



THE LAW SOCIETY
of SCOTLAND
www.lawscot.org.uk

Law Society of Scotland Survey of members 2016

Ipsos MORI Scotland



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Background

- The aim of the research was to explore members' perceptions of the Society, the service it provides and its priorities for the future.
- Where relevant, comparisons were made with perceptions and attitudes from previous waves of the survey (conducted annually from 2011 to 2015).
- Members were selected from a database provided by the Society using stratified random sampling.
- Interviews were conducted by telephone between 28th November and 16th December 2016.
- In total, 542 interviews were achieved. Weighting was applied to the data to ensure it was representative of the membership population as a whole.



Member priorities for the Society

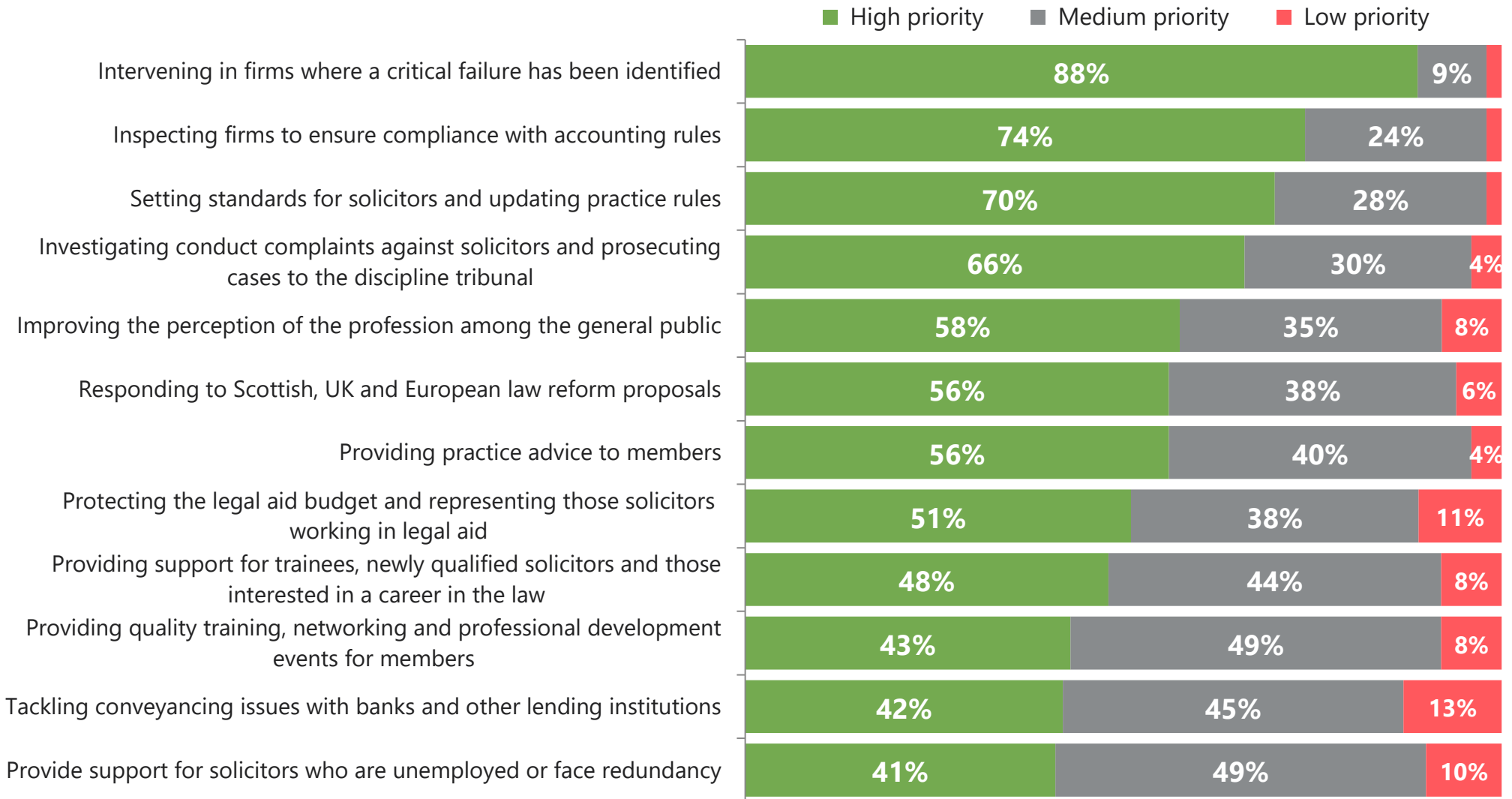


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Regulatory functions are again considered to be the highest priorities overall

