

**BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD**

REGULATING BARRISTERS

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

**Bar Training, BTT, BPTC & BTR
April 2026 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 April 2026 Examination dates

The April 2026 Bar Training exam dates were as follows:

Criminal Litigation: Thursday 16 April 2026 at 14:00
Civil Litigation (Paper 1): Tuesday 21 April 2026 at 14:00
Civil Litigation (Paper 2): Thursday 23 April 2026 at 14:00

1.2 Passing rates

The confirmed post-intervention outcomes for the seventeenth iteration of examinations attempted by Bar Training course candidates in April 2026, which are as follows:

All AETOs (Post-Intervention Results)							
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	Dec-20	Apr-21	Aug-21	Dec-21	Apr-22	Aug-22
	Passing Rate	407	989	738	824	1517	791
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	56%	49%	41%	53%	60%	46%
	Passing Rate	383	1104	827	824	1653	802
	No. of Candidates	60%	46%	42%	56%	64%	52%
	Passing Rate	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%
	No. of Candidates	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
	Passing Rate	937	1728	1099	1002	1839	
Civil Litigation	No. of Candidates	61%	54%	48%	49%	61%	
	Passing Rate	887	1811	1103	787	1832	
Criminal Litigation	No. of Candidates	50%	60%	57%	56%	66%	
	Passing Rate						

1.2.1 In comparing results across the seventeen 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 April 2026 sitting there were 21 AETO assessment centres providing candidate cohort results. As can be seen in the above table, the overall April 2026 passing rate for Civil Litigation is the highest April passing rate since the current assessment format was introduced. The April 2026 passing rate in Criminal Litigation is the joint highest since the current assessment format was introduced, matched only by the April 2023 cohort result. 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
TOTAL	407	989	738	823	1517	791

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
TOTAL	929	1671	890	833	1748	987

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	36	28	56	27	31	
BPP Bristol	6	15	4	1	20	
BPP Leeds	29	28	13	59	41	
BPP London	253	302	285	292	293	
BPP Manchester	61	61	80	87	71	
Cardiff	92	27	15	111	25	
City	47	343	128	54	391	
Hertfordshire	2	20	16	6	25	
ICCA	165	81	34	87	75	
MMU	29	5	12	45	9	
Northumbria	14	70	26	12	90	
NTU	37	91	61	38	111	
Ulaw Birmingham	18	54	41	12	65	
Ulaw Bristol	4	29	7	2	38	
Ulaw Leeds	20	78	70	15	68	
Ulaw Liverpool	15	82	15	18	100	
Ulaw London	54	156	106	77	149	
Ulaw Manchester	9	69	23	15	60	
Ulaw Newcastle	3	18	7	3	25	
Ulaw Nottingham	2	11	9	3	22	
UWE	41	160	91	38	130	
TOTAL	937	1728	1099	1002	1839	

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 April 2026 sit, City University had the largest cohort, accounting for 21.3% of the Civil Litigation candidate entries, and BPP London has also provided 21.7% of the total number of candidate entries across the seventeen 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
TOTAL	383	1104	827	824	1653	802

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
TOTAL	596	1583	842	799	1754	1008

AETO	Dec-24	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26	Aug-26
BPP Birmingham	58	32	31	45	20	
BPP Bristol	6	3	14	5	1	
BPP Leeds	8	30	30	6	52	
BPP London	238	258	324	234	235	
BPP Manchester	64	58	62	69	79	
Cardiff	21	84	22	31	94	
City	69	376	142	57	407	
Hertfordshire	1	21	11	3	19	
ICCA	177	70	32	110	57	
MMU	48	16	10	55	11	
Northumbria	15	67	25	8	71	
NTU	37	93	62	30	100	
Ulaw Birmingham	18	66	38	9	63	
Ulaw Bristol	2	30	12	1	37	
Ulaw Leeds	16	83	55	11	78	
Ulaw Liverpool	15	81	14	17	96	
Ulaw London	47	159	118	50	159	
Ulaw Manchester	8	71	21	8	62	
Ulaw Newcastle	1	17	4	3	23	
Ulaw Nottingham	5	13	6	4	22	
UWE	33	183	70	31	146	
TOTAL	887	1811	1103	787	1832	

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 April 2026 sit, City University had the largest cohort, accounting for 22.1% of the Criminal Litigation candidate entries, and BPP London has provided 20.2% of the total number of candidate entries across the seventeen sittings offered thus far.

2. BAR TRAINING CRIMINAL LITIGATION RESULTS APRIL 2026 SIT

2.1 Exam Board decisions in relation to selected questions

2.1.1 For the April 2026 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 interventions were required, some points for future reference were raised in the Board's deliberations.

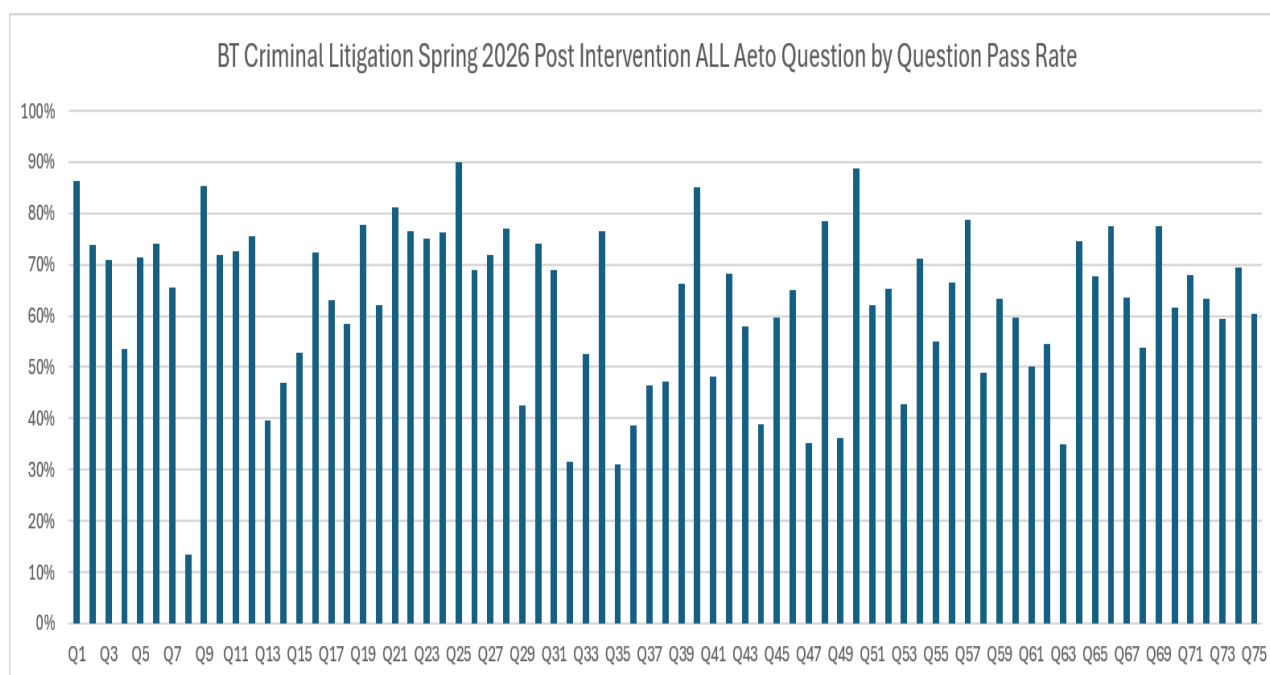
Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.10	1	Passing rate 72%; Point Biserial 0.39 The AETO feedback was to credit distractor [A] in addition to correct answer [D]. The examining team disagreed and confirmed that [D] was the best answer. The statistics supported the examining team's view. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.15	0	Passing rate 54%; Point Biserial 0.19 It was noted that there was poor discrimination overall, and slight positive correlation on distractor [B] but the examining team confirmed distractor [B] was an incorrect answer. The AETO feedback noted a small typo in distractor [D]. The examining team agreed to correct the typo before reusing the question and to add the word "notice" to the correct answer explanation. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>

Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.17	1	Passing rate 63%; Point Biserial 0.25 It was noted that there was poor discrimination overall, but there were no problems with any of the distractors. The AETO feedback was to credit distractor [A] in addition to correct answer [C] and that distractor [D] was confusing for candidates because the syllabus did not cover the issue of to which court the application should be made. The examining team disagreed and confirmed that distractors [A] and [D] were incorrect answers. The examining team agreed to remove the reference to County Court in distractor [D] before reusing the question. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.26	0	Passing rate 70%; Point Biserial 0.56 It was noted that there was very poor discrimination overall for this question and neutral correlation on distractor [A]. The examining team confirmed that distractor [A] was an incorrect answer. The AETO feedback was to change the wording in each distractor. The examining team expressed the view that there was no validity in the AETO Feedback. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.28	1	Passing rate 77%; Point Biserial 0.08 It was noted that there was very poor discrimination overall, and neutral correlation on distractor [A]. The examining team confirmed that distractor [A] was not the best answer. The AETO feedback was to credit distractor [C] in addition to best answer [B]. The examining team noted that this question was a Single Best Answer question and whilst all 4 distractors were possible, they confirmed that distractor [B] was the best answer. The examining team agreed to consider the wording of the question before reuse in light of the disappointingly low discrimination. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>

Item	Number of AETOs requesting an intervention	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.43	0	Passing rate 59%; Point Biserial 0.26 The AETO feedback was to improve the wording in distractors [B] and [C]. The examining team rejected the feedback, noting that the wording in [B] and [C] was taken directly from Blackstone's Criminal Practice. The statistics supported the examining team's view that no intervention was required. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.49	1	Passing rate 37%; Point Biserial 0.38 The AETO feedback was to credit distractor [D] in addition to correct answer [B]. The examining team noted this was an MCQ and that answer [D] was an incorrect answer. <i>The board decided not to intervene.</i>

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 April 2026 Criminal Litigation examination.



There were no interventions, and the data shows 9 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 14 for the December 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 68%, across MCQs 26 to 50 it decreased to 59%, and across MCQs 51 to 75 it increased to 63%. 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 standard setting exercise was undertaken without incident and the Chair for that exercise commended a recommended pass standard of 41.3/75 to the Exam Board. which, in accordance with the custom and practice of the Board, was rounded up to a pass standard of 42/75.
- 2.3.2 Data supplied to the Final Exam Board by the psychometrician indicated that, with a KR-20 Reliability score of 0.89, 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.

	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26
No. of Candidates	1811	1103	787	1832
No. of Scored Items	75	75	75	75
Pass Standard	42	40	40	42
Pass Rate (%)	60.0	57.0	55.6	66.5
Mean Score	45	41.6	42.1	46.9
Standard Deviation	11.7	9.9	11.5	11.5
Range of Scores	15 to 75	15 to 73	16 to 73	13 to 74
Reliability (KR-20)	0.89	0.84	0.89	0.89
Reliability Equivalent 90-item test	0.91	0.87	0.91	0.91
Standard Error of Measurment	3.8	4	3.8	3.7

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

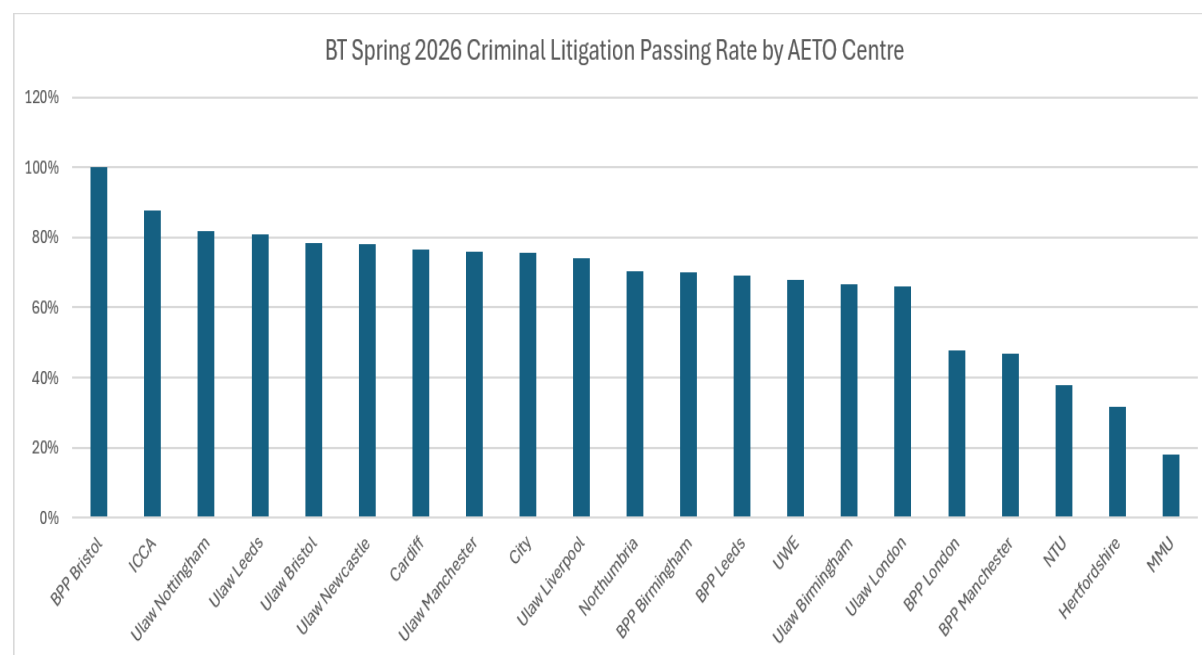
The Independent Observer endorsed the proceedings in respect of the Criminal Litigation assessment.

2.6 Criminal Litigation post-intervention pass rate April 2026

All AETO Post-Intervention	Criminal Litigation August 2024	Criminal Litigation December 2024	Criminal Litigation April 2025
No. of Candidates	1008	887	1811
Passing Rate	48%	50%	60%
All AETO Post-Intervention	Criminal Litigation August 2025	Criminal Litigation December 2025	Criminal Litigation April 2026
No. of Candidates	1103	787	1832
Passing Rate	57%	56%	66%

The table above shows the all-AETO April 2026 post-intervention Bar Training cohort pass rate of 66% for Criminal Litigation, based on a passing standard recommended to the Final Board of 42/75. The post-intervention passing rate is significantly higher than the average passing rate across the previous five sittings, which is 54% (see Executive Summary).

