



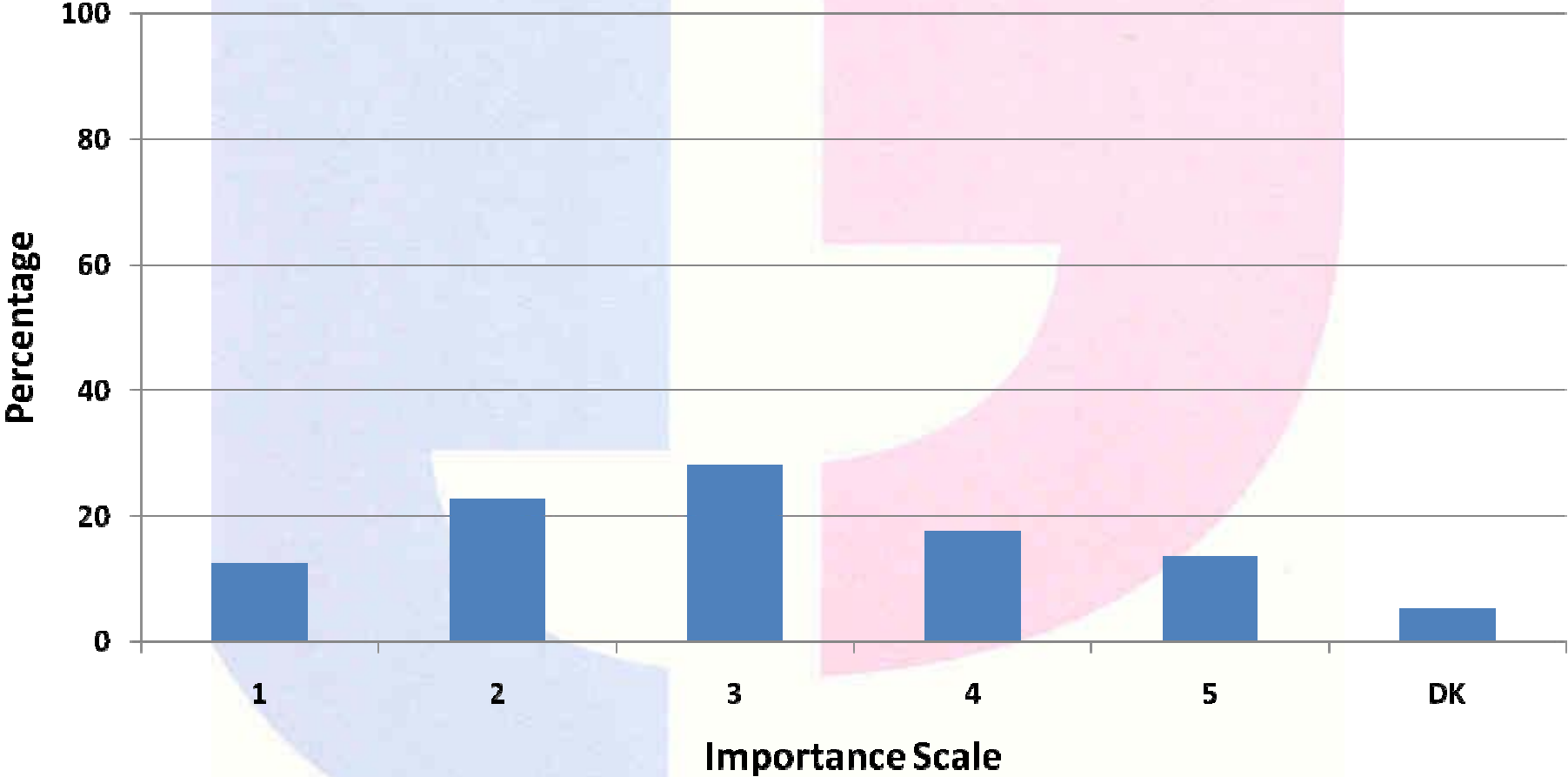
BSA Members' Consultation Exercise

Where Do We Go From Here?

Campaigning on Cost of Stammering to Society

- Should the BSA campaign more on this issue?
- What is the impact of stammering on a person's earning potential?
- Are there issues such as disruptive behaviour at school and criminality that need to be addressed?

