

Question on notice from Senator Gallagher to Regional Arts NSW, 30 June 2020:

Ms Rogers: I've got some data that I only got today from our limited surveys. There are a number of obstacles for regional artists—this is really the grassroots people—being able to access JobKeeper. Particularly 10 to 20 per cent of it comes into the underemployment category—they've only worked short-term gigs; they may have worked for a whole year, but it's been under a different contract, and not necessarily even a different employer. A lot of these are employed as contractors rather than as employees. Obviously, the local government one came up. 'Bureaucratic obstacles' came in at 17 per cent, so I think there's been a real challenge in negotiating what they actually had to do to access JobKeeper and jobseeker. Some are still applying, and then there are other, smaller ones that people have closed down permanently; they've just given up. There has been an element of just having given up in regional New South Wales. But also interestingly, of the respondents that we had, the number of staff—in a small sample of 53—that were not eligible for either JobKeeper or jobseeker was 197, so as a percentage it's pretty high. Most of this data actually came in from the north-western part of New South Wales. I'm still waiting on stuff from the other regions. But we thought we'd just get it together so we'd have a bit of a picture.

CHAIR: Yes, that's great. Ms Rogers, I wonder if you can provide that in some form, if not today, down the track, when you've finalised it, for the committee's consideration. That would be great.

Ms Rogers: Yes, I'm happy to do that.

Ms Elizabeth Rogers, Chief Executive Officer, Regional Arts NSW, provided the attached document on 8 July 2020.



REGIONAL ARTS
NSW



REGIONAL
ARTS **NSW**

COVID IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS

Network - Survey Monkey – 13 to 27 May 2020

Local Government Performing Arts Centres – 30 June 2020



COVID IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS

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STAFFING IMPACT – Local Government Performing Arts Centres – Phone Survey – 30 June 2020

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COVID IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS

Introduction

COVID-19 is an infectious disease. On 11 March 2020, The World Health Organisation made the assessment that COVID 19 should be characterised as a pandemic, emphasising that countries take a whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, built around a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize impact.¹

The Australian Government's strategy to COVID-19, incorporates a whole of Government approach, unifying federal and State government response.²

The NSW Government's "Public Health (COVID-19 Public Events) Order 2020" on 15 March 2020, limited event audiences to 500, effectively closing down any large events, including festivals, community gatherings, concerts and larger theatrical events. A succession of NSW Government Public Health Orders³ followed over the next two weeks, continuing a cascade of closures for galleries, theatres, museums and other public and private arts venues and practices. Finally, the "Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020" on 30 March, limited gatherings in public spaces to no more than 2 people, for 3 months. The NSW Public Health Orders had an immediate and direct effect on all arts organisations, sole traders, artists, businesses, arts contractors and staff.

Regional Arts New South Wales⁴ (RANSW) has undertaken a number of responses to the resulting crisis, to gain feedback from the regions in order to support and advocate for the arts community of regional NSW.

