

***Cornish National Minority
Status 2014 - 2024:
Evaluation of Impact***

Cornish Distinctiveness Programme 2024



**University
of Exeter**

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1. Executive Summary

It has been 10 years since the UK officially recognised the Cornish as a National Minority and this evaluation was commissioned to evaluate what official recognition has achieved for Cornish identity, culture, and heritage in that time.

In 2023 funding was awarded to Cornwall Council to deliver a Cornish Distinctiveness programme as part of the Devolution Deal for Cornwall and to help strengthen minority status. Many projects were funded by the programme due to their capacity to raise the profile of Cornwall's cultural expression of its national minority status. The evaluation team itself are recipients of funding from the programme, providing not only an evaluation but a body of research to develop the techniques by which Cornish distinctiveness can be understood.

The research approach utilises social science methodology. The empirical survey data gathered has undergone first level analysis and therefore findings are based on descriptive analysis, summarising the main characteristics of the data and assisting with identifying patterns, trends, and relationships in order to answer the evaluation and research brief.

Who were the survey respondents? The study population (n=2,266) were found to be energised and able to provide responses to the questions. We are indebted to their enthusiasm and diligence in this endeavour. They are people with an appetite for the topic, for stating their views and sharing their knowledge. In particular they are confident in their knowledge of national minority status and the benefits that have come from it. 69% of respondents described themselves as Cornish in contrast to 18% who did so in the Cornwall Council census *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, 2022-2026*¹. Although this bias in the survey population prohibits generalisation of the results to the whole population of Cornwall, other demographic characteristics of the survey population are more representative. For instance 38% of respondents are over the age of 60 which is close to the 32% of those over 60 in the whole of Cornwall. The survey population also overrepresents people with degrees and postgraduate degrees.

A condition of being a National Minority is that its people possess a certain features which defines them as a national minority. The first of these is *self-identification* and this was in abundance in the findings.

¹ https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/yx2p2fiq/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy_2022-2026_update-feb-2024_final.pdf

The main findings are as follows:

- a. Cornish identity is of enormous importance to survey respondents (74% agreed or strongly agreed). This was detectable in the responses to a variety of related questions throughout the survey.
- b. There is a statistically significant relationship between the identity of being Cornish and the desire to see goods and services using the Cornish language or dialect.
- c. Confidence in engaging with Cornish culture is more nuanced although most respondents want more opportunities to engage (75% of respondents).
- d. The relationship between the desire to attend more cultural activities and the view that recognition of national minority status has had a positive impact is statistically significant.
- e. 79% of respondents know about official recognition of Cornwall as a National Minority and 70% believe that the impact of recognition has been positive. The relationship between these two is statistically significant meaning that those who know about recognition are more likely to perceive positive impact.
- f. In a list of positive consequences of minority recognition, the item most often selected by survey respondents is an increased awareness of Cornish identity. This is followed by awareness of culture, language and pride of place.
- g. Survey questions on identity, language and minority recognition attracted similarly high levels of positive survey responses leading to the observation that these concepts are strongly linked.
- h. Of all cultural activities, respondents had the highest awareness of Cornish language lessons or activities (1,000 respondents were aware).
- i. However, the biggest disparity between awareness of cultural events and attendance at events was for Cornish language lessons or activities. While 1,000 respondents were aware of Cornish language lessons or activities, only a third (n=381) attended these.
- j. The biggest driver for attendance at cultural events was 'Local traditions and customs'.
- k. Social media and word of mouth are the two most common methods of finding out about events, but a large range of other methods were identified, one of which is a deep inner knowledge borne of familiarity.
- l. 91% of respondents agreed that it is important to invest in and support Cornish cultural identity and awareness (75% strongly agreed).
- m. Long-term government investment is the preferred mechanism to achieve this support although qualitative data suggested a desire to reconceive the meaning of investment to a much wider context include housing availability, making tourism sustainable and a higher profile for the Cornish language.
- n. Further alternatives to government support include promotion of community organisations, schools (including support for Curriculum Kernewek), establishing a radio or TV programme in Cornish, solving the housing crisis, creating well paid jobs, getting the youth into leadership positions, keeping Cornish graduates in Cornwall, determining out the constitutional status of Cornwall, widening the definition of cultural events to include landscape and place names and greater networking. The method that was heavily preferred, however, was 'all of the above'.

Section 5 of this report presents a series of recommendations and details the areas for further research. A follow-up study should be conducted to capture views on Cornishness and minority status from a more representative sample of the population of Cornwall to balance the self-selection bias of the current study which, naturally enough, attracted people already invested in the theme of the research. Nevertheless, the large database constructed through the current research requires thorough and comprehensive analysis to mine the information it contains. It is without doubt the largest survey of views of Cornish minority status and Cornishness ever conducted, and this is to be celebrated and used to everyone's advantage for at least the next five years and possibly beyond.

As a whole, this work aids our understanding and therefore capacity to maintain and foster Cornish cultural life, which is something unmistakably called for by the survey population.

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2. Scope and Purpose of Evaluation

2.1 Background

The UK Government recognised the Cornish as a national minority under the Framework Convention for National Minorities in 2014. This gave official recognition to Cornish culture, heritage and identity, as well as further recognition for the Cornish language. [The Cornish: A UK National Minority](#) (July 2024) provides more detail and sets out the intrinsic value of the Cornish and their important contribution to the UK's cultural diversity.

"The decision to recognise the unique identity of the Cornish, now affords them the same status under the Framework as the UK's other Celtic people, the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish".
Official UK Government announcement – 24 April 2014.

In 2023 funding was awarded to Cornwall Council for a Cornish Distinctiveness programme as part of the Devolution Deal for Cornwall. It was intended to mark the 10th anniversary of this recognition and take steps to strengthen this status. These projects were funded due to their capacity to raise the profile of Cornwall's cultural expression of its national minority status.

A separate report has been prepared on the evaluation of the set of projects receiving devolution funding titled *Cornish Distinctiveness Programme 2024: Impact Analysis Report*.

Cornwall Council have utilised part of the Devolution Deal funding to commission this evaluation and research into what official recognition has achieved for Cornish identity over the last 10 years and how the current Cornish Distinctiveness Programme contributes to this wider context of culture and identity. It was to consider progress made in use of the Cornish language over the period of the current Cornish Language Strategy, and in the context of longer term change since securing Part II status under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages with a view to preparing a case for securing Part III status for Cornish.

3. Research Methodology

The University of Exeter was chosen to undertake this evaluation as a separate organisation from Cornwall Council. The chosen team have:

- i. The research skills and capacity to carry out the work, particularly the deep knowledge of Cornish history, identity, culture and politics and an academic perspective on the Cornish Distinctiveness Programme
- ii. The required degree of objectivity while being cognisant of the bias that their familiarity with the theme of Cornish identity may introduce
- iii. Access to other relevant networks and resources to strengthen communication of the programme's achievements
- iv. The capacity to provide future evaluative and scholarly work to support Cornwall Council's strategic planning and to act as a critical friend.

