



Survey on the impact of COVID-19 on young lawyers

270 responses

Collected between 17 and 25 September 2020

Purpose of survey

The Scottish Young Lawyers' Association had been made aware by members that young lawyers may be disproportionately affected by the impact of COVID-19 when compared to other parts of the profession.

This survey was commissioned to identify whether that was indeed the case and, if so, in what ways.

The Scottish Young Lawyers' Association has collated the data and the committee will discuss the issues and ideas submitted by members.

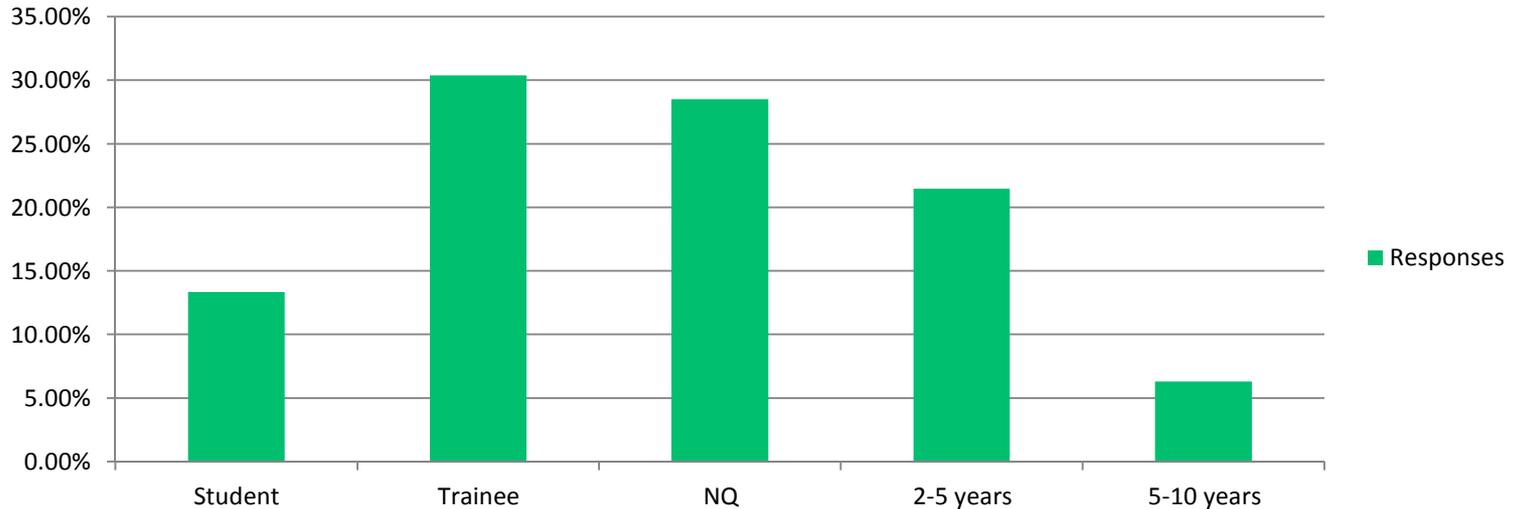
We will endeavour to provide a programme of events to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the careers and wellbeing of young lawyers across Scotland.

We would remind all members that the committee invite feedback, ideas and concerns to be emailed to mail@syla.co.uk and they will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The SYLA committee 2020-21

