

# FASS Programme

## High-Level Readiness Scope Overview

November 2024



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# Introduction

The Future Arrangements for Systems Services (FASS) Programme aims to enhance system services to meet the evolving needs of a decarbonised grid, improve reliability and support the integration of renewable energy sources. The programme go-live date is December 2026. For a seamless implementation of the FASS programme, industry readiness is crucial.

In March 2024, the TSOs published V1.0 of the Phased Implementation Roadmap (PIR) which was approved by the SEMC<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of PIR V1.0 was to address requirements set out by SEMC in SEM-23-103<sup>2</sup>. As defined in the PIR V1.0, a programme workstream was dedicated to industry engagement and market readiness (internal and external to the TSOs) and the programme milestone FASS.20 was created. In the subsequent release of PIR V2.0 in September 2024<sup>3</sup>, further details were outlined, with milestone FASS.20 described as High-Level Readiness Scope Overview.

On 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 the FASS Programme team issued an Industry Readiness survey to all EirGrid and SONI customers and stakeholders. The purpose of the survey was to gauge industry's preparedness and draw out specific needs. We have conducted a detailed analysis of the responses and utilised the valuable feedback as an input to the High-Level Readiness Scope. As part of our continued engagement with industry, we will issue another Industry Readiness survey in April 2025. These survey insights will guide the development of an Engagement and Readiness Approach Document. This approach document will detail the structured plan for industry engagement and communication channels to ensure readiness for the FASS programme's objectives. It is scheduled for publication in June 2025 and listed as FASS milestone FASS.41 in the PIR V2.0.

Ultimately final scope details and timelines cannot be confirmed until after vendor onboarding, however considering industry survey feedback the TSOs consider early communication of planned activities to be pertinent in order for industry to consider their own early preparatory activities in so far as possible. As such, the purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the high-level scope of the Readiness workstream for the delivery of FASS. By communicating the key readiness activities with industry early, EirGrid and SONI aim to minimise disruptions, ensure alignment and operational efficiency of all participants by the go-live date of December 2026.

The December 2026 go-live date is dependent on timely SEMC decision making and any delays in decision making will impact the delivery of readiness activities with potential for delay. The key dependencies are listed in this document.

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<sup>1</sup> [FASS-TSOs-PIR-March-2024-EirGrid.pdf](#)

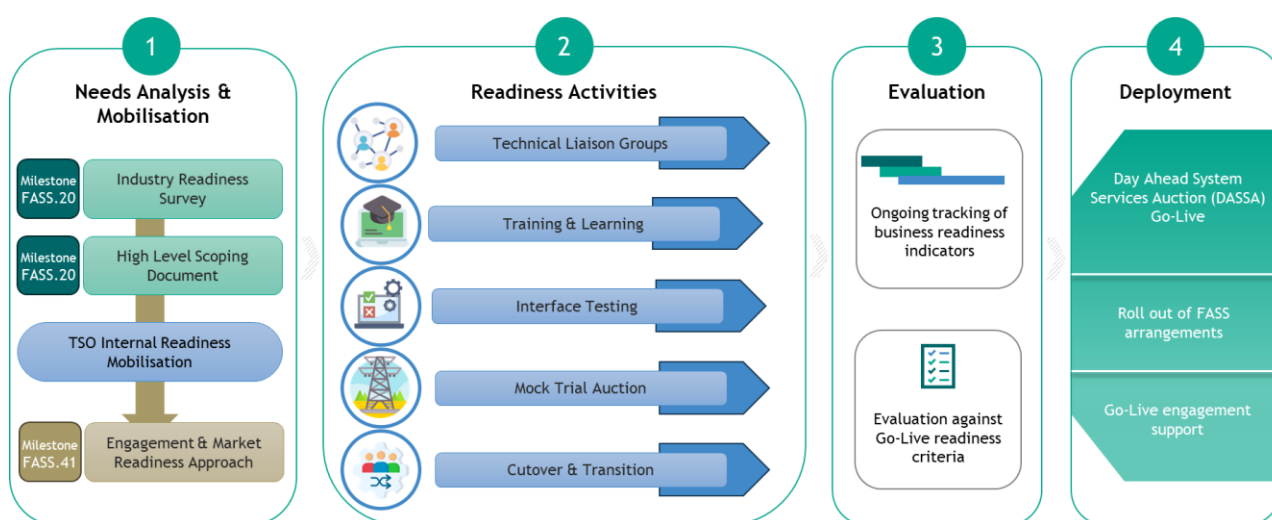
<sup>2</sup> [SEM-23-103 - SSFA Phase III - Phased Implementation Roadmap - Decision Paper.pdf \(semcommittee.com\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [FASS-TSOs-PIR-September-2024-EirGrid.pdf](#)

