

BMUS 

# Annual Member Survey Report 2021

# About Us

“ *BMUS has nearly 1500 (January 2021) members from both the UK and overseas.*

*There are 16 different types of members from undergraduate up to consultant, including International and European.*

*In January 2021 we circulated a digital survey to all our members. We held this open for 4 weeks, sending weekly reminders. We received 169 responses, which is about 11% 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.*

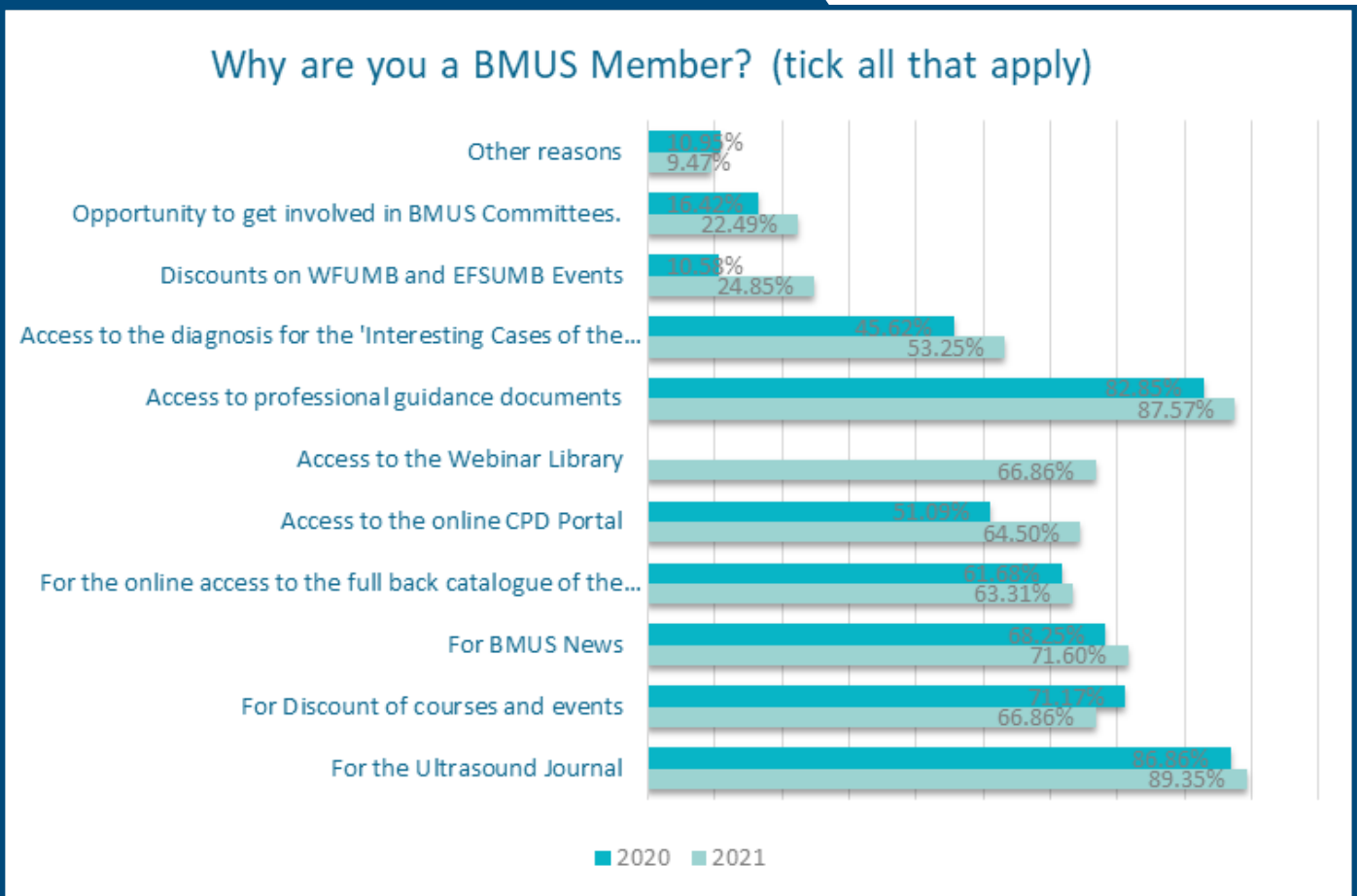
*The survey questions were a mix of multiple choice and free text. There were 20 questions in total which took, on average, just over 5 mins to complete.*



## Question 2:

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

Below is a comparison between the response to this question in 2020 and 2021



## Question 3:

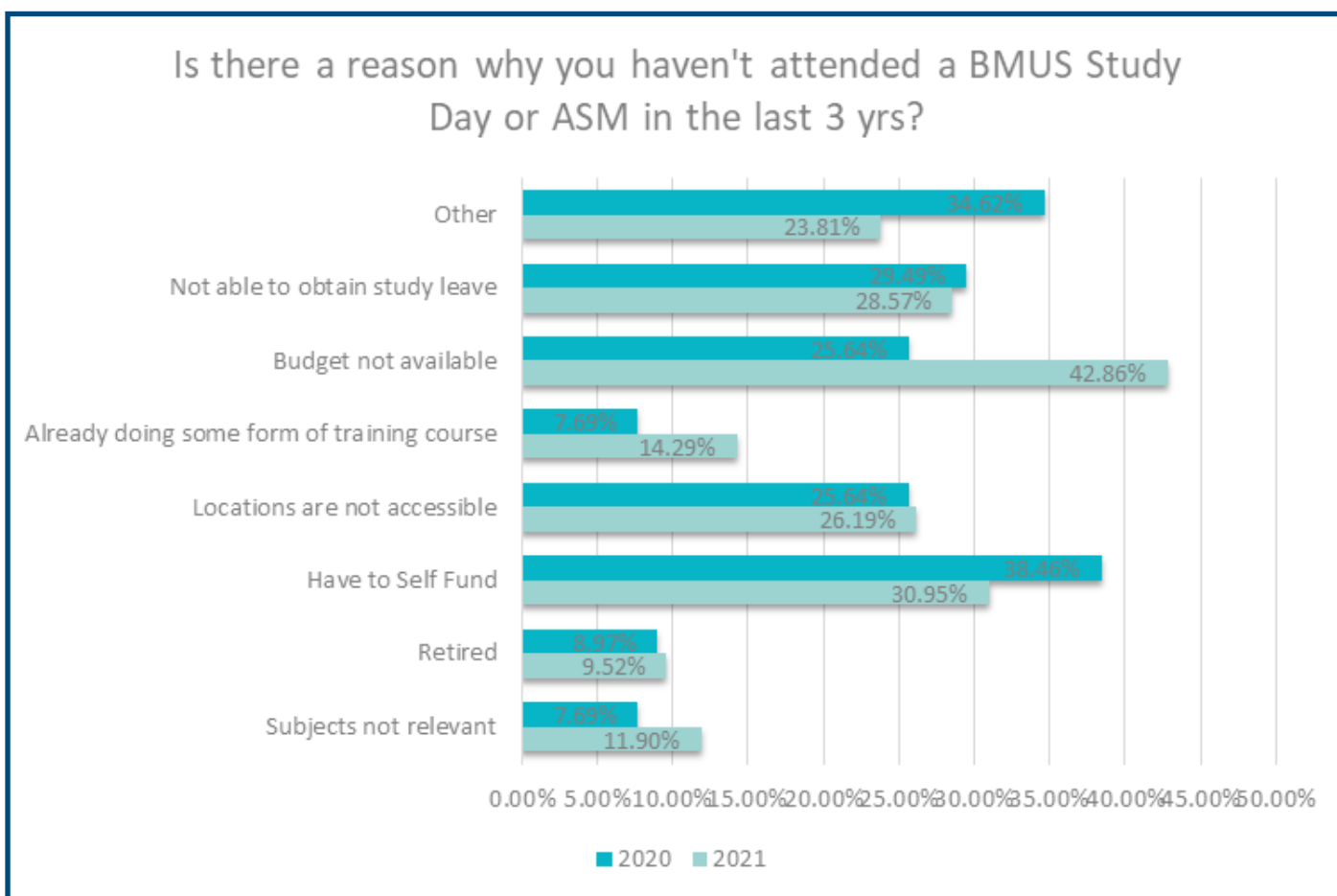
Have you attended a BMUS Study Day or ASM in the last 3yrs?

Of the 169 responses 127 (75%) people had attended a BMUS event, 42 (25%) 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.

