

Admissions and Licensing Committee 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



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Chair's foreword: Ann Thunhurst

2025 was a year of significant challenge and change for the Admissions and Licensing Committee (ALC) and the Professional Authorisation and Standards (PAS) team. The impact of the Mazur judgment resulted in an unprecedented increase in Practice Rights applications, placing considerable demands on the organisation. Despite this, fair, proportionate and timely decision-making was maintained throughout the year.



The Committee continued to support access to qualification and authorisation pathways, receiving over 1,600 applications. Decision times remained stable, demonstrating the resilience of our processes and the commitment of both Committee members and staff.

During the year, 41 applications were referred to the Committee for consideration beyond delegated authority. While these cases often involved complex issues, most applications continued to be determined efficiently by the PAS team, with approvals remaining the most common outcome and greater use made of deferrals where additional information was required. Alongside managing increased demand, we introduced new litigation practice rights pathways, enhanced reporting and data management, recognised additional qualifications and training providers, and invested in staff development and applicant guidance. These improvements have strengthened our regulatory framework and will help ensure our processes remain robust, accessible and responsive.

I would like to thank both Committee members and the PAS team for their professionalism, expertise and dedication throughout a demanding year. As we look ahead to 2026, our focus will remain on continuous improvement, strengthening systems and processes, and ensuring that qualification and authorisation pathways continue to support high standards across the profession.

2025 in review

Becoming a Chartered Legal Executive

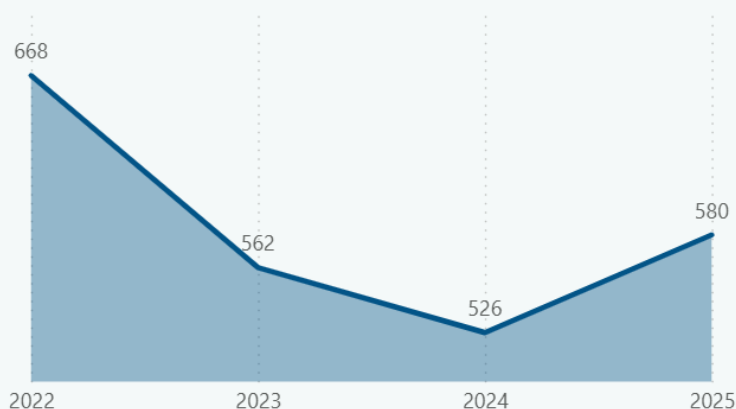
Qualification as a Chartered Legal Executive requires candidates to complete two core components:

- 2,300 hours of qualifying work experience; and
- A demonstrated assessment of competence through submission of a work-based learning (WBL) portfolio.

Applications Trends

In 2025:

Qualifying Experience Applications

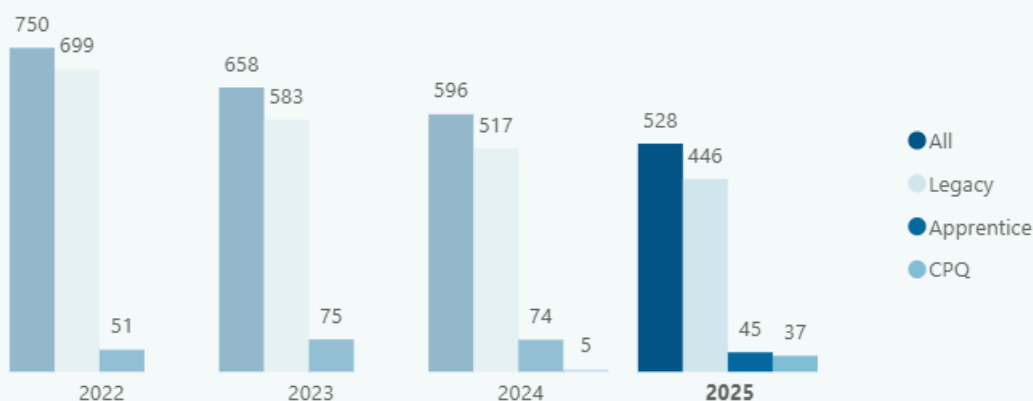


580 applications were submitted for Qualifying Experience assessment

483 applications were submitted through the Work Based Learning (WBL) route, through both legacy and CPQ pathways

