'Chaplaincy and University:
Initial Reflections on a Nation-wide Project'
Mathew Guest

Chaplains on Campus project aims

- To provide universities, religious bodies and student organisations with an evidence base and recommendations to enhance chaplaincy provision across the university sector, via

- Examining the experiences and perspectives of the three key constituencies that shape university chaplaincy:
  - (1) chaplains themselves,
  - (2) the students who engage with chaplaincy services,
  - (3) the decision-makers who determine how university chaplaincy is resourced and managed
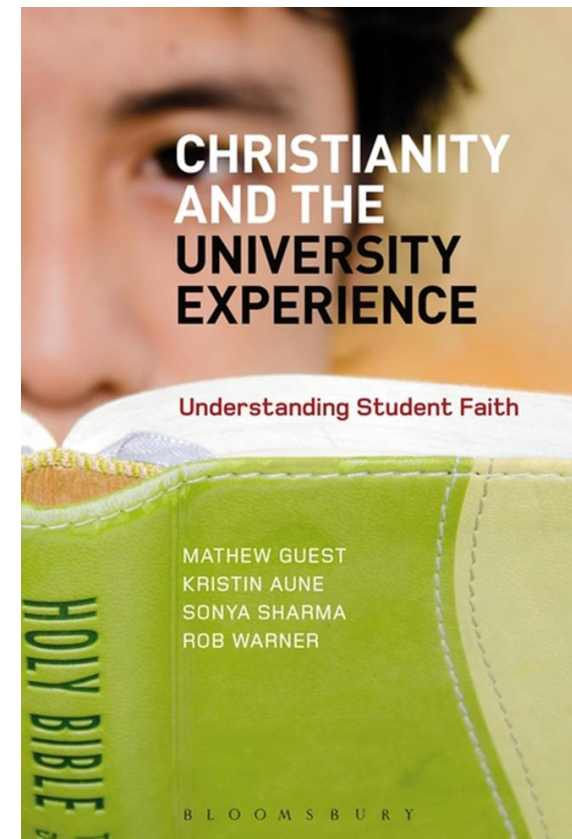
Questions

- What is the purpose and value of university chaplaincy?
- How are chaplains and chaplaincy volunteer staff equipped for their work?
- What are chaplains understood as doing, with whom, and where?
- Who accesses chaplaincy services and why?
- How do chaplains' perceptions of their role differ from those of university managers, religious decision-makers and students, and with what consequences?
- How and to what extent might chaplaincy within Cathedrals Group institutions constitute a distinguishable phenomenon?

