Northern Ireland Assembly

Marriage and Civil Partnership Bill - Call for Evidence: Summary report

This report was created on Monday 15 June 2026 at 10:40 and includes **22** responses.

The activity ran from 01/05/2026 to 12/06/2026.

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Question 1: What is your name?

Name

There were **21** responses to this part of the question.

Question 2: What is your email address?

Email

There were **20** responses to this part of the question.

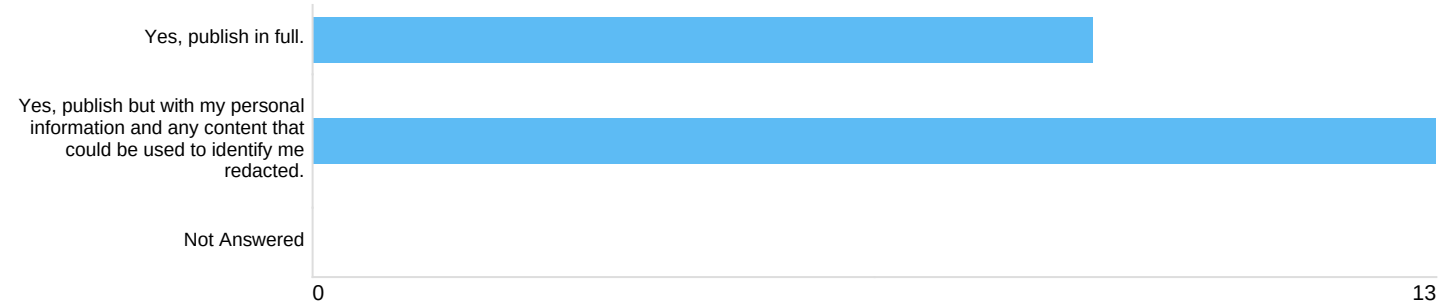
Question 3: If you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please state its name.

Organisation

There were **11** responses to this part of the question.

Question 4: Do you consent to your submission being published on the Committee's website and included in the Committee's report?

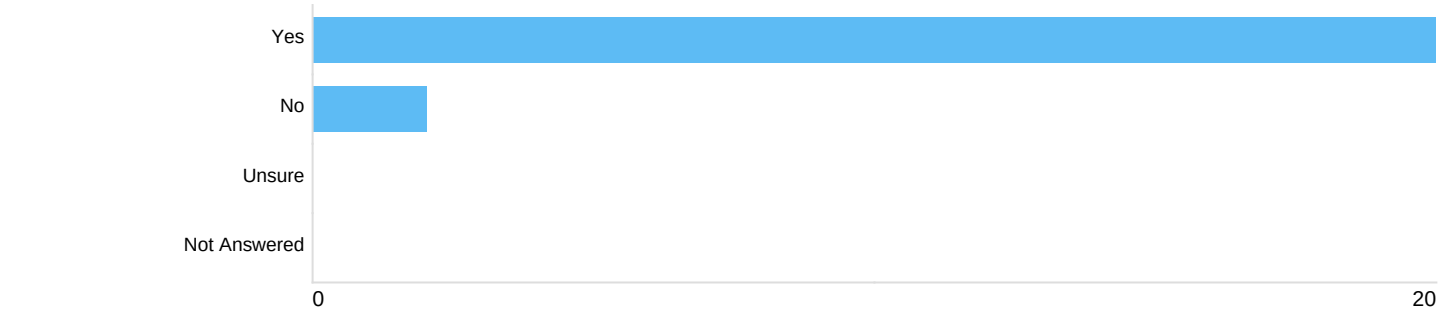
Privacy



Option	Total	Percent
Yes, publish in full.	9	40.91%
Yes, publish but with my personal information and any content that could be used to identify me redacted.	13	59.09%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Question 5: Do you agree that non-religious groups (for example humanists) should be allowed to register people to perform marriages in Northern Ireland, the same way religious groups can?