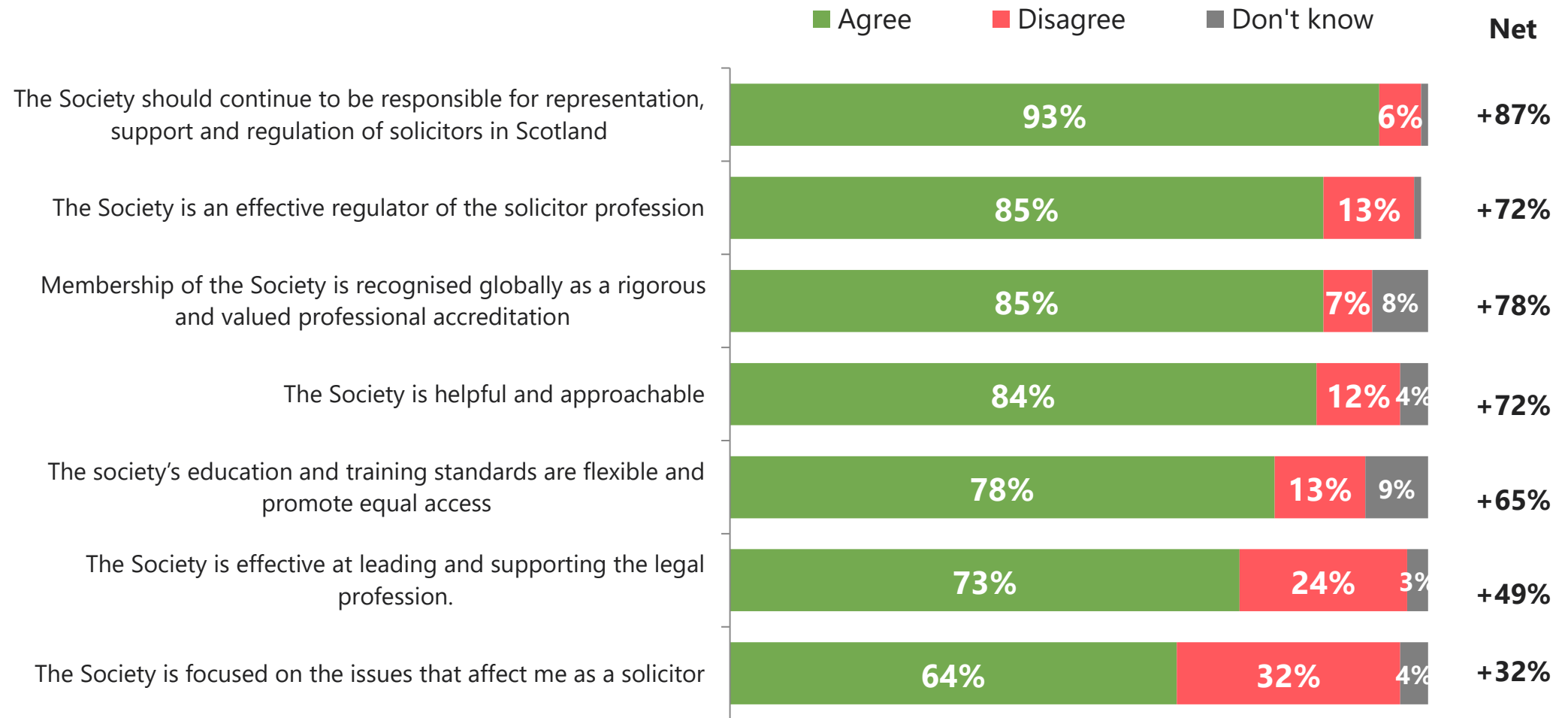
I'm going to read out some areas in which the Society represents the legal profession. For each of these can you please tell me how much of a priority for the Society you think these should be?



Base: All respondents

Members' perceptions of the Society are largely positive...

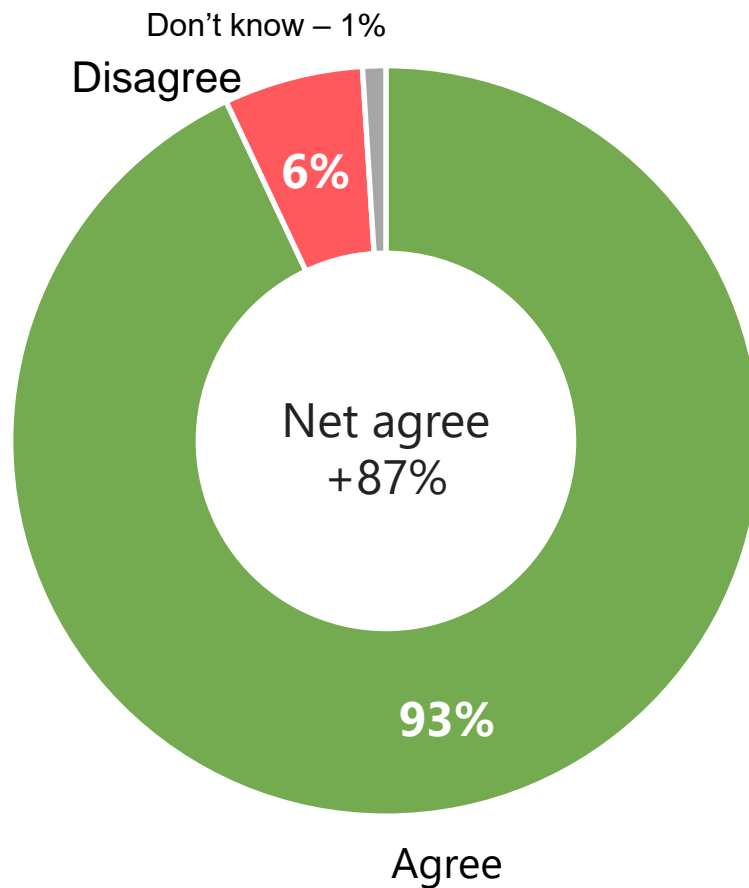
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Base: All respondents

Most members think the Society should continue to be responsible for representation, support and regulation

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? The Society should continue to be responsible for representation, support and regulation of solicitors in Scotland