Campaigning on Cost of Stammering to Society



Campaigning on Cost of Stammering to Society

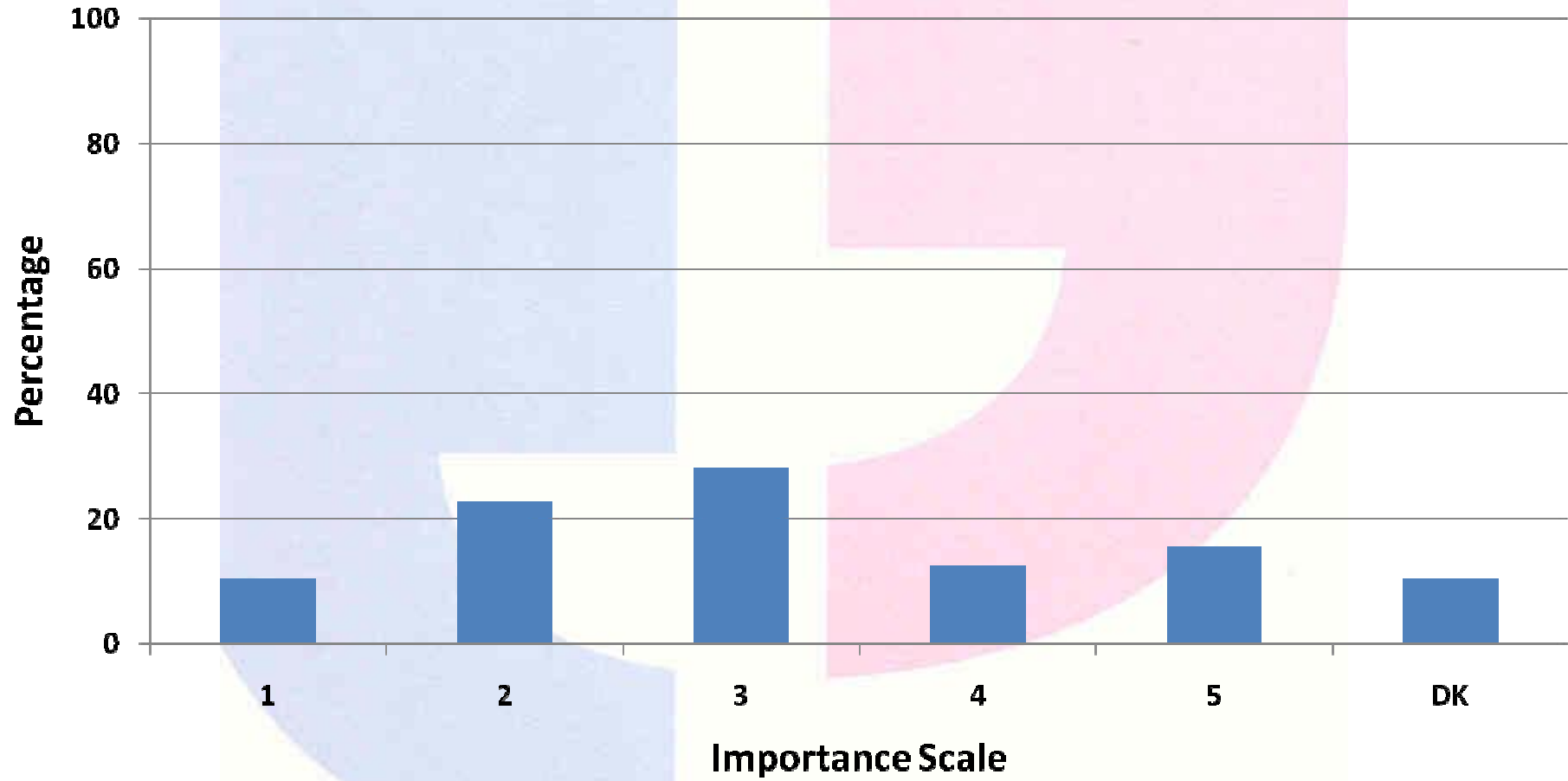
- not the role of the BSA – could increase negative attitude of parents to child's stammer
- could be counter-productive to main cause by planting belief that PWS are generally anti-social
- need to work with agencies which represent those with other communication difficulties
- potentially an area for research but best left to theoretical economists

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Adapting to New Technologies

- What is the impact of new technologies on people who stammer?
- Are emails a blessing or a means of avoidance?
- Do voice-activated systems cause a problem for people who stammer?

