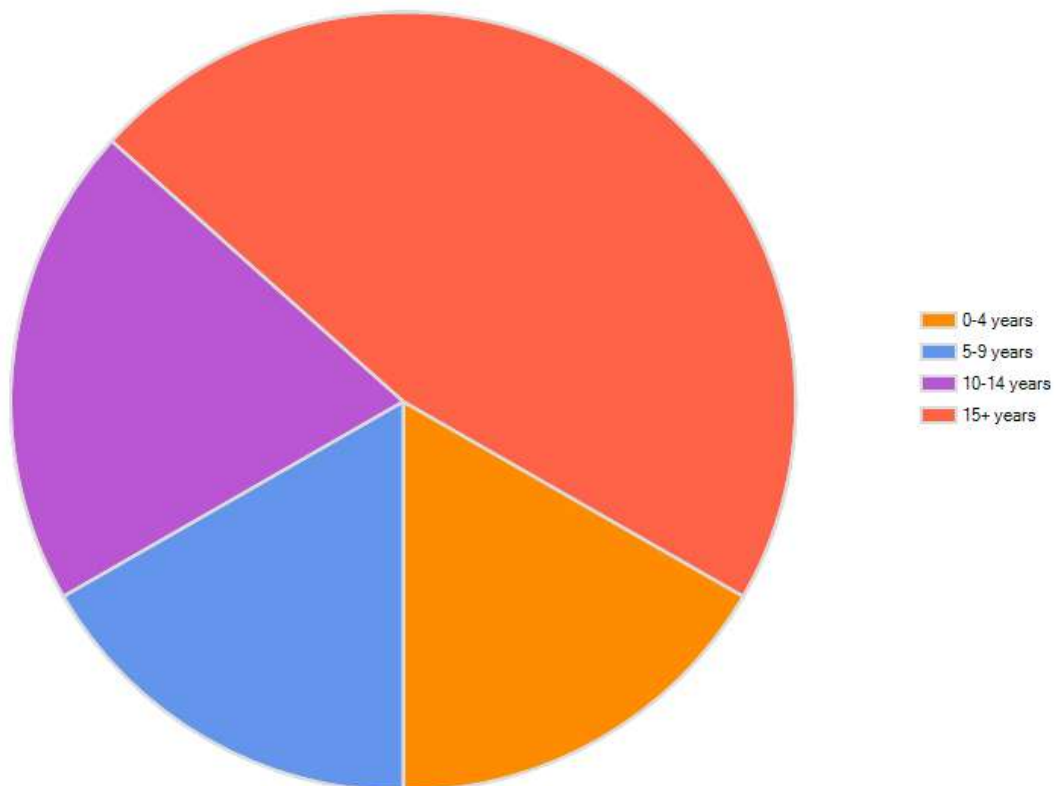


Lord Young review – Bryan & Armstrong Survey

Bryan & Armstrong Ltd conducted a survey to find out what industry professionals think about the recommendations and changes outlined in Lord Young's report "Common Sense, Common Safety", published on 15th October 2010.

