



REGULATING BARRISTERS

Regulatory Casework

Statistical Report 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

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Introduction

1. This Statistical Report accompanies the Annual Report for 2024/25 and presents the statistical data collected between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 concerning the new applications and reports that we received, the caseload that we worked on throughout the year, the outcomes of this work, and the quality assurance work carried out by the Independent Reviewers. This data was extracted from our Case Management System in June/July 2025.
2. The Bar Standards Board's Authorisation Team is responsible processing applications for waivers and exemptions from our practising requirements. The team also processes authorisation of Approved Education and Training Organisations, Alternative Business Structures and Entities.
3. The Bar Standards Board publishes a Handbook with which barristers must comply. Where there is evidence that the Handbook has been breached, the BSB will consider what action may be necessary by way of enforcement or otherwise. The work of enforcing the Handbook is carried out by the Contact and Assessment Team, Investigation and Enforcement Team, and the Independent Decision-making Body of the BSB. We assess reports, investigate allegations and, where appropriate, take action against barristers who have breached their professional obligations as set out in the Handbook.
4. Where enforcement is not appropriate the matter may be passed to the Supervision Team to address any regulatory issues identified to prevent recurrence and ensure compliance with the Handbook.

Authorisations Team

Table 1

Quarterly performance

KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024/25
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	19 (94.7%)	11 (100.0%)	11 (100.0%)	11 (100.0%)	52 (98.1%)
IDB Reviews (Target 95%)	3 (66.7%)	3 (100.0%)	6 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	15 (93.3%)
Timeliness					
Applications decided (Target 80%)	254 (53.4%)	216 (55.1%)	239 (58.2%)	246 (57.3%)	955 (55.6%)
Service					
Telephone calls (Target 85%)	1,955 (63.6%)	2,095 (64.7%)	2,028 (73.0%)	1,874 (71.8%)	7,952 (68.2%)
Productivity					
Live applications (Target 80%)	949 (25.0%)	986 (19.2%)	1,031 (18.1%)	1,151 (36.9%)	1,151 (37.0%)

Table 2

Applications received

Application type	2023/24	2024/25
Transferring Qualified Lawyer	476	495
Certificate of Academic Standing (qualifying degree)	148	162
Pupillage Reduction	94	81
Reactivation of Stale Qualifications	67	65
Litigation Authorisation	73	58
Fee Waiver Request	49	50
Pupillage Funding and/or Advertising Waiver	46	49
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Renewal)	41	49
Pupillage Dispensation	33	44
Licensed Access Amendment/Renewal	24	33
Waiver of the Qualified Person Requirement	33	23
Under Review	10	21
Pupillage Reduction (barristers also qualified as solicitors)	27	18
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Registration)	14	16
CPD Waiver (NPP)	12	16
Exercise of Discretion	10	13

Early Commencement of the Vocational Component of Bar Training (formerly Rule Q28.1 Waiver)	7	10
England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, QLD)	6	10
Review of a Decision of the Inns' Conduct Committee	9	9
Retrospective Registration of Pupillage		9
General Exemption	8	8
CPD Extension (NPP)		7
Non-England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, Non-QLD)	12	6
Public Access Exemption	12	6
AETO	3	6
Licensed Access Authorisation	10	5
Temporary Admission and Call to the Bar	1	2
Exemption from the vocational stage of training for those who passed the Bar Examination for non-intending practitioners		1
Certificate of Academic Standing (without qualifying degree)	4	
Professional Qualifications Exemption	1	
Total	1230	1272

Table 3**Applications determined**

Application type	2023/24	2024/25
Transferring Qualified Lawyer	199	230
Certificate of Academic Standing (qualifying degree)	127	138
Pupillage Reduction	36	73
Litigation Authorisation	76	60
Fee Waiver Request	37	60
Pupillage Funding and/or Advertising Waiver	37	45
Reactivation of Stale Qualifications	62	43
Pupillage Dispensation	20	43
OISC Licensed Access (Renewal)	39	36
Licensed Access Amendment/Renewal	14	33
Waiver of the Qualified Person Requirement	31	30
Pupillage Reduction (barristers also qualified as solicitors)	12	23
CPD Waiver (NPP)	9	17
Under Review	9	15
Exercise of Discretion	5	12
OISC Licensed Access (Registration)	12	11
Early Commencement of the Vocational Component of Bar Training (formerly Rule Q28.1 Waiver)	6	10
Retrospective Registration of Pupillage	1	10
Non-England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, Non-QLD)	8	9
General Exemption	3	8
AETO	4	7
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Renewal)	1	7
CPD Extension (NPP)		7
Public Access Exemption	12	6
Licensed Access Authorisation	12	5
Review of a Decision of the Inns' Conduct Committee	6	5
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Registration)	1	4
England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, QLD)	6	3
Certificate of Academic Standing (without qualifying degree)	1	2
Temporary Admission and Call to the Bar		2
Professional Qualifications Exemption		1
Grand Total	786	955