Respondents by PQE level

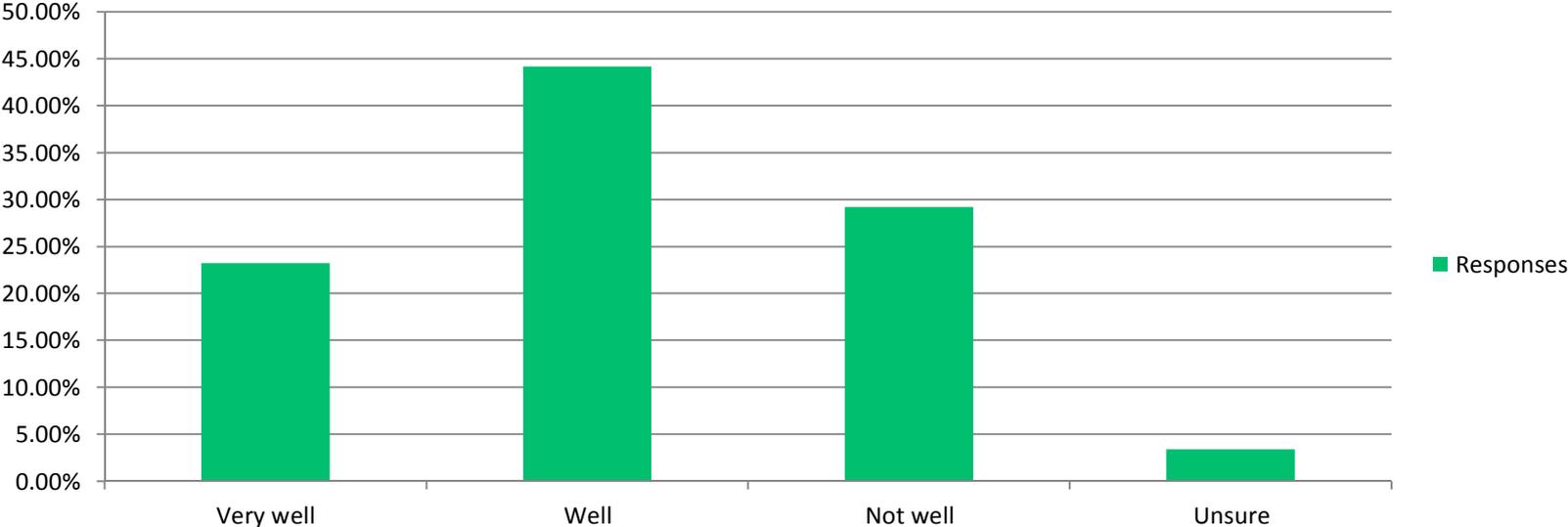
What level are you?



Student	13.33%	36
Trainee	30.37%	82
NQ	28.52%	77
2-5 years	21.48%	58
5-10 years	6.30%	17

In general, how do you feel your firm or organisation has responded to COVID-19 and lockdown?

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Very well	23.22%	62
Well	44.19%	118
Not well	29.21%	78
Unsure	3.37%	9

Do you feel you have received adequate supervision and support from your firm or organisation during this period?

% of each group who answered yes:

Students: 31.43%

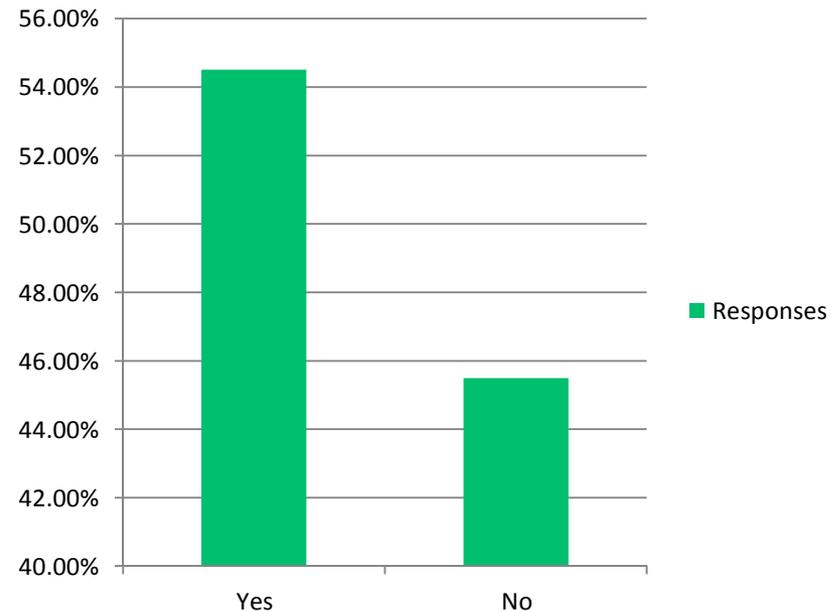
Trainees: 56.25%

NQs: 51.32%

2-5 years: 67.24%

5-10 years: 64.71%

Do you feel you have received adequate supervision and support from your firm or organisation during this period?



Yes	54.51%	145
No	45.49%	121

Were you placed on furlough by your firm or organisation?

