

Annual Report 2025

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APPENDIX 1 - LIFE CYCLE OF A CASE

PRESIDENT’S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal and Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Administration Limited for 2025. This has been a year of continued progress for the Tribunal. Activity levels returned closer to those seen before the exceptional increase in cases experienced in recent years. Nevertheless, the Tribunal remained busy, receiving 164 cases and sitting for 275 hearing days during the year.

While referrals from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) reduced as anticipated, the number of lay applications increased significantly, more than doubling compared with the previous year. These applications, made directly by members of the public, represent an important aspect of the Tribunal’s jurisdiction, and this emerging trend continues to be monitored closely.

The annual cost of operating the Tribunal increased only marginally, equating to £16.91 per regulated individual within the profession. This represents good value in supporting the Tribunal’s role in safeguarding the public interest, maintaining confidence in the profession, and upholding the administration of justice. The cases coming before the Tribunal also continued to increase in complexity. There was a significant rise in the number of matters requiring more than five days to conclude at a final hearing. Strike off remained the most frequently imposed sanction, reflecting the Tribunal’s responsibility for determining the most serious allegations of professional misconduct. In addition, an increasing number of respondents chose to be legally represented during proceedings, contributing to higher overall costs associated with cases.

The Tribunal’s membership and governance arrangements evolved during the year. Six new solicitor members were appointed, alongside two new Vice-Presidents. I was honoured to be reappointed as President, and we welcomed two new Board members and a new external Finance Director as part of our continuing governance improvement programme.

We were also pleased to welcome Sir Geoffrey Vos, Master of the Rolls, to our Annual Dinner in November following our biannual training day. As the office holder responsible for Tribunal member appointments, Sir Geoffrey’s attendance provided a valuable opportunity for members and staff to engage with him directly. His address on the history of his office and its relationship with the Tribunal was both insightful and thought-provoking.

I am delighted to commend this Annual Report, which demonstrates the Tribunal’s continued commitment to delivering high standards in the administration of justice while maintaining efficiency and effectiveness in its operations. This year’s report is set against our continuing work to lead with trust, transparency and excellence, communicate with clarity and evolve alongside the profession we serve. The Tribunal remains firmly focused on safeguarding the public, maintaining confidence in the solicitors’ profession, and upholding the rule of law. Central to achieving these objectives is the preservation of the Tribunal’s independence and its responsibility for determining the most serious cases of alleged professional misconduct.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our staff, members and directors for their professionalism, dedication and hard work throughout another demanding year. We look forward to working closely with our stakeholders in 2026 as we continue to deliver our strategic priorities and pursue excellence in all aspects of our work.

Alison Kellett
President/Chair

ABOUT THE SDT

The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) is an independent statutory tribunal set up under the Solicitors Act 1974.

The SDT hears cases of alleged misconduct by solicitors, registered European Lawyers, registered foreign lawyers and employees of solicitors' firms.

The SDT also decides on applications for restoration to the roll and the ending of suspension from practice and also hears appeals in relation to certain internal decisions by the SRA. Decisions are subject to a right of appeal to the High Court.

The primary role of the SDT is to maintain public confidence in the reputation of the solicitor's profession by enforcing standards of honesty, probity, trustworthiness, independence and integrity.

Governance of the SDT/SDTAL

The SDT is governed by the Board of Directors of the administration company, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Administration Ltd (SDTAL).

The President and two Vice-Presidents of the SDT (who are elected by its members), also serve on the Board of Directors, with the President acting as Chair. Further details of the Board's composition are set out overleaf.

The SDTAL employs a dedicated and professional team who provide legal and administrative support for cases.

The Tribunal's Executive Team is led by Alison Kellett, supported by Ray Dhanowa, Clerk to the SDT/Chief Legal Adviser and Emma Tully, Chief Operating Officer.

THE SDT OFFICERS/SDTAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Alison Kellett	Chair	Alison Kellett
Solicitor Vice-President	Lisa Boyce	Director	Lisa Boyce
Lay Vice-President	Anthony Pygram	Director	Anthony Pygram
		Director	Teresa Cullen
		Director	Carolyn Evans
		Director	Colin Childs
		Non-Executive Director	Schellion Horn

Changes to the Board in 2025

During 2025, several changes were made to the leadership and governance of the SDT and SDTAL.

Alison Kellett was re-elected as President and Chair for a further term commencing in February 2025.

Lisa Boyce was elected Solicitor Vice-President in February 2025, succeeding Paul Lewis.

Anthony Pygram was elected Lay Vice-President in March 2025, replacing Stephanie Bown. All three serve as Officers of the SDT and as Directors of SDTAL.

Paul Housego and Rob Slack retired from the Tribunal, and consequently stepped down from the Board, in March and October 2025, respectively.

In October 2025, Teresa Cullen, Carolyn Evans and Colin Childs, all members of the Tribunal, were appointed to the Board.

Schellion Horn was appointed as the Tribunal's first Non-Executive Finance Director in October 2025.

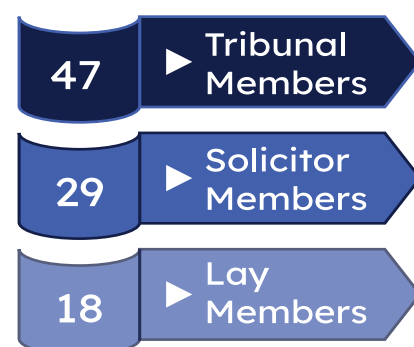
SDT Policy Board

The Board of Directors also serve as the SDT Policy Board, responsible for governing the Tribunal's policies and procedures under the Solicitors (Disciplinary Proceedings) Rules 2019.

In accordance with these rules, the Policy Board may only comprise of Tribunal members so Schellion Horn is not a member.

THE SDT MEMBERSHIP

As at 31 December 2025, the Tribunal membership comprised:



Members are appointed by the Master of the Rolls for a term of 5 years which may be renewed upon application.

Members of the Tribunal are required to have regard to the Nolan Principles of Public Life - Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

Changes to the Membership in 2025

During the course of 2025, five members stepped down from the SDT.

Solicitor Members:

- Angela Horne
- Bhavna Patel
- Charlotte Rigby
- Paul Housego

Lay Member:

- Robert Slack

In light of this, in October, six new Solicitor Members were appointed who, following the 2022 recruitment campaign, had been placed on the reserve list:

- Giovanna Palmiero
- John Montague
- Lisa Nabou
- Maxine Cole
- Olwen Davies
- Victoria Kaye

Details of the full Tribunal membership as at 31 December 2025 can be found on the page opposite.

