

The Wastewater and Urban Drainage Conference

Paper 7: Local Authority Capacity Building

James LeVesconte - Halcrow Group Ltd

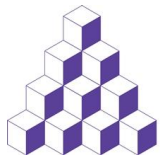
Background & Methodology

Project:

AGMA FRM Capacity Study

- Response to the Flood Risk Regs (2009) & F&WMA (2010)

Client:



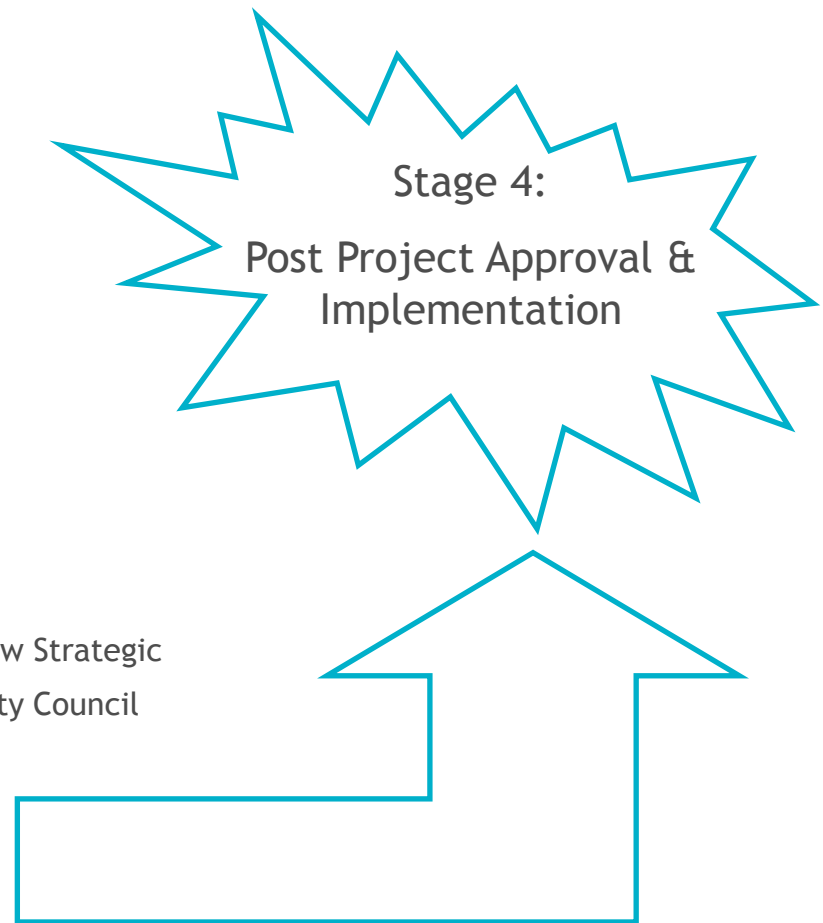
AGMA
ASSOCIATION OF
GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES



Methodology:

Staged Approach:

- Stage 1 - Identifying the baseline (June - July)
 - Stakeholder workshop
 - Online questionnaire
 - Interviews
- Stage 2 - Future Options (July - September)
 - 5 options considered & appraised
 - 3 case studies: Drain London, The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP) & Gloucestershire County Council
 - Identification of preferred option
- Stage 3 - Reporting (October - November)



Stage 1 – Identifying the Baseline

Background:

- **Aim:** to understand existing organisational setup and implications of new legislation
- **Approach:**
 - Online questionnaire - trends
 - Stakeholder Workshop - general understanding
 - Face-to-face interviews - overview
 - Telephone interviews - specific authority level organisation

Stage 1 Results (Workshop & Interviews)

Findings – Civil Contingencies:

- Well organised within all authorities.
- Centred around Civil Contingencies Act.
- Typically one named person in each team who takes a lead on flood risk.
- Typically good links with Drainage/Engineering teams (operational requirements).
- Becoming more involved in strategic flood planning and links with Spatial Planning teams, although link to PPS25 unclear.
- In most cases, different Directorate to Planning & Drainage teams.

