



Conservation & Adaptation: Analysis of Responses to the City of Edinburgh Council Public Consultation

Dr W. Victoria Lee
Lecturer in Architecture and Environment
Edinburgh School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture




THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

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Background

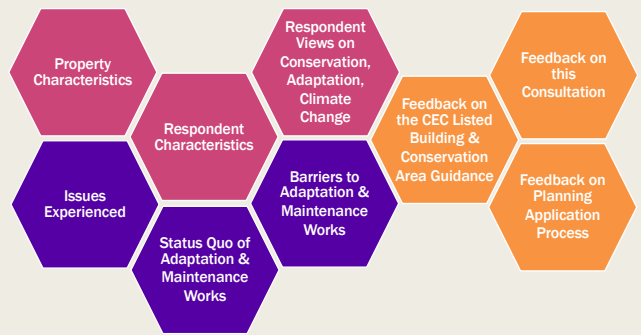


<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/conservation-adaptation2023/>

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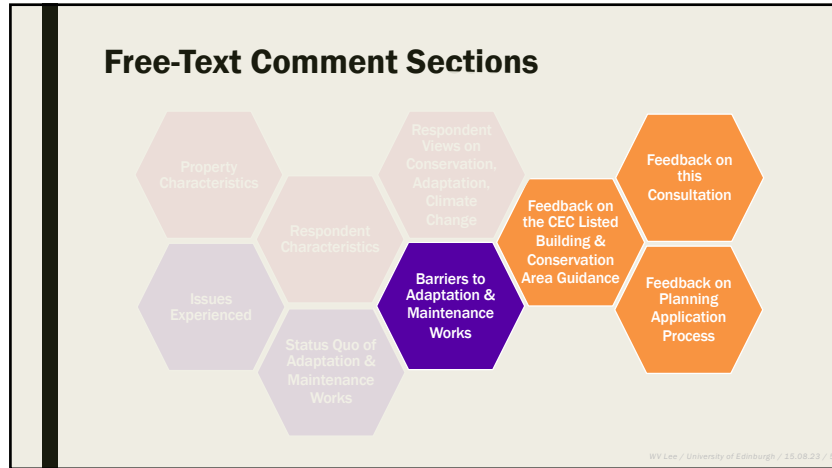
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What the survey asks

