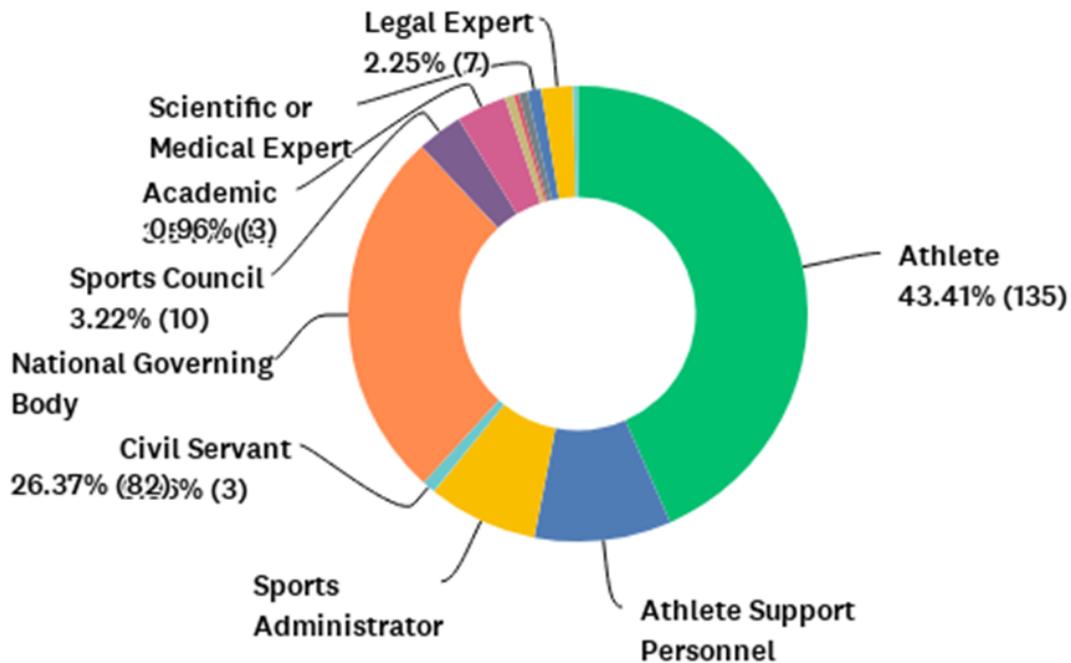


# Results of the Public Disclosure of Notice of Charge Consultation survey

## Survey Responses

### Summary of Results

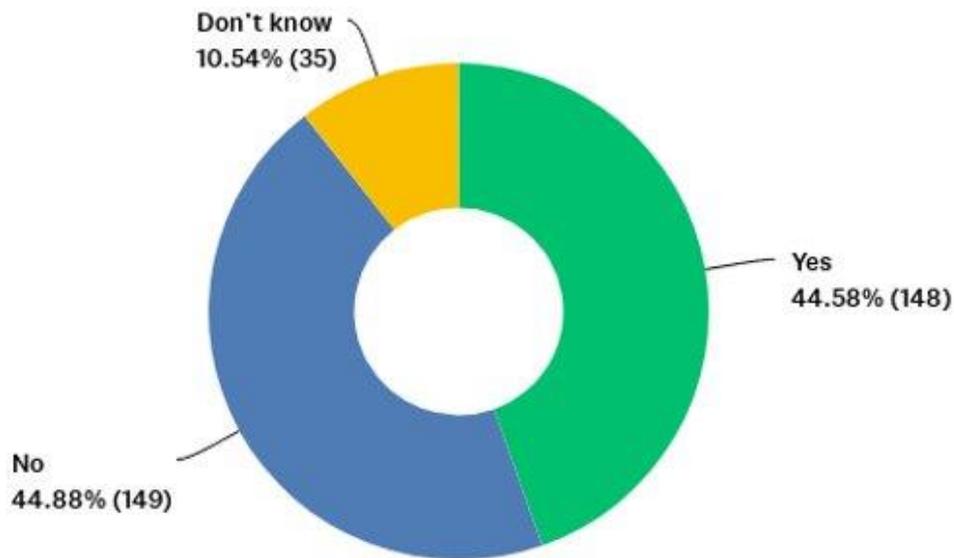
#### 1. Which category best describes you as a respondent?



Answer Choices	Responses as %	Number
Athlete	43.41%	135
Athlete Support Personnel	9.65%	30
Sports Administrator	7.72%	24
Civil Servant	0.96%	3
National Governing Body	26.37%	82
Home Country Sports Council	3.22%	10
Academic	3.54%	11
National Olympic Committee	0.64%	2
National Paralympic Committee	0.32%	1
Athlete Advisory or Welfare Group	0.64%	2
Media	0.00%	0
Scientific or Medical Expert	0.96%	3
Legal Expert	2.25%	7
Law Enforcement	0.32%	1
Other (please specify)		21
<b>Response total</b>		<b>332</b>

Comments: 23

2. In your opinion, would the publishing of provisional suspensions at the time of the charge bring clarity to an athlete/athlete support personnel's status regarding their eligibility to compete?



