influence decision

makers in areas that impact the chemical sciences, via our policy work. As part of periodic reviews of our policy programme, in June 2024 we sent out a survey seeking views from our members on our existing work areas environmental sustainability; inclusion, diversity, accessibility and culture in science; discovery, research and innovation; chemistry policy in the education sector, and chemical waste and pollution. These work areas have been informed by results of our <u>2021 Policy</u> <u>Priorities Survey</u>. To offer our members the opportunity to help shape our future public policy work, respondents could also share their opinions on pressing issues facing the chemical sciences community.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the survey. The results have been important for developing our priority policy themes for 2025-29, which the relevant RSC Governance bodies endorsed in autumn 2024. The survey showed that members considered all the topics in the 2022-24 policy programme important, so they will continue into the 2025-29 programme, alongside a few new topics and themes many respondents considered important for the future. We have developed a policy programme for 2025-29, with p

- 1. A strategic approach to the management of chemicals and resources for a robust and sustainable economy.
  - a. Sustainable chemicals policy
  - b. Chemistry and circular economy
  - c. Tackling pollution
- 2. A world-class chemistry education for all.
  - a. A relevant and adequately resourced curriculum
  - b. Empowered expert school and college workforce
  - c. Accessible routes and equitable pathways
- 3. An ambitious, inclusive, and stable R&D and skills policy environment for UK science and innovation to drive economic growth.
  - a. Sustainable research and innovation funding
  - b. An inclusive science culture
  - c. Chemistry workforce and skills
  - d. Post-secondary chemistry education, including financial sustainability in higher education

We will also be focusing several cross-cutting themes, which intersect several of our policy topics: chemistry and net zero; supply chains for chemistry sectors including alternatives to fossil hydrocarbons; chemistry and economic growth; chemistry and industrial strategy, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

#### This report

interpretation. At the end of the report, you can find a summary of our next steps and an outline of our policy programme for 2025-29.

If you have further questions or would like to learn more about how to get involved, please get in touch via <u>policy@rsc.org</u>.

# Introduction

As a trusted and authoritative voice, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) aims to ensure that chemistry has a recognised and influential role in science and society. One of our aims is to influence decision makers in areas that impact the chemical science

decision-makers, for example Government and Parliamentarians, on decisions related to the chemical sciences. We provide expert information and gather evidence to keep policy makers and the public informed and up to date on current scientific, education and global issues. We engage in policy decisions that impact on the quality of chemistry practised in a variety of contexts and careers, and that affect the quality of chemistry education at all levels.

In June 2024, we sent out a survey seeking views from our members on what their priorities were within our existing work areas environmental sustainability; inclusion, diversity, accessibility and culture in science; discovery, research and innovation; chemistry policy in the education sector, and chemical waste and pollution. These work areas have been informed by results of our <u>2021</u> <u>Policy Priorities Survey</u>.

We would like to thank everyone who responded to the survey. The results have been an important 25 to 2029, which the relevant RSC

Governance bodies have recently endorsed.

The key survey results are presented here, please see the Annex for more detailed data.

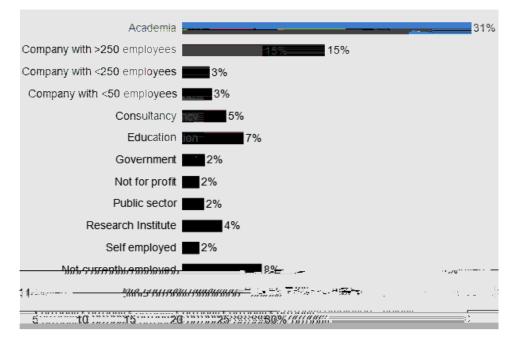


Figure 1: Breakdown of responses by work sector. Responses: 1193.

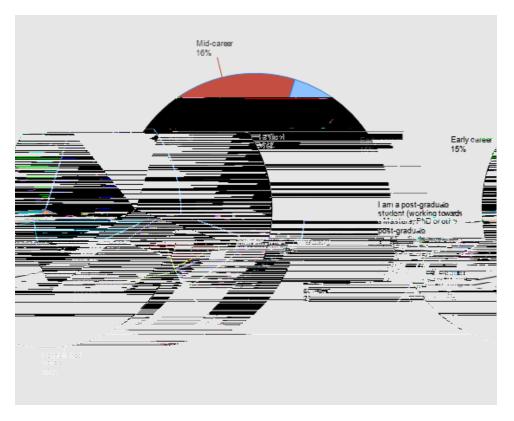


Figure 2: Breakdown of respondents by career stage. Responses: 1193.

