

Annex 7A



**General
Chiropractic
Council**

Test of Competence Annual Report 2024



Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Contents..... | 2 |
| Report on the 2024 Test of Competence Year..... | 3 |
| 2024: an overview | 3 |
| Recruitment of TOC Assessors and Chairs | 3 |
| Test of Competence Review Meeting | 3 |
| External Examiner Appraisals and Annual report..... | 3 |
| 2024 Test of Competence Results | 4 |
| Number of annual TOC candidates since 2015..... | 5 |
| Outcomes of all tests taken since 2015..... | 5 |
| Further Evidence..... | 6 |
| Final results once further evidence taken into account | 6 |
| Who takes the Test of Competence?..... | 7 |
| Change over Time..... | 7 |
| Candidate Qualifications | 8 |
| Nationality of qualification awarding body | 8 |
| Graduation year of candidates | 8 |
| Equality and Diversity Data | 9 |
| Age and Sex Data | 9 |
| Ethnicity..... | 9 |
| Religion/ Belief | 10 |
| Do you consider yourself to have a Disability?..... | 10 |
| Sexuality..... | 10 |

Report on the 2024 Test of Competence Year

2024: an overview

The number of Test of Competence (TOC) candidates has remained relatively stable, with 36 candidates in 2024 compared to 38 in 2023. The total number of TOC attempts also remained unchanged at 39 for both years. Despite this slight fluctuation, the figures remain higher than pre-2022 levels, indicating a sustained interest from overseas-trained chiropractors seeking to practise in the UK. This trend suggests continued demand for UK chiropractic registration among international applicants, reflecting both the profession's global appeal and the UK's attractiveness as a destination for chiropractic practice. The consistency in candidate numbers highlights the ongoing relevance of the TOC process.

Recruitment of TOC Assessors and Chairs

A limited number of TOC assessors and chairs serve terms of no more than eight years. Those who began with the current version of the TOC in 2015 have already reached the end of their terms, and more members will follow suit in the coming years. To address this, the GCC conducts an annual recruitment round to replenish the pool of assessors and chairs. This year, we are pleased to welcome six new panel members, one of whom is being mentored with the expectation they will progress to chairing panels.

In addition to the annual recruitment round, existing assessors interested in becoming chairs can apply to participate in the TOC Chair Mentoring Programme. This program offers invaluable support and guidance as assessors transition into the role of chair. Two assessors completed the mentoring programme during 2024 and have now been approved to serve as Chairs of the TOC assessment panel in the future.

Test of Competence Review Meeting

The Annual Review Meeting was held on 9 September. It was attended by assessors, External Examiner, GCC Staff and chaired by the TOC External Examiner. It provided an opportunity to review administrative matters and feedback from candidates, as well as for assessors to raise concerns or issues for discussion.

The meeting discussed topics including consideration of how the new Code of Professional Practice will impact on the TOC.

A number of actions came out of the Test of Competence Review Meeting, including minor amendments to processes and documentation.