Methods

- National mapping via telephone interviews
- Local case studies via:
  - Interviews with chaplains & faith advisors
  - Interviews with university managers
  - Interviews with local & national religious bodies responsible for managing chaplaincy
  - Survey of students who use chaplaincy services
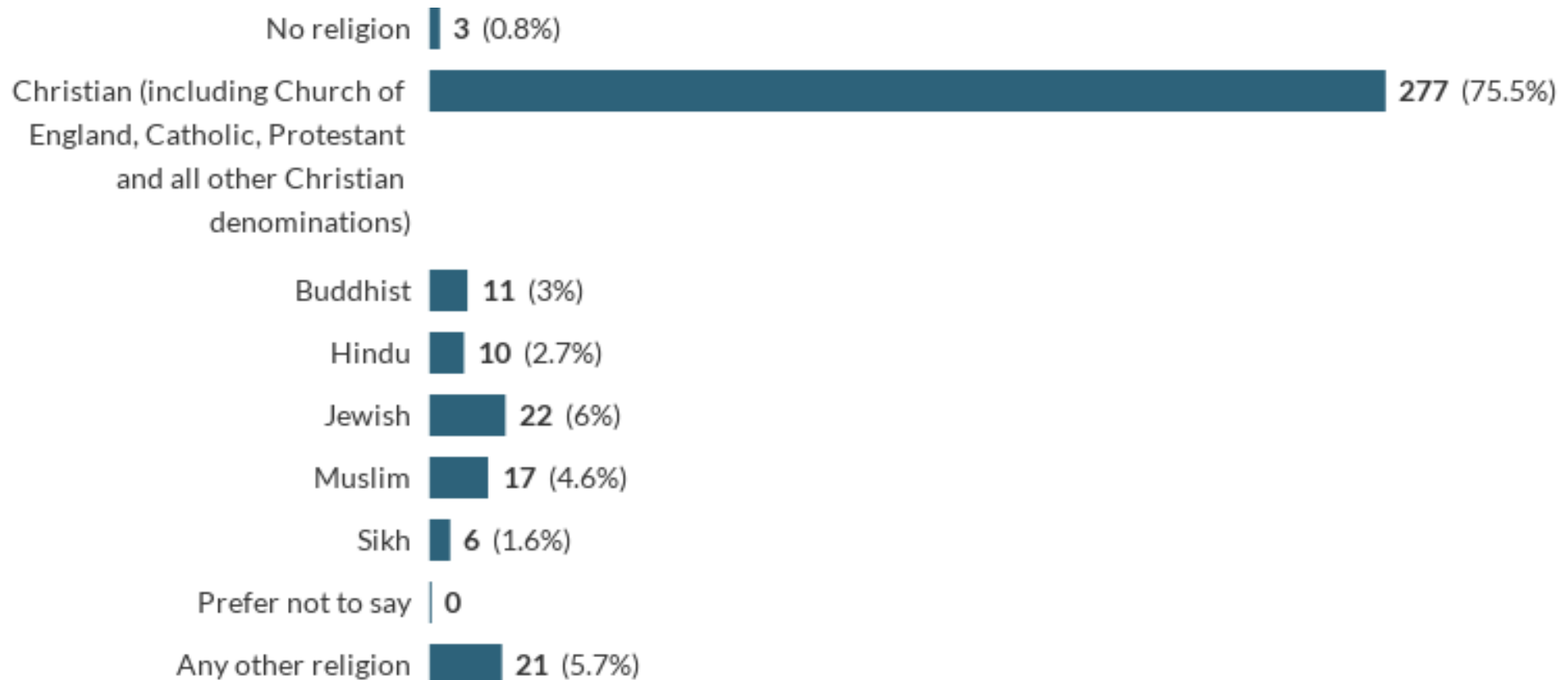
University sectors for 5 case studies

- (1) one traditional elite university;

- (2) one inner-city red brick university;

- (3) one 1960s campus university;

- (4) one post-1992 university; and

- (5) one Cathedrals Group university

Findings in brief

- The erosion of the 'lead chaplain' role

- Demographics

No religion | 3 (0.8%)

Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations) | 277 (75.5%)

Buddhist | 11 (3%)

Hindu | 10 (2.7%)

Jewish | 22 (6%)

Muslim | 17 (4.6%)

Sikh | 6 (1.6%)

Prefer not to say | 0

Any other religion | 21 (5.7%)