#### Policy priorities questions

Question 9: How important do you think it is for the RSC to aim to influence each of the following aspects of public policy?

To find out which policy issues from our 2022-24 programme were most important to members, survey respondents were asked to consider each area of our current public policy work. Respondents rated each policy topic by importance, from important, important, neutral, unimportant, or very unimportant

results are presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Responses to Question 9, where respondents rated the importance of areas of our public policy work. . Responses: 1193.

All areas of current public policy work are considered important or very important by most respondents. Overall, chemistry workforce and skills and school-level chemistry curriculums and qualifications were most important to respondents, but all other policy areas followed closely. There were some notable differences in priorities by career stage and work sector.

Chemistry workforce and skills was most important for every career stage except retirees, who prioritised school-level chemistry and curriculums. For those in academia, sustainable science funding, culture and innovation was considered most important. innok M(n)6 (n)6 (o)6214.15nrk sehschoop 595.5 5 842 rere W/TT0 1y ogi

Some respondents chose to elaborate on their answer to question 9. Many respondents feel that climate change is the most pressing issue, and they would like to see even more policy work on global environmental challenges -

in more detail. A significant number of respondents expressed that environmental issues such as sustainability, global warming, climate change, energy, and waste should be prioritised. Our members would like to see the RSC more publicly showcase positive developments in chemical sciences research and advocate for the importance of chemists in society. The 2024 Members Survey results support this notion: 89% of those surveyed feel proud to be a member of the RSC, for several reasons including the environmental sustainability. As in question 9, these topics already make up a

significant part of our current public policy work. Many respondents also had concerns about the stability and management of higher education establishments. Furthermore, some respondents felt that research

#### RSC role and importance question

Question 17: Our policy and campaign work involves the following activities. How important do you consider the RSC's role to be?

f the main activities the RSC engages in to inform and influence public policy. Respondents were asked to consider nine different activities that we engage in as part of our policy and campaign work. Respondents were very

presented in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Responses to Question 17, where respondents were asked to rate the importance of different activities that fall under our policy and campaign work. Ordered by number of very com5004C005000533 @05200550Cw00533 @0520055005700440051005700B60003eWE

## Professional development question

Question 18: How important are each of the following policy topics for your professional development?

Respondents were offered a list of policy matters and were asked to consider how important each topic is to their professional development. The purpose of this was to prompt respondents to think more about whether policy and influence can help their professional development and career progression. The results will enable the Policy & Evidence team to share the most relevant content via the RSC's professional development channels.

Policy Topic	% for 'very important'	<b>% for</b> 'importanť	<b>% for</b> 'neutral'
Working with parliamentarians (UK, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, MEPs)	17	23	29
Working with intergovernmental organisations (UN, EU)	18	28	27
How UK and devolved administration Governments and parliaments take decisions	13	30	30
How public policy (e.g. Government strategies, new regulations, Government investment schemes) is developed and how to influence it	20	37	23
How scientists can get involved in government Scientific Advisory Committees	27	33	21
How science and scientific research can inform Governments	32	36	15

### Awareness and engagement questions

- Question 12: How aware are you of RSC's Policy and Influence work?
- Question 13: How often do you talk to colleagues and peers about RSC's policy work?
- Question 14: What channels do you use to stay informed about RSC's policy work and positions?
- Question 15: Which social media platforms do you use to stay up to date with RSC's policy work?

		8	
	43%	RSC website	
	40%	Chemistry World magazine	
		Navidation 22	_
	125		_
		1201 Intervet Ginnigs on stabijest commun	
1275		teres in the second state of the second state	10000
108		With a marga	eine 🛔
		ha wa maranta An MC, palog	weate
<b>HARACE</b> 455		1000 generation of g	nan k
	18. 10.5 1.28	The second secon	

Figure 6: Responses to Question 16, where respondents were asked which channels they would like to see more information about RSC policy work through. Responses: 1193.

# Next steps for 2025 and beyond

Our policy and parliamentary affairs activities are part of the RSC Voice and Influence strategy, ensuring chemistry has a recognised and influential role in science and society. To ensure that we are making

policy programme. Setting policy priorities ensures that our work makes the most impact, so we can influence decision-making in an agile and politically aware way. In line with our charitable purpose, we aim to act in the public interest and represent our member community, advocating for what chemistry needs from and can contribute to decision-making. Ultimately, our mission is to raise the visibility of how the chemical sciences can make the world a better place.

help guide the conversations we have with political decision-makers. Th survey results have steered planning discussions within the Policy & Evidence and Parliamentary Affairs teams and helped to shape and refine our policy priority and advocacy areas for 2025 to 2029. This autumn, we put these policy areas forward to the relevant RSC Governance bodies for consideration and endorsement.

