



INTEGRITY
WATCH
AFGHANISTAN



AFGHANS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION SURVEY 2017

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Afghanistan Access to Information Law

- Afghanistan ATI law adopted in late 2014;
- ATI law represent article 50 (3) of the constitution – citizen have the right to access information;
- Nearly 120 countries in the world have ATI adopted law;
- The right to information clearly recognized from late 1990s;

Survey Objectives

- To obtain the perception and view of people on ATI;
- To understand the level of peoples' awareness;
- To understand the importance of having access to information law;
- To plan and conduct awareness campaign on access to information;
- To identify the challenges and find ways to mitigate;

Survey Methodology

Sampling: 3,510 respondents randomly selected from (9) provinces;

Margin of Error: the sample size provide 5% MoE at 95% CI, (i.e. 19 times out of 20);

Target population: survey population data come from CSO 2016-17 yearbook;

Gender Stratification: gender is stratified proportionally to male/female;

Equal number of female and male respondents per sampling point. In order to meet the gender split in each sampling point and to minimize gender gap;

Household Selection: for this survey, a Systematic Random Sampling (SRS) method is used in order to randomly select the households in a sampling point;

- Information on list of households at the sampling point level is not available with the CSO. households are selected according to systematic random procedure;

Respondent Selection: Research team use the Kish Grid method to select respondents at household.

Code of Ethics / Confidentiality

Integrity Watch personal including local research and survey team abide by the highest standards of the American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) and the European Society for Opinion and Marketing Research (ESOMAR)

ATI Rating

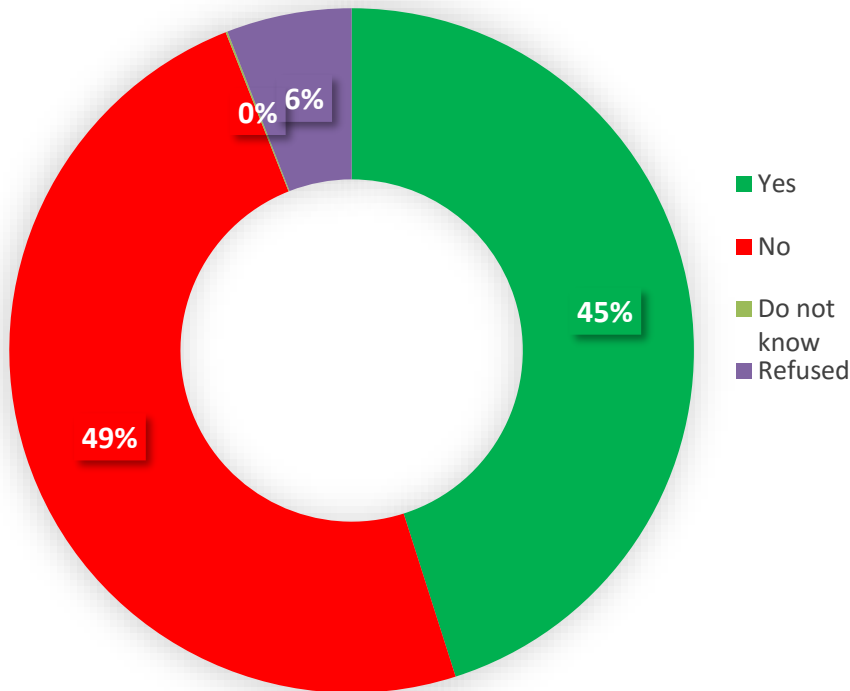
- Current rating covers 111 national laws;
- Rating assesses laws out 150 of points;
- Afghanistan ATI law achieve 77 points – in 70th position;
- Rating assess laws on 7 categories;

Scores of the Afghan RTI Law by RTI Rating Category

Section	Max Points	Score	Percentage
1. Right of Access	6	5	83
2. Scope	30	27	90
3. Requesting Procedures	30	7	23
4. Exceptions and Refusals	30	11	37
5. Appeals	30	16	53
6. Sanctions and Protections	8	1	13
7. Promotional Measures	16	10	63
Total score	150	77	51