Adapting to New Technologies



Adapting to New Technologies

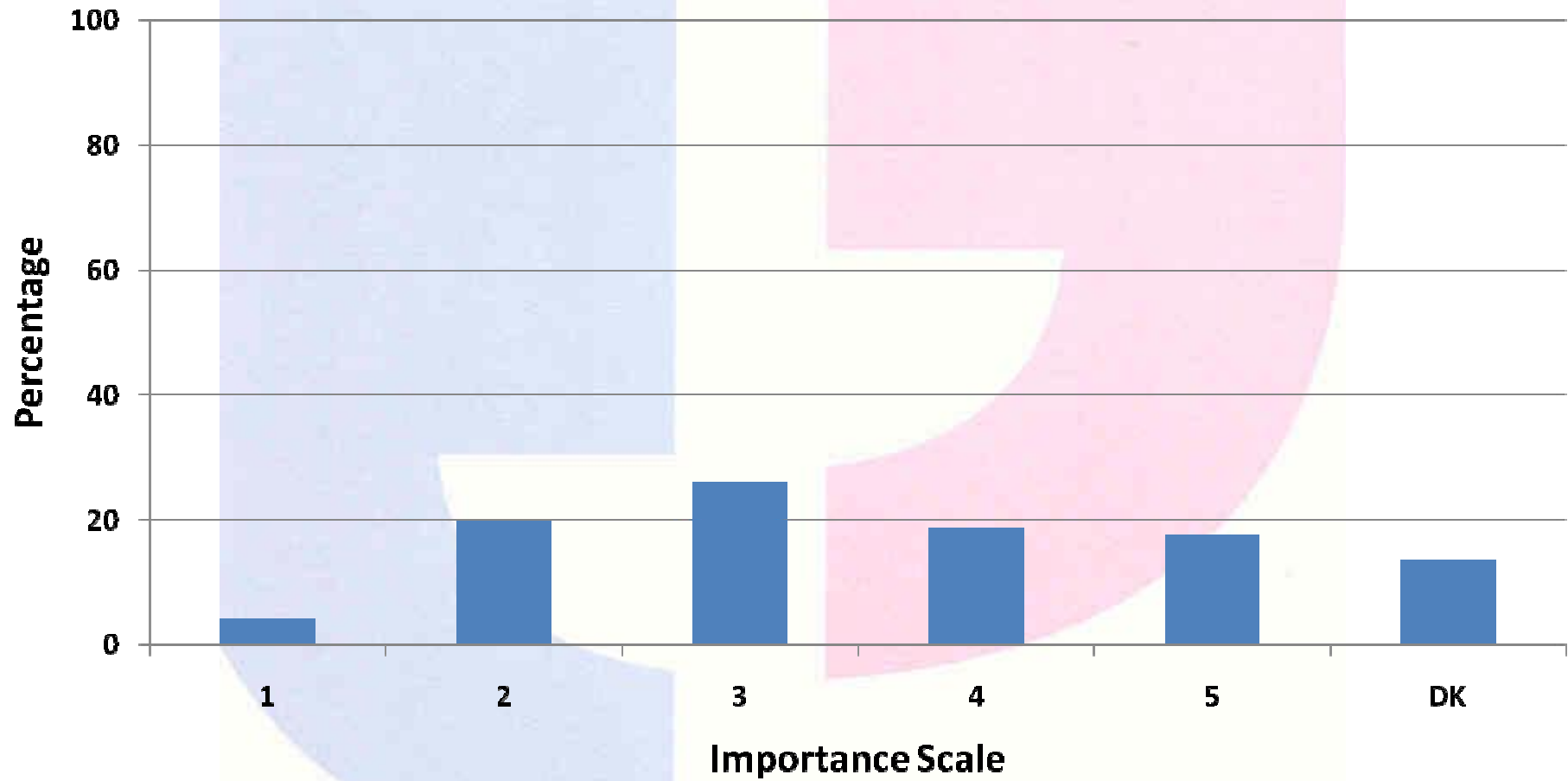
- emails should enhance overall communication but not replace speech
- initial contact by email can prepare the listener
- find it easier to speak to a machine – takes away feeling of being judged
- gas meter readings over the phone to a robot is impossible
- try ordering cinema tickets!
- BSA could work with companies who develop these systems

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Review of BSA Services and Relationship with Members

- What is the impact of constituent country parliaments and assemblies on a national organisation?
- Can we activate our members to do more for the BSA – particularly to increase stammering awareness?
- Are our information service and membership scheme appropriate, given much of the information is available free on the website?