Figure 1

Age distribution of applications determined in 2024/25

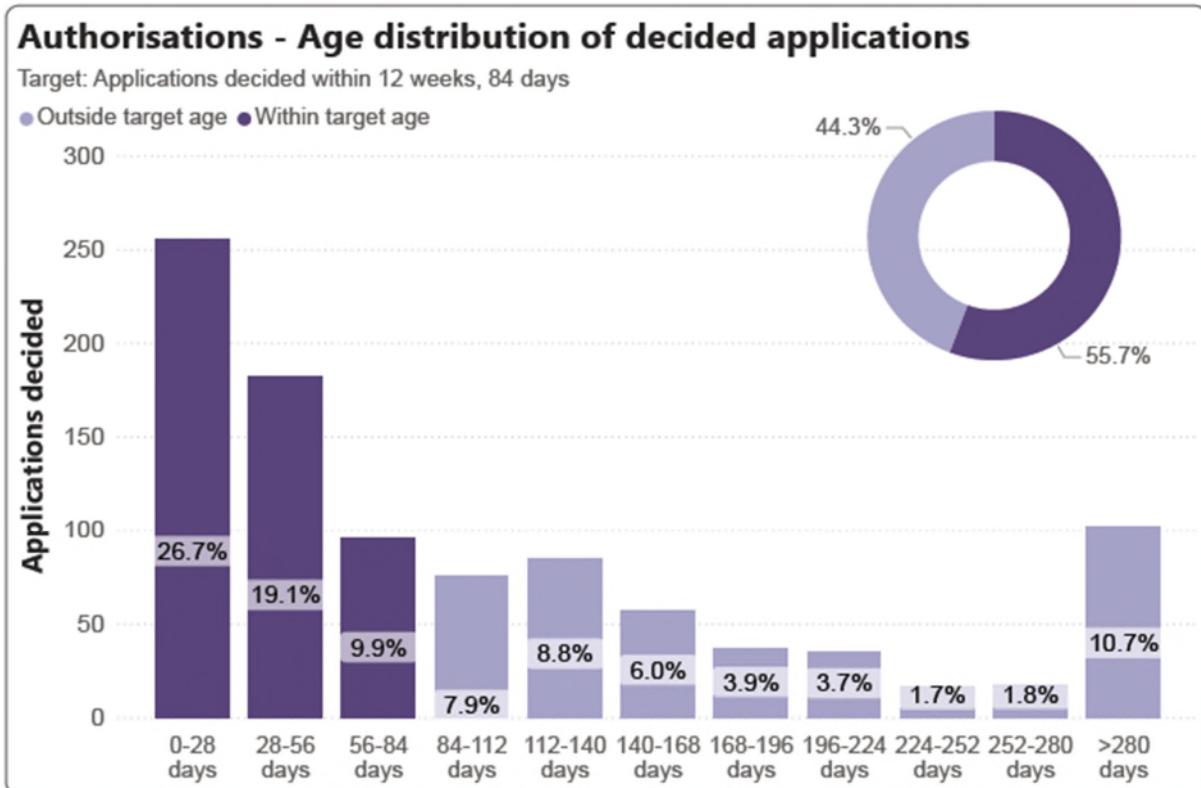
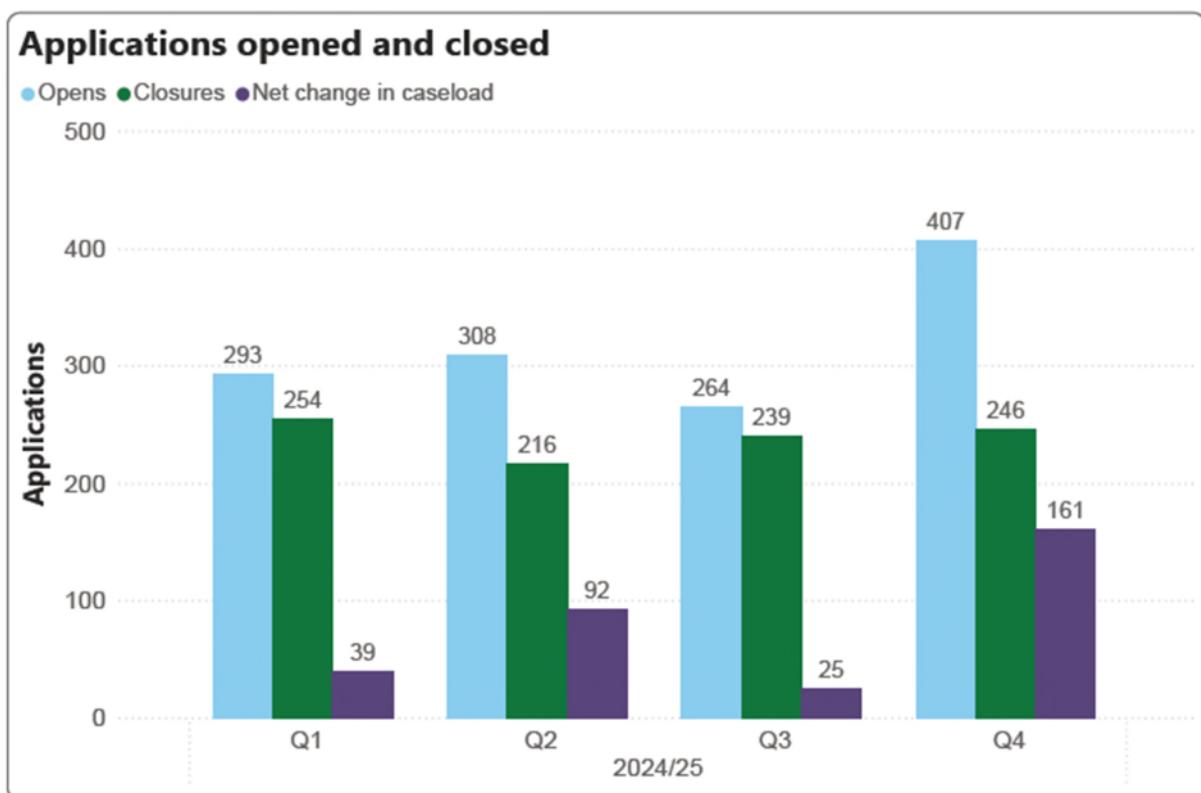


Figure 2

Throughput of applications in 2024/25



Supervision Team

Table 4

Quarterly performance

KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024/25
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	3 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	4 (100.0%)	13 (100.0%)

Table 5

Cases opened

Purpose	2023/24	2024/25
Referred to Supervision by CAT	94	123
Received directly by Supervision	69	34
Thematic Reviews	29	79

