

### Appendix 3 - Public Responses

Full summary of responses attached

1. 2 Members of the public
2. 2 Community Councils
3. 2 Community Organisations
4. 1 representative of a Council Service

7 responses in total

<u>Question</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Officer Response</u>	<u>Comments or Changes to Policy</u>
Do you support the Council's position in respect of the policy?	100% of 6 replies - yes	Noted	Not Applicable
Do you think a landing page is a good idea	100% of 5 replies - yes	Officers recognised the need for a landing page with links to specific areas of common good	The web page is in progress  The creation of the web page does not impact on the Policy
Do you have suggestions on raising profile and awareness of common good	80% of 4 replies – Yes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure it is available on the Council website and easily searchable</li> <li>• Use of social media</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers recognised the need for a landing page with links to specific areas of common good</li> <li>• Social media will be used to publish an article once the website is live</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The web page is in progress. The creation of the web page does not impact on the Policy</li> <li>• Social Media will be used to publicise the common good once the website is live.</li> </ul>

<u>Question</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Officer Response</u>	<u>Comments or Changes to Policy</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publishing more information in the particular locality and</li> <li>• be more transparent about our strategy</li> <li>• Something local like the STP fund finder would be helpful</li> <li>• Once a quarter list of funds distributed to local groups</li> </ul> <p>20% of 4 replies - no</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The landing page will have links to the funding pages for the Six Areas</li> <li>• There are rules governing how common good funds are managed. The landing page hopes to include more information relating to management of funds where it is possible to do so</li> <li>• STP has not been defined by the respondent, but officers believe it is the Scottish Town Partnership Fund.</li> <li>• This information will be included in the annual/bi-annual report to Area Committees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The web page is being created and by reporting to the Area Committees on the number of applications made, amounts awarded and benefit to the community will put more information into the public domain locally.</li> <li>• It is hoped to provide basic information on the landing page about how common good funds are maintained in relation to financial management. This does not impact on the policy.</li> <li>• There are rules around how common good funds are to be maintained. The Council complies with these rules in how it manages such funds.</li> <li>• This will be included in the annual/bi-annual report to Area Committees</li> </ul>
Are you able to provide evidence of why this would work?	25% of 4 replies – yes		The Council complies with the guidance and rules relating to the management of common good funds therefore no impact on the policy

<u>Question</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Officer Response</u>	<u>Comments or Changes to Policy</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of managing funds and programmes</li> </ul> <p>75% of 4 replies - no</p>	<p>The respondent indicated they held experience but provided no actual evidence.</p> <p>There are rules relating to the management of common good funds with which the Council must comply</p>	
Could the Applicant Pack be improved?	100% of 5 replies – no	Noted	Officers will always endeavour to keep the Applicant Pack up to date, understandable and relevant to the current Common Good Policy
Do you have a view on the level of funding available?	<p>20% of 5 replies – yes</p> <p>A more strategic approach</p> <p>The amount of funding is paltry because management is paltry</p> <p>Attempts should be made to invest leading to more substantial and long-term revenue payments into the common good fund which could be bolstered to deal</p>	<p>There are guidelines and rules around the management of Common Good Funds with which the Council complies. Common Good Funds must be kept separate from other Council funds.</p> <p>Some of the Common Good Funds do hold very limited amount of money but the Council is limited what it can do to increase those amounts. Once all funds have been expended those Common Good Funds will cease to exist</p>	The Council complies with the Guidance and rules relating to the management of Common Good Funds

<b><u>Question</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>	<b><u>Officer Response</u></b>	<b><u>Comments or Changes to Policy</u></b>
	more comprehensively with local issues 80% of 5 replies - no		
Are there assets not on the list that you believe to be Common Good Assets?	16.7% of 6 replies – yes Aboyne Green 83.3% of replies - no	Officers have established that Aboyne Green is NOT common Good	Not applicable
Are there assets on the list that you believe are NOT Common Good Assets?	100% of 6 replies – No	Noted	Not applicable
Any other comments	16.7% of 6 replies - yes Having the register is good but it is limited by the scope of this project. There should be a “public good” register that covers both these closely defined items, but also all public lands/buildings, as well as land/buildings held in trust or for public use. This is outside	Noted.  The legal requirement is to have a specific asset register for common good assets	The Council is complying with legal requirements to have a Common Good Asset Register.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Officer Response</u>	<u>Comments or Changes to Policy</u>
	the remit of this exercise but would add more value to a future exercises 83.3% of 6 replies - no		

Comments made by an Individual Councillor

<u>Councillor Comment</u>	<u>Officer Response</u>	<u>Comments or Changes to Policy</u>
1. Some clarity regarding the use. For example, relocation or removal of CG artefacts would imply a change of use by some, word on the street Banff Silver etc going to PD centre. This should not happen.	Any relocation or removal of artefacts that are established as common good artefacts would require approval and the relevant Area Committees would be consulted (less than 12 months) or asked to give approval (more than 12 months). There would need to be an agreement in place between the Council and the person or body seeking the artefact on loan regarding the loan and upkeep of the artefact.  There has been an assumption by Members that all artefacts held by the Council are common good assets, this is not the case, some are	This does not impact on the Common Good Policy.  Committee Power B2.2 governs the sale or lease of any common good asset of more than 12 months requiring Committee consent.

