



## Background

This bulletin describes the main findings of the Attitudes to Flood Risk section of the 2016-2017 National Survey for Wales. Full results and an interactive Results Viewer can be found at <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/?lang=en>.

A subset of National Survey respondents were asked the following questions;

- Have you looked in to whether your property is at risk of flooding?
- How concerned are you about the risk of flooding to your own property?
- How concerned are you about the risk of flooding to your local area?
- How concerned are you about the risk of flooding in other areas of Wales?
- Which organisations would you contact for advice about flooding?

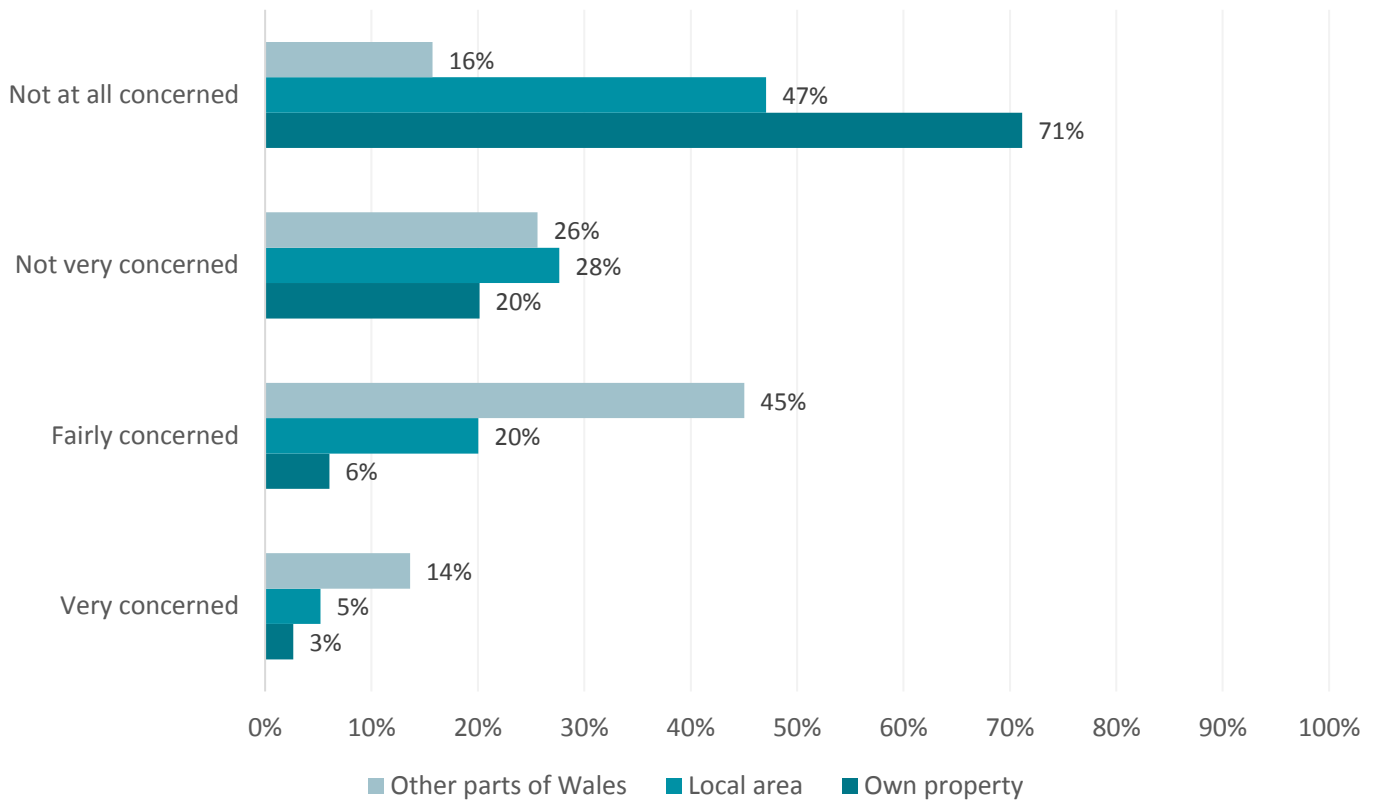
The National Survey for Wales also includes a wide range of questions about demographics, socio-economic factors such as deprivation, and about where people live (such as rural or urban areas). The responses have weighted to make them representative of the characteristics of the adult population of Wales.

## Key Findings

- The overall level of concern about flooding in Wales differs substantially depending on whether people are asked about their own home or wider areas. Interestingly, people in Wales were more concerned about flooding in other parts of Wales than in their local areas or even their own property. Nine per cent were 'very' or 'fairly' concerned about their own property, but 59% were 'very' or 'fairly' concerned about other parts of Wales.
- In terms of actions, nearly one in five people (18%) had checked whether their home was at risk of flooding, although the majority (74%) had not as they did not think they needed to. Of particular interest is the 8% of respondents who had not looked in to whether their property was at risk of flooding, but thought they should do so.
- There was a mix of organisations that people would contact for advice about flooding, with most mentioning the local council (38%) or the Environment Agency (33%). Only one in six respondents said they would contact Natural Resources Wales for advice (16%).

