

**BAR  
STANDARDS  
BOARD**

REGULATING BARRISTERS

**THE BAR STANDARDS BOARD  
CENTRAL EXAMINATIONS BOARD  
CHAIR'S REPORT  
PART 2**

**Bar Training, BTT, BPTC & BTR  
August 2025 Sitting**

**This report should be read in conjunction with Part 1 of the Chair's report**

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bar Training course is the successor to the Bar Professional Training Course ('BPTC') as the vocational training component to be successfully completed prior to call to the Bar. The Bar Training Course saw its first intake of students at nine Authorised Education and Training Organisations (AETOs) in September 2020. Depending on the course structure offered at each AETO, candidates will have had their first opportunity to attempt the centralised assessments in Civil and Criminal Litigation in December 2020.

### 1.1 August 2025 Examination dates

The August 2025 Bar Training exam dates were as follows:

Criminal Litigation: Monday 18 August 2025 at 14:00  
Civil Litigation (Paper 1): Wednesday 20 August 2025 at 14:00  
Civil Litigation (Paper 2): Friday 22 August 2025 at 14:00

### 1.2 Passing rates

The confirmed post-intervention outcomes for the fourteenth iteration of examinations attempted by Bar Training course candidates in August 2025, which are as follows:

All AETOs (Post-Intervention Results)							
		Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	407	989	738	824	1517	791
	Passing Rate	56%	49%	41%	53%	60%	46%
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	383	1104	827	824	1653	802
	Passing Rate	60%	46%	42%	56%	64%	52%
		Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	929	1671	890	833	1748	987
	Passing Rate	56%	60%	45%	53%	60%	45%
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	596	1583	842	799	1754	1008
	Passing Rate	50%	66%	40%	55%	61%	48%
		Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	937	1728	1099			
	Passing Rate	61%	54%	48%			
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	887	1811	1103			
	Passing Rate	50%	60%	57%			

1.2.1 In comparing results across the fourteen iterations of assessment it should be noted that for the December 2020 sit, only nine AETO centres presented cohorts of candidates for assessment. For April 2021 the figure was 19 AETO centres, which explains why there were significantly more candidates for that sitting compared to December 2020. From April 2021 onwards, sittings will have comprised a mix of first sit (new and deferred) and resitting candidates (ie candidates who had previously failed an assessment without extenuating circumstances). The April 2022 sitting saw the first cohorts entered by ULaw Liverpool, the December 2022 sitting the first cohorts entered by the University of Hertfordshire, and the April 2023 sitting the first candidates entered by ULaw Newcastle.

1.2.2 For the August 2025 sitting there were 21 AETO assessment centres providing candidate cohort results. As can be seen in the above table, the

August 2025 passing rates for Civil Litigation are largely in line with previous August sittings. The August 2025 passing rate in Criminal Litigation is the highest August cohort passing rate in either subject since the revised formats were introduced in 2020. See further on candidate numbers at 1.3 and 1.4 below.

### 1.3. Candidate numbers by AETO centre: Civil Litigation

Civil Litigation: Candidate Numbers						
AETO	Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
BPP Birmingham	28	31	28	40	47	32
BPP Bristol	19	16	14	19	7	9
BPP Leeds	27	32	20	35	16	5
BPP London	151	179	150	263	274	173
BPP Manchester	58	54	35	89	49	37
Cardiff	51	39	15	60	35	14
City	22	208	132	59	378	136
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICCA	28	34	5	56	33	14
MMU	23	9	11	24	7	8
Northumbria	N/A	64	36	15	64	36
NTU	N/A	50	37	23	53	34
Ulaw Birmingham	N/A	34	41	17	82	51
Ulaw Bristol	N/A	13	4	1	18	5
Ulaw Leeds	N/A	22	17	7	43	26
Ulaw Liverpool	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	5
Ulaw London	N/A	89	106	65	216	137
Ulaw Manchester	N/A	19	18	7	54	20
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A	7	1	2	16	7
UWE	N/A	89	68	41	109	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>823</b>	<b>1517</b>	<b>791</b>

AETO	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	56	42	55	35	38	61
BPP Bristol	8	9	6	5	17	5
BPP Leeds	16	18	9	24	15	13
BPP London	260	299	244	217	257	222
BPP Manchester	73	73	79	72	74	89
Cardiff	72	25	13	81	37	19
City	75	397	105	46	429	132
Hertfordshire	13	6	7	1	2	5
ICCA	89	38	14	117	82	34
MMU	23	12	7	37	5	11
Northumbria	14	69	24	10	78	27
NTU	24	74	42	25	70	45
Ulaw Birmingham	30	89	46	12	61	51
Ulaw Bristol	3	33	9	N/A	31	5
Ulaw Leeds	12	60	31	9	73	48
Ulaw Liverpool	2	56	22	14	100	30
Ulaw London	101	197	96	57	169	102
Ulaw Manchester	7	44	18	11	74	18
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	9	5	N/A	11	6
Ulaw Nottingham	6	12	3	N/A	13	6
UWE	45	109	55	60	112	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>1671</b>	<b>890</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>1748</b>	<b>987</b>

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	36	28	56			
BPP Bristol	6	15	4			
BPP Leeds	29	28	13			
BPP London	253	302	285			
BPP Manchester	61	61	80			
Cardiff	92	27	15			
City	47	343	128			
Hertfordshire	2	20	16			
ICCA	165	81	34			
MMU	29	5	12			
Northumbria	14	70	26			
NTU	37	91	61			
Ulaw Birmingham	18	54	41			
Ulaw Bristol	4	29	7			
Ulaw Leeds	20	78	70			
Ulaw Liverpool	15	82	15			
Ulaw London	54	156	106			
Ulaw Manchester	9	69	23			
Ulaw Newcastle	3	18	7			
Ulaw Nottingham	2	11	9			
UWE	41	160	91			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>1728</b>	<b>1099</b>			

1.3.1 The December 2020 sit was the first opportunity for candidates to attempt the centralised assessments for the Bar Training course, hence the lower volume of candidates. As can be seen, for the August 2025 sit, BPP London had the largest cohort, accounting for 25.9% of the Civil Litigation candidate entries, and BPP London has also provided 21.9% of the total number of candidate entries across the fifteen sittings offered thus far.

## 1.4 Candidate numbers by AETO centre: Criminal Litigation

Criminal Litigation: Candidate Numbers						
AETO	Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
BPP Birmingham	28	30	29	43	64	22
BPP Bristol	20	16	13	26	5	7
BPP Leeds	20	25	24	35	20	7
BPP London	137	202	174	270	261	199
BPP Manchester	52	62	47	91	60	34
Cardiff	54	37	19	19	70	21
City	20	247	154	77	425	141
Hertfordshire	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICCA	32	31	7	56	31	13
MMU	20	14	11	20	11	7
Northumbria	N/A	40	25	13	64	24
NTU	N/A	51	36	23	55	32
Ulaw Birmingham	N/A	46	49	20	88	56
Ulaw Bristol	N/A	15	2	N/A	18	5
Ulaw Leeds	N/A	38	20	8	47	25
Ulaw Liverpool	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	17	2
Ulaw London	N/A	107	127	73	234	129
Ulaw Manchester	N/A	23	19	7	61	9
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A	5	1	2	14	3
UWE	N/A	115	70	41	108	66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>1104</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>1653</b>	<b>802</b>

AETO	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	36	32	33	60	33	36
BPP Bristol	N/A	1	9	4	4	13
BPP Leeds	5	14	20	5	23	19
BPP London	120	184	249	214	207	256
BPP Manchester	35	65	49	68	74	51
Cardiff	20	68	15	37	65	17
City	61	408	114	73	419	142
Hertfordshire	15	9	10	1	4	3
ICCA	92	37	9	129	69	24
MMU	24	8	7	35	21	12
Northumbria	14	75	14	9	77	25
NTU	24	69	38	27	77	51
Ulaw Birmingham	19	80	40	12	67	54
Ulaw Bristol	2	32	7	N/A	31	5
Ulaw Leeds	9	60	30	10	76	50
Ulaw Liverpool	2	59	20	12	96	35
Ulaw London	76	174	103	52	167	111
Ulaw Manchester	3	43	13	10	75	28
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	9	1	N/A	11	6
Ulaw Nottingham	3	13	3	N/A	13	8
UWE	36	143	58	41	145	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>799</b>	<b>1754</b>	<b>1008</b>

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	58	32	31			
BPP Bristol	6	3	14			
BPP Leeds	8	30	30			
BPP London	238	258	324			
BPP Manchester	64	58	62			
Cardiff	21	84	22			
City	69	376	142			
Hertfordshire	1	21	11			
ICCA	177	70	32			
MMU	48	16	10			
Northumbria	15	67	25			
NTU	37	93	62			
Ulaw Birmingham	18	66	38			
Ulaw Bristol	2	30	12			
Ulaw Leeds	16	83	55			
Ulaw Liverpool	15	81	14			
Ulaw London	47	159	118			
Ulaw Manchester	8	71	21			
Ulaw Newcastle	1	17	4			
Ulaw Nottingham	5	13	6			
UWE	33	183	70			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>1103</b>			

1.4.1 As with the data for Civil Litigation, the December 2020 sit was the first opportunity for candidates to attempt the centralised assessments for the Bar Training course, hence the lower volume of candidates. As can be seen, for the August 2025 sit, BPP London had the largest cohort, accounting for 29.3% of the Criminal Litigation candidate entries, and BPP London has provided 20.6% of the total number of candidate entries across the fifteen sittings offered thus far.

## 2. BAR TRAINING CRIMINAL LITIGATION RESULTS AUGUST 2025 SIT

### 2.1 Exam Board decisions in relation to selected questions

2.1.1 For the August 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment, requests for intervention from AETOs were received in relation to 4/75 questions (see 2.1.2, below).

#### 2.1.2 Summary of Exam Board deliberations

The table below provides a summary of the Exam Board deliberations where interventions (if any) were agreed, and instances where, although no intervention was agreed, points for future reference were raised in the Board's deliberations.

