



**Annual  
Member  
Survey  
Report 2020**

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# ABOUT



BMUS has nearly 1500 (April 2020) members from both the UK and overseas. There are 12 different types of members from undergraduate up to consultant, including International and European.



In January 2020 we circulated a digital survey to all our members. We held this open for 4 weeks, sending 1 reminder half way through. We received 274 responses, which is about 18% of the membership.



The aim of the survey is to get to know our members needs better, to use the information to shape the work of BMUS and inform the society's strategic plans.



The survey questions were a mix of multiple choice and free text. There were 16 questions in total which took, on average, just over 5 mins to complete.

## QUESTION 1

*Please complete the details below  
Name, Job Title, Place of Work.*



Name and Hospital omitted from the report to ensure anonymity. There were over 100 Job title variations. The majority of responses came from Sonographers. The world cloud below features every Job title that occurred more than once in the survey responses.

A word cloud of various professional titles and roles, primarily in shades of white and light blue, set against a teal background. The most prominent words are 'Sonographer', 'Practitioner', 'Clinical Radiologist', 'Radiographer', 'Specialist', 'Advanced Consultant', and 'Lead'. Other visible titles include 'Superintendent', 'Lecturer', 'Senior', 'Scientist', 'Radiologist', 'Vascular Manager', 'Physicist', 'Research', 'Director', 'Principal', 'Physiology', 'Paediatric', 'Chiropractor', 'Neurophysiology', 'Professor', 'Medical', 'Senior', 'Principal', 'Vascular', 'Manager', 'Midwife', 'Reporting', 'Technologist', 'Team', and 'Ultrasound'.

Superintendent Lead  
Advanced  
Chiropractor  
Consultant  
Neurophysiology Professor Paediatric  
Sonographer  
Retired Lecturer Medical Senior  
Modality Research Director  
Practitioner Principal  
Physics  
Vascular Midwife Reporting Scientist  
Manager  
Team  
Clinical Radiologist  
Technologist  
Radiographer  
Specialist  
Ultrasound

# QUESTION 2

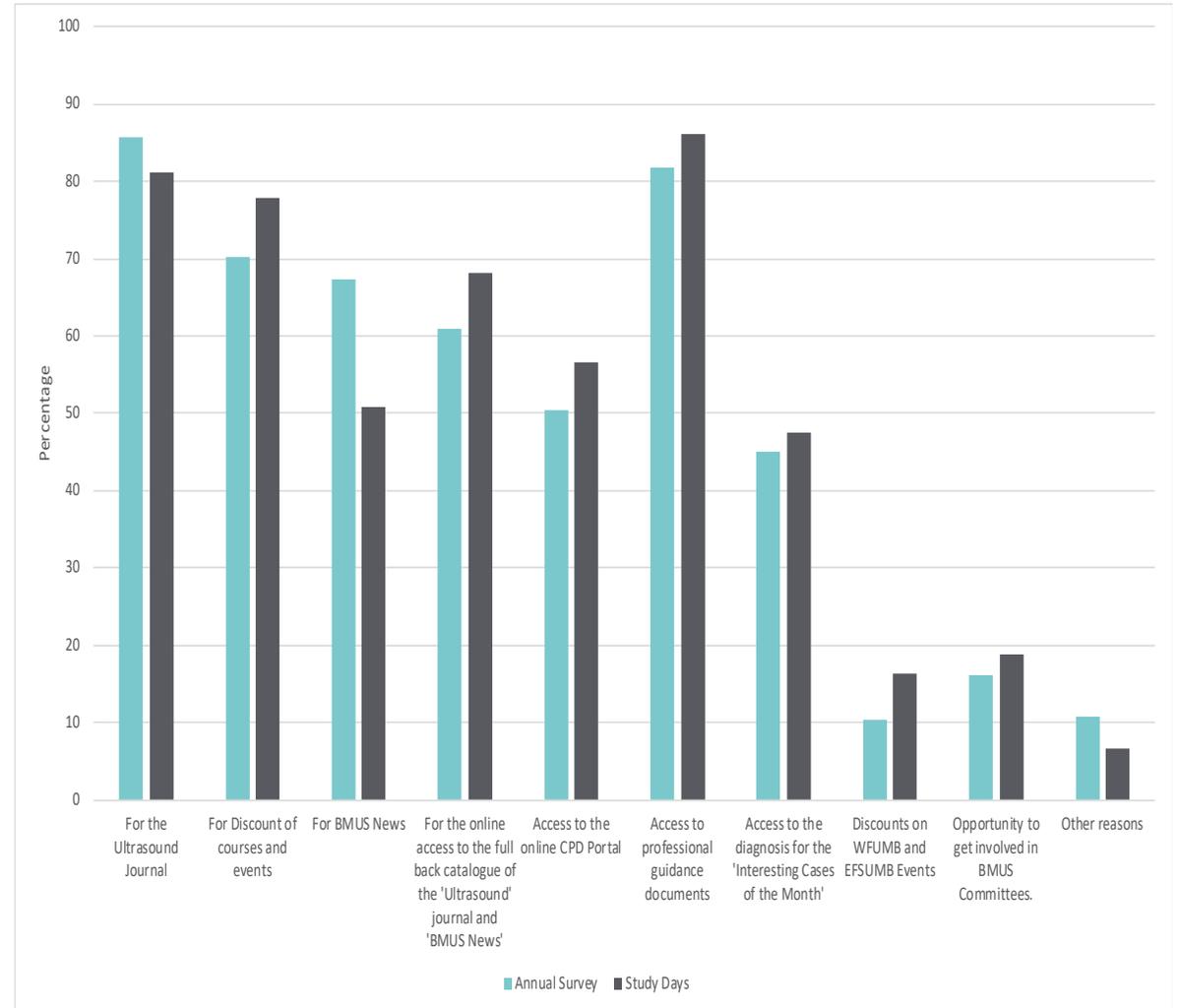
## *Why are you a BMUS Member? (tick all that apply)*

We ask this question in our Course Feedback Surveys as well as in this Annual Survey. The results are similar though not exactly the same. The blue bar below represents the Annual Survey responses, the grey bars from 4 standard BMUS events from the last 12 months (Head and Neck, Saving Babies' Lives, Paediatrics and Obstetrics).