Review of BSA Services and Relationship with Members



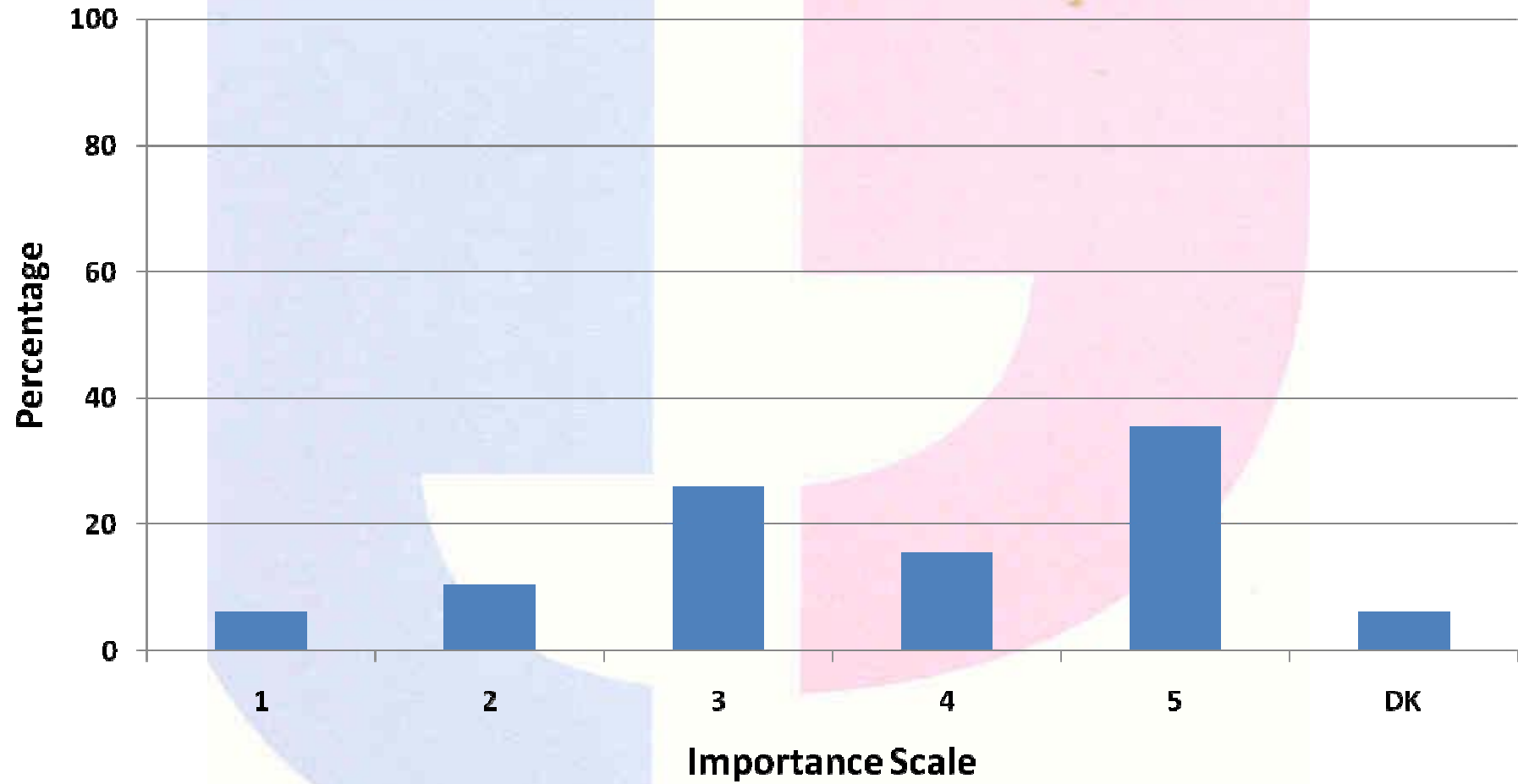
Review of BSA Services and Relationship with Members

- would be good to commit to a national conference **every** year
- encourage members to feedback for publication advantages of getting involved
- need to make members more aware of the **many** ways in which they could help
- could have a 'members only' area on the website
- good to have Speaking Out to read at leisure
- do not under-estimate value of the human touch

Supporting Research into Therapies

- Increasing emphasis on evidence-based practice in NHS
- Still little hard scientific evidence to justify many forms of speech therapy
- Should the BSA become more directly involved in research or is this best left to professionals and academics?