Findings – Spatial Planning:

- Well organised within all authorities.
- Centred around Town & County Planning Act.
- Identified lead for FRM in each Authority.
 - Normally part of a wider remit (e.g. Minerals, Waste & Flooding)
 - Lack of specific experience and expertise.
- Tend to take the lead on Strategic planning for Flood Risk, (e.g. SFRAs)

Findings – Drainage:

- Drainage teams been shrinking since UU took over sewerage undertaker role.
- Capability varies significantly between authorities
 - Some maintain specific Drainage Teams
 - Some use consultants for drainage expertise
 - Some do little/any drainage

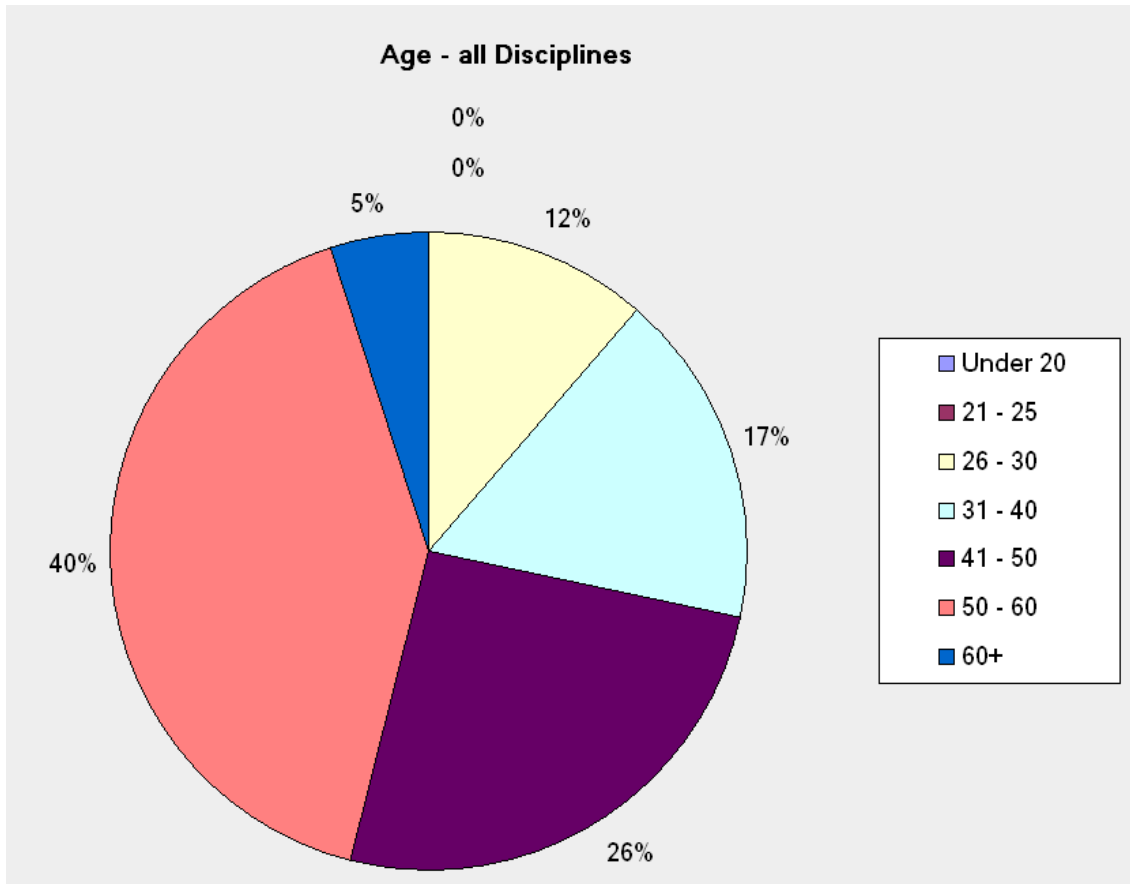
Stage 1 Results (Online Questionnaire)

Response:

- 87 responses in total
- Responses from all 10 authorities
- Responses from all skill areas (Civil Contingencies, Spatial Planning & Drainage)

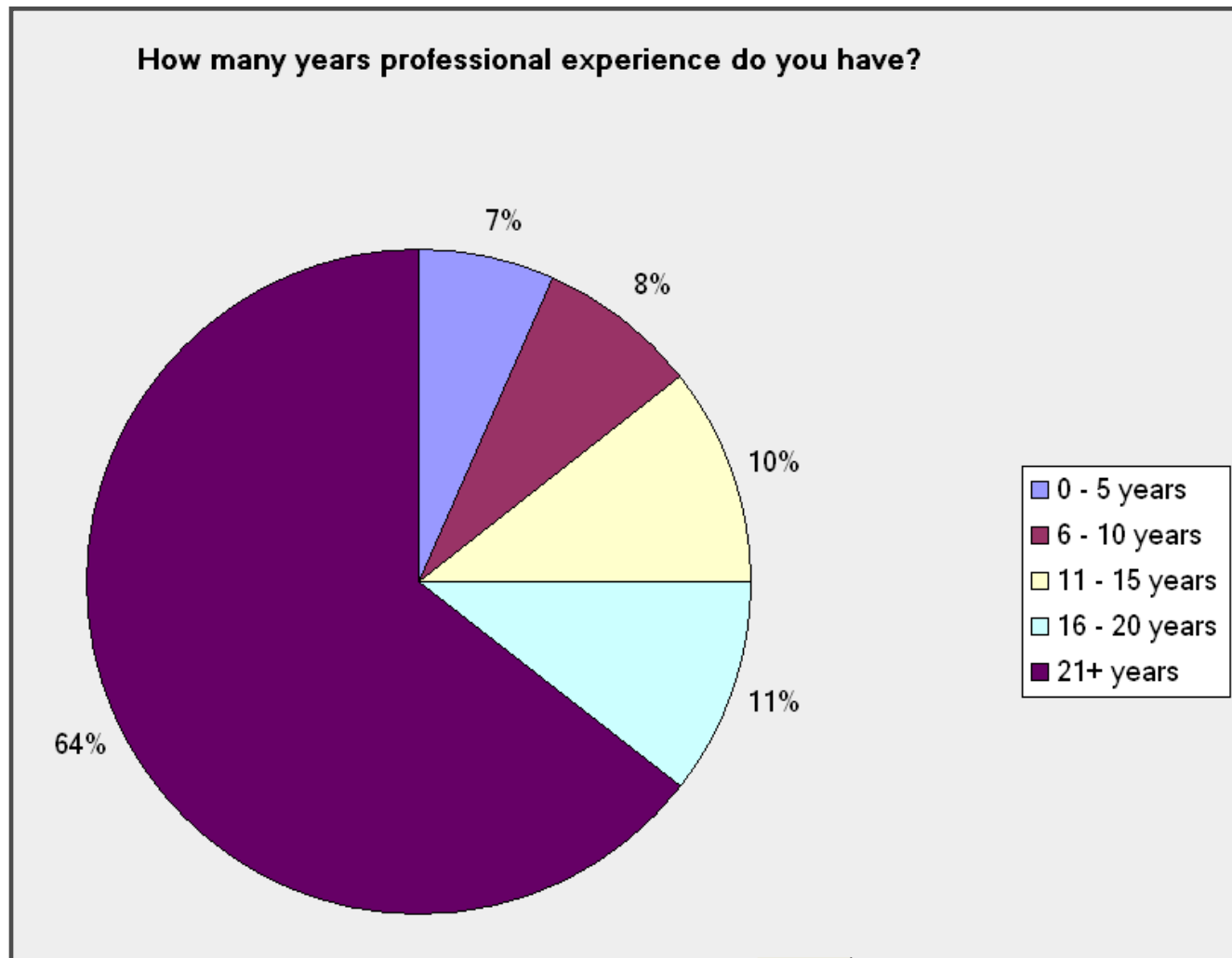
Results:

Age – An ageing workforce?

