

Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance

Subject: Survey Report on Islanders' views on future priorities (Government Plan 2021-24 survey)
Date: 30 September 2020

Summary:

This report provides the results of a public online survey in relation to Islanders' views on Government priorities for the next 12 months and Islanders' views on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their lives. The findings have been presented to Council of Ministers on 4 September and have helped to inform and shape the Government Plan 2021-24. ¹ Over 2,000 Islanders took part in the survey and provided their views.

Headline results of the Government Plan 2021-24 Public Consultation

Relative importance of priorities – “Improving Islanders' wellbeing and mental and physical health” (68%) and “Creating a sustainable, vibrant economy and skilled workforce for the future” (60%) received the highest ratings on being more important now than before the pandemic.

Health and wellbeing - Participants were mostly concerned with having access to good mental health and support services (69%), and access to hospital services (65%). 72% said that investing in a new hospital should be the Government's priority. 66% of participants were more concerned now than before the pandemic about keeping fit and active.

Supporting Children and Young People – Increasing concerns were raised about the investment in schools, sports facilities and youth centres (55%), educational outcomes in secondary schools (52%) and the protection of and support for vulnerable children and children in care (53%).

Economy and Brexit - Participants were most worried about reduced job security (70%), being financially independent in old age (71%), being supported if they became unemployed (63%), and the impact of the new UK-EU relationship after Brexit. Supporting the economy through fiscal stimulus projects was seen as more important by 59%, although more explanation on the details of the projects and what this would mean for Islanders was requested in the comments section.

Carbon neutrality - Making Jersey carbon neutral was seen by almost 81% of participants as either more important or as important as before the pandemic. An increasing or unchanged support for exploring environmental charges to improve carbon neutrality was expressed by 80% of participants.

Housing and Immigration - A large number of comments (over 3,000) were received as part of the consultation, key topics were the importance of affordable housing and the development of a new immigration/population strategy, the importance of building a new hospital and improving health services; to find a solution for Fort Regent; the importance of good education, youth and sports facilities and the continued support for carbon neutrality.

¹ Additional information on a wide range of social issues and in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic has been collected by the Jersey Opinion and Lifestyle Survey 2020. The survey has been conducted by Statistics Jersey and the report can be found on gov.je.

Introduction:

This report provides the results of a public online consultation in relation to Islanders' views on Government priorities for the next 12 months and Islanders' views on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their lives. The findings have been presented to Council of Ministers on 4 September and have helped to inform and shape the Government Plan 2021-24.²

The Government Plan 2021-24 public consultation questionnaire was open between 21 August and 1 September 2020 on gov.je. It consisted of seven questions with detailed statements to rate. For each question, a free text comment field was available. No weighting to the results has been applied; results are shown as % of total participants for each question.

The charts below show aggregated results for ease of interpretation. The answer options 'significantly more important' and 'more important' have been grouped together and are displayed as 'more important'. The answer options 'significantly less important' and 'less important' have been grouped together and are displayed as 'less important'.

Appendix B provides the detailed tables with results for each answer option.

Who took part in the consultation?

Over 2,000 participants took part. 59% of participants were female and 37% male. 4% of participants preferred not to say or did not provide an answer. The majority were aged between 35 and 54 (48%). 46% of participants said they were born in Jersey, 40% in the UK, or other Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland.

Further details can be found in *Annex A*.

² Additional information on a wide range of social issues and in relation to the Coronavirus pandemic has been collected by the Jersey Opinion and Lifestyle Survey 2020. The survey has been conducted by Statistics Jersey and the report can be found on gov.je.