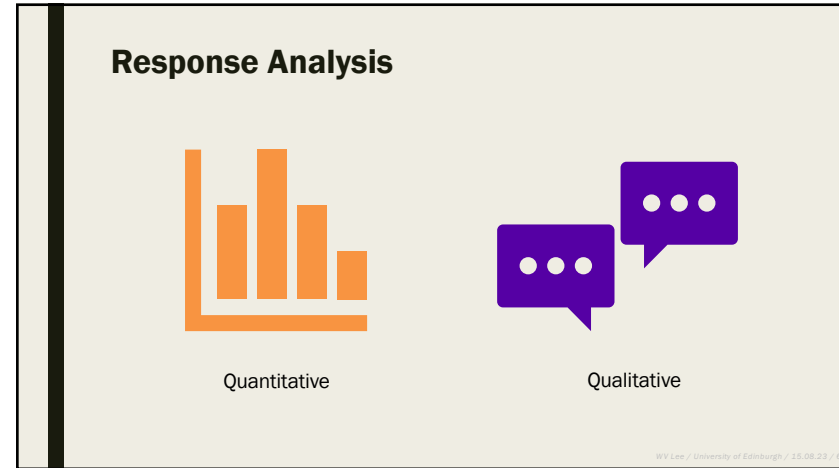


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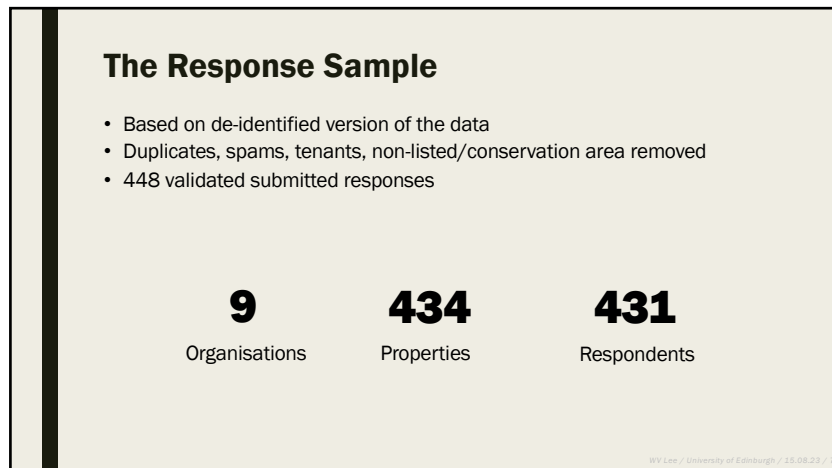
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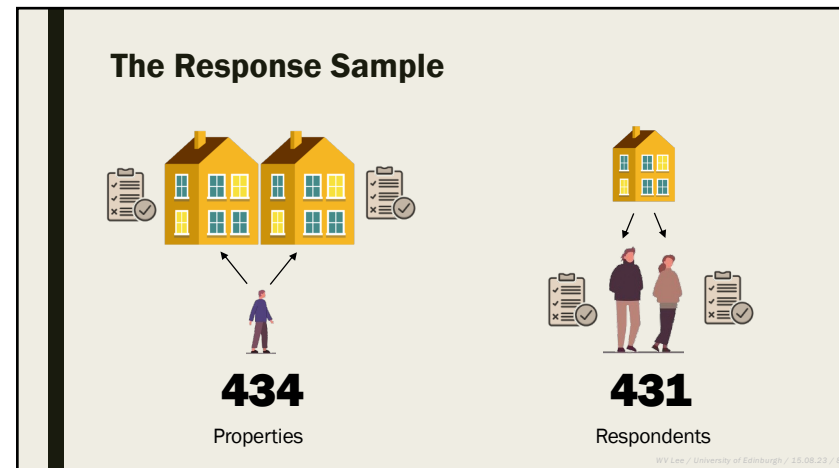
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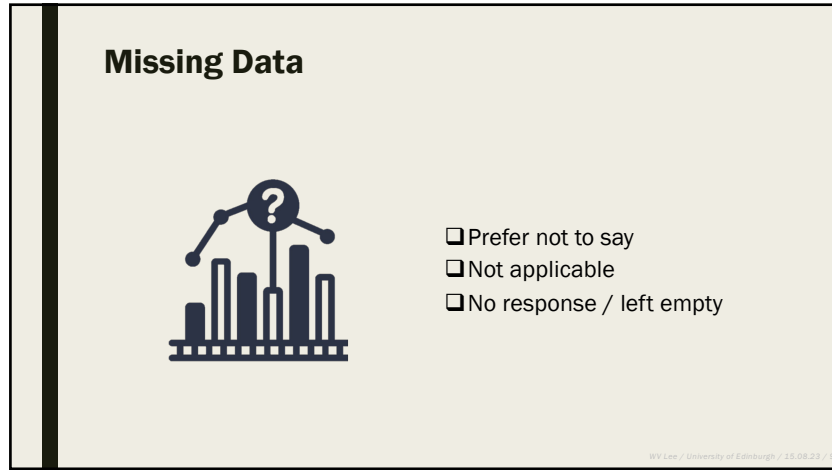
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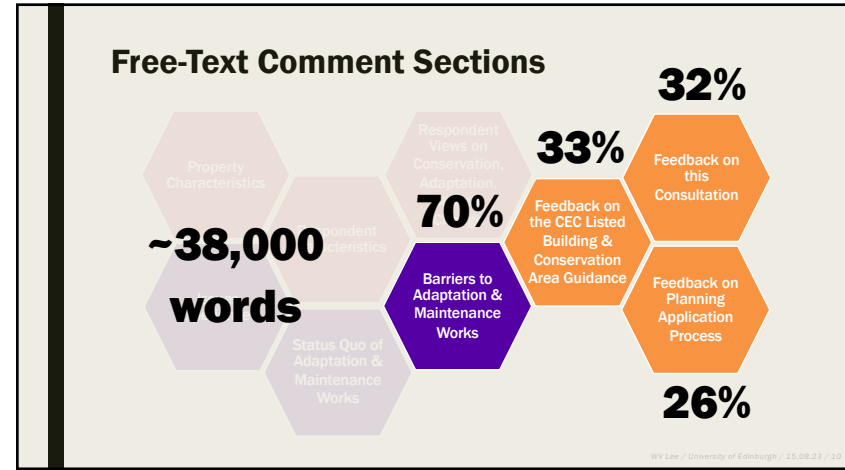
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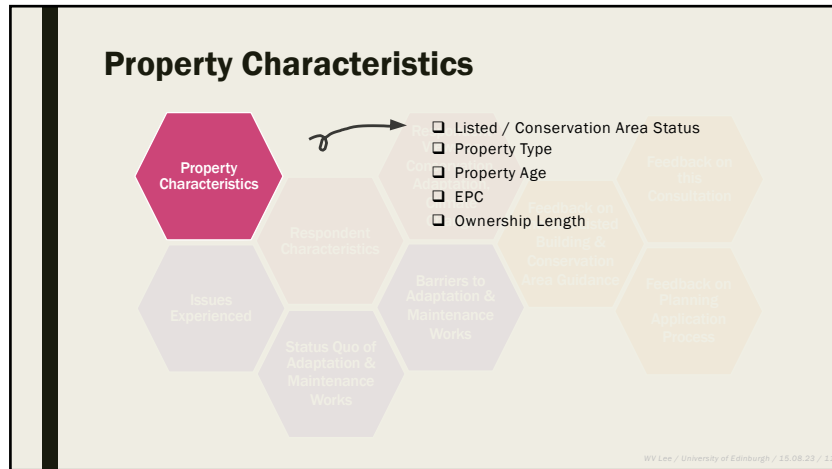
