

**BAR
STANDARDS
BOARD**

REGULATING BARRISTERS

Regulatory Casework

Statistical Report 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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Introduction

1. This Statistical Report accompanies the Annual Report for 2025/26 and presents the statistical data collected between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 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 July and August 2026.
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
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KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	11 (100.0%)	17 (100.0%)	21 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)	50 (100.0%)
IDB Reviews (Target 95%)	4 (75.0%)	2 (100.0%)	6 (100.0%)	5 (100.0%)	17 (94.1%)
Timeliness					
Applications decided (Target 80%)	317 (65.6%)	404 (65.8%)	321 (69.8%)	349 (61.6%)	1,391 (65.6%)
Service					
Telephone calls (Target 85%)	2,050 (67.5%)	2,271 (69.1%)	2,103 (66.6%)	2,075 (70.8%)	8,499 (68.5%)
Productivity					
Live applications (Target 80%)	1,113 (31.4%)	990 (19.2%)	1,075 (23.9%)	1,082 (30.2%)	1,082 (30.2%)

Table 2	Applications received
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Application type	2024/25	2025/26
Transferring Qualified Lawyer	476	490
Certificate of Academic Standing (qualifying degree)	182	209
Pupillage Reduction	101	209
Litigation Authorisation	61	152
Fee Waiver Request	56	99
Reactivation of Stale Qualifications	70	74
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Renewal)	49	56
Pupillage Funding and/or Advertising Waiver	52	53
Pupillage Dispensation	44	43
Under Review	22	33
Waiver of the Qualified Person Requirement	24	28
CPD Extension (NPP)	8	28
Licensed Access Amendment/Renewal	35	23
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Registration)	16	23
Licensed Access Authorisation	8	17
Exercise of Discretion	16	16
Retrospective Registration of Pupillage	9	10

Public Access Exemption	6	9
General Exemption	8	8
CPD Waiver (NPP)	16	7
Review of a Decision of the Inns' Conduct Committee	9	7
Non-England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, Non-QLD)	7	7
England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, QLD)	10	6
Early Commencement of the Vocational Component of Bar Training (formerly Rule Q28.1 Waiver)	11	5
AETO	10	4
Certificate of Academic Standing (without qualifying degree)		2
Temporary Admission and Call to the Bar	2	1
Exemption from the vocational stage of training for those who passed the Bar Examination for non-intending practitioners	1	1
Total	1309	1620

Table 3**Applications determined**

Application type	2024/25	2025/26
Transferring Qualified Lawyer	230	571
Certificate of Academic Standing (qualifying degree)	139	155
Litigation Authorisation	60	133
Pupillage Reduction	110	111
Pupillage Funding and/or Advertising Waiver	45	62
Reactivation of Stale Qualifications	43	56
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Renewal)	43	48
Pupillage Dispensation	43	44
Fee Waiver Request	61	37
Licensed Access Amendment/Renewal	33	28
Under Review	17	20
Waiver of the Qualified Person Requirement	30	17
IAA (formerly OISC) Licensed Access (Registration)	15	16
CPD Extension (NPP)	7	14
Review of a Decision of the Inns' Conduct Committee	5	10
England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, QLD)	3	10
CPD Waiver (NPP)	17	9
Licensed Access Authorisation	5	9
Retrospective Registration of Pupillage	10	8
Public Access Exemption	6	8
Exercise of Discretion	12	6
Early Commencement of the Vocational Component of Bar Training (formerly Rule Q28.1 Waiver)	10	6
General Exemption	9	4
AETO	7	3
Non-England & Wales Degree Provider Exemption (formerly, Non-QLD)	9	2
Temporary Admission and Call to the Bar	2	2
Certificate of Academic Standing (without qualifying degree)	2	1
Exemption from the vocational stage of training for those who passed the Bar Examination for non-intending practitioners		1
Professional Qualifications Exemption	1	
Grand Total	974	1391