SOLICITOR MEMBERS

LAY MEMBERS

Alison Banks	Adair Richards
Alison Kellett	Alan Lyon
Alyson Sprawson	Anthony Pygram
Andrew Horrocks	Benjamin Walsh
Ashok Ghosh	Carol Valentine
Callum Cowx	Colin Childs
Carolyn Evans	Damian Kearney
Dominic Green	Elaine Keen
Edward Nally	Gary Gracey
Frosoulla Kyriacou	Jenny Rowe
Gerald Sydenham	Katharine Wright
Giovanna Palmiero	Lesley McMahon-Hathway
Heidi Hasan	Linda Hawkins
James Johnston	Louise Fox
John Abramson	Paul Hurley
John Montague	Priya Iyer
Lisa Boyce	Sarah Gordon
Lisa Murphy	Stephanie Bown
Lisa Nabou	
Mark Millin	
Maxine Cole	
Olwen Davies	
Paul Lewis	
Peter Jones	
Richard Nicholas	
Teresa Cullen	
Usman Sheikh	
Victoria Kaye	
William Ellerton	

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Our strategic objectives continue to guide the delivery of our core functions and longer term priorities. They provide a clear framework for maintaining high standards of service, accountability and continuous improvement.

01

Governance

The SDT is fit for purpose to deliver transparent justice in the changing evolutionary landscape of legal services enforcement.

02

Enhance Trust & Confidence

The SDT will act to enhance the trust and confidence of the public and the profession in its delivery of transparent, fair outcomes in an efficient, effective and consistent way.

03

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

The SDT aims to represent the diversity of the legal profession and provide a culture for staff and service users which respects everyone, is fair and non-discriminatory.

04

Contribution to the Profession

The SDT is committed to contribute to the profession in terms of skills and training and to sharing our experiences and our expertise to continually improve standards across the profession.

05

Cost Efficiency & Effectiveness

The SDT provides value for money for its services.

VISION & VALUES

ABOUT OUR VALUES

STRATEGIC VISION

“We are an independent statutory body delivering impartial, transparent justice. We give trust and confidence to the public and the profession by providing consistent, independent and fair outcomes. We are efficient and cost-effective.”

Our strategic vision supports our objectives and guides the continued development of the organisation.

- 1

To act with integrity, impartiality and excellence in fulfilling our role.
- 2

To positively contribute to the profession and continually improve professional standards.
- 3

To provide value for money for our services.

Our values underpin the work we do, decisions we make and how we perform our role in legal regulation.

We handle every case with impartiality, ensuring fairness for all parties involved protecting the independence of the Tribunal and the reputation of the profession.

Beyond the adjudication of cases, we see our role within the regulatory framework to promote understanding of professional ethics and standards across the profession.

We are conscious of our responsibility to deliver value for money to the profession and public that we serve.

We seek to provide this value by managing our finances responsibly, using technology effectively and regularly reviewing our processes to enable continuous improvement.

OUR FINANCES

The SDT is funded under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Legal Services Board (LSB) and the Law Society from a levy on solicitors and other regulated persons, included in their annual practising certificate fee.

A 3-year memorandum was signed on 17 November 2025.

We make an annual budget application which is the subject of scrutiny and challenge by the LSB, before being approved for payment by The Law Society. We recognise the importance of cost-effective and proportionate regulation and aim to optimise costs and efficiency in working practices wherever we can.

Our audited annual accounts are filed with Companies House.

The LSB places significant emphasis on how we demonstrate value for money. One of the key measures it considers is the cost per court, which reflects how efficiently we deliver our core function – the hearing of disciplinary cases. Information relating to the 2025 cost per court, can be found in the Tribunal’s Key Performance Measurements report.

In 2025, our budget was £3,140,083, an increase of 19.5% on 2024 (£2,593,404).

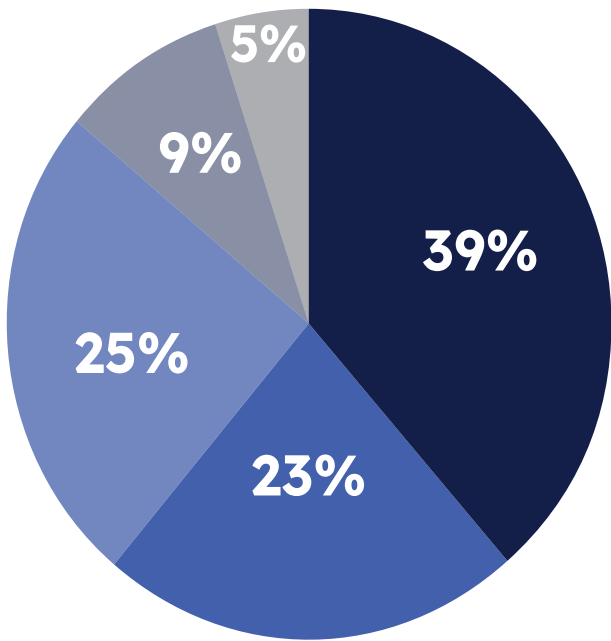
This reflected the cost of a substantial uplift in predicted hearing days, plus inflation.

In fact, the Tribunal sat for 275 days, (25 days short of the predicted) resulting in the actual cost of running the Tribunal of £3,033,946. So overall this was 17% more than 2024 for an additional 65 sitting days.

In terms of the cost to the profession, this means that each regulated individual contributes £16.91 of their practising fee, as of December 2025*.

*Regulated person, used in the calculations above, are made up of practising solicitors, registered European lawyers and registered foreign lawyers. Source: SRA Data for Population of Practising Solicitors.

Below is a breakdown of how our costs were apportioned in 2025.



2025 COST ALLOCATIONS

	2025 (£)	%
Staff Costs	1,170,877	39%
Cost of Hearings	745,035	25%
Other Admin Costs	693,979	23%
Building Costs	286,087	9%
Amortisation & Depreciation	137,968	5%
Total	3,033,946	100%

COST PER REGULATED PERSON

Cost per Regulated Person	2025	2024
Total Cost	£3,033,946	£2,593,404
No of Regulated Persons	179,425	173,495
Cost per regulated Person	£16.91	£14.95

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has been one of significant progress for the Tribunal.

Through procedural improvements, wider stakeholder engagement and continued investment, the Tribunal has strengthened its efficiency, transparency and service to the public and the profession.

PROCEDURAL IMPROVEMENTS

In January 2025, the Tribunal introduced a number of changes to its listing processes and administrative procedures including:

- the revision to standard directions and listing of cases;
- the introduction of an additional Practice Direction (PD2);
- the introduction of an Automatic Disclosure Policy.

These changes are intended to reduce adjournments, improve efficiency and provide transparency by increasing public access to key documents.

Changes to the listing process have increased the period between the issue of proceedings and the deadline for the Respondent to submit their response to the

allegations (the 'Answer'). This was to reduce the need for routine applications to be made simply for an extension of time to produce these documents.

Additionally, rather than listing a Substantive Hearing date from the outset, cases are now first listed for a Case Management Hearing. This allows time for discussion between the parties and improves readiness prior to a Substantive Hearing being fixed, thereby increasing the likelihood of hearings proceeding effectively and reducing the need for dates to be vacated.

