

Policy Priorities Survey March 2021

Policy Priorities Survey

1. Survey background
2. Research and innovation
3. Chemicals strategy
4. Health challenges

Survey background

- The Policy and Evidence team ran a member survey in March 2021 to understand what our members think are priority areas within three existing work areas:
 - Research and innovation policy
 - Chemicals strategy (UK and global)
 - Health research and challenges
- 1240 responses were included in the analysis.

Who responded?

- Survey was sent to 37,150 members (3.3 % response rate).
- 69 % respondents were based in the UK.
- Majority of respondents were established career or retired.
- Academia – 317 respondents; Industry – 285 respondents; Other – 179

Survey methods: rating questions

- Rating questions in this survey asked respondents to give factors a score from 0-10 and included an option to select 'don't know'.
- Results are presented as a proportion of respondents to account for differing respondent number across factors.
- Charts showing the full breakdown of scores are presented.
- An overall weighted average per respondent was calculated for each factor as follows:

$(\text{SUM}(\text{score} * \text{n respondents})) / \text{number of respondents giving a score.}$

e.g. Factor F, 60 respondents (not real data):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Overall weighted average per respondent} &= \\ &= [(0*6)+(1*6)+\dots+(9*3)+(10*2)] / 60 \\ &= 5.1 \end{aligned}$$

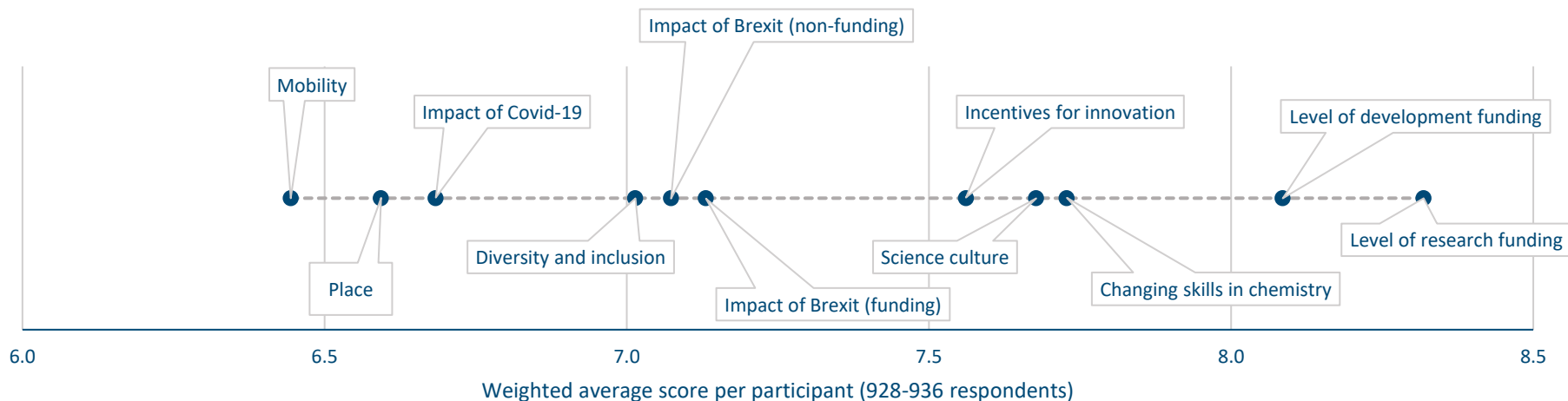
Score	Number of respondents
0	5
1	6
2	4
3	7
4	8
5	3
6	7
7	6
8	9
9	3
10	2
Total:	60

Research and innovation questions

Research and innovation

For comparison, a weighted score per participant was calculated for each factor.

$(\text{SUM}(\text{score} * \text{n respondents})) / \text{total number of respondents giving a score.}$