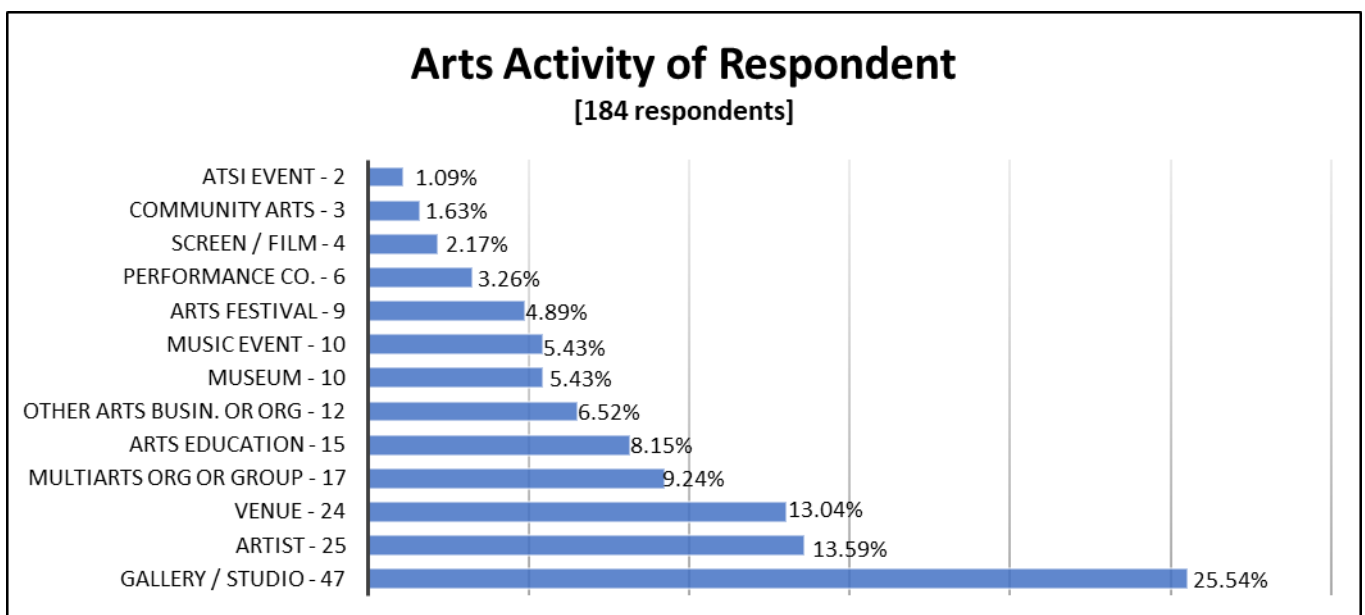
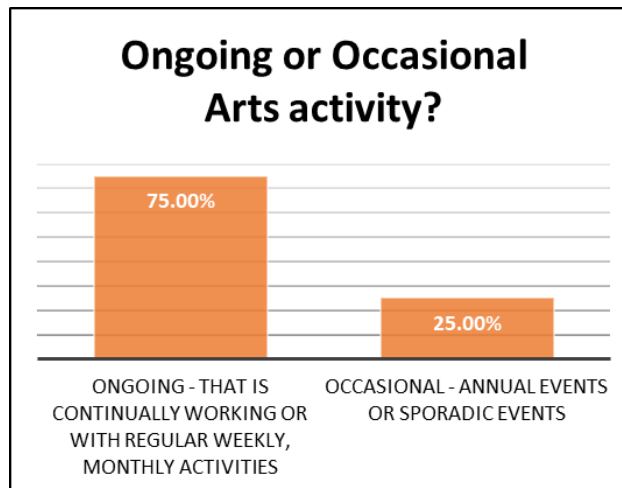
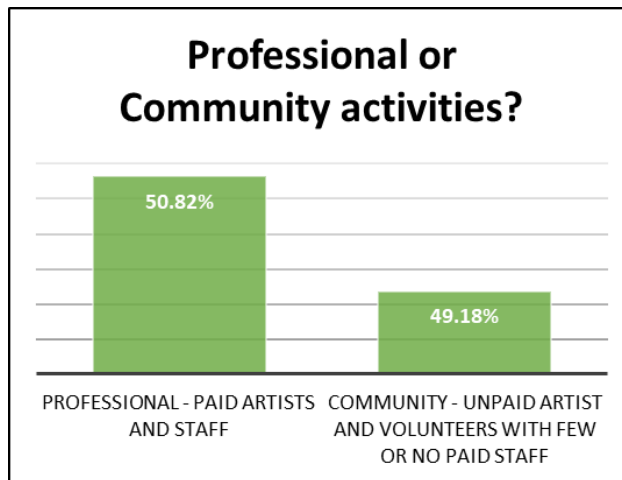
Between 13 and 27 May 2020, RANSW ran a **COVID-19 IMPACT** survey through its social media and the Regional Arts Development Organisation⁵ (RADO) network, utilising the Survey Monkey platform. The survey sample had 185 initial responses to the survey, demonstrating a number of impacts across the NSW regional arts sector at that time.

An additional survey was carried out in order to determine the impact of COVID closures on Local Government cultural workers, noting that they are omitted in the sample for the RANSW COVID-19 IMPACT survey and further, that Local Government were not initially supported by stimulus or job retention measures. On 30 June 2020, RANSW conducted a telephone survey of **Local Government Performing Arts Centres Staffing Impact** to garner real time data on the impact of COVID 19 on the range of staff employed at those centres. The survey sample of 10 responses gathered information on the number of staff pre-COVID, through to their employment status at that time.

1. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
2. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/government-response-to-the-covid-19-outbreak>
3. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/public-health-orders.aspx>
4. <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/>
5. <http://regionalartsnsw.com.au/networks/>



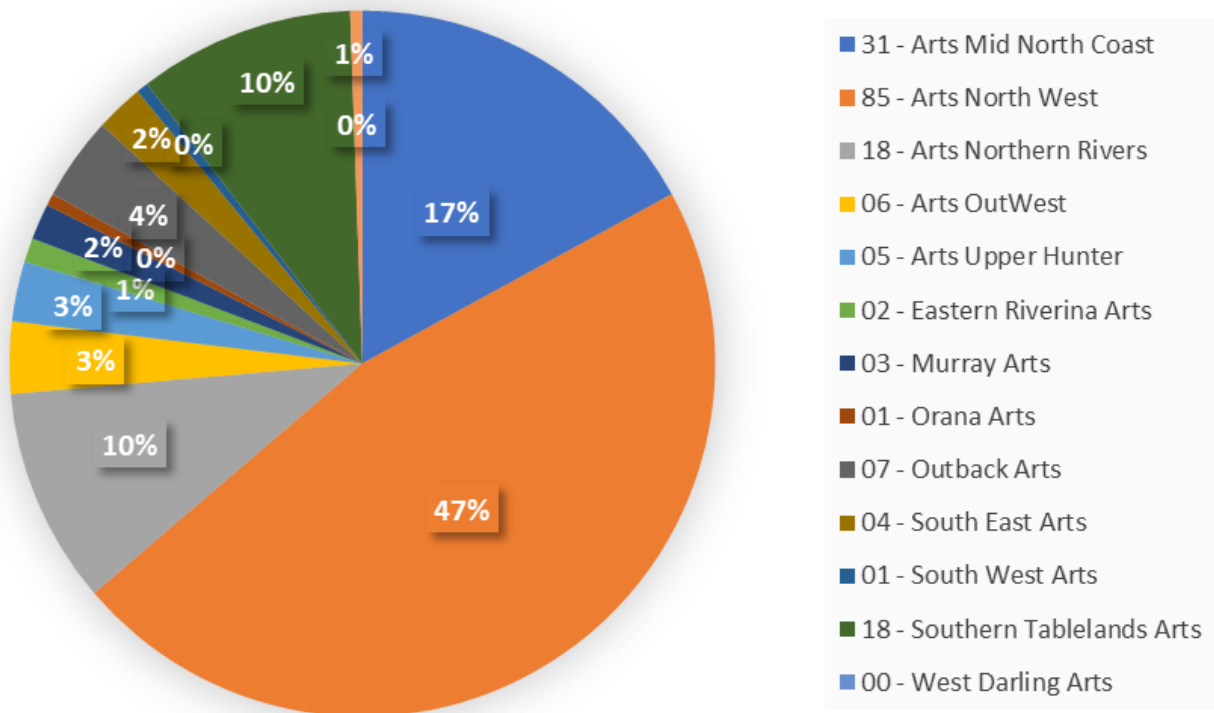
COVID-19 IMPACT – NSW Regional Network - Survey Monkey – 13 to 27 May 2020



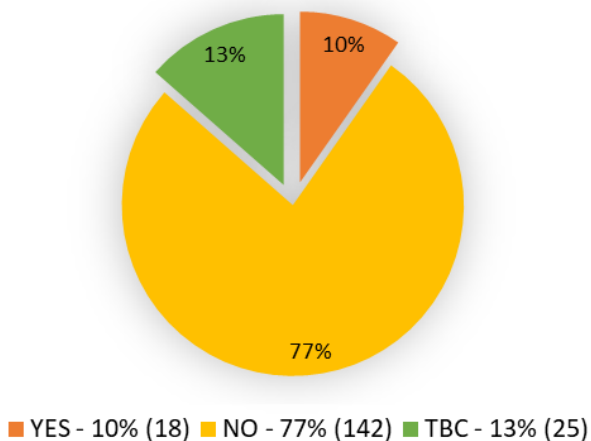


COVID-19 IMPACT – NSW Regional Network - Survey Monkey – 13 to 27 May 2020

Which Regional Arts Development Organisation covers your area?



Did you shut down permanently?



Number of Shows, Exhibitions or Events Cancelled?

153
RESPONDENTS

2305
CANCELLATIONS

Number of People Stood Down?