University Chaplains in the UK: Comparisons with 2007

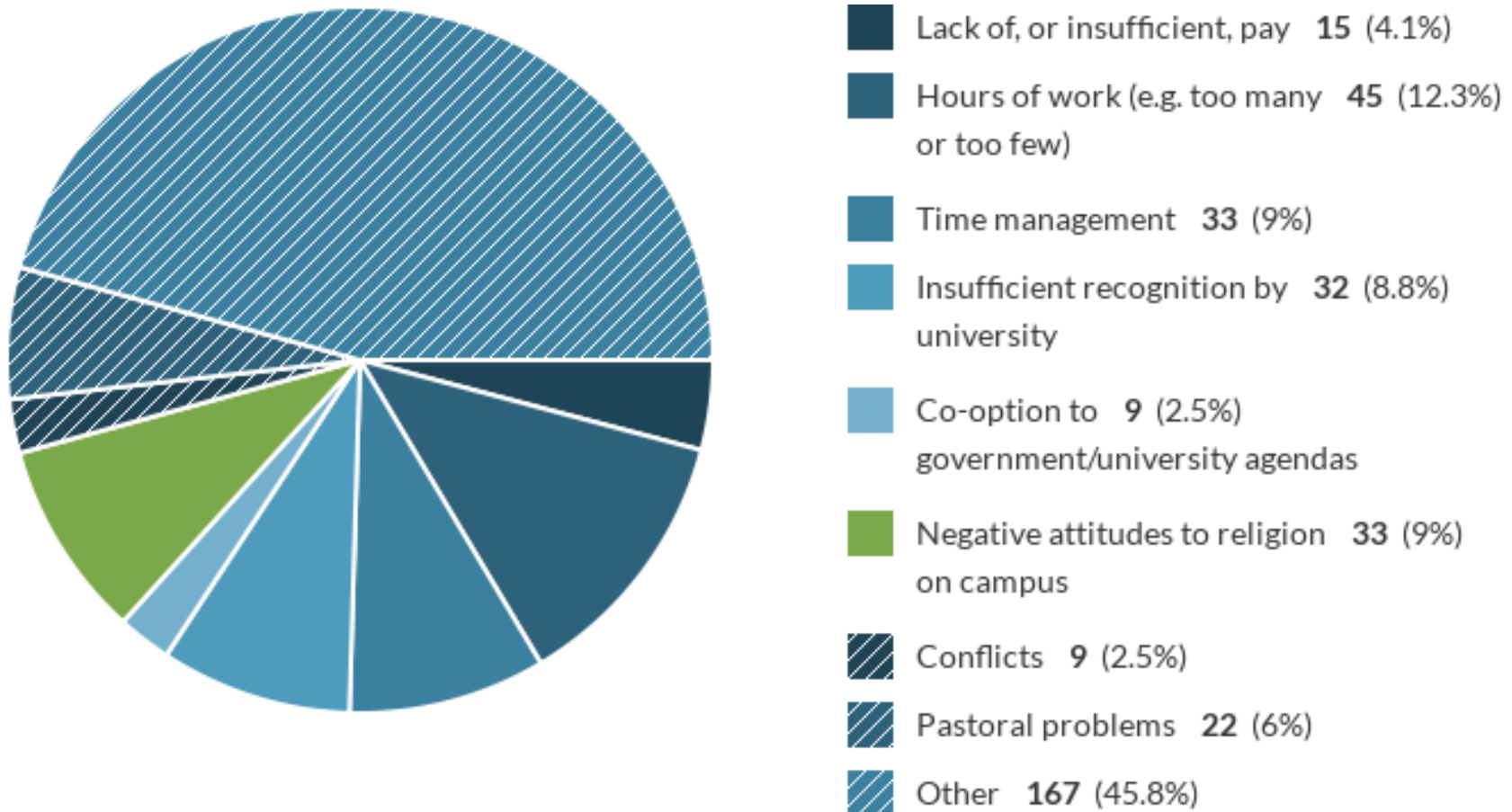| Tradition	Proportion in 2007	Proportion in 2017
Christian	70%	64%
Muslim	7%	9%
Buddhist	3%	4%
Jewish	8%	8%
Hindu	3%	3%
Sikh	2%	2%