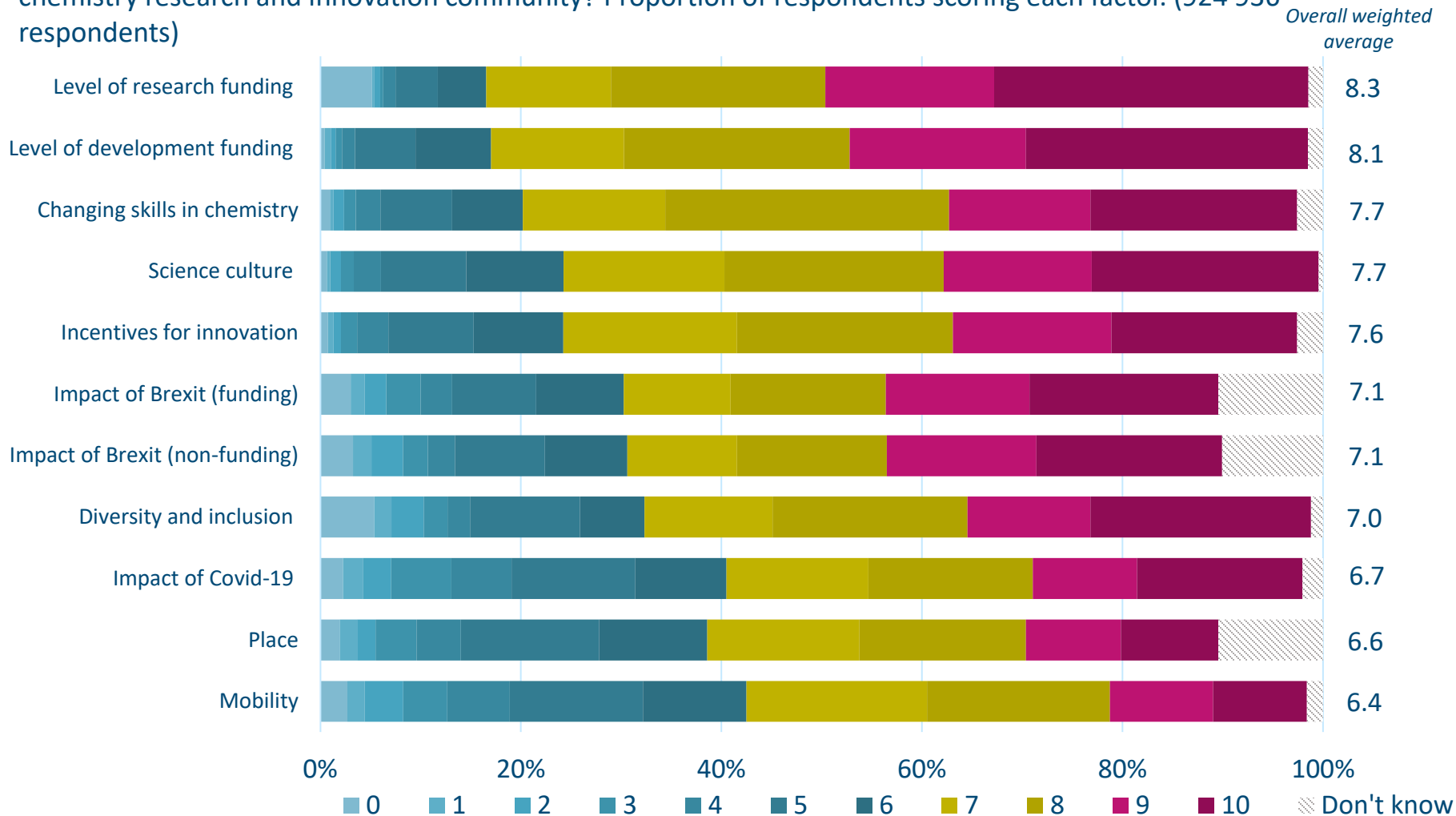


Weighted average score per participant

Level of funding available to support basic and applied research including collaboration	8.3
Level of funding to support developing and bringing new technologies/ products/ processes to market including collaboration.	8.1
Changing skills needs of chemistry professionals	7.7
Science culture e.g. open science, research integrity, research assessment, recognition and reward	7.7
Incentives in the innovation system e.g. access to finance, regulation, partnerships	7.6
Impact of EU exit on chemical science participation and collaboration through Horizon Europe (funding)	7.1
Impact of EU exit on international research and innovation policy (excluding funding)	7.1
Diversity and inclusion of chemistry workforce	7.0
Impact of Covid-19 on research and innovation	6.7
The chemical sciences picture in the UK's regions and nations	6.6
Chemistry using workforce: immigration and mobility policies	6.4

Research and innovation

How important or unimportant are the following areas of research and innovation policy to the chemistry research and innovation community? Proportion of respondents scoring each factor. (924-936 respondents)