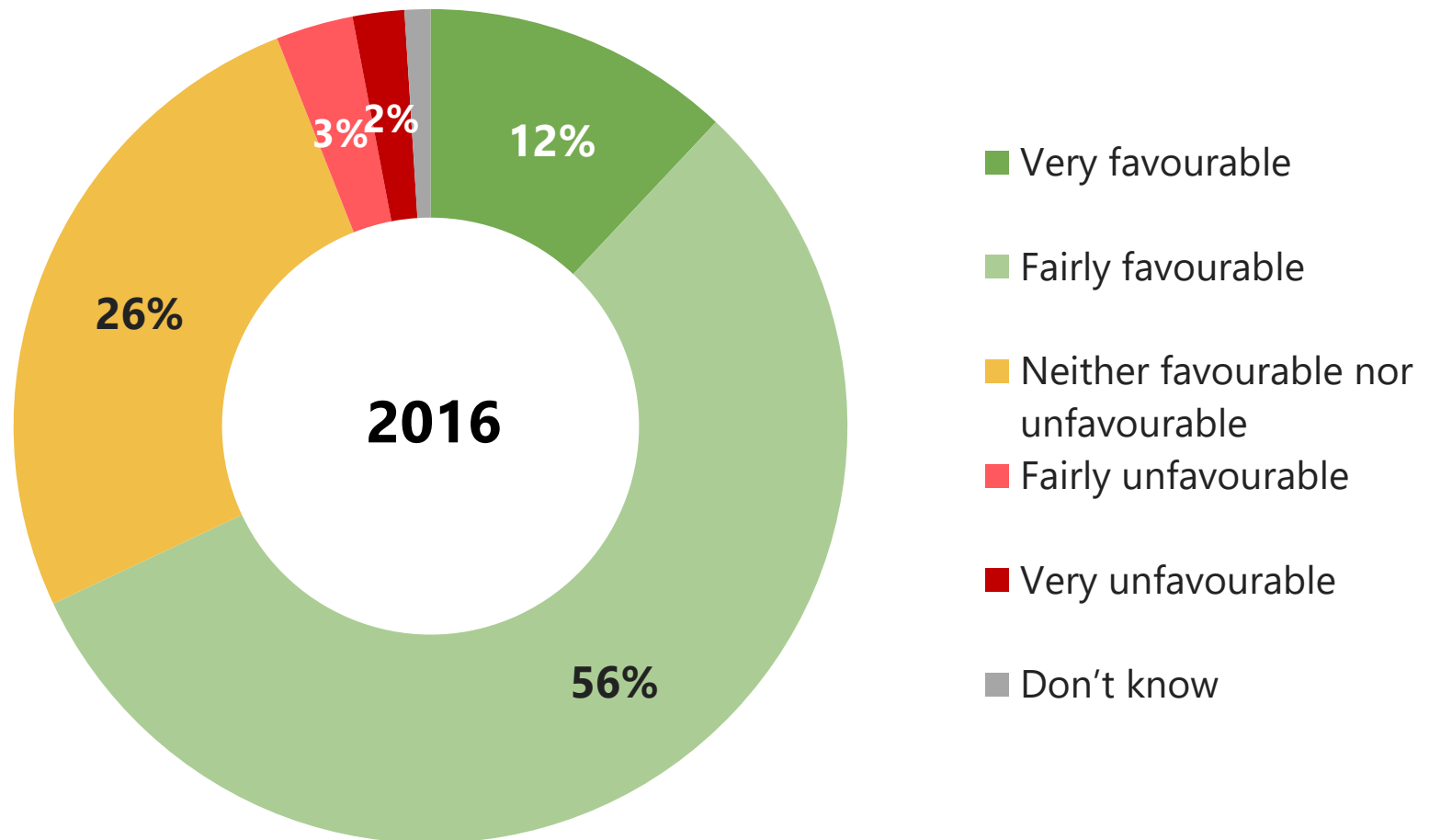


Disagree – highest responses	%
Legal aid	11%

Base: All respondents

The majority of members have a favourable opinion of the Society's work

Members: How favourable or unfavourable is your opinion of the work of the Society?



Base: All respondents

Policy context

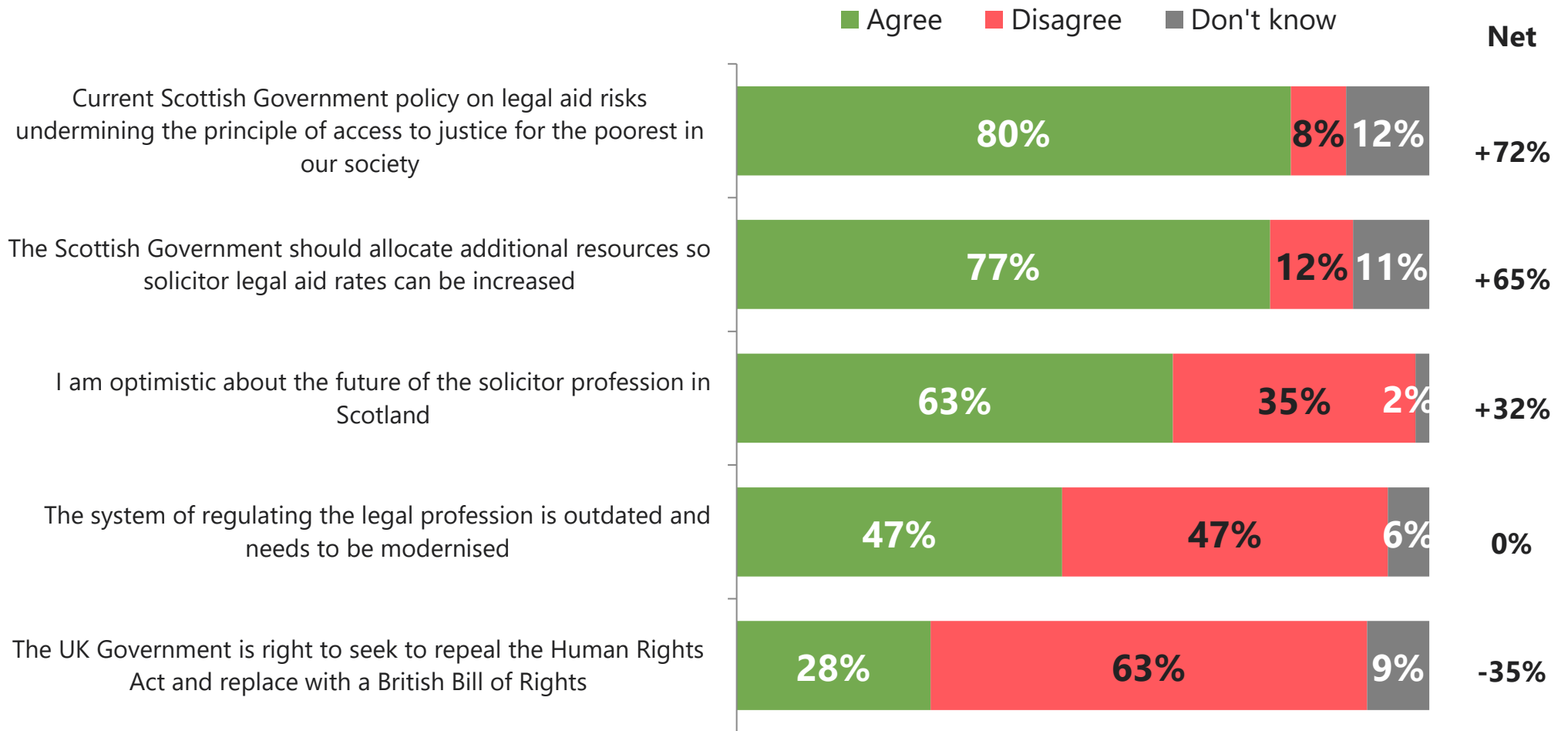


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Most members' are in favour of additional resources for legal aid, and against the repeal of the Human Rights Act