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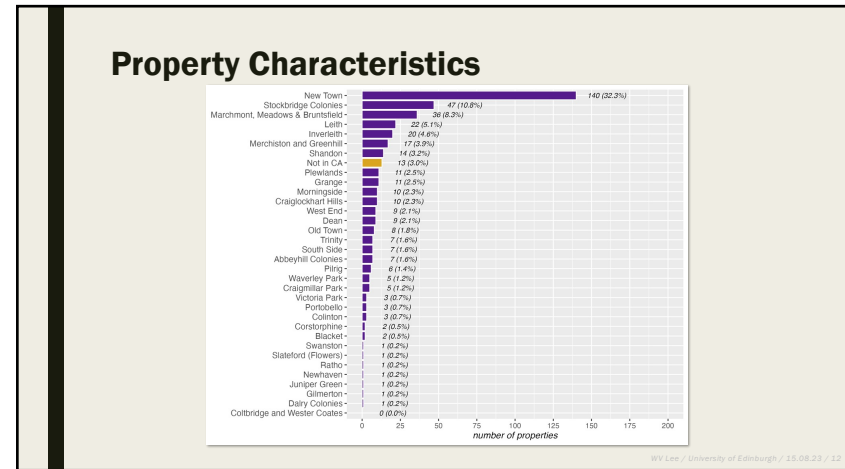
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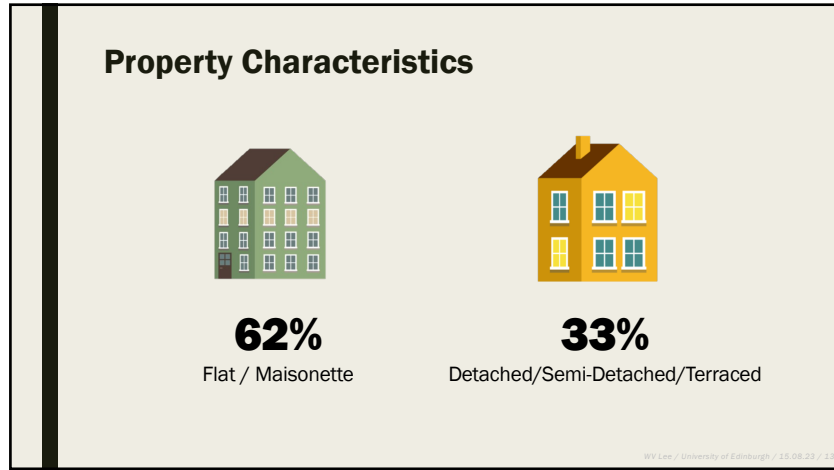
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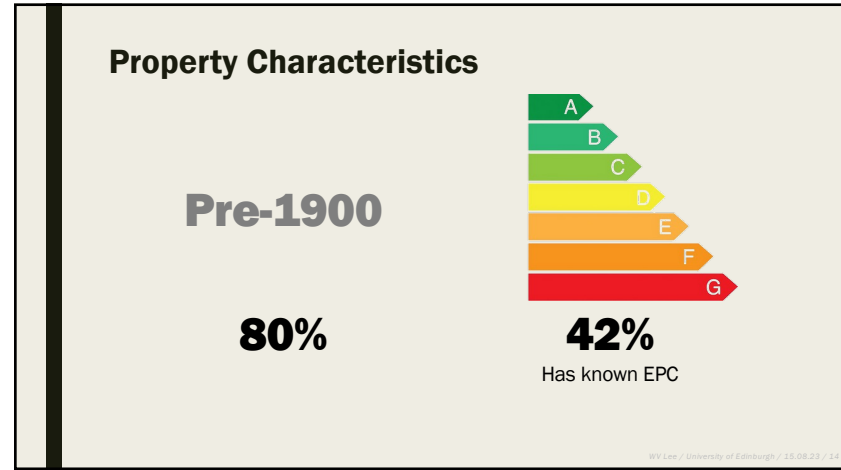
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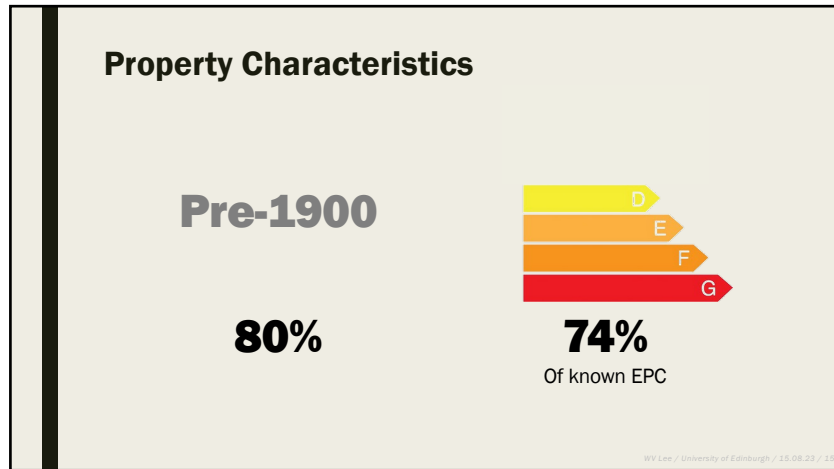
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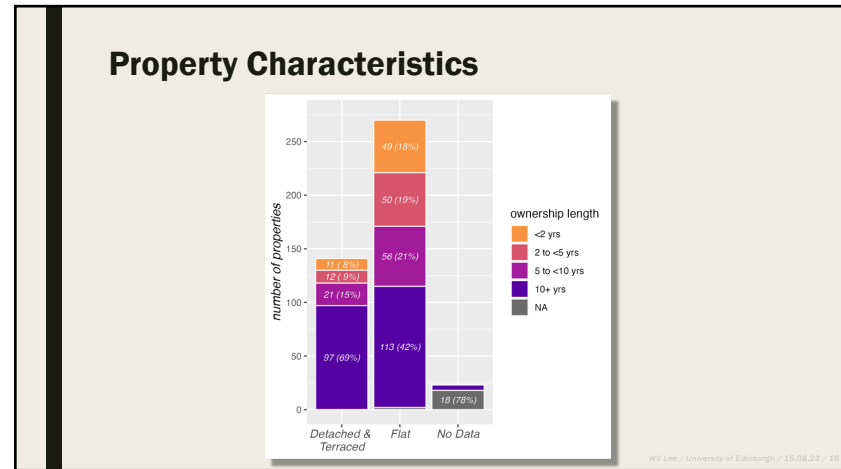
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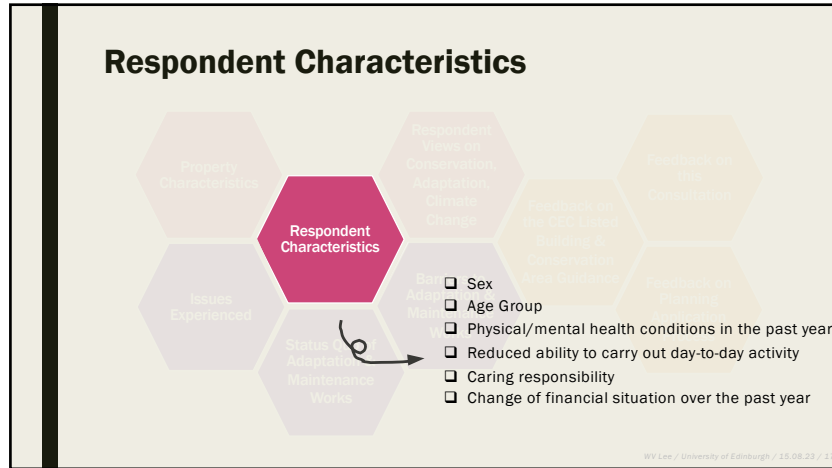