Figure 1

Age distribution of applications determined in 2025/26

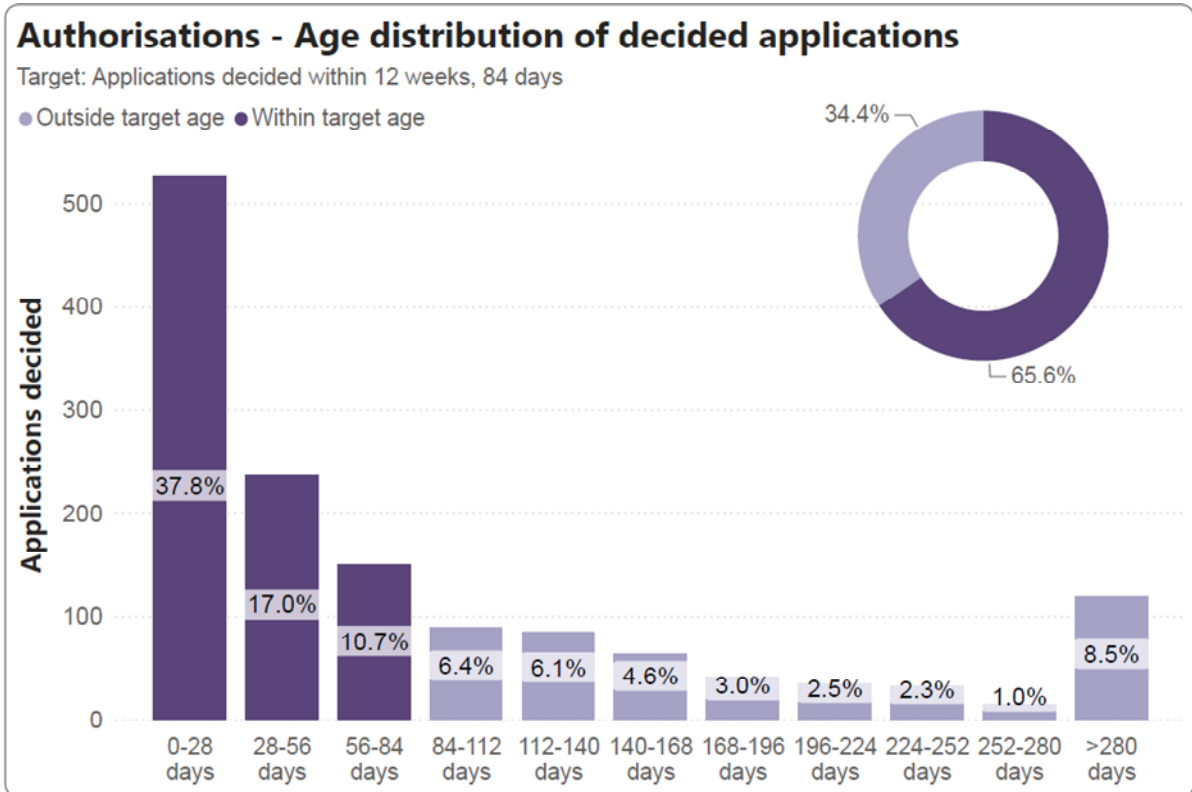
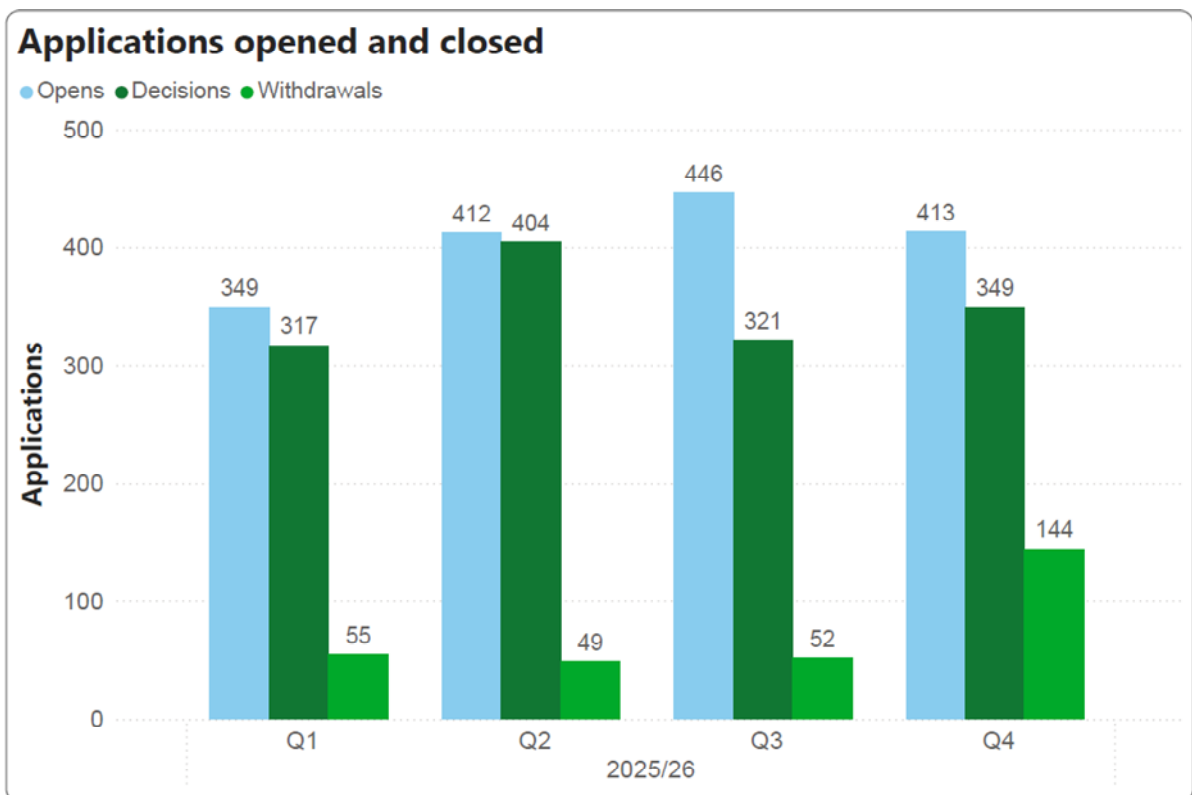


