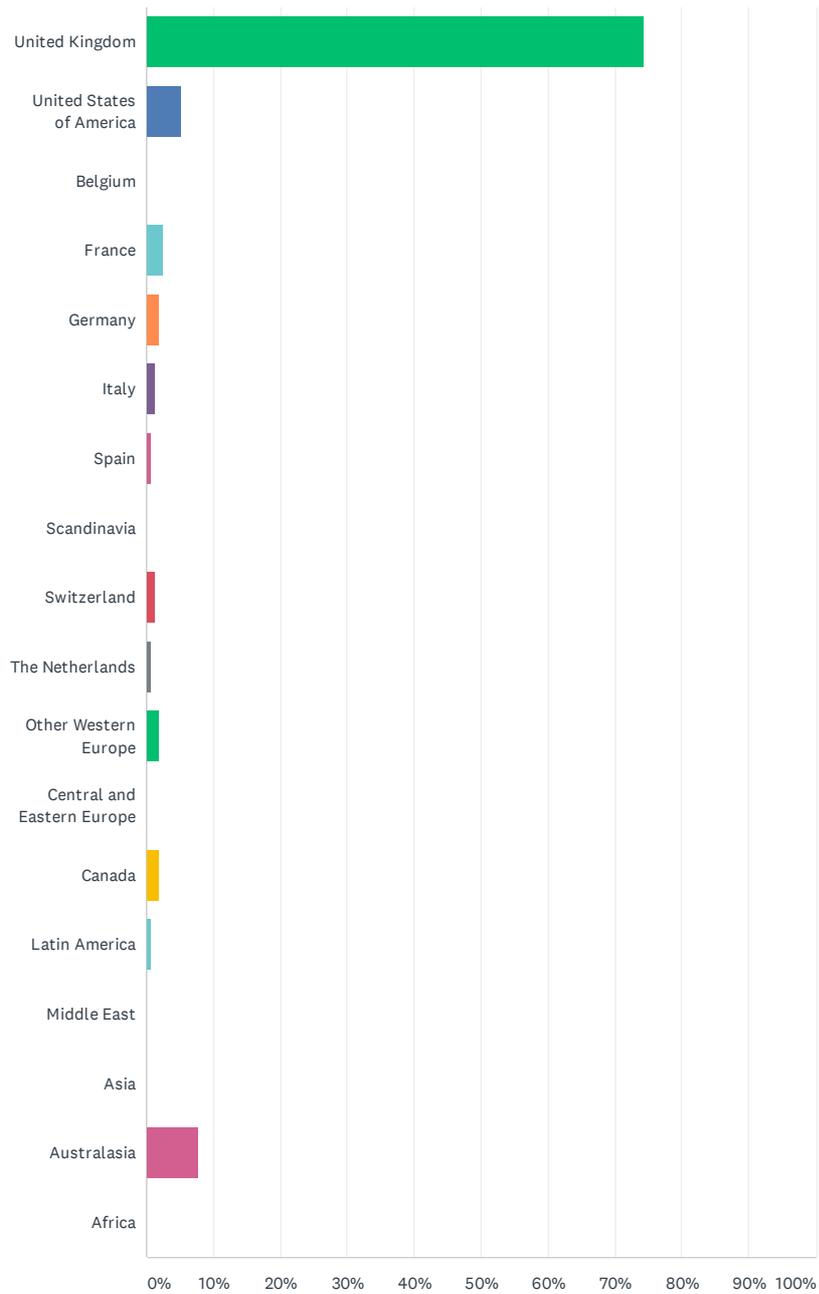


### Q1 Where are you based (tick one answer)?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
United Kingdom	74.36%	116
United States of America	5.13%	8
Belgium	0.00%	0
France	2.56%	4
Germany	1.92%	3
Italy	1.28%	2
Spain	0.64%	1
Scandinavia	0.00%	0
Switzerland	1.28%	2
The Netherlands	0.64%	1
Other Western Europe	1.92%	3
Central and Eastern Europe	0.00%	0
Canada	1.92%	3
Latin America	0.64%	1
Middle East	0.00%	0
Asia	0.00%	0
Australasia	7.69%	12
Africa	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>156</b>

Q2 What best describes where you currently work (we appreciate there will be some overlap of roles and nomenclature but please tick one "best" answer)?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



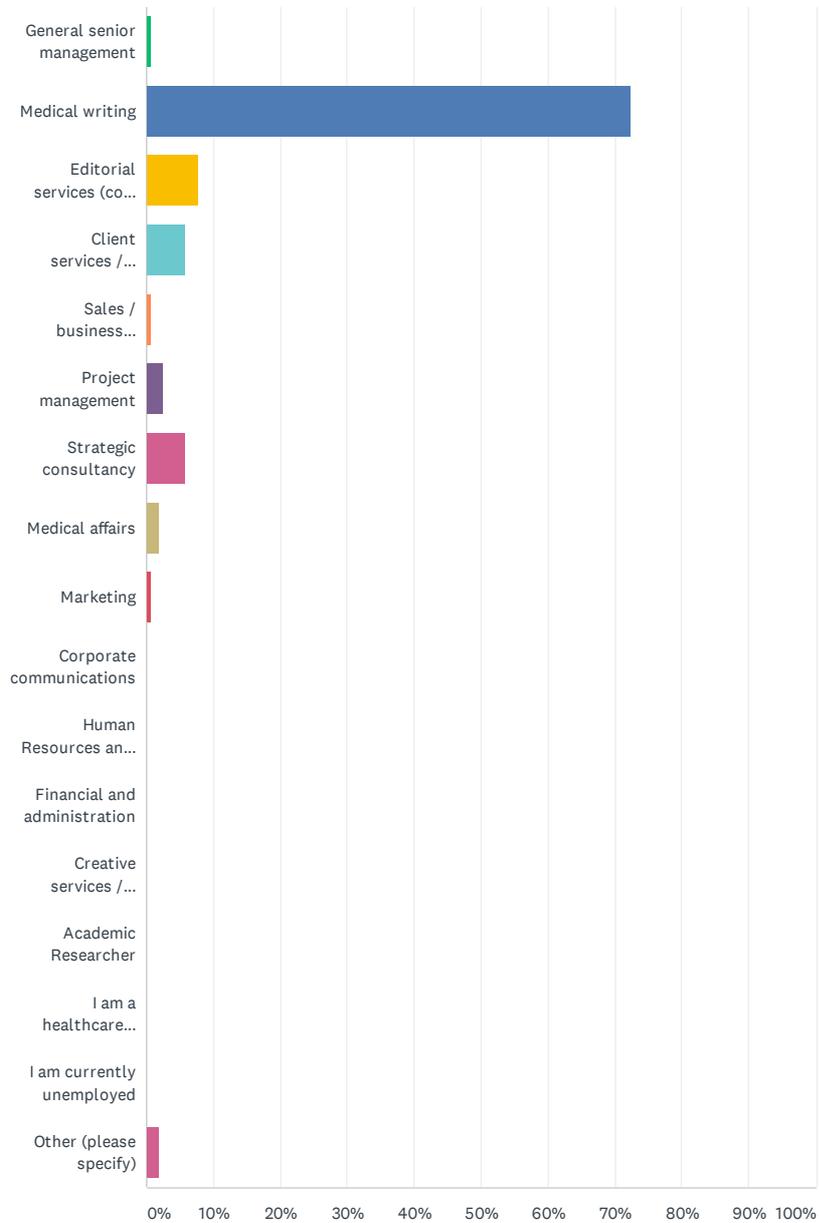
## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I am a MedComms freelancer / consultant / interim / independent	100.00%	156
MedComms / Med Ed agency	0.00%	0
Market Access / HEOR specialist agency	0.00%	0
Publications specialist agency	0.00%	0
Commercial CME provider	0.00%	0
Other communications agency (PR, branding etc)	0.00%	0
CRO/Regulatory writing agency	0.00%	0
Recruitment company	0.00%	0
Design company	0.00%	0
Digital / multimedia company	0.00%	0
Events organizer	0.00%	0
Pharma/Healthcare/Biotech/Devices company	0.00%	0
Scientific (STM) journals / books publishing company	0.00%	0
Training company	0.00%	0
Translation services provider	0.00%	0
Industry information services provider	0.00%	0
Academic Institute	0.00%	0
Medical Society	0.00%	0
Healthcare service organisation	0.00%	0
I am currently unemployed	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>156</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q3 What is the best fit, broad description, of your primary role (we appreciate there will be some overlap of roles and nomenclature but please tick one “best” answer)?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