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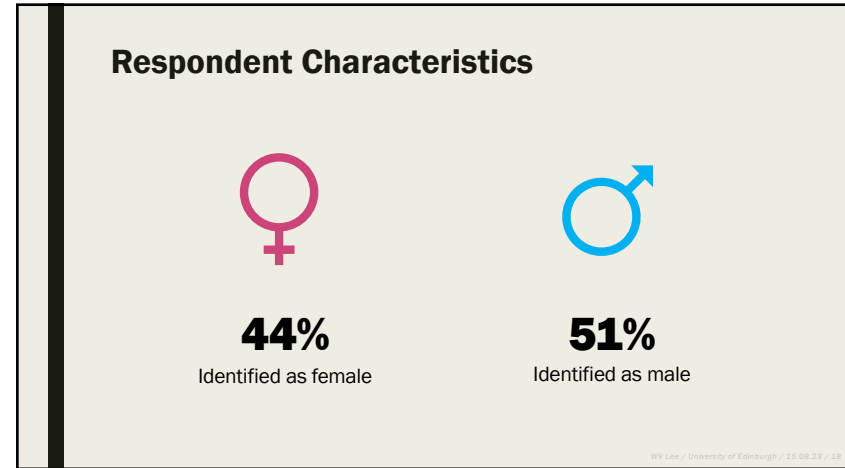
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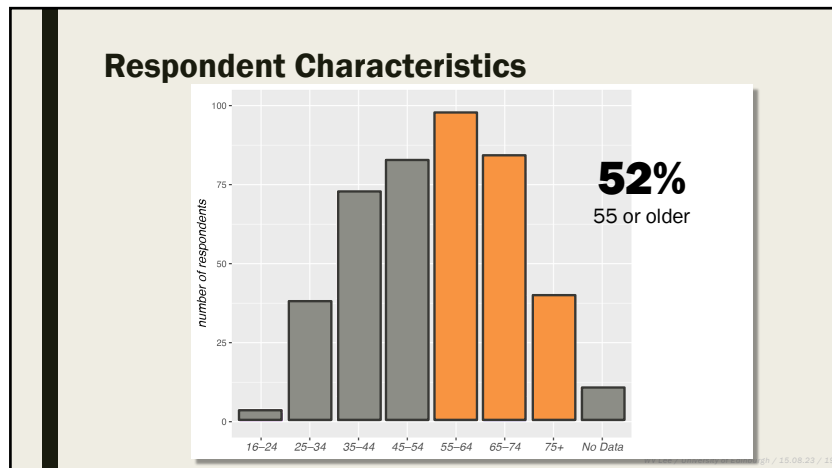
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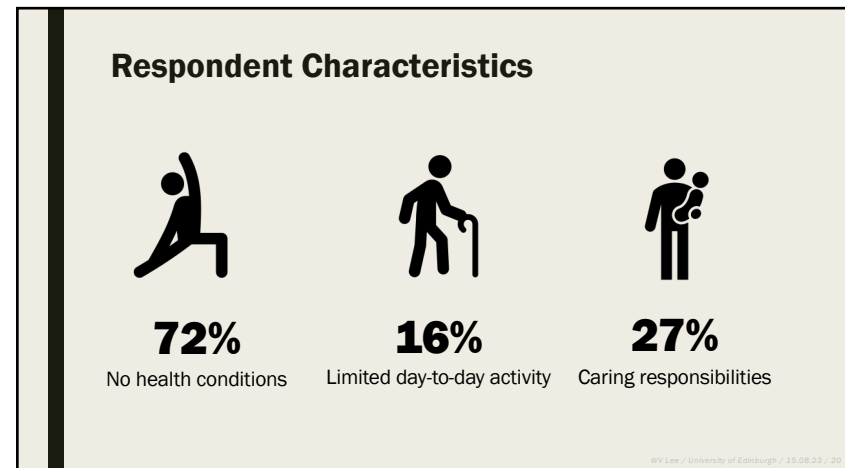
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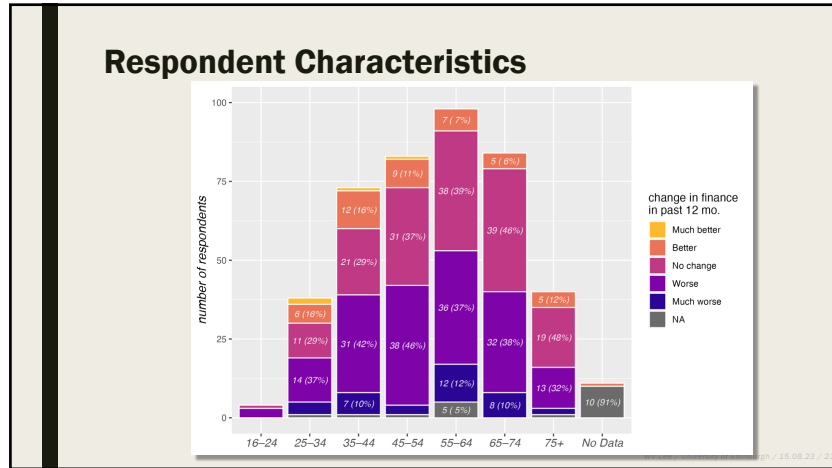
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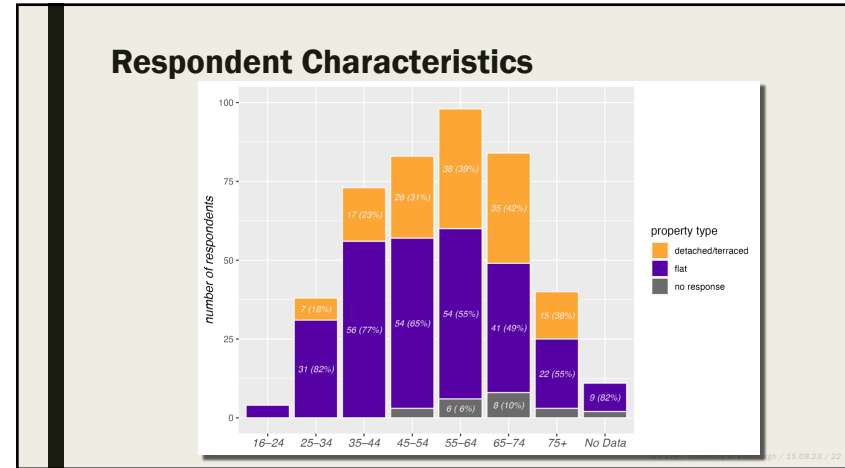
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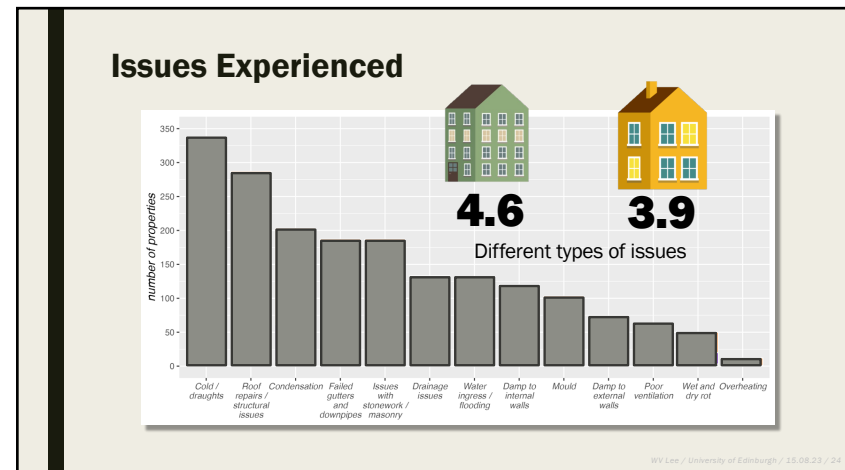
What the survey asks