# High Level Scope Overview

To ensure a successful transition to the new system services framework, the FASS programme team has defined the High-Level Readiness Scope. This document will set out the candidate scope of the programme's readiness activities for impacted stakeholders. Our readiness methodology is a structured framework used to assess, plan and ensure a successful transition for EirGrid, SONI and industry from DS3 to the FASS programme. This comprehensive framework helps to identify potential risks, gaps and areas of focus.

The structured framework serves as a foundation for developing metrics to track and evaluate activities across impacted stakeholder groups. For operational readiness, our approach will prioritise stakeholder engagement, assess readiness using data-driven insights and trial the new interface and auction process to identify and address inconsistencies.



The Readiness workstream will support service providers to adopt and integrate changes driven by the introduction of the FASS programme. The scope of the Readiness workstream is subject to review and refinement as the project evolves.

To ensure that service providers are fully aligned, prepared and ready for a successful FASS implementation and in alignment with FASS programme goals, key readiness areas have been identified.

## Key Readiness areas:

- Technical Liaison groups
  - Establishing technical liaison groups to offer stakeholder support. Ensuring stakeholders are consistently informed of project progress and feedback is actively collected. To begin, existing communication channels (i.e.: monthly industry forum) to be leveraged in so far as possible and adjusted based on programme requirements and industry feedback.
- Training & Learning
  - Developing knowledge and skills for each impacted stakeholder group, with an emphasis on understanding key changes. Training will be tailored to meet the specific needs of each group.
- Interface Testing
  - Conducting user interface testing to ensure the new system's usability, design, and overall user experience. Stakeholders' participation in testing will provide feedback during the build phase.
- Mock Auction Trial

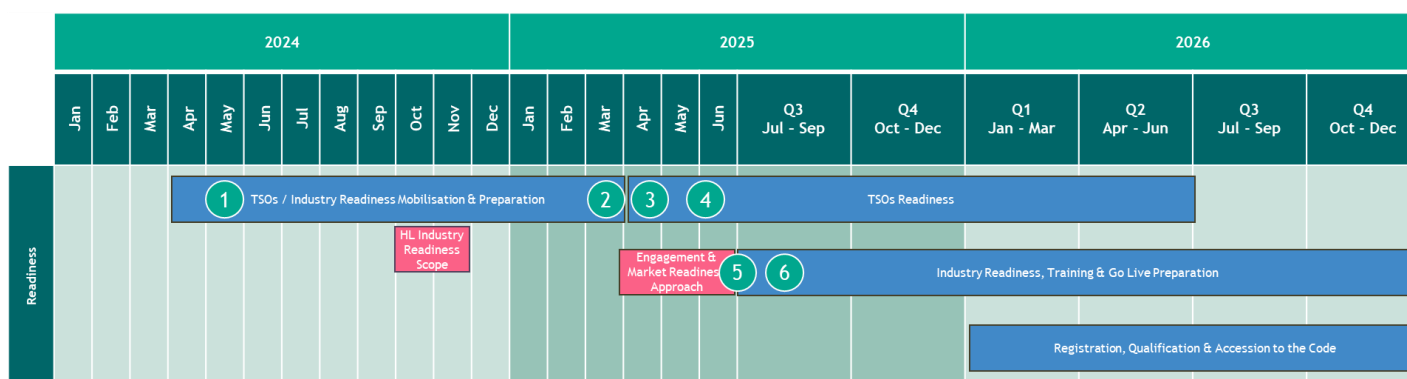
- Performing mock auction trials demonstrating the auction processes prior to go-live. Allowing users to test new systems and processes, to facilitate a smooth transition into the live daily auction arrangements.
- Transition Support
  - Supporting service providers during cutover period from previous arrangements to new FASS arrangements. Stakeholder's will be guided through the pre/ post go-live process.