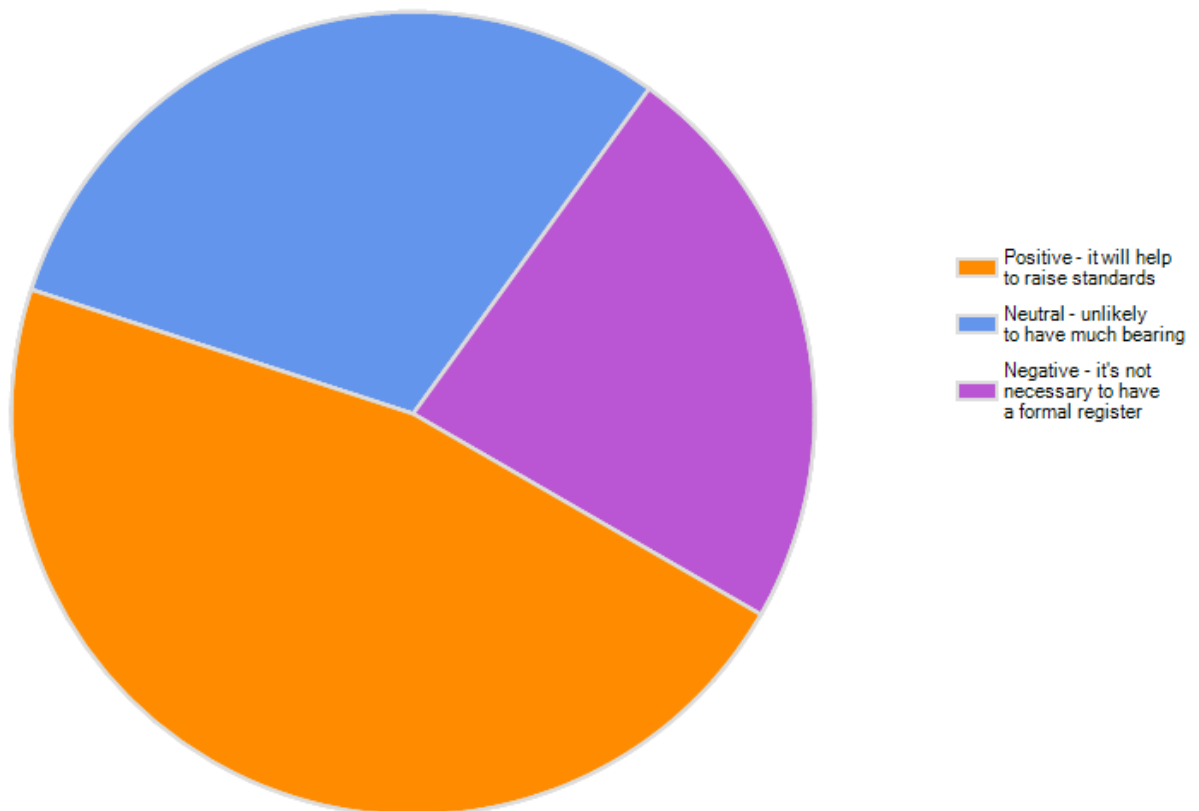
We had an excellent response to our survey and would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part. Two-thirds of respondents have been working in the Health & Safety sector for over 10 years, whilst 47% have over 15 years' experience. 80% work in the private sector, 17% in the public sector and 3% are unemployed or retired.

How many years have you worked as a Health & Safety professional?



Lord Young said “We cannot allow untrained, unqualified and inexperienced consultants loose on the business world – and we won’t”. We asked what impact the Occupational Safety Consultants Register will have on the profession and we found that almost half (47%) said it would have a positive impact, 30% think that it would have no effect and 23% do not believe that a formal register is necessary.

Lord Young said: “We cannot allow untrained, unqualified and inexperienced consultants loose on the business world – and we won’t” What impact will the new Occupational Safety Consultants Register have on the profession?