Have you experienced any of the following in relation to your property? (Tick all that apply)

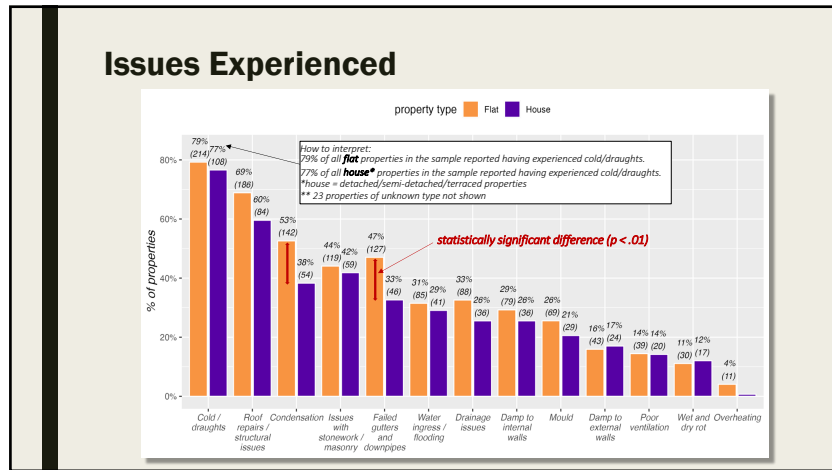
Issues Experienced

- Damp to external walls
- Damp to internal walls
- Mould
- Condensation
- Wet and dry rot
- Water ingress/flooding
- Drainage issues
- Failed gutters and downpipes
- Roof repairs/structural issues
- Overheating
- Cold/draughts
- Poor ventilation
- Issues with stonework/masonry
- Others