Other	3%	6%
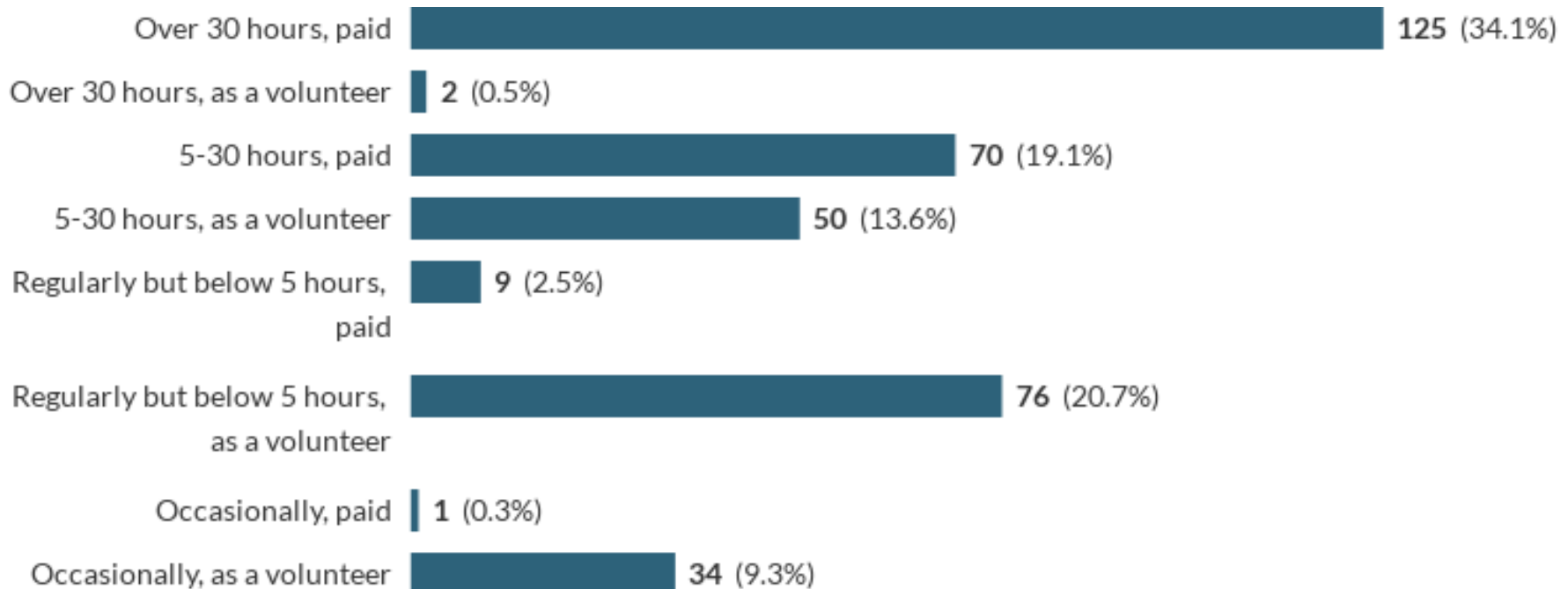
On what basis, if any, do you receive remuneration for your chaplaincy work?
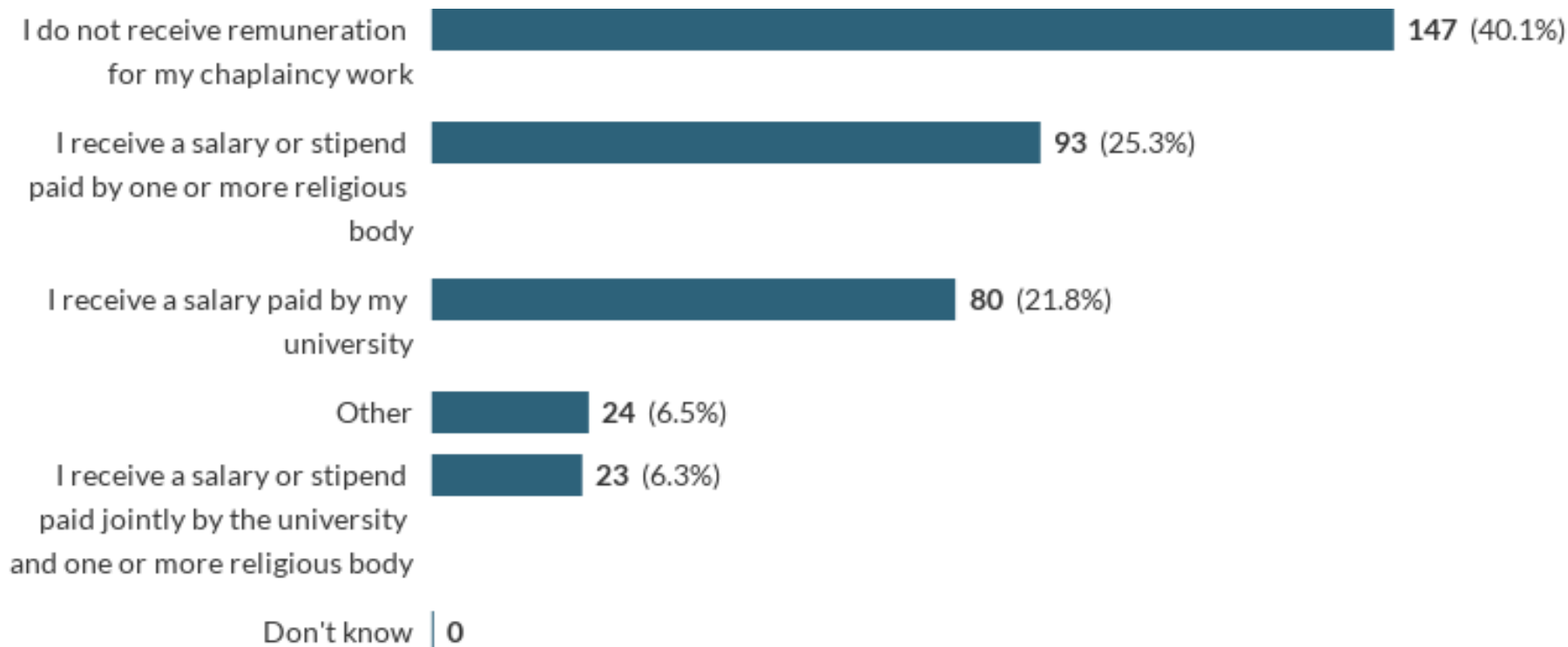
What is the biggest challenge you face in your work?