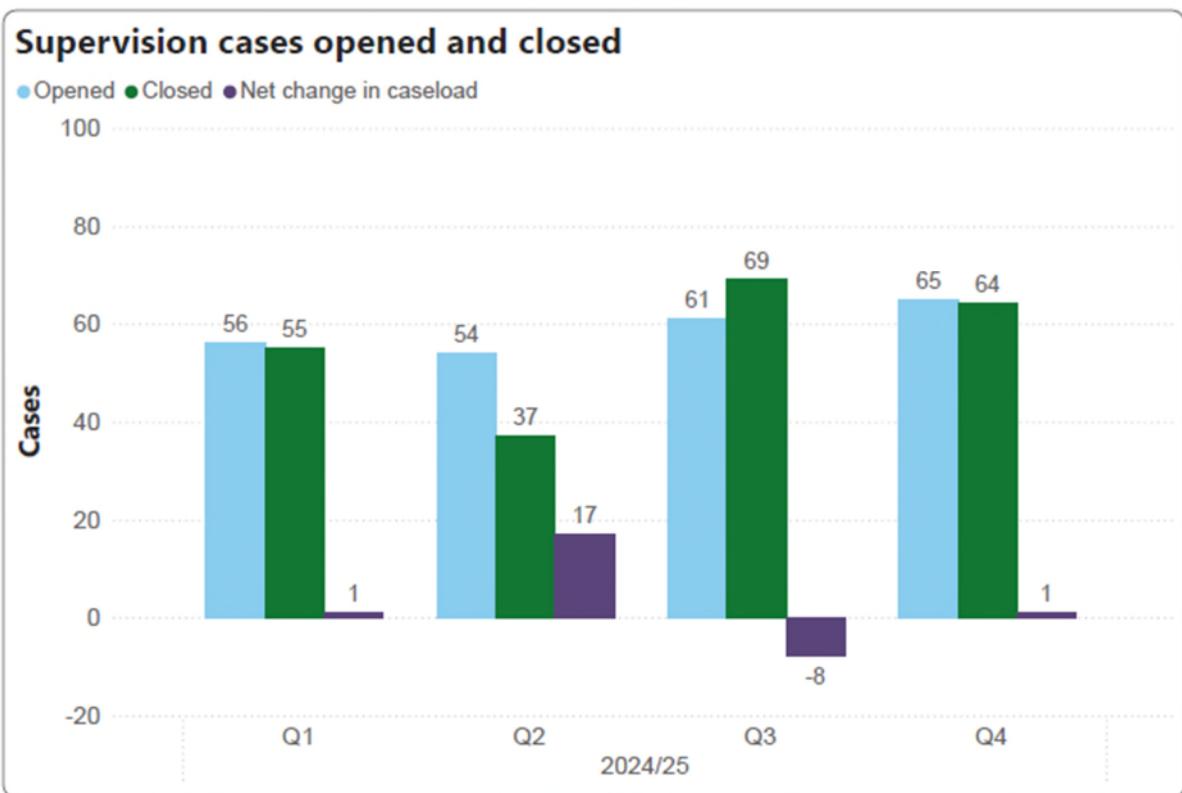
Table 6

Stages completed

Stage	2023/24	2024/25
Allocations		
Cases assigned to members of the Supervision team	92	125
Regulatory Response		
Agreement of the regulatory response	196	241
Visits		
Report letters issued	7	10
Closures		
Cases closed	211	225

Figure 3

Throughput of supervision cases in 2024/25



Contact and Assessment Team

Table 7

Quarterly performance

KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024/25
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	49 (100.0%)	53 (98.1%)	43 (100.0%)	40 (97.5%)	185 (98.9%)
Requests for Review (Target 95%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (0.0%)	3 (100.0%)	6 (83.3%)
Timeliness					
General enquiries (Target 80%)	183 (95.6%)	178 (95.5%)	167 (97.0%)	223 (98.2%)	751 (96.7%)
Reports (Target 80%)	557 (64.3%)	440 (69.5%)	411 (80.5%)	475 (61.9%)	1,883 (68.4%)
Service					
Telephone calls (Target 85%)	3,167 (88.4%)	3,178 (84.5%)	2,920 (84.0%)	2,253 (84.8%)	11,518 (85.5%)
Productivity					
Live general enquiries (Target 80%)	4 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	6 (50.0%)	8 (100.0%)	8 (100.0%)
Live reports (Target 80%)	265 (69.8%)	252 (72.6%)	290 (77.9%)	296 (79.1%)	296 (79.3%)

Table 8

Reports and other cases opened*

Year	Number of cases
2020/21	1,883
2021/22	2,199
2022/23	1,911
2023/24	1,802
2024/25	1,859

*General enquiries with the case type 'Ask a Question' are excluded

Table 9**All incoming information**

Purpose	2023/24	2024/25
Ask a Question	900	755
Report Something	1,559	1,690
Report - Reporting Obligations	166	167
Other	77	2

Table 10**Closures and outcomes**

Outcome	2023/24	2024/25
Ask a Question	898	751
Closed by CAT	898	751
Report Something	1,606	1,717
Allocated to Enforcement	71	110
Allocated to Supervision	67	96
Closed by CAT	1,468	1,495
Ongoing	0	16
Report - Reporting Obligations	165	164
Allocated to Enforcement	31	35
Allocated to Supervision	14	8
Closed by CAT	120	121
Other	80	2
Closed by CAT	80	2

Table 11**Assessed reports with specified Areas of Law**

Area of Law	2023/24	2024/25
Arbitrator or umpire or mediator	0	2 (0.3%)
Chancery contentious	40 (7.4%)	40 (5.3%)
Chancery non-contentious	5 (0.9%)	5 (0.7%)
Commercial and Financial Services	23 (4.3%)	15 (2.0%)
Construction	2 (0.4%)	4 (0.5%)
Crime	111 (20.6%)	143 (19.1%)
Defamation	6 (1.1%)	2 (0.3%)
Employment	35 (6.5%)	79 (10.5%)
Family - children [†]	92 (17.0%)	121 (16.2%)
Family - other [†]	60 (11.1%)	79 (10.5%)
Immigration	20 (3.7%)	22 (2.9%)
Insolvency	1 (0.2%)	5 (0.7%)

Intellectual property	5 (0.9%)	4 (0.5%)
International	4 (0.7%)	2 (0.3%)
Landlord & tenant (non-residential)	5 (0.9%)	2 (0.3%)
Landlord & tenant (residential)	20 (3.7%)	36 (4.8%)
Licensing	0	3 (0.4%)
Other	42 (7.8%)	81 (10.8%)
Other common law	26 (4.8%)	46 (6.1%)
Personal injury	6 (1.1%)	25 (3.3%)
Planning	7 (1.3%)	4 (0.5%)
Professional discipline	11 (2.0%)	18 (2.4%)
Professional negligence	8 (1.5%)	5 (0.7%)
Public Law	10 (1.9%)	6 (0.8%)
Revenue	1 (0.2%)	0
Total	540	749

Notes

This table shows the breakdown by area of law for assessed reports, where this information has been identified. Reports with no area of law are excluded from this table.