Figure 2

Throughput of applications in 2025/26



Supervision Team

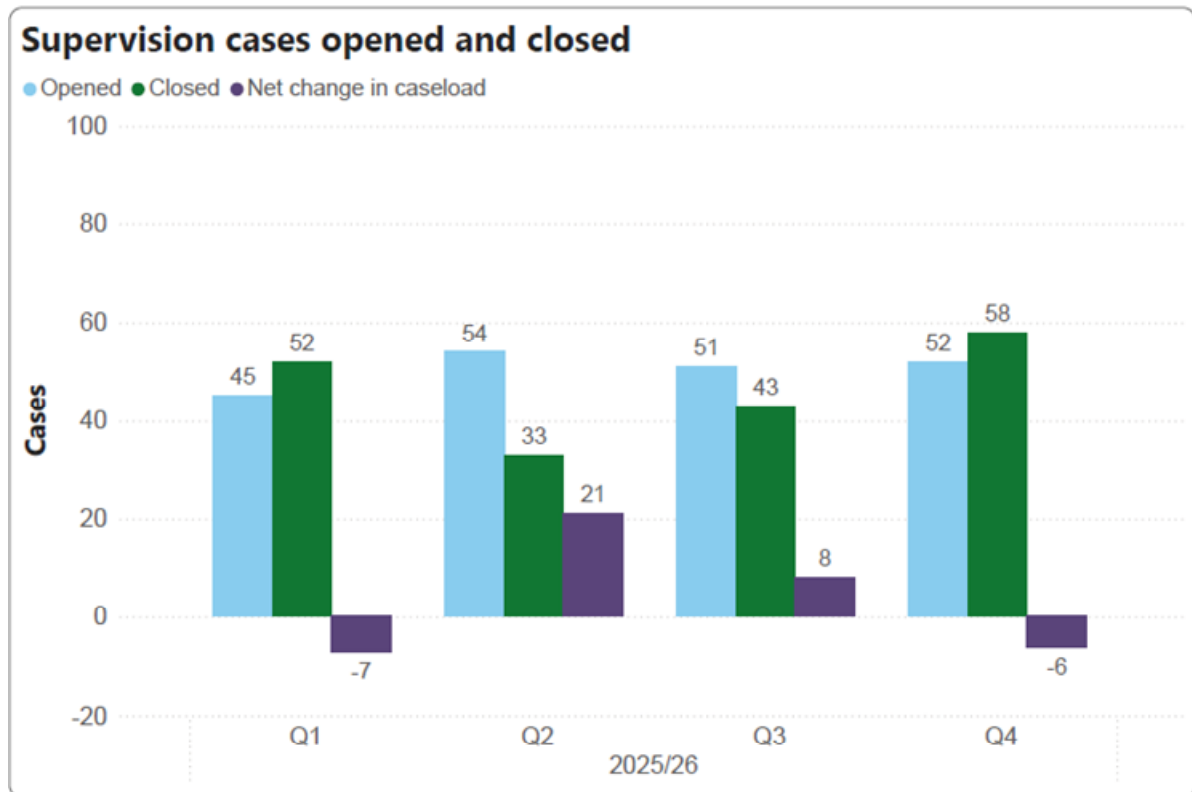
Table 4	Quarterly performance				
KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	2 (100.0%)	3 (100.0%)	4 (100.0%)	-	9 (100.0%)

Table 5	Cases opened	
Purpose	2024/25	2025/26
Referred to Supervision by CAT	123	141
Received directly by Supervision	34	33
Thematic Reviews	79	28

Table 6	Stages completed	
Stage	2024/25	2025/26
Allocations		
Cases assigned to members of the Supervision team	125	140
Regulatory Response		
Agreement of the regulatory response	241	203
Visits		
Report letters issued	10	6
Closures		
Cases closed	229	186

Figure 3

Throughput of supervision cases in 2025/26



Contact and Assessment Team

Table 7	Quarterly performance				
KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	44 (100.0%)	27 (96.3%)	40 (100.0%)	-	111 (99.1%)
Requests for Review (Target 95%)	17 (100.0%)	17 (100.0%)	1 (100.0%)	9 (100.0%)	44 (100.0%)
Timeliness					
General enquiries (Target 85%)	260 (99.2%)	274 (97.1%)	254 (98.4%)	258 (98.1%)	1046 (98.2%)
Reports (Target 80%)	453 (66.9%)	569 (61.9%)	636 (64.8%)	806 (68.7%)	2464 (65.8%)
Service					
Telephone calls (Target 85%)	1,912 (88.9%)	2,084 (90.8%)	2,048 (86.5%)	1,991 (90.6%)	8,035 (89.4%)
Productivity					
Live general enquiries (Target 85%)	5 (100.0%)	2 (100.0%)	9 (100.0%)	7 (85.7%)	7 (85.7%)
Live reports (Target 80%)	419 (75.7%)	413 (60.0%)	464 (59.5%)	221 (88.7%)	221 (88.7%)

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	1,801		
2024/25	1,857		
2025/26	2,394		

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

Table 9 All incoming information

Purpose	2024/25	2025/26
Ask a Question	757	1,045
Report Something	1,690	2,190
Report - Reporting Obligations	167	204
Other	0	0
Total	2,614	3,439

Table 10 Closures and outcomes

Outcome	2024/25	2025/26
Ask a Question	753	1,046
Closed by CAT	753	1,046
Report Something	1,715	2,250
Allocated to Enforcement	110	135
Allocated to Supervision	95	90
Closed by CAT	1,509	2,025
Ongoing	1	0
Report - Reporting Obligations	165	214
Allocated to Enforcement	35	47
Allocated to Supervision	8	9
Closed by CAT	122	158
Other	0	0
Closed by CAT	0	0

Table 11 Assessed reports with specified Areas of Law

Area of Law	2024/25	2025/26
Arbitrator or umpire or mediator	2 (0.3%)	1 (0.1%)
Chancery contentious	48 (6.5%)	50 (5.3%)
Chancery non-contentious	6 (0.8%)	3 (0.3%)
Commercial and Financial Services	15 (2.0%)	23 (2.4%)
Competition		1 (0.1%)
Construction	4 (0.5%)	2 (0.2%)
Crime	141 (19.2%)	175 (18.5%)
Defamation	4 (0.5%)	10 (1.1%)
Employment	80 (10.9%)	103 (10.9%)
Family - children	114 (15.5%)	135 (14.3%)
Family - other	78 (10.6%)	114 (12.1%)

Immigration	21 (2.9%)	44 (4.7%)
Insolvency	8 (1.1%)	1 (0.1%)
Intellectual property	3 (0.4%)	2 (0.2%)
International	2 (0.3%)	15 (1.6%)
Landlord & tenant (non-residential)	4 (0.5%)	7 (0.7%)
Landlord & tenant (residential)	26 (3.5%)	46 (4.9%)
Licensing	2 (0.3%)	2 (0.2%)
Other	83 (11.3%)	80 (8.5%)
Other common law	48 (6.5%)	66 (7.0%)
Personal injury	20 (2.7%)	19 (2.0%)
Planning	4 (0.5%)	4 (0.4%)
Professional discipline	10 (1.4%)	6 (0.6%)
Professional negligence	4 (0.5%)	15 (1.6%)
Public Law	7 (1.0%)	19 (2.0%)
Revenue		1 (0.1%)
Total	734	944

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.