Lack of, or insufficient, pay   **15** (4.1%)

Hours of work (e.g. too many   **45** (12.3%) or too few)

Time management   **33** (9%)

Insufficient recognition by   **32** (8.8%) university

Co-option to   **9** (2.5%) government/university agendas

Negative attitudes to religion   **33** (9%) on campus

Conflicts   **9** (2.5%)

Pastoral problems   **22** (6%)
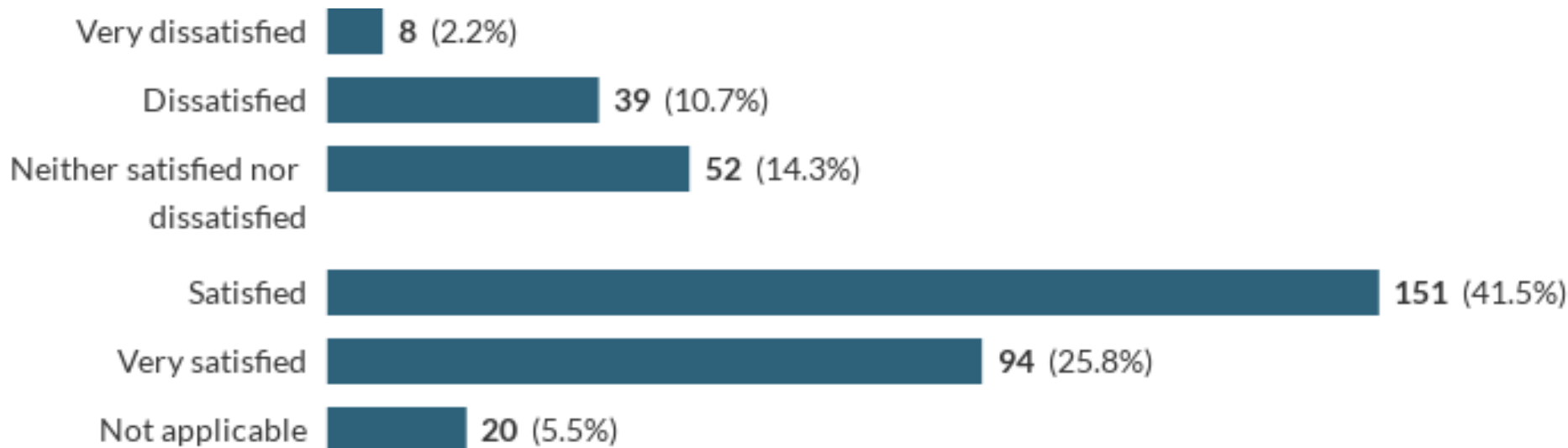
Other   **167** (45.8%)