52
RESPONDENTS

214
PEOPLE STOOD DOWN

40
PEOPLE STOOD DOWN
PERMANENTLY



COVID-19 IMPACT – NSW Regional Network - Survey Monkey – 13 to 27 May 2020

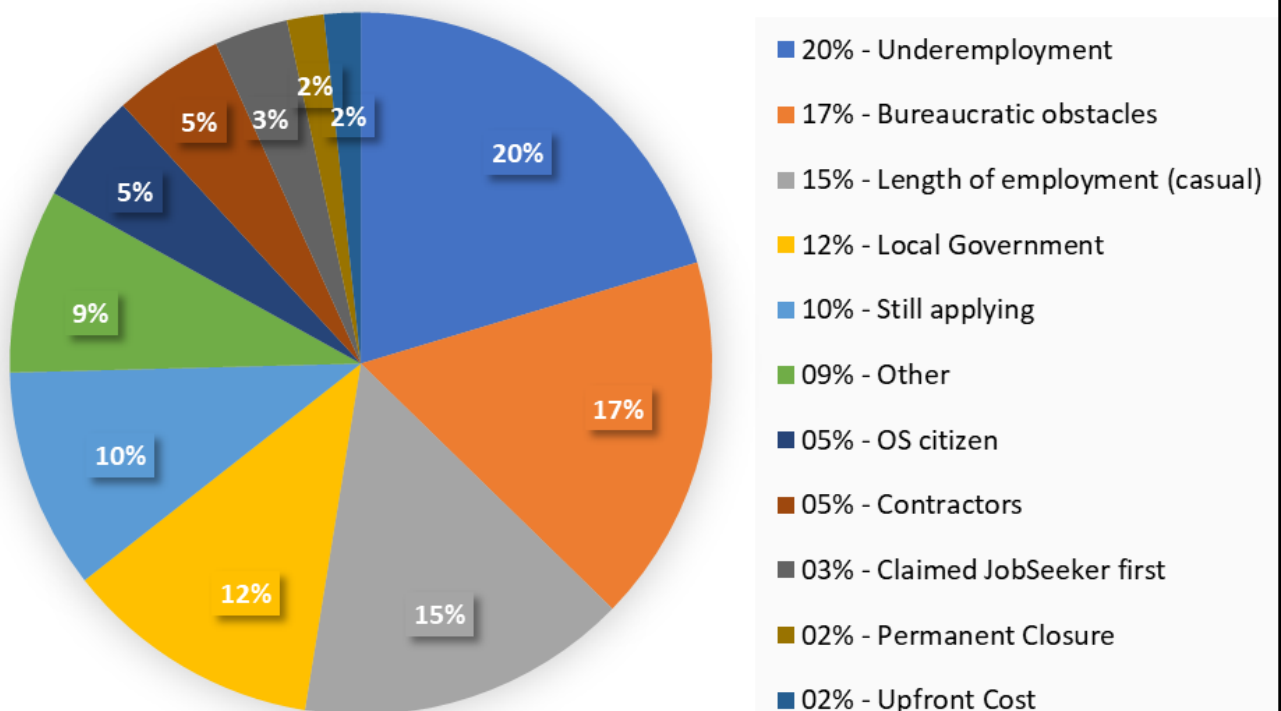
Number of Staff **ELIGIBLE** for
JobKeeper or JobSeeker?



Number of Staff **NOT -ELIGIBLE** for
JobKeeper or JobSeeker?