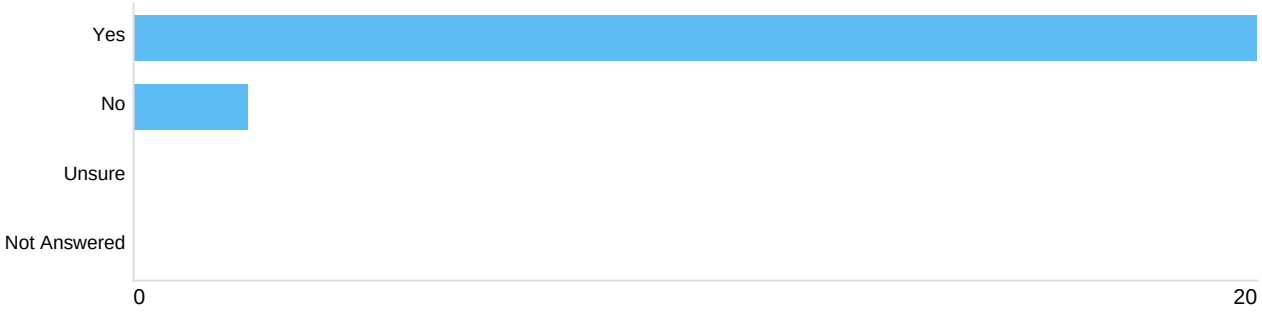
non religious register



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	20	90.91%
No	2	9.09%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Question 6: Do you think non-religious groups (for example humanists) should be allowed temporary permission to perform marriages like religious groups?

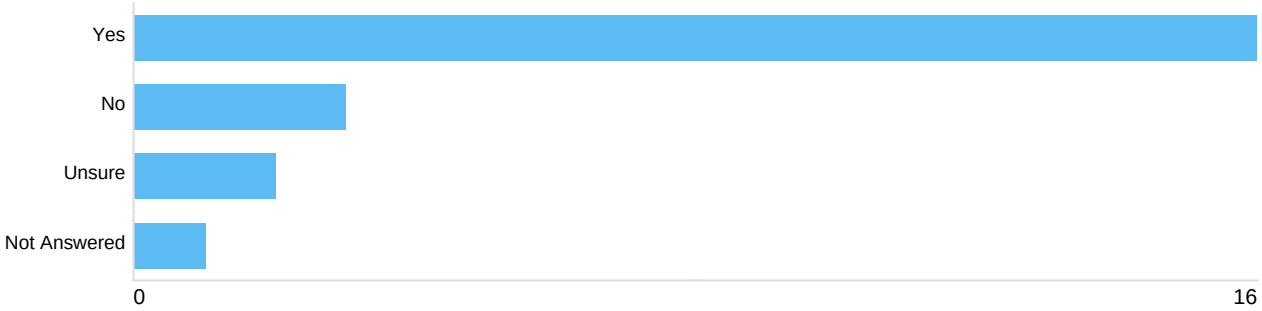
temporary permission



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	20	90.91%
No	2	9.09%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Question 7: Should the Registrar General refuse temporary permission to groups that don't meet the eligibility requirements?

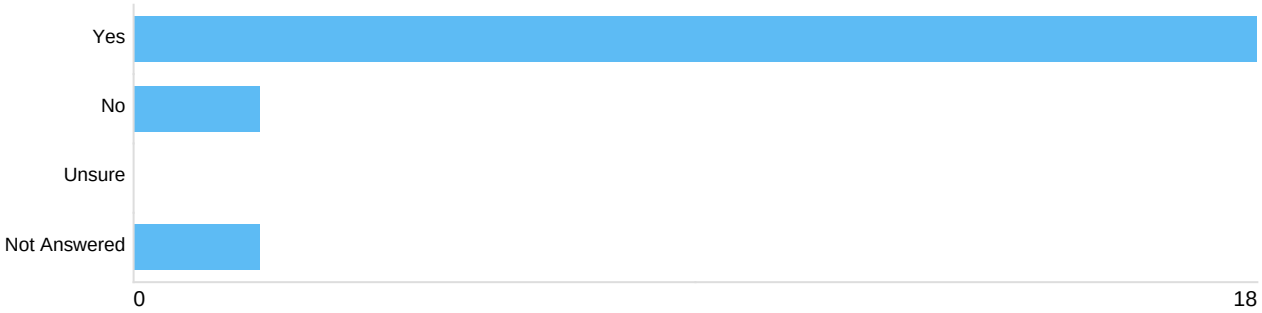
refuse temporary permission



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	16	72.73%
No	3	13.64%
Unsure	2	9.09%
Not Answered	1	4.55%

Question 8: Do you agree that references to religious bodies and marriages should be expanded to include belief bodies (for example humanists) and belief marriages (for example humanists' marriages)?

