

# **Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 (SNAP3) 2024-29**

## **Consultation analysis**

This is an independent analysis by Alma Economics commissioned by the Scottish Government.

**August 2024**

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### About the authors



Alma Economics combines unparalleled analytical expertise with the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly.

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# Executive summary

Scotland is already experiencing climate change impacts, including warmer summers and wetter winters. The Met Office's UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18)<sup>1</sup> highlight the significant impacts of climate change in Scotland, including increasing water scarcity, flooding, and extreme weather events. In response, the Scottish Government is preparing for these challenges with the new Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3).

Seeking to gather views on the policies outlined in the draft Adaptation Plan, the Scottish Government launched a 12-week public consultation from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024. This included a written consultation hosted online via the platform Citizen Space, as well as a series of public and technical workshops. Key findings from the analysis of written responses to the consultation, email submissions, and workshop contributions are summarised below:

## Lived and Local Experience

- Written consultation responses and workshops highlighted significant adverse economic impacts, including rising costs and disruptions to key services and supply chains. Respondents also expressed concerns around declines in biodiversity and a decreased resilience of natural ecosystems.
- Recommendations included prioritising resilience-building measures for transport and water infrastructure, along with updated guidance and regulations to encourage all households to build climate resilience.

## Outcome One: Nature Connects

- The majority of written responses supported enhancing green spaces, restoring natural habitats such as forests and peatlands, and improving waterway management to address risks and enhance climate resilience.
- Both written responses and public workshops supported proactive measures by the Scottish Government, including nature-based solutions to reduce environmental degradation and promote biodiversity.

## Outcome Two: Communities

- Written consultation responses emphasised the need to mobilise additional resources, including financial support and incentives to assist individuals and businesses in their climate adaptation efforts. Across written responses and workshops, the integration of climate adaptation education into the curricula was emphasised in particular.
- Public workshops stressed the need for community-based solutions and increased community engagement tailored to local needs, with particular support for vulnerable individuals and groups. Written responses called for collaborative action within and across the public and private sectors to pool resources, share expertise, and foster innovation.

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<sup>1</sup> Adaptation Scotland's Climate Projection Summary, see: <https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/why-adapt/climate-trends-and-projections>

### **Outcome Three: Public Services and Infrastructure**

- Written consultation responses highlighted mixed perspectives on the perceived necessity and approach to adaptation. Organisations expressed wide-ranging support for measures such as risk assessments and early adaptation actions, while individuals frequently expressed concerns over personal challenges to adapt.
- Support was voiced in technical workshops in favour of assessing cascading risks to infrastructure, infrastructure upgrades, and early warning systems to adapt to future climate impacts.

### **Outcome Four: Economy, Business, and Industry**

- Across written responses and workshops, businesses reported facing challenges in accessing climate advice and support due to limited individual business resources and financial constraints.
- Written responses felt that climate change presented opportunities for the agriculture and energy sectors. To take advantage of these opportunities, respondents called for greater financial support and knowledge sharing.

### **Outcome Five: International Action**

- Written responses called for increased financial and practical support from the Scottish Government to aid international communities affected by climate change. Recommendations included adaptation and resilience-building projects offering targeted support for nations most exposed to climate impacts. Contrasting views voiced arguments to prioritise domestic issues instead.
- Written responses also urged universities to conduct international research into resilient infrastructure and environmental protection with a focus on countries and groups most affected by climate change. Specific examples included water management and sustainable agriculture.

### **Enabling Factors**

- Written responses highlighted several barriers to greater private investment in adaptation efforts, including economic barriers such as insufficient returns on investment and policy barriers such as a lack of targeted and suitable regulatory, fiscal, or environmental policies.
- To support or incentivise more investment in adaptation action, there was support for the approaches proposed in the draft SNAP3, notably grant funding schemes to help offset risks associated with adaptation investments.
- Suggestions were raised for additional outcome indicators in the Scottish Government's monitoring framework, such as socio-economic measures and added environmental indicators. The need for clear biodiversity metrics was highlighted across written responses and workshops.

### **Impact Assessments**

- Recommendations to enhance the positive impacts and mitigate negative consequences of the Adaptation Plan included increased community

engagement, improved communication and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

- Mixed viewpoints were shared on the Plan's impacts on children's rights and Island communities. Written responses hoped that the Plan would lead to a safer living environment and improve overall standard of living. Discussions across public and technical workshops also focused on concerns related to the greater impacts of climate change and SNAP3 on the elderly, disabled people, and those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

# Introduction

## Background

As a consequence of climate change, Scotland is already experiencing a range of impacts, such as warmer summers, wetter winters, and rising sea levels. The Met Office's UK Climate Projections 2018 highlight the substantial impacts of climate change in Scotland, including heavier rainfall, water scarcity, flooding, elevated temperatures, and increased weather variability. Over the last decade from 2010 to 2019, the average temperature rose by 0.69°C compared to the period between 1961 to 1990. Looking ahead, projections from the UK Met Office indicate a trajectory of intensified changes in climate over the coming century. While historic emissions have locked in changes in Scotland's climate, the extent of future changes will be determined by the success of global efforts to reduce emissions.

Scotland is proactively preparing for these impacts of climate change. The first Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP) was released in May 2014, followed by the publication of Climate Ready Scotland: Second Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2019-2024 in September 2019.<sup>2</sup> The new Scottish National Adaptation Plan (SNAP3) 2024-29 is the third plan and builds on the outcome-led approach of its predecessor. SNAP3 responds to the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (UKCCRA3),<sup>3</sup> as prepared by an independent statutory body, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), and adheres to the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Furthermore, SNAP3 aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and Scotland's National Performance Framework.

The draft SNAP3 proposes adaptation action to climate hazards, acknowledging that people and communities facing multiple disadvantages are often especially affected by the impacts of climate change in Scotland. The draft SNAP3 proposes five long-term outcomes and 22 objectives:

- The **Nature Connects** outcome includes key policy proposals for the establishment of nature networks in every local authority and enhanced climate resilience in marine ecosystems and the Blue Economy.
- The **Communities** outcome focuses on collaborative planning and investment partnerships in addition to adapting historical sites and buildings.
- The **Public Services and Infrastructure** outcome focuses on proposals such as a modernised water industry and a strengthened Public Sector Climate adaptation network.
- The **Economy, Business, and Industry** outcome includes key policy proposals such as a transformational National Flood Resilience Strategy along with corporate climate disclosures.
- The **International Action** outcome envisages the creation of an Adaptation and Resilience Knowledge Exchange Network and a Climate Justice Fund.

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<sup>2</sup>[Scottish Adaptation Programme 2 2019-24](#)

<sup>3</sup>[UK Climate Risk Assessment \(CCRA3\)](#): Summary for Scotland

## Consultation overview

In January 2024, the Scottish Government launched a 12-week public consultation to gather views on the policies outlined in Scotland's draft National Adaptation Plan 3 (SNAP3). The consultation aimed to capture the lived and local experience of the Scottish public with regard to climate change impacts, as well as the views of a wide range of stakeholders from across the Plan's five outcomes.

Comments on the draft SNAP3 were gathered across varied policy areas, including but not limited to biodiversity, communities, infrastructure, terrestrial and marine environments, planning, transport, health, education, economic development, and agriculture. The draft SNAP3 outlined the Plan's proposed outcomes, objectives, and key policy proposals. The written consultation posed questions on the draft Plan's five outcomes, impact assessments, and enabling factors through five closed and 31 open-ended questions for respondents to share their views.

In addition to the written consultation, workshops were facilitated by the Scottish Government with Adaptation Scotland. These were designed to gather insights from either the general public in five different Scottish geographies regarding their lived experience of climate change, or from stakeholders with technical expertise in adaptation, those with a responsibility for the delivery of SNAP3, or those who would be impacted by SNAP3. Workshops hosted by stakeholders and partner organisations were also attended by Scottish Government policy leads who presented on the draft SNAP3.

The insights from this analysis of written consultation responses and workshops will be used by the Scottish Government to shape future policy and inform the development of the final five-year statutory plan. The refined five-year Scottish National Adaptation Plan 3 is due to be published in September 2024, drawing on insights shared through this consultation.

## Report structure

- **Research approach:** providing an overview of the number and type of responses received through the written consultation as well as methods used to analyse them;
- **Overarching themes:** outlining themes from both the written consultation and workshops, highlighting frequently discussed views, suggestions, and policy recommendations voiced by respondents;
- **Written consultation analysis:** presenting the analysis of written consultation responses for all 32 questions, drawing out key themes in order of frequency and illustrating findings through charts and quotes;
- **Workshop and unstructured email analysis:** summarising frequent themes from consultation workshops and unstructured email responses;
- **Conclusion:** outlining conclusions from across consultation themes, summarising key findings and highlighting divergences between written consultation responses, emails, and workshop contributions.

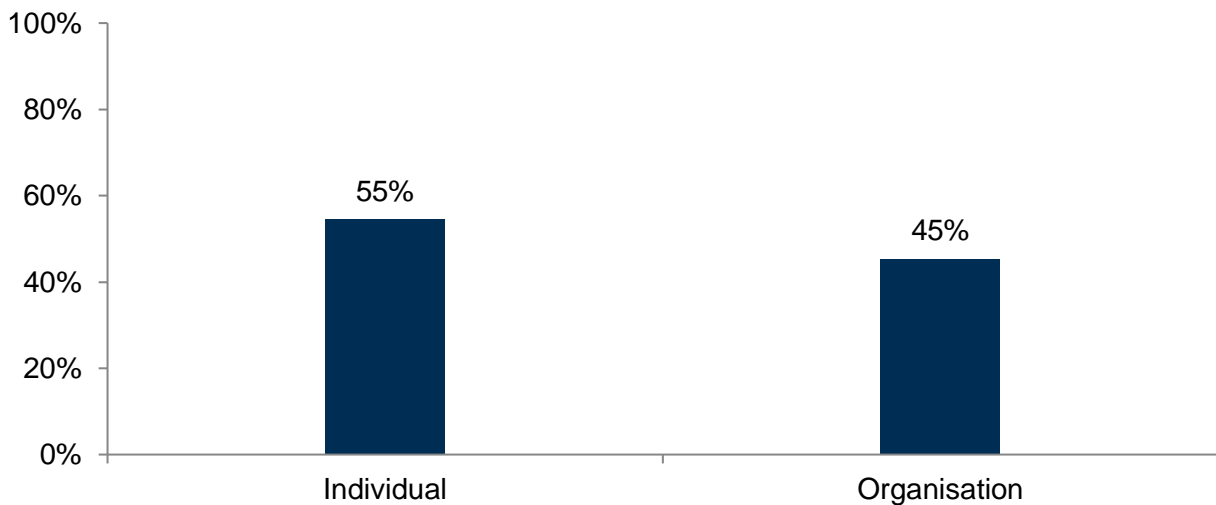


# Research approach

## Overview of responses received

The written consultation remained open for submissions from 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2024 to 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2024 and received 240 responses. The majority of responses (91%, 218 respondents) were submitted through the online platform Citizen Space, while 22 responses (9%) were received directly via email. Considering respondent types, 131 (55%) responses were submitted by individuals and 109 (45%) were submitted by or on behalf of organisations. Three responses were excluded from the analysis due to blank or duplicate entries.

**Figure 1: Responses by respondent type (n=240)**



The vertical axis above refers to the share of respondents. The 109 respondents answering on behalf of an organisation were grouped according to the following categories:

### Broad category responses

- Local Authority
- Community group (including community councils, creative groups)
- Academic, think tank or consultant
- Trade union or business support including skills

### Special interest responses<sup>4</sup>

- Agriculture and Land Use
- Built Environment
- Energy Industry and Infrastructure
- Health
- Nature and Biodiversity

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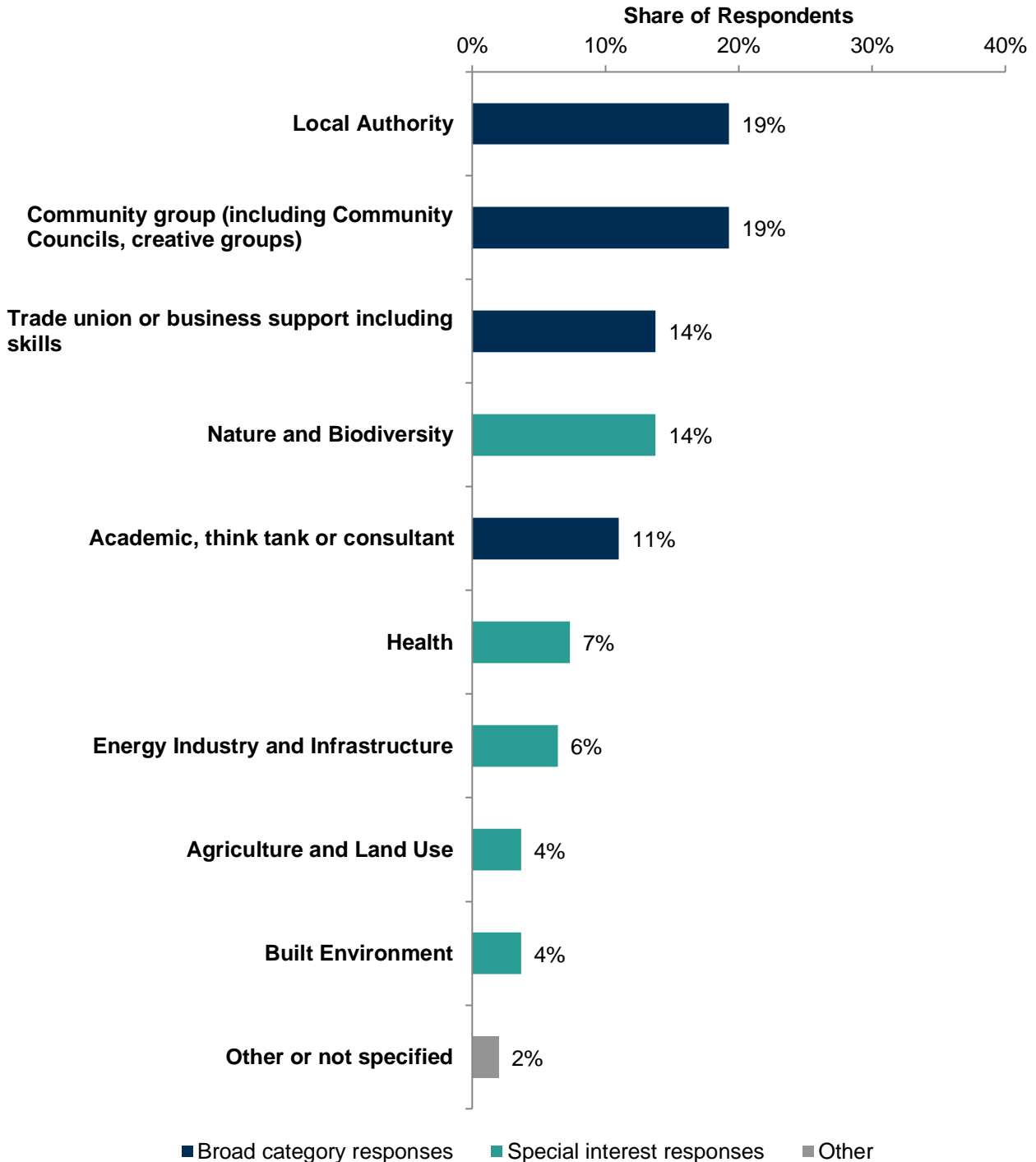
<sup>4</sup> Inclusive of professional or representative bodies as well as private and third sector organisations with specified interest in particular industries/sectors.

## Other

- Other or not specified

Detailed breakdowns of responses by respondent type can be found in the following chart:

**Figure 2: Organisations responses by detailed respondent type (n=109)**



Written summaries from a further 16 engagement events were also analysed for this report. These events included workshops funded by the Scottish Government and facilitated by the Scottish Government and the Adaptation Scotland Programme. Events were managed by the sustainability charity Sniffer and the

Scottish Government's Climate Action Hubs, as well as a number of other external stakeholders. The workshops were organised with the aim of capturing the views of those with lived experiences or those with technical expertise relevant to the draft Adaptation Plan. The lived experience events covered a diverse set of geographical areas across Scotland such as Glasgow, South Uist, the Highlands, Angus, and Dumfries and Galloway, offering engagement opportunities for local communities. Technical workshops provided engagement with stakeholders from business and industry, local authorities, and land and marine related stakeholders.

## Methodology

The written consultation included one demographic question, 31 open-text questions, and five closed consultation questions.<sup>5</sup> The closed consultation questions consisted of four single-choice questions and one multiple-choice question which allowed respondents to select one or more answer options. Open-text responses had a limit of 1,000 characters set for each answer.

All written consultation responses, including online and email responses, were analysed in full. Written responses were merged into one dataset for analysis. Email responses which mapped directly to the consultation questions were included in the analysis of Citizen Space answers. The quantitative data from the closed questions was cleaned and analysed using the programming language Python. The following report presents descriptive breakdowns and charts for each closed question, distinguishing between answers from individuals and organisations. Detailed breakdowns, including distinctions between types of organisations, are available in Appendix A.<sup>6</sup>

All contributions from public and technical workshops were summarised in workshop reports which were used for the analysis in this report. In public workshops, a similar set of questions was asked across different locations where workshops took place. Technical workshops followed no set structure to enable capturing tailored technical expertise on the draft Adaptation Plan.

A thematic analysis of the written consultation's qualitative, open-text responses as well as email and workshop contributions was then conducted to identify and report common patterns and themes in the responses. This thematic analysis followed the approach suggested by Braun and Clarke (2006), structured as follows:

- Free-text responses were manually reviewed to highlight patterns and recurring themes as well as to identify ideas or perspectives not raised in other responses.
- Qualitative themes were mapped to the open-text question with a narrative description developed for each theme.
- Themes were triangulated and their significance was assessed based on the frequency of convergence or divergence of perspectives.

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<sup>5</sup> Some questions consisted of a closed- and an open-text part. The total combined number of questions was 32.

<sup>6</sup> Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number and can therefore sum up to more than 100%.

- Outlier responses that do not fit in with the general emerging themes were identified and patterns of non-responses or grievances voiced were analysed.

The main body of this report is structured as follows, namely: (i) lived and local experience; (ii) outcome one: nature connects; (iii) outcome two: communities; (iv) outcome three: public services and infrastructure; (v) outcome four: economy, business and industry; (vi) outcome five: international action; (vii) enabling factors; and (viii) impact assessments. Subsequently, the thematic analysis of workshops and consultation events is discussed jointly with unstructured email responses from stakeholder organisations.

## Limitations

Consultations are a valuable tool to gather the opinions and expertise of relevant stakeholders. However, it is important to note that this report summarises the views of only those who chose to participate in this consultation. Consequently, opinions and results from this consultation can only be understood as indicative rather than representative of the wider population. Those who did participate are more likely to represent an interested subset of the population or to consider themselves more affected by the Adaptation Plan. Respondents may also represent an engaged and, at times, more knowledgeable subset of the population or submit answers to voice specific views or grievances. The timing of the consultation period also coincided with higher-than-usual media coverage of climate change, given the Scottish Government's announcement of plans to adjust interim emissions reduction targets.

It should also be noted that only a small number of organisations from each detailed respondent type answered the consultation. Consequently, percentages of responses by detailed respondent type in the appendix and for quantitative questions should only be interpreted as indicative. In addition, frequent response rates below ten responses per group per question should not be understood as representative of wider views held by respective sectors.

Similar limitations apply to participants of the consultation events and workshops. This report will present only the analysis of the views of those having chosen to attend the events which are summarised in the workshop reports. No specific information is available on who attended each event, preventing a detailed disaggregation by type of attendee, their affiliations, and what information was contributed by whom.

## Overarching themes

This section presents nine commonly recurring themes that were raised by respondents across multiple questions in the written Citizen Space consultation, email responses and across public and technical workshops.

Overarching themes will be discussed in detail in this section and feature throughout later sections of this report when discussing responses to respective consultation questions. Overarching themes have been selected based on their prominence across the analysis of the written consultation and workshops. Overarching themes in this section are ordered thematically.

### Encouraging financial support and investment

A common theme discussed across the written consultation and workshop reports was the significant economic challenges presented by climate change and the corresponding importance of financial support through different channels. Respondents highlighted the extent of challenges presented by climate change, including frequent disruptions to key services leading to road closures and disruptions of public transport, property damage, threats to individuals' and businesses' livelihoods across sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism. More specifically, challenges stemming from supply chain disruptions were highlighted, particularly with respect to food and energy safety.

To address economic challenges, suggested measures included government funding as well as encouraging private investment to improve the resilience of infrastructure and supply chains. Respondents emphasised the importance of financial support from the government for individuals, groups with protected characteristics, and businesses to support them when investing in adaptation measures for buildings, supply chains, and green space. Examples included the use of financial incentives to motivate proactive adaptation action through tax breaks for investments, grants for retrofits, and low-interest loans. In addition to government funding, respondents also recommended motivating individuals and businesses to personally invest in climate-resilient practices and infrastructure. To facilitate such investments, written consultation responses recommended adjusting regulatory frameworks to reduce hurdles and barriers when planning and implementing adaptation measures.