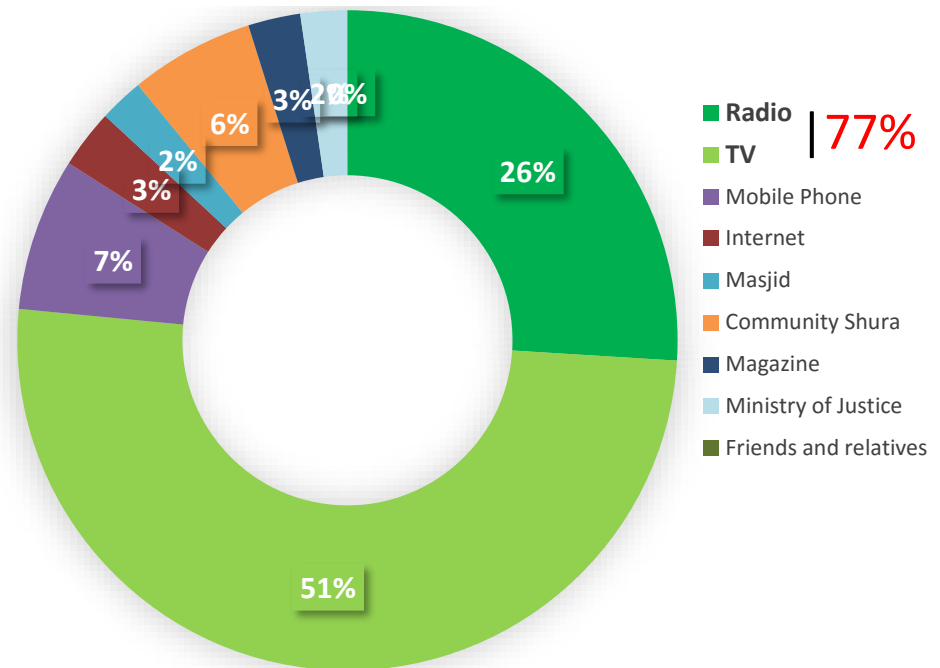
General Perception

Is there an ATI law in Afghanistan?



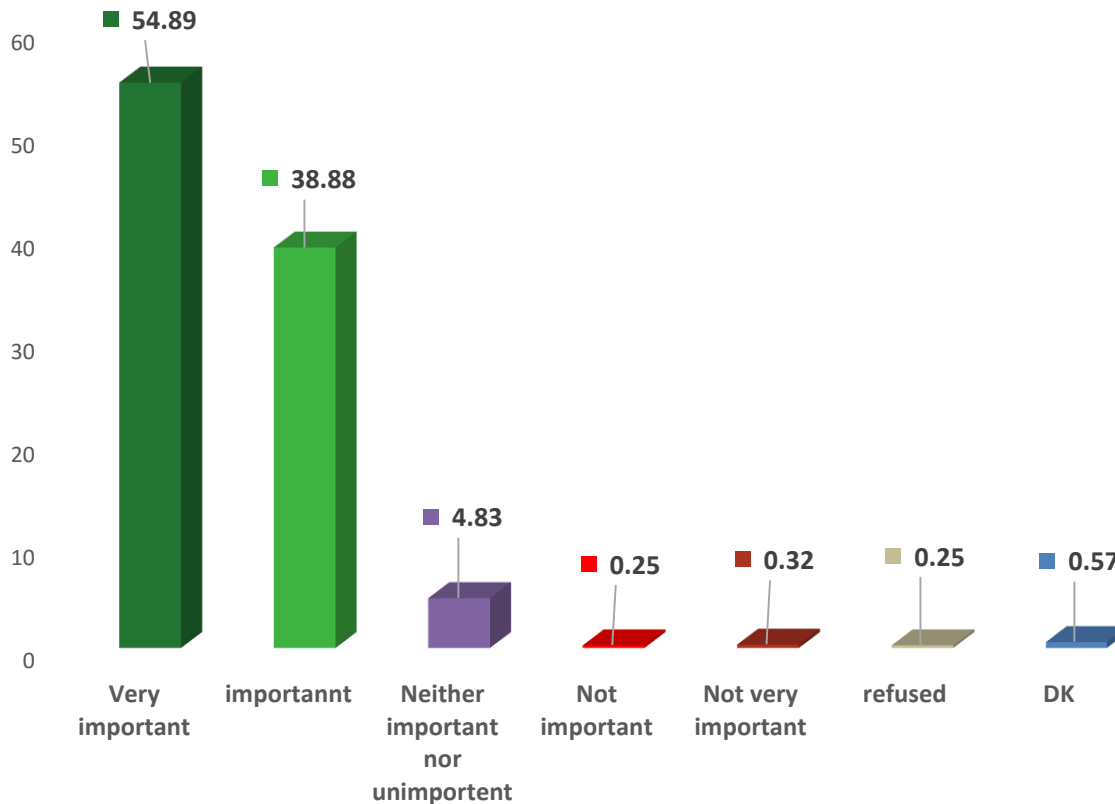
the high number of incorrect answers here (i.e. saying there was no law) is quite concerning and somehow dominates the small number...

If yes, where did you hear about it?



Radio 26 and TV more than 51. Together these two broadcast media sources covered more than 75% of everyone who had heard about the Law.

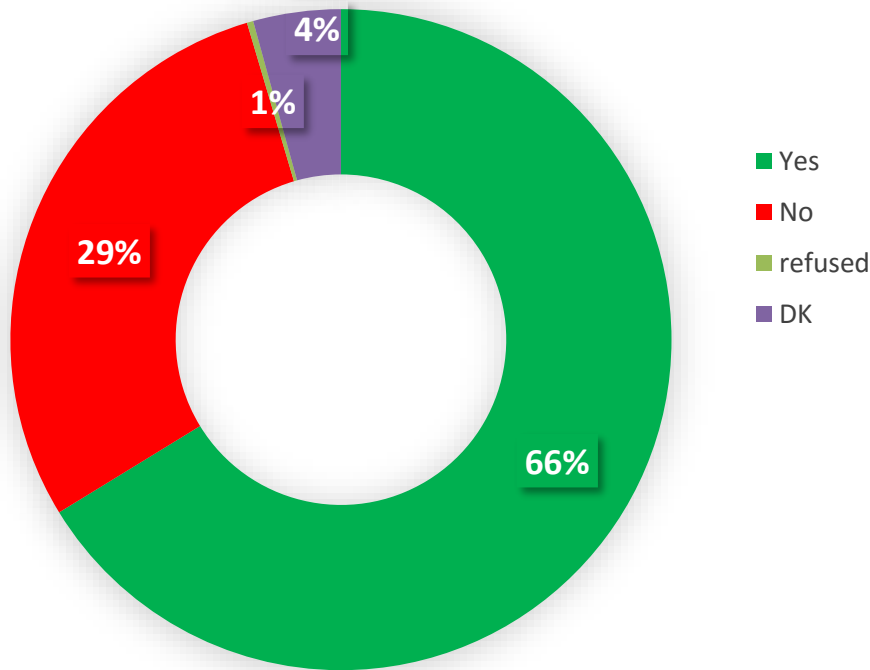
Do you think that ATI is very important?