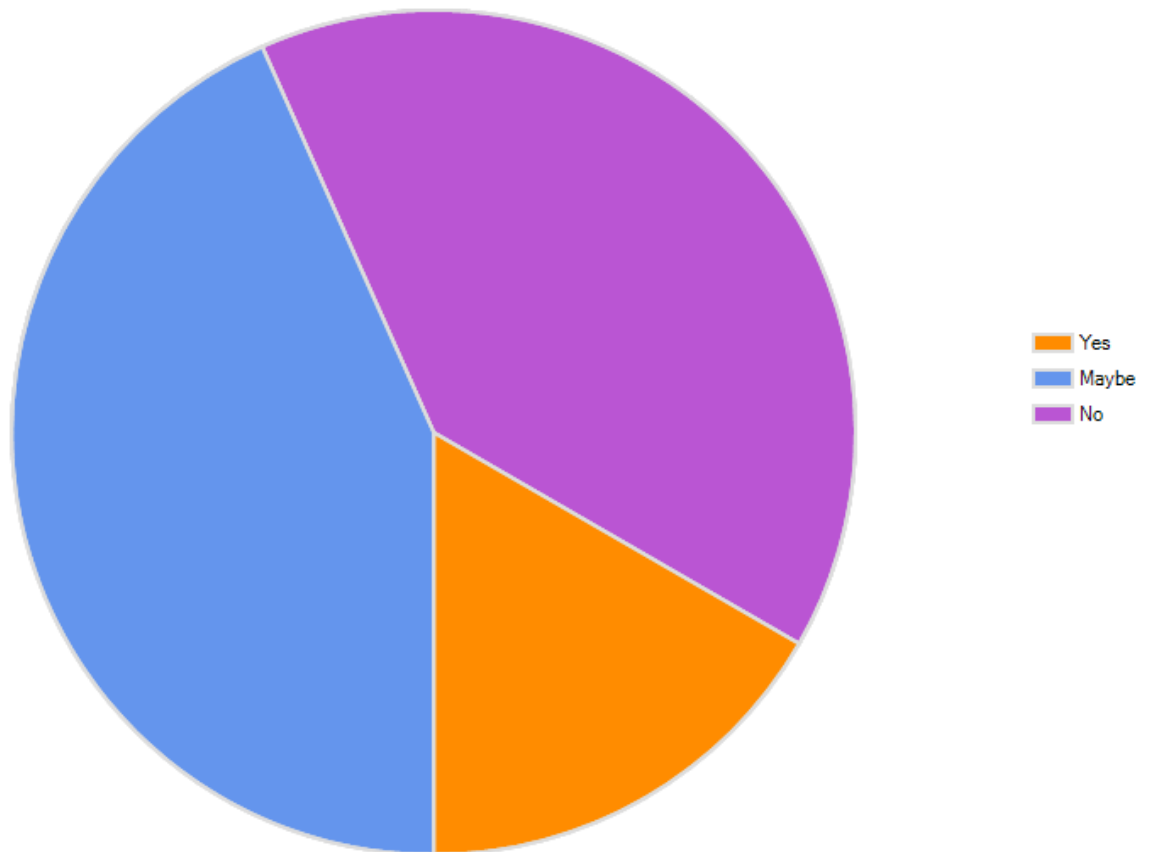


We went on to ask whether the ‘common-sense’ approach outlined in the review will help to improve the general perception of the profession. 40% agree that it will help, 43% said that it may help and the remaining 17% did not feel that it would have a positive effect on perceptions of H&S.

However, when we asked whether the ‘common-sense’ approach would reduce the financial burden of H&S compliance on businesses in low risk sectors, the response was split - 33% say it will reduce costs, 34% say it may do and 33% said that it would not.

When we asked whether the measures will result in an increase in work-related accidents and injuries, only 17% thought that they would, with 43% saying that this may happen and 40% rejecting the idea that accidents will increase.

