

COVENTRY EASTERN BYPASS

BUILDING A ROAD NETWORK FIT FOR THE NHS

November 2024



Midlands Connect

Foreword



"The results of this survey, undertaken by Midlands Connect, really put into perspective the importance of a strong highways network to a good healthcare system.

"The recent Binley junction upgrade has improved journey times, safety, and reliability. Now to properly free up capacity on the Coventry Eastern Bypass, we also require a similar investment in the Walsgrave junction, adjacent to the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire.

"I strongly feel that investment in this junction would improve access to healthcare in Coventry, reducing missed appointments, and encouraging people to access healthcare at an earlier stage. This can not only save lives, but from an NHS perspective also helps to reduce costs.

"Our Government has outlined a commitment to building an NHS that is fit for the future, and I feel that in Coventry, this must include investment to ease the daily congestion on the Eastern Bypass."



- **Councillor Jim O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change, Coventry City Council**



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This report has been written to highlight how improvements to the A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass may aid the Government's goal of reforming and rebuilding the NHS.

The A46 Coventry Eastern Bypass junctions, at Binley and Walsgrave, were proposed to be upgraded by National Highways to reduce congestion and create more reliable journeys. The A46 Binley junction improvement scheme was opened to traffic in November 2022, but there are concerns that without further investment in upgrades at the Walsgrave junction, the benefits of these improvement will not be realised.

Adjacent to these junctions is the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, known as a 'super hospital', providing healthcare services to the local population of 1.5 million people through the provision of 1,005 beds and 26 operating theatres. Proper access to this vital hospital, therefore, should be a priority for the government so that they may achieve their aim of building an NHS that is fit for the future.

1.2 Methodology

Cavendish Consulting has supported Midlands Connect in surveying local opinions on how proposed improvements to Walsgrave junction in Coventry could enhance access to healthcare services in the area, particularly the hospital.

By understanding community perspectives on the current challenges, the survey aims to identify how upgrades could impact how local people access and approach healthcare.

The survey was publicised using social media ads, which were displayed on both Meta and TikTok. These ads used geo-location targeting to ensure that they were only shown to those who lived or worked in Coventry. The ad campaign ran for a total of three weeks, from Tuesday 5th November until Tuesday 26th November 2024. During this period, 103 individuals completed the feedback form, an analysis of which is provided.

2.0 Overview of Responses

The survey aimed to understand public opinions regarding the A46 Coventry junctions and how these junctions affect their access to healthcare services. As such, questions were split into two sections. The first section sought to ascertain current views towards the junctions, and their impact on access to the hospital. The second section was more forward-looking and asked for views on how people's quality of life and healthcare experience may be improved through the proposed upgrades.

2.1 Current Perceptions on Access to Healthcare


The survey revealed that, at present, travelling to the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire is difficult. Among the 103 anonymous respondents, 61.9% of individuals stated that they had found it difficult to travel to the hospital on 'many' occasions. A further 25.8% described that they had 'sometimes' found it difficult, 6.2% had 'occasionally' found it difficult, and 6.2% had never found it difficult. The vast majority of respondents, therefore, had experienced multiple instances in which they struggled to access the hospital due to highways disruptions.

As a result of these disruptions, almost a quarter (23.5%) had missed, or been late to, a hospital appointment, or shift at the hospital, 'many times'. Whereas 34.7% of respondents described this as 'sometimes' occurring and over 13% described it as 'occasionally' occurring. Of the 103 respondents, just 26.5% had never experienced this issue.

According to NHS England, missed appointments could cost the NHS up to £1 billion pounds per year. Therefore, if inadequate road infrastructure is causing individuals to miss or be late to appointments, upgrading these roads will be a crucial factor in making the healthcare system more efficient and cost-effective.

The survey also highlighted some long-term effects of poor travel conditions on accessing healthcare. Out of 103 respondents, 31 (30%) reported that difficulties in travelling to the hospital negatively impacted their mental health, while 17% felt it adversely affected their home life.