Yes	No.	No	No.	Don't know	No.	Total
44.58%	148	44.88%	149	10.54%	35	332

**Comments: 243**

Positive	Negative	Total
62	88	161

**Recurring Themes**

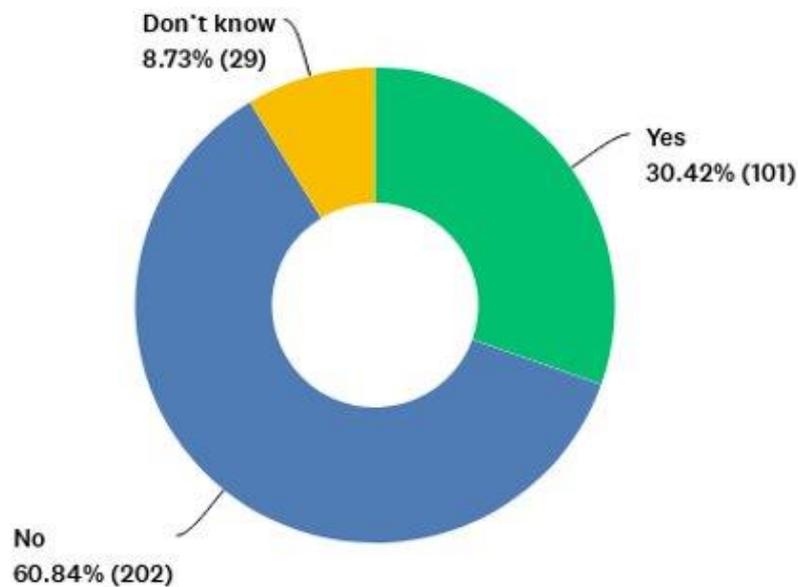
- The current process UKAD implements makes an athlete or support person's status clear to those that have need to know, clarity would only be increased for those outside the current process
- If found not guilty, there would be ongoing impacts to an athlete or support person's reputation
- An athlete or support person is innocent until proven guilty and any charges should be confirmed before publication
- Publication would create consistency across different sports and across national/international athletes
- Publication would help to provide clarity to others within the sport, as unexplained athlete absences lead to rumours

**Interesting Points**

- Athletes deserve to know the status of their competitors, as it may impact preparation.
- This would show clean athletes that the system is supporting them

- How a provisional suspension or notice of charge is reported may actually result in less clarity over an athlete’s status, only a resolved case would bring true clarity
- Clarity from the perspective of an athlete would remain unchanged if publicly disclosed, as the information they receive would not differ to the current process

**3. In your opinion, do stakeholders and interested parties have the right to know if an athlete/athlete support personnel has received a provisional suspension?**



Yes	No.	No	No.	Don't know	No.	Total
30.42%	101	60.84%	202	8.73%	29	332

**Comments: 285**

Positive	Negative	Total
47	131	190

**Recurring Themes**

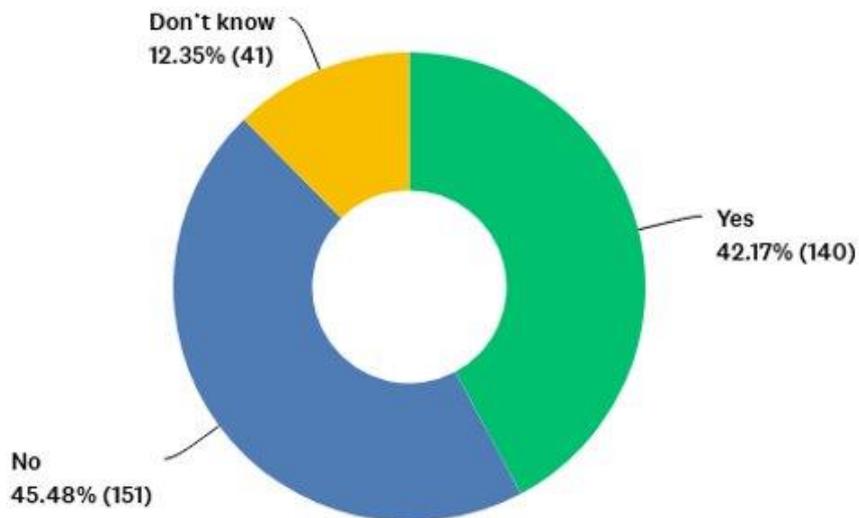
- It only becomes public interest once a case, and therefore an athlete or support person’s status, has been confirmed
- An athlete or support person should be innocent until proven guilty
- There would be concerns over public perception of an athlete or support person if ultimately found to be not guilty
- The public may not fully understand the anti-doping process and so may presume all disclosures refer to ‘drugs cheats’
- There is public interest when athletes or support personnel receive public funding
- There is a responsibility for UKAD and other stakeholders to provide support to those under investigation while a case is ongoing, and to provide clear media communications throughout a case to inform the public
- The public interest is there, but only for proven charges