Further information in relation the Tribunal's procedures is detailed at Appendix 1 - Lifecycle of Proceedings.

The introduction of Practice Direction 2, allows variations to Standard Directions to be approved administratively where the parties are in agreement, thereby minimising delays and avoiding the need for Tribunal panel consideration.

As part of the Automatic Disclosure Policy, the Rule 12 Statement and Answer are now published on the Tribunal's website in advance of Substantive Hearings, enabling observers and other interested parties

to better understand the proceedings and the issues to be determined by the Tribunal.

ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY

The introduction of oral Summary Findings further enhanced transparency by providing a concise explanation of the Tribunal's findings and reasons at the end of a hearing. This was introduced to assist Respondents and to enable more accurate reporting for the general public.

The Tribunal also refined its approach to compliance with section 48 of the Solicitors Act 1974 through the introduction of a Findings Document.

This document sets out the Tribunal's determination of the allegations and is provided to the parties and the SRA at the conclusion of hearings in advance of the Tribunal's full judgment.

BOARD GOVERNANCE

As detailed earlier in this report, the composition of the Board evolved during 2025 through a combination of officer elections, retirements and new appointments. This included the recruitment of a Non-Executive Director with financial expertise to enhance our financial oversight work and the appointment of additional Tribunal members to the Board.

These changes enhanced the breadth of expertise, experience and oversight within the Board's governance structure.

TRIBUNAL MEMBERSHIP

Also noted earlier, six additional Solicitor Members were appointed to the Tribunal in October 2025 from the reserve list established following the 2022 recruitment campaign.

These appointments further strengthened the Tribunal's adjudicative capacity and broadened the range of professional experience and expertise available within the membership.

LAUNCH OF VIRTUAL TOUR

In September 2025, the Tribunal launched a virtual tour of its premises on the website to assist parties, witnesses and visitors in familiarising themselves with the Tribunal environment in advance of attending hearings. The tour was introduced to improve accessibility and support those who may find the hearing process unfamiliar or daunting, particularly vulnerable participants and unrepresented parties.

The virtual tour forms part of the Tribunal's wider commitment to transparency and accessibility.

TRIBUNAL PATHWAYS PROGRAMME

During 2025, the Tribunal continued its Student Placement Scheme, welcoming students at different stages of their university education.

The scheme provided participants with the opportunity to observe hearings and Tribunal deliberations, alongside shadowing members of the administrative team to gain insight into the operational and adjudicative functions of the Tribunal.

At the conclusion of each placement, students delivered presentations reflecting on their experience, including the aspects they found most valuable and suggestions for future development of the scheme.

Feedback from participants was consistently positive, with students reporting that the placement increased their understanding of legal regulation, professional discipline and the role of the Tribunal.

The Tribunal intends to continue the placement on a rolling basis as part of its wider commitment to education, engagement and increasing awareness.

CSR UPDATE

During 2025, we continued to support a number of community and environmental initiatives as part of our broader corporate social responsibility commitments. Members of the team participated in the London Legal Walk, raising £888 in support of free legal advice services. We also took part in a team building event with Team Tactics, helping to prepare meals for community distribution.

Within the office, we continued to maintain paper-lite working practices, including the introduction of an electronic expenses system to reduce reliance on paper-based processes.

We also introduced TerraCycle recycling boxes to reduce landfill waste from items such as coffee pouches and other refreshment packaging, and maintained our Silver Recycler accreditation with First Mile, achieving a recycling rate of 60% during the year. While these are relatively modest initiatives, they reflect an ongoing focus on making practical and sustainable improvements where possible.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2025, the Tribunal continued to engage with key stakeholders, including the Legal Services Board and the Law Society. All parties collaborated on the refinement and renewal of the three-year Memorandum of Understanding. The Memorandum provides the framework governing the funding, oversight and working arrangements of the Tribunal.

It sets out the respective responsibilities of each organisation and supports the effective operation of the Tribunal. The renewed Memorandum was published in September 2025.

The Tribunal also increased its engagement through [LinkedIn](#) by expanding the range and frequency of content published on its platform.

This included introductory features on members of staff and Board members, updates on Tribunal initiatives and activities and spotlight pieces highlighting students who participated in the Tribunal's placement scheme.

NOTABLE CASES

During 2025, the Tribunal's published judgments present a number of recurring themes of interest to the profession and the public, illustrating both the breadth of the Tribunal's work and the standards expected of solicitors and firms.

The cases selected identify issues of particular importance, beginning with the seriousness with which the Tribunal continues to treat dishonesty.

They demonstrate that dishonesty may arise across a wide range of factual circumstances, from sustained misleading communications over time to a dishonest act in a discrete professional context.

The protection of client money was another significant theme. These cases underline the central importance of honesty, probity and trustworthiness in the handling of money and the management of client affairs.

The judgments also point to the continuing importance of candour. Candour to clients, colleagues, third parties, the regulator and the court is central to the proper administration of justice and to public confidence in the profession.

Finally, the year's published judgments included cases concerning firm governance, anti-money laundering compliance and systems failures.

Together, they demonstrate the continuing importance of effective systems and compliance controls in protecting the public and maintaining confidence in legal services.

The selected cases highlighted overleaf show how these themes arose in practice:

- Chalcraft, Campbell, Nuttall and Clarke reflected dishonesty and regulatory compliance;
- Griffiths, Azotam and Clarke concerned the protection of money and client affairs;
- Stevens, Taylor, Patel and Nuttall highlighted the importance of candour;
- Huggins Lewis Foskett, Tolhurst Fisher LLP and O'Bryen demonstrated the continuing need for effective governance, AML and compliance systems.

Theme	Illustrative Cases	Commentary
Dishonesty: from sustained conduct to one-off misconduct	James Martin Taylor; Maxmillian Alexander Knowles Campbell; Charles Michael Stevens; Vishal Patel	The judgments show that dishonesty may arise in very different contexts: prolonged misleading communication with clients, a false pupillage application, misleading another solicitor in a property transaction, or submitting false CV material. Our judgments evidence that dishonesty is fundamentally incompatible with the standards of the profession. Where dishonesty is proved or admitted, strike off will ordinarily follow unless exceptional circumstances are established.
Regulatory reach where no practising certificate is held at the time of misconduct	Stuart Nuttall; Gavin Clarke	These cases demonstrate that the Tribunal's jurisdiction and the standards expected of solicitors are not avoided because a solicitor does not hold a practising certificate at the time of the misconduct. Nuttall concerned a solicitor on the Roll who did not hold a practising certificate when the relevant conduct occurred, including dishonest misrepresentation and failure to co-operate with the SRA. Clarke concerned a solicitor who acted as a solicitor in criminal appeal proceedings when he did not hold a practising certificate, obtained money from a member of the public, failed to return it, and held client money when not permitted to do so. Both cases resulted in strike off.
Client money, fiduciary responsibility and financial impropriety	Alison Haley Griffiths; Charles Ogbonna Azotam; David James Chalcraft; Gavin Clarke	The most serious financial misconduct cases involved misappropriation of money, client account shortages, or misleading clients and others about the true position of matters. These cases underline the significance of trust in the solicitor-client relationship. The protection of client money remains at the heart of public confidence in the profession.

