



## The Status of the Radiation Safety Culture within the Higher Education, Research and Teaching Sectors in the UK

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### Why was this research undertaken?

We wanted to illuminate the status of the radiation safety culture in the UK higher education, research and teaching sectors. The impetus came from the work of the International Radiation Protection Association and their emphasis on embedding radiation safety culture within an organisation as the most effective way of delivering the standards of radiation safety and security that society expects.

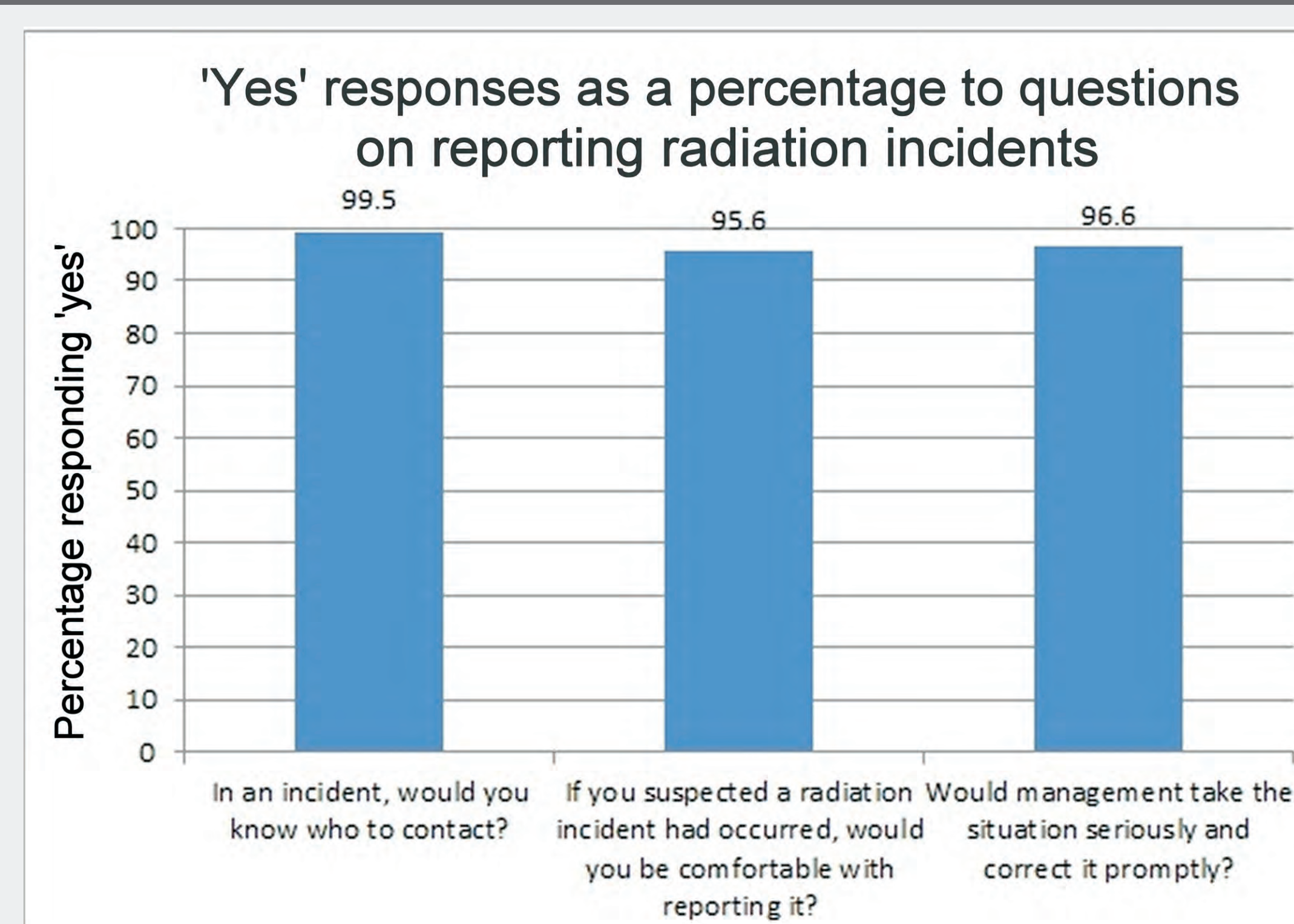
### How did we do it?

We used the JISC BOS online survey tool to run a questionnaire aimed at universities and research organisations. It covered six topics to obtain an insight into current radiation safety culture in the sector, not of safety performance itself: The six topics were: the respondents' roles; training; understanding incident management; personal dosimetry; personal protection and personal protective equipment; and general awareness.