[†]“Family – children” and “Family – other” categories grouped under the term “Family law” in the 2024/25 Regulatory Decision-Making report.

Figure 4

Age distribution of general enquiries closed in 2024/25

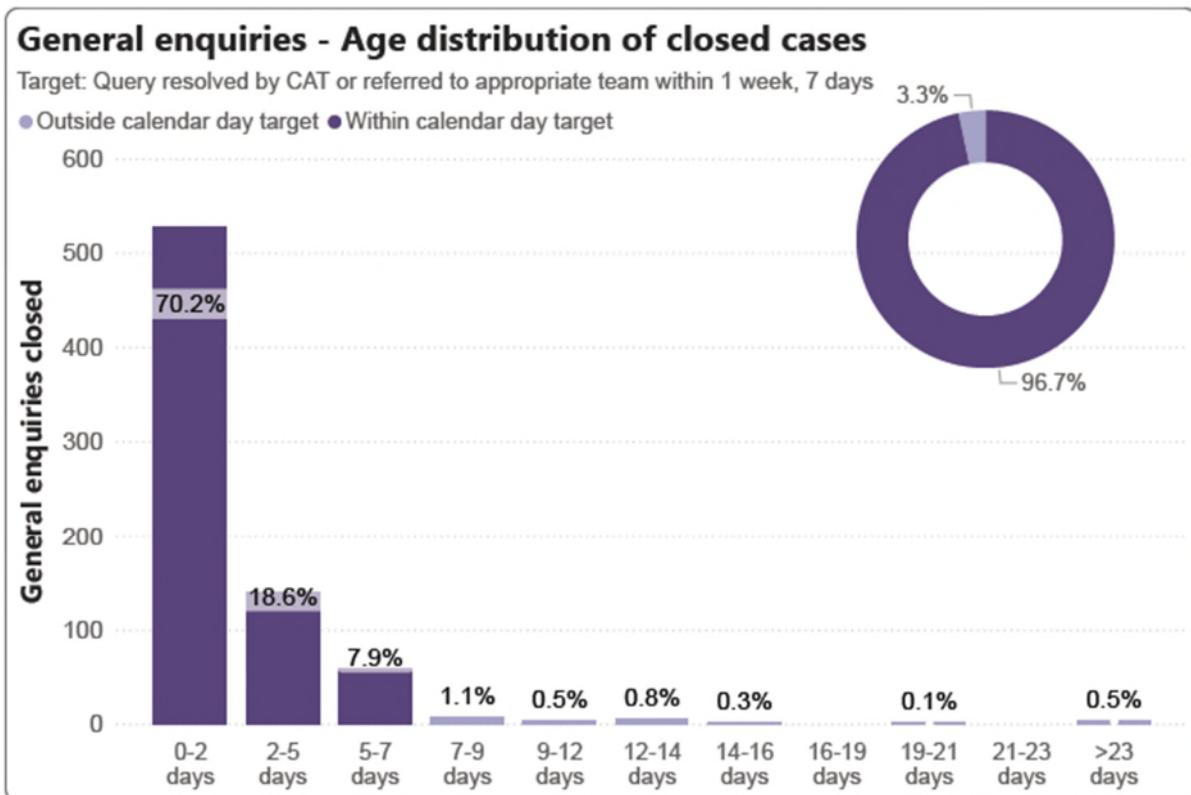