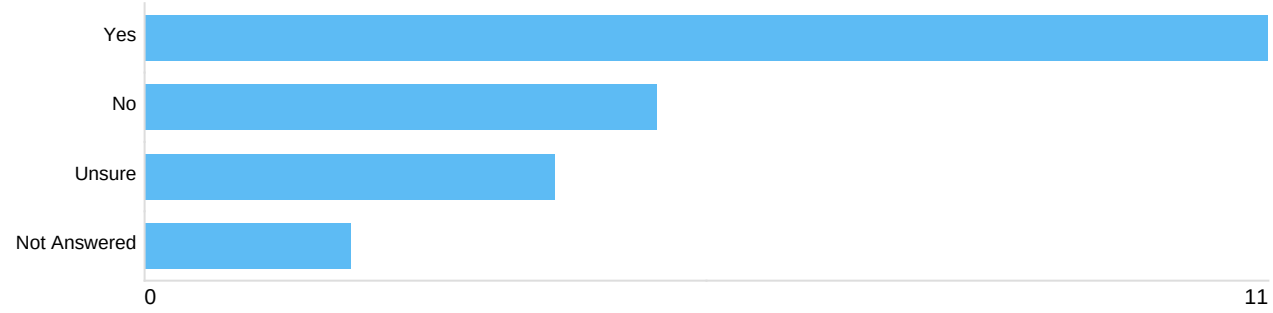
belief bodies expansion



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	18	81.82%
No	2	9.09%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 9: Do you agree that the definition of a “religious or belief body” should allow for different forms of organisation (for example, not requiring regular meetings for worship)?

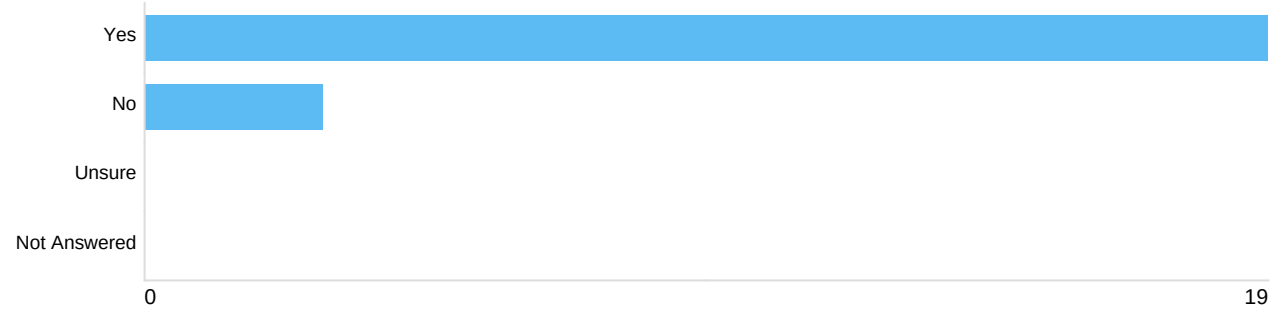
religious body definition



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	11	50.00%
No	5	22.73%
Unsure	4	18.18%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 10: Do you think belief bodies (for example humanists) should be treated the same as religious bodies under marriage law in Northern Ireland?