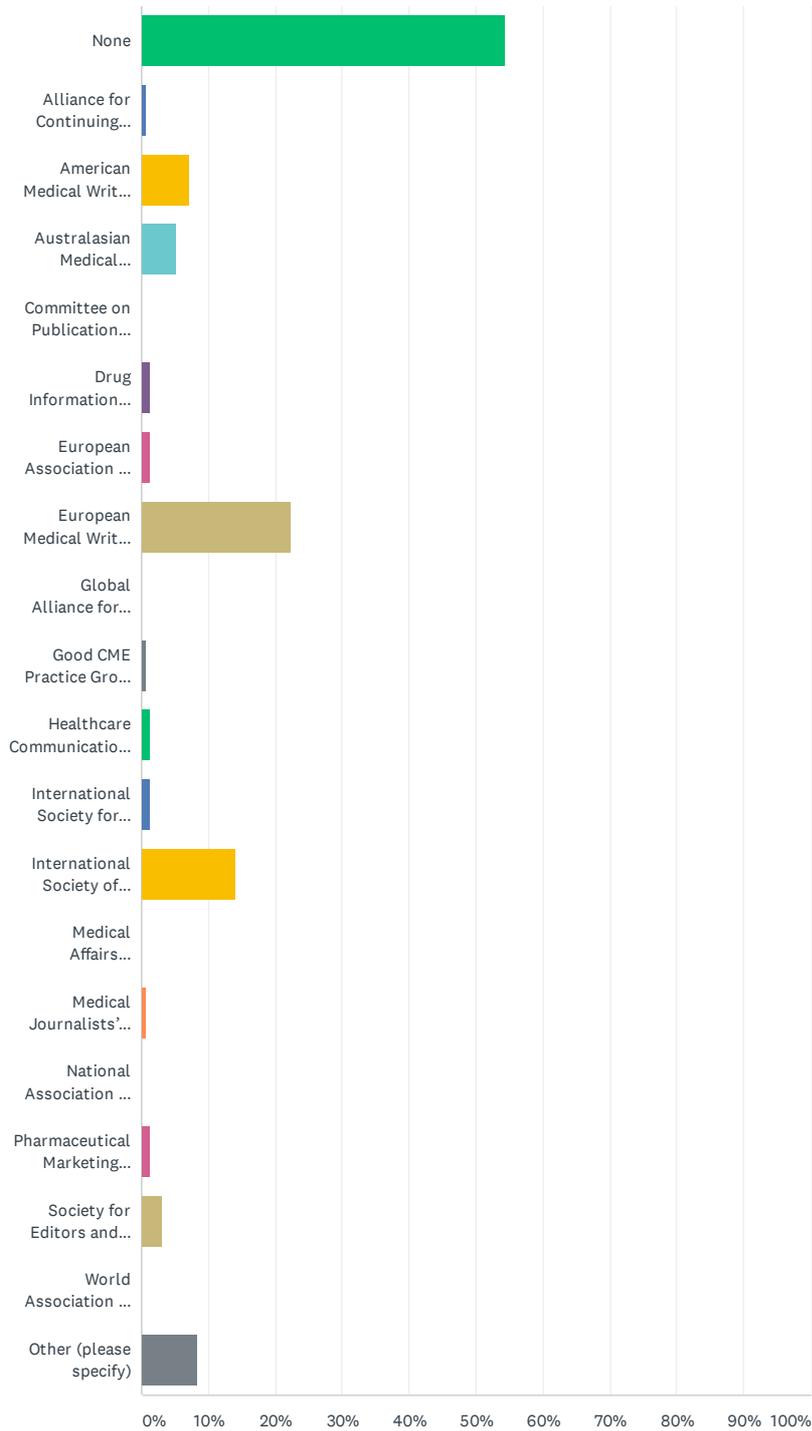
## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
General senior management	0.64%	1
Medical writing	72.44%	113
Editorial services (copy / production editing / proof-reading)	7.69%	12
Client services / account management	5.77%	9
Sales / business development	0.64%	1
Project management	2.56%	4
Strategic consultancy	5.77%	9
Medical affairs	1.92%	3
Marketing	0.64%	1
Corporate communications	0.00%	0
Human Resources and recruitment	0.00%	0
Financial and administration	0.00%	0
Creative services / production / design	0.00%	0
Academic Researcher	0.00%	0
I am a healthcare professional	0.00%	0
I am currently unemployed	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.92%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>156</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Referencing / Veeva Vault Specialist	1/7/2020 2:01 PM
2	Hybrid role between medical writing and account management/client services	1/3/2020 3:36 PM
3	Market access writer	1/2/2020 12:45 PM

### Q4 What relevant professional organizations are you a member of (tick all that apply)?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



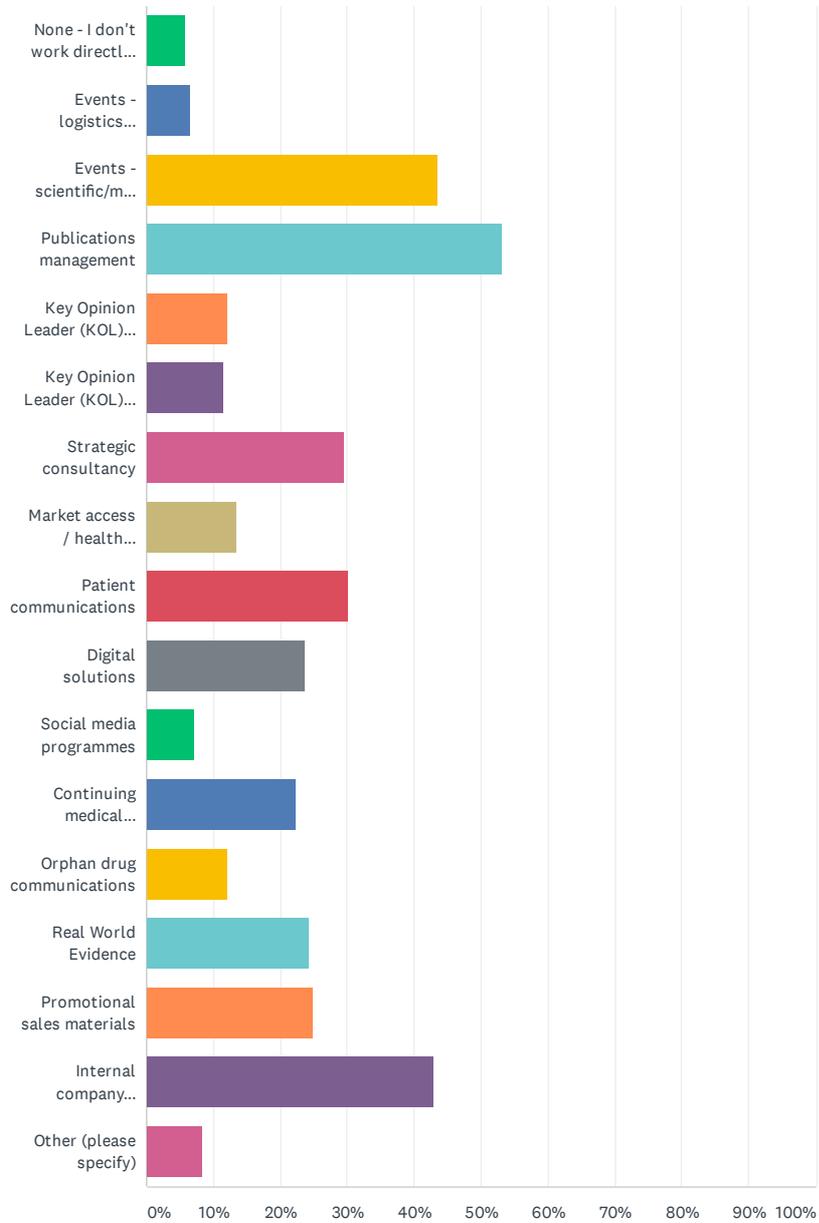
## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	54.49%	85
Alliance for Continuing Education in the Health Professions (ACEhp)	0.64%	1
American Medical Writers Association (AMWA)	7.05%	11
Australasian Medical Writer's Association (AMWA)	5.13%	8
Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)	0.00%	0
Drug Information Association (DIA)	1.28%	2
European Association of Science Editors (EASE)	1.28%	2
European Medical Writers Association (EMWA)	22.44%	35
Global Alliance for Medical Education (GAME)	0.00%	0
Good CME Practice Group (gCMEp)	0.64%	1
Healthcare Communications Association (HCA)	1.28%	2
International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR)	1.28%	2
International Society of Medical Publishing Professionals (ISMPP)	14.10%	22
Medical Affairs Professional Society (MAPS)	0.00%	0
Medical Journalists' Association	0.64%	1
National Association of Science Writers (NASW)	0.00%	0
Pharmaceutical Marketing Society (PM Society)	1.28%	2
Society for Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP)	3.21%	5
World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	8.33%	13
Total Respondents: 156		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	ARCS Australia Ltd (Association of Regulatory and Clinical Scientists) PIF (Patient Information Forum)	1/28/2020 11:13 PM
2	Editors Canada	1/28/2020 2:44 PM
3	Procopywriters' Network; Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS); The Alliance of Independent Authors; IPSE	1/23/2020 4:38 PM
4	IPSE	1/23/2020 7:43 AM
5	IPSE	1/8/2020 4:30 PM
6	National Union of Journalists	1/7/2020 3:55 PM
7	Member of Royal Pharmaceutical Society	1/7/2020 12:07 PM
8	IoD	1/6/2020 10:22 AM
9	ARCS	1/4/2020 3:31 AM
10	IPSE (association of independent professionals and the self-employed)	1/2/2020 7:12 PM
11	International Association of Veterinary Editors	1/2/2020 4:06 PM
12	EUPATI	1/2/2020 2:22 PM
13	Guild of Health Writers	1/2/2020 2:18 PM