External Examiner Appraisals and Annual report

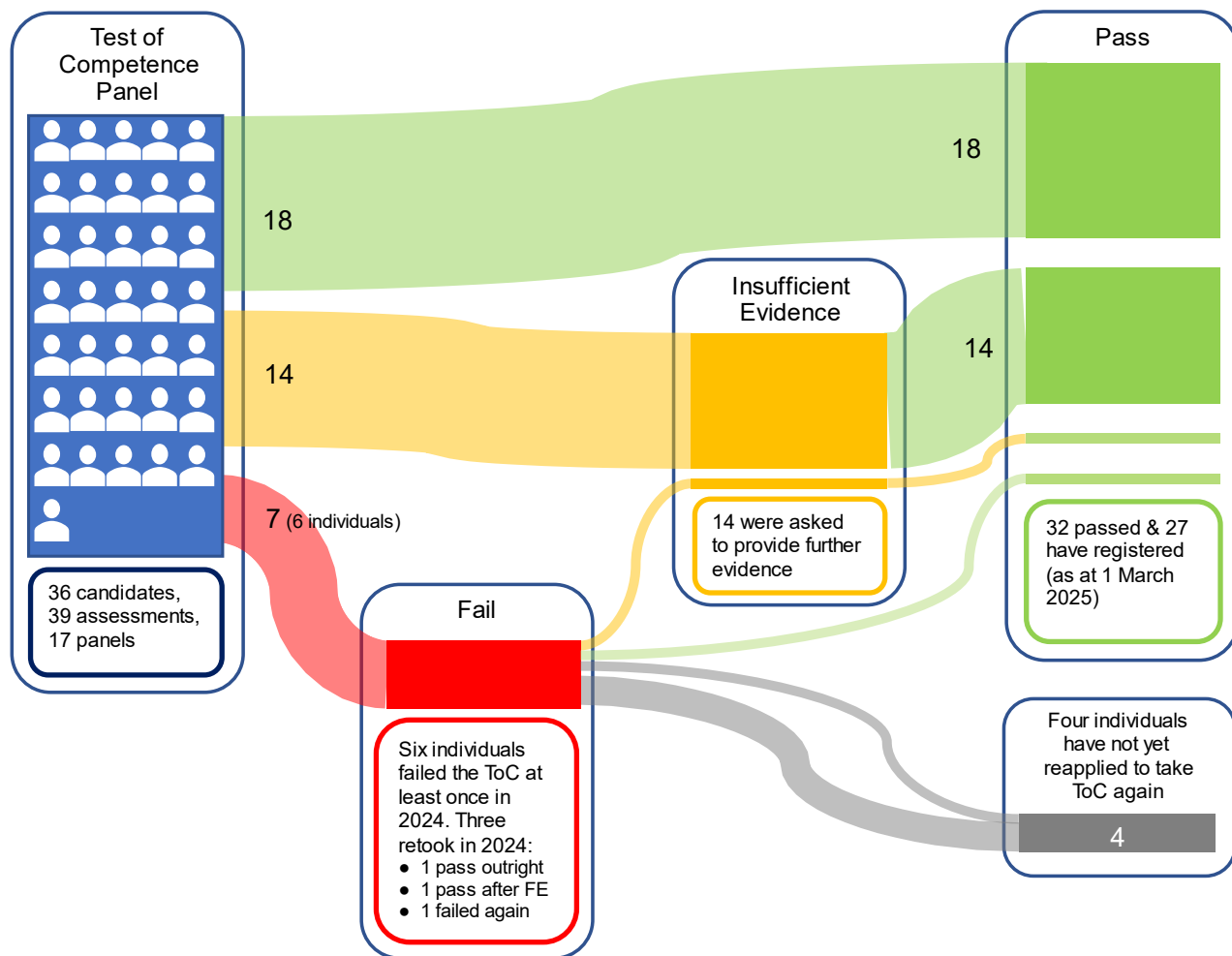
The External Examiner quality assures the TOC process, and, at the end of each year, conducts appraisals of all assessors and chairs.

The External Examiner has produced an annual report covering 2024 that sits alongside this report and includes both recommendations and suggestions for improvement of the TOC. The GCC's response is published at the end of that report.

2024 Test of Competence Results

In 2024, 36 individual candidates took the TOC and 39 attempts were made, with 2 candidates passing the TOC on the second attempt, and one candidate failing twice. Of the 32 candidates that have passed, 27 have since registered (as at 1 March 2025).

Candidates may either pass or fail the TOC. Those considered close to passing are asked to provide further evidence before a final decision can be taken. They will then either pass or fail based on the additional information submitted.