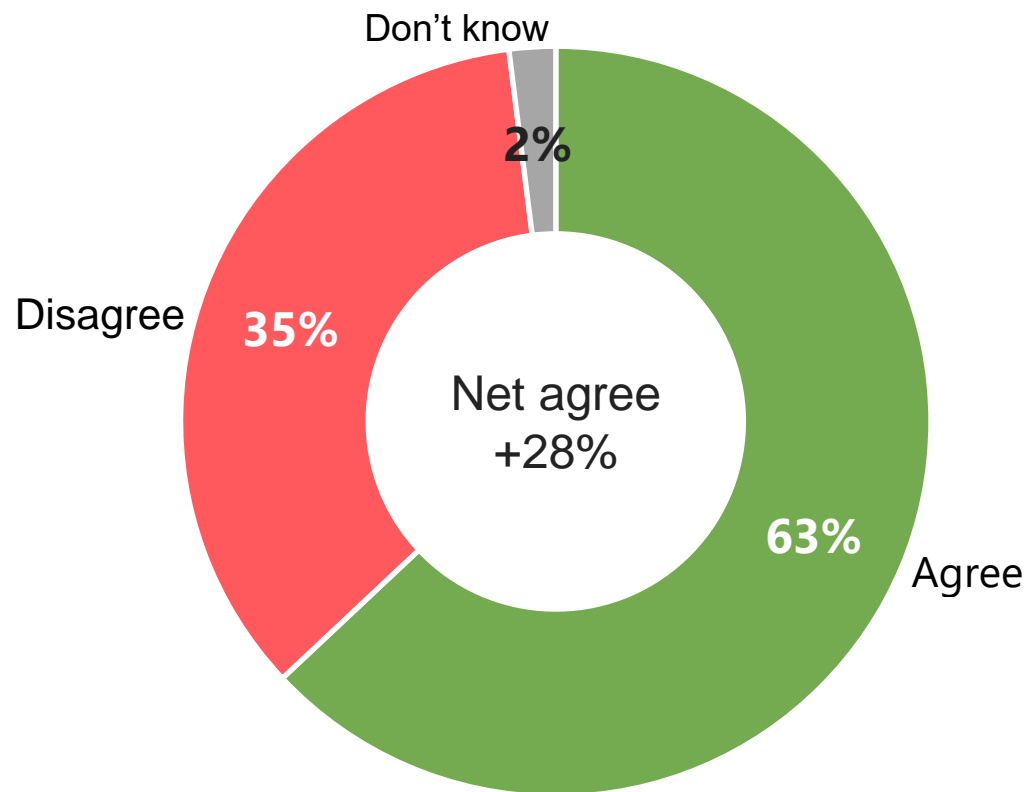
Now thinking about the wider policy context, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



Base: All respondents

Once again, two thirds are optimistic about the future of the legal profession

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I am optimistic about the future of the legal profession in Scotland?



Agree – highest responses	%
Trainee	82%
In-house public	78%
In-house private	76%
Non legal aid	67%

Disagree – highest responses	%
Legal aid	58%

Base: All respondents

Communication

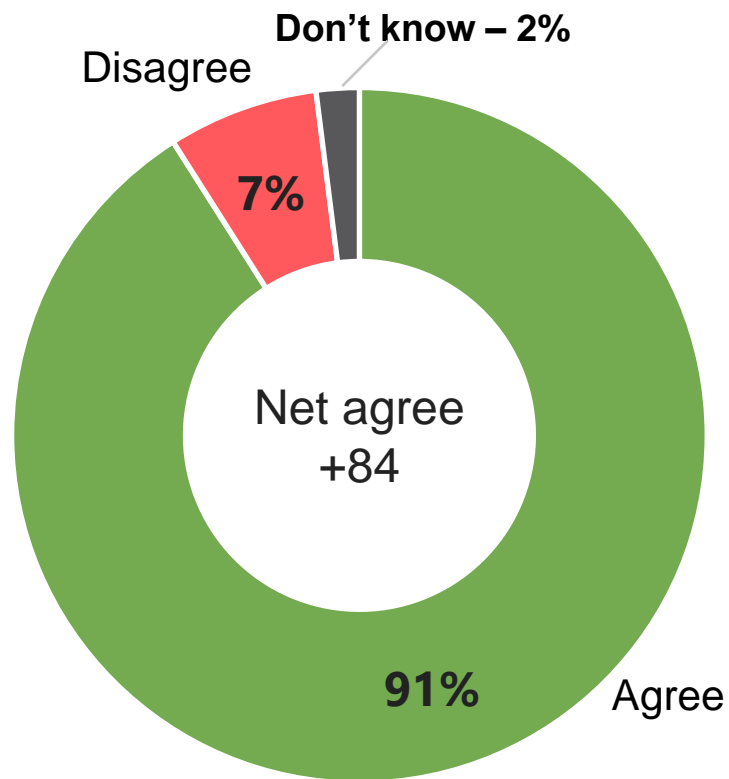


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Almost all members think the Society keeps them well informed with accurate and reliable information

I'm going to read out a list of statements and I'd like you to tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of these: The Society keeps me well informed with accurate and reliable information

