



Scotland's Climate Assembly: Research Data Briefing – Weekend 1

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Introduction

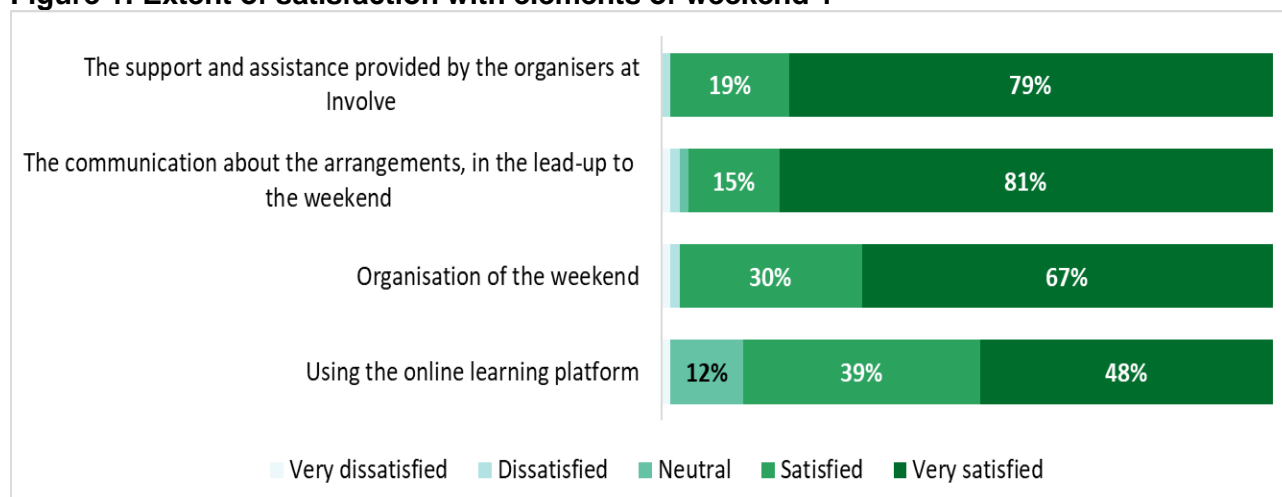
This briefing describes data generated from research activities undertaken during the first weekend of Scotland's Climate Assembly. Assembly members were invited to participate in the research and 75 members provided research consent. This briefing includes data from 67 members who completed an online survey after the weekend. This equates to 68% of members who attended the first weekend. Further technical information is provided in Appendix A. Women are over-represented in our sample, and possibly those more concerned about climate change.¹ The briefing also draws on data from 52 pages (26,000 words) of observational fieldnotes taken by two members of the research team. All plenary sessions over the weekend were observed live and video-recordings of selected small- group discussions on the Sunday were watched after the weekend. The data provided in this briefing aims to support learning and continuous improvement over the course of the Assembly, which is one of the aims of the research programme.

Members' satisfaction and experience of participating online

After the first weekend, over 95% of respondents were 'very satisfied', or 'satisfied', with the support and assistance provided by Involve (assembly organisers); communication about arrangements; and organisation of the weekend. In relation to using the online learning platform, 87% were 'very satisfied', or 'satisfied'. Free text comments and observations during the weekend indicated that some members experienced difficulties using the online platform; not all members were able to access the Zoom link and instead were sent a direct link for the meeting. One member commented "*There were a few glitches with using the LMS to link to the webinars but everything required was communicated*". Appendix B provides a selection of the free text comments.

¹ This is based on a comparison of our survey data prior to weekend 1 of SCA with the recruitment survey. It is possible that members have become more concerned about climate change since recruitment.

Figure 1: Extent of satisfaction with elements of weekend 1



Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=67

Table 1 shows the proportion of respondents who had used different devices to participate in the first weekend of Scotland’s Climate Assembly.