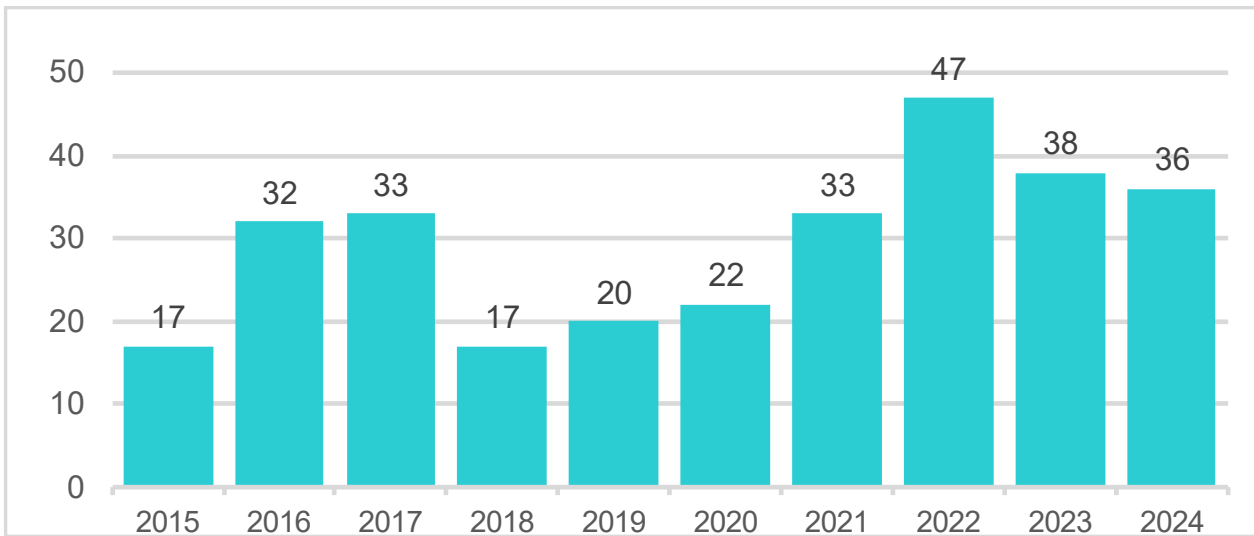


This report examines the data from the year 2024 alone. We note that one candidate, who had previously failed the test in 2023, retook it in 2024 (passing after further evidence). For clarity, this candidate is included in this chart as a new candidate.

When viewing graphs and figures, please consider whether the figures presented relate to individual candidates, or the total number of tests taken.

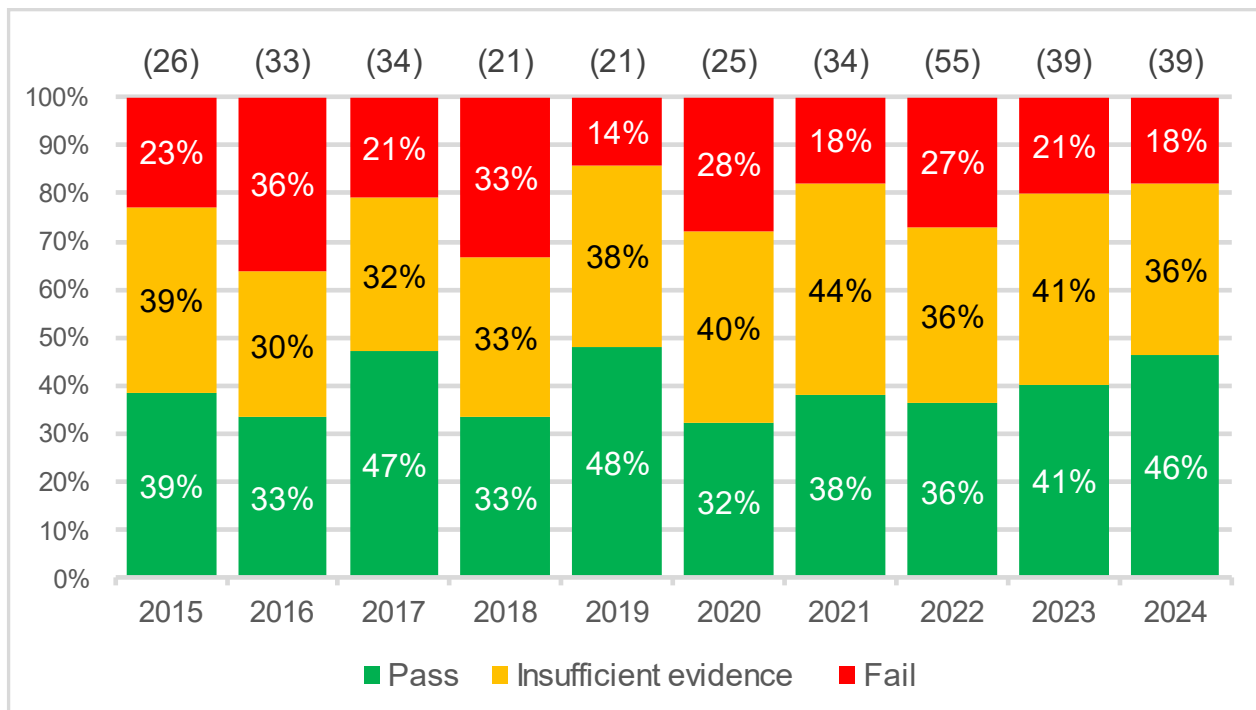
Number of annual TOC candidates since 2015