Additionally, the survey revealed that difficulty accessing the hospital could affect workforce productivity. 23 respondents indicated they had to take extra time off work due to



difficulties accessing healthcare, while 20 respondents outlined that it made it harder for them to arrive at work on time.

The responses also suggested that difficulty accessing the hospital in Coventry led patients to seek alternative, and sometimes less suitable, healthcare services, causing an overflow into other services. Due to difficulty accessing the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire, 17 respondents stated that they had been forced to resort to their local GP surgery instead. A further 17 revealed that they had been forced to use a local pharmacy, and 14 stated that they had instead sought support at a local walk-in centre.


2.2 Potential Benefits of Proposed Improvements

The second section of the survey aimed to identify how respondents felt improvements to the Coventry junctions would support their access to the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire.

Two-thirds (67.6%) of respondents outlined their belief that the proposed upgrades would improve their access to the hospital. As well as this, responses outlined that many individuals believed that the proposed upgrades would have a positive impact on their everyday lives. 61.6% of individuals believed that upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass would allow them to spend less time out of their day for an appointment, and a further 55.9% believed that it would reduce their journey time overall.

Responses also revealed mental health and wellbeing benefits of upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass. Over half of the respondents (59.4%) agreed that the proposed upgrades would allow them to feel less stressed about accessing healthcare. A further 67.9% agreed that the proposed upgrades would make it easier for them to visit loved ones in care.

Moreover, many respondents outlined that they would be more likely to proactively seek out healthcare at an early stage, following the identification of a health concern. 60.7% of respondents 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the proposed upgrades would encourage them to access healthcare at an earlier stage, with 47.1% stating that they would be more likely to access healthcare in general. In addition to improving patient outcomes, earlier diagnosis of illnesses can save lives and reduce treatment costs, thereby allowing the NHS to operate more efficiently.



Finally, individuals were asked to share their views on how important access is to a strong healthcare system. In response, a significant 59.2% believed that improving roads around hospitals would enable the government to improve the NHS, making healthcare more fit for the future.

2.3 Conclusion

The results from this survey have revealed the extent to which local people's access to the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire is impacted by negative experiences on the local road network, including congestion and safety concerns.

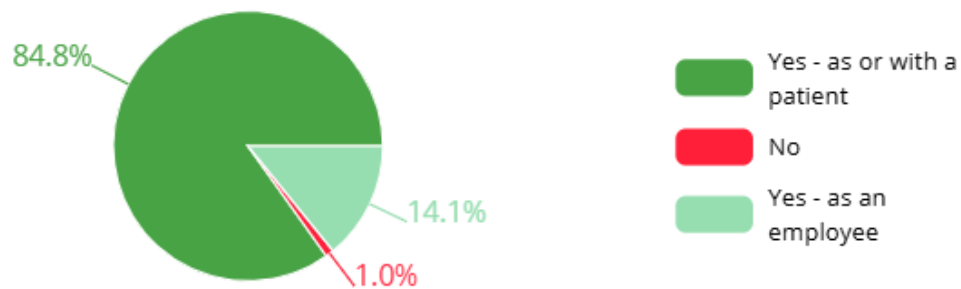
It has been outlined that this is causing people to be late to, or miss, appointments, while also negatively impacting mental health, home life, and relationship with work.

Local people felt investment in the Walsgrave junction would improve their access to healthcare, and encourage visits at an earlier stage, which could potentially save lives while reducing costs to the NHS.

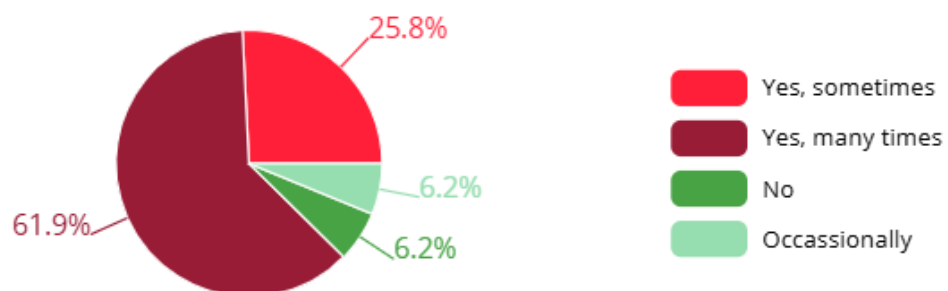
In response to the survey, individuals in Coventry outlined that the proposed upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass at Walsgrave junction would aid the Government to deliver on their plans to reform the NHS, making the healthcare service fit for the future.