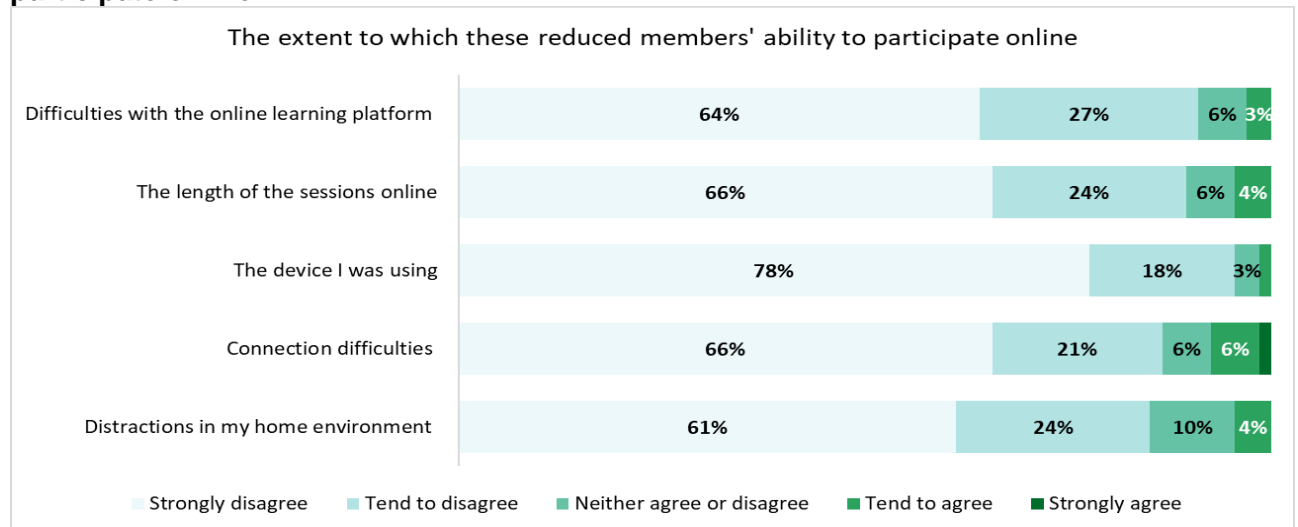
Table 1: Proportion of respondents participating with different devices in weekend 1

Device	% of respondents
Computer/laptop with video camera	82%
Tablet/iPad	15%
Computer/laptop without video camera	3%
Smartphone	0%
Mobile Phone	0%
Other	0%
Landline	0%

Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=67

In the first weekend, 7% ‘strongly agreed’, or ‘tended to agree’, that connection difficulties reduced their ability to participate. Comments in the online survey highlighted that some members experienced connection or other technical difficulties. For example, one member commented *“I felt it was pretty well managed with support offered regularly for those who needed it. Glitches happened but are expected using technology. For me the important thing was that glitches were solved with relative ease.”* Observations during the weekend highlighted some variation among members in levels of confidence and experience of participating online. However, the support team appeared to be actively involved in resolving issues as quickly as possible.

Figure 2: The extent to which different elements reduced respondents' ability to participate online