% of each group who answered yes:

Students: 5.88%

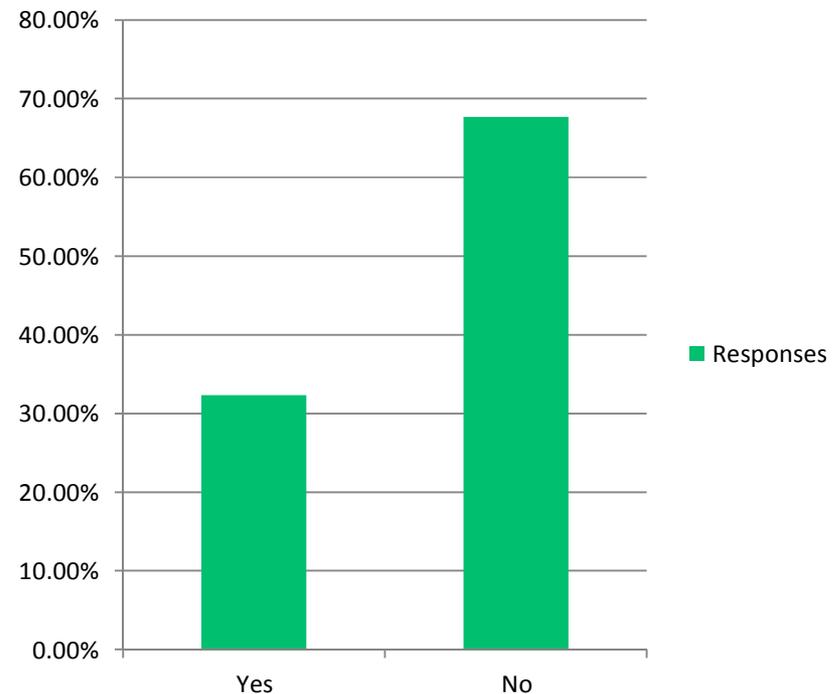
Trainees: 47.50%

NQs: 41.56%

2-5 years: 24.14%

5-10 years: 0%

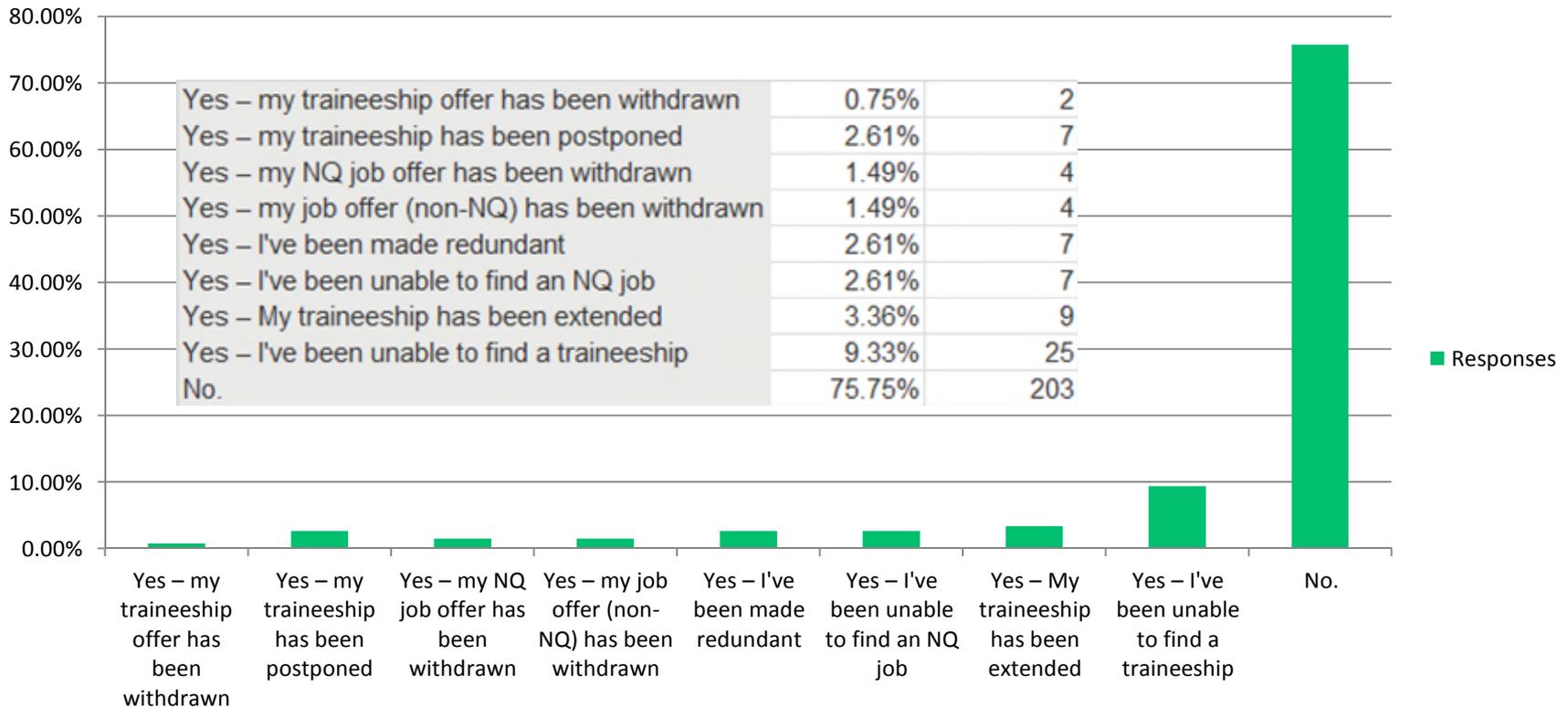
Were you placed on furlough by your firm or organisation?