- The average level of concern over flooding to one's own property was low. Fig. 1 shows the proportions of respondents' relative levels of concern about flooding affecting their own property, their local area, and other parts of Wales.

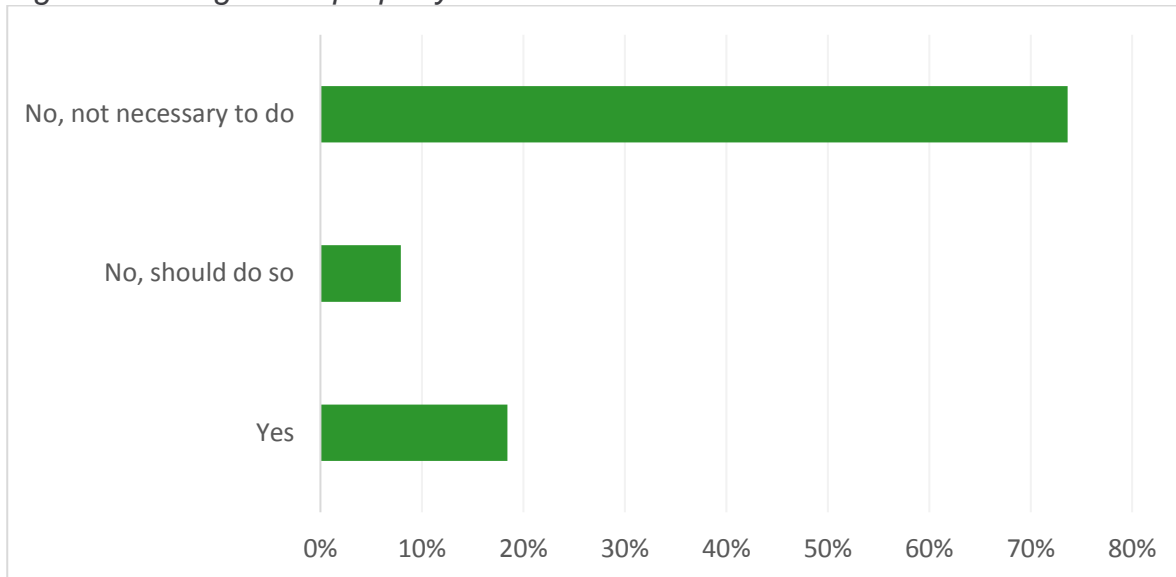
Fig. 1- Levels of concern about flood risk by relationship to affected area



### Checking if Property is at Risk

Respondents were asked if they had looked into whether their property was at risk of flooding. Nearly 1 in 5 people (18%) said yes, but a majority (74%) said that they hadn't as they didn't think they needed to. Of particular interest is the 8% who said that they hadn't looked in to this, but that they thought they should. Fig. 2 illustrates this. Nearly half (48%) of those who were very concerned about flooding to their local area had checked to see if their property was at risk; only 23% of those who were very concerned about other areas of Wales had done so. A large majority (86%) of those who weren't at all concerned about flooding to their local area didn't feel that it was necessary for them to check.