4.1 Data collection - Online Survey

An online survey was constructed to fulfil the evaluation brief. It was ambitious in scale and comprised of 63 questions. The main sections of the survey are as follows in Figure 1, with the final section highlighted as the area of focus for this report.

Survey Structure
1. About you (demographic characteristics of respondents)
2. Cornish Language
3. Cornish Language Learning
4. Cornish Language in Schools
5. Official Use of the Cornish Language
6. Cornish National Minority Status*
<i>4 questions about Cornish identity and recognition as a National Minority</i>
<i>4 questions about visibility and participation in Cornish cultural events</i>
<i>4 questions about funding and support for Cornish culture</i>
<small>*Full list of Survey questions, as presented to respondents, can be found in Appendix A</small>

Figure 1 - Survey Structure

The survey was aimed at three main audiences:

- i. Cornish language interest groups, namely speakers, learners and potential learners
- ii. Grant holders from the Cornish Distinctiveness Programme 2024 and participants in their funded projects.
- iii. Members of the public interested in and motivated by Intangible Cultural Heritage

All three of these groups were predicted to have a view on National Minority Status and what official recognition may have achieved for Cornish identity over the last 10 years.

The survey was constructed using Qualtrics and was active from August – October 2024. It attracted a total of 2,266 responses.

Survey respondents were successfully recruited by a combination of convenience sampling and the snowballing method. Cornish heritage and research networks were invited to participate and share the survey link widely including by means of social media and distribution lists of local organisations. A press release from the University of Exeter resulted in publicity on the BBC website and subsequent radio interviews which provided a substantial boost in participant numbers.

From the response to the survey call, we assume a high level of acceptability of the survey in terms of its accessibility and the completion rate. We do acknowledge the barrier that the digital format of the survey would have presented to more senior non-digital individuals. To mitigate this, respondents were encouraged to aid senior relatives and friends to complete the form. We also acknowledge that respondents were self-selecting, as opposed to approached by the evaluation team, and will therefore demonstrate an inherent bias in terms of viewpoint and enthusiasm for the topic, positive or negative.

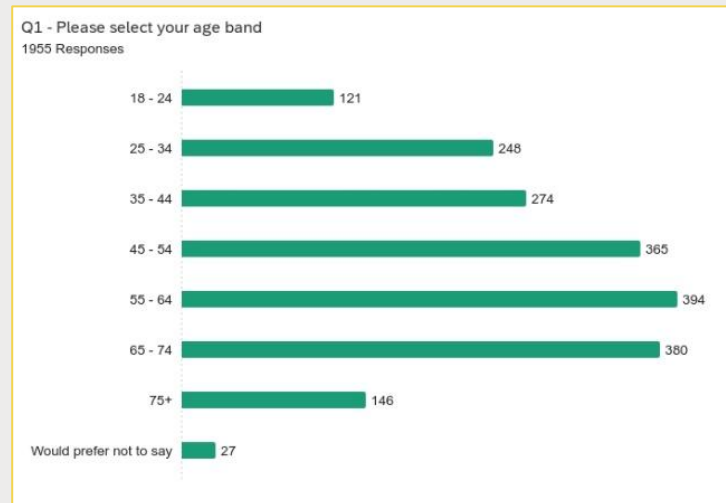
Demographic Profile of Survey Respondents

Figure 2 below shows the demographic characteristics of the survey population. While 70% of respondents live in Cornwall, there is a reasonable representation of people living outside of Cornwall (22%) and those outside the UK (8%). 38% of respondents were over the age of 60 which is close to the 32% of those over 60 in the whole of Cornwall as documented in Cornwall Council's census-based *Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, 2022-2026*². Slightly more males than females /other genders were represented in the sample compared to the population of Cornwall and the number of respondents of other ethnic minorities was greater than in the proportion for Cornwall. Unlike the census which showed 18% of the population of Cornwall declaring their national Identity as Cornish, a far greater 69% of the survey population declared themselves as Cornish. Caution must be exercised, however, since national identity and Cornishness are not the same phenomenon. It is highly possible to be Cornish and consider your national identity as British. The results of this survey must be interpreted in the knowledge that the respondents are *a priori* invested in Cornish culture and identity.

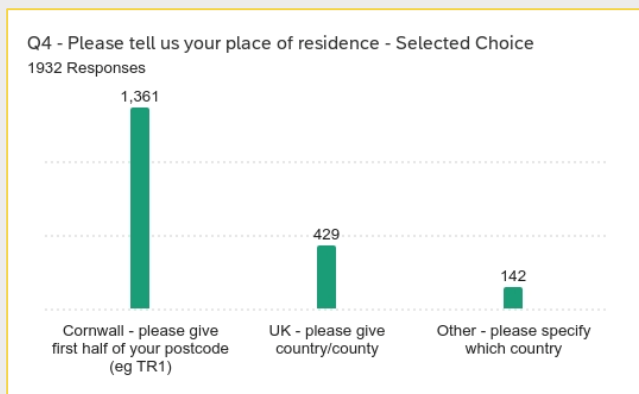
The survey population shows a concentration of respondents with degrees or postgraduate degrees which is to be expected in lengthy surveys which demand significant on-screen reading of

² https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/yx2p2fiq/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-strategy_2022-2026_update-feb-2024_final.pdf

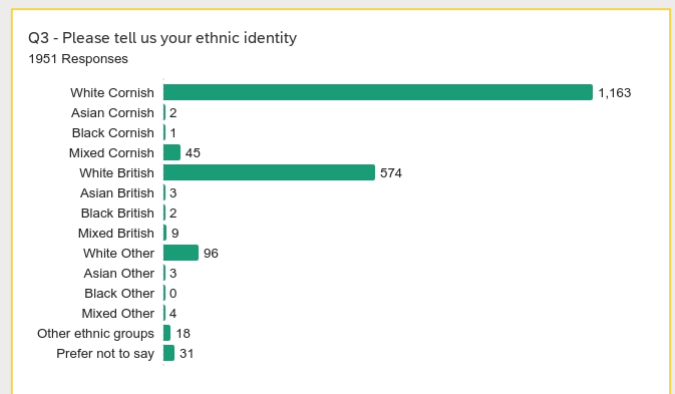
complex information. The representation of those with less formal education can be achieved by weighting the sample in further, more advanced data analysis planned for this work.



