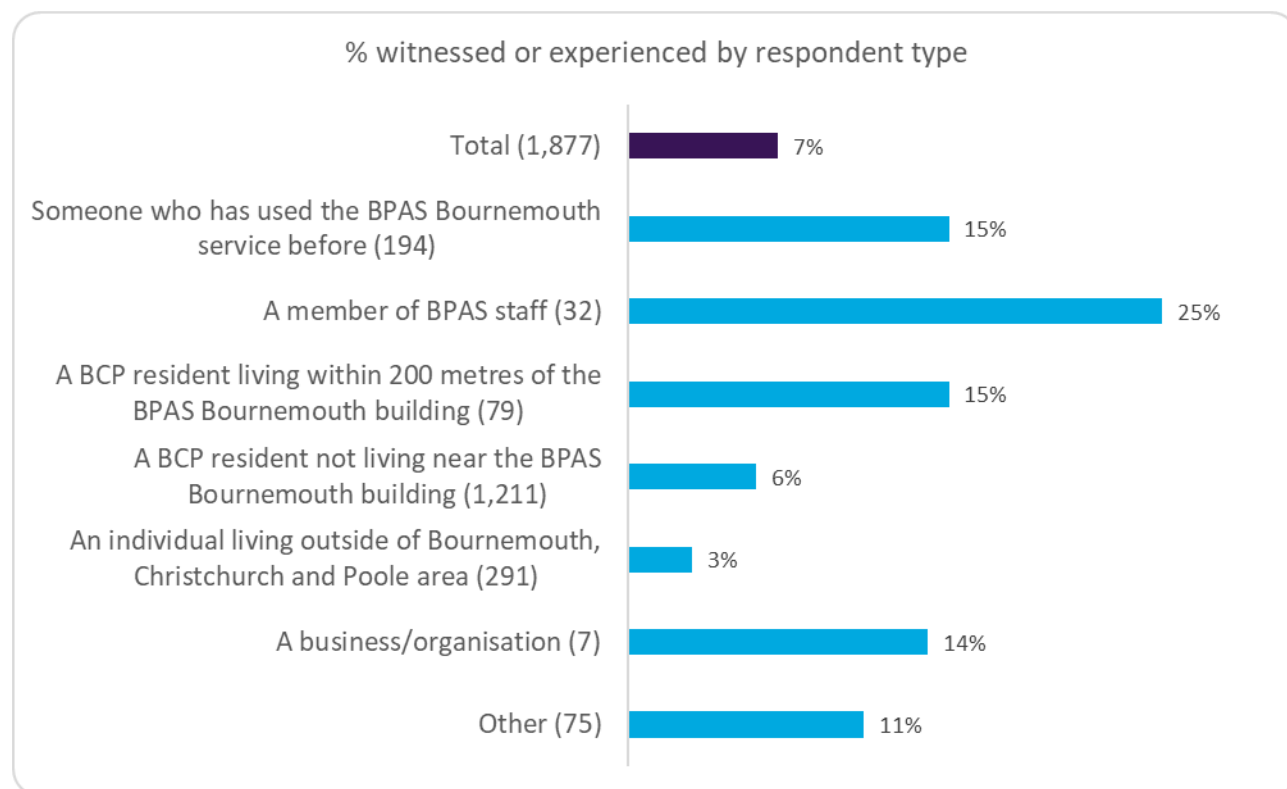
Physical Harassment



Base: 1,877

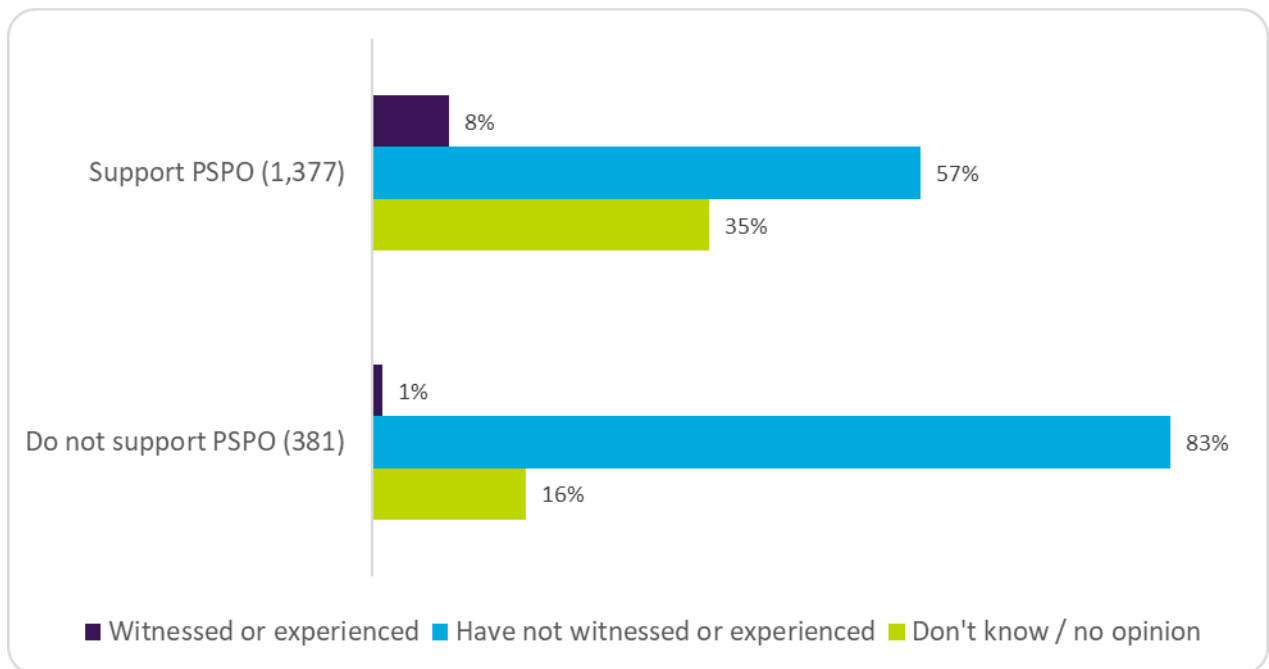
1,877 respondents provided an answer to this question. 5% of these respondents have witnessed physical harassment near the BPAS building in the last 12 months, while 1% have witnessed and experienced it.

Members of BPAS staff were significantly more likely than any other respondent type to have experienced or witnessed physical harassment in the last 12 months. In addition, BCP residents who live within 200 metres of the BPAS building and those who have used the BPAS Bournemouth service before were significantly more likely to have experienced or witnessed physical harassment than BCP residents not living near the BPAS building and respondents who live outside of the BCP Council area.