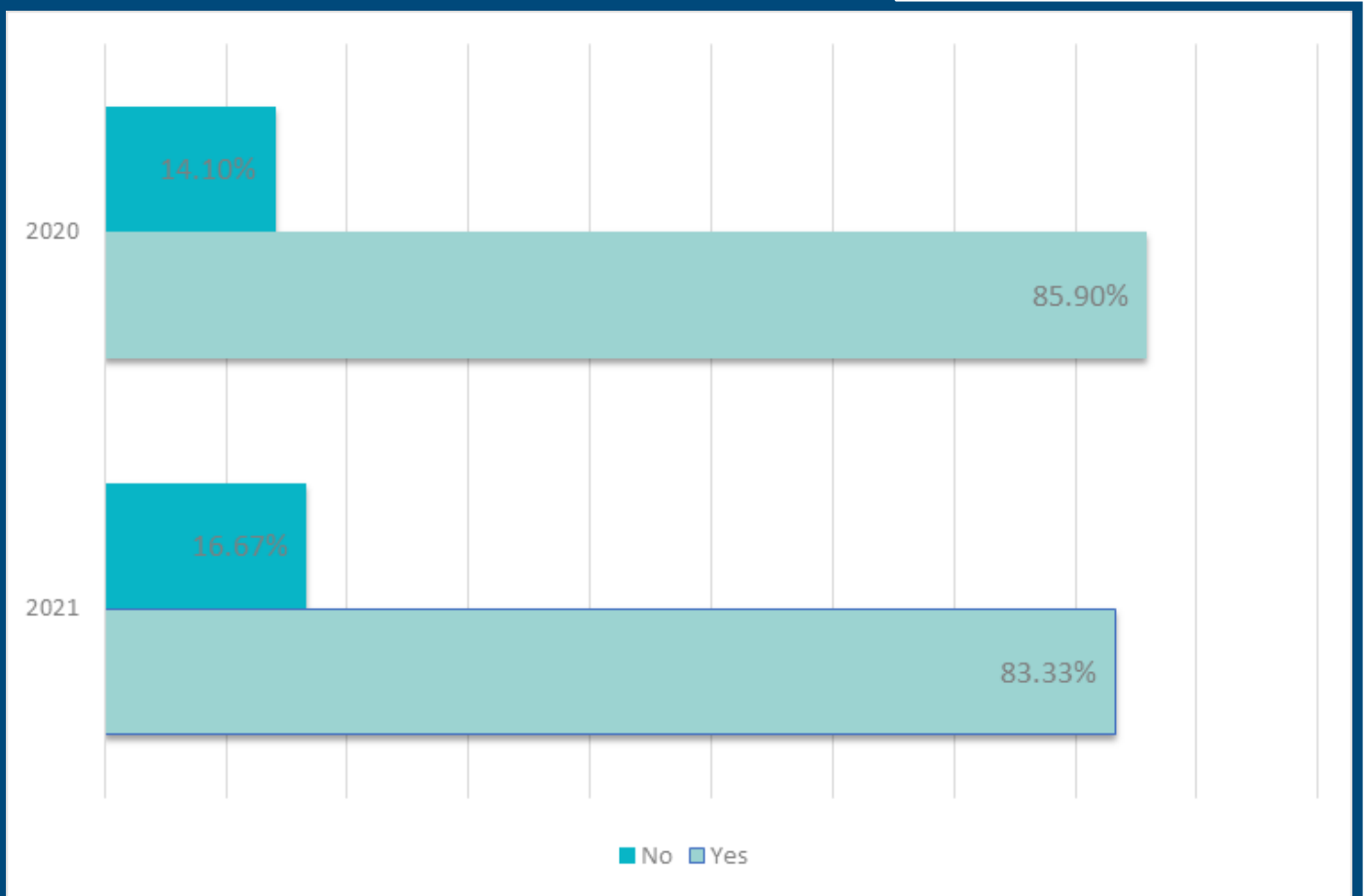


cancelled due to COVID	My Trust have not permitted.
Mostly too specialised and I would get little from them as a generalist.	personal commitment as sole carer for 91 year mum with dementia.
Just joined and no one yet	Pandemic
I am new member for about a year	Just joined BMUS last year
Mainly teaching on other courses	Only just joined
I run the service and I have been unable to gain the time to attend study days I have been keeping my CPD as updated as I can on line	There is a waiting list. Only one Sonographer per year generally so we take turns

## Question 5:

### Does BMUS contribute to your professional development?

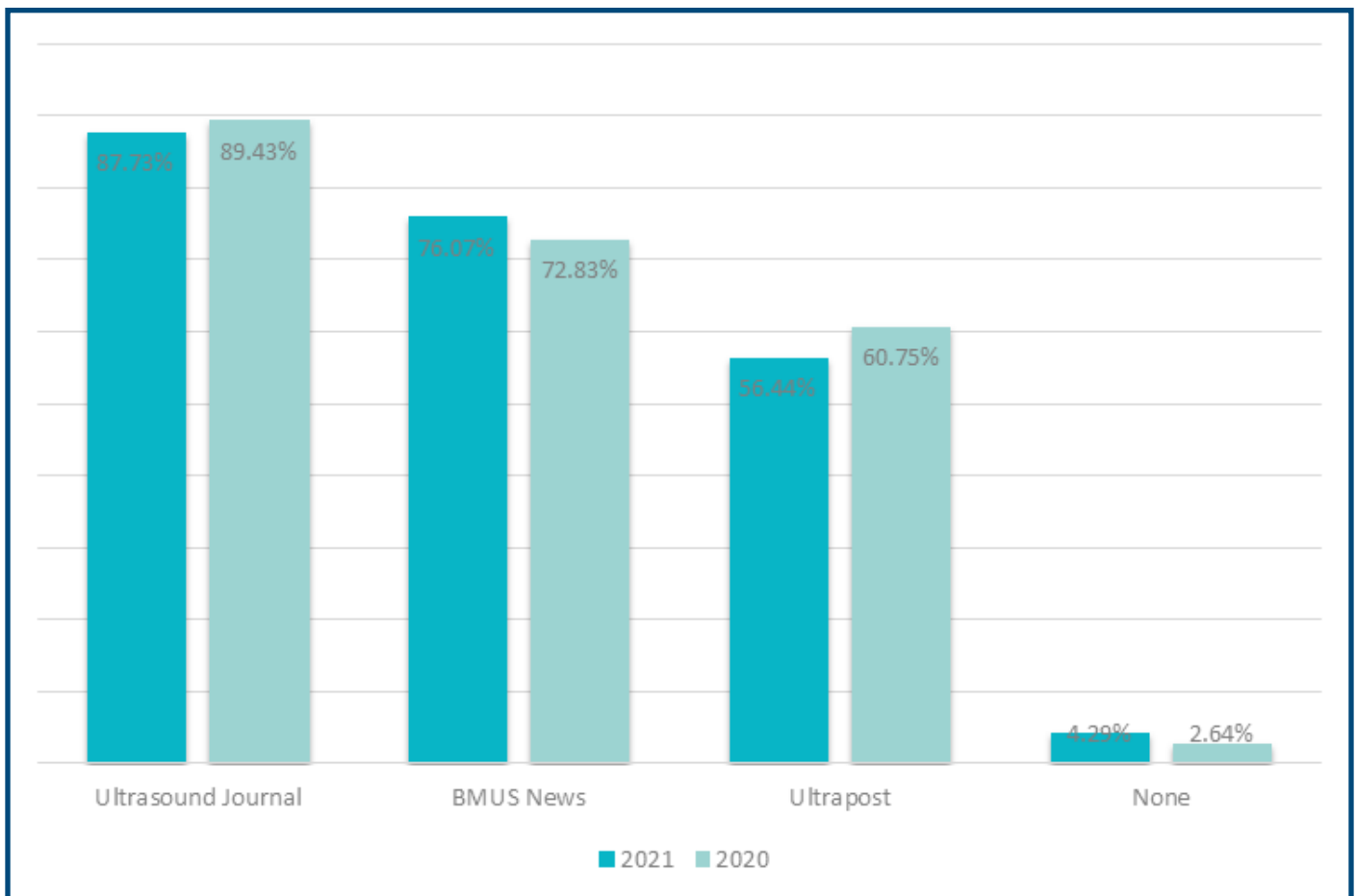
Even though the people responding to this question haven't attended our events we are still contributing to professional development.