3.0 Responses to all questions

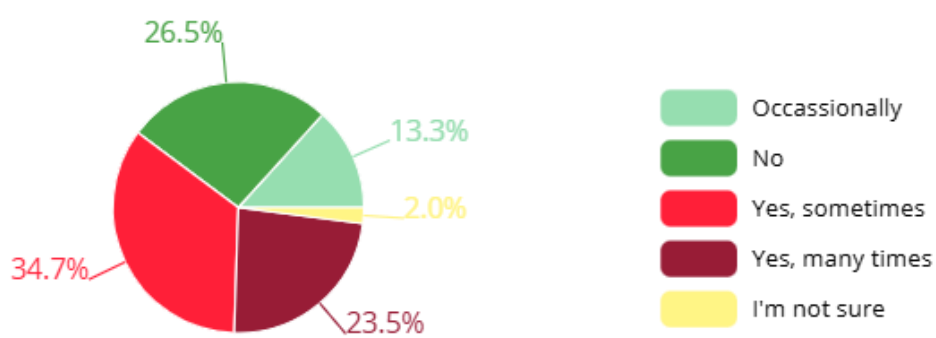
3.1 Have you ever visited the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire?



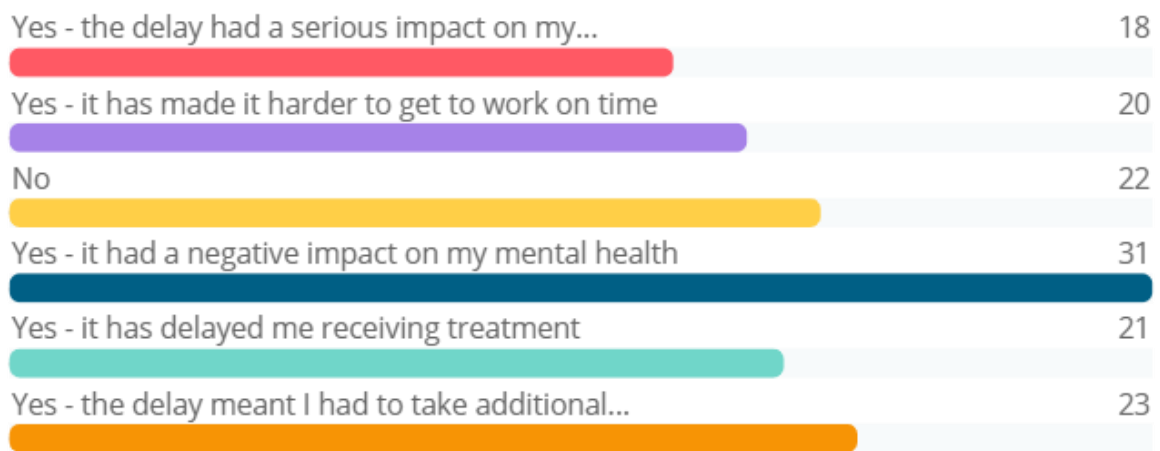
3.2 Have you ever found it difficult, or inconvenient, to travel to the hospital?



3.3 Have you ever missed, or been late to, an appointment or shift at the hospital due to road issues? For example, because of traffic, accidents, or road works.

