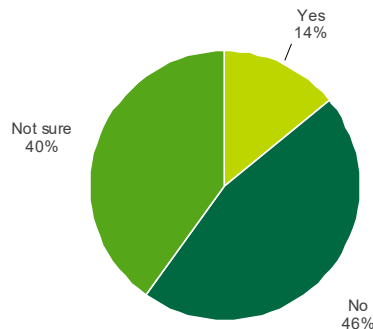# Online Safety Bill – BCS Member survey
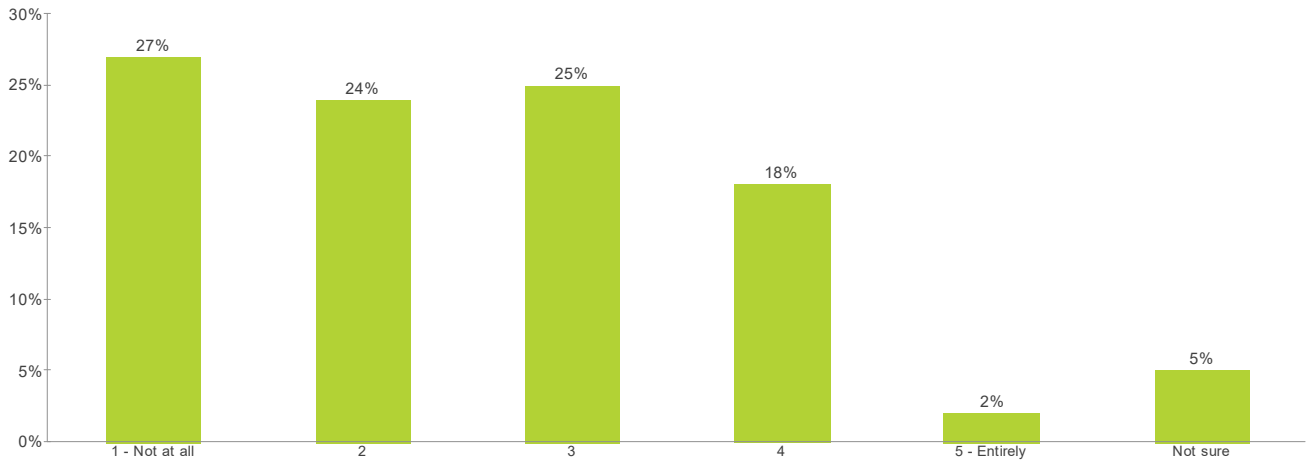
Summary of findings

●   Only 14% of participants think the Online Safety Bil is fit for purpose in its current form. 46% believe it is not and 40% are unsure.

●   Only 19% believe the Online Safety Bill would make the internet safer. 51% think it will not be safer and the rest are neutral or unsure.

●   Just 9% of those questioned are confident that the 'legal but harmful' content specified in the Bill can be effectively and proportionately removed. **70% are not confident of this.**

●   Over half the respondents (58%) feel that the Online Safety Bills's effect on free speech will be mostly negative. Only 16% indicated that it would be mostly positive.

●   Nearly three-quarters of tech specialists (74%) are not confident that the Bill will reduce the spread of disinformation and fake news. Just 10% are confident that this would happen.

●   Just one quarter (25%) feel it is realistic for Ofcom to ask platforms to 'develop or source' accurate technology to detect sexual abuse material; 57% said it is not realistic.