Number of candidates taking at least one test each year.



Outcomes of all tests taken since 2015

Comparison of all test outcomes since 2015 (total tests taken each year in brackets)



Over the years, the Test of Competence pass rates have fluctuated, with 2024 recording a 46% pass rate – the third highest pass rate since 2015. This corresponded with a low fail rate of 18%.

However, a significant portion of candidates (36%) still received an "insufficient evidence" outcome – meaning approximately one-third of candidates did not achieve a definitive result. While improvements in pass and fail percentages point to enhancements in candidate preparation or test alignment, the high proportion of insufficient evidence outcomes remains an area for further attention. It must always be considered that the number of TOC attempts annually is still relatively small and therefore any single year's statistics are not necessarily significant.

Further Evidence

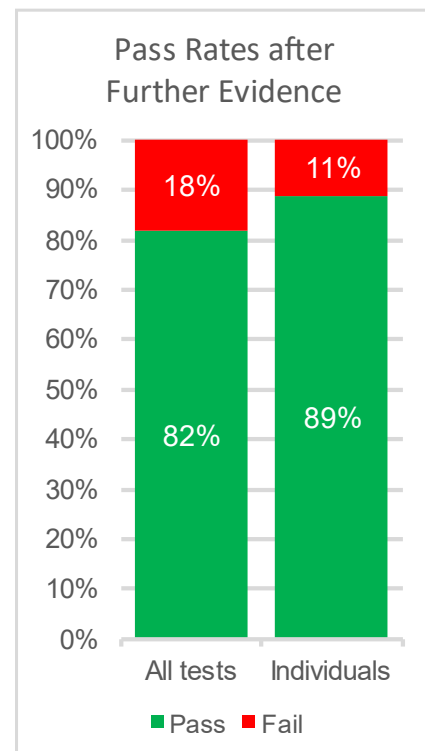
Candidates were required to submit further evidence on a number of topics, including:

- Patient clinical records
- Conditions
- Appropriate use of ionising radiation
- Patient reported outcome measures
- Biopsychosocial model
- Evidence based practice

Final results once further evidence taken into account

The final pass rate in 2024 (following further evidence) was 82% of tests (89% of candidates).

It is very rare for a candidate that is asked to submit further evidence to then fail to submit the evidence, or to fail the TOC. However, due to the relatively small sample size, it's challenging to draw specific conclusions from these results.