<p>2. A principle of historic gifts to a town should remain and be taken back if they have been on loan.</p> <p>3. Oppose any request to centralise CG artefacts</p> <p>4. Clarity on assets. Land, Buildings, Art, Artefacts, Liquid assets, Cash value and asset values.</p>	<p>artefacts that are owned directly by the Council.</p> <p>Not all historic gifts to a town will be common good assets. They may have been gifts made directly to a Council that Aberdeenshire Council has inherited.</p> <p>Officers are not aware of any request to centralise common good assets</p> <p>This is a vast piece of work and extremely resource intensive for services given the amount of research that needs to be done to identify whether an asset is common good or owned directly by the Council.</p> <p>It is reiterated that not all assets held by the Council are Common Good Assets.</p>	<p>No specific historic gifts have been mentioned in the Councillor's comments. Whether the gifts are common good assets or owned directly by the Council, investigations would need to be undertaken to identify the terms of the loan of such assets and when these assets are due to be returned to the Council. This is outwith the remit of this review.</p> <p>This is outwith the remit of this review.</p> <p>As outlined in the Area Committee response Appendix, officers have agreed to identify Common Good Assets by type in the Common Good Asset Register.</p> <p>Further entries will be added when the question is raised of whether a given area of land or property, item, may be common good and investigation undertaken concludes that all the relevant criteria for common good delineation have been satisfied. This will be done as resources permit.</p>
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<p>5. Final decisions on funding applications to be decided by ward councillors. Officers to present assessment of application only, a historic principle but seems to have changed without any governance process.</p>	<p>The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 only permits the Council to delegate decision-making to a Committee, Sub-Committee or an Officer. Decision making by Ward Members is not therefore permitted.</p>	<p>The Scheme of Governance - Officer Powers - appropriately permits the Area Manager to determine common good applications, following consultation with local Ward Members.</p> <p>Any application that cannot be agreed following consultation, is contentious, or where the applicant is a Council Service, is then referred to the Area Committee for determination in terms of the Area Committee powers under the Scheme of Governance.</p>
<p>6. Raise awareness of CG funds to attract applications for funding.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>No changes are being recommended to the Scheme of Governance powers.</p> <p>A new landing page is being created on the Council's website  An article will be published via Social Media when the website is live  Local Members also have a role to play in raising the profile of the common good funds where they exist</p>
<p>7. Produce a summary of town's historic CG, e.g. lands gifted from King Robert, Carnyx, Legacy, Gifts</p>	<p>Noted. This is outwith the scope of this review</p>	<p>This is outwith the scope of this review. All identified common good artefacts are included in the Common Good Asset Register.</p>

<p>8. A register of artefacts as well as land and property.</p>	<p>Noted. This is outwith the scope of this review</p>	<p>This is outwith the scope of this review. All identified common good artefacts are included in the Common Good Asset Register.</p>
<p>9. Clarity on using funds from disposal. E.g. Canal Park.</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>New format of annual report on each individual Common Good Fund to be presented to Area Committees for comment and consideration rather than circulated as a briefing paper enabling Members to see what income/expenditure is available for each fund and reporting back on the number of applications received – reasons for any rejected applications, amounts awarded and the benefit arising to the Community to help raise the profile and to show transparency in the decision-making process</p>
<p>10. Any funds from a disposal should increase in value. For example, land sold used for community benefit. replace land lost.</p>	<p>(1) Officers are considerably less than sure as to what the respondent's answer would involve. A decision taken by the Council should achieve the desired end – but at what level?- Area Committee or full Council ?</p> <p>(2) if the Council already owns appropriate, dedicatable, land then no cost will be involved, or if the Council identifies appropriate land owned by a third party the sale receipt would be the source for the purchase funds.</p>	



<p>11. I read Moray are using CG funds to address seagull problems. Can we?</p>	<p><b>However</b>, if the receipt is insufficient, the appropriate means of making up the shortfall would be the relevant common good fund <b>but</b> what happens if (a) the fund is insufficient or (b) the owner holds out for an over the top price in the belief that he/ she has the Council over a barrel?</p> <p>Moray has a common good fund that covers all of Moray. On that basis, officers can only presume that the Council has permitted use of common good funds in this manner as it benefits the whole of the Moray Area.</p> <p>There is no common good fund that covers the whole of Aberdeenshire.</p>	<p>It is not proposed to add seagull issues to the criteria for common good at this time. To do so would totally wipe out some of the smaller common good funds and permitting this use would not be able to address the problem across Aberdeenshire as a whole.</p>
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# Common Good - Consultation

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## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

04 February 2021 - 27 July 2022

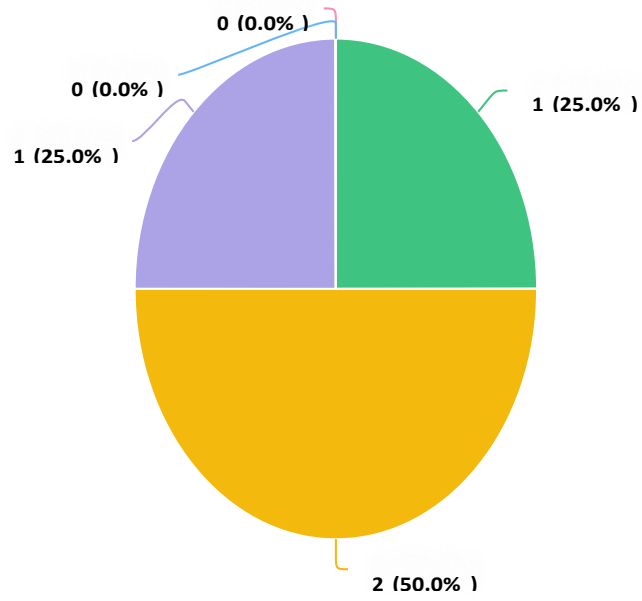
PROJECT NAME:  
Common Good Register

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# SURVEY QUESTIONS

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**Q1 Are you a:**



- Question options**
- Representative of a Community Council.
  - Representative of a Community Organisation.
  - Representative of a Council Service. Member of
  - the public.
  - Other.

*Optional question (4 response(s), 0 skipped)*  
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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## Q2 Which Community Council?