Q5 Which of the following specialist MedComms areas are you currently active in (tick all that apply)?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



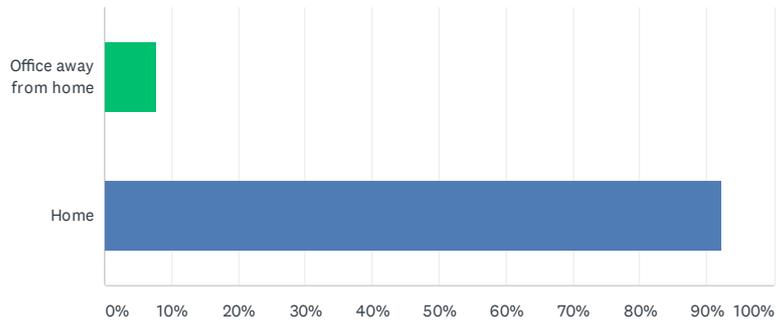
## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None - I don't work directly in MedComms	5.77%	9
Events - logistics management	6.41%	10
Events - scientific/medical programmes and content development	43.59%	68
Publications management	53.21%	83
Key Opinion Leader (KOL) / external expert profiling and identification	12.18%	19
Key Opinion Leader (KOL) / external expert management	11.54%	18
Strategic consultancy	29.49%	46
Market access / health outcomes	13.46%	21
Patient communications	30.13%	47
Digital solutions	23.72%	37
Social media programmes	7.05%	11
Continuing medical education and professional development (CME / CPD)	22.44%	35
Orphan drug communications	12.18%	19
Real World Evidence	24.36%	38
Promotional sales materials	25.00%	39
Internal company training activities (MSLs, Reps and others)	42.95%	67
Other (please specify)	8.33%	13
Total Respondents: 156		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Editorial work - can be many of the above	1/28/2020 1:23 PM
2	Drafting reviews, writing reports of satellite symposia and other congress events, writing short insight articles, writing website content, drafting questions and materials for podcasts/expert interviews	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
3	Non-promotional materials - manuscripts, slide decks, posters etc and documents for internal pharma use.	1/22/2020 3:41 PM
4	Regulatory submissions	1/22/2020 3:08 PM
5	Research	1/22/2020 2:07 PM
6	None	1/20/2020 5:58 AM
7	Clinical trial materials; ie materials to support patients and HCPs involved in clinical trials (patient consent aids, factsheets, quick reference guides, etc)	1/15/2020 9:06 AM
8	None	1/14/2020 2:35 PM
9	Approval systems	1/7/2020 2:01 PM
10	All materials created by MedComms agencies in addition to those listed above -- from manuscripts for publication in learned journals, to slide decks and posters for conferences, marketing material, patient information, regulatory material [eg CVDs and GVDs], etc.	1/6/2020 7:25 PM
11	Not sure that the question is clear. None of the options apply	1/6/2020 1:27 PM
12	Writing services for publications - posters, abstracts, journal articles, pub plans	1/3/2020 3:57 PM
13	Grants programme	1/2/2020 7:12 PM

### Q6 Where do you work from primarily?

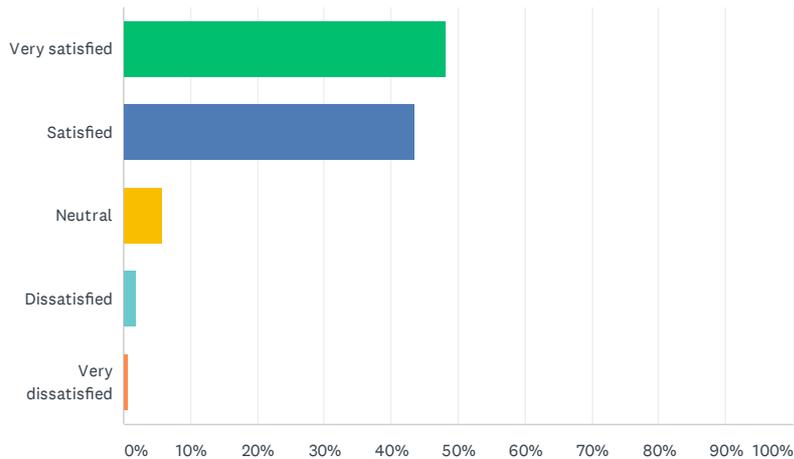
Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Office away from home	7.69%	12
Home	92.31%	144
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>156</b>

### Q7 How satisfied are you with your current job?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0

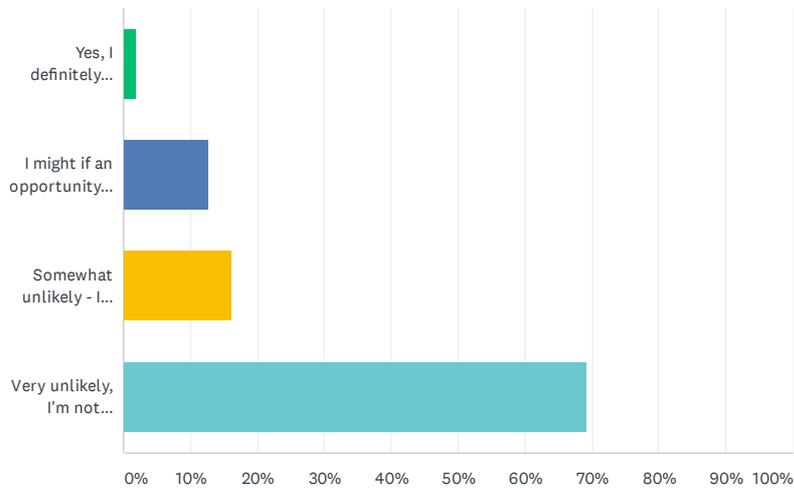


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very satisfied	48.08% 75
Satisfied	43.59% 68
Neutral	5.77% 9
Dissatisfied	1.92% 3
Very dissatisfied	0.64% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>

#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	I haven't looked back since going freelance. I enjoy the flexibility that an agency job can't offer, no matter how forward thing an employer is. I'm able to work around my family and I get paid for every hour I do. Plus I get to work across a broad range of projects and therapy areas.	1/28/2020 2:40 PM
2	Working from home as a freelancer is flexible, convenient and less pressured than work as a full time employee (particularly in med comms agencies) but it is isolating with none of the additional financial benefits that come from employment	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
3	Always hard balancing finding new assignments as an independent, with delivering quality on existing briefs.	1/27/2020 9:18 AM
4	Very frustrated with HMRC and clients over lack of clarity and advice on how new IR35 regulations will be implemented. Recruiters and clients are contacting me about contracts lasting >3 months with no indication of how they are likely to be viewed from an IR35 perspective.	1/23/2020 7:43 AM
5	I could get into specifics but haven't got all day! General gripes: work's often boring/impossible (freelancers get the work nobody else wants to do), briefs are usually rubbish/incomplete, tone of communication is often rude/impolite, and you're generally on the receiving end of comments about how expensive you are ('how dare you ask to be paid for working additional non-contracted hours' etc)	1/22/2020 2:30 PM
6	Seeking other activities in which I can add greater value.	1/2/2020 4:06 PM
7	Early days and I am still spending more than I earn.	1/2/2020 1:55 PM
8	Since I became a freelancer I have been able to enjoy the work much more, without needing to be involved in company development or politics	1/2/2020 1:36 PM