## Question 6:

### Which publications and communication do you read regularly?

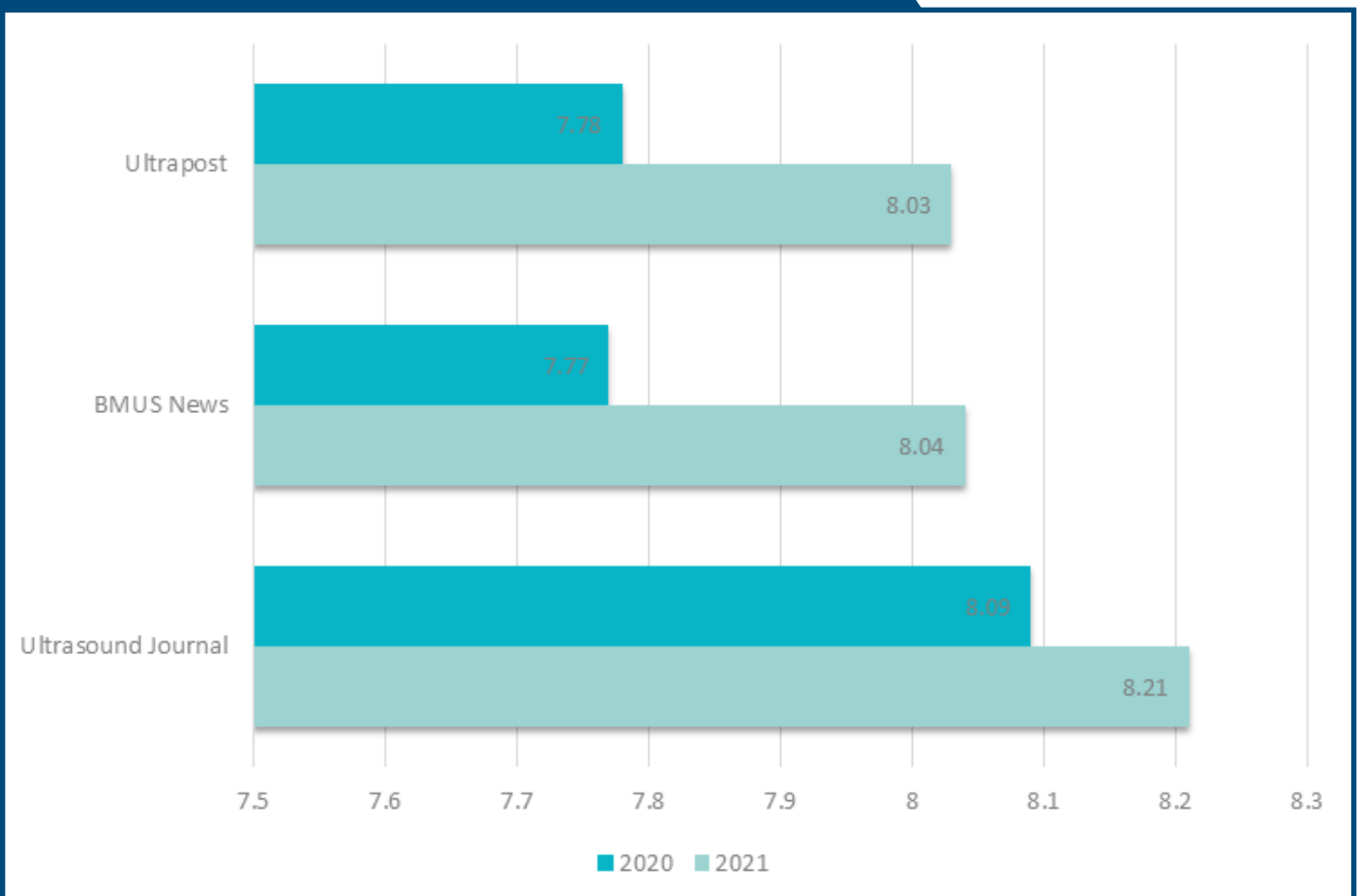
All respondents answered this question



## Question 7:

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

Average Score out of 10 for each publication

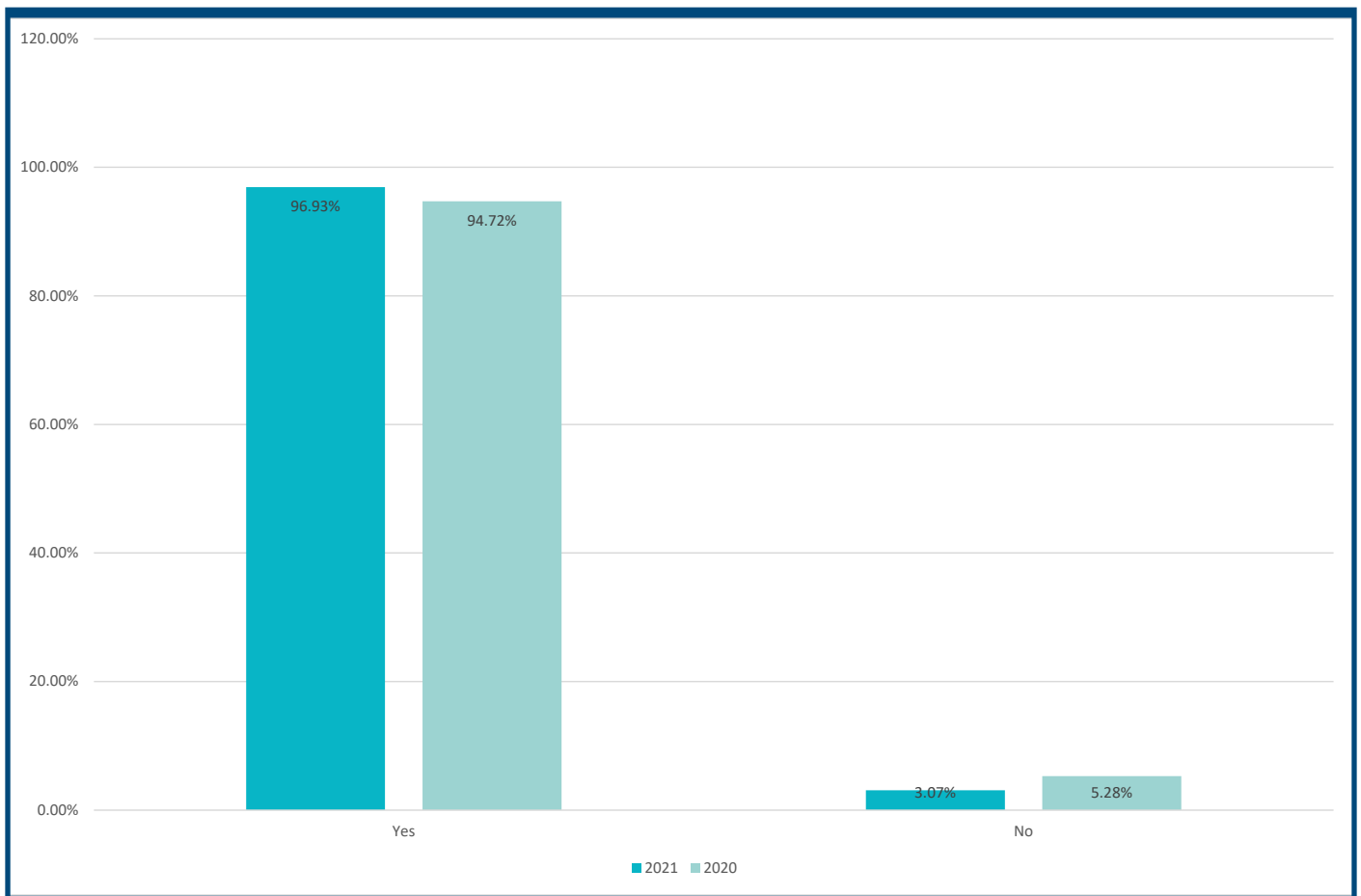




## Question 8:

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

All respondents answered this question



## 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 is all similar responses. Once these were removed, we have been left with a list of around 80 responses. These can be found listed below this table.

Skipped	6
Blank	5
Can think of Anything	3
Don't Know	3
N/A	5
No	51
None	4
Unsure	5
Other	19
Yes	3

3rd trimester growth, update on charts esp with reference to GAP/GROW	A firmer position on quality assurance programmes
any information that is specifically aimed at US manufacturers that would help improve our understanding and also HCP understanding. The liaison with AXrEM would be very welcome	Could have had more statements re support during pandemic, especially regarding why partners were not allowed into obs scans. We have had so much negative press regarding this.
appointment times for general medical examinations	Children attending scan rooms
CEUS	CEUS guidelines
Clear guidelines regarding indemnity particularly for those working as locums.	Clearer guidelines of who and what qualifications are required to practice ultrasound
Discrepancies, AQP private companies	Engage in the regulation of private 'baby face' clinics
extended appointment times with covid pandemic	Foreign qualification recognition warnings
Guidelines on patients attending for US Pelvis then informing the Sonographer they are pregnant when in the room.	Guidelines on Bmi and RSi risk...especially in obstetric scanning..