[REDACTED] Alvah and Forglen  
7/17/2023 11:44 AM

Optional question (1 response(s), 3 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

## Q3 Which Community Organisation?

[REDACTED] Cruden Bay Community Association  
7/12/2023 08:46 AM

[REDACTED] Aboyne Local Place Plan Group  
7/18/2023 02:53 PM

Optional question (2 response(s), 2 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

## Q4 Which Council Service?

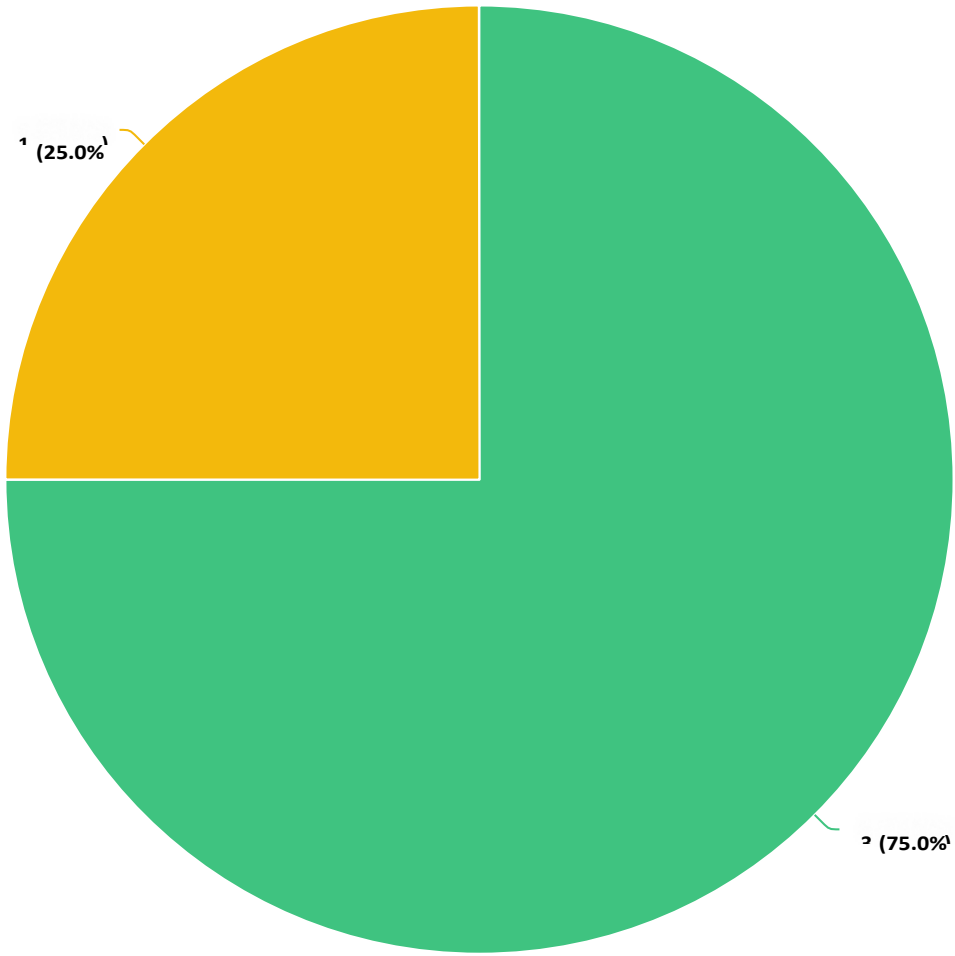
[REDACTED] business services  
7/18/2023 09:05 AM

Optional question (1 response(s), 3 skipped)

Question type: Single Line Question

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**Q6** Do you wish to answer this Part of the survey?



Question type: Radio Button Question

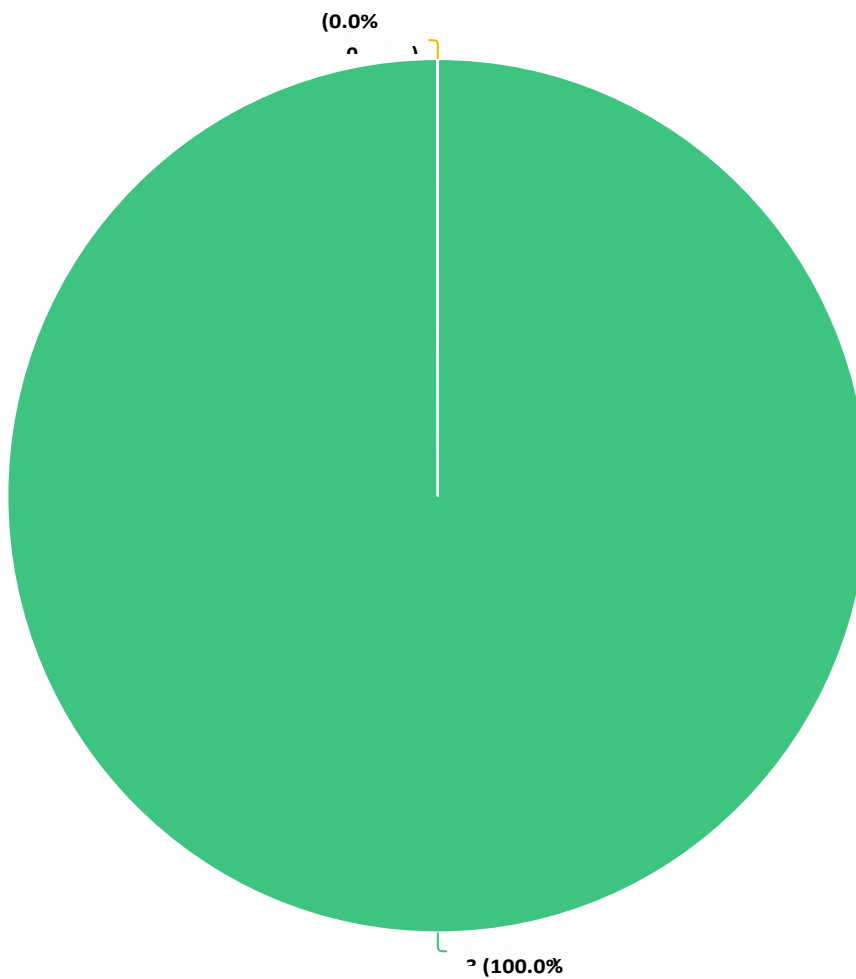
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**Question options**

- Yes.
- No.

*Mandatory Question (4 response(s))*

**Q7**      **Do you support the Council's position in respect of this policy?**



Question options

*Question type: Radio Button Question*

Yes.  No.