Supporting Research into Therapies



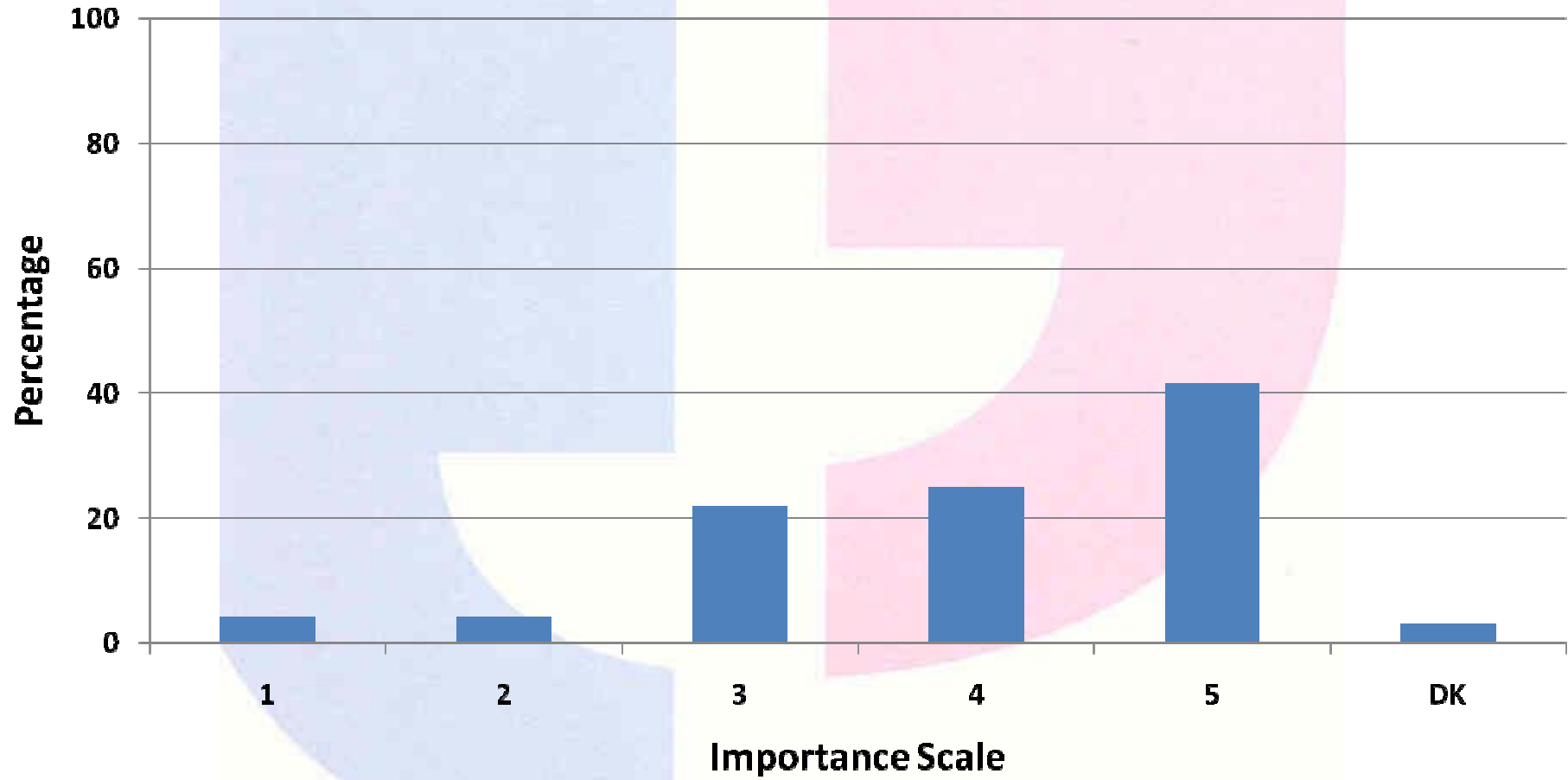
Supporting Research into Therapies

- ideally placed to study long-term, real life therapy outcomes
- views of users of services need to be researched
- part of BSA's mission statement and should remain so
- Vacation Scholarship Scheme is a positive initiative
- should campaign for more funding for research
- BSA can act as a bridge:
 - generate ideas
 - publish & interpret findings
 - facilitate networking

Stammering in the Workplace

- Is stammering a disability and should we do more to get it recognised as such?
- What is the impact of the Disability Discrimination Act?
- Should the BSA do more to enable people who stammer to succeed in the job market?