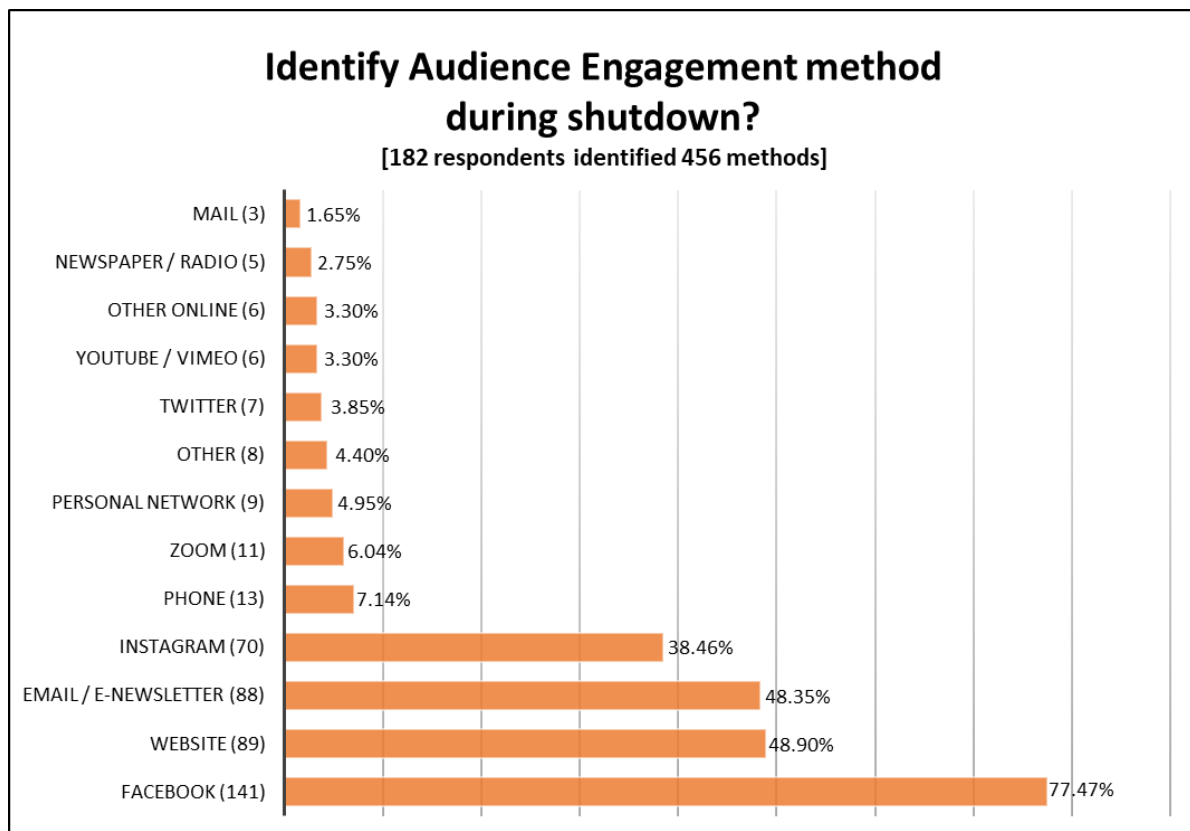
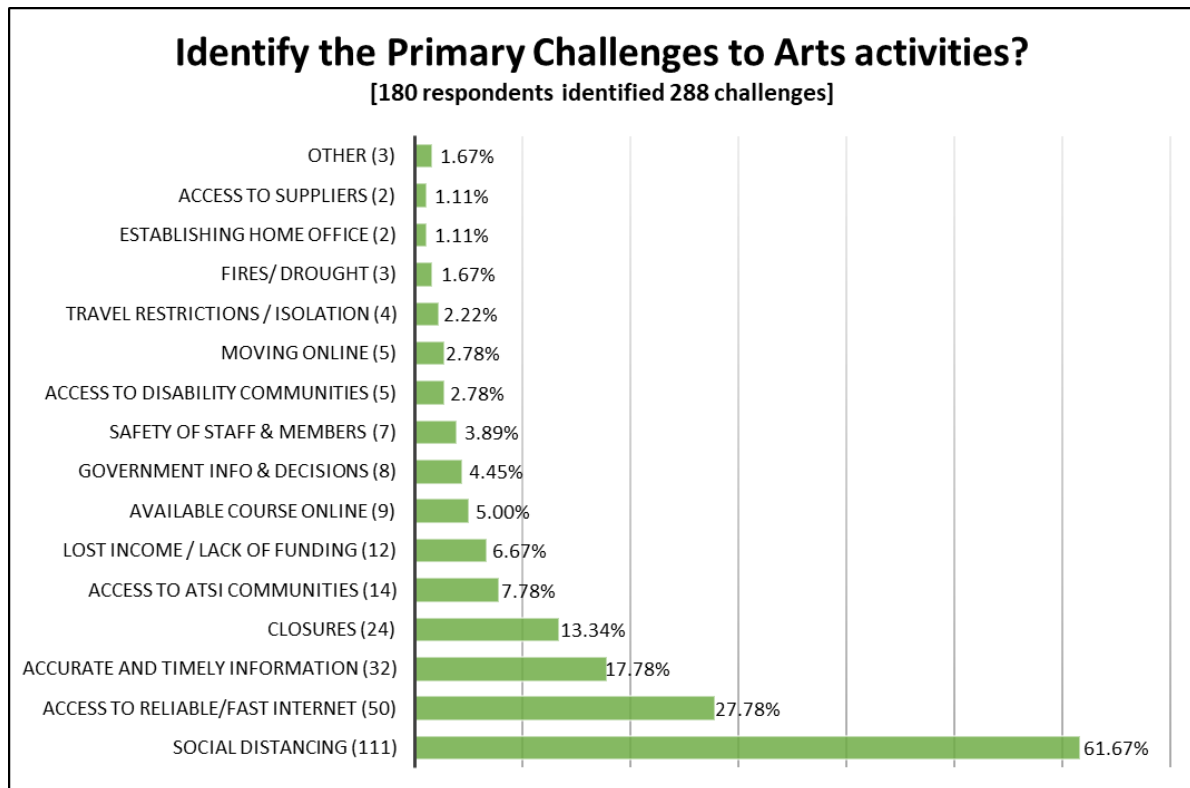