### Q8 How likely is it that you will look to change your employer in 2020 (freelancers, you are your own employer)?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0

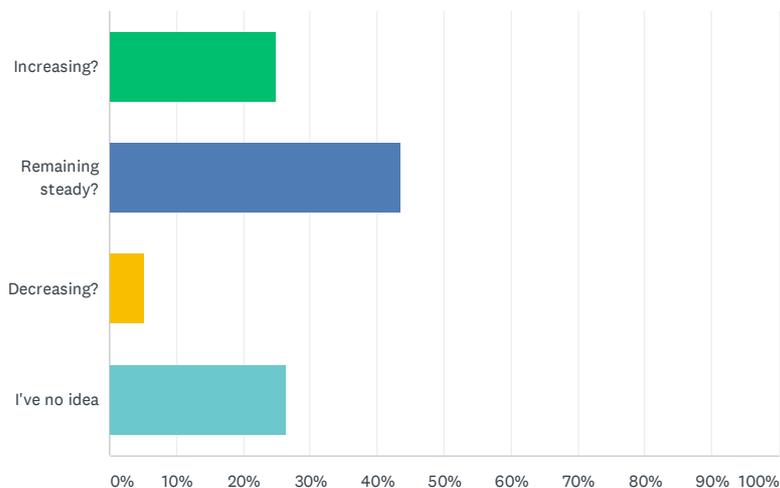


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes, I definitely intend to move	1.92% 3
I might if an opportunity arises	12.82% 20
Somewhat unlikely - I doubt it	16.03% 25
Very unlikely, I'm not expecting to move	69.23% 108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>

#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	From a freelance perspective, the nature of how we work will obviously change based on IR35; this has me considering whether full time employment may be a better option.	1/31/2020 2:13 PM
2	Despite the unknown factor regarding the impact of IR35 on my work, it's out of my hands. Until I hear concrete plans from my clients who have to implement this, I'm not expecting it too change too much. I have seen some contracts change slightly with regards to the clauses they've introduced. It may be that processes will change to provide clarity for both sides. But it's a watch and see approach I'm taking. I'll then consider if I change my status, raise fees or focus on my smaller clients.	1/28/2020 2:40 PM
3	I think it would be difficult to go back to having a boss and experiencing the stress of employment in med comms environments.	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
4	However, depends on how work opportunities are affected by the new IR35 rules	1/23/2020 10:06 AM
5	Have moved continents! I've been freelancing for most of my career but an opportunity came up in a country I have wanted to live in for a while, so have decided to move back into a permanent role to see how it goes. It also gives me the opportunities to brush up on a few skills I haven't used in a while. I'm keeping an open mind. I'm also worried about how the IR35 is going to hit contractors so this will give me a chance to see how it goes. Although based in NZ, if I go back to freelancing later on, I still intend to use my limited business in the UK for work, hence my watch and wait approach to the IR35 rule.	1/14/2020 9:13 PM
6	IR35 may impact whether I remain working on a freelance basis	1/6/2020 9:37 PM
7	I am not expecting to stop being a freelancer	1/6/2020 7:25 PM
8	Looking for a ticket to work/live in an EU country, and willing to go perm for the opportunity; if that doesn't work out, then will be staying in the UK and continuing to contract	1/5/2020 10:43 PM
9	First time I have considered it but I am very concerned about what changes IR35 might bring and never thought I would say it, but if necessary if the right opportunity arose that was home-based I might consider an employed role	1/3/2020 3:36 PM
10	I have been a freelance medical writer for over 20 years and I do expect to continue as a freelancer until I retire. As MedComms becomes more demanding and faster paced, the ability I have to set my own hours and types of project worked on, is becoming increasingly important to me - and I am grateful for the consistency with which I am offered work.	1/3/2020 11:54 AM
11	Currently freelance, but may go in-house depending on impending IR35 changes	1/2/2020 2:29 PM
12	I will only consider a permanent role again if freelancing opportunities dry up, or if IR35 turns out to be more of a headache than I thought	1/2/2020 1:36 PM
13	Not relevant	1/2/2020 12:33 PM

### Q9 From your own perspective, do you think the overall amount of MedComms activity that the Pharma/Healthcare/Biotech/Devices industry is outsourcing year on year is currently...

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0

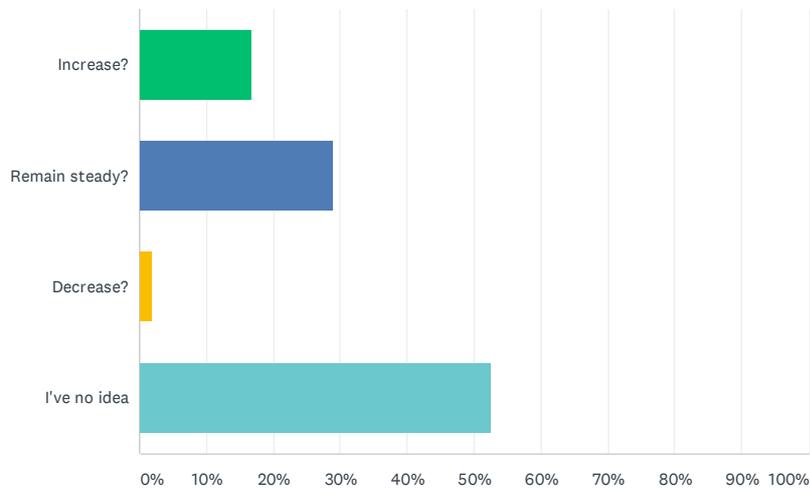


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increasing?	25.00% 39
Remaining steady?	43.59% 68
Decreasing?	5.13% 8
I've no idea	26.28% 41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>156</b>

#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	There remains much med comms work coming from the pharma industry but there are also an increasing number of agencies chasing it. I don't think that pharma company's med comms budgets are increasing very much and winning contracts is challenging	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
2	From my own experience and those of freelance colleagues in medical writing as a whole, I'd say work was quieter than the previous 10 years or so I've been self-employed.	1/23/2020 4:38 PM
3	Hard to say. In 5 years, 2019 was my most sporadic/slowest year to date but 2020 is already off to a strong start, so maybe last year was just a blip	1/7/2020 2:57 PM
4	I believe IR35 will have an impact.	1/6/2020 9:19 AM
5	Use of PromoMats seems to have increased the referencing help needed	1/2/2020 7:12 PM
6	some concern about IR 35	1/2/2020 2:22 PM
7	I think it's increasingly but companies are being more selective about who they outsource the work to.	1/2/2020 2:18 PM
8	I wondered if it is decreasing due to increased use of AI but I really have no idea.	1/2/2020 1:55 PM

Q10 From your own perspective, comparing 2020 vs 2019 do you think the overall amount of consolidation/M&A activity amongst MedComms agencies will...

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0

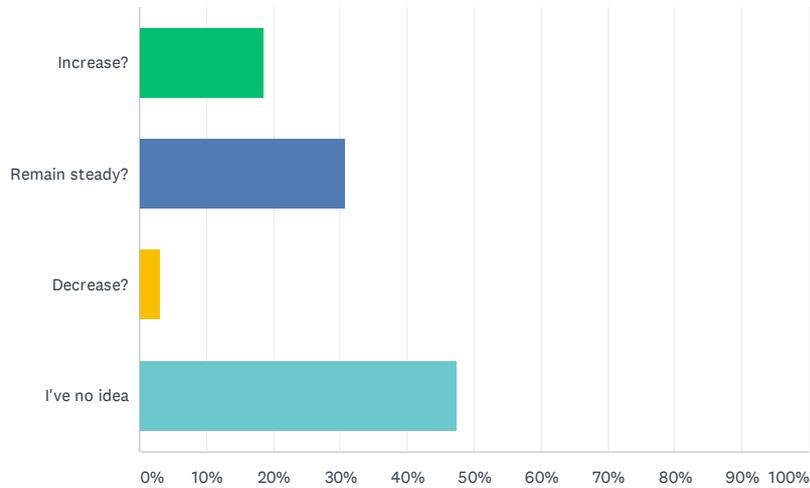


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increase?	16.67% 26
Remain steady?	28.85% 45
Decrease?	1.92% 3
I've no idea	52.56% 82
TOTAL	156

#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	Possible impact of Brexit 2021 onwards?	1/28/2020 1:23 PM
2	There are a great many med comms agencies out there and employment for medical writers is still abundant so if there is consolidation it is not affecting employment within the sector	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
3	I work in healthcare advertising, but we can see clients using us for more Med Ed and rep training type work. I think many agencies are branching out into different types of comms. Many of the writers employed have a variety of different backgrounds - so it makes sense to use this talent to increase the scope of work and agency can do	1/14/2020 9:13 PM
4	Could the changes to IR35 affect this?	1/3/2020 3:36 PM

Q11 From your own perspective, comparing 2020 vs 2019 do you think the overall amount of consolidation/M&A activity amongst Pharma/Healthcare/Biotech/Devices companies will...

