

Our Place - Community Venues Questionnaire

Results Summary (July 2021)

Venue Location

The majority of responses (84.6%) refer to venues in England, with 11.5% located in Scotland and 3.8% in Wales. No responses were received from Northern Ireland.

UK Country	No. of responses	Percentage of responses
England	22	84.6%
Scotland	3	11.5%
Wales	1	3.8%

Fig. 1. Responses by UK country (table)

Of the venues, ten (37%) are located in Greater London, seven in Yorkshire and the Humber (25.9%), three in the North West (11.1%) and in Highlands and Islands (7.4%). One venue (3.7% of responses) is located in each of the following regions: West Midlands, North East, Mid Wales, Glasgow and Strathclyde and the South East.

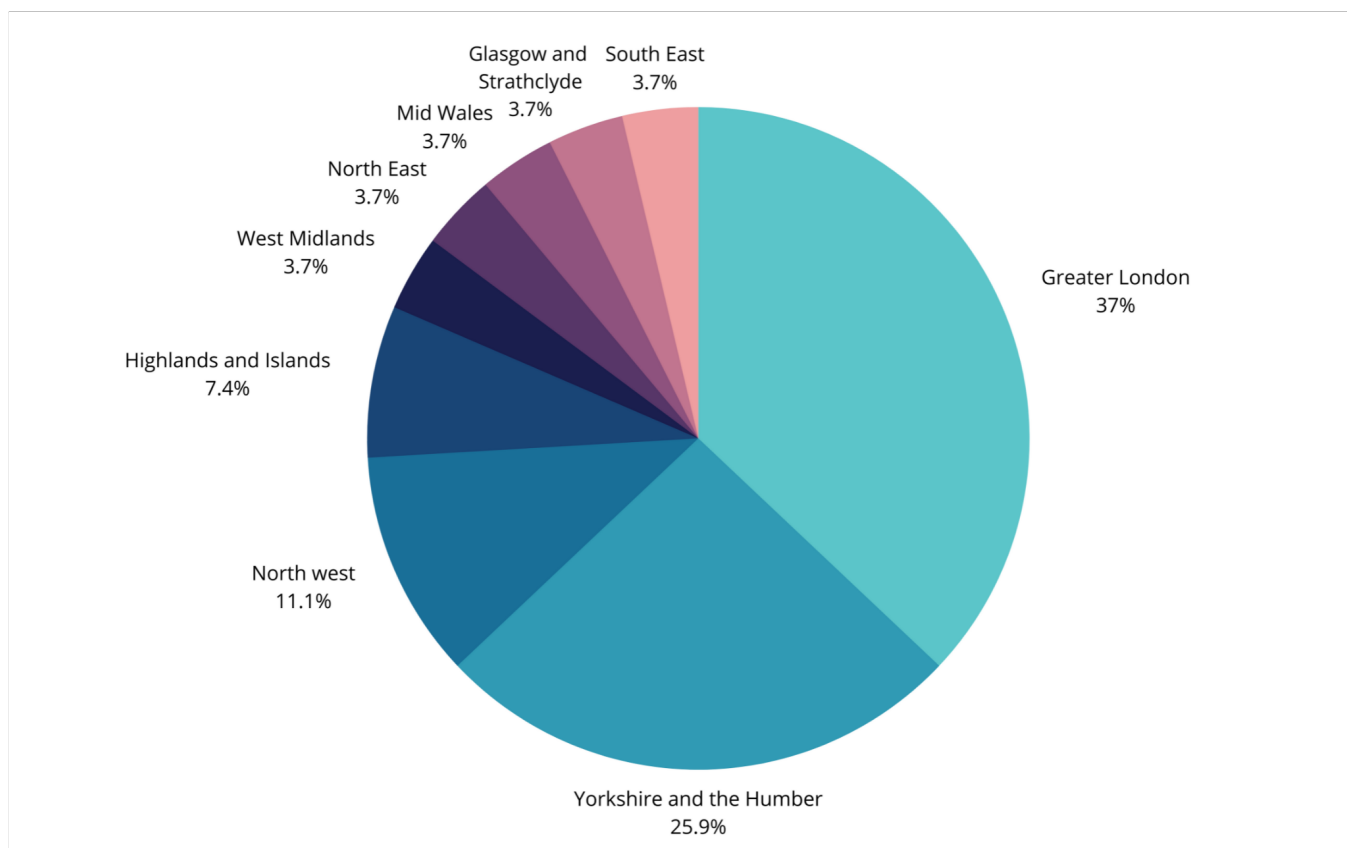


Fig. 2. Responses by UK region (chart).