2.7 April 2026 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 declining order of their April 2026 pass rates in the Criminal Litigation assessment. BPP Bristol achieved a passing rate of 100% but had only one candidate. The ICCA, in second place with a passing rate of 88%, fielded 57

candidates. MMU's passing rate is the lowest, at 18%, but this was a very small cohort (11) of which 9 were resitting.

2.7.2 Distribution of first sit candidates across the AETO centres for Criminal Litigation April 2026 sitting

AETOs ranked by % of cohort first sitting			
AETO	Cohort Size	# First Sit	% First Sit
Ulaw Bristol	37	37	100%
Ulaw Newcastle	23	23	100%
Ulaw Manchester	62	61	98%
Ulaw Liverpool	96	93	97%
BPP Leeds	52	50	96%
Ulaw Leeds	78	75	96%
Northumbria	71	68	96%
Ulaw Nottingham	22	21	95%
Cardiff	94	87	93%
City	407	376	92%
UWE	146	134	92%
ICCA	57	52	91%
Ulaw London	159	141	89%
Hertfordshire	19	16	84%
NTU	100	81	81%
BPP Manchester	79	62	78%
Ulaw Birmingham	63	46	73%
BPP Birmingham	20	14	70%
BPP London	235	106	45%
MMU	11	2	18%
BPP Bristol	1	0	0%
OVERALL	1832	1545	84%

All but three of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates for the April 2026 Criminal Litigation assessment had a preponderance of first sit candidates. BPP Bristol was the only AETO with no first sit candidates in the April 2026 Criminal Litigation assessment.

2.7.3 Comparison of first sit and resit candidate passing rates at each AETO for Criminal Litigation April 2026 sitting

First Sit Pass Rates and Resit Pass Rates		
CRIMINAL LITIGATION		
AETO	First Sit % Pass	Resit % Pass
BPP Birmingham	79%	50%
BPP Bristol	N/A	100%
BPP Leeds	72%	0%
BPP London	67%	32%
BPP Manchester	52%	29%
Cardiff	77%	71%
City	78%	45%
Hertfordshire	38%	0%
ICCA	90%	60%
MMU	50%	11%
Northumbria	72%	33%
NTU	42%	21%
Ulaw Birmingham	72%	53%
Ulaw Bristol	78%	N/A
Ulaw Leeds	81%	67%
Ulaw Liverpool	73%	100%
Ulaw London	68%	50%
Ulaw Manchester	77%	0%
Ulaw Newcastle	78%	N/A
Ulaw Nottingham	86%	0%
UWE	70%	42%
OVERALL	71%	41%

Data presented to the exam boards for the April 2026 sitting showing the split between first sit and resit candidates for Criminal Litigation revealed that 84% 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 16% 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 this is reflected in the 71% passing rate for first sit candidates compared to the 41% passing rate for resit candidates. For the April 2026 Criminal Litigation examination, of the 18 AETO centres with first sit and resit candidates, only ULaw Liverpool 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 April 2026 sitting

AETOs Ranked by First Sit Pass Rate CRIMINAL LITIGATION	
AETO	First Sit % Pass
ICCA	90%
Ulaw Nottingham	86%
Ulaw Leeds	81%
BPP Birmingham	79%
Ulaw Bristol	78%
Ulaw Newcastle	78%
City	78%
Ulaw Manchester	77%
Cardiff	77%
Ulaw Liverpool	73%
Northumbria	72%
BPP Leeds	72%
Ulaw Birmingham	72%
UWE	70%
Ulaw London	68%
BPP London	67%
BPP Manchester	52%
MMU	50%
NTU	42%
Hertfordshire	38%
BPP Bristol	N/A

There were two AETO centres where fewer than 50% of first sit candidates managed to pass the April 2026 Criminal Litigation assessment (one AETO centre having no first sit candidates).

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

	Aug-24 % Pass	Dec-24 % Pass	Apr-25 % Pass	Aug-25 % pass	Dec-25 % pass	Apr-26 % Pass	Average Over Six sits
ICCA	88%	92%	81%	97%	95%	88%	90%
Cardiff	59%	67%	68%	82%	71%	77%	70%
Ulaw Leeds	60%	38%	87%	69%	55%	81%	65%
Ulaw Liverpool	60%	33%	60%	71%	59%	74%	60%
Ulaw Bristol	40%	0%	70%	67%	100%	78%	59%
Northumbria	36%	53%	64%	56%	75%	70%	59%
Ulaw London	61%	38%	64%	70%	48%	66%	58%
City	46%	43%	64%	60%	46%	76%	56%
BPP Birmingham	47%	47%	34%	48%	67%	70%	52%
Ulaw Birmingham	46%	39%	70%	63%	22%	67%	51%
Ulaw Manchester	57%	25%	63%	57%	25%	76%	51%
BPP Bristol	62%	17%	33%	29%	60%	100%	50%
Ulaw Newcastle	83%	0%	76%	25%	33%	78%	49%
UWE	40%	36%	55%	53%	42%	68%	49%
BPP Leeds	26%	25%	73%	50%	50%	69%	49%
BPP Manchester	37%	42%	53%	52%	57%	47%	48%
MMU	67%	63%	31%	10%	78%	18%	44%
BPP London	42%	37%	47%	50%	41%	48%	44%
Ulaw Nottingham	25%	60%	54%	33%	0%	82%	42%
NTU	29%	8%	35%	50%	23%	38%	31%
Hertfordshire	33%	0%	38%	45%	0%	32%	25%

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. The data shows that the ICCA currently has the highest average passing rate (90%). The ICCA cohort has also achieved the highest passing rate in three of the last six sittings. The University of Hertfordshire has the lowest average passing rate at 25%, that figure driven in part by two instances of 0% passing rates (the December 2024, and the December 2025 sittings). Again, it should be borne in mind that low candidate numbers can sometimes have a distorting effect in terms of pass rates.

2.8.2 An alternative way of assessing the success of each AETO across all the sittings to date (ie seventeen 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."

BT Criminal Litigation December 2020 to April 2026 (17 Sits)			
AETO	Total Number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	976	888	91%
Ulaw Bristol	199	140	70%
Ulaw Leeds	616	428	69%
Ulaw Newcastle	75	52	69%
Cardiff	694	460	66%
City	3332	2104	63%
Ulaw Manchester	461	282	61%
Ulaw London	1886	1124	60%
Ulaw Nottingham	115	68	59%
Northumbria	566	333	59%
Ulaw Liverpool	466	273	59%
BPP Leeds	343	189	55%
Ulaw Birmingham	725	396	55%
BPP Manchester	1020	531	52%
MMU	330	163	49%
UWE	1348	655	49%
BPP Birmingham	632	305	48%
BPP London	3762	1737	46%
BPP Bristol	147	65	44%
NTU	805	279	35%
Hertfordshire	97	28	29%
OVERALL	18595	10500	56%

2.8.3 As can be seen from the above table there have been 18,595 attempts at the Criminal Litigation assessment since the first sitting of the Bar Training exams in December 2020, of which 10,500 have been successful, generating an aggregate passing rate to date of 56%. There are 10 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 APRIL 2026 SIT