Theme	Illustrative Cases	Commentary
Candour to clients, the regulator, the court and third parties	Charles Michael Stevens; James Martin Taylor; Vishal Patel; Stuart Nuttall	Several judgments concerned inaccurate or misleading information given to clients, third parties, employers, Counsel's clerk, the regulator, or in contexts connected to legal proceedings and complaint handling. The cases demonstrate that candour is not a technical requirement. It is integral to public confidence and to the proper administration of justice.
Firm governance, AML and systems compliance	Huggins Lewis Foskett; Tolhurst Fisher LLP; Stefanie Anne O'Bryen	The published outcomes also included firm and systems-based cases. These matters reinforce the importance of effective policies, controls, procedures, risk assessments and compliance arrangements. They show that failures in governance and risk management can themselves be disciplinary matters, whether or not dishonesty is alleged.

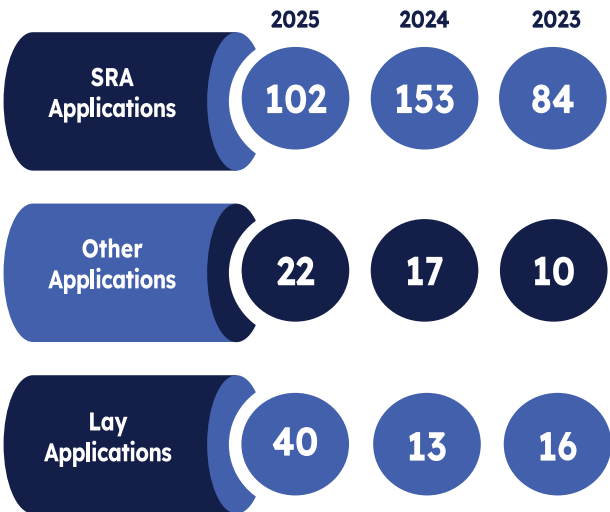
CASE DATA - THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

164	Cases received
127	Cases Concluded
70%	of cases concluded within 9 months
275	Court Sitting Days
£10,545	Average Cost per Court
129	Judgments produced
65%	of Judgments issued within 4 weeks

2025 was a particularly active year for the Tribunal, as illustrated by the ‘Year in Numbers’ presented opposite.

The pages that follow provide a more detailed analysis of the cases determined by the Tribunal in 2025.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

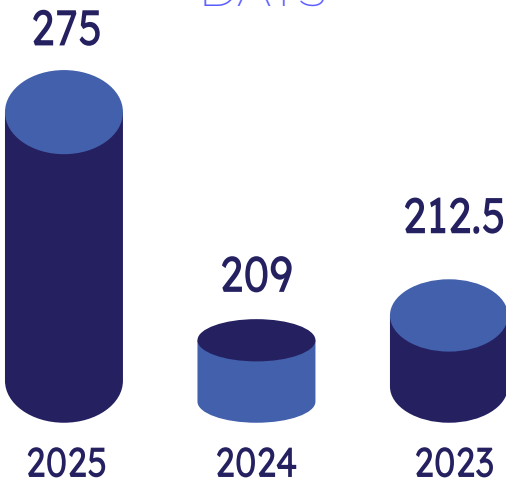


Information regarding the Key Performance Indicators can be found on the Tribunal’s [website](#).

The Tribunal received 102 cases from the SRA in 2025, a reduction of 33% compared with 2024 (153). Although marginally higher than the volumes recorded in 2023 (84) and 2022 (89), this reflects a return to more typical levels following the temporary increase in referrals in 2024, attributable to the SRA’s clearance of a historical backlog.

‘Other Applications’ include non-SRA matters such as applications to vary Tribunal orders and appeals against SRA sanctions. These increased by 29% compared with the previous year, continuing the upward trajectory seen since 2023. The Tribunal also recorded a significant increase in Lay Applications, receiving 40 during the year.

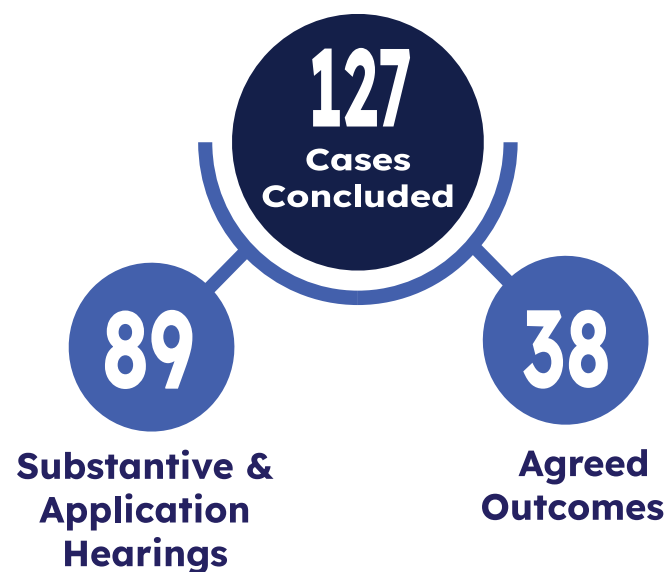
NUMBER OF COURT SITTING DAYS



The Tribunal sat for 275 days in 2025, the highest number recorded since 2019 (308 days).

While the accompanying graphic illustrates trends across 2023–2025, this increase reflects the higher volume of cases received during 2024.

Further information on the length and format of sittings is provided later in the report.



CASES CONCLUDED

As shown opposite, 127 cases were concluded before the Tribunal in 2025.

These were split between Substantive and Application Hearings (such as non-SRA matters e.g. applications for restoration to the Roll) (70%) and Agreed Outcomes (30%).

LENGTH OF HEARINGS

	2025	2024	2023
0.5- 1 day	48	34	37
2 days	17	15	11
3 days	13	7	6
4 days	2	5	7
5 days	2	1	1
6 days	4	2	2
7 days	3	0	0
8 days	0	0	1
9 days	1	0	0
10-20 days	1	2	1

The distribution of hearing lengths in 2025 shows an increase in shorter sittings.

The number of one day hearings rose to 48, representing an increase of approximately 38% compared with 2024 (34). Whilst typically the Tribunal is dealing with more complex cases, this reflected dealing with the SRA's historical backlog.