# QUESTION 3

## *Have you attended a BMUS Study Day or ASM in the last 3yrs?*

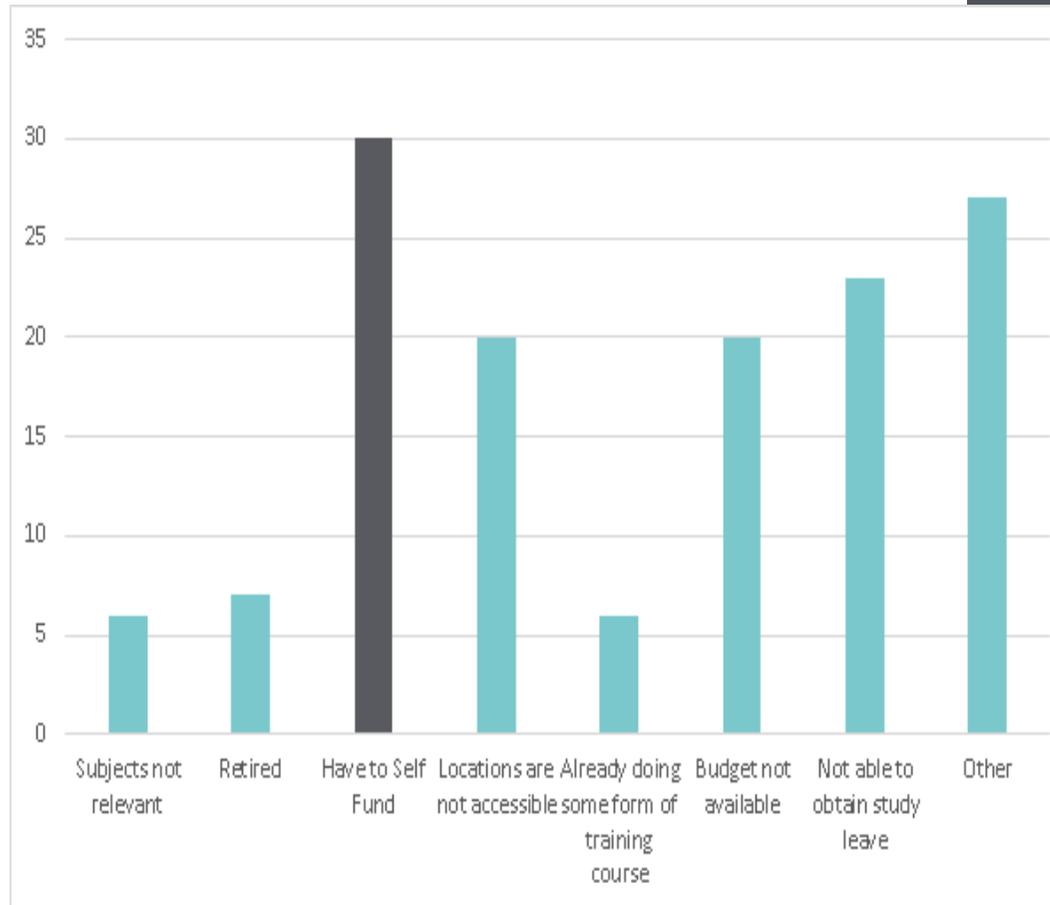
Of the 274 responses 196 people had attended a BMUS event, 78 had not.



# QUESTION 4

**Is there a reason why you haven't attended a BMUS Study Day or ASM in the last 3 yrs?**

All those that responded no to question 3 were pushed to this question and question 5. All those that said yes were moved on to question 6.



## Responses to 'other'

*I joined the ISUOG world congress in Vienna on September 2017. I joined BMUS recently. I didn't have the information about the dates.*

*My speciality is vascular ultrasound and the Society of Vascular Technology and vascular society meetings are usually better for this*

*A) not enough time, b) none directly concerned with peripheral nerve so I have chosen to go to ISPNI instead*

*Long distance travel and time off work*

*Retired from active us practice since May 2017*

*I just joined BMUS 4 months ago.*

*Nothing local that inspired me*

*Recently become a member*

*I would attend a specific study day, if I wanted to learn more about a subject.*

*Only joined this year*

*Financial challenges to meet requirements for study days*

*Only just qualified as a sonographer.*

*Very busy time of year at work and home*

*Not able to meet the financial requirements*

*As I work abroad it is often difficult to take time off to coincide with study days that I am interested to attend. I have in the past tried to fit my leave in with study days.*