Stammering in the Workplace



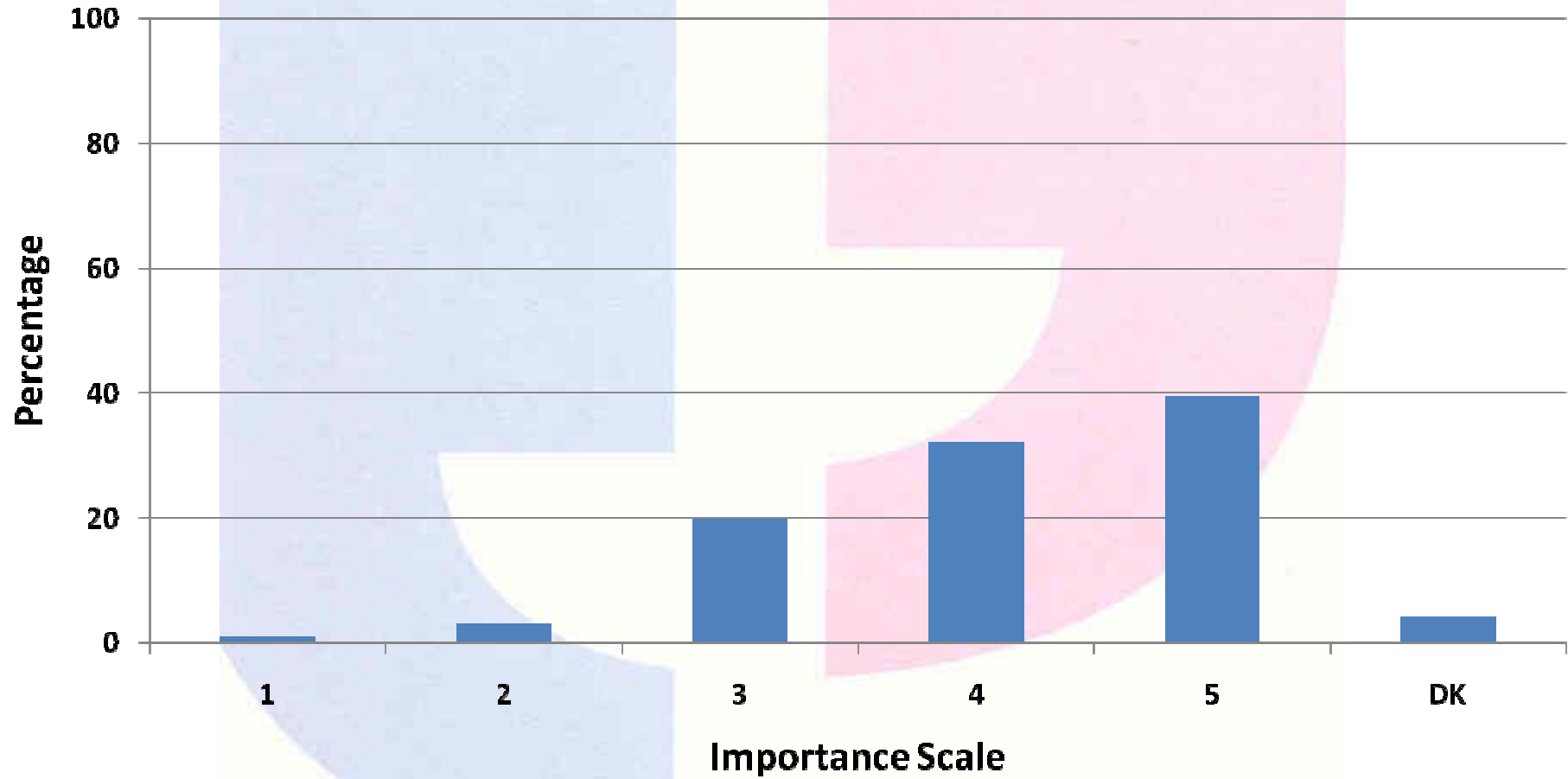
Stammering in the Workplace

- PWS are held back because of perceptions of their abilities
- being open about it is a positive and enabling approach
- enabling skills for coping in the workplace should be a BSA priority
- need to target employers and careers advisers with information
- mixed views as to increasing recognition as a disability
- BSA could do more on increasing awareness of what constitutes reasonable adjustments

Supporting School-Age Children

- BSA have been providing resources to teachers for some while
- Increasing emphasis on special educational needs and diversity in mainstream education
- Are we doing enough for those children for whom stammering might be a secondary issue?