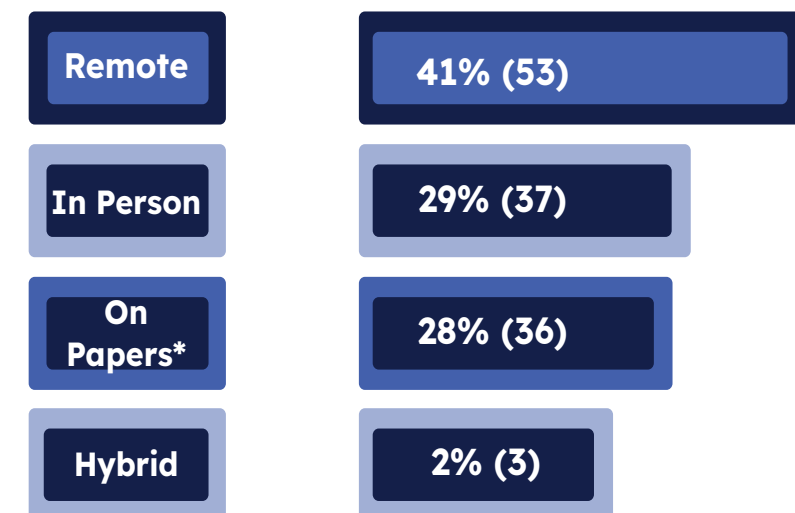
As can be seen, consistent with the Tribunal hearing more complex cases, hearings of over 5 days more than doubled on the previous year.

Case Management Hearings and Agreed Outcomes are not included in this information. Detail on the format of hearings is provided overleaf.

The breakdown of the matters concluded is shown in the graphic opposite. Although 127 cases were concluded, these resulted in 129 hearings as two matters involved multiple respondents whose cases concluded on separate occasions.

*Cases concluded 'on papers' are typically presented as Agreed Outcomes considered by a Panel remotely.

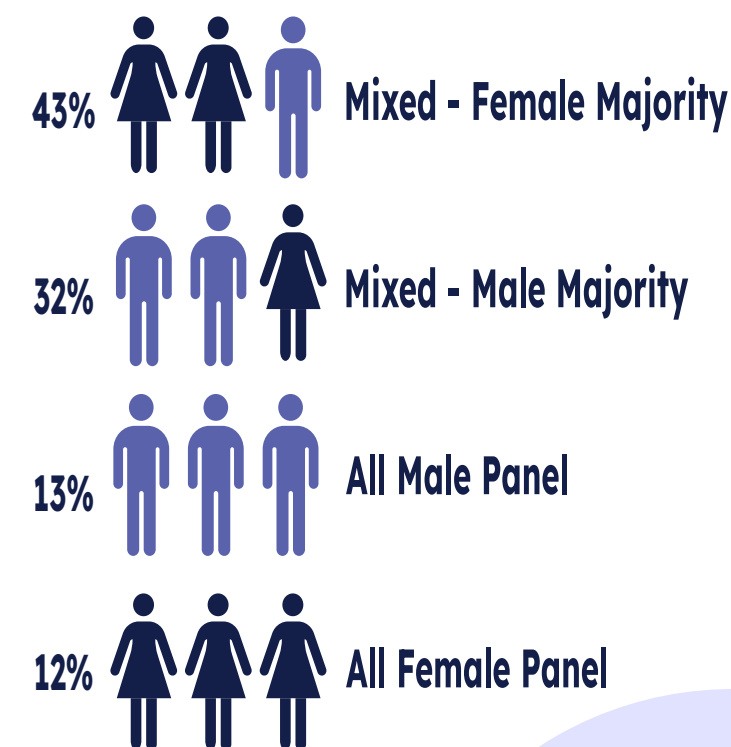
FORMAT OF HEARINGS



PANEL COMPOSITION

Although 127 matters were concluded in 2025, the graphic opposite reflects only those cases decided by a Substantive Hearing or through a formal determination of an application (for example, restoration to the roll), excluding Case Management hearings and Agreed Outcomes.

Among these cases, the majority of cases were heard by mixed-gender panels, reflecting a consistent use of diverse panel composition. Among these, panels with a female majority (43%) were more common than those with a male majority (32%).



SUBSTANTIVE HEARINGS

SANCTIONS

In 2025, the Tribunal held 67 substantive hearings. Due to the fact that cases received can contain multiple respondents, the total number of respondents upon which an order was imposed was 74.

Details of the individual sanctions are shown in the graphic opposite.

In the 14 cases where the Tribunal issued a fine, the number of fines within each fine band were as follows:

Level 1 - £0-2,000	2
Level 2 - £2,001-7,500	3
Level 3 - £7,501-15,000	5
Level 4 - £15,001-50,000	4
Level 5 - £50,001 - unlimited	0

Details in relation to the amount of fine imposed are featured later on in this report.

In relation to Respondents where a fixed period suspension was imposed, the length of those suspensions were as follows:-

Less than 6 Months	2
6 Months	6
9 Months	2
12 Months	6
24 Months	1

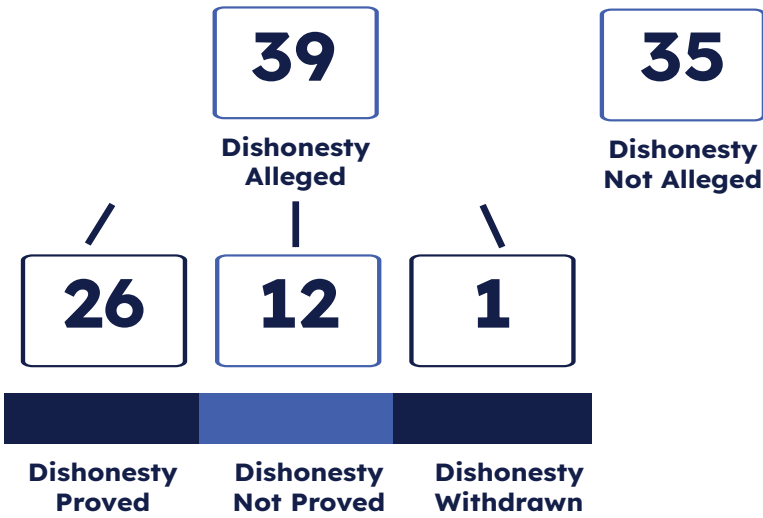
	2025	2024	2023
Struck Off	23	25	30
Fixed Period Suspension	17	5	7
Fine	14	17	8
Restriction Order	12	3	1
S43 Order*	2	1	1
Reprimand	2	2	1
Allegations Dismissed	16	7	6

Six of these fixed period suspensions were further suspended for a period of time.

Regarding the twelve respondents who received restrictions on their practice, these restrictions were imposed in addition to fixed-period suspensions for seven individuals and in relation to fines for five.

*A Section 43 Order prevents a person from being employed or remunerated in a legal practice, save with the prior consent of the regulator.

DISHONESTY



The data opposite relates to the dishonesty aspect of allegations determined during a substantive hearing.

In relation to lack of integrity, this was alleged in relation to 68 respondents and was proved in relation to 50 and not proved in relation to 18. Of the 12 respondents where dishonesty was found not proved, 3 were found to have lacked integrity.