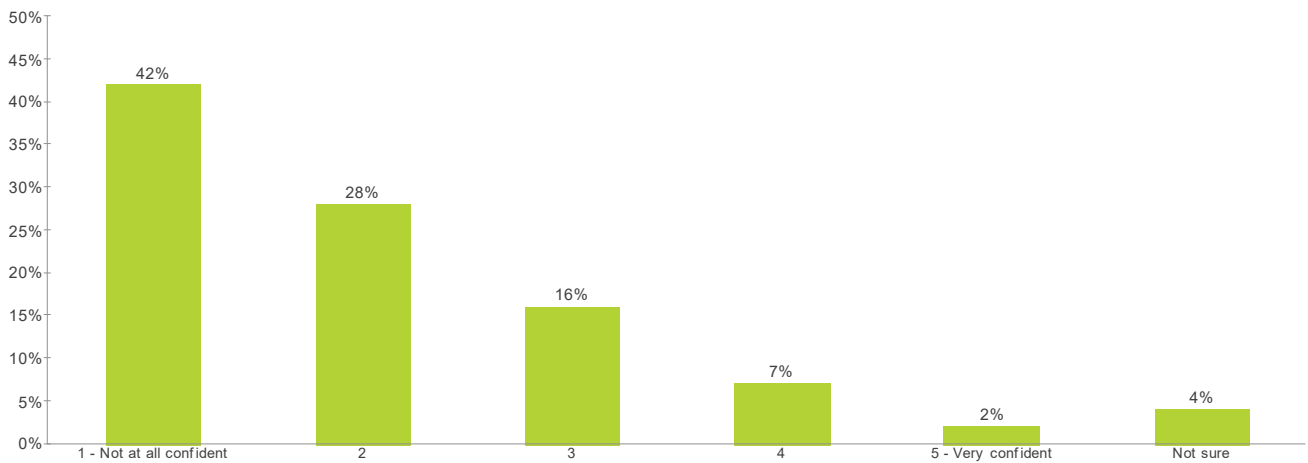**Do you think the Online Safety Bill is fit for purpose in its current form?**

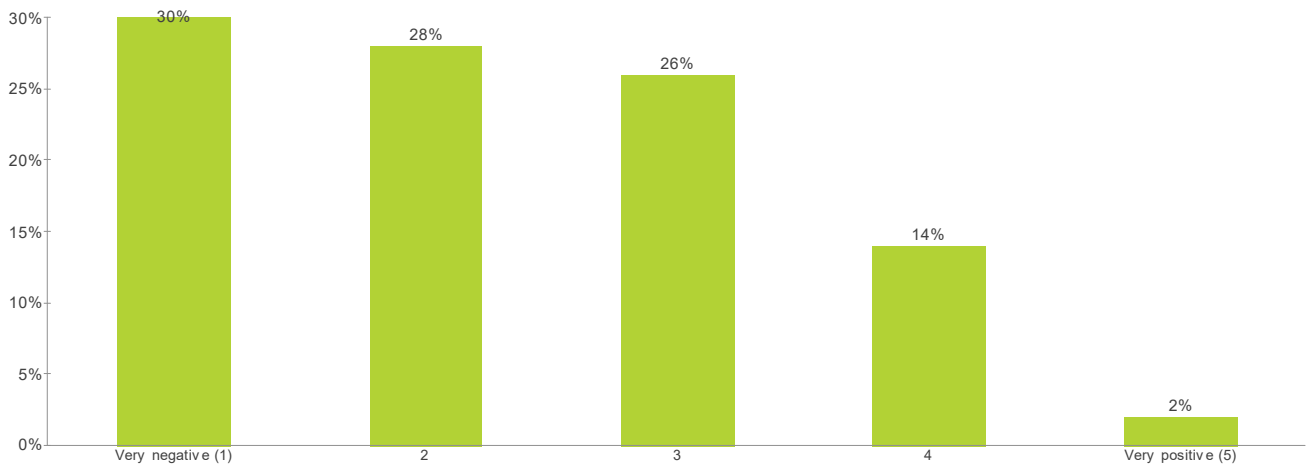**To what extent do you believe the Online Safety Bill will make the internet safer?**