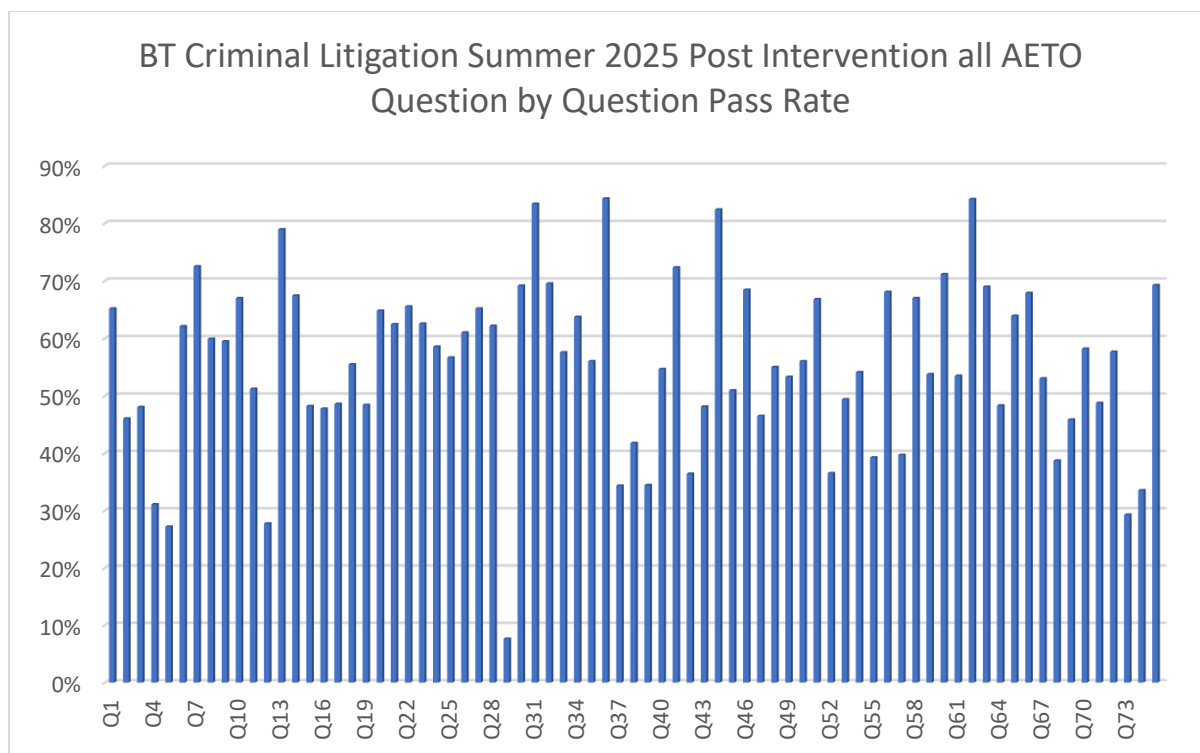
Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.1	1	<p>Passing rate 66%; Point Biserial 0.37</p> <p>AETO Feedback proposing option [C] should also be credited. The team disagreed with the feedback, commenting that the question was on syllabus, had been reused on three occasions, achieving sound discrimination and candidate performance.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.11	1	<p>Passing rate 52%; Point Biserial 0.25</p> <p>AETO feedback that the item should be removed from the question paper as there was no indication on the fact pattern that the trial had started, or prosecution had concluded. The team disagreed that an intervention was warranted as the fact pattern indicated that the trial was underway. However, the team agreed to simplify the proposed sentence in the scenario before reusing the question.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.29	0	<p>Passing rate 8%; Point Biserial 0.06</p> <p>Despite the absence of any AETO feedback, the team noted the low facility value and consequent very poor discrimination, with most candidates selecting option [C], observing that it was a difficult question on an exception to a rule but on syllabus.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
<b>Q.66</b>	2	<p>Passing rate 69%; Point Biserial 0.10</p> <p>AETO feedback was split between improving the question for future use or removing it from the paper. The team noted the low discrimination, although observed that it had improved compared to the question's last use. The team recognised that there was a typo in the question. However, the statistical data suggested that it did not impact on candidate's performance nor on the discrimination, both of which aligned with the performance attained when the question was previously used. The team agreed that removing the question could have a negative impact on candidates who answered the question correctly. Noting the potentially prejudicial impact on candidates, the board agreed to consider this issue when reviewing the proposed pass standard.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
<b>Q.67</b>	1	<p>Passing rate 55%; Point Biserial 0.29; AETO feedback that option [B] should also be credited. The team disagreed, noting the question was an SBA with sufficient different between the options. The statistical data did not support an intervention.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
<b>Q.29</b>	0	<p>Passing rate 8%; Point Biserial 0.06. Despite the absence of any AETO feedback, the team noted the low facility value and consequent very poor discrimination, with most candidates selecting option [C], observing that it was a difficult question on an exception to a rule but on syllabus.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.66	2	<p>Passing rate 69%; Point Biserial 0.10</p> <p>AETO feedback was split between improving the question for future use or removing it from the paper. The team noted the low discrimination, although observed that it had improved compared to the question's last use. The team recognised that there was a typo in the question. However, the statistical data suggested that it did not impact on candidate's performance nor on the discrimination, both of which aligned with the performance attained when the question was previously used. The team agreed that removing the question could have a negative impact on candidates who answered the question correctly. Noting the potentially prejudicial impact on candidates, the board agreed to consider this issue when reviewing the proposed pass standard.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.67	1	<p>Passing rate 55%; Point Biserial 0.29</p> <p>AETO feedback that option [B] should also be credited. The team disagreed, noting the question was an SBA with sufficient different between the options. The statistical data did not support an intervention.</p> <p><i>The board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

## 2.2 Post-intervention pass rate of MCQs

The bar chart below shows the facility score (% of Bar Training candidates answering correctly) for each of the questions in the August 2025 Criminal Litigation examination.



There were no interventions, and the data shows 13 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 9 for the April 2025 sit). There is no significant evidence suggesting a fall-off in candidate performance during the examination (assuming most candidates attempted the 75 MCQs in the order presented). Across the first 25 MCQs the average pass rate was 56%, across MCQs 26 to 50 it increased to 57%, and across MCQs 51 to 75 decreased slightly to 55%. The Final Board did not feel that the word count of the assessment was an issue.

## 2.3 Standard setting and reliability of the assessment

2.3.1 The pass standard reported to the Criminal Litigation Subject Board was 40.1/90 which, in accordance with the custom and practice of the Board, would normally have been rounded up to a passing standard of 41/90. However, on this occasion the recommendation from the Subject Board to the Final Board was to round down the pass standard to 40. The basis for the proposal was the typographical error noted in question 66. The question contained a named complainant and defendant, the typographical error being the transposing of the complainant's name with that of the defendant's at one point in the fact pattern. Four AETOs spotted the issue and requested amendment or intervention as a result, with at least one AETO mentioning that they received student feedback saying that the typographical error had caused confusion for candidates. The Criminal Litigation Subject Board considered whether the question should be suppressed but concluded that this would not be a proportionate response, given that the error was within the fact pattern and was easily spotted as being a typographical error and therefore did not affect the point being tested. It did not lead to any issues with the answers, and there was still one correct answer and three incorrect

answers. However, the Criminal Litigation Subject Board concluded that the error could have caused candidates to have spent longer considering the question (and possibly looking out for similar errors with other questions). This could have had the effect of making the paper as a whole more difficult and it was agreed by the Final Board that a proportionate response, in these circumstances, would be to round down the passing standard to 40/90.

- 2.3.2 Data supplied to the Final Exam Board by the psychometrician indicated that, with a KR-20 Reliability score of 0.84, the assessment had exceeded the benchmark KR-20 Reliability of 0.80. The Exam Board noted that all other data suggested an assessment operating as expected.

	<b>Aug-24</b>	<b>Dec-24</b>	<b>Apr-25</b>	<b>Aug-25</b>
<b>No. of Candidates</b>	1007	887	1811	1103
<b>No. of Scored Items</b>	75	75	75	75
<b>Pass Standard</b>	41	41	42	40
<b>Pass Rate (%)</b>	47.7	50.3	60.0	57.0
<b>Mean Score</b>	40.5	41.6	45	41.6
<b>Standard Deviation</b>	9.9	11.6	11.7	9.9
<b>Range of Scores</b>	5 to 69	15 to 71	15 to 75	15 to 73
<b>Reliability (KR-20)</b>	0.84	0.88	0.89	0.84
<b>Reliability Equivalent 90-item test</b>	0.86	0.90	0.91	0.87
<b>Standard Error of Measurement</b>	3.9	4.0	3.8	4

## 2.4 Chief Examiner's Report

The Chief Examiner for Criminal Litigation reported that she was satisfied that this assessment was fair to candidates and allowed them to demonstrate their competence to the required threshold, noting that comments from AETOs were generally positive.

## 2.5 Independent Observer confirmation

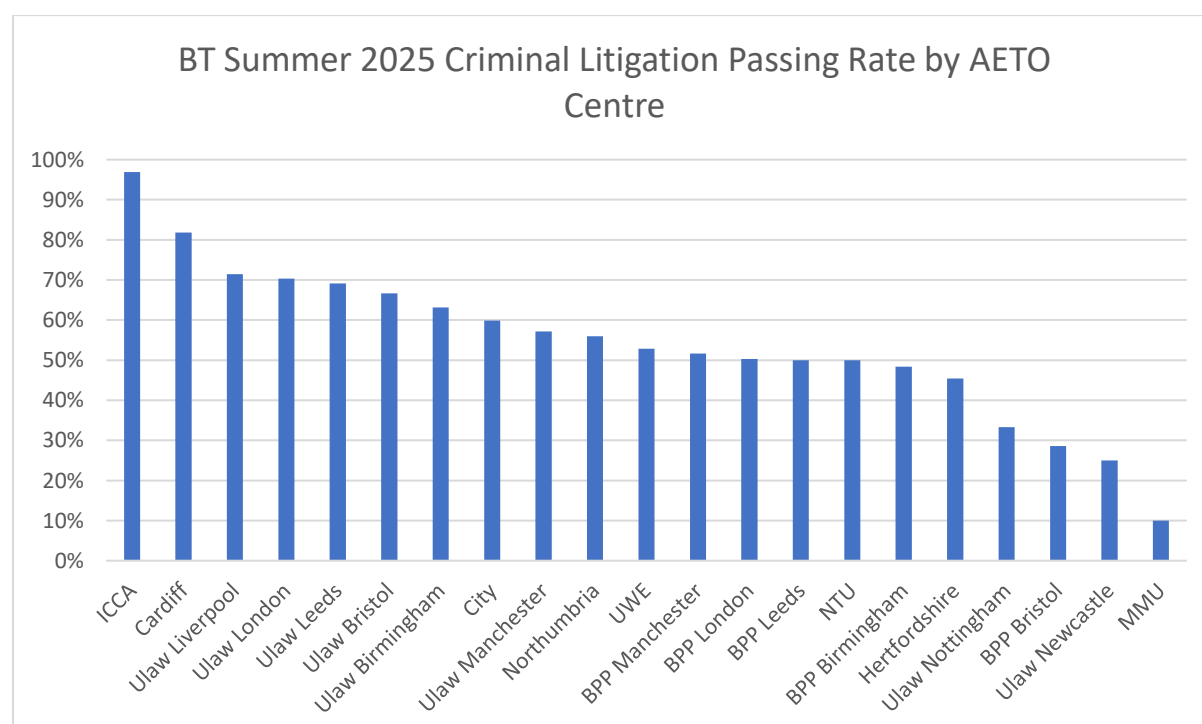
The Independent Observer endorsed the proceedings in respect of the Criminal Litigation assessment.

## 2.6 Criminal Litigation post-intervention pass rate August 2025

	Criminal Litigation December 2023	Criminal Litigation April 2024	Criminal Litigation August 2024
<b>All AETO Post-Intervention</b>			
No. of Candidates	799	1754	1008
Passing Rate	55%	61%	48%
<b>All AETO Post-Intervention</b>	<b>Criminal Litigation December 2024</b>	<b>Criminal Litigation April 2025</b>	<b>Criminal Litigation August 2025</b>
No. of Candidates	887	1811	1103
Passing Rate	50%	60%	57%

The table above shows the all-AETO August 2025 post-intervention Bar Training cohort pass rate of 57% for Criminal Litigation, based on a passing standard recommended to the Final Board of 40/75. The post-intervention passing rate is in line with the average passing rate across the previous 5 sittings of the current exam format, which is 55% (see Executive Summary).