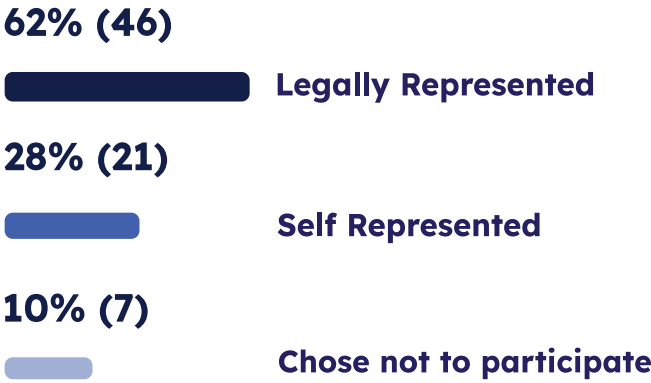
ALLEGATIONS PROVED BY RELEVANT RULE

The graphic below identifies the rules breached in cases proved against individual Respondents.

SRA Principles 2019	41%	SRA Code of Conduct (Firms)	3%
SRA Principles 2011	22%	SRA Accounts Rules 2011	2%
SRA 2019 Code of Conduct (Sols)	16%	Various: Authorisation, Practice Framework, Money Laundering, Solicitors Act 1974	2%
SRA 2011 Code of Conduct	7%	Overseas Practice Rules	1%
SRA Accounts Rules 2019	6%		

RESPONDENT REPRESENTATION

For the second year, we are publishing data on the representation status of Respondents. In cases where Respondents chose not to participate in any hearing, including the Substantive Hearings, matters were determined and decided in their absence, after careful consideration of whether the case could proceed e.g. had the Respondent been given notice of the hearing etc.



AGREED OUTCOMES

In 2025, a total of 42 Agreed Outcomes were submitted, of which 38 were approved and 4 were rejected. Of the 38 Agreed Outcomes approved, this resulted in sanctions against 41 individual Respondents (due to some cases containing multiple Respondents). Details regarding the timeliness of Agreed Outcome submissions and their impact on sitting days are provided in the [2025 Key Performance Measurement Report](#). This section of the report will address the sanctions imposed and provide information on the admitted breaches of rules.

SANCTIONS

This graphic opposite details the sanctions imposed in 2025 with a comparison in relation to previous years.

The restriction order mentioned relates to conditions imposed on a practising certificate and was applied to 2 respondents who also received a fixed-period suspension.

In the 11 cases where a fine was imposed, the number of fines within each fine band were as follows:

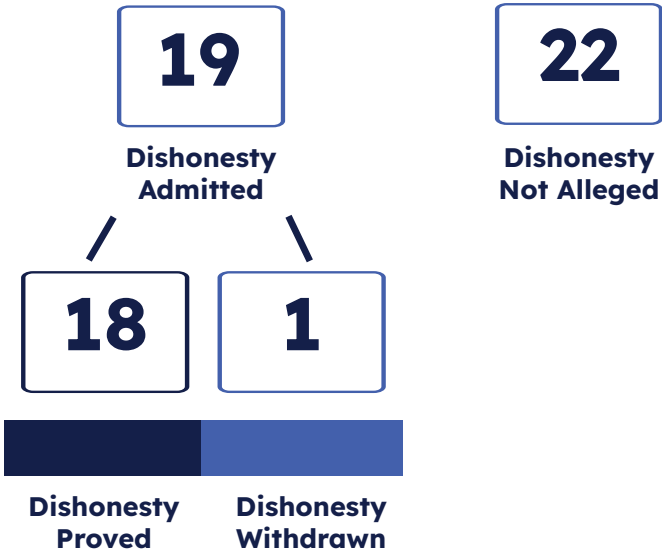
Level 1 - £0-5,000	2
Level 2 - £5,001-10,000	4
Level 3 - £10,001-20,000	1
Level 4 - £20,001-70,000	2
Level 5 - £70,001	2

In relation to the 11 respondents where a fixed period suspension was imposed, the length of those suspensions were as follows:-

< than 1 year	5
12 Months	4
18 Months	1
24 Months	1

	2025	2024	2023
Struck Off	18	18	25
Fixed Period Suspension	11	9	7
Fine	11	9	10
Restriction Order	2	4	5
Costs Only	1	0	0
S43 Clerk Order	0	1	0

DISHONESTY



Of the 41 respondents whose cases were concluded by way of Agreed Outcome, the graphic opposite relates to the dishonesty aspect of allegations admitted.

Additionally, in relation to lack of integrity 28 Respondents admitted this. It was not alleged in respect of the remaining 13.

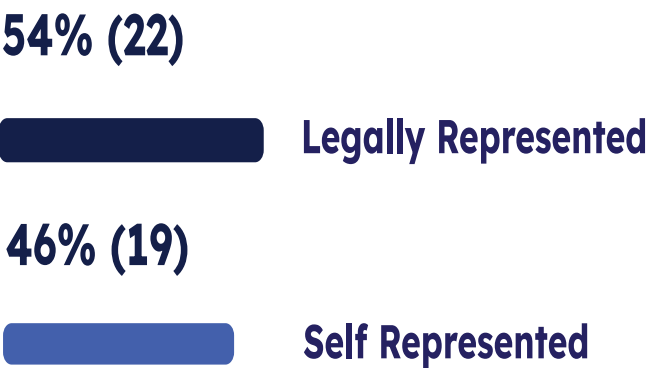
ALLEGATIONS BY RELEVANT RULE

This graphic outlines the specific rules breached in cases where allegations were admitted by individual Respondents. Breaches of the 2019 Principles are the most prevalent type of admitted allegation in Agreed Outcomes, mirroring the pattern of proved allegations seen in Substantive Hearings.

SRA Principles 2019	35%	SRA Accounts Rules 2019	7%
SRA Principles 2011	20%	SRA Accounts Rules 2011	4%
SRA 2019 Code of Conduct (Sols)	13%	Money Laundering Regulations	2%
SRA 2011 Code of Conduct	9%	Various: Authorisation, Practice Framework, Solicitors Act 1974, Code of Conduct 2007	2%
SRA Code of Conduct (Firms)	8%		

RESPONDENT REPRESENTATION

The graphic opposite demonstrates the representation status of Respondents who have entered into an Agreed Outcome. Regarding hearing format, the majority of the 38 Agreed Outcomes concluded were determined on the papers (32). However, 4 were concluded on the first day of an in-person Substantive Hearing, and 2 on the first day of a remote Substantive Hearing.



OTHER APPLICATIONS

The SDT is responsible for adjudicating upon applications made under the provisions of the Solicitors Act 1974 (as amended) (“the Act”), such as applications for restoration to the Roll, the variation/removal of conditions upon practice and S44e Appeals and revocation of a S43 Order. By way of context, detailed below is a brief overview of the types of applications considered:

A S44E Appeal allows a solicitor to challenge a regulatory decision of the SRA to the Tribunal.