Mean score = 2.40

How confident are you that the 'legal but harmful' content specified in the Bill can be effectively and proportionately removed?
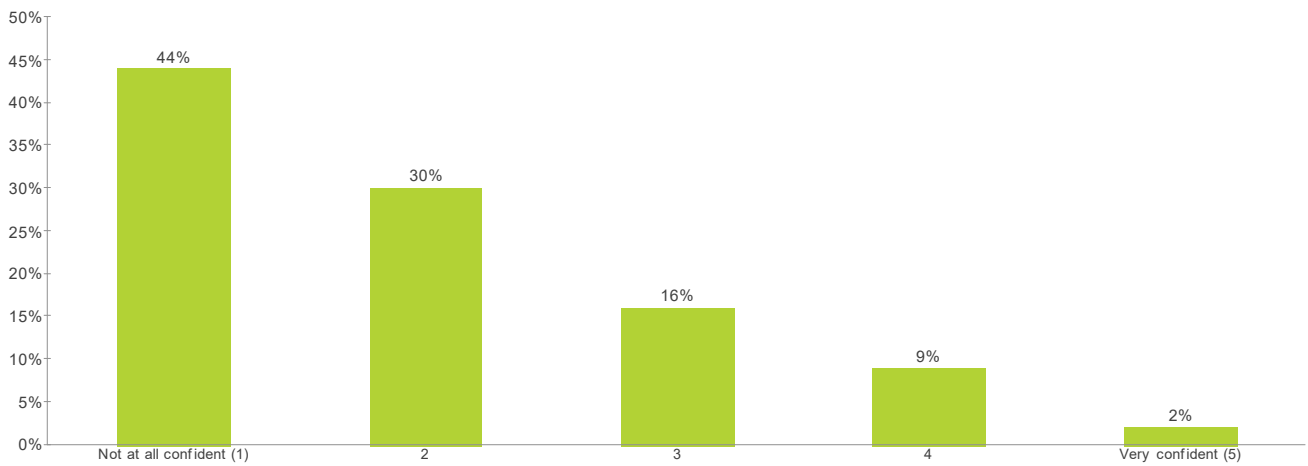

Mean score = 1.94

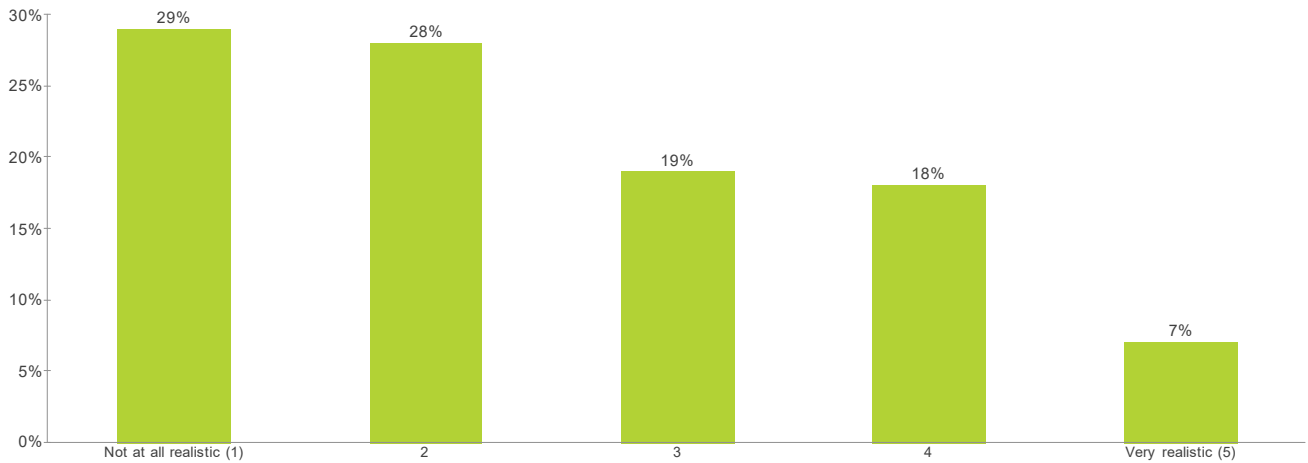**In your view, will the Online Safety Bill's effect on free speech be mostly positive, or mostly negative?**

Mean score = 2.30

How confident are you that the Online Safety Bill will reduce the spread of disinformation and fake news?

Mean score = 1.95

How realistic is it for Ofcom to ask platforms to 'develop or source' accurate technology to detect sexual abuse material?

Mean score = 2.46

Technical notes:

This report was generated on 02/08/22. Overall 1296 BCS members completed this questionnaire during the period 21 July to 2 August 2022. **The survey was conducted online.**