Supporting School-Age Children



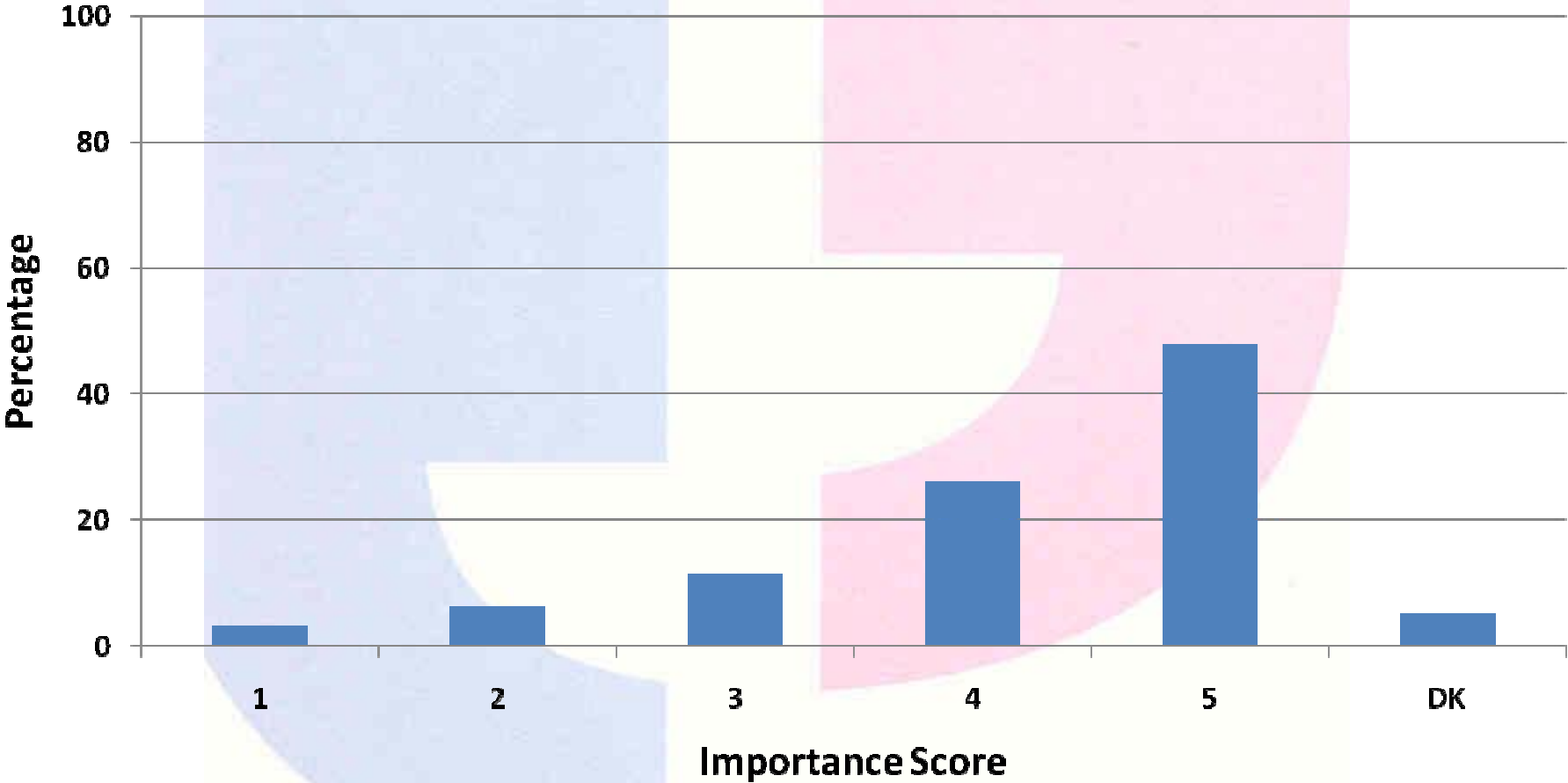
Supporting School-Age Children

- no teacher should be ignorant of stammering and how it affects children
- by secondary school best handled within social skills training
- need to evaluate effectiveness of teachers' resources
- much BSA resource has gone into this age group already – now time to concentrate on adults
- scope for collaborative working and joint projects with other charities

Campaigning for Better Speech and Language Therapy

- Regrading of therapists' salaries – might mean they leave NHS
- NHS reforms – greater patient choice but reduction of some SLT services?
- Plans to split adult from paediatric services – could impact on specialist posts that currently treat both groups