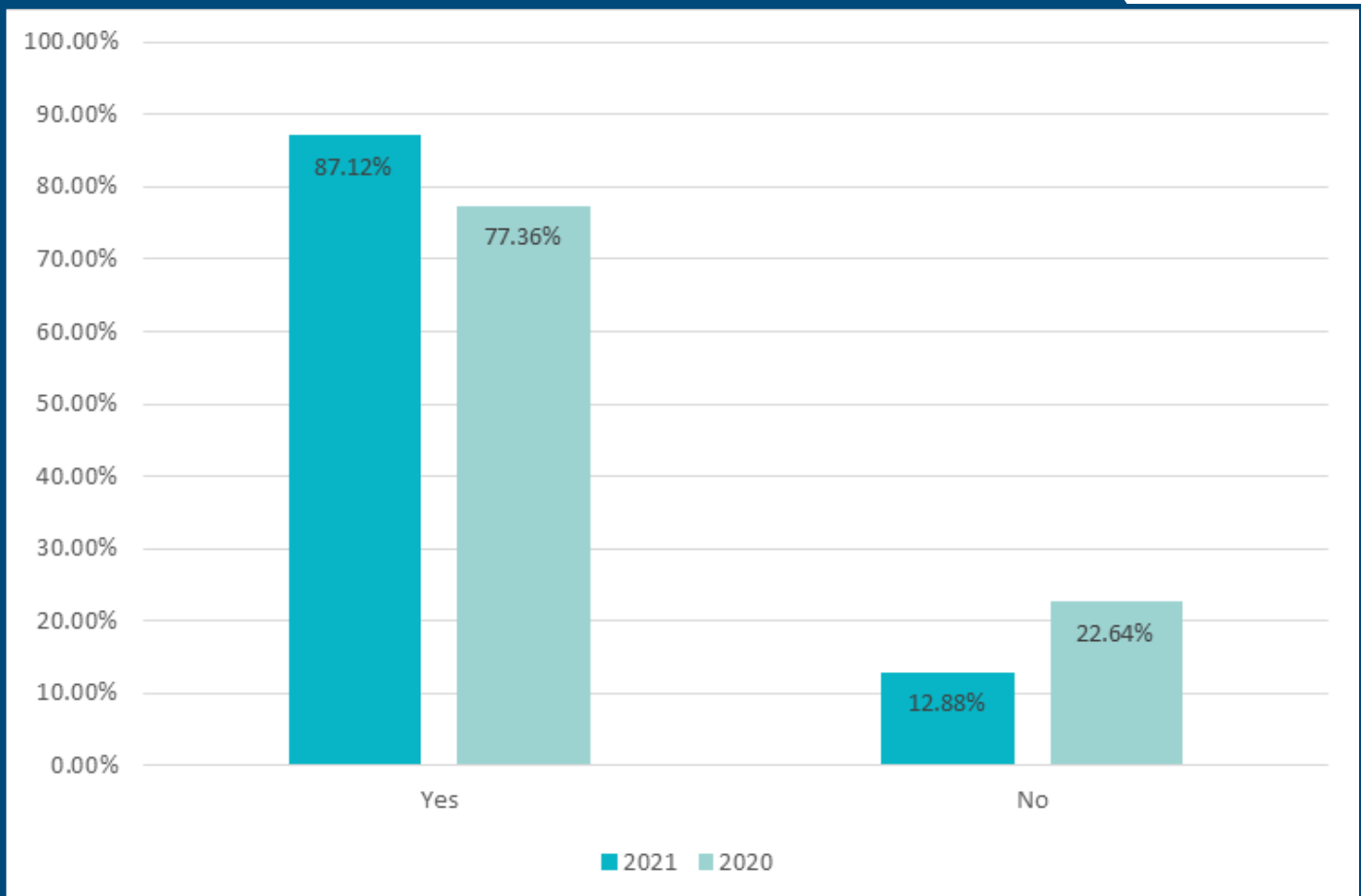
Guidelines for patients using private providers	Guidelines on strain imaging
Guidelines on Ultrasound interventional training procedures. e.g. MSK Injection training, Head and Neck FNA	I would be useful if BMUS could provide a competency assessment template for in-house training of specific scans that may not be covered on a general US course such as DVT, groin, testes, paedes...
Guidelines on Vetting ultrasound requests	increased links to vascular ultrasound
I could use a guide to setting up a new US modality service	Guides to be international accredited sonographer working outside UK
Interventional US guidelines	Issues affecting the BAME group in training
May be	More head & neck
More guidance around common follow ups ev GB polyps haemangionas angiomyolipomas	Paediatric hips ... standardised reports for all examinations ; how to perform quality reports , how to get new equipment
More MSK guidance	More on MSK
patient information - guidance	PoCUS guidance, possibly endorsing short courses too.
PoCUS guidelines	Quality Assurance
posters to place on notice boards within each scan room to act as aids for incidental findings and patient pathways to follow	produce guidelines for sonographers in extended roles e.g. HyCoSy
Quality assurance.	RSI
Repeat relevant policies from other societies pertaining to ultrasound	Scan specific and general plus cleaning and reporting
SBLV2	Standard guidelines for vetting requests ie. blood tests advice for GPs for ?PCOs
Straight forward guidelines for further referral/urgent referral/specialist assessment suggestion. which patient need no follow up etc	Stronger support for covid specific issues, partners in the rooms etc
Support for sonographers during the pandemic who are under pressure from Maternity groups to allow partners in for scans (currently only allowed for 12 and 20 weeks scan at our Trust). A lot of sonographers have had to deal with aggressive and abusive behaviour	The examination times document produced by The SCoR was useful, with links to how to audit actual examination times. It is time consuming to create an Excel document to do this. I have done this and am in the process of auditing, but I am sure other departments would find template to use for ultrasound useful. Especially in light of expanded exam times, balancing demand and capacity.
Templates for specialist role protocols	There should be more online lectures for free CPDS
Third trimester obs, carotid Doppler	Third-party repair of ultrasound transducers

Updated policy on partners in room during anomaly scanning	vascular ultrasound guidelines
under current climate support with not having partners during scanning and if allowed not to take pictures or videos	Use and safety of emerging modalities such as microvascular imaging, photoacoustic imaging etc.
Updated vetting guidelines	Veterinary ultrasound Guidelines ( in hand!)
WFUSM	Work more with RCOG on guidelines
Work related injuries?	Would be good to incorporate with FASP and NSC
Would be interesting to explore a student conduct document. Students are no longer from exiting regulated professions	WRD and number of patients scanned.
Yes, how Sonographers can protect themselves against claim	

## Question 10:

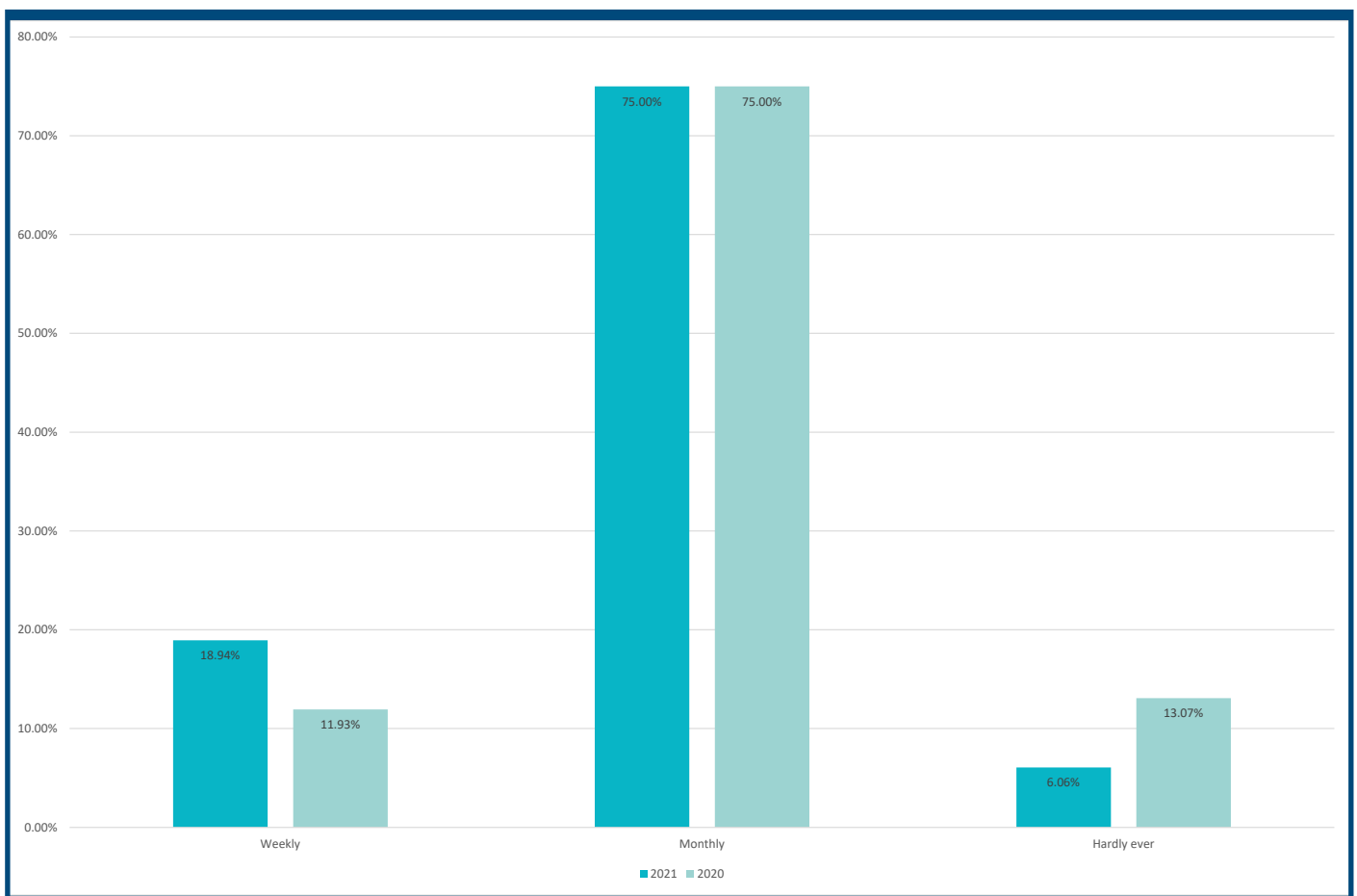
### Have you recently visited our website [www.bmus.org](http://www.bmus.org)?