## 2.7 August 2025 Criminal Litigation pass rates by AETO centre



2.7.1 In the above graph the 21 AETO centre cohorts are ranged left to right in descending order of their August 2025 pass rates in the Criminal Litigation assessment. The ICCA achieved the highest passing rate of 97% based on a cohort of 32 candidates. MMU had the lowest passing rate at 10%, but this was based on a cohort of only 10 candidates, all of whom were resitting.

2.7.2 Distribution of first sit candidates across the AETO centres for Criminal Litigation August 2025 sitting

<b>AETOs ranked by % of cohort first sitting</b>			
<b>AETO</b>	<b>Cohort Size</b>	<b># First Sit</b>	<b>% First Sit</b>
<b>BPP Bristol</b>	14	12	86%
<b>Ulaw Leeds</b>	55	44	80%
<b>BPP Leeds</b>	30	23	77%
<b>ICCA</b>	32	24	75%
<b>BPP Manchester</b>	62	45	73%
<b>Ulaw London</b>	118	75	64%
<b>BPP Birmingham</b>	31	19	61%
<b>Ulaw Birmingham</b>	38	23	61%
<b>BPP London</b>	324	185	57%
<b>City</b>	142	36	25%
<b>Ulaw Bristol</b>	12	3	25%
<b>Ulaw Manchester</b>	21	3	14%
<b>UWE</b>	70	10	14%
<b>Cardiff</b>	22	3	14%
<b>NTU</b>	62	5	8%
<b>Northumbria</b>	25	2	8%
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	11	0	0%
<b>MMU</b>	10	0	0%
<b>Ulaw Liverpool</b>	14	0	0%
<b>Ulaw Newcastle</b>	4	0	0%
<b>Ulaw Nottingham</b>	6	0	0%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>1103</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>46%</b>

Only 9 of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates for the August 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment had a preponderance of first sit candidates. Five AETOs only entered resit candidates in the August 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment.

### 2.7.3 Comparison of first sit and resit candidate passing rates at each AETO for Criminal Litigation August 2025 sitting

<b>First Sit Pass Rates and Resit Pass Rates CRIMINAL LITIGATION</b>		
<b>AETO</b>	<b>First Sit % Pass</b>	<b>Resit % Pass</b>
<b>BPP Birmingham</b>	47%	50%
<b>BPP Bristol</b>	25%	50%
<b>BPP Leeds</b>	48%	57%
<b>BPP London</b>	55%	44%
<b>BPP Manchester</b>	49%	59%
<b>Cardiff</b>	67%	84%
<b>City</b>	75%	55%
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	N/A	45%
<b>ICCA</b>	100%	88%
<b>MMU</b>	N/A	10%
<b>Northumbria</b>	50%	57%
<b>NTU</b>	60%	49%
<b>Ulaw Birmingham</b>	78%	40%
<b>Ulaw Bristol</b>	100%	56%
<b>Ulaw Leeds</b>	73%	55%
<b>Ulaw Liverpool</b>	N/A	71%
<b>Ulaw London</b>	77%	58%
<b>Ulaw Manchester</b>	100%	50%
<b>Ulaw Newcastle</b>	N/A	25%
<b>Ulaw Nottingham</b>	N/A	33%
<b>UWE</b>	50%	53%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>52%</b>

Data presented to the exam boards for the August 2025 sitting showing the split between first sit and resit candidates for Criminal Litigation revealed that 46% were attempting on a first sit basis (*ie* first ever attempt at the examination, or previous attempts discounted on the basis of accepted extenuating circumstances), and 54% as resit candidates (*ie* candidates who had previously failed the examination without mitigating circumstances having been submitted or accepted). Although first sit cohorts tend to be stronger than resit cohorts, it should be noted that, for the August 2025 Criminal Litigation examination, for the 16 AETO centres with first sit and resit candidates, 7 reported a higher passing rate for their resit cohort compared to their first sit cohort.

2.7.4 Passing rates of first sit cohorts at each AETO for Criminal Litigation August 2025 sitting

<b>AETOs Ranked by First Sit Pass Rate CRIMINAL LITIGATION</b>	
<b>AETO</b>	<b>First Sit % Pass</b>
ICCA	100%
Ulaw Bristol	100%
Ulaw Manchester	100%
Ulaw Birmingham	78%
Ulaw London	77%
City	75%
Ulaw Leeds	73%
Cardiff	67%
NTU	60%
BPP London	55%
Northumbria	50%
UWE	50%
BPP Manchester	49%
BPP Leeds	48%
BPP Birmingham	47%
BPP Bristol	25%
Hertfordshire	N/A
MMU	N/A
Ulaw Liverpool	N/A
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A

There were four AETO centres where fewer than 50% of first sit candidates managed to pass the August 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment (five AETO centres having no first sit candidates).

## 2.8 Criminal Litigation trend data – how AETO cohorts have performed over the last 6 sittings

	Dec-23 % Pass	Apr-24 % Pass	Aug-24 % Pass	Dec-24 % Pass	Apr-25 % Pass	Aug-25 % Pass	Average Over Six sits
ICCA	91%	90%	88%	92%	81%	97%	90%
Cardiff	78%	74%	59%	67%	68%	82%	71%
Ulaw Leeds	40%	74%	60%	38%	87%	69%	61%
Ulaw London	44%	60%	61%	38%	64%	70%	56%
City	55%	68%	46%	43%	64%	60%	56%
Ulaw Liverpool	50%	54%	60%	33%	60%	71%	55%
Northumbria	44%	66%	36%	53%	64%	56%	53%
Ulaw Birmingham	33%	57%	46%	39%	70%	63%	51%
Ulaw Bristol	N/A	77%	40%	0%	70%	67%	51%
Ulaw Manchester	40%	59%	57%	25%	63%	57%	50%
BPP Leeds	60%	65%	26%	25%	73%	50%	50%
BPP Manchester	54%	55%	37%	42%	53%	52%	49%
BPP Birmingham	52%	58%	47%	47%	34%	48%	48%
UWE	46%	52%	40%	36%	55%	53%	47%
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	45%	83%	0%	76%	25%	46%
BPP London	44%	50%	42%	37%	47%	50%	45%
Hertfordshire	100%	50%	33%	0%	38%	45%	44%
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A	46%	25%	60%	54%	33%	44%
MMU	49%	38%	67%	63%	31%	10%	43%
BPP Bristol	25%	25%	62%	17%	33%	29%	32%
NTU	26%	32%	29%	8%	35%	50%	30%

2.8.1 AETO centre cohorts are listed in order of the average of their Criminal Litigation passing rates across the last six sittings of the centralised assessments. Greyed out cells indicate other instances in the table above where an AETO centre did not enter any candidates. The calculation of AETO centre averages have been adjusted to reflect this. The data shows that the ICCA currently has the highest average passing rate (90%), having entered candidates in each of the last six sittings of the Criminal Litigation assessment. The ICCA cohort has also achieved the highest passing rate in four of the last six sittings. NTU has the lowest average passing rate at 30%, that figure driven in part by a very low passing rate in the December 2024 sitting. Again, it should be borne in mind that low candidate numbers can sometimes have a distorting effect on pass rates expressed as percentages.

- 2.8.2 An alternative way of assessing the success of each AETO across all the sittings to date (ie ten sittings in total) is to consider the cumulative total of attempts at the exam by candidates at that AETO made over all sittings thus far, and to compare this with the number of those attempts which were passing attempts. Note that a candidate who, for example, passes on their third attempt, will be recorded in the second column ("total number of attempts") three times, but will only appear in the third column ("total number of passes") once, the final column should not therefore be taken as the "percentage of candidates at each AETO who have passed," but should instead be understood as the "percentage of attempts at this assessment which were successful."

<b>BT Criminal Litigation December 2020 to August 2025 (15 Sits)</b>			
<b>AETO</b>	<b>Total Number of Attempts</b>	<b>Total Number of Passes</b>	<b>% Pass</b>
<b>ICCA</b>	809	733	91%
<b>Ulaw Bristol</b>	161	110	68%
<b>Ulaw Leeds</b>	527	359	68%
<b>Ulaw Newcastle</b>	49	33	67%
<b>Cardiff</b>	569	366	64%
<b>City</b>	2868	1770	62%
<b>Ulaw Manchester</b>	391	233	60%
<b>Ulaw London</b>	1677	995	59%
<b>Northumbria</b>	487	277	57%
<b>Ulaw Nottingham</b>	89	50	56%
<b>Ulaw Liverpool</b>	353	192	54%
<b>Ulaw Birmingham</b>	653	352	54%
<b>BPP Leeds</b>	285	150	53%
<b>BPP Manchester</b>	872	455	52%
<b>BPP London</b>	3293	1530	46%
<b>UWE</b>	1171	543	46%
<b>BPP Birmingham</b>	567	261	46%
<b>MMU</b>	264	118	45%
<b>BPP Bristol</b>	141	61	43%
<b>NTU</b>	675	234	35%
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	75	22	29%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>15976</b>	<b>8844</b>	<b>55%</b>

As can be seen from the above table there have been 15976 attempts at the Criminal Litigation assessment since the first sitting of the current format in December 2020, of which 8844 have been successful, generating an aggregate passing rate to-date of 55%. There are 11 AETOs whose cumulative percentage of passing attempts is lower than this. The range between the AETO with the highest rate of passing attempts and that with the lowest is 62%. Seven AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts below 50%. As discussed above, this does not necessarily mean that less than half of that AETO's candidates pass this exam, but it does mean that the exam is passed less than 50% of the times it is attempted at that AETO.

### **3. BAR TRAINING CIVIL LITIGATION RESULTS AUGUST 2025 SIT**

#### **3.1 Exam Board decisions in relation to selected questions**

3.1.1 For the August 2025 Civil Litigation assessment, requests for intervention from AETOs were received in relation to 10/90 questions (see 3.1.2, below).

#### **3.1.2 Summary of Exam Board deliberations**

The table below provides a summary of the Exam Board deliberations where interventions (if any) were agreed, and instances where, although no intervention was agreed, points for future reference were raised in the Board's deliberations.