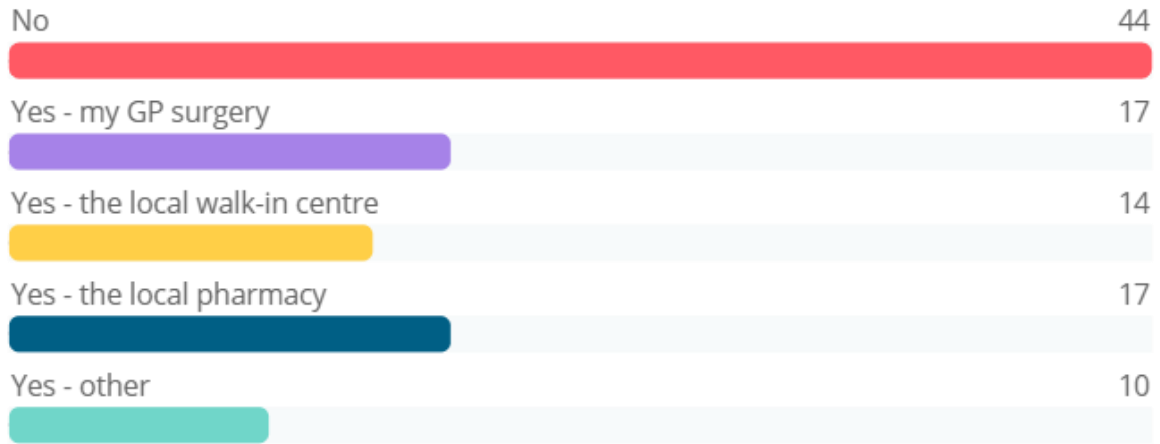


3.4 Has difficulty accessing the hospital had a negative impact on your health and wellbeing? Multiple answers allowed.

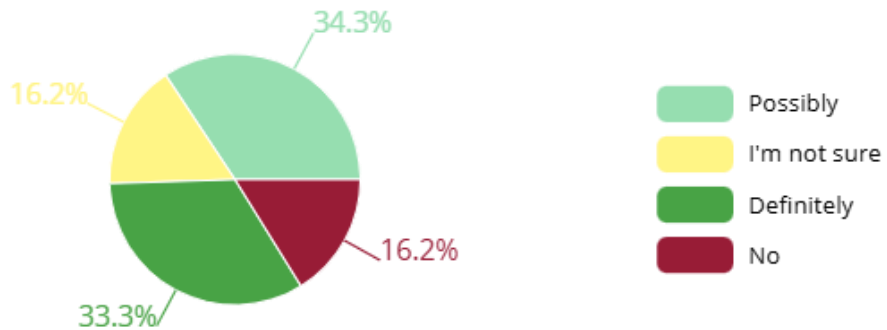


3.5 Has difficulty accessing the hospital forced you to use other NHS services instead?

Multiple answers allowed.

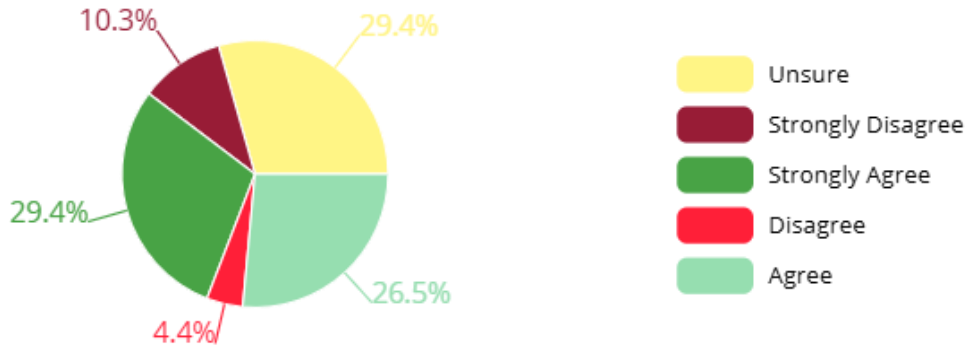


3.6 Do you think upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass (A46) would improve your access to the hospital?