The majority of responders have visited our website.

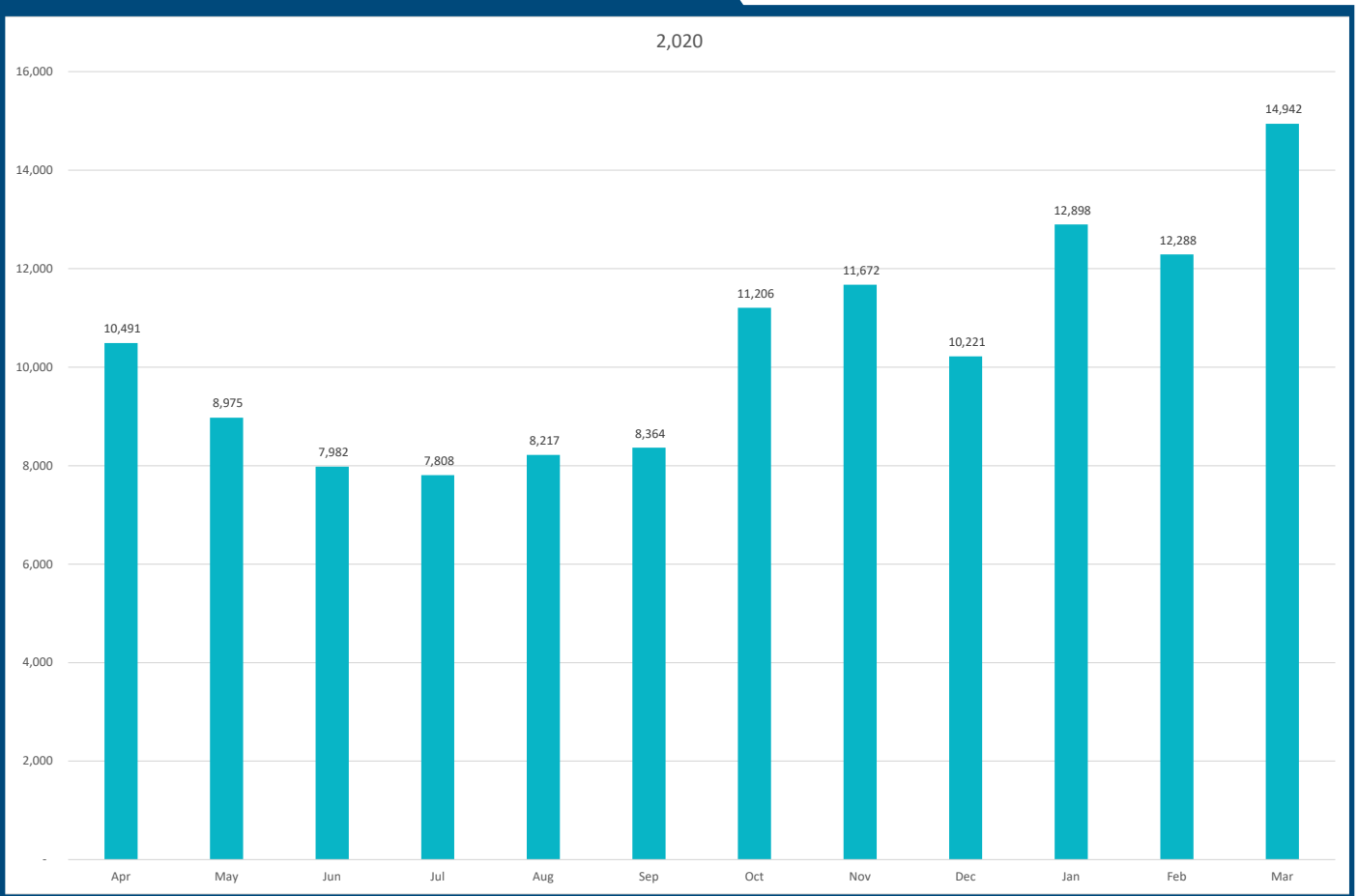


## Question 11:

How regularly do you visit the website

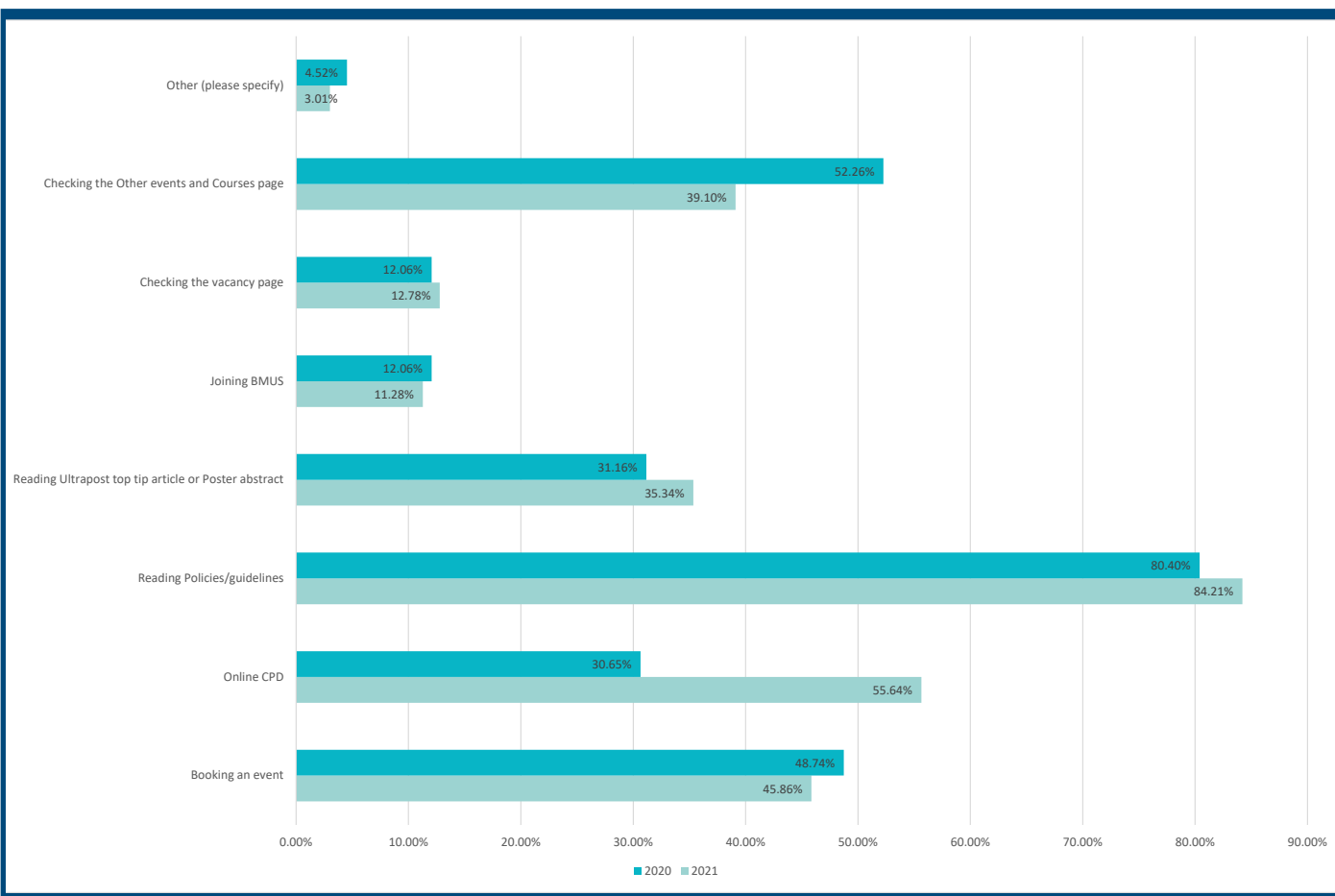


We average 10,422 visits to our website a month. Data below taken from Google Analytics.



