



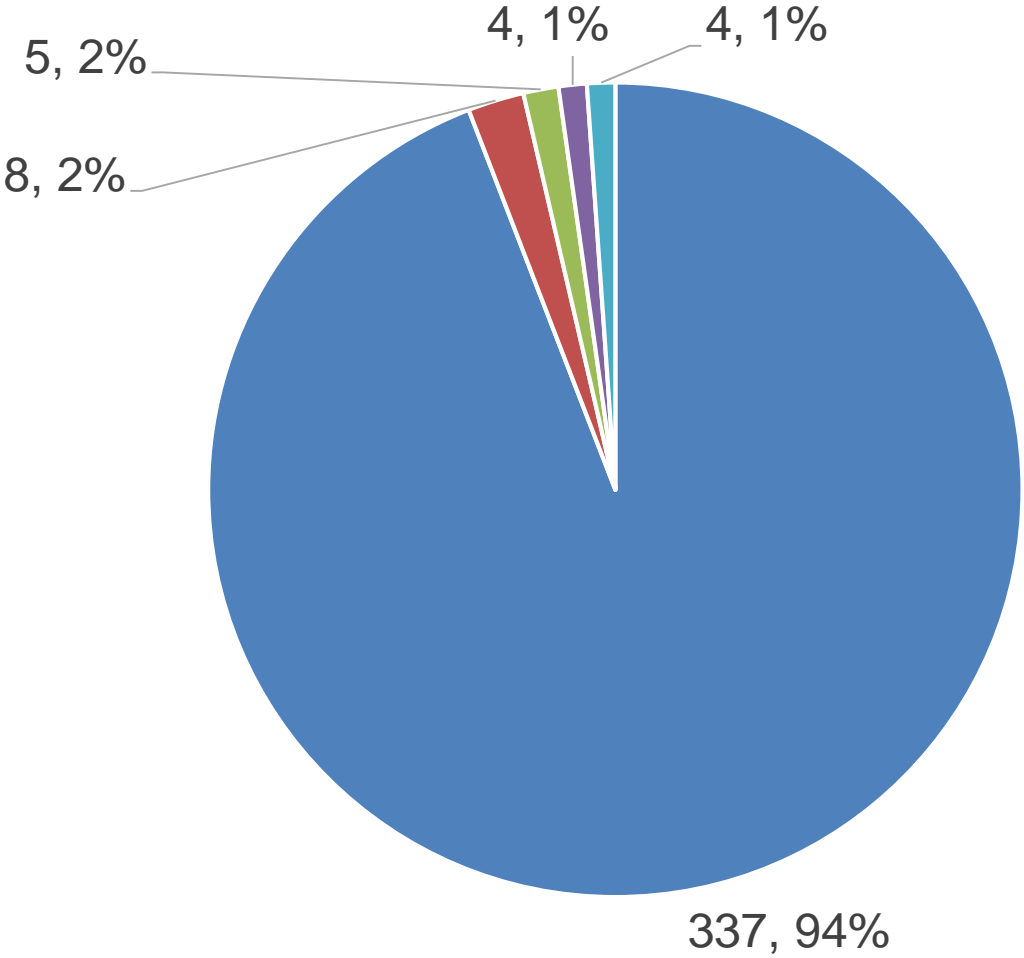
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RTPI Virtual meetings survey