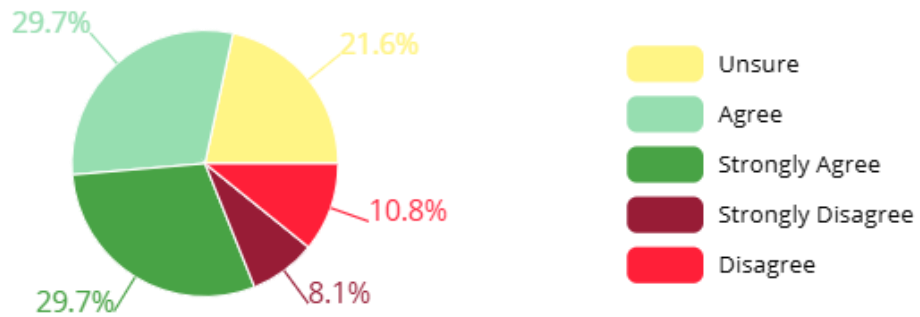


3.7 How would upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass (A46) improve your access to the hospital?

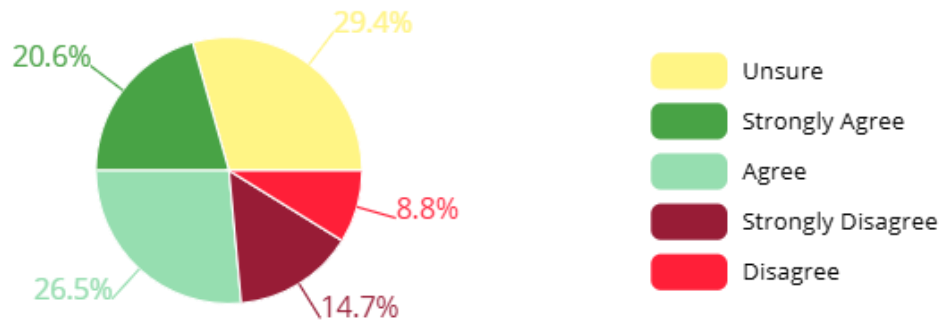
“Upgrades would reduce my journey time”



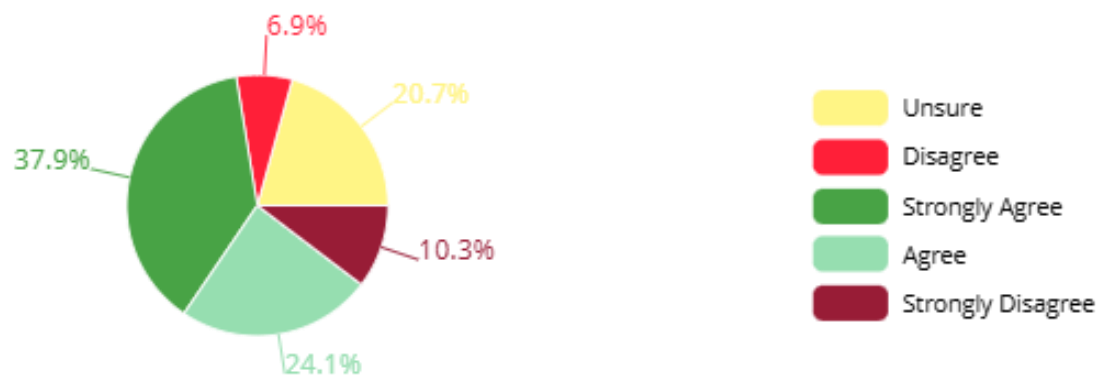
“I’d feel less stressed accessing healthcare”



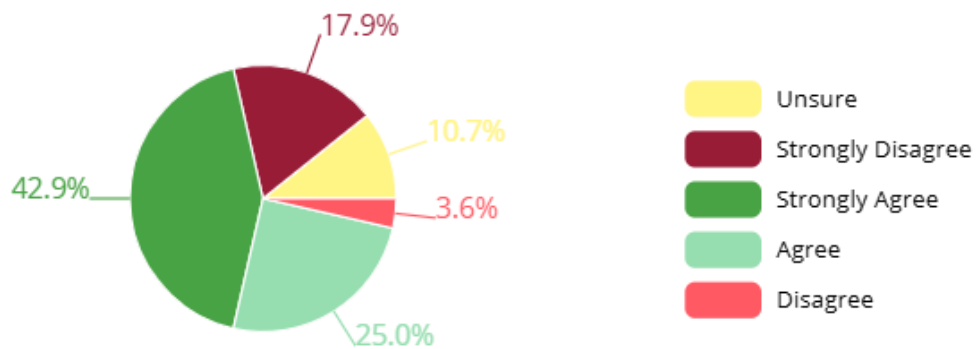
"It would make me more likely to seek healthcare"



