

# Royal College of Psychiatrists' briefing

## Analysis of third COVID-19 RCPsych member survey for task and finish group

June 2020

The Royal College of Psychiatrists issued a survey to its members working in the National Health Service across the United Kingdom. It was in the field from Monday 18 May until the morning of Tuesday 26 May.



938 completed responses were received from across the UK out of a total available sample of 12,900, which equates to a response rate of 7.3%.

This summary will focus on the results regarding supportiveness of minority groups, confidence in risk assessment processes and in raising concerns, comfortability of redeployment to acute general hospitals and the impact of COVID and lockdown on wellbeing. The responses have been divided on BAME respondents, those not from a BAME group and all combined.

### Support in addressing and accommodating the needs of minority groups

Across the UK, 62.2% of respondents feel their organisation has been either 'supportive' or 'very supportive' in addressing and accommodating the needs of minority groups, equivalent to 575 of 925 College members that answered the question (five responses were available – 'very supportive', 'supportive', 'neither supportive nor unsupportive', 'unsupportive' or 'very unsupportive'). More than one in four UK respondents, 29.0%, feel their organisation has been 'neither supportive nor unsupportive', equivalent to 268 of 925 College members, and almost 9% of respondents feel their organisation has been either 'unsupportive' or 'very unsupportive' (82 of 925).

Variations were observed across the nations. On the one hand, Northern Ireland had no respondents stating their organisation has been either 'unsupportive' or 'very unsupportive' (0 of 19). On the other hand, almost 19% of respondent in Wales stated their organisation has been either 'unsupportive' or 'very unsupportive' (10 of 53). Positively, 65.63% of England respondents (508 of 774) and 40.5% of Scotland respondents (32 of 79) stated their organisation has been either 'supportive' or 'very supportive'.

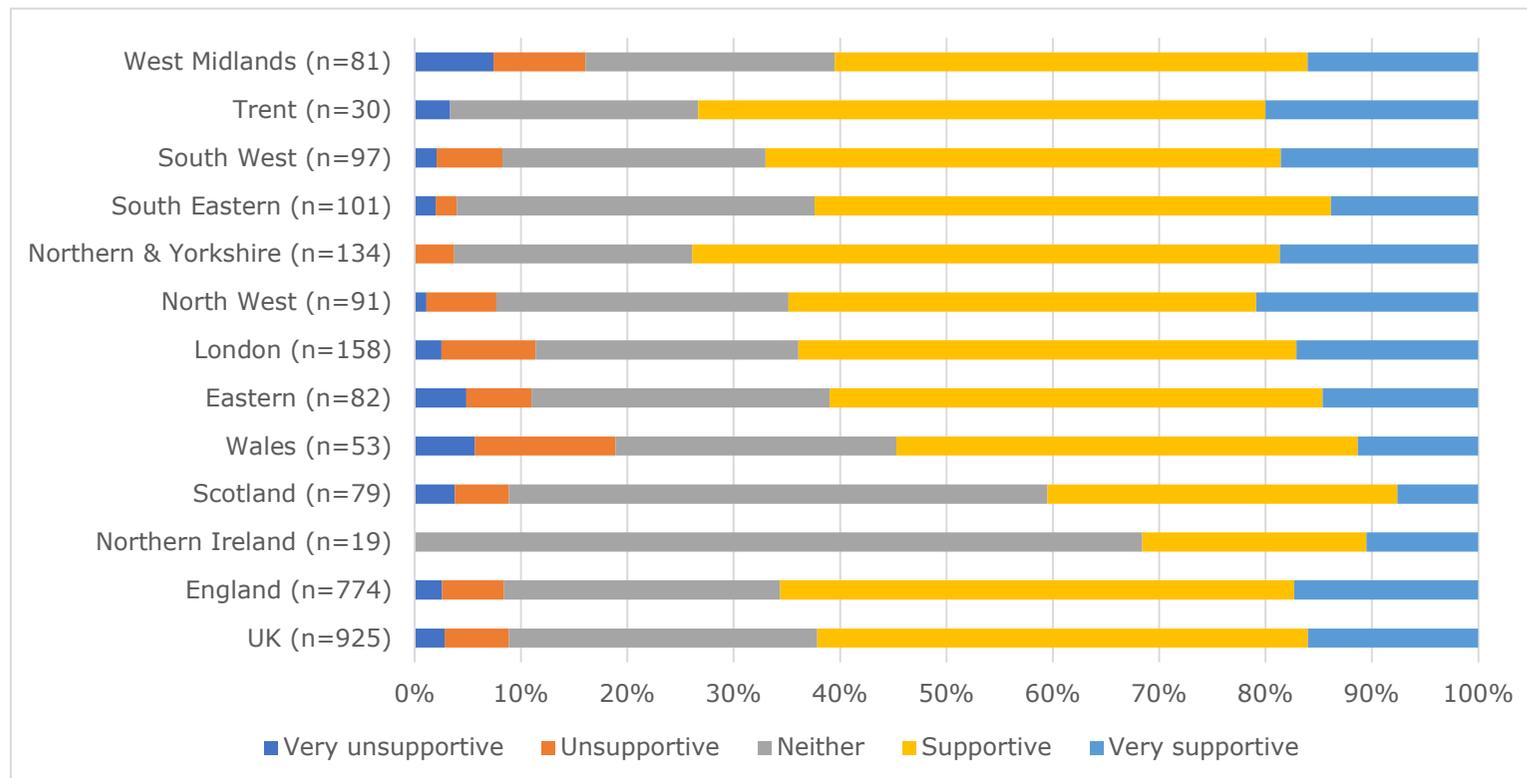
Respondents were asked to confirm whether or not they were from a BAME group (with the option also offered for them to 'prefer not to say'). For all UK respondents that gave a definitive answer to the question, 57.1% of BAME members felt their organisation was 'supportive' or 'very supportive' (196 of 343) compared to 65.1% for those not from a BAME group (360 of

553). This disparity is wider among England respondents, with the percentages being 56.5% (174 of 308) and 71.8% (316 of 440) respectively.

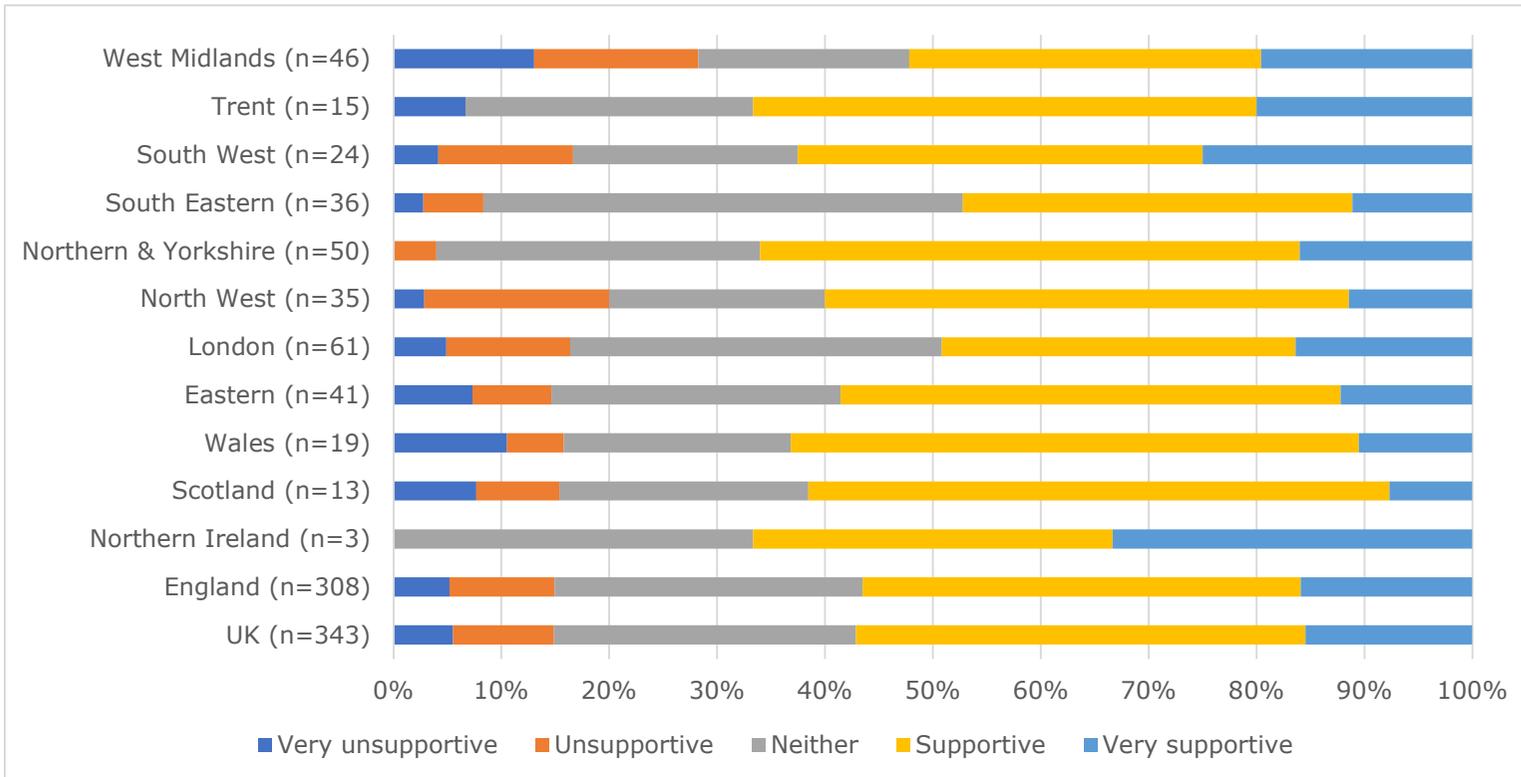
Data was collected for each of the eight Royal College of Psychiatrists regions across England (Eastern, London, North West, Northern & Yorkshire, South Eastern, South West, Trent, West Midlands) to also identify whether there were more significant concerns in some areas more than others.