Findings v.1

Sample size 358 respondents

1. In which of the following nations do you live?

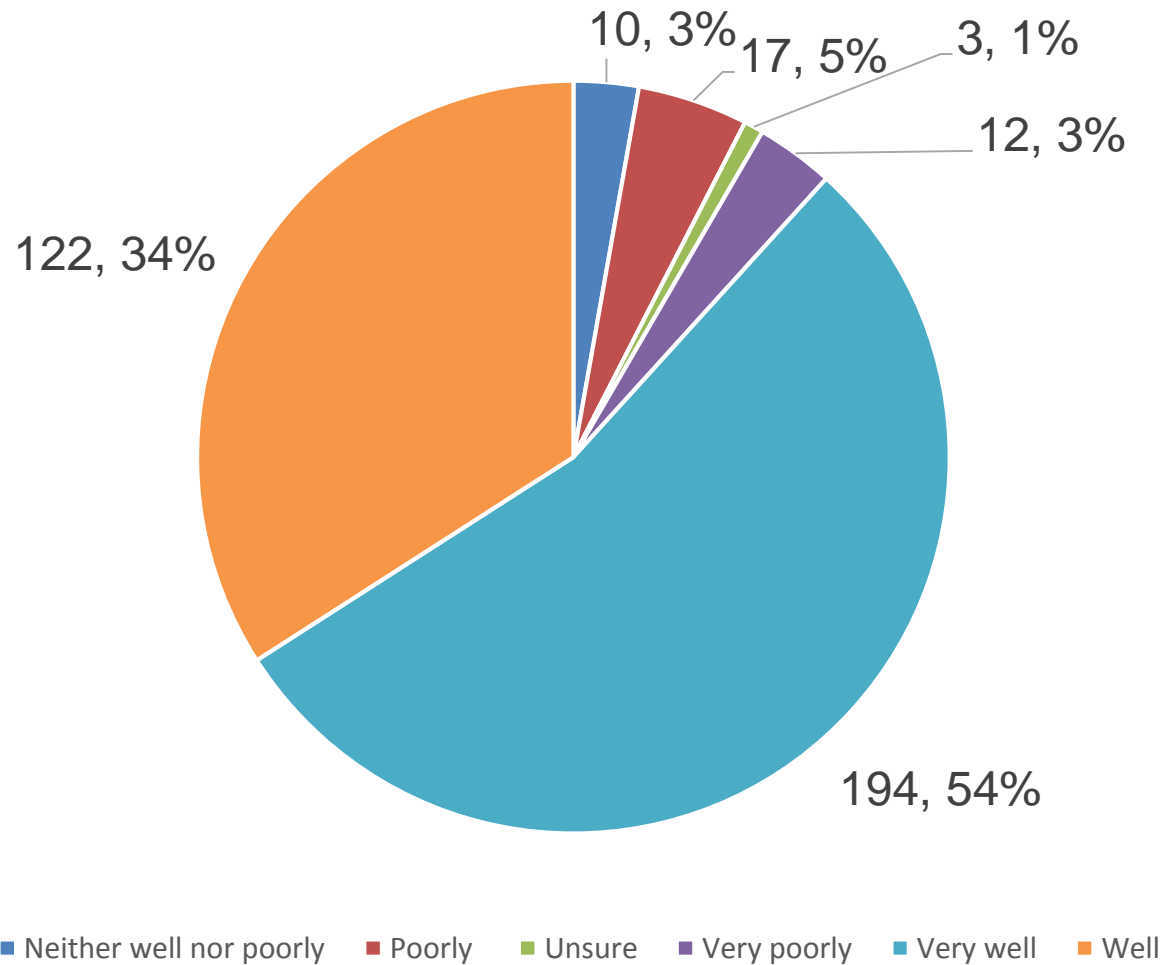


Please note answers are based on numbers of respondents and percentages

■ England ■ Wales ■ Scotland ■ Northern Ireland ■ Outside the UK or Ireland



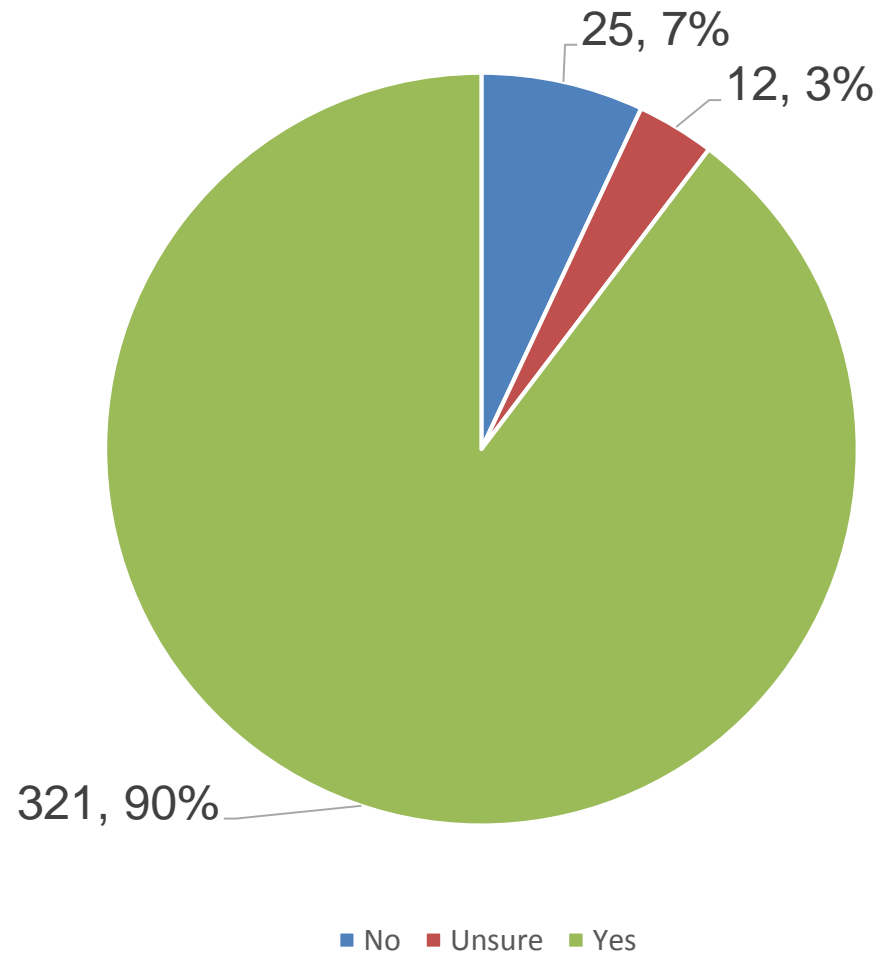
Q2. Generally speaking, how well do you feel the current remote meetings arrangements work?