Other challenges

- Students

- Management of chaplaincy
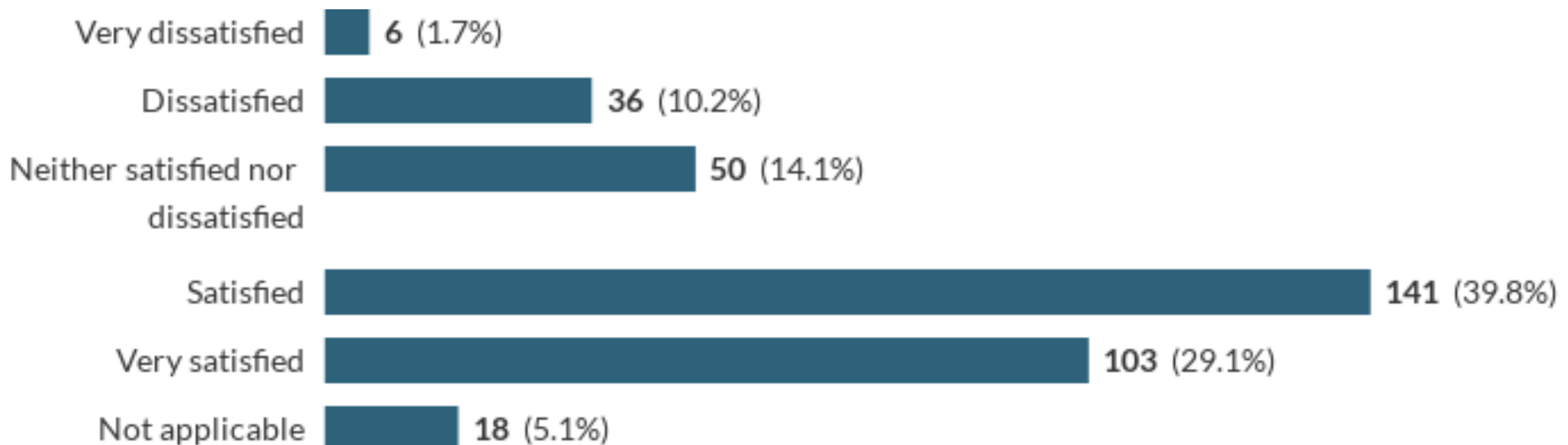 - Team
  - University
  - Religion and belief organisations

- Space

How satisfied are you with the support you receive for the chaplaincy work you do? From university managers/management
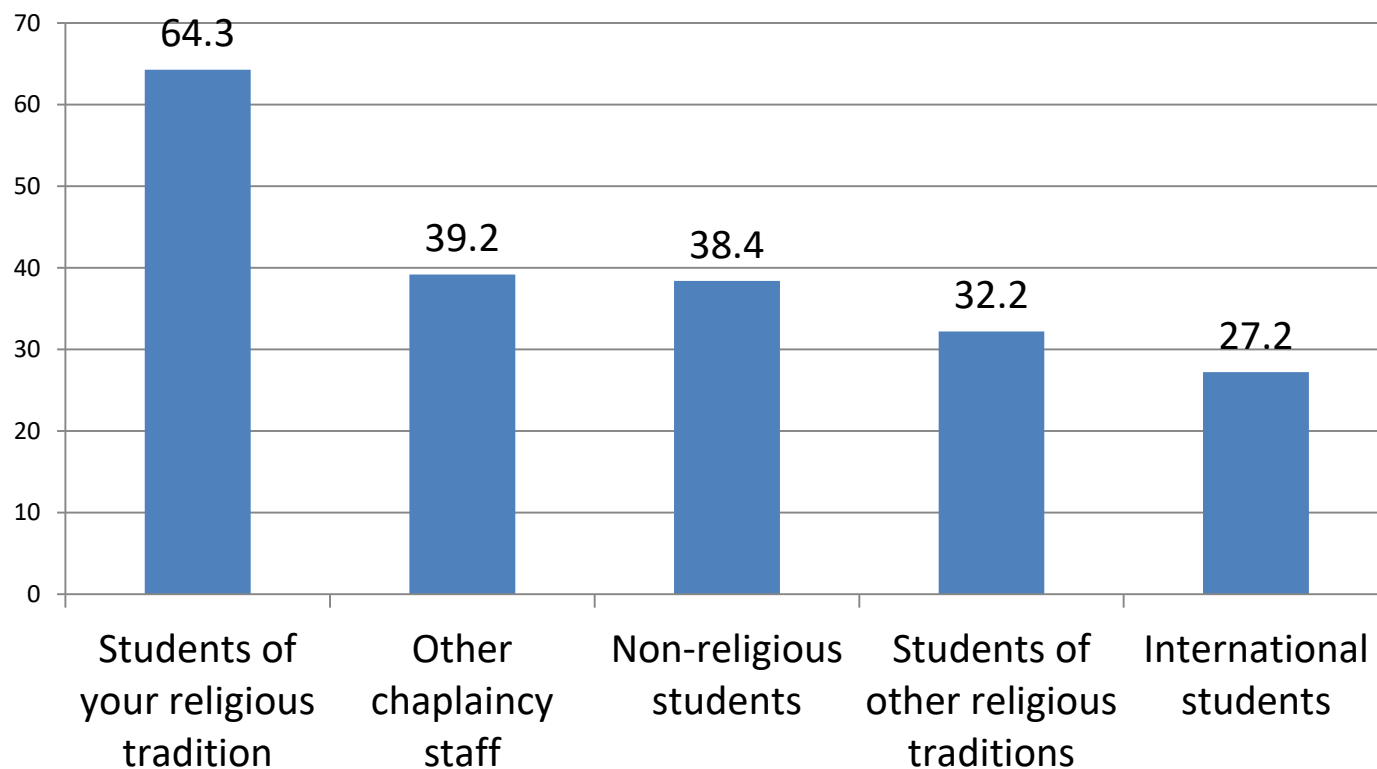