## Policy priorities for 2025-29

We have developed a policy programme that aligns with the <u>Royal Society of Chemistry's strategy</u> for 2025 and beyond. Key policy topics fit our Voice and Influence strategy, particularly our work to influence decision makers, responding to the political environment while drawing on expertise, evidence and insights from across our community. The survey showed that members considered all the topics in the 2022-24 policy programme important, so they will continue into the 2025-29 programme, alongside a few new topics and themes many respondents considered important for the future. The policy programme topics are:

ents also told us tha ontinue to build on t ons piece, which calls form the

S

m

<u>in</u>

of o

to see more RSC policy work feature in mainstream n and success of public campaigns like our <u>ice lollies</u> STEM accessibility and engagement. This forms part



You might also like to join our <u>Education Community Council</u>, which promotes the study and dissemination of knowledge of chemical education at all levels. This includes informing our education policy work.

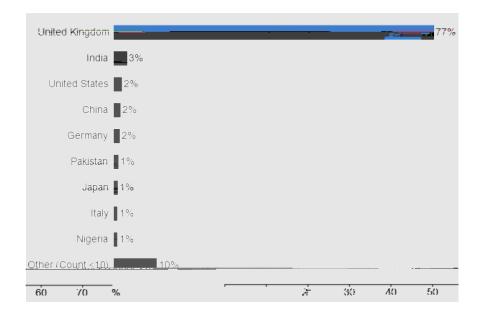
Share your story: we would welcome case studies on the themes discussed in this summary, please send to policy@rsc.org.

Your participation in any of the above is a chance to drive positive change and ensure that the chemical sciences continue to thrive and benefit society, improving our health, environment, and daily lives.

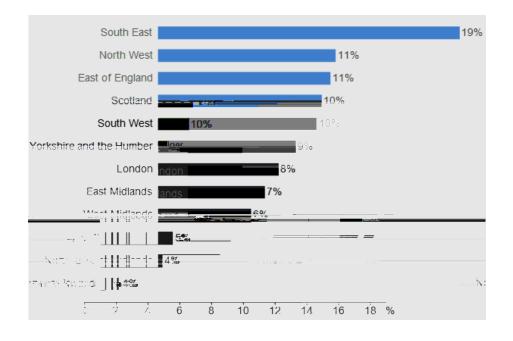
Please get in touch via policy@rsc.org.

November 2024

# Annex: Additional graphs and data

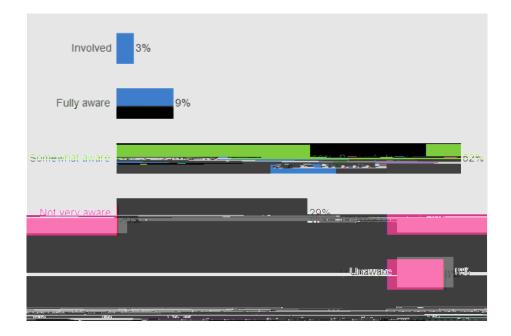


. [] /

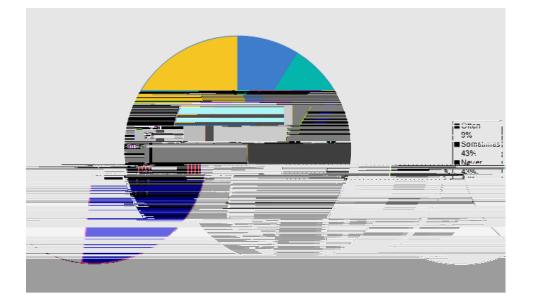


.

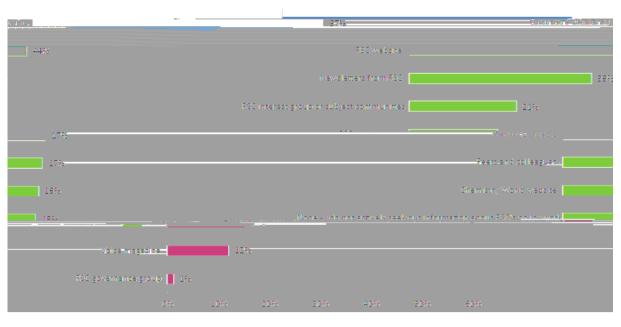
921.



Annex Figure E. Responses to Q12



How often do you talk to colleagues and peers about RSC's policy work? Please select one.







Annex Figure H. Responses to Q15

. Responses: 206.