

# ONS Geography Products and Services Review Results

May 2016

## Executive Summary

This document contains the key results from the ONS Geography Products and Services Review. It accompanies the report ONS Geography Products and Services Review: Response.

## Contact

If you have any queries or comments about the consultation process, please email ONS Geography at [ons.geography@ons.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ons.geography@ons.gsi.gov.uk) or call 01329 444971.

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For further information on ONS consultations, please visit:  
<http://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/statistics/consultationsandsurveys>

## 1. ONS Geography Products

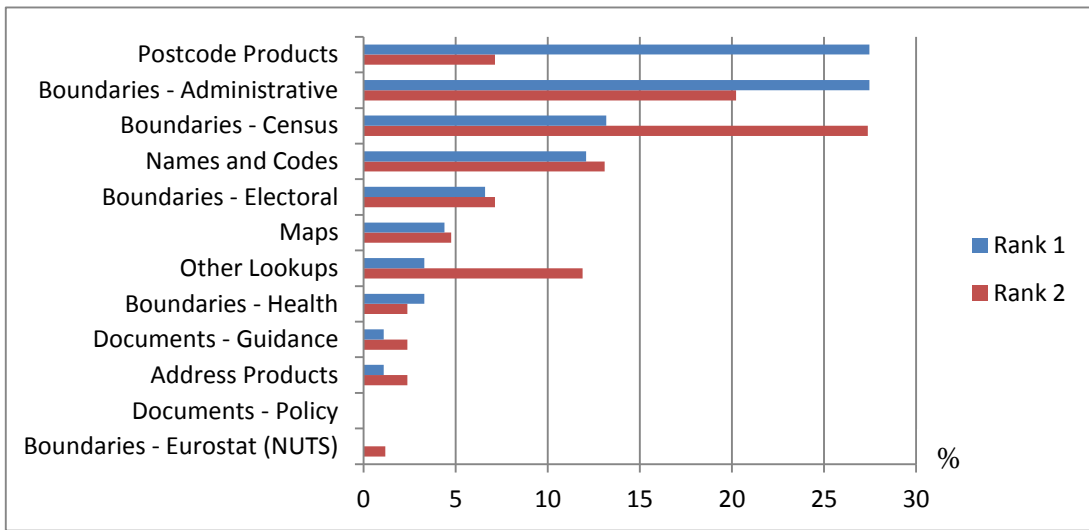
1a) In the last 12 months, which ONS Geography products have you used the most often?

Responses = 90

Respondents were asked to rank the products they used most often, where a score of 1 was the most used product. Respondents did not have to rank every product.

PRODUCT / RANK	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Boundaries - Administrative</b>	25	17	8	6	5	3	1	1	1	0	0
	27.5%	20.2%	10.3%	8.5%	8.6%	6.7%	2.4%	2.9%	3.7%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Boundaries - Census</b>	12	23	11	4	5	5	1	0	0	1	0
	13.2%	27.4%	14.1%	5.6%	8.6%	11.1%	2.4%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
<b>Boundaries - Electoral</b>	6	6	9	4	8	6	6	4	3	0	2
	6.6%	7.1%	11.5%	5.6%	13.8%	13.3%	14.6%	11.4%	11.1%	0.0%	11.1%
<b>Boundaries - Eurostat (NUTS)</b>	0	1	2	2	0	2	8	2	1	1	3
	0.0%	1.2%	2.6%	2.8%	0.0%	4.4%	19.5%	5.7%	3.7%	4.2%	16.7%
<b>Boundaries - Health</b>	3	2	2	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	1
	3.3%	2.4%	2.6%	5.6%	5.2%	4.4%	2.4%	2.9%	7.4%	12.5%	5.6%
<b>Address Products</b>	1	2	3	4	5	7	3	3	2	2	3
	1.1%	2.4%	3.8%	5.6%	8.6%	15.6%	7.3%	8.6%	7.4%	8.3%	16.7%
<b>Postcode Products</b>	25	6	17	9	5	2	2	1	0	1	0
	27.5%	7.1%	21.8%	12.7%	8.6%	4.4%	4.9%	2.9%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%
<b>Other Lookups</b>	3	10	7	12	8	4	4	3	2	0	1
	3.3%	11.9%	9.0%	16.9%	13.8%	8.9%	9.8%	8.6%	7.4%	0.0%	5.6%
<b>Documents - Guidance</b>	1	2	6	9	7	2	3	7	4	6	0
	1.1%	2.4%	7.7%	12.7%	12.1%	4.4%	7.3%	20.0%	14.8%	25.0%	0.0%
<b>Documents - Policy</b>	0	0	2	2	4	3	2	3	4	4	6
	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	2.8%	6.9%	6.7%	4.9%	8.6%	14.8%	16.7%	33.3%
<b>Maps</b>	4	4	4	5	1	4	4	8	4	5	1
	4.4%	4.8%	5.1%	7.0%	1.7%	8.9%	9.8%	22.9%	14.8%	20.8%	5.6%
<b>Names and Codes</b>	11	11	7	10	7	5	6	2	4	1	1
	12.1%	13.1%	9.0%	14.1%	12.1%	11.1%	14.6%	5.7%	14.8%	4.2%	5.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	91	84	78	71	58	45	41	35	27	24	18

Graph identifies products used first and second most often:

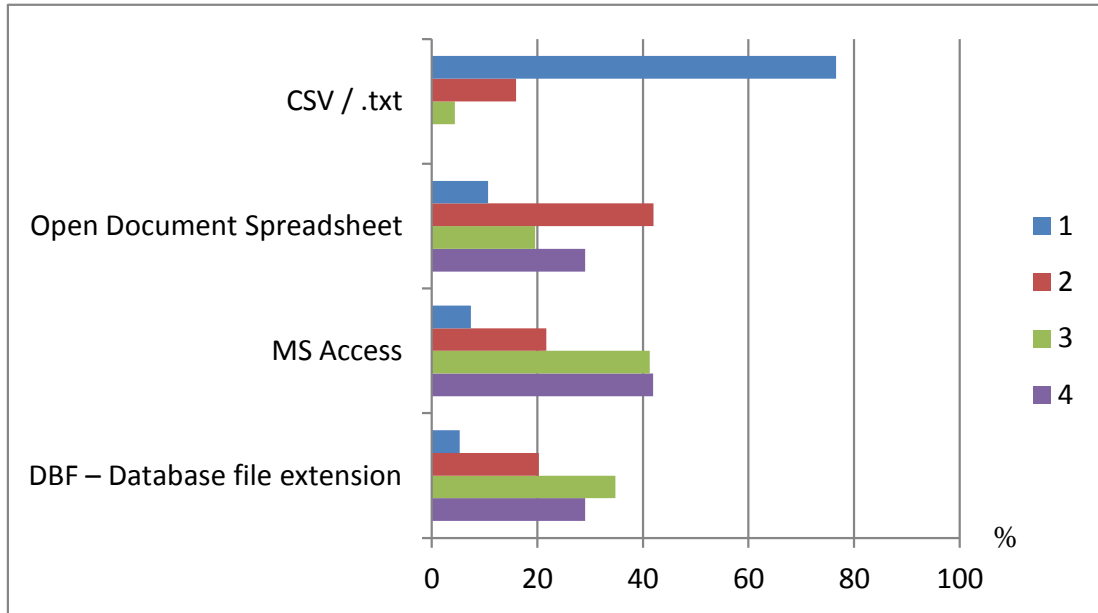


## 2. ONS Geography Services

2a) In what format do you prefer to work with your data?

### Tabular Data

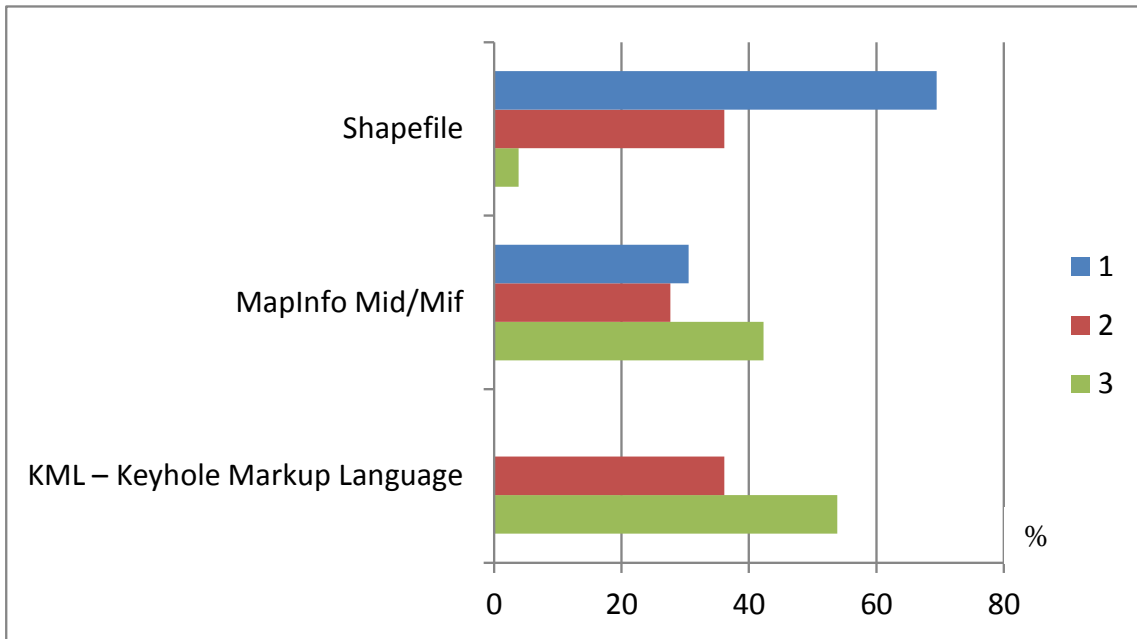
Responses = 93      1= Most preference



	1	2	3	4
<b>CSV / .txt</b>	72	11	2	0
	76.6%	15.9%	4.3%	0.0%
<b>DBF – Database file extension</b>	5	14	16	9
	5.3%	20.3%	34.8%	29.0%
<b>MS Access</b>	7	15	19	13
	7.4%	21.7%	41.3%	41.9%
<b>Open Document Spreadsheet</b>	10	29	9	9
	10.6%	42.0%	19.6%	29.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	94	69	46	31