Yes	32.33%	86
No	67.67%	180

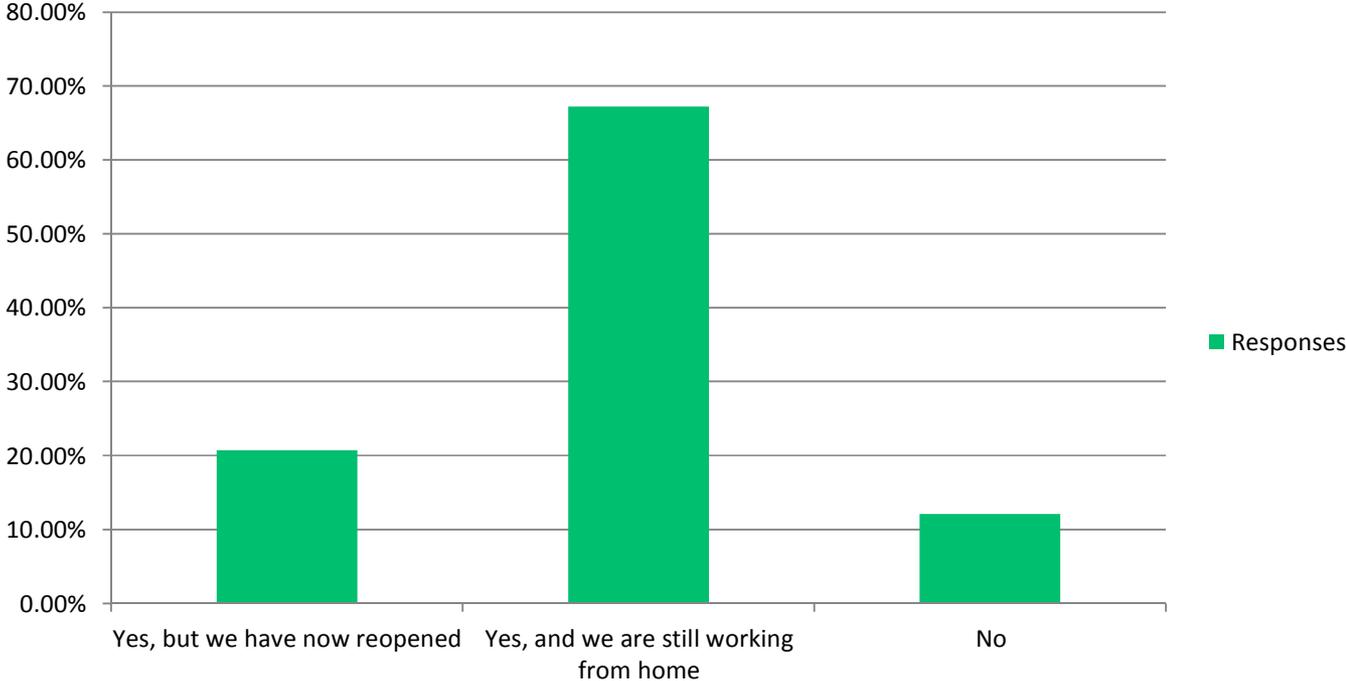
Have you been impacted by the effects of COVID-19 on the jobs market?