Respondent's relationship to the venue

Respondents were asked to specify their relationship to the venue and were able to select multiple answers for this question.

Almost half of the respondents (45.5%) are punters, and nine (27.3%) are performers. Two respondents are venue employees, two are owners and two promoters. One respondent is an event organiser.

Of those who selected "Other", one respondent identifies themselves as "collective member and director" and one describes themselves as "interested in this work and eager to see you reach as many needy venues as possible".

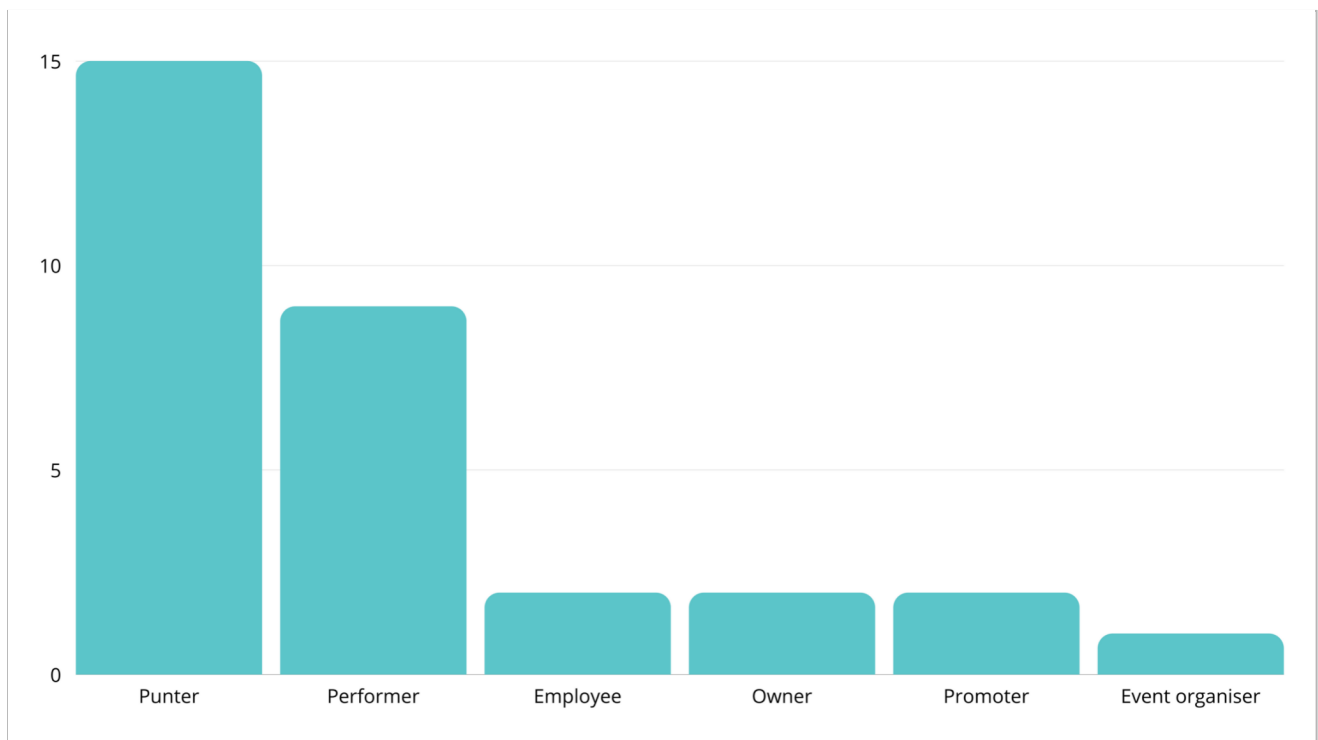


Fig. 3. Respondent's relationship to the venue (chart).

At-risk status of the venue

Four venues (15.4%) were identified as being at risk of closure. Two respondents cited the influence of developers as a reason for this status. Other reasons included high rent and a lack of central support for historic venues. One respondent cited "record numbers of LGBTQ venue closures".

At the time of responding, six venues had closed during the pandemic and were yet to reopen. Easing of restrictions in some UK countries may mean that several of these venues have now reopened, though not necessarily at full, pre-pandemic capacity.