Figure 1: Reflecting on the last year, and your experiences during the emergency phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, **how has your view of the Government's priorities changed?**

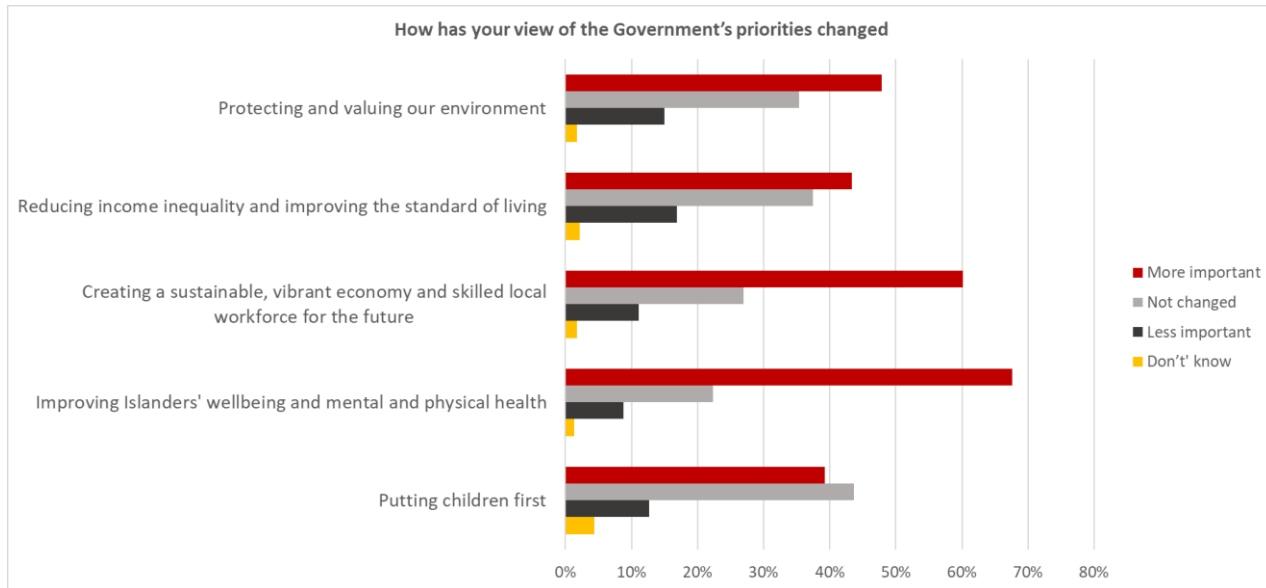


Figure 2: Reflecting on your experiences during the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you about **supporting children and young people** in the following ways, compared to before the pandemic?