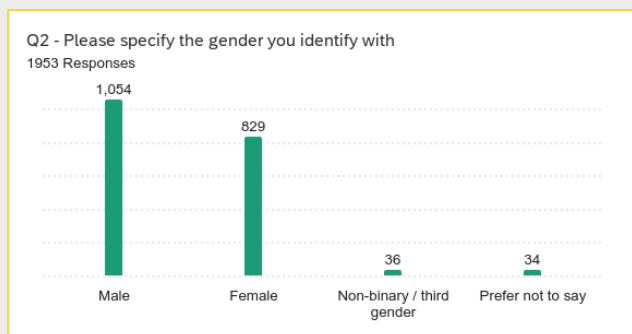
Age Band



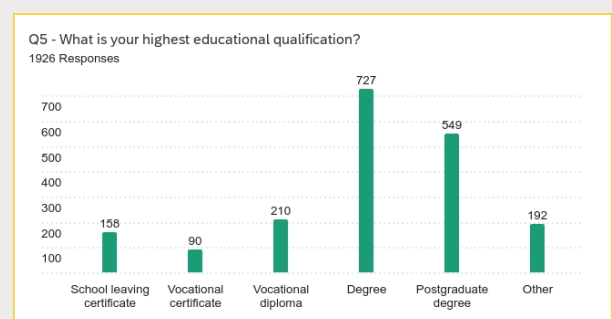
Place of Residence



Ethnicity



Gender



Highest Level of Education

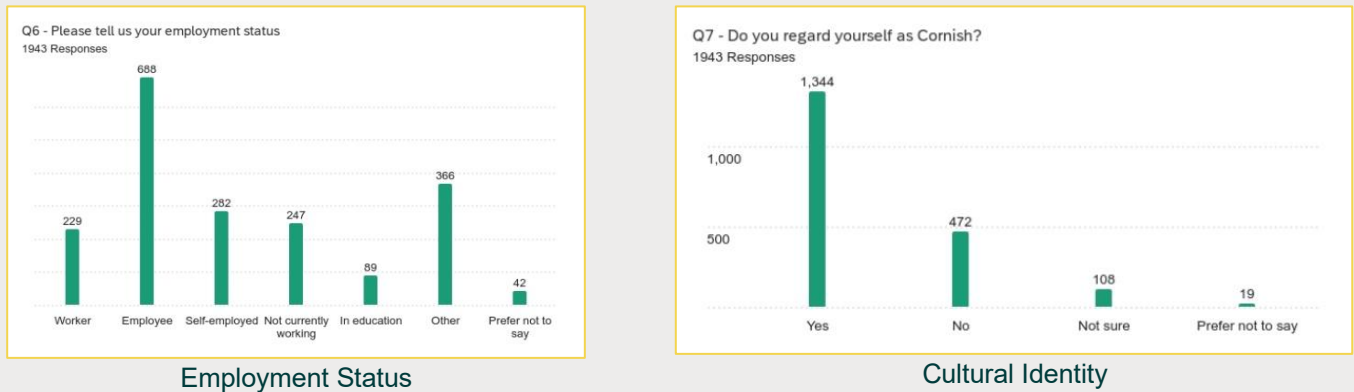


Figure 2 – Demographic Characteristics of Survey Population

4.2 Data analysis

The survey data was exported into MS Excel and simple measures of frequency and descriptive statistics were obtained. The dataset is large (n=2,266) and will be subject to more detailed analysis to further inform the strategic direction of any future devolution programmes or funding available for Cornish ICH.

A number of free-text responses were gathered from the section of the survey named *Cornish National Minority Status*. There were eight opportunities to contribute further information which created valuable data for the research. Where relevant, this qualitative data is presented in this report using Word clouds.

Word clouds are a visual representation of word frequency in qualitative data that can identify themes and communicate key points in a creative way. These have been used successfully as a screening tool for large amounts of text data³ and as an assessment tool for the evaluation of student understanding in written work in higher education⁴.

³ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11528-014-0750-9>

⁴ [https://www.jneb.org/article/S1499-4046\(15\)00196-7/fulltext](https://www.jneb.org/article/S1499-4046(15)00196-7/fulltext)

4. Findings

4.1 Cornish Identity and Recognition as a National Minority

This section of the survey contained four questions. The results are displayed in the following graphs and tables.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 46. | Series of statements about Cornishness |
| 47. | I think that Cornish people being recognised as a National Minority by the UK government has been positive. |
| 48. | Did you know that Cornish people are officially recognised by the UK government as a national minority? |
| 49. | Series of statements about the impact of recognition of Cornish people as a National Minority |

Before the findings on recognition of National Minority status are presented, the findings on Cornish identity are presented, in order to provide background. Question 46 asked respondents to rate their reaction to a series of statements about Cornishness. Figure 3a below shows the results.