*I have a 9 year old daughter but my husband has attended BMUS*

*Live in New Zealand now*

*I am semi-retired*

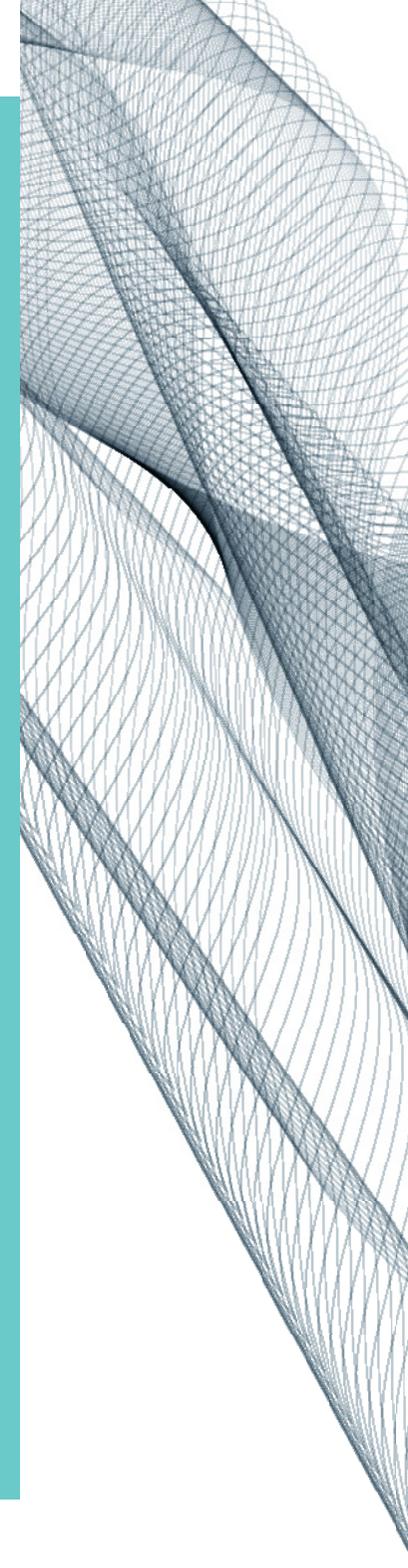
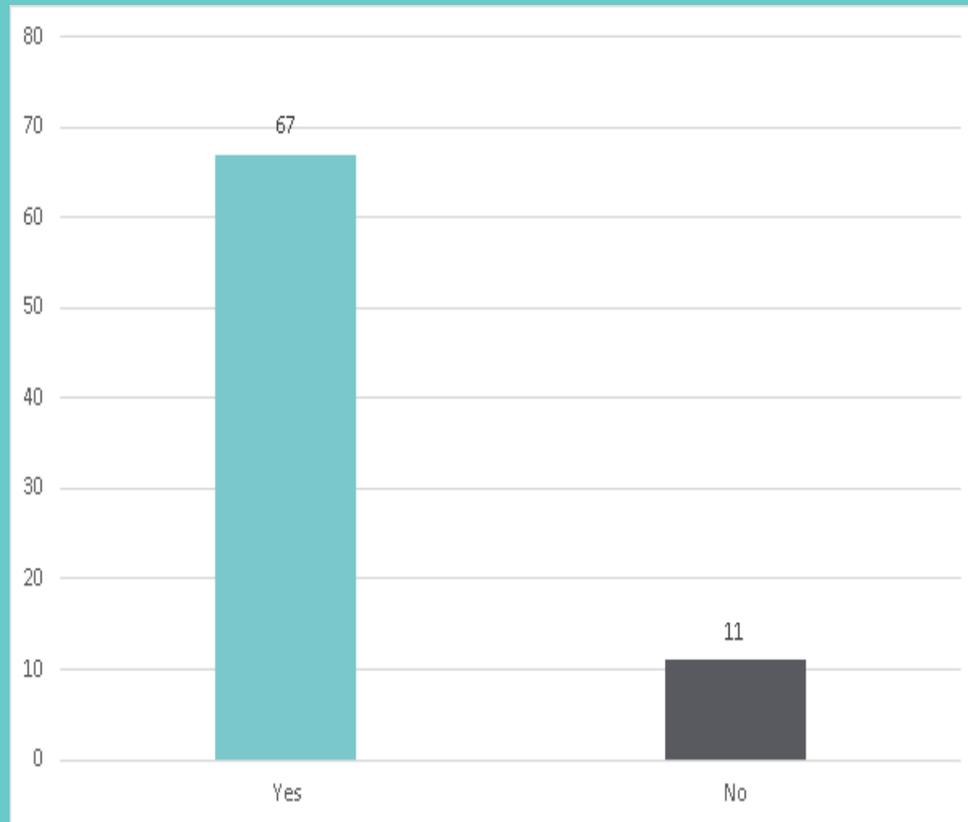
*Resident and work overseas in Africa*