The key readiness areas will be supported by the delivery of communications, industry engagements and industry readiness assessments with key readiness metrics and monitoring, in advance of go-live in December 2026.

# Schedule Overview

The PIR V2.0 details that Industry Readiness, Training & Go-live preparation will commence in Q3 2025. The FASS Programme team intend to issue a more granular view of the business readiness activities and further detail on timelines in PIR V3.0, which is due to be published in March 2025.

A key programme milestone for Readiness is this document, meeting FASS Milestone FASS.20. This document and a further industry survey planned for April 2025 will inform FASS Milestone FASS.41, Engagement & Market Readiness Approach.



Additionally, we have highlighted the following key project points in the readiness workstream:

1. TSOs commence readiness by ramping up mobilisation efforts, scaling resources, securing IT vendor for swift onboarding, and advancing IT design. No action for industry outside of engaging on planned consultations and existing industry forums.
2. In March 2025, the Phased Implementation Roadmap (PIR)V3.0 is due for publication. It will provide further detail on timelines for all workstreams and include further granularity on the delivery schedule of readiness activities.
3. In April 2025, TSOs will issue another Industry Readiness Survey to assess industry’s level of preparedness and tailor the readiness approach. Additionally, TSOs will request a nominated point of contact per organisation for readiness activities.
4. April 2025-June 2026: ongoing internal TSO readiness activities taking place. Highlighted on timeline, for transparency.
5. In June 2025, the TSOs will publish the Engagement & Market Readiness Approach which will detail the structured plan for industry engagement and communication channels to ensure readiness for the FASS programme’s objectives.
6. July 2025 is the target start date for industry engagement activities which will include establishing Technical Liaison Groups (TLGs) and delivering training. Interface testing and market trial will follow at appropriate intervals.

Note - Timelines, scope and schedule are subject to change based on dependencies outlined below. Changes will be communicated to industry as soon as feasibly possible.

# Dependencies

Identifying Readiness workstream dependencies is crucial to maintaining programme progress and the delivery of readiness activities. The Readiness workstream has dependencies on other programme workstreams to ensure on-time delivery. Consequently, delays in these areas can have a cascading impact on the readiness timeline.

The successful deployment of systems, processes and regulatory structures is critical for operational readiness and development of training materials. Furthermore, a key dependency for service provider engagement with the new system is IT platform readiness, to enable interface testing and mock trial auction. Any delay in completing these readiness activities could jeopardise the planned go-live date.

Dependency	Description
Auction & Market Arrangements	Final holistic FASS market design completed within existing programme timelines and approved by the SEMC.
SEMC Decision	Timely and clear decisions by the SEMC are crucial to maintaining progress and momentum on the programme.
Market Rules & Code Development	Completion of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft of Plain English Version (PEV) of the System Services Code.
IT Systems Delivery	IT Vendor has successfully onboarded and is delivering on programme requirements within existing timelines.
Funding	Formal notification of funding approval to allow resource mobilisation effort to proceed as planned.
DS3 SS Tariffs to DASSA	No readiness activities have been scoped for any new arrangements that may be implemented during the period between April 2026 (the current end of the DS3 Regulated Arrangements) and DASSA Go Live.

# Industry Readiness Survey

As the TSOs advance the FASS programme, industry readiness and collaboration remain central to achieving the programme's objectives. To better understand the current state of industry preparedness and to identify how EirGrid and SONI can best support stakeholders in this transformative journey, an industry readiness survey was conducted with input from prospective FASS service providers. This survey offered stakeholders an opportunity to provide insights on their progress, challenges, and support needs associated with FASS implementation.