Base: varied as labelled

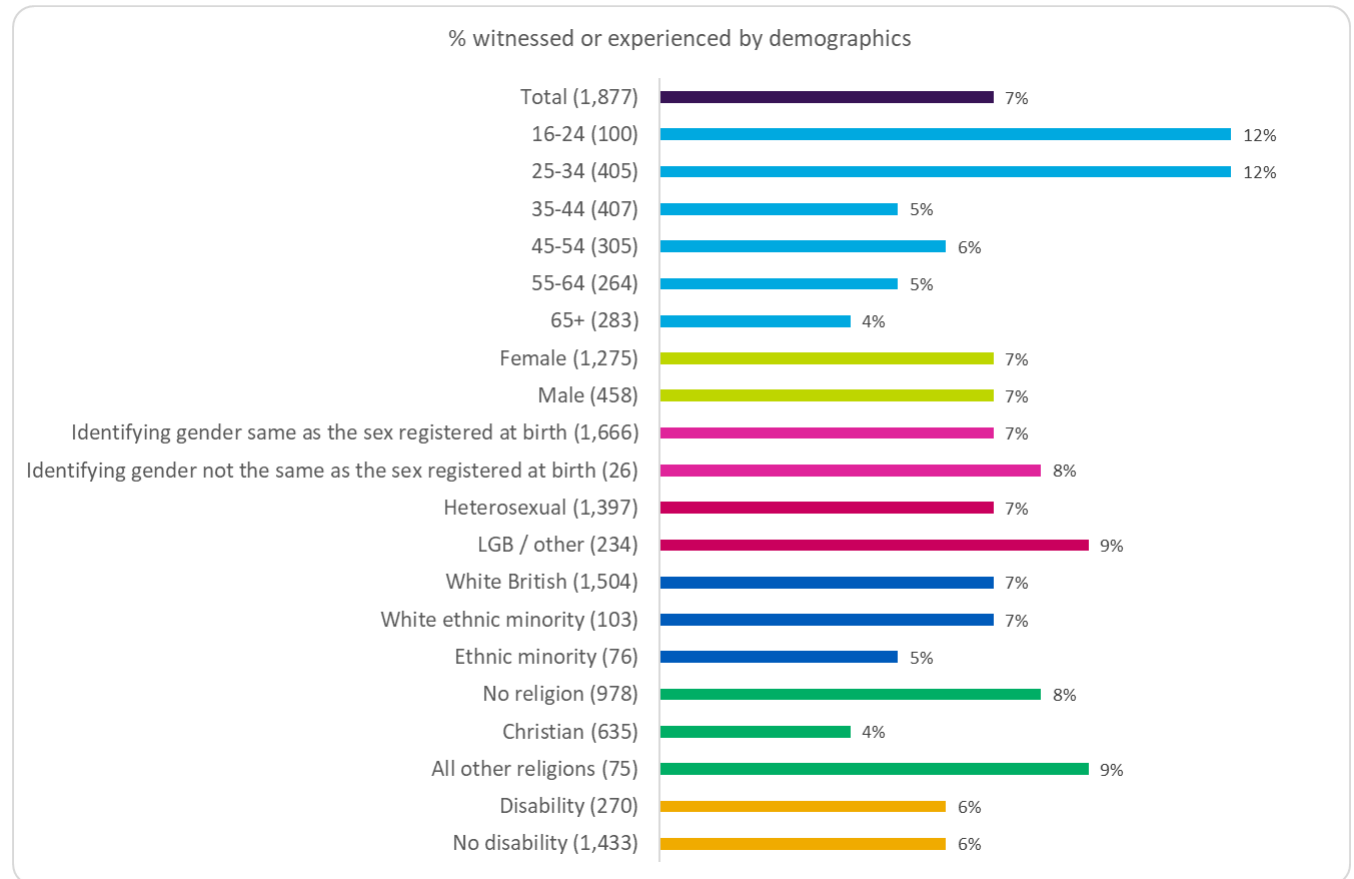
Respondents who support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall were significantly more likely to have witnessed or experienced physical harassment than those who do not support the principle of a PSPO being implemented overall.



Base: varied as labelled

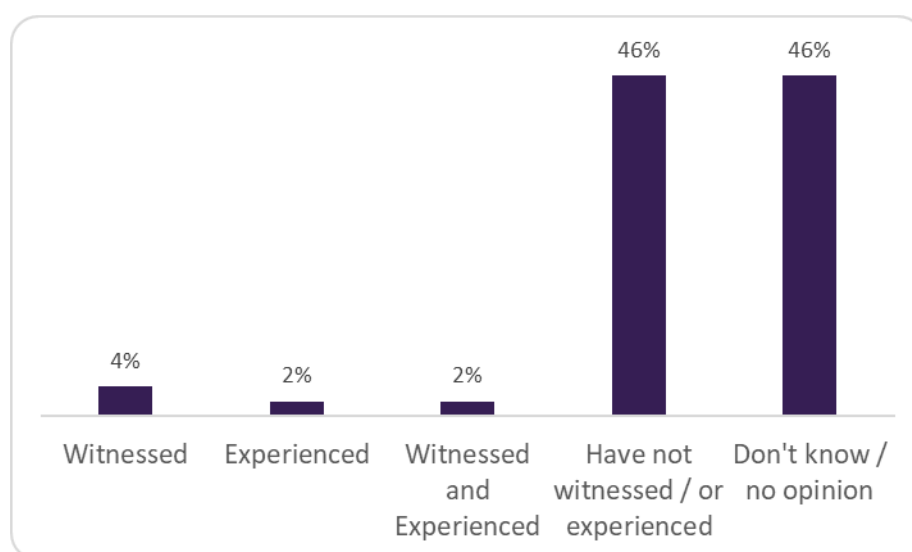
In addition, respondents who were most likely to have experienced or witnessed physical harassment in the last 12 months were:

- Aged younger than 35 years
- No religion or any religion other than Christian



Base: varied as labelled

Other



Base: 1,573

1,573 respondents provided an answer to this question. 8% of these respondents have witnessed or experienced other behaviours near the BPAS building in the last 12 months. Respondents who have witnessed or experienced other behaviours were asked to specify what these behaviours were. There were 67 comments relating to **anti-social behaviours towards service users and members of staff**, including threatening/intimidating behaviour, being followed to/from the clinic, placards and banners, leaflets being left on vehicles, baby clothes and toys being left in bushes, praying / vigils, being shown pictures and large group gatherings. Conversely, there were 37 comments from Pro-Life respondents, including the offering of **help, support and information through peaceful protests**, while these respondents also commented on being **harassed by Pro-Choice** groups and individuals. There were also 13 **miscellaneous comments**, with these comments primarily relating to having heard of the behaviours listed from others and within the media, witnessing the behaviours at other clinics around the UK.

Further Comments

Further comments about the proposal

Q. Do you have any further comments about the proposal to consider introducing a PSPO around the area of the BPAS building in Bournemouth?

Respondents were asked to write in any other comments about the proposal to consider introducing a PSPO around the area of the BPAS building in Bournemouth. 993 respondents provided feedback to this question. Responses were coded in to four key themes relating to 'comments in support of a PSPO', 'comments against a PSPO', 'suggested amendments to the PSPO', and 'comments about the consultation process'. Please note that where respondents have provided comments that relate to more than one theme, their feedback has been categorised into multiple categories.

Theme	Number of comments
Comments in support of a PSPO	941
Comments against a PSPO	396
Suggested amendments to the PSPO	33
Comments about the consultation process	140

Comments in support of a PSPO

There were 941 comments that were in support of the introduction of the PSPO. Of these, 136 respondents commented that they **supported the introduction of the PSPO in general**, it was long overdue and shouldn't require a consultation to implement something that seemed a logical response and is needed in the local area.



"Excellent idea, can't happen soon enough."

"Do it. There is no need for a public consultation to protect women seeking medical care."

"I think it needs to be done immediately and that the current situation has been allowed to continue for far too long."

44 respondents commented that there should not be any **protesting** allowed around the BPAS building, while a further 39 respondents commented that protesting and lobbying for change **can take place elsewhere**.



"I favour the total exclusion of protesters from this area. Having had to access BPAS services in the past, I had to encounter protesters however I'm a strong person and could cope. There are many women and girls who may not be as strong. They should not be put through running the gauntlet of protesters."

"I think it is a great idea to introduce a PSPO to protect the people who may use the clinic from unnecessary unwanted protest and behaviour from those who have no say and no choice in the matter. My body. My choice."

"I support democratic protest but not near clinics. Protestors can protest elsewhere."