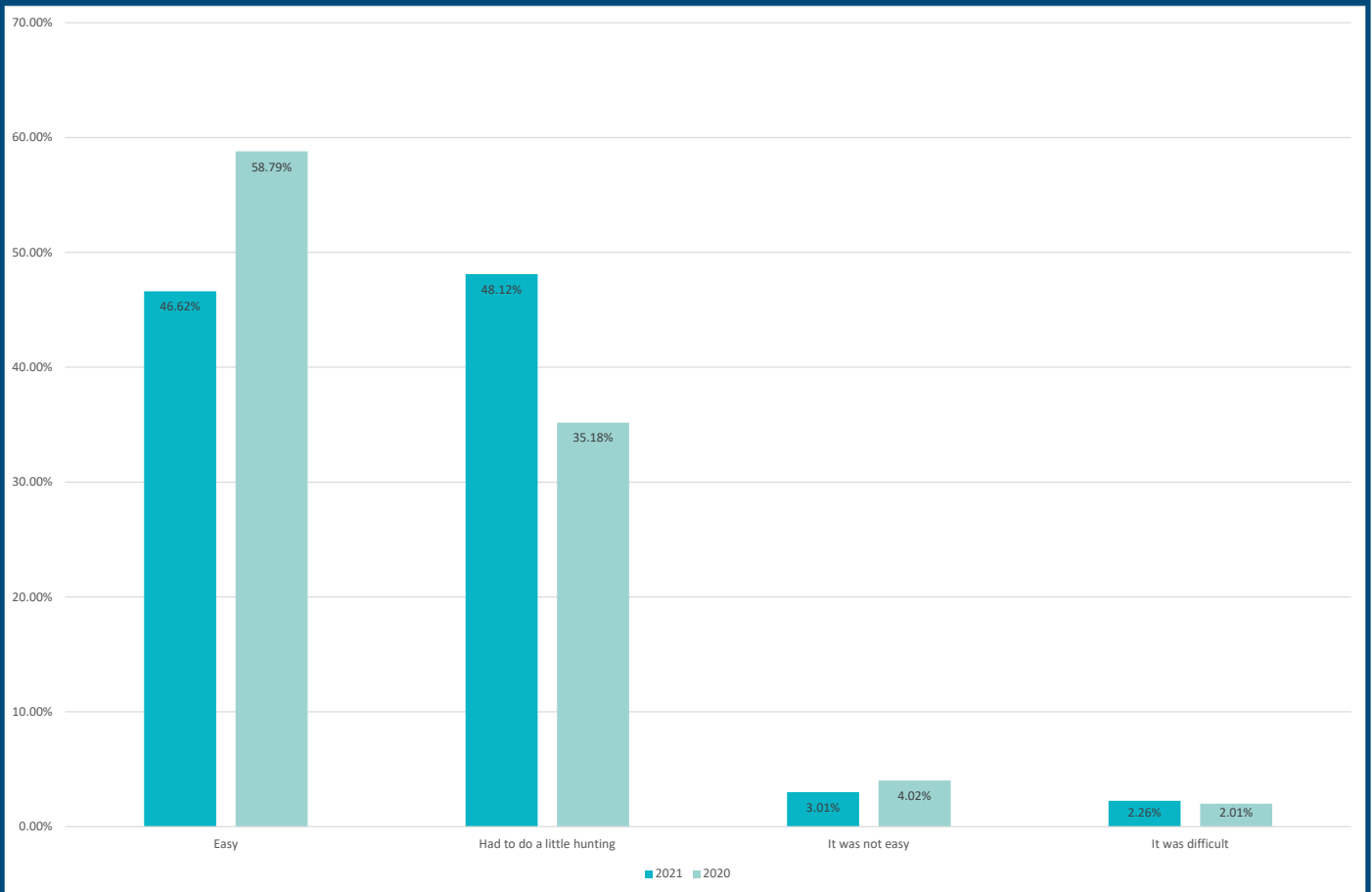
## Question 12:

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 60 responses that were a mixture of blank answers, website is good and no changes required we were left with 73 constructive comments. These 73 comments can be split into 4 themes,

1. Guides, guideline and guidance,
2. Education, training and CPD,
3. Access, and navigation and
4. 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.)**

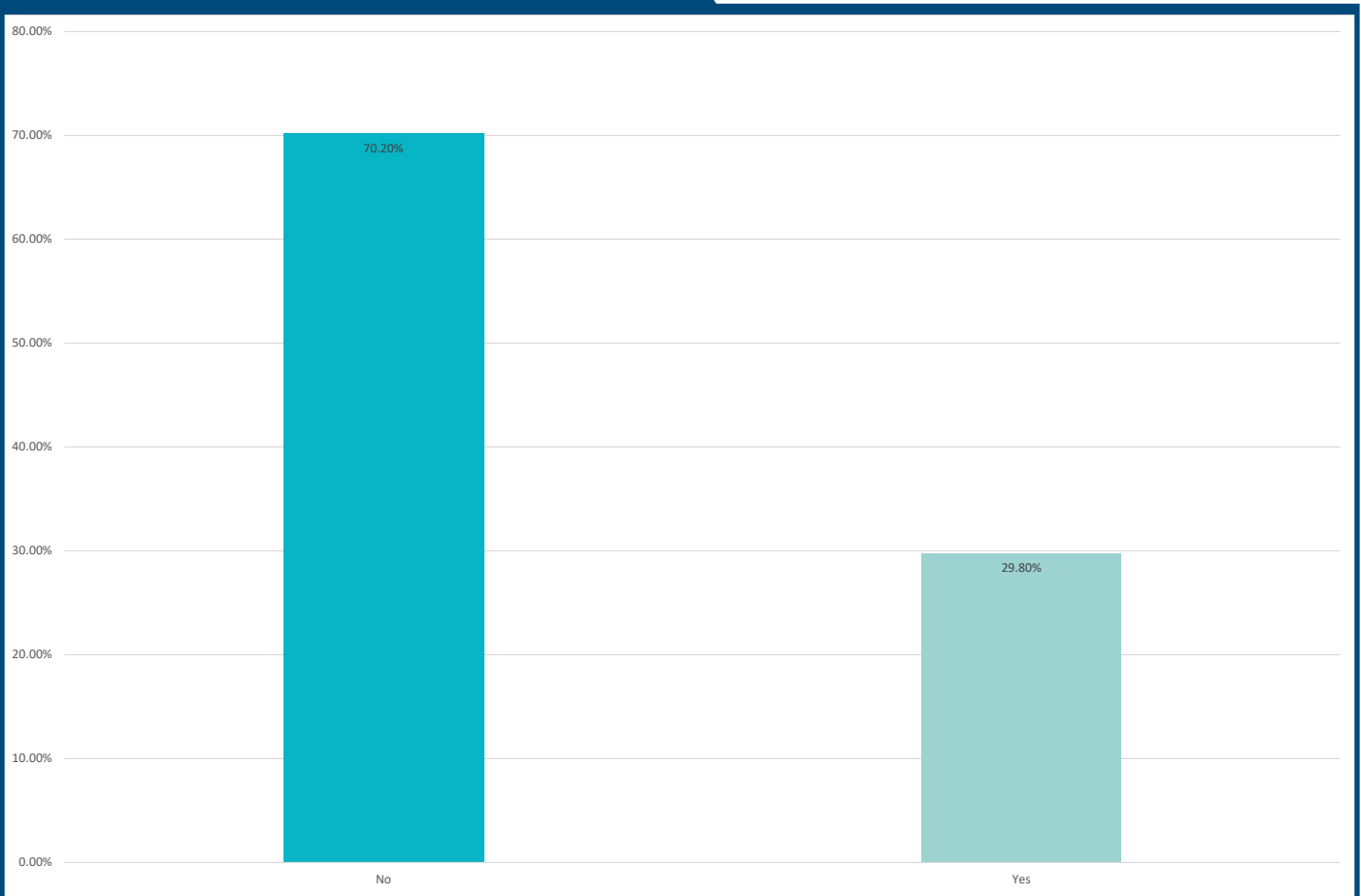
The responses have been categorised below

- 31 Want to see more of greater access to Education
- 3 would like BMUS to continue to work towards Sonographer Registration
- 4 Professional Development highlight areas of professional development to focus on
- 25 are Happy with BMUS and the benefits we offer
- 8 would like to see BMUS either provide indemnity insurance or help them to find appropriate indemnity insurance
- 50 left the response blank or indicated no comment, nothing at the moment, none
- 30 other comments were received and are listed below