It shows clearly that Afghans understand the need for information, no doubt because they have experience of this need in their daily lives, most probably due to the non-availability of information which is important to them for various reasons.

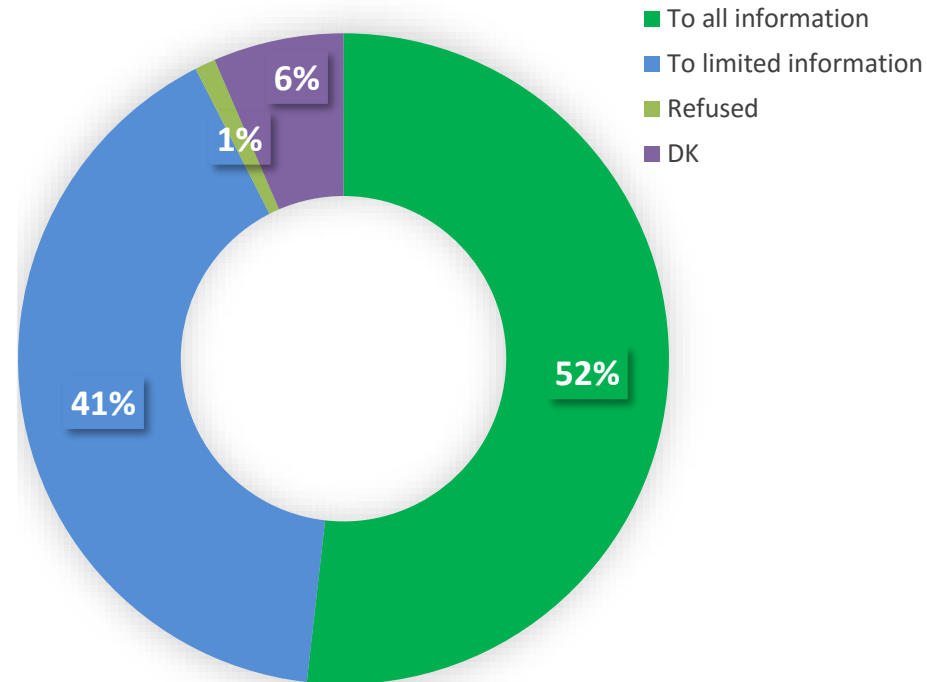
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Do you know that ATI is a fundamental human right?



This is, again, a very encouraging result given that the ATI Law was only adopted at the end of 2014, less than three years ago.

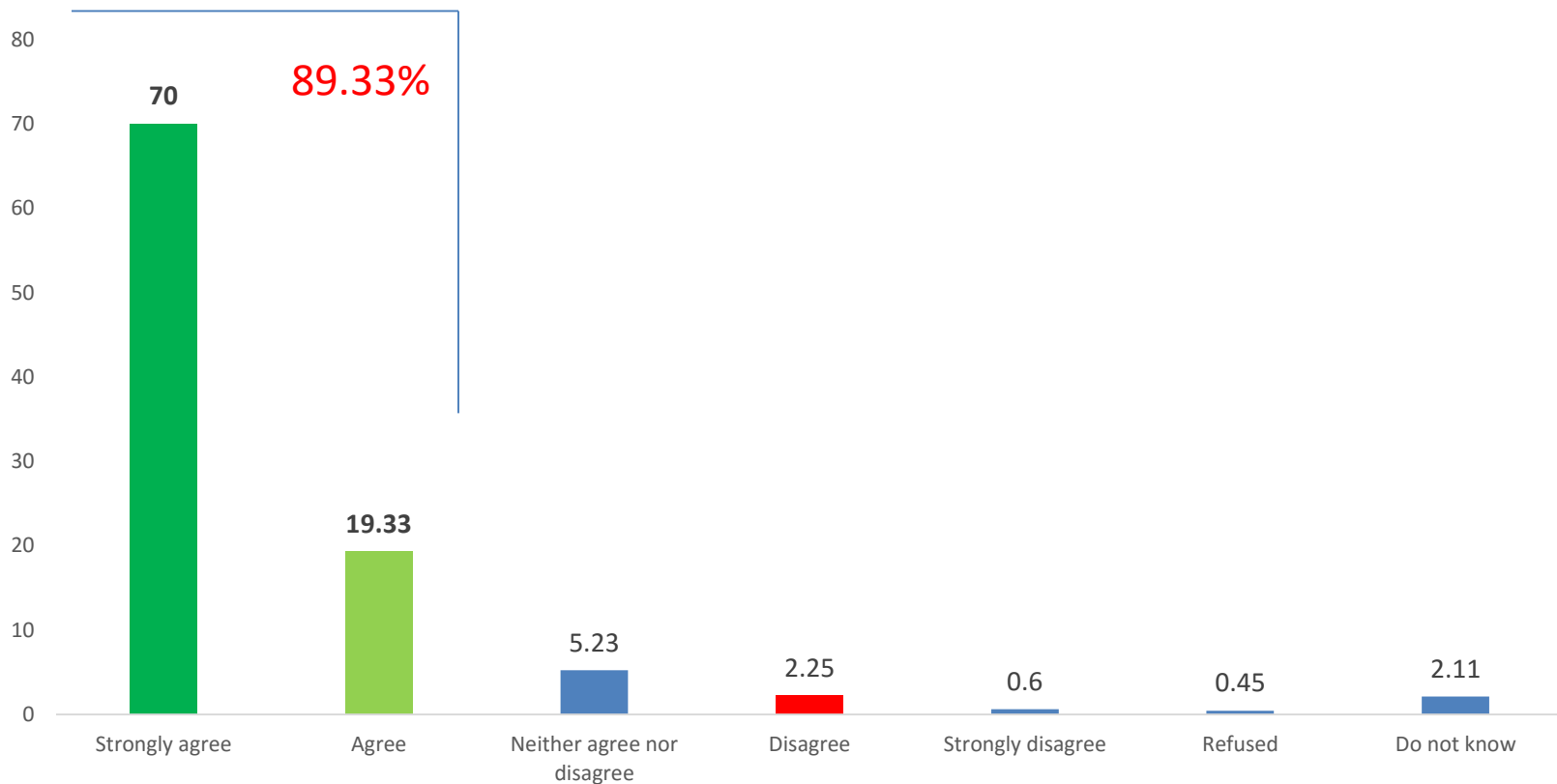
Does the right apply to all information or is it limited?