"There are plenty of places that legitimate campaigning against abortion can take place. This is about allowing people to access healthcare at a time when they are vulnerable without harassment or intimidation."

Furthermore, 47 respondents specifically commented that they supported the introduction of a Safe Zone with no designated areas (**option 1**), while 13 respondents felt that this option was necessary due to difficulties with **monitoring and enforcement** of the restricted behaviours proposed for the designated areas.



"I think it's a good idea to have a PSPO with absolutely no designated areas for protesters."

"I highly support the introduction of a PSPO around the area of the BPAS building in Bournemouth. It should be as strong as possible, with no designated areas, and should be in place at all times."

"The PSPO may be difficult to enforce. I think it would be more difficult with the inclusion of the designated areas."

1 respondent specifically supported option 2 and 1 respondent supported option 3.



“If a PSPO is required I have no doubt that all Pro-Life people will observe it. It should be in a visible position (Option 2).”

“This building should have a safe zone around with 2 designated areas further away from the building to protect staff, patients & local residents. It is disgusting that BCP council would offer a designated area IN FRONT of the building!”

269 respondents commented that service users and staff should not have to be subjected to **harassment, intimidation or interference** from those who gather around the building and that they should not be subject to additional emotional distress.



“Feel very strongly that clients and staff have the protection to go to the clinic without any interference.”

“BPAS provides an essential service, users of the service will likely be at a low point in their lives and its staff are kind healthcare providers. It is imperative that these individuals are treated with dignity and kindness and kept safe.”

“Clients and staff are subject to ongoing abuse, intimidation and abhorrent behaviour when coming into work or trying to access healthcare. This has such an impact on everyone’s mental health and experience day to day when coming to the clinic. Witnessing these actions by protesters has become a regular occurrence and the distress it causes is simply not acceptable.”

109 respondents commented that the **safety and protection** of service users and staff should be paramount to the introduction of a PSPO.



“Introduce the buffer zone now to keep women safe.”

“It’s a great idea - it should definitely happen. The staff and service users deserve to be protected.”

23 respondents commented that both service users and staff should be able to access the clinic with **privacy** and dignity.



“These woman deserve the right to privacy without judgement.”

“It should be human right to access healthcare with privacy.”

88 respondents commented that it the **woman’s right to choose** what happens to their own body and that it is nobody else’s business what they decide.



“Any person has a right to their own body, their healthcare options and their safety. Removing female reproductive rights is an assault on human rights.”

“Although I have not had to have an abortion in the BCP area I fully support any woman or girl’s right to do so.”

A further 94 respondents commented that **abortion is legal healthcare** and that they have a right to access medical services without judgement or interference. These respondents also commented that the protests and other behaviours would not be allowed outside other healthcare settings and therefore should not be permitted to take place outside the clinic.



“Abortion is legal, so women should not be made to feel like criminals for having one.”

“If there is nuisance behaviour around these service buildings then it needs to be cracked down on. Fringe views that dictate the behaviour of others are dangerous and must be challenged. This is not a partisan or religious issue but a right of access to care. We would and do not tolerate protesting around any other medical procedure and this should be no different.”

18 respondents commented that they were concerned that the recent **changes in legislation within USA should not be allowed to influence access to abortion services within the UK.**



“I really feel there is no valid reason why the safe space should not be implemented. We do not want to go down the road that the US has taken.”

“I’m pleased to hear that the PSPO is being considered for the area. This is clearly a difficult time after the outcome from the USA. We however are not the USA and our policies and laws are not governed by outdated religious affiliations which only seek to control people, especially women.”

20 respondents commented that protestors **do not know the personal circumstances** of why individuals are accessing the clinic and therefore it was unjust to protest against their decision and intimidate and harass service users.



“I am strongly in favour of introducing a PSPO, there are many reasons why a person would visit the BPAS building and no reason whatsoever that they should meet protestors on their way in.”

39 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions would benefit **local residents**, those who attend local schools and other passers-by.



“Simply that I strong support introducing a PSPO for the protection of those living near, working in or accessing the BPAS building.”

“I think the proposal is an excellent idea that greatly acts in the best interests of the local community and the staff and users of the clinic.”

Comments against a PSPO

There were 396 comments that were opposed to the introduction of the PSPO. Of these, 51 respondents commented that they **did not support the implementation of a PSPO in general** and that there should be no restrictions on behaviours.



"I am strongly against the proposal to have any buffer zone ever."

"I strongly oppose the buffer zone proposal and any restrictions."

51 respondents commented that their **human rights** should not be restricted in general and questioned where it would end.



"It will be illegal, unlawful and an attack against the freedom of persons."

"My greatest concern is the generalisation of PSPO orders to other activities and social interactions within the BCP area. It feels like the beginning of gagging orders and I am not comfortable with that. It interferes with and undermines democracy."

"No, it's an unnecessary restriction of civil rights."

29 respondents specifically commented that their **right to free speech and expression** should not be restricted, while 40 respondents felt that the proposals would limit their **right to religious beliefs** and prayer. A further 40 respondents commented that the proposals would restrict their human **right to assemble and protest**.



"Such moves appear to be overturning basic human rights regarding freedom of speech and freedom of religion."

"It's against free speech and a person's duty to protest peacefully."

"Peaceful prayer and protest should not be made illegal anywhere in Britain."

“The introduction of a one sided attack on peaceful protest and restrictions on provision of information and specifically an attack on peaceful exercise of prayer or religious witness sets a dangerous precedent.”

80 respondents felt that the proposals would restrict the rights of potential service users to **access last minute support**, alternative options and counselling, with many being coerced by partners and other family members when they did not want to go ahead with an abortion.



“This would further restrict women and girls receiving alternative choices to termination.”

“Please allow women the counselling they need to make such a life changing decision.”

“The consultation document seems not to recognise that women coerced into abortions need last minute help.”

43 respondents commented that the proposals restricted their **right to protest on behalf of the unborn**, they should not be punished for supporting the choice to live and that abortions should not be allowed.



“Please respect human life from conception as the first Human Right.”

“Abortion is simply the act of a mother murdering her own child. The fact that it is even legal in this country is beyond belief. Anyone brave enough to stand up for the rights of an innocent unborn child who is not able to speak for themselves has my full support and in my opinion should not be restricted whatsoever in their admirable mission to save an innocent life and persuade people to take responsibility for their actions and the impact that their own selfish decisions have on others.”

60 respondents commented that there was **no evidence** to support the implementation of a PSPO and that the activities undertaken by Pro-Life supporters do not constitute harassment.



“No concrete evidence exists of criminal or threatening behaviour linked to pro-life vigils, no formal cautions. It is not a crime to have and express an unpopular opinion.”

“I have been present on an occasion when the police came to monitor the activities of a small group of people - they were satisfied that there was no cause for concern on their behalf.”

“I have attended the prayer vigils across the road on the grassed area from the BPAS building. All those who have participated have been peaceful, prayerful and caring for the unborn babies and the mothers. We also offer help and advice for those who require it. No one abuses or harasses anyone who does not accept the offer of help.”

25 respondents commented that there are **existing laws** in place to tackle any intimidation, harassment and interference that may take place and therefore the additional restrictions were unnecessary.



“Please do not do it. There is already existing legislation that prevents harassment and physical assault of people. There should not be laws against peaceful protest, prayer, scripture-reading, provision of information and offering of help.”

“I don’t think it is an appropriate response. If people break the law by harassing or attacking people working at or using the clinic, they should be prosecuted. If they are not breaking the law, then they have the right to let their views be known.”