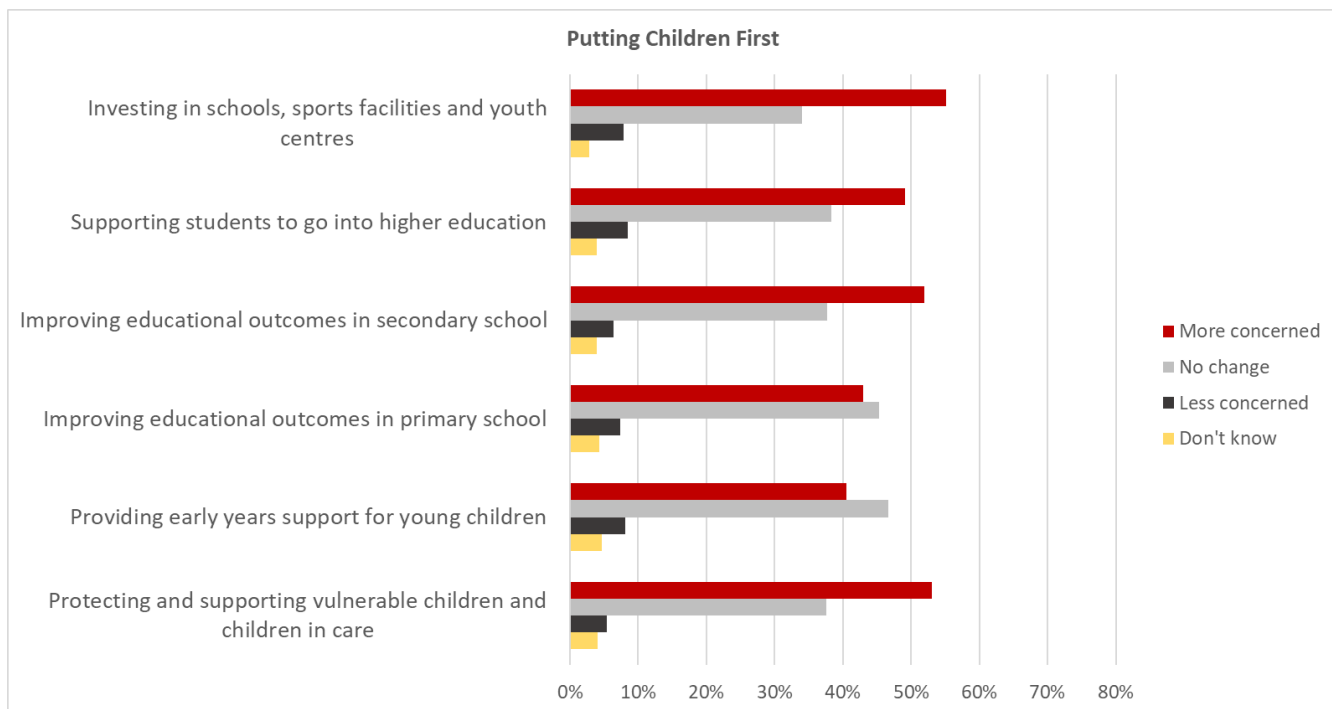


Figure 3: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you about the following **areas of your health - and how we care for it** - compared to before the pandemic?