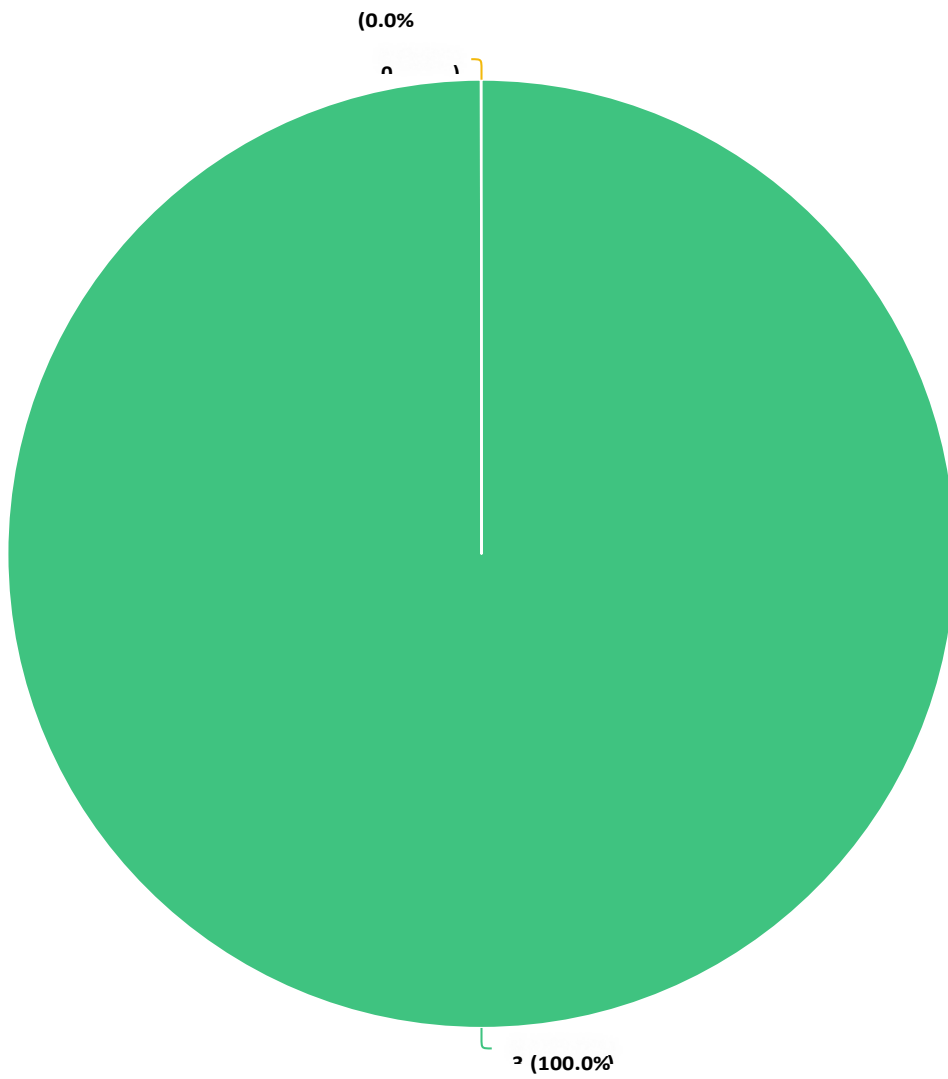
*Optional question (3 response(s), 1 skipped)*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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Q12 Do you think a landing page is a good idea?



Question type: Radio Button Question

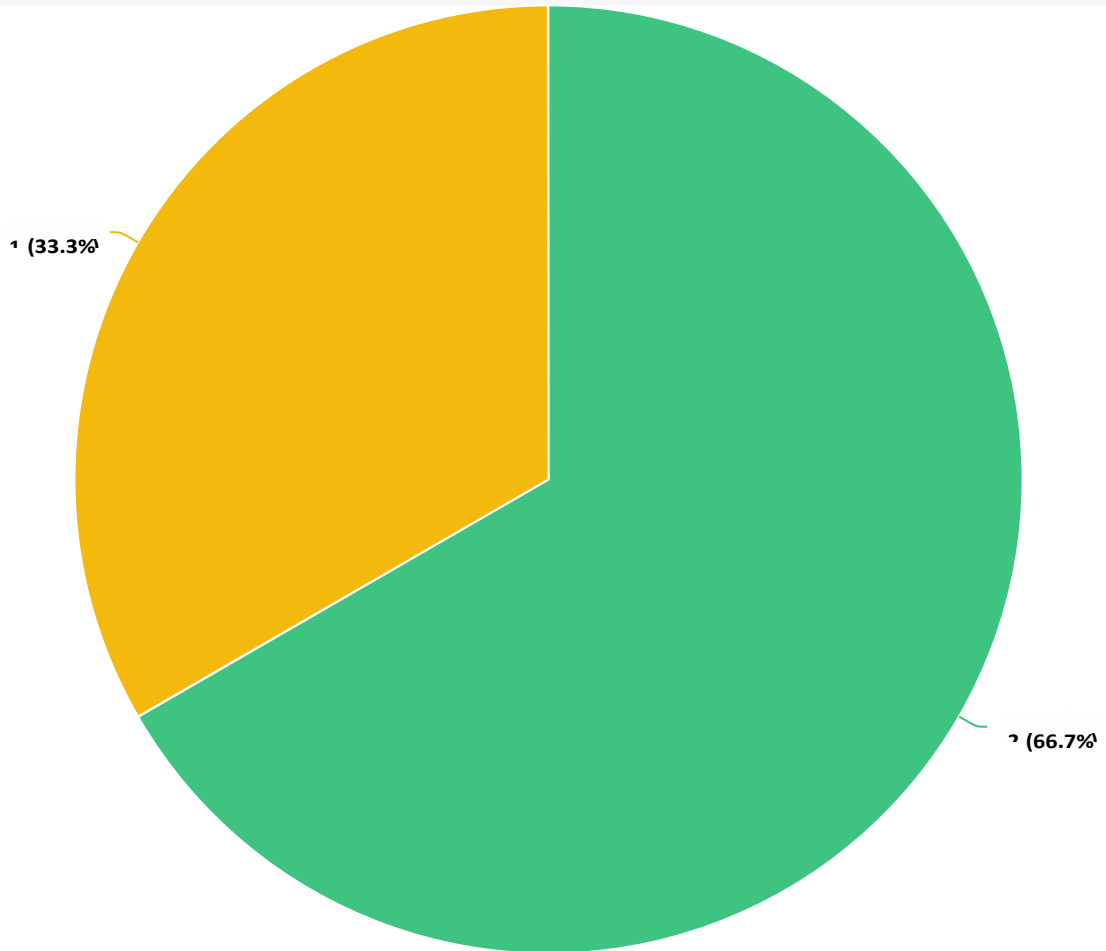
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**Question options**

- Yes.
- No.