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Paper 1		
Q.12	1	<p>Passing rate 34%. Point Biserial 0.23</p> <p>This was a question which has been used on three previous occasions and performed similarly on this occasion. There was one request that the question should be removed from the examination. The question assessed how the court was likely to deal with an application to amend particulars of claim during a trial. Candidates were expected to work through the facts to establish that there was no unfair advantage or undue prejudice to the defendant resulting from the application being granted.</p> <p>The preferred answer was option [C] (that the application was likely to succeed as there was no unfair advantage or undue prejudice). However, candidates were also attracted to option [A], which presented the opposite outcome (that the application was likely to be refused as there was undue prejudice, and that the claimant's case had concluded). Option [A] attracted 33% of the cohort with mildly positive discrimination of 0.03. It was noted that, notwithstanding, the AETO feedback, there was no basis to intervene to credit option [A] as an equal (or better than) our preferred best answer. However, it was also noted that, given that the question was intended to operate as an SBA, the stem had not been presented to candidates in the usual way for an SBA by asking, in this instance, how the court was <b>most</b> likely to deal with the application. The Final Board was persuaded that candidates may have proceeded to look for an absolute correct answer and failed to balance the options in terms of preference to determine the most likely outcome, given the court's discretion. Nonetheless, it was agreed that, had the question been presented in SBA format, option [C] would have remained the best (correct) answer. The Final Board agreed with the proposal that, as part of the overall consideration of the passing standard, the Board should consider any potential impact on candidates arising from the stem presentation issue. It was agreed that the question would be amended before being reused.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.16	0	<p>Passing rate 42%. Point Biserial 0.31</p> <p>This question, which had been used on two previous occasions, assessed the prospects of success to extend time to serve the claim form. The question performed as it had done previously with a good spread across all options, save option [B]. Option [C] was the correct answer. There was no request for intervention, however one AETO noted that option [B] should have included the word “not” to make it read logically: ie “<i>..the application will [not] be granted because Haruki failed to serve Kurt with notice of the application.</i>” It was noted that this typographical error had not previously been spotted by AETOs.</p> <p>Option [B] had always been an unpopular choice, on this occasion attracting only 2% of the cohort with -0.08 correlation.</p> <p>Whilst the Final Board was persuaded that there was the potential for candidates to have been confused by the typographical error, it was also noted that the error may have had the effect of making the question easier on the basis that option [B] could be more readily eliminated. To ensure fairness to candidates, however, it was agreed that any potential impact should be considered in the round in relation to the passing standard.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.30	0	<p>Passing rate 49%. Point Biserial 0.04</p> <p>This question, which had been used on two previous occasions, and had operated similarly on this occasion, assessed how to obtain judgment in default bearing in mind the remedies sought. There was no request for intervention and no AETO feedback.</p> <p>The question was presented as an SBA seeking the <b>best advice</b> but, on reflection, the examining team were persuaded that the question had in fact been drafted as an MCQ, with option [C] the only correct option, given the remedies sought and which necessitated an application being made. The poor discrimination data was noted.</p> <p>The examining team considered whether the presentation of the stem may have had the potential to have caused candidates to approach the question as a balancing exercise rather than looking for an absolute answer. Against this the examining team also advised that, whatever approach might have been taken, candidates should readily have established that option [C] was the best advice as it was correct. Option [D] attracted 30% of the cohort with mildly better discrimination of 0.07. That option, being opposite to the correct answer, was incorrect and could not be credited.</p> <p>It was agreed that for future use, the stem would be altered to refer to “correct advice”. For consistency with Question 12, it was also agreed by the Final Board that, to err on the side of fairness to candidates, any potential impact should be considered in the round in relation to the passing standard.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.36	1	<p>Passing rate 47%. Point Biserial 0.37</p> <p>AETO feedback was to remove the question from the paper. The Chief Examiner disagreed with the feedback, commenting that [A] was clearly the best answer. The team did agree to look at the use of the expression ‘slip rule’ in distractor [D] for future use.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.45	0	<p>Passing rate 54% Point Biserial 0.05</p> <p>This was a new SBA in which the assessment point was whether candidates understood the principles of ethical conduct in circumstances where a conflict of interest may arise. There was no AETO feedback and no request for intervention.</p> <p>The relevant syllabus reading was contained within the Jackson ADR handbook at paragraph 13.34 and dealt with the independence and neutrality of a mediator instructed by the parties to mediate in the dispute. It was intended that the candidates would be able to extract from the facts that the mediator to the dispute had had both a personal relationship with general counsel (that is, was not independent counsel) for one party, and also a financial interest in the outcome of the dispute.</p> <p>It was intended that, in response to the stem asking for the best approach to take to manage the conflict, candidates would identify option [B] as the best answer: to declare the conflict and refuse to act. This was the examining team's preferred best answer based on Jackson reading which sets out that a mediator should refuse to act in circumstances in which the mediator might benefit financially from the outcome of the mediation or has had a prior personal relationship with one of the parties to the dispute. The low discrimination for this option was noted.</p> <p>Whilst 54% of candidates opted for option [B], it was noted that 38% were attracted to option [A] with a positive discrimination of 0.04. Option [A] provided that, having declared the conflict of interest, the mediator could continue to act, provided the parties consented and authorised this in writing.</p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.45 (cont.)		<p>The examining team advised the Final Board that, with regard to the subtlety and apparent ambiguity of the wording in the relevant Jackson paragraph, there had been the potential for confusion on the part of candidates as to the preferred outcome. Looking closely at the facts presented in the question, the examining team felt that candidates needed to work unduly hard to establish by extrapolation that the mediator stood to gain financially from a successful outcome in the mediation and may also not have appreciated that “general counsel” meant that counsel was employed by that party rather than being independent.</p> <p>The Final Board agreed with the proposal that that there was insufficient clarity in the facts, and in the syllabus reading to provide a firm foundation for candidates to make a selection between options [A] and [B]. In fairness to candidates, it was agreed that option [A] should also be credited in addition to option [B]. It was also noted that there was no basis for either option [C] or option [D] being acceptable responses.</p> <p><b><i>The Board decided to intervene and credit [A] as well as correct answer [B].</i></b></p>

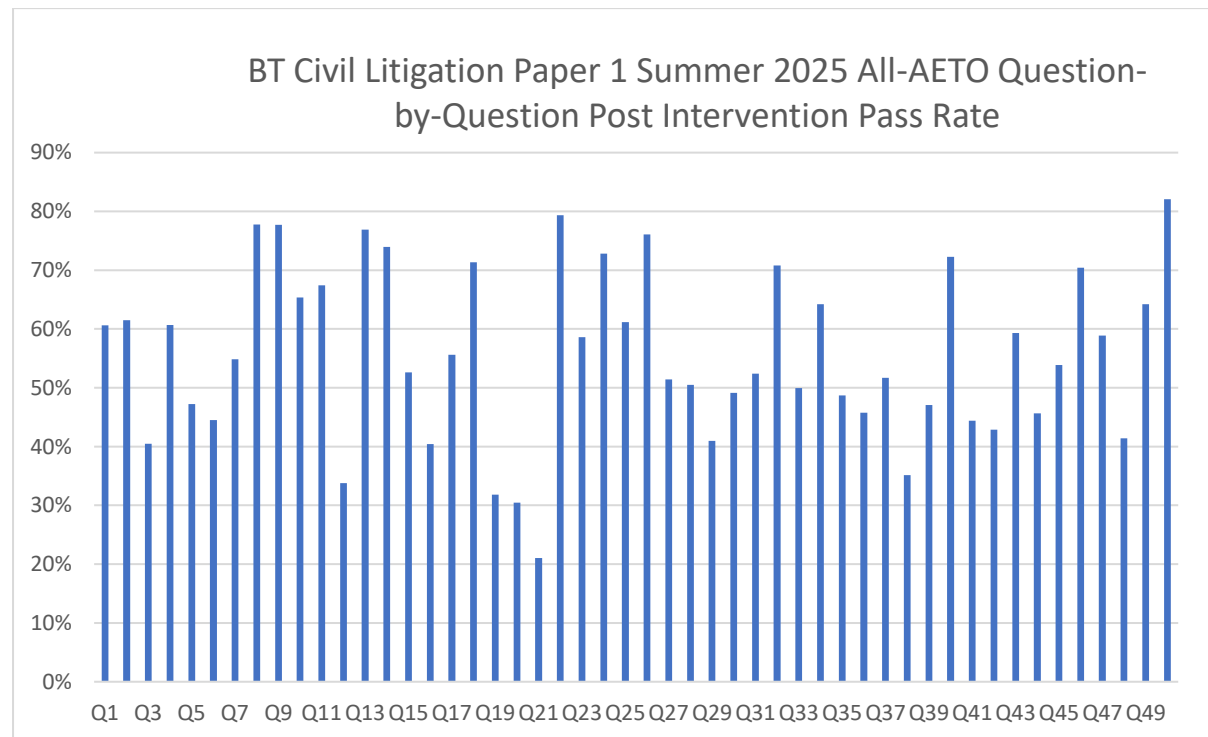
Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
<b>Paper 2</b>		
<b>Q.8</b>	1	<p>Passing rate 0.37% Point Biserial 0.31</p> <p>This question assessed the procedural steps to be taken to substitute (rather than add) a party where the limitation period is current. Option [B] was the most appropriate advice to give (as it was correct). There was AETO feedback that option [C] was also correct (it attracted 11% of candidates with positive discrimination of 0.06) but the examining team advised that the AETO had overlooked the clear steer on the facts that this was an application to substitute, not add, a party. There was no basis on which to credit option [C]. It was pointed out, however, that this question operated as an MCQ although the stem had asked “<i>for the most appropriate advice</i>”, which may have impacted on some candidates. The examining team agreed that, before reuse, the stem would be altered to refer to “correct advice”. For consistency with Questions 12 and 30 on Paper 1, the Final Board agreed that, to err on the side of fairness to candidates, any potential impact arising from the use of an ‘SBA stem’ should be considered in the round in relation to the passing standard.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
<b>Q.15</b>	1	<p>Passing rate 37% Point Biserial 0.27 AETO feedback that option [D] should also be credited as well as correct answer [C].</p> <p>The examining team noted that the rule being tested was somewhat convoluted rule, but explained that postal service gives a deemed date of service as the second day after the document (other than a claim form) was posted, provided that day was a business day. On the facts provided, the particulars of claim were posted on Friday 5 December 2025. Saturday and Sunday are not business days for this purpose (CPR6.2). That being so, the next business day after the second day of posting was Monday 8 December, not Tuesday 9 December as argued for by the AETO seeking intervention.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.17	1	<p>Passing rate 35% Point Biserial 0.08</p> <p>AETO feedback was to the effect that option [A] should also be credited in addition to correct answer [B]. The examining team advised against this intervention on the basis that reliance could not be placed on material which was not on syllabus; the syllabus commentary was very clear on the issue of 'dominant purpose', and there was enough in the fact pattern presented to candidates to indicate on which side of the line the scenario fell.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.29	1	<p>Passing rate 47% Point Biserial 0.33</p> <p>AETO feedback was to the effect that option [C] should also be credited in addition to correct answer [B]. The Board noted that, based on the commentary, it would have been difficult to credit [C], especially where the question was an MCQ. [B] was the single correct answer.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>
Q.38	1	<p>Passing rate 46% Point Biserial 0.47</p> <p>AETO feedback was to the effect that the question was confusing for candidates. The Chief Examiner advised that the application in question had been to amplify a witness statement and give evidence in relation to it. The statistics presented to the board showed that there was no evidence that candidates had been confused in relation to what the question required of them.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene</i></p>
Q.39	1	<p>Passing rate 73% Point Biserial 0.30</p> <p>AETO feedback was in favour of suppressing the item on the basis that none of the options were correct answers.</p> <p>The Board noted that option [D] was the intended best answer and the statistics showed that the cohort performed well. The Chief Examiner observed that the question could be refined before being reused to reword distractor [C] in relation to the parties being unable to agree costs, but that [D] absolutely captured what the order will be in this scenario.</p> <p><i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i></p>