Figure 5

Age distribution of reports concluded or referred in 2024/25

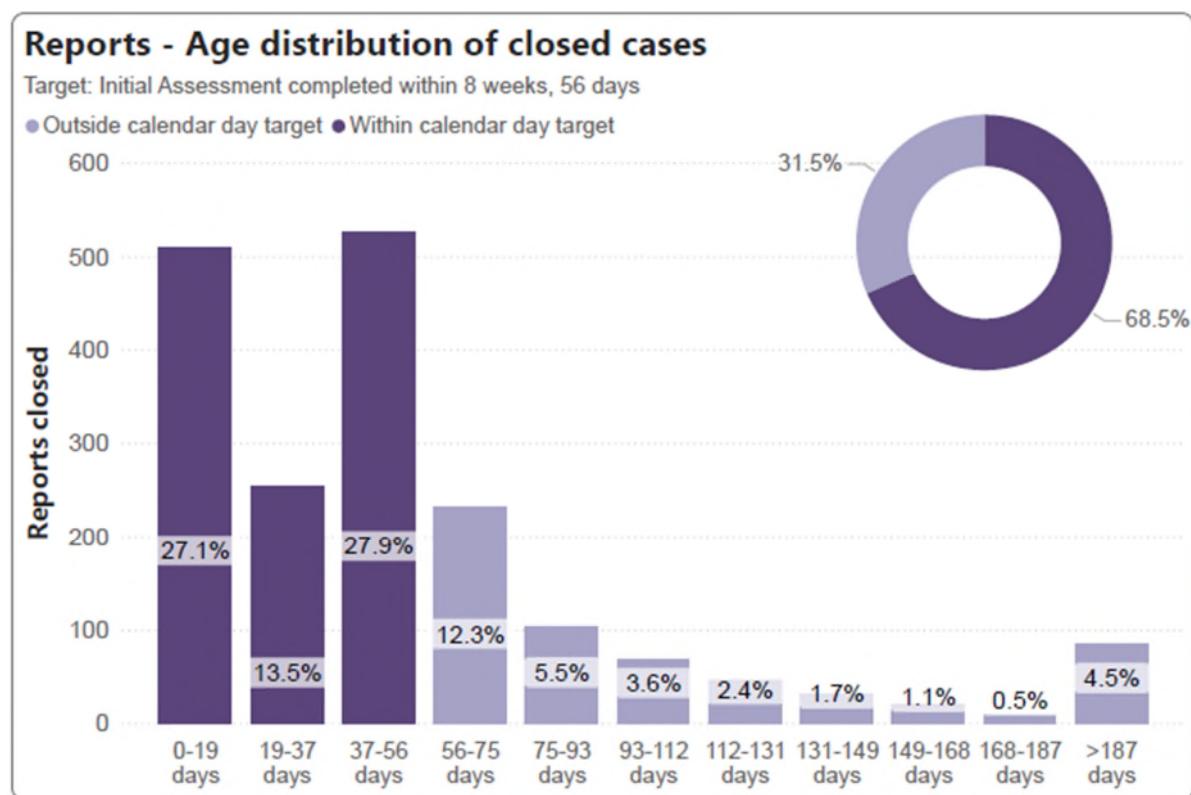


Figure 6

Throughput of general enquiries in 2024/25

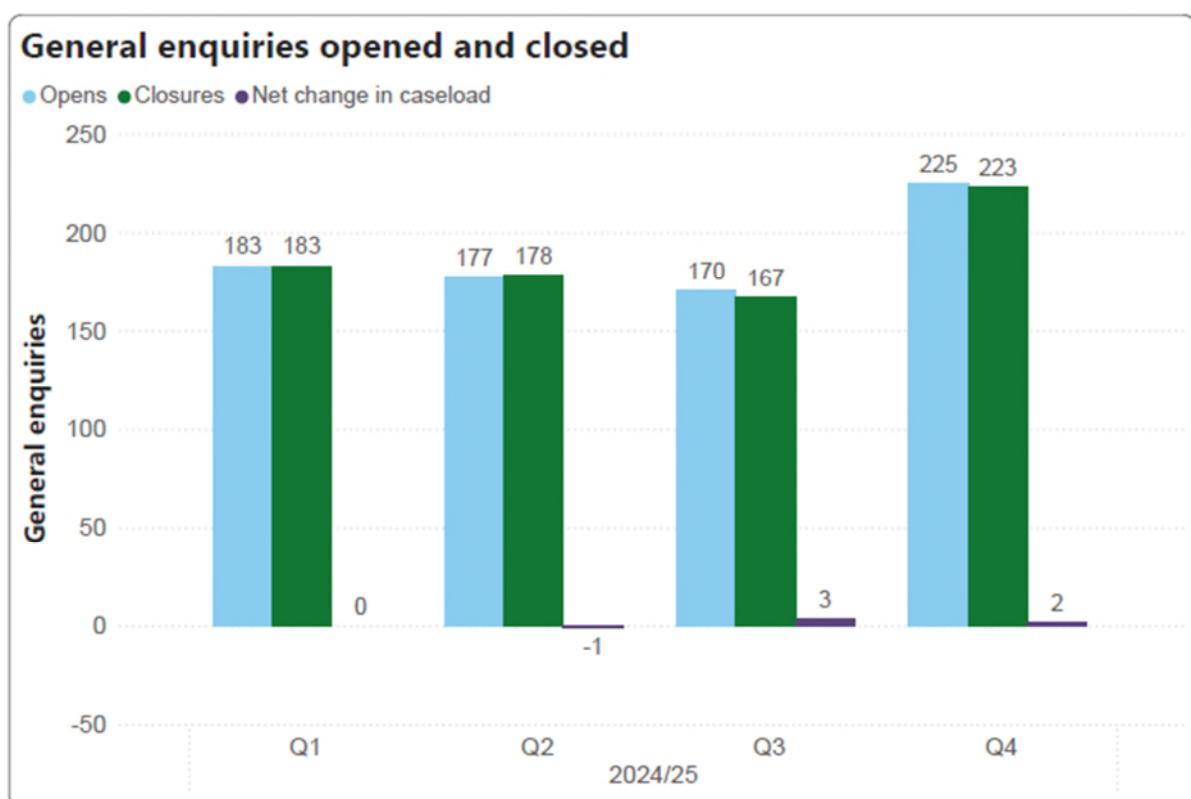
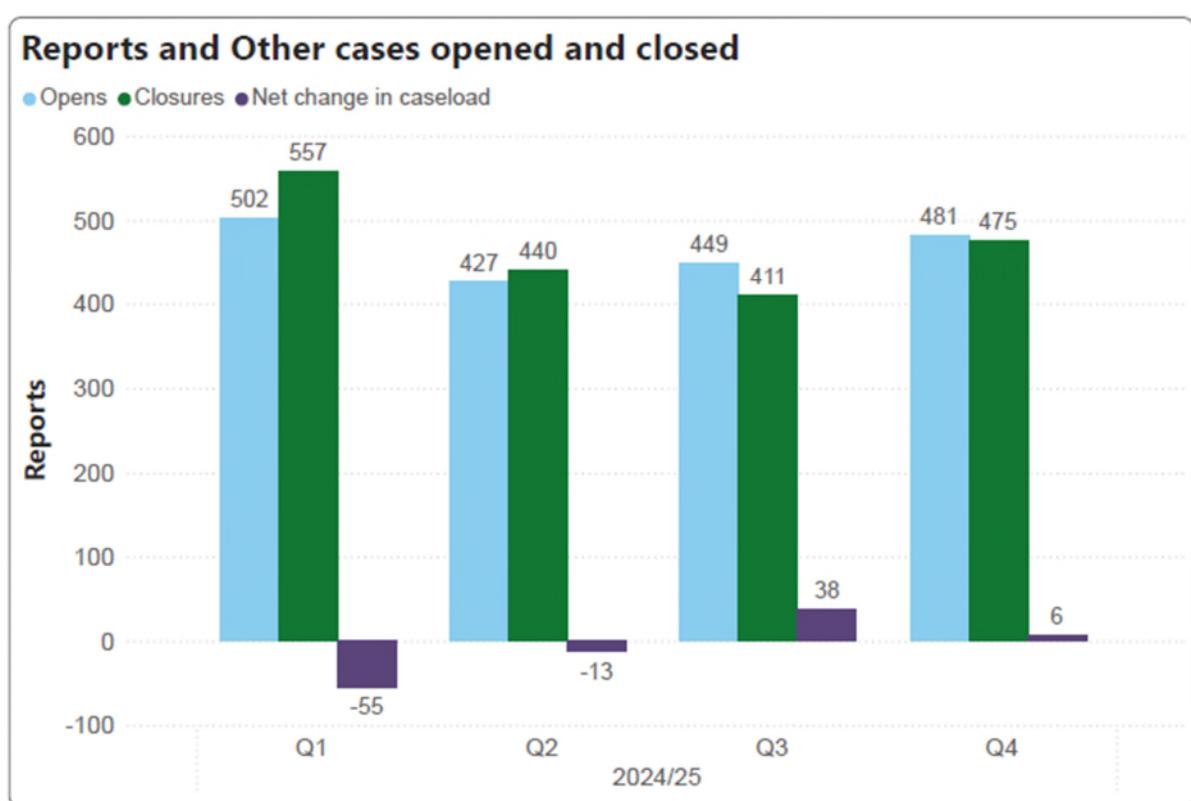