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0

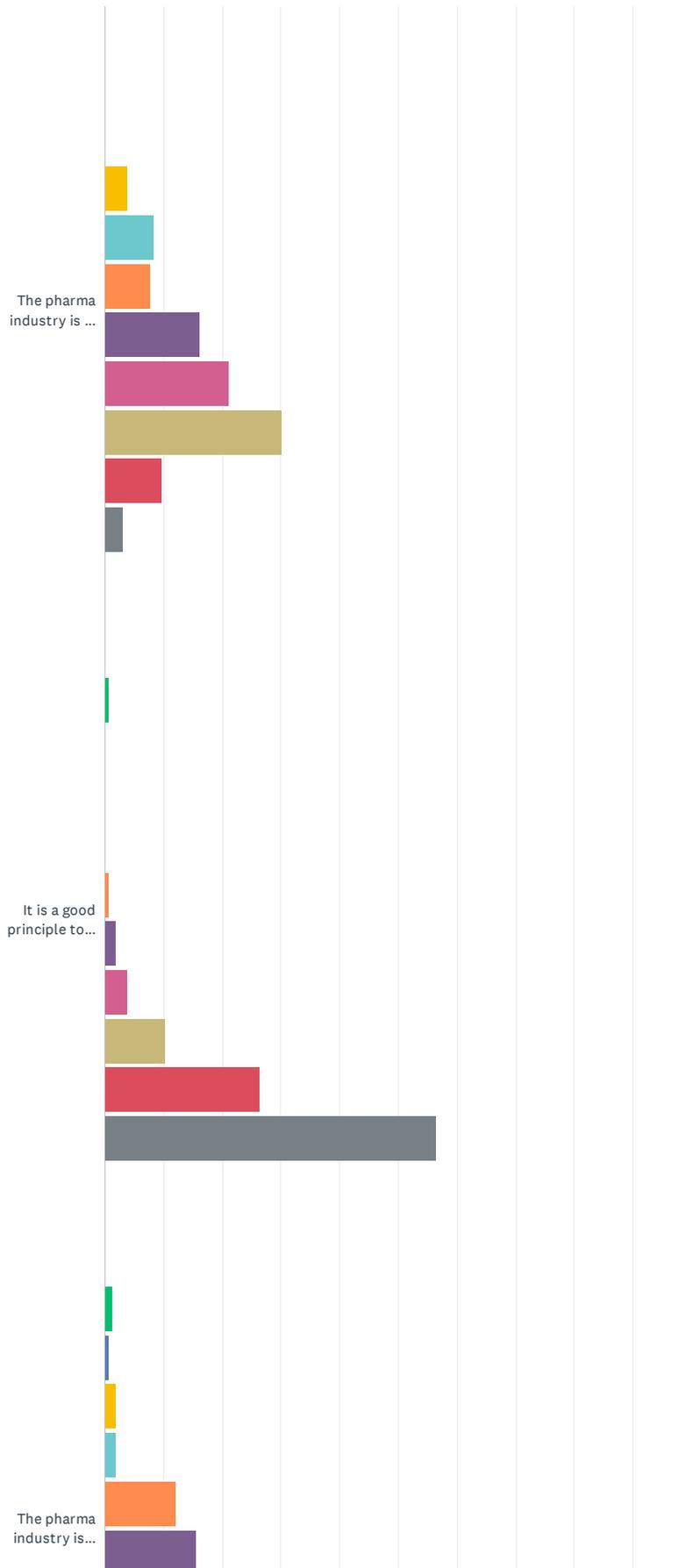


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Increase?	18.59% 29
Remain steady?	30.77% 48
Decrease?	3.21% 5
I've no idea	47.44% 74
TOTAL	156

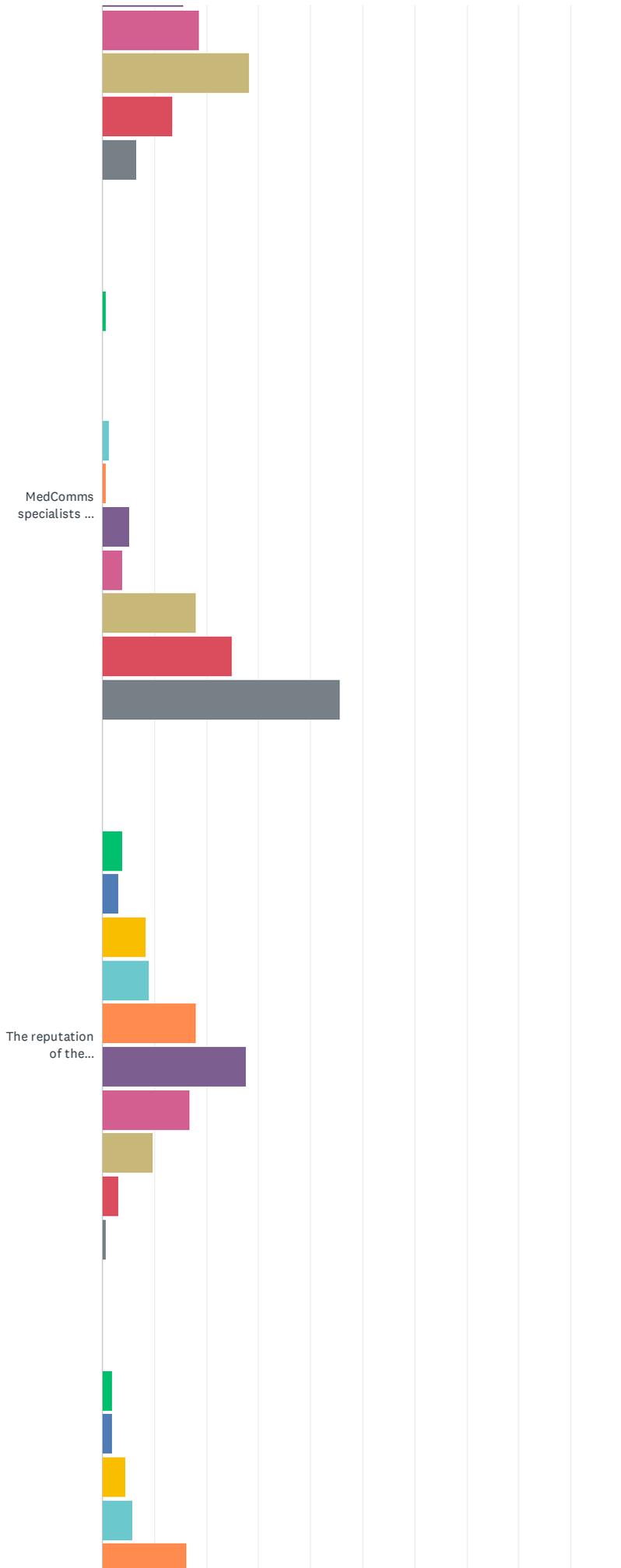
#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	Possible impact of Brexit 2021 onwards?	1/28/2020 1:23 PM
2	There seems to be less appetite among the pharmaceutical players for large mergers - smaller ones may continue	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
3	As above, will IR35 affect this?	1/3/2020 3:36 PM

Q12 How much do you agree with the following statements? Please answer from a personal viewpoint (read carefully - tick one answer for each statement).