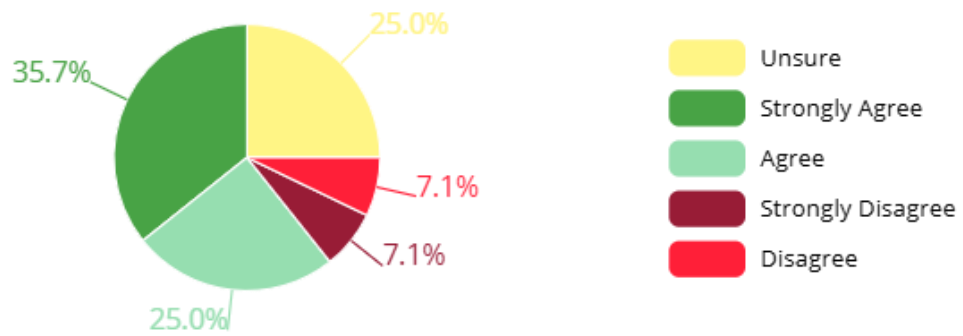
"I would spend less time out of my day for an appointment"



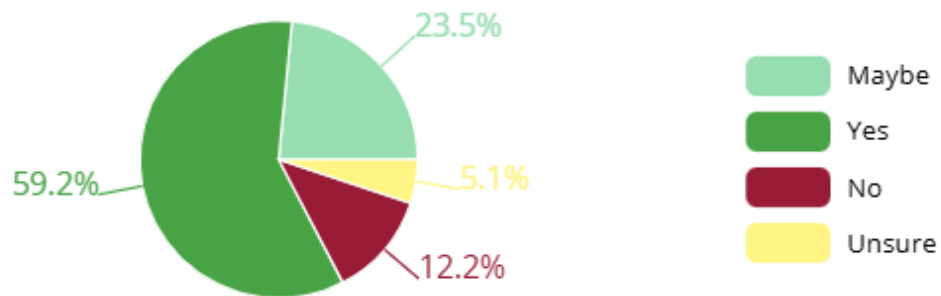
"It would make it easier to visit loved ones"



"I would access healthcare at an earlier stage if feeling unwell"



3.8 Do you think that improvements to roads around hospitals would help the government to improve the NHS, making healthcare more fit for the future?



4.0 The Survey



Is traffic impacting your access to healthcare in Coventry?

The University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire is one of the largest hospitals in the Midlands, serving a local population of 1.5 million people.

As such, the roads around the hospital, specifically the Coventry Eastern Bypass (A46), can find themselves subject to congestion and traffic, with drivers finding themselves delayed and frustrated.

Whether you work at the hospital, or have visited as or with a patient, we want to hear from you about your experience so we can best outline the need for improvements.

[How do we use your data?](#)