Several responses refer to venues that have been able to maintain trading during the pandemic (food and drinks sales) but whose live music activities have been stalled due to government restrictions.

“...without the live music it just isn't the same.”

Responses indicate that venues across all “at-risk” categories have relied on crowdfunding initiatives and government emergency grants during the pandemic.

One respondent suggested that by their nature, all grassroots venues are at risk of closure because they constantly have to generate income to survive:

“All grassroots venues operate in a difficult environment including cost of rent, and other expenses, covid measures, and also supporting no or low income people means we can only make so much money. We aren't running to make money anyway, but obviously we have to make money to survive.”

Not all of the venues are at risk of closure or displacement: 5 responses (19.2%) specified that the venue is not at risk but expressed an interest in preserving its materials.

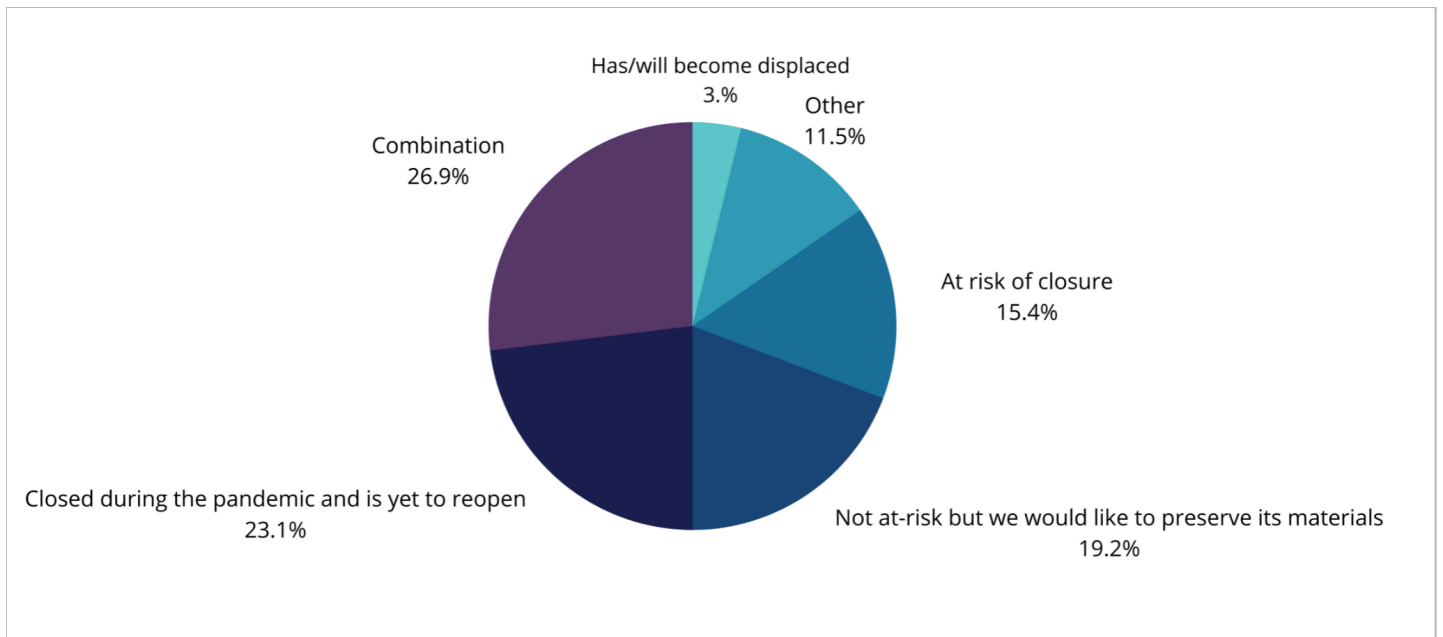


Fig. 4. "At-risk" status of the venues (chart).

Materials

We asked respondents what types of materials relating to the venue are "at-risk" or available for archiving/preservation. The categories we included were:

- Physical photographs
- Ephemera (e.g. posters and flyers)
- Press cuttings
- Artwork
- Records (such as financial statements)
- Physical media (CDs, vinyl records)
- Digital photographs (for example, photos stored on a venue's Facebook or Instagram page)
- Buildings

The responses indicate that photographs, ephemera are the most common types of materials held by venues. However, all material types are held by at least half of the venues.