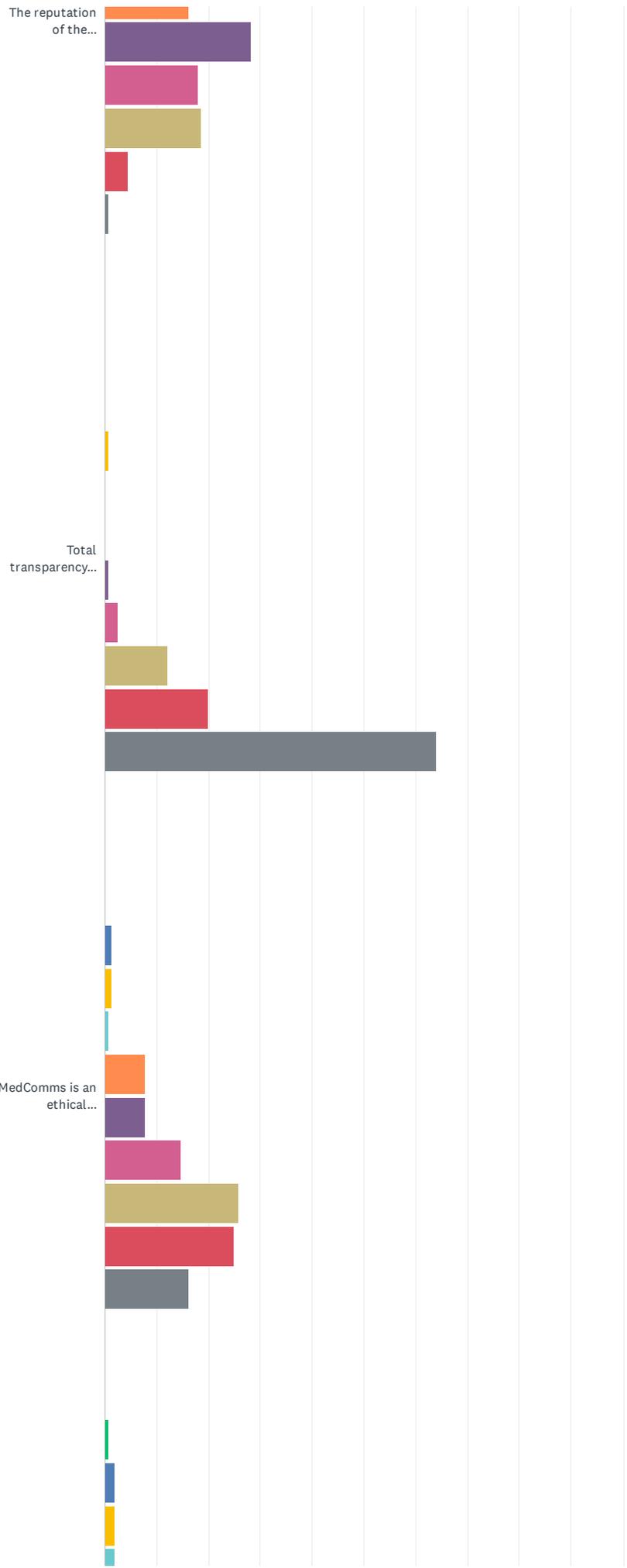
Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