This show that just over one-half of all respondents thought that the right applied to all information, while just over 40% felt that it was limited in scope ...

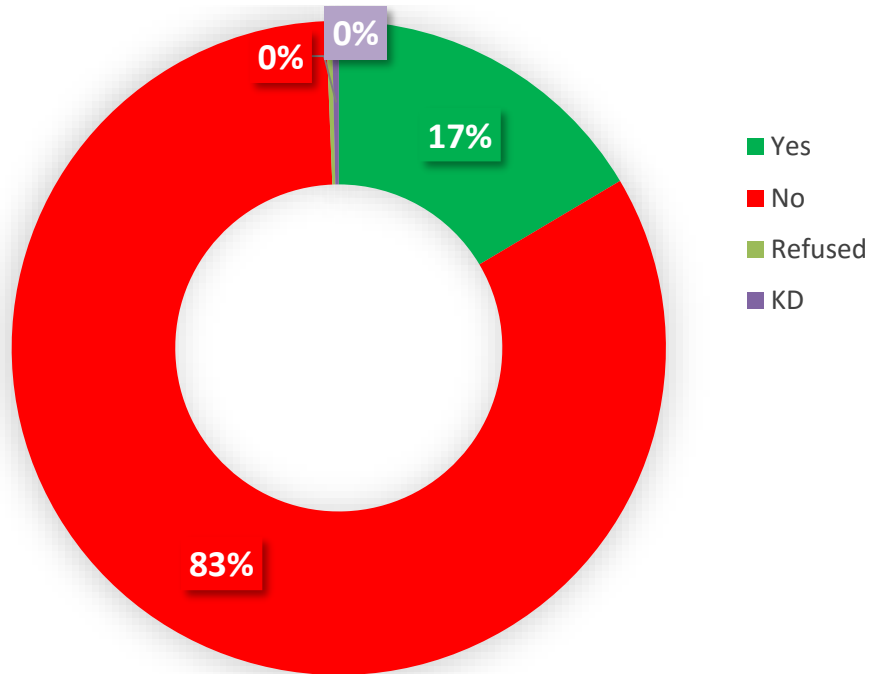
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Access to Information is the fundamental right of every Afghan citizen, regardless of gender, ethnicity, religious and language.



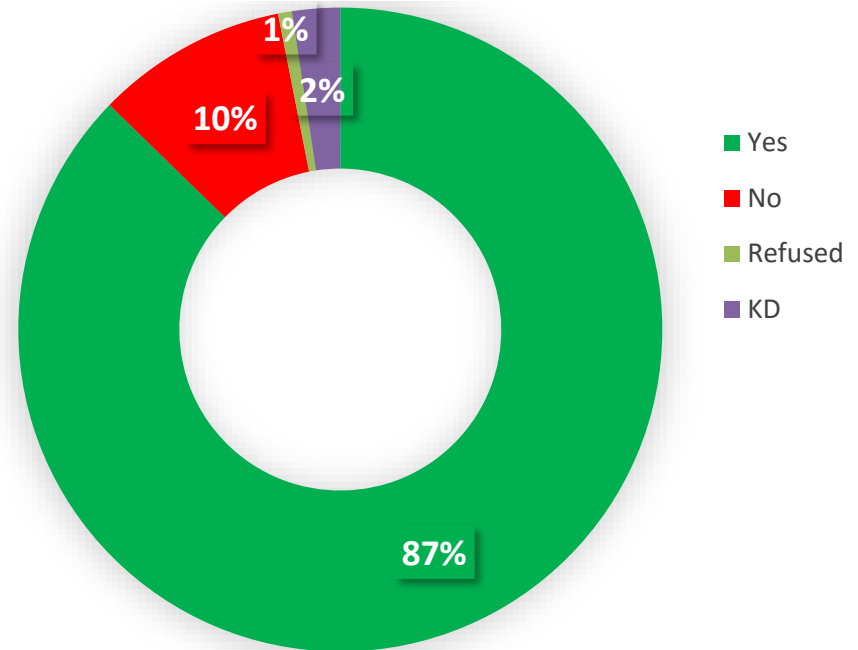
Make / Process Requests

In the past one year, have you contacted any organization to request information?



it is extremely important that this gap be narrowed. Action will be needed by a range of actors – public institutions, central government players, civil society and the media – to address this.