Chemicals strategy questions

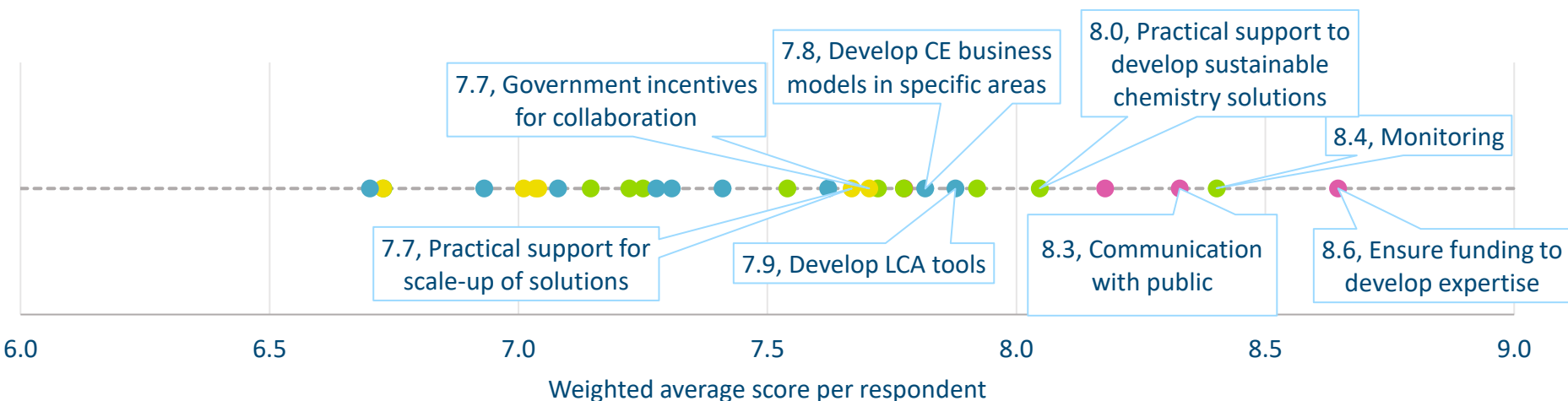
UK chemicals strategy: ERIC prioritisation questions

In the RSC's work to support the UK government in developing a new UK-wide chemicals strategy we have identified four themes; **education, innovation, circular economy and regulation**.

Across these themes, how important or unimportant are the following topics for the government to prioritise? Rate each area from 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important.

Scale showing factors ordered by weighted average score per respondent, coloured according to theme. The two highest scoring factors in each theme are labelled.

Key: ● Education ● Regulation ● Innovation ● Circular economy



UK chemicals strategy: ERIC prioritisation questions

1. Education

Across these themes, how important or unimportant are the following topics for the government to prioritise? Rate each area from 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important.

Education (573-575 respondents)

Overall weighted average

Ensure that funding is available to develop a skilled and specialist scientific workforce, such that industry, government and academia can draw on the best talent at all levels to implement a chemicals framework.

8.7

Provide communications to the public on the benefits, hazards and risks of chemicals in our lives, so consumer demand drives sustainable product innovation through informed choice.