3.1 Exam Board decisions in relation to selected questions

3.1.1 For the April 2026 Civil Litigation assessment, requests for intervention from AETOs were received in relation to 4/90 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.9	1	Passing rate 69%. Point Biserial 0.26 AETO Feedback: To credit option [D] and make fact pattern shorter. The examining team disagreed with the feedback, pointing to the statistics and commented that there was nothing legally or procedurally wrong with the question. <i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.29	1	Passing rate 71%. Point Biserial 0.25 AETO Feedback: Question was too long. It was noted that there was slight positive correlation on distractor [A]. the Examining team agreed to review the length of the question before reusing it. <i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i>

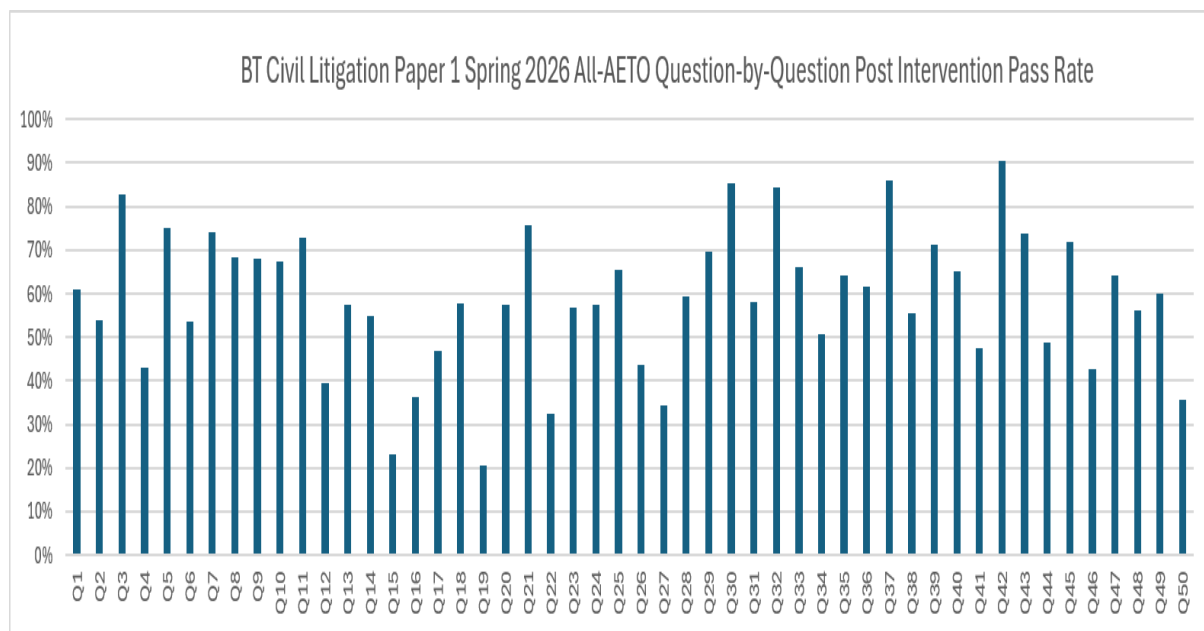
Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Paper 2		
Q.5	1	Passing rate 19%. Point Biserial 0.14 AETO feedback: Credit option [C]. The examining team disagreed with the feedback noting that the question was on syllabus and the commentary was very clear that the cheque rule applies to direct debit mandates. <i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i>

Item	Number of AETOs responding	Exam Board decision and rationale
Q.9	1	Passing rate 24%. Point Biserial 0.24 AETO feedback: Credit option [B]. The examining team disagreed with the feedback noting [B] was wrong as making an application was not the best of course of action. <i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.16	1	Passing rate 35%. Point Biserial 0.21 AETO feedback: Credit options [A] & [D]. The Chief Examiner disagreed with the feedback, observing that candidates could be expected to know the concepts of liability trial and a quantum trial and that the fact pattern was very clearly set up to discount [A] & [D] as the best answers. <i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i>
Q.29	1	Passing rate 57%. Point Biserial 0.37 AETO feedback: To improve the wording in option [D]. The Examining team agreed to review the fact pattern and option [D] to ensure clarity before the question was reused. <i>The Board decided not to intervene.</i>

3.2 Post-intervention pass rate of MCQs

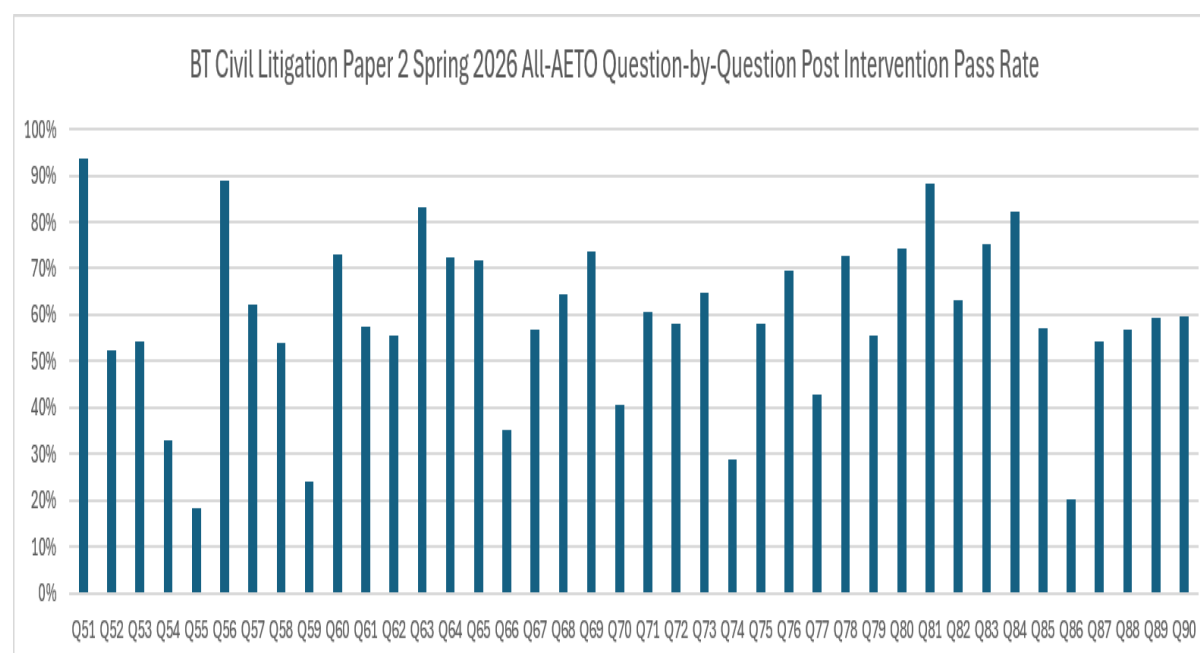
The bar charts below show the facility scores (% of Bar Training candidates answering correctly) for each of the questions in the April 2026 Civil Litigation examination (following any agreed interventions detailed at 3.1.2).

3.2.1 Paper 1



For Civil Litigation paper 1 the post-intervention data shows 7 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 11 out of 50 for the December 2025 sit). Assuming candidates attempted the questions in the order presented there is no evidence of candidate fatigue being a factor. The average passing rate was 57% across the first 25 MCQs and 63% across MCQs 26 to 50.