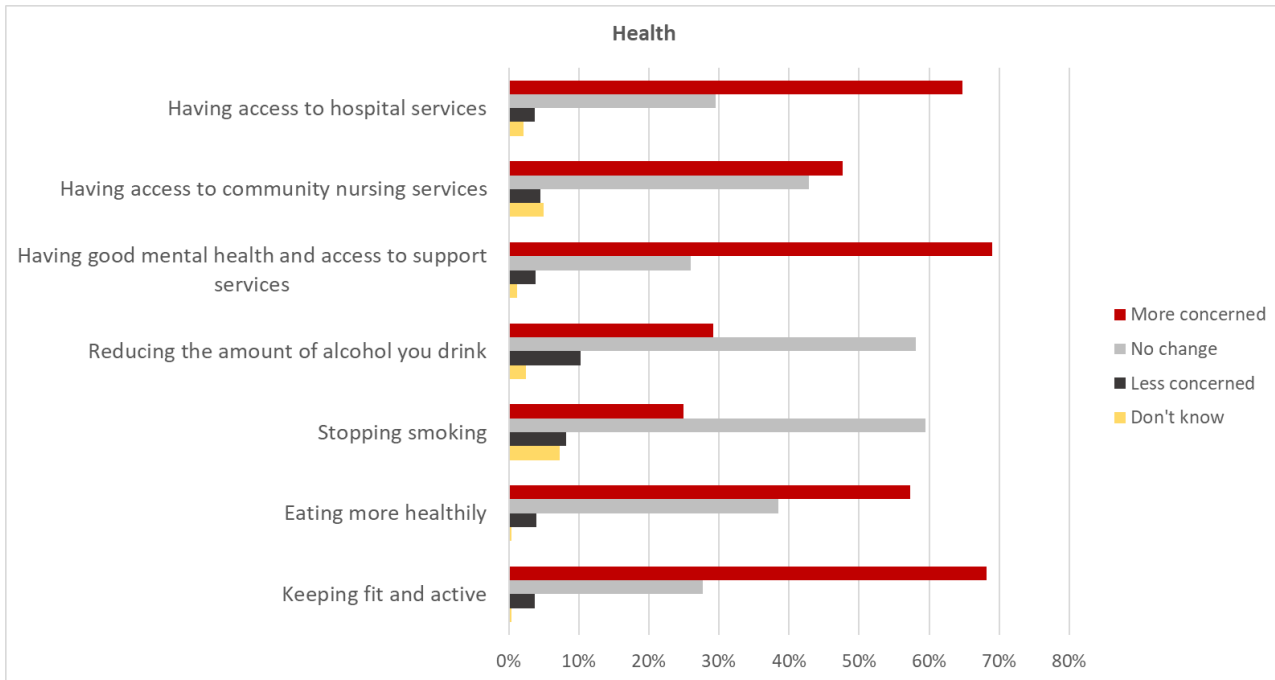


Figure 4: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how worried are you about the following **impacts on the Island's economy**, compared to before the pandemic?

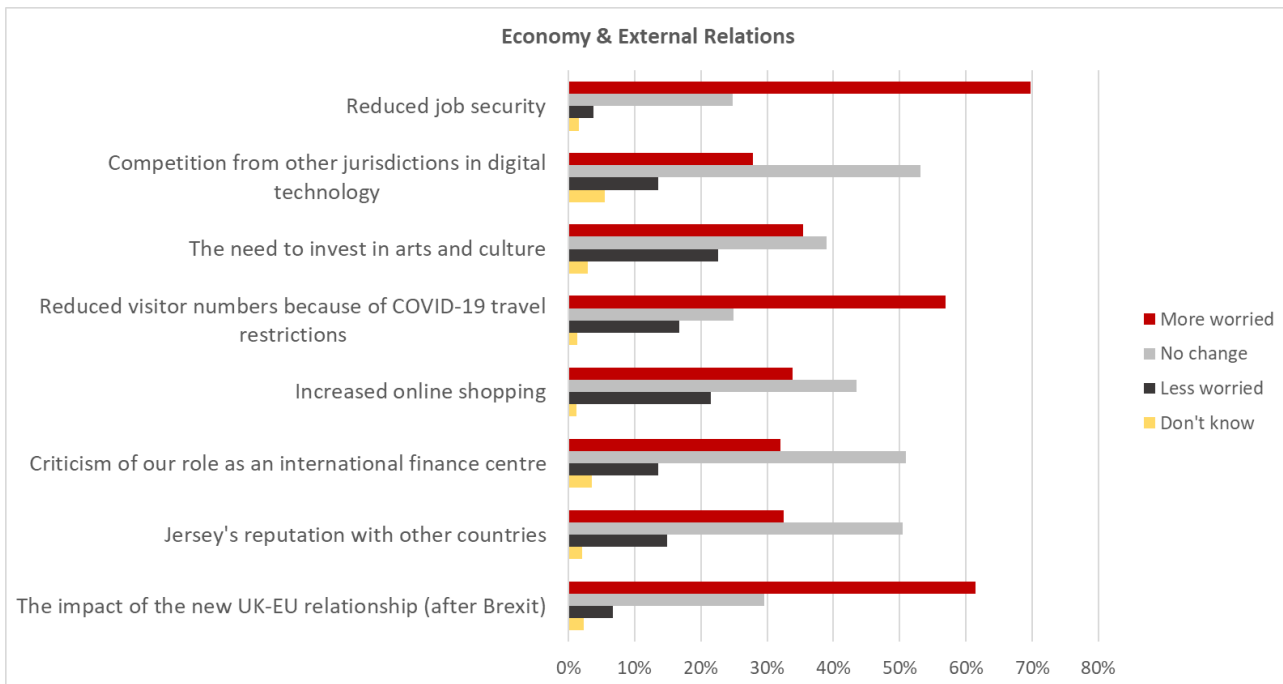


Figure 5: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you about **the following aspects of your life**, compared to before the pandemic?