**Spatial Data**

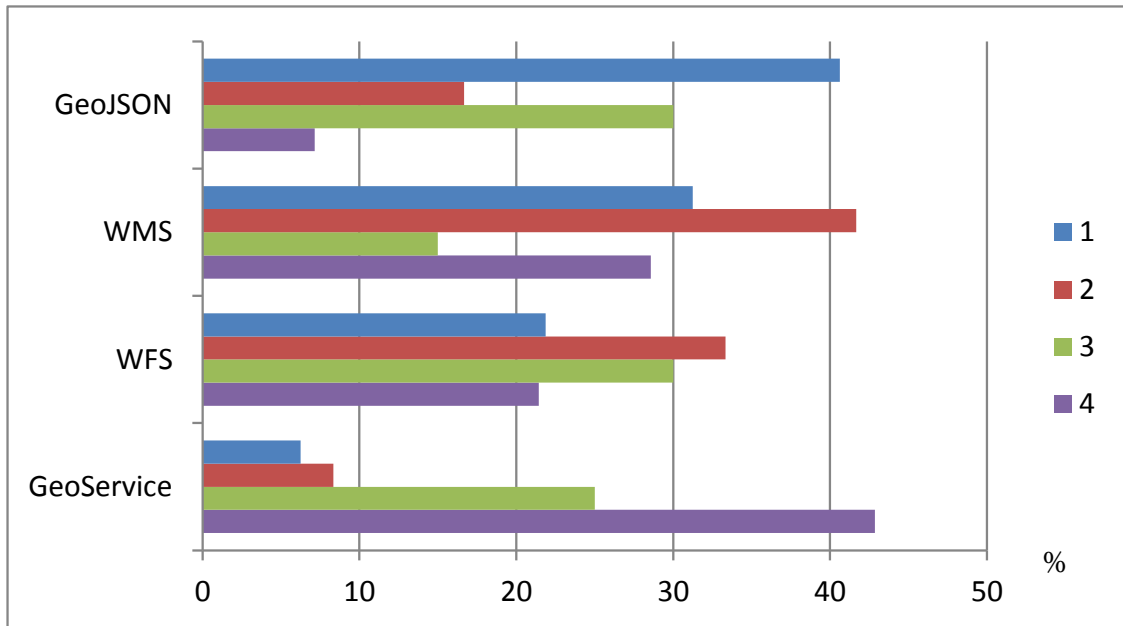
Responses = 73      1= Most preference



	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Shapefile</b>	50	17	1
	69.4%	36.2%	3.8%
<b>MapInfo Mid/Mif</b>	22	13	11
	30.6%	27.7%	42.3%
<b>KML – Keyhole Markup Language</b>	0	17	14
	0.0%	36.2%	53.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	72	47	26

### Application Programming Interface

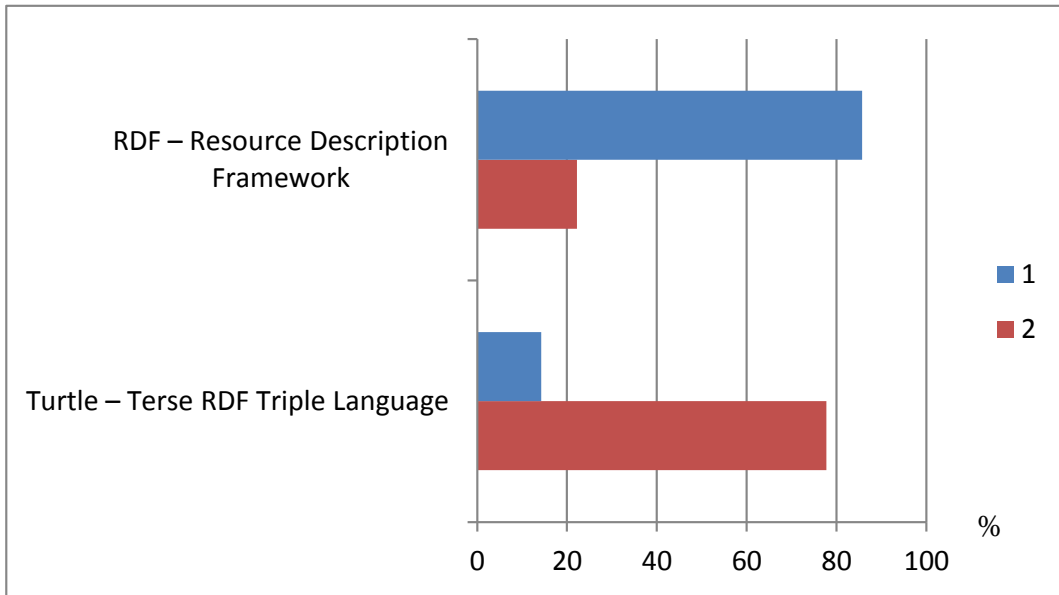
Responses = 33      1= Most preference



	1	2	3	4
<b>WMS</b>	10	10	3	4
	31.3%	41.7%	15.0%	28.6%
<b>WFS</b>	7	8	6	3
	21.9%	33.3%	30.0%	21.4%
<b>GeoJSON</b>	13	4	6	1
	40.6%	16.7%	30.0%	7.1%
<b>GeoService</b>	2	2	5	6
	6.3%	8.3%	25.0%	42.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	32	24	20	14