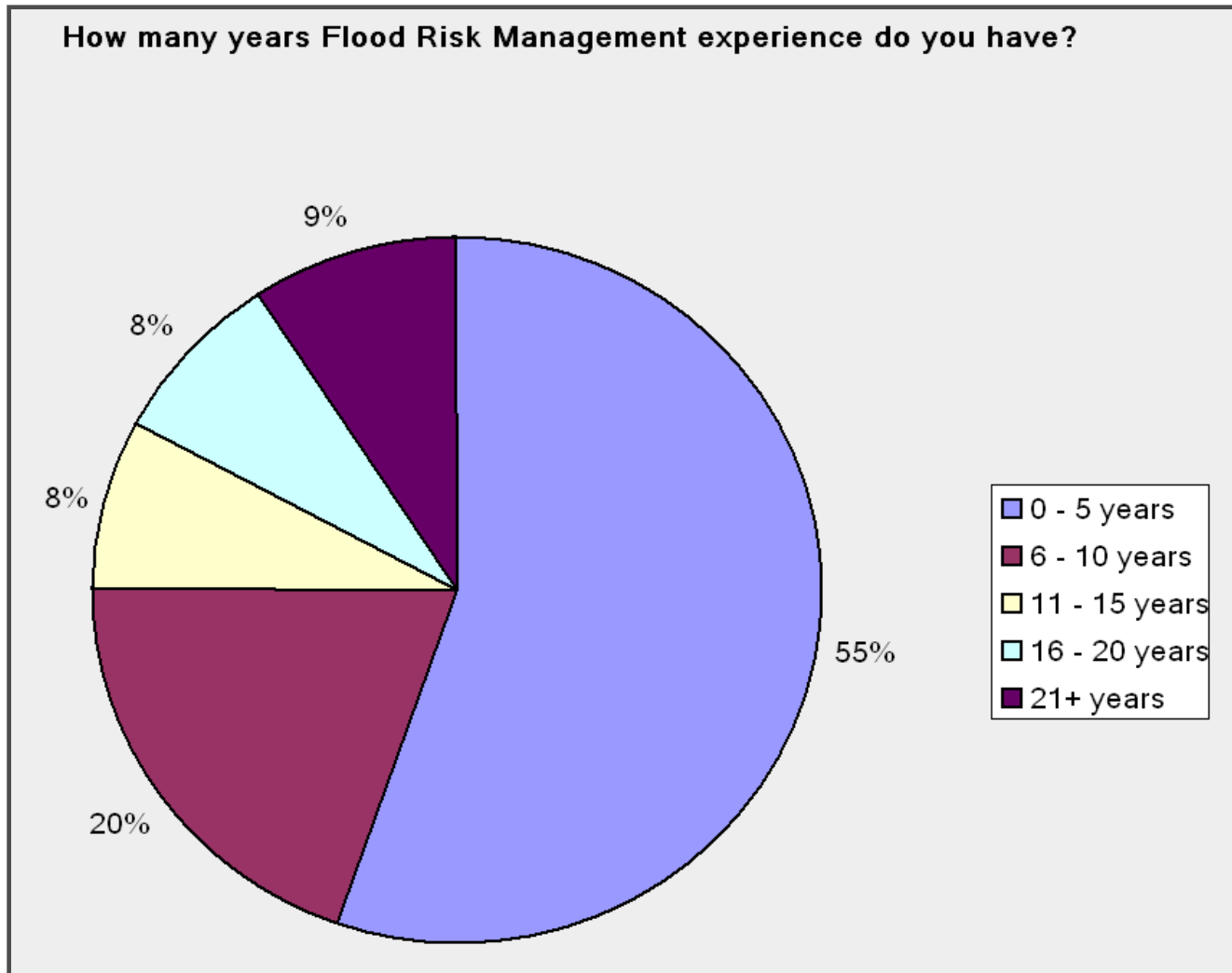


- 45% over 50
- Only 29% under 40