Charts 1, 2 and 3 below illustrate the extent of the regional and nationwide variation between groups. The proportion of BAME 'supportive' or 'very supportive' responses ranged from 47.2% (17 of 36) in South Eastern to 66.7% (9 of 15) in Trent, compared to between 62.2% (23 of 37) in Eastern and 78.6% (11 of 14) in Trent among those not from a BAME group.

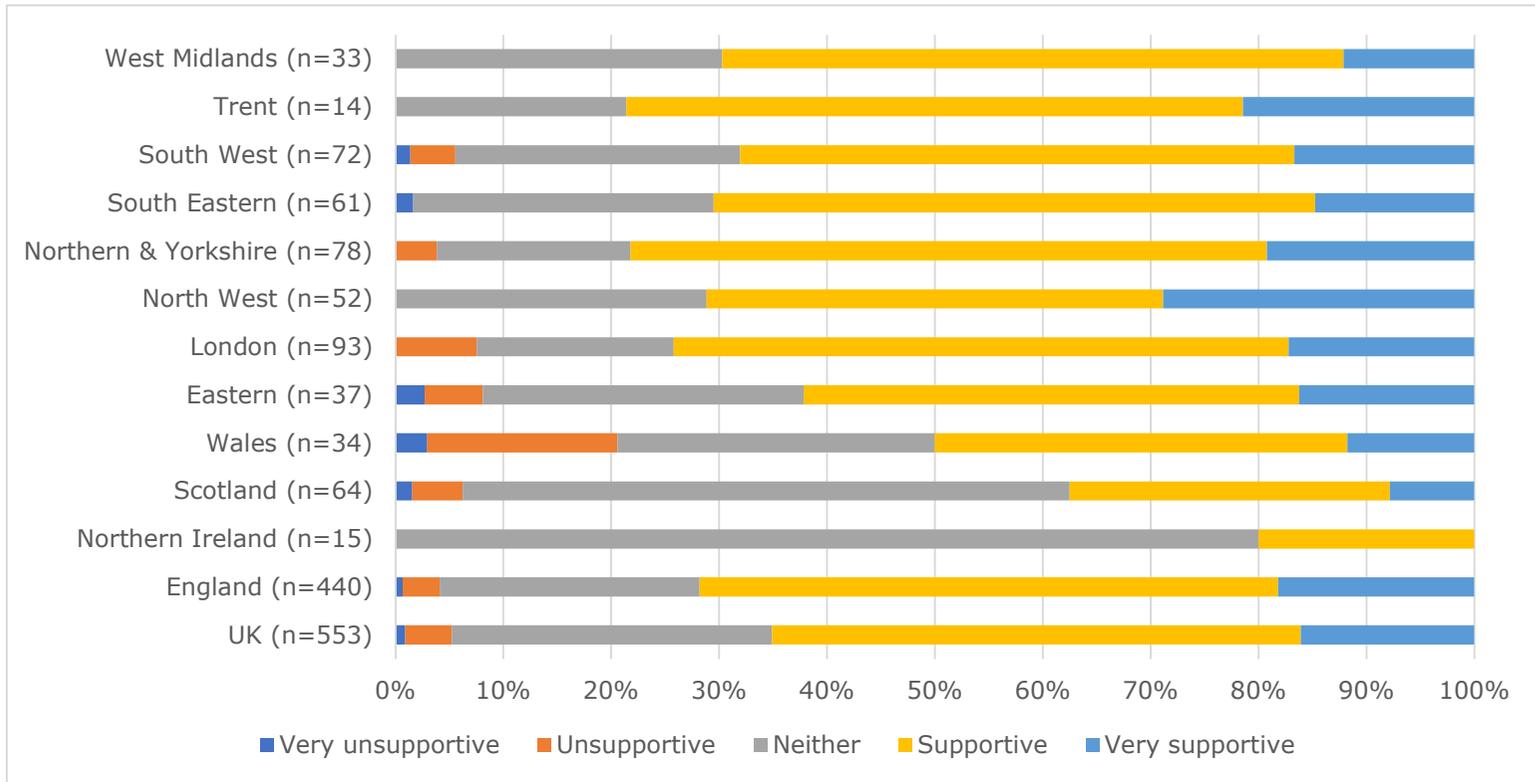
**Chart 1 – How supportive has your organisation been in terms of addressing and accommodating the needs of minority groups? All responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 2 – How supportive has your organisation been in terms of addressing and accommodating the needs of minority groups? BAME responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 3 – How supportive has your organisation been in terms of addressing and accommodating the needs of minority groups? Responses not from a BAME group across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Confidence in risk assessment processes**

College members were also asked how confident they are in the COVID-19 risk assessment processes established within their organisation. Across the UK, 48.0% of respondents feel either 'confident' or 'very confident' in the risk assessment processes, equivalent to 447 of 932 College members that answered the question (six responses were available – 'very confident', 'confident', 'neither confident nor unconfident', 'unconfident', 'very unconfident' or 'don't know'). After controlling for the 'don't know' answers, this was raised to 50.5% (447 of 885). Nearly 20% (181 of 932) of respondents feel 'very unconfident' or 'unconfident', rising to 20.5% (181 of 885) after 'don't know' answers were controlled for.