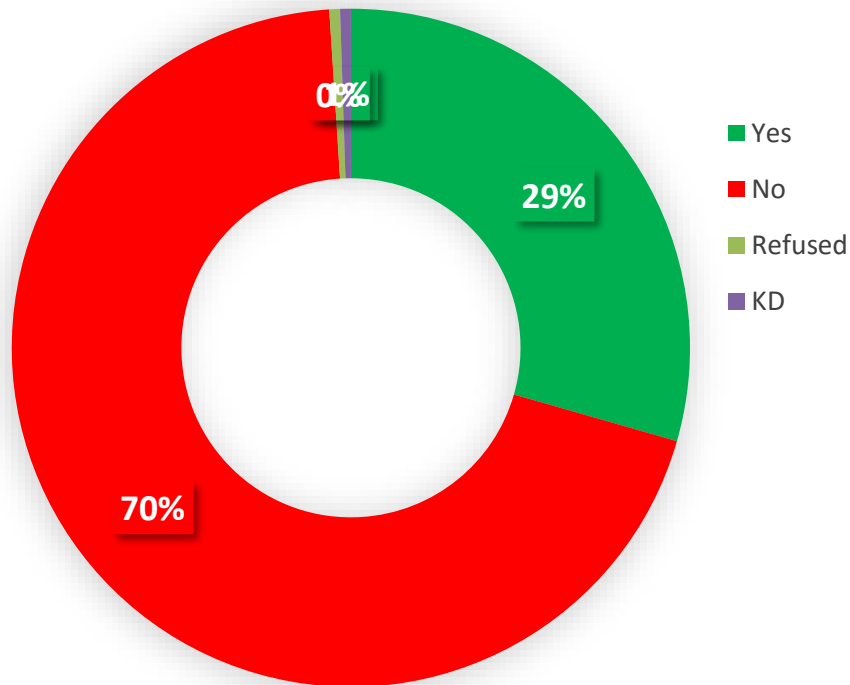
Did you know whom to ask for information?



for the small portion of the population that did bother to make a request, there was good understanding of the person or institution with which the request needed to be lodged.

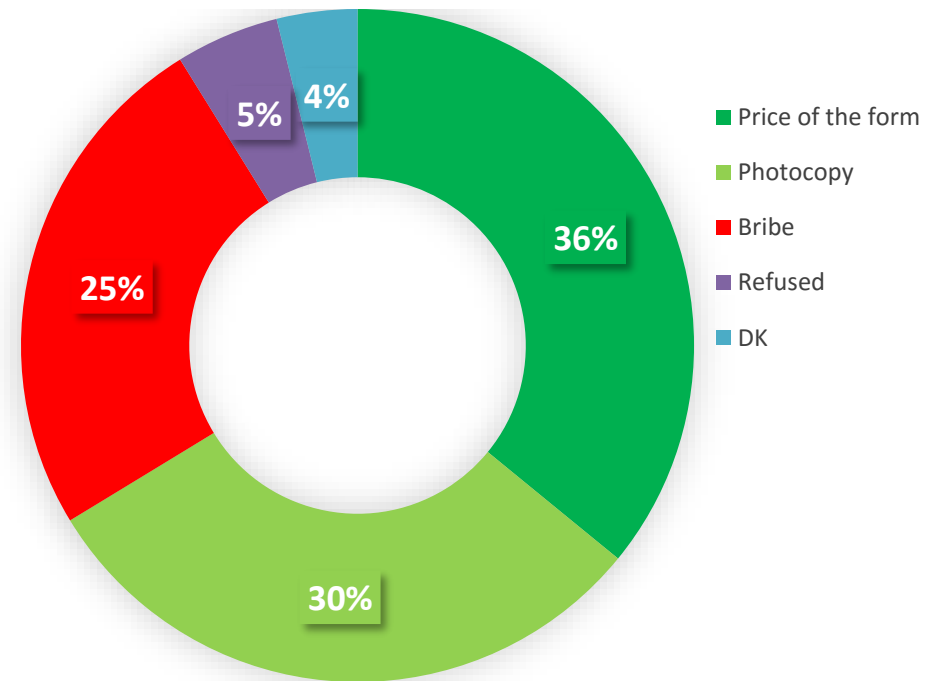
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Did you have to pay to have access to information?



These fees are normally fixed in advance and this is of course a legitimate fee for public institutions to charge...

Did you pay the bribe or price of the form and photocopy?