11 respondents commented that it was actually the **Pro-Life supporters who suffered from harassment** and intimidation rather than the other way round.



“The pro-life volunteers have been photographed and videoed numerous times, but those complaining about them have not been able to supply any photographic or video

evidence of “threatening”, “interfering” or “harassing” behaviour. Please allow the volunteers to continue their work.”

Suggested amendments to the PSPO

There were 33 comments that offered suggested changes to the proposed PSPO. Of these, 6 respondents suggested **designated areas should not be close to the clinic** to allow for peaceful protests only.



“If there has to be a designated crazy zone for the protesters PLEASE make sure it is on a different street and not in view of the building or the path to the building.”

3 respondents suggested that the Safe Zone **needed to be larger**, while 2 respondents felt that it was **too large**. 3 respondents suggested that PSPOs should be **implemented around other clinics** within the local area.



“To extend the Option 1 to locations of public transport which would likely be used by the clinic users and staff e.g. bus stops could be an easy smokescreen for protest, as groups gathering at a bus stop location is usual.”

“Crucial to my whole argument has been the size of the “Safe Zone”. The larger the “Safe Zone”, the less justification for restrictions; the smaller the “Safe Zone” the more justification there is for restrictions. All the proposed Safe Zones are far too large.”

“Please ban the right to protest around all abortion clinics in the BCP area.”

15 respondents suggested that the money set aside for the implementation of a PSPO would be **better spent on providing better support and alternative options** to those who are considering an abortion, including the Pro-Life view, options and support being provided within the BPAS building.



“Why is this even in place? Council should offer support and help not taking away support and deceive women into only one choice. You are accountable in the next life to support death of these children and sometimes women.”

“If women were offered a proper independent counselling service before being rushed to an abortion appointment, this ad hoc support outside clinics would not be necessary.”

2 respondents suggested that **notices** reminding people of acceptable behaviour was all that is needed in the local area, while 2 respondents suggested that **security** should be provided to service users when accessing the building.



“I would expect there to be a prominent notice displayed outside the clinic stating the restrictions and the penalties for not conforming to those restrictions.”

“If you are going to allow people to prey, preach and confront patients on their way in to the building there should be a choice of entrance and exit behind secure gates”

Comments about the consultation process

There were 140 comments about the consultation process. Of these, 36 respondents commented generally, **thanked the council for consulting** on this topic, were unaware of the consultation, and wanted consideration for the results.



“Good that you allow input and are discussing this huge issue.”

“Thank you for considering the experience of women and clinicians associated with the clinic. I appreciate this is a highly charged and emotive issue. It’s positive to see this consultation.”

20 respondents commented that the **question wording was confusing** and were concerned that some people may not answer correctly, skewing the results.



"I have found the wording of this document ambiguous and have had difficulty expressing my views. I hope the answers I have given show that I fully support this PSPO and I would feel much happier and safer in my home if the protestors were not present."

"This consultation wording means that some questions are worded in a way that makes it impossible to answer without supporting the safe zone idea."

35 respondents commented that the proposals **had not considered the views of Pro-Life supporters** or those who had been supported by them and had not gone through with the abortion. 2 respondents were concerned that the recent **changes in legislation in USA had influenced the council** to consider implementing a PSPO.



"Has the council consulted with volunteers who work with pro-life groups? Has the council consulted with those who support the pro-life groups or have been helped by them?"

"BCP Council appears to be taking a very one-sided approach to this issue. There seems to be a growing intolerance to anyone who believes in Christian values, and the council for all its documentation about equality does not live up to scrutiny in its actions. An example of this was the behaviour of many of the councillors at the council meeting where this public consultation was suggested. There was a distinct animosity by some in the room towards the idea that people have a right to protest and/or pray in public and be there to offer a helping hand - something neither the council nor the abortion industry are willing to give to people in a crisis pregnancy."

"I am concerned that problems which may have arisen in the USA are being used as a reason to justify decision-making in the UK."

28 respondents commented that the reason that the clinic was lobbying for the introduction of the PSPO because it **only cares about money** and that the Pro-Life supporters were impacting on profit margins.



"I question whether BPAS have called for these measures to protect their profits as pro-life activity can and does turn away business for abortion clinics as some women will change their minds."

"It is a proposal aimed only at the interests of BPAS. It helps no one except abortion providers who profit on the desperation of mothers whose needs are neglected, for whom the death of their unborn is presented as the only solution."

6 respondents commented that the consultation should **only consider the views of local residents, service users and staff**, while 3 respondents replied that they could not provide any further comments because they had **never visited the area**.



"I find it very disturbing to see that this consultation has been spread via the internet for non BCP residents to interfere with our city and the way our rates are spent."

"With regards witnessing or experiencing protests etc - I can't say I've ever been to the area of the BPAS building. So it's not that I've been around there and never seen anything, it's that I've not been there."

3 respondents felt that the issue of protesting around abortion clinics should be part of a **national debate and not localised**. A further 7 respondents commented on the **impact of PSPOs on other clinics around the UK**.



"This should be a national need not a local. This affects everyone throughout the UK and is not limited to local areas."

"I may not have experienced or witnessed but I have heard the experiences of women who have. I'm also aware that this is a problem countrywide and other areas have dealt with the problem in this way."

“I cannot comment on the situation in Bournemouth but I see every week the positive impact these Christian Counsellors have in Ealing, West London.”

Equalities and Human Rights

Impacts of the proposal in relation to equalities or human rights

Q. Are there any positive or negative impacts of this proposal that you believe that BCP Council should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights? If so, are you able to provide any supporting information and suggest any ways in which the organisation could reduce or remove any negative impacts and increase any positive impacts?

Respondents were asked to write in any positive or negative impacts of this proposal that they believe that BCP Council should take into account in relation to equalities or human rights, and if so, to provide supporting information and to suggest ways in which the organisation could reduce or remove any negative impacts or increase any positive impacts.

942 respondents provided feedback to this question. Responses were coded in to three key themes relating to 'comments in support of a PSPO', 'comments against a PSPO', and 'comments considering both viewpoints'. Please note that where respondents have provided comments that relate to more than one theme, their feedback has been categorised into multiple categories.

Theme	Number of comments
Comments in support of a PSPO	935
Comments against a PSPO	651
Comments considering both viewpoints	40

Comments in support of a PSPO

There were 935 comments that were in support of the introduction of the PSPO relating to the positive impacts of the proposal. Of these, 22 respondents commented that the proposals would have a **positive impact in general** without giving specific reasons, while an additional 17 comments were that a **Safe Zone was required**, again without giving specific reasons as to why.



"The proposal for the PSPO with no designated areas would have a large positive impact on the human rights of vulnerable women in the BCP council area."

"Ensure that every person no matter race, sexual orientation, or disability has equal and easy access to the centre in order to have the opportunity to undergo a basic and necessary procedure."

“I am positive that a complete exclusion zone would help lessen the trauma to the service users, and staff of the facility.”

“By introducing a safe zone for service users you will be minimizing contact and therefore confrontation between them and the protestors. Surely this is the best option for all of these people and also the surrounding residents.”

265 respondents commented that the proposals should ensure the **safety and protection of service users** from harassment, especially at a sensitive moment. In addition, 66 respondents commented that the proposals should ensure the **safety and protection of members of staff** at the clinic from harassment.



“This proposal would positively impact women by helping them have safe access to healthcare.”

“Not allowing these people near the clinic will mean that those seeking this healthcare will be able to do so without fear of being harassed AND they won’t have to deal with having someone else’s religious views shoved down they’re throat as a justification for the protestors actions.”

“Allowing people to harass and intimidate service users or staff is a violation of their human rights.”