Figure 4

Age distribution of general enquiries closed in 2025/26

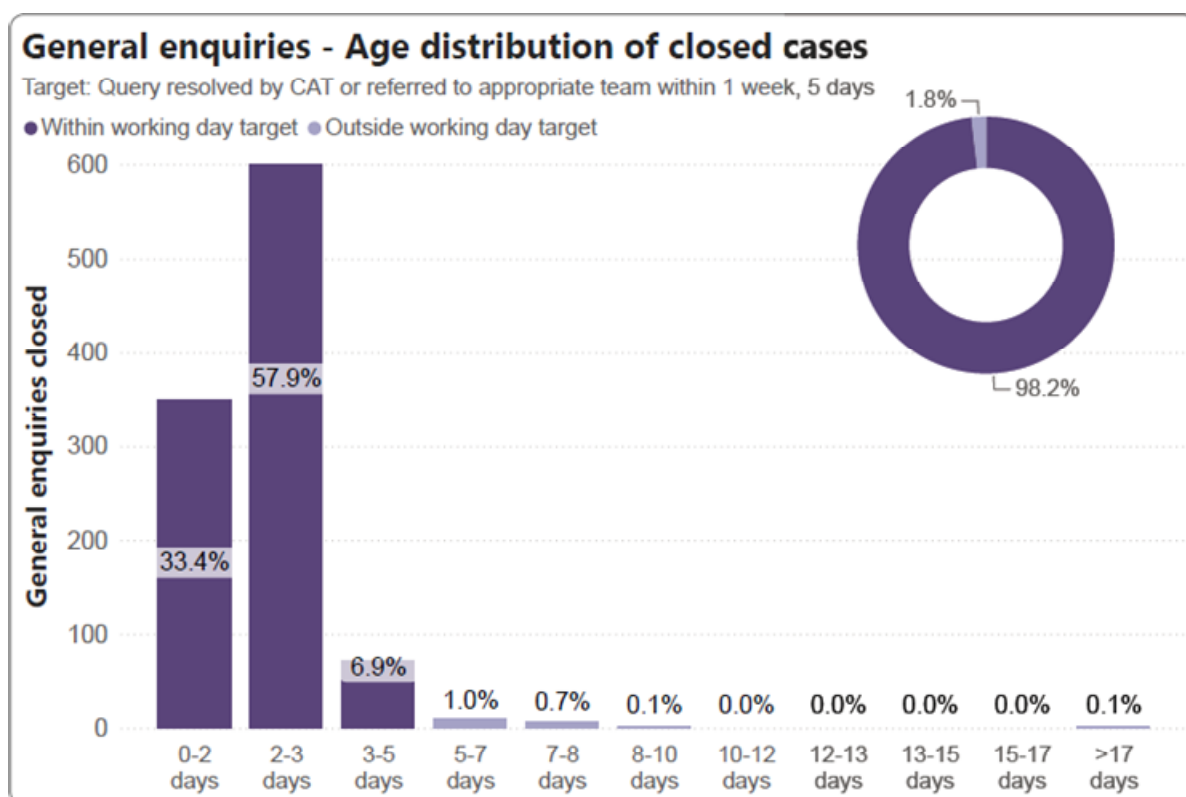


Figure 5

Age distribution of reports concluded or referred in 2025/26