A unilateral member fee (with a reduction for students and retirees)
Current question and answers regarding policies up to date guidance in current climate
Difficult to comment now that BMUS is becoming a largely sonographer dominated and targeted society
Easier access to journal. Regional hubs would be really useful. Could discuss SOP's, referral criteria, standardising care etc.
great publication
Greater engagement with PoCUS
Inviting to publish an article, or a communication. Insert members in WorkGroups
Latest literature and the video lectures
Link to WFUMB
Linked discounts for those with other professional memberships eg IPEM
links to legal advise, links to green top guidelines, NICE guidelines and other 'approved' sources of information
litigation/court advise
MAke it relevant to all members not focusing on sonographers
more about new equipment maybe ask the machine companies to include info on their latest products?
more case studies articles
More easy access to other journals
MORE INTERACTION WITH MEMBERS
More material on MSK ultrasound
More options for ASM - it is rather expensive
More veterinary and point of care content
provide recent references for hands on experience for employment
Reciprocal arrangements with other societies, either medical ultrasound societies in other countries or societies with closely related topics in the UK, to offer mutual memberships.
routes to become more involved in the society
See previous
Stronger links with the British Society of Echocardiography?
Teach to improve USS skills for members
Travel and research project small grants
Virtual scanning updates
Vouchers for pizza and wine!!
Work in partnership with Trusts and Hospitals to hold local training/info/courses

## Question 16:

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



- During a pandemic you could give sonographer autonomy
- hands on experience training
- Keep going with webinars
- More courses
- Provide a Rep or make members more aware of regional rep if there is one
- not sure
- Information and guidance on Indemnity cover for Sonographers working independently
- Try to get us a recognised Professional title not as a technician
- Offer support in terms of small grants for early career research
- There probably are but I have not thought about it as I have retired.
- more Well-being / info links

Stronger leadership and guidance , be quicker to adapt when events happen and provide a voice especially in obstetric side of things
Media coverage to help stop backlash
Yes better regulation
Sharing of stories
Special funding for support development ideas
cant think of anything at present
Have indemnity insurance though you so it's reliable
Zoom lectures
help get a job for those with no recent references nor recent experience
support obstetric sonographers in the current climate
Offering a student focussed webpage
<b>MORE INTERACTION AND CHAT WITH MEMBERS</b>
Post knowledgeable webinars
More publicity of the role and impact of USS in the hospital and community. How we maintained service during the pandemic and as i alluded to before, support for obs depts and not admitting partners and the reasons why. This has not been made public enough.
Most important issue, I feel in this region as ultrasound practitioner is to learn safe practice
Help.with indemnity issues by having tie ups with various companies so that the charges are not so exorbitant.
I know most of reasons why we haven't done this in the past but now that SoR are no longer holding the voluntary register, BMUS should consider taking it over to help in the drive for sonographer registration
Site visits to establishments other than NHS places. Sonographers in private clinics feel distant from professional support, as their employers are driven by profit and not quality
Indemnity insurance
n/a
Include more information for students, discounted rates for all years that a sonographer is training would be beneficial.
Insurance
I think BMUS can set itself apart from RCR by supporting cross specialty engagement of US
More CPD articles
Push for a Sonographer register
keep trying for state registration for sonographers
Signposting to indemnity, when it is required and what is available
Support in difficult situations e.g. pressure to accept people in scan rooms during covid
More seminars free for our cpds
Development of link between POCUS and medical imaging department governance
Many feel trapped in Band 7, progression advise

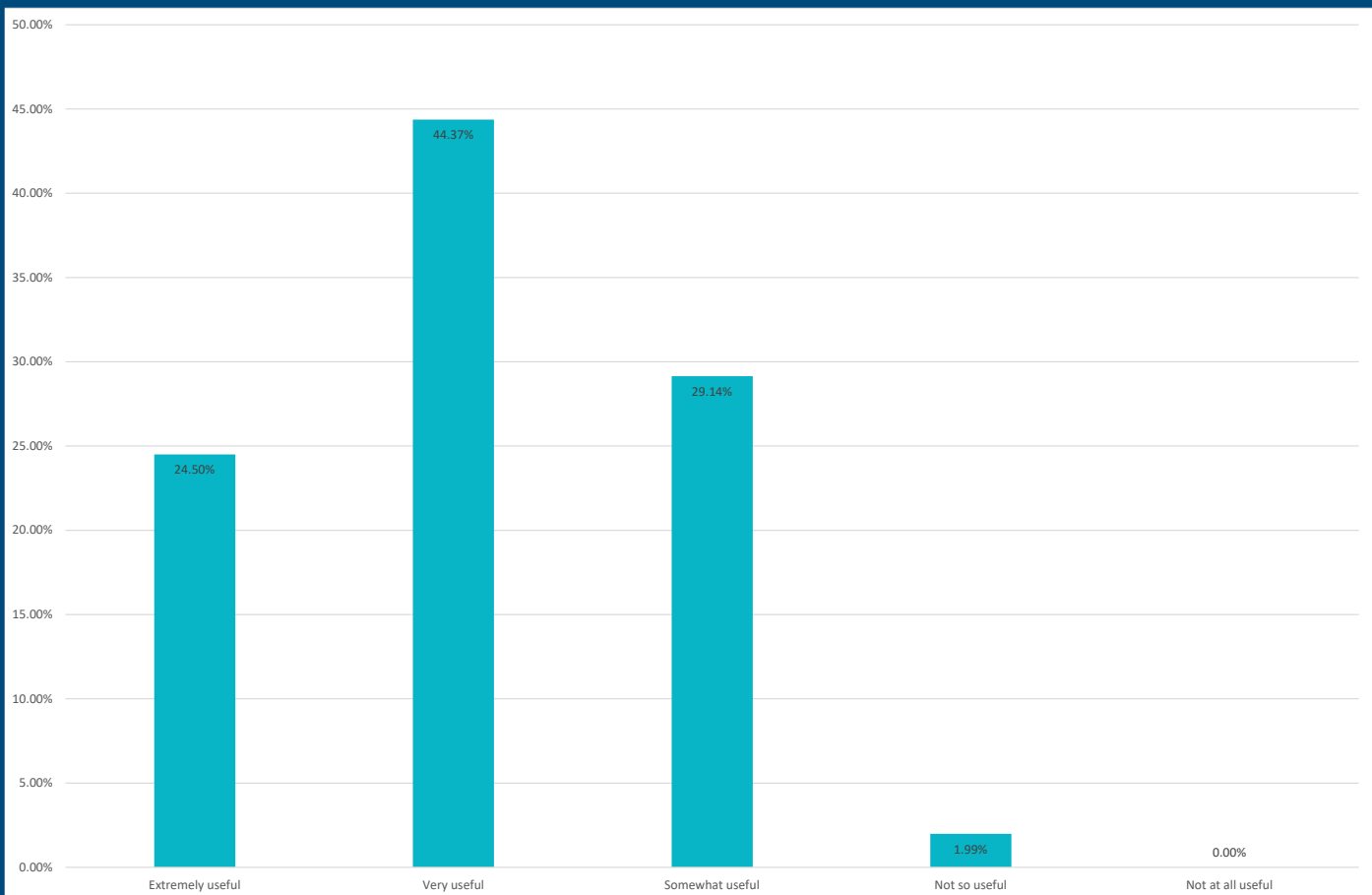
Can't think of anything this present time but will let you know if I do

It has been great for me

I think there should be more interaction from all sonographers regarding the proposed protected professional title put forward by SoR I personally am not happy to be called a technician feel we are more than that as we are responsible for interpreting and reporting our scan findings