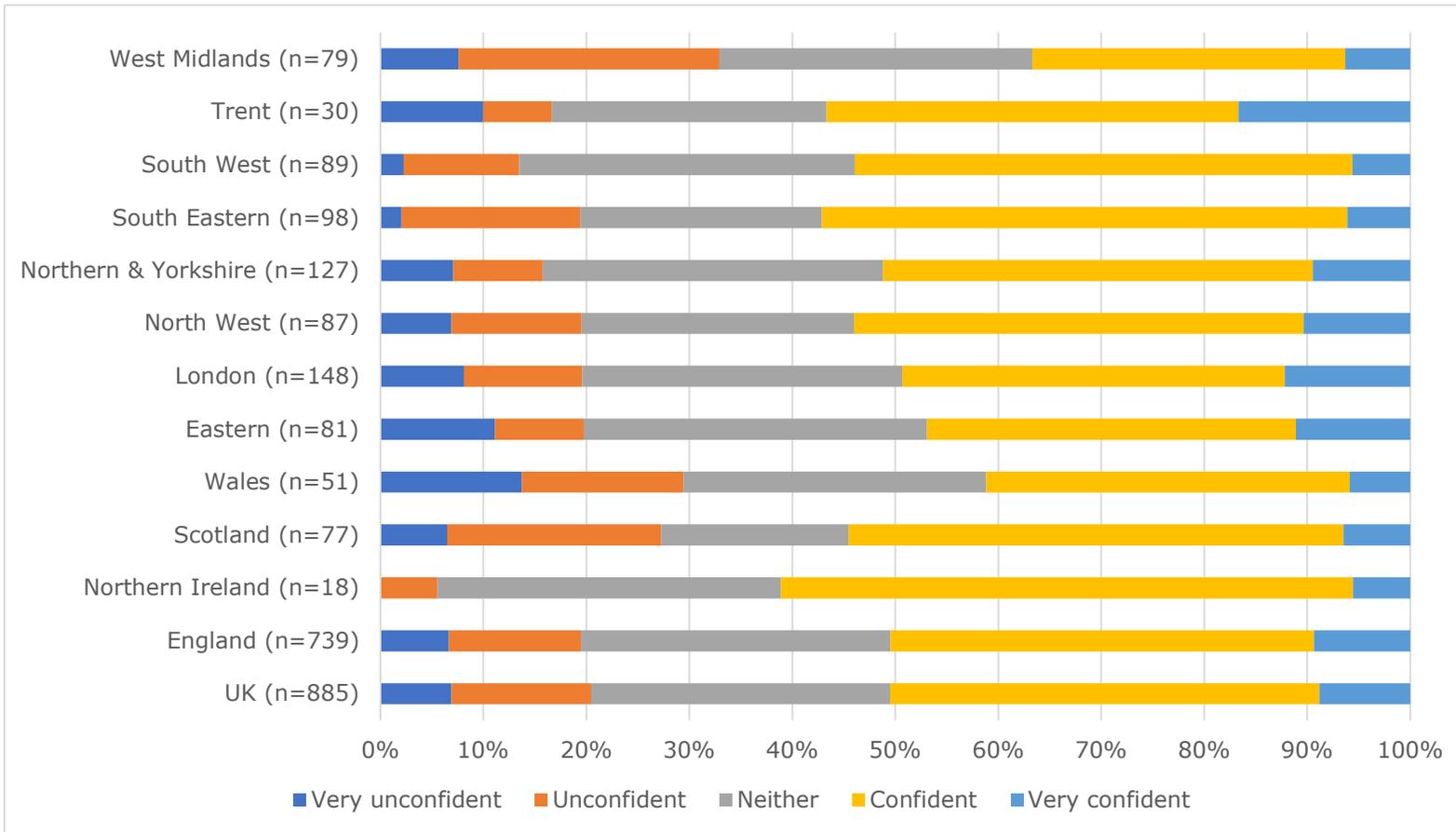
Variations were observed across the nations, from 41.2% (21 of 51) of Wales respondents feeling either 'confident' or 'very confident', after controlling for 'don't know', to 61.1% (11 of 18) in Northern Ireland. Scotland was highlighted as having the highest percentage of 'very unconfident' or 'unconfident' with a total of 27.3% (21 of 77) of respondents, after controlling for 'don't know' answers.

Respondents were asked to confirm whether or not they were from a BAME group (with the option also offered for them to 'prefer not to say'). For all UK respondents that gave a definitive answer to the question, and controlling for 'don't know' answers, 45.4% of BAME members felt 'confident' or 'very confident' (147 of 324) compared to 53.7% for those not from a BAME group (286 of 533).

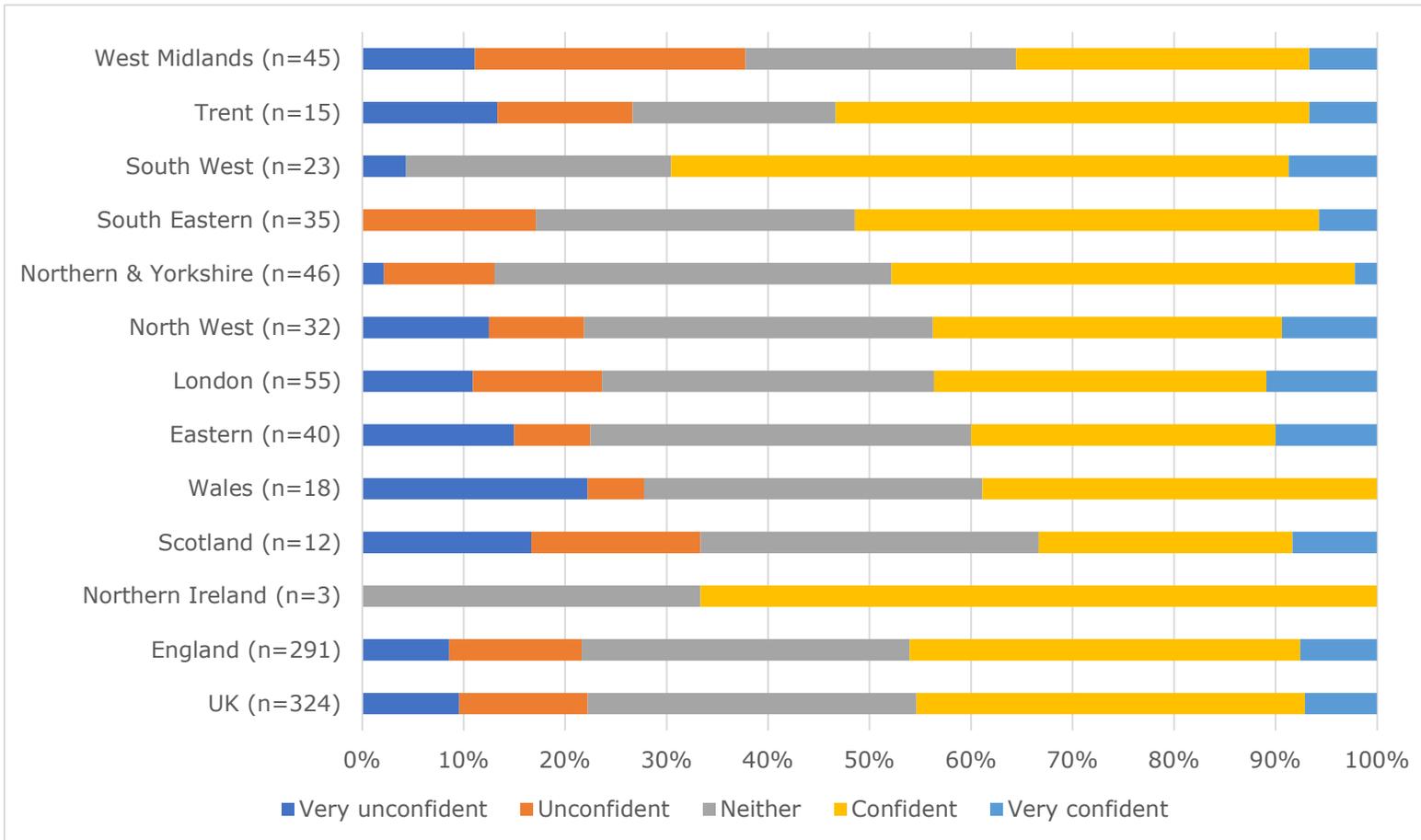
Data was collected for each of the eight Royal College of Psychiatrists regions across England (Eastern, London, North West, Northern & Yorkshire, South Eastern, South West, Trent, West Midlands) to also identify whether there were more significant concerns in some areas more than others.

Charts 4, 5 and 6 below illustrate the extent of the regional and nationwide variation between groups. The proportion of BAME 'confident' or 'very confident' responses, controlling for 'don't know' answers, ranged from 40.0% (16 of 40) in Eastern to 69.6% (16 of 23) in South West, compared to between 49.3% (32 of 65) in South West to 62.7% (32 of 51) in North West among those not from a BAME group.