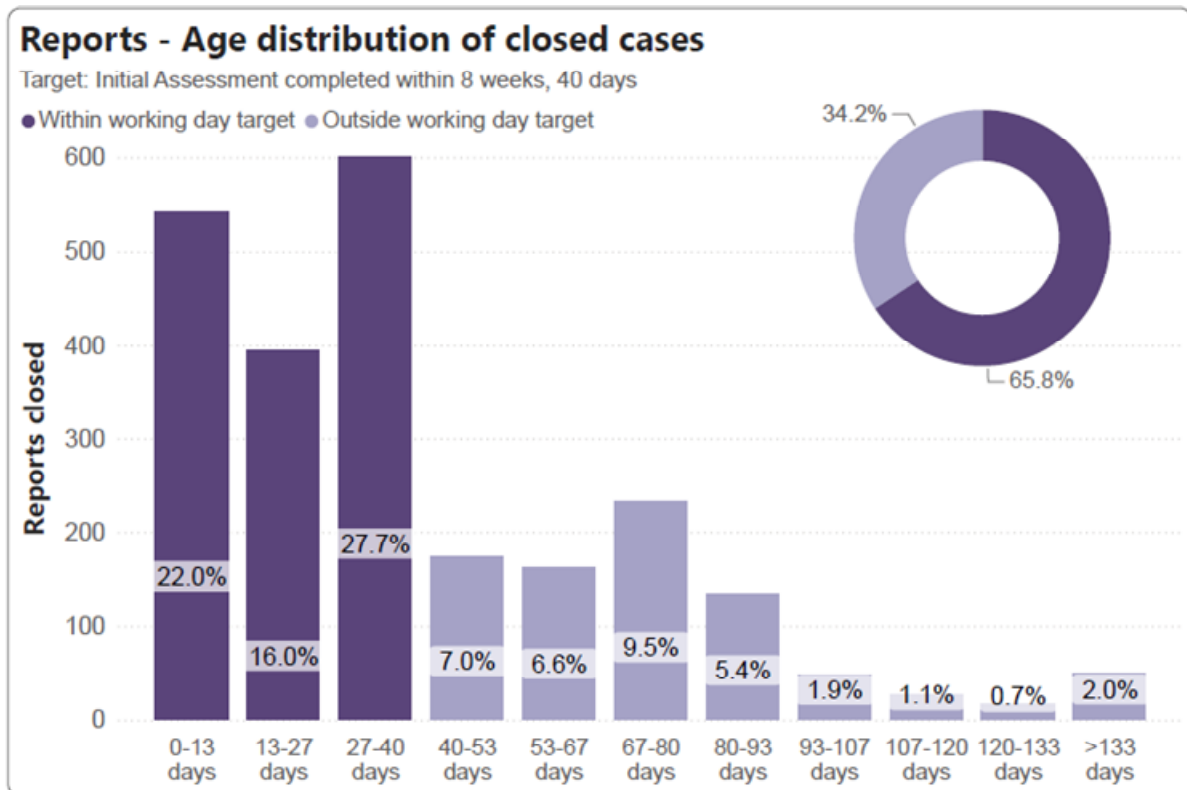


Figure 6

Throughput of general enquiries in 2025/26

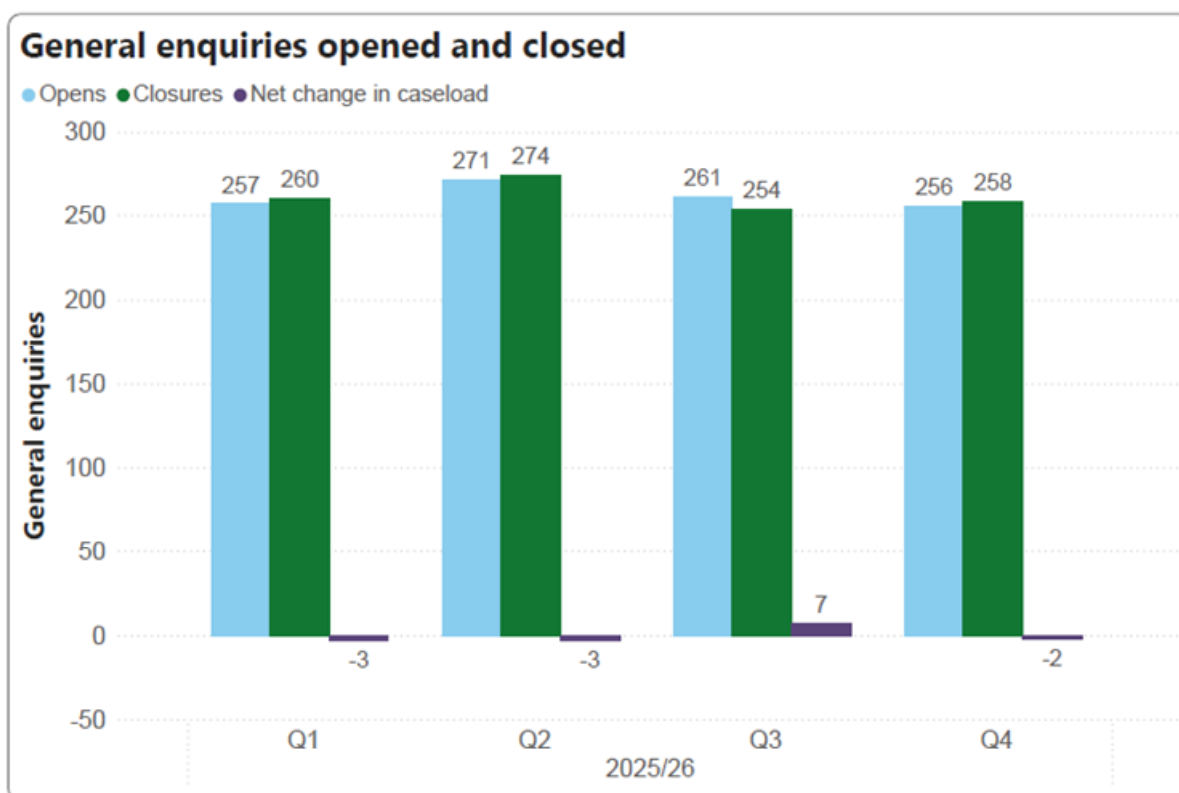
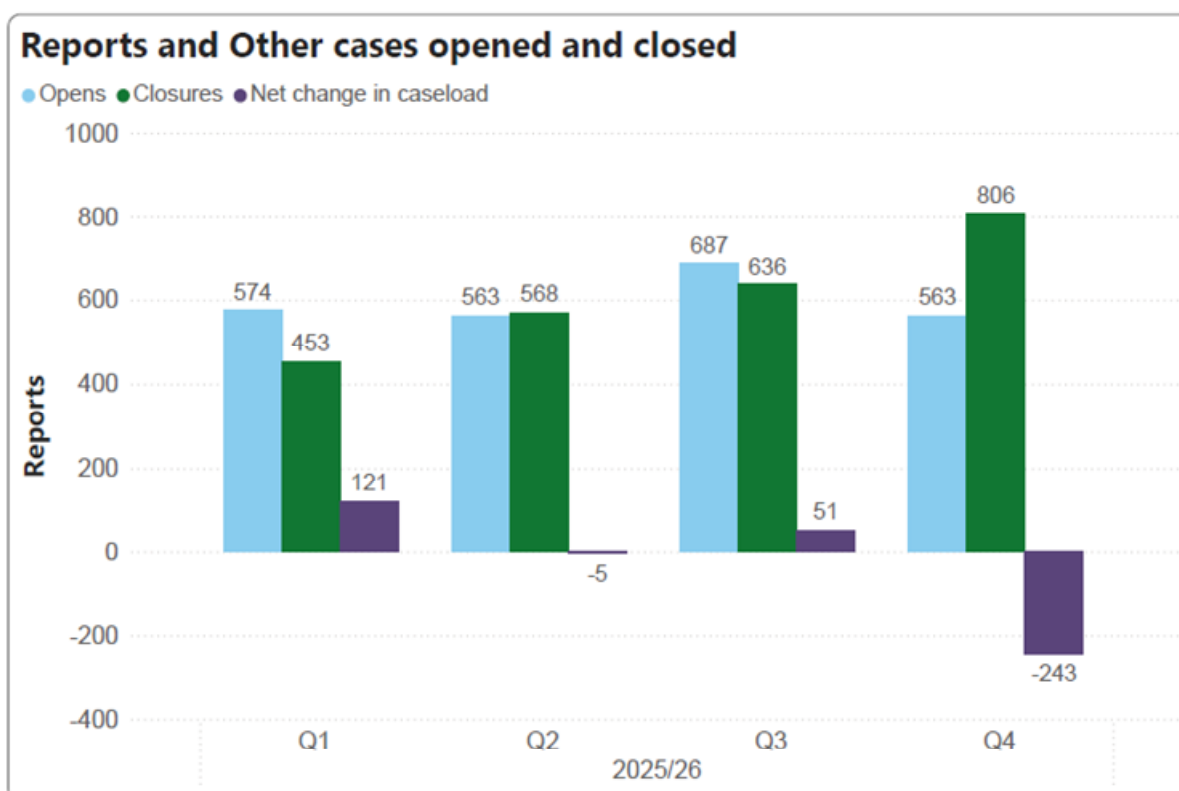