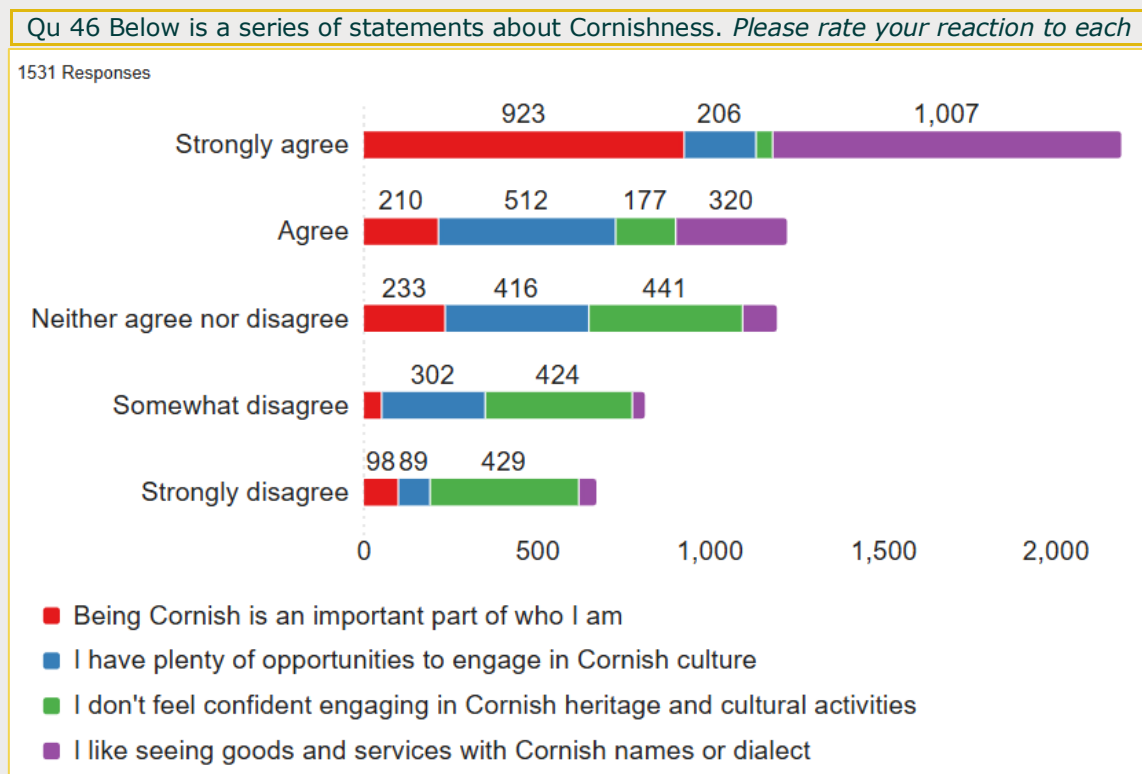


Figure 3a - Results of Question 46

A majority of 74% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that 'Being Cornish is an important part of who I am'. This is clearly a strong characteristic of the survey population which is strongly linked to language by virtue of the fact that 87% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the statement 'I like seeing goods and services with Cornish names or dialect'. 66% strongly agreed. The Chi-squared test below shows a statistically significant relationship between these statements. This finding supports the local authority and businesses in seeking to make visible Cornish language and dialect. This finding supports the work of Cornwall Council through the Cornish Language Strategy, and private sector organisations and businesses in seeking to make the Cornish language and dialect more visible in public life.

Q46_1: Below are a series of statements which is an important part of who I am					
Q46_4: Bel...or dialect	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor ...	Somewhat disagree	S
Strongly agree	81.6%	40.5%	54.7%	19.6%	
Agree	13.6%	45.7%	24.6%	34.8%	
Neither agree nor disagree	2.9%	5.7%	12.1%	28.3%	
Somewhat disagree	0.8%	4.3%	4.7%	8.7%	
Strongly disagree	1.1%	3.8%	3.9%	8.7%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	

Figure 3b - Chi-Squared test for Questions 46

Interestingly, the picture becomes more equivocal when considering the reaction to the statement 'I have plenty of opportunities to engage in Cornish culture' (green bar in the above chart). Approximately half of respondents disagree with this statement (56%) leaving the rest scattered between neutrality or agreement. A similarly mixed reaction is found to the statement 'I have plenty of opportunities to engage with Cornish culture' with large numbers neutral on this subject (blue bar in the above chart). However, most respondents agree with this statement. In summary, significant enthusiasm is felt for the feeling of Cornishness and of seeing Cornishness in written form reflected back at respondents. While the majority support them, externalising these feelings by engaging in Cornish activities and events is perhaps harder to reflect on.

Questions 47, 48 and 49 are focused on the Cornish as a National Minority. Results for Question 47 & 48 are presented in Figure 4a. 79% of respondents know about official recognition official minority status by the UK government and very few were not sure (3%). The low levels of 'Not sure' responses is not surprising given the fact-based nature of the question. A similar majority of respondents answered 'Yes' to the question of whether official recognition has been positive (70%) with a fifth of respondents 'Not sure', which reflects the opinion-based nature of the questions.

A highly significant statistical relationship between the responses in Questions 47 & 48 ($p=0.00001$) was found. The results of a Chi-squared test in Figure 4b below show that 86.1% of respondents who agree with a positive effect of recognition ('Yes') also have knowledge of official recognition taking place. There is less strong affirmation of a positive effect when respondents are unsure (63.1%) or have no knowledge of official recognition (66.3%), nevertheless, respondents tend to cleave to the positive effects of recognition.

Qu47 I think that Cornish people being recognised as a National Minority by the UK government has been positive.			Qu48 Did you know that Cornish people are officially recognised by the UK government as a national minority?		
Response	Number	Percentage	Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	1,062	70%	Yes	1,216	79%
No	161	10%	No	270	18%
Not sure	305	20%	Not sure	46	3%
<i>Total</i>	1,528	100%	<i>Total</i>	1,532	100%

Figure 4a - Results for Questions 47 & 48

Q47: I think th...response below. ▸			
Q48: Did...inority? ▾	Yes ▾	Not sure ▾	No ▾
Yes ▾	86.1%	63.1%	66.3%
No ▾	11.8%	31.2%	30.0%
Not sure ▾	2.2%	5.6%	3.8%
Total ▾	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 4b - Chi-Squared test for Questions 47 & 48

Qu 49 presented respondents with the following question *Do you think that the recognition of Cornish people as a National Minority has led to... Please select all that apply.* The results are shown in Figure 5 below. Given the results shown in Figure 3 (statements about Cornishness), the most selected perceived consequence of recognition has been an 'increased awareness of Cornish identity' (72%). This is followed by awareness of culture, pride of place, awareness of language. The least selected options were awareness of rights, greater economic benefits and more creative opportunities. The low ranking of perceived economic benefits of minority recognition is interesting when considering the huge importance placed by respondents on government investment for supporting Cornish culture shown in Question 60 (91% - see Section 4.3 below).

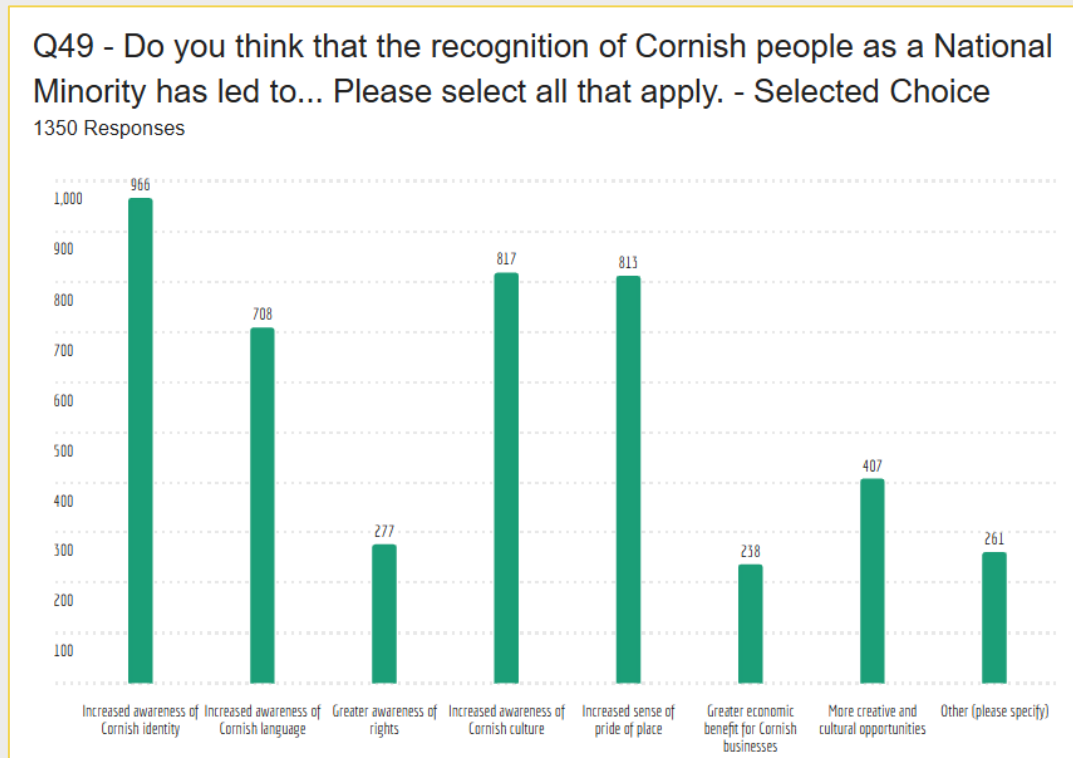


Figure 5 - Results for Question 49

Analysis of the 259 free-text responses for Question 49 ('Other') indicated the following themes (Figure 6). The word cloud reveals a large range of terms used to express what is in the minds of respondents with those words in larger font being used more frequently. The words *people* and *government* stand out as potentially opposing entities in this question. The words *difference* and *recognition* similarly stand out as important.