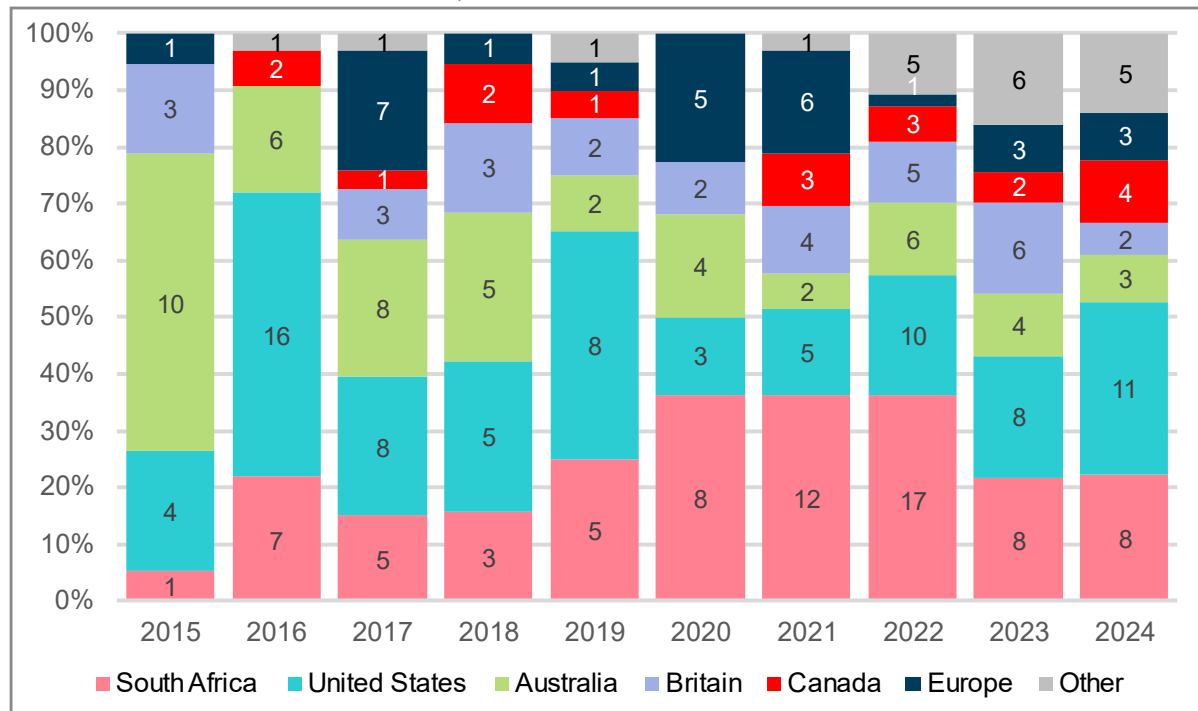
Who takes the Test of Competence?

We ask all candidates applying to take the Test of Competence to provide details of protected characteristics as well as their nationality. Further details can be found under Equality and Diversity from page 9 onwards.