### Strengthening climate resilience of infrastructure and public services

Another common theme discussed across several questions and workshops was the strengthening of infrastructure and public services, in response to the increased frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Respondents emphasised the importance of improving coastal and flood defences, public transport networks, energy systems and public utilities to withstand climate impacts. Long-term planning in line with climate scenarios, data sharing and continued investment in climate-resilient infrastructure were deemed necessary to reduce vulnerabilities and ensure the reliability of essential services for all of Scotland. The incorporation of nature-based solutions to address these risks was also felt to have the potential for wider environmental and health benefits.

## **Strengthening environmental protection and biodiversity**

The importance of protecting Scotland's natural environment and biodiversity was frequently mentioned across written consultation responses, emails, and workshops. Participants expressed concerns about the impacts of climate change on Scotland's biodiversity and the decreased resilience of natural ecosystems.

This led to suggestions for greater ecosystem management, prioritisation of integrated nature networks, and acknowledging the importance of sustainable practices which support adaptation in sectors such as construction and agriculture. Further suggestions were made to increase sustainable urban living, specifically referring to the development and management of living and green spaces in urban areas to ensure a high quality of life for current and future generations. This included the maintenance of current green spaces and areas of natural importance, as well as the expansion of waste collection services.

## **Enhancing collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships**

The need for collaboration between different groups was also frequently discussed, especially among government agencies, businesses and communities, and non-profit organisations. Respondents emphasised that the development of strong partnerships would enable the pooling of resources and expertise, leading to more effective adaptation outcomes. The importance of mechanisms to encourage data sharing on climate change was also emphasised. Open communication across actors and sectors was strongly encouraged, for example by sharing best practice and case studies to contribute to successful climate adaptation.

## **Harnessing community empowerment and engagement**

Another common theme was the importance of empowering communities to participate in climate adaptation efforts, including the provision of resources to empower residents. Respondents highlighted the importance of community-based initiatives as important ways to build resilience, for example community growing projects and swap shops (where individuals can trade goods without using money). It was also suggested that community engagement could be increased through participatory approaches to ensure that local needs and perspectives are considered in national or local government level adaptation policies. Furthermore, it was deemed important to continue to seek insights into the lived experiences of individuals and groups with protected characteristics and to use these insights to collaboratively design inclusive and equitable adaptation measures.

## **Increasing education and public awareness**

Raising awareness, increasing education on the impacts of climate change in Scotland, and sharing knowledge on possible adaptation action were deemed of key importance. Respondents highlighted the importance of public awareness campaigns to help individuals, communities and businesses understand climate change impacts and sustainable adaptation actions. Respondents suggested using relatable examples of climate impacts to ensure individuals could better understand implications. In addition, responses emphasised the need for extensive professional learning opportunities, as well as changes in school curriculums with content tailored to educate young people on climate change impacts. According to



respondents across consultation questions, education and skill-building efforts should target specific vulnerable groups and sectors. Examples included training and planning support to enable sustainable, regenerative approaches to farming.

### **Prioritising vulnerable groups**

A significant theme was the disproportionate impact of climate change on vulnerable groups, including the elderly and low-income households. Vulnerable groups were understood to be disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change due to pre-existing inequalities. Examples include effects on their physical and mental wellbeing such as anxiety and stress or physical illness as a consequence of extreme weather conditions. Respondents called for policies and adaptation measures designed to protect vulnerable populations, as well as to provide targeted financial support. Measures such as enhancing social support systems, ensuring access to sufficient resources to enable adaptation, and promoting inclusive participation in adaptation planning to achieve equitable outcomes were proposed.

### **Considering health and wellbeing**

A recurring theme was the impact of climate change on physical and mental health. Respondents expressed concerns about the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, leading to deaths and illness. Further concerns were raised across different questions, specifically relating to impacts of climate-related disasters on mental health such as stress, trauma, and anxiety. In response, suggestions from respondents included improvements to healthcare and other public services such as adult social care, tailored to negative impacts of climate change. The integration of health considerations into the Plan was deemed crucial to protect and improve the mental and physical wellbeing of communities, especially for populations most vulnerable to climate impacts.

### **Fostering further innovation and research**

Innovation and research were emphasised as important for climate adaptation across a large number of written consultation responses. Respondents called for investment in research to enhance Scottish academic expertise in adaptation. Research efforts were seen as best focussing on climate-resilient infrastructure. Examples given included roads, water management techniques, and the transport of goods. Other examples of further research needs applied to agriculture and domestic food production. Respondents suggested encouraging innovation through stronger policy frameworks for innovation, greater investment in R&D and more financial incentives for adaptation solutions. Further suggestions included better education and increased collaboration between the Scottish Government and academic institutions around adaptation.

# Analysis of written consultation responses

## Lived and local experience

The following analysis of written consultation responses is grouped in line with the consultation structure. This first section explores the local and lived experiences of individuals and organisations with regard to climate change in Scotland. The following questions explore the impacts of climate change, respondents' expectations of future impacts on Scotland's climate and the actions they are willing to take to adapt.

### Summary of key findings:

- Respondents highlighted the extent and nature of adverse economic impacts as a consequence of climate change, including rising costs and frequent disruptions to key services and supply chains.
- Respondents emphasised the direct consequences of more frequent extreme weather events, resulting in the loss of native wildlife and a decreased resilience of natural ecosystems.
- Responses recommended that the Scottish Government should prioritise building greater resilience, for example by improving transport and water infrastructure resilience as well as reinforcing coastal and flood defences. The need for further policies and changes in governance structures was also highlighted, including calls for financial support to subsidise green technologies.

**Question 1:** What do you think the current effects of climate change are on people in Scotland?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 182.

### Adverse socio-economic impacts of climate change

The most frequent theme in response to this question about the current effects of climate change on people in Scotland was the adverse socio-economic impacts of climate change. Respondents raising this theme expressed concerns over frequent disruptions to key services, leading to road and school closures. Such disruptions were understood to impede people's daily lives and commutes by limiting access to essential services. Respondents also flagged disruptions to food supply chains, owing to damaged crops and disrupted transport networks which were viewed to be causing price fluctuations felt by individuals. Respondents highlighted further risks around financial losses caused by property damage through extreme weather events, coupled with increased costs such as higher living expenses due to further weather-related disruptions to public services. Broader disruptions to residents' livelihoods across a range of economic sectors were identified, for example in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism.



“Increased extremes, heat, rain, etc, are starting to impact every system we’ve come to rely upon. Transport & service infrastructure, housing etc. From roofs and streets not designed to cope with heavier downpours, to railway tracks which can’t cope with heat, and goods and employment systems which require easy and free access and can’t cope with these being interrupted.” – (Individual)

“Climate change already is and will continue to severely affect the agricultural sector, through reduced produce yields; restricting what viable crops to grow; increased damages from extreme weather and pests. The agricultural sector relies on functional ecosystem services for food production.” – (Organisation)

### **Frequency and severity of extreme weather events**

Another commonly raised theme was the impact of climate change on the frequency and severity of extreme weather events. In relation to this theme respondents discussed the heightened risk of flooding and storms, the growing frequency of droughts, and general changes in weather patterns. The increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events were often used by respondents to emphasise the importance of adaptation efforts.

“Increased exposure to storms and floods are impacting on individuals and our communities. This will eventually result in significant changes for society. We need to adapt to become resilient to these changes.” – (Individual)

### **Increasing environmental degradation**

A further theme was concerns over increasing environmental degradation. Respondents expressed concerns about the loss of biodiversity along with the decreased resilience of natural ecosystems and the loss of native species and habitats. They also flagged the extent of coastal erosion that was viewed to be threatening communities and vital infrastructure, leading to a loss of coastal habitats and landscapes. Finally, respondents also emphasised the increased prevalence of pests due to warmer winters.

“Trees play a crucial role in mitigating some of the key challenges posed by our changing climate. They act as the ‘engine room’ for Scotland’s urban and rural ecosystems, enhancing climate resilience and providing essential ecosystem services. However, the changing climate is already affecting this vital resource, impacting the growth and development of tree stock due to warmer temperatures and increasing threats from pests and diseases.” – (Organisation)

### **Scepticism regarding impacts of climate change**

Another theme brought up by some respondents was scepticism of the severity of the impacts of climate change. Some respondents denied the existence of climate change, providing various critiques of the validity of scientific evidence. These respondents also commonly argued that the impact of climate change is minimal.

### **Impacts on physical and mental wellbeing**

An additional frequent theme was the impact of climate change on the physical and mental wellbeing of the population. Respondents highlighted an increased risk of mental health conditions – such as stress, trauma, and anxiety - induced by

climate-related disasters. Respondents also expressed worries over physical health impacts associated with extreme weather events such as heatwaves, which it was viewed could lead to deaths and injuries.

“In addition, disabled people, people living with long term conditions, and older people can be much more vulnerable to temperature extremes than the general population, for example if they have a reduced ability to regulate their own body temperatures. This is exacerbated during heatwave conditions by the fact [that] housing in Scotland is generally designed for colder climates, rather than for dissipating heat during warm weather. The increasing frequency of heatwaves and generally higher temperatures therefore represents a significant health risk for these populations.” – (Organisation)

Other themes mentioned less frequently by respondents related to the current effects of climate change on people in Scotland included social and political instability, criticism of current government responses to climate change, increased economic inequality, and growing inwards migration, in addition to concerns about current infrastructure vulnerability such as power disruption and poor flooding water resilience.

**Question 2:** What effects, if any, do you expect climate change will have on people in Scotland over the next five years?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 150.

### **Increase in extreme weather conditions**

The most frequent theme was the expectation that climate change would lead to an increase in extreme weather conditions over the next five years. Respondents anticipated a general deterioration in environmental conditions in the coming years, where daily activities would be disrupted more frequently. Additionally, some respondents expressed concerns about the loss of native wildlife due to environmental changes and extreme weather.

“I would expect the pressure on maintenance to become chronic. More extreme storm and extreme heat events. Pressure will increase on water resource, Scotland might start to experience hosepipe bans. Increased flooding, increased frequency of 1-in-100, 1-in-200-year flooding events. Impact on the elderly of increased heat, increase excess mortality in summer.” – (Individual)

### **Questioning the necessary degree of adaptation**

Another theme mentioned by some respondents was questions around the necessary extent of adaptation to climate change. While some respondents acknowledged the need for adaptation, others stated their view that climate change will have little to no impact on Scotland in the next five years. Some respondents explained their views as either due to the fact that five years is too short of a timeframe for effects to be realised, or a small number of respondents' concern over the integrity of current climate data.

## Disruptions to economic supply chains

A further theme was disruptions to supply chains which support the Scottish economy. Respondents expressed concerns over a lack of robust and resilient supply chains, most frequently with respect to food and energy. They also noted growing difficulties for businesses in obtaining input materials due to expensive or limited freight transport. Examples mentioned included cargo which is no longer moved at the same frequency or only at increased costs as the method of freight transit does not comply with sustainability requirements. As a consequence of supply disruptions, respondents expressed concerns over increased costs for goods and services, energy, and consequently higher taxes.

“I expect food prices to continue to increase due to climate change affecting global food supply systems and in turn affecting people in Scotland. And if no proactive intervention is made, agricultural outputs of Scotland will decrease. My #1 concern is nutritional and food security and I believe Scotland needs to not just invest in technology (as already planned) but plan as if it will need to produce 100% of its plant food needs independently in Scotland.” – (Individual)

## Health impacts

Another common theme was impacts on physical and mental health. Respondents discussed an increase in sickness and disease due to hotter weather and an increase in disease-carrying insects. Further concerns were voiced over a decline in suitable living environments given risks of extreme temperatures and the impact on the elderly. Some also emphasised that mortality rates would increase as a result of climate change over the next five years, frequently as a consequence of aforementioned extreme weather events. Respondents also discussed how climate change would negatively impact mental health as a result of extreme weather, poorer living standards, general disruptions, and financial stress.

“Health Impacts: Climate change can have implications for public health in Scotland. Increased temperatures can exacerbate heat-related illnesses, while changes in precipitation patterns may affect water quality and the spread of vector-borne diseases. Vulnerable populations could be disproportionately affected.” – (Organisation)

**Question 3:** What actions, if any, would you be willing and able to take to adapt to climate change?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 148.

## Taking adaptation action to climate change

The most frequent theme was respondents emphasising the need for the private sector and central government to take action and primary responsibility for both mitigation and adaptation in response to climate change. Respondents acknowledged that individual efforts can contribute positively to climate goals, but would overall remain insufficient to address the broader challenge. Additionally, some respondents expressed scepticism about the likelihood and necessity for individuals to take action to alter outcomes. They frequently emphasised that, as

individuals, they were already making adequate contributions and that no further effort should be demanded of them.

“I would say a large factor as well is that people are aware that not enough is being done to tackle issues on a corporate level.” – (Individual)

### **Sustainable upgrades and protection for housing**

Another common theme was the willingness to consider sustainable solutions to upgrade and protect housing, drawing on examples for both adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. Specific examples mentioned by respondents included retrofits, improved insulation, and renewable technology such as photovoltaic and solar panels, heat pumps, and batteries. Respondents emphasised the importance and need for flood defences. Respondents also discussed barriers to implementing such solutions as a consequence of local authority planning rules or rental agreements.

“Switched to electric vehicle and have removed gas fire, am taking action to improve insulation of roof, also investigating how to switch away from gas central heating.” – (Individual)

### **Community solutions to motivate adaptation**

A further theme was the importance of community solutions to motivate adaptation efforts. This included community projects and volunteering, knowledge exchanges and community education, as well as joint recycling efforts. Respondents shared ideas on community engagement to maintain local greenspaces. These included suggestions to organise workshops and seminars as well as initiating community growing projects.

“Education for community as appropriate for different mindsets to raise general understanding and support for being able to 'do something'. Can be just by example with lots of folk doing their own bit and explaining why - co-benefits for health, costs, quality of life possible. Getting active people together to 'spread the word' - in a non-threatening way.” – (Individual)

### **Individual willingness to mitigate climate change**

Another frequent theme was the importance of individual willingness to take action to mitigate climate change, despite not directly relating responses back to climate change adaptation. This included reductions in individuals' consumption, energy use reductions, and increased recycling efforts. Respondents also discussed the importance of using public transportation as long as services remained reliable, frequent, and affordable. Additionally, an emphasis was set on promoting cycling and walking. Specifically, respondents highlighted the benefits of well-connected cycle routes and walking paths in urban areas. Others expressed intentions to transition towards plant-based diets to reduce meat consumption.

“Cut down consumption of meat, completely. Do not buy brand-new clothes. Do not drive a car, only walk, cycle and bus/train everywhere. Recycle all waste. Compost and grow plants.” – (Individual)

## Sustainable use of private gardens

A common theme was changes to individuals' gardens, primarily by growing and eating one's own produce or composting food waste to decrease carbon emissions and reduce individual reliance on supply chains and therefore build resilience to climate impacts. While this was deemed easier for those with access to personal gardens, community gardens were also seen as useful alternatives. Respondents furthermore expressed interest in collecting rainwater for garden watering purposes as well as increasing understanding of how to improve drainage during flooding events.

“Since lockdown, my neighbours and I now grow food in our back green and water butts allow us to mitigate for the long periods we have experienced without rain.” – (Individual)

**Question 4:** What factor(s), if any, would prevent you from taking action to adapt to climate change and become more climate-resilient?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 159.

## Financial barriers to climate adaptation

The most frequent theme was financial barriers to taking action to adapt to climate change and become more climate-resilient. Respondents emphasised the high costs of taking action, noting that short-term returns on investments are expected to be small compared to the substantial investments needed. They expressed further concerns around the quality and current prices of products and services available which would be needed to deliver increased resilience. Some respondents particularly noted the costs of mitigation measures such as domestic renewable energy sources like heat pumps and panels, even with the assistance of government grant programmes.

“The standout one is the financial side. My family and I are on very low income and live in a suburban area with poor transport. This means that making alterations to our home is pretty much out of the question, as we can hardly afford to wallpaper a room never mind retrofit the whole building. It also means that we need to have a car to go about our daily lives, which is expensive and bad for the environment, but there is no other viable alternative.” – (Individual)

## Political challenges surrounding climate adaptation

A further theme was local, national and international political challenges to adapting to climate change. Respondents highlighted conflicts between the policy landscape and required planning permissions in contrast to the needs of local residents seeking to implement home improvements. They also emphasised the importance of more supportive national policies to facilitate adaptation without imposing significant burdens on individuals. Examples mentioned for both adaptation and mitigation measures included financial aid for home improvements, investment in national infrastructure, and climate-related education programmes (within schools and for adult upskilling), support for the uptake of renewables, fuel-efficient vehicles (electric or other), as well as wider policy initiatives that support sustainable living.



In addition to local political implications, some respondents also highlighted the importance of international mitigation action and political dialogue, particularly with nations that were viewed to be highly polluting such as China, India, and the US. Against the backdrop of these nations, policy efforts in Scotland and the UK were viewed to have relatively low impacts without significant additional international action on mitigating climate change.

“Councils, funded by Scottish and UK government, SEPA, Scottish Water and other related bodies should be doing more and doing it quickly. Flood protection schemes need [to be] built and updated now. Planning laws need [to be] changed [...]. We are such a small country in the grand scheme of things, and nothing will change until the huge polluters of the US, Russia, China and India, for example, do more to reduce their levels of pollution.” – (Individual)

### **Scepticism towards climate action**

Another common theme covered respondents' scepticism towards climate action. Some respondents expressed concerns and distrust in the scientific basis of climate change. Respondents also shared that they thought it was not possible for individuals themselves to have a material impact.

### **Lack of available support for climate adaptation**

One other frequently discussed theme was a lack of available support for individuals and businesses to adapt to climate change, specifically in the form of support resources and available technical expertise. Respondents emphasised the need for improved education and upskilling, following on a lack of individual awareness as well as a lack of skilled professionals needed for climate-related products and services (such as domestic retrofits, renewable technology installation and maintenance). For the future, respondents highlighted the importance of such technical expertise in the sector to ensure the provision of evidence-based guidance on long-term action.

“Lack of awareness or understanding: Many people may not fully understand the implications of climate change or how it will affect them personally. Without awareness of the risks and potential solutions, individuals may be less motivated to act.” – (Organisation)

### **Insufficient use of environmentally friendly products and services**

A further theme was concern that environmentally friendly alternatives to products and services were not being widely used. Respondents highlighted poor or limited access to viable and affordable products and enterprises – especially in more rural areas. As a consequence, respondents questioned the effectiveness of environmentally friendly alternatives, expressing the need for easily understandable, evidence-backed support when considering these alternatives (e.g. with regard to home adaptations).

“We can't find quality professional advice on retrofitting our home. On what are we best to spend our savings? Our home is early 1930s extended and an atypical shape with no significant loft space.” – (Individual)

**Question 5:** What action(s) do you think the Scottish Government should prioritise in order to build greater resilience to the impacts of climate change?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 183.

### **Developing resilient infrastructure**

The most frequent theme in response to this question was that the Scottish Government should prioritise developing resilient infrastructure to mitigate climate change impacts. Respondents underscored the importance of enhancing coastal and flood defences along with water infrastructure in response to the increased frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Participants also emphasised the importance of improvements to travel networks as well as reinforcing renewable energy infrastructure such as wave power to improve energy security. Finally, respondents emphasised that active travel infrastructure should be built in a resilient manner to ensure long-lasting benefits to the population.

“Given that adverse weather is predicted to be more frequent in future, we have concerns about the resilience of water, energy and telecommunications infrastructure and the impact that this may have on consumers in Scotland.” – (Organisation)

“Improve infrastructure and policies to support active travel, such as walking and cycling, to mitigate the effects of climate change and promote healthier lifestyles.” – (Organisation)

### **Guidance and regulation for building resilient homes**

Another commonly raised theme was that the Scottish Government should prioritise updated guidance and regulations to encourage the building of greater resilience by all households. Respondents suggested that the Scottish Government should put regulations in place to enable financial support to subsidise green technologies, particularly for low-income individuals or households. For example, respondents suggested providing more support for all households to install adaptation measures for extreme weather events in their homes and buildings. Respondents also recommended that such initiatives and the implementation of adaptation measures should be strengthened with clear targets for monitoring and evaluation. Finally, respondents emphasised the importance of strict building and planning regulations, such as requiring all newbuilds to have solar panels and make use of rainwater harvesting systems.

“Facilitate access to finance to install proactive adaptation measures for overheating and flood resilience in buildings. This could be via grant schemes or green finance for private owners, with public funding targeted at low-income households or buildings with vulnerable occupants, alongside energy efficiency retrofit.” – (Organisation)

“Setting targets is a way to measure progress towards the goal of halting biodiversity loss and restoring it. It creates a level of accountability to the public, including children and young people. As supported by those in the environmental

sector, these targets can serve as the turning point for threatened species and habitats.” – (Organisation)

### **Prioritising community engagement and initiatives**

A further theme was that the Scottish Government should prioritise community engagement and initiatives as a tool to build resilience. Respondents emphasised the need for more support for community schemes through additional resources and training. Suggestions included supporting community-owned renewable energy projects as well as education and training programmes on the importance of adaptation and resilience building efforts, for example adapting homes or local transport networks. Finally, participants suggested strengthening local health and social support systems which would contribute to effective responses to mental and physical climate-related health risks.