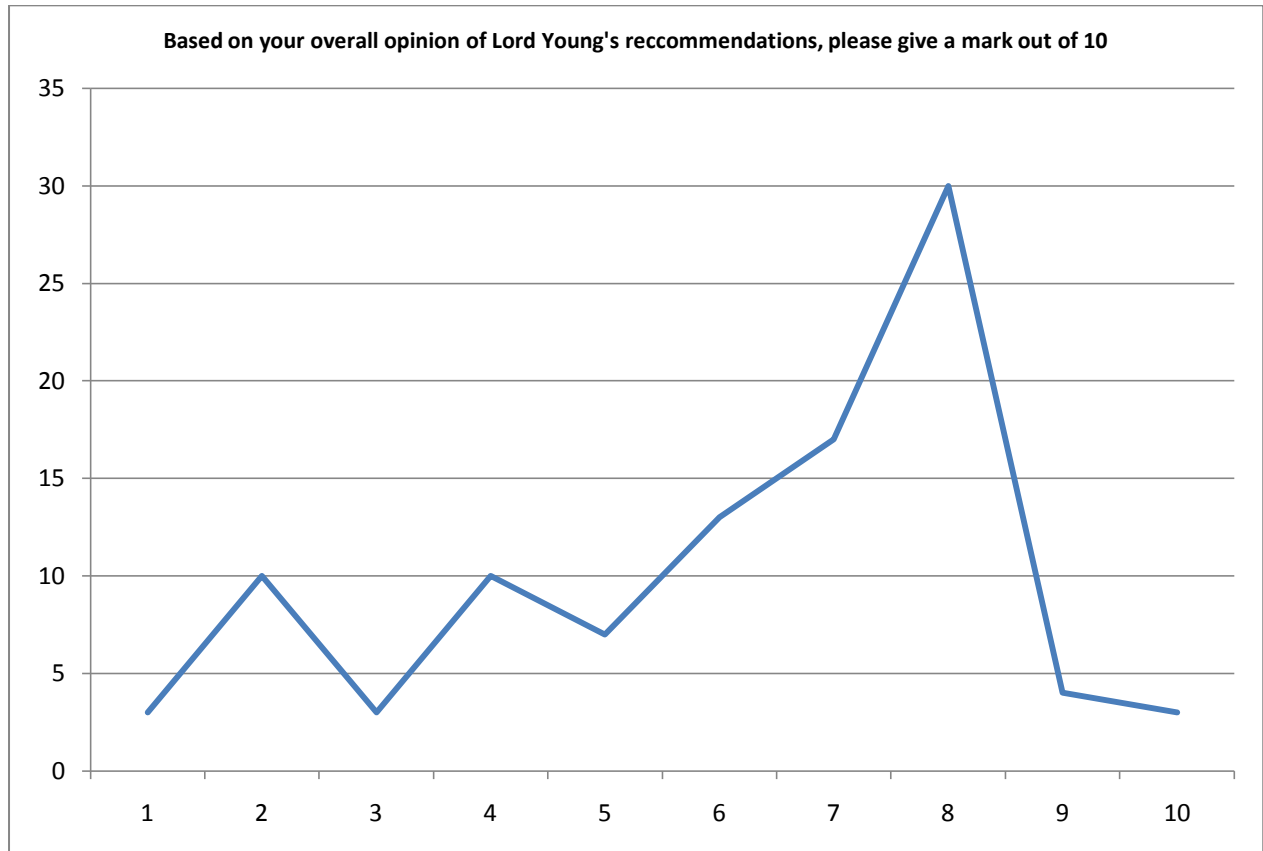
Will we see an increase in work-related accidents and injuries as a result of the measures outlined in the review?



Next, we asked whether the measures will stop organisations from justifying unpopular decisions on the grounds of Health & Safety where finances or poor advice are to blame. One-third thought that they would, 44% said maybe and only 23% felt that the review would not have an impact.

We went on to ask whether the report would in any way undermine the Health & Safety at Work Act and an overwhelming 63% feel that it does not, 30% said that it does, with 7% being unsure.

Finally, we asked: “Based on your overall opinion of Lord Young’s review, please give him marks out of 10”. The results were interesting with an average score of 6/10 – the graph below shows that people are generally positive.



Conclusion

Overall, the Lord Young review seems to have been well received by the profession, with the majority of practitioners broadly supporting his recommendations. The OSCR is seen as a useful tool for raising industry standards and the quality of consultancy advice, but many respondents commented that industry-specific experience is still important when assessing competency. The ‘common-sense’ approach is also well-supported, with only 17% of respondents believing that it will not improve perceptions of the profession. However, opinion was split on whether the approach will help to reduce the financial burden of compliance on low-risk sectors.

Most H&S professionals do not believe that increased accidents and injuries will result from the new online risk assessments, simplification of regulations and associated measures. Again this is encouraging and demonstrates that experienced consultants do not feel threatened by the changes, but seem to encourage moves to reduce administration and costs, whilst improving the image of the industry.