Campaigning for Better Speech and Language Therapy



Campaigning for Better Speech and Language Therapy

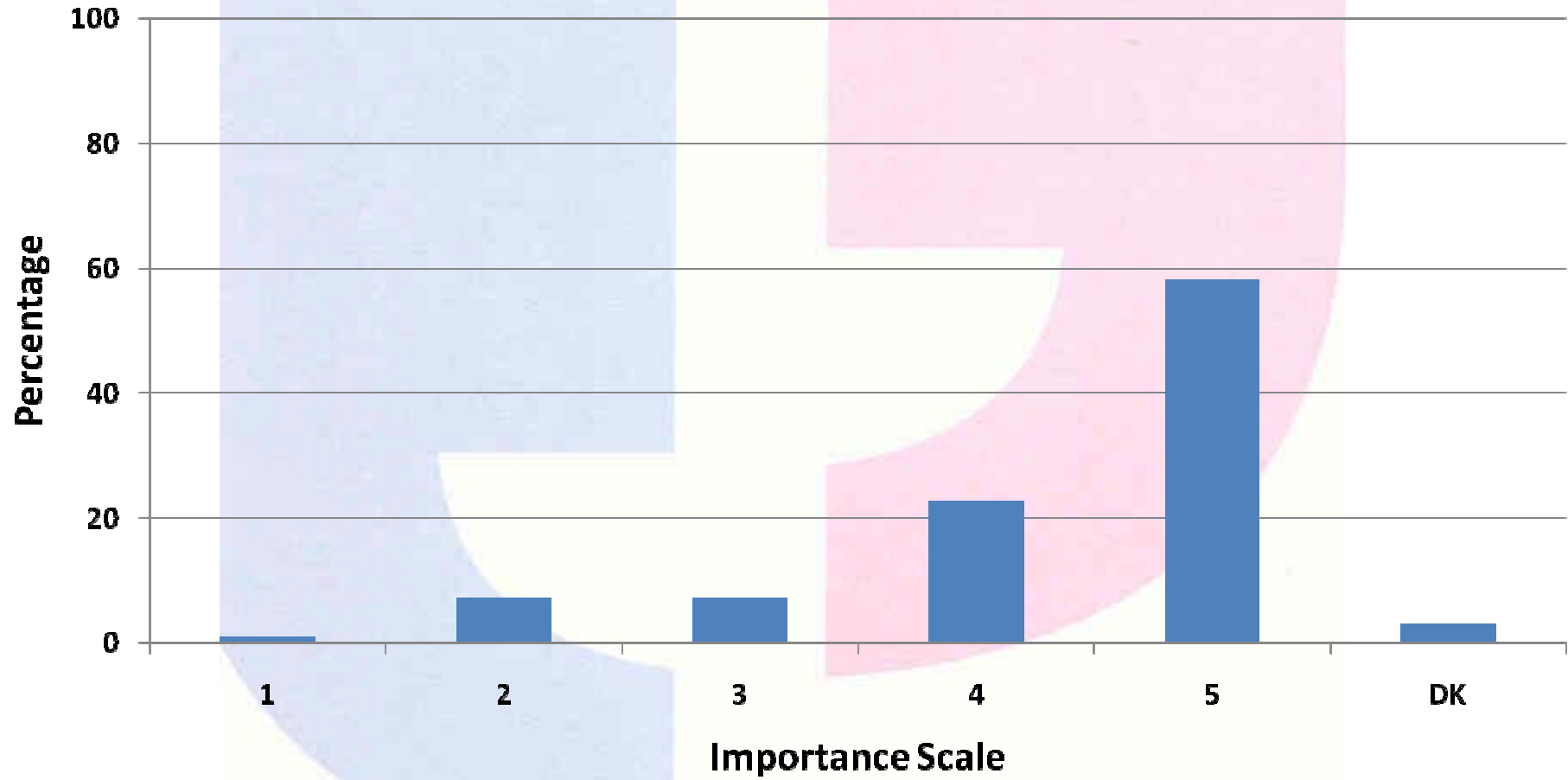
- formal certification of specialist training in working with PWS
- ring-fence funding for children's services
- campaigning is proper use of BSA's resources
- knee-jerk opposition to all policy changes counter productive?
- therapists' professional body should address these issues
- supporting research and providing evidence for effectiveness of particular approaches is best way to help therapists

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Campaigning on Behalf of Preschool Children

- The BSA have been running early intervention campaigns for many years – should this work continue?
- Should the BSA try to influence government policies?

Campaigning on Behalf of Preschool Children



Campaigning on Behalf of Preschool Children

- need to act quickly before it gets a hold and fear sets in
- these children cannot help themselves but may be affected for the rest of their lives
- huge potential exists to reduce need for further therapy
- message needs to be strongly conveyed to all referral agencies
- early intervention should be available on the NHS to all who need it
- much BSA energy has already gone into this – now time to concentrate on older age groups

Who Were the Respondents?