*Optional question (3 response(s), 1 skipped)*

**Q14 Do you have any suggestions as to how the Council can raise the profile and community awareness of Common Good Funds?**



**Question options**

- Yes.
- No.

*Optional question (3 response(s), 1 skipped)*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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### Q15 | How can the Council raise the profile and community awareness of Common Good Funds?

[REDACTED]

7/12/2023 08:46 AM

Make sure it is available on the Council website and easily searchable.

[REDACTED]

7/17/2023 11:44 AM

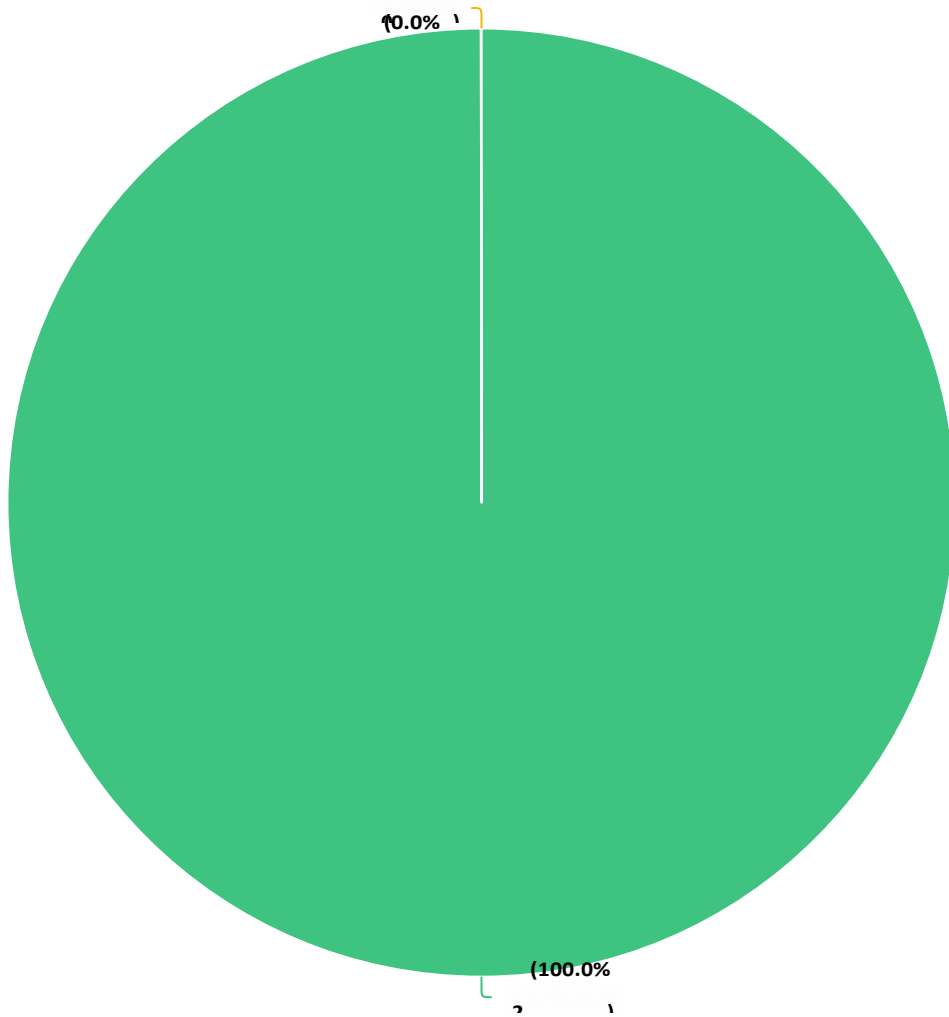
Use of social media

**Optional question** (2 response(s), 2 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

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Q16 Are you able to provide evidence of why this would work?



**Question options**



*Optional question*

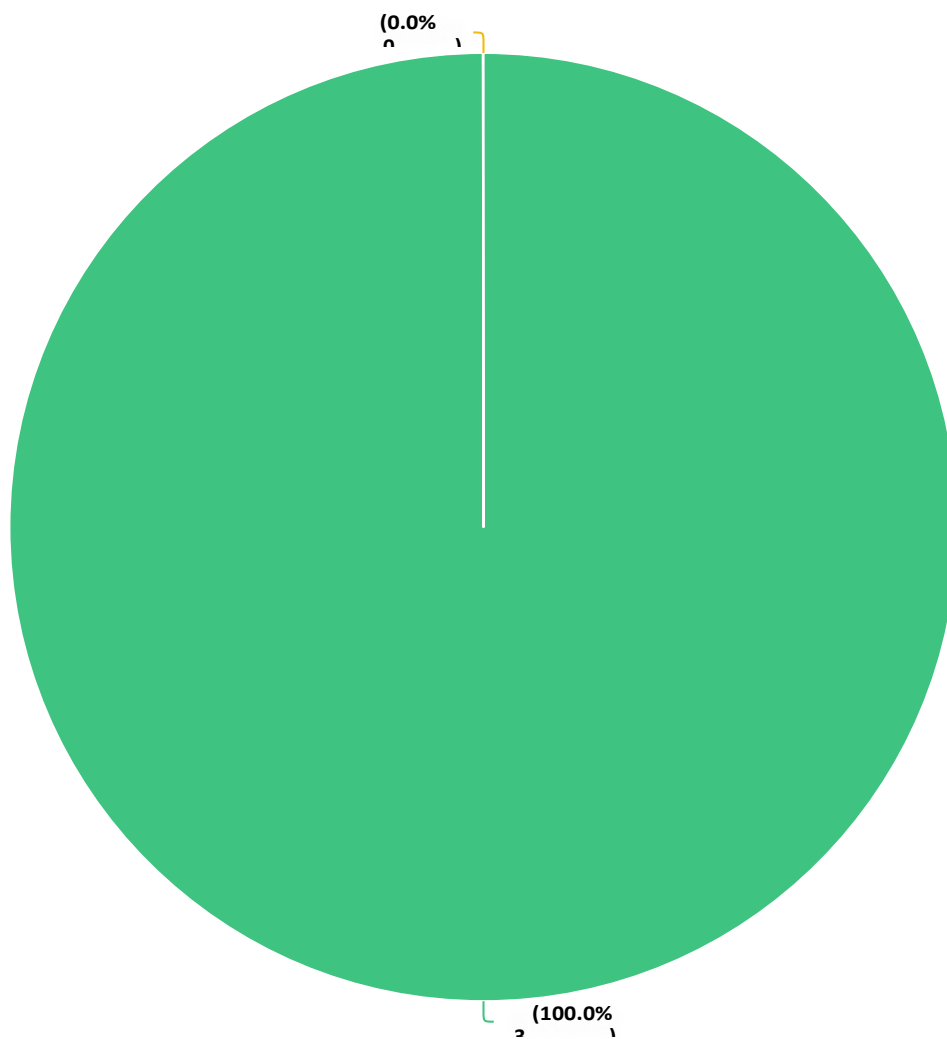
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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No. Yes.