“I think the human rights of those working at and visiting the clinic far outweigh any rights of other groups who want to influence them in what are unpleasant ways.”

“People have a right to go about their work without being forced to stop by activists and if a woman wants a termination that is her choice not an activist.”

Furthermore, 90 respondents commented that the **right to protest should not adversely affect the rights of service users** and that proposals should prioritise the impact of those using services. In addition, 14 respondents commented that those who are harassing service users and staff **should be prosecuted** and prevented from doing so.



"I accept that it is a human right to protest, but I do not accept it should intimidate, harass or induce fear. There are many ways to protest other than standing at the building, there is no other way to access the building for service users other than pass the protestors. This must stop."

"I understand it is human rights to have a religious view/belief. But it is also human right to make a decision about your own body without being harassed. It is also human right to attend a clinic without being tormented."

"No one has the right to intimidate vulnerable people. The police should arrest all protestors for 'conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace'."

96 respondents commented that **women's rights** need to be protected in general, including pregnancy, sex and maternity rights, while 157 respondents commented that it is important that women maintain the **right to choose to have an abortion**, as well as to be able to choose and access appropriate healthcare services.



"The proposal will have a positive effect on the pregnancy, sex, and maternity rights of individuals."

"Positives in terms of gender, supporting women's right to have control over their body and their fertility."

"This would be a positive step in protecting a woman's rights to free choice."

"Everyone has a right to healthcare and to determine what is best for their own needs. Women and girls have a right to abortion, and the right not to be threatened or harassed when accessing these services."

"I believe the proposals will help protect the rights of those seeking treatment."

51 respondents commented on **Article 8 of The Human Rights Act**, and their right of respect for their private and family life, which they felt would be covered and protected if the proposals were implemented.



"I believe in what I do in private should stay in private and I do not see how those protesting against abortion should be allowed to do so as what they are doing is basically an invasion of privacy of the staff and users of the clinic."

"Patient confidentiality should be upheld, as it is in any other healthcare setting - and if a safe zone is needed to provide this confidentiality then this should be implemented. Human Rights Act entitles people to be free from discrimination and to have the right to a private life."

"People have many rights, mostly the right to privacy and protesters go against these rights in every way."

In addition, 22 respondents commented that individuals' rights to **protest should not be allowed to take place outside of or close to the clinic building**, while a further 71 respondents commented that **protests can take place elsewhere** and in alternative formats, including at council buildings, places of worship, as well as online and via contacting local government and councillors.



"The protestors are welcome to protest, just not at the point that the service is provided."

"While I believe in the right to protest there is no reason that this needs to take place in the vicinity of BPAS."

"People should have the right to demonstrate but not at sensitive sites such as this. Let them protest down town so their rights are met"

"I feel strongly that those who disagree with a lawful service should challenge politicians not service providers nor service users."

"If the radical religious right feel that their human rights are being violated by not being allowed to protest outside the clinic, then they should consider protesting at their own church, where their rights will be embraced by like-minded parishioners."

24 respondents commented that the proposed restrictions consider the thoughts and needs of **vulnerable groups**, including those with a disability and those on low income, while 11 respondents commented that the rights of the **LGBTQ+ community**, particularly trans people need to be considered.



“Many, though of course not all, of the women seeking terminations are from disadvantaged backgrounds.”

“Minorities are more likely to be negatively impacted by harassment from these campaigners. People of colour have poorer health outcomes in general, which makes it even more dangerous to allow anything which could prevent them seeking medical attention.”

“The most marginalised areas of society are often the most at risk of sexual violence and the unwanted repercussions of that. For example trans people are more than 4 times more likely to be violently assaulted (including rape).”

“Having a safe space to provide abortions not only helps protect woman but members of the LGBTQ+ community who may need it.”

9 respondents commented that the proposals are needed to protect and support those who have suffered from **rape and sexual abuse**, while 3 respondents commented on the support required for **underage pregnancies**.



“Definitely positive, underage clients, single person without support, rape victims.”

“It is the female sex being targeted here, some of those females are young school age girls. It is a basic human right that members of the female sex be able to make their own choices about any issue pertaining to their health, mental or physical.”

17 respondents commented that the proposals would have a positive impact on **local residents**.



“Consider the rights of the residents and the children having to walk past these displays on a daily basis.”

“I anticipate that the residents of property in these 'locations of protest' will be mightily relieved at the prospect of its cessation. Either predictable & regular or occasional and intermittent, the former would be tiresome and the latter uncertain.”

Comments against a PSPO

There were 651 comments that were in support of the introduction of the PSPO relating to the negative impacts of the proposal. Of these, there were 28 comments relating to the **negative impact on human rights in general**, while 4 respondents felt that the proposed **restrictions should not be implemented** in general, with a further 4 respondents suggesting that the **clinic should be closed** or there should be a ban on abortions in general.



“Censorship zones would prevent the otherwise legal activities of citizens and violate well-established human rights.”

“Goes against the convention on Human Rights.”

“Let's keep BCP open without "buffer zones" and let any peaceful demonstrations continue.”

“Yes close the clinic down and stop killing babies.”

24 respondents felt that the council need to **discuss with, and consider the viewpoint of, Pro-Choice groups and individuals** more, while 18 respondents felt that there was a **lack of evidence supporting the need for a PSPO** to be implemented.



“It is not healthy democracy when a local council prioritises the business interests of one group over the expressive rights of another.”

“The council appears not to have consulted with volunteers who work with pro-life groups. Similarly, those who support the organisations or have been helped by them do not appear to have been approached or consulted.”

“Harassment, intimidation and threatening behaviour are already criminal offences. There is virtually no evidence that people taking part in pro-life vigils engage in any of these offences. These proposals seek to criminalise lawful, peaceful pro-life witness and as such represent a threat to everyone’s freedom of speech.”

“Your proposals go far too far and have not been supported by clear evidence that they are necessary.”

204 respondents felt that the proposed restrictions went against **Article 9 of The Human Rights Act** and their freedom of thought, belief and religion. These respondents also felt that the proposals were specifically targeted at the Christian belief.



“It would constitute infringement of the rights of those praying - religious freedom is a right along with all the others.”

“Freedom of religion is meaningless if the proposed restrictions are imposed.”

“It would negatively impact anyone with a Christian pro-life belief and deny them the right to express their human right in the area of the clinic.”

“I think it would impact on the Humans Rights Act Article 9: Freedom of thought, conscience and religion: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching practice and observance.” I think as long as people are praying and not verbally or physically abusing staff or service users then the PSPO would be encroaching on the protesters’ human rights.”

131 respondents felt that the proposed restrictions went against **Article 10 of The Human Rights Act** and their freedom of expression and speech.



“Article 10 of the Human Rights Act 1998 should be respected/upheld.”

“The proposals will have a negative impact on groups who are entitled to exercise their freedom of speech and human rights within the existing Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention of Human Rights.”

“All persons and people groups should, in a truly free and democratic society, have the basic human right to be free to lawfully express their views and beliefs without persecution, or censure.”

51 respondents felt that the proposed restrictions went against **Article 11 of The Human Rights Act** and their freedom of assembly and association, including the right to protest.



“The right to protest is important and should be protected.”

“This proposal breaches the rights of peaceful assembly. The rights of holding opinions. Of religious beliefs. Of the will to try to reach out to a fellow human being in love and support.”

“A safe zone is an unnecessary restriction of the pro-life campaigners' right to freedom of movement and speech.”

In addition, 12 respondents mentioned that the restrictions specifically went against **Article 13 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)**.