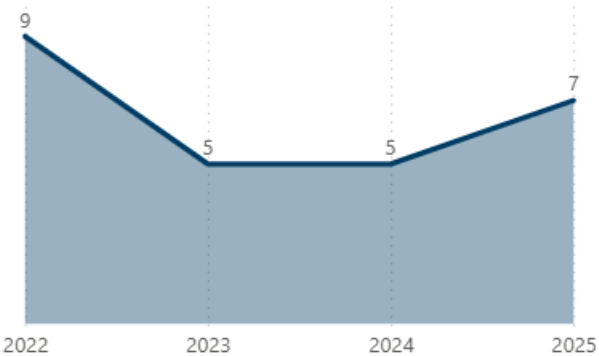
45 applications were received via the Chartered Legal Executive Apprenticeship route for WBL

Work Based Learning Applications

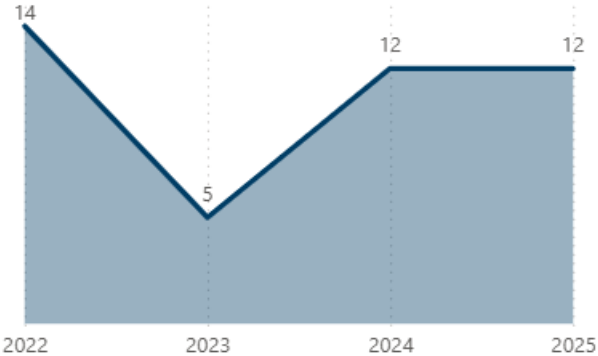


Weeks to Decision

Qualifying Experience
Weeks to Decision



Work Based Learning
Weeks to Decision



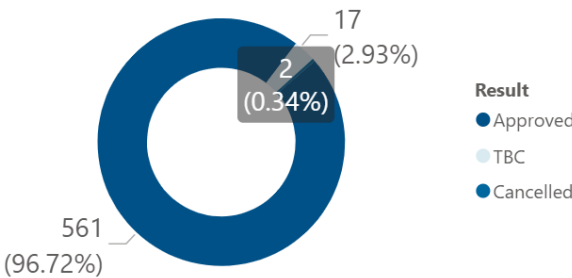
In 2025, the average time taken to reach a decision for Qualifying Experience applications was 7 weeks, a slight increase from 5 weeks in 2024, but still an improvement on the 9 weeks recorded in 2022.

Work Based Learning applications were decided within an average of 12 weeks in 2025, consistent with 2024. Decision times for WBL are typically longer than for Qualifying Experience applications as the process involves external assessors, which adds additional stages for assessment, review and scheduling

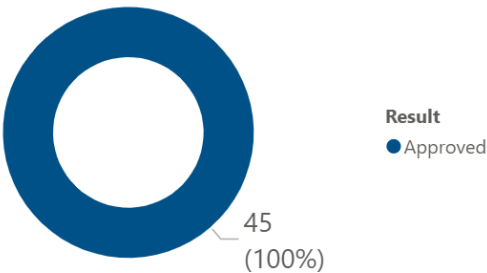
Overall, decision-making performance remained stable during 2025, with decision times maintained at expected levels. Although the Mazur judgment resulted in operational demand due to an increase in Practice Rights applications, there was no significant impact on processing times for Qualifying Experience or Work Based Learning applications, which remained broadly consistent with previous years.