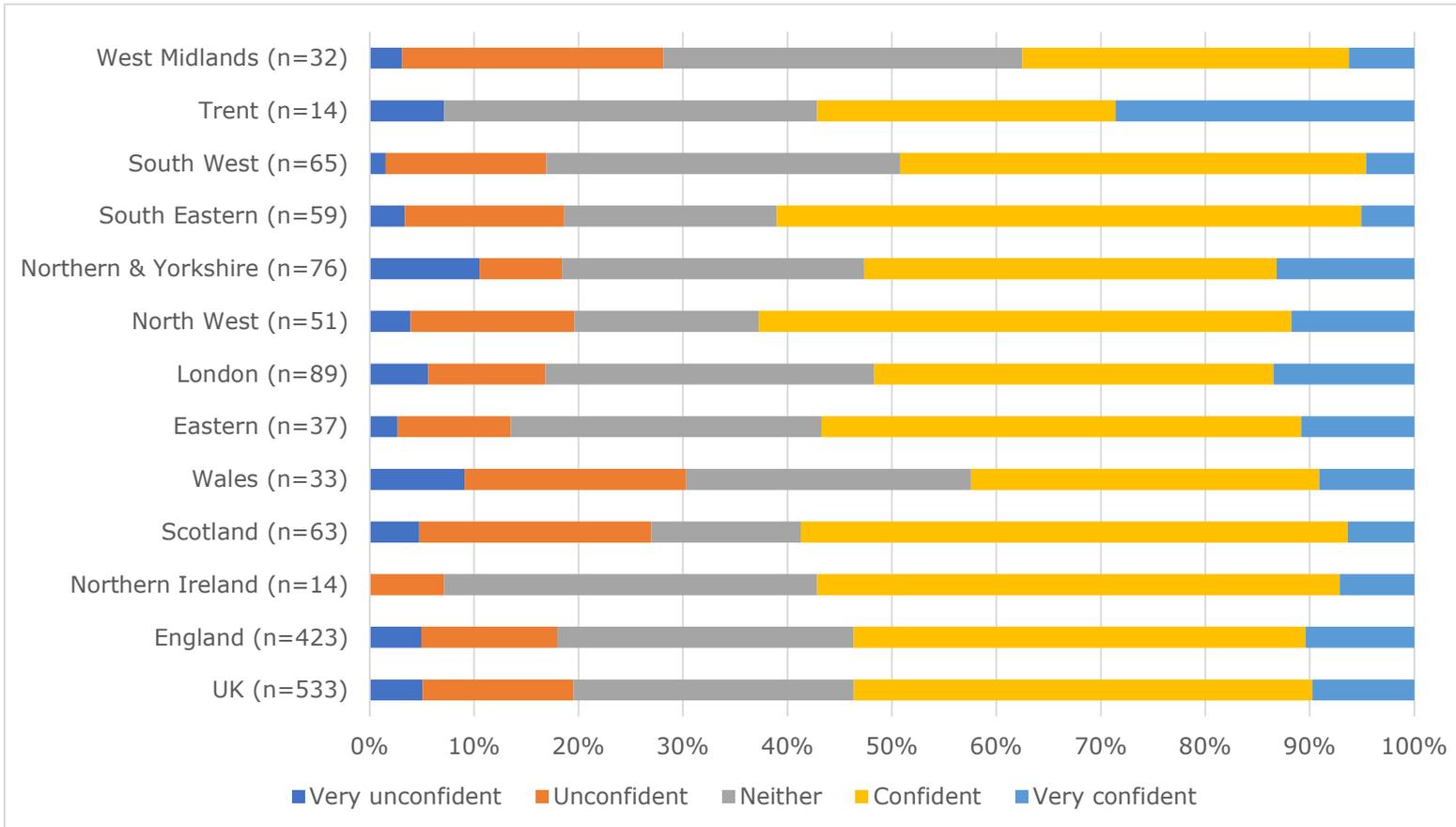
**Chart 4 – How confident are you in the COVID-19 risk assessment processes established within your organisation? All responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions, 'don't know' excluded**



**Chart 5 – How confident are you in the COVID-19 risk assessment processes established within your organisation? BAME responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions, 'don't know' excluded**



**Chart 6 – How confident are you in the COVID-19 risk assessment processes established within your organisation? Responses not from a BAME group across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions, 'don't know' excluded**



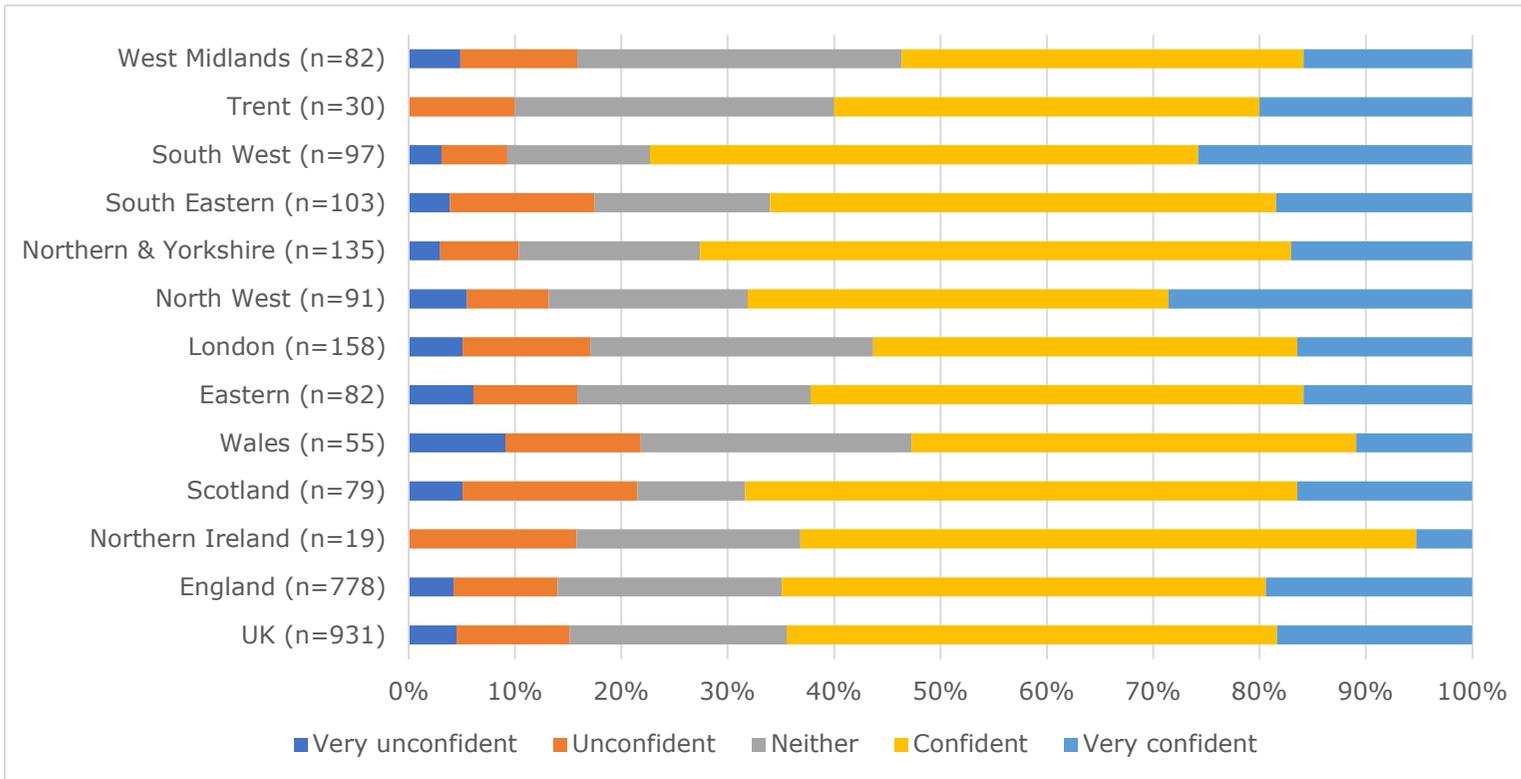
## Confidence in raising concerns

College members were also asked how confident they are to raise general concerns relating to COVID-19 in their organisation. Across the UK, 64.5% of respondents feel either 'confident' or 'very confident' to raise concerns, equivalent to 600 of 931 College members that answered the question (five responses were available – 'very confident', 'confident', 'neither confident nor unconfident', 'unconfident' or 'very unconfident'). Just over 15% (141 of 931) of respondents feel 'very unconfident' or 'unconfident'.