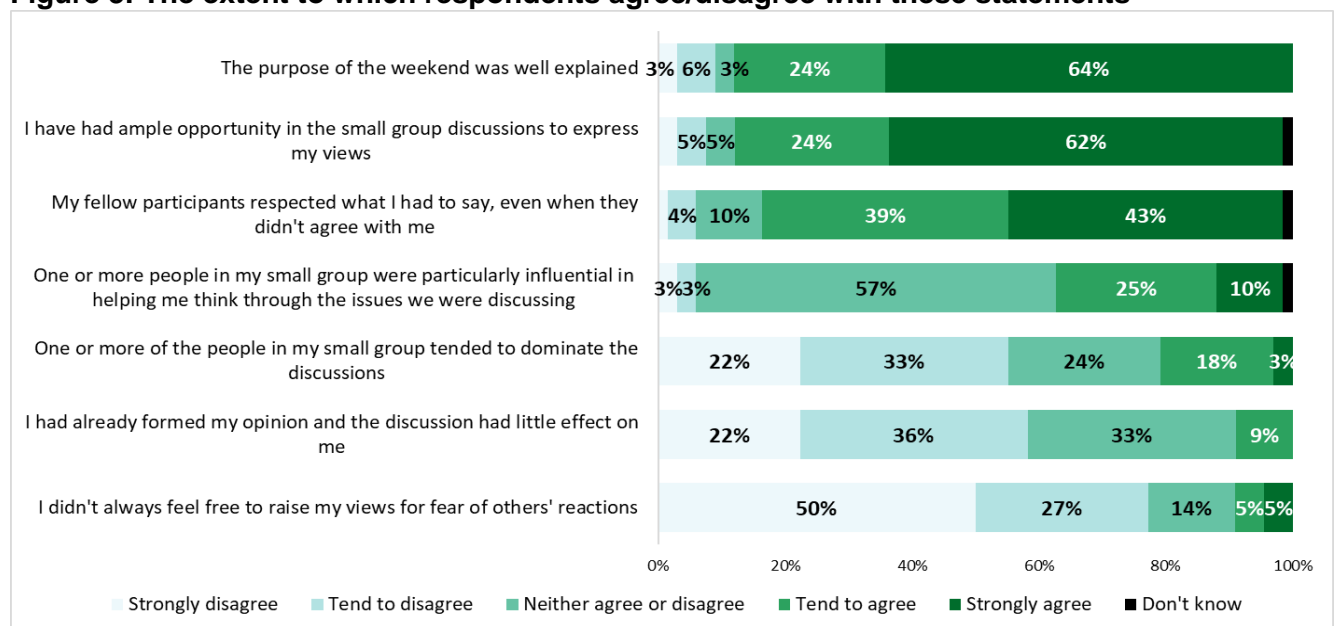


Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=67

Small group dynamics and experience of facilitators

The online survey asked about members' experience of working in their small groups with other members and their facilitator. At the end of weekend 1, 86% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that they had ample time to express their views and 8% 'strongly disagreed', or 'tended to disagree'. In addition, 21% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that one or more people in their small group tended to dominate the discussion, while 55% 'strongly disagreed', or 'tended to disagree'. Further, 9% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', with the statement 'I didn't always feel free to raise my views for fear of others' reactions' and 77% 'strongly disagreed', or 'tended to agree'.