Very dissatisfied	8 (2.2%)
Dissatisfied	39 (10.7%)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	52 (14.3%)
Satisfied	151 (41.5%)
Very satisfied	94 (25.8%)
Not applicable	20 (5.5%)

How satisfied are you with the support you receive for the chaplaincy work you do? From your religion or belief organisation

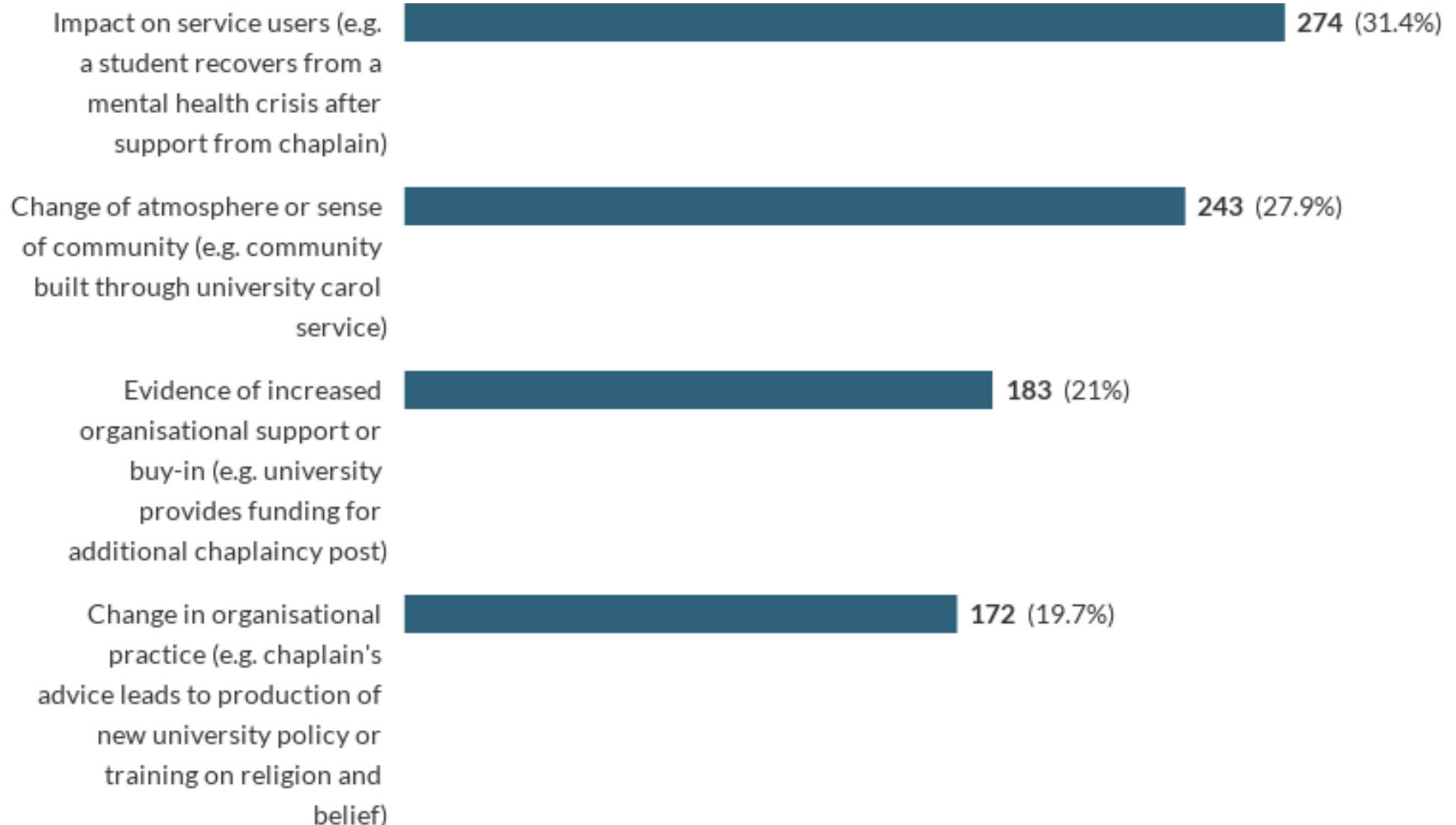|	
Very dissatisfied	6 (1.7%)
Dissatisfied	36 (10.2%)
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	50 (14.1%)
Satisfied	141 (39.8%)
Very satisfied	103 (29.1%)
Not applicable	18 (5.1%)