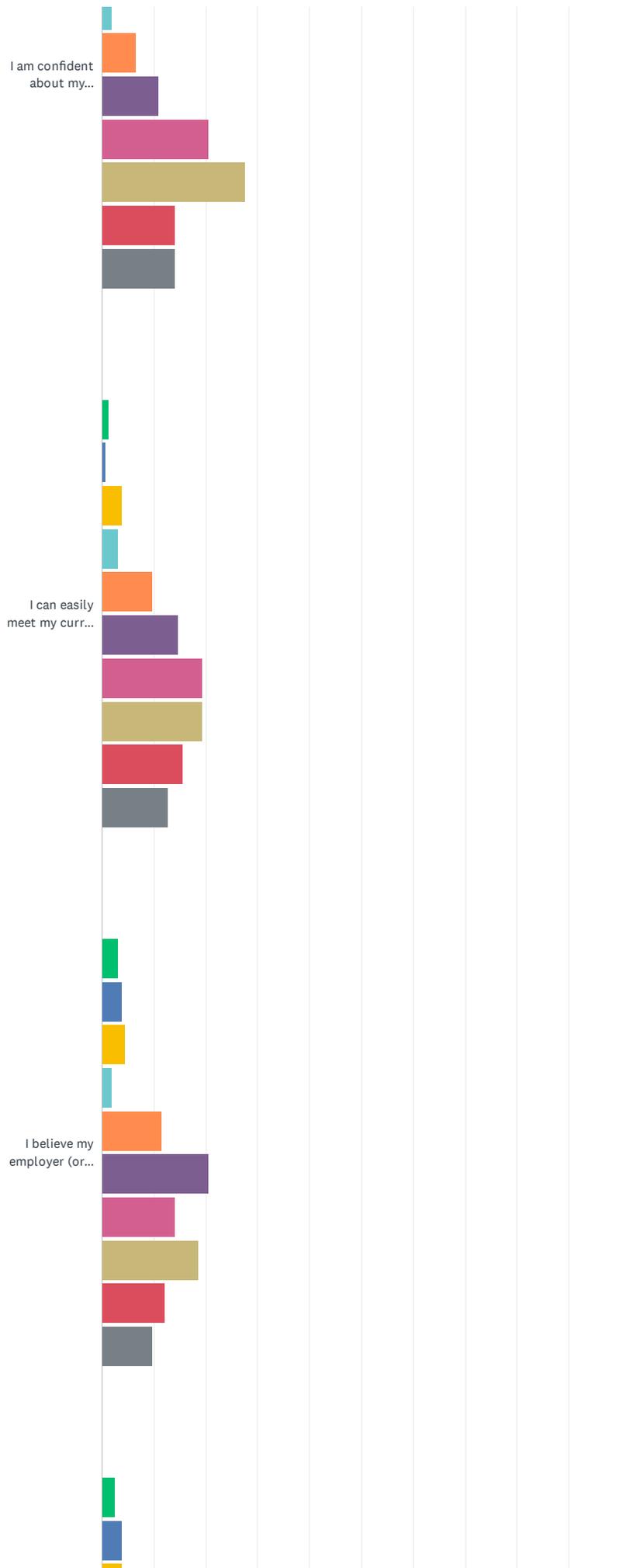
# MedComms Networking Barometer 2020



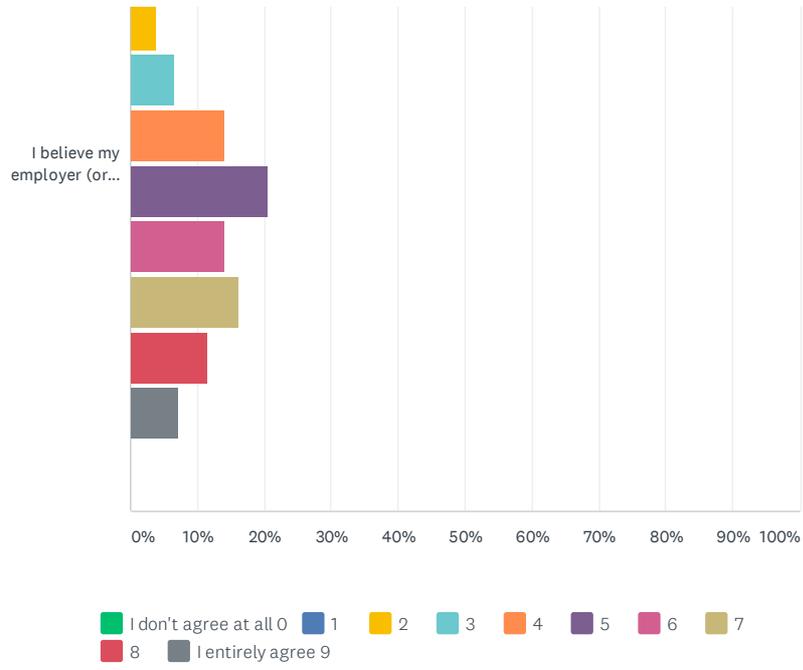
# MedComms Networking Barometer 2020



# MedComms Networking Barometer 2020



# MedComms Networking Barometer 2020



## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

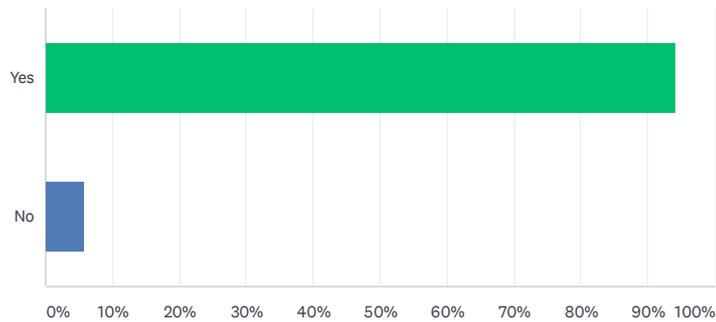
	I DON'T AGREE AT ALL 0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	I ENTIRELY AGREE 9	TOT
The pharma industry is a credible and trusted source of information about medicines	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	3.85% 6	8.33% 13	7.69% 12	16.03% 25	21.15% 33	30.13% 47	9.62% 15	3.21% 5	1
It is a good principle to aim at, to publish all clinical trial data for all products	0.64% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.64% 1	1.92% 3	3.85% 6	10.26% 16	26.28% 41	56.41% 88	1
The pharma industry is indeed striving to publish all clinical trial data for all products	1.28% 2	0.64% 1	1.92% 3	1.92% 3	12.18% 19	15.38% 24	18.59% 29	28.21% 44	13.46% 21	6.41% 10	1
MedComms specialists can play a direct role in ensuring pharma companies work to best practice standards	0.64% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	1.28% 2	0.64% 1	5.13% 8	3.85% 6	17.95% 28	25.00% 39	45.51% 71	1
The reputation of the pharmaceutical industry is improving amongst the wider public	3.85% 6	3.21% 5	8.33% 13	8.97% 14	17.95% 28	27.56% 43	16.67% 26	9.62% 15	3.21% 5	0.64% 1	1
The reputation of the pharmaceutical industry is improving amongst healthcare professionals	1.92% 3	1.92% 3	4.49% 7	5.77% 9	16.03% 25	28.21% 44	17.95% 28	18.59% 29	4.49% 7	0.64% 1	1
Total transparency of financial arrangements between industry and healthcare professionals is a good principle to aim at	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.64% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.64% 1	2.56% 4	12.18% 19	19.87% 31	64.10% 100	1
MedComms is an ethical business	0.00% 0	1.28% 2	1.28% 2	0.64% 1	7.69% 12	7.69% 12	14.74% 23	25.64% 40	25.00% 39	16.03% 25	1
I am confident about my personal financial future	0.64% 1	1.92% 3	1.92% 3	1.92% 3	6.41% 10	10.90% 17	20.51% 32	27.56% 43	14.10% 22	14.10% 22	1
I can easily meet my current training needs	1.28% 2	0.64% 1	3.85% 6	3.21% 5	9.62% 15	14.74% 23	19.23% 30	19.23% 30	15.38% 24	12.82% 20	1
I believe my employer (or in the case of Freelancers - I) will increase revenues in 2020 compared with 2019	3.21% 5	3.85% 6	4.49% 7	1.92% 3	11.54% 18	20.51% 32	14.10% 22	18.59% 29	12.18% 19	9.62% 15	1
I believe my employer (or in the case of Freelancers - I) will increase profitability in 2020 compared with 2019	2.56% 4	3.85% 6	3.85% 6	6.41% 10	14.10% 22	20.51% 32	14.10% 22	16.03% 25	11.54% 18	7.05% 11	1

## MedComms Networking Barometer 2020

#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	Pharma companies seem to be increasingly pushing down costs for MedComms support of publications and supporting materials. This along with factors such as Brexit and IR35 coming into play may in fact narrow the margin of profitability in 2020.	1/31/2020 2:13 PM
2	I think Med Comms would be an ethical business if everyone stuck to the rules that are in place. I don't think that happens in all med comms companies.	1/29/2020 4:40 AM
3	Personal choice to take on less work this year, and perhaps the proposed changes to the IR35 rules will also have an impact	1/27/2020 12:54 PM
4	The pharma industry, to some extent, appears to be switching away from models of articles and meeting materials and is going for more online content which is affecting the type of work medical writers and med comms people do and the income they can derive from it.	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
5	My feeling is that freelance rates / profitability have stayed at around the same level for 10 years or more - if not decreased - this probably reflects the general economy in the UK though	1/27/2020 9:24 AM
6	I think the impending changes to IR35 are already impacting work flow and more clients seem reluctant to pay an acceptable rate for experienced, qualified medical writers, more so in Med Comms than in Regulatory writing	1/23/2020 4:38 PM
7	I expect no difference in overall profitability (it's already very good and has been for many years)	1/22/2020 9:37 PM
8	Increased revenues and increased profitability will depend on IR35 regulations	1/22/2020 3:54 PM
9	1. Publishing all clinical trial data in journals is a nice idea but it's not realistic. What do you do after the 3rd rejection? 2. MedComms specialists COULD play a role in ensuring pharma (and med comms agencies for that matter) work to best standards, but my overwhelming impression is that most people (agency staff and freelancers alike) just turn a blind eye to stuff and keep their heads down rather than whistle-blow - they fear the consequences of being sticking their head above the parapet	1/22/2020 2:30 PM
10	Not planning to increase revenues or profit because I am planning to work fewer hours this year	1/21/2020 3:10 PM
11	No idea re profitability due to the potential effect of IR35 on availability of freelance work going forward.	1/9/2020 2:33 PM
12	Something I have little or no knowledge of is whether medcomms agencies ever/routinely question any dodgy practices, data manipulation etc. by their pharma clients.	1/6/2020 4:04 PM
13	I think med comms has had its head in the sand about the potential impacts of Brexit on workforce and talent, and that this year will be a challenge on that front	1/5/2020 10:43 PM
14	Recurring theme but concerned about the changes IR35 might bring	1/3/2020 3:36 PM
15	In general, I value the flexibility to take time off when I want or need to rather than increasing earnings each year.	1/2/2020 2:25 PM
16	Already working at near max capacity.	1/2/2020 1:53 PM
17	There are many job opportunities in Medcomms, but it is not always easy to gain the skills that allow you to move. For instance if you have been working in pubs, but wish to try something like regulatory, employers will unlikely consider you for a more senior role unless you have related experience. And there is no way to get such experience when you are within a pubs role. So you get a bit stuck.	1/2/2020 1:36 PM

### Q13 If asked, do you recommend MedComms to others as a worthwhile career option?

Answered: 156 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.23%	147
No	5.77%	9
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>156</b>

#	PLEASE ADD ANY FURTHER INSIGHTS HERE (REMEMBER THE COMMENTS HERE WILL BE MADE PUBLIC)...	DATE
1	It seems there will always be a need for MedComms to support the volumes of clinical research.	1/31/2020 2:13 PM
2	Yes, but I think everyone should first be employed as a writer in an agency/publisher/pharma company for at least a little while before trying to freelance, in order to get some training.	1/29/2020 4:40 AM
3	Good money! Interesting work.	1/28/2020 1:23 PM
4	I think that medical writing at least, is a good application of a scientific background/training. Some other med comms activities such as client/project directors are a less good use of such skills and require more managerial and salesmanship skills	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
5	Plenty of important caveats. Downsides need to be understood. Not for everyone.	1/27/2020 10:41 AM
6	Yes somewhat. The pace is faster and the area more difficult to penetrate than when I started	1/22/2020 9:37 PM
7	No way. Be a doctor.	1/22/2020 2:30 PM
8	But yes if I really think the person is suited and would like it - it's not for everybody	1/21/2020 3:10 PM
9	I think anyone considering a profession in MedComms should be aware of how the industry is likely to be affected by the confluence of AI and Big Data.	1/21/2020 11:23 AM
10	If you love science and love writing, it's great! There are currently so many opportunities in the UK for those more technically mind and those who love to be creative. It can be tough and stressful at times but you get so much out of it. Definitely a great career path.	1/14/2020 9:13 PM
11	It's less rewarding the higher up the pole you scramble. If you want to write - and not move beyond a middle management role - you might as well give up on a career. If you want to ascend to the more senior levels you'd be better off on the accounts side.	1/7/2020 3:55 PM
12	As a freelancer, the amount of freedom I have is nice.	1/7/2020 2:57 PM
13	I frequently recommend it to people	1/7/2020 2:01 PM
14	It's worthwhile, and getting better as med comms agencies begin to recognise that work/life balance results in higher productivity and better work, but they're only starting to move away from the old bums-in-seats mentality	1/5/2020 10:43 PM
15	Proper career planning and budgeting for networking events are crucial, particularly for freelancers.	1/2/2020 4:06 PM
16	If Medcomms companies and agencies want to work with top freelancers, they need to offer them more flexibility, timely payments and professional respect, rather than treating them as dispensable.	1/2/2020 2:18 PM
17	There are different roles for you to choose from which all contribute to the dissemination of scientific information: med writing, editorial, graphic design, project management, client services, analyst. However, working within MedComms is not always enough to get you a different role. Companies still insist upon asking even experienced writers to complete the dreaded writing test before offering you a writing position, which is nothing but a waste of time for all involved. Perhaps a strong reference would suffice? There is always a probationary period anyway. Membership of the professional body should be used more. At present I do not find it useful. I also feel that it may be necessary to try a few companies. They differ so greatly from one company to the next, it's difficult to predict which will be a good fit for you.	1/2/2020 1:36 PM