The survey gathered critical data across multiple areas, including levels of awareness, operational readiness, anticipated challenges and areas where additional guidance or resources from the TSOs would be most valuable.

This section summarises the findings of the survey with additional details available in the appendix. The results will serve as a foundation for the Readiness workstream within the FASS programme, enabling the FASS programme team to tailor its approach and focus resources effectively.

## Key Themes:

The FASS Programme's industry readiness survey identified three key areas where industry stakeholders require additional support from the TSOs to ensure effective implementation. The main themes highlighted were:

- Enhanced communications and clarity regarding DASSA design
- Introduction of Business Readiness Activities
- Additional information to facilitate IT system implementation

Insights from these findings will directly inform the development of the Readiness workstream and the Engagement and Market Readiness Approach document, ensuring a targeted support structure. This workstream will prioritise establishing communication channels, conducting engagement activities and facilitating support initiatives to strengthen service providers' preparedness for the introduction of the FASS programme.

## Next Steps:

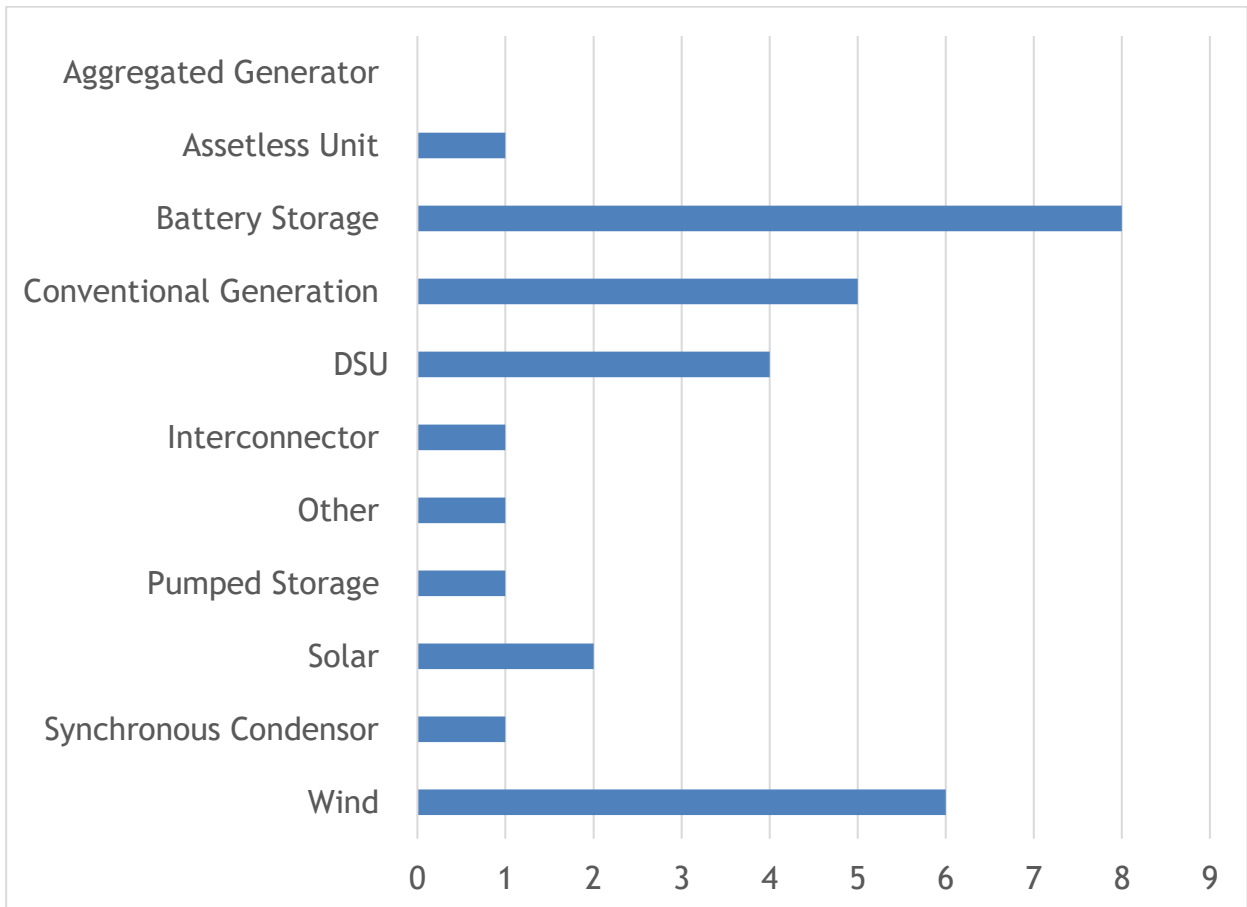
As noted in the introduction, the next steps will be to continue industry engagement and we will issue another Industry Readiness survey in April 2025. The insights gathered from this Industry Readiness survey and the one conducted in November 2024 will guide the development of the Engagement and Readiness Approach Document, due for publication in June 2025. Regular updates on the progress of these activities to continue through existing engagement channels (e.g.: Monthly FPM Workshop).