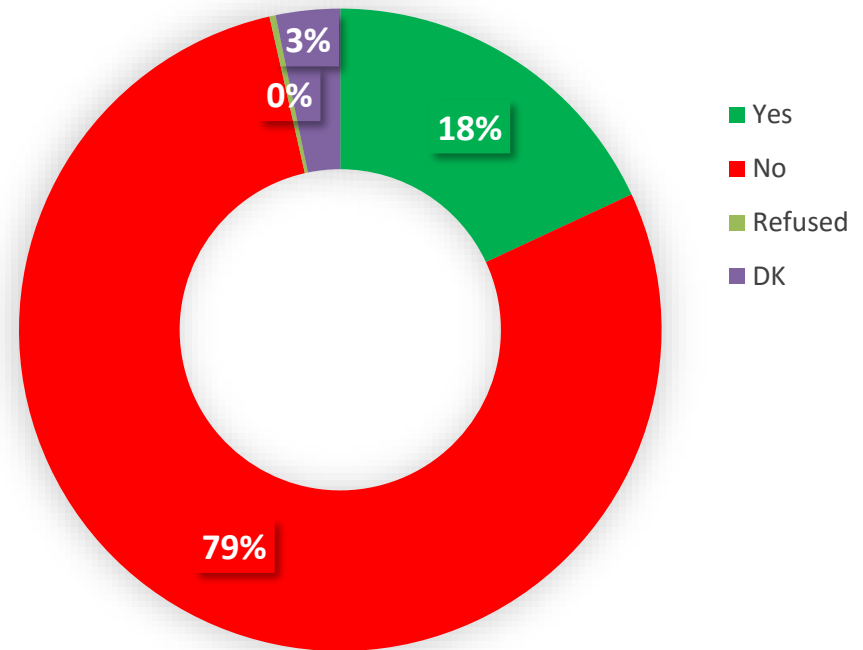
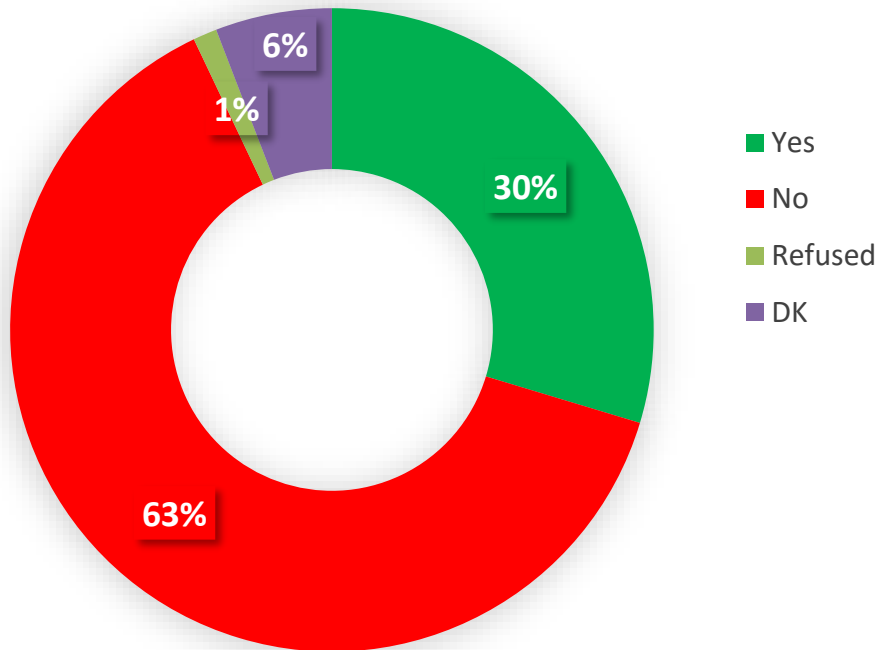


Price of the form and photocopy under the ATI Law is a formally approved system of payment – but corruption is serious because it undermines the exercise of a human right

Complaints - OCAI

Do you know where to lodge a complaint, in case you are not provided the requested information?