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What the survey asks

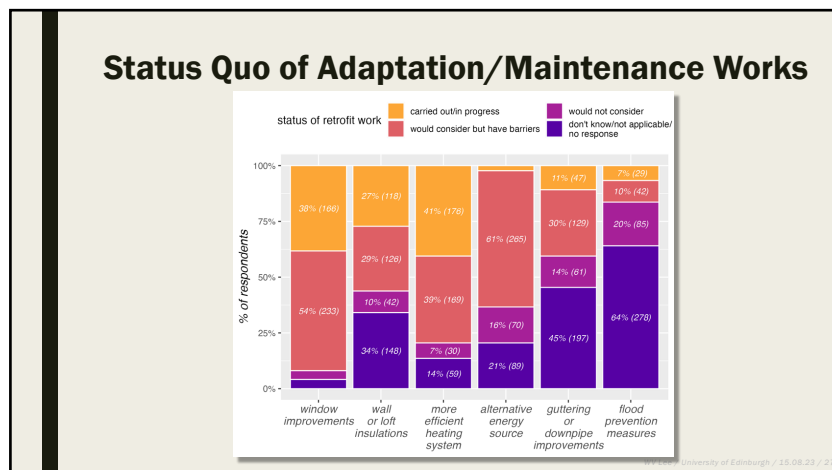
- ✓ Already carried out
- ✓ Would consider but have barriers
- ✓ Would not consider doing
- ✓ Don't know / not applicable

Have you considered carrying out any of the following works to your property?

Status Quo of Adaptation & Maintenance Works

- Window improvements (e.g. double or secondary glazing)
- Cavity wall or loft insulation
- Guttering & downpipes to increase capacity or provide rain overflow outlets
- Flood prevention measures to building or garden ground
- More efficient heating system
- Alternative energy source or heating system (heat pumps, PV panels, etc.)

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What the survey asks

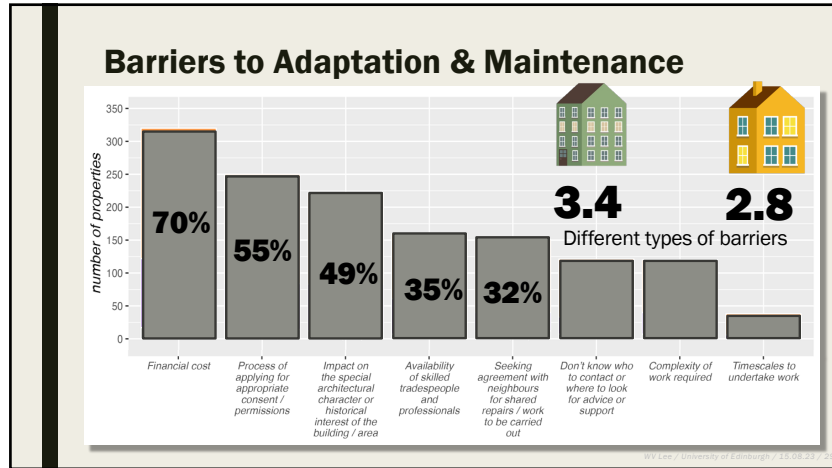
What barriers prevent you from doing work to maintain or adapt your property / properties? (Tick all that apply)

Free-text comment

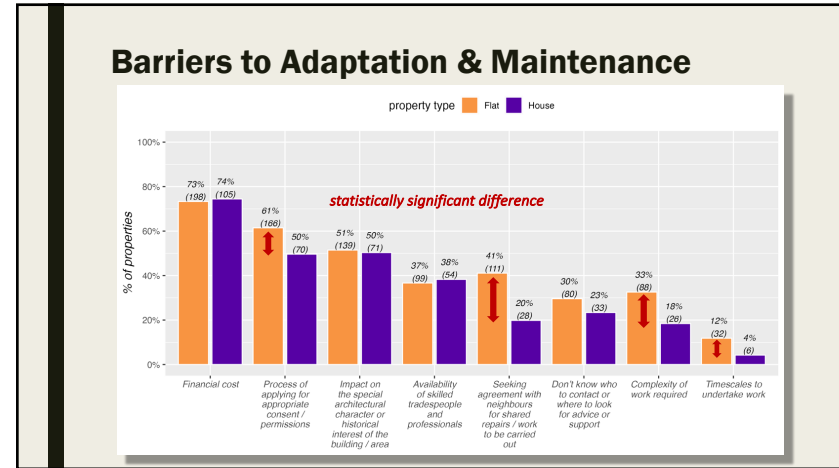
Barriers to Adaptation & Maintenance Works