Figure 7

Throughput of reports in 2025/26



Investigation and Enforcement Team

Table 12	Quarterly performance				
KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26
Quality					
Quarterly Audit (Target 95%)	2 (100.0%)	2 (100.0%)	6 (100.0%)	-	10 (100.0%)
Requests for Review (Target 95%)	1 (100.0%)	2 (100.0%)	3 (66.7%)	1 (100.0%)	7 (85.7%)
Administrative Sanction Appeals (Target 0%)	-	-	-	-	-
Disciplinary Tribunal Appeals (Target 0%)	-	5 (0.0%)	-	1 (0.0%)	6 (0.0%)
Timeliness					
Referral accepted and Investigation decision within 36 weeks (Target 80%)	23 (78.3%)	22 (59.1%)	29 (27.6%)	37 (43.2%)	111 (49.5%)
Productivity					
Live investigations (Target 80%)	136 (69.1%)	154 (69.5%)	163 (73.0%)	178 (74.7%)	178 (74.7%)

Table 13	Cases referred to investigation
Year	Number of referrals
2020/21	127
2021/22	236
2022/23	122
2023/24	108
2024/25	145
2025/26	180

Table 14 Throughput of investigation cases

Decisions	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Closed after Investigation	106	126	55	56	56
Referred to Disciplinary Action	29	52	41	38	58
Total	135	178	96	94	114

Table 15 Decision sources for cases closed after investigation

Decision Source	2024/25	2025/26
I&E staff	34	38
Independent Decision-making Panel	20	18
Other	3	-
Total	57	56

Table 16 Final outcomes of reports

Outcome	2024/25	2025/26
Closed without Investigation	11	12
Closed after Investigation	56	56
Administrative Warning/Fine	16	13
Dismissed	20	27
Closed/Withdrawn	20	16
Determination by Consent	3	2
Proved/Upheld	3	2
Dismissed	-	-
Disciplinary Tribunal	53	28
Proved/Upheld	29	23
Dismissed	6	2
Withdrawn/Struck Out/No Evidence Offered ¹	17	3
Other	1	-
Total	123	98

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	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Determination by Consent	4	4	5	3	2
Disciplinary Tribunal	29	25	39	53	28
Total	33	29	44	56	30

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

Sentence	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Disbarred	6	9	10	10	9
Suspended	8	5	9	9	5
Fined	12	7	12	5	7
Reprimanded	14	5	9	2	4
Total	26	22	30	22	20

Notes

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

Table 19 Open cases at year end

Stage	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Referrals	8	8	73
Investigations	75	115	103
IDB	8	9	2
Determination by Consent	1	0	1
Disciplinary Tribunal	54	36	63
Appeals	1	6	4
Total	147	174	246

Table 20 Sources of new investigation cases

Role of Reporter	2024/25	2025/26
A barrister	37	47
A chambers	0	1
A member of another professional body/regulator	11	16
A member of public	26	42
A member of public - Client	-	6
A pupil	0	6
An AETO (approved education & training organisation)	1	0
An entity	11	12
BSB staff	13	11
Employee of Barrister/Chambers/Entity	1	1
Head of Chambers	3	2
Judge	8	11
Other	17	9
Other Legal Professional	2	1
Solicitor	10	11
Not specified/unknown	5	4

Notes

“A member of public - Client” was added as an option in July 2025. Cases reported by clients before this point are included in the ‘A member of public’ totals.

Table 21 Aspects of new investigation cases

Aspect	2024/25	2025/26
Other diminishing trust and confidence	66	82
Dishonesty in professional or personal life	32	24
Not acting in the client's best interests	16	24
Other misleading the court	9	24
Misleading a person or client	7	24
Making misleading/false/unfounded submissions or statements	4	20
Harassment	10	19
Providing an incompetent standard of work/service	5	19
Inappropriate drafting of documents	3	13
Inappropriate content on social media	6	9
Wasting the court's time	9	8
Failing to provide information promptly to the BSB	6	8
Other abuse of role as an advocate	3	8