Revocation of a S43 Order refers to an application by an individual (usually a Solicitor’s Employee) to lift or cancel a restriction placed on them under Section 43 of the Solicitors Act 1974.

The Tribunal publishes a Guidance Note on Other Powers, the purpose of which is to assist the parties, the public and the legal profession in understanding the Tribunal’s decision-making process in applications such as those referred to above.

In addition to the above Orders, there were 3 matters in which individuals applied to withdraw their application therefore did not proceed to a hearing and 2 matters where the SRA withdrew the proceedings.

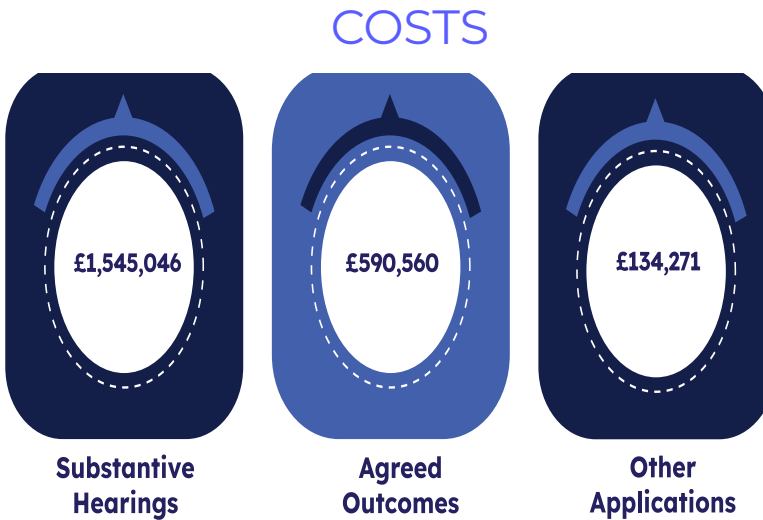
	2025
S44E/14C Appeals - Dismissed	5
Variation of Conditions on Practising Certificate - Granted	5
Variation of Conditions on Practising Certificate - Refused	3
Restoration to the Roll - Refused	3
Revocation of S43 Order - Granted	1
Application for Stay of Proceedings - Granted	1

COSTS & FINES

In 2025, the total costs imposed increased by 20% compared to 2024, rising from £1,906,756 to £2,269,879.



Total costs and fines issued in 2025



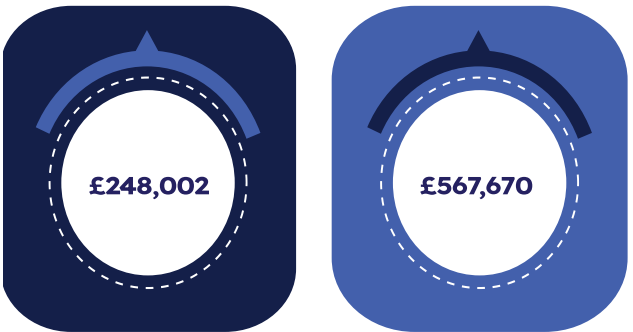
Apportionment of all Costs

Of the total costs awarded, £209,242 were ordered to be paid by the SRA following matters where allegations were found not proved.

‘Other Applications’ are non-SRA matters e.g. applications for restoration to the Roll and other significant procedural hearings.

There has been a decrease in fines imposed following Substantive Hearings, falling to £248,002 from £747,401 in 2024.

Fines imposed via Agreed Outcomes have increased rising to £567,670 (2024: £150,374).



Apportionment of all Fines

Apportionment of all Fines

EDI DATA

This section reports on the demographics of respondents appearing before the Tribunal in conjunction with the sanctions imposed of Fines, Suspensions and those Struck Off the Roll. Historically, this information has been challenging to capture; however, the integration of an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) form into our website and amendment to our data collection process means we have seen an improvement in responses enabling us to better analyse this information.

For some sections, given the small number of individuals involved, we have intentionally generalised the demographic data and not included the number of individuals to which the data relates to protect the anonymity of respondents and avoid inadvertent identification. Therefore sanction-linked demographic data is reported on a combined two-year basis during 2024-2025.

Although Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) information is now sought earlier in proceedings, demographic data is included only where a case has concluded. This ensures consistency in the presentation of sanction linked data and avoids including individuals whose matters remain ongoing.

The demographic information reflects voluntary EDI responses submitted to the Tribunal and therefore represents only those Respondents who completed the EDI form and, as indicated above, whose case has concluded. It does not represent the full population of individuals subject to sanction during the reporting period.

Strike Off

During the combined reporting period, 84 Respondents were struck off (43 in 2024 and 41 in 2025). The data below represents Respondents whose cases concluded and who completed the EDI form. It does not represent the full population of individuals subject to strike off during this period.

Ethnicity	
White	64%
Asian British	18%
Mixed Multiple Ethnic Groups	9%
Other Ethnic Background	9%

Disability	
Disability declared	9%
No Disability declared	64%
Prefer not to say	27%

Gender	
Male	73%
Female	27%

Age	
35 or under	9%
36-45	18%
46-55	55%
56-65	18%

DATA SHARING WITH THE SRA

On an ongoing basis, we collaborate with the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to verify the sanction data included in its [Diversity Monitoring Annual Report](#). The most recent report, covering the period **1 November 2023 to 31 October 2024**, was published on 2 February 2026.

Suspension

A total of 38 Respondents were made subject to suspension during the combined reporting period (13 in 2024 and 25 in 2025). The data below represents Respondents whose cases concluded and who completed the EDI form. It does not represent the full population of individuals subject to suspension during this period.

Ethnicity	
White	33%
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	56%
Prefer not to say	11%

Disability	
Disability declared	0%
No Disability declared	78%
Prefer not to say	22%

Gender	
Male	78%
Female	22%

Age	
35 or under	22%
36-45	0%
46-55	33%
56-65	0%
65 and over	33%
Prefer not to say	12%

Fine

During the combined reporting period, 51 fines were imposed, (26 in 2024 and 25 in 2025).

Given the small number of EDI responses in certain categories, some demographic groupings have been combined to preserve anonymity.