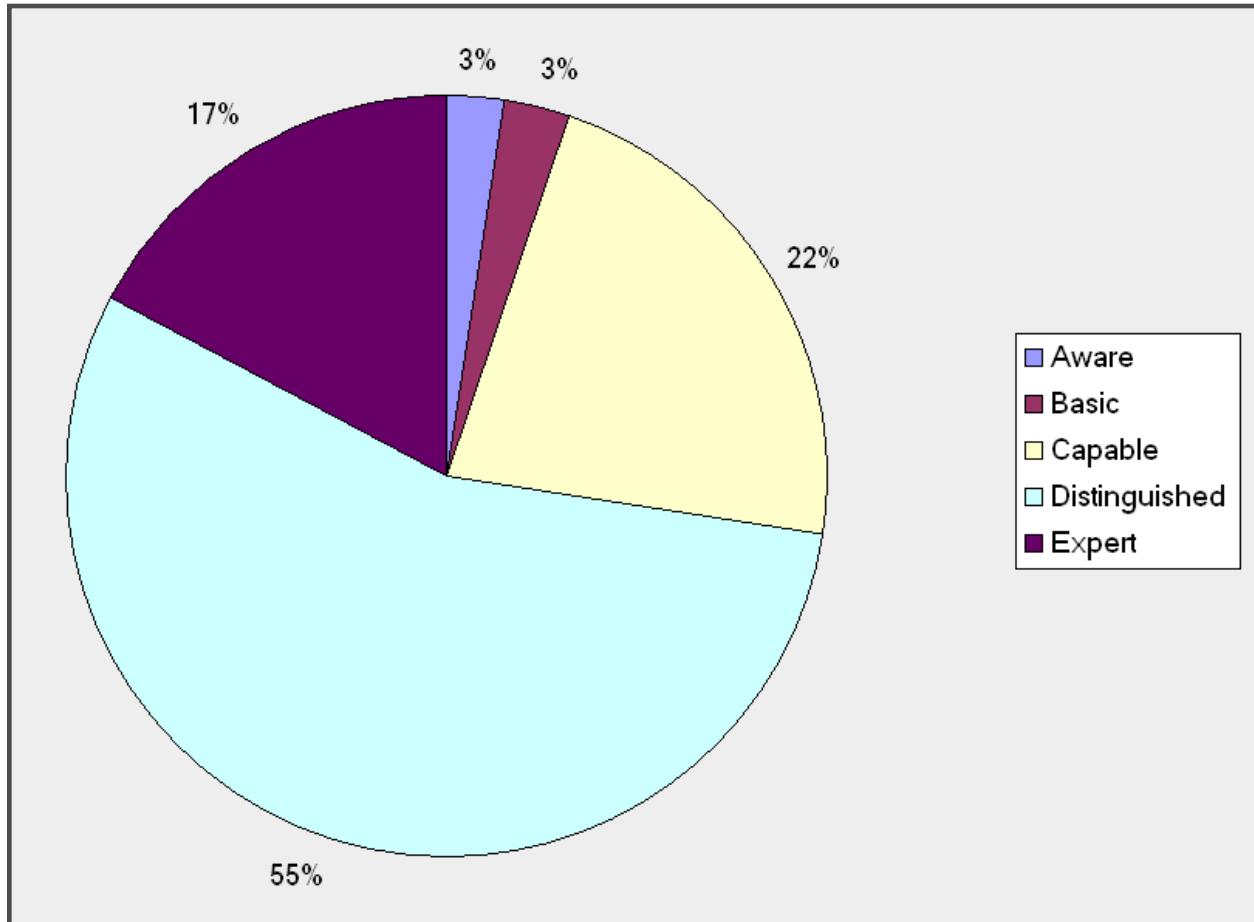
How many years professional experience do you have?