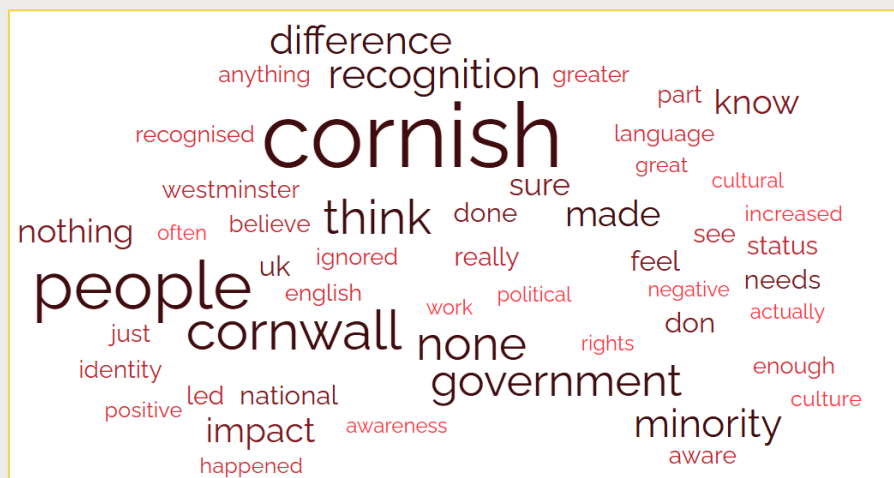


Figure 6 - Word Cloud of 'Other' responses to Qu49 (n=259)

4.2 Visibility and Participation in Cornish Cultural Events

Four questions were asked for this section of the Survey. While the findings presented above in 4.1 *Cornish Identity and Recognition as a National Minority* are directly relevant to the focus of this report, the survey questions relating to *Visibility and Participation in Cornish Cultural Events* form useful background since engagement in cultural activities can be considered a measurable correlate of feelings about identity and the benefits of minority status.

- 50. Awareness and participation in Cornish cultural activities
- 51. How often do you go to or participate in Cornish cultural activities or events?
- 53. How do you find out about organised activities or events concerned with Cornish culture in your area?
- 55. Would you like to go to or take part in more Cornish cultural activities and events?

Questions 57 - 59 ask respondents to comment on their awareness of, and attendance at, Cornish cultural events in 2024. This was the year that the Cornish Distinctiveness Programme was active, and a sister report titled *Impact Analysis Report: Cornish Distinctiveness Programme 2024* gives more details on the evaluation of the Programme from the participants' point of view. The results show that the majority of respondents (n=1,009 equating to 68%) have not attended more Cornish cultural events in 2024. This suggests that the attendance of Cornish cultural events is stable and robust in the community. In a similar direction, positive feelings about Cornish cultural events did not show a spike in 2024 when the Programme was active, indicating that support and valuing of these events is well established.

Question 50 asked respondents about their i) awareness of and ii) participation in Cornish cultural activities. Respondents were presented with a list of seven types of activity and asked to select all that apply. Figure 7 below shows the results.

It is to be expected that attendance at events is lower than awareness, however, when analysing the interplay between attendance and awareness, the biggest disparity is seen for Cornish language lessons or activities. Exactly a thousand people were aware of these, while only 381 attended. A similar pattern is observed with the events of organisations such as Old Cornwall Society and Gorsedh events although these are membership organisations which explains the lower attendance numbers.

The biggest driver for attendance was the category of 'Local traditions and customs' which are calendared events on a yearly basis. The next most popular categories were 'Cornish traditional/folk music or dance' and 'St Piran's parades/celebrations'. Awareness of categories of cultural activities was consistently high, in particular Old Cornwall Society and Gorsedh events, Cornish wrestling or gig rowing and language activities.

Question 51 asked about the frequency of attendance at these events and respondents could choose between the categories of weekly, monthly, two or three times a year, years, less than yearly or never. The largest proportion of respondents attend events two or three times a year (37%).