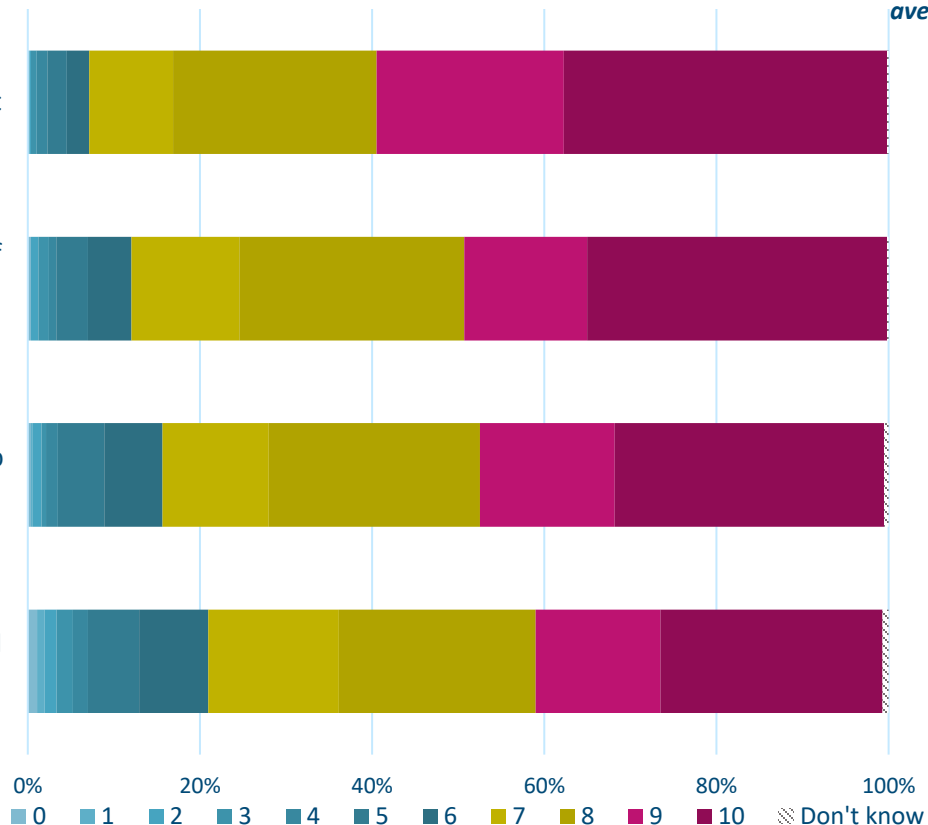
8.3

Develop citizens' knowledge through formal school education so they can help to better manage chemicals through making informed choices.

8.2

Develop the next generation of world-leading scientists through chemical regulation and policy modules in formal degree level education.

7.8



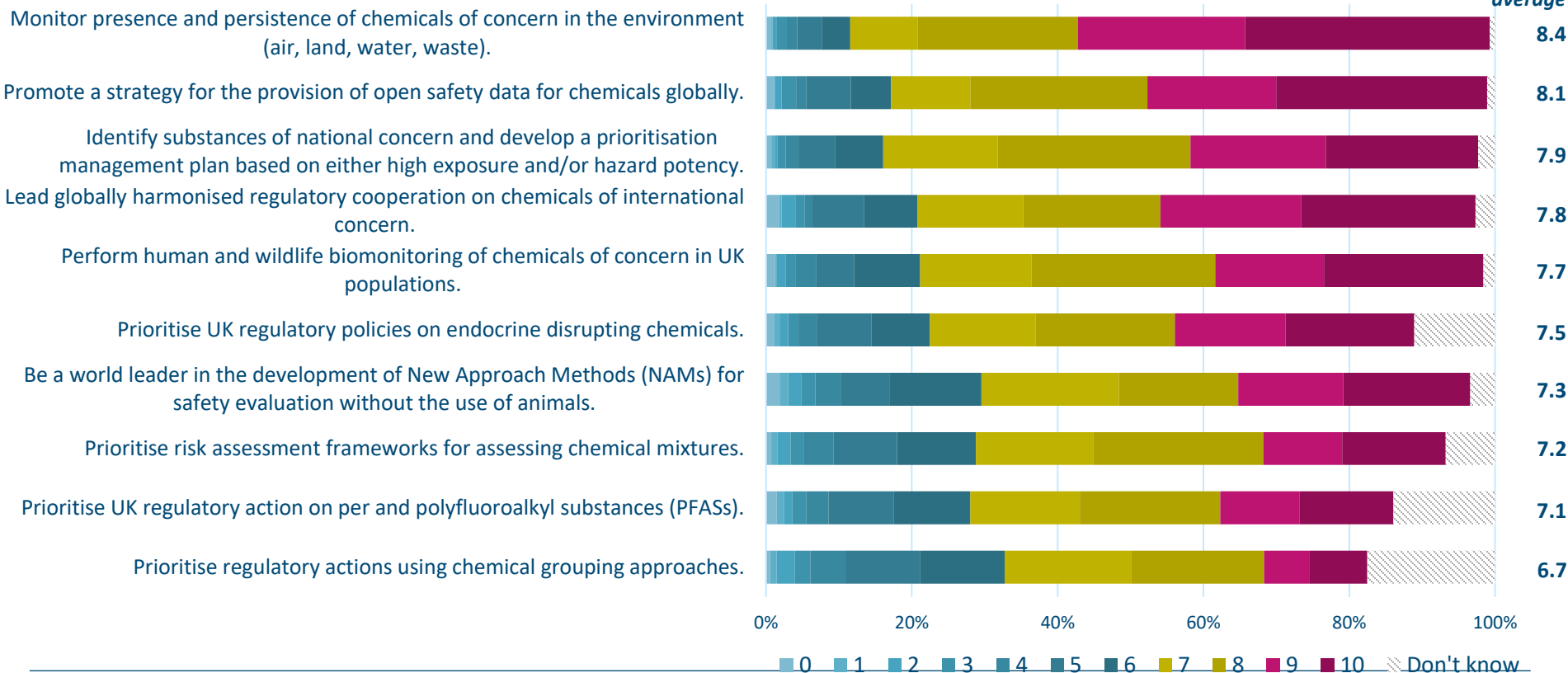
UK chemicals strategy: ERIC prioritisation questions