“Community Engagement and Cohesion: Foster social cohesion and community engagement through environmental activities and initiatives that unite different groups and empower local communities.” – (Organisation)

“Increase the capacity to support the development of community resilience – trained community development specialists located within local areas.” – (Organisation)

### **Promoting climate awareness and sustainable behaviours**

Another common theme was that the Scottish Government should prioritise raising public awareness to enhance understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change and promoting behavioural change towards sustainable lifestyles. Respondents suggested a greater focus on promoting behaviours that minimise adverse environmental impacts, for example through energy and water conservation, sustainable consumption and transportation.

“Education and behavioural change actions in order to help individuals and communities to understand the cause and effect of climate change on them. This should be extended to the business community.” – (Organisation)

“Prioritise climate change education and awareness-raising initiatives to ensure that individuals, communities, businesses, and policymakers understand the importance of adaptation and resilience-building efforts. Promote public understanding of climate risks, resilience strategies, and opportunities for sustainable development.” – (Individual)

### **Government support for innovation and research**

Another frequent theme was that the Scottish Government should prioritise supporting new innovation and research. Respondents emphasised the need for increased collaboration with universities to leverage their resources and expertise. Further calls were voiced for increased investment into research to enhance Scottish academic expertise in climate adaptation.

“Adaptation actions/investment needs parity with mitigation; collective, cohesive, coordinated approaches that draw on expertise from academia and communities



SBNZ [Scotland Beyond Net Zero], and expertise at universities.” –  
(Organisation)

Additional themes mentioned by respondents included scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself alongside general calls for less government intervention. Some participants also mentioned that policy and financial resources would best be diverted to other more pressing issues, including the current state of the healthcare system.

## Outcome one: Nature connects

This section explores outcome one as outlined in the consultation, addressing the theme of "Nature Connects." This consultation section encompassed questions around desired actions to protect nature and improvements to local green and blue spaces.

### Summary of key findings:

- Most respondents (80% of individuals and 82% of organisations) supported more trees and green spaces in built-up places for flood resilience. Similarly high levels of support were voiced for restoring forests and peatlands (75% of individuals, 82% of organisations). Respondents also agreed with the importance of waterway and coastal management, in addition to the prioritisation of integrated urban nature networks.
- Suggested improvements of blue and green spaces included improved ecosystem management at the local level. The importance of introducing more native wildlife and plants was also highlighted. Respondents favoured an increase in leisure opportunities through the development and maintenance of accessible and user-friendly walkways and trails.

**Question 6:** The draft Adaptation Plan sets out actions which will be taken to protect and restore nature. Which of the following actions proposed around protecting and restoring nature should the Scottish Government prioritise for a better adapted Scotland?

- More trees and green spaces in built-up places for flood resilience and cooling
- More joined up natural habitats ("nature networks")
- Managing pests and diseases which will be more prevalent with climate change
- Restoring forests and peatland
- Reinforcing natural coastal barriers such as dunes
- Other

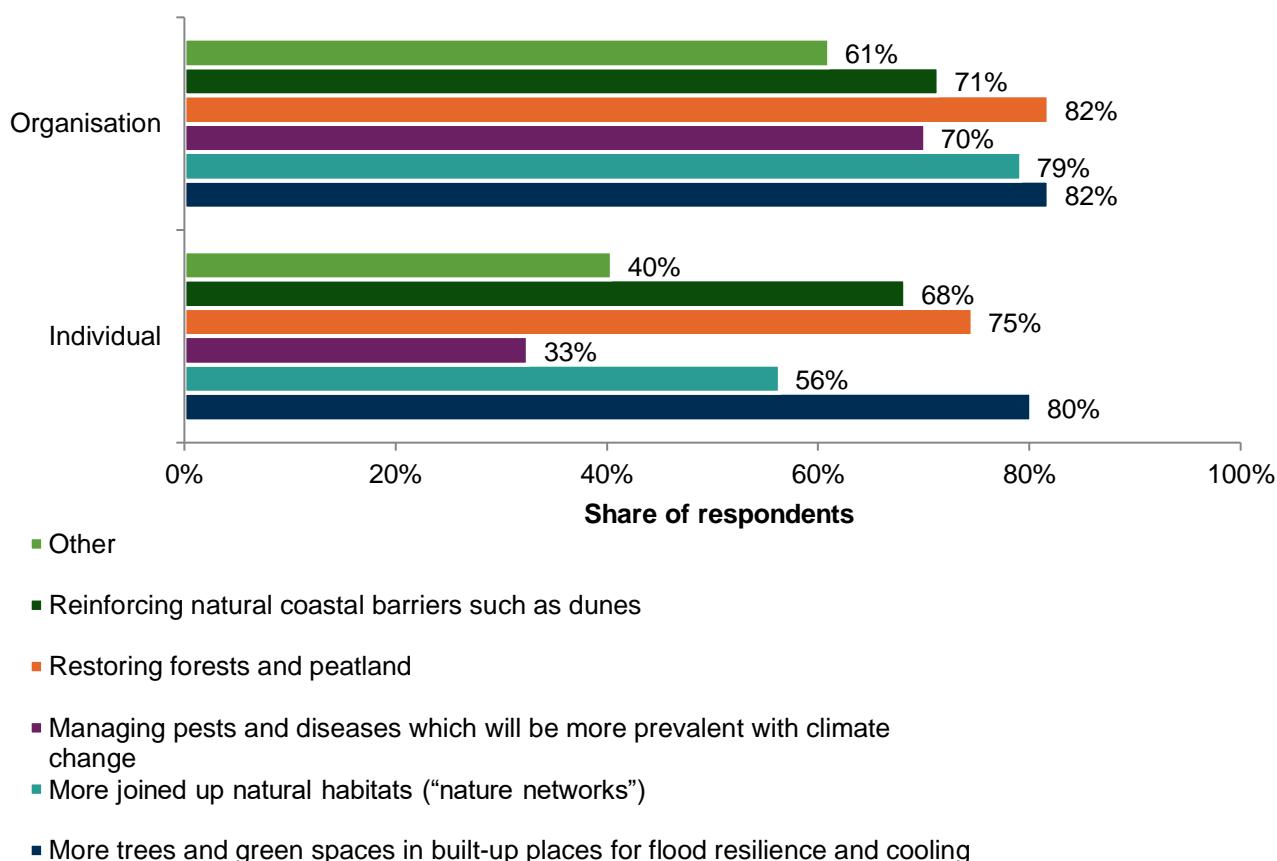
A total of 203 answers were received to this question out of 240 respondents to the overall consultation. While organisations showed consistently high support for all proposed actions set out in the draft Adaptation Plan to protect and restore nature, support among individuals varied substantially across different proposals made.

- The highest level of support was expressed in favour of actions for more trees and green spaces in built-up places for flood resilience and cooling (supported by 80% of individuals and 82% of organisations).

- Similarly high levels of support were voiced for restoring forests and peatland (75% of individuals and 82% of organisations), as well as reinforcing natural coastal barriers such as dunes (68% of individuals and 71% of organisations).
- Levels of support diverged between individuals and organisations for more joined up natural habitats (56% of individuals, 79% of organisations), and managing pests and diseases which will be more prevalent with climate change (33% of individuals, 70% of organisations).

Among different types of organisations, health organisations, community groups, and local authorities displayed the highest levels of consistent support for all suggested actions. The management of pests and diseases as well as reinforcements of natural coastal barriers received a lower level of support across a majority of groups, compared to stronger support for trees and green spaces, joined up natural habitats, and the restoration of forests and peatlands across all groups. Detailed breakdowns can be found in Table 1 in Appendix A.

**Figure 3: Responses to Question 6 by respondent type (n=203)**



### Qualitative analysis of open-text responses

The following section provides an overview of respondents selecting “Other” as an answer option in the above quantitative question. The total number of valid responses to this question was 83.

### Environmental management of natural spaces

The most frequently suggested other action was a focus on elements of environmental management to maintain the quality of natural spaces. Respondents expressed a particular need for waterway and coastal management. This was understood to encompass general flood prevention maintenance needs for coastal defences, river banks and waterways, as well as general peatlands management (including restoration). Some respondents expanded on this with the need to re-meander rivers and increase bankside biodiversity by planting native flora. Respondents specifically discussed the need for the upkeep of green and blue spaces in order to maintain biodiversity together with communities and farmers.

“The first is managing and restoring riparian and upland habitats for biodiversity and water management at catchment scale for flooding mitigation. Such measures could include the naturalisation of straightened river channels, introduction of beavers, riparian tree planting, introduction of large woody debris into rivers, floodplain and wet grassland habitat creation and restoration. The second is action around blue and green spaces within towns, particularly actions targeted towards benefitting those on the lowest incomes and young people.” – (Individual)

### **Prioritising urban nature networks**

Another commonly suggested action was prioritisation of integrated urban nature networks, thus strengthening biodiversity. Respondents expressed support for an increase in native flora, notably forests, to preserve local biodiversity and sustain native wildlife. Respondents also emphasised the need to expand green and blue spaces in urban areas to benefit communities, foster engagement with nature and provide additional advantages to low-income areas.

“There needs to be a National Nature Network to ensure that nature networks designated by local authorities link across boundaries and make ecological sense. A National Nature Network would join up sites for nature and link ecological processes across landscapes. [...] Two good examples to highlight are the Clyde Climate Forest and the Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy, that both cover eight councils along the catchment of the Clyde (ecological relevant area); and the Central Scotland Green Network. Maximising the value of nature networks for climate adaptation and ecological resilience requires spatial planning and co-ordinated action across the planning and land use sectors.” – (Individual)

### **Sustainable business practices**

A further suggested other action was the integration of sustainable practices by private businesses across economic sectors such as agriculture and farming, construction, and energy. Respondents emphasised the importance of sustainable construction, such as green infrastructure and considering biodiversity. One specific example given was evaluating bird populations before the erection of wind turbines in areas due to the impact these turbines might have on the local wildlife (loss of environment, collisions with blades, etc.). Respondents also emphasised the need for sustainable agriculture, calling for reductions in chemical fertilisers and biocides, supporting urban and community gardens, improving soil structure, reducing factory

farming, imposing limits on bottom towed fishing, and fostering engagement with the farming communities.

“Integrate into land used for agriculture, terrestrial corridors that are unmanaged scrub, hedges, trees and grasses, a minimum of 4-5 metres wide which will provide nesting, denning and foraging space for multiple species and so reduce/remove conflict between human interests and wild animals, while allowing nature to provide services vital to all life such as soil regeneration and pollinators, and where animals like badgers foxes and hedgehogs can contribute their unique important roles in sustaining soil health, seed dispersal, nutrient cycling and can create ground with hydrological properties that enable it to hold moisture and release it gradually when needed. Similarly, leaving 5 m each side of a water way to nature enables vital roles to be carried out by e.g. beavers, badgers, foxes, moles and hedgehogs as they interact with the soil.” – (Organisation)

Additional themes included pest and disease prevention with an emphasis on flora diseases and increases in education and awareness around nature, including further investment in sciences and technology.

**Question 7:** When you consider your local natural space e.g. park, canal, woodland or beach, what would you like to see improved in terms of blue and green space in your local area?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 154.

### **Ecosystem management of blue and green spaces**

The most frequent theme among responses was a preference for improved ecosystem management in local blue and green spaces such as parks, canals, woodlands, or beaches. Respondents emphasised the importance of introducing more native wildlife and plants in their greenspaces, rather than maintaining spaces as unused open areas. Respondents generally encouraged more trees being planted both in green spaces and in urban areas where suitable. Some respondents called for reducing the use of herbicides and pesticides in these areas.

“Increased density of trees, at the moment, parks, cities and green spaces look barren. I would like to see more native plants or plants that support biodiversity. I wish these places were less polluted with plastic bottles and cans.” – (Individual)

### **Creating and improving leisure facilities**

Another frequently discussed theme was the creation and improvement of leisure facilities in green and blue spaces. For example, respondents discussed the development and maintenance of accessible and user-friendly walkways and trails. They emphasised that trails should connect community sites, enabling residents to enjoy local spaces. Views on cycleways were mixed, with some respondents emphasising the importance of well-developed cycleways for more efficient travel. Other respondents expressed concerns towards their development at the expense of green spaces, particularly where cycle lanes are under-used in poor weather. Respondents shared further thoughts on the need for robust infrastructure for leisure activities. For example, issues were raised concerning the flooding of

multipurpose spaces (i.e. Third Generation surface outdoor pitches), which therefore are not always useable year-round. Respondents emphasised the importance of these spaces yet cautioned against their construction at the expense of green spaces, especially if they become unusable in extreme weather conditions.

“Play spaces, cycle paths, hiking paths. Anything and everything that would encourage more people to spend time in nature and enjoy it. It's an investment in population health.” – (Individual)

### **Improved public services provision**

A further theme was improvement in public services provision, notably waste collection and the cleaning of green spaces. Respondents emphasised the need for more bins and frequent bin collection in green spaces, as well as a general increase in litter picking. Respondents explained they would like to see less waste dumping in green spaces and more severe consequences for fly-tipping. Respondents also called for an enforcement team across green spaces to ensure residents do not misuse community green spaces. Some also emphasised the need for more youth engagement programmes in relation to green spaces, for example, by encouraging schools to participate in caring for the local environment.

“Hate to see litter, rubbish and fly tipping, so measures to educate to prevent it, clear up operations and much stronger efforts to catch and punish people to cause the problems. Punishments could include clearing the mess and environmental works such as tree planting.” – (Individual)

### **Infrastructure maintenance of green spaces**

A frequently discussed theme was improvements to infrastructure maintenance in green spaces. Respondents emphasised the need for greater maintenance of current green spaces and infrastructure, notably drains and flood infrastructure. They suggested that more funding should be allocated to the managing bodies of green spaces to support their upkeep.

“Maintenance is key to keeping the infrastructure in place - often much is spent on capital projects (and promoted by politicians etc) and too little is given to future management. Much better to plan to use as few resources as possible but maintain what you have than always making new.” – (Organisation)

### **Improvements to sustainable urban living**

Another common theme was improvements to sustainable urban living. Respondents expressed support for more green infrastructure, such as rain capture systems, flood defences and eco-efficient buildings. They also emphasised the need for fewer housing and commercial developments near green spaces and opposed any buildings in green belts, instead calling for more construction on brownfield sites. Some respondents called for increased seating in green spaces such as benches and seating areas.

“Green Infrastructure: Integrate green infrastructure elements such as rain gardens, bioswales, and vegetated buffers to manage stormwater runoff, reduce flooding, and improve water quality. Design natural features to capture and

absorb rainwater, filter pollutants, and recharge groundwater supplies.” –  
(Individual)

## Outcome two: Communities

This section focuses on outcome two from the consultation, focused on "Communities". This section contains questions which explore the ways in which different groups, including individuals, businesses, public bodies, and communities, could support each other to adapt to climate change over the next five years. A further question asked for suggestions on how the Adaptation Plan could facilitate collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

### Summary of key findings:

- Respondents emphasised the importance of additional resource mobilisation to support individuals and businesses to adapt to climate change. Proposed measures included financial support, incentives, and funding opportunities for climate adaptation.
- Respondents also underscored the significance of collaborative action within and between the public and private sectors to pool resources, share expertise, and foster innovation.
- Calls were voiced for the Plan to facilitate multi-stakeholder platforms and partnership networks to help different groups across Scotland to adapt collaboratively.
- Written consultation responses emphasised the importance of broader governance and policy changes, including the implementation of clear monitoring and evaluation frameworks and greater place-based planning for adaptation at the local and regional levels.

**Question 8:** For Scotland to adapt to the impacts of climate change, lots of different groups, such as individuals, communities, businesses and public bodies, will need to work together and support each other. How could others support you (or your organisation) to adapt to climate change over the next five years?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 173.

### Need for financial support, investment and capacity building

The most frequent theme was the need for additional resource mobilisation to secure more financial support, infrastructural investment and capacity building to help individuals and businesses adapt to climate change over the next five years. Respondents emphasised the importance of greater financial support, incentives, and funding opportunities for climate adaptation initiatives. They also called for more capacity building through funded training, technical assistance and knowledge-sharing opportunities. Additionally, respondents highlighted the importance of infrastructure investment, calling for more resources to be directed towards the development of resilient infrastructure, renewable energy, and sustainable transport systems. Finally, calls were voiced for further investment into



innovation and research to develop climate adaptation solutions, including novel technologies.

“Share information, expertise, and best practices on climate adaptation strategies and solutions among individuals, communities, businesses, and public bodies. Provide training, workshops, and educational resources to build capacity and empower stakeholders to take action.” – (Individual)

“Central and local government can collaborate with [redacted] Council to develop comprehensive climate resilience plans and allocate resources for infrastructure upgrades.” – (Organisation)

### **Collaborative action within and between public and private sector**

Another common theme was the need for collaborative action within and between the public and private sectors. Respondents called for more collaboration to combine resources and leverage joint knowledge for climate adaptation. They also emphasised the importance of including diverse stakeholders within public and private sectors in decision-making processes and climate adaptation initiatives. Finally, respondents emphasised the need for more open communication, encouraging the exchange of case studies and best practice across sectors to aid in climate adaptation.

“We recognise the benefits of collaboration with various partners in this space to realise more progressive, and meaningful adaptation. We would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with partners on (but not limited to): - Climate change risk assessment learning exchanges; - Co-development and co-commissions on shared climate risk resources (e.g., an infrastructure wide assessment of climate risk interdependencies and cascading risks).” – (Organisation)

“Potentially the single greatest help would be communication, joined-up responses, strategies, and plans. Partnership working, cross-sector, industry-wide adaptation will be crucial moving forward to deliver outcomes.” – (Organisation)

### **Government setting policy incentives and regulation**

A further theme was the need for policy incentives and regulation set by the government. Respondents called for the implementation of additional supportive policies, regulations, and incentives to foster climate resilience and facilitate adaptation. They also stressed the importance of local governance in this implementation process. Respondents suggested that local government should obtain further decision-making authority and necessary resources for adaptation planning. It was emphasised that such authority should be accompanied by transparency and accountability in governance processes.

“Government: Impediments to adaption and mitigation must be removed. The relaxation of Permitted Development Rights is a good example of positive and enlightened action by Government and other opportunities should be identified and rapidly introduced.” – (Organisation)

## Community education and empowerment for local adaptation

Another common theme was the importance of community education and empowerment as a tool for working together locally to adapt. Respondents called for more education and awareness to increase understanding of climate change impacts, adaptation strategies and the importance of sustainable action. They also emphasised the importance of more community-led adaptation initiatives to enable local residents to lead resilience-building efforts.

“Looking at ways of undertaking more community engagement and education by organising awareness raising workshops and educational campaigns which can result in informed decision making and participation in adaption efforts.” – (Organisation)

Additional themes mentioned by respondents included scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself alongside general calls for less governmental intervention. Some participants also mentioned the importance of businesses’ responsibility and the implementation of sustainable business practices. They also emphasised the need for international engagement, for example, through increased collaborations with international organisations and other country governments.

**Question 9:** In what way(s) could the plan help different groups across Scotland and/or its regions to collaborate on climate adaptation?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 144.

## Reinforcing place-based policy approaches for climate adaptation

The most common theme was the need for changes to current local governance by reinforcing place-based approaches to policy. Respondents called for greater place-based planning for climate adaptation at the local and regional levels, tailored to the needs and opportunities of different geographical areas. Respondents explained that such place-based approaches would benefit from clear local governance structures. This included the implementation of common monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the local effectiveness, progress, and impact of collaborative climate adaptation efforts. Further guidance on the roles and responsibilities of different local stakeholders was also recommended.

“The diverse and very remote rural nature of much of our region means that the needs of communities can be radically different, leading to the need for a significant number of more localised collaborations as opposed to a ‘one size fits all’ model for the entire geographical area.” – (Organisation)

## Significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships

Another frequently raised theme was the significance of multi-stakeholder partnerships. Respondents highlighted the importance of facilitating the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms and partnership networks to enable stakeholders to collaborate on climate adaptation initiatives. They also emphasised the need for mechanisms to encourage data sharing on climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation measures among stakeholders.

*“The plan could facilitate the sharing of information and resources between central and local government agencies, NHS boards, enterprise agencies, and other public bodies.” – (Organisation)*

### **Necessity of community engagement**

An additional common theme was the necessity of community engagement. Respondents emphasised the importance of public awareness and education, engaging and involving the public through outreach campaigns and education. They also discussed encouraging local collaboration initiatives such as swap shops (where individuals can trade goods without using money) and community gardens. Furthermore, respondents called for increased community input through further consultation and involvement in decision-making processes related to climate adaptation efforts.

“Looking at ways of undertaking more community engagement and education by organising awareness raising workshops and educational campaigns which can result in informed decision making and participation in adaption efforts.” – (Organisation)

Additional themes included increased financial support and incentives for adaptation. Some respondents expressed scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself meanwhile others voiced general criticism towards the government.

## Outcome three: Public services and infrastructure

This section examines outcome three from the consultation, "Public Services and Infrastructure." This section of the consultation gathered insights on the adoption of the Climate Change Committee's advice, the necessity of guidance on future climate scenarios for planning and investments, along with the benefits of the assessment of "cascading" risks from weather-related disruption to infrastructure.