3.2.2 Paper 2



For Civil Litigation paper 2 the post-intervention data show 6 MCQs with an all-AETO cohort pass rate below 40% (compared to 6 out of 40 for the December 2025 sitting). Across both papers 1 and 2 there were, therefore, 13/90 questions with a passing rate of 40% or below (compared to 17/90 in the December 2025 sitting). Assuming candidates attempted the paper 2 questions in the order presented there is no clear evidence of candidate fatigue being a factor, the first 5 questions (taken as a group) having a lower average passing rate than any of the rolling case scenarios. Of the rolling case scenarios, RCS 3 proved the most challenging, with an average passing rate for the 7 items of 54%, and RCS 4 the easiest with an average passing rate for the 7 items of 67%.

3.2.3 Paper 2 Pass Rate by Section

Civil Litigation Paper 2 Passing Rate By Section	
Section/RCS	Passing Rate
Paper 2 first five questions (standalone MCQs)	50%
Paper 2 RCS 1 (questions 56-62)	59%
Paper 2 RCS 2 (questions 63-69)	65%
Paper 2 RCS 3 (questions 70-76)	54%
Paper 2 RCS 4 (questions 77-83)	67%
Paper 2 RCS 5 (questions 84-90)	56%

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 of 47.3/90 to the Exam Board, which was rounded up to 48/90 following the Board's convention.

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 0.93, exceeding the benchmark of 0.8. The Exam Board noted that all other data suggested an assessment operating as expected.

	Apr-25	Aug-25	Dec-25	Apr-26
No. of Candidates	1728	1099	985	1839
No. of Scored Items	90	90	89	90
Pass Standard	51	49	47	48
Pass Rate (%)	54.3	48.1	49.6%	61%
Mean Score	52.8	49.0	54.4	53.1
Standard Deviation	14.3	12.6	14.6	15.1
Range of Scores	16 to 87	18 to 85	19 to 87	14 to 89
Reliability (KR-20)	0.92	0.89	0.92	0.93
Standard Error of Measurement	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.0

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

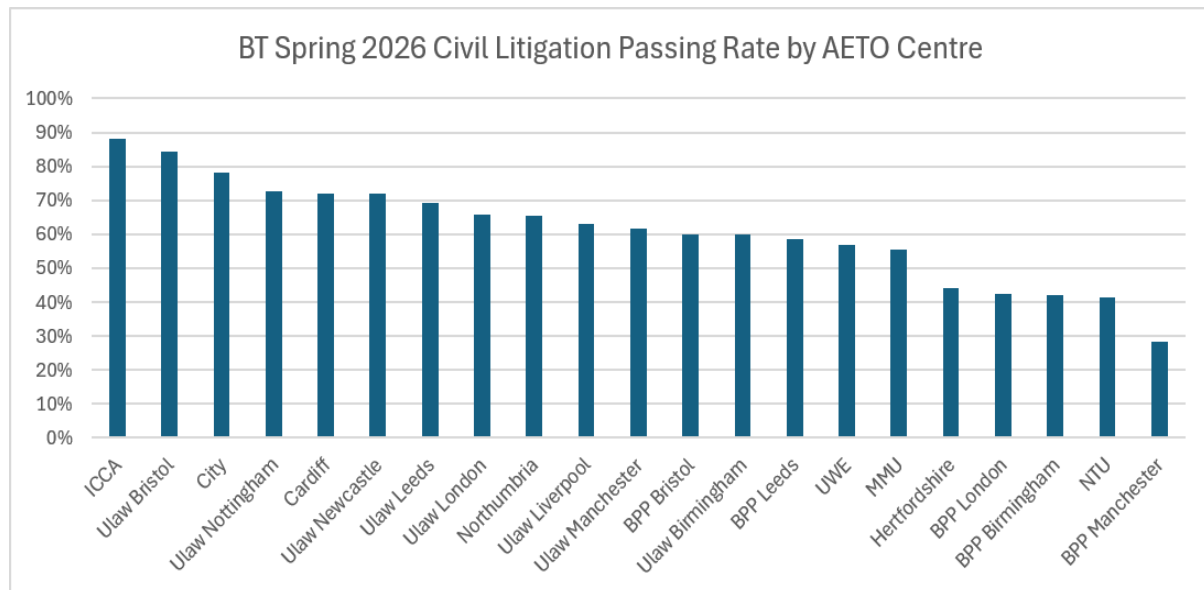
The Independent Observer endorsed the proceedings in respect of the Civil Litigation assessment.

3.6 Civil Litigation post-intervention pass rate April 2026

All AETO Post-Intervention	Civil Litigation August 2024	Civil Litigation December 2024	Civil Litigation April 2025
No. of Candidates	987	937	1728
Passing Rate	45%	61%	54%
All AETO Post-Intervention	Civil Litigation August 2025	Civil Litigation December 2025	Civil Litigation April 2026
No. of Candidates	1099	1002	1839
Passing Rate	48%	49%	61%

The table above shows the all-AETO April 2026 post-intervention Bar Training cohort pass rate of 61% for Civil Litigation, based on a passing standard recommended to the Final Board of 48/90. The post-intervention passing rate is significantly above the below the average of the previous five sittings (52%).

3.7 April 2026 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 April 2026 pass rates. The ICCA lead the table with an 88% passing rate (based on 75 candidates), whilst BPP Manchester bring up the rear with a passing rate of just 28% (based on 71 candidates).

3.7.2 Distribution of first sit candidates across the AETO centres for Civil Litigation April 2026 sitting

AETOs ranked by % of cohort first sitting			
AETO	Cohort Size	# First Sit	% First Sit
Ulaw Newcastle	25	25	100%
Ulaw Manchester	60	58	97%
Ulaw Nottingham	22	21	95%
Ulaw Bristol	38	36	95%
Ulaw Leeds	68	63	93%
City	391	362	93%
Northumbria	90	83	92%
BPP Bristol	20	18	90%
ICCA	75	67	89%
Ulaw Liverpool	100	89	89%
MMU	9	8	89%
Ulaw Birmingham	65	56	86%
UWE	130	111	85%
BPP Leeds	41	35	85%
Ulaw London	149	116	78%
BPP Manchester	71	49	69%
Hertfordshire	25	17	68%
BPP Birmingham	31	20	65%
BPP London	293	125	43%
Cardiff	25	7	28%
NTU	111	31	28%
OVERALL	1839	1397	76%

Only three of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates for the April 2026 Civil Litigation assessment had a preponderance of resit candidates. There were no AETOs only entering resit candidates in the April 2026 Civil Litigation assessment.