“Restricting freedom of speech on the basis of political opinion and religious belief is not only unlawful under the terms of the European Convention of Human Rights, it is a threat to a functioning democratic society.”

“Restricting freedom of speech on the basis of religious belief and political opinion is UNLAWFUL under the European Convention of Human Rights! It threatens the functioning of a democratic society.”

96 respondents commented that the restrictions would **reduce access to choices, support and advice** for those who may be considering using the clinic and unaware of alternative choices available to them.



"A PSPO would limit - rather than protect - the choices available to service users."

"It is a human right for a woman to be able to listen to those who may get her to consider/reconsider her decision to have an abortion. These proposals would remove that right."

"It is the right of all expectant mothers to receive information to help them form an opinion. They also receive help from these protesting groups. Abortion clinics do not want their business to be adversely affected."

71 respondents commented that abortion removes the **rights of the unborn**.



"The rights of the unborn children should be considered."

"Article 3 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights says 'Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.' If a foetus is indeed a human, he/ she carries those rights too. Those trying to protect the rights of unborn children should be protected themselves."

"Every human has a right to life. Science tells us that life begins at conception."

3 respondents commented that the **rights of fathers** need to be considered and protected, while 5 respondents commented on experiencing **trauma and mental health issues as a result of an abortion**.



"This is a clear breach of human rights and it effects women and men – husbands, boyfriends, friends, brothers."

"My life dramatically changed forever the moment I stepped in a BPAS centre. It almost killed me. It's by the grace of

God I'm still standing. The PTSD I had afterwards was horrific. I was almost sectioned."

Comments considering both viewpoints

There were 40 comments from respondents that considered both viewpoints. Of these, 6 respondents commented that **everyone has equal rights** in general.



"True equality would be applying the law regardless of orientation or race so we are all equal before the law."

"I consider BCP Council to be capable of managing the impact of their decisions in terms of the Equality Act 2010."

16 respondents commented that both Pro-Choice and Pro-Life groups and individuals should come together to **debate and agree a compromise** between each other, while there were 12 comments that suggested that there should be **designated areas** for freedom of expression, assembly, thought, belief and religion to take place but that these should be further away from the clinic than the designated area within Option 2.



"Right to protest must be balanced against the need to mitigate harm of marginalised groups. Power structures must be considered."

"If the pro-life protesters were actually invested in the women and their future pregnancies perhaps they could contact the clinic to leave support information we could pass on to women who are unsure of their decision - this way it is not forced upon them and they have time to access the resources themselves if they choose."

"If the safe zone is implemented with a designated area that is out of sight of the clinic, then the equalities and human rights of both groups are protected. Women can access healthcare without harassment, and protestors maintain freedom of speech, whether this is religion-related or not."

"Potentially having one designated zone would give pro-lifers an outlet for protesting which may prevent rule breaking and allow more freedom of speech. However I strongly feel the position of a designated area should be carefully considered"

to allow users and staff to still enter and exit the building without passing the designated area if they should choose.”

Finally, there were 6 comments relating to the impact of abortion on **ethnic minority groups**, with comments referring to how the proposals negatively impact on ethnic minorities, have a higher percentage of abortions, are coerced into having an abortion and are at higher risk of discrimination from protestors.



“Minorities are more likely to be negatively impacted by harassment from these campaigners. People of colour have poorer health outcomes in general, which makes it even more dangerous to allow anything which could prevent them seeking medical attention. And if they are from certain religious or ethnic backgrounds they may face very severe consequences for having a child out of wedlock, or if others from their community discovered they had an abortion.”

“Supporting abortions affects Black people the most and contributes to the lack of diversity in Dorset.”

About You

In order for BCP Council to understand how the proposals could affect different people within the community the survey asked a series of demographic questions about respondents.

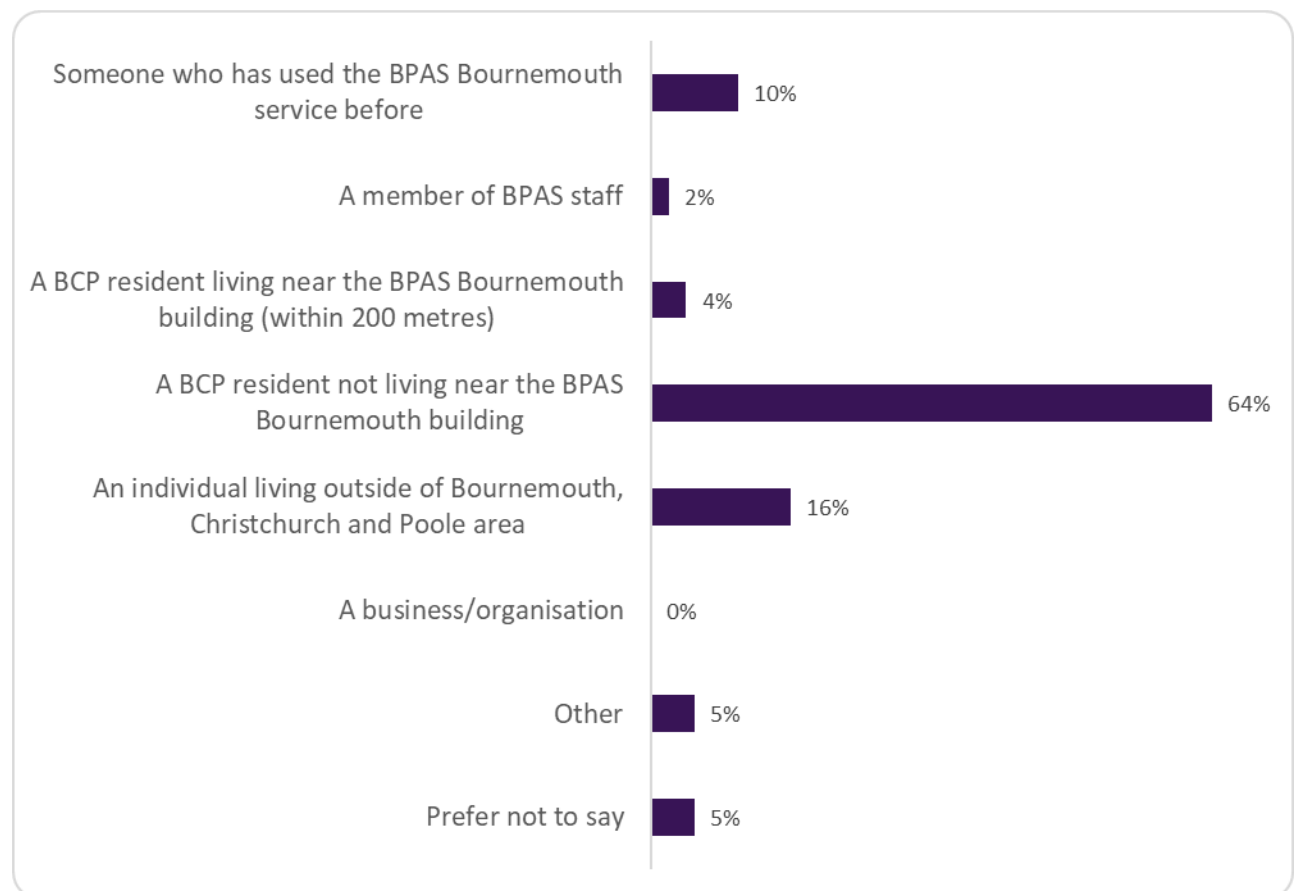
Demographics

Group	Breakdown	Number of respondents	% of respondents
Age	Under 16	116	5%
	16 – 24 years	466	21%
	25 – 34 years	476	22%
	35 – 44 years	364	16%
	45 – 54 years	313	14%
	55 – 64 years	347	16%
	65+ years	128	6%
	Prefer not to say	116	5%
Sex	Female	1,500	68%
	Male	546	25%
	Prefer not to say	166	8%
Gender identity same as at birth	Yes	1,956	90%
	No	28	1%
	Prefer not to say	180	8%
Disability	Yes – limited a lot	83	4%
	Yes – limited a little	222	10%
	No	1,686	77%
	Prefer not to say	203	9%
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual / straight	1,632	75%
	Asexual	9	0%
	Bisexual	161	7%
	Gay man	37	2%
	Lesbian / gay woman	32	1%
	Other	33	2%
	Prefer not to say	274	13%
Ethnicity	White British	1,748	80%
	White ethnic minority	124	6%
	Ethnic minority	91	4%
	Prefer not to say	220	10%
Religion / belief	No religion	1,128	52%
	Christian	765	35%
	All other religions	95	4%
	Prefer not to say	196	9%