- Financial cost
- Don't know who to contact or where to look for advice or support
- Process of applying for appropriate permissions
- Availability of skilled tradespeople and professionals
- Timescales to undertake work
- Complexity of work required
- Seeking agreement with neighbours
- Impact on the special architectural character or historical interest of the building
- Other

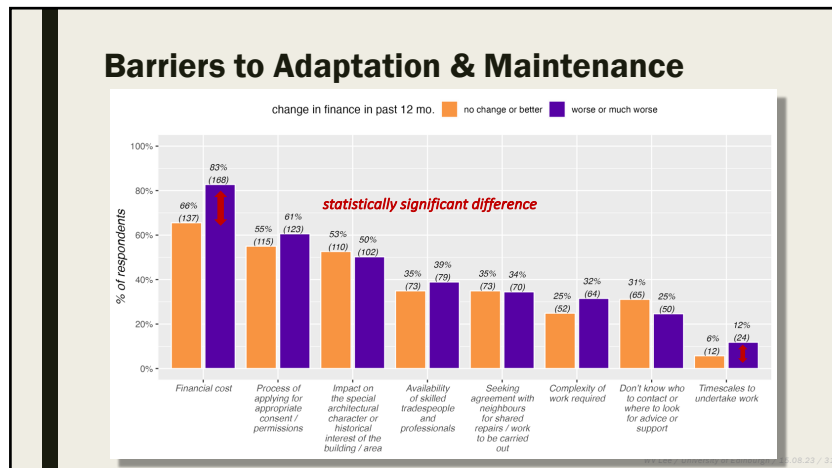
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- ### Barriers to Adaptation & Maintenance
- Cost barrier has multiple sources: upfront cost, maintenance cost, and application cost.
 - Upfront cost exacerbated by the requirement for period-appropriate materials (e.g. timber vs. uPVC window frame; cast iron vs. PVC pipes)
 - Many respondents see the conservation area designation or listing status, and by extension the CEC, as a barrier itself
 - Current available financial support has a number of limitations
 - Lack of skilled, trustworthy, quality-ensured tradespeople
 - Lack of clear, centralised, and neutral advice on selecting and proceeding with the most cost-effective works
 - Trouble liaising with neighbours

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What the survey asks

? Which of the following comes closest to your own view about climate change?

- It's an immediate and urgent problem
- It's a problem for the future
- It's not really a problem
- It's not happening

? How important do you think the each of the following statements are regarding listed buildings and the city's built heritage ?

- Achieving a comfortable energy efficient living environment
- Adapting the fabric of buildings to reduce the impact of climate change
- Making sustainable choices about new fabric, building components or heating sources
- Preserving the architectural character and historical interest of properties and conservation areas

Respondent Views on Conservation, Adaptation, Climate Change

- ✓ Extremely important
- ✓ Very important
- ✓ Important
- ✓ Not so important
- ✓ Not important at all

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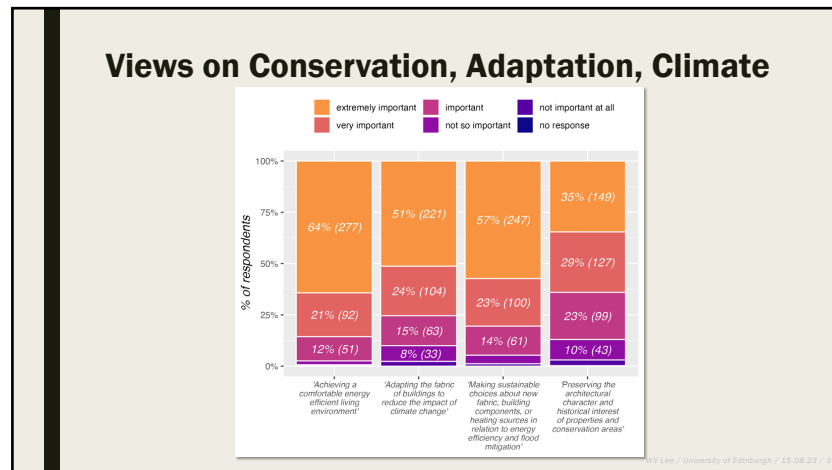
Views on Conservation, Adaptation, Climate

88%

Climate change is an immediate and urgent problem

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What the survey asks

- ✓ Strongly agree
- ✓ Agree
- ✓ Neither agree nor disagree
- ✓ Disagree
- ✓ Strongly disagree

? To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this consultation?

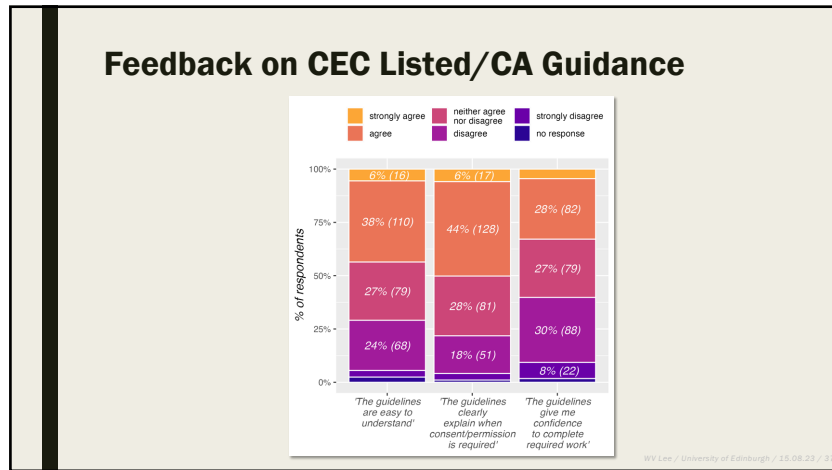
- The guidelines are easy to understand
- The guidelines clearly explain when permission is required
- The guidelines give me confidence to complete required work