2. Regulation

Across these themes, how important or unimportant are the following topics for the government to prioritise? Rate each area from 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important.

Regulation (559-564 respondents)

Overall weighted average

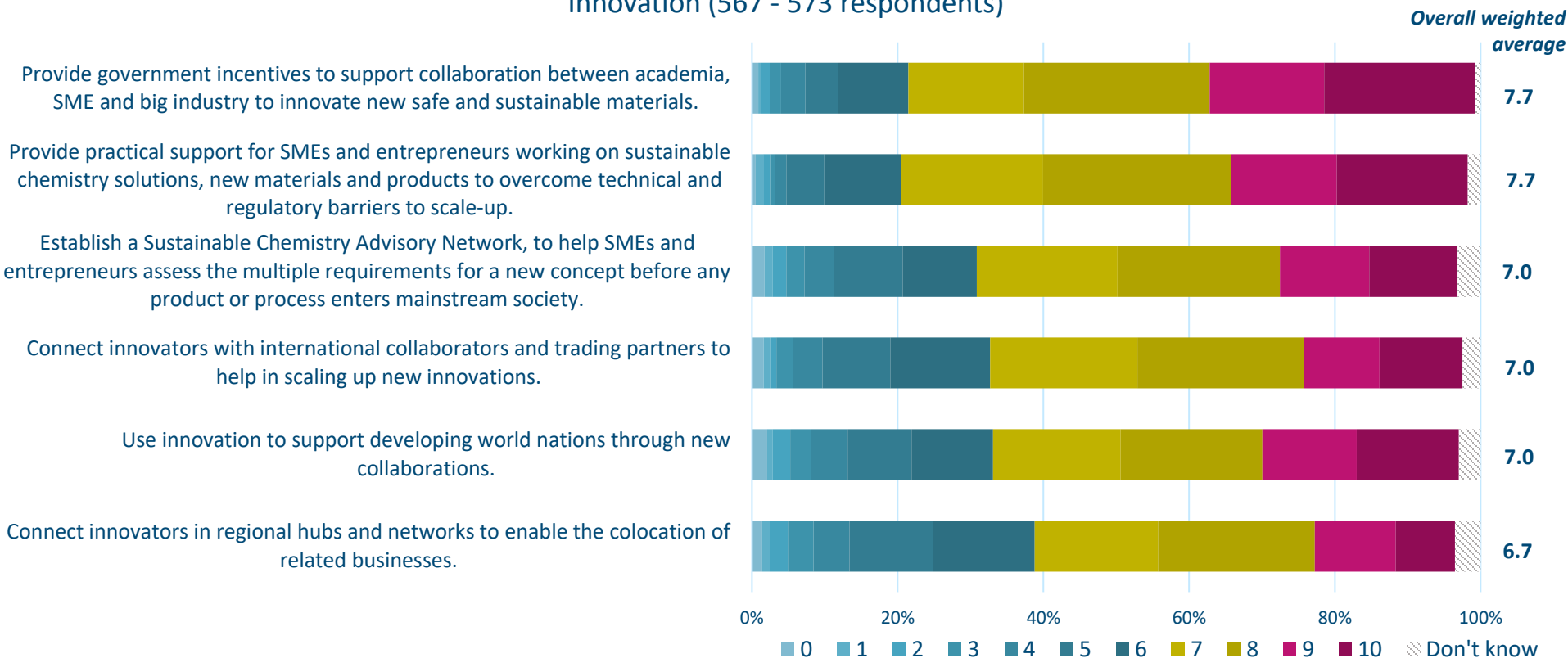


UK chemicals strategy: ERIC prioritisation questions

3. Innovation

Across these themes, how important or unimportant are the following topics for the government to prioritise? Rate each area from 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important.