*Chosen other courses to fulfil my CPD*

# QUESTION 5

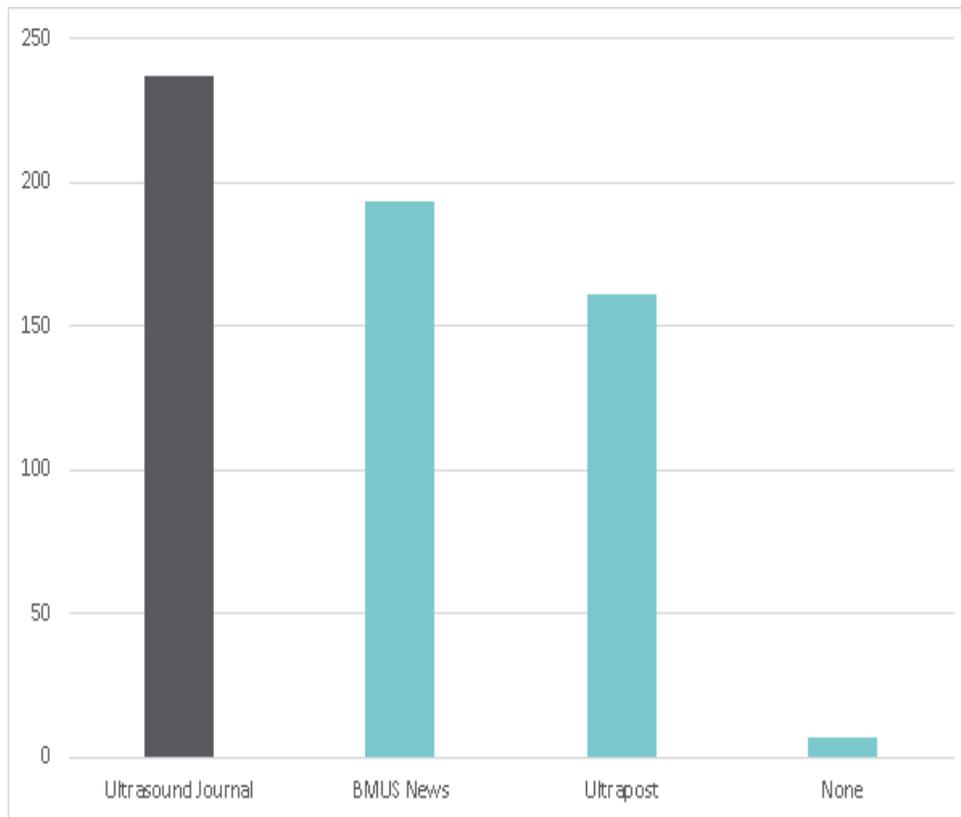
*Does BMUS contribute to your professional development?*

“Yes said 67 respondents out of 78”