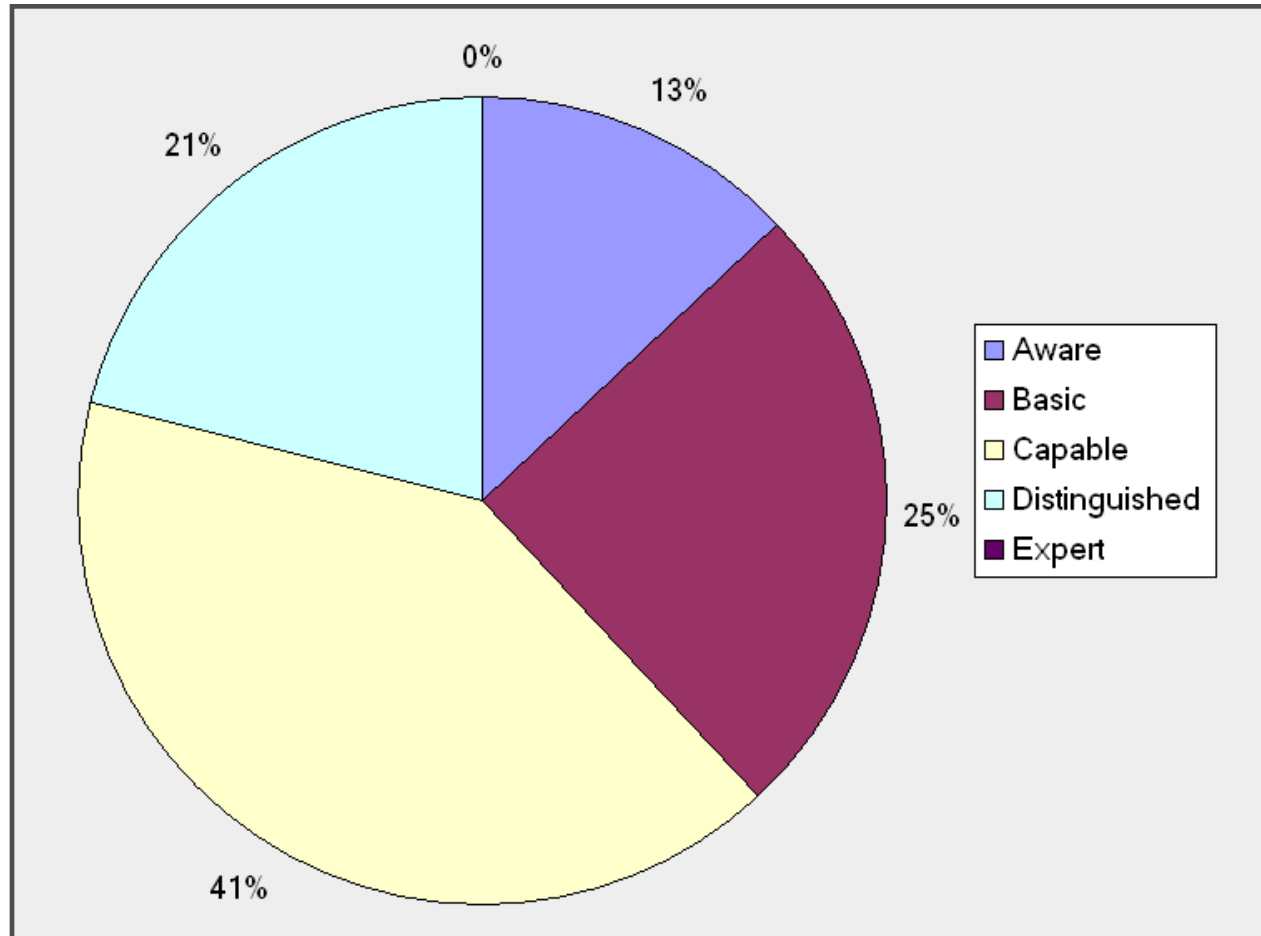
How many years FRM experience do you have?