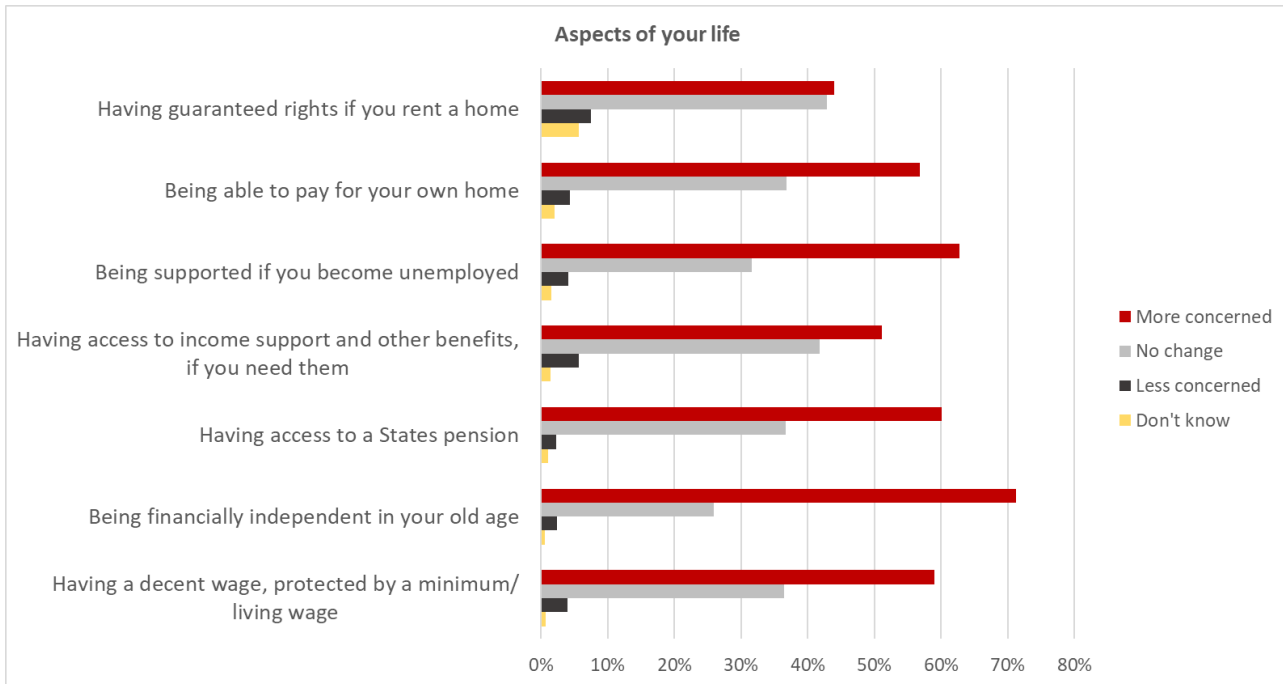


Figure 6: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you **that we are doing the following**, compared to before the pandemic?