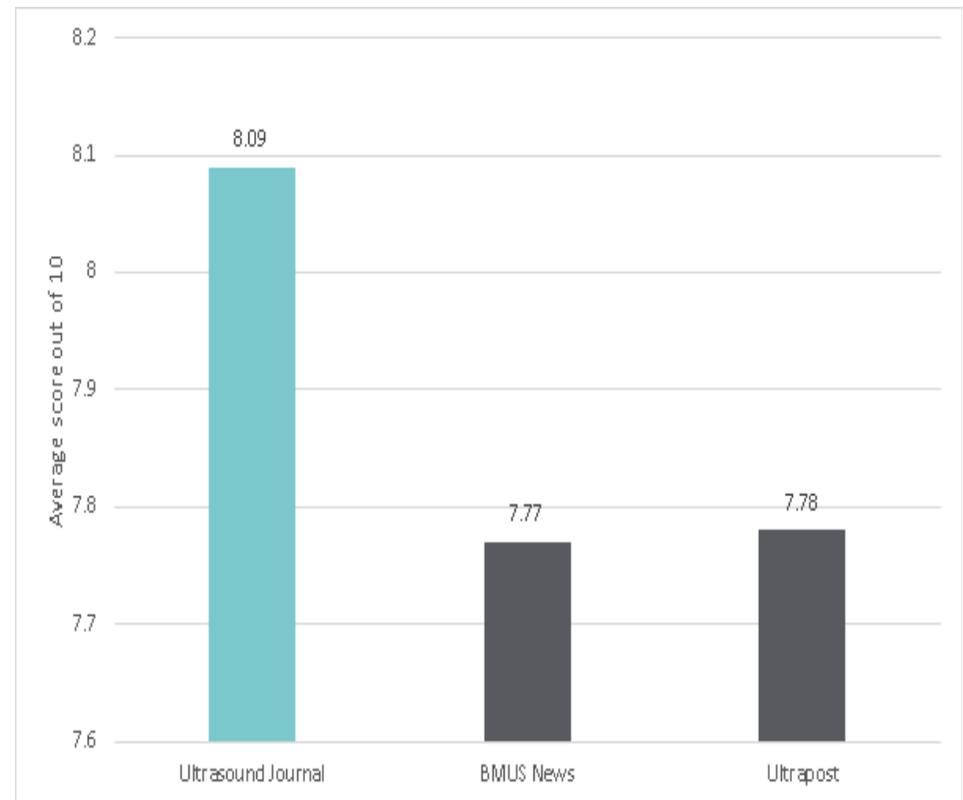
# QUESTION 6

*Which publications and communication do you read regularly?*



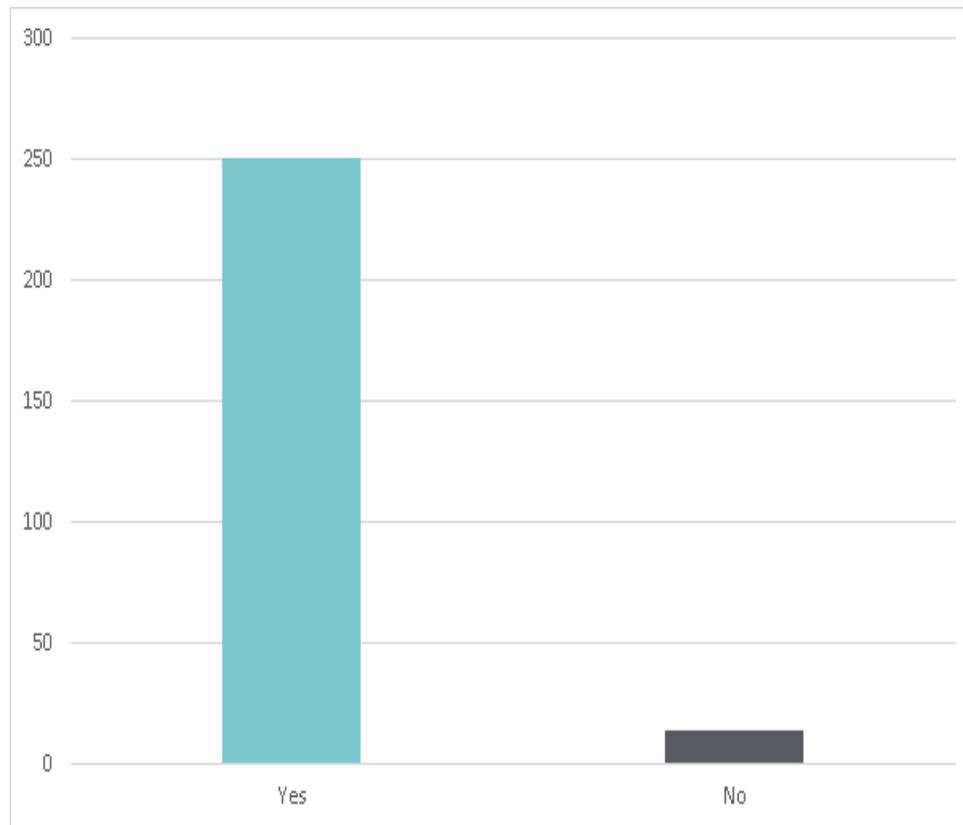
# QUESTION 7

*Please rate each publication out of 10? (1 being poor and 10 being excellent)*



# QUESTION 8

*Do you use BMUS guides, guidelines, policies and safety statements?*



# QUESTION 9

*Do you think there are any other policies, guides, guidelines, statements that BMUS could produce to support you to undertake your role safely*

This question was a free text option. The table below is all similar responses. Once these were removed, we have been left with a list of around 80 responses. Again there were a number of similar comments a selection of the most popular of these can be found listed on the next page.

<i>Skipped</i>	9
<i>Blank</i>	4
<i>Can't think of anything</i>	13
<i>Don't Know</i>	5
<i>N/A</i>	6
<i>No</i>	90
<i>None</i>	5
<i>Not really/at this time/inparticular/required</i>	30
<i>Unsure</i>	1
<i>Other</i>	19
<i>Yes</i>	13

More detailed advice regarding reporting structure and best practice regarding advice sonographers are able to give relating to onward referral or repeat scans in cases of pathology

Incidental findings, best practice pathways for managing common referrals and findings i.e. prostate cancer imaging, PMB

More head & neck guidelines for extended practice

Statements are regular. I would like to see BMUS take a greater role in pushing towards professional registration for sonographers

Support and guidance for trainers not trainees

More uniform process for GB polyps - we scan so many repeated but do we really need to

Expert witness guidance and maybe some kind of link with an insurance company to offer a 20% discount if a BMUS member. I realise BMUS hasn't the resources to insure us but they could advise on safe practice and recommend an insurer perhaps?

I would like more guidance on best practice for transgender patients (particularly with regard to intimate examinations).

Guidance on minimum examination times, especially with regard to training lists for student sonographers.

Veterinary ultrasound practice guidelines - desperately in need of these

Guidance on high BMI patients and upper limb disorders

We need regulation of the conditions under which members are working, which vary greatly from trust to trust. E.g. not all trusts provide a chaperone for intimate scans, but others categorically do not do without.

Statement in line with SCoR regarding fetal sexing and recording during examinations, including maximum one attendee in the room

The latest technology - non-invasive prenatal tests and the use of 3d imaging for further information, especially in gynae and obstetrics

Repetitive strain disorder and occupational injuries

Perhaps CEUS  
HycoSy/ hyfoSy injections

Necessity of tv scanning to assess PV bleeding.

Use of Ultrasound by untrained operators

Maybe use of CEUS for non-HCPC registered professionals?  
Advice on patient group directives etc

Information for patients on the role of the sonographer in obstetrics

I specialise as a breast radiologist screening and symptomatic and we have guidance and policies and GA from NHS BSP and public health.

Hernias and soft tissue lesion examinations included in the guidelines

Guidance on incidentalomas

Litigation procedures.

Guidelines for sonographer salaries which have been static for some time

140

# QUESTION 10 & 11

120

*Have you recently visited our website [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org)?*