Innovation (567 - 573 respondents)



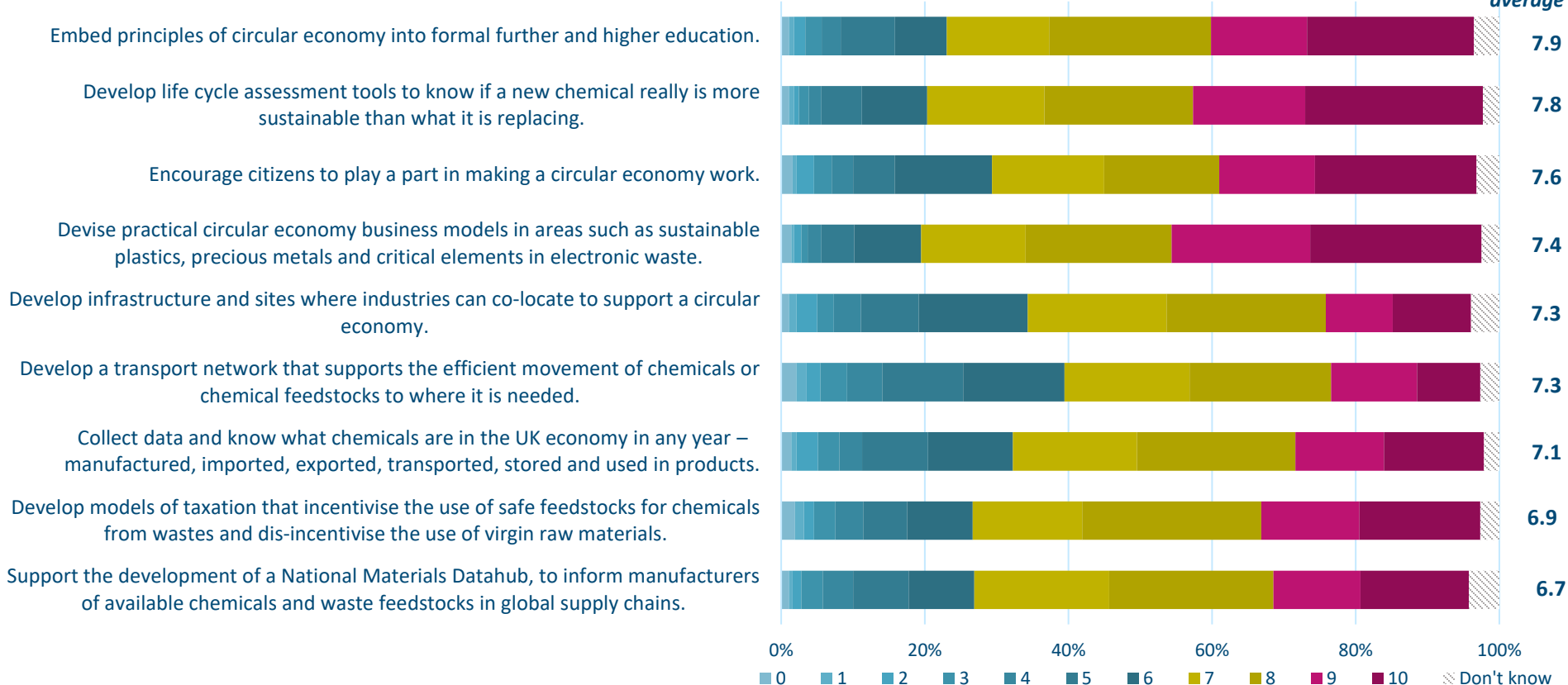
UK chemicals strategy: ERIC prioritisation questions

4. Circular Economy

Across these themes, how important or unimportant are the following topics for the government to prioritise? Rate each area from 0 to 10, with 0 being not at all important and 10 being extremely important.