### Summary of key findings:

- Mixed views were voiced over the advice from the Climate Change Committee to adapt to 2°C of warming and assess the risk for 4°C. While organisations were highly likely to agree with the advice, individuals expressed strong levels of disagreement. Reasons provided included the importance of proactive rather than reactive measures, and the necessity of embracing change despite concerns raised over associated costs.
- Organisations were more likely than individuals to agree (97% of organisations and 43% of individuals) that further guidance would be useful when making plans and investment decisions. Respondents emphasised that evidence-based guidance such as scenario-based outcomes as well as regularly updated, robust climate data was crucial for decision-making.
- Similarly, most organisations (96%) agreed that an assessment of cascading risks from weather-related disruption to infrastructure would help them adapt, while only 42% of responding individuals agreed with this.

**Question 10:** Advice from the Climate Change Committee (the Scottish Government's independent advisors on Climate) is to adapt to 2°C of warming and assess the risk for 4°C. To what extent do you agree with this advice?

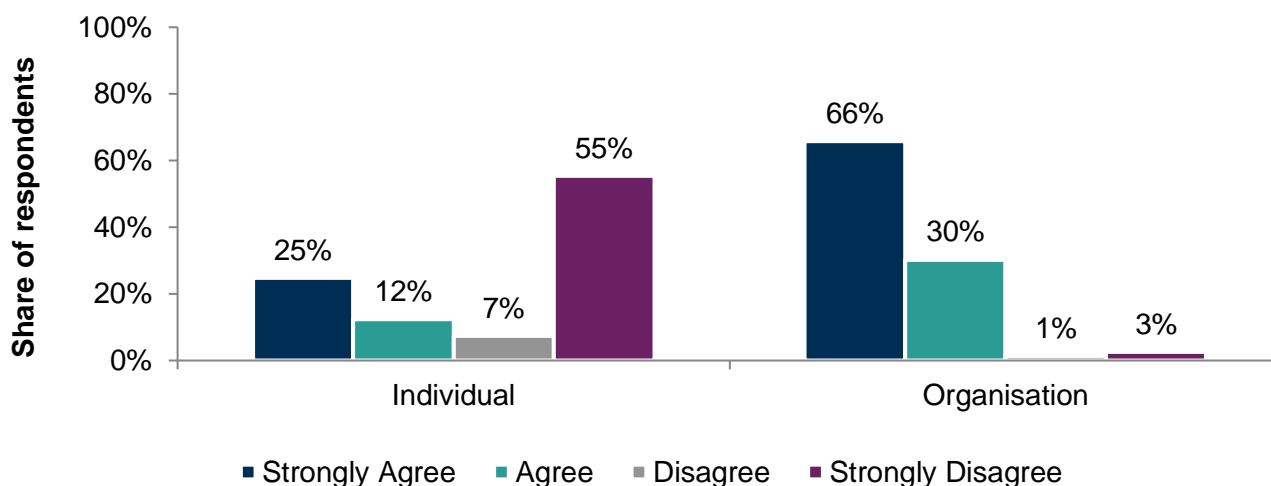
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

There were 197 responses to the question out of 240 respondents to the overall consultation. Overall, organisations were much more likely to agree with the advice from the Climate Change Committee to adapt to 2°C of warming and to assess the risk for 4°C, meanwhile individuals expressed strong levels of disagreement.

- 37% of individuals either agreed or strongly agreed with the advice, while 96% of organisations either agreed or strongly agreed.
- In contrast, 62% of individuals disagreed or strongly disagreed, while only 4% of organisations disagreed or strongly disagreed.

Amongst the different groups of organisations, a strong majority of all groups either agreed or strongly agreed with the advice. For example, 96% of local authorities either agreed or strongly agreed with the advice to adapt and assess. A similar trend can be detected among community groups (71% strongly agreeing and 29% agreeing) and academics, think tanks or consultants (83% strongly agreeing, 17% agreeing). Detailed breakdowns can be found in Table 2 in Appendix A.

**Figure 4: Responses to Question 10 by respondent type (n=197)**



### Qualitative analysis of open-text responses

The total number of valid responses to this question was 155.

#### Agreement to adapt to 2°C and assess the risk for 4°C

The most frequent theme discussed by respondents is a high level of general agreement with the suggestion to adapt to 2°C and assess risk for 4°C. In line with quantitative responses given to the closed-ended question, respondents widely agreed to plan for and, where appropriate, action the 4°C strategies rather than solely focusing on adapting to 2°C warming. Reasons provided for this included that the latter degree of warming was seen as most likely already being achieved by the end of the century in 2100. Respondents explained that being proactive in adapting to climate change now will prove beneficial at a later stage. However, respondents also expressed challenges in taking personal steps to adapt. Some discussed sentiments of defeat when following climate advice themselves, given the Scottish Government’s net zero targets being pushed back.

“Progress to existing targets has been limited so sadly it appears imperative to prepare for worse.” – (Individual)

#### Individuals’ financial challenges to adaptation

Another frequently discussed theme was the financial challenges of adaptation at a personal and household level, given other financial pressures on people’s livelihoods. At the individual level, participants raised concerns about the costs, noting these may be overwhelming for individuals struggling with other issues such as the cost of living, irrespective of a decision between adapting to 2°C or 4°C. At the country-level, however, respondents explained their view that it would be economically advantageous to gradually follow adaptation plans now, in order to be

proactive and avoid high costs in the future. Respondents emphasised the importance of understanding future repercussions of climate change despite high costs, explaining that relatable examples should be used to improve local understanding and adaptation action.

“I think ‘adapting to 2°C and planning for 4°C’ will make Scotland more resilient to future warming and reduces the risk of us being underprepared if 2°C is breached. [...] Greater guidance is also needed on the practical implications of ‘plan for 4°C’. For example, if you were installing a flood barrier. [...] If you are already building a flood barrier which such big foundations wouldn’t it be cheaper and easier to simply install a barrier tall enough to cope with 4°C warming in the first place?” – (Individual)

### Criticism of the political landscape

Another commonly discussed theme was criticisms of the current political landscape. Respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the current governmental and policy landscape, emphasising that more action could be taken by policymakers. Some respondents also emphasised the need to focus on mitigating climate change, especially action by larger emission-producing nations such as China, India and the US, given these countries have a greater impact on global emissions and temperature changes than Scotland and the UK. Without participation from these countries, respondents emphasised that their actions would have a minimal impact.

**Question 11:** Would further guidance on future climate scenario(s) be useful when making plans and investment decisions?

- Yes
- No

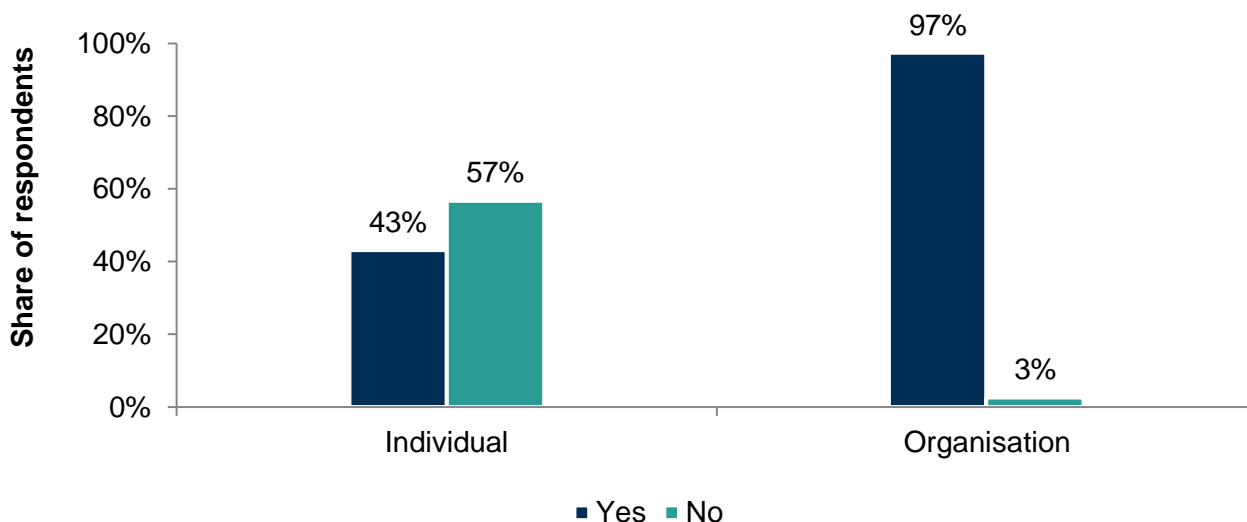
There were 195 responses to the question out of 240 respondents to the overall consultation. Those responding from organisations overwhelmingly supported the suggestion of making further guidance on future climate scenario(s) available to inform planning and investment decisions meanwhile individuals were split between agreeing and disagreeing.

- 43% of individuals and 97% of organisations agreed that further guidance would be useful when making plans and investment decisions.
- A further 57% of individuals and 3% of organisations responded that this would not be useful.

Amongst the different types of organisations, high levels of agreement with the need for further guidance were detected among all groups except agriculture and land use. Detailed breakdowns can be found in Table 3 in Appendix A.



Figure 5: Responses to Question 11 by respondent type (n=195)



### Qualitative analysis of open-text responses

The total number of valid responses to this question was 105.

#### Evidence-based guidance for informed investments

The most frequently discussed theme was detailed, up-to-date, evidence-based guidance on how to make informed investments. Respondents suggested that such guidance on future climate scenarios could encompass insight and examples such as decision trees or scenario-based expected outcomes, to inform decision-makers on second order impacts of their investment decisions. Respondents also expressed a desire for access to evidence-based, verifiable information, complete with cited sources, details on how the research was funded, and the qualifications of the researchers. This additional layer of transparency and rigour would help ensure credibility and mitigate the spread of misinformation, according to respondents. Further interest was expressed in how businesses could identify investments which are harmful to the climate or violate ethical guidelines. Such insight should be managed, updated regularly and provided in the form of accessible lists or databases.

“Detailed guidance on future climate scenarios would be incredibly beneficial, especially for long-term planning and investments. This guidance should include specific temperature rise projections, expected impacts on different sectors, and regional variations within Scotland. It should also offer practical advice on incorporating climate resilience into planning, design, and operational practices. Such information would aid in making informed decisions, prioritising actions, and allocating resources effectively to mitigate risks and capitalise on opportunities arising from climate change.” – (Individual)

#### Need for updated robust climate data

Another common theme was the need for regularly updated and high-quality climate-related information to support planning and investment decisions. This encompasses respondents voicing the benefits of open, verifiable and consistent data. The importance of regular forecasts and climate data with commonly

understood (lay) metrics was discussed particularly often. Respondents felt the data should be open and free to use, with verifiable sources.

“Access to climate projections [...] to understand how local climates may evolve over time, along with mapping of flood risk areas and vulnerability assessments to identify sectors and infrastructure susceptible to climate impacts. Assessing climate-related risks will better enable prioritisation of adaptation measures. Guidance on adaptation options, cost-benefit analyses, and collaboration platforms will facilitate efficient allocation of resources and development of robust long-term strategies. Integrating these insights into planning frameworks ensures that climate adaptation is mainstreamed into decision-making processes, enhancing resilience and sustainability in local communities.” – (Organisation)

A small sample of respondents expressed that additional insight was not needed since they felt they had sufficient information already.

**Question 12:** Would an assessment of “cascading” risks from weather-related disruptions to infrastructure help you or your organisation to adapt?

- Yes

- No

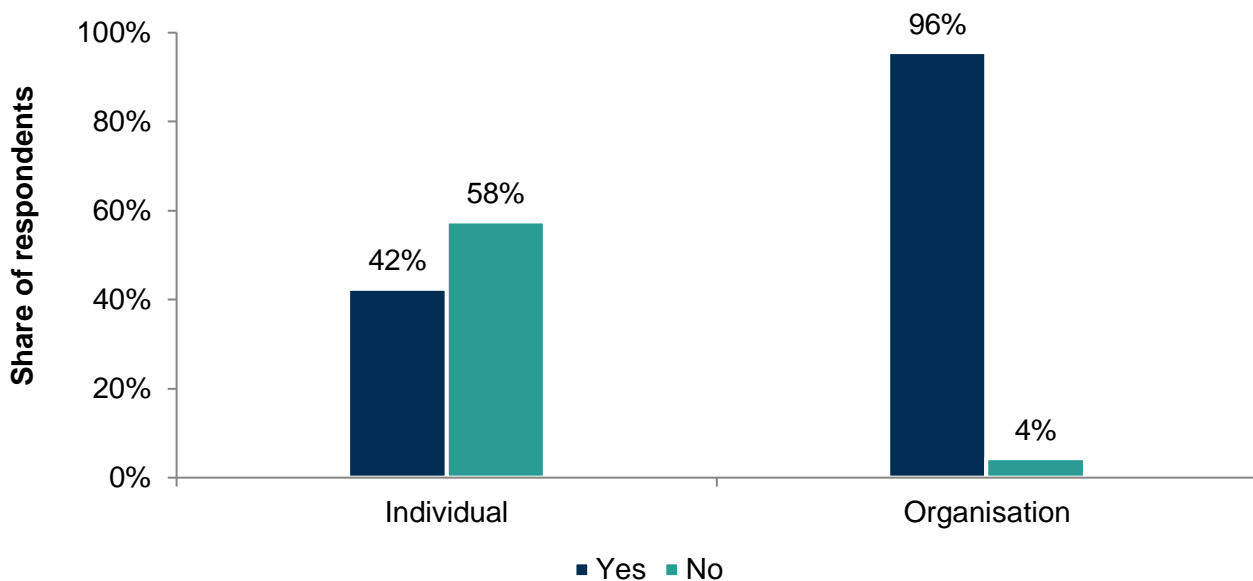
There were 113 responses to the question out of 240 respondents to the overall consultation. Organisations overwhelmingly agreed that an assessment of “cascading” risks from weather-related disruptions to infrastructure would help their organisation to adapt. Individual respondents were split between agreeing this would help or disagreeing with the proposal.

- 42% of individuals and 96% of organisations agreed that such an assessment would help them to adapt.
- 58% of individuals and 4% of organisations disagreed, responding that they did not think this would be helpful.

When examining detailed respondent types, 95% of local authorities, 100% of responding community groups, and 100% of trade unions or business support organisations agreed that an assessment would prove helpful. A majority of other detailed organisation types also agreed frequently. Detailed breakdowns can be found in Table 4 in Appendix A.



**Figure 6: Responses to Question 12 by respondent type (n=181)**



### **Qualitative analysis of open-text responses**

The total number of valid responses to this question was 132.

#### **Importance of assessment for climate change awareness and preparedness**

The most common theme was respondents reiterating the importance of such an assessment for climate change awareness and preparedness, frequently drawing on their previous response to the quantitative question. Respondents highlighted the assessment’s usefulness in improving and developing their understanding of climate challenges. They noted that this understanding would help gauge the breadth and depth of the climate crisis and its impact on infrastructure. Additionally, they underscored the assessment’s potential effectiveness in identifying vulnerabilities and connections. It was suggested that improved knowledge of the source and nature of vulnerabilities and their interconnections would help inform future planning.

“In addition, this information would be useful in the plan as there is a lack of understanding across groups, communities, and the public about disruption to infrastructure and the cascading risks from this; the impact of these risks, how they are connected, who is responsible for each part of the infrastructure, etc.” – (Organisation)

#### **Disagreement with the need for an assessment of cascading risks**

Another common theme, however, was disagreement with the need for an assessment of cascading risks, often referring back to respondents’ previous quantitative answer. Explaining their disagreement, some respondents expressed scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself, leading them to challenge the need for an assessment or Adaptation Plan in general. Other respondents deemed the assessment unnecessary, stating that their existing risk assessment systems were sufficient.

*“Each business already carries out risk assessments relevant to their business. Businesses can easily create a what if scenario should power etc fail or at risk of flooding.” – (Individual)*

### **Mitigating potential economic impacts**

An additional frequent theme was those highlighting the usefulness of cascading risk assessments in mitigating potential economic impacts. Respondents highlighted the assessment’s importance in helping stakeholders evaluate the resilience of infrastructure networks and build capacity to mitigate any potential economic repercussions. They also noted the extensive knock-on effects of previous weather-related disruptions on the economy. For example, increased demand for materials after floods could increase prices and place a strain on resources, reiterating the importance of the assessment.

*“We experienced significant regional disruption from Storm Arwen (November 2021) with widespread and long-lasting impacts felt by many businesses and communities across the South of Scotland, with some parts of our region without power for multiple days.” – (Organisation)*

## Outcome four: Economy, business and industry

This section addresses outcome four of the draft SNAP3, which aims to address the risks and opportunities posed by climate change on the “economy, business, and industry”. Questions posed in the written consultation sought views on barriers to businesses accessing advice and support to address climate risks, supply chain disruption, and the role of the government in supporting the resilience of supply chains to climate shocks, alongside the support needed for farming, fishing, aquaculture, forestry businesses to adapt practices. Additionally, the section of questions asks for views on business and innovation opportunities arising from changes in Scotland’s climate.

### Summary of key findings:

- Businesses reportedly face challenges in accessing advice and support on climate risks due to financial constraints. Respondents also highlighted competing priorities for businesses, with financial incentives frequently overshadowing long-term sustainability considerations.
- The impacts of climate change on supply chains, both domestically and internationally, were understood to result in shortages, delays, and growing financial costs. Respondents called for increased investment and incentives to support resilient supply chains in addition to greater support for local food production.
- Views provided on business and innovation opportunities arising from climate change focused on several sectors, especially agriculture and energy technologies. Respondents stressed the need for financial support, education, training, and knowledge sharing to enable businesses to take advantage of these opportunities.

**Question 13:** What, if any, are the barriers to businesses accessing advice and support on climate risks?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 142.

### Limited resources for accessing advice and support on climate risks

The most frequent theme was limited business resources and financial constraints as a barrier to accessing advice and support on climate risks. Respondents emphasised issues with financial constraints, for example hiring dedicated staff or contracting external advice. In particular, they highlighted that smaller businesses or organisations may be facing financial constraints that prevent them from accessing the available advice and support. They also highlighted a lack of internal expertise and capacity due to the absence of dedicated sustainability or risk management staff.

“Seeking advice and support on climate risks may require investing in consultancy services or training programs, which could be perceived as too expensive for some businesses.” – (Organisation)

### **Conflicting short versus long-term priorities**

Another common theme was contradictory incentives for business between financial versus sustainability considerations, which was seen to disincentivise access to advice or support. Respondents noted that short-term financial incentives were often prioritised by businesses and organisations over long-term sustainability considerations, such as the need to consider climate risk and adaptation action. They also noted other conflicting short and long-term priorities, such as the impacts of Brexit or market disruptions, which divert resources away from accessing advice and support on climate risks, instead focusing on short-term economic implications.

“Businesses often prioritise short-term goals and profitability over longer-term sustainability and resilience planning. This short-term focus can deter businesses from investing time and resources in assessing and responding to climate risks, especially if the benefits are not immediately apparent.” – (Organisation)

### **Limited awareness and understanding of climate change**

A frequent theme was limited awareness and understanding of climate change impacts as a barrier to accessing advice and support. Respondents emphasised that many businesses have limited awareness and understanding of the consequences of climate change for their organisations and the importance of their role in addressing climate risks. Their limited understanding was compounded by the complexity of climate risks, making it difficult for businesses to understand and respond to climate change.

“Many businesses may lack awareness of the climate risks they face or may not fully understand the implications of climate change for their operations. Businesses also may lack awareness on how to reduce these risks or how to reach services/expertise that can help.” – (Individual)

Additional themes included criticism around the need for a Climate Adaptation Plan and the government itself. Some also stated that there were no barriers to accessing business advice on climate risk, while others expressed scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself.

**Question 14:** How should farming, fishing and forestry businesses be supported to adapt to climate change?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 126.

### **Raising awareness of sustainable food production practices**

The most frequently discussed theme was that farming and fishing businesses can be supported by raising awareness of the practices which should be adopted to support a wider shift towards sustainable food production. Respondents provided details on a range of practices they felt would support sustainable food production practices in these sectors and for which awareness should be raised. For farming

and agricultural businesses, respondents encouraged a shift towards more environmentally friendly crops which are native to Scotland or use fewer resources in their production and transportation. A widely voiced sentiment throughout responses was the need to prioritise greater diversity of crops, especially the planting of a wider range of plants instead of monocultures. The importance of healthy soil to grow crops was also noted, as well as the soil's ability to absorb water during floods. When discussing factors to achieve increases in sustainable food production practices, respondents suggested granting farmers autonomy when managing their land, due to their experience and expertise in the industry. A small number of respondents also discussed the importance of increasing awareness of biodiversity in forestry businesses as a means of supporting a more climate-resilient Scotland. With regards to the fishing business, respondents raised the need to encourage farming of alternative fish species to allow for repopulation as well as promoting alternative farming methods such as land fishing, as opposed to open net sea fishing.

*“Support for local production of good food and marine protection is vital. However, biodiversity needs to be in the mix, e.g. reforestation/soil protection and flood minimising rather than sheep farming / barren hills.” – (Individual)*

*“Our fishing industry was reduced and should be supported to regenerate. Caught fish should be sold in markets locally. Fishing should not include ‘bycatch’ or significant waste.” – (Individual)*

### **Financial incentives for promoting adaptation**

Another frequently discussed theme was the need for financial incentives to promote adaptation action among farming, fishing, forestry and aquaculture, for example in the form of subsidies and grants. Respondents emphasised the importance of additional funding without attached conditions to support adaptation practices. It was also suggested that farmers should be compensated for any loss as a consequence of shifts to sustainable production methods. Some respondents suggested using an approach of financially rewarding good practice and penalising non-compliance through fines for businesses. Others emphasised the benefits of providing thorough financial planning support for individual businesses, although the nature of implementation (i.e. in the form of training or long-term accounting support or plans) was not specified.