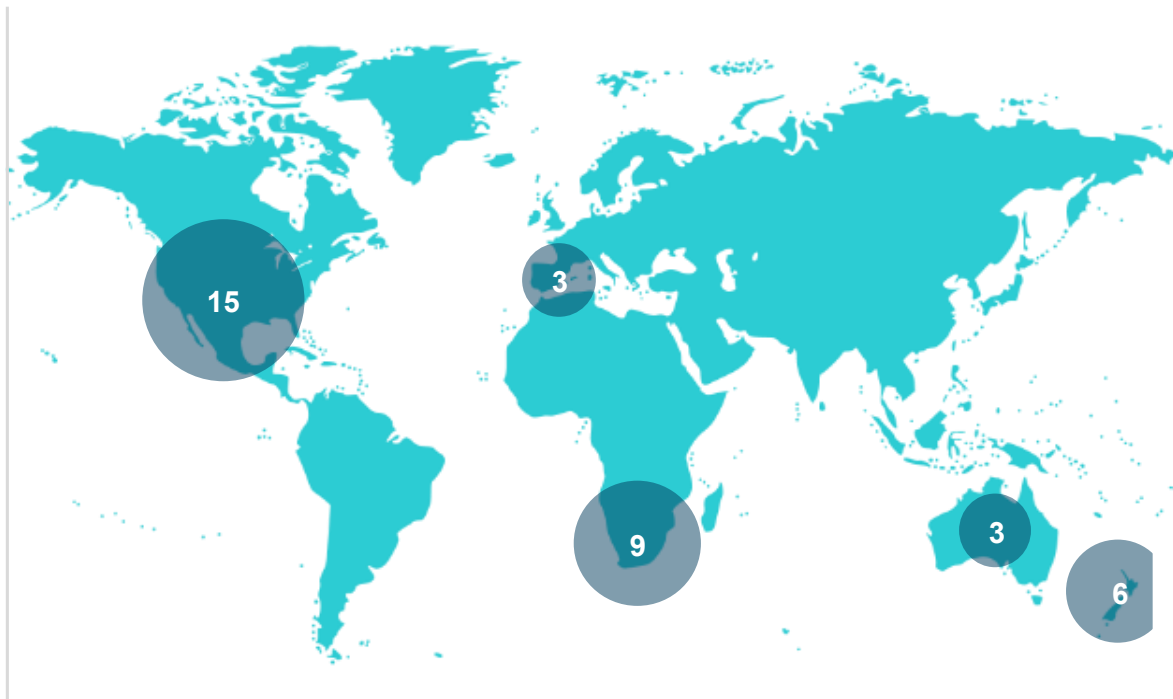
Change over Time

Notable trends include a significant increase in American candidates (the highest since 2016), which now constitute almost a third of the pool, a first application from a Vietnamese candidate and an increase in New Zealand nationals (2024:4 (of the 5 marked “other”), 2023:3, 2022:1, 2021 and earlier:0).



Candidate Qualifications

Nationality of qualification awarding body



The USA continues to be the most common country to qualify (2023:17), with South Africa remaining second (2023:8).

New Zealand is experiencing notable growth (2023:4, 2022:1, 2021 and earlier:0). Meanwhile, both Australia and Spain each decreased from 4 candidates to 3 candidates on 2023 figures.

Graduation year of candidates

| Year of graduation | Number of candidates 2024 (2023) |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1990-1999 | 0 (4) |
| 2000-2005 | 0 (0) |
| 2006-2010 | 5 (2) |
| 2011-2015 | 4 (1) |
| 2016-2020 | 9 (12) |
| 2021+ | 18 (20) |

The most significant representation continues to come from recent graduates, with 18 candidates from the 2021+ cohort. This is expected as recent graduates are likely to be more mobile, and perhaps more able to adapt to working in different countries.

Equality and Diversity Data

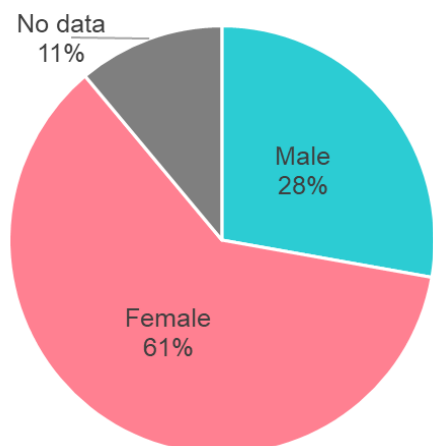
As part of the application process, candidates are asked to complete an Equality and Diversity Monitoring form, which aids the GCC in ensuring TOC policies and processes are fair and inclusive.

Collated data from candidates who took the TOC during 2024 is given below. The data is percentages of candidates (n=36), rather than tests taken. "No data" is used when the data is not completed, it is not the same as "prefer not to say".

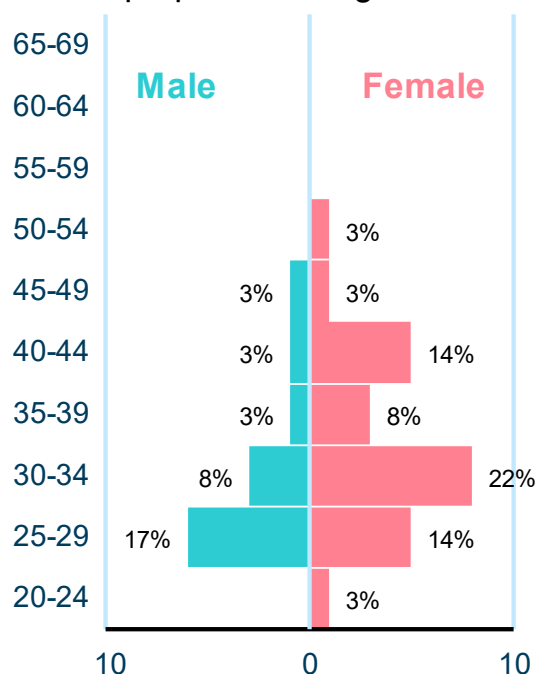
Age and Sex Data

There was a notable female majority in TOC candidates in 2024 (66% female, 33% male) – diverging from the 50:50 split in the whole register. The data collected for the register is not defined as sex or gender, nor is there an option to opt out.