Figure 3: The extent to which respondents agree/disagree with these statements

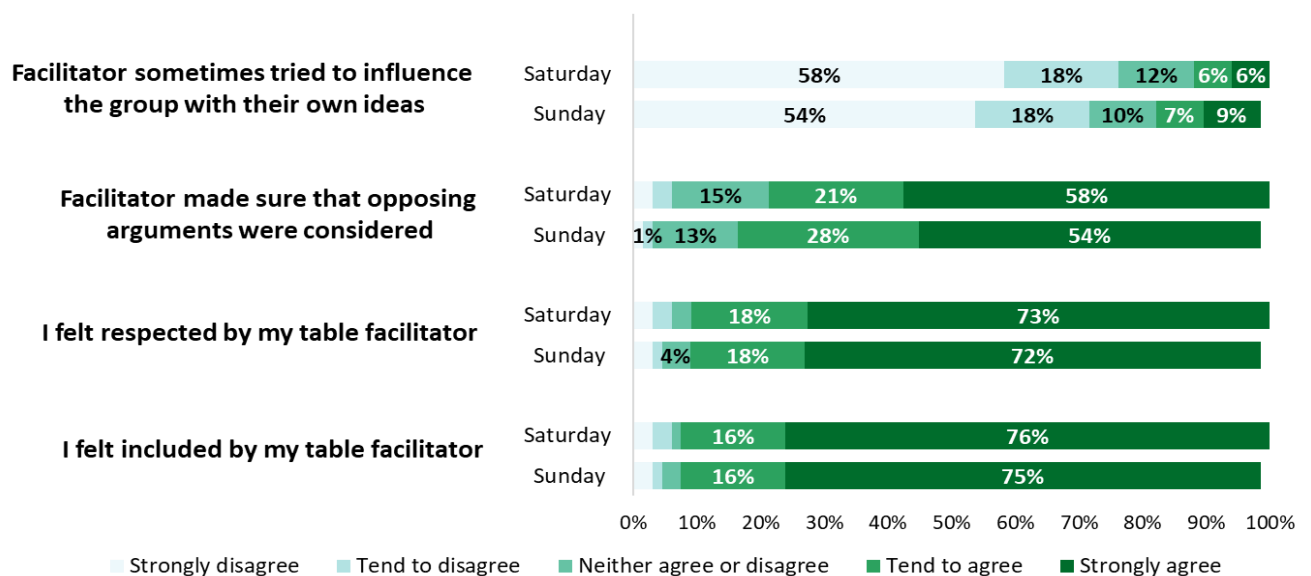


Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=66-67

Members were asked about their experience of working with both their Saturday and Sunday breakout room facilitator. Over 90% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree' that they had felt included and respected by their facilitator on both days of the weekend. However, 12% and 16% on the Saturday and Sunday respectively, 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that their facilitator had sometimes tried to influence the group with their own ideas. Free-text comments from members highlighted positive experiences of their breakout room facilitator. For example, *"Both were very friendly and I think ensured that other members of the group who had perhaps not been as vocal were included in the discussions."* On the other hand, members also raised concerns e.g. *"Felt like there was too much going on for the facilitators to be able to do a good job with ensuring that all points have been noted down, making sure that everyone has had a chance to talk, keeping the balance in the group etc. It doesn't give me confidence that everything we have said has been taken into account. I understand there are guidelines, but if this is an assembly which is entirely dependent on the voices of the people, then it should be a priority to ensure all is heard"*.

The small group discussions mainly involved members discussing the presentations and videos and identifying questions for speakers that were present. Observation data showed most members in the groups appeared enthusiastic and there were high levels of engagement by members in the breakout room discussions. Facilitators were seen to make active attempts to ensure all members had an opportunity to contribute to the discussions but did not regularly encourage members to explain or justify their views. In some breakout group sessions the discussions were constrained by the time made available. The facilitators took notes of discussions; these were not always seen to be shared visually with members and instead facilitators provided a verbal summary of what they had noted to the group.

Figure 4: Respondents' views of facilitators during weekend 1



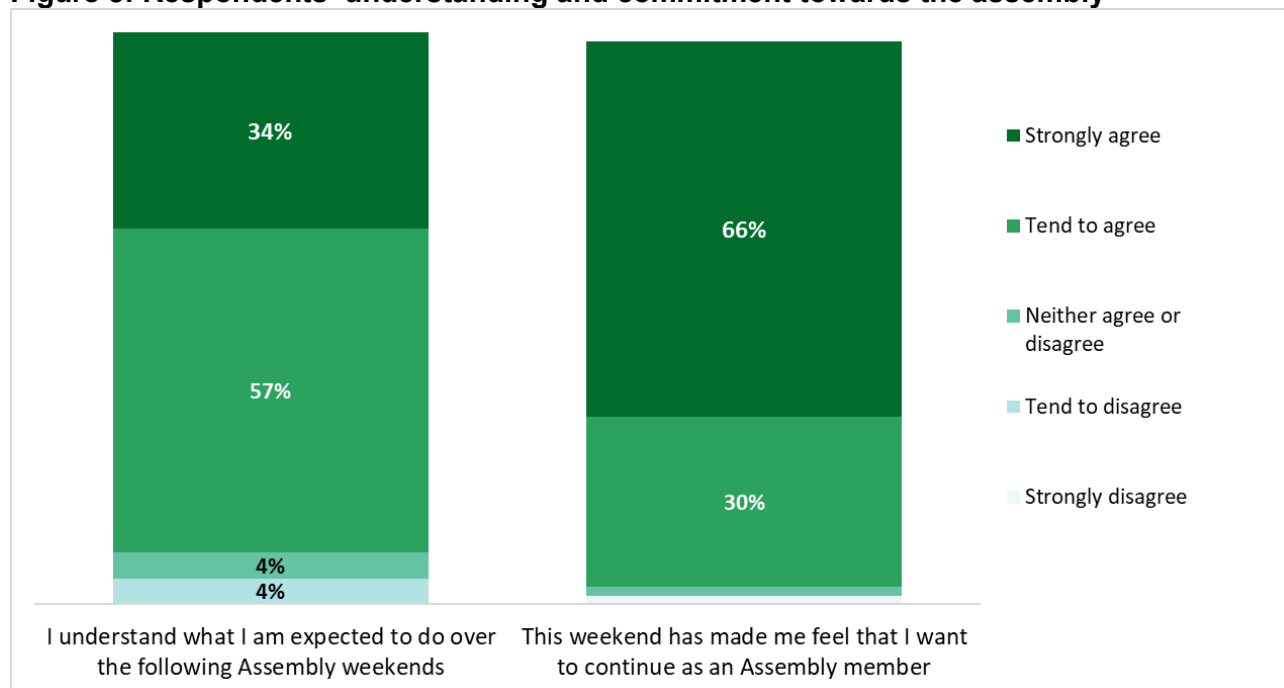
Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=66-67