*“More funding must be allocated towards incentivising and supporting farmers and crofters to manage their land to build resilience to climate shocks. There is already evidence of the impact of extreme weather events on Scottish agriculture (WWF Scotland, 2023) and there is an ongoing risk of lower crop yields, losses of livestock, soil erosion and water scarcity. In terms of funding allocation, support to smallholder farmers and crofters who are least able to withstand losses must be prioritised over large commercial enterprises” – (Organisation)*

*“Financial support for real action to move to regenerative farming practices, financial support to give away land for flood water storage, incentives to plant trees in flood prone regions and in urban areas to alleviate localised surface flooding.” – (Individual)*

## Support and training on adaptation to enhance competitiveness of farming

Another common theme was the need for training for farmers, followed by subsequent support when implementing newly acquired farming techniques. Respondents emphasised the need for more education, training, and planning support within the farming community, for example, enabling producers to adopt new methods within their long-term planning (i.e. climate adaptation plan covering exposure, risks, impacts and prioritised actions). Notably, respondents emphasised that such training and education would increase the competitiveness of Scottish farming. When implementing new techniques in subsequent production, respondents also emphasised that over-regulation could hinder the competitiveness of Scottish farmers compared to other international farmers. In response, respondents called for additional policy adjustments to support local small-scale farmers and increase competitiveness. Some respondents furthermore suggested that trade agreements with the EU and alignment with EU agricultural practices could assist farmers in remaining competitive as they adapt to climate change.

“Building up an education network will create a space where best practices and innovative solutions can be shared.” – (Organisation)

**Question 15:** How do you anticipate disruption to domestic and/or international supply chains caused by climate change will affect Scottish business, industry and consumers?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 102.

## Shortages and disruptions resulting from impacted supply chains

The most common theme in response to this question was shortages and/or delays of goods as a consequence of supply chains disrupted by climate impacts. Respondents explained their view that consumers will have fewer choices available following international and/or domestic supply chain disruptions. Consequences could include, for example, a smaller variety of fruits and vegetables available in stores. Furthermore, businesses may have trouble obtaining inputs and could expect longer shipping periods, delays and transport disruptions to become the norm. One solution to this discussed by respondents is to encourage more local suppliers. It was felt that these local supply chains could help to mitigate the impacts of potentially longer and more unreliable international supply chains.

*“Scottish businesses and industries may be exposed to supply chain dependencies and risks associated with climate impacts occurring in other regions or countries. Disruptions to international supply chains, such as crop failures, trade restrictions, or geopolitical conflicts exacerbated by climate change, can affect the availability and affordability of imported goods and raw materials, impacting businesses and consumers alike.” – (Individual)*

## Costs incurred from disrupted supply chains

Another frequent theme was the financial costs of supply chain disruptions. Respondents anticipated an increase in the cost of goods due to supply chain



complications and delays. Further concerns were voiced over an anticipated decrease in business and economic productivity as a consequence of disruption caused by climate impacts. Some respondents identified a potential decrease in foreign direct investment into Scotland, as well as reduced domestic investment. Such reduced domestic investment was seen as having the potential to negatively impact small businesses, instead resulting in an increased reliance on international supply chains.

“For businesses like ours that rely on extensive supply chains spanning from local to global levels, the risk of operational delays, increased costs, and the need for emergency responses could become more common. Moreover, supply chain disruptions could hinder Scotland's economic resilience, affecting industries' ability to meet demand, maintain productivity, and contribute to climate targets.” – (Organisation)

Additional themes included the view that there would be no notable impacts as supply chains and consumers will adapt effectively, regardless of the Adaptation Plan. Some respondents also emphasised that changes in supply chains would require varied policy responses, such as negotiating new trade agreements, relaxing regulations in order to support supply chain resilience, climate change mitigation policies, and upskilling workforces engaged in tasks which may become redundant.

**Question 16:** What, if any, should the role of government be in supporting more resilient supply chains?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 106.

### **Increasing investment to support resilient supply chains**

The most common theme was that the government should increase investment to support more resilient supply chains. When discussing increasing government investment, respondents most frequently raised the need for infrastructure investment. It was felt this should be directed towards improving or maintaining existing transportation networks such as ports, rail, and roads crucial to distribution. Respondents also argued that the government should consider developing energy production and novel storage solutions. Respondents also felt that increased government investment could be used to provide financial incentives for businesses to motivate good practices around building resilience into their supply chains, in addition to recommending fines in cases of bad practices.

“Financial incentives, such as tax breaks, grants, or low-interest loans, to businesses that invest in climate-resilient supply chains could help offset the costs associated with implementing resilience measures and encourage businesses to prioritise adaptation in their operations.” – (Organisation)

### **Promoting local food production**

Another common theme discussed by respondents relates to the need for government to promote local food production to support more resilient supply



chains. Respondents identified a need for the government to strengthen the local food and drink sector which was seen to be feasible by promoting a diversification of supply sources and investing in local infrastructure. Pursuing these goals and encouraging a circular economy for critical materials required for relevant machinery and the energy transition was seen as further reducing dependencies on international, exposed supply chains. Finally, respondents identified closely related benefits from local knowledge exchanges with regard to food production, as well as formal education into appropriate best practices. It was felt these would carry benefits for consumers and enterprises alike.

“Support for a strong local food sector, with a greater diversity of foods produced across numerous local areas, will be more resilient and support greater food security through better access to safe, healthy and affordable food.” – (Organisation)

“The government should play a proactive role in facilitating resilient supply chains by promoting diversification of supply sources, offering financial and technical support for businesses to adapt, and investing in infrastructure that can withstand climate impacts. Encouraging collaboration between businesses to share best practices and risks can also enhance resilience. Legislation and policies that incentivise sustainable practices and penalise unsustainable ones are critical.” – (Individual)

### **Government ensuring favourable policy and economic opportunities**

A further theme was that the government should play a role in ensuring there are economic opportunities and a favourable policy environment to support resilient supply chains. Respondents highlighted the government's role in promoting a robust, resilient, and environmentally conscious trade policy that proactively addresses climate change and other global challenges. To support this, respondents also identified a need for reducing bureaucratic hurdles and enabling private enterprises to engage in the market freely and with minimal constraints. It was felt this could help to foster competitiveness and efficiency among local companies.

“Make import/export admin user friendly and simple. Invest in Scottish seaports and rail freight.” – (Individual)

Other themes revolved around the need to gather further insights from experts or to conduct additional research on how to build supply chain resilience to climate shocks.

**Question 17:** What, if any, do you think are the business and innovation opportunities arising from climate change in Scotland?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 79.

## Innovation opportunities in energy and construction resulting from adaptation

The most prominent theme among respondents is the potential from adaptation for innovation opportunities across sectors such as energy and construction. Respondents identified the need for innovation in energy technologies to help tackle climate change pressures, as well as to help Scotland become more self-sufficient in its energy use. Respondents suggested this could support resilience by limiting reliance on international partners, and exposure to the climate shocks experienced. With regards to the built environment, respondents identified the need for innovation to deliver well-adapted newly built developments (residential and commercial) and retrofits alike. More specific examples included support for innovation in domestic renewable technology and storage, sustainable public and private transport, building insulation methods and construction which used new or alternative types of materials including sustainably sourced Scottish timber. Discussing innovation in the agricultural, fishing and aquaculture sectors, respondents highlighted the need for innovation such as around new or novel crop varieties and technology which could support the sectors to adapt practices to Scotland's climate and maintain businesses' profitability and sustainability.

*“Development of cheaper technologies for heating homes without too much disruption. [...] Large Battery Storage Technology to harness excess electricity. Greater community energy support projects e.g. use of old mine etc water to heat homes or mini hydro electric etc. Move to more growing of different products as temperatures increase.” – (Individual)*

## Regionally tailored business opportunities

Another common theme covers a growing range of regionally tailored industries or business opportunities, arising from changes in Scotland's climate. Such opportunities were identified for the growth of local renewable and green energy clusters in particular. Considering other industries, respondents also highlighted how rising temperatures could make Scotland more appealing to tourists, including eco-tourists drawn by the country's natural environment and numerous eco-friendly and responsible tourism initiatives. This increase may uplift tourism as an industry in Scotland as well as adjacent sectors such as hospitality and transport.

*“There is a significant opportunity for Scottish tourism to grow as a year-round comfortable ‘cool-climate’ destination. If tourist attractions can adapt their sites to become more weather-resilient, they have a significant opportunity for growth in this area.” – (Organisation)*

## Innovation fostering skills and change in workplaces

A further theme was opportunities arising from innovative ways of working in a changing climate, both with regard to necessary skills as well as work locations. Respondents emphasised the necessity of upskilling and training initiatives for individuals in current roles that may become obsolete in the future. This could include upskilling workers to undertake necessary infrastructure adaptation projects and re-training through programmes tailored to in-demand professions (e.g., within

the renewable energy sector such as domestic energy sources for homes and national energy grids or infrastructure). Discussing the impact of climate change on workplaces, a small sample of respondents identified further changes in workplace dynamics and felt that hybrid and remote work should be facilitated. These work arrangements were seen to provide benefits for employees during severe weather events, which will increase under climate change.

“Thinking of transition: there is an opportunity to upskill workers to undertake climate change adaptation projects, particularly nature-based ones. Defence against the impacts of climate change will need to reach the scale of nationally significant infrastructure, which will create opportunities for large contractors.” – (Organisation)

**Question 18:** What, if any, support would be required to encourage businesses in Scotland to take advantage of innovation opportunities arising from climate change?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 95.

### **Financial incentives to encourage businesses to innovate**

The most frequent theme respondents discussed was support for financial incentives and structures to encourage businesses to take advantage of innovation opportunities in Scotland. Respondents suggested a range of specific measures, for example direct funding for innovation, including grants, low-interest loans, and other financial incentives for adaptation specific research and development (R&D). Some respondents proposed that the government should encourage innovation via increased resource allocation and funding in scientific, engineering and R&D ventures. Respondents identified academic institutions, start-ups, or established businesses as potential recipients of such funding. Respondents also identified the benefit of tax-related incentives for businesses that demonstrate proactive investment into innovation or green practices. Some respondents suggested building on this and extending tax incentives to individuals on the same grounds.

“To encourage businesses to seize innovation opportunities, comprehensive support from both the government and private sectors is essential. This includes financial incentives such as grants, tax breaks, and low-interest loans tailored to green projects.” – (Individual)

### **Encouraging education, training and knowledge sharing**

Another common theme was supporting innovation opportunities arising from climate change by encouraging education, training and knowledge sharing for businesses and individuals in Scotland. Respondents identified the need for training both for businesses and individuals. They suggested this could be delivered through workshops, best practice sessions, and tutorials on how novel technologies could be leveraged across industries. Respondents expressed that they would like to obtain more opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, such as through roadshows and formal knowledge exchanges, delivered by successful individuals or enterprises within the innovation space. Some respondents expressed a preference

for more government-delivered and funded skills development, such as additional opportunities to complete relevant qualifications needed for the use of renewable technology in the construction sector.

“Education is critical in making impactful change by improving the development and delivery of training programmes on climate adaptation, sustainable practices, and digital technologies businesses would be educated and empowered to take advantage of climate related business opportunities.” – (Organisation)

### **Regulatory changes to support businesses**

An additional frequent theme was the view that support for businesses to leverage innovation opportunities could be achieved through regulatory changes.

Respondents identified a need for the national government to reinforce strong innovation policy and communicate changes in the innovation policy landscape clearly. According to respondents, innovation policies should encourage voluntary measures, considering the needs of small and micro enterprises, and provide support to businesses in achieving climate goals. Some respondents also noted that the local planning permissions process was outdated and inhibiting innovative green approaches. As a consequence, respondents reported finding it difficult to retrofit their homes given existing challenges with obtaining planning permissions.

“The regulatory environment must not be prohibitive to innovation. There are many examples in the agricultural sector of innovation, specifically in the bio-circular economy. But a hazard-based approach to regulation is stifling innovation. We would encourage research institutes, governments, and the agricultural industry to work together on innovative and novel solutions, and to ensure the policies are in place to allow this to happen.” – (Organisation)

## Outcome five: International action

This section addresses Outcome five from the consultation, focusing on “International action”. Questions explore how the Scottish Government can support international communities impacted by climate change and seek to identify international research opportunities where Scottish climate change expertise can make meaningful contributions.

### Summary of key findings:

- Many respondents called for more financial and practical support from the Scottish Government for international communities. They felt that such support should include funding for adaptation and resilience-building projects benefitting vulnerable communities internationally. Specifically, respondents argued in favour of more education, knowledge-sharing and awareness of climate change dynamics.
- Further calls were voiced in favour of increasing research into resilient infrastructure and environmental protection, for example in fields such as water management techniques and sustainable agriculture.
- However, others disagreed with the provision of international support set out in the draft Plan, suggesting that efforts should be prioritised towards addressing domestic issues.

**Question 19:** How could the Scottish Government support communities impacted by climate change across the world?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 163.

### Financial and practical support for impacted communities worldwide

The most frequently mentioned theme was general agreement with the importance of providing financial and practical support to communities most impacted by climate change worldwide. A range of specific suggestions were provided around how to best support these communities. The most prominent were related to offering funding for climate adaptation and resilience-building projects, benefitting vulnerable communities. This would include funding for nature-based solutions, seed funding for responsive or preventive measures, writing off debts for countries in the Global South, and financial incentives like grants and access to investment.

Other relevant actions mentioned included fair-trade practices, close collaboration between countries and industries that demonstrate climate-positive action, and targeted taxation policies, for example to encourage mitigation actions such as curbing imports from polluting countries. In addition, respondents mentioned that technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and training initiatives could effectively support impacted communities. Some respondents also suggested providing

humanitarian support, including emergency aid and safe routes for climate migrants or refugees.

“Climate Finance: [...] This could involve providing financial assistance for climate adaptation projects, infrastructure investments, and community-based initiatives that enhance resilience to climate impacts such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and droughts.

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance: The Scottish Government can offer capacity-building programs and technical assistance to help communities build their resilience to climate change. [...]

Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Response: [...] This may involve deploying relief supplies, providing shelter, healthcare, and livelihood support, and coordinating with international humanitarian organisations to ensure timely and effective response efforts.” – (Individual)

### **Prioritising domestic action**

Another frequent theme discussed by some respondents was that domestic action within Scotland should be prioritised over international actions. Respondents' who discussed this felt that focus and resources should only be directed to other nations once domestic issues were resolved. Respondents also mentioned that this kind of international policy should not form part of the Scottish Government's role and remit.

### **Offering global support and leading by example**

An additional frequent theme included actions of political support to communities around the world and clearly signalling Scotland's willingness to support global adaptation and mitigation efforts. Respondents highlighted that the Scottish Government should cooperate with various civil society groups, Non-Governmental Organisations, and international organisations like the EU, UN, and OECD. They also suggested developing close diplomatic relations with impacted and priority countries in the Global South, as well as countries of significant geopolitical influence. Another suggestion was for the Scottish Government to adhere to international treaties like the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) commitments, and to lead by example through the implementation of climate policies and achieving Net Zero targets.

“Everyone needs to come together to solve this crisis. There needs to be an acceptance that there is a global price that needs to be paid for adaptation. And that countries should not just be looking to fix their own issues only.” – (Individual)

“- Leaning into the Scottish Government's leadership of the Edinburgh Declaration, and continued work with organisations such as ICLEI [Local Governments for Sustainability], to promote climate action at regional/subnational levels [...].

- Enabling diplomatic links between Scottish institutions and priority countries (e.g., Malawi, Pakistan) to encourage knowledge exchange and partnership working towards climate adaptation.” – (Organisation)



**Question 20:** Scotland is known for its excellence in climate change research. Are there international adaptation-focused research opportunities which Scottish-based academic work should focus on?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 107.

### **Research into resilient infrastructure and environmental protection**

The most frequent theme included focusing international research on building both resilient infrastructure and enhancing environmental protection. Most respondents who mentioned this theme recommended prioritising research into areas such as robust water management infrastructure to address scarcity, flooding, and quality degradation. They also highlighted the need for research on approaches to address rising sea levels and coastal erosion, which was seen to affect homes and roads, as well as islands being at risk of disappearing. Additionally, some respondents expressed the need for research on topics related to environmental monitoring and protection more broadly. Respondents briefly mentioned topics like wildfires, soil erosion, monitoring and conservation of biodiversity, plastic pollution, and others. Research on various other adaptation actions was proposed by some respondents who mentioned topics such as climate prediction models.

“Researching strategies for enhancing the resilience of infrastructure and the built environment to climate change impacts such as extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and heatwaves. Researching strategies for sustainable water resource management and adaptation to climate change impacts such as changing precipitation patterns, droughts, and floods. This could involve studying innovative water management approaches, including rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and nature-based solutions for water storage and purification.” – (Organisation)

“Scotland has diverse ecosystems from peatlands, coastal areas and forests. Research could explore how these are being affected and explore successful adaptation approaches and how to enhance resilience in different ecosystems.” – (Organisation)

### **Importance of furthering knowledge and awareness of climate change**

Another common theme was related to the overarching importance of furthering education, knowledge sharing, and awareness of climate change impacts and risks. Some respondents suggested that improving international dialogue and building joint initiatives on best practice for climate impacts could enhance the knowledge and expertise of institutional networks. They also highlighted the value of case studies of successful policies and adaptation actions in other countries. Respondents also highlighted the importance of proactively including local communities in knowledge-sharing activities in order to capture local, lived, and cultural experiences.

“Education of students, staff, employers and the community [...] contribute to the public debate on the impact of climate change on our daily lives and work



practices raising awareness of personal responsibilities to make change to support climate change action.” – (Organisation)

“Seek opportunities for co-operation and joint initiatives, making use of the knowledge and expertise between institutions. Take a climate just approach, target areas of vulnerability, risk and where research can inform local action.” – (Organisation)

### **Research into agriculture and food production**

Another frequent theme was related to detailed research proposals on agriculture and food production. Respondents discussed the need for research on sustainable agricultural practices and crops that can thrive in various climate conditions and extreme weather conditions to ensure food security. Some respondents discussed the food production processes more widely and brought up topics like meat production and livestock management.

“Research could be exploited in relation to sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices in relation to the crops we grow and animals we rear.” – (Organisation)

There were several additional themes among the responses. Themes included opposition to academic work on climate change research while other respondents disagreed with the statement that Scotland is known for its excellence in such research. Other respondents discussed the socio-economic impacts of climate change and mitigation policies or expressed broader support for research funding and government support.

## Enabling factors

This section addresses “Enabling factors” as outlined in the consultation. Respondents were asked to discuss the main barriers to private investment for adaptation action, along with suggestions on how to support or incentivise more private investment for adaptation. Input was also sought on the proposed monitoring approach for tracking progress towards the Adaptation Plan’s objectives.

### Summary of key findings:

- Responses provided on barriers to private investment for adaptation action pointed at economic barriers, such as insufficient returns on investment and difficulty accruing the necessary upfront capital. Policy-related barriers were also understood to impede investments, for example in cases of a lack of targeted and suitable regulatory, fiscal or environmental policies.
- Most respondents from organisations supported the proposed approach to monitoring and evaluating progress of the Adaptation Plan. Support was lower among individuals (35% of individuals agreeing or strongly agreeing compared to 91% of organisations).
- Respondents supported the proposed outcome indicators and suggested additional socio-economic measures, including to capture health and wellbeing indicators such as mortality rates and heat-related illnesses. Environmental indicators estimating environmental performance and the quality of biodiversity were also recommended.

**Question 21:** What do you see as the main barrier to private investment for adaptation action?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 137.

### Uncertainty for private investors as a barrier to investment

The most commonly mentioned theme concerned uncertainty for private investors. According to respondents, barriers to greater private investment in adaptation consisted of insufficient or uncertain returns on investment from adaptation projects, the high upfront costs of adaptation projects and difficulty accruing the necessary upfront capital, the high-risk levels of the investments and the long time horizon for benefits to be realised. Most respondents highlighted uncertain returns on investment and lack of evidence of profit margins as the main barriers to further private investment.

*“Many adaptation projects may not offer immediate or tangible financial returns on investment, making them less attractive to private investors who prioritise short-term profit maximisation. The long-term nature of adaptation benefits and the uncertainty surrounding future climate impacts can deter private investors from allocating capital to adaptation projects. [...] Adaptation projects often*

*require significant upfront investment costs and have long payback periods, which may deter private investors seeking quick returns on their investment.” – (Individual)*

### **Regulatory barriers to private investment**

Another frequent theme related to various regulatory barriers to private investment for adaptation action. Respondents pointed to examples such as a lack of targeted and effective regulatory, fiscal, or environmental policies. Specifically, they mentioned taxation, carbon prices, and specialised financial instruments. Respondents also identified the lack of clear adaptation goals and plans as a policy-related barrier, as well as the lack of clear guidance regarding the existing regulatory framework. Additionally, uncertainty and a lack of confidence that policymakers will deliver robust and evidence-based adaptation action in the long run (due to political changes and inadequate commitments) were described as relevant barriers.