3.7.3 Comparison of first sit and resit candidate passing rates at each AETO for Civil Litigation April 2026 sitting

First Sit Pass Rates and Resit Pass Rates CIVIL LITIGATION		
AETO	First Sit % Pass	Resit % Pass
BPP Birmingham	35%	55%
BPP Bristol	61%	50%
BPP Leeds	63%	33%
BPP London	50%	36%
BPP Manchester	27%	32%
Cardiff	100%	61%
City	81%	45%
Hertfordshire	41%	50%
ICCA	93%	50%
MMU	63%	0%
Northumbria	67%	43%
NTU	35%	44%
ULaw Birmingham	64%	33%
ULaw Bristol	86%	50%
ULaw Leeds	71%	40%
ULaw Liverpool	61%	82%
ULaw London	72%	45%
ULaw Manchester	60%	100%
ULaw Newcastle	72%	N/A
ULaw Nottingham	71%	100%
UWE	59%	42%
OVERALL	67%	43%

Data presented to the exam boards for the April 2026 sitting showing the split between first sit and resit candidates for Civil Litigation revealed that 76% 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 24% 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 this is reflected in the 67% passing rate for first sit candidates compared to the 43% passing rate for resit candidates. For the April 2026 Civil Litigation examination, only seven of the 20 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 April 2026 sitting

AETOs Ranked by First Sit Pass Rate CIVIL LITIGATION	
AETO	First Sit % Pass
Cardiff	100%
ICCA	93%
Ulaw Bristol	86%
City	81%
Ulaw Newcastle	72%
Ulaw London	72%
Ulaw Leeds	71%
Ulaw Nottingham	71%
Northumbria	67%
Ulaw Birmingham	64%
BPP Leeds	63%
MMU	63%
BPP Bristol	61%
Ulaw Liverpool	61%
Ulaw Manchester	60%
UWE	59%
BPP London	50%
Hertfordshire	41%
NTU	35%
BPP Birmingham	35%
BPP Manchester	27%

There were four AETO centres (who entered first sit candidates) where fewer than 50% of first sit candidates managed to pass the April 2026 Civil Litigation assessment (none of the AETO centres having no first sit candidates).

3.8 Civil Litigation trend data – how AETO cohorts have performed over the last six sits

	Aug-24 % Pass	Dec-24 % Pass	Apr-25 % Pass	Aug-25 % Pass	Dec-25 % Pass	Apr-26 % Pass	Average Over Six sits
ICCA	88%	95%	86%	82%	92%	88%	89%
BPP Bristol	20%	50%	47%	75%	100%	60%	59%
City	47%	45%	69%	58%	48%	78%	58%
Ulaw Birmingham	55%	61%	59%	66%	42%	60%	57%
Ulaw London	60%	61%	63%	42%	51%	66%	57%
Cardiff	47%	77%	33%	33%	73%	72%	56%
Ulaw Bristol	40%	75%	76%	57%	0%	84%	55%
Ulaw Leeds	54%	40%	73%	66%	13%	69%	53%
BPP Leeds	31%	62%	46%	54%	53%	59%	51%
Ulaw Liverpool	43%	47%	56%	47%	44%	63%	50%
Northumbria	48%	29%	60%	50%	42%	66%	49%
UWE	45%	39%	47%	54%	39%	57%	47%
BPP Birmingham	49%	61%	32%	46%	44%	42%	46%
Ulaw Newcastle	50%	33%	56%	57%	0%	72%	45%
Ulaw Nottingham	50%	50%	27%	56%	0%	73%	43%
Ulaw Manchester	39%	22%	65%	39%	27%	62%	42%
BPP Manchester	54%	66%	30%	38%	36%	28%	42%
BPP London	34%	53%	36%	41%	37%	42%	40%
MMU	0%	48%	20%	42%	69%	56%	39%
NTU	16%	27%	35%	28%	21%	41%	28%
Hertfordshire	0%	50%	20%	25%	17%	44%	26%

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 (89%), being the best performing AETO centre in five of the previous six sittings of the Civil Litigation assessment. The University of Hertfordshire has the lowest average at 26% (having been the lowest scoring AETO, in terms of the passing rate for Civil Litigation, in three of those six sittings).

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, 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.

BT Civil Litigation December 2020 to Spring 2026 (17 Sits)			
AETO	Total Number of	Total Number	% Pass
ICCA	986	875	89%
Ulaw Bristol	202	142	70%
City	3082	2048	66%
Ulaw Leeds	599	388	65%
Cardiff	731	440	60%
Ulaw Manchester	466	266	57%
Ulaw London	1877	1062	57%
Ulaw Newcastle	87	49	56%
Ulaw Nottingham	120	65	54%
Ulaw Liverpool	475	254	53%
Ulaw Birmingham	704	368	52%
Northumbria	649	331	51%
BPP Leeds	400	199	50%
BPP Bristol	180	88	49%
UWE	1248	603	48%
BPP Manchester	1142	543	48%
MMU	277	127	46%
BPP London	4114	1821	44%
BPP Birmingham	671	287	43%
NTU	815	256	31%
Hertfordshire	103	29	28%
OVERALL	18928	10241	54%

As can be seen from the above table, Civil Litigation assessments have been passed 10,241 times since the first sitting in December 2020, based on 18,928 attempts – thus the aggregate passing rate to date is 54%. There are 12 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 61%. Eight AETO centres have a cumulative rate of passing attempts below 50%. As noted above regarding 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 19% between it and the next most successful AETO centre. Using this methodology, the University of Hertfordshire sits at the bottom of this table, with a cumulative passing rate of 28% for Civil Litigation candidates - compare with the table at 3.8 (above).

4. FURTHER COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1 Comparing performance in Criminal and Civil Litigation examinations

At 61%, the passing rate for the April 2026 Civil Litigation assessment was 5% lower than the passing rate for the April 2026 Criminal Litigation assessment. The Criminal Litigation assessment had a slightly higher proportion of first sit candidates (84%), compared to Civil Litigation (76%). A total of 1184 Bar Training candidates attempted both Litigation assessments at the April 2026 sitting and the cross-tabulated outcomes, are as follows:

(a) All candidates attempting both papers:

All BT Candidates Sitting Both Exams (1184)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	675	75
Fail Civil	128	306
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	57%	6%
Fail Civil	11%	26%

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

All BT Candidates First Sitting Both Exams (931)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	611	51
Fail Civil	99	170
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	66%	5%
Fail Civil	11%	18%

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

All BT Candidates Resitting Both Exams (102)		
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	17	10
Fail Civil	12	63
	Pass Crime	Fail Crime
Pass Civil	17%	10%
Fail Civil	12%	62%

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, some comfort can be drawn from the relative closeness of the figures in the shaded boxes at (b) in respect of the performance of first sit candidates.

It should be noted that whilst there were 1184 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 1184.

As the table below indicates, 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.

Correlation of Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation Post-Intervention Scores			
Group	Number of Candidates	Pearson's R	Interpretation
All BT Candidates Sitting Both Exams	1184	0.85	Very Strong Correlation
BT Candidates First Sitting Both Exams	931	0.84	Very Strong Correlation
BT Candidates Resitting Both Exams	102	0.61	Strong Correlation

4.2 Centralised assessment post-intervention pass rates compared December 2020 to April 2026

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
All-AETO BT Post-Intervention	Dec-25		Apr-26		Aug-26	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No. Of Candidates	787	1002	1832	1839		
Passing Rate	56%	49%	67%	61%		
Pass Standard	40/75	47/89	42	48		
Reliability Score	0.89	0.92	0.89	0.93		

For both Civil Litigation and Criminal Litigation, candidate numbers for April 2026 were the highest for any sitting since the new format for the centralised assessments was introduced in December 2020. The passing rate Criminal Litigation was significantly above the average for the previous April sittings (67% vs 58%), whilst the passing rate in Civil Litigation was 5% higher than the average for the previous five April sittings. In both cases the April 2026 passing rates were the highest April sitting passing rates since the introduction of the current assessment format in December 2020. The April 2026 passing rate for Criminal Litigation (67%) becomes the highest recorded for either subject across the 17 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 April 2026 post-intervention pass rates for both Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation by AETO