Please note answers are based on numbers of respondents and percentages



Q3. Generally speaking, do you think local authorities in England should have the express ability to hold at least some meetings remotely on a permanent basis?

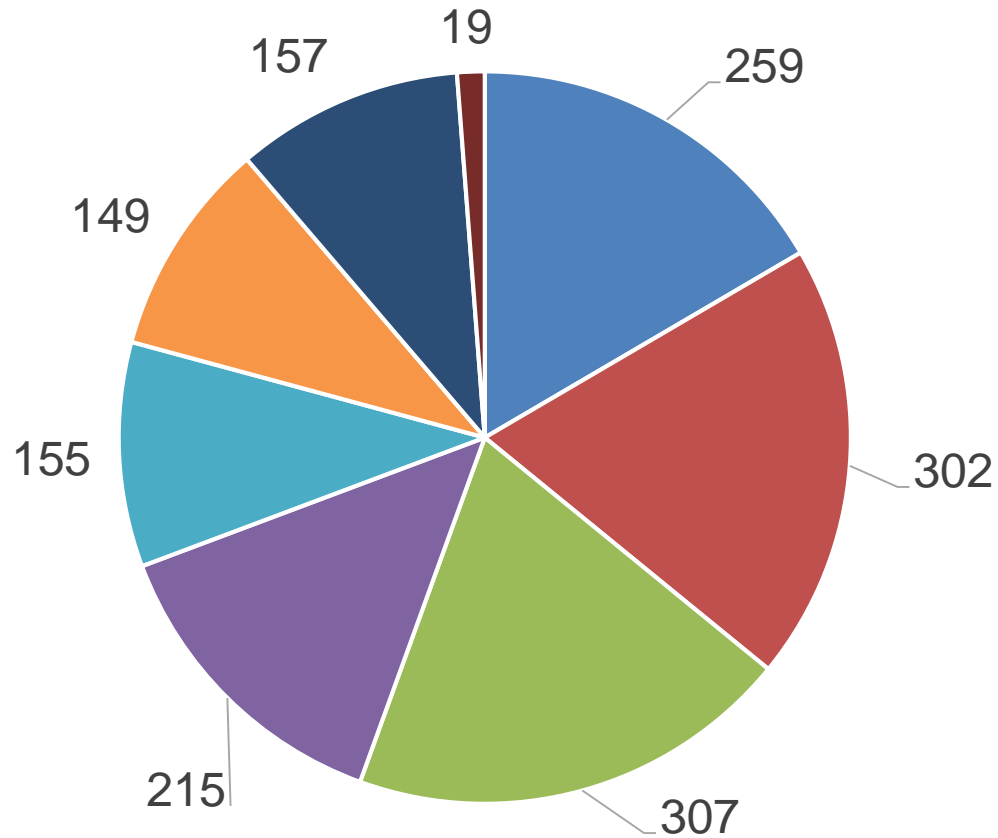


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Q4. What do you think are some of the benefits of remote meetings?