100

Yes	205
No	60

**How regularly do you visit the website?**  
Weekly, monthly, hardly ever, other

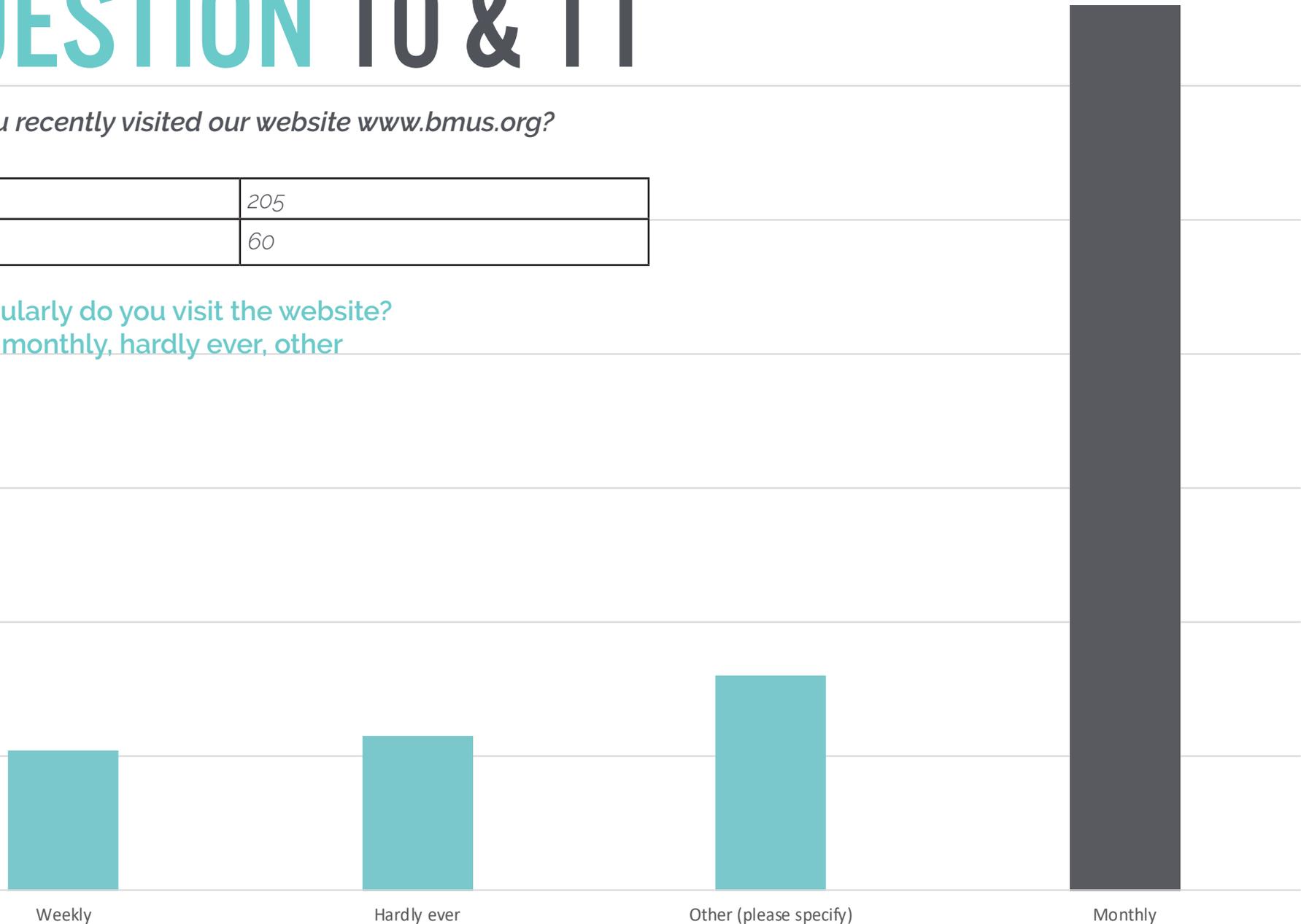
80

60

40

20

0



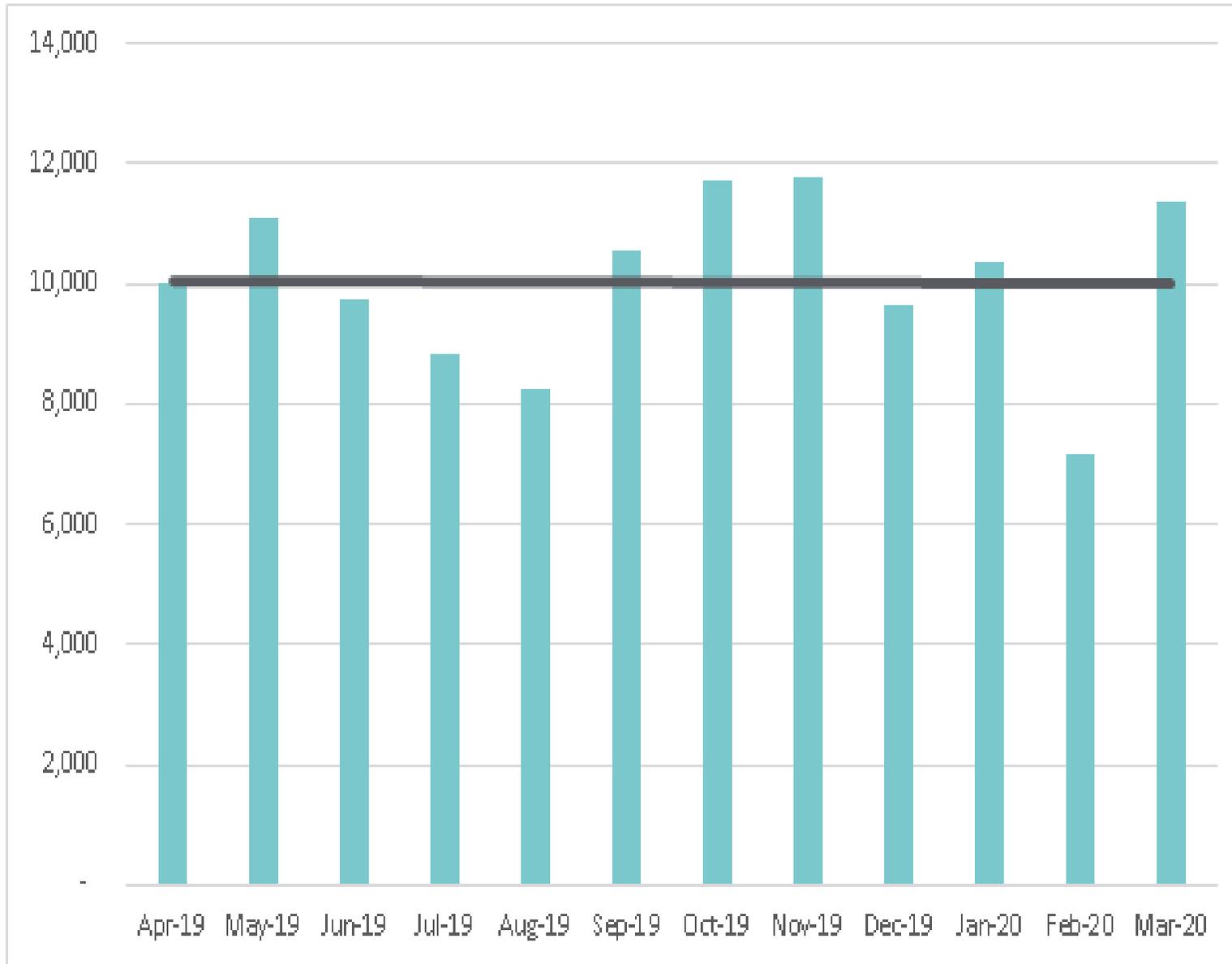
Weekly

Hardly ever

Other (please specify)