AETO	Civil Litigation % Pass	Criminal Litigation % Pass	AVERAGE
ICCA	88%	88%	88%
Ulaw Bristol	84%	78%	81%
BPP Bristol	60%	100%	80%
Ulaw Nottingham	73%	82%	77%
City	78%	76%	77%
Ulaw Newcastle	72%	78%	75%
Ulaw Leeds	69%	81%	75%
Cardiff	72%	77%	74%
Ulaw Manchester	62%	76%	69%
Ulaw Liverpool	63%	74%	68%
Northumbria	66%	70%	68%
Ulaw London	66%	66%	66%
BPP Leeds	59%	69%	64%
Ulaw Birmingham	60%	67%	63%
UWE	57%	68%	62%
BPP Birmingham	42%	70%	56%
BPP London	42%	48%	45%
NTU	41%	38%	40%
Hertfordshire	44%	32%	38%
BPP Manchester	28%	47%	38%
MMU	56%	18%	37%

4.3.1 AETO cohorts are listed in descending order of the average of their passing rates across the two April 2026 Litigation examinations. The ICCA, therefore, had the highest average passing rate across both Litigation subjects at 88%, with ULaw Bristol next on 81%. MMU recorded the lowest average at 37% (seven resit candidates across both subjects with none passing). Overall, 5 of the 21 AETO centres entering candidates failed to achieve an average passing rate of 50% across the two Litigation subjects. These figures must 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 April 2026 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	Apr-26 Number of Criminal Candidates	Apr-26 Number of Civil Candidates	Total Apr-26 Instances of Assessment	Apr-26 Number Passing Criminal	Apr-26 Number Passing Civil	Total Apr-26 Passing Results	Overall % of Criminal and Civil Litigation Examinations Passed Apr-26
ICCA	57	75	132	50	66	116	88%
ULaw Bristol	37	38	75	29	32	61	81%
ULaw Nottingham	22	22	44	18	16	34	77%
City	407	391	798	308	305	613	77%
Cardiff	94	25	119	72	18	90	76%
ULaw Leeds	78	68	146	63	47	110	75%
ULaw Newcastle	23	25	48	18	18	36	75%
ULaw Manchester	62	60	122	47	37	84	69%
ULaw Liverpool	96	100	196	71	63	134	68%
Northumbria	71	90	161	50	59	109	68%
ULaw London	159	149	308	105	98	203	66%
BPP Leeds	52	41	93	36	24	60	65%
ULaw Birmingham	63	65	128	42	39	81	63%
UWE	146	130	276	99	74	173	63%
BPP Bristol	1	20	21	1	12	13	62%
BPP Birmingham	20	31	51	14	13	27	53%
BPP London	235	293	528	112	124	236	45%
NTU	100	111	211	38	46	84	40%
Hertfordshire	19	25	44	6	11	17	39%
BPP Manchester	79	71	150	37	20	57	38%
MMU	11	9	20	2	5	7	35%

As the table above shows, the ICCA was the most successful AETO in terms of the percentage of candidates entered for the April 2026 examinations achieving a pass, in either assessment, with a figure of 88%. For the April 2026 sitting, out of 21 AETO centres, 5 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 April 2026 sitting, there were 3,671 candidates across the two Litigation subjects, of which 729 (19.9%) were resitting. For the Criminal Litigation assessment, the April 2026 data show a mildly positive correlation (0.2) between a higher percentage of first sit candidates and higher cohort passing rates. For the Civil litigation assessment, the equivalent correlation figure is suggestive of a stronger positive correlation. (0.51). Again, the usual caveats apply when considering any analysis involving small cohort numbers.

4.3.4 Looking across the last 17 cycles of centralised Bar Training litigation assessments there is no compelling evidence (allowing for the difference in assessment formats) to suggest AETO cohorts have found the Civil Litigation assessments significantly 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 17 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 in Crime than in Civil, hence, at BPP Birmingham in December 2020 the Civil Litigation passing rate was 4% 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	-4%		-4%	12%	8%	-14%	-14%	9%
BPP Bristol	5%		-3%	6%	12%	-1%	-11%	-2%
BPP Leeds	-7%		-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	-11%		-2%	-35%	1%	21%	-3%	-19%
City	2%		12%	14%	7%	-9%	3%	-5%
Hertfordshire	2%		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
ICCA	-3%		0%	-20%	14%	-5%	-5%	-7%
MMU	-4%		-13%	-21%	9%	16%	-26%	-18%
Northumbria	-5%		N/A	-28%	8%	4%	-13%	7%
NTU	-3%		N/A	-41%	5%	9%	-9%	2%
Ulaw Birmingham	1%		N/A	13%	9%	-22%	-20%	-6%
Ulaw Bristol	-2%		N/A	-3%	-25%	N/A	-6%	0%
Ulaw Leeds	-3%		N/A	13%	8%	18%	-9%	-2%
Ulaw Liverpool	-2%		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	4%		N/A	13%	5%	-7%	-5%	-19%
		AVERAGE	-5%	-2%	-5%	0%	-9%	-4%