Figure 7

Throughput of reports in 2024/25



Investigation and Enforcement Team

Table 12 **Quarterly performance**

KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024/25
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	5 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	5 (100.0%)	4 (100.0%)	17 (100.0%)
Requests for Review (Target 95%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)	2 (100.0%)	5 (100.0%)
Administrative Sanction Appeals (Target 0%)	-	-	-	-	-
Disciplinary Tribunal Appeals (Target 0%)	-	-	6 (0.0%)	-	6 (0.0%)
Timeliness					
Referral accepted and Investigation decision within 38 weeks (Target 80%)	13 (76.9%)	27 (66.7%)	32 (37.5%)	20 (60.0%)	92 (56.5%)
Productivity					
Live investigations (Target 80%)	121 (77.7%)	124 (77.4%)	120 (83.3%)	132 (75.0%)	132 (75.0%)

Table 13 **Cases referred to investigation**

Year	Number of referrals
2020/21	127
2021/22	236
2022/23	122
2023/24	108
2024/25	144

Table 14**Throughput of investigation cases**

Decisions	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Closed after Investigation	91	107	127	55	56
Referred to Disciplinary Action	39	29	53	41	38
Total	130	136	180	96	94

Table 15**Decision sources for cases closed after investigation**

Decision Source	2023/24	2024/25
LED staff	24	33
Independent Decision-making Panel	31	20
Other	0	3
Total	55	56

Table 16**Final outcomes of reports**

Outcome	2023/24	2024/25
Closed without Investigation	28	11
Closed after Investigation	55	56
Administrative Warning/Fine	14	16
Dismissed	30	20
Closed/Withdrawn	11	20
Determination by Consent	5	3
Proved/Upheld	5	3
Dismissed	-	-
Disciplinary Tribunal	39	53
Proved/Upheld	33	29
Dismissed	3	6
Withdrawn/Struck Out/No Evidence Offered ¹	3	17
Other	0	1
Total	127	123

Notes The outcomes listed are the final outcomes of reports. Where reports were reopened, only the final outcome is listed, not any interim decisions.

¹ In 2024/25, these 17 withdrawn cases related to 6 individuals, and 11 of them were withdrawn as a set when the same barrister was disbarred on another matter.

Table 17**Disciplinary action cases concluded**

Disciplinary Action	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Determination by Consent	4	4	4	5	3
Disciplinary Tribunal	29	29	25	39	53
Total	33	33	29	44	56

Table 18**Sanctions imposed by Disciplinary Tribunal panels or under the Determination by Consent procedure**

Sentence	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Disbarred	4	6	9	10	10
Suspended	9	8	5	9	9
Fined	11	12	7	12	5
Reprimanded	10	14	5	9	2
Total	24	26	22	30	22

Notes

The figures listed are the number of barristers who were subject to these sanctions.

Table 19**Open cases at year end**

Stage	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Referrals	4	8	8
Investigations	91	75	115
IDB	12	8	9
Determination by Consent	2	1	0
Disciplinary Tribunal	51	54	36
Appeals	2	1	6
Total	162	147	175

Table 20**Sources of new investigation cases**

Role of Reporter	2023/24	2024/25
A barrister	36	39
A chambers	1	0
A member of another professional body/regulator	6	11
A member of public	32	27
A pupil	2	0
An AETO (approved education & training organisation)	0	1
An entity	1	11
BSB staff	6	13
Employee of Barrister/Chambers/Entity	0	1
Head of Chambers	0	3
Judge	6	8
Other	8	17
Other Legal Professional	0	2
Solicitor	8	10
Not specified/unknown	4	4

Table 21**Aspects of new investigation cases**

Aspect	2023/24	2024/25
Other diminishing trust and confidence	40	65
Dishonesty in professional or personal life	14	30
Not acting in the client's best interests	9	15
Failing to report own serious misconduct	2	14
Harassment	7	10
Criminal conviction other than drink driving	3	10
Failing to act independently	1	10
Other misleading the court	4	9
Disciplinary finding by another body	2	9
Failing to administer practice properly/efficiently	3	8
Wasting the court's time	2	8
Misleading a person or client	1	7
Discrimination	9	6
Failing to provide information promptly to the BSB	5	6
Failing to take steps to ensure court has all relevant information	3	6
Inappropriate content on social media	3	6
Providing an incompetent standard of work/service	4	5
Rudeness/misbehaviour in court	3	5

Rudeness/misbehaviour out of court	5	4
Conducting litigation when not authorised to do so	4	4
Making misleading/false/unfounded submissions or statements	3	4
Failing to comply with a court order	2	4
Failing to co-operate with the Legal Ombudsman	1	4
Failing to comply with legal or other non-regulatory obligations		4
Other	9	3
Failing to report disciplinary action by another regulator	4	3
Other abuse of role as an advocate	4	3
Inappropriate drafting of documents	2	3
Failing to preserve client confidentiality	1	3
Failing to renew practising certificate	1	3
Failing to report a bankruptcy or other associated proceedings	1	3
Failing to report criminal charges or convictions	1	3
Undue delay in dealing with papers	1	3
False declarations on call/in CVs and other official documents		3
Misleading clients about the nature/scope/terms of work		3
Holding out as a barrister when not authorised to do so	4	2
Failing to properly advise client	3	2
Handling client money	3	2
Making serious allegations without proper foundation	3	2
Drafting statements/documents not properly arguable	2	2
Failing to register with BMIF	2	2
Inappropriately remaining in or withdrawing from instructions	2	2
Other breach of Public Access Rules	2	2
Breach of "cab rank" rule		2
Inappropriate use of position as a barrister		2
Other breach of regulations on instructions		2
Breach of confidentiality	6	1
Inappropriate communications with clients or others	5	1
Civil debt (including clerks) or bankruptcy	3	1
Conflict of interest	3	1
Failing to keep proper records	3	1
Performing reserved legal activities when not authorised to do so	3	1
Failing to administer chambers/entity competently/efficiently	2	1
Failing to submit documents on time	2	1
Inappropriate cross-examination	2	1
Accepting instructions when not authorised to do so	1	1
Failing to act appropriately towards a pupil	1	1
Failing to follow instructions	1	1
Failing to provide or disclose information	1	1
Inappropriate handling of information or evidence	1	1
Making inappropriate media comments	1	1
Providing legal services when not authorised to do so	1	1
Victimisation	1	1

