

F&Y2 Wave 7: Chapter 6 Novel foods

Introduction

The FSA's vision as set out in the [2022-2027 strategy](#) is a food system in which 'food is healthier and more sustainable', accounting for the growing priorities of dietary health and sustainability for the UK Government, Welsh Government, Northern Ireland Executive, and for consumers.

The FSA is responsible for the [authorisation of novel foods](#). The novel food status of cannabidiol (CBD) was confirmed in [England and Wales in January 2019](#). In [Northern Ireland](#), CBD food products are unauthorised novel foods.

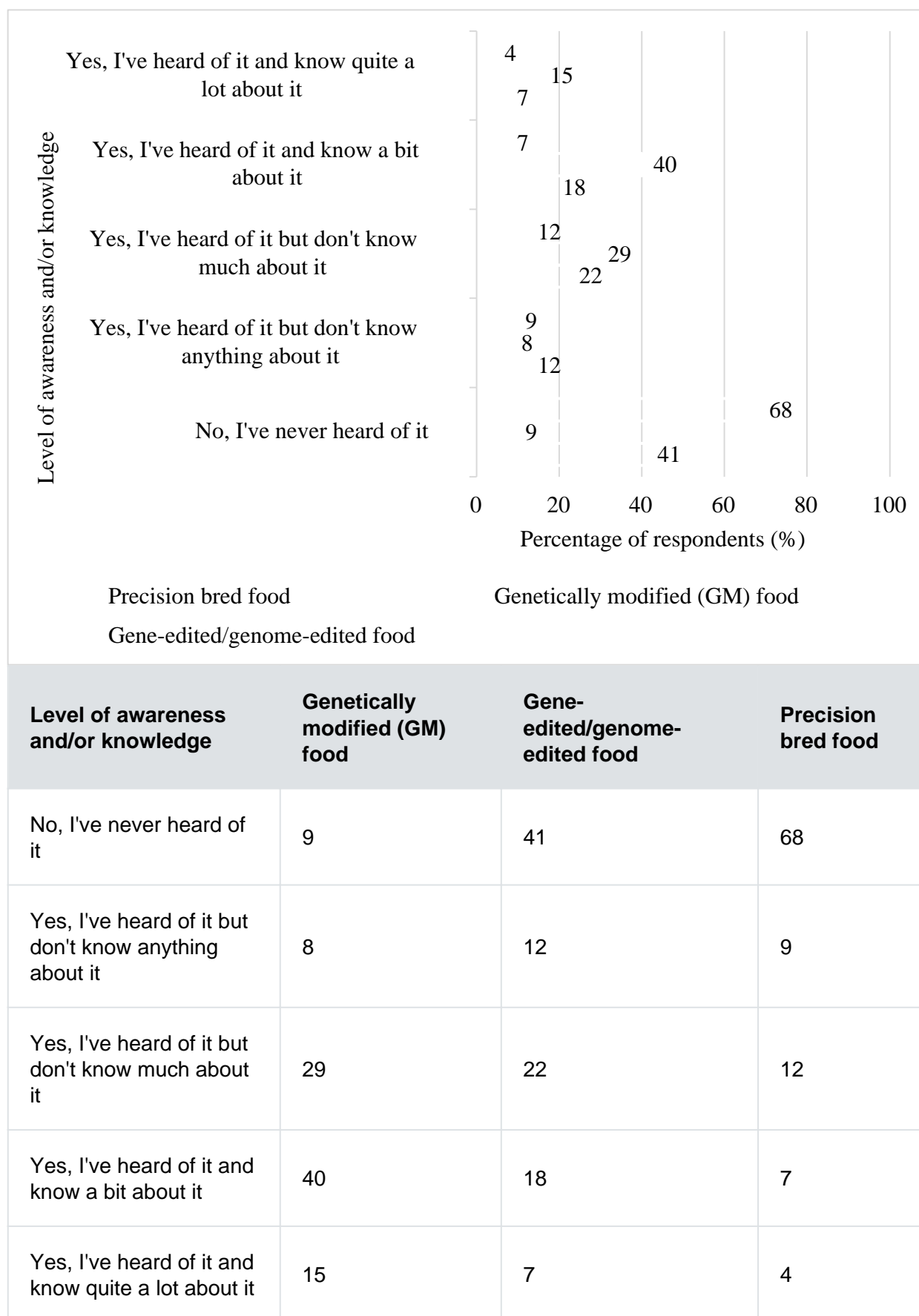
The [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#) (Defra) has a broad remit and plays a major role in increasing the sustainability, productivity and resilience of the agriculture, fishing, food and drink sectors, enhancing biosecurity at the border and raising animal welfare standards. In addition, [Defra oversees the regulation](#) of genetic technologies such as genetically modified organisms (GMO), gene edited (GE) and precision bred organisms([footnote](#)).

Awareness of gene-edited (GE), genetically modified (GM) and precision bred foods

Figure 21. Awareness and knowledge of genetically modified (GM), gene-edited/genome-edited (GE) and precision bred food.