Approval Rates

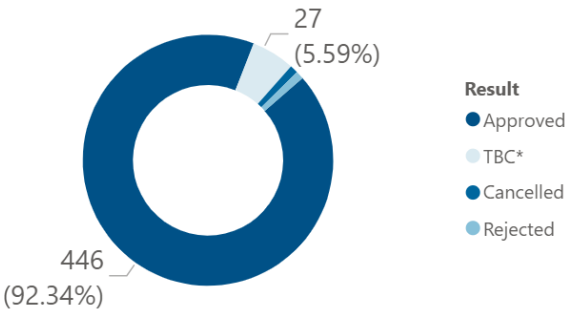
QE



WBL (Apprenticeship)



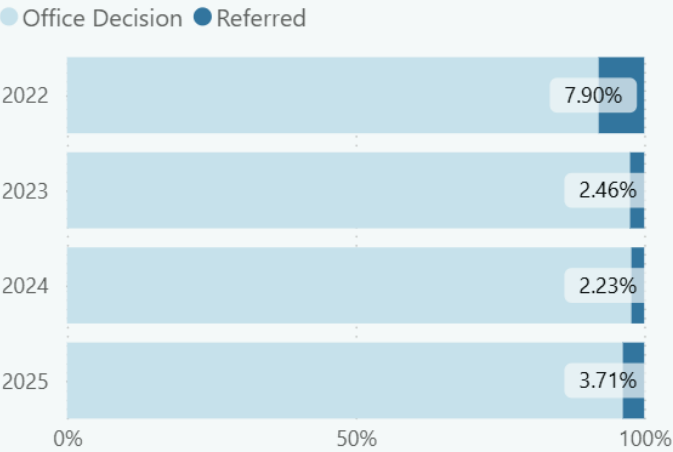
WBL (Portfolio)



Decision-Making and Outcomes

Most application decisions are made under delegated authority by the office. However, more complex or unclear cases are escalated to the Committee.

Applications Referred to the ALC

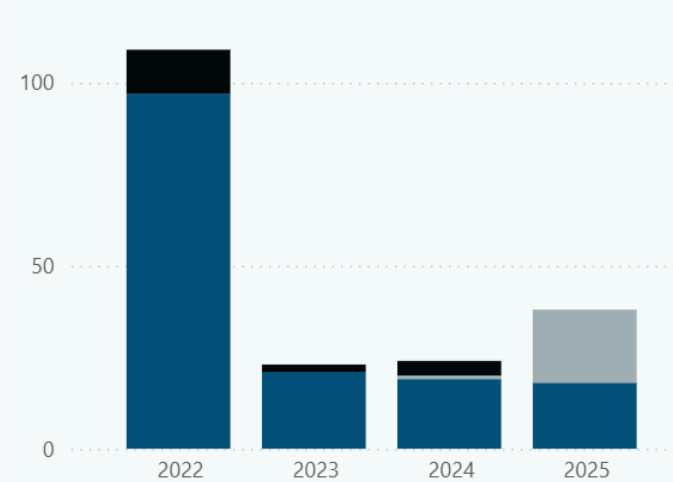


A total of 41 applications (3.71%) were escalated to and determined by the Committee.

The decrease in committee referrals demonstrates that the vast majority of applications can be processed efficiently under delegated authority. Committee intervention is relatively limited and is primarily focused on interpreting eligibility criteria rather than broader competency concerns.

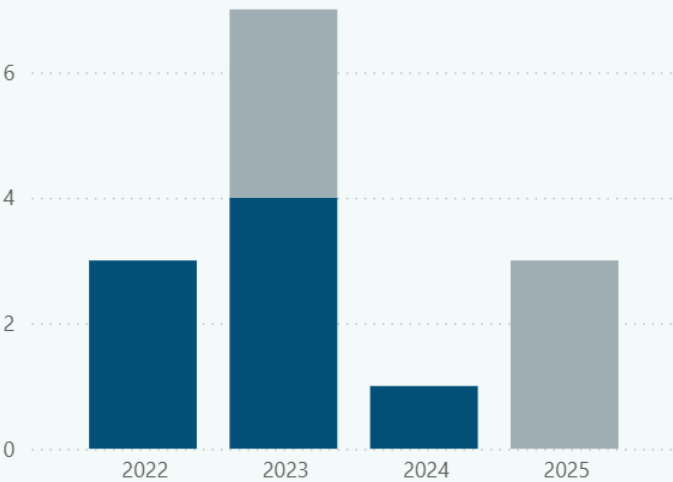
QE ALC Decisions

Result Approved Deferred Refused



WBL ALC Decisions

Result Approved Deferred Refused



The number of applications referred to the ALC Committee was highest in 2022, particularly for QE applications, and has generally declined in subsequent years.