Feedback on the CEC Listed Building & Conservation Area Guidance

Free-text Comment

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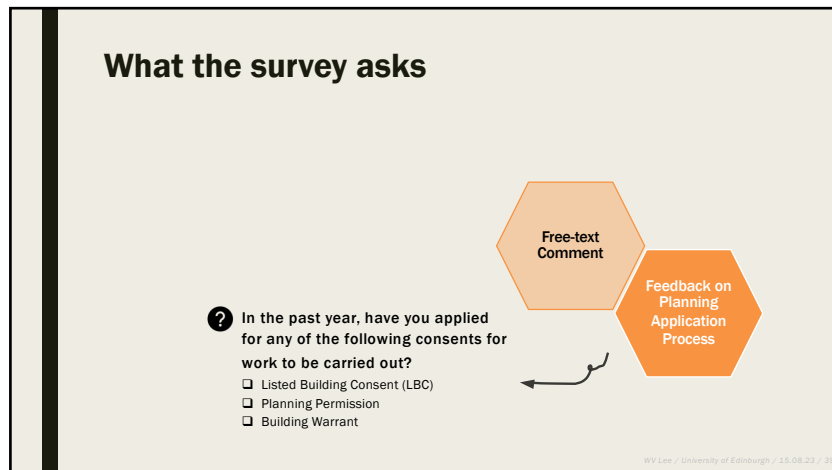
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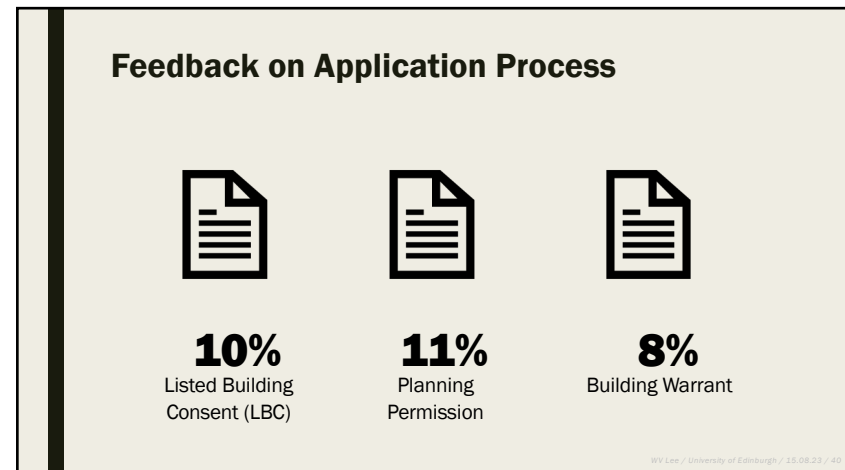
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- ### Feedback on CEC Listed/CA Guidance
- Want greater **clarity**: technical jargon (e.g. 'sightline') and certain guideline phrasings ('like for like', 'disrepair', or 'significant proportion').
 - Want guidance on **long term decarbonisation** plan as well as community-wide approach (especially for flat owners).
 - Overwhelmingly reflected that it is possible to strike a balance between adapting to climate change and conserving historic properties if only some rules can be relaxed: **not letting 'the perfect be the enemy of the good'**.
 - Feeling that authorities prioritise appearance over more urgent issues (cost-of-living crisis, climate emergency)
 - Want **consistency** as they see many (apparent) violations around them where the rules are not reinforced.
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Feedback on Application Process

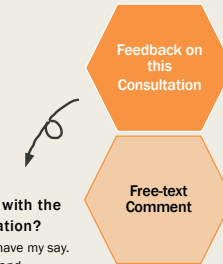
- A small proportion of respondents have had a positive experience.
- More respondents commented that the process was difficult and slow.
- Some issues with the online portal
- Many found daunting → hire professionals → add to cost
- Want better communication from the Council in assisting with the application process and fielding queries (phone calls, 'over-the-counter' advice)
- Consent required? (not wanting to 'apply and see')

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What the survey asks

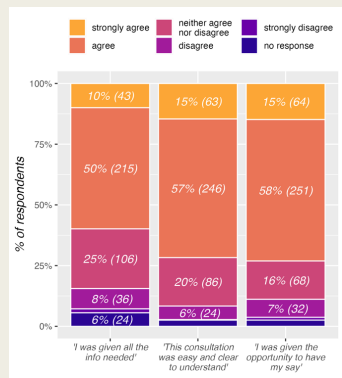
- ❓ To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this consultation?
- I was given all the information that I needed to have my say.
 - This consultation was clear and easy to understand.
 - I was given the opportunity to have my say.



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Feedback on this Consultation



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Feedback on this Consultation

- Want to be kept informed of the outcome
- Want to see swift and concrete actions from the Council
- Several respondents felt that the consultation was not sufficiently well publicised (sample not representative?)
- Want to discuss the issues in more depth (rather than via a survey)
- Want to be given the opportunity to provide suggestions directly to the authorities

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