Respondent type

Q. Are you responding as...?

Respondents were asked in what capacity that they were responding to the survey. 2,204 respondents provided an answer to this question. Respondents were allowed to choose more than one capacity that they were responding to the survey in. 64% of respondents were responding as a BCP resident not living near the BPAS building, while 4% were responding as a BCP resident who lives within 200 metres of the building. 10% of respondents indicated that they were someone who has previously used the BPAS Bournemouth service, while 16% were an individual living outside of the BCP Council area.



Base: 2,204

Respondents who indicated that they were responding in an 'other' capacity or on behalf of a business/organisation were asked to specify what these were. These have been coded and are listed in the table below.

Other capacity (number of respondents)	
Resident / concerned citizen (31)	Former BPAS member of staff (3)
Visitor to BCP area (2)	Pro-Choice supporter (6)
Service user (at BPAS Bournemouth/elsewhere) (9)	Pro-Life supporter (8)
Family/friend of someone who has used service (9)	Christian / representing the church (12)
Potential service user (3)	Offered support/alternatives/prayer outside clinic (9)
A woman (2)	Work in the local area (5)
Healthcare professional (13)	Academic/lecturer (2)
Support women who need an abortion (4)	Local Landlord (1)
Business / organisation (number of respondents)	
Sexual Health Dorset (1)	Women's Forum Group member (1)
40 Days For Life (3)	Centre for Bioethical Reform UK (1)
Councillor (2)	Christian Peoples Alliance (1)

Location

In order to understand the views from residents in different areas, respondents were asked to provide their full postcode. These postcodes were then coded into whether respondents were BCP Council residents or lived outside of the council area. 79% of respondents provided a valid postcode. Of these, 80% of respondents were BCP residents, while 20% live outside of the council area. BCP Council residents were then coded into the ward in which they live. The wards with the most responses were East Cliff & Springbourne, Boscombe East & Pokesdown, Queen's Park and Talbot & Branksome Woods.

Number of responses per BCP Council Ward area (Base: 4,422)		
Alderney & Bourne Valley (41)	Creekmoor (15)	Oakdale (30)
Bearwood & Merley (28)	East Cliff & Springbourne (140)	Parkstone (38)
Boscombe East & Pokesdown (81)	East Southbourne & Tuckton (43)	Penn Hill (39)
Boscombe West (43)	Hamworthy (24)	Poole Town (49)
Bournemouth Central (53)	Highcliffe & Walkford (8)	Queen's Park (75)
Broadstone (27)	Kinson (36)	Redhill & Northbourne (37)
Burton & Grange (26)	Littledown & Iford (39)	Talbot & Branksome Woods (72)
Canford Cliffs (26)	Moordown (41)	Wallisdown & Winton West (33)
Canford Heath (31)	Mudford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe (21)	West Southbourne (70)
Christchurch Town (20)	Muscliff & Strouden Park (50)	Westbourne & West Cliff (45)
Commons (21)	Newtown & Heatherlands (65)	Winton East (55)

Email responses

The consultation also allowed individuals, groups and organisations the opportunity to email their responses to the council separate from submitting a reply to the consultation survey. There were a total of 35 email and written responses, which have been grouped into those that were Pro-Choice (4 responses), those that were Pro-Life (30 responses) and those who provided a general response (1 response) with no specific alignment to either viewpoint.

Pro-Choice email responses

There were 3 responses from individuals and 1 response from academics at Aston University, Birmingham.

Behaviours that are taking place around the BPAS building

Respondents expressed concerns of harassment outside the BPAS building and that it is extremely distressing to service users and staff. There was reference that there has been a presence of anti-abortion activists for more than 20 years at the site and the behaviours are intimidating and harassing. Two respondents stated the following activities to be present at the site:

- People approaching, following and challenging service-users and staff entering and exiting the clinic
- People aggressively engaging service-users in conversation, seeking to prevent them from having an abortion
- People putting baby clothes in the hedges outside the clinic, and displaying graphic images in relation to pregnancy and abortion in an attempt to guilt service-users into changing their mind
- People praying directly outside the clinic in such a way that staff and service-users cannot avoid them when attempting to access the clinic
- People handing out misleading, medically inaccurate and judgemental leaflets

In addition to this, the academic report also stated there to be three main types of activity that occur outside clinics, namely prayer vigils, pavement counselling and graphic displays such as images, signs and leaflets. The academic paper proposes that prayer vigils are seen to have the purpose of publicly opposing the abortion and to also ask God to stop the abortion from happening. The pavement counselling includes approaching women and talking to them to try to stop them going into the clinic and providing them with a leaflet. These leaflets include information on the risks of abortion; however, this information is not medically correct. There are also graphic displays of signs or leaflets which state, 'child killing' or 'murder'. While graphic displays are suggested to not be as evident as prayer vigils and pavement counselling, all three have been witnessed at Ophir Road clinic by the academics whilst researching for the paper. Additionally, it was reported that other activities such as placing baby clothes around the clinic happen regularly.

Another individual commented that women needing advice from the clinic have the right to go to the clinic without being ambushed by people who want to inflict their religious beliefs on others. This individual, along with the academic paper also

commented that stressed women, often in a fragile state of mind should not be subjected to any kind of intervention or abuse by strangers which leads to significant additional distress. This is due to both being watched and approached by strangers and a loss of healthcare privacy. Encounters are described as a paparazzi like encounter, which make private decisions a public spectacle.

Additionally, the impact that these behaviours have on the mental health and wellbeing on the service user and staff working at the clinic was reported. The academic paper stated that there is evidence that anti-abortion activists at BPAS clinics create an intimidating, hostile and humiliating environment. Within the report, it has also highlighted gender power relationships.



“The encounters outside clinics reasserts gendered power relationships by subjecting women to unwelcome attention in a way that they have no control over. They then have little choice but to walk past / through the anti-abortion activists who are watching them or trying to talk to them. Whilst they may take steps to try to avoid or minimise the encounters (such as by covering their faces, trying to run past), there is still a situation of surveillance, loss of privacy, and fear. We have witnessed these types of attempts at Ophir Road.”

Support of PSPO

The Pro-Choice email responses also stated that evidence of the activities happening around the clinic has been provided to the council since 2017 and this evidence has been provided by both BPAS and Sister Supporters Bournemouth.



“I am requesting that you ask the Cabinet Members responsible for Safer Neighbourhoods to look into the avenues available to them to prevent this harassment from continuing.”

The academic paper also highlighted the impact on the local community due to the clinic being situated in a residential area. There is a risk of anti-social behaviour and residents seeing and hearing Pro-Life support.