Encouraging witness to give misleading or untruthful evidence	1
Failing to comply with regulations on witnesses	1
Failing to comply with undertaking when conducting litigation	1
Failing to consider if best interests served by other representation	1
Failing to define the terms on which instructions are accepted	1
Inappropriately accepting instructions	1
Making allegations not put in cross examination	1
Non-compliance/inadequate compliance with CPD requirements	1
Practising without 'qualified person(s)'	1
Unregistered barrister failing to provide information to client	1
Making statements designed to insult/annoy/humiliate	3
Making unsupported allegations of fraud/false assertions	3
Criminal conviction for drink driving	2
Failing to acknowledge complaints promptly	2
Failing to use own professional judgement	2
Failure to comply with the complaints handling regulations	2
Rehearsing, practising or coaching witnesses	2
Drafting statements/documents not supported by client or instructions	1
Failing to comply with sentence of a tribunal	1
Failing to consider need for a professional client	1
Failing to inform client that cannot carry out instructions	1
Failing to keep records	1

Notes

"Aspects" describe the allegations made in a report. A report may have multiple different aspects.

*Misleading aspects grouped under the umbrella term "misleading the court or others" in the 2024/25 Regulatory Decision-Making report.

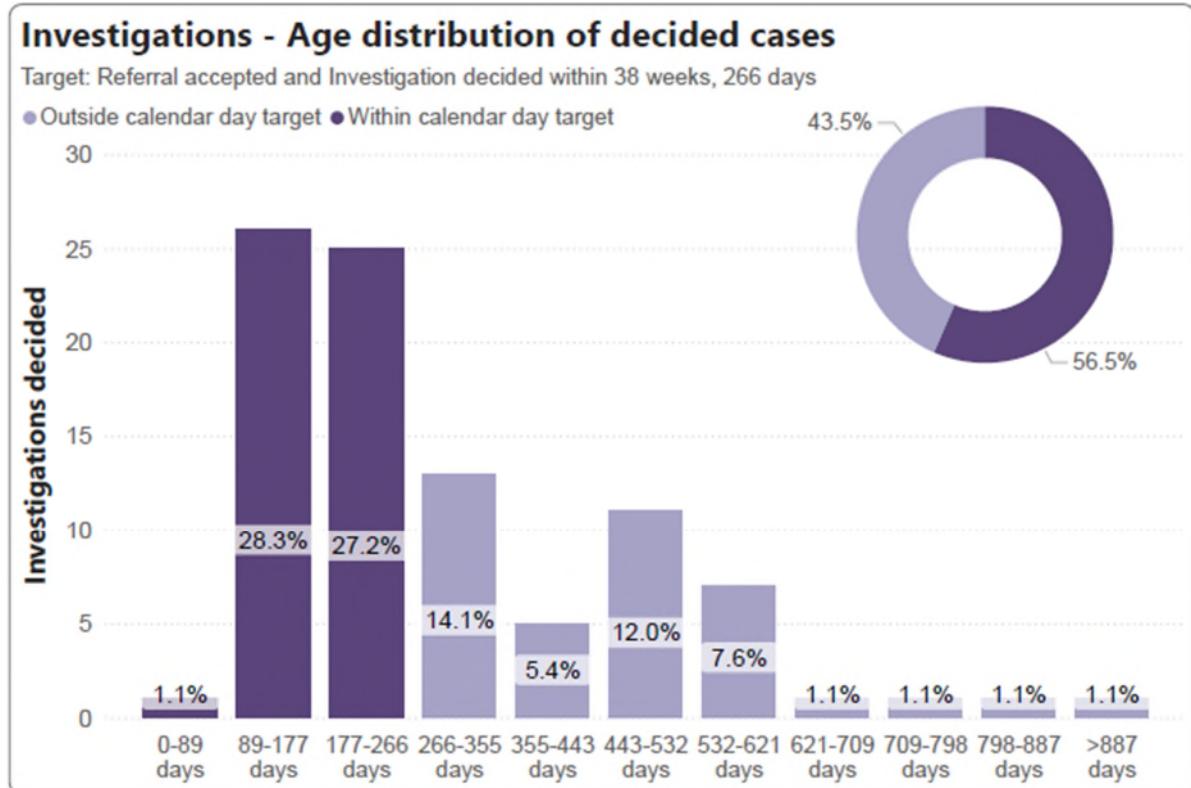
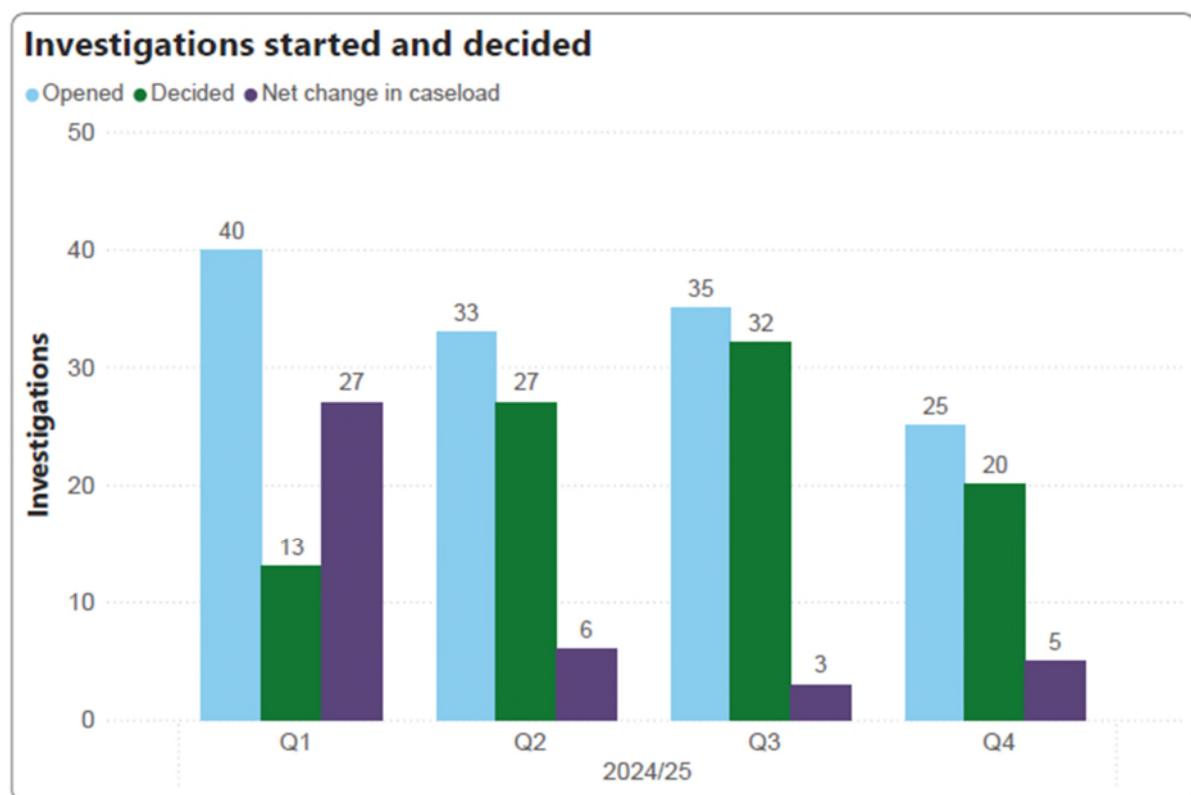
Table 22 Charges upheld at disciplinary action