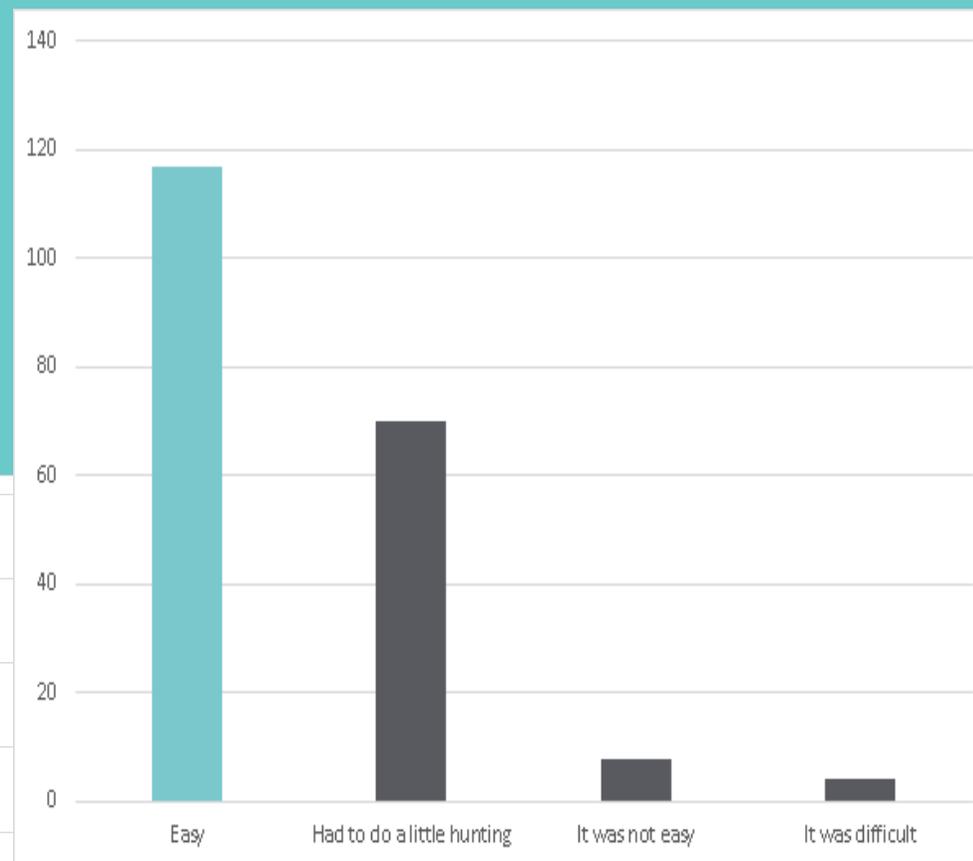
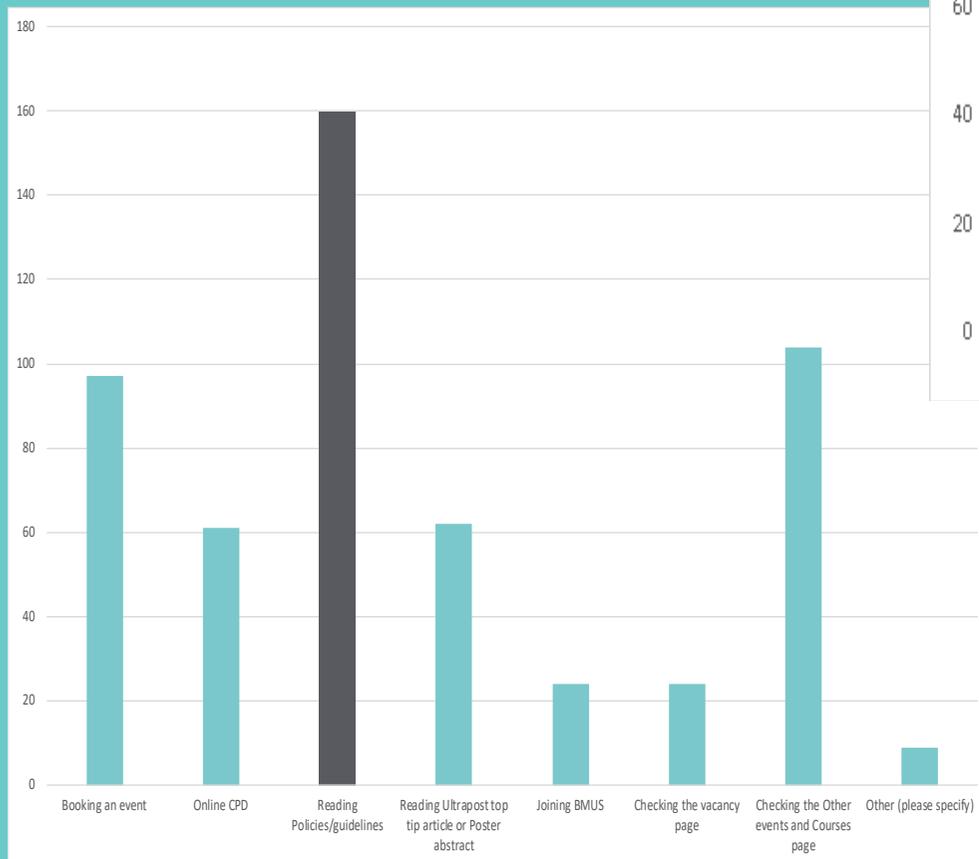
Monthly