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Was your office or workplace closed as a result of COVID-19?

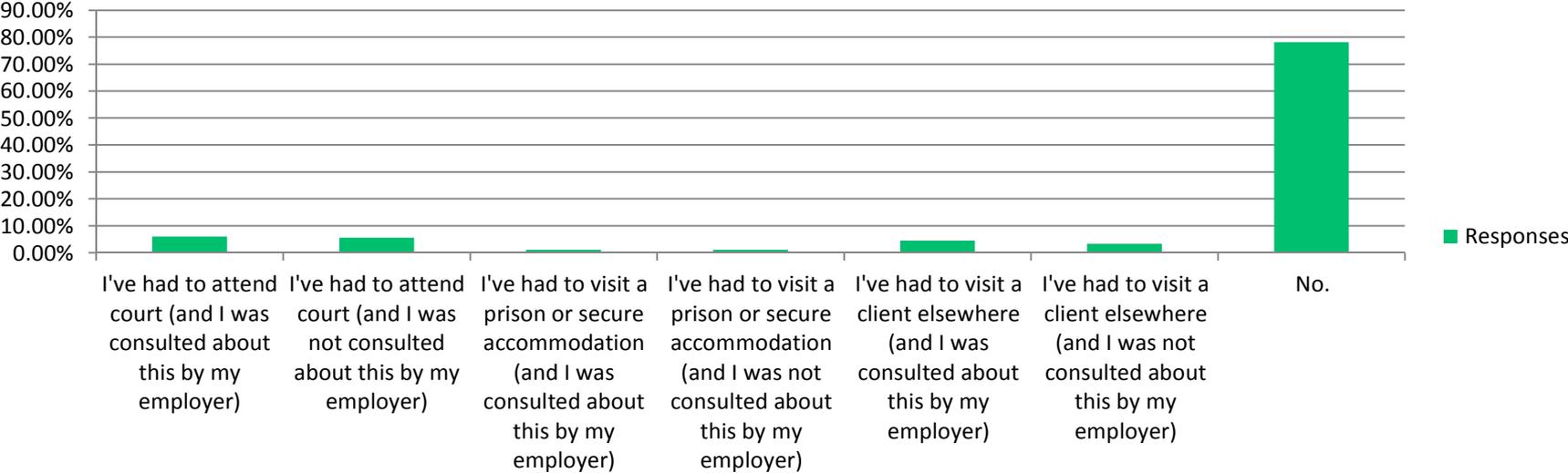
Was your office or workplace closed as a result of COVID-19?



Yes, but we have now reopened	20.75%	55
Yes, and we are still working from home	67.17%	178
No	12.08%	32

Have you had to attend court, prison or another place for work during lockdown?