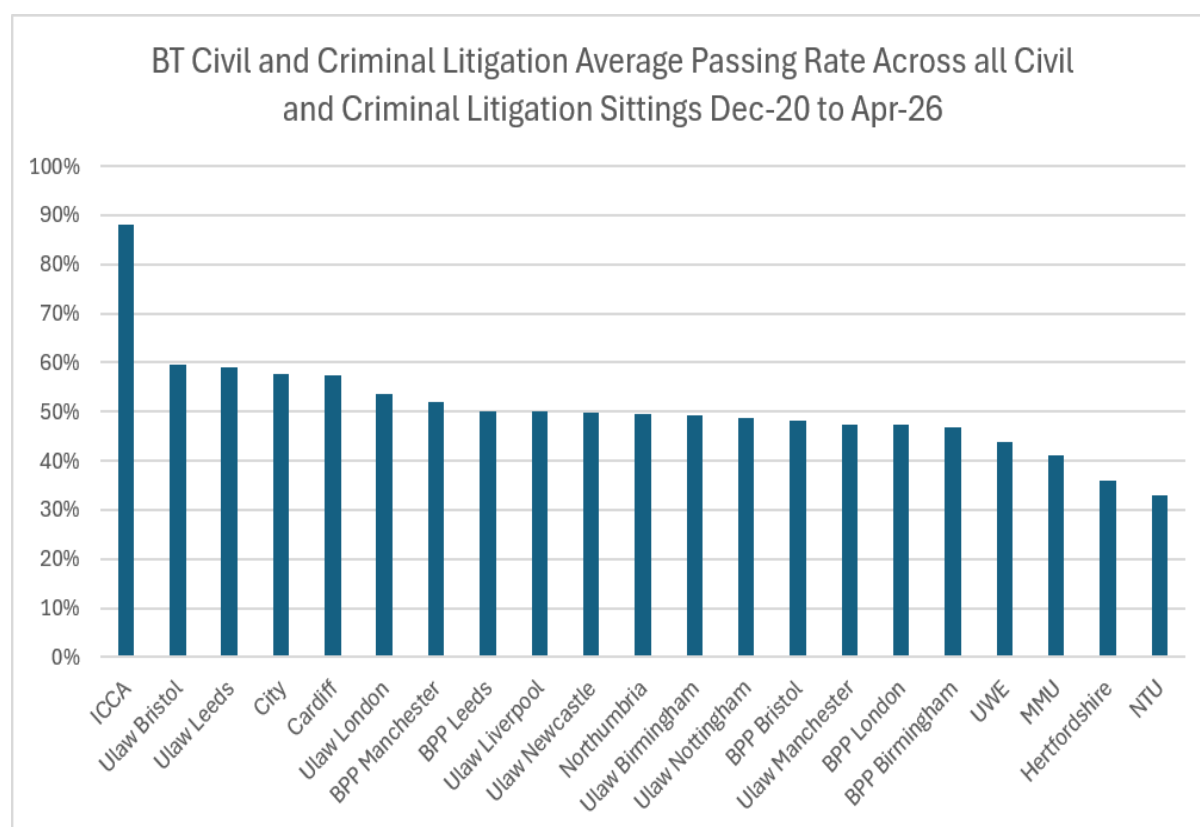
	Dec-22	Apr-23	Aug-23	Dec-23	Apr-24	Aug-24
BPP Birmingham	1%	-21%	-19%	-3%	-13%	2%
BPP Bristol	N/A	-78%	22%	15%	28%	-42%
BPP Leeds	-4%	-11%	-16%	-6%	-39%	4%
BPP London	11%	-10%	1%	-1%	-11%	-8%
BPP Manchester	13%	-8%	-5%	-2%	-22%	17%
Cardiff	18%	-28%	-23%	-8%	-22%	-11%
City	9%	0%	11%	-9%	3%	0%
Hertfordshire	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%	-22%	0%	
BPP Bristol	33%	13%	46%	40%	6%	
BPP Leeds	37%	-27%	4%	3%	-40%	
BPP London	16%	-12%	-9%	-3%	-9%	
BPP Manchester	23%	-24%	-14%	-21%	2%	
Cardiff	11%	-35%	-48%	2%	-6%	
City	1%	5%	-2%	3%	-12%	
Hertfordshire	50%	-18%	-20%	17%	-5%	
ICCA	3%	5%	-15%	-4%	-14%	
MMU	-14%	-11%	32%	-9%	-11%	
Northumbria	-25%	-4%	-6%	-33%	-5%	
NTU	19%	0%	-22%	-2%	0%	
Ulaw Birmingham	22%	-10%	3%	19%	-11%	
Ulaw Bristol	75%	6%	-10%	-100%	-7%	
Ulaw Leeds	3%	-14%	-3%	-41%	-11%	
Ulaw Liverpool	13%	-4%	-25%	-14%	-28%	
Ulaw London	23%	-1%	-29%	3%	-5%	
Ulaw Manchester	-3%	2%	-18%	2%	3%	
Ulaw Newcastle	33%	-21%	32%	-33%	12%	
Ulaw Nottingham	-10%	-27%	22%	0%	-19%	
UWE	3%	-8%	1%	-2%	37%	
AVERAGE	16%	-9%	-4%	-9%	-6%	

The biggest average differential is recorded by Cardiff (11% higher in Criminal Litigation across all 17 sittings). For the April 2026 sitting, the higher passing rate in Criminal Litigation is reflected in the fact that only five 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 17 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 88%, and NTU the lowest at 33%. The ICCA is, thus far, some way ahead of the other AETO centres in terms of single-sit performance, the gap between it and second placed ULaw Bristol being 28%. There are 11 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 April 2026

4.5.1 Cumulative passing rate to date disaggregated by AETO centre

BT Civil and Criminal Litigation December 2020 to April 2026 (17 Sits)			
AETO	Total number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	1962	1763	90%
Ulaw Bristol	401	282	70%
Ulaw Leeds	1215	816	67%
City	6414	4152	65%
Cardiff	1425	900	63%
Ulaw Newcastle	162	101	62%
Ulaw Manchester	927	548	59%
Ulaw London	3763	2186	58%
Ulaw Nottingham	235	133	57%
Ulaw Liverpool	941	527	56%
Northumbria	1215	664	55%
Ulaw Birmingham	1429	764	53%
BPP Leeds	743	388	52%
BPP Manchester	2162	1074	50%
UWE	2596	1258	48%
MMU	607	290	48%
BPP Bristol	327	153	47%
BPP Birmingham	1303	592	45%
BPP London	7876	3558	45%
NTU	1620	535	33%
Hertfordshire	200	57	29%
OVERALL	37523	20741	55%

This table aggregates all the attempts by candidates at both the Criminal Litigation and Civil Litigation examinations across all 17 sittings from December 2020 to April 2026. In total there have been 37,523 attempts at the centralised assessments by Bar Training candidates, of which 20,741 have been successful (55%). As can be seen, 10 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 – 17 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.

BT Civil and Criminal Litigation December 2020 to December 2025 (17 Sits)			
AETO	Total Number of Attempts	Total Number of Passes	% Pass
ICCA	1962	1763	90%
City	6414	4152	65%
Cardiff	1425	900	63%
ULaw Group	9073	5357	59%
Northumbria	1215	664	55%
MMU	607	290	48%
UWE	2596	1258	48%
BPP Group	12411	5765	46%
NTU	1620	535	33%
Hertfordshire	200	57	29%

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, 25% ahead of the second placed AETO, City University. Of the two largest AETOs, ULaw is comfortably 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 APRIL 2026

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 candidates only. From April 2024 this facility was extended to candidates from all AETOs. Candidates attempt the same assessments as other Bar Training and BTT candidates. Candidates were again offered this resit facility for the April 2026 sitting, the results for which were as follows:

Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention					Dec-23	
					Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates					8	6
Passing Rate					50%	33%
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-24		Aug-24		Dec-24	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	19	31	26	26	38	41
Passing Rate	26%	52%	42%	46%	24%	44%
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-25		Aug-25		Dec-25	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	60	47	70	64	71	72
Passing Rate	32%	11%	36%	39%	34%	31%
Bar Training Resit Post-Intervention	Apr-26		Aug-26		Dec-26	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	80	88				
Passing Rate	38%	39%				

6. BAR TRANSFER TEST RESULTS APRIL 2026

The results for Bar Transfer Test ('BTT') candidates attempting the April 2026 BTT assessments were considered by the Litigation Subject Exam Boards and the Final Board. For the April 2026 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 rate in April 2026 for Criminal Litigation is slightly above the average of the previous 12 sittings (44% vs 39%), and the same is true of Civil litigation where the passing rate of 50% compares favourably with the average of the previous 12 sittings (43%).

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	23	9
Passing Rate	23%	36%	30%	44%	39%	22%
Bar Transfer Test Post-Intervention	Apr-26		Aug-26		Dec-26	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	16	22				
Passing Rate	44%	50%				

7. BPTC RESULTS APRIL 2026

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 April 2026

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	12	7
Passing Rate	60%	38%	29%	42%	67%	43%
BPTC Post-Intervention	Apr-26		Aug-26		Dec-26	
	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation	Criminal Litigation	Civil Litigation
No of Candidates	5	4				
Passing Rate	40%	25%				

As the above table shows, the number of BPTC candidates is now steadily declining, the April 2026 sitting seeing only 9 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 July 2026