Start



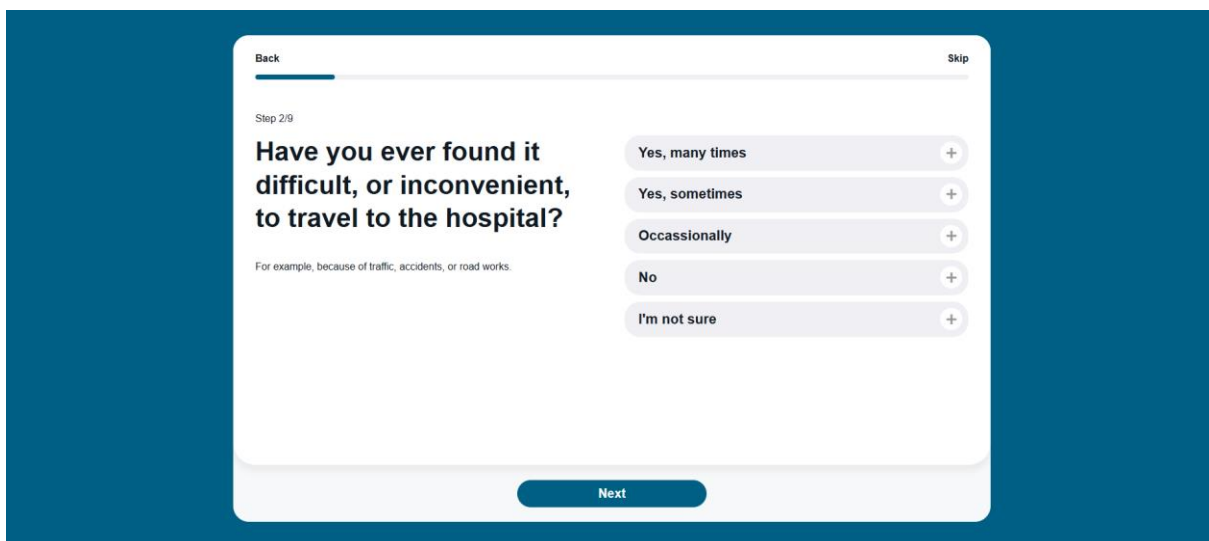
Back Skip

Step 1/9

Have you ever visited the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire?

- Yes - as an employee +
- Yes - as or with a patient +
- No +
- I'm not sure +

Next



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Step 2/9

Have you ever found it difficult, or inconvenient, to travel to the hospital?

For example, because of traffic, accidents, or road works.

- Yes, many times +
- Yes, sometimes +
- Occasionally +
- No +
- I'm not sure +

Next



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Step 3/9

Have you ever missed, or been late to, an appointment or shift at the hospital due to road issues?

For example, because of traffic, accidents, or road works.

- Yes, many times +
- Yes, sometimes +
- Occasionally +
- No +
- I'm not sure +

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Step 4/9 Choose up to 5

Has difficulty accessing the hospital had a negative impact on your health or wellbeing?





- Yes - it has delayed me receiving treatment +
- Yes - the delay meant I had to take additional time off work +
- Yes - the delay had a serious impact on my homelife +
- Yes - it had a negative impact on my mental health +
- Yes - it has made it harder to get to work on time +
- No +

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Step 5/9 Choose up to 4


Has difficulty accessing the hospital forced you to use other NHS services instead?

-  Yes - the local pharmacy +
-  Yes - my GP surgery +
-  Yes - the local walk-in centre +
-  Yes - other +
- No +

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Step 6/9



Midlands Connect are proposing improvements to the Coventry Eastern Bypass (A46) that will improve safety and relieve traffic congestion, allowing for smoother and faster journeys on the main road adjacent to the University Hospital Coventry & Warwickshire.

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Step 7/9

Do you think upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass (A46) would improve your access to the hospital?

Definitely +

Possibly +

No +

I'm not sure +

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Step 8/9

How would upgrades to the Coventry Eastern Bypass (A46) improve your access to the hospital?

Please scroll down to view entire question.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Upgrades would reduce my journey time	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I'd feel less stressed accessing healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would make me more likely to seek healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would spend less time out of my day for an appointment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would make it easier to visit loved ones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would access healthcare at an earlier stage if feeling unwell	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Step 9/9

Do you think that improvements to roads around hospitals would help the government to improve the NHS, making healthcare more fit for the future?

Yes

Maybe

No

Unsure

Next

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Submit your answers

We hold all personal data in accordance with the retained EU law version of the General Data Protection Regulation ((EU) 2016/679) (the "UK GDPR"), as it forms part of the law of England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

I agree to the privacy policy and confirm I'm over 13 years old. (Required)

[Privacy policy](#)

Submit



Thanks for sharing your views.

Your feedback will help us to push for improvements to this route.

To find out more about the work Midlands Connect does to improve transport around the Midlands, visit their website.

Find out more **Share**

4.0 Social Media



GIF used to publicise survey on social media platforms, including Meta and TikTok.