We also asked respondents whether they have materials in their possession that could contribute to a digital archive. Photographs are the most common type of material: 65% have physical photographs and 45% have digital photographs.

Material type	Venue	Respondent
Physical photographs	95%	65%
Ephemera	90%	35%
Artwork	70%	15%
Digital photographs	65%	45%
Press cuttings	65%	20%
Buildings	60%	0%
Physical media	60%	15%
Records	60%	15%

Fig. 5. Materials held by venues and respondents (table).

Previous attempts to preserve the materials

When asked whether any previous attempts have been made to preserve the materials, 13.6% of respondents answered yes, 27.3% answered no, and 59.1% were unsure.

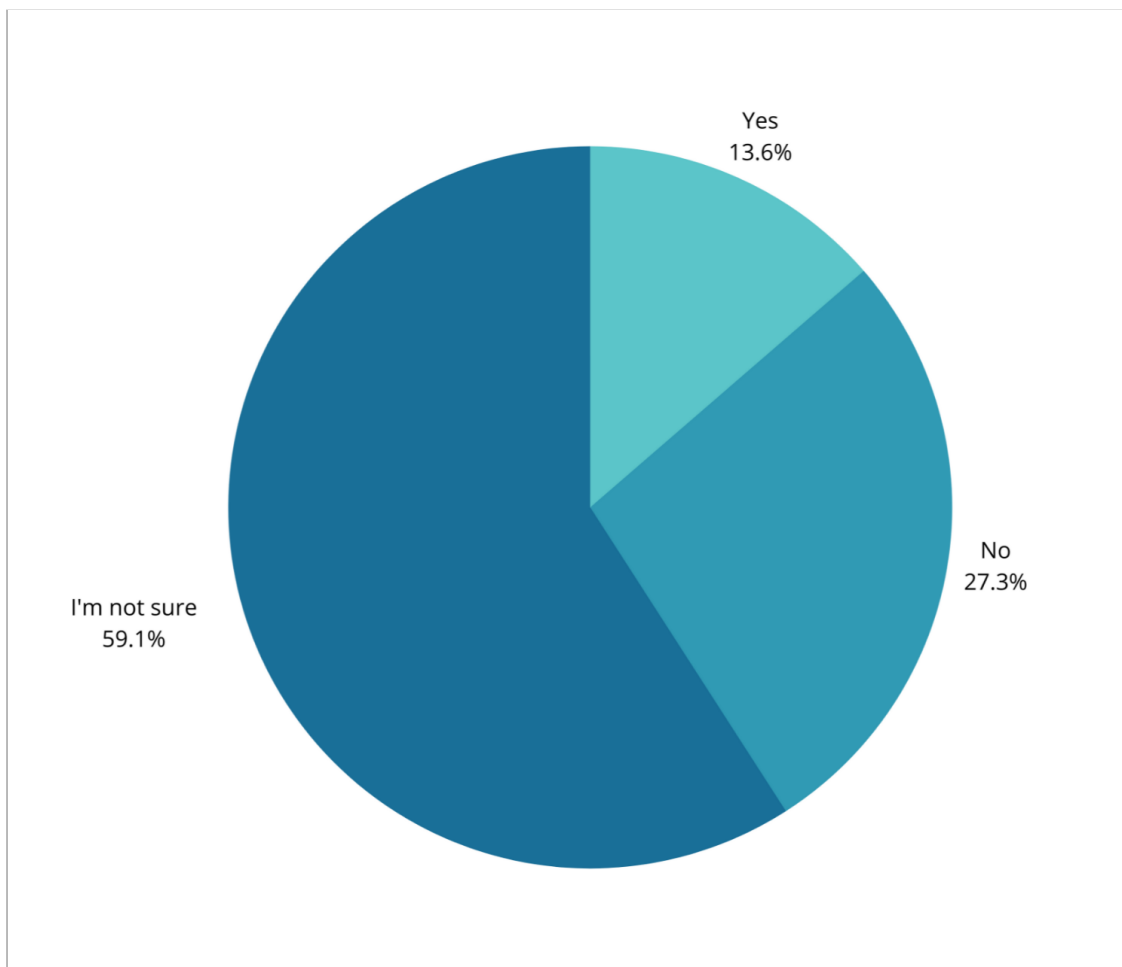


Fig. 6. Venues that have made previous attempts to preserve materials (chart).