**Linked Data**

Responses = 15      1= Most preference

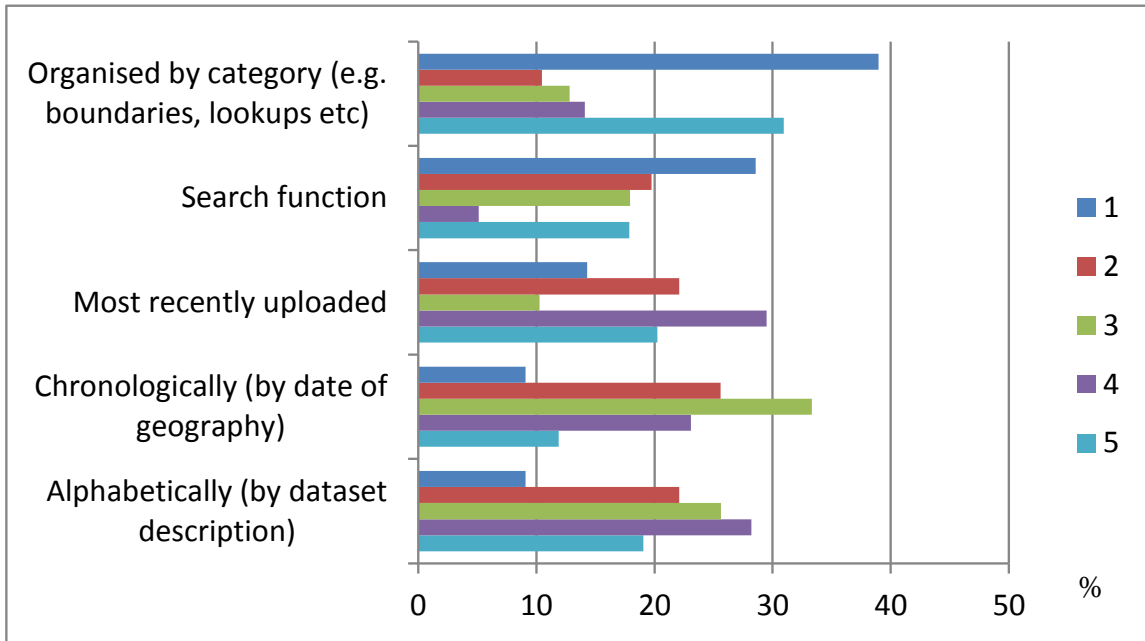


	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RDF – Resource Description Framework</b>	12	2
	85.7%	22.2%
<b>Turtle – Terse RDF Triple Language</b>	2	7
	14.3%	77.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	14	9



2b) In what order do you prefer to see datasets listed and select them?

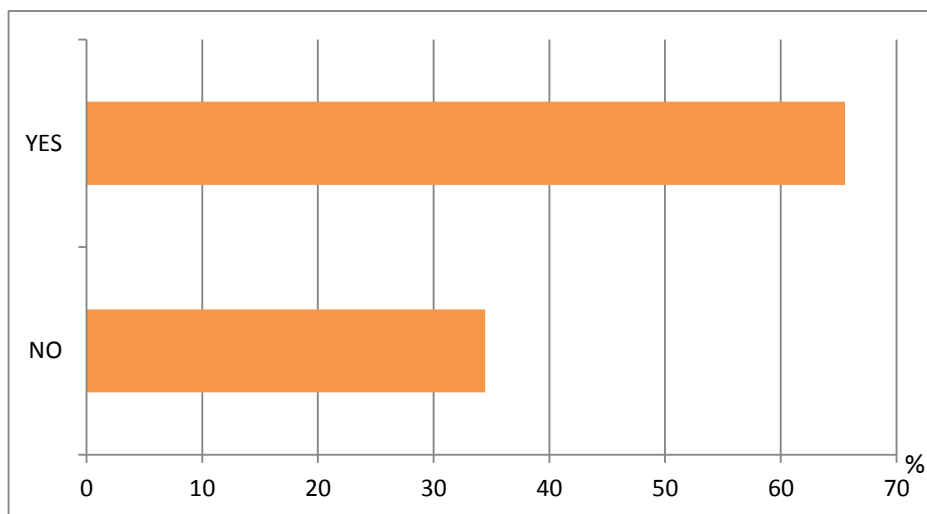
Responses = 90 5= Most preference



	5	4	3	2	1
<b>Alphabetically (by dataset description)</b>	7	19	20	22	16
	9.1%	22.1%	25.6%	28.2%	19.0%
<b>Chronologically (by date of geography)</b>	7	22	26	18	10
	9.1%	25.6%	33.3%	23.1%	11.9%
<b>Most recently uploaded</b>	11	19	8	23	17
	14.3%	22.1%	10.3%	29.5%	20.2%
<b>Organised by category (e.g. boundaries, lookups etc)</b>	30	9	10	11	26
	39.0%	10.5%	12.8%	14.1%	31.0%
<b>Search function</b>	22	17	14	4	15
	28.6%	19.8%	17.9%	5.1%	17.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	77	86	78	78	84

2c) Do you have a requirement to extract data for a specific geographic area (subsetting) e.g. give me the postcodes in Fareham?

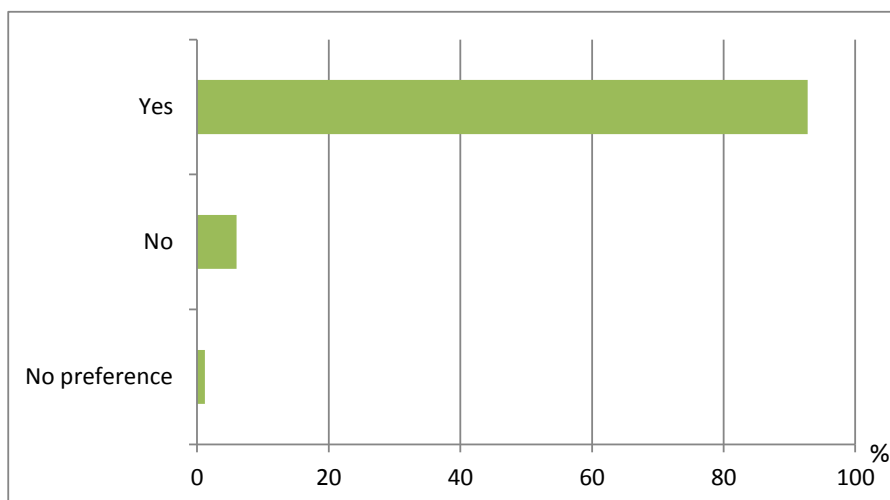
Responses = 90



	COUNT	%
<b>YES</b>	59	65.6
<b>NO</b>	31	34.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	90	

2d) When you access ONS statistics (e.g. via NESS or NOMIS), would you find it helpful to access the geographies (e.g. boundaries) from the same place?