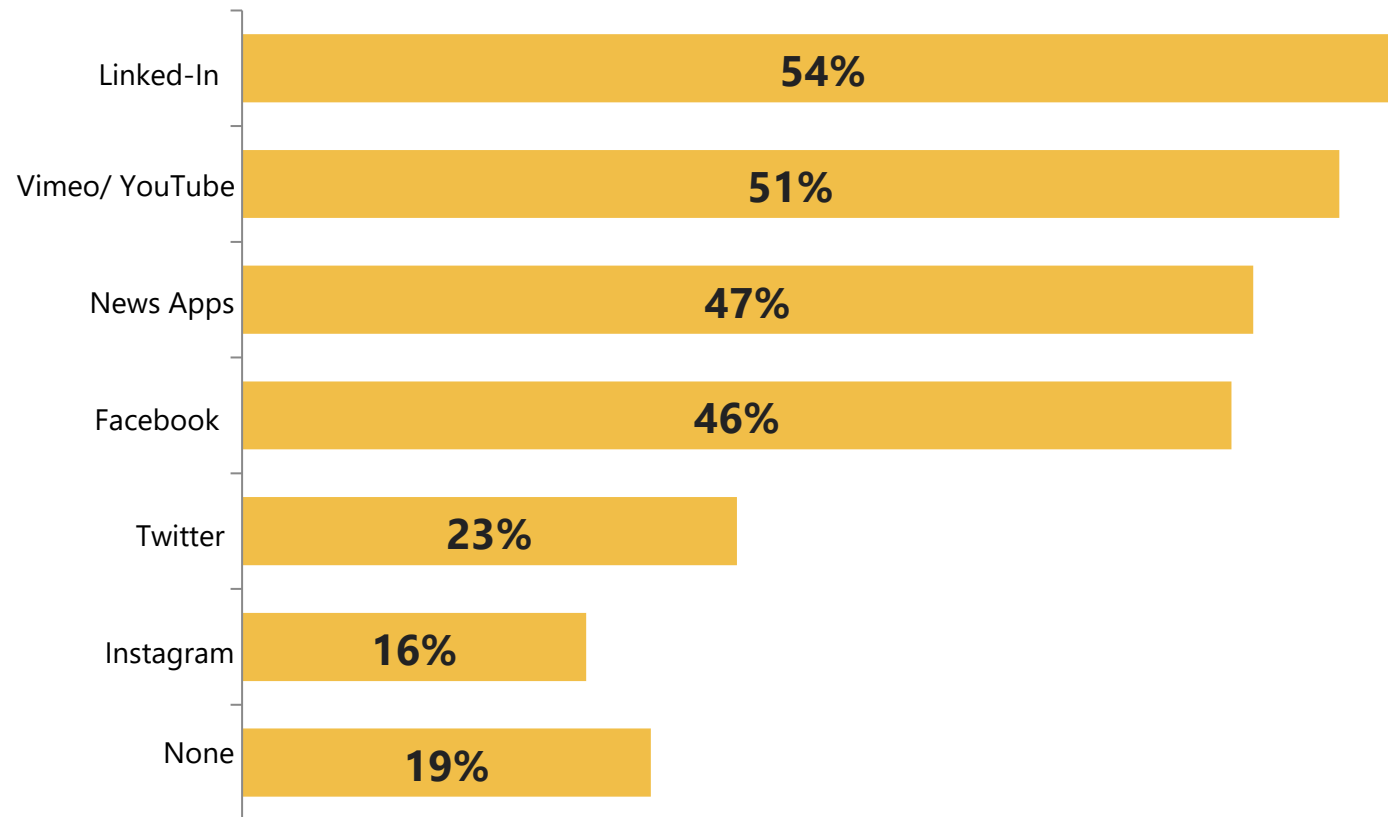


	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Agree	79%	84%	86%	85%	81%	91%
Disagree	19%	14%	14%	12%	18%	7%
Net agree	+60	+70	+71	+73	+63	+84

Base: All respondents

Linked-In is the most used social media site by members, followed by Vimeo/YouTube

Which of the following social media sites, if any, do you use?