- Media and social media are overwhelmingly negative, which threatens athletes
- Many think that it is in the public interest, but that doesn't trump athletes' interests

**Interesting Points**

- The public aren't entitled to know about unproven allegations
- Publication will likely reduce the mixed messaging and misinformation that inevitably enters the public domain
- Athletes have the right to privacy when medical data or information is involved
- There is a difference between 'of interest to the public' and 'in the public interest.'  
No greater threat is caused to the public by delaying publication until a case has been proven

**4. Would the publishing of provisional suspensions increase transparency in showing UKAD is fulfilling its obligation to actively catch those that wish to cheat in sport?**



Yes	No.	No	No.	Don't know	No.	Total
42.17%	140	45.48%	151	12.35%	41	332

**Comments: 237**

Positive	Negative	Total
54	86	159

**Recurring Themes**

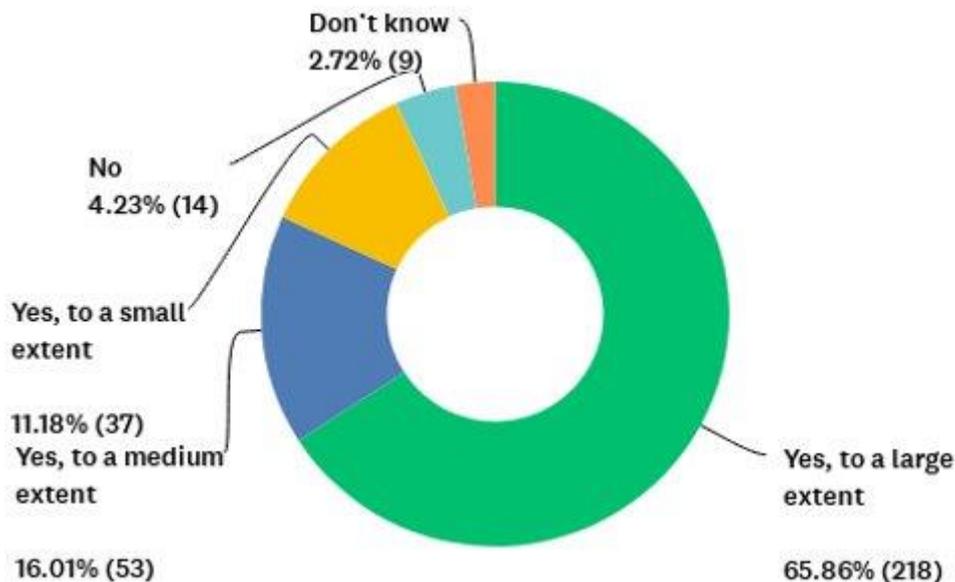
- Publication could increase transparency in real time over the number of positive tests that occur
- Publication could have the benefit of acting as a deterrent to athletes and support personnel by showing UKAD's activity

- Increased transparency and increased publicity are very different; publication would increase awareness of UKAD’s activity, but not increase transparency over the processes followed
- There would be an impact on athlete welfare once a notice of charge has been disclosed, which would continue even if the charges were ultimately not upheld
- Transparency can occur in other ways that do not negatively impact athletes. The publishing of data surrounding the charge process would achieve this.
- Respondents are unclear as to how this would improve transparency

**Interesting Points**

- There would likely be information that has to be withheld, so full transparency wouldn’t be possible.
- Would disclosure followed by no further comment actually create more background noise in the public domain due to misunderstanding by the media and public?
- This wouldn’t have an impact on ‘catching cheats’ as it doesn’t affect or improve the process of how cheats are caught

**5. If found not to have committed an anti-doping rule violation, would an athlete/athlete support personnel’s reputation continue to be negatively impacted by the publishing of their provisional suspension?**



Yes Large	Yes Medium	Yes Small	No	No.	Don't know	No.	Total
65.86%	16.01%	11.18%	4.23%	14	2.72%	9	331
No. 218	No. 53	No. 37					

**Comments: 285**

Positive	Negative	Total
8	181	196

**Recurring Themes**

- Athletes would remain guilty in the eyes of the public, even if charges are dropped (No smoke without fire)
- There would likely be mental health impacts to athletes and support personnel
- The severity of reputational damage would be partly dictated by UKAD’s communications throughout the process. It is incumbent on UKAD to provide clear messaging at the outset.
- The severity of reputational damage would be partly dictated by the athlete’s profile
- The nature of media and social media should be considered, there aren’t often follow up press stories stating athletes’ innocence with the same intensity as stories about ‘cheating’
- Reputational damage could manifest in a loss of earnings through sponsorship deals and appearance fees