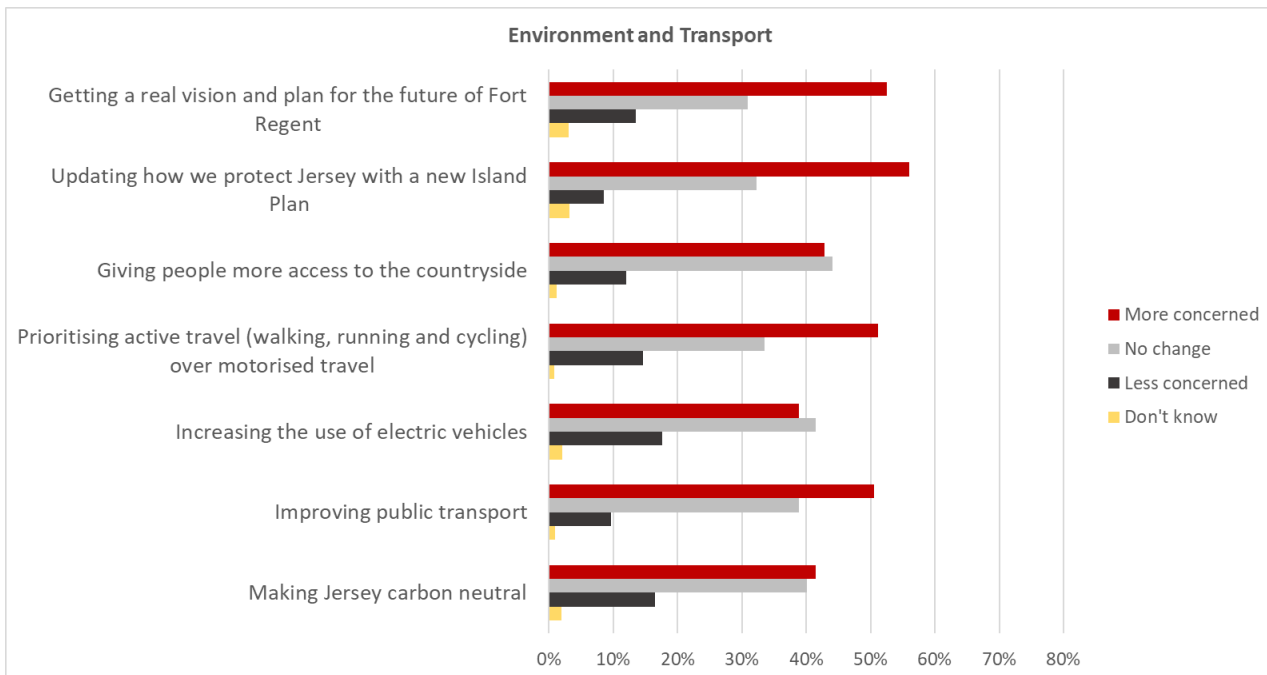
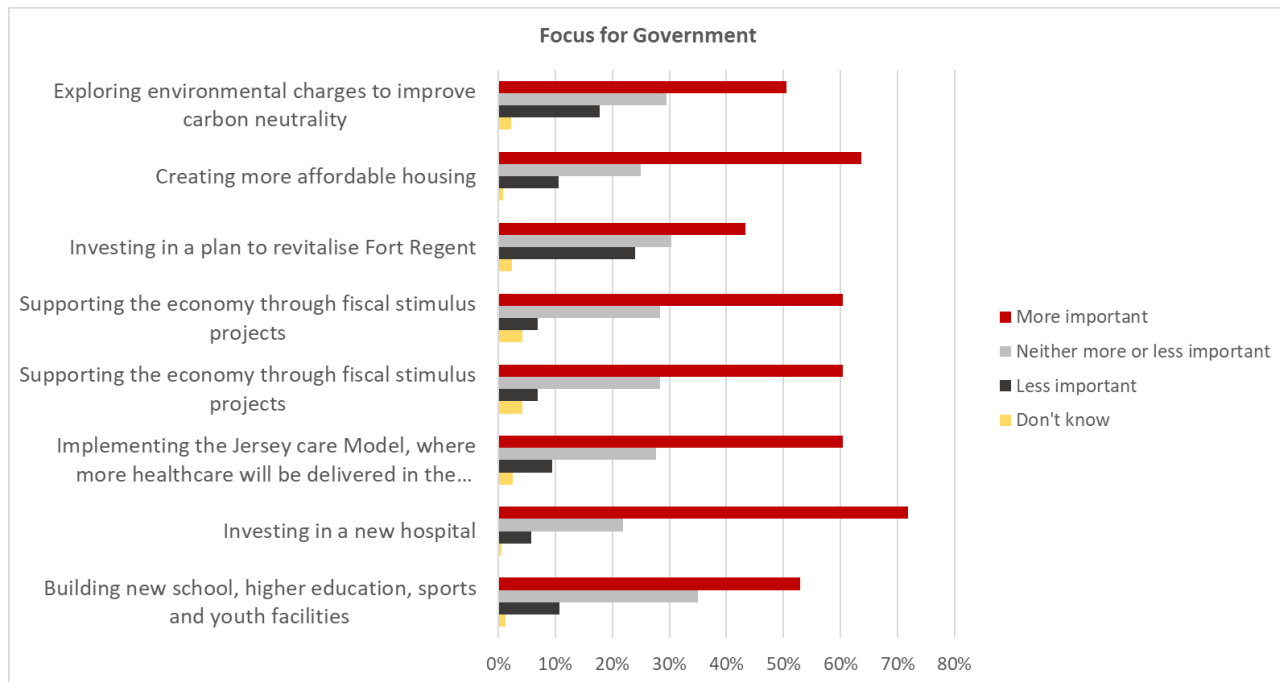