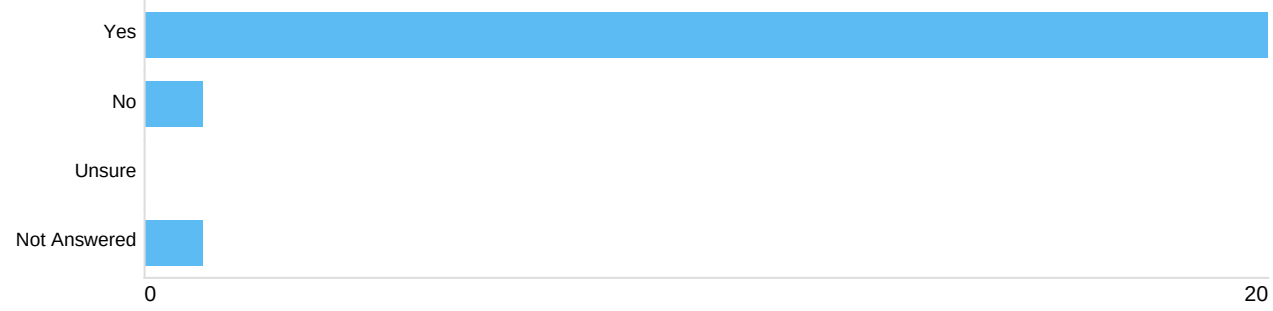
belief same as religious



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	19	86.36%
No	3	13.64%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Question 11: Do you think the minimum age for marriage should be increased from 16 to 18?

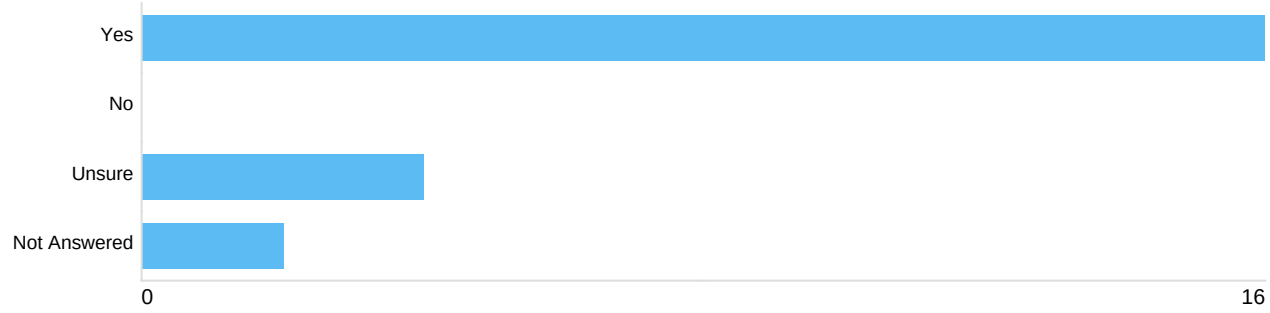
Minimum age marriage



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	20	90.91%
No	1	4.55%
Unsure	0	0.00%
Not Answered	1	4.55%

Question 12: Do you think it should be a criminal offence to take any action intended to cause a child under 18 to marry, even if no force or threats are used?

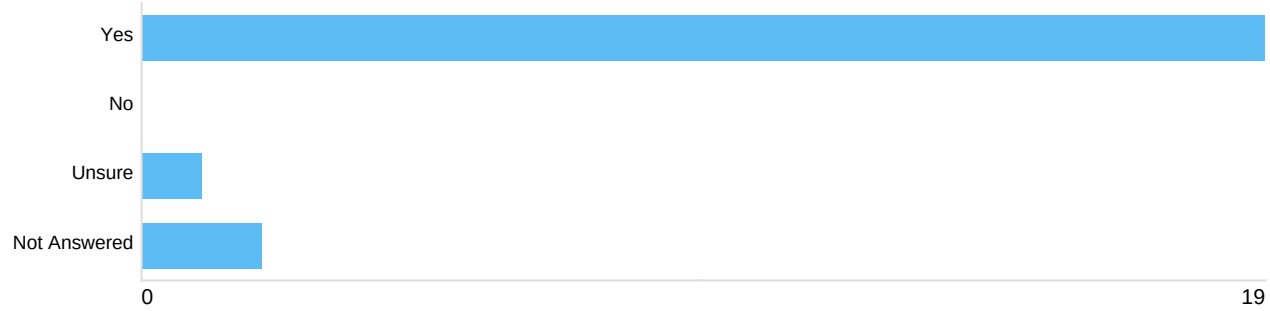
Criminal Offence



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	16	72.73%
No	0	0.00%
Unsure	4	18.18%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 13: Do you agree or disagree with raising the minimum age for entering into a civil partnership from 16 to 18?