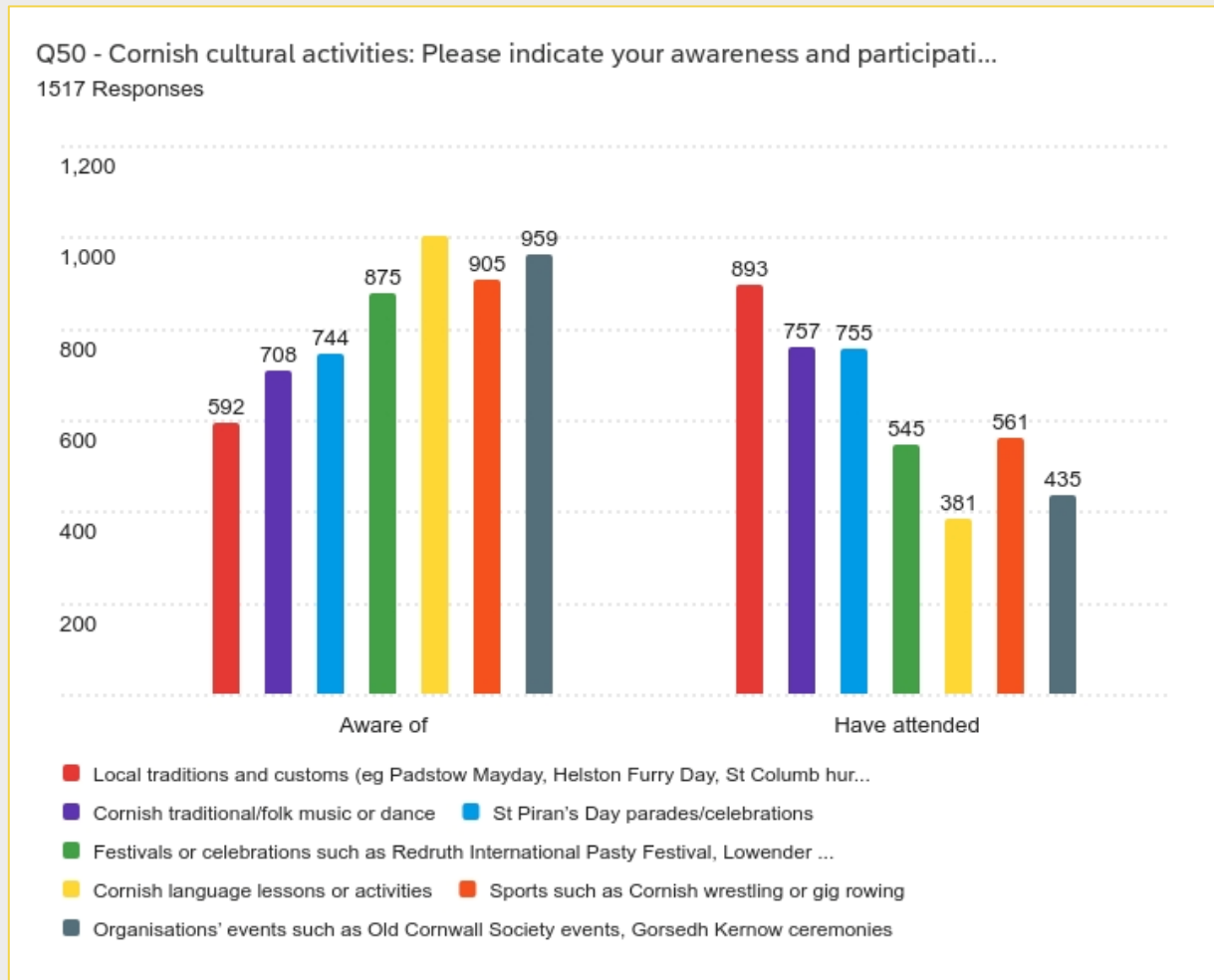


Figure 7 - Results for Question 50

Question 53 asked how respondents find out about organised activities or events concerned with Cornish culture in their area. Respondents were asked to select all that apply. Figure 8 shows the results with Figure 9 showing the Word Cloud for the free-text 'Other' responses.

The results show that social media is the most common method of finding out about events, followed closely by word of mouth. It is interesting to observe the particularly high selection rate for these methods since they are at opposite ends of the technology continuum. The Word cloud highlights radio, posters, friends, family, eMagazines, the council, church, businesses and 'by accident' as additional methods. An important method not previously mentioned is the deep inner knowledge possessed by respondents as reflected by words such as *know*, *knowledge*, *familiarity* and *exist*. The words *search*, *searches* and *google* also indicates a drive for knowledge in this area to meet need.

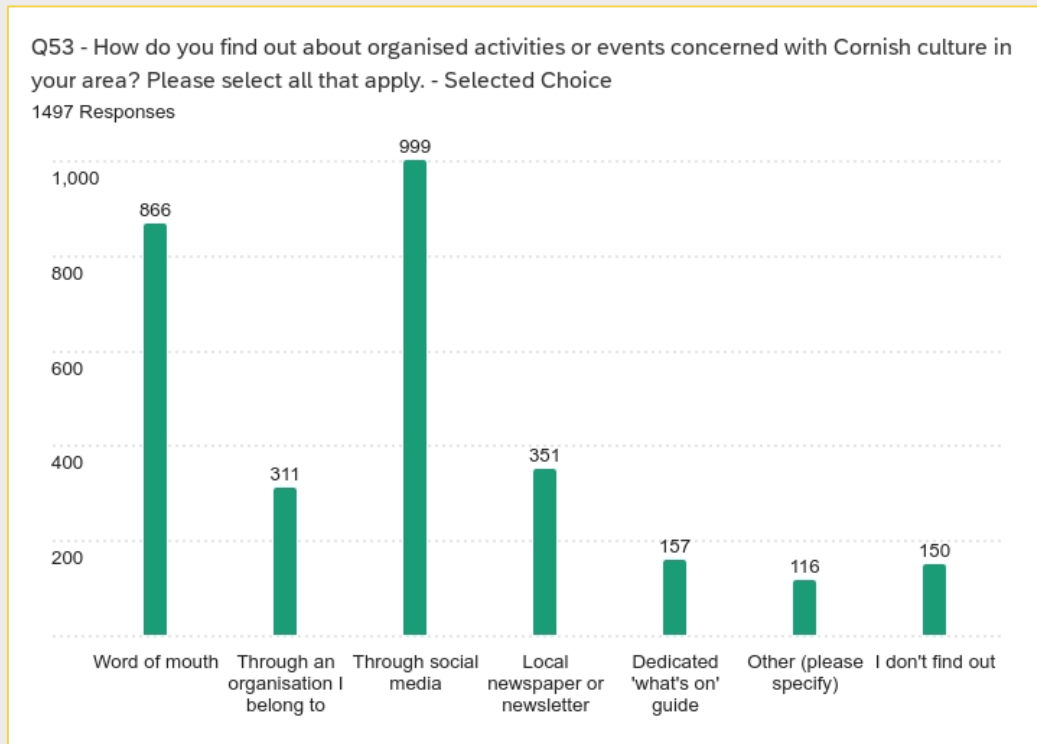


Figure 8 - Results for Question 53

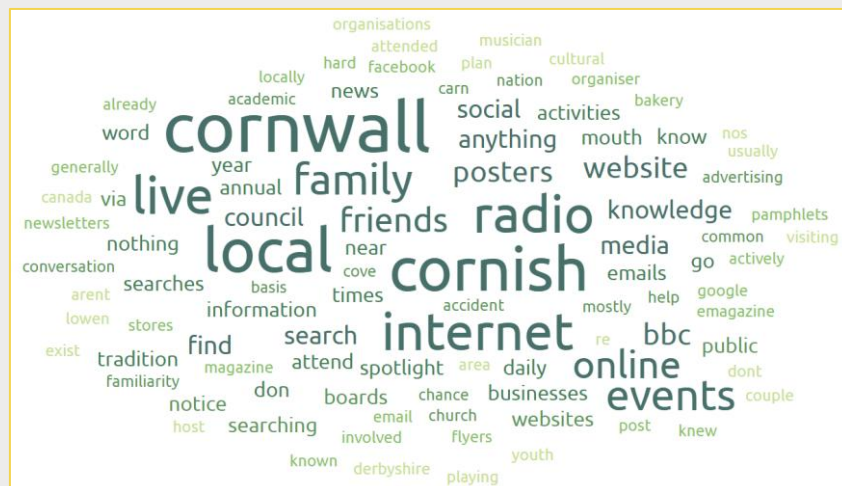


Figure 9 - Word Cloud of 'Other' responses to Qu53 (n=115)

Question 55 asked if respondents would like to go to or take part in more Cornish cultural activities and events (see Figure 10 below). The overwhelming response was 'Yes' (75%). This aligns with the results from Question 46 where 53% of respondents were unsure or disagreed with the statement 'I have plenty of opportunities to engage in Cornish culture'.