(2 response(s), 2 skipped)

**Q18** Do you think the Applicant's Information Pack could be improved?



**Question options**



Optional question

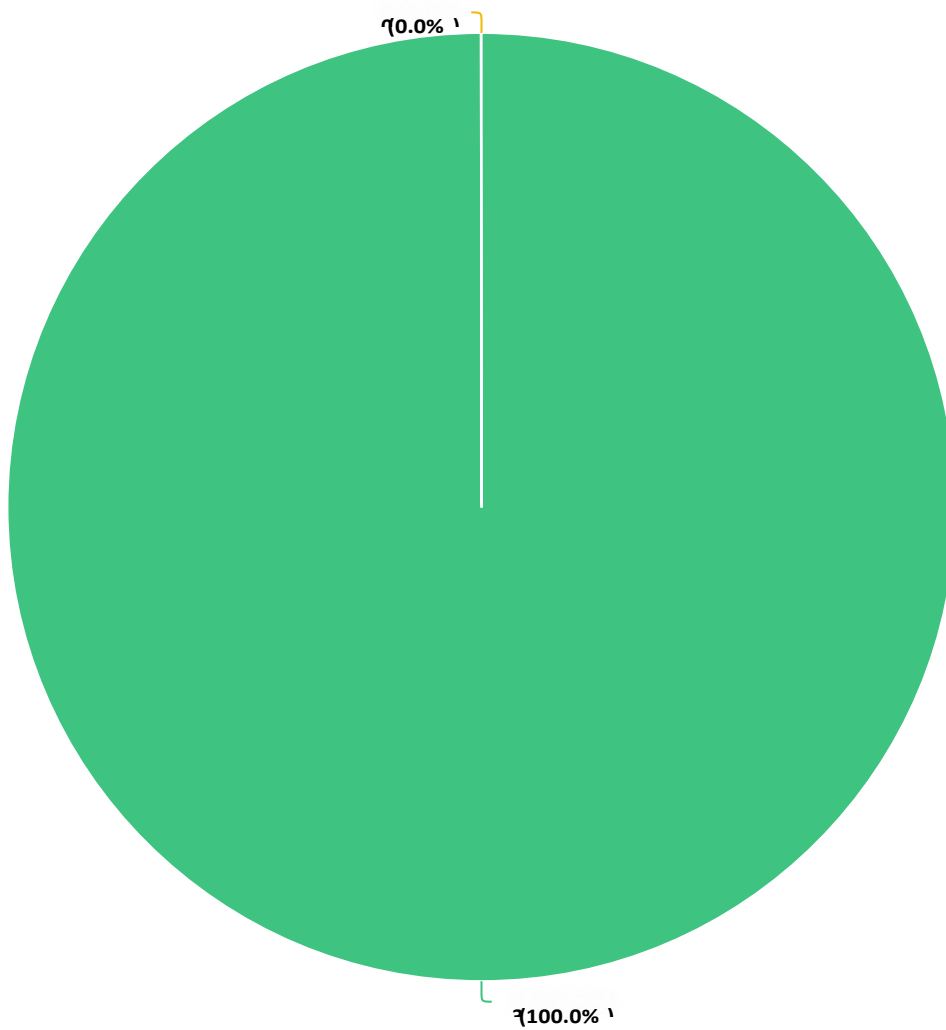
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Question options**

- No.
- Yes.