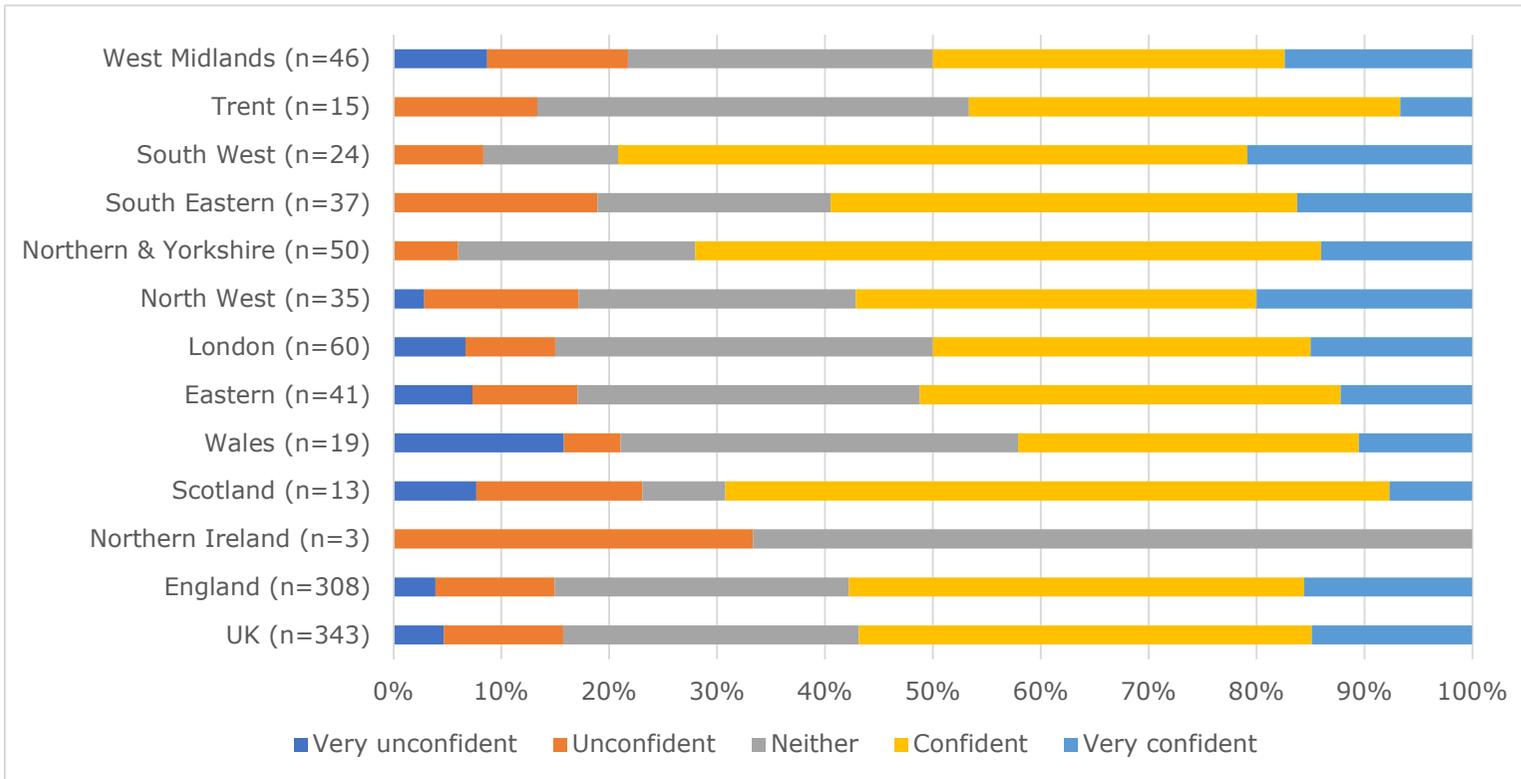
Variations were observed across the nations, from 52.7% (29 of 55) of Wales respondent feeling either 'confident' or 'very confident', to 68.4% (54 of 79) in Scotland. Wales also had the highest responses of 'very unconfident' and 'unconfident' at 21.8% (12 of 55).

Respondents were asked to confirm whether or not they were from a BAME group (with the option also offered for them to 'prefer not to say'). For all UK respondents that gave a definitive answer to the question, and controlling for 'don't know' answers, 56.9% of BAME members felt 'confident' or 'very confident' (195 of 343) compared to 69.6% for those not from a BAME group (389 of 559). Charts 7, 8 and 9 below illustrate the extent of the regional and nationwide variation between groups. The proportion of BAME 'confident' and 'very confident' responses, ranged from 46.7% (7 of 15) in Trent to 79.2% (19 of 24) in South West, compared to between 58.8% (20 of 34) in West Midlands and 77.8% (56 of 72) in South West among those not from a BAME group.

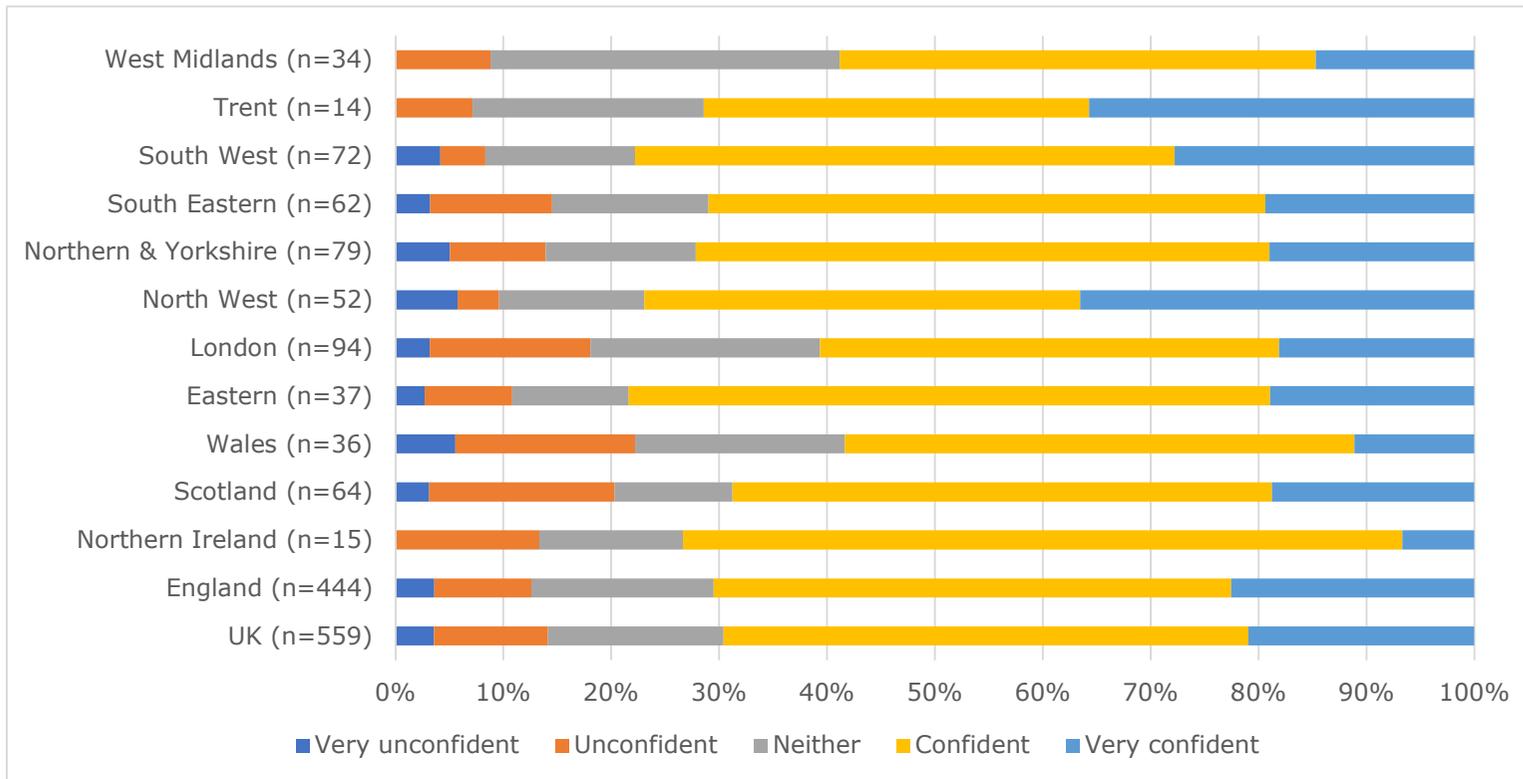
**Chart 7 – How confident are you to raise general concerns relating to COVID-19 in your organisation? All responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 8 – How confident are you to raise general concerns relating to COVID-19 in your organisation? BAME responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 9 – How confident are you to raise general concerns relating to COVID-19 in your organisation? Responses not from a BAME group across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