*“The main barriers include a lack of clear adaptation goals and roles for investment, insufficient markets that value adaptation outcomes, and a weak corporate disclosure regime. Additionally, there’s a critical need for public sector leadership and a strategic approach by financial regulators and public finance institutions to address physical climate risks effectively. These gaps create uncertainty and limit private sector involvement in funding adaptation actions.” – (Individual)*

### **Lack of willingness from the private sector to invest**

An additional common theme was related to an unwillingness from the private sector to invest, stemming from perceptions of who should bear the responsibility for adaptation action. Respondents identified the unwillingness and attitudes of private investors as barriers. For instance, some respondents argued that private investors consider adaptation action as a charitable endeavour or a public sector duty, hence not a priority for investors and businesses. Some respondents identified such views among investors as uninformed, given the benefits of adaptation action, the costs of inaction, and the diverse options available.

*“One of the primary challenges is the perception that climate adaptation is primarily a charitable endeavour rather than a financially viable investment opportunity. [...] In the private sector, there is a lack of awareness and understanding among investors regarding the benefits of adaptation action.” – (Organisation)*

**Question 22:** How can the Scottish Government support or incentivise more private investment in adaptation action?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 128.

### **Support for mobilising greater private investment through Adaptation Plan**

The most frequent theme was support for the approaches to mobilising greater private investment proposed in the draft SNAP3. The majority of respondents expressed their support either for all four proposals outlined in the draft SNAP3,

aimed at improving the conditions for greater private investment for adaptation, or a majority of them.<sup>7</sup> Among the four approaches, grant funding schemes were the most frequently favoured. Respondents pointed out that grants can help offset the costs and risks associated with adaptation investments, and grants should primarily be focused towards climate resilience efforts such as infrastructure upgrades, ecosystem restoration, or sustainable land management practices. Blended finance models, open data platforms and industry-led common metrics were also frequently mentioned by respondents as effective incentives. It was explained that collaboration between the public sector and private sector is essential because it encourages investment, maximises the impact and efficiency of investment, ensures a shared understanding of risks and responsibilities, and builds market confidence.

“Providing financial incentives such as grants, subsidies, tax credits, or rebates can help offset the costs and risks associated with adaptation investments for private businesses and investors. These incentives can be targeted towards specific sectors, projects, or activities that contribute to climate resilience-building efforts, such as infrastructure upgrades, ecosystem restoration, or sustainable land management practices. [...] The Scottish Government can collaborate with private investors, businesses, and non-profit organisations to co-finance and co-manage adaptation initiatives, sharing risks and responsibilities while maximising the impact and efficiency of investment efforts.” – (Individual)

### **Regulatory framework for adaptation investment**

Another frequent theme was related to the regulatory framework for investment in adaptation action. Respondents highlighted the importance of effective and clear regulatory requirements to support investment into adaptation action that will ensure positive outcomes and address greenwashing practices. They also pointed out that public sector procurement and contracts can play a significant role in promoting investment in adaptation action. For instance, public sector contracts could include clauses requiring actions from potential suppliers that promote adaptation action and community benefits. At the same time, respondents considered it important for the Scottish Government to decrease bureaucracy, simplify procedures, and offer more flexibility to potential investors to incentivise adaptation action.

“Private investment in adaptation measures can be achieved by greater integration of adaptation and resilience into requirements. This can be done through legislation, but other options are also available such as the use of standards and conformity assessment. Procurement also has a role to play.” – (Organisation)

“Be more flexible in terms of criteria and delivery deadlines for grant funding.” – (Organisation)

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<sup>7</sup> Proposed options included Grant funding schemes, Blended finance models, Open data platform and industry-led common metrics, and Mainstreaming adaptation.

## **Disagreement with government incentives for private investment**

A further theme was expressed by respondents who disagreed with the Scottish Government incentivising private investment in adaptation action. Respondents who mentioned this theme expressed doubts over the need for additional incentives and claimed that this was not part of the government's role. Some respondents also questioned the benefits of offering such incentives, given potential risks of fraud in the private sector. Some respondents expressed their doubts about the Scottish Government's ability and willingness to implement such incentivising policies.

“I do not support any private sector involvement nor the provision of incentives. This is unnecessary spending which diverts valuable resources from the provision of already under resourced public services.” – (Individual)

## **Need for additional financial incentives**

Another theme concerned the need for additional financial incentives to the ones described in the Adaptation Plan. The suggested incentives were either related to taxation, green bonds or included proposals for an overall investment plan to sit alongside SNAP3. For instance, respondents proposed tax credits or rebates as well as green finance initiatives.

“Promoting green finance initiatives such as green bonds, climate funds, or impact investment funds can channel private capital towards adaptation projects and climate-resilient infrastructure.” – (Individual)

“The Scottish Government could support investment by introducing incentives (financial and/or fiscal) for investors or by sharing the risk through direct investment in technology developers.” – (Organisation)

Additional themes included the need for rewards and a compelling narrative around the necessity of private investment and the benefits that this entails for businesses and communities. Moreover, it was recommended to properly inform and educate potential investors on climate risks and the need for investment in adaptation.

**Question 23:** The proposed approach to monitoring and evaluating progress of the Adaptation Plan is set out below. Do you agree with the proposed approach to monitoring adaptation?

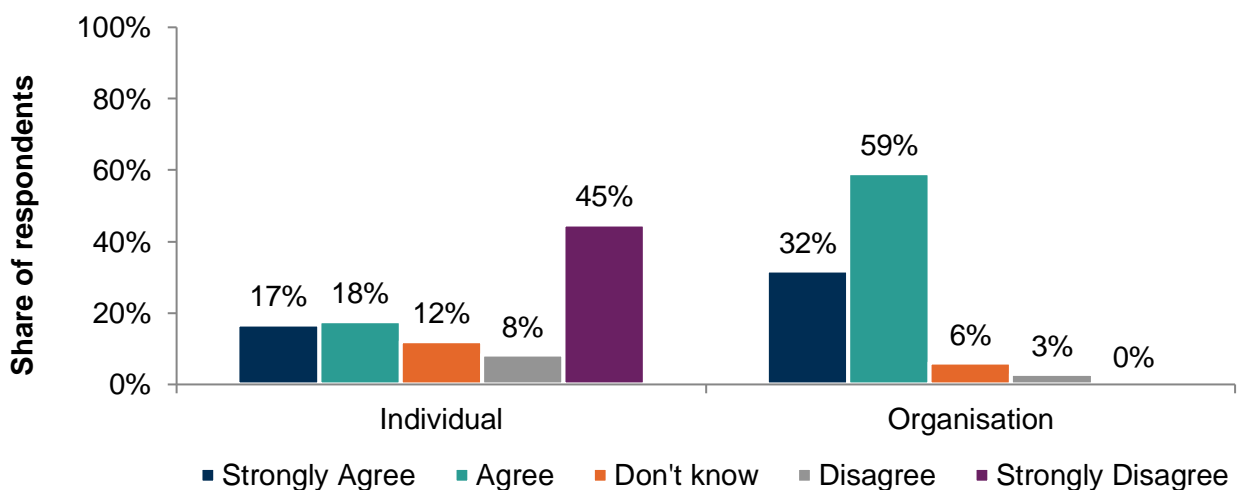
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Don't know
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

There were 173 responses to the question out of 240 respondents to the overall consultation. Organisations were more likely to report agreeing with the proposed approach to monitoring and evaluation of the Adaptation Plan progress than individuals who responded to the consultation.

- 35% of individuals either agreed or strongly agreed, in comparison to 91% of organisations.
- 53% of individuals disagreed or strongly disagreed in addition to 3% of organisations disagreeing or strongly disagreeing. 12% of individuals and 6% of organisations did not know.

Among detailed organisation types, 90% of local authorities either agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed approach. 100% of community groups agreed or strongly agreed, in addition to 91% of trade unions or business support organisations that either agreed or strongly agreed. Unanimous support for the proposed approach to monitoring and evaluation was expressed among the few organisations responding in the fields of nature and biodiversity, health, energy, and the built environment. Detailed breakdowns can be found in Table 5 in Appendix A.

**Figure 7: Responses to Question 23 by respondent type (n=173)**



**Question 24:** Do you have suggestions of data or indicators that could be used to track adaptation outcomes in Scotland?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 113.

### Support for proposed outcomes and objectives

The most frequent theme expressed the respondents' general support for the proposed outcomes and objectives as described in the Adaptation Plan. These outcomes and objectives have been categorised in the Adaptation Plan into five main outcomes (Nature Connects; Communities; Public Services and Infrastructure; Economy, Industry, and Business; International Action). Many respondents who mentioned this theme expressed their overall support without elaborating further. Nature Connects and Public Services and Infrastructure were the most commonly mentioned categories among respondents.

*“We fully support the proposed adaptation monitoring and evaluation framework set out in the consultation document. This is essential to track the effectiveness and efficiency of SNAP3 and to understand how the Scottish Government and partners can drive and accelerate change.”*

### Socio-economic indicators to measure local adaption outcomes

Apart from explicitly discussing the five outcome areas as proposed in the draft Adaptation Plan, respondents also suggested various indicators at different levels of detail. This theme included a wide range of socio-economic indicators to track adaptation outcomes for local communities. Respondents brought up health and wellbeing indicators such as morbidity and mortality rates, incidence of heat-related illnesses or deaths due to extreme weather events, as well as general health outcomes. Additionally, respondents mentioned other indicators such as business performance, indicators related to the cost-effectiveness and performance of adaptation/ environmental projects, various broader economic indicators (GDP, unemployment etc.), and consumer behaviour data.

*“Data on social and economic impacts, such as employment rates, income levels, poverty rates, food security, [...] can provide insights into the socio-economic consequences of climate change and the effectiveness of adaptation strategies. [...] Monitoring indicators of health and well-being, such as morbidity and mortality rates (winter and summer), incidence of heat-related illnesses or deaths due to extreme weather events.” – (Organisation)*

*“Public Services and Infrastructure: Reduction in reported disruption (to show increased resilience) to public transport systems; Reduction in financial losses arising from disruption; Increase access to electric charge points.” – (Organisation)*

### Proposal for environmental indicators

An additional common theme was related to various environmental indicators. Most respondents proposed indicators related to environmental and biodiversity quality such as natural habitat conditions and the number of species in adapted areas. Some respondents also highlighted the importance of indicators related to land use



and protection status. Some respondents mentioned indicators related to weather patterns and climate hazards.

“1) protected sites; 2) the restoration of degraded ecosystems, and 3) the success of action for specific species and habitats at particular risk from climate change.” – (Organisation)

“Nature Connects - Connectivity is an action indicator; an asset grade outcome indicator should be used to track biodiversity directly. This could be achieved by linking Nature Connects with investment in new technological monitoring schemes (e.g. eDNA, camera/audio traps, space-based observation).” – (Organisation)

### **Reporting, monitoring and evaluating adaptation action**

Another frequent theme included respondents' views on reporting, monitoring, and evaluating adaptation actions. Respondents highlighted the importance of evaluating adaptation actions as well as the need for clear guidelines and definitions of what a successful adaptation plan should be. Another point made was that the monitoring data demands should not be onerous. Moreover, they proposed the use of both quantitative and qualitative indicators. This would enable reporting to function in a complementary way. Some respondents referenced the timings of measurements especially, recommending that they should be set in a way that will allow for effective and accurate evaluation.

“We should seek to improve the quality of returns through this mechanism rather than creating additional reporting methods which could create an undue burden on institutions. We would welcome a clear outline from the Scottish Government on what success delivering the objectives of the adaptation plan looks like.” – (Organisation)

Additional themes included indicators related to housing and property conditions, transportation and use of vehicles, among others. Some respondents expressed their disagreement with measuring adaptation outcomes which they deemed unnecessary.

## Impact assessments

This section focuses on “Impact assessments”, evaluating the possible impacts of the Adaptation Plan on individuals, businesses, and communities. Respondents were asked about the Plan's impact on protected characteristics and measures to address inequalities, along with its impact on socio-economic disadvantage, children's rights, and island communities.

### Summary of key findings:

- Recommendations were made to enhance positive impacts or mitigate negative consequences of the Adaptation Plan on individuals/groups with protected characteristics through increased community engagement and communication. Collaboration with relevant organisations, businesses and institutions was also encouraged. Some participants suggested that no additional measures should be taken, expressing concerns about financial costs.
- Mixed viewpoints were discussed by respondents on the impact of the Plan on children’s rights. Respondents noted the impacts of climate change on children’s quality of life, particularly their mental health. However, respondents also acknowledged that the Plan may lead to a safer living environment and improve overall standards of living. Particular attention was paid to the importance of education in schools as well as incorporating community and expert insights into policies affecting future generations.
- Diverging viewpoints were also expressed regarding the impact of the Plan on Island communities. Concerns were raised over the state of Island infrastructure, such as ferry connectivity, prompting calls for prioritising investments into climate-resilient infrastructures and services. Along with infrastructure investment, increased tailored community engagement and participation were widely recommended.

**Question 25:** What, if any, impacts do you think this Adaptation Plan will have on groups/individuals who share protected characteristics?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 111.

### Limited or no impacts on groups sharing protected characteristics

The most frequently mentioned theme was the view that the Adaptation Plan will have limited or no impacts on groups/individuals who share protected characteristics. Respondents emphasised that the proposed Adaptation Plan would have the same consequences on individuals regardless of whether they have protected characteristics.

“Individuals and groups of people with Protected Characteristics are unlikely to be impacted in any way more than the residual population.” – (Organisation)

## Recognising social and health-related vulnerabilities

Highlighting a different viewpoint, another set of respondents raised a theme recognising the wide variety of social and health-related vulnerabilities that merit consideration in adaptation planning. Respondents emphasised that certain groups would be disproportionately vulnerable to climate change due to pre-existing social inequalities and therefore, the Plan should ensure adaptation measures address their specific needs through the delivery of public services. Respondents expressed particular concerns about the impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing. They called for the Plan to consider health impacts and include interventions to protect vulnerable populations.

“Climate change is known to amplify existing inequalities experienced by people and groups within our communities. Therefore, we support additional consideration being given to those groups and individuals who share protected characteristics.” – (Organisation)

## Financial impacts and access to support resources

An additional frequent theme was the perceived financial impact of the Plan alongside access to support resources. Respondents expressed concerns about the economic impact of adaptation measures, including potential financial burdens. Particularly, this included concerns about the barriers faced by marginalised communities in accessing adaptation funding, infrastructures, information, and decision-making processes. They recognised that broader systems of structural inequalities may hinder certain groups from effectively adapting to changes.

“I think those with disabilities and those from ethnic minorities will have a harder time adapting to the changes. Primarily I think this will be a financial barrier, such as with disabled people who are more likely to be unemployed and therefore won't have the money to make these changes, or for those people who are an ethnic minority, there will be a huge wealth gap from decades of racism which caused a huge wealth disparity.” – (Individual)

Additional themes included political considerations such as recognising the importance of good communication with communities to build an understanding of need for adaptation measures, alongside scepticism about political priorities in favour of the interests of marginalised groups. Some respondents also expressed scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself.

**Question 26:** In respect to protected characteristics, what, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 69.

## Engagement with groups/individuals from protected characteristics

The most common theme was the importance of further engagement and communication with groups/individuals sharing protected characteristics. Respondents called for greater community engagement, emphasising the

importance of collecting information on the lived experience of individuals and groups with protected characteristics and using these insights to collaboratively design adaptation measures. They also proposed increased collaboration with relevant organisations, businesses, and institutions such as universities.

“A focus on gathering insights about the lived experience of people with protected characteristics, and co-designing adaptation measures based on this, would be the most effective way to lessen negative impacts of the Adaptation Plan.” – (Organisation)

### **No additional measures to mitigate negative impacts of Adaptation Plan**

Another common theme was the view that no additional measures should be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan. This viewpoint was often expressed alongside arguments against the overall implementation of the Plan, expressing concerns about its financial cost. Other respondents suggested tackling the overarching systems of structural inequality, beyond the focus on specific measures and the Plan itself.

### **Support for groups/individuals sharing protected characteristics**

A frequent theme was improving policy development and support measures for groups/individuals sharing protected characteristics who are most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Respondents recommended specific measures such as financial support and greater information provision for individuals and groups sharing protected characteristics. They also called for the broader integration of equality and diversity measures across all aspects of the Adaptation Plan including policy development and program design.

“Financial considerations in particular to those that fall below the national average income. More targeted support for those that need help with housing and energy costs. They are inexplicably linked poor housing insulation and inefficient heating systems need serious upgrading.” – (Individual)

“In line with just transition outcomes, the plan should consider wider equality and human rights across protected characteristics and identify risks and planning for long-term resilience against climate risks.” – (Organisation)

**Question 27:** What, if any, impacts do you think the proposed Adaptation Plan will have on inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 114.

### **Negative impacts on populations facing socio-economic disadvantage**

The most frequent theme was different examples of potentially negative impacts of the Adaptation Plan on populations facing socio-economic disadvantage. Respondents expressed concerns that the Adaptation Plan could likely increase inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage because it could deteriorate poverty and wealth gaps in Scotland. In particular, some respondents were concerned that populations facing socio-economic disadvantage could be disproportionately impacted because they may struggle to access adaptation

benefits and services like insurance, emergency assistance, and infrastructure improvements. It was also mentioned that affluent communities could have greater access to resources, information, and decision-making power than less affluent areas. In addition, some respondents felt that the Adaptation Plan could lead to reduced access to services and policy trade-offs for vulnerable communities due to competing demands for funding between adaptation and other social policies (healthcare, education, public transport, poverty alleviation etc.).

“The increasing cost to deliver services by both public and private sector organisations due to climate change may see these costs being passed onto those who are socio-economic disadvantaged in society.” – (Organisation)

“Socio-economically disadvantaged populations may face barriers to accessing adaptation benefits and services, such as insurance coverage, emergency assistance, and infrastructure improvements.” – (Individual)

### **Positive impacts of the Adaptation Plan on disadvantaged groups**

Another common theme was the expectation of positive impacts of the Adaptation Plan on populations facing socio-economic disadvantage. Respondents mentioned that the Adaptation Plan has the potential to reduce inequality and socio-economic disadvantage if implemented appropriately. They argued that since climate change disproportionately impacts the most disadvantaged groups, a successfully implemented Adaptation Plan could mitigate this inequality. Some respondents specifically mentioned that a successful Adaptation Plan could improve wellbeing and access to services for socio-economically disadvantaged populations, increase environmental resilience, and promote economic growth and social cohesion.

“In addition to direct weather impacts, climate change acts as a ‘risk multiplier’, interacting with other trends to make it even more difficult to address issues such as poverty, disease and food insecurity. [...] An Adaptation Plan that effectively tackles the negative impacts of our changing climate will help to reduce vulnerabilities experienced by these groups.” – (Organisation)

### **Prioritising the protection of socio-economically disadvantaged groups**

Another frequent theme was the need to prioritise the protection of socio-economically disadvantaged groups from negative impacts of climate change and to avoid disproportional costs for low-income households resulting from the Plan. Some respondents also highlighted access to certain services (education, healthcare, etc.) and the protection of children and young people as priorities to ensure the protection of disadvantaged groups.

“We should do all in our power to protect and support people, especially children in this category during this difficult time of transition. We should be aiming towards a more equal society and an adequate income for all.” – (Individual)

Additional themes expressed the view of some respondents that there will be no significant impacts on inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage. A small number of respondents also claimed that the Scottish Government should not focus on the potential impacts of the Adaptation Plan, while some respondents expressed scepticism towards the intentions or the effectiveness of the Adaptation Plan.



**Question 28:** In respect to inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage, what, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 83.

### **Community involvement and creation of local opportunities**

The most frequent theme was greater community involvement and the creation of local economic opportunities in the adaptation process in order to lessen negative impacts caused by socio-economic disadvantage. To address such inequalities, respondents emphasised the significance of consulting with all residents and actively involving communities early in the Plan's development, particularly in components affecting socio-economic disparities. Climate Action Hubs were discussed as one way of deepening this engagement. Respondents also recognised the need to strengthen local job opportunities in the face of climate change to reduce inequality and socio-economic disadvantages. Suggestions included focusing on measures that safeguard or create new local jobs, support local businesses and facilitate retrofitting in businesses. Additionally, respondents highlighted the importance of improving public transport and other public services to strengthen connectivity for the workforce and to maintain economic stability. These measures were seen as a way of reducing socio-economic disadvantage and promoting a more inclusive and equitable adaptation strategy.

“Engagement with people with lived experience of inequality and socio-economic disadvantage (beyond traditional consultation exercises) would help to achieve more positive outcomes and reduce potential negative impacts. This could perhaps be looked at through local Climate Action Hubs.” – (Organisation)

“Closer working with the lived experience to ensure when these situations arise, measures and solutions can be put in place to mitigate against the negative impacts on those most affected.” – (Organisation)

### **Disagreement with the draft Adaptation Plan**

Another frequently discussed theme was disagreement with the draft Plan. Respondents often did not explain their views of how mitigations to socio-economic disadvantage could be achieved through the Plan specifically. Respondents called for the Plan to be abandoned, in some cases suggesting that resources should instead be directed to other pressing societal issues such as the NHS, policing, agriculture or other initiatives.