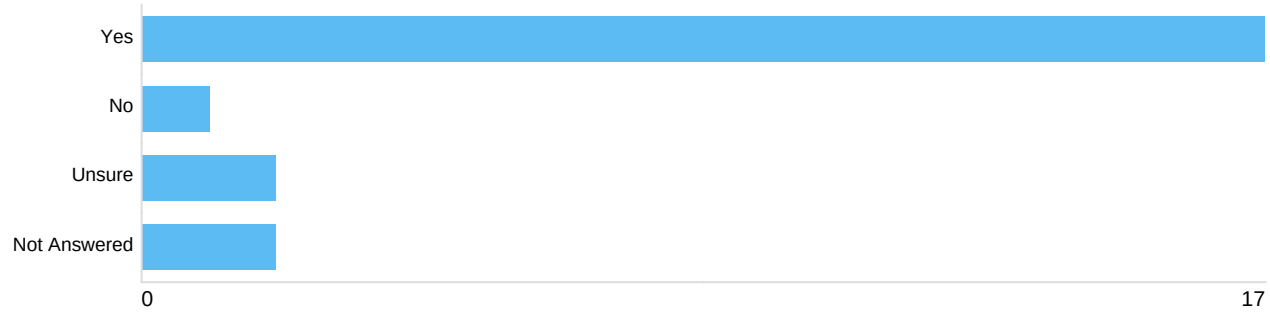
Minimum age civil partnership



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	19	86.36%
No	0	0.00%
Unsure	1	4.55%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 14: Do you agree with the proposal to make civil partnerships invalid where someone under 18 from Northern Ireland enters into one outside Northern Ireland?

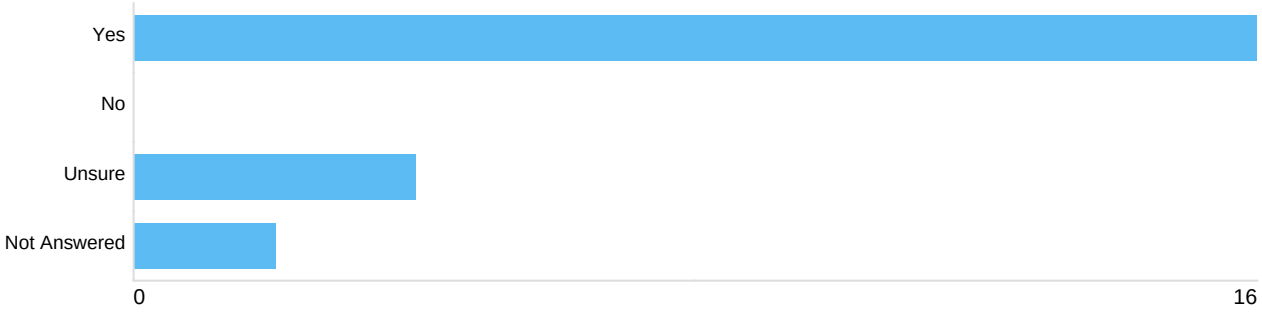
invalid



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	17	77.27%
No	1	4.55%
Unsure	2	9.09%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 15: Do you agree with the proposed technical changes needed to support raising the minimum age for marriage and civil partnership to 18?