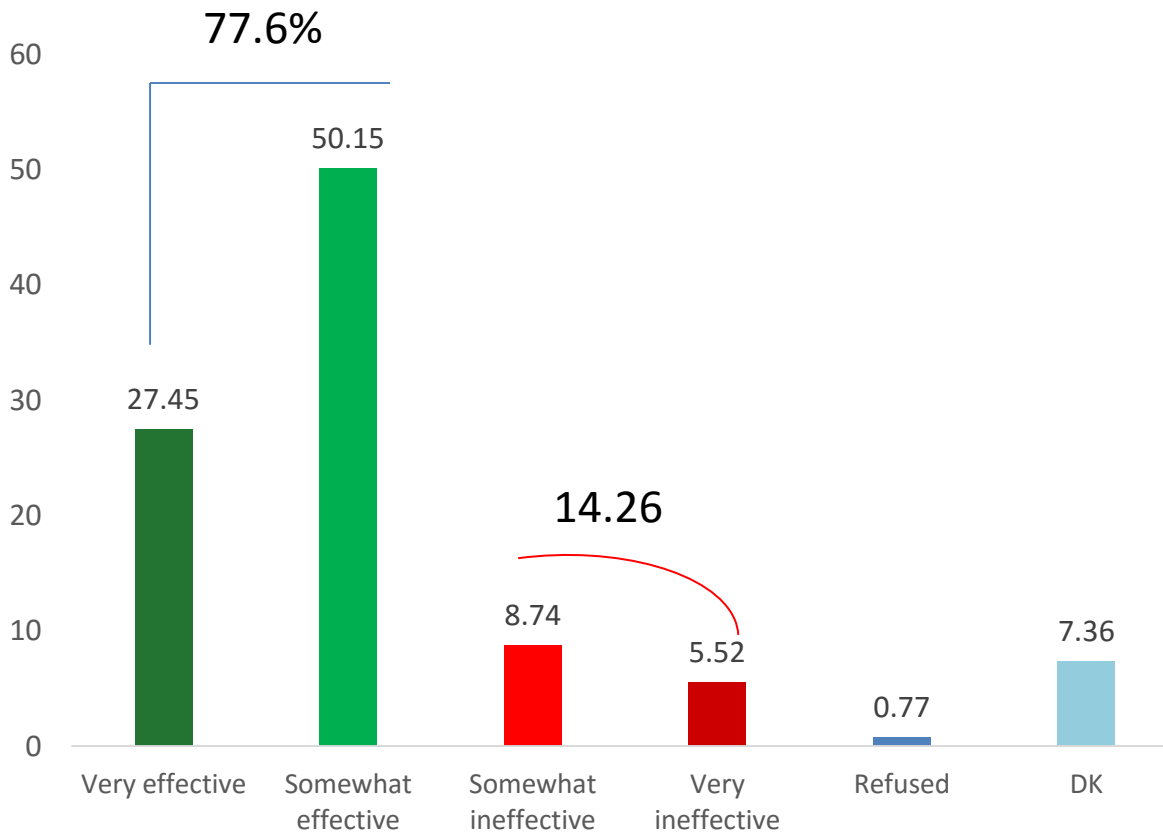
Have you heard about Oversight Commission on Access to Information?



...thinking of OCAI? it suggests that OCAI and others to raise awareness first about the lodging a complaint with OCAI - knowing that something can be done is not the same as knowing how to do it.

...the whole Access to Information Law in Afghanistan is of relatively recent vintage, that OCAI itself is even younger and the difficulty of reaching out to the whole population.

How effective do you think the Oversight Commission on Access to Information has in handling complaints?

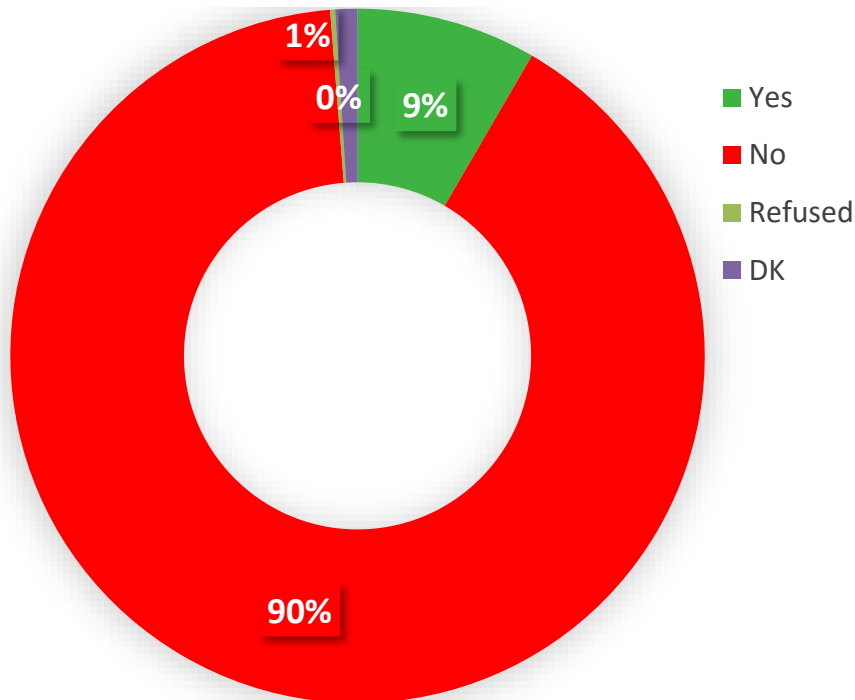


Responses are interesting inasmuch as they demonstrate a high degree of inherent trust in this sort of oversight body in the Afghan context.

this shows that OCAI retains goodwill among Afghan citizens, something it can build on to its advantage.