### **Consulting socio-economically disadvantaged groups**

Another frequent theme was the importance of informing and consulting socio-economically disadvantaged groups specifically regarding the next steps of the Plan. Respondents felt that clear and proactive communication would help ensure that individuals from different backgrounds are given the opportunity to participate in climate adaptation planning and efforts. Respondents emphasised the importance of targeted public outreach and communication on the implications of climate change for individuals and businesses. Some respondents specifically

suggested engaging more deeply in consultation with communities who are adversely affected by inequality and socio-economic disadvantage to understand their views and inputs before proceeding.

“Conduct an equality impact assessment, involve diverse communities in decision-making, and tailor support programs to specific socio-economic groups. Educate stakeholders about climate risks and adaptation options while emphasising inclusivity and diversity.” – (Organisation)

“Government communication on all of this is really poor. You are not on boarding your citizens at all levels. People are not being engaged by the people that represent them.” – (Individual)

### **Financial support to reduce inequality**

An additional frequently discussed theme was the potential for financial support to reduce socio-economic inequality. Respondents discussed various forms of financial support, such as grants, subsidies, and payment support for individuals and businesses. They also suggested taxes and fines for noncompliance with sustainability practices, particularly among businesses. The revenue generated was then recommended to be used to support disadvantaged communities with adaptation efforts, especially those unable to afford home improvements such as retrofits or renewable technologies.

“Grants for those that can't afford adaptation measures.” - (Individual)

“Measures to strengthen positive impacts on socio-economically disadvantaged groups include ensuring that adaptation investments contribute to job creation in these communities, providing affordable access to climate-resilient housing and infrastructure, and offering subsidies or financial assistance for transitioning to greener practices.” - (Individual)

**Question 29:** What, if any, impact do you think the Adaptation Plan will have on children's rights and wellbeing?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 73.

### **Positive impact of Adaptation Plan on children**

The most frequent theme was the positive impact of the Plan on children's quality of life and wellbeing. Respondents explained that while climate change would likely have negative impacts on children, the Adaptation Plan had the potential to mitigate against such negative impacts and instead positively contribute to children's quality of life and wellbeing. Elaborating in detail, respondents expressed concerns about the impacts of climate change on mental health, anticipating a decline in overall mental wellbeing among children, including heightened levels of stress and anxiety. In response, respondents emphasised that the Plan may instead lead to a safer living environment, promoting a healthier climate and therefore, enhancing general standards of living for children. It was also suggested that climate policies would improve children's nutrition, leading to overall improvements in children's health. Furthermore, respondents discussed shifts in future career prospects, with some anticipating positive outcomes such as new job opportunities for future generations.



“Climate anxiety and fear of environmental changes can impact children’s mental health. Ensuring access to nature-rich environments supports children’s physical and mental wellbeing.” – (Organisation)

“The Adaptation Plan could significantly impact children's rights and wellbeing positively by creating safer, more resilient environments. However, there's a need to ensure that children's voices are heard in adaptation planning and that their unique needs and rights are considered, particularly in education and health services.” – (Individual)

### Concerns around inequality affecting children

Another common theme was concerns surrounding increased socio-economic inequality affecting children. Respondents expressed concerns that the Plan would exacerbate inequalities, particularly between families who were able to afford future adaptation changes such as home retrofits, renewable technology and fuel-efficient vehicles, and those who cannot. Additionally, respondents discussed anticipated challenges related to fuel and household heating, highlighting potential challenges faced by disadvantaged families.

“Children, particularly those living in poverty or in marginalised communities, may be disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, food insecurity, and displacement. Inadequate housing, lack of access to clean water and sanitation, and limited social protection measures can exacerbate children's vulnerability and undermine their rights and well-being.” – (Individual)

**Question 30:** What, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan on children's rights and wellbeing?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 59.

### Climate change education benefitting child wellbeing

The most frequent theme was respondents’ suggestion to increase educational efforts on climate change and its relevance to child wellbeing. This was seen to strengthen the positive impacts and lessen the negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan on children’s rights and wellbeing. Respondents highlighted the importance of educating children about climate change in schools and its relevance for the future. Suggestions were made around teaching healthy nutrition in schools, while increasing access to, and affordability of nutritious, healthy foods for children. Respondents also emphasised the need for community and expert input into such educational and health-related policies affecting future generations, calling for structured open debates and knowledge sharing to inform policymakers.

“Education has a large part to play in ensuring that our children have access to environmental information and learning to ensure that we have climate knowledgeable citizens, both now and in the future. There must be cognisance that the information given to children must not add to the negative impact on mental health due to the climate crisis. Suggest that more emphasis should be

given within the draft Adaptation Plan that, in all local authorities, Learning for Sustainability should be an educational priority.” – (Organisation)

### Opposition to the Adaptation Plan

Another common theme was opposition to the Plan, with recommendations to use funds for other areas of youth support instead. Respondents called to abandon the Plan and instead reallocate resources to areas such as youth clubs, sports facilities and affordable housing. Some respondents also emphasised that the Plan would have minimal or no impact on children’s rights and wellbeing.

“Drop the plan, grow the economy. Ensure that there will be well paid jobs and affordable housing for them when they grow up.” – (Individual)

### Investing into children’s health and wellbeing

An additional frequent theme was the importance of investing into children’s health and wellbeing as part of the Plan’s approach to strengthening positive impacts on children’s rights. Respondents emphasised the importance of investing in and developing public and social health institutions to ensure children’s long-term health and nutrition. Additionally, respondents called for the creation of safer, well-maintained and accessible green spaces for children to enjoy and connect with nature.

“Make access to health affordable food and healthy green space available to all.” – (Individual)

Additional themes mentioned less frequently included the importance of the implementation of climate measures on adaptation and mitigation without delay.

**Question 31:** What, if any, impacts do you think the Adaptation Plan will have on Island communities?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 68.

### Concerns for infrastructure resilience on islands

The most common theme was concerns for the resilience of island infrastructure which may be affected by climate change, particularly travel and electricity supply. Respondents raised concerns about the impact of climate change on ferry connectivity, highlighting issues with frequency, reliability, and cost of ferry services. Respondents also discussed the need for maintenance and connectivity upgrades, noting complications with infrastructure upgrades in addition to the maintenance of electrical grids and underwater cables. Additionally, maintaining a steady supply of goods and necessary services was raised as a significant concern which the Adaptation Plan should offer responses to.

“Island communities may face challenges in maintaining and upgrading critical infrastructure, such as transportation networks, utilities, and communication systems, in the face of climate change impacts. The Adaptation Plan may need to prioritise investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and services that can

withstand extreme weather events and environmental hazards, while also ensuring equitable access for all residents.” – (Individual)

“It remains to be seen how the ferries currently on order will affect the situation. Lessons could be taken from solutions already enacted in neighbouring countries, especially Norway and the Faroes. Their solution (tunnels, bridges, sophisticated modern ferries) should be the way forward but they depend on significant public investment.” – (Individual)

### **Challenges to livelihood of Island communities**

Another common theme was economic challenges affecting the livelihoods of Island communities as a result of climate change. Respondents discussed the impacts of increased costs for island communities, such as higher expenses for shipping goods from the mainland as a consequence of supply chain disruptions caused by changing climate patterns such as extreme weather. They also highlighted the potential effects on their livelihoods, noting changes such as increased travel costs and increased living costs as a consequence of reduced consumer choice. This was understood to limit opportunities for islanders and negatively impact their quality of life.

“Energy cost increases will increase the cost of transport, food, livestock feed and all other imports; heating and modes of transport will be un-affordable to many Islanders; Restrictions on livestock farming and other activities associated with CO2 reduction will severely impact if not destroy the bedrock of island economies; Tourism, often central to island economies, will be reduced.” – (Individual)

### **Impact of extreme weather on Island communities**

A further theme was the direct impact of extreme weather events on Island communities. Respondents expressed concerns about the impact of rising sea levels on Island communities, particularly the consequences for coastal erosion, coastal infrastructure, and buildings close to shores. Calls were made for the Plan to address these challenges directly and proactively.

“Climate change is likely to have more direct impacts on these communities through storm damage to buildings, land and infrastructure, which the adaptation plan will need to address.” – (Individual)

### **Community empowerment and self-reliance**

Another common theme was the potential positive impact of the Adaptation Plan on Island communities’ sense of community empowerment and self-reliance. Some respondents discussed how adaptation measures would empower communities by fostering pride and ownership of local strategies and resources. Respondents highlighted that local residents’ needs could be considered more effectively if community cohesion was strengthened throughout the adaptation process.

*“Islands have an advantage in that with smaller numbers in the community, they can formulate a plan which everyone can benefit from.” – (Individual)*

*“From [what] I have observed, island communities are more likely to care and/or respond, perhaps because they are more mutually concerned and enjoy an enhanced sense of community.” – (Organisation)*

Further themes included broader negative views, often without specification of anticipated impacts of the Plan on Island communities. Other respondents expressed generally positive views of expected impacts without further specifying examples or impacts.

**Question 32:** What, if any, measures could be taken to strengthen any positive impacts or lessen any negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan on Island communities?

The total number of valid responses to this question was 47.

### **Need for further infrastructure investment**

The most frequent theme was the need for further investment into infrastructure to strengthen positive impacts or lessen negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan on Island communities. Respondents expressed the need for improved and fuel-efficient ferry services, including investments in boats and ports, to reduce cancellations and delays during extreme weather events. In particular, respondents stressed the importance of future-proofing ports, roads, airfields, grids and networks to meet current demands as well as preparing for future needs.

*“Improved infrastructure in terms of smaller and more fuel efficient ferries. Significantly improved National Grid connectivity for investment in alternative sources of energy and use for their own local schemes.” – (Organisation)*

*“Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and prioritise maintenance to ensure reliable services during extreme weather events.” – (Organisation)*

### **Additional engagement and consultation with Island communities**

Another common theme was the importance of further engagement and consultation with Island communities to assess any positive or negative impacts of the draft Adaptation Plan. Respondents highlighted the need for more dialogue with Island residents during the development and implementation of the Plan in order to increase its chance of equitable success. Additionally, respondents discussed opportunities for empowerment and capacity building, such as providing resources to train local residents in necessary and in-demand skills, such as renewable technologies.

*“In developing the final SNAP there must be in-depth engagement with island communities to understand what they need and how the plan can support those needs. Engagement with communities should not end at the point of publication but be ongoing. To ensure that the plan is workable for island communities, regular discussion should take place to identify any negative impacts and how these can be resolved.” – (Organisation)*

*“Build the capacity of island communities to understand, assess, and respond to climate change impacts effectively. Provide training, technical assistance, and*

resources to enhance local knowledge, skills, and adaptive capacity.” – (Individual)

### **Financial support to strengthen positive impacts of Adaptation Plan**

One frequently discussed theme was the provision of financial support to strengthen positive impacts of the Plan on Island communities. Respondents highlighted the need for grants, subsidies, and funding opportunities to support Island communities with climate-friendly adaptations. Examples mentioned included subsidised travel for islanders and financial support for necessary adaptation measures.

“Providing dedicated funding and technical support for island-specific adaptation projects, alongside ensuring strong community involvement in decision-making, can mitigate potential negative impacts and leverage local knowledge for effective resilience-building.” – (Individual)

### **Tailored adaptation and place-based resilience plans**

Another frequent theme related to tailored, local and place-based adaptation and resilience plans, encompassing island-specific tailored strategies and plans. Respondents expressed a preference for the development of climate-resilient infrastructure specific to their local context. Suggestions were made that carrying out vulnerability and needs assessments could help with tailoring plans to local contexts and reduce the risk of costly replacements of unsuitable or insufficiently adaptable infrastructure in the future.

“Develop adaptation strategies that are specifically tailored to the unique vulnerabilities, strengths, and priorities of island communities. This may involve conducting comprehensive vulnerability assessments, engaging local stakeholders, and co-designing adaptation measures that address the specific climate change risks and challenges faced by island communities.” – (Individual)

# Summary of views from consultation workshops and unstructured email responses

The following section summarises the key themes raised by participants of 16 public consultation workshops, held by the Scottish Government alongside the written consultation analysed above. All workshops took place during the consultation period from 31<sup>st</sup> of January until 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2024. These events were tailored to varying audiences following two distinct purposes – either focussing on the lived and local experiences of members of the public with relation to climate change in Scotland, or on the technical policy detail of the SNAP3 involving stakeholders with interests across the Plan’s outcomes. The public workshops were organised across different areas of Scotland to ensure a wide-ranging geographical coverage. Specific workshops took place in Glasgow, South Uist, the Highlands, Angus, and Dumfries and Galloway. Technical workshops covered a range of topics across the five SNAP3 outcome areas – including on business considerations and adaptation finance, climate-resilient infrastructure, Just Transition and biodiversity.

The following sections outline the results from the thematic analysis of written reports from each workshop. This analysis aims to summarise the nature and scope of topics and respective suggestions discussed across all workshops. The following analysis also synthesises views from 12 unstructured email responses submitted by stakeholders to the consultation’s dedicated inbox.

## Community wellbeing

A common theme highlighted across public workshops and unstructured emails was the importance of safeguarding community wellbeing and the need for careful management of any potential social impacts of climate change. All workshops with members of the public raised concerns about the impact of climate change on individuals’ mental and physical health and wellbeing, for example, the stress and anxiety caused by extreme weather events or the impact of heatwaves and poor air quality on physical health. Participants and respondents also discussed concerns about the financial burden of the impacts of climate change, such as damage to properties from flooding. Such financial barriers were deemed particularly challenging for groups from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds who may lack the resources to cope with these impacts.

In response, public workshop insights emphasised the need to support community-based solutions that are tailored to local needs and conditions. Attendees to several public events also stressed the importance of further community engagement to ensure a diverse set of voices are heard. Workshops emphasised the importance of including marginalised individuals in the co-design, delivery, and implementation of all policies and procedures to create effective and equitable solutions.



*“Ageing and isolated populations not able to cope with the impacts of flooding and heat. Health implications associated with water and/or lack of water increased in these populations.” - (Lived experience/place-based workshop)*

*“Include disabled people [...] in the co-design, delivery and implementation of all policies and practices relating to mitigating and adapting to climate change, and resource their participation.” - (Lived experience/place-based workshop)*

## **Challenges faced by local businesses and employment**

An additional theme highlighted across workshops, particularly across technical workshops, was the challenges faced by local businesses. Participants in technical workshops expressed concerns that businesses often prioritised short-term financial goals over long-term climate resilience. Additionally, businesses were understood to possess limited knowledge about potential management strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. While larger businesses sought more information on general trends and cascading risks posed by climate change, smaller businesses would welcome more information on risks and adaptation actions specific to their business and were easy to implement.

*“There is a lack of a clear narrative of risks for different types and sizes of business, and how these risks can actually be managed by them, individually or collectively.” - (Technical workshop)*

## **Proposed solutions for businesses’ resilience**

Another common theme highlighted across technical workshops was proposed solutions for supporting businesses and the economy, in the context of a changing climate. Participants in technical workshops suggested that the Scottish Government should provide more accessible guidance tailored to different types of businesses. Participants in technical workshops also called for effective monitoring and assessment procedures to track businesses’ progress in meeting climate goals or implementing operational changes. Additionally, calls were voiced across public and technical workshops for the development of education on adaptation to be integrated within the school curriculum and for vocational training to prepare the current and future workforce for a climate-resilient future.

*“For medium and large businesses, the lack of appropriate information and data to support decision-making on adaptation measures is a key barrier. It’s much easier to find information about e.g. carbon lifecycle assessments of products or the financial implications of installing solar panels, compared to a cost-benefit analysis of an adaptation intervention.” - (Technical workshop)*

## **Agriculture and food production**

A frequently discussed theme was challenges and proposed solutions related to agriculture and food production. While workshops with members of the public focused on perceived challenges, technical workshops focused more heavily on solutions to address food production challenges. Public workshops highlighted concerns regarding the limited support available for smaller agricultural businesses, which were understood to struggle more with responding to the impacts of extreme

weather. Workshop discussions with members of the public also raised the impact of extreme weather events on both land quality and crop viability. To address these issues, participants in technical workshops suggested promoting a greater focus on both local and diverse food systems. According to attendees, this could involve increasing public awareness of the benefits of sourcing foods locally, diversifying crop types and using marginal lands. Technical workshops also recommended improving local procurement practices by increasing opportunities for local authorities to procure food locally to strengthen the regional and local food system, as well as to prevent reliance on international supply chains, which may be exposed to greater climate-related shocks due to their greater complexity and length.

*“However, ongoing climate change means there is also an increasing need to consider climate resilience as much as yield when choosing what crops to grow on that land.” - (Technical workshop)*

*“Scottish Government should ensure that Procurement (Scotland) Regulations are revised as a matter of urgency, to take into account the different national and international situation post-Brexit, and to realise the ambitions of the Scottish Government Good Food Nation Plan.” - (Technical workshop)*

## **Biodiversity and environmental degradation**

Biodiversity and environmental degradation were also commonly raised across both technical and public workshops as well as emails, highlighting risks directly resulting from climate change. Participants outlined the need for proactive measures by the Scottish Government especially. The decline in biodiversity observed across Scotland was also raised as a significant concern across public workshops. Participants in technical workshops discussed issues of competing land usage where land needed for conservation or climate adaptation purposes is often used for agriculture or urban development.

In response, public workshops emphasised the importance of nature-based solutions given they were seen to provide long-term benefits such as enhancing biodiversity, improving water management, and reducing urban heat. Participants in technical workshops especially recommended improved monitoring and accountability structures, with clear biodiversity metrics, to ensure that progress in biodiversity conservation can be tracked and managed effectively.

*“Several people commented the grassy/green areas in their neighbourhoods were badly affected by hotter, drier weather in the summer. It was also noted that trees and shrubs were not as healthy as they used to be and this had a negative knock-on effect on the birds and wildlife which relied on them for habitat and food.” - (Lived experience/place-based workshop)*

*“Integrating nature-based solutions into nature networks to help connect protected areas. Riparian habitat is an excellent focal point for connectivity.” - (Technical workshop)*

## Public services and infrastructure

An additional theme highlighted in workshops was disruptions and necessary improvements to public services and infrastructure as a result of climate change. Workshops with members of the public raised concerns over disruptions to transport infrastructure due to weather events, leading to delays. Public workshop participants also expressed concerns about increases in power cuts during extreme weather conditions.

Attendees of technical workshops emphasised the need for continued investment into improving infrastructure in preparation for future climate change impacts, and ‘cascading risks’ across different infrastructure networks. Technical workshop participants also suggested further long-term planning and information sharing amongst infrastructure providers such as the implementation of early warning systems. These systems would allow operators to communicate potential infrastructural issues and coordinate responses.

*“Public transport is already limited in this area and very unreliable due to last minute cancellations because of weather events.” - (Lived experience/place-based workshop)*

*“Shared infrastructure early warning system – if one operator believes or knows there is or will be an issue with their assets, this should be made [known] to all other infrastructure operators, who may depend on that asset or service, or who may face related consequences from it. This can then support more proactive support to the most vulnerable communities.” - (Technical workshop)*

## Vulnerable groups

The specific barriers and disproportionate impacts faced by vulnerable groups as a result of climate change were discussed across public and technical workshops. Participants discussed that vulnerable individuals and groups faced a disproportionate burden from climate change impacts, for example the elderly, children, disabled people and those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. These individuals and groups were also seen as facing particular barriers to accessing resources such as information, financial aid, and physical support.

The importance of equitable climate adaptation was highlighted particularly across public workshops, with a focus on ensuring that groups receive the necessary support. For example, it was considered crucial to account for additional costs faced by vulnerable groups, leading to calls for grants and subsidised schemes to adopt climate adaptations and mitigation. In addition, improvements to public services were recommended by attendees of public workshops, citing the state of healthcare, education, social care and infrastructure. For example, concerns were raised about the shortage of care workers for the elderly who would struggle to cope with impacts of flooding and extreme heat.

*“Older people with disabilities also more [...] complex to adapt, and to evacuate and support in extreme weather events, which means that additional support is*

*required to ensure they are treated equitably in engagements and the transition.”*  
*- (Technical workshop)*

*“Many healthcare services are not able to meet the needs of disabled people due to inflexibility and/or inaccessibility.” - (Lived experience/place-based workshop)*

## Conclusions from written, email and workshop responses to consultation

The Scottish Government invited views from a wide range of stakeholders and members of the public on the draft SNAP3, seeking inputs on the ambition and interventions presented in the draft policy plan for 2024-29. Consultation was undertaken through several formats – i) an online consultation consisting of 32 questions, hosted via Citizen Space, ii) a dedicated email inbox for structured and unstructured email responses for stakeholders to submit views on SNAP3, and iii) a series of workshops, inviting the public and technical experts to engage in dialogue over the proposed plan.

Responses discussing **Lived and Local Experiences** highlighted the extent and nature of adverse economic impacts, including rising costs and frequent disruptions to key services and supply chains. Across the written consultation and workshops, respondents emphasised the direct consequences of more frequent extreme weather events, resulting in the loss of native wildlife and decreased resilience of natural ecosystems. Declines in biodiversity across Scotland were raised as a particular concern in workshops with members of the public. To address these issues, responses encouraged the Scottish Government to prioritise building greater climate resilience. This included improving transport and water infrastructure resilience as well as reinforcing coastal and flood defences. Additionally, it was suggested that updated guidance and regulations should be prioritised by the Scottish Government to encourage all households to build greater resilience.