Responses = 83

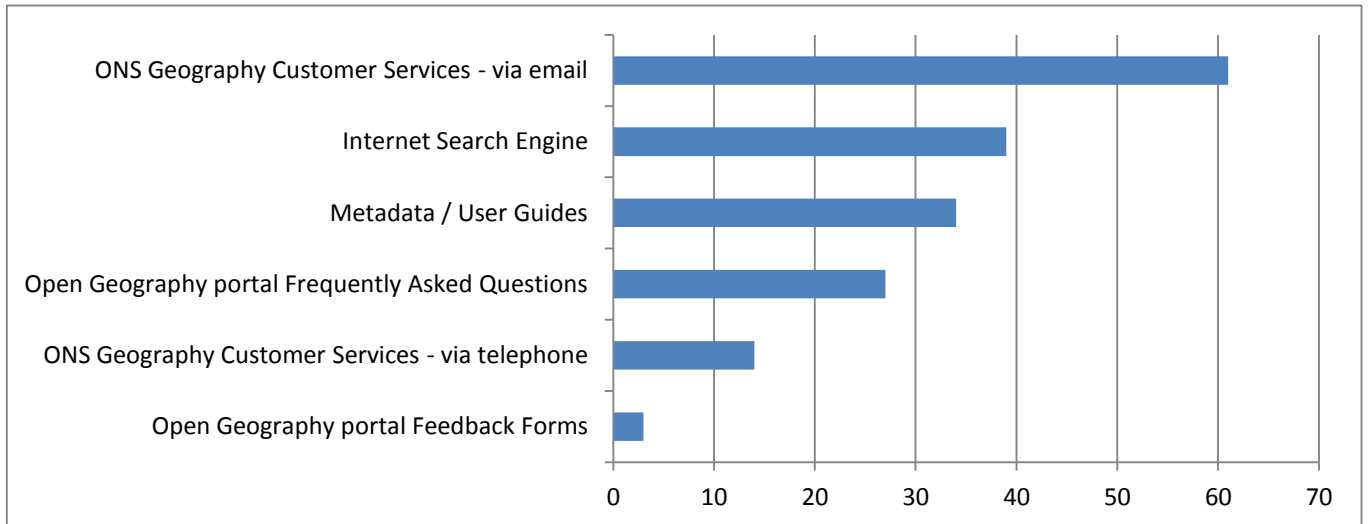


	COUNT	%
<b>Yes</b>	77	92.8
<b>No</b>	5	6.0
<b>No preference</b>	1	1.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	83	

2e) If you have a query about one of our products or services where are you most likely to go?

Responses = 93

Respondents may have selected more than one option.

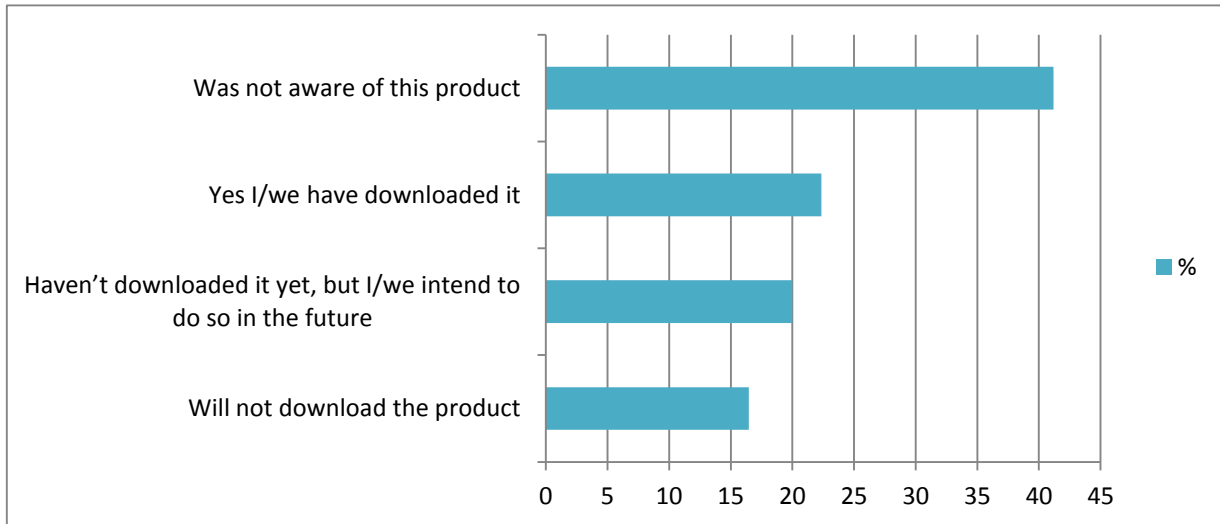


	<b>COUNT</b>
ONS Geography Customer Services - via email	61
Internet Search Engine	39
Metadata / User Guides	34
Open Geography portal Frequently Asked Questions	27
ONS Geography Customer Services - via telephone	14
Open Geography portal Feedback Forms	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>

### 3. National Statistics Address Lookup (NSAL)

3a) Have you downloaded the National Statistics Address Lookup (NSAL)?