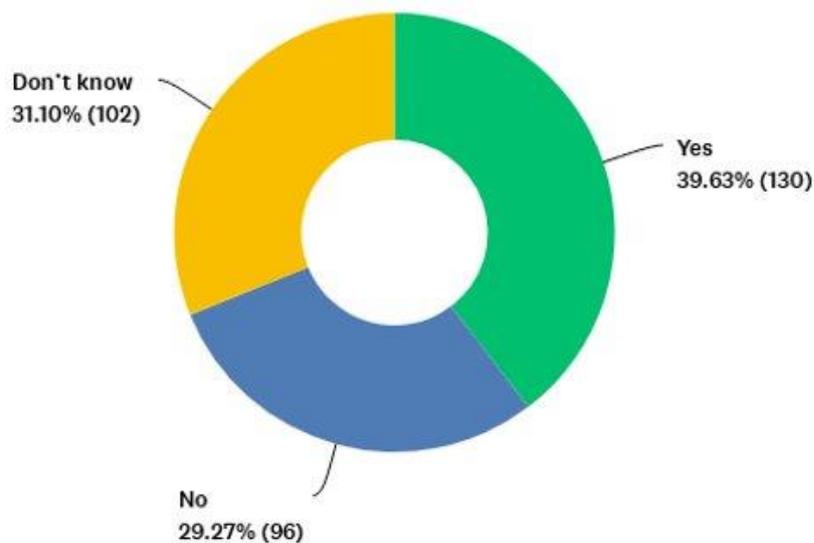
**Interesting Points**

- UKAD has a responsibility to improve public education over ADRVs to reduce misinformation and reputational damage
- The time between the original disclosure and case resolution will have an impact on how an athlete or support person could be affected.
- Potential for UKAD to face more difficulties through loss of earnings or medical confidentiality issues

**6. If the policy of public disclosure was introduced, should UKAD apply any discretion (e.g, cases including minors)?**

Yes, discretion should be used for cases of increased risk

No, a blanket approach should be applied to increase fairness



Yes	No.	No	No.	Don't know	No.	Total
39.63%	130	29.27%	96	31.10%	102	328

**Comments: 228**

Positive	Negative	Total
NA	NA	154

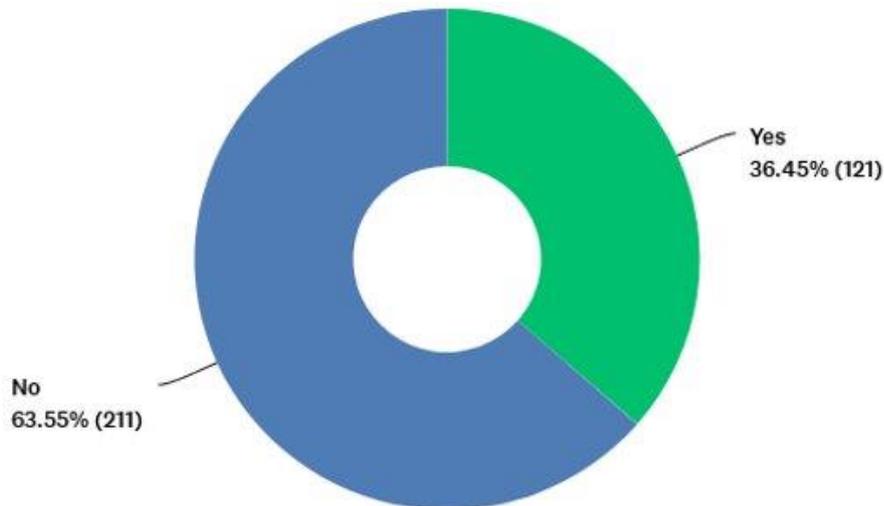
**Recurring Themes**

- Those who are particularly vulnerable or where there are welfare issues (mental health, learning difficulties, safeguarding etc)
- Under 18s or those considered minors in their sport
- The likelihood of being found guilty could have an impact of what is disclosed
- There should be no exceptions
- Having exceptions could undermine transparency in UKAD’s processes

**Interesting Points**

- The confidentiality process should be overseen by two independent medical officers and one lawyer
- A compensation board should be set up to deal with loss of earnings in unproven cases
- Exceptions should be made on the grounds of medical implications or information

**7. Considering your answers to the previous questions, would you support UKAD publicly disclosing provisional suspensions?**



Yes	No.	No	No.	Total
36.45%	121	63.55%	211	332