Obstacles to arranging JobKeeper?





COVID-19 IMPACT – NSW Regional Network - Survey Monkey – 13 to 27 May 2020





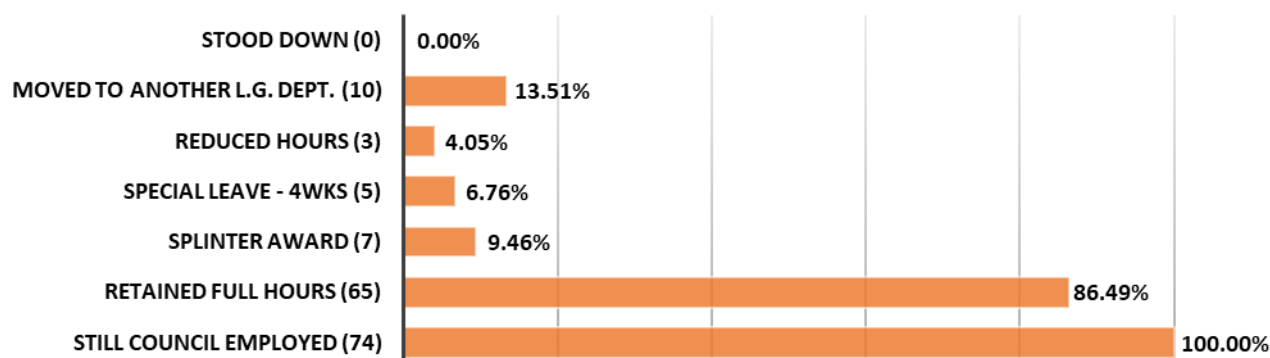
STAFFING IMPACT – Local Government Performing Arts Centres – Phone Survey – 30 June 2020

**Number of Local Government Performing Arts Centres
CLOSED? (Survey Sample 10)**



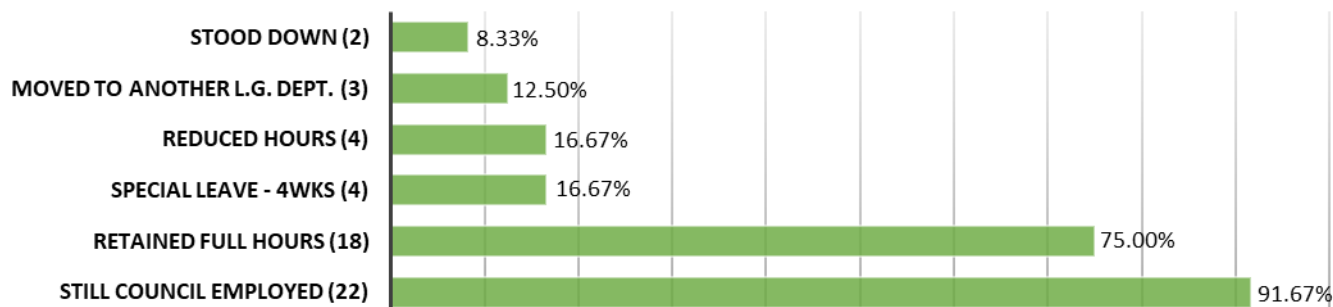
LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES

Survey Sample 10, with (pre-covid) **74 FULL TIME STAFF**



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES

Survey Sample 10, with (pre-covid) **24 PART TIME / CONTRACT STAFF**



LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERFORMING ARTS CENTRES

Survey Sample 10, with (pre-covid) **245 CASUAL STAFF**