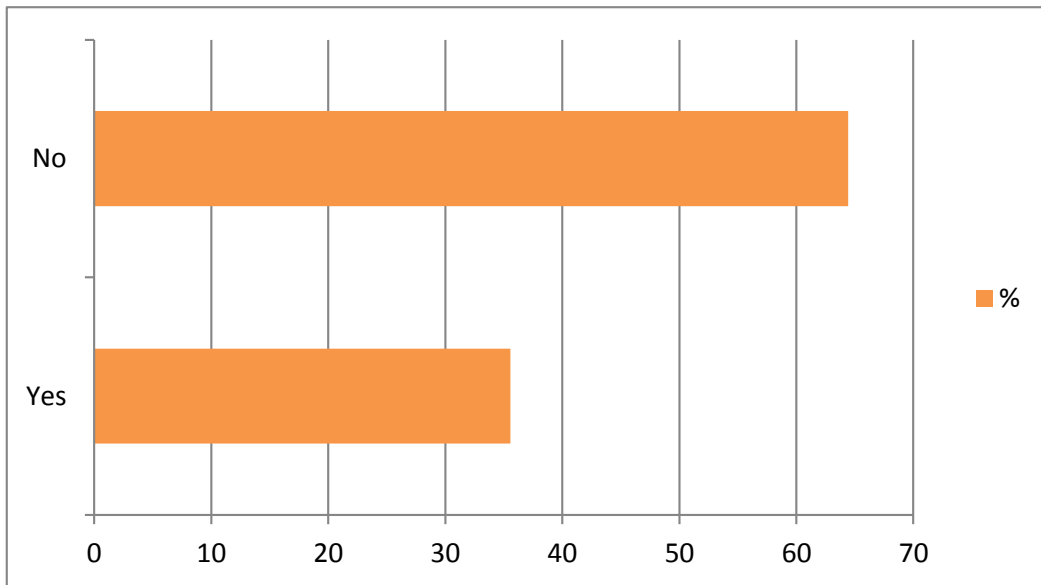
Responses = 85



	COUNT	%
Yes I/we have downloaded it	19	22.4
Haven't downloaded it yet, but I/we intend to do so in the future	17	20.0
Will not download the product	14	16.5
Was not aware of this product	35	41.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>85</b>	

3b) Do you use the UPRN to reference / link datasets?

Responses = 45

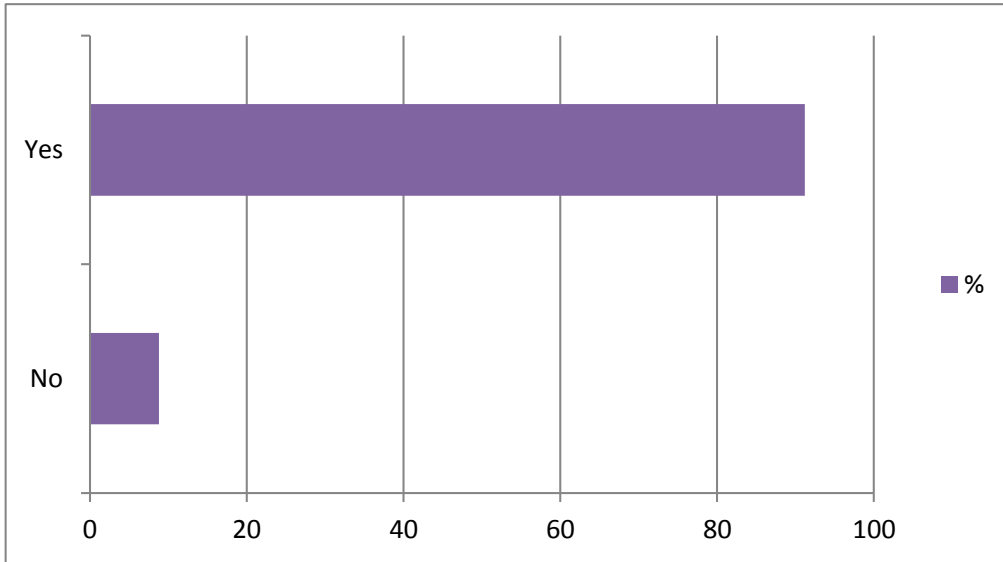


	COUNT	%
<b>Yes</b>	16	35.6
<b>No</b>	29	64.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	45	

## 4. GSS Coding and Naming Policy for UK National Statistics

4a) Are you aware that all instances of a geographic area have a unique 9 character code e.g. E92000001 (England)?

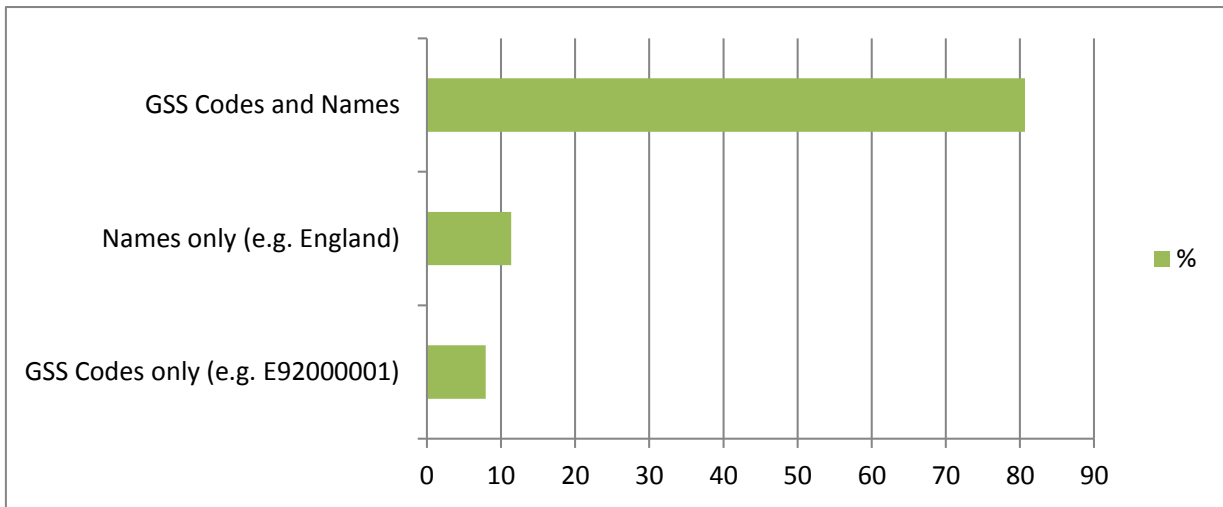
Responses = 91



	COUNT	%
<b>Yes</b>	83	91.2
<b>No</b>	8	8.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	91	

4b) Do you use names or codes for navigating through the data?