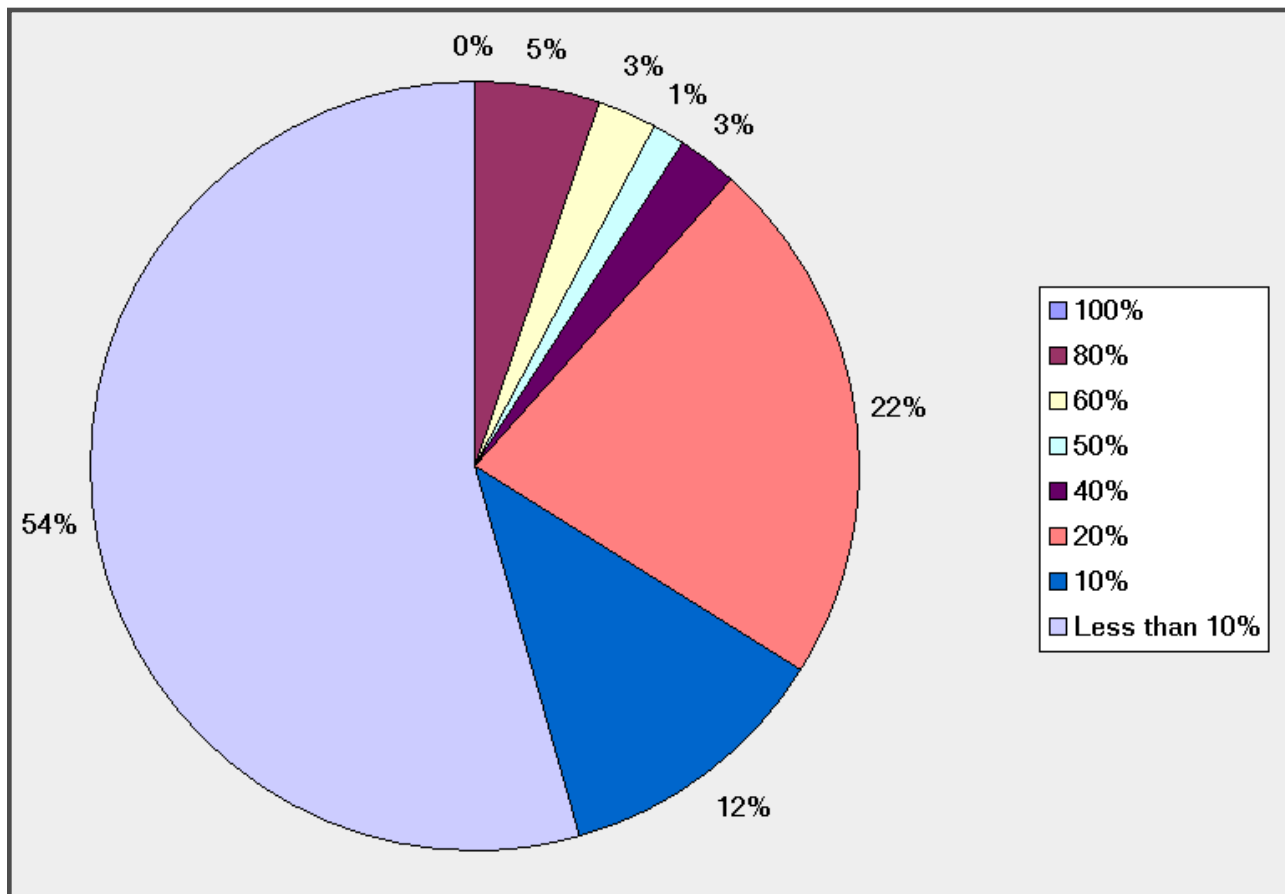
Select the description that you feel best matches your current level of expertise in your own specialist skill area



Select the description that you feel best matches your current level of expertise in flood risk management



What percentage of your role do you estimate involves flood risk management activities, (NB: 1 day a week = 20%)?



Headlines:

- **Ageing workforce:**
 - 45% over 50
 - Only 12% under 30
- **Lack of FRM experience:**
 - 64% 21 years + professional experience
 - 55% less than 5 years FRM experience
- **Lack of FRM expertise?**
 - 70% 'distinguished' / 'expert' in their field
 - No experts in FRM
 - Majority (41%) consider themselves capable in FRM
- **60% spend less than 0.5days/week on FRM activities**

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