*Optional question (3 response(s), 1 skipped)*

**Q23** Do you have a view on the level of funding available?



**Question options**

- 
- 

*Optional question*

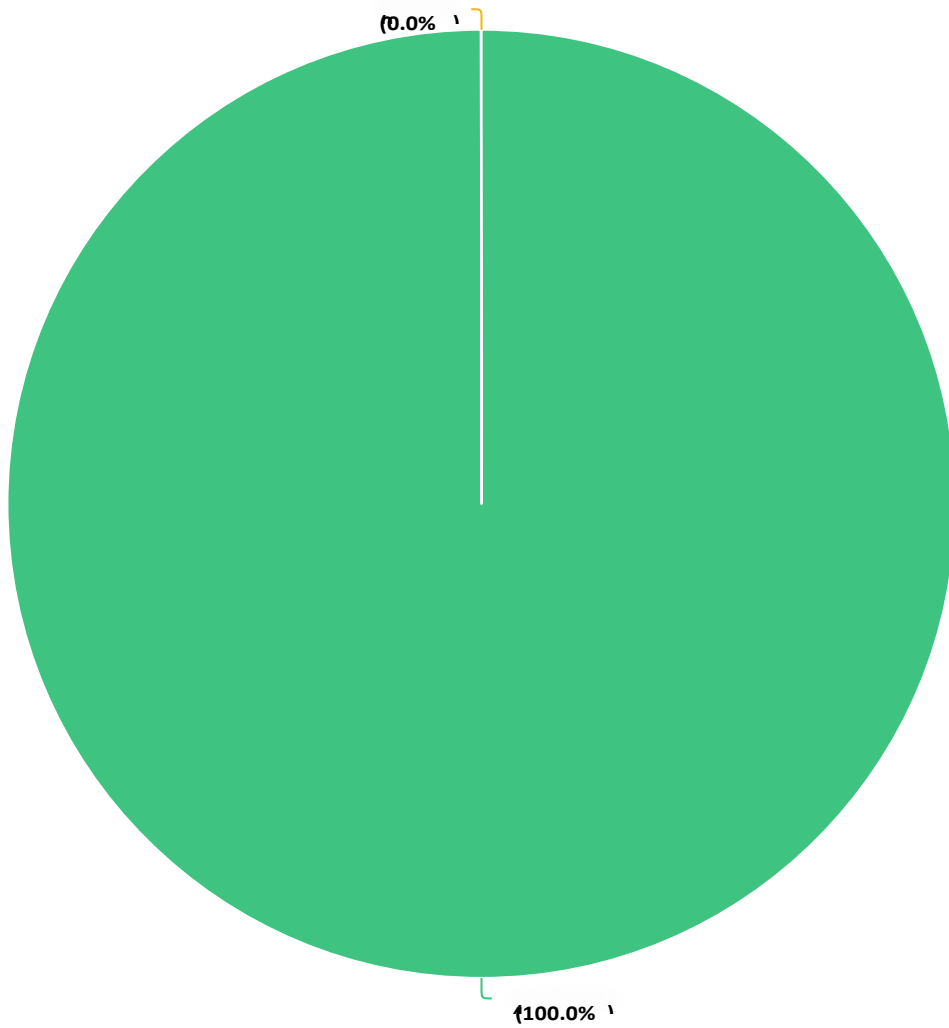
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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No. Yes.

(3 response(s), 1 skipped)

**Q25** Do you wish to answer this Part of this survey?



**Question options**



Optional question

Question type: Radio Button Question

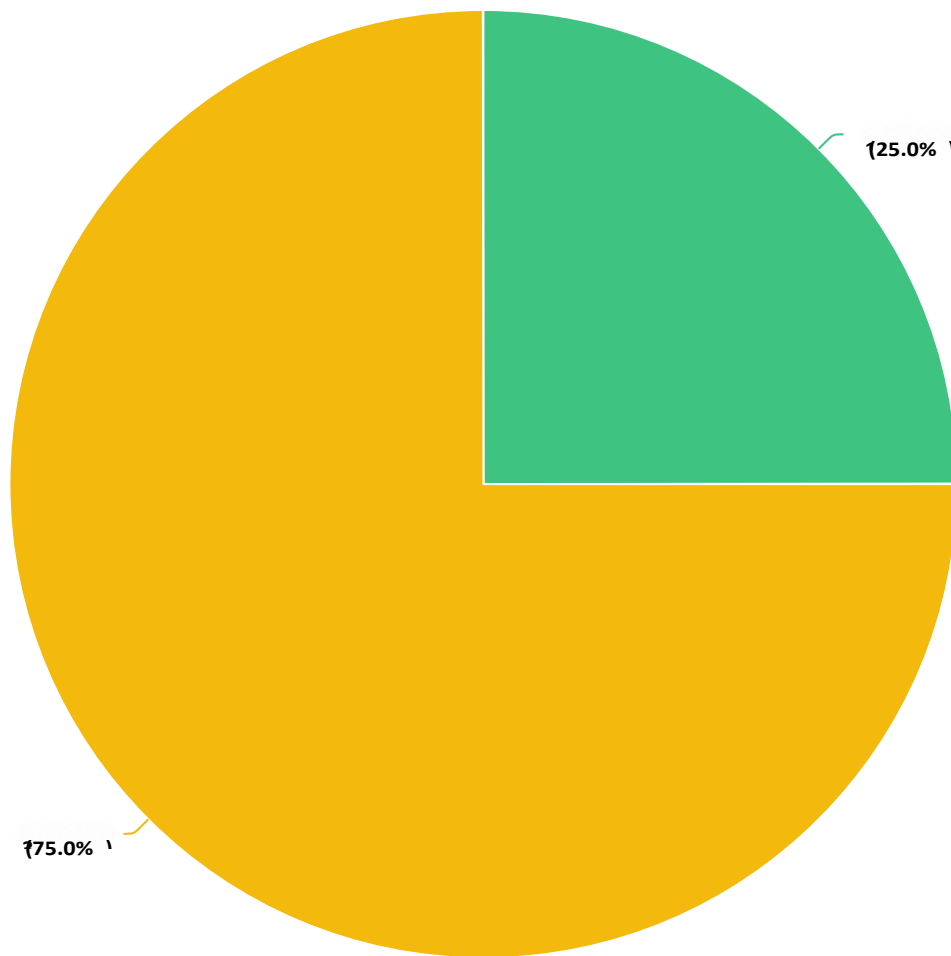
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**Question options**

- Yes.
- No.

*Mandatory Question (4 response(s))*

**Q26**      **Are there assets not on the list that you believe to be Common Good Assets?**



**Question options**

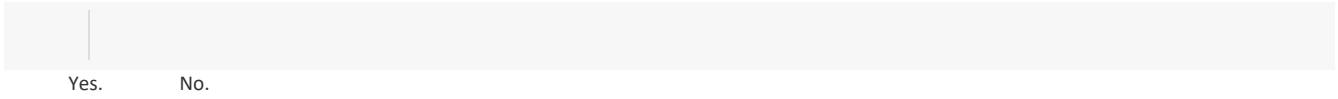
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*Optional question*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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*(4 response(s), 0 skipped)*

**Question options**



*Optional question*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*

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**Q27** Please provide details of the assets which you believe are not listed:



Aboyne Green

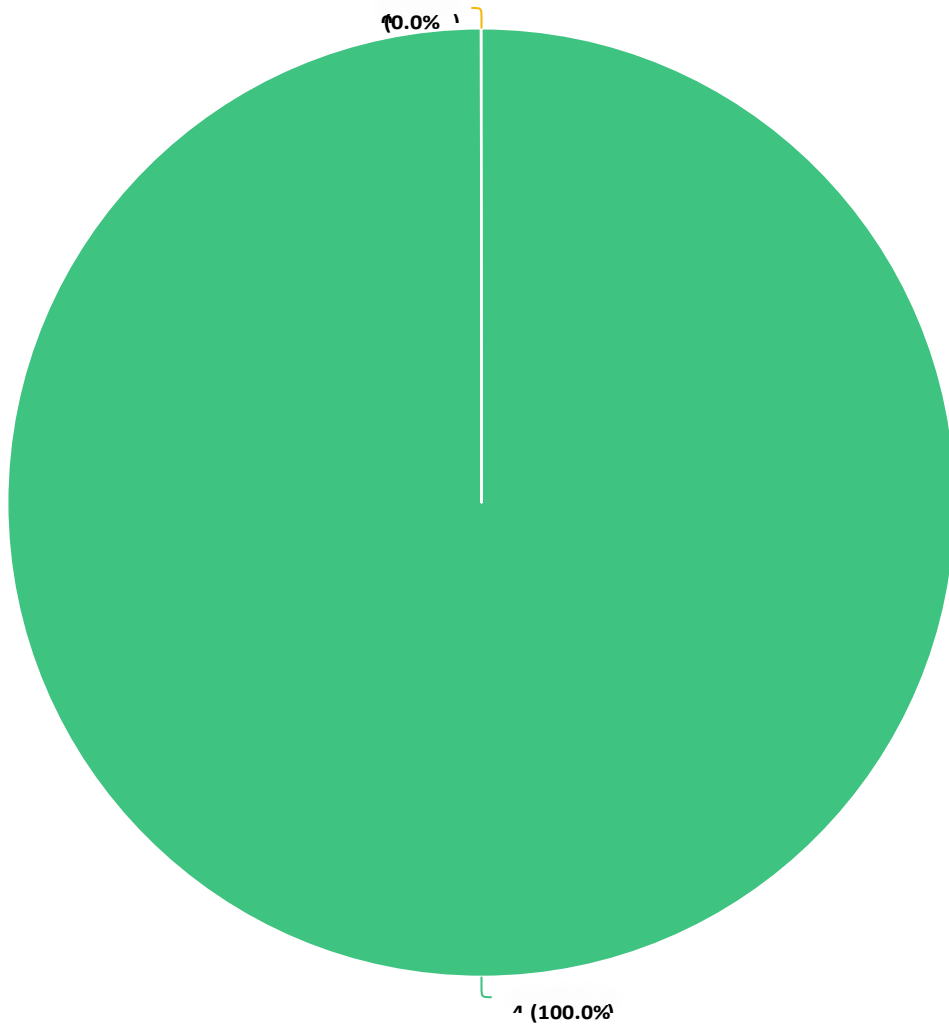
7/18/2023 02:53 PM

**Optional question** (1 response(s), 3 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

Q29

Are there assets on the list that you believe are not Common Good Assets?



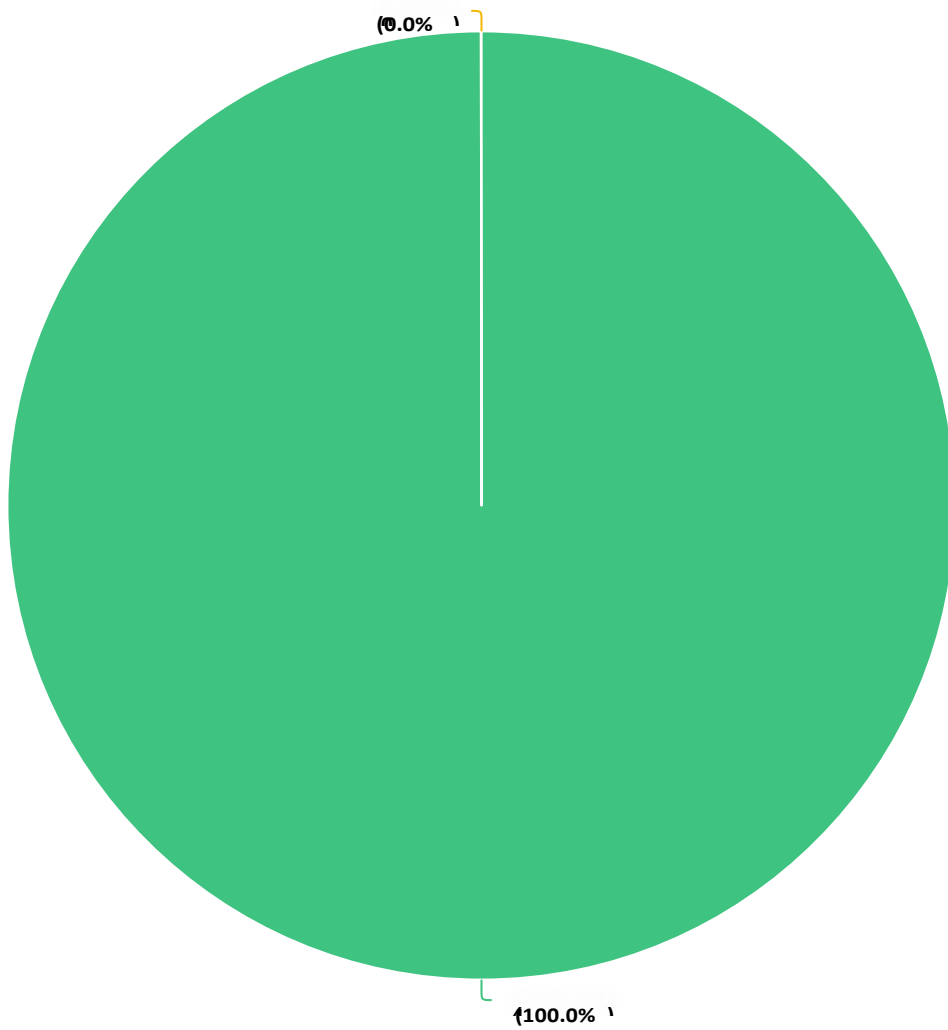
**Question options**

- No.
- Yes.

Optional question (4 response(s), 0 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q32 Do you have any other comments?**



**Question options**

- No.
- Yes.

Optional question (4 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question