Responses = 88

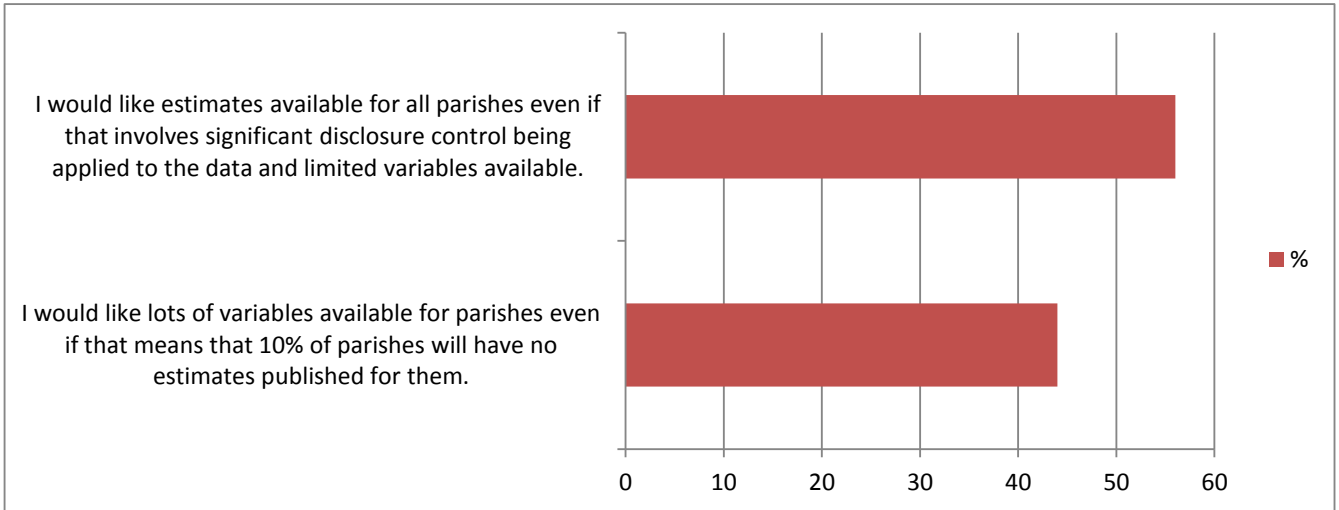


	COUNT	%
<b>GSS Codes and Names</b>	71	80.7
<b>GSS Codes only (e.g. E92000001)</b>	7	8.0
<b>Names only (e.g. England)</b>	10	11.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	88	

## 5. Producing population estimates for Civil Parishes

5a) We would therefore like to know which of the following options you would prefer:

Responses = 57 (4 respondents preferred both options)



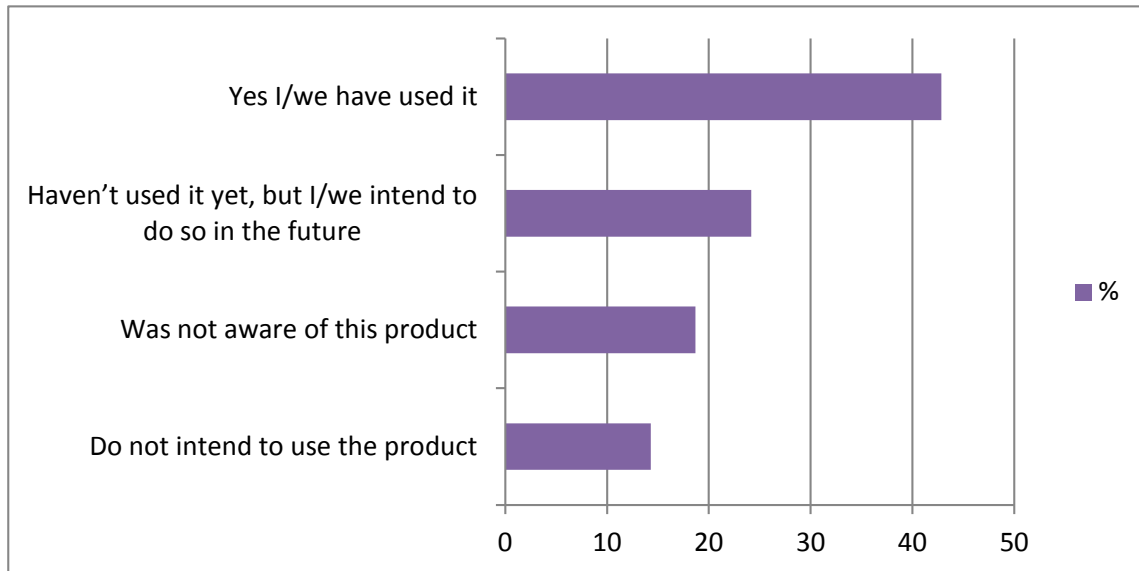
	Count	%
<b>I would like estimates available for all parishes even if that involves significant disclosure control being applied to the data and limited variables available.</b>	34	55.7
<b>I would like lots of variables available for parishes even if that means that 10% of parishes will have no estimates published for them.</b>	27	44.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	61	



## 6. Output Area Classification

6a) Have you used the 2011 Area Classification for Output Areas (2011 OAC)?