Base: All Respondents

Training

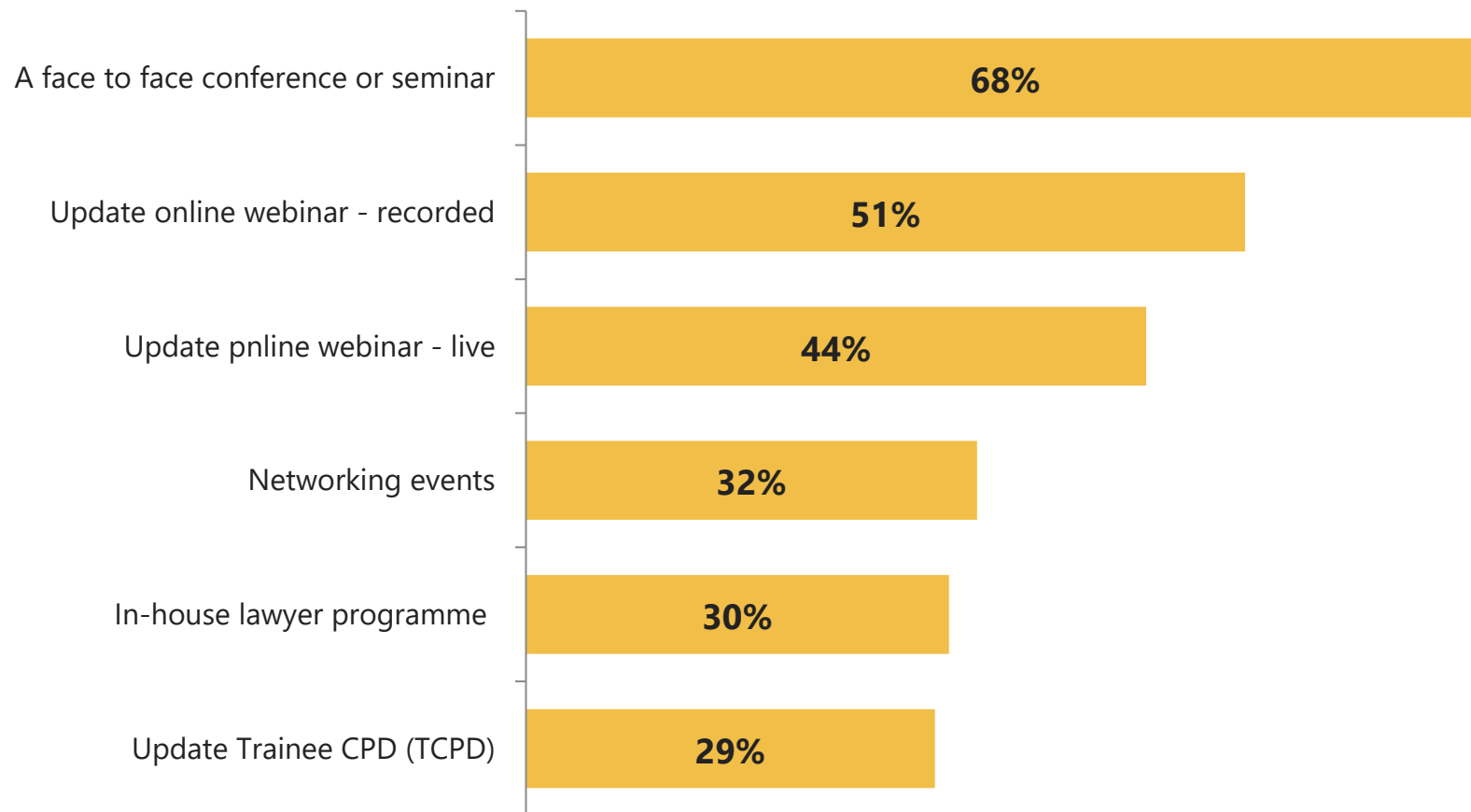


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There is high interest in face-to-face conferences and seminars

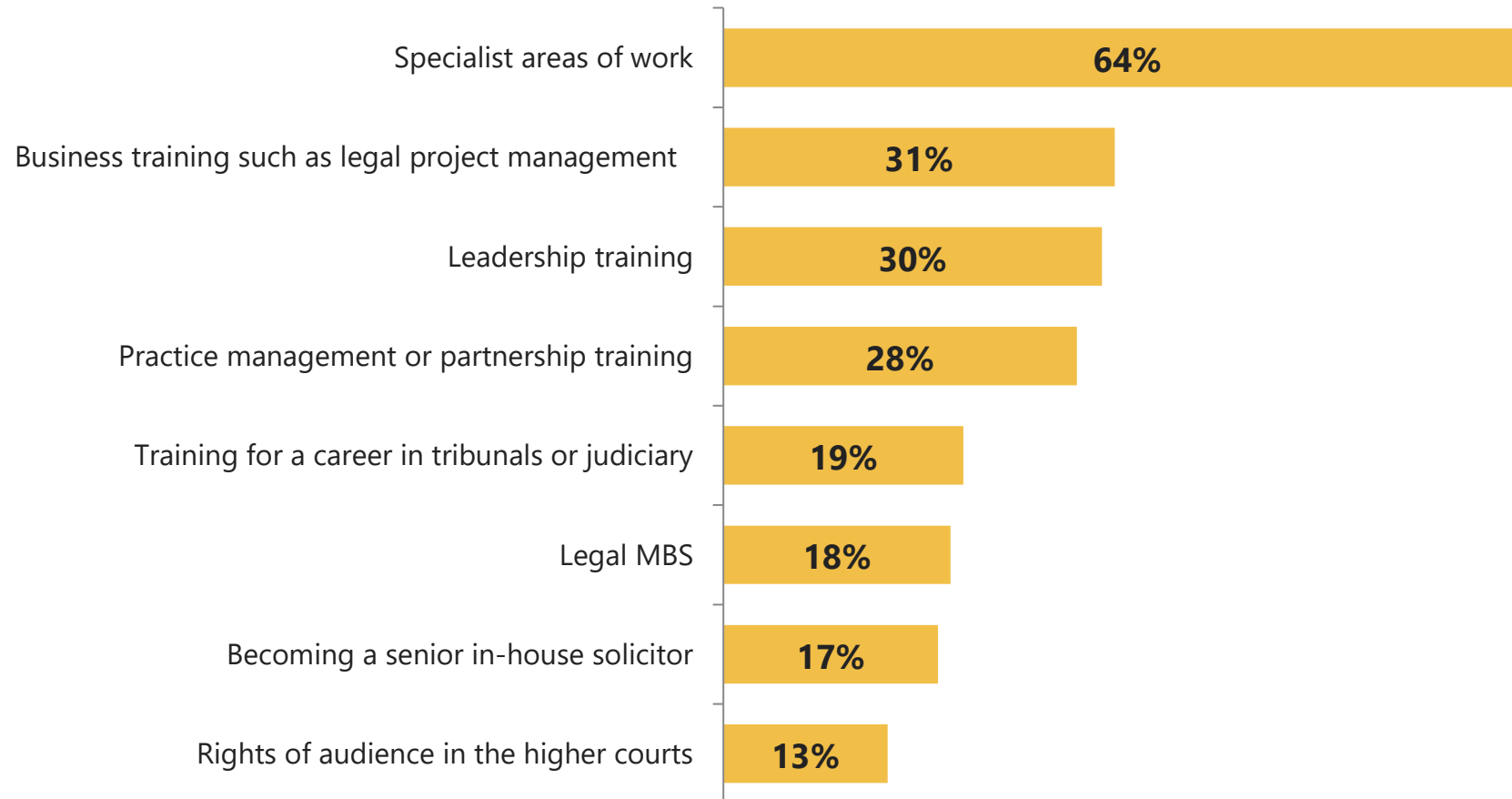
Which of these Update seminars would you be interested in taking part in the next 12 months?