Chaplains' impact

The Chaplaincy Team

Coventry University

Chaplaincy

What's on?
Tuesday: Communion 12:30
CU Loneliness 7:30
BAKING 3:30
Wednesday: Choir 5:00
Friday: Marshall Club 6:00
Café service 7:00 Food
7:30 Service

Quote of the week:
Treasure the things about you that make you different and unique
~ Karen Kain

University of BRISTOL — Multifaith Chaplaincy

Current students / Current staff / Alumni

Faith Communities
News
Events
About
Contacts

If there was no Chaplaincy, I would have found my degree more challenging.
3rd year Science student

Chaplains welcome new students

University of Chester

Suzanne Vernon-Yorke @Rev_VY · May 31
Kitting out the 1st ever #chaplaincy space at Uni of Bradford! May it be a place of #peacemaking #acceptance #comfort #growth & #joy :D <><
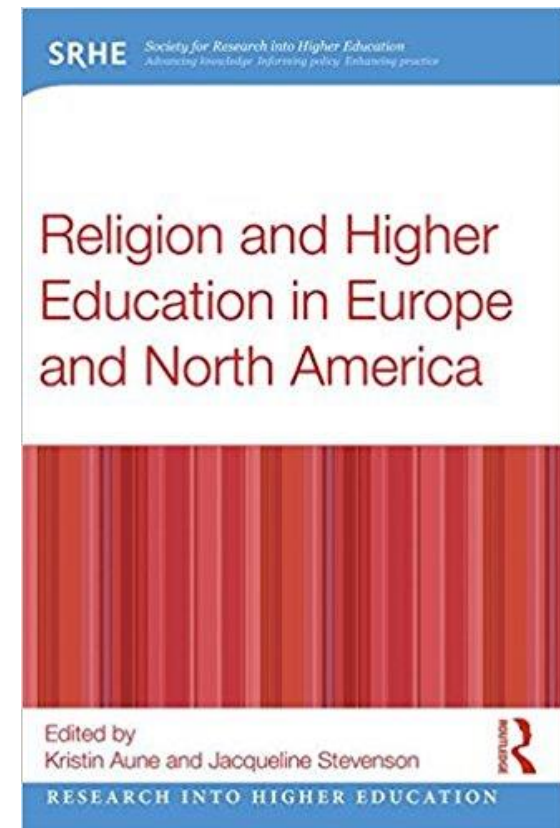pic.twitter.com/qV1B4FGX79

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Thoughts towards an analysis

- Huge variation across the sector – i.e. inequalities of provision, with 1960s campus universities & New universities being less well provided for

- Why? Historically determined structures? Institutional ethos?

Emerging Issues/Questions

Pastoral responsibilities: moving from marginalisation to expansion…?

Legal factors: being drawn into the centre of HE concerns

Religious literacy: the 'go to' chaplain

The quest for a unique contribution…