Figure 7: Reflecting on your previous answers, how important do you think it is that *the Government now explores the following measures* to support Islanders and protect our Island's future?



Annex A

Demographic details of participants.

Figure 1: Age distribution of participants

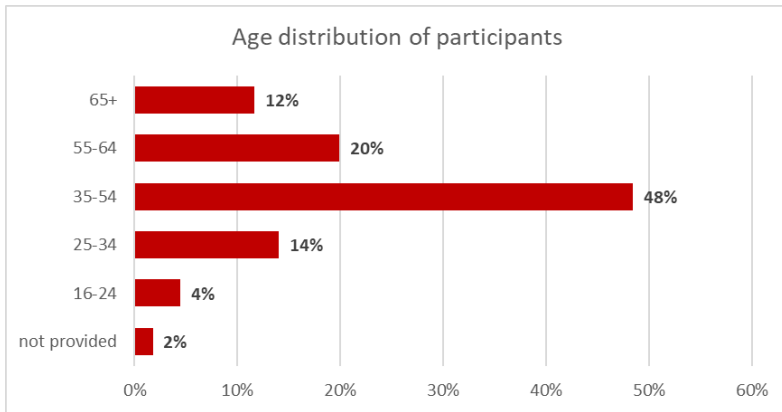


Figure 2: Place of birth of participants

Place of Birth	% of total participants
Jersey	46%
The United Kingdom, other Channel Islands, Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland	40%
Portugal or Madeira	3%
Poland	2%
South Africa	<1%
Romania	<1%
Other or not provided	8%

Annex B

The tables below show the results for each question and their statements.

Table 1: Reflecting on the last year, and your experiences during the emergency phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, how has your view of the Government's priorities changed?

	Significantly more important	More important	Don't know	Significantly less important	Less important	Not changed
Putting children first	15%	24%	4%	5%	8%	44%
Improving Islanders' wellbeing and mental and physical health	28%	40%	1%	4%	5%	22%
Creating a sustainable, vibrant economy and skilled local workforce for the future	27%	33%	2%	4%	7%	27%
Reducing income inequality and improving the standard of living	21%	22%	2%	8%	9%	38%
Protecting and valuing our environment	25%	23%	2%	6%	9%	35%
Modernising government	24%	22%	3%	11%	10%	30%

Table 2: Reflecting on your experiences during the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you about *supporting children and young people* in the following ways, compared to before the pandemic?

	Significantly more concerned	More concerned	No change	Significantly less concerned	Less concerned	Don't know
Protecting and supporting vulnerable children and children in care	21%	32%	38%	2%	3%	4%
Providing early years support for young children	15%	25%	47%	3%	5%	5%
Improving educational outcomes in primary school	16%	27%	45%	3%	5%	4%
Improving educational outcomes in secondary school	22%	30%	38%	3%	4%	4%
Supporting students to go into higher education	21%	28%	38%	3%	5%	4%
Investing in schools, sports facilities and youth centres	25%	30%	34%	3%	5%	3%

Table 3: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you about the following *areas of your health - and how we care for it* - compared to before the pandemic?