The academic paper also highlighted that many activities outside clinics are not monitored or controlled and there is therefore minimal accountability even if these activities are organised by a particular organisation.

Religion

The academic report also described anti-abortion activism as being largely motivated by conservative Christian beliefs and that activists fail to recognise the diversity of beliefs. The report describes that anti-abortion activists see their role as providing support, however this view is based on their religious beliefs and is not representative of many that are using the clinic.

The academic paper stated support of the introduction of a PSPO.



“Because anti-abortion activists are a fluid community, who cannot be monitored or controlled by a local community organiser or an anti-abortion organisation, the activities are unlikely to stop unless a PSPO is in place.”

The academic paper stated their preferred option of a Safe Zone with no designated areas (option 1), and also stated that a Safe Zone with one designated area (option 2) would not achieve the aim of protecting the service users and still have a negative effect on them. Furthermore, they felt that the designated areas as outlined in option 3, although further away from the clinic, from evidence reported, activists will seek out approaching women and try to identify them as service users. Additionally, these encounters will be mainly on foot and that this may be likely to include younger people. For that reason, they suggested that if option 3 is selected, that an Equality Impact Assessment to be conducted to identify the mode of travel in order to protect this potential demographic.

The academic paper also recommended that the providing of verbal or written information on abortion is prohibited, as well as text or images that includes religious signs and verses that relate to abortion.

Equalities and Human Rights

The academic paper also felt that the introduction of a PSPO is a proportionate response to the balance of rights.



“The introduction of the PSPO is a restriction on Article 9, 10 and 11 rights as the abortion activists will no longer be able to use that particular space for their activities. However they are not prohibited from holding or exercising those beliefs and activities in any other space, including public spaces not within the PSPO. And moreover, we argue, that it is only by

prohibiting activity by abortion activists that the Article 8 rights of those seeking services can be upheld.”

Pro-Life email responses

There were 29 email responses from individuals who were Pro-Life as well as 1 response from Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform UK.

Peaceful Prayer

Many respondents reported that they have been visiting Ophir Road for many years and prayer have always been conducted in a peaceful manner and do not harass anyone.



“I have for better of the thirty years regularly stood outside the clinic for the purposes of quiet prayer. In all my time I have never at any time seen anything that would resemble harassment or intimidation.”

“I can categorically say this group were quiet, respectful, and prayerful outside the abortion premises on a public pavement, leaving room for passers by but keen to speak to clinic attendees.”

Additionally, these groups were reported as being small in numbers and generally limited to 2-3 people at any one time and always conducted themselves in a peaceful manner. Additionally, while leaflets may be offered, they were withdrawn if not accepted. Many others stated that no mothers are pressured into engaging and that they stand on the other side of the pavement, so if they want a leaflet, they can cross the road and approach the group themselves.

Pro Life Activists – what they are trying to achieve?

Many of the Pro-Life email respondents reported that they are there to give support to the women and lend a listening ear and talk things through. It is felt that sometimes the women will feel there are no other options available to them, and the presence of Pro-Life supporters gives the service users a chance to re-think their decision and have more time to process.



“Having worked in the past for a non-judgemental pregnancy care and post-abortion provider I have heard countless

stories of women being 'processed quickly' and not being offered proper formal counselling. A 30 min to 1 hour consultation is not the same as impartial time and reflective space for women to make decisions that proper counselling provides. Many women now live with the negative consequences of their choice due to a hurried decision."

"I know from experience that, in reality, no choice is offered, not by the GP who referred me, nor by the hospital doctor who examined me (the two doctors necessary for an abortion to proceed) or any of the healthcare staff who attended to me. It was like it was a done deal when I left the GP surgery, there was no one I could talk to about it, and I felt like it was just now a process."

Email respondents also commented that there were many instances documenting that the support given by the Pro-Life activists has led to women not going into the clinic and having an abortion.



"Those who attend these peaceful pro-life vigils are freely giving their time to offer compassionate support and practical help to vulnerable and often desperate women, who feel pressurised into ending the life of their baby precisely because of lack of support and practical help. The many women who have changed their minds are joyfully grateful for their babies and have no regrets."

Respondents also argued that Pro-Life supporters would be unable to reach those women who aren't aware of other choices available and prevented from knowing the alternatives if a Safe Zone or designated areas were to be implemented.



"If those campaigning for this measure are really pro-choice as they claim, why are they so enraged that women should have this last chance to choose life for their baby? They should be happy whatever their choice."

"We are aware of their position but consider [them] totally unsuitable for our purpose."

One respondent commented that it would be wonderful to be given a room within the clinic to give these alternative options more formally.

The Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform UK reported that there has been an impact on the number of women they have been able to support in other locations where a PSPO around abortion clinics has been implemented due to the restrictions.



“Regrettably, since the imposition of the PSPO in Ealing, GCN have only been able to support a fraction of the parents they used to. It therefore follows that implementing a PSPO will not simply aid and abet in the killing of the unborn children but actually prevent desperate parents receiving life saving and affirming help.”

Peaceful and respectful

Many Pro-Life respondents commented that their activities do not constitute harassment and interference and are always conducted in a peaceful and respectful manner, while some respondents commented that they were the ones who were targeted by harassment and intimidation.



“We have never tried to offend anyone or cause harassment as it has been accused of us, the police have never told us we are doing anything wrong or the people who work in the BPAS.”

“We have felt targeted by some pro-choice people, having had photos taken of us and publicised on social media, as well as verbal insults called at us.”

Law

A large number of the pro-life supporting emails stated that many of the activities suggested to be happening would be covered by current law, therefore there was no need to have further restrictions in place. Many respondents also stated that if there has been behaviours of harassment and intimidation, there would be lots of evidence from Dorset Police of arrests made.



“My understanding is that that type of behaviour is already illegal under the laws of the United Kingdom and that the Police already have, and rightly so, powers to deal with any such offenders.”

“If such intimidation had been occurring in Ophir Road then there would no doubt be copious amounts of documentation concerning cases where the prosecution of such transgressors had occurred, and which, was now being presented to you in support of the proposed ban. As it is, I strongly suspect that there will be no such evidence provided by Dorset Police to the council in support of this proposed ban. I would be very surprised if there was any evidence concerning people having been prosecuted for harassment and intimidation at Ophir Road. As far as I can see the powers the Police have already are sufficient to deal with any harassment and intimidation that might occur, which is why it is not the Police asking for these restrictions. Therefore, these proposals to restrict my right to pray outside the clinic seem to be disproportionate.”

Human Rights

Many pro-life respondents stated that it is their right to express their views and it is their right to freedom of religious beliefs. Putting the PSPO restricts this right and shouldn't be allowed to be implemented.



“I ask you to please consider allowing us to continue our prayers in a peaceful manner and in which allowing us to speak freely according to the Human Rights Act 1998.”

“The proposed buffer zone is an attack on freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly and freedom to give and to receive information, all of which is done in a peaceful manner.”

“All restrictions suggested in the proposal of a buffer zone by the Bournemouth council are incompatible with European Convention of Human Rights, Article 9 of the ECHR which states that everyone has the right to manifest their freedom of thought, conscience and religion.”

The Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform UK also suggested that clinic profits could be put towards security or that they could purchase the land so that they can dictate what happens.

General response

There was a general response to the consultation from the office of the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner. This response stated the need to ensure people's legal rights are upheld.



“There is a need to ensure that people’s legal right to peaceful protest is taken into account and consequently I believe that option 2 and 3 are most suitable – I have no particular preference for either of these two options.”

Additionally, it was highlighted that there was a lack of information on how enforcement would take place and that reassurance would be required in order for the measures to not have a large impact on police resources.