### 3.2 Post-intervention pass rate of MCQs

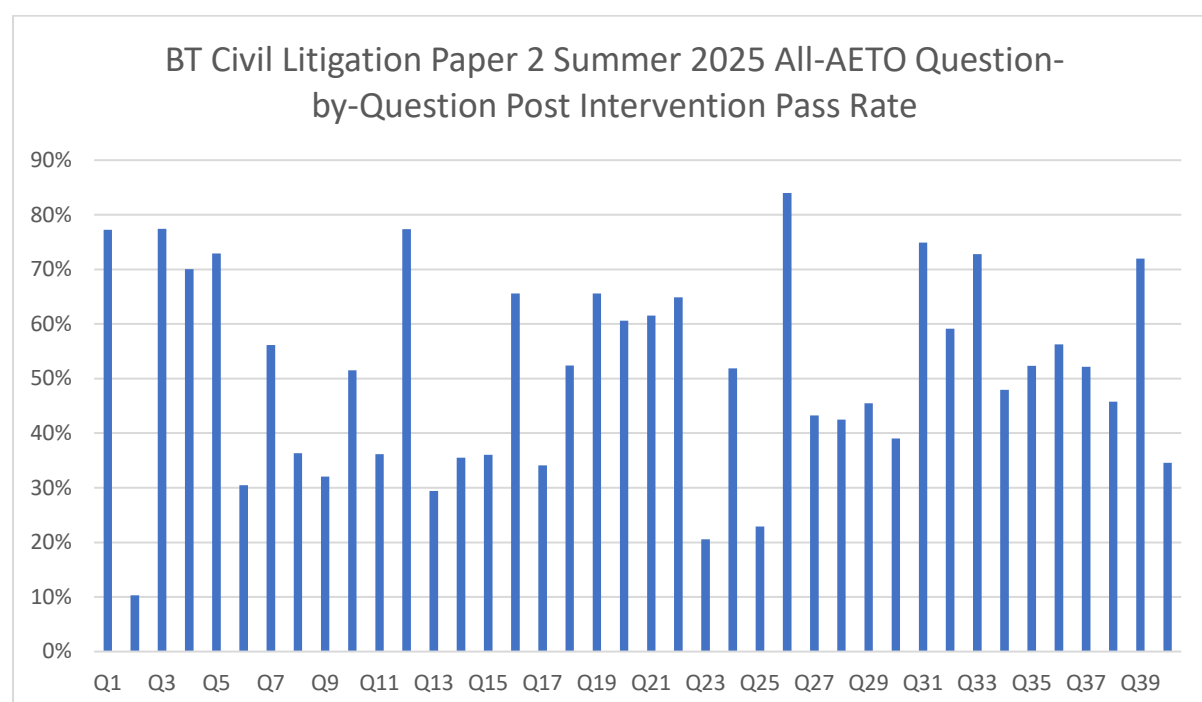
The bar charts below show the facility scores (% of Bar Training candidates answering correctly) for each of the questions in the August 2025 Civil Litigation examination (following any agreed interventions detailed at 3.1.2).

#### 3.2.1 Paper 1



For Civil Litigation paper 1 the post-intervention data shows five MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 10 out of 50 for the April 2025 sit). Assuming candidates attempted the questions in the order presented there is no material evidence of candidate fatigue being a factor. The average passing rate was 57% across the first 25 MCQs and 56% across MCQs 26 to 50.

### 3.2.2 Paper 2



For Civil Litigation paper 2 the post-intervention data show 13 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 7 out of 40 for the April 2025 sitting). Across both papers 1 and 2 there were, therefore, 18/90 questions with a passing rate of 40% or below (compared to 17/90 in the April 2025 sitting). Assuming candidates attempted the paper 2 questions in the order presented there is no evidence of candidate fatigue being a factor, although candidates clearly found RCS 1 and 2 slightly more challenging. The passing rate for the various sections of the paper were as follows:

Civil Litigation Paper 2 Passing Rate By Section	
Section/RCS	Passing Rate
Paper 2 first five questions (standalone MCQs)	62%
Paper 2 RCS 1 (questions 56-62)	46%
Paper 2 RCS 2 (questions 63-69)	46%
Paper 2 RCS 3 (questions 70-76)	52%
Paper 2 RCS 4 (questions 77-83)	54%
Paper 2 RCS 5 (questions 84-90)	52%

### 3.3 Standard setting and reliability of the assessment

3.3.1 The standard setting exercise was undertaken without incident and the Chair for that exercise commended the recommended pass standard to the Board. The recommended pass standard was reported to the Civil Subject Board as being 49.9/90 – rounded to 50/90 following long standing CEB convention on the rounding up of pass standards. On this occasion, the Subject Board recommended that the rounding convention should not be applied, and that the pass standard to be applied should be 49/90 (the pass standard has to be a whole number). This ‘rounding down’ proposal reflected the Subject Board’s concerns that, notwithstanding the decisions not to intervene in respect of all but one question, as detailed above, it was nevertheless reasonable to mitigate any potential unfairness to candidates (arising principally in respect of Questions 12, 16 and 30 on Paper 1 and Question 8 on Paper 2) that could not be cured by an intervention. Hence the proposal to adopt a marginally lower pass standard. The proposal was approved by the Final Board, following which it was noted that the impact of this decision was a rise in the passing rate from 44% (based on a pass standard of 50/90) to 48% (based on a pass standard of 49/90).

3.3.2 Data supplied to the final Exam Board by the psychometrician indicated that the assessment had achieved a KR-20 Reliability score of 0.89, exceeding the benchmark of 0.8. The Exam Board noted that all other data suggested an assessment operating as expected.

	Aug-24	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25
No. of Candidates	975	937	1728	1099
No. of Scored Items	90	89	90	90
Pass Standard	49	50	51	49
Pass Rate (%)	45.9	61.5	54.3	48.1
Mean Score	48.0	54.8	52.8	49.0
Standard Deviation	12.1	13.7	14.3	12.6
Range of Scores	18 to 87	23 to 87	16 to 87	18 to 85
Reliability (KR-20)	0.87	0.91	0.92	0.89
Standard Error of Measurement	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.3

### 3.4 Chief Examiner’s Report

The Chief Examiner for Civil Litigation confirmed that she was satisfied that this assessment was fair to candidates and allowed them to demonstrate their competence to the required threshold.

### 3.5 Independent Observer confirmation

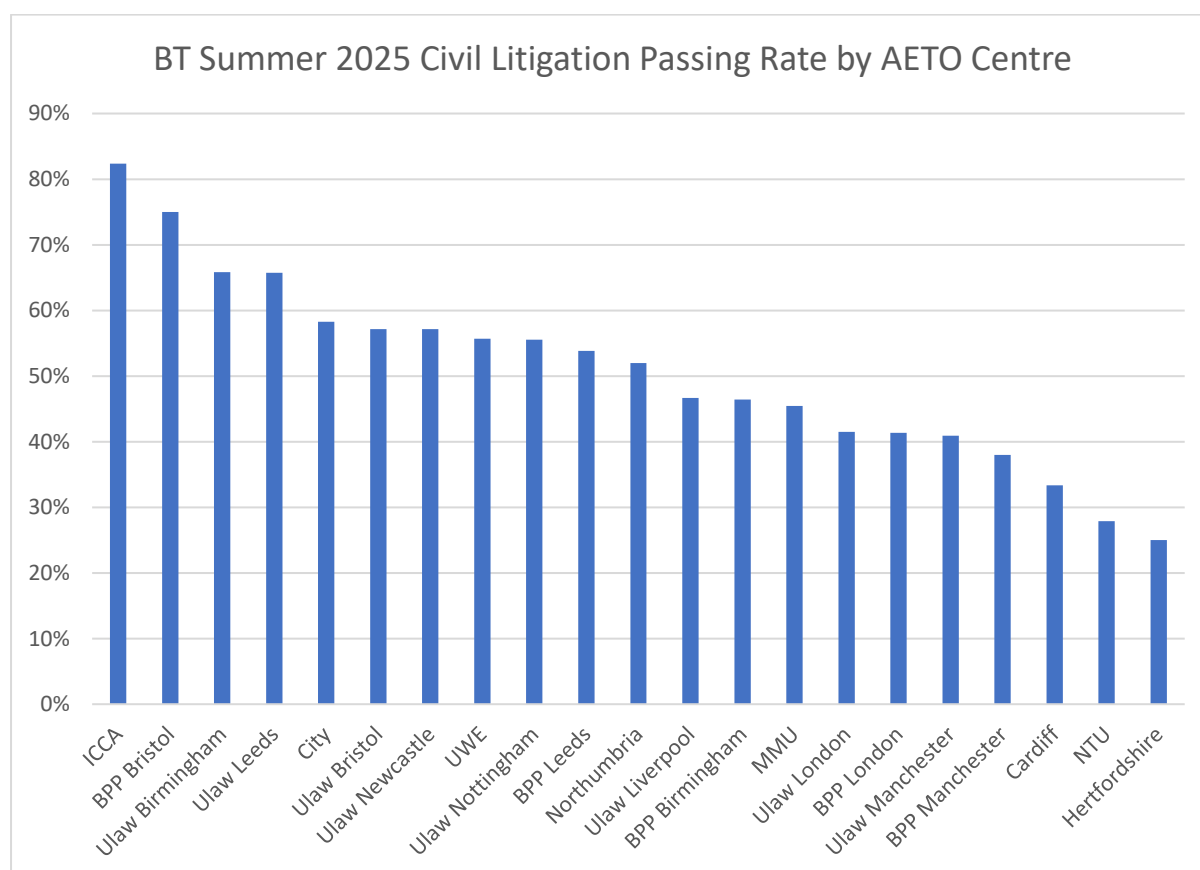
The Independent Observer endorsed the proceedings in respect of the Civil Litigation assessment.

### 3.6 Civil Litigation post-intervention pass rate August 2025

All AETO Post-Intervention	Civil Litigation December 2023	Civil Litigation April 2024	Civil Litigation August 2024
No. of Candidates	833	1748	987
Passing Rate	53%	60%	45%
All AETO Post-Intervention	Civil Litigation December 2024	Civil Litigation April 2025	Civil Litigation August 2025
No. of Candidates	937	1728	1099
Passing Rate	61%	54%	48%

The table above shows the all-AETO August 2025 post-intervention Bar Training cohort pass rate of 48% for Civil Litigation, based on a passing standard recommended to the Final Board of 49/90. The post-intervention passing rate is slightly above the average for August sittings (45%) and is the highest August sitting passing rate since the introduction of the current format for the assessment of Civil Litigation.