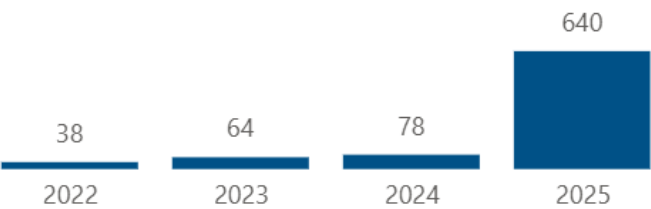
Approval remained the most common outcome for both QE and WBL applications throughout the reporting period, indicating that most referred applications were ultimately considered suitable for progression.

There has been a noticeable reduction in refusals over time, with a greater proportion of applications being deferred where further information or consideration was required. The trend towards deferral rather than refusal demonstrates a supportive and proportionate decision-making approach, providing applicants with opportunities to address outstanding issues before a final decision is made.

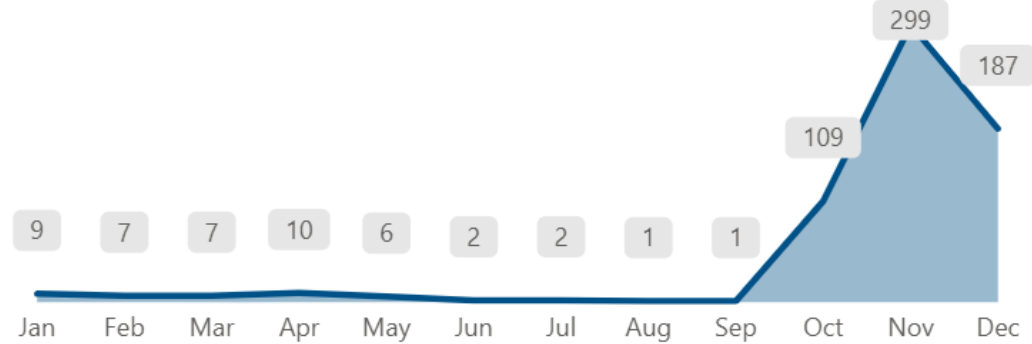
Practice Rights

The Mazur judgment created an unprecedented increase in application volumes, created significant operational pressure for the PAS team during 2025. Despite the challenges, the team maintained decision quality, ensuring that applications continued to be assessed in a timely and proportionate manner. This period has strengthened the team’s capacity to respond to increased demand and provides a foundation for further process improvements in 2026.

Yearly Applications



New Applications 2025



The Mazur judgment resulted in an unprecedented increase in Practice Rights applications during 2025, with application volumes rising from 78 in 2024 to 640 in 2025—an increase of 721% year-on-year.

Demand accelerated rapidly during the final quarter of 2025. Monthly applications increased from 109 in October to 299 in November, before reducing to 187 in December, highlighting the significant operational impact created by the judgment.

By June 2026, more than 1,200 Chartered Legal Executives had been granted Practice Rights authorisation, demonstrating the significant profession-wide impact of the Mazur judgment and the effectiveness of the response to the increased demand.

Authorisation to practice advocacy

CRL can authorise individuals to conduct advocacy in one or more of the following areas of practice; civil proceedings, criminal proceedings or family proceedings, subject to applicants meeting the essential knowledge, skills, experience and competence requirements