Separately we also ask TOC candidates for their sex (for monitoring purposes), with an opportunity to opt out:

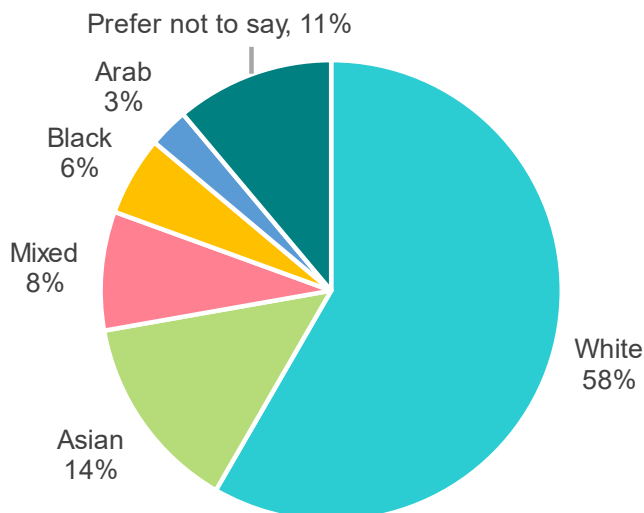


M/F age profile of ToC candidates recorded for purposes of register



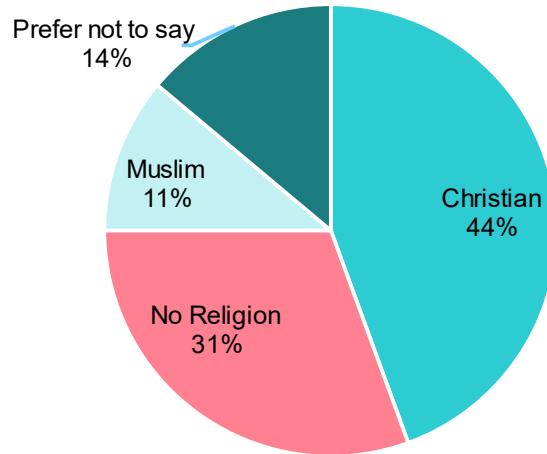
Ethnicity

The proportion of white TOC candidates is lower than in the register (77%). However, given this is a small population with a sizeable proportion where the ethnicity of candidates is unknown, no conclusions should be drawn from the figures.



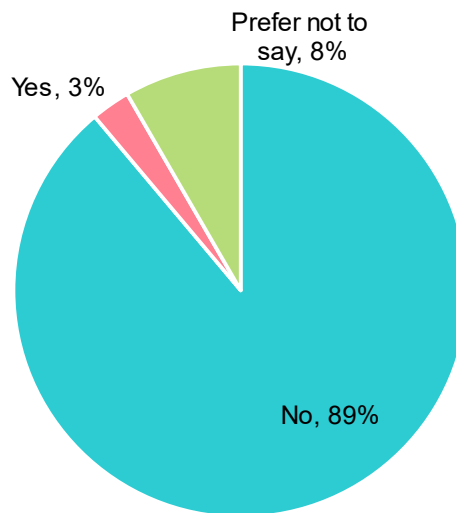
Religion/ Belief

Although TOC candidates appear more likely to have a religious belief than the GCC Register (38% no religion), this is a small population and no conclusions should be drawn from the figures.



Do you consider yourself to have a Disability?

One applicant shared that they considered themselves to have a disability.



Sexuality

Candidates were more likely to choose “prefer not to say” in response to the question about their sexuality, than in response to the other diversity questions.

