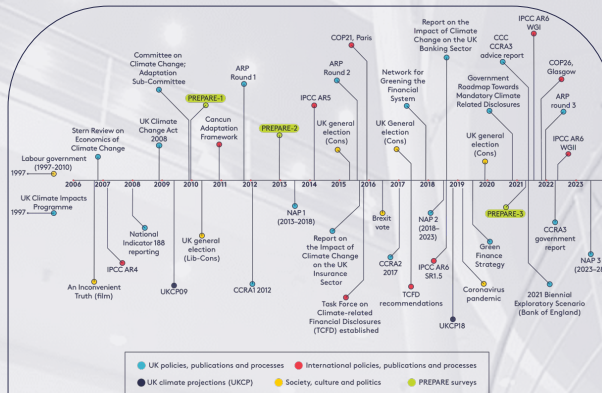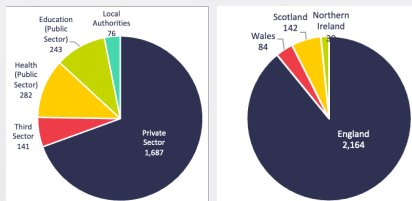# *Organisational preparedness for the physical risks of climate change in the UK*: Denyse S. Dookie, Declan Conway & Suraje Dessai

Research Scope

To gather and analyse perspectives and challenges of adaptation within a wide range of organisations, including the private sector, towards improved awareness of challenges and targeted solutions for organisations within the broader scope of perceptions of climate change and adaptation.

Building on PREPARE

- Defra's 2012/2013 Programme of Research on Preparedness, Adaptation and Risk (PREPARE) designed to support UK adaptation policy and included component on organisational capacity (also done in 2009/2010).
- In 2021, survey revisited with additional focus on climate information and adaptive capacity (funded by ESRC CCCEP and Research England).
- Survey conducted online using market research company, targeting respondents based on function/title in organisational planning.
- 5 sectors (private, public education, public health, local government authorities, third/charities); 4 UK nations; 2,429 respondents (post quality control)
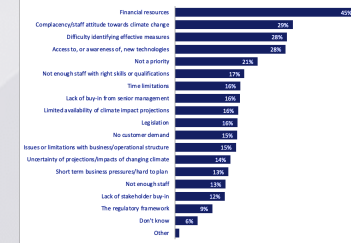

Graphic illustrates wide-ranging policy landscape and societal influences, which could possibly affect respondent perspectives.

Headline Findings: Risks and Threats

- Top concern was pandemic, followed by economic downturn; 58% listed effects of climate change in the UK as key concern.
- Localised flooding from rainfall and coastal flooding considered large threat for many.
- 58% felt impacts of at least one type of extreme event; 21% experienced intense heatwave and/or heavy downpour/localised flooding.
- Impacts of events mostly negative, with effects on their workforce/customers or premises. Impacts felt quite quickly (days to weeks) after the event for 69% but took up to a year for 28%.

Headline Findings: Planning for Adaptation

- 67% offered that their organisation has at least started to think about planning, but 19% not yet thought about it, and 10% do not plan to.

- Graph (*right*) shows key barrier to organisational response is finance and overall need for improved awareness.

- Respondents largely felt UK government, followed by international community, responsible for managing the impacts of climate change
- Government support could include: more information about climate change effects in UK; funding, subsidies or tax breaks; better demonstration of impacts on different types of organisations; more certainty and less jargon.

Next Steps

- See 2021 Policy Report for more details and recommendations. Ongoing analysis to better understand data and factors of adaptation.
- Contact us for more information: Denyse S. Dookie (GRI/LSE) d.dookie@lse.ac.uk