Ethnicity	
White	55%
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	45%

Disability	
Disability declared	18%
No Disability declared	55%
Prefer not to say	27%

Gender	
Male	55%
Female	45%

Age	
36-45	27%
46-55	55%
56-65	9%
65 and over	9%

THE YEAR AHEAD

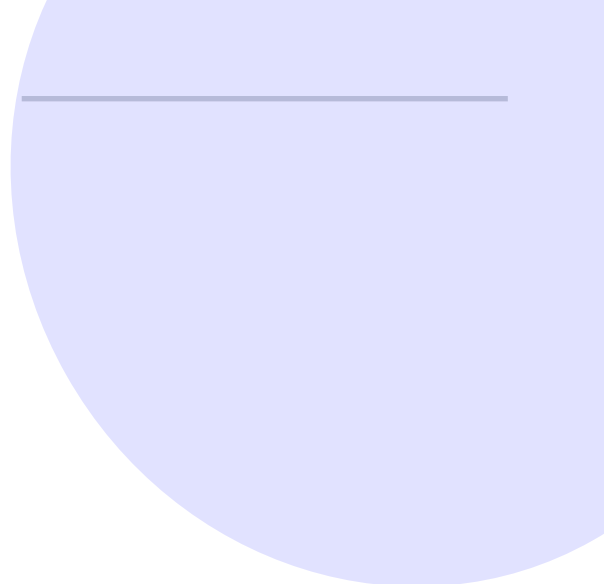
Looking ahead to 2026, the Tribunal's focus will remain on delivering transparent, fair and efficient justice, while continuing to ensure that its resources are used responsibly and proportionately.

Building on the progress made during 2025, the Tribunal will continue to focus on enhancing operational effectiveness, maintaining public and professional confidence, and ensuring that it remains well placed to meet the demands of an evolving regulatory landscape.

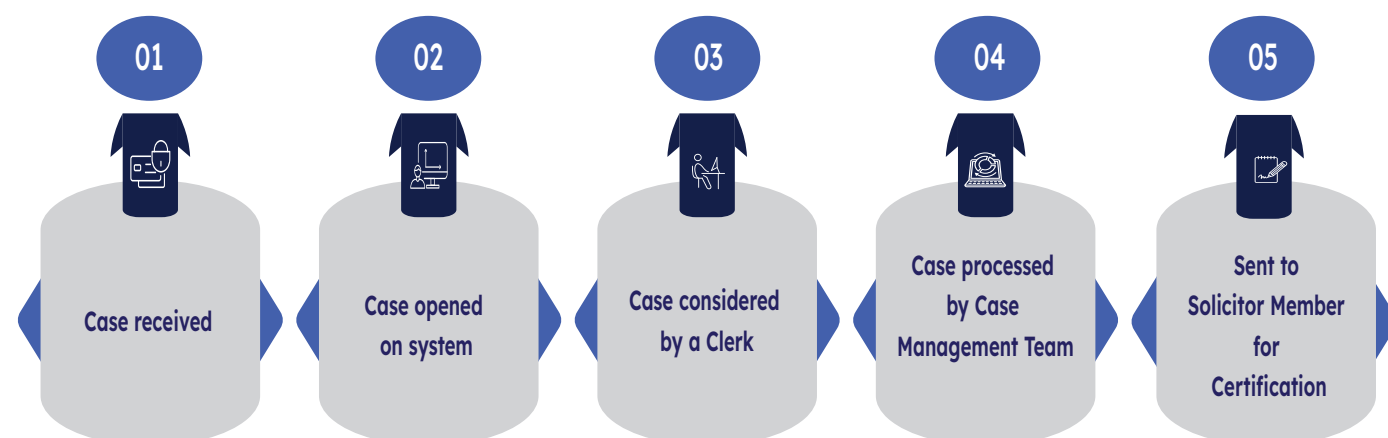
Alongside its core adjudicative function, the Tribunal will continue to explore opportunities to improve efficiency, strengthen stakeholder engagement, support good governance and promote greater understanding of its role and work.

The Tribunal will also continue to invest in its people, governance arrangements and long-term organisational resilience, ensuring that it remains equipped to respond to future challenges while delivering value for money and maintaining the highest standards of independence and transparency.

APPENDIX 1



LIFECYCLE OF PROCEEDINGS



APPLICATIONS & CASE MANAGEMENT

The graphic above outlines the process for when cases are received from the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) or members of the public known as ‘Lay Applicants’ and the initial administrative processes which are undertaken once the case is received. The starting point is that a case needs to be ‘certified’ in order to be accepted by the Tribunal. This means that, on its face, the facts as presented give rise to a case to answer.

Following on from step 5 above, if a Solicitor Member is in any doubt or difficulty in relation to the certification, the case will be referred to a Panel of 3 members for consideration.

If there is no case to answer in respect of any one matter (i.e. it is not certified) then it does not proceed (but may be referred back to the SRA for further investigation).

Once a case has been certified, Part 1 Standard Directions are issued and a Case Management Hearing (CMH) is listed approximately 14 weeks from the date of certification of the case. Part 1 Standard Directions provide dates for the Answer (the Respondent’s response to the allegations) to be served within 8 weeks and the Reply (the SRA’s response to the Answer) within 10 weeks. Parties will be expected to have completed a checklist of requirements which should be filed with the Tribunal 1 week prior to the CMH.

If it has been agreed by the Tribunal and the parties that the listed CMH should be vacated as it is not required, Part 2 Standard Directions are issued administratively by the Tribunal. These include a substantive hearing date and further directions in relation to service of case documentation.

If the CMH is not vacated, the substantive hearing date and Part 2 Standard Directions referred to above are issued at the CMH by the Tribunal panel.

It is common for parties to indicate their intention to pursue an Agreed Outcome between the case being certified and the CMH.

In such instances, a further CMH will be scheduled to consider the proposed Agreed Outcome.

SUBSTANTIVE HEARINGS

Tribunal hearings are conducted either in person at 45 Ludgate Hill, remotely via Zoom, or in a hybrid format – where the hearing takes place in person but some witnesses give evidence remotely.

Hearings are open to the public unless the Tribunal directs that a matter be heard in private. The Tribunal encourages members of the public to observe proceedings via Zoom allowing a much wider audience to attend and follow proceedings.

A typical substantive hearing (i.e. a full final hearing of the issues) follows the following format:

- The SRA presents the case, outlining the allegations and the reasons the matter has been brought before the Tribunal.
- Evidence is presented, including the examination and cross-examination of the Respondent and any witnesses.
- Closing submissions are delivered by the Respondent with the Applicant having the right to reply on points of law.

- The Tribunal considers the evidence and submissions to reach a determination on the case.
- The Tribunal delivers its decision on whether the allegations have been proved.
- Following the decision, submissions are made regarding mitigation and the issue of costs, where appropriate.
- The Tribunal retires and determines the sanction and costs.
- The Tribunal announces the sanction imposed and details the costs order.

THE ORDER & JUDGMENT

Following the hearing, an Order is issued to the parties confirming the sanction imposed and any costs awarded.

A full written Judgment is subsequently prepared by the Clerk to the Tribunal and approved by the panel. This Judgment sets out the Tribunal’s findings and the reasoning underpinning its decision.

APPEAL PROCESS

Upon receipt of the Tribunal Judgment, parties have 21 days in order to lodge an Appeal with the Administrative Court. The Tribunal is not a party to appeals against its decisions.

PUBLICATION OF JUDGMENTS

The Tribunal publishes all final Judgments on its website as a public record, unless a direction to the contrary is made in a specific case.