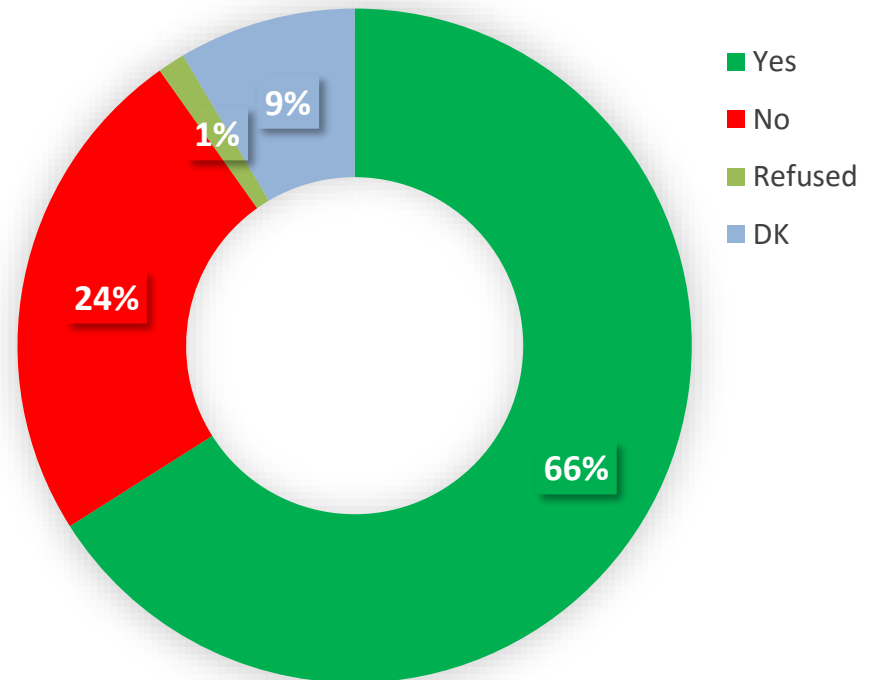
Proactive Disclosure

Have you ever visited government websites for ATI in the last 12 months?



This is actually reasonably consistent with estimates of overall Internet usage in Afghanistan...

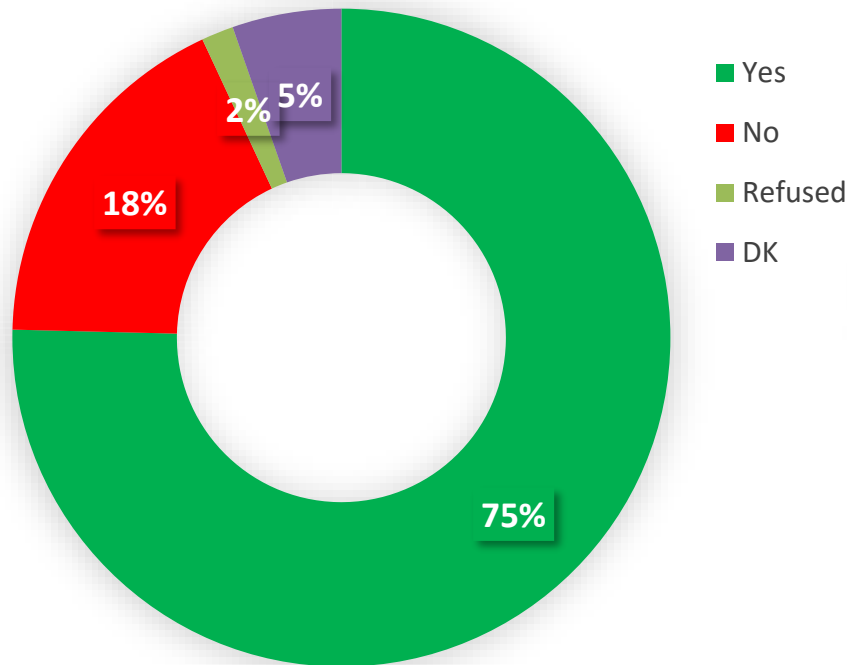
Did you find the information you wanted on the website?



Experience in countries around the world has demonstrated clearly that proactive disclosure of information online is the most efficient way to disseminate information.

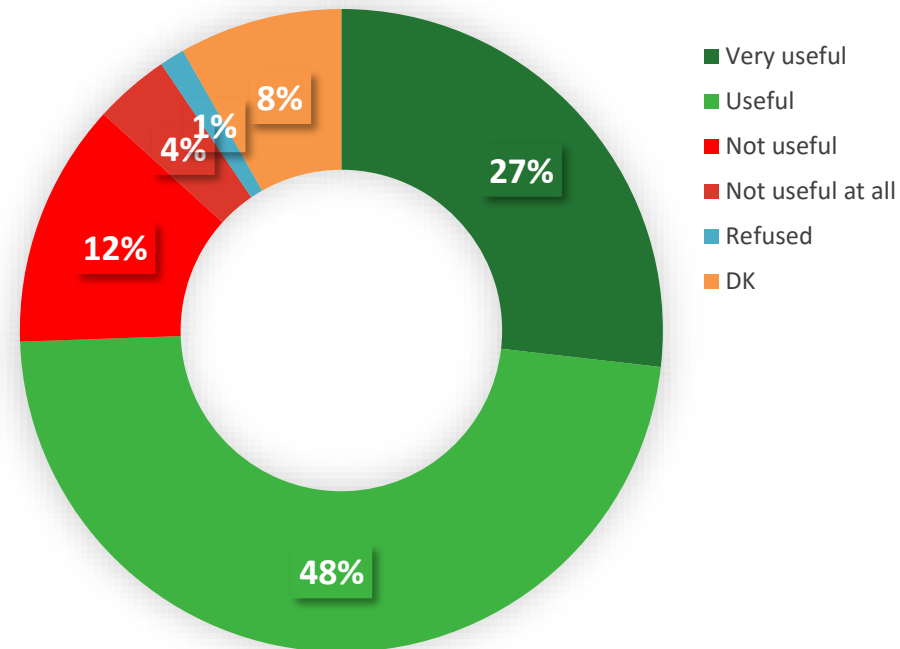
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Did you find the information in the language you wanted?



This suggests that this is an area where public institutions are doing relatively well.

How useful the information was?




This again represent an achievement for public institutions, that the information available online actually served the needs of citizens.



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