Charge	2023/24	2024/25
Undermining honesty, integrity or independence in public eyes	19	17
Breach of duties	25	15
Failure to report regulatory or disciplinary action by another regulator	2	3
Misleading or attempting to mislead anyone	5	2
Being dishonest or otherwise discreditable	3	2
Acting in a manner likely to bring prof into disrepute	2	2
Wasting court time	2	2
Unlawful discrimination, victimisation or harrassment	1	2

Failing to report a criminal conviction/caution	3	1
Failing to report serious misconduct	2	1
Misleading or attempting to mislead the court	2	1
Acting in a manner prejudicial to admin of justice		1
Carrying out reserved legal activity without authorisation		1
Discrimination		1
Failing to act courteously/competently or wasting court		1
Failing to report criminal charges or convictions		1
Not presenting relevant decisions/legislation to Court		1
Reporting serious misconduct of others		1
Failing to report a criminal charge	4	
Making untrue or misleading submissions, representations or suggesting facts to witnesses	2	
Calling or putting untrue or misleading evidence	1	
Complaints - failure to acknowledge a complaint	1	
Complaints - failure to notify clients in advance of right to complaint and go to LeO	1	
Failing to provide information to BSB promptly	1	
Failing to use own judgement (personal responsibility)	1	
Failure to ensure proper administration of chambers	1	
Failure to ensure proper administration of practice	1	
False declarations on Call or subsequently	1	
Handling client money	1	
Not abusing your role as an advocate	1	
NULL	1	
Practising without a practising certificate	1	
Public Access - failing to keep proper client records	1	
Public Access - failing to provide proper notification of terms of engagement	1	
Public Access - failure to return client documents	1	

Notes

The figures listed are numbers of charges for cases upheld following a Disciplinary Tribunal or the Determination by Consent procedure. A case may have multiple different charges, and within a case the barrister may have breached the same paragraph of the Code of Conduct multiple times.

Figure 8**Age distribution of investigations decided in 2024/25****Figure 9****Throughput of investigations in 2024/25**

Service complaints

Table 23

Quarterly performance

KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024/25
Service					
Service Complaints (Target 95%)	16 (68.8%)	20 (90.0%)	18 (88.9%)	12 (83.3%)	66 (83.3%)

Table 24

Service complaints closed by team

Team	2023/24	2024/25
Authorisations	30	44
Supervision	0	0
CAT	12	16
I&E	2	6

Independent Decision-making Body (IDB)

Table 25 Number of meetings

Meeting Type	2023/24	2024/25
Enforcement	44	41
Full Day	25	18
Half Day	19	23
Of which reconsiderations	11	3
Authorisations	10	14
Full Day	5	5
Half Day	5	9

Table 26 Cases and Applications considered

Meeting Type	2023/24	2024/25
Enforcement		
Cases	88	68
of which reconsiderations	9	3
Authorisations		
Applications	17	23

Table 27**Outcomes of Enforcement meetings**

Outcome	2023/24	2024/25
Put back for further enquiries	4	6
Closed after Investigation	30	21
Administrative Sanction - Discretionary Fine	5	8
Administrative Sanction - Warning	3	3
Referred to Supervision	1	0
Dismissed	18	8
Confirmed original decision**	1	1
Change decision to - dismissed***	2	1
Considered and agreed to review and reconsider case*	2	0
Referred to Disciplinary Action	52	41
D5	28	34
D3	12	3
DBC - initial referral	1	1
DBC - proved	5	2
Confirmed original decision**	6	1

* reconsidered cases with outcome to re-discuss

**reconsidered cases with outcome confirming original decision

***reconsidered cases with outcome changed from original decision

Table 28**Outcomes of Authorisations meetings**

Outcome	2023/24	2024/25
Executive Decisions	10	17
Affirm Executive Decision (Upheld)	5	6
Affirm Executive Decision (Amend)	2	8
Substitute Another Decision	3	1
Further information required	0	2
ICC Hearing Panel Decision	7	6
Affirm ICC Decision	6	2
Adjourn case	1	0
Substitute a new Decision	0	4
Rejected (out of time submission)	0	0