We average around 10,000 visits to our website a month.  
Monthly Website Figures (from Google Analytics)



# QUESTION 12

What did you use the BMUS website for?  
(Tick all that apply)



# QUESTION 13

Was it easy to navigate your way around the website

# QUESTION 14

*What features would you like to see the BMUS website provide?*

After the 86 responses that were a mixture of blank answers, website is good and no changes required we were left with 106 constructive comments. These 106 comments can be split into 4 themes,

- Guides, guideline and guidance,
- Education, training and CPD,
- Access, and navigation and
- Other



The most predominant theme is Education, Training and CPD. Respondents are seeking, more online CPD, better access to the existing online CPD and educational content. They would like signposting to relevant other courses and CPD not run by BMUS. More case studies and interesting cases.



The theme of guides, guidelines and guidance see's requests for signposting to useful guides produced by third parties, improved navigation to our policies and guidance pages, as well as comments regarding a few subject specific guidelines.



There is a general consensus across the responses to this question that the website is generally good. However, there are areas of improvement required in navigating to some key areas.

# QUESTION 15

**How do you think BMUS can improve the benefits it offers its members? (Include improvements to current benefits or new benefits we could offer.)**



17 left their response blank, 106 responded with comments such as wasn't sure, didn't know, none, fine as is. This left 170 other comments. There are a vast variety of comments regarding benefits BMUS could offer or ways we could improve our offer for members.



Reoccurring themes that come through are around CPD and learning, the cost of events and membership as well as professional issues such as registration and indemnity insurance.



Members would like to see a wider offer for online, website based CPD either through more articles linked to CPD or lectures and presentations online. There are also comments around location of courses and frequency.



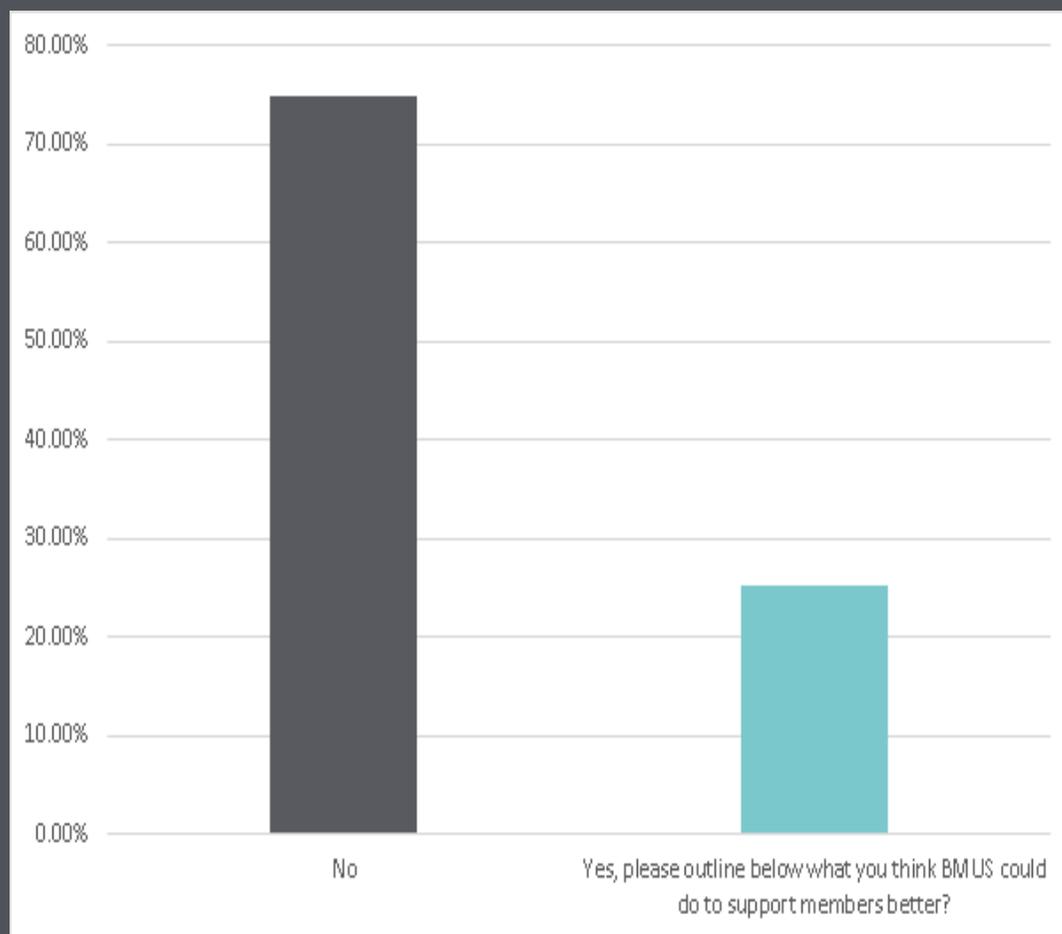
There were a number of comments around the need for Sonographer registration to go through and for BMUS to keep driving this forward. Indemnity Insurance reoccurred a number of times and it is something some members require more support and information on.



Some members would like to see a reduction in course costs for self-funding members.

# QUESTION 16

Is there anything else BMUS could be doing to support our members?



25% of respondents think there is more that BMUS could be doing to support its members. When asked to outline what this might be we had a mixture of comments and feedback.

Most of these reflected comments made in Question 14 and 15. In particular indemnity insurance, protecting the title songwriter and professional registration.