# Appendix: Survey Responses

A total of **16 responses** to the Industry survey were received. The TSOs have displayed the aggregated responses in graphs for each question below and have summarised the free text responses in Question 7 and Question 8.

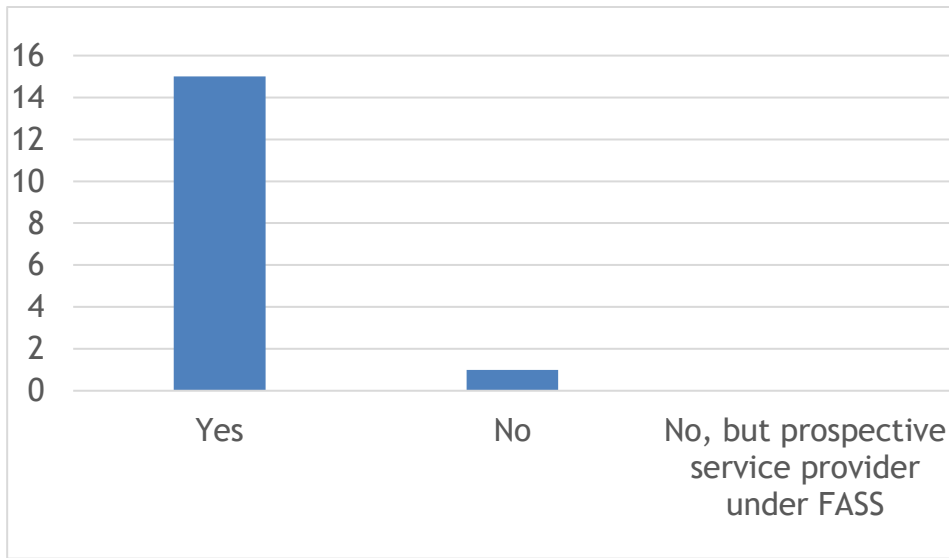
Question 1. What type of facility do you operate?  
*\*Multiple selection option available to respondents*