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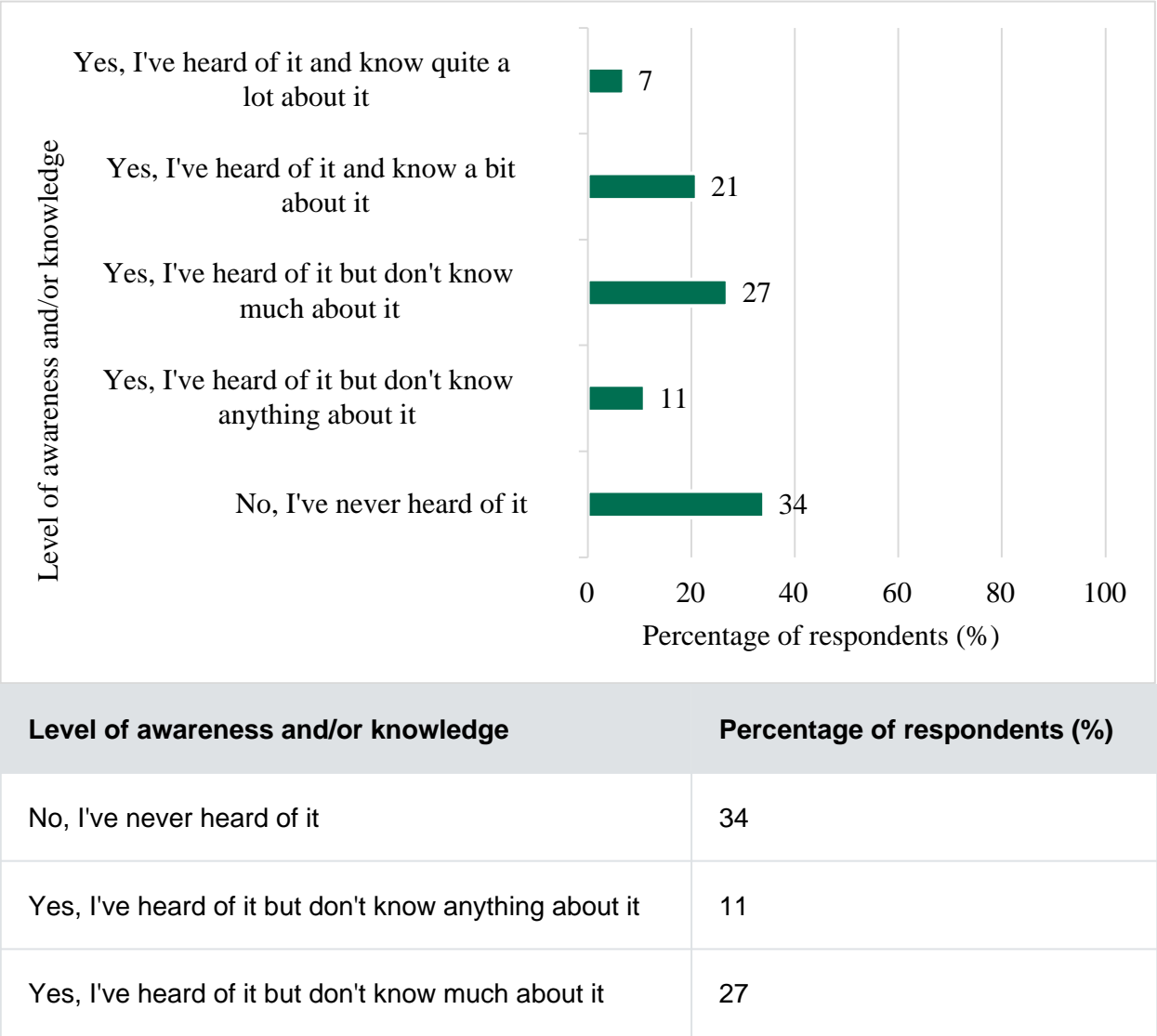
Respondents were asked if they had ever heard of genetically modified (GM) food, gene-edited or genome-edited food and precision bred food. Respondents reported greater awareness and knowledge of genetically modified (GM) food than gene-edited or genome-edited food (GE) and least knowledge of precision bred food. For example, 68% of respondents had never heard of precision bred food whereas 41% of respondents had never heard of GE food. 9% of respondents had never heard of GM food (Figure 21)[\(footnote\)](#).

Awareness and use of Cannabidiol (CBD)

Figure 22. Awareness and knowledge of cannabidiol (CBD).

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Level of awareness and/or knowledge	Percentage of respondents (%)
Yes, I've heard of it and know a bit about it	21
Yes, I've heard of it and know quite a lot about it	7

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Respondents were asked if they had ever heard of Cannabidiol (CBD). Around half (55%) of respondents had heard of CBD: 7% reported that they know quite a lot about it; 21% reported that they know a bit about it; 27% reported that they don't know much about it, and 11% reported that they don't know anything about it. Around a third (34%) of respondents reported that they had never heard of CBD (Figure 22)([footnote](#)).