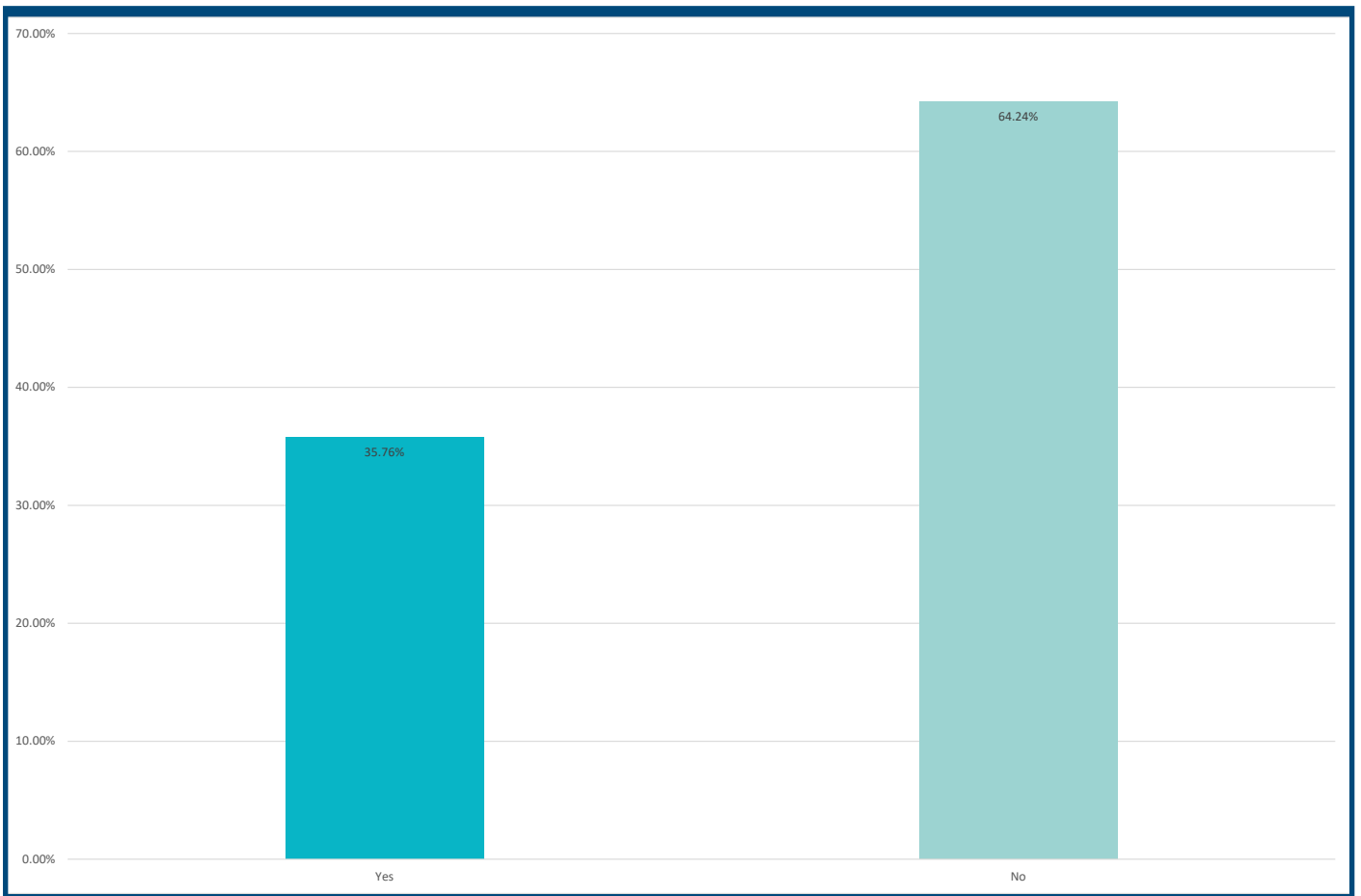
## Question 17:

How useful was the covid FAQ's information responses?



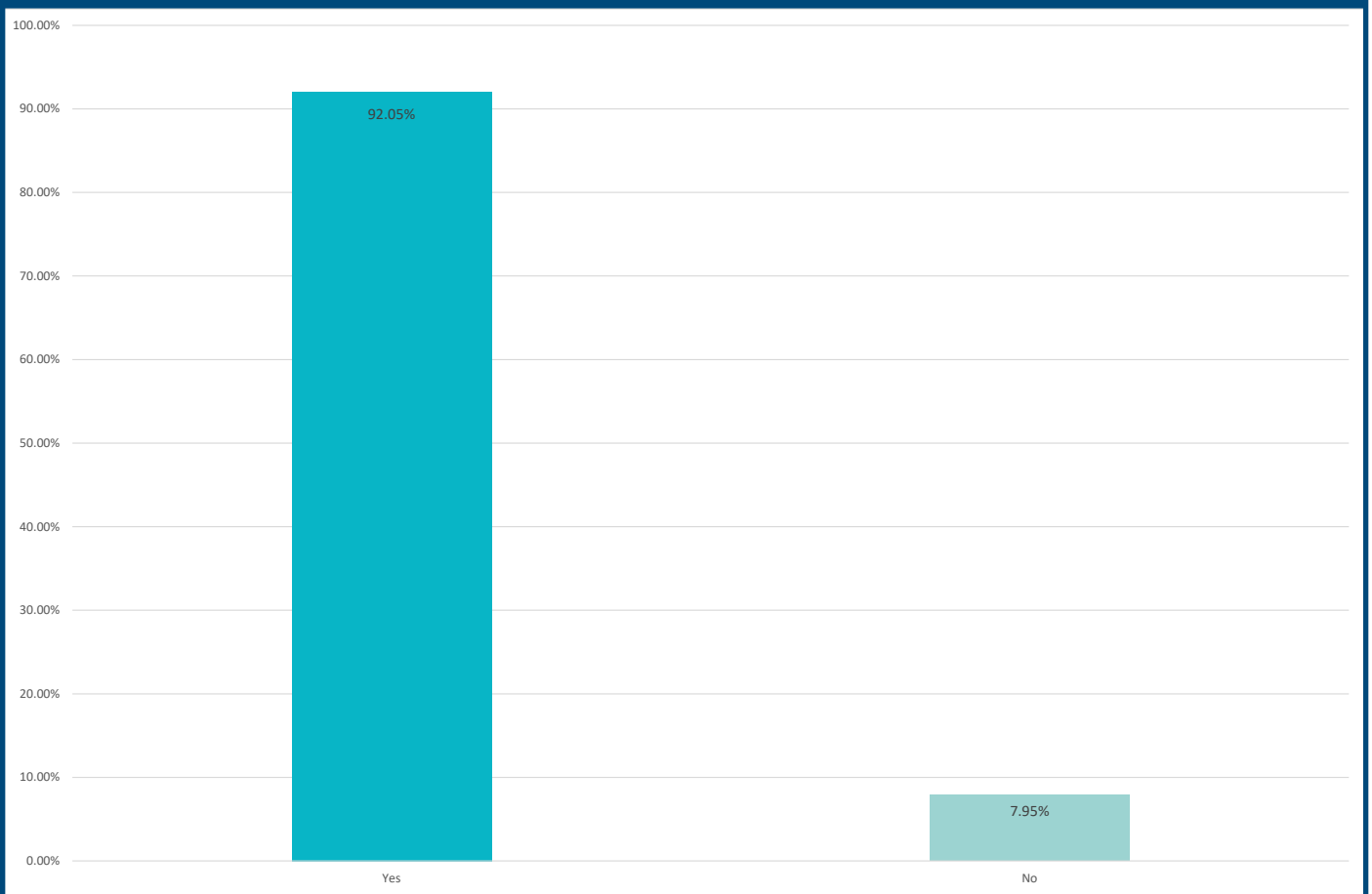
## Question 18:

Did you attend the virtual BMUS 2020 Re-imagined?



## Question 19:

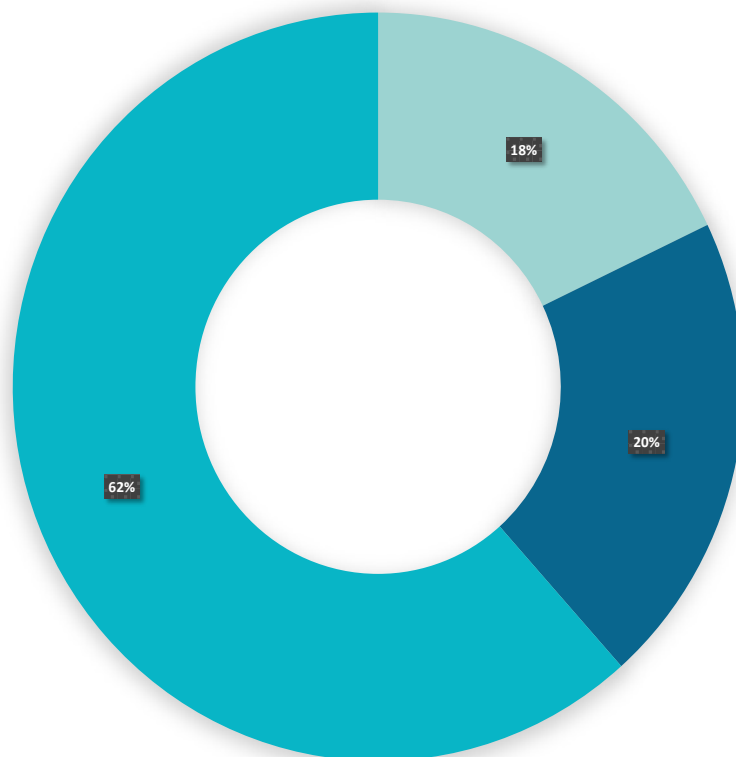
Do you think BMUS should do virtual study days?





## Question 20:

Would you prefer to attend study days in person or as a virtual attendee? ?



■ In Person ■ As a Virtual Attendee ■ Both - some in person and some as a virtual attendee