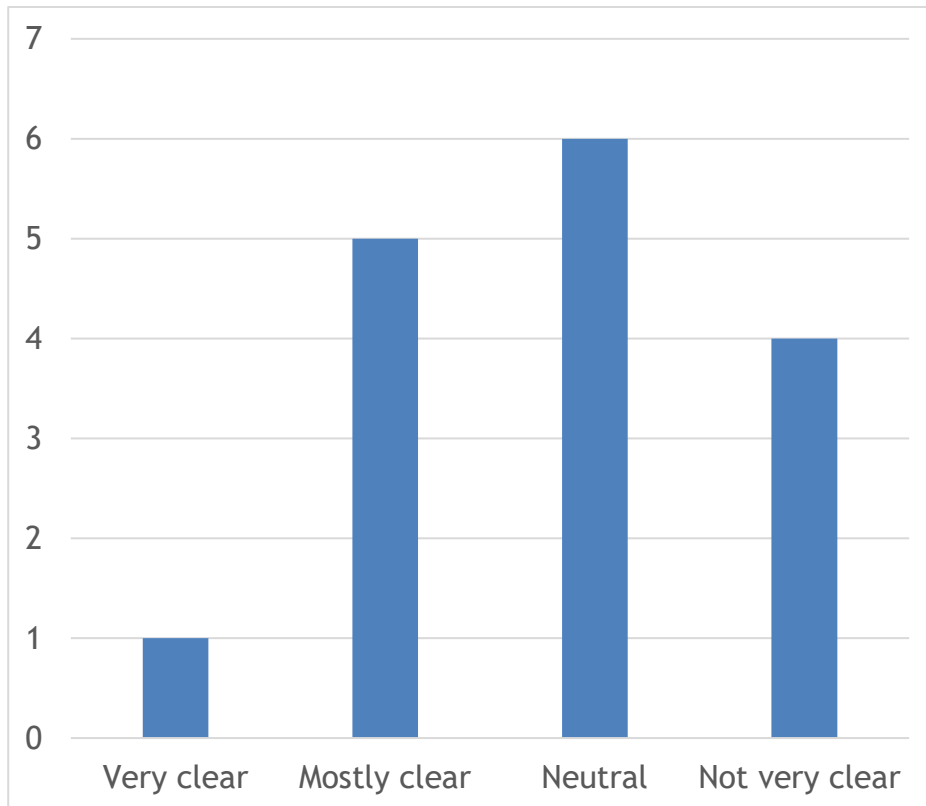
Other included:

- Corporate Purchase Power Agreement (CPPA)

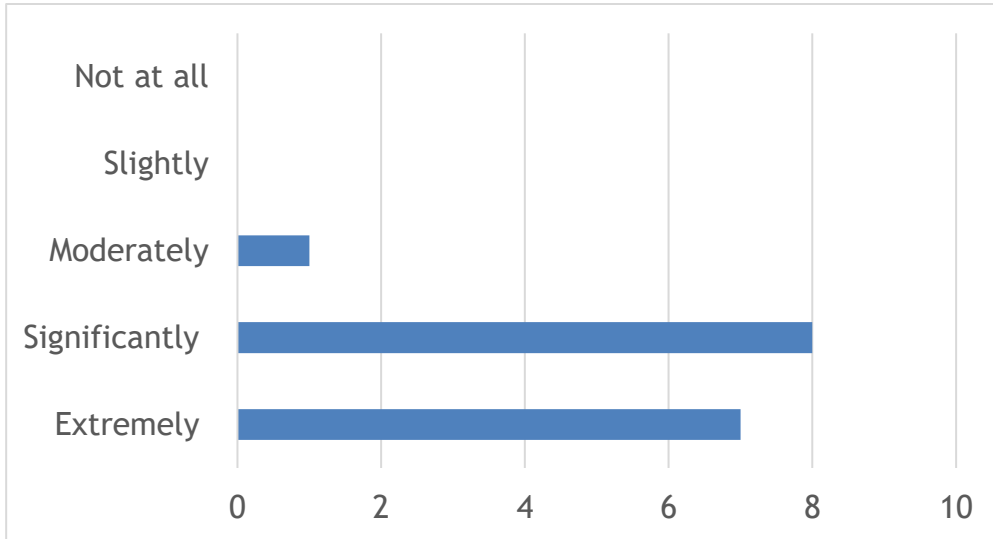
Question 2. Does your organisation currently provide system services under the DS3 Regulated Arrangements?