### 3.7 August 2025 Civil Litigation pass rates by AETO



- 3.7.1 The 21 AETO centre cohorts entering candidates for the Civil Litigation assessment are ranged left to right in descending order of their August 2025 pass rates. The ICCA cohort achieved the highest passing rate at 82%. The University of Hertfordshire had the lowest passing rate at 25%, but this must be seen in the context of that AETO only having 16 candidates for the assessment, all of whom were attempting the assessment on a resit basis.
- 3.7.2 Distribution of first sit candidates across the AETO centres for Civil Litigation August 2025 sitting

AETOs ranked by % of cohort first sitting			
AETO	Cohort Size	# First Sit	% First Sit
BPP Birmingham	56	39	70%
BPP Bristol	4	0	0%
BPP Leeds	13	1	8%
BPP London	285	140	49%
BPP Manchester	80	52	65%
Cardiff	15	3	20%
City	128	44	34%
Hertfordshire	16	0	0%
ICCA	34	28	82%
MMU	12	2	17%
Northumbria	26	1	4%
NTU	61	7	11%
Ulaw Birmingham	41	21	51%
Ulaw Bristol	7	1	14%
Ulaw Leeds	70	49	70%
Ulaw Liverpool	15	1	7%
Ulaw London	106	70	66%
Ulaw Manchester	23	5	22%
Ulaw Newcastle	7	0	0%
Ulaw Nottingham	9	2	22%
UWE	91	30	33%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>1099</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>45%</b>

Only 6 of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates for the August 2025 Civil Litigation assessment had a preponderance of first sit candidates. Three AETOs only entered resit candidates in the August 2025 Civil Litigation assessment.

### 3.7.3 Comparison of first sit and resit candidate passing rates at each AETO for Civil Litigation August 2025 sitting

<b>First Sit Pass Rates and Resit Pass Rates CIVIL LITIGATION</b>		
<b>AETO</b>	<b>First Sit % Pass</b>	<b>Resit % Pass</b>
<b>BPP Birmingham</b>	54%	29%
<b>BPP Bristol</b>	N/A	75%
<b>BPP Leeds</b>	0%	58%
<b>BPP London</b>	54%	28%
<b>BPP Manchester</b>	44%	25%
<b>Cardiff</b>	67%	25%
<b>City</b>	59%	57%
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	N/A	25%
<b>ICCA</b>	86%	67%
<b>MMU</b>	100%	30%
<b>Northumbria</b>	100%	48%
<b>NTU</b>	43%	26%
<b>Ulaw Birmingham</b>	62%	70%
<b>Ulaw Bristol</b>	100%	50%
<b>Ulaw Leeds</b>	69%	57%
<b>Ulaw Liverpool</b>	100%	43%
<b>Ulaw London</b>	49%	28%
<b>Ulaw Manchester</b>	60%	33%
<b>Ulaw Newcastle</b>	N/A	57%
<b>Ulaw Nottingham</b>	100%	43%
<b>UWE</b>	60%	51%
<b>OVERALL</b>	57%	40%

Data presented to the exam boards for the August 2025 sitting showing the split between first sit and resit candidates for Civil Litigation revealed that 45% were attempting on a first sit basis (*ie* first ever attempt at the examination, or previous attempts discounted on the basis of accepted extenuating circumstances), and 55% as resit candidates (*ie* candidates who had previously failed the examination without mitigating circumstances having been submitted or accepted). First sit cohorts tend to be stronger than resit cohorts, and with this in mind it should be noted that, for the August 2025 Civil Litigation examination, only two of the 18 AETO centres with both first sit and resit candidates reported higher passing rates for their resit cohorts compared to their first sit cohorts.

### 3.7.4 Passing rates of first sit cohorts at each AETO for Civil Litigation August 2025 sitting

<b>AETOs Ranked by First Sit Pass Rate CIVIL LITIGATION</b>	
<b>AETO</b>	<b>First Sit % Pass</b>
<b>MMU</b>	100%
<b>Northumbria</b>	100%
<b>ULaw Bristol</b>	100%
<b>ULaw Liverpool</b>	100%
<b>ULaw Nottingham</b>	100%
<b>ICCA</b>	86%
<b>Ulaw Leeds</b>	69%
<b>Cardiff</b>	67%
<b>ULaw Birmingham</b>	62%
<b>ULaw Manchester</b>	60%
<b>UWE</b>	60%
<b>City</b>	59%
<b>BPP London</b>	54%
<b>BPP Birmingham</b>	54%
<b>ULaw London</b>	49%
<b>BPP Manchester</b>	44%
<b>NTU</b>	43%
<b>BPP Leeds</b>	0%
<b>BPP Bristol</b>	N/A
<b>Hertfordshire</b>	N/A
<b>ULaw Newcastle</b>	N/A

There were four AETO centres where fewer than 50% of first sit candidates managed to pass the August 2025 Civil Litigation assessment (three AETO centres having no first sit candidates).

### 3.8 Civil Litigation trend data – how AETO cohorts have performed over the last 6 sittings

	Dec-23 % Pass	Apr-24 % Pass	Aug-24 % Pass	Dec-24 % Pass	Apr-25 % Pass	Aug-25 % Pass	Average Over Six sittings
ICCA	91%	87%	88%	95%	86%	82%	88%
Ulaw Bristol	N/A	74%	40%	75%	76%	57%	64%
Ulaw Leeds	33%	75%	54%	40%	73%	66%	57%
City	46%	71%	47%	45%	69%	58%	56%
Ulaw Birmingham	42%	52%	55%	61%	59%	66%	56%
Ulaw London	35%	69%	60%	61%	63%	42%	55%
Cardiff	70%	51%	47%	77%	33%	33%	52%
Northumbria	50%	63%	48%	29%	60%	50%	50%
Ulaw Nottingham	N/A	62%	50%	50%	27%	56%	49%
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	45%	50%	33%	56%	57%	48%
UWE	42%	60%	45%	39%	47%	54%	48%
Ulaw Liverpool	36%	57%	43%	47%	56%	47%	48%
BPP Bristol	40%	53%	20%	50%	47%	75%	47%
BPP Birmingham	49%	45%	49%	61%	32%	46%	47%
BPP Leeds	54%	27%	31%	62%	46%	54%	46%
BPP Manchester	53%	34%	54%	66%	30%	38%	46%
Ulaw Manchester	27%	73%	39%	22%	65%	39%	44%
Hertfordshire	100%	50%	0%	50%	20%	25%	41%
BPP London	43%	39%	34%	53%	36%	41%	41%
MMU	54%	80%	0%	48%	20%	42%	41%
NTU	36%	34%	16%	27%	35%	28%	29%

3.8.1 AETO centre cohorts are listed in order of the average of their Civil Litigation passing rates across the last six sittings of the Bar Training centralised assessments. The data show that the ICCA has achieved the highest average passing rate (88%), being the best performing AETO centre across the last five sittings of the Civil Litigation assessment. NTU has the lowest average at 28%.

3.8.2 An alternative way of assessing the success of each AETO centre across all the sittings to date is to consider the cumulative total of attempts at the exam by candidates at that AETO made over all sittings thus far, and to compare this with the number of those attempts which were passing attempts. As discussed in section 2.8.2 above, note that individual candidates may attempt an assessment multiple times before making a passing attempt, and so the data below does not represent the percentage of candidates who pass, it represents the percentage of attempts made at the exam which were passing attempts.

<b>BT Civil Litigation December 2020 to August 2025 (15 Sits)</b>			
<b>AETO</b>	<b>Total Number of Attempts</b>	<b>Total Number of Passes</b>	<b>% Pass</b>
ICCA	824	729	88%
ULaw Bristol	162	110	68%
ULaw Leeds	516	339	66%
City	2637	1717	65%
ULaw Manchester	391	225	58%
Cardiff	595	341	57%
ULaw London	1651	925	56%
ULaw Newcastle	59	31	53%
ULaw Birmingham	627	324	52%
ULaw Nottingham	95	49	52%
ULaw Liverpool	357	183	51%
BPP Manchester	984	492	50%
Northumbria	547	267	49%
BPP Leeds	300	144	48%
UWE	1080	514	48%
BPP Bristol	159	75	47%
BPP London	3529	1588	45%
BPP Birmingham	613	262	43%
MMU	223	91	41%
NTU	666	202	30%
Hertfordshire	72	17	24%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>16087</b>	<b>8625</b>	<b>54%</b>

As can be seen from the above table, Civil Litigation assessments have been passed 8625 times since the first sitting in December 2020, based on 16087 attempts – thus the aggregate passing rate to date is 54%. There are 14 AETOs where the cumulative passing rate is below this figure. The range between the highest rate of passing attempts and lowest rate of passing attempts is 64%. Nine AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts below 50%. As noted above with regard to the Criminal Litigation data, this does not imply that less than 50% of candidates ultimately pass this exam, but it does mean that the Civil Litigation exam is passed less than 50% of the times it is attempted at that AETO. The ICCA is, cumulatively, the best performing AETO centre in terms of its passing rate for Civil Litigation candidates, with a gap of 20% between it and the next most successful AETO centre. The University of Hertfordshire drops to the bottom of this table, with a cumulative passing rate of 24% for Civil Litigation candidates, as opposed to the averaged calculations reflected in the table at 5.8 (above).

## 4. FURTHER COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

### 4.1 Comparing performance in Criminal and Civil Litigation examinations

At 48%, the passing rate for the August 2025 Civil Litigation assessment was 9% lower than the passing rate for the August 2025 Criminal Litigation assessment. Both assessments had similar levels of first sit candidates; 46% of Criminal Litigation candidates were first sitting compared to 45% of Civil Litigation candidates. A total of 559 candidates attempted both Litigation assessments at the August 2025 sitting and the cross-tabulated outcomes, are as follows:

(a) All candidates attempting both papers:

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	170	36
Fail Civil	133	220

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	30%	6%
Fail Civil	24%	39%

(b) All candidates attempting both papers as first sit candidates:

All BT Candidates First Sitting Both Exams (177)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	96	4
Fail Civil	42	35

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	54%	2%
Fail Civil	24%	20%

(c) All candidates attempting both papers as resit candidates:

All BT Candidates Resitting Both Exams (297)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	63	23
Fail Civil	74	137

	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	21%	8%
Fail Civil	25%	46%

The key cells (on the shaded background) are those which show the number of candidates who passed one subject but failed the other. If the two subjects were equally difficult to pass (making allowances for the fact that the examinations in Civil and Criminal Litigation have different formats), the number of candidates in these two cells should be approximately equal. To the extent that this data provides a reliable means of evidencing whether the two assessments (notwithstanding their differing formats) provided a similar level of challenge, the outcomes for the August 2025 sitting could be interpreted as suggesting that Civil Litigation assessment was more difficult to pass compared to the Criminal Litigation assessment. They could, however, also be evidence that this particular cohort was weaker in Civil Litigation compared to Criminal Litigation. As the tables below indicate, using the Pearson correlation coefficient ('Pearson R' analysis of correlation) suggests a very strong correlation in terms of the performance of all candidates attempting both examinations.

Bar Training Candidates Sitting Both Exams Correlation of Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation Post-Intervention Scores			
Group	Number of Candidates	Pearson's R	Interpretation
All BT Candidates Sitting Both Exams	559	0.71	Very Strong Correlation
BT Candidates First Sitting Both Exams	177	0.84	Very Strong Correlation
BT Candidates Resitting Both Exams	297	0.59	Moderate Correlation

It should be noted that whilst there were 559 candidates attempting both assessments – as represented in table (a), not all candidates were first sitting both

assessments or resitting both assessments (some may have been first sitting one and resitting another) – hence the sum of tables (b) and (c) does not equal 559.