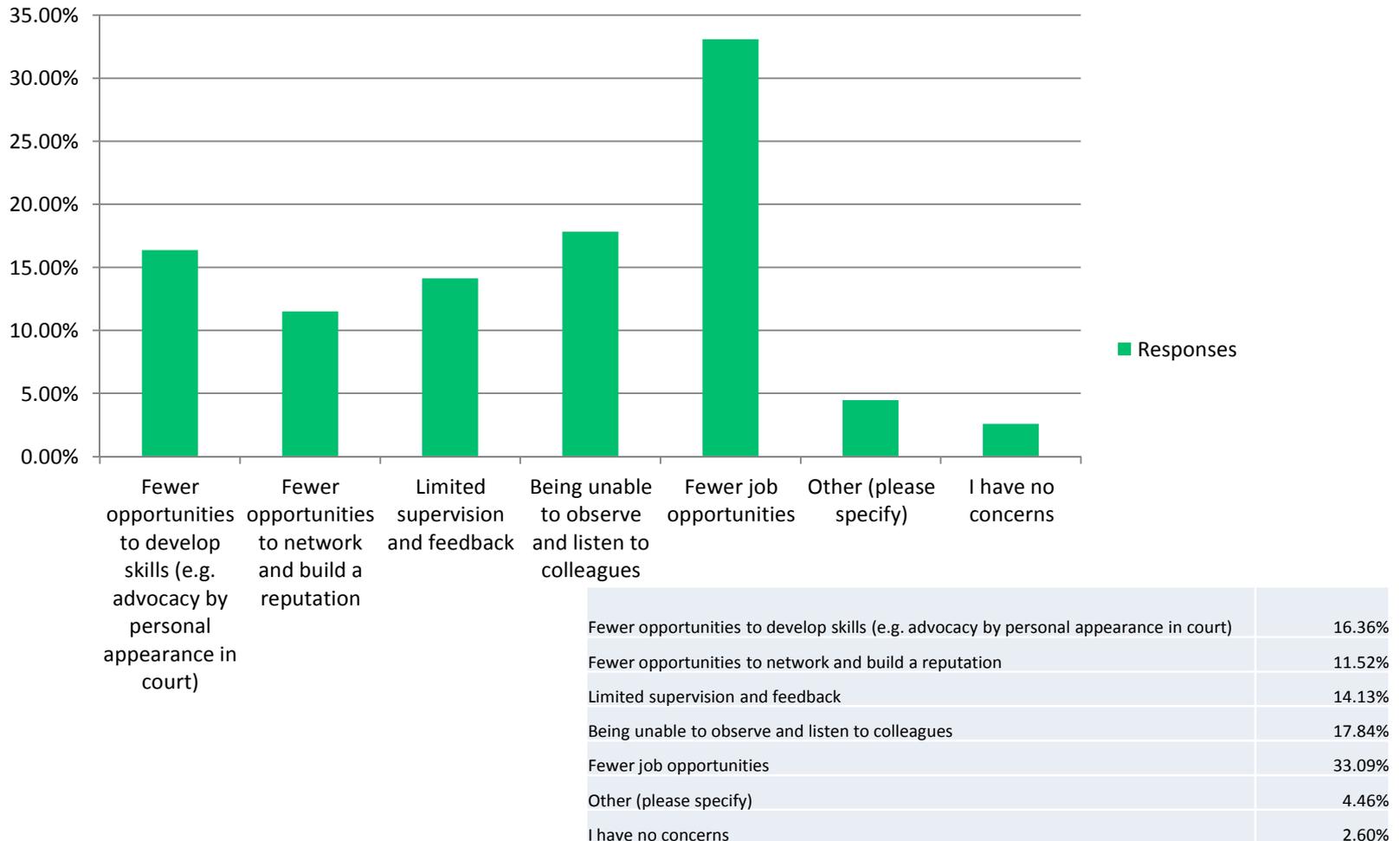
Have you had to attend court, prison or another place for work during lockdown?



I've had to attend court (and I was consulted about this by my employer)	6.04%	16
I've had to attend court (and I was not consulted about this by my employer)	5.66%	15
I've had to visit a prison or secure accommodation (and I was consulted about this by my employer)	1.13%	3
I've had to visit a prison or secure accommodation (and I was not consulted about this by my employer)	1.13%	3
I've had to visit a client elsewhere (and I was consulted about this by my employer)	4.53%	12
I've had to visit a client elsewhere (and I was not consulted about this by my employer)	3.40%	9
No.	78.11%	207

What are your concerns about the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on your professional development?

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Key statistics

- 31 young lawyers attended courts during lockdown but around 50% of these respondents were not consulted about this.
- Six young lawyers attended prisons or secure accommodation and half were not consulted about this.
- 21 young lawyers visited clients elsewhere. Of those, nine were not consulted about this.
- 47.50% of NQs and 41.56% of trainees were furloughed by their firm or organisation
- Over two-thirds of students felt they had inadequate support from their organisation
- Almost half of the NQ's who responded felt they had received inadequate supervision. This figure was just below 45% for trainees.
- Over 97% of those surveyed had concerns about the impact of COVID-19 on their career development