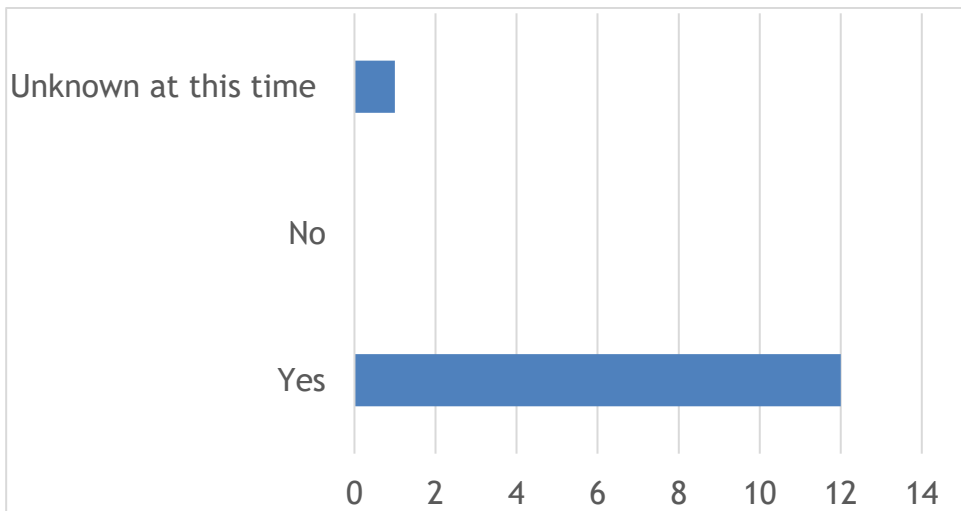
Question 3. How clear is your organisation's understanding of the schedule of work to be delivered under the FASS programme?



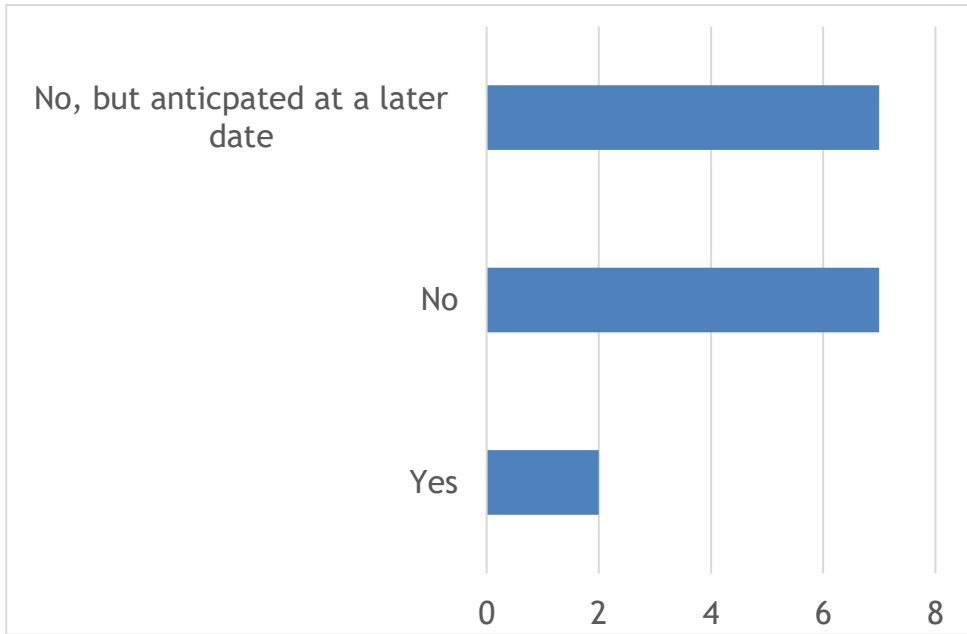
Question 4. To what extent will the introduction of the FASS programme of work impact your business?



Question 5. Do you anticipate IT system changes for your organisation based on scope of change driven by the FASS Programme?



Question 6. Do you have a dedicated project team mobilised to work on FASS programme activities?



Question 7. Do you feel that you are provided with sufficient channels to both receive and input information effectively?