Drafting statements/documents not properly arguable	2	8
Discrimination	6	7
Other	4	7
Failing to co-operate with the Legal Ombudsman	4	7
Undue delay in dealing with papers	3	7
Misleading clients about the nature/scope/terms of work	3	7
Holding out as a barrister when not authorised to do so	2	7
Performing reserved legal activities when not authorised to do so	1	7
Criminal conviction for drink driving		7
Failing to act independently	10	6
Failing to comply with legal or other non-regulatory obligations	4	6
Inappropriate use of position as a barrister	2	6
Making unsupported allegations of fraud/false assertions		6
Inappropriate communications with clients or others	4	5
Conducting litigation when not authorised to do so	4	5
Failing to properly advise client	2	5
Failing to administer practice properly/efficiently	8	4
Failing to comply with a court order	4	4
Conflict of interest	2	4
Failing to register with BMIF	2	4
Failing to administer chambers/entity competently/efficiently	1	4
Failing to take steps to ensure court has all relevant information	6	3
Rudeness/misbehaviour in court	5	3
Rudeness/misbehaviour out of court	4	3
Other breach of Public Access Rules	2	3
Making serious allegations without proper foundation	2	3
Failing to follow instructions	1	3
Making inappropriate media comments	1	3
Failing to consider if best interests served by other representation	1	3
Failing to act appropriately towards a pupil	1	3
Victimisation	1	3
Failing to keep proper records	1	3
Inappropriate reports of serious misconduct		3
Failing to inform client that cannot carry out instructions		3
Drafting statements/documents not supported by client or instructions		3
Fee dispute		3
Failing to report own serious misconduct	14	2
Disciplinary finding by another body	10	2
Criminal conviction other than drink driving	10	2
False declarations on call/in CVs and other official documents	3	2
Failing to renew practising certificate	3	2
Providing legal services when not authorised to do so	1	2
Failing to submit documents on time	1	2
Civil debt (including clerks) or bankruptcy	1	2
Failing to notify client of required information		2

Failing to preserve client confidentiality	3	1
Failing to report criminal charges or convictions	3	1
Failing to report a bankruptcy or other associated proceedings	3	1
Inappropriately remaining in or withdrawing from instructions	2	1
Encouraging witness to give misleading or untruthful evidence	1	1
Breach of confidentiality	1	1
Making allegations not put in cross examination	1	1
Making statements designed to insult/annoy/humiliate		1
Failing to acknowledge complaints promptly		1
Money laundering		1
Illegal fee arrangements		1
Failing to have proper arrangements to deal with pupils		1
Failing to use own professional judgement		1
Rehearsing, practising or coaching witnesses		1
Acting outside role as manager of or employed barrister in authorised (non-BSB) body		1
Failing to pay administrative fine		1
Failing to report disciplinary action by another regulator	3	
Breach of "cab rank" rule	2	
Other breach of regulations on instructions	2	
Handling client money	2	
Inappropriate handling of information or evidence	1	
Practising without 'qualified person(s)'	1	
Failing to provide or disclose information	1	
Non-compliance/inadequate compliance with CPD requirements	1	
Unregistered barrister failing to provide information to client	1	
Inappropriate cross-examination	1	
Failing to define the terms on which instructions are accepted	1	
Inappropriately accepting instructions	1	
Failing to comply with regulations on witnesses	1	
Failing to comply with undertaking when conducting litigation	1	
Accepting instructions when not authorised to do so	1	

Notes

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

Table 22**Charges upheld at disciplinary action**

Charge	2024/25	2025/26
Breach of duties	15	14
Undermining honesty, integrity or independence in public eyes	17	10
Being dishonest or otherwise discreditable	2	3
Acting in a manner likely to bring prof into disrepute	2	3
Failure to report regulatory or disciplinary action by another regulator	3	2
Unlawful discrimination, victimisation or harrassment	2	1
Misleading or attempting to mislead the court	1	1
Wasting court time	2	1
Failing to provide information to BSB promptly		1
Acting in a manner prejudicial to admin of justice	1	1
Failing to report a bankruptcy proceedings		1
Failing to report a criminal conviction/caution	1	1
Inappropriate use of third part payment services		1
Misleading or attempting to mislead anyone	2	
Carrying out reserved legal activity without authorisation	1	
Reporting serious misconduct of others	1	
Failing to report serious misconduct	1	
Failing to act courteously/competently or wasting court	1	
Not presenting relevant decisions/legislation to Court	1	
Discrimination	1	
Failing to report criminal charges or convictions	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 2025/26