### The scope of the survey

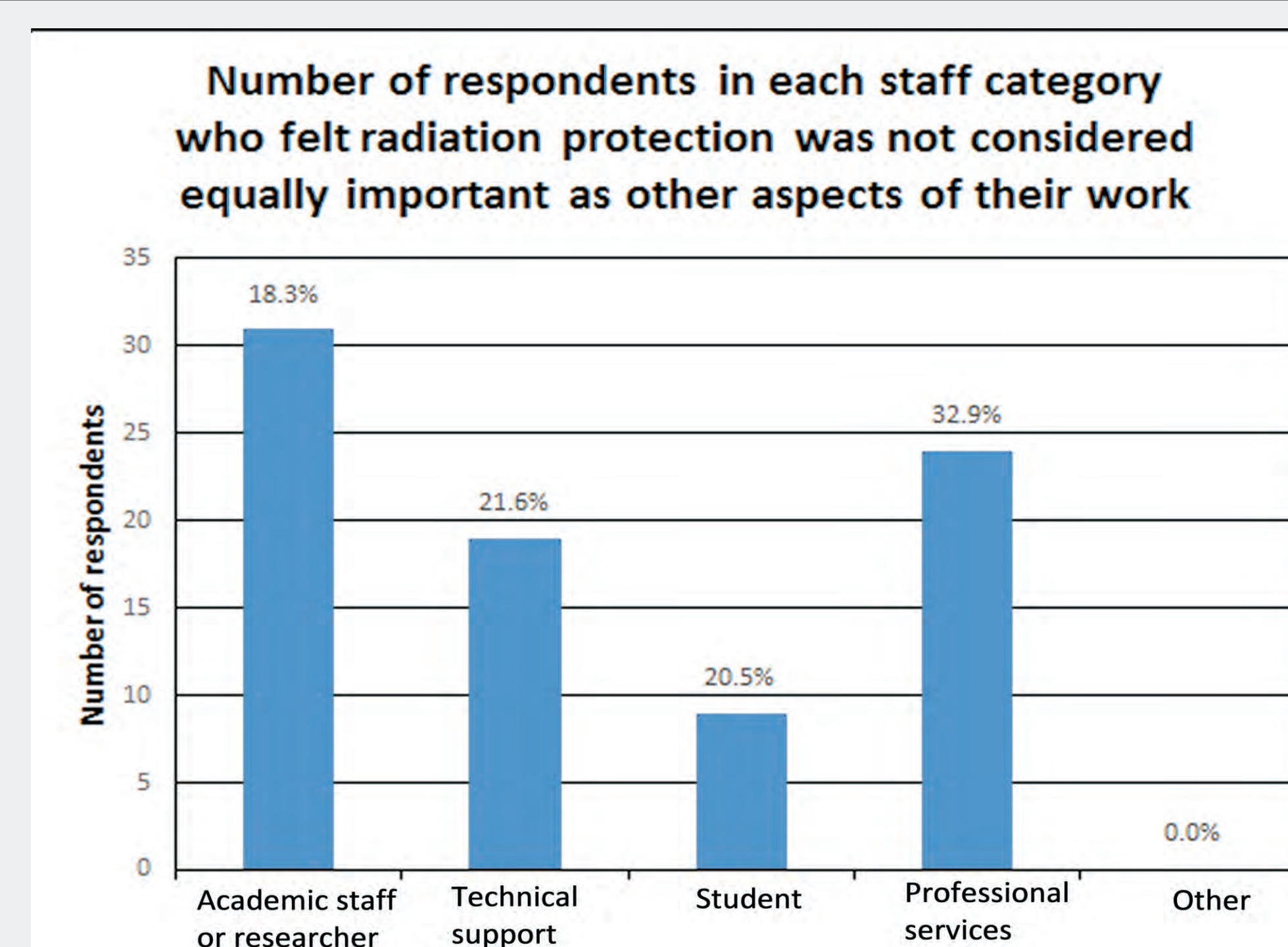
The survey included people working with ionising and non-ionising radiations and all categories of workers, eg researchers, students and technical staff. It collected neither personal information nor any information that could identify the respondent's organisation.

### A. What we found: the reassuring



The overwhelming response was positive to the three questions on reporting radiation incidents.

### B. What we found: the disconcerting



This research revealed the patchy nature of radiation safety culture and the concerning way radiation protection is carried out in some organisations. It suggests a significant failure to engage with those who work with radiation sources, and a perception that radiation protection is secondary to other work. Many respondents flagged work targets, lack of time, and working conditions as factors.