#### 4.2 Centralised assessment post-intervention pass rates compared December 2020 to August 2025

All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-20		Apr-21		Aug-21	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	383	407	1104	989	827	738
Passing Rate	60%	56%	46%	49%	42%	41%
Pass Standard	44/75	50/90	41/75	52/89	46/75	50/89
Reliability Score	0.91	0.91	0.86	0.90	0.85	0.88
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-21		Apr-22		Aug-22	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	824	824	1653	1517	802	791
Passing Rate	56%	53%	64%	60%	52%	46%
Pass Standard	44/75	50/90	44/75	49/89	42/75	52/90
Reliability Score	0.87	0.89	0.89	0.90	0.85	0.85
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-22		Apr-23		Aug-23	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	596	929	1583	1671	842	890
Passing Rate	50%	56%	66%	60%	40%	45%
Pass Standard	44/75	48/90	43/75	51/89	43/75	50/89
Reliability Score	0.89	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.88	0.90
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-23		Apr-24		Aug-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	799	833	1754	1748	1008	987
Passing Rate	55%	53%	61%	60%	48%	45%
Pass Standard	42/75	49/90	41/75	51/90	41/75	49/90
Reliability Score	0.91	0.92	0.90	0.92	0.84	0.87
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-24		Apr-25		Aug-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	887	937	1811	1728	1103	1099
Passing Rate	50%	61%	54%	54%	57%	48%
Pass Standard	41/75	50/89	42/75	51/90	40/75	49/90
Reliability Score	0.88	0.92	0.89	0.92	0.84	0.89

For Criminal Litigation, candidate numbers for August 2025 were the highest for an August sitting since the new format for the centralised assessments was introduced in December 2020. The passing rate Civil Litigation was largely in line with previous August sittings, whilst the passing rate in Criminal Litigation was more than 10% higher than the August average. For both subjects the August 2025 passing rate

was the highest August sitting pass rate since the introduction of the new format assessments in 2020. The April 2023 passing rate for Criminal Litigation (66%) remains the highest recorded for either subject across the 14 sittings to date, and the August 2023 passing rate for Criminal Litigation (40%) is the lowest. The variations in cohort size tends to reflect the course structures adopted by AETOs, which in turn determines when most of their candidates will be attempting each of the centralised assessments for the first time. Cohort numbers are also impacted by the approval of additional AETOs and additional AETO centres. Nine cohorts were entered for December 2020, this figure increasing to 18 for April 2021, and then to 21 by the time of the April 2023 sitting.

### 4.3 August 2025 post-intervention pass rates for both Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation by AETO

AETO	Civil Litigation % Pass	Criminal Litigation % Pass	AVERAGE
ICCA	82%	97%	90%
ULaw Leeds	66%	69%	67%
ULaw Birmingham	66%	63%	65%
ULaw Bristol	57%	67%	62%
ULaw Liverpool	47%	71%	59%
City	58%	60%	59%
Cardiff	33%	82%	58%
ULaw London	42%	70%	56%
UWE	54%	53%	53%
Northumbria	50%	56%	53%
BPP Leeds	54%	50%	52%
BPP Bristol	75%	29%	52%
ULaw Manchester	39%	57%	48%
BPP Birmingham	46%	48%	47%
BPP London	41%	50%	46%
BPP Manchester	38%	52%	45%
ULaw Nottingham	56%	33%	44%
ULaw Newcastle	57%	25%	41%
NTU	28%	50%	39%
Hertfordshire	25%	45%	35%
MMU	42%	10%	26%

4.3.1 AETO cohorts are listed in descending order of the average of their passing rates across the two August 2025 Litigation examinations. The ICCA, therefore, had the highest average passing rate across both Litigation subjects at 90%, with ULaw Leeds next on 67%. MMU recorded the lowest average at 26%. Overall, 9 of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates failed to achieve an average passing rate of 50% across the two Litigation subjects.

These figures need to be viewed in the context of low cohort numbers at some AETO centres.

- 4.3.2 An alternative way of looking at the extent to which AETO centres were successful in supporting their candidates in the August 2025 Litigation assessments is to aggregate the total number of candidates entered for each exam at an AETO centre and compare this with the aggregate number of candidates passing at that AETO centre.

AETO	Aug-25 Number of Criminal Candidates	Aug-25 Number of Civil Candidates	Total Aug-25 Instances of Assessment	Aug-25 Number Passing Criminal	Aug-25 Number Passing Civil	Total Aug-25 Passing Results	Overall % of Criminal and Civil Litigation Examinations Passed Aug-25
ICCA	32	34	66	32	28	60	91%
Ulaw Leeds	55	70	125	38	46	84	67%
Ulaw Birmingham	38	41	79	24	27	51	65%
Ulaw Bristol	12	7	19	8	4	12	63%
Cardiff	22	15	37	18	5	23	62%
Ulaw Liverpool	14	15	29	10	7	17	59%
City	142	128	270	84	74	158	59%
Ulaw London	118	106	224	83	44	127	57%
UWE	70	91	161	37	49	86	53%
Northumbria	25	26	51	14	13	27	53%
BPP Leeds	30	13	43	15	7	22	51%
Ulaw Manchester	21	23	44	12	9	21	48%
BPP Birmingham	31	56	87	15	26	41	47%
Ulaw Nottingham	6	9	15	2	5	7	47%
BPP London	324	285	609	163	117	280	46%
Ulaw Newcastle	4	7	11	1	4	5	45%
BPP Manchester	62	80	142	32	30	62	44%
NTU	62	61	123	31	17	48	39%
BPP Bristol	14	4	18	4	3	7	39%
Hertfordshire	11	16	27	5	4	9	33%
MMU	10	12	22	1	5	6	27%

As the table above shows, the ICCA was the most successful AETO in terms of the percentage of candidates entered for any of the August 2025 examinations achieving a pass, in either examination, with a figure of 91%. At the other extreme, at MMU, only 27% of its candidates managed to get through either exam. For this August 2025 sitting, out of 21 AETO centres, 10 failed to achieve a 50% progression rate calculated on this basis.

- 4.3.3 The extent to which these outcomes reflect the impact of resitting candidates remains, to some extent, a matter of conjecture. If there is a correlation between lower passing rates and the number of resitting candidates, it might be reasonable to expect any AETO centre with an above average percentage of first sit candidates to be able to achieve a higher-than-average passing rate across both Litigation subjects taken together. For the August 2025 sitting, there were 2,202 candidates across the two Litigation subjects, of which 1,194 (54%) were resitting. The data shows a broad correlation between percentage of first sit candidates and combined passing rates as set out in the table at 4.3.2 (above). For example, the ICCA had the highest passing rate across both subjects for the August 2025 sitting but also has the highest percentage of first sit candidates across both subjects (79%). Similarly, ULaw Leeds (which comes second in the table at 4.3.2) had the second highest percentage of first sit candidates across both subjects for the August 2025

sitting. There are outliers, however. Nearly 97% of ULaw Liverpool candidates were resitting, yet its overall passing rate was 59%. Again, the usual caveats apply when considering any analysis involving small cohort numbers.

4.3.4 Looking across the last 15 cycles of centralised Bar Training litigation assessments there is no compelling evidence to suggest AETO cohorts have found the Civil Litigation assessment more challenging than those in Criminal Litigation, although the variations in outcomes for specific sittings are quite marked. The table below shows the variance in passing rates between the two Litigation subjects for each AETO centre at each of the 15 sittings for the current assessment format (AETOs without cohorts for a sitting have blank data cells). The blue shading (negative) indicates that candidates have performed better on Crime than on Civil, hence, at BPP Birmingham in December 2020 the Civil Litigation passing rate was 3.6% below that for Criminal Litigation.

AETO	Average Across All Sits To-Date		Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
BPP Birmingham	-3%		-4%	12%	8%	-14%	-14%	9%
BPP Bristol	3%		-3%	6%	12%	-1%	-11%	-2%
BPP Leeds	-6%		-27%	21%	-27%	9%	-1%	-3%
BPP London	-2%		-4%	13%	-10%	-7%	8%	-1%
BPP Manchester	-3%		-3%	16%	-16%	0%	-2%	-13%
Cardiff	-12%		-2%	-35%	1%	21%	-3%	-19%
City	3%		12%	14%	7%	-9%	3%	-5%
Hertfordshire	1%		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICCA	-3%		0%	-20%	14%	-5%	-5%	-7%
MMU	-3%		-13%	-21%	9%	16%	-26%	-18%
Northumbria	-3%		N/A	-28%	8%	4%	-13%	7%
NTU	-3%		N/A	-41%	5%	9%	-9%	2%
Ulaw Birmingham	0%		N/A	13%	9%	-22%	-20%	-6%
Ulaw Bristol	7%		N/A	-3%	-25%	N/A	-6%	0%
Ulaw Leeds	1%		N/A	13%	8%	18%	-9%	-2%
Ulaw Liverpool	1%		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-8%	10%
Ulaw London	-2%		N/A	0%	-5%	-8%	-8%	-13%
Ulaw Manchester	2%		N/A	16%	-2%	0%	-16%	6%
Ulaw Newcastle	-8%		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	-6%		N/A	-23%	-100%	0%	-28%	-5%
UWE	2%		N/A	13%	5%	-7%	-5%	-19%
		AVERAGE	-5%	-2%	-5%	0%	-9%	-4%