**Q14 Do you have any general comments at all to offer about the current state of the MedComms business, the Pharma industry, this survey or about life in general? All comments welcomed. Please remember the comments here will be made public.**

Answered: 17 Skipped: 139

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Med comms work appears to remain buoyant - I am continually approached by recruiters suggesting a plethora of opportunities for those who want them. The pharma industry is for the most part, profitable and I believe will continue to outsource med comms and regulatory work which will sustain our industry	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
2	IR35 - will freelancers need to increase their rates if their clients can't agree to contracts that are outside IR35?	1/27/2020 10:41 AM
3	No.	1/22/2020 4:51 PM
4	Ethics concerns me. GPP3 isn't being policed, therefore I am not convinced it is doing what it set out to do. It needs teeth. In the last 2 years I've seen med comms professionals proudly flashing around their CMPP post-nomials but behaving in a way that is completely inconsistent with either the letter of GPP3 or the spirit of transparency enshrined in it. It's not just pharma and agencies at fault - authors are at fault too. Most don't take their responsibilities seriously enough. They just want their name on the thing but don't bother properly reviewing it - and most don't know what the full data set is anyway so can't possibly know if there are important omissions.	1/22/2020 2:30 PM
5	IR35!	1/21/2020 3:10 PM
6	I suspect that in the next 5 years we will see changes in medical writing that will make data easier to aggregate from text, and that machine translation of such aggregated data may make research easier for the large majority of researchers whose native language is not English. It will be very interesting to see how today's professionals respond to those changes.	1/21/2020 11:23 AM
7	It will be interesting to see how the implementation of IR35 in the private sector affects freelancing and contract roles in med comms in 2020, and how pharma and agencies plan to act on it.	1/16/2020 12:34 PM
8	The biggest issue for 202 will be the new IR35 rules. It remains to be seen how these will affect my business	1/15/2020 9:06 AM
9	So, I'm currently a freelancer. Mainly because I have a kid and want the flexibility to take more than 24 days off a year. I'd like to see more flexibility in terms of hours and days off. Most of us work more than our 7.5 hours a day and most of us can work well from home. I'd love to see introductions of 4 days week (I think Synergy have implemented this), or more working from home access - I think we need to look at how we can add flexibility into how we work.	1/14/2020 9:13 PM
10	It will be interesting to see what impact Brexit has on the industry	1/9/2020 1:43 PM
11	no	1/8/2020 2:50 PM
12	There is currently a high level of uncertainty around IR35 within MedComms companies leading to concern within the Freelance community about future contracts post March 31st - many organisations only renewing existing agreements until that date and not beyond.	1/7/2020 2:14 PM
13	I am grateful for this survey. I love the freedom of working from home and feel that it's a friendly, diverse and welcoming industry to be a part of.	1/7/2020 2:01 PM
14	The rise of virtual agencies is hugely positive for freelancers like me, providing opportunities to be part of large-scale project teams and high profile projects I wouldn't have the opportunity to work on my own. The community which surrounds these agencies is also hugely beneficial.	1/6/2020 12:23 PM
15	Many of the agencies I am working with have said they will make a decision on IR35 in January and let me know the outcomes. Having got work lined up with one of the larger agencies until June 2020, I have not even taken this account in my next 6 month planning as I am concerned, the outcomes of the larger agencies will be a blanket policy of not using contractors or only if they work through an umbrella company - will they then pay the increased hourly rate to account for the fees charged to do this?	1/3/2020 3:36 PM
16	Challenges may arise if one is trying to make a transition between niches.	1/2/2020 4:06 PM
17	I think that wherever you are you will always find that people comment on your work, and change things you have spent hours writing. Don't feel disheartened. It's all part of the learning process.	1/2/2020 1:36 PM

**Q15 What, if any, thoughts have you about topics you would like to see covered by MedComms Networking events over the coming 12 months? All suggestions welcomed. Please remember the comments here will be made public.**

Answered: 22 Skipped: 134

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The future form of medical communications - will it be all electronic/online - is the print format dead? Are numerous large medical congresses sustainable - is it environmentally responsible for thousands of delegates and pharma/technical people to fly all over the world to attend such meetings? The rise of medical podcasts - are they preferable or complementary to written articles and what is the best content for them? How much influence should pharma companies have over the content and wording of the med comms activities they sponsor? (many don't seem to have awareness or pay much attention to the ABPI and other guidelines) Will separation from the EU diminish or hamper med comms activities in the UK and elsewhere? (Controversial!!)	1/27/2020 11:13 AM
2	How freelancers can agree contracts with agencies and pharma companies that allow freelancers to work outside IR35.	1/27/2020 10:41 AM
3	Peter, thank you for all your efforts in providing networking opportunities for freelancers in 2019 - they are very valuable. I know that you have been making huge efforts to get freelancers to consider the potential effects of the IR35 legislation on their businesses and to get agencies to respond to them. I am hoping this survey in itself might prompt more questioning and discussion - and that you will provide a forum for those discussions to take place.	1/23/2020 7:43 AM
4	IR35.	1/22/2020 4:51 PM
5	IR35	1/22/2020 3:54 PM
6	The practical impact of new IR35 legislation following its introduction in April 2020 - how have freelancers and hirers been affected?	1/22/2020 3:41 PM
7	A Workshop/networking event/seminar on the topic of what professional bodies/associations are out there for MedComms freelancers, what they offer, and which ones to think of joining (and why and at what cost), could be useful I think.	1/22/2020 2:09 PM
8	Strategies for successful collaboration among freelancers and small MedCom companies.	1/21/2020 11:23 AM
9	As above, managing your business with the introduction of IR35 in the private sector (agency, pharma and freelance/contractor perspectives)	1/16/2020 12:34 PM
10	Overcoming isolation when working from home Maintaining good physical and mental health when working from home	1/15/2020 9:06 AM
11	I'd love to see how freelancers have made projects work when they've been travelling around - or working for companies remotely (when you're in a different country). I'd also love to see (I'm personally interested) how the rates for different types of med com professionals vary from country to country - so, for example, I know what I can charge as a freelancer in the UK, but if I am working for Singapore or Australia for example, what should I be charging. Also are there different 'ABPIs' for different countries - I think we are getting to the stage where, as writers, we don't just have to work for the country we live in - we should be branching out...	1/14/2020 9:13 PM
12	More clarity on IR35 and impact on freelancers	1/9/2020 5:47 PM
13	Impact of Brexit - what to expect	1/9/2020 1:43 PM
14	no	1/8/2020 2:50 PM
15	A thing I struggle with is scheduling due to ever changing and last minute deadlines. Since these are often caused by the agency's client sending things late, rather than it being the agency's fault (or so they tell me), I feel that I can't charge late fees even though I have lost out on work (and therefore money) on multiple occasions. I'd be very interested to find out how other freelancers deal with this kind of thing.	1/7/2020 2:01 PM
16	More insight on IR35 and how it will impact agency/freelancer working relationships; quick overview of using different referencing systems would be useful (it would also be useful to know if other writers have issues alternating between Endnote and Mendeley - e.g. I've encountered issues with the Mendeley add-in when using Endnote)	1/6/2020 9:37 PM
17	The old IR35 sole trader vs limited company status for freelancers once we know what's happening!	1/6/2020 4:04 PM
18	IR35 - how to navigate it, what it really means (post April 2020), if a limited company and you are being affected by it, what can you do etc. APBI refresher/update How to effectively pitch for new business	1/3/2020 3:36 PM
19	Further training events. For example, a workshop on ABPI guidelines.	1/3/2020 7:58 AM
20	The impact of IR35, and for agencies to communicate what they're doing with regard to this	1/2/2020 7:12 PM
21	Topics on Regulatory Affairs for Medical Devices and the imminent enforcement of new Medical Device regulations in Europe would be appreciated.	1/2/2020 4:06 PM
22	How to deal with feedback on your work Moving between areas, eg from pubs to regulatory The trade off between speed and accuracy Basic statistics Clinical trials	1/2/2020 1:36 PM