Fig.2- Checking if own property is at risk



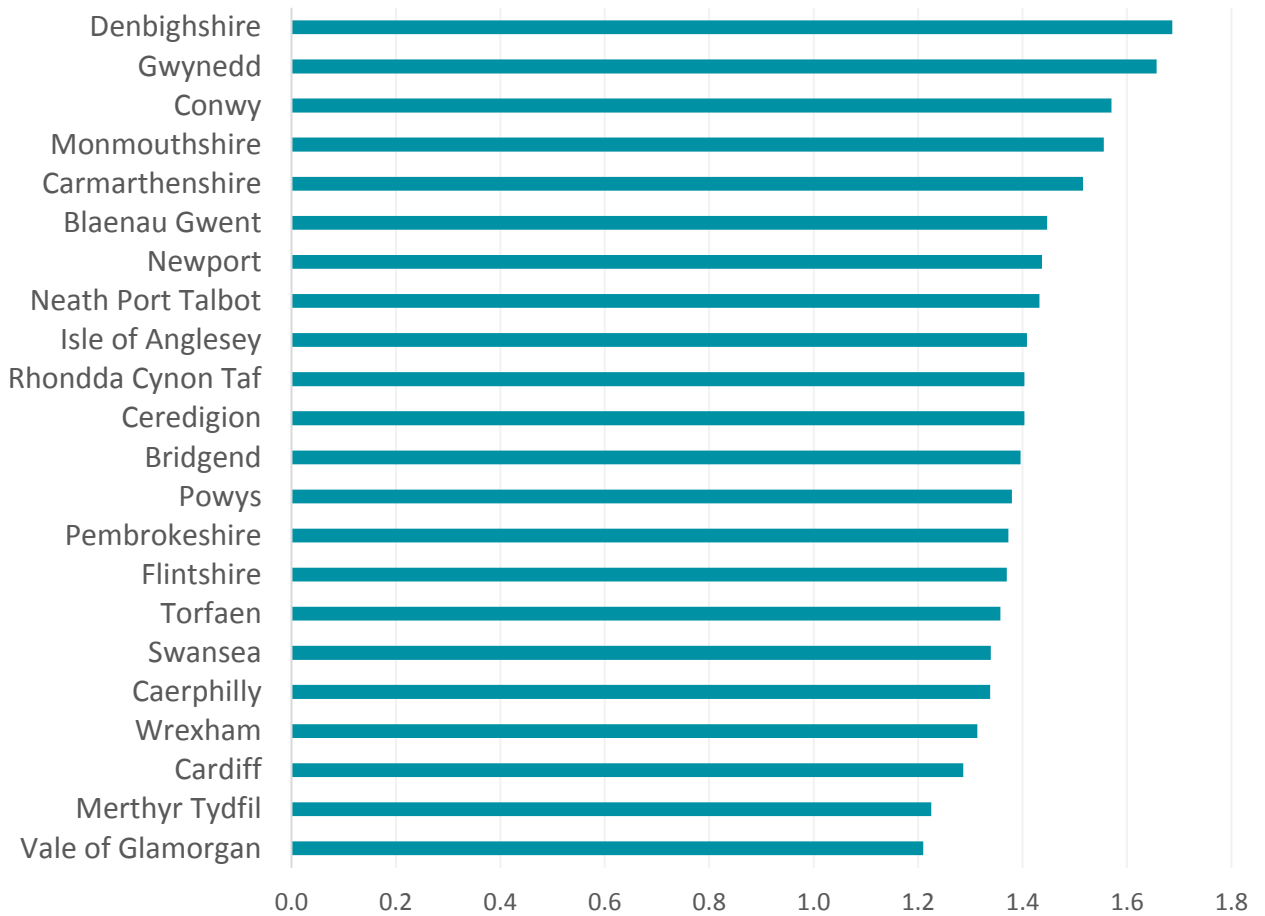
Residents of rural areas were significantly more likely to have checked if their property was at risk from flooding. Respondents in poor general health or those affected by material deprivation were not significantly more or less likely to have checked.

### Concern about risk of flooding to own property

The proportion of people who are concerned about the risk of flooding to their own property is relatively low, with only 9% either 'very' or 'fairly' concerned.

- There were no significant differences in the reported levels of concern between different age groups, those living in a rural or urban area, or by type of housing tenure (eg rented or owned).
- Respondents who belonged to a minority ethnic group were significantly less concerned about the risk of flooding to their own property.
- Although there were no differences in terms of the overall Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), on the housing sub-scale the most deprived quintile were significantly more concerned than the least deprived quintile.
- There were no significant differences in levels of concern in relation to a respondents' mental health, their reported level of recent anxiety, or their overall satisfaction with the area they live in.
- Levels of concern about flooding affecting respondents' own properties were highest in Denbighshire, Gwynedd and Conwy. The least concerned unitary authority areas were the Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil and Cardiff. Fig. 2 shows the authorities ranked by this measure.

Fig. 3- Levels of concern about flooding to own property by Unitary Authority



### Concern about risk of flooding to local area

One in four people (25%) were very or fairly concerned about the risk of flooding to their local area, which is considerably higher than the proportion who are concerned about their own property (9%).

- There were no significant differences in the reported levels of concern in relation to age, material deprivation, housing tenure, mental illness or general health.
- People living in rural areas were significantly more concerned than those who live in urban areas.

### Concern about risk of flooding to other areas in Wales

A high proportion of the population (59%) are concerned about the risk of flooding to other areas in Wales. This is considerably higher than the number of people who are concerned about flooding to either their own property or their local area.

The survey found that:

- There were no significant differences in the reported levels of concern in relation to general health or mental illness; people in material deprivation were slightly but significantly less concerned than others. There was a significant correlation with

age, suggesting that older people tended to be somewhat more concerned about other areas in Wales.

- Respondents living in rural areas were significantly more concerned than those who live in urban areas.

## Contact Organisations

Natural Resources Wales has responsibility for flood warnings and response in Wales. There were a number of different organisations that people said they would contact for advice about flooding. The most common responses were:

- Local authority (38%)
- Environment Agency (33%)
- Natural Resources Wales (16%)

Other organisations that were mentioned included the Fire Service (8%) and Police (4%) along with the National Flood Forum (6%).

People who said they would contact NRW were significantly more likely to have checked whether their home was at risk.

## Metadata

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is a partner in the new National Survey for Wales; this is NRW's second publication from the new Survey.

Technical information on the Survey is available from Welsh Government at <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/national-survey/design-methodology/technical-information/?lang=en>.

The information within this report is categorised as Official Statistics, and has been produced and published according to arrangements approved by the UK Statistics Authority.

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