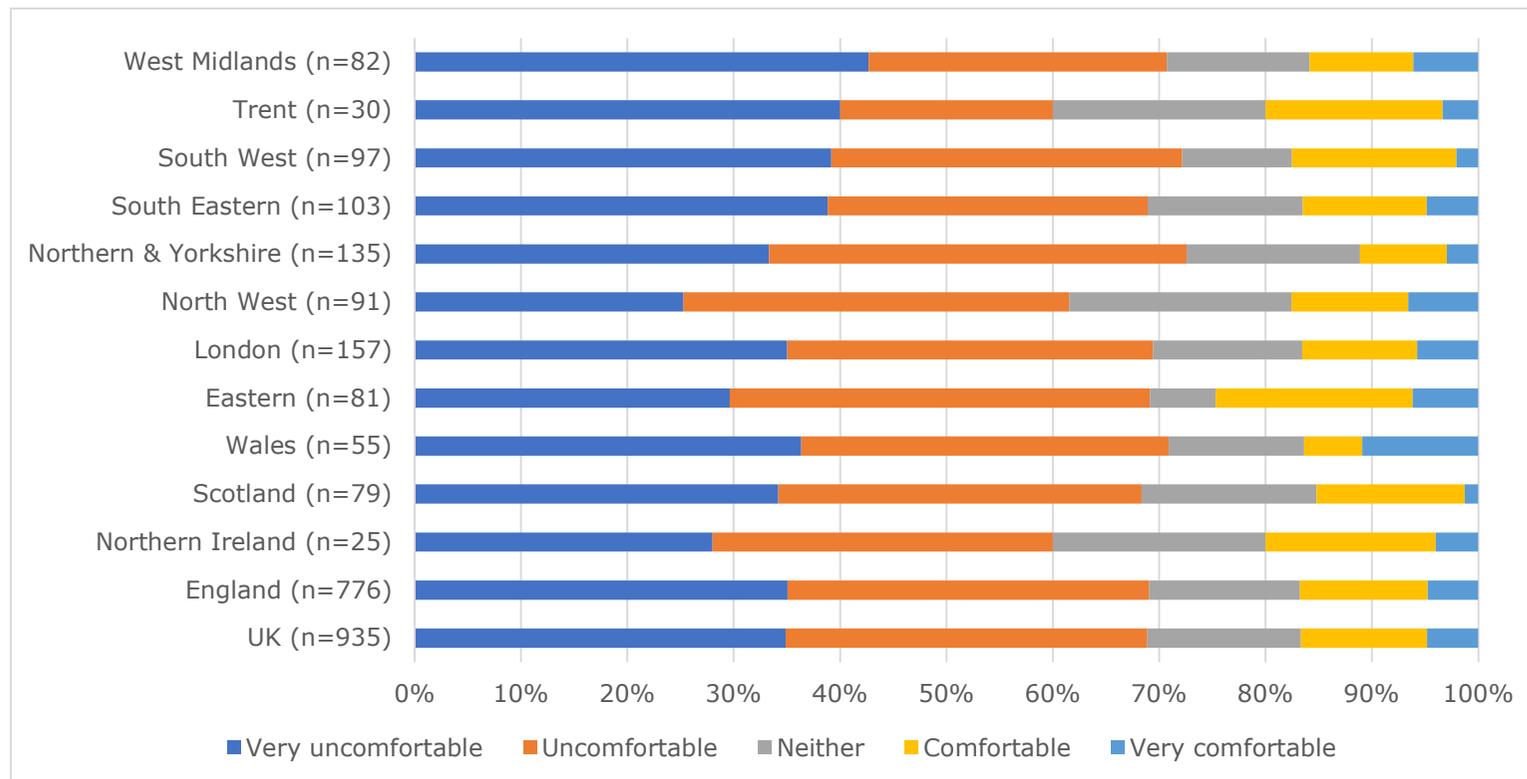
### Redeployment to acute general hospitals

College members were also asked how comfortable they are with the prospect of being redeployed to a general acute hospital if required. Across the UK, 68.9% of respondents feel either 'uncomfortable' or 'very uncomfortable' to transfer to acute general hospital, equivalent to 644 of 935 College members that answered the question (five responses were available – 'very comfortable', 'comfortable', 'neither comfortable nor uncomfortable', 'uncomfortable' or 'very uncomfortable'). Almost 17% (156 of 935) of respondents feel 'very comfortable' or 'comfortable'.

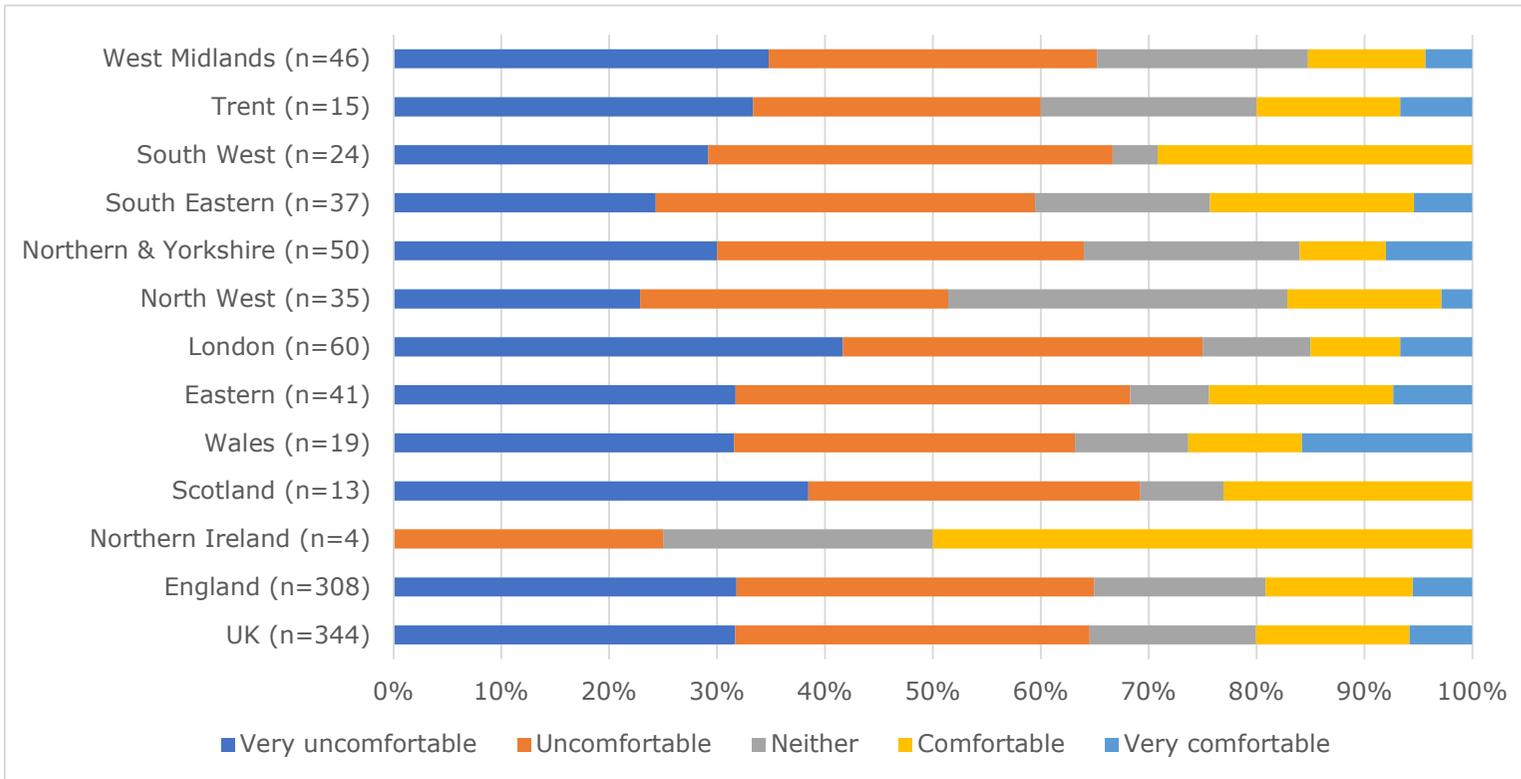
Variations were observed across the nations, from 60.0% (15 of 25) of Northern Ireland respondents feeling either 'uncomfortable' or 'very uncomfortable', to 70.9% (39 of 55) in Wales. Northern Ireland also had the highest responses of 'very comfortable' and 'comfortable' at 20.0% (5 of 25).