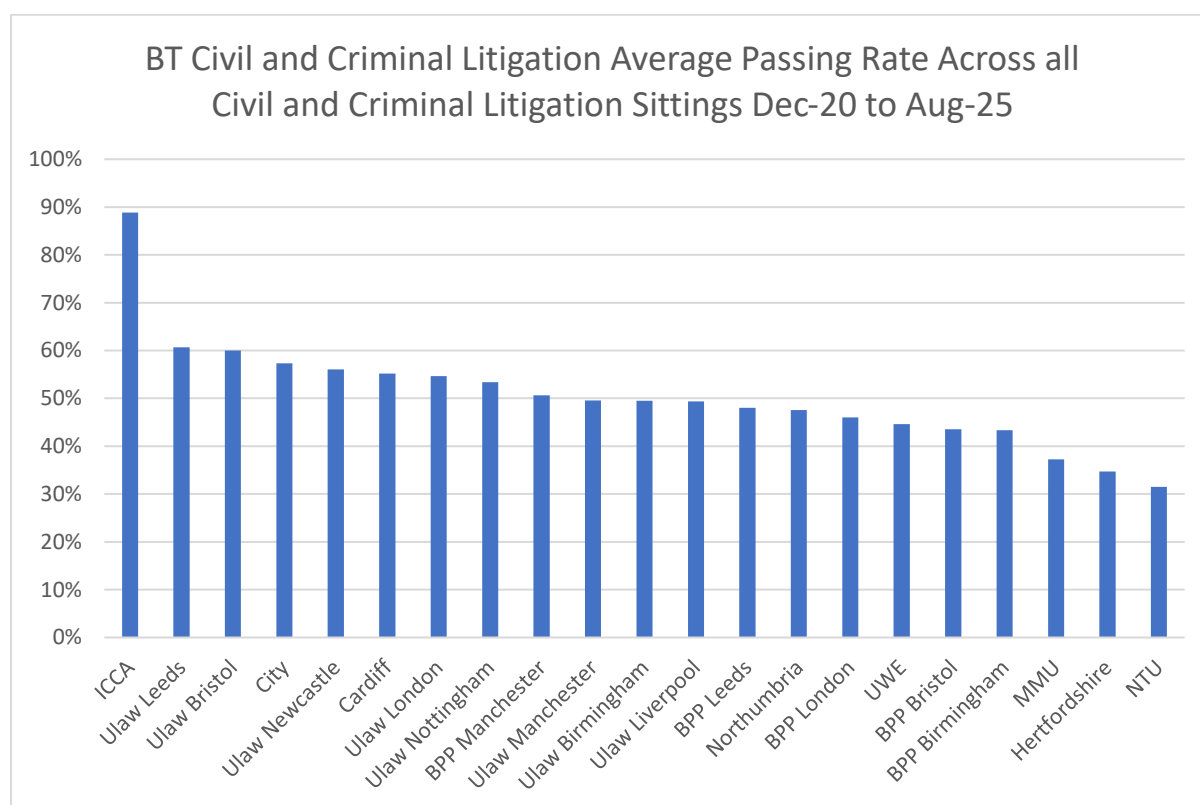
	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	1%	-21%	-19%	-3%	-13%	2%
BPP Bristol	N/A	-78%	22%	15%	28%	-42%
BPP Leeds	-4%	-11%	-16%	-6%	-39%	4%
BPP London	11%	-10%	1%	-1%	-11%	-8%
BPP Manchester	13%	-8%	-5%	-2%	-22%	17%
Cardiff	18%	-28%	-23%	-8%	-22%	-11%
City	9%	0%	11%	-9%	3%	0%
Hertfordshire	3%	11%	14%	0%	0%	-33%
ICCA	-3%	-5%	1%	-1%	-3%	1%
MMU	-11%	17%	14%	5%	42%	-67%
Northumbria	-14%	-11%	18%	6%	-3%	12%
NTU	-17%	2%	11%	10%	2%	-14%
Ulaw Birmingham	0%	2%	4%	8%	-4%	9%
Ulaw Bristol	33%	-8%	24%	N/A	-3%	0%
Ulaw Leeds	-3%	0%	8%	-7%	2%	-6%
Ulaw Liverpool	50%	-6%	10%	-14%	3%	-17%
Ulaw London	7%	-4%	10%	-9%	9%	-1%
Ulaw Manchester	57%	-17%	23%	-13%	14%	-18%
Ulaw Newcastle	N/A	-44%	-20%	N/A	0%	-33%
Ulaw Nottingham	67%	-10%	0%	N/A	15%	25%
UWE	28%	0%	14%	-5%	7%	5%
AVERAGE	13%	-11%	5%	-2%	0%	-8%

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	15%	-2%	-2%			
BPP Bristol	33%	13%	46%			
BPP Leeds	37%	-27%	4%			
BPP London	16%	-12%	-9%			
BPP Manchester	23%	-24%	-14%			
Cardiff	11%	-35%	-48%			
City	1%	5%	-2%			
Hertfordshire	50%	-18%	-20%			
ICCA	3%	5%	-15%			
MMU	-14%	-11%	32%			
Northumbria	-25%	-4%	-6%			
NTU	19%	0%	-22%			
Ulaw Birmingham	22%	-10%	3%			
Ulaw Bristol	75%	6%	-10%			
Ulaw Leeds	3%	-14%	-3%			
Ulaw Liverpool	13%	-4%	-25%			
Ulaw London	23%	-1%	-29%			
Ulaw Manchester	-3%	2%	-18%			
Ulaw Newcastle	33%	-21%	32%			
Ulaw Nottingham	-10%	-27%	22%			
UWE	3%	-8%	1%			
AVERAGE	16%	-9%	-4%			

The biggest average differential is recorded by Cardiff – 12% higher in Criminal Litigation (across all 15 sittings). For the August 2025 sitting, the higher passing rate in Criminal Litigation is reflected in the fact that only six out of 21 AETO cohorts performed more strongly in Civil Litigation compared to Criminal Litigation.

#### 4.4 AETO average passing rates since December 2020

An analysis of passing rates achieved by each AETO cohort in both Litigation subjects across all 15 Bar Training Course examination sittings to date (adjusted to allow for the fact that some AETOs may not have had candidates for some sittings) shows the following:



The ICCA has the highest average passing rate across both Litigation subjects and all sittings to date at 89%, and NTU the lowest at 31%. The ICCA is, thus far, some way ahead of the other AETO centres in terms of cohort performance, the gap between it and second placed ULaw Leeds being 28%. There are 10 AETO centres where the average passing rate across both Litigation subjects and all sittings to date is below 50%. Again, it is important to bear in mind the caveats flagged in Part 1 of the Chair's report at 3.1.1 when considering these results.

## 4.5 Overall passing rates across both subjects December 2020 to August 2025

### 4.5.1 Cumulative passing rate to date disaggregated by AETO centre

<b>BT Civil and Criminal Litigation December 2020 to August 2025 (15 Sits)</b>			
<b>AETO</b>	<b>Total Number of Attempts</b>	<b>Total Number of Passes</b>	<b>% Pass</b>
ICCA	1633	1462	90%
Ulaw Bristol	323	220	68%
Ulaw Leeds	1043	698	67%
City	5505	3487	63%
Cardiff	1164	707	61%
Ulaw Newcastle	108	64	59%
Ulaw Manchester	782	458	59%
Ulaw London	3328	1920	58%
Ulaw Nottingham	184	99	54%
Ulaw Liverpool	710	375	53%
Ulaw Birmingham	1280	676	53%
Northumbria	1034	544	53%
BPP Manchester	1856	947	51%
BPP Leeds	585	294	50%
UWE	2251	1057	47%
BPP London	6822	3118	46%
BPP Bristol	300	136	45%
BPP Birmingham	1180	523	44%
MMU	487	209	43%
NTU	1341	436	33%
Hertfordshire	147	39	27%
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>32063</b>	<b>17469</b>	<b>54%</b>

This table aggregates all the attempts by candidates at both the Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation examinations across all 15 sittings from December 2020 to August 2025. In total there have been 32,063 attempts at the centralised assessments by Bar Training candidates, of which 17,469 have been successful (54%). As can be seen, 12 AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts lower than this overall passing rate, with seven AETO centres seeing less than 50% of all attempts being passing attempts since the introduction of the Bar Training course in 2020. As discussed at sections 2.8.2 and 3.8.2, this does not equate to less than 50% of candidates passing because individual candidates may be recorded as having multiple failing attempts before ultimately making a single passing attempt. Similarly, overall pass rates from the table above (derived by dividing the total number of passes by the total number of attempts) are not the same as the simple average of pass rates shown at 4.4; however, both pieces of

data provide insights into how successful each AETO centre has been in supporting its candidates to pass the centralised Litigation assessments within fewer attempts.

#### 4.5.2 Cumulative passing rate disaggregated by AETO group – 15 sittings to date

The table below takes the data used for table 4.5.1 but aggregates the cumulative totals for the six University of Law centres and the five BPP centres, to produce an aggregate cumulative score for each of those AETOs across all of their centres.

<b>BT Civil and Criminal Litigation December 2020 to Aug 2025 (15 Sits)</b>			
<b>AETO</b>	<b>Total Number of Attempts</b>	<b>Total Number of Passes</b>	<b>% Pass</b>
ICCA	1633	1462	90%
City	5505	3487	63%
Cardiff	1164	707	61%
ULaw Group	7758	4510	58%
Northumbria	1034	544	53%
BPP Group	10743	5018	47%
UWE	2251	1057	47%
MMU	487	209	43%
NTU	1341	436	33%
Hertfordshire	147	39	27%

Presenting the data this way shows that the ICCA remains the most successful AETO in terms of the percentage of attempts at a centralised assessment being deemed a pass, 27% ahead of the second placed AETO, City University. Of the two largest AETOs, ULaw is ahead of BPP, although ULaw has not entered cohorts for all sittings. Five AETO groups have not, to date, managed to exceed the 50% overall success level for centralised Litigation assessments.

## 5. BAR TRAINING RESIT RESULTS AUGUST 2025

For the December 2023 sitting the BSB decided to pilot a scheme to allow candidates, who commenced their Bar training from September 2020 onwards, to take further re-sits of the elements of assessment that are necessary to be Called to the Bar (which the BSB regulates), even if they had reached the maximum number of permitted re-sits for the academic award at their training provider such as a Postgraduate Diploma or LLM (which the BSB does not regulate). For the December 2023 pilot scheme this facility was made available for BPP students only. From April 2024 this facility was extended to students from all AETOs. Candidates attempt the same assessments as other Bar Training and BTT candidates. Candidates were again offered this resit facility for the August 2025 sitting, the results for which were as follows:

Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention					Dec-23	
					Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
					8	6
No of Candidates					50%	33%
Passing Rate						
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
	19	31	26	26	38	41
No of Candidates	26%	52%	42%	46%	24%	44%
Passing Rate						
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
	60	47	70	64		
No of Candidates	32%	11%	36%	39%		
Passing Rate						

## 6. BAR TRANSFER TEST RESULTS AUGUST 2025

The results for Bar Transfer Test ('BTT') candidates attempting the August 2025 BTT assessments were considered by the Litigation Subject Exam Boards and the Final Board. For the August 2025 sit, all BTT candidates attempted the same centrally assessed exam papers as the Bar Training Course candidates. See sections 2 and 3 (above) for details of the exam board discussion of interventions etc. The BTT passing rates in August 2025 for both Litigation subjects fall within the range of previous sittings but, in the case of Criminal Litigation, is some way below the 'to date' average passing rate.

Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-22		Aug-22		Dec-22	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	70	62	65	51	41	39
Passing Rate	43%	45%	39%	33%	29%	62%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-23		Aug-23		Dec-23	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	24	18	42	54	40	33
Passing Rate	50%	44%	24%	39%	43%	46%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	58	31	25	24	25	21
Passing Rate	48%	52%	44%	50%	52%	43%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	22	14	20	16		
Passing Rate	23%	36%	30%	44%		

## 7. BPTC RESULTS AUGUST 2025

### 7.1 Unification of assessment regimes

7.1.1 There are no longer any discrete BPTC assessments, the final opportunity to take an 'old style' BPTC 75 MCQ Civil Litigation paper was the April 2022 sit. See sections 2 and 3 (above) for details of the exam board discussion of interventions etc.

### 7.2 BPTC Passing rates December 2021 to August 2025

BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-22		Aug-22		Dec-22	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	167	229	70	43	45	31
Passing Rate	49%	31%	44%	26%	40%	45%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-23		Aug-23		Dec-23	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	36	57	29	37	15	12
Passing Rate	42%	53%	17%	30%	40%	25%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	24	18	19	17	11	40
Passing Rate	29%	22%	16%	29%	36%	55%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	10	8	7	33		
Passing Rate	60%	38%	29%	42%		

As the above table shows, although the number of BPTC candidates is steadily declining, the August 2025 sitting still saw a total of 40 candidate entries (across the two Litigation assessments). Understandably, given the cohort composition and distance in time between the delivery of tuition and attempting the assessment, the BPTC outcomes do not normally compare favourably with those for the main Bar Training cohort.

Professor Mike Molan  
Chair of the Central Examination Board  
25 November 2025