Circular economy (567 – 590 respondents)

Overall weighted average

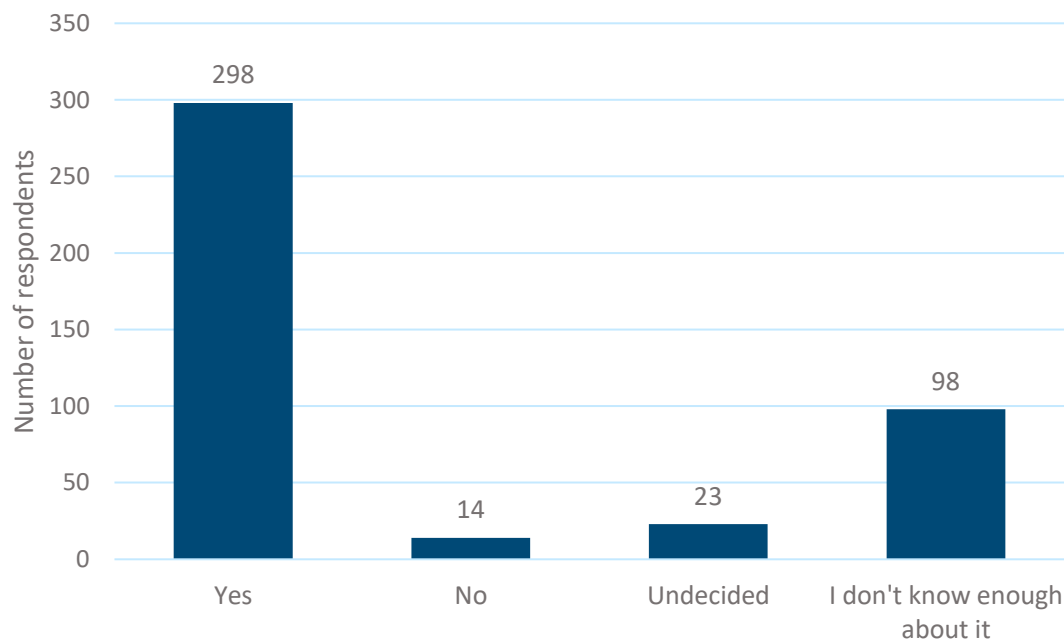


Global chemicals policy

The UN Global Chemicals Outlook II report stated the need for a new science–policy interface for chemicals and waste at UN level. To fill this gap, the RSC is calling for the establishment of a new independent UN-led Intergovernmental Platform for Chemicals and Waste Management that is on a par with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

- 69 % of respondents support this call to action for the establishment of a new Intergovernmental science–policy Platform for Chemicals and Waste Management.

Do you support the RSC's call to action for the establishment of a new Intergovernmental science–policy Platform for Chemicals and Waste Management?, (433 respondents)