Respondents were asked to confirm whether or not they were from a BAME group (with the option also offered to 'prefer not to say'). For all UK respondents that gave a definitive answer to the question 64.5% of BAME members felt 'uncomfortable' or 'very uncomfortable' (222 of 344) compared to 71.0% for those not from a BAME group (399 of 562). Charts 10, 11 and 12 below illustrate the extent of the regional and nationwide variation between groups. The proportion of BAME 'uncomfortable' and 'very uncomfortable' responses, ranged from 51.4% (18 of 35) in North West to 75.0% (45 of 60) in London, compared to between 57.2% (8 of 14) in Trent and 79.4% (27 of 34) in West Midlands among those not from a BAME group.

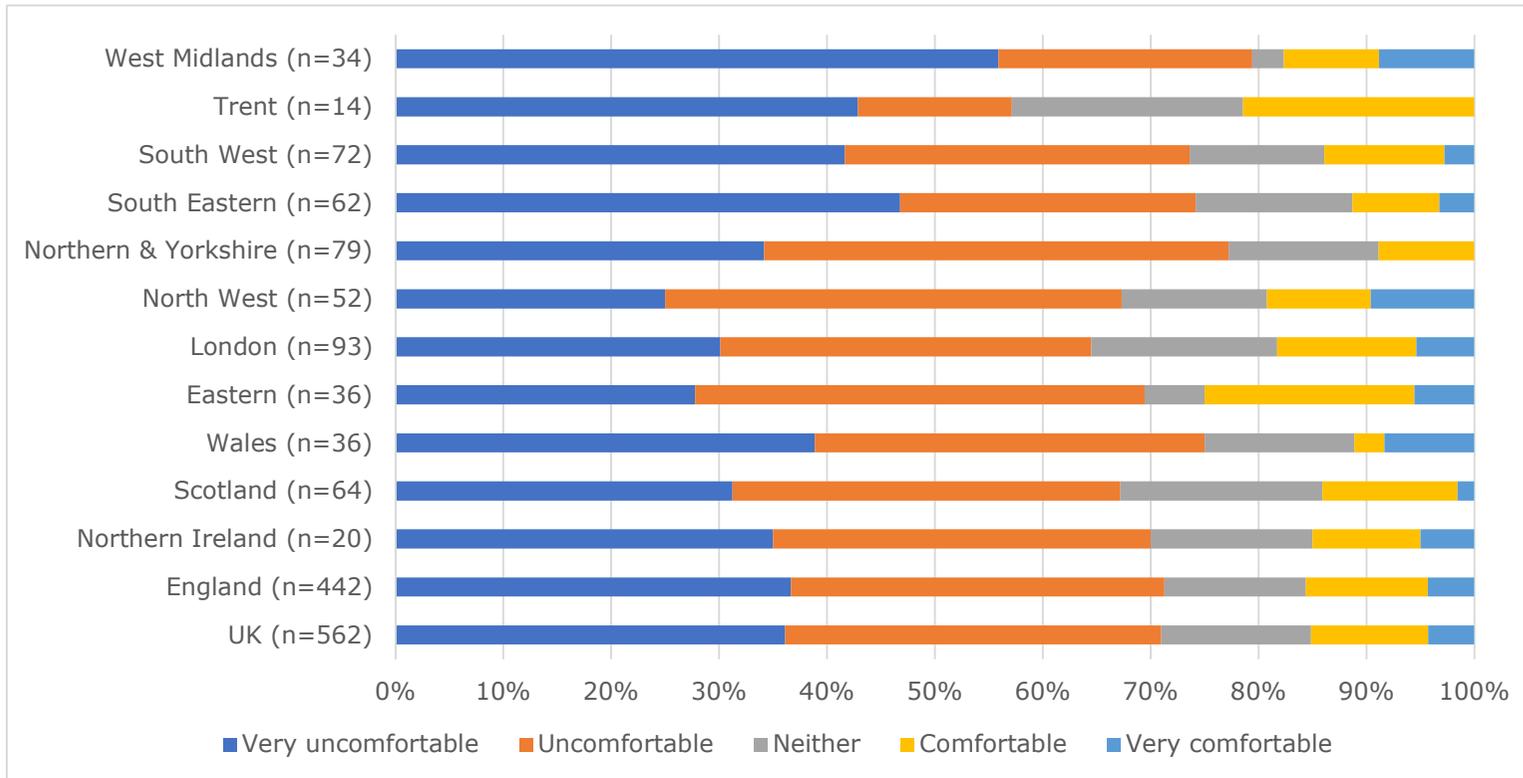
**Chart 10 – How comfortable are you with the prospect of being redeployed to a general acute hospital if required? All responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 11 – How comfortable are you with the prospect of being redeployed to a general acute hospital if required? BAME responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 12 – How comfortable are you with the prospect of being redeployed to a general acute hospital if required? Responses not from a BAME group across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**The impact of COVID and lockdown on wellbeing**

