

Dispensations for Members Declaration of Interests Feedback

FINAL OUTCOME

Week 3: Monday 19 June 2023

Overall Responses

Date	Number of Responses	Total	Total Percentage Response
5 May 2023	23	23	34%
12 May 2023	15	38	57%
19 May 2023	8	46	69%

Final Results

Total final responses: 47 Members (70%)



Final Outcome: Members in favour of applying a blanket policy by 1 vote (24 members). 23 members believe the Council should make no changes to the way it currently applies dispensations



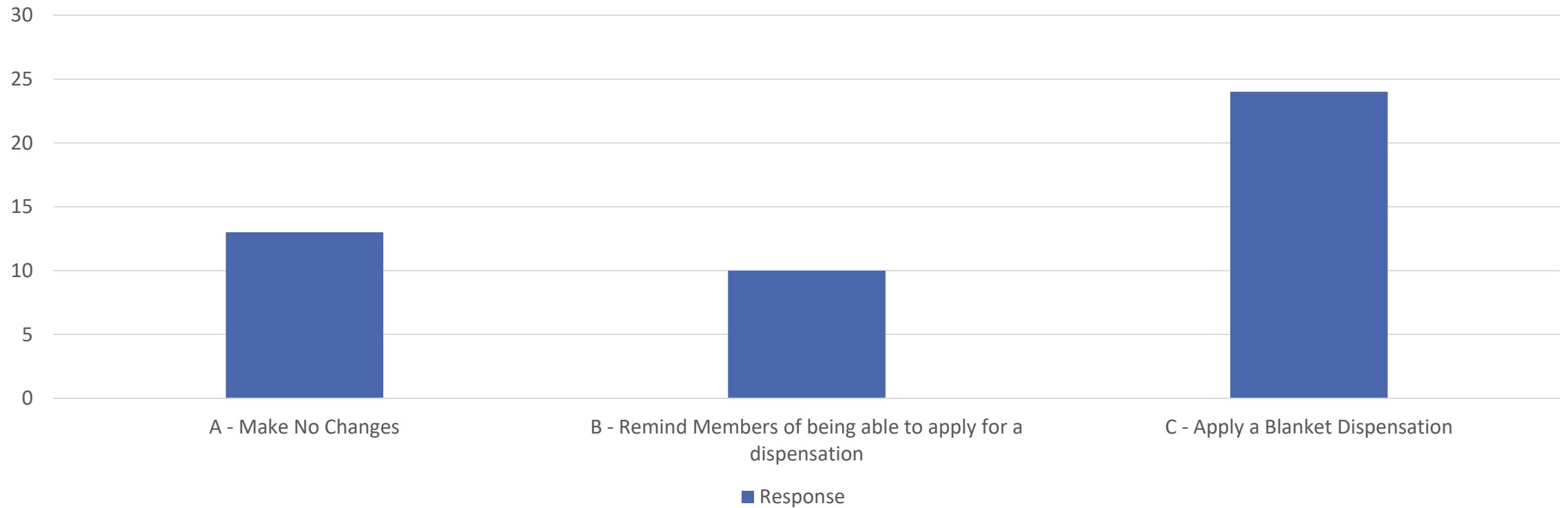
Breakdown by option:

A) 13

B) 10

C) 24

Response



Comments or suggestions

“Same for voting and campaign literature for parties. It needs to be optional for councillors. MPs don't have to so why us?”

“Since being elected I have received a number of letters to my home address. None of these have any details of the sender. They all contain rather strange materials around conspiracy theories, religious groups etc. Receiving these has made my partner more anxious”

“It is easy to find where a Cllr will be at a certain time e.g at official meetings and their families / property could be subjected to criminal acts. It serves no purpose to make public home addresses or other info that may ID family members”

“I have a child at home to consider and many members may have children in their home at times, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews etc. Some may also have vulnerable adults in their home too. Prevention is better than reacting to an awful situation, should one occur. Better to be safe than sorry”

“Anyone is likely to be able to find where you live by other means”

“I'm not sure of the value of publishing addresses these days as most contact from residents is via email, phone or social media apps. I get maybe 1 or 2 letters to my house each year from residents so I would also be perfectly happy with option C. Presumably the council could forward on or scan in any letters sent via county hall?”

“I've never really had any problems in over 30 years. However, I can understand that some members may be nervous.”

“If only some councillors have their addresses removed, they could be targeted. It should be a blanket policy”

I'd be happy with any of these options, but I've gone for option 3 because I've noticed that the small number of interactions that I have with members of the public on my doorstep are almost always the types of interactions that I would prefer not to have. They've never been threatening, but I've certainly felt that my time was being wasted. One person harassed me quite badly in 2022. The difference between options 1 and 2 seems minimal. Are you in danger of splitting the “don't apply a blanket policy” (i.e. not option 3) vote?

Comments or suggestions

Please do not give my private mobile number

I have previously been comfortable with having my address visible to others, however more recently the levels of abuse and comments have noticeably increased. I have previously had unpleasant anonymous post to my old address as well as vandalism to my vehicle. My concern is for the welfare of my family with children and grandchildren, and for that reason I feel it may be more appropriate today to now remove these personal details for the safety of all involved.

CONFIDENTIAL. I have already requested personal dispensation a few months' ago but the present MO was not in favour. The police are aware of my position. Please ignore my highlights as I had to complete to inform.

I see limited point in not disclosing such things. Most are eventually found via google, companies house, charity commission pages etc. It just makes it look like there is something to hide when there is not

The information would still be declared so there is no issue with transparency - I fully support the City of Westminster Council's approach.

As I have had people turning up on my doorstep. I believe the addresses should not appear on the website. No other role would it be acceptable to put home addresses online and available to anyone who wants to send things or turn up. We talk about members safety and I personally believe there is no need for anyone to contact me at home. We have phones, email and the contact address should be care of County hall.

Most cllrs share their mobile numbers etc, so there is no risk of not being able to get in touch with the member. The question remains - our addresses are shown on notice of poll, ballot papers etc and are these also going to be changed?

Timeline