Overall engagement and attitudes towards the Assembly

After the first weekend, 100% of members who responded to the survey reported that they intended to participate in the next Assembly weekend and 96% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that the weekend had made them want to continue as an Assembly member. Overall, 91% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that they understood what was expected of them in the following Assembly weekend and 4% 'strongly disagreed', or 'tended to disagree'.

From the observation data, it was evident across both, the plenary sessions and the observed breakout groups that there was a high level of engagement and interest from members throughout the weekend. The majority of members had their video camera on for the duration of the weekend, including during plenary sessions. Observations indicated that gender balance in participation within both the plenary activities and breakout rooms was achieved. The second plenary feedback session achieved better gender balance with 6 groups represented by women and 7 groups represented by men compared to the first session where there was more women giving group feedback. There were also fewer facilitators feeding back on behalf of their group in the second plenary session.

Figure 5: Respondents' understanding and commitment towards the assembly



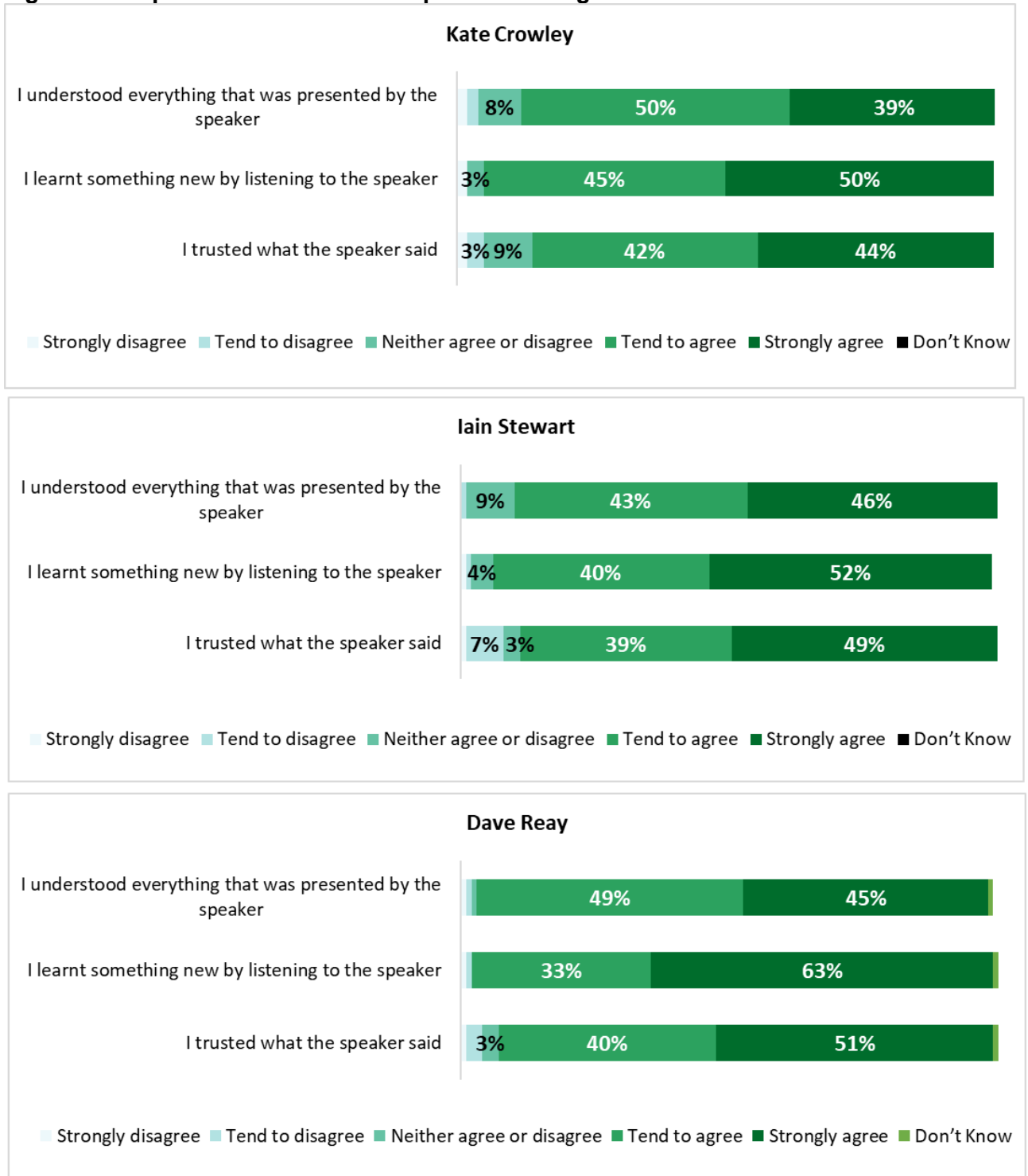
Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=67