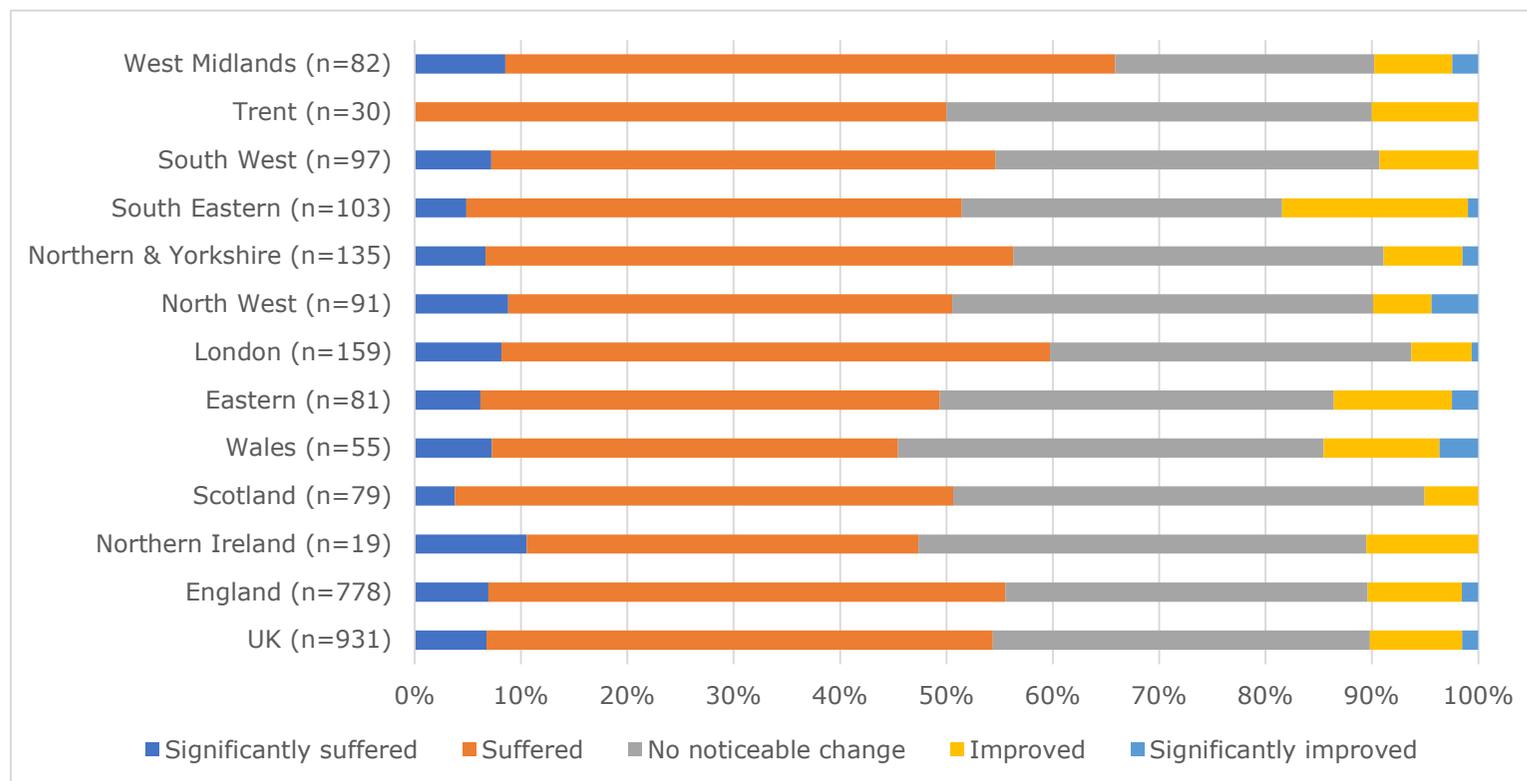
College members were also asked how their wellbeing has been impacted by COVID-19 and the lockdown. Across the UK, 54.4% of respondents feel their wellbeing has either 'suffered' or 'significantly suffered' by COVID and the lockdown, equivalent to 506 of 931 College members that answered the question (five responses were available – 'significantly suffered', 'suffered', 'no noticeable change', 'improved' or 'significantly improved'). 35.5% (330 of 931) of respondents stated 'no noticeable change'.

Variations were observed across the nations, from 47.4% (9 of 19) of Northern Ireland respondents feeling their wellbeing has either 'suffered' or 'significantly suffered', to 55.5% (432 of 778) in England. Wales had the highest responses of 'significantly improved' and 'improved' at 14.5% (8 of 55).

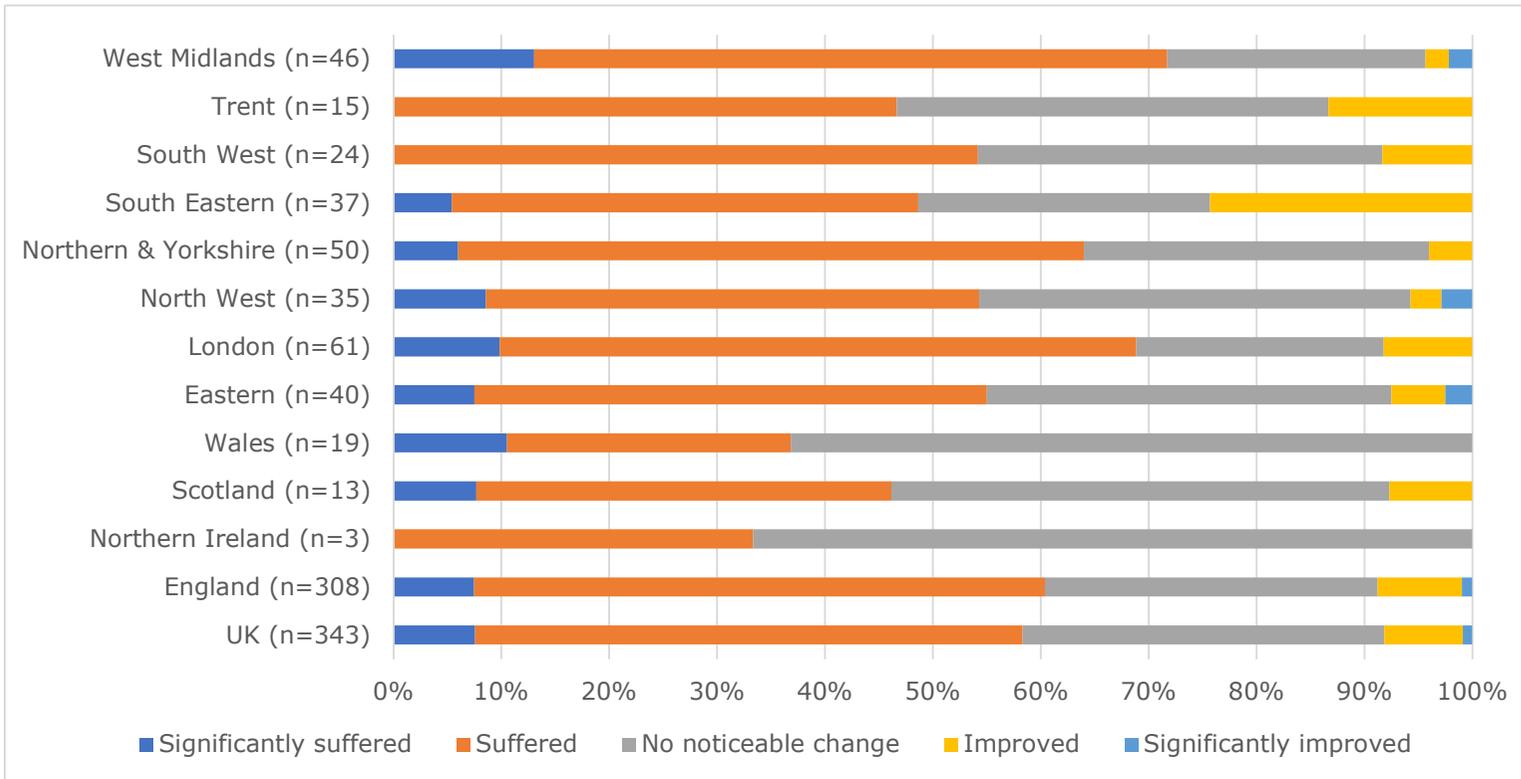
Respondents were asked to confirm whether or not they were from a BAME group (with the option also offered for them to 'prefer not to say'). For all UK respondents that gave a definitive answer to the question 58.3% of BAME members felt their wellbeing has 'suffered' or 'significantly suffered' (200 of 343) compared to 52.4% for those not from a BAME group (293 of 559).

Charts 13, 14 and 15 below illustrate the extent of the regional and nationwide variation between groups. The proportion of BAME 'suffered' and 'significantly suffered' responses, ranged from 46.7% (7 of 15) in Trent to 71.7% (33 of 46) in West Midlands, compared to between 46.0% (17 of 37) in Eastern and 58.8% (20 of 34) in West Midlands among those not from a BAME group.

**Chart 13 – How has your wellbeing been impacted by COVID-19 and the lockdown? All responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 14 – How has your wellbeing been impacted by COVID-19 and the lockdown? BAME responses from across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**



**Chart 15 – How has your wellbeing been impacted by COVID-19 and the lockdown? Responses not from a BAME group across the UK and each of the RCPsych regions**