Base: All respondents

Two thirds feel they would benefit from further training in specialist areas of work

In what areas, if any, could the society provide you with further training to help develop your career?



Base: All respondents

Trainees

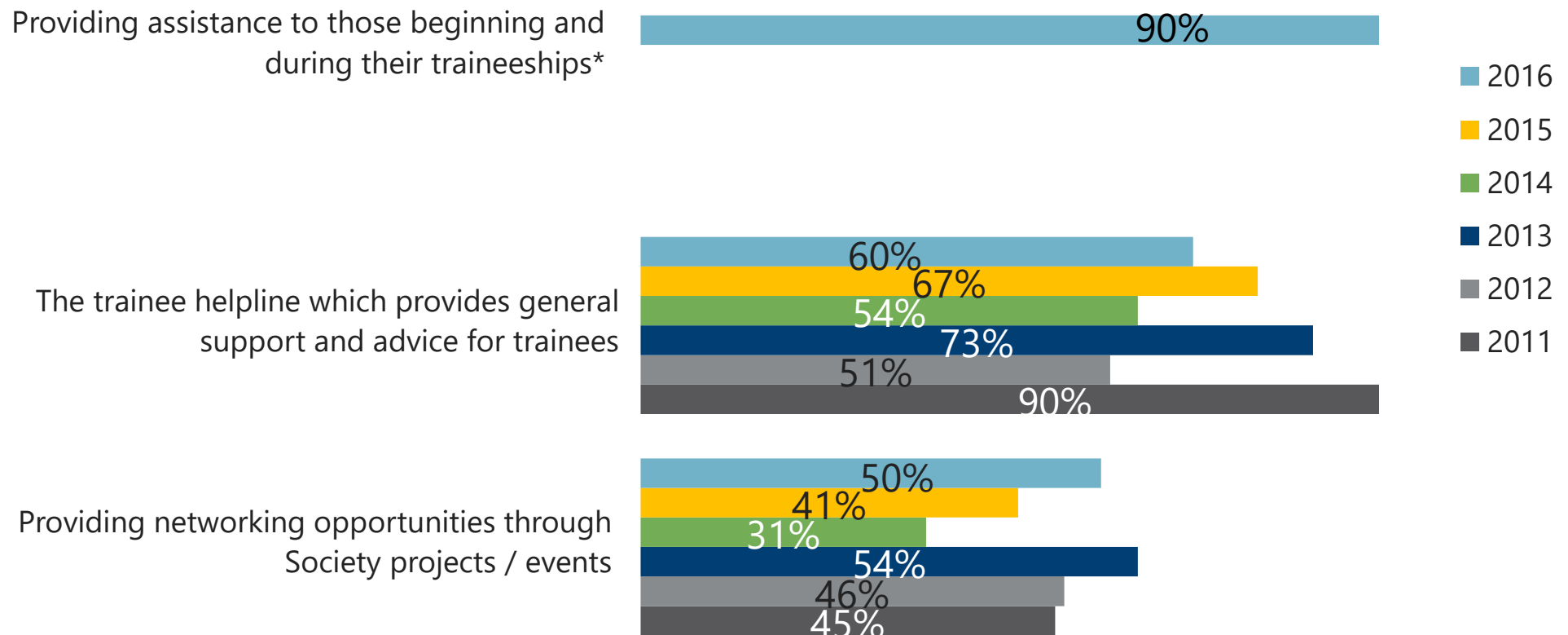


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The highest priority among almost all trainees was providing assistance to those beginning and during their traineeships

I'm going to read out some ways in which the Society provides support for trainee solicitors. Can you please tell me how much of a priority for the Society you think these should be?