Experience of evidence sessions

The majority of presentations from speakers this weekend were pre-recorded videos. The survey invited members to reflect on their experience of the speakers. Figure 6 shows that 89% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that they understood what had been presented by Kate Crowley and Iain Stewart, and 94% felt this in relation

to Dave Reay. Over 90% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that they had learnt something new by listening to all 3 speakers and over 80% 'strongly agreed', or 'tended to agree', that they trusted what had been said by all 3 speakers (ranging from 86% for Kate Crowley and 91% for Dave Reay).

Figure 6: Respondents views on the speakers during weekend 1



Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base: n=66-67

Observations noted that the recorded presentations had consistently high production values but there were issues with the quality of the audio of some of the videos. This interrupted the flow of the presentation and the captions were not always visible throughout. Where slides were used in videos, these at times moved too quickly to fully digest the content, particularly information in graphs and charts. In addition, the spotlight function of Zoom did not always work as intended. For example at one point a member was shown on spotlight alongside the video presentation. Some feedback from facilitators indicated that members were keen to re-watch the videos and some members would have preferred copies of the material in advance of the weekend.

Members also took the opportunity to express their experience of the evidence sessions via free text comments in the online survey. Responses revealed positive experiences of the content of the presentations e.g. “...*Excellent presentations from the evidencers, [sic] providing the context for the assembly to begin to understand and discuss the pressing issues...*” but also some dissatisfaction e.g. “*I understand the need to lead in with presentations on how to listen etc, however this began to feel a little patronising and I now feel that there needs to be strong focus on information. Sunday began to achieve that, with good presentations by the scientists, however I thought the point about the many factors that contribute to change could have been made much more clearly and succinctly and that the tape about rock and roll was not really appropriate as time is precious.*” Appendix B provides a selection of free text responses alongside all practical feedback from members relating to the evidence sessions and the Assembly process more generally.

The observation notes helped to highlight aspects of the Q&A sessions. Members were able to have questions answered in plenary discussions with some of the leads from the Evidence Group, or by requesting an evidence lead to join a breakout group discussion. Facilitators canvassed questions for speakers within the breakout discussions. However, the questions recorded were not always visible to members. The questions that were answered in the plenary Q&A were selected by one of the evidence leads. It was not always clear what the specific question was and the evidence leads responsible for the Q&A tended to summarise the question in their own words, rather than the words of the assembly members. The answers that were given often related to a broad theme, rather than to a specific question raised. Evidence leads were not always able to answer the questions that were asked when they joined breakout groups and said they would get back to members with an answer. The time evidence leads had available in any breakout group was limited; the leads moved quickly from one group to another as requests came in from groups.