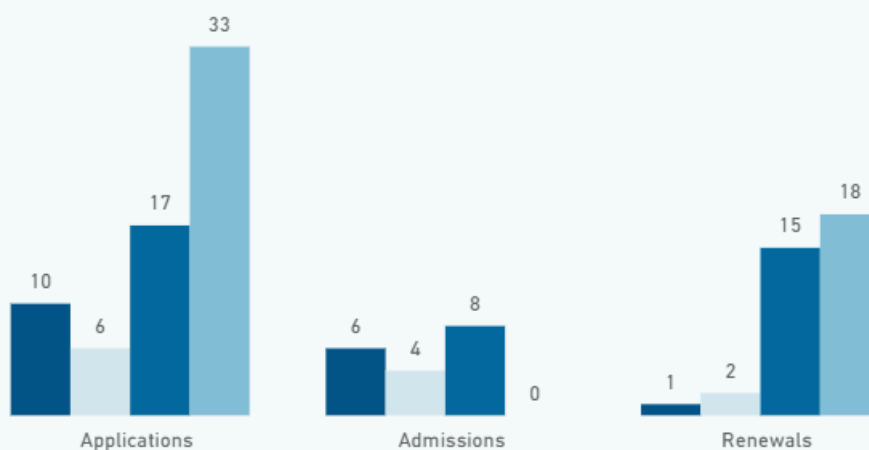
There are two parts to the application process:

- Initial assessment of knowledge, skills and experience which provides the applicant with a certificate of eligibility; and
- attendance at a six-day training course, at the end of which, the applicant is assessed for full competency in advocacy for the relevant proceedings.

In 2025, the following applications for authorisation as an advocate in one or more of the proceedings were received:

Advocacy

● Civil ● Criminal ● Family ● Total



How we achieved our 2025 goals

2025 was a year of significant development and transformation across both PAS and Education. Following organisational changes, regulatory developments, and the impact of the Mazur Judgement, substantial progress was made to strengthen systems, improve accessibility, expand training and qualification pathways, enhance reporting and processes, and build greater resilience across teams and services. These improvements have laid strong foundations for continued growth into 2026.

In 2025, we...



Introduced standalone litigation practice rights

Work commenced in early 2025 to develop stand-alone litigation practice rights at request of members who did not want to, or could not meet the criteria to, seek advocacy practice rights at the same time.

Immediately following the Mazur Judgement in September 2025, the rule change application was submitted and swiftly authorised by the LSB.



Developed our internal training for staff

A need for internal training was identified in September 2025 by the new PAS Manager and as a result the PAS team attended two full days of training, including an in-person training day at Wrest Park. In Q4 2025 The PAS team attended two separate days training, including an in-person training day at Wrest Park. The main objectives were to increase the skills and knowledge of the team members across its operational areas, identifying improvements and improving resilience.



Improved reporting and data management

Enhanced reporting and data management capabilities are being developed to support more robust oversight of application volumes, performance and trends, enabling more timely, accurate, and insight-driven decision-making across PAS. Enhanced reporting and data management capabilities are being developed to support more robust oversight of application volumes, performance and trends, enabling more timely and accurate decision-making across PAS.



Offered more routes to authorisation

At CRL's request following the Mazur Judgement, ULaw increased the assessment opportunities for Civil and Family Litigation Practice Rights from 2 to 10 in 2026 and reduced turnaround time for publication of results from 13 to 6 weeks. ULaw also introduced a Criminal Litigation Assessment Only option for the first time.



Improved website content

A new Litigation page was created, the Advocacy, WBL and QE webpages have recently been updated as well. The website will continue to be updated in 2026, as we move forward with the optimisation processes.



Reviewed our team's structure

The capacity of the PAS Team was increased in late 2025 with the recruitment of a new officer and two administrators to manage the surge in practice rights applications following the Mazur Judgement in September 2025.



Recognised qualifications for more training providers

Datalaw and Law Training Centre had qualifications recognised as meeting specialist pathways in CRL New education standards.



Approved trainings providers

CILEX Law School and University of West London were approved to deliver CRL Advocacy Skills Courses. Providers approved were.

1 new Apprenticeship Assessment Organisation, Summit Skills, successfully completed readiness checks and were approved by DWP to offer end-point assessments for Chartered Legal Executive Level 6 and Chartered Legal Executive Litigator and Advocate Level 7 Apprenticeship Standards.

Priorities in 2026

Our focus for the coming year is on building on the progress made in 2025, continuing to strengthen our processes and enhance the services we provide. In 2026, we will prioritise the following areas:

- **Improve reporting, processes and systems.** Work is underway to enhance systems and workflows within the PAS team to support more efficient, consistent authorisation processes and reduce manual handling. In parallel