For **Outcome One: Nature Connects**, the majority of written consultation responses supported increasing trees and green spaces in built-up places for flood resilience. Similarly high levels of support were voiced for restoring forests and peatlands. Written consultation responses also stressed the importance of waterway and coastal management, in addition to the prioritisation of integrated urban nature networks. Suggested improvements for blue and green spaces included improved ecosystem management at the local level, the introduction of more native wildlife and plants, and the development and maintenance of accessible, user-friendly walkways to increase leisure opportunities. Biodiversity and environmental degradation were also commonly raised across technical and public workshops and stakeholder emails. Discussions across workshops highlighted the risks presented by climate change as well as the need for proactive measures by the Scottish Government to support the natural environment and biodiversity. Similar to written consultation responses, participants in public workshops emphasised the long-term benefits of nature-based solutions to challenges such as water management and reducing urban heat.

For **Outcome Two: Communities**, written consultation responses emphasised the importance of mobilising additional resources to help individuals and businesses adapt to climate change. Workshops with members of the public highlighted particular concerns about the impact of climate change on mental and physical

wellbeing, for example, the stress and anxiety caused by extreme weather events or the impact of heatwaves and poor air quality on physical health. Proposed measures to address these issues included providing financial support, incentives, and funding opportunities for climate adaptation. Respondents also stressed the significance of collaborative action within and between the public and private sectors to pool resources, share expertise, and foster innovation. Public workshop insights further stressed the need for community-based solutions and increased community engagement that are tailored to local needs and conditions. Attendees at several public events placed particular emphasis on supporting marginalised and vulnerable groups through inclusive community-based solutions and ensuring equitable participation in policy development.

For **Outcome Three: Public Services and Infrastructure**, written consultation responses expressed mixed views on the Climate Change Committee's advice to adapt to 2°C of warming and assess the risk for 4°C. While organisations were highly likely to agree with the advice, individuals expressed strong levels of disagreement. Those in agreement underscored the benefits of early adaptation to climate change, however, some respondents noted personal challenges in taking personal steps to adapt. Regarding further guidance and planning, a strong majority of organisations (97%) agreed that further guidance would be useful when making plans and investment decisions in their organisation or business, in contrast to 43% of individuals who would find this useful. Similarly, 96% of organisations in contrast to 42% of individuals agreed that an assessment of cascading risks from weather-related disruption to infrastructure would aid adaptation efforts. While some respondents acknowledged the importance of an assessment of cascading risks from climate, others expressed scepticism towards the notion of climate change itself, which influenced their views on the necessity of the assessment and overall Plan. Attendees of technical workshops emphasised the need for continued investment in improving infrastructure in preparation for future climate change impacts and 'cascading risks' across different infrastructure networks. Further suggestions were voiced to strengthen long-term planning and information sharing amongst infrastructure providers such as the implementation of early warning systems.

Focused on **Outcome Four: Economy, Business, and Industry**, businesses were understood to face challenges accessing advice and support on climate risks due to their limited resources and financial constraints. Respondents also noted that businesses prioritise financial incentives over long-term sustainability considerations. Similar concerns were expressed in technical workshops, highlighting an emphasis on short-term financial goals. Consultation respondents recognised the impacts of climate change on supply chains, both domestically and internationally, leading to shortages, delays, and growing financial costs. Respondents called for increased investment and incentives to support resilient supply chains along with greater support for local food production. Discussions on agriculture and food production were also common across both public and technical workshops, underscoring the need for more local and diverse food systems. This included increasing public awareness of the benefits of sourcing foods locally,



diversifying crop types and using marginal lands. Views on opportunities arising from climate change for business and innovation particularly centred on agriculture and energy technologies. Written consultation responses stressed the need for financial support, education, training, and knowledge sharing to enable businesses to take advantage of these opportunities. Across technical and public workshops, calls were made for the integration of climate adaptation education into the curriculum to prepare the current and future workforce for a climate-resilient future.

For **Outcome Five on International Action**, respondents called for increased financial and practical support from the Scottish Government to aid international communities affected by climate change. It was recommended that this support should include adaptation and resilience-building projects benefitting vulnerable communities. However, some respondents disagreed with this approach, suggesting that government efforts should prioritise domestic issues. Further calls were made for research into resilient infrastructure and environmental protection, particularly in areas such as water management techniques and sustainable agriculture. Additionally, respondents called for more education, knowledge-sharing and awareness surrounding the impacts of climate change internationally. There was minimal discussion of international action across public and technical workshops.

When considering SNAP3 **Enabling Factors**, written consultation responses identified several barriers to greater private investment in adaptation action. Economic barriers included insufficient returns on investment and the difficulty in acquiring the necessary upfront funds for adaptation projects. Policy-related barriers were also understood to impede investments, such as a lack of targeted and suitable regulatory, fiscal, or environmental policies. The majority of respondents expressed support for the four proposals outlined in the draft SNAP3, aimed at improving the conditions for greater private investment for adaptation. Notably, 91% of organisations in contrast to only 42% of individuals agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed approach to monitoring and evaluating progress of the Adaptation Plan. Respondents supported the proposed outcome areas and suggested using additional socio-economic measures, including health and wellbeing indicators such as mortality rates and heat-related illnesses. They also recommended environmental indicators to estimate environmental performance and the quality of biodiversity were also recommended. Participants in technical workshops emphasised the need for clear biodiversity metrics to ensure that progress in biodiversity conservation can be tracked and managed effectively.

Discussing questions around **Impact Assessments**, recommendations were made by consultation respondents to enhance positive impacts or mitigate negative consequences of the Adaptation Plan on individuals and groups with protected characteristics. These recommendations included increased community engagement, improved communication as well as collaboration with relevant organisations, businesses, and institutions. However, some participants suggested no additional measures should be taken, expressing concerns about the financial cost of the Plan as a whole. Mixed viewpoints were also raised in the consultation

on the Plan's impact on children's rights. Consultation respondents noted the impacts of climate change on children's quality of life, particularly their mental health. Respondents stressed that the Plan may lead to a safer living environment and improve overall standards of living. Throughout responses, a strong emphasis was placed on the importance of school education and incorporating community and expert insights into policies affecting future generations. Suggestions across workshops also included involving vulnerable individuals and groups in the co-design, delivery and implementation of all policies and practices related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Views diverged in written consultation responses on the impact of the Plan on Island communities. Concerns focused on the state of Island infrastructure, including ferry connectivity, prompting calls for prioritising investments into climate-resilient infrastructures and services. Additionally, consultation respondents expressed support for increased tailored community engagement and participation. Beyond the written consultation's focus on children and island communities, participants in public and technical workshops discussed concerns related to the elderly, disabled people and those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

Overall, clear differences could be detected between written responses from individuals and organisations, as well as between written consultation responses and workshop contributions across several areas. Individual respondents to the written consultation were frequently more critical of taking adaptation and mitigation action against climate change. In contrast, organisational respondents showed significant support towards the adaptation approaches outlined in the draft SNAP3, including monitoring, evaluation, and assessments on cascading risks from weather-related disruptions to infrastructure. Workshop insights primarily reflected participants' emphasis on the importance of community wellbeing and the benefits of community and nature-based solutions. Concerns were raised in workshops about the lack of climate resilience and adaptation strategies among local businesses and across the agricultural sector. These insights collectively underscore the importance for the Scottish Government to continue to consult diverse stakeholder groups throughout the implementation of SNAP3, as well as future National Adaptation Plans.

# Appendix A

## Breakdowns of quantitative questions by detailed respondent type

**Question 6: The draft Adaptation Plan sets out actions which will be taken to protect and restore nature. Which of the following actions proposed around protecting and restoring nature should the Scottish Government prioritise for a better adapted Scotland?**

**Table 1: Responses to Question 6 by detailed respondent type**

Detailed respondent type	More trees and green spaces <sup>8</sup>	More joined up natural habitats <sup>9</sup>	Managing pests and diseases <sup>10</sup>	Restoring forests and peatland	Reinforcing natural coastal barriers <sup>11</sup>	Other
Individual	101 (80%)	71 (56%)	41 (33%)	94 (75%)	86 (68%)	51 (40%)
Local Authority	19 (90%)	17 (81%)	16 (76%)	19 (90%)	16 (76%)	13 (62%)
Community group (including Community Councils, creative groups)	12 (86%)	11 (79%)	10 (71%)	14 (100%)	12 (86%)	7 (50%)
Academic, think tank or consultant	5 (83%)	5 (83%)	3 (50%)	5 (83%)	5 (83%)	4 (67%)
Trade union or business support including skills	9 (82%)	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	7 (64%)	5 (45%)	3 (27%)
Agriculture and Land Use	2 (67%)	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	3 (100%)
Built Environment	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
Energy Industry and Infrastructure	3 (60%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)	3 (60%)
Health	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	1 (25%)
Nature and Biodiversity	8 (67%)	10 (83%)	7 (58%)	8 (67%)	8 (67%)	12 (100%)
Other or not specified	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>164 (81%)</b>	<b>132 (65%)</b>	<b>95 (47%)</b>	<b>157 (77%)</b>	<b>141 (69%)</b>	<b>98 (48%)</b>

**Total number of respondents for this question = 203. Respondents were able to pick multiple options. The total respondent number is equal to the total of respondents that picked at least one of the options.**

<sup>8</sup> More trees and green spaces in built-up places for flood resilience and cooling.

<sup>9</sup> More joined-up natural habitats (“nature networks”).

<sup>10</sup> Managing pests and diseases which will be more prevalent with climate change.

<sup>11</sup> Reinforcing natural coastal barriers such as dunes.

**Question 10: Advice from the Climate Change Committee (the Scottish Government's independent advisors on Climate) is to adapt to 2°C of warming and assess the risk for 4°C. To what extent do you agree with this advice?**

**Table 2: Responses to Question 10 by detailed respondent type**

Detailed respondent type	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Individual	30 (25%)	15 (12%)	9 (7%)	67 (55%)
Local Authority	14 (67%)	6 (29%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)
Community group (including Community Councils, creative groups)	12 (71%)	5 (29%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Academic, think tank or consultant	5 (83%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Trade union or business support including skills	4 (36%)	6 (55%)	0 (0%)	1 (9%)
Agriculture and Land Use	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Built Environment	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Energy Industry and Infrastructure	3 (60%)	1 (20%)	0 (0%)	1 (20%)
Health	5 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Nature and Biodiversity	5 (62%)	3 (38%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other or not specified	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>80 (41%)</b>	<b>38 (19%)</b>	<b>10 (5%)</b>	<b>69 (35%)</b>

**Total number of respondents for this question = 197**

**Question 11: Would further guidance on future climate scenario(s) be useful when making plans and investment decisions?**

**Table 3: Responses to Question 11 by detailed respondent type**

Detailed respondent type	Yes	No
Individual	51 (43%)	67 (57%)
Local Authority	21 (100%)	0 (0%)
Community group (including Community Councils, creative groups)	17 (100%)	0 (0%)
Academic, think tank or consultant	7 (88%)	1 (12%)
Trade union or business support including skills	11 (100%)	0 (0%)
Agriculture and Land Use	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Built Environment	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Energy Industry and Infrastructure	5 (100%)	0 (0%)
Health	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Nature and Biodiversity	9 (100%)	0 (0%)
Other or not specified	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>126 (65%)</b>	<b>69 (35%)</b>

**Total number of respondents for this question = 195**

**Question 12: Would an assessment of “cascading” risks from weather-related disruptions to infrastructure help you or your organisation to adapt?**

**Table 4: Responses to Question 12 by detailed respondent type**

Detailed respondent type	Yes	No
Individual	48 (42%)	65 (58%)
Local Authority	18 (95%)	1 (5%)
Community group (including Community Councils, creative groups)	14 (100%)	0 (0%)
Academic, think tank or consultant	6 (100%)	0 (0%)
Trade union or business support including skills	11 (100%)	0 (0%)
Agriculture and Land Use	0 (0%)	1 (100%)
Built Environment	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
Energy Industry and Infrastructure	5 (100%)	0 (0%)
Health	4 (100%)	0 (0%)
Nature and Biodiversity	5 (83%)	1 (17%)
Other or not specified	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>113 (62%)</b>	<b>68 (38%)</b>

Total number of respondents for this question = 181



**Question 23: The proposed approach to monitoring and evaluating progress of the Adaptation Plan is set out below. Do you agree with the proposed approach to monitoring adaptation?**

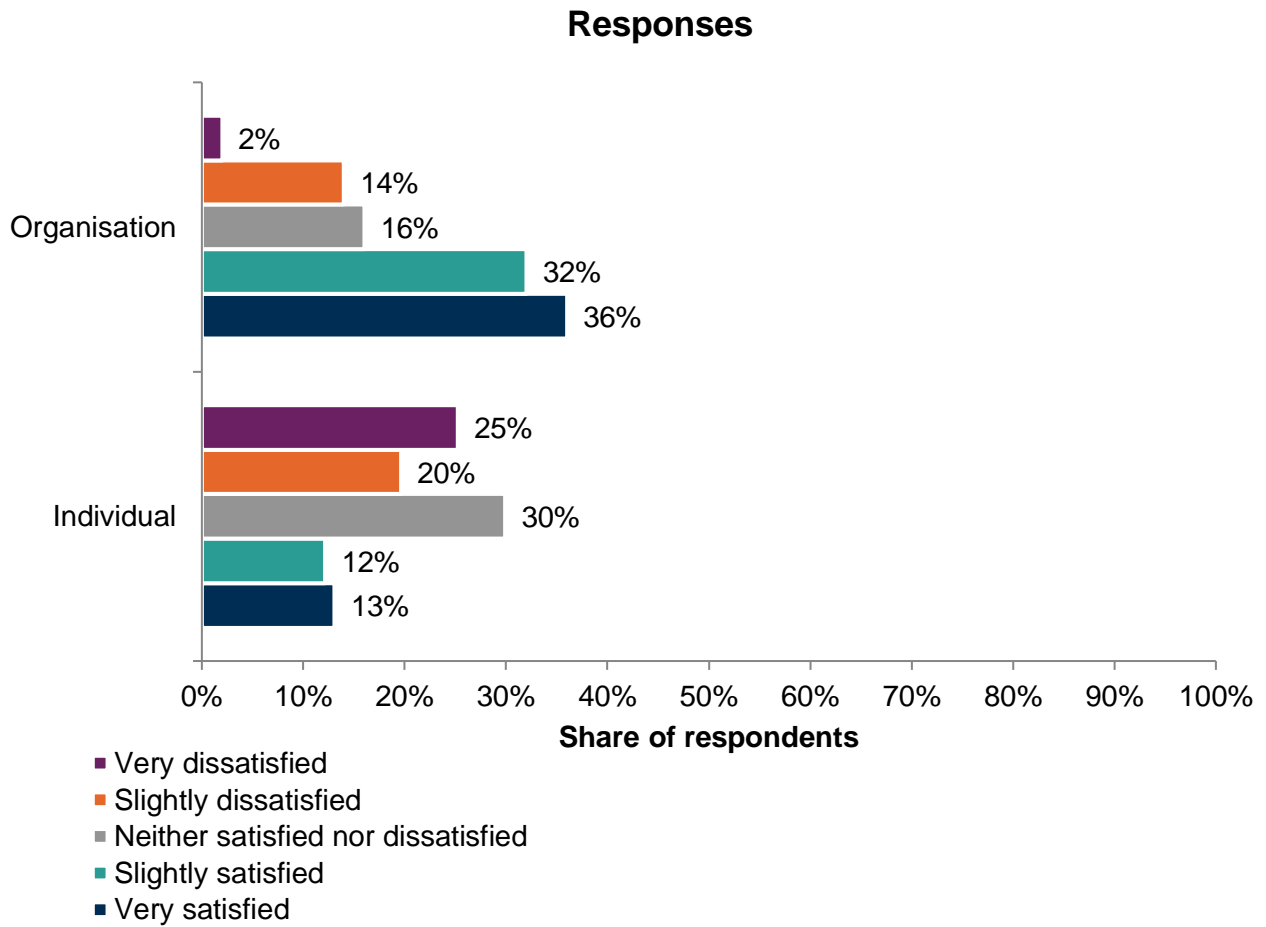
**Table 5: Responses to Question 23 by detailed respondent type**

Detailed respondent type	Strongly Agree	Agree	Don't know	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Individual	18 (17%)	19 (18%)	13 (12%)	9 (8%)	48 (45%)
Local Authority	6 (30%)	12 (60%)	1 (5%)	1 (5%)	0 (0%)
Community group (including Community Councils, creative groups)	4 (29%)	10 (71%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Academic, think tank or consultant	2 (33%)	2 (33%)	1 (17%)	1 (17%)	0 (0%)
Trade union or business support including skills	4 (36%)	6 (55%)	1 (9%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Agriculture and Land Use	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Built Environment	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Energy Industry and Infrastructure	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Health	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Nature and Biodiversity	3 (75%)	1 (25%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Other or not specified	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>All respondents</b>	<b>39 (23%)</b>	<b>58 (34%)</b>	<b>17 (10%)</b>	<b>11 (6%)</b>	<b>48 (28%)</b>

Total number of respondents for this question = 173

**Question 41: How satisfied were you with this consultation?**

**Figure 8: Responses to Question 41 by respondent type (n=157)**

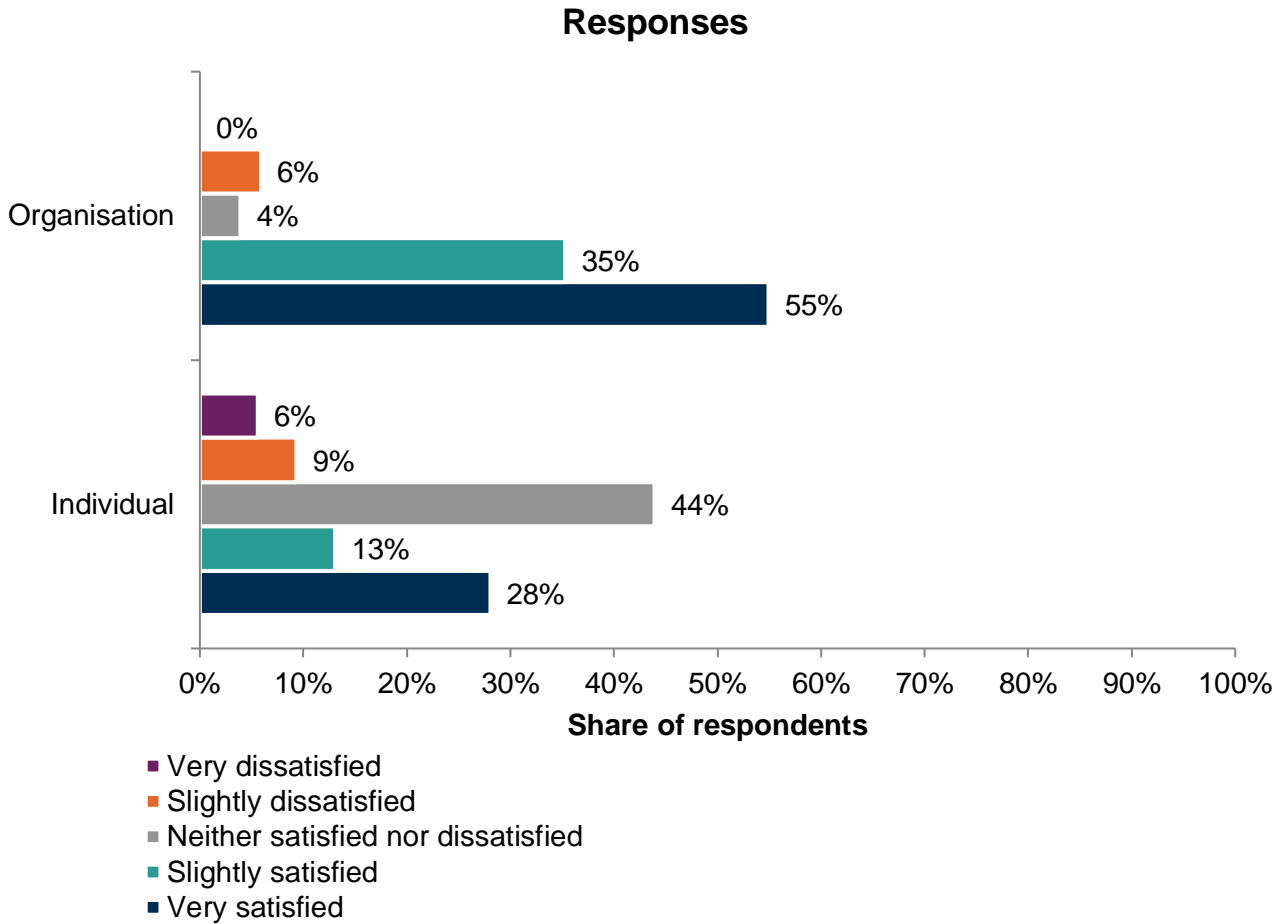


The vertical axis refers to the percentage share of respondents.

Total number of respondents for this question = 157

**Question 41, part II: How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?**

**Figure 9: Responses to Question 41, part II by respondent type (n=158)**



The vertical axis refers to the percentage share of respondents.

Total number of respondents for this question = 158

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## How to access background or source data

The data collected for this <statistical bulletin / social research publication>:

- are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- are available via an alternative route <specify or delete this text>
- may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact <email address> for further information.
- cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.



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