Q55 - Would you like to go to or take part in more Cornish cultural activities and events? - Selected Choice
1498 Responses

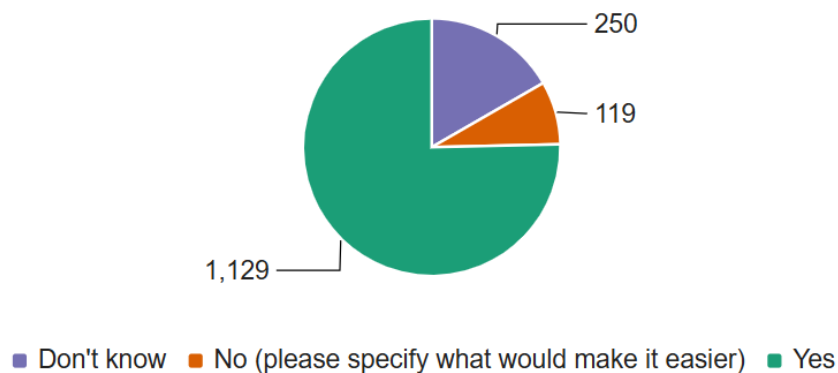


Figure 10 - Results for Question 55

There is a strong statistically significant relationship between Question 55 *Would you like to go to or take part in more cultural activities and events?* and a Question 47 which was analysed in Section 4.1 above *I think that Cornish people being recognised as a National Minority by the UK government has been positive* (p-value = 0.00001).

Chi-Squared test results below in Figure 11 show that 81% of respondents who would like to go to or take part in more cultural activities and events feel that recognition as a National Minority has been positive. This is something of a double affirmation of feelings towards the expression of Cornish culture. There is also a trend towards respondents do *not* want to go to or take part in more activities who also answered 'No' to the question about the positive effect of recognition (57.1% of respondents belonged to both groups).

Q55: Would you like to go to or t...ies and events? - Selected Choice			
Q47: I thi...nse below.	Yes	No (please specify what ...	Don't know
Yes	81.0%	26.1%	41.2%
No	3.1%	57.1%	21.6%
Not sure	15.9%	16.8%	37.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 11 - Chi-Squared test for Qu47 & Qu55

4.3 Funding and Support for Cornish culture

Four questions were asked for this section of the Survey.

60. It is important to invest in and support Cornish cultural identity and awareness *Please rate your reaction*
61. What do you think is most important for supporting Cornish culture over the next ten years?
62. Are there specific areas within Cornish culture that you believe should receive more investment and support?
63. What additional measures, if any, do you think could enhance the impact of investment and support for Cornish cultural identity and awareness?

Survey respondents were asked *Is it important to invest in and support Cornish cultural identity and awareness?* 91% of respondents agreed that it is important, with a 75% of this group strongly agreeing (n=1,384).

Similarly, the Question 61 *What do you think is most important for supporting Cornish culture over the next ten years?* yielded a clear message that long-term government investment is thought to be the primary mechanism for achieving this aim (see Figure 12 below). Participants were asked to select all options that applied. Items specified in the 'Other' category included i) making housing available so that local people can stay in Cornwall ii) making tourism sustainable in terms of mix of tenure types in villages iii) withdrawing all government funding iv) higher profile for the Cornish language.

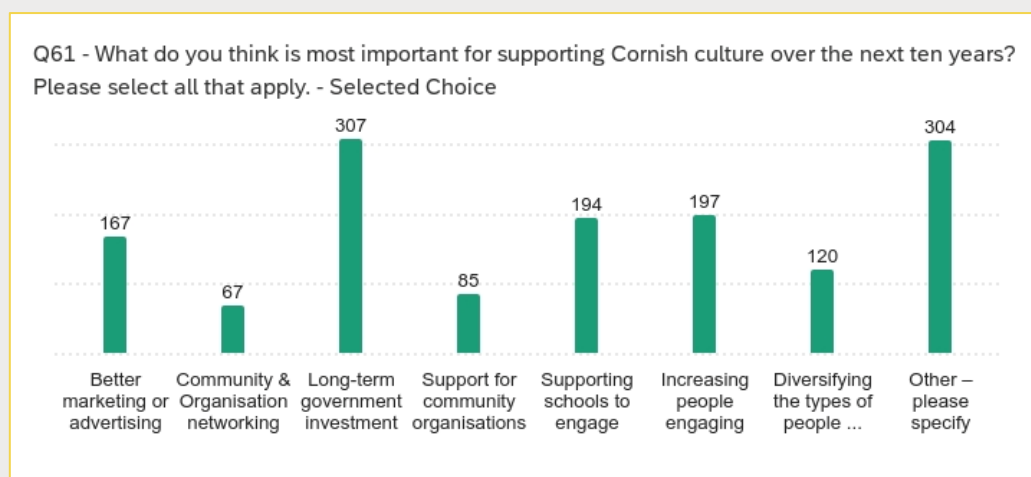


Figure 12 – Support for Cornish culture over the Next Ten Years (1,441 responses)

However, the results of the survey are nuanced and the reaction to the statement *There should be ongoing government support for Cornish culture and language to deliver publicly agreed goals and aspirations* yielded more mixed views. While there was a preponderance for agreeing with this statement (71% agreed, with 52% strongly agreeing) there may be other mechanisms for supporting Cornish cultural identity apart from *government* support. Analysis of the 'Other'

responses suggests the following methods of support: community organisations, schools (including support for Curriculum Kernewek, getting a radio or TV programme in Cornish, solving the housing crisis, creating well paid jobs, getting the youth into leadership positions, keeping Cornish graduates in Cornwall, sorting out the true constitutional status of Cornwall, widening the definition of cultural events to include landscape and place names and greater networking. The method that was heavily identified was 'all of the above'. One particular comment is worthy of reproducing here 'allowing the huge number of Cornish people who do not have the privilege to live in Cornwall and providing ways for them to meaningfully engage outside of the physical Cornish boundary'. One respondent made the point that the Cornish dialect needs parallel validation alongside the Cornish language as a feature of identity and minority status. The issue of finding alternative methods of support deserves further research to determine what those other forms of support might be.

The results for the free-text Question 62 *Are there specific areas within Cornish culture that you believe should receive more investment and support?* are shown in the Word Cloud in Figure 13.



Figure 13 - Word Cloud of responses to Qu62 (n=559)

Question 63 included a free-text response to *What additional measures, if any, do you think could enhance the impact of investment and support for Cornish cultural identity and awareness?* The answers given were broadly as follows i) raising the status of the Cornish language through greater recognition on a par with other languages such as Welsh ii) greater use of Cornish language on signs, advertising etc – ‘the more Cornish is seen, the more it will be used’ iii) greater diversity of professional job opportunities for younger people in Cornwall and access to housing iv) funding given to organisations so that they can take part in Cornish events. The Word cloud in Figure 14 gives a visual representation of the 559 responses.