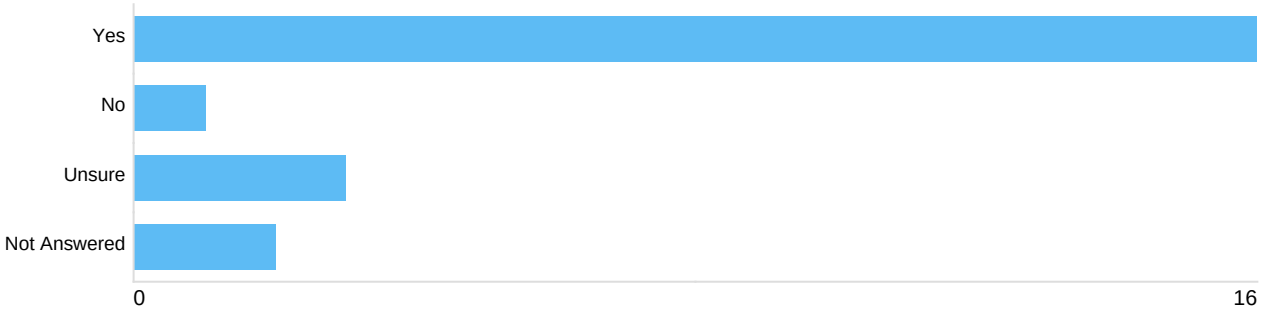
technical changes



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	16	72.73%
No	0	0.00%
Unsure	4	18.18%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 16: Do you agree or disagree that marriages and civil partnerships that have already taken place, or where formal steps have been completed before the law changes, should remain valid, and be allowed to proceed under the current rules?

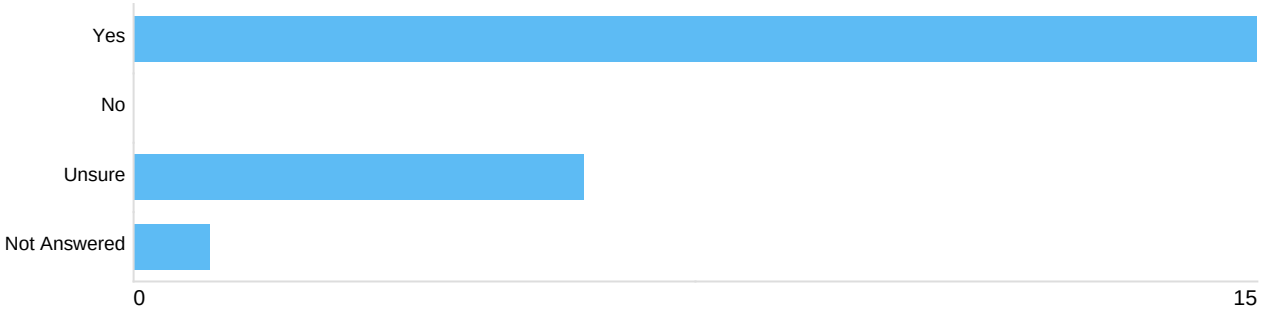
validity of previous marriages



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	16	72.73%
No	1	4.55%
Unsure	3	13.64%
Not Answered	2	9.09%

Question 17: Do you agree that the Department of Finance should be able to make additional rules, including changing existing laws, to support this Act?

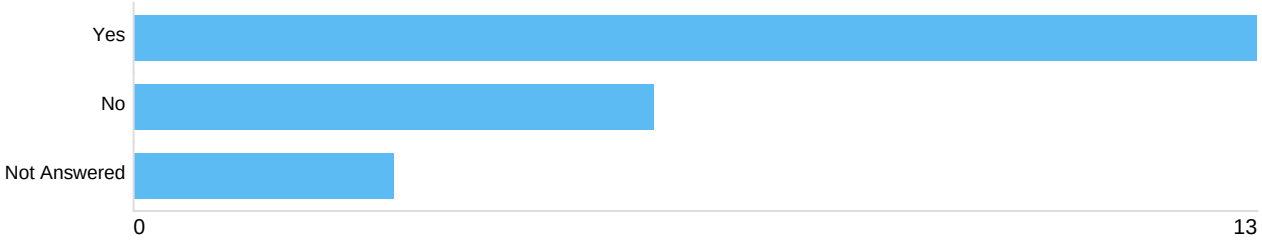
additional rules



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	15	68.18%
No	0	0.00%
Unsure	6	27.27%
Not Answered	1	4.55%

Question 18: Are there any other comments you wish to make?

AOC?



Option	Total	Percent
Yes	13	59.09%
No	6	27.27%
Not Answered	3	13.64%

My other comments are

There were **14** responses to this part of the question.