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## NEWS ITEM

### Reader participation request

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In response to the request for information some 124 completed forms have been returned. Although somewhat parochial, with only 10 forms coming from overseas, it may interest readers to see how the Journal is being received.

Of those who returned forms 79 can be bracketed as geological scientists, 43 as engineers with 2 others. In terms of more specific groupings it is difficult to categorize some of the returns since a number of geologists and engineers 'wear more than one hat'. A realistic breakdown according to primary specializations is as follows:

Engineering geologists	61	Civil engineers	43
Mining geologists	3	(predominantly concerned with ground	
Hydrogeologists	7	engineering)	
Resources geologists	4	Mining engineers	4
Field geologist	1	Mineral valuer	1
Geomorphologists	2	Manager	1
Geophysicist	1		

Of the above readers 89 receive their copies of the Quarterly Journal as Fellows of the Society, 17 are subscribers, whilst 18 usually see a library or firm's copy.

The answers relating to contents and length of papers should be read in conjunction with the helpful comments and criticisms that readers made. A number of readers felt that papers given at Burlington House meetings and Regional Meetings should be published either in full or in extended abstract form (including discussion), since it is rarely possible for members of the Engineering Group living outside London to attend more than one or two meetings a year. Readers are probably aware that the practice of publishing papers from Regional Meetings *in toto* was discontinued because of the difficulty of ensuring that all authors had their papers ready for rapid publication. The Editorial Sub-Committee intend to reconsider this decision, however, because only a few individual papers have been received from the last two Regional Meetings. Other useful suggestions made include proposals for book reviews, more correspondence and short technical notes, with particular reference to new equipment and new industrial practices. A few readers not well versed in soil and rock mechanics parameters also requested a fuller description of these inside the cover.

In answer to those who complained justifiably about the long-standing delays in publication it should be pointed out that the delay is not primarily the fault of the Sub-Committee, but we hope that the advent of the new printing firm will help to overcome this problem. Rather surprisingly, the new type of paper adopted so that half-tones may be printed in the text has come in for some criticism because of its shiny surface and difficulties in writing notes in the margins. Here again, the Sub-Committee are currently reviewing the

situation. The fact that a number of authors publish frequently in the QJEG has no bearing on policy, and like many of the points already discussed, it is important that readers should realize that the contents of the Journal are very much in their own hands. Our refereeing procedure is stringent but quite fair, and this is probably reflected by the fact that 22 per cent of the questionnaire returns praised the high standard of the Journal.

The answers to the questionnaire, set out below, will provide a useful guide to the Editorial Sub-Committee.

		<u>Reply</u>
<b>Contents</b> (79 replies)	(a) should be more analytical	10%
	(b) include more case histories	36%
	(c) include more general reviews	39%
	(d) have a more educational slant	6%
	(e) be left as it is	21%
<b>Papers</b> (104 replies):	(a) too long—18%	
	(b) too short—0%	
	(c) suitable length—82%	

**Main interests** (in order of interest)

	<u>Expressed as percentage interest</u>		<u>Expressed as percentage interest</u>
1. Foundations	66	15. {	25
2. Site investigations	64	{	25
3. Slopes	58	16. Reclamation	24
4. Soil mechanics	57	17. Pollution studies	20
5. Rock mechanics	48	18. Structural geological applications	17
6. Ground treatment	46	19. Urban planning	15
7. {	45	20. Statistical applications	14
{	45	21. Surface hydrology	13
8. Tunnels	44	22. {	8
9. Embankments	40	{	8
10. Rock weathering	38	{	7
11. Underground openings	35	23. Teaching	6
12. Dams	30	24. Offshore geotechnics	3
13. {	28	25. Theoretical models	2
{	28	26. Dynamics	2
14. Mining Geology	27		

Other specific interests mentioned by individuals include: earthquake engineering, computer graphics and automated mapping techniques, geological information, marine sediments (mineralogy), quarry planning, reservoirs, resources geology, sedimentary prediction.

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