Figure 14 - Word Cloud of responses to Qu63 (n=559)

5. Further Research and Recommendations

1. The sample on which the research is based is a self-selecting population who were interested enough in the topic to be motivated to complete the survey. Not all respondents were pro-Cornish but the majority were. A second survey should be developed to capture views more representative of the population of Cornwall through using a stratified sampling technique.
2. More research on the existing, large scale dataset is required to:
 - Carry out comprehensive analysis of the data beyond the rapid, headline findings captured for the purpose of this report;
 - Map the geographical locations of respondents (on a heat map for instance) and correlate with survey responses;
 - Understand the demographic characteristics of the respondents not supportive of Cornish culture in various ways;
 - Provide a focus on how younger age groups reacted to the survey questions. How do young people view their Cornish identity? How have things changed positively and negatively over the last 20-30 years, what parts of the Cornishness mean something to them, which don't they like, and what do young people see as the opportunities and barriers?;
 - Develop a methodology to explore the potential for synergies between findings from this survey with the Housing survey (SERU, Institute of Cornish Studies), despite differing study populations.
3. Develop a project proposal for submission to the University of Exeter Translational Funding programme to carry out some of this further research, the purpose of which is to 'accelerate and increase the non-academic impact of university research'. It would build on the existing relationship between Cornwall Council and UoE with a view to generate wider social or economic benefits through co-created outputs.
4. Develop the research to ask how the UK can become a place where national minorities are valued, respected and nurtured taking the current support that the UK government offers as the baseline. Explore the options for working with other national minorities such as Wales, Scotland and the Isle of Man.
5. Take steps to determine what level of awareness is there of Cornish national minority status outside of Cornwall and what this might mean;
6. Use the research findings as a starting point for discussion to engage with Cornish stakeholder groups, specifically with cultural organisations and non-cultural organisations to determine their views on existing and future confidence in Cornish identity;

6. Appendix

APPENDIX A

Full list of Survey questions as presented to respondents

Q47

I think that Cornish people being recognised as a National Minority by the UK government has been positive. *Please rate your response below.*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Q48

Did you know that Cornish people are officially recognised by the UK government as a national minority?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not sure

Q49

Do you think that the recognition of Cornish people as a National Minority has led to... *Please select all that apply.*

- ☐ Increased awareness of Cornish identity
- ☐ Increased awareness of Cornish language
- ☐ Greater awareness of rights
- ☐ Increased awareness of Cornish culture
- ☐ Increased sense of pride of place
- ☐ Greater economic benefit for Cornish businesses
- ☐ More creative and cultural opportunities
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Q50



Cornish cultural activities: *Please indicate your awareness and participation.*

	Aware of	Have attended
Local traditions and customs (eg Padstow Mayday, Helston Furry Day, St Columb hurling, Bodmin Riding, Mazey Day, Midsummer bonfires)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
St Piran's Day parades/celebrations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports such as Cornish wrestling or gig rowing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish traditional/folk music or dance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Festivals or celebrations such as Redruth International Pasty Festival, Lowender Celtic festival	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organisations' events such as Old Cornwall Society events, Gorsedh Kernow ceremonies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish language lessons or activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others (please specify) <input type="text"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q51

How often do you go to or participate in Cornish cultural activities or events?

- ☐ Weekly
- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Two or three times a year
- ☐ Yearly
- ☐ Less than yearly
- ☐ Never

Q52

What would encourage or you to attend or participate in more Cornish cultural events? *Select all that apply.*

- ☐ Features one of my personal interests (eg food, music, local tradition)
- ☐ Family friendly
- ☐ More information about what's happening at the event

Q53

How do you find out about organised activities or events concerned with Cornish culture in your area? *Please select all that apply.*

- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Through an organisation I belong to
- ☐ Through social media
- ☐ Local newspaper or newsletter
- ☐ Dedicated 'what's on' guide
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ I don't find out

Q54

Do you feel welcome to attend Cornish cultural activities or events?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (Please expand)
- ☐ Not sure

Q55

Would you like to go to or take part in more Cornish cultural activities and events?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No (please specify what would make it easier)
- ☐ Don't know

Q56



In 2024, the Government awarded Cornwall Council a grant to support a range of Cornish cultural projects through the UK government's Levelling Up funding

This section asks you about your thoughts and awareness about government support for Cornish culture, and what the priorities for supporting Cornish culture in the future should be.

The below table highlights some kinds of Cornish cultural practices or activities, and asks you to indicate your awareness or participation of these.

	Never heard of it	First heard of in 2024	Tried for first time or learned more about in 2024	Already took part in / knew about / enjoyed	Noticed, took part in or enjoyed more in 2024
Cornish language in schools (eg GoCornish)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rhyme Time in the Cornish language in libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish wrestling	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish dance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Singing in Cornish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish place names project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish dialect	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish saints project (eg St Piran)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish food (eg pasties, hevva cake, clotted cream)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q57

In 2024, have you noticed more Cornish cultural events taking place?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not sure

Q58

In 2024, have you attended more Cornish cultural events?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Q59

In 2024, have you felt more positively about Cornish cultural events?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Q60



Government funding as part of the Devolution Deal (2023-2024) supports Cornish distinctiveness, including the protection and promotion of the Cornish language.

The following questions ask for your views about how funding might contribute to a wider context of Cornish cultural identity and awareness.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
It is important to invest in and support Cornish cultural identity and awareness.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is currently not enough support for initiatives aimed at promoting Cornish culture.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Projects funded by the Devolution Deal in 2024 have contributed to the preservation and promotion of Cornish traditions, language, and heritage.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish cultural initiatives do NOT help support people to develop new skills.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cornish cultural initiatives helps develop community cohesion and sense of place.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Funding for Cornish cultural initiatives does NOT help to boost the local economy by attracting both local attendees and tourists.

There should be ongoing government support for Cornish culture and language to deliver publicly agreed goals and aspirations.

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Q61

What do you think is most important for supporting Cornish culture over the next ten years? *Please select all that apply.*

- ☐ Better marketing or advertising of Cornish events to both locals and visitors
- ☐ Facilitating cooperation and networking between communities and organisations
- ☐ Long-term government investment
- ☐ Support for community organisations
- ☐ Supporting schools to engage with Cornish culture
- ☐ Increasing the numbers of people engaging with Cornish culture
- ☐ Diversifying the types of people engaging with Cornish culture
- ☐ Other – please specify

Q62



Are there specific areas within Cornish culture that you believe should receive more investment and support? *Please specify below.*

Q63



What additional measures, if any, do you think could enhance the impact of investment and support for Cornish cultural identity and awareness? *Please specify below.*