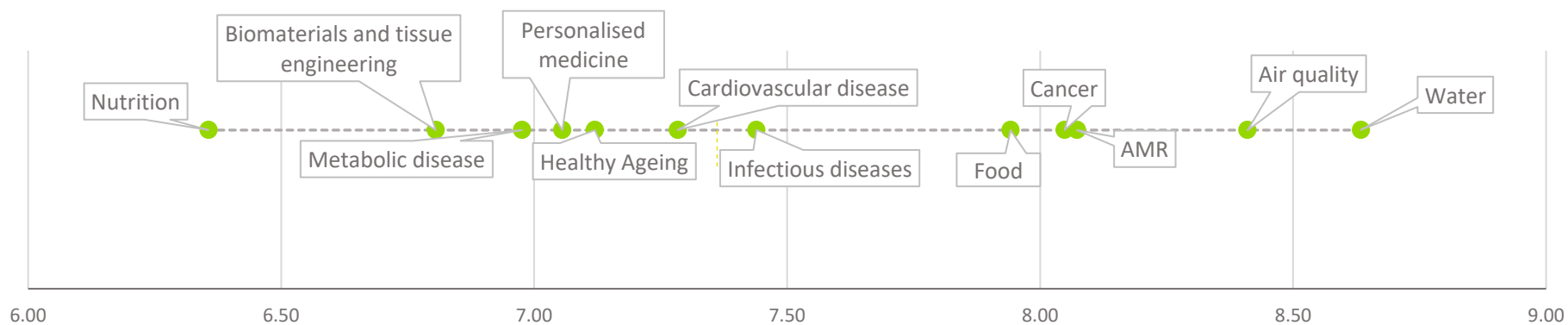


Health challenges questions

Health challenges: priority ranking

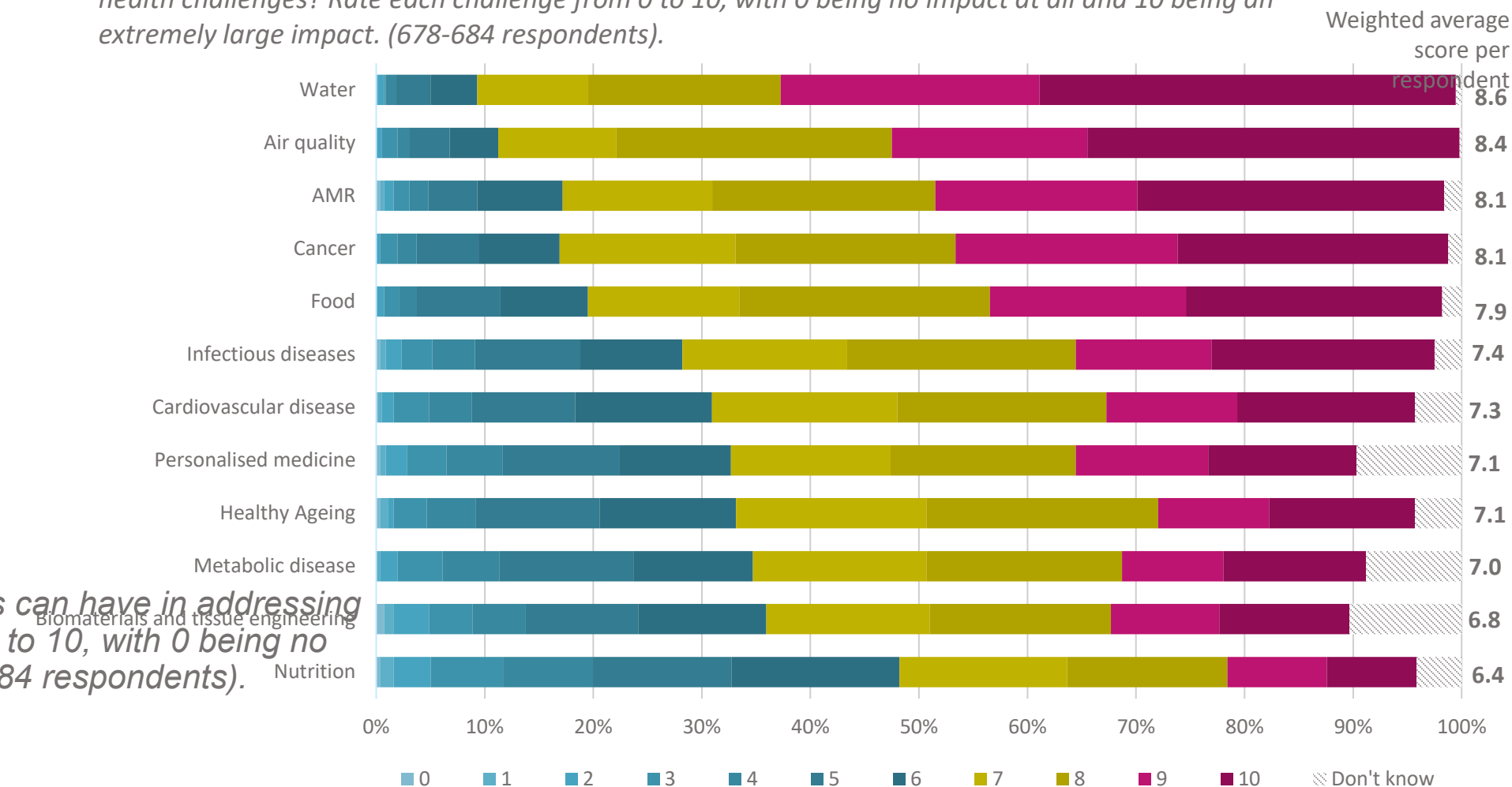
How much or little impact do you think the chemical sciences can have in addressing the following health challenges? Rate each challenge from 0 to 10, with 0 being no impact at all and 10 being an extremely large impact.

Overall weighted score per respondent (678-684 respondents).



Health challenges: priority ranking

How much or little impact do you think the chemical sciences can have in addressing the following health challenges? Rate each challenge from 0 to 10, with 0 being no impact at all and 10 being an extremely large impact. (678-684 respondents).



How much or little impact do you think the chemical sciences can have in addressing the following health challenges? Rate each challenge from 0 to 10, with 0 being no impact at all and 10 being an extremely large impact. (678-684 respondents).

Health challenges: why?

Why did you think this area is where the chemical sciences could have the greatest impact?

- **Societal importance** and **collaboration** with other disciplines where the reasons most frequently selected.

Why did you think this area is where the chemical sciences could have the greatest impact? (561 respondents)