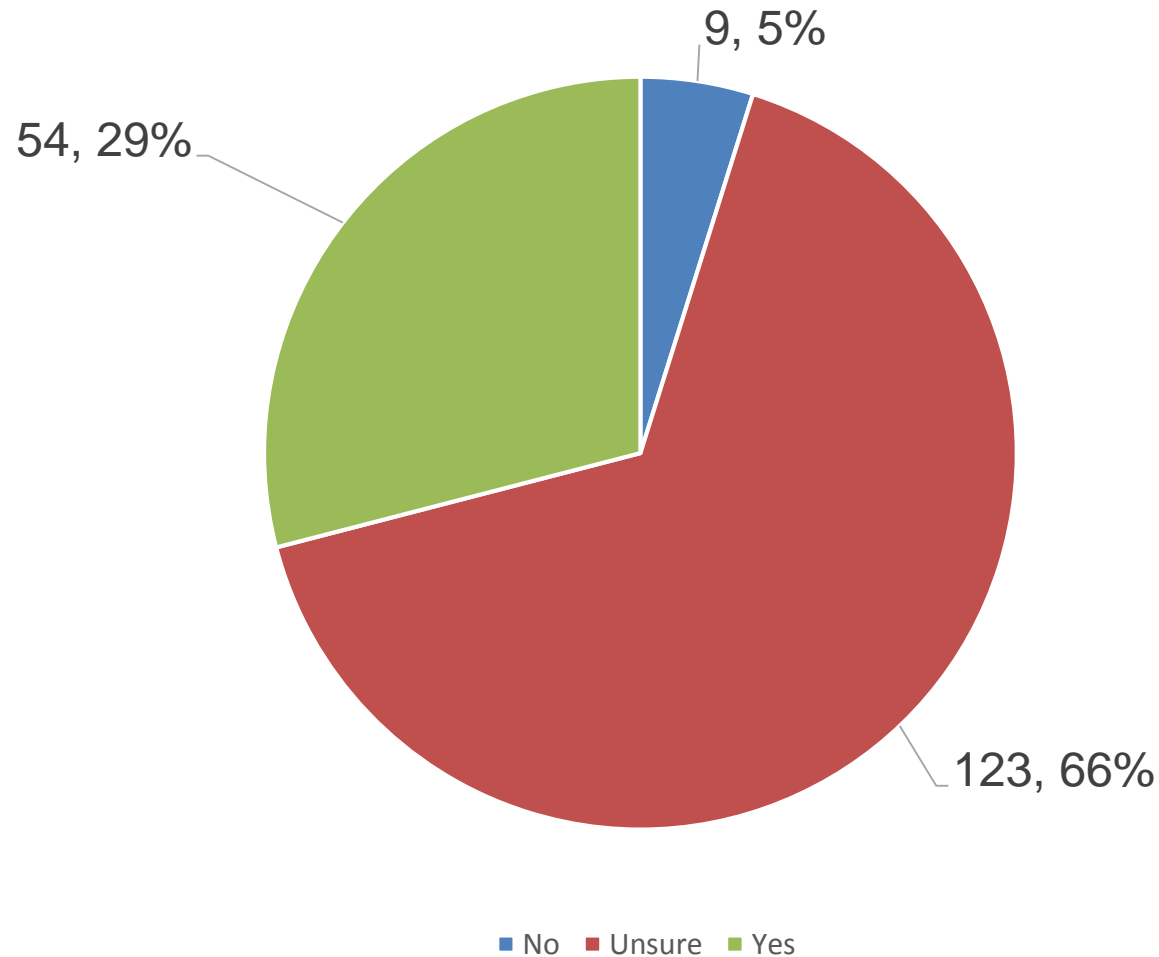


Please note answers are based on number of respondents saying 'yes' to each option (with yes meaning there is a benefit). Respondents were able to select multiple options.

- More accessible for local authority members
- Reduction in travel time for members
- Meetings more easily accessed by local residents
- Greater transparency for meetings
- Documents (e.g. minutes, agendas, supporting papers) are more accessible
- Easier to chair meetings in an orderly fashion
- A virtual format promotes greater equality in speaking time during meetings
- I do not think there are any benefits to remote meetings



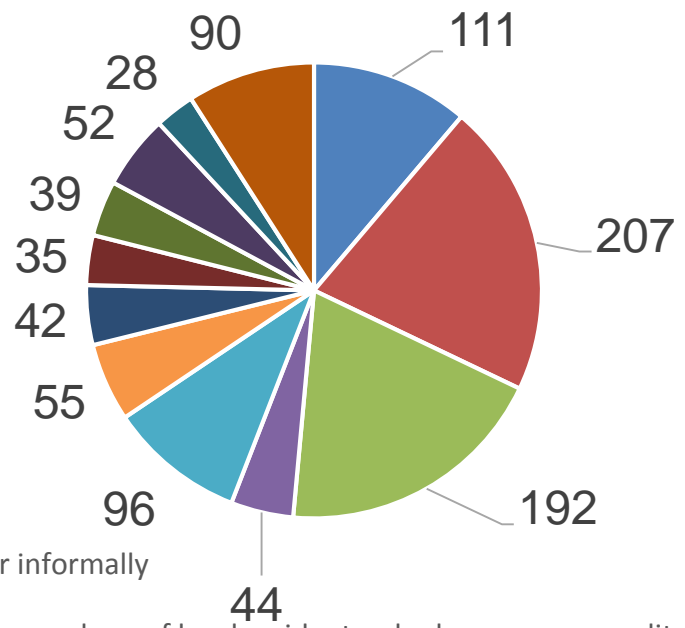
Q5. [For local authorities only] Have you seen a reduction in costs since implementing remote meetings in your authority?



Please note answers are based on numbers of respondents and percentages



Q6. What do you think are some of the disadvantages of the remote meetings arrangements?

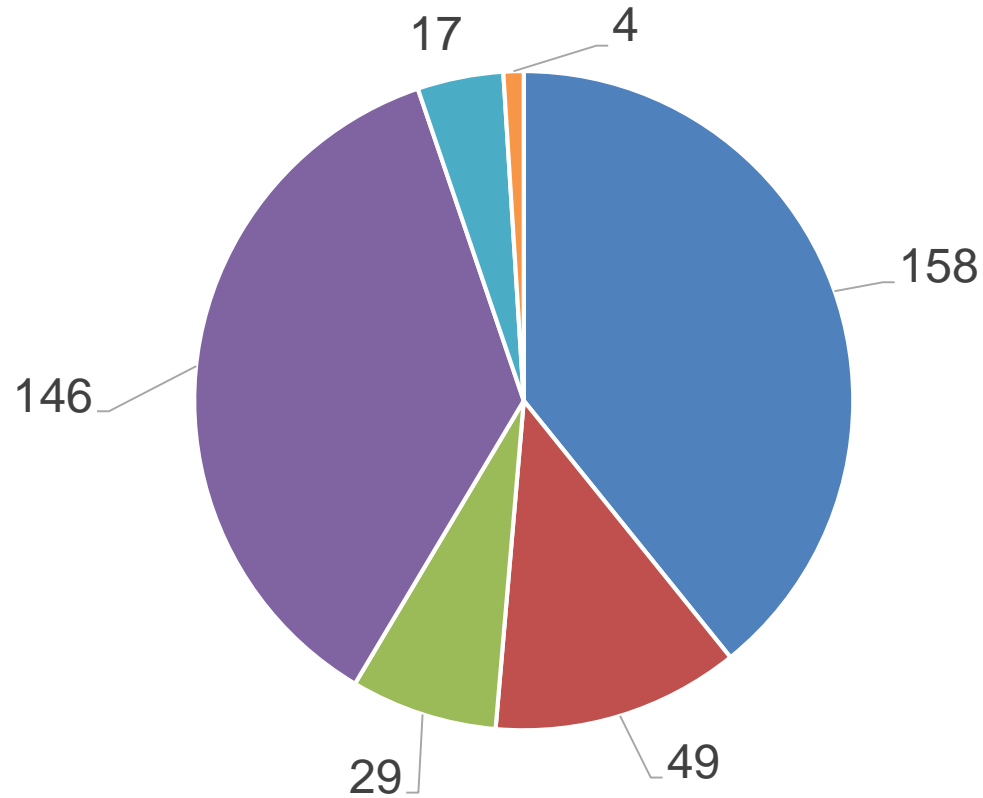


Please note answers are based on number of responses. Respondents were able to select multiple options.

- It is harder for members to talk to one another informally
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members of local residents who have a poor-quality internet connection
- Meetings are less accessible for local authority members or local residents who are unfamiliar with video conferencing/technology
- There is less opportunity for local residents to speak or ask questions
- Some find it more difficult to read documents online than in a physical format
- Debate is restricted by the remote format
- It is more difficult to provide effective opposition or scrutiny in a remote format
- It is more difficult to chair meetings in an orderly fashion
- Virtual meetings can be more easily dominated by individual speakers
- It might enable democratically elected members to live and perform their duties outside their local area on a permanent basis, therefore detaching them from the communities they serve
- It may create too substantial a division between the way national democracy (e.g. in the House of Commons) and local democracy is conducted
- I do not think there are any disadvantages to remote meetings



Q8. If permanent arrangements were to be made for local authorities in England, for which meetings do you think they should have the option to hold remote meetings?



Please note answers are based on number of responses. Respondents were able to select multiple options.

- For all meetings
- For most meetings with a few exceptions
- Only for some meetings
- I think local authorities should be able to decide for themselves which meetings they should have the option to hold remotely
- I do not think local authorities should have the option to hold any meetings remotely
- Unsure



Q9. In your view, would making express provision for English local authorities to meet remotely particularly benefit or disadvantage any individuals with protected characteristics e.g. those with disabilities or caring responsibilities?

Please note answers are based on numbers of respondents and percentages