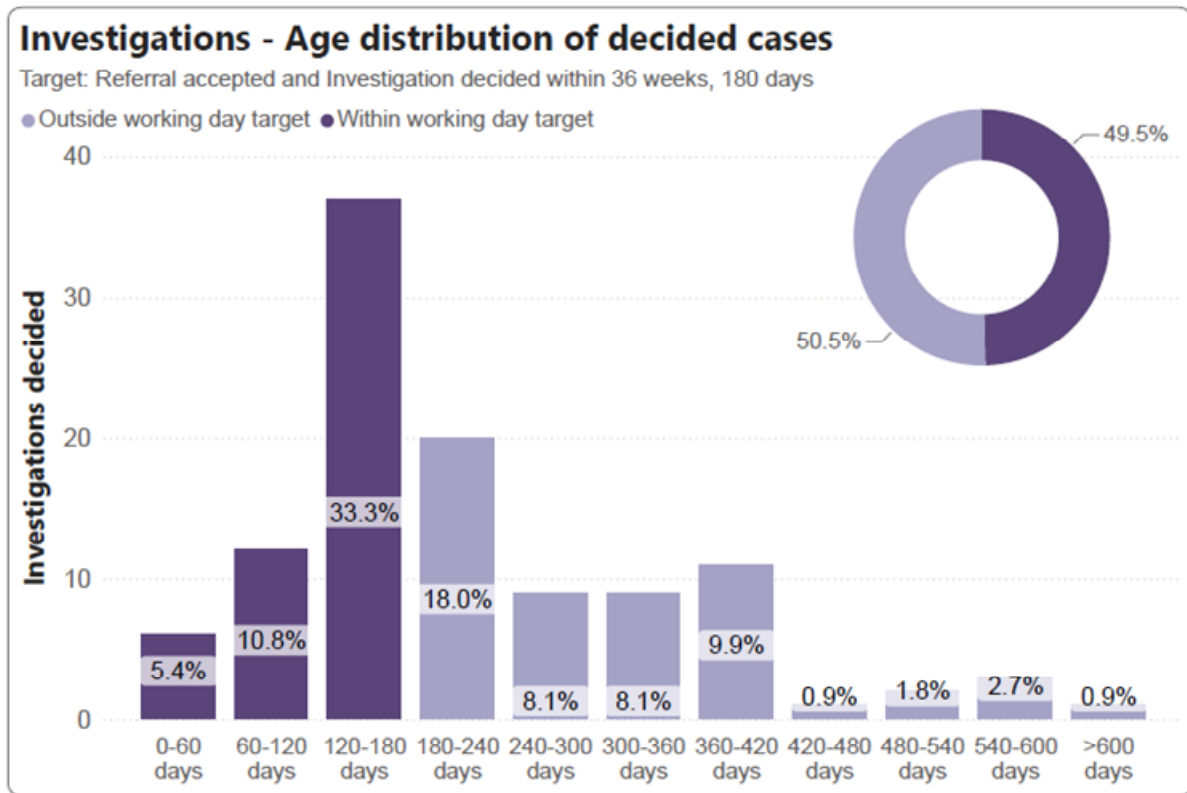
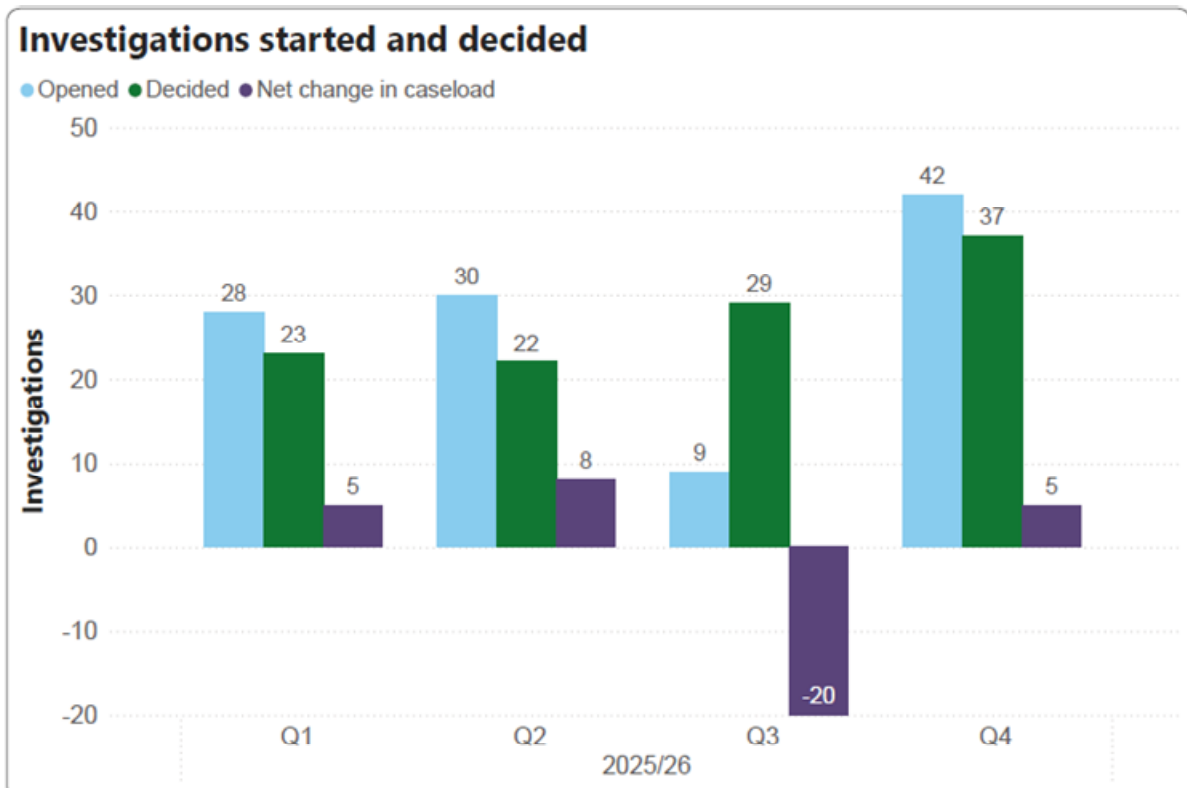


Figure 9

Throughput of investigations in 2025/26



Service complaints

Table 23 Quarterly performance

KPI	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2025/26
Service					
Service Complaints (Target 95%)	12 (100.0%)	15 (93.3%)	10 (90.0%)	7 (100.0%)	44 (95.5%)

Table 24 Service complaints closed by team

Team	2024/25	2025/26
Authorisations	44	34
Supervision	0	1
CAT	16	9
I&E	6	0

Independent Decision-making Body (IDB)

Table 25 Number of meetings		
Meeting Type	2024/25	2025/26
Enforcement	40	55
Full Day	18	37
Half Day	22	18
Of which reconsiderations	3	4
Authorisations	14	16
Full Day	5	13
Half Day	9	3

Table 26 Cases and Applications considered		
Meeting Type	2024/25	2025/26
Enforcement		
Cases	69	95
of which reconsiderations	3	4
Authorisations		
Applications	23	31

Table 27 Outcomes of Enforcement meetings

Outcome	2024/25	2025/26
Put back for further enquiries	6	9
Closed after Investigation	21	20
Administrative Sanction - Discretionary Fine	8	0
Administrative Sanction - Warning	3	4
Referred to Supervision	0	0
Dismissed	8	14
Confirmed original decision**	1	1
Change decision to - dismissed***	1	1
Considered and agreed to review and reconsider case*	0	1
Referred to Disciplinary Action	41	66
D5	34	36
D3	3	23
DBC - initial referral	1	2
DBC - proved	2	4
Confirmed original decision**	1	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	2024/25	2025/26
Executive Decisions	17	20
Affirm Executive Decision (Upheld)	8	6
Affirm Executive Decision (Amend)	6	10
Substitute Another Decision	1	1
Further information required	2	3
ICC Hearing Panel Decision	6	10
Affirm ICC Decision	2	6
Adjourn case	0	1
Substitute a new Decision	4	3
Rejected (out of time submission)	0	1