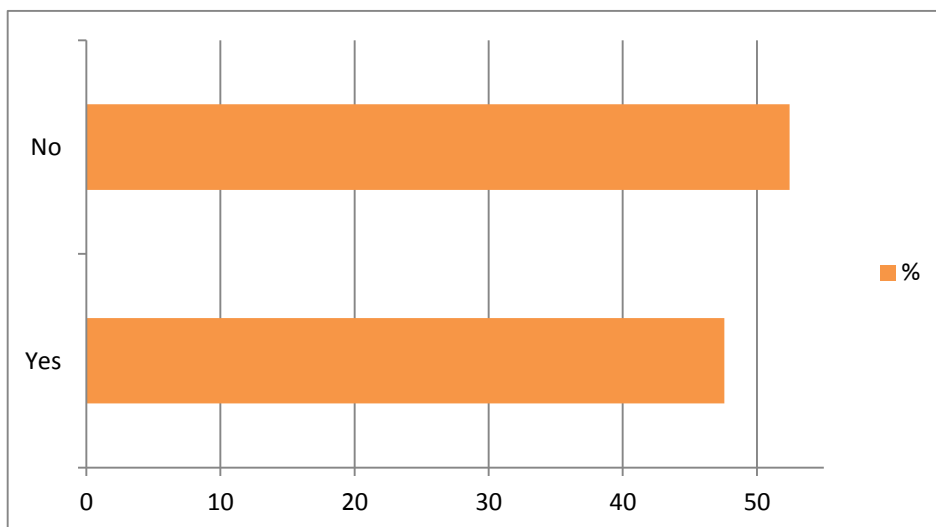
Responses = 91



	COUNT	%
<b>Yes I/we have used it</b>	39	42.9
<b>Haven't used it yet, but I/we intend to do so in the future</b>	22	24.2
<b>Do not intend to use the product</b>	13	14.3
<b>Was not aware of this product</b>	17	18.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	91	

6d) The Output Area Classification (OAC) is updated once every 10 years, following a Census. Does this limit the value of the OAC to you?

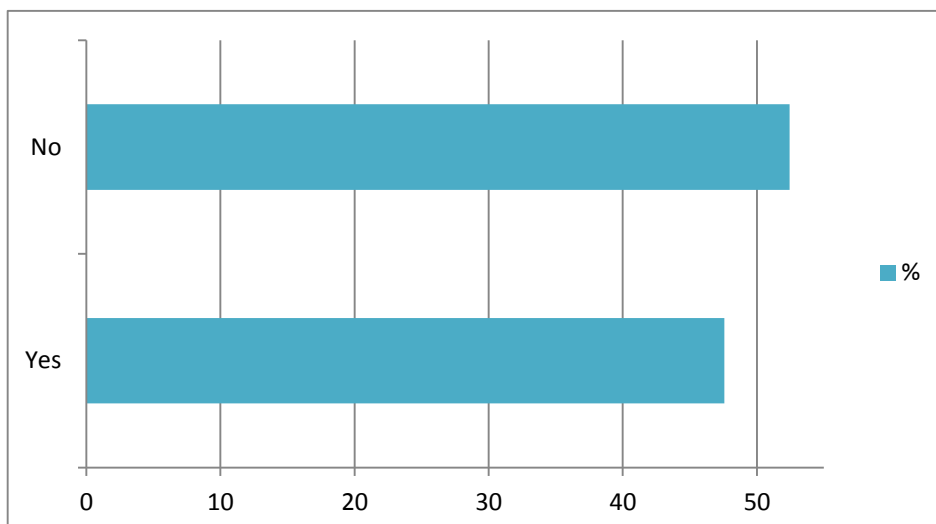
Responses = 82



	COUNT	%
<b>Yes</b>	39	47.6
<b>No</b>	43	52.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	82	

6e) Other organisations produce geo-demographic area classifications for the UK. Do you use any of these area classifications (e.g. Mosaic, Acorn)?

Responses = 82

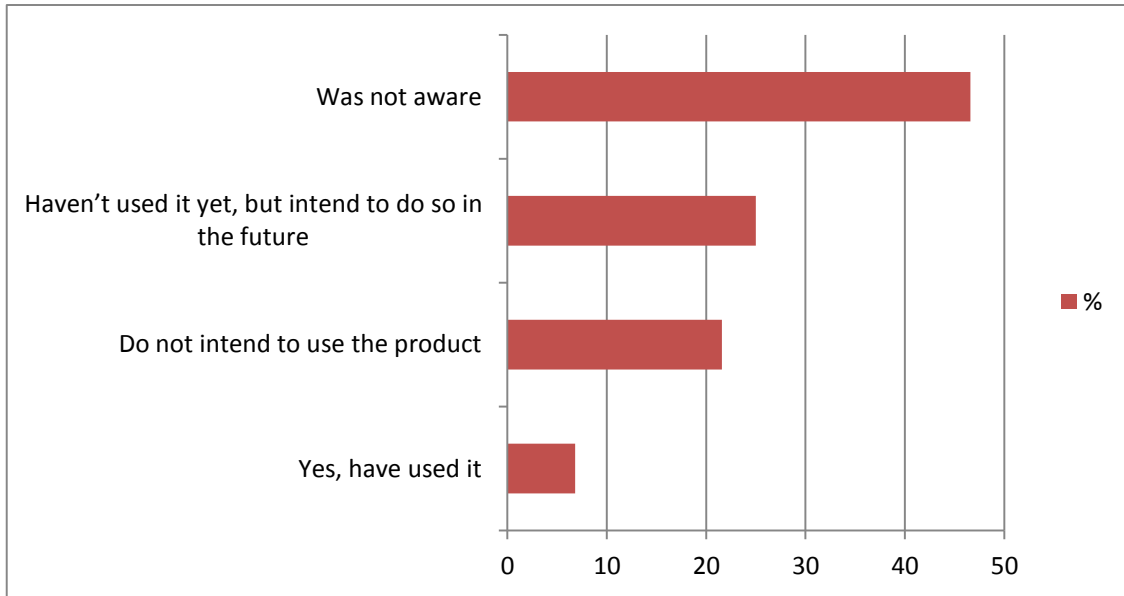


	COUNT	%
<b>Yes</b>	39	47.6
<b>No</b>	43	52.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	82	

## 7. Grid-based Population Estimates

7a) Have you used the 2011 population grid statistics?

Responses = 88



	COUNT	%
Yes I/we have used it	6	6.8
Haven't used it yet, but intend to do so in the future	22	25.0
Do not intend to use the product	19	21.6
Was not aware of this product	41	46.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>	