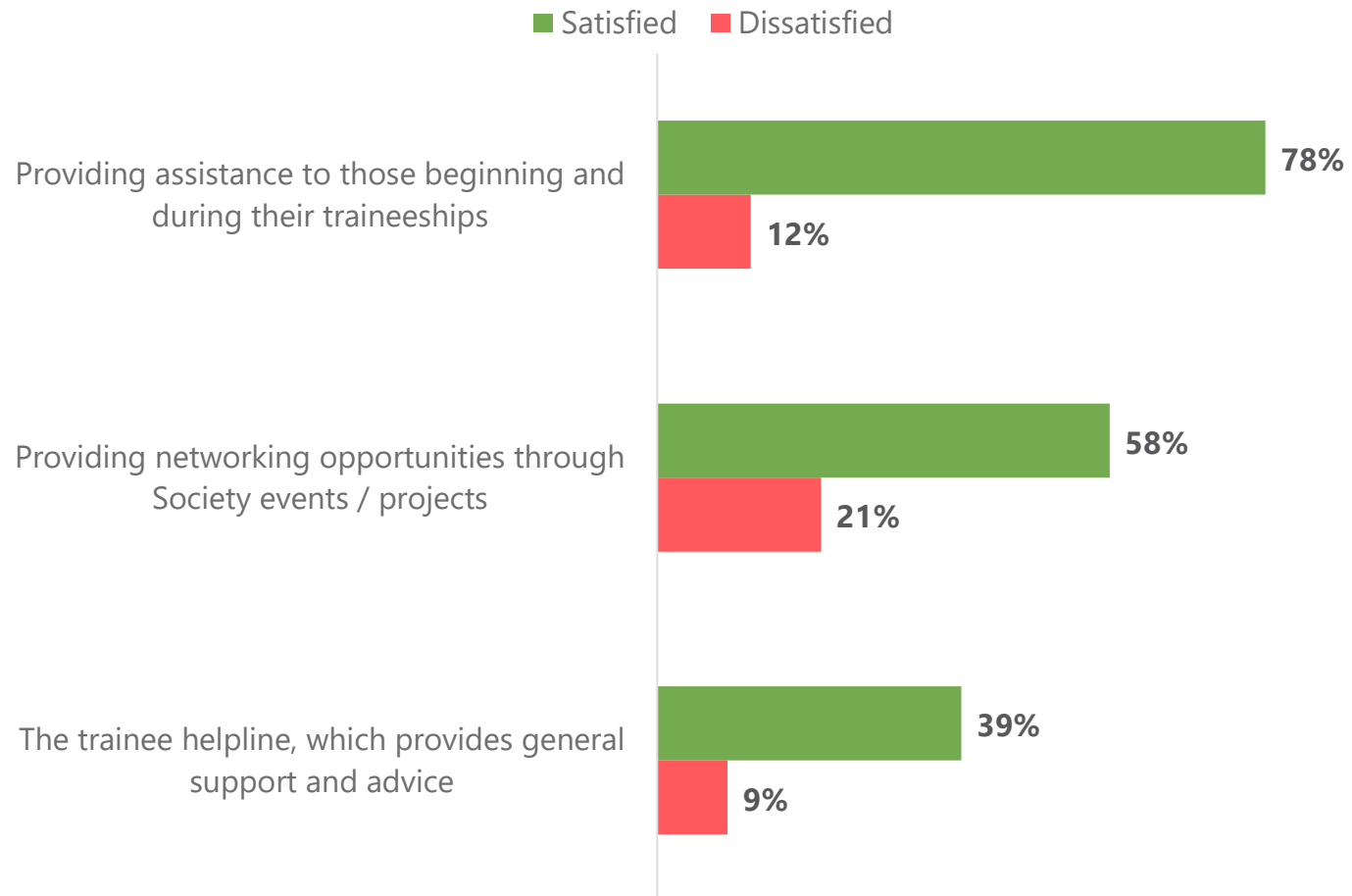


*This statement was not asked in previous waves of the survey

Base: All respondents who are trainee solicitors (86)

A majority were satisfied with the assistance they received as trainees

Based on your experience, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with each of the following services and areas of support?



Base: All respondents who are trainee solicitors (86)

UK withdrawal negotiations with the EU

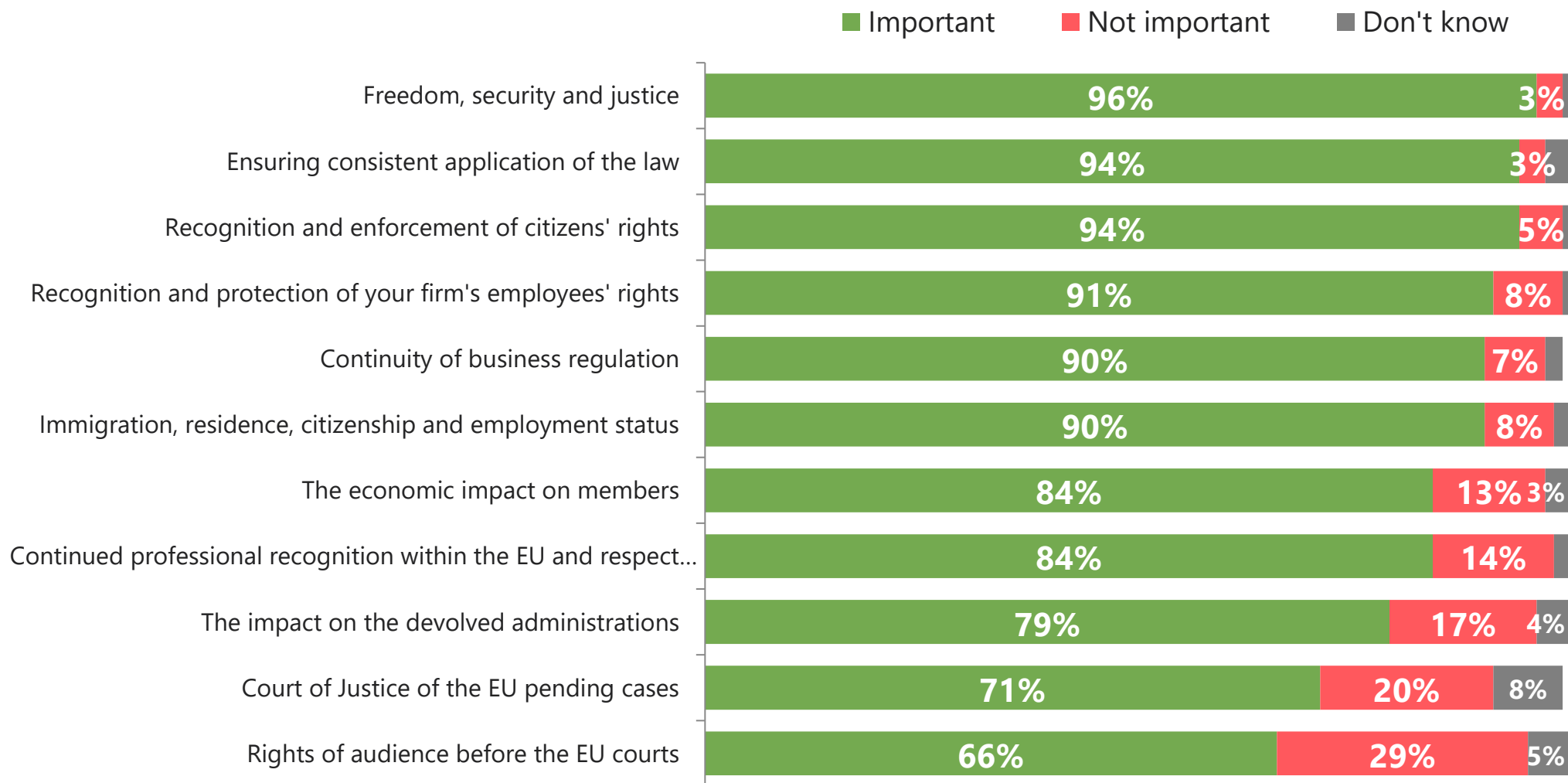


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Most members feel all potential areas for inclusion are important

The Society will be proposing priority areas for inclusion in the UK Government's withdrawal negotiations with the EU. How important do you consider the following issues to be?



Base: All respondents