	Significantly more concerned	More concerned	No change	Significantly less concerned	Less concerned	Don't know
Keeping fit and active	25%	43%	28%	1%	3%	0%
Eating more healthily	20%	37%	38%	1%	3%	0%
Stopping smoking	13%	12%	59%	4%	4%	7%
Reducing the amount of alcohol you drink	10%	19%	58%	5%	5%	3%
Having good mental health and access to support services	33%	36%	26%	2%	2%	1%
Having access to community nursing services	19%	29%	43%	2%	3%	5%
Having access to hospital services	30%	34%	30%	2%	2%	2%

Table 4: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how worried are you about the following *impacts on the Island's economy*, compared to before the pandemic?

	Significantly more worried	More worried	No change	Significantly less worried	Less worried	Don't know
The impact of the new UK-EU relationship (after Brexit)	29%	33%	30%	3%	4%	2%
Jersey's reputation with other countries	12%	21%	51%	5%	10%	2%
Criticism of our role as an international finance centre	11%	21%	51%	5%	9%	4%
Increased online shopping	10%	24%	43%	9%	12%	1%
Reduced visitor numbers because of COVID-19 travel restrictions	20%	37%	25%	6%	10%	1%
The need to invest in arts and culture	14%	21%	39%	11%	12%	3%
Competition from other jurisdictions in digital technology	10%	18%	53%	4%	9%	5%
Reduced job security	30%	40%	25%	1%	2%	2%

Table 5: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you about *the following aspects of your life*, compared to before the pandemic?

Row Labels	Significantly more concerned	More concerned	No change	Significantly less concerned	Less concerned	Don't know
Having a decent wage, protected by a minimum/ living wage	27%	32%	36%	2%	2%	1%
Being financially independent in your old age	37%	35%	26%	1%	1%	1%
Having access to a States pension	32%	28%	37%	1%	1%	1%
Having access to income support and other benefits, if you need them	24%	28%	42%	3%	3%	1%
Being supported if you become unemployed	31%	31%	32%	2%	2%	1%
Being able to pay for your own home	32%	25%	37%	2%	2%	2%
Having guaranteed rights if you rent a home	25%	19%	43%	4%	4%	6%

Table 6: Reflecting on your experiences of the emergency phase of COVID-19, how concerned are you *that we are doing the following*, compared to before the pandemic?

	Significantly more concerned	More concerned	No change	Significantly less concerned	Less concerned	Don't know
Making Jersey carbon neutral	18%	23%	40%	8%	9%	2%
Improving public transport	21%	30%	39%	3%	6%	1%
Increasing the use of electric vehicles	17%	22%	41%	8%	10%	2%
Prioritising active travel (walking, running and cycling) over motorised travel	23%	28%	34%	6%	9%	1%
Giving people more access to the countryside	19%	24%	44%	5%	7%	1%
Updating how we protect Jersey with a new Island Plan	27%	29%	32%	4%	5%	3%
Getting a real vision and plan for the future of Fort Regent	26%	26%	31%	8%	6%	3%

Table 7: Reflecting on your previous answers, how important do you think it is that ***the Government now explores the following measures*** to support Islanders and protect our Island's future?

	Significantly more important	More important	Neither more or less important	Significantly less important	Less important	Don't know
Building new school, higher education, sports and youth facilities	23%	30%	35%	4%	6%	1%
Investing in a new hospital	45%	27%	22%	3%	3%	1%
Implementing the Jersey care Model, where more healthcare will be delivered in the community	26%	35%	28%	5%	5%	2%
Supporting the economy through fiscal stimulus projects	22%	39%	28%	2%	5%	4%
Supporting the economy through fiscal stimulus projects	22%	39%	28%	2%	5%	4%
Investing in a plan to revitalise Fort Regent	20%	23%	30%	12%	12%	2%
Creating more affordable housing	39%	24%	25%	5%	6%	1%
Exploring environmental charges to improve carbon neutrality	24%	26%	29%	9%	9%	2%

End of Report