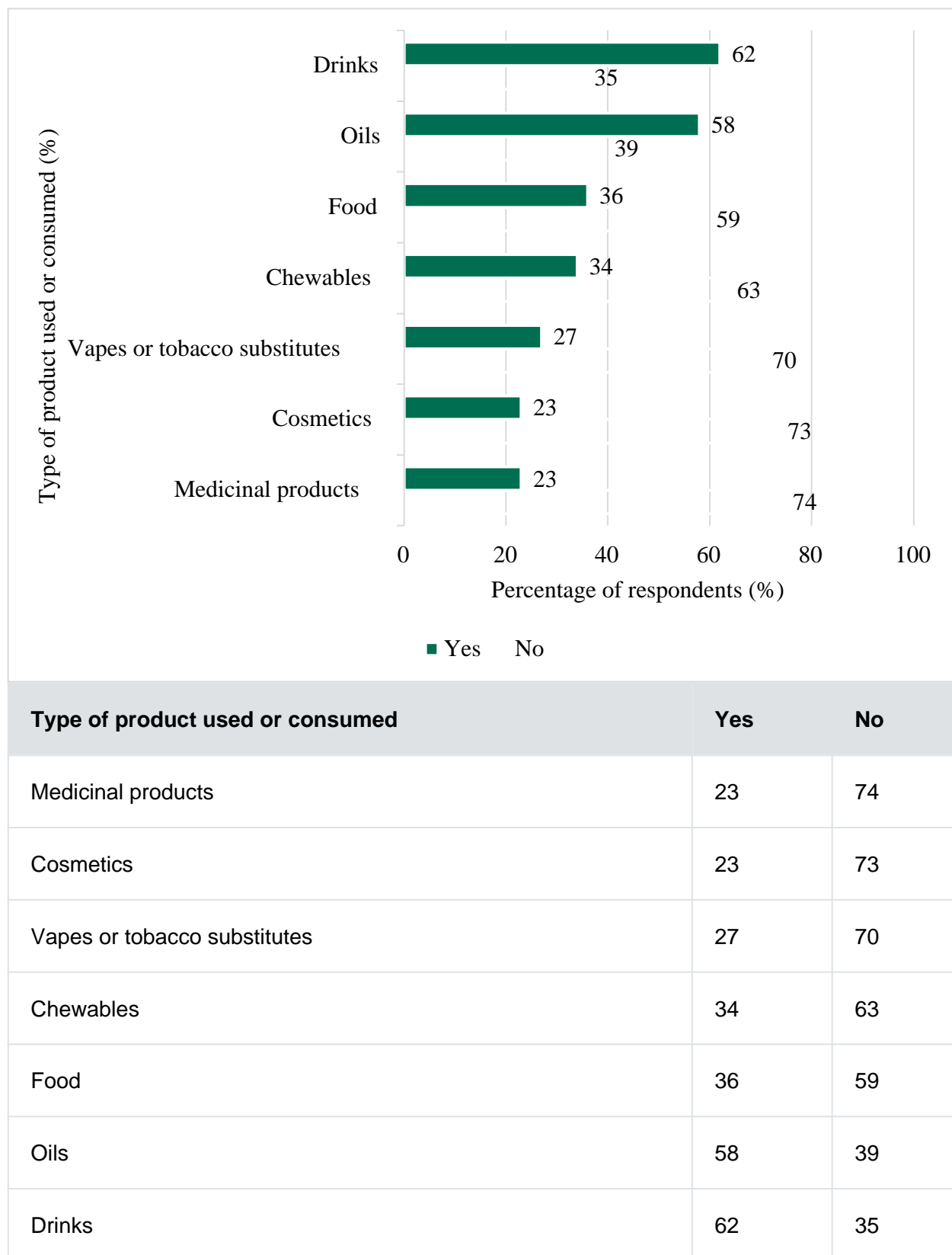
Respondents were asked if they had used or consumed CBD in the previous 12 months. Over 1 in 10 (14%) respondents reported that they had used or consumed CBD and 60% of respondents reported that they had not used or consumed CBD. A quarter (25%) of respondents reported that they didn't know if they had used or consumed CBD([footnote](#)) in the previous 12 months.

Respondents who had used or consumed CBD in the previous 12 months were asked how they decided on a suitable dose or serving. The most common methods to decide on a suitable dose or serving were to follow the instructions on the packaging or label (58%), researching about the topic on the internet (22%), and monitoring the effect it has and increasing/ reducing the dose as needed (21%)([footnote](#)).

Figure 23. Types of cannabidiol (CBD) product used or consumed among CBD users.

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Respondents who had used or consumed CBD in the previous 12 months were asked how often they had used or consumed different types of CBD products. Around 6 in 10 respondents reported that they had consumed drinks (62%) or oils (58%) containing CBD. Around a third respondents reported that they had consumed food (36%) or chewables (34%) containing CBD. Around a quarter of respondents had used vapes or tobacco products (27%), cosmetics (23%) or medicinal products (23%) containing CBD (Figure 23)([footnote](#)).