Appendix A: Profile of Members completing post-weekend 1 Survey

Characteristic	Category	Post weekend 1 Survey
		% of respondents
Gender	Man	44.3%
	Woman	54.1%
	In another way	1.6%
Age	16-21	6.6%
	22-29	11.5%
	30-44	26.2%
	45-59	27.9%
	60-74	24.6%
	75+	3.3%
Which of these statements, if any, comes closest to your own view about climate change?	Climate change is an immediate and urgent problem	77%
	Climate change is more of a problem for the future	13.1%
	Climate change is not really a problem	1.6%
	I'm still not convinced that climate change is happening	3.3%
	None of these	4.9%
	Don't know	0%

Source: Post-weekend 1 Member Survey; Base = 61

Recruitment Statistics: Confirmed membership of the Assembly

Characteristic	Category	Confirmed selected membership
Gender	Male	46.7%
	Female	51.4%
	Other	1.9%
Age	16-18	4.8%
	19-24	9.5%
	25-29	5.7%
	30-44	23.8%
	45-64	32.4%
	65+	23.8%
Which of these statements, if any, comes closest to your own view about climate change?	Climate change is an immediate and urgent problem	67.6%
	Climate change is more of a problem for the future	14.3%
	Climate change is not really a problem	3.8%
	I'm still not convinced that climate change is happening	6.7%
	None of these	-
	Don't know	7.6%

Source: Sortition Foundation: Scotland's Climate Assembly Recruitment Report, located at: <https://www.climateassembly.scot/how-it-works/how-are-members-selected>

Appendix B: Selection of responses to open-text questions

Do you have any other comments about your ability to participate this weekend? (Source: Post Weekend 1 Member Questionnaire)

Experience of using the online hub	Once I had ironed out a slight log in issue using the hub it was easy to log on for the Climate Assembly
	Although initially the log-in to day one did not work, this was quickly resolved. No real issues.
	The online platform (access to surveys, etc.) is a little confusing at times.
	The online learning platform worked well, on the whole, although there were a couple of instances where using the links to join the Zoom call did not work. Having said that, this was addressed quickly and we were provided with working links by email and sent texts to remind us how to join
Technical difficulties	Had difficulties connecting to the first zoom call but that's all :)
	There were times when I was unable to hear individuals clearly. I do not think that this was related to my connection but rather that these were very soft spoken people and/or there were issues with their microphones as they were very soft, then very loud! This wasn't a major problem but it did occur.
	My internet connection dropped briefly near the end of Sunday's session and I missed some of the group summing up statements. Frustratingly, this is the one thing which isn't available to re-watch on the hub!
	My problems largely arise from fault with phone line
Generally positive	I found it to be educational and informative.
	I thought it ran smooth with no disruptions
	I felt it was pretty well managed with support offered regularly for those who needed it. Glitches happened but are expected using technology. For me the important thing was that glitches were solved with relative ease.
	Very organized, the support team were excellent, just great
Timings	My only comment would be a clarification on the login process and timings and process at your end. On Saturday's session I was let in by host after the meeting had started and on Sunday it was with about 5-8 minutes to go even though I'd logged in/joined meeting at least 15 minutes before the planned start. I appreciate that if every attendee has to be manually let in to the meeting then that takes time. Bottom Line: I'm sure it's a transitory issue so no great problem to me now.
	Only one small point. When we went over on Sunday by 10-15 mins. It would have been helpful to be told we would start the same amount of time later after the lunch break. I was aware how important the break time is to recharge. Information to retain is plentiful. Overall I really enjoyed the process. The breakout facilitators were excellent both days for me. I was sorry not to connect on Monday. Life at home & work just now very busy. Thanks.

Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about your experience of taking part this weekend? (Source: Post Weekend 1 Member Questionnaire)

Generally positive	The weekend (session one) was interesting & informative. I had such an amazing time brainstorming and working collectively together to achieve the desired goals of the assembly. There were brilliant & explicit presentations from all participants and the evidence group. Everyone in the secretariat were simply amazing, and worked tirelessly in making sure everyone's needs (technical) were met. It was indeed, a satisfactory experience and I look forward with great enthusiasm to my participation in weekend two.
	Am really enjoying it. ..learning more as a go ...for this important topic
	Heard a lot of interesting facts
	I have been continuously impressed with the amount of support and control going on in the Main Room, it's very well organised and timings have been well kept.
Personal reflections	As I have never participated in anything like this before. I really did feel energised and excited that I can help to make an important input to the Assembly.
	I have gain more knowledge regarding climate change, and its make me question what i can do personal to help.
	I am delighted to be involved in Scotland's Climate Assembly and the first weekend exceeded my expectations in how much I expected to enjoy it. I felt like I had chance to be heard in my groups and, although I was nervous, enjoyed the opportunity to challenge myself by speaking for my group on Saturday, within the broader assembly arena. I didn't realise how passionate I am about these issues and how much knowledge I have already about how climate change affects Scotland and about what is already being done. I found that there was a great deal of wisdom and common sense among the assembly members. It was wonderful to find out about and hear from the Children's Climate Assembly and I'm so glad that their thinking and opinions are to be included.
	Thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend... certainly got the old grey matter working, was a bit tired at the attend of the weekend, but in a good way, its a long time since I took part in anything quite as intense. All of the organisers involved were marvellous, friendly, patient and kind. It was also excellent meeting up with others from all over the country, intera tinb [sic] with them and sharing their viewpoint. Well done to everybody.
Satisfaction with evidence/ learning	I found that that Iain Stewart as communications lead was charming but evasive and tried to shut down questions about issues that he himself raised but which he either didn't want to answer or was unable to answer. Many of the videos were overly simplistic. The breakout groups didn't get enough time with experts.
	I found most of the weekend not detailed enough. I look forward to going into more detail in future weekends
	I like the concept but it seems tainted by bias from the start. I hope to be proven wrong as it's too important a subject to give up on.
	I enjoyed our meetings with evidence from various sources and am very aware of how much more there is to learn on the subject. I was also impressed by the children's assembly and they also put across points that I was previously unaware. I look forward to the next weekend

Practical feedback	Perhaps it may be advantageous keeping the groups in the breakout rooms the same individuals for a few sessions, this may through familiarity with each other, foster more confidence and lead to more involvement in discussions.
	There was a lot of information given in presentations which is difficult to absorb in one sitting. Although the presentations are available on the web after the meetings, I would prefer to be given reading material as "homework" prior to a meeting.
	I found it very distracting trying to read what a presenter is saying on some video clips (white text against light background). Also the music in the background of some of the videos is a bit loud (Children's Parliament). The Children's Parliament video was too quick to catch some of the text - I will pop into the hub and review. Overall, it was a very interesting weekend and I have learned lots and have lots to learn. I think I would have been less inclined to agree to this process if it was face-to-face as I am shy. Also travel time would/could be a problem. Looking forward to weekend 2."
	Looking very much forward to the following weekends and learning more. Just a suggestion I feel that the lunch break is too long would rather it be 3/4hour an hr at the most. A big thanks to all who put a lot of work in to this weekend.
	Regular break in the morning and afternoon would be great
	Speaking in the break out rooms was a bit intimidating at first (just like any speaking event with new people) but as time goes on this will be less so, which in turn will improve everybody's enjoyment. I think in the break out rooms it might be beneficial if we had the topic or question that we are dealing with on screen if possible (more for me probably :) as this would keep the topic fresh in everyone's minds."
	on the online hub, once you have commented on a post you are automatically subscribed to the thread, and receive an email notification for every comment on that thread. This is quite annoying, especially as there seems to be no way to unsubscribe from these emails. Consequently, the introduction post which everyone was encouraged to comment on has caused everyone to receive about 100 emails. These settings should at least be easy to change, if not changed to default to not sending email notifications.
	I appreciated the extra ten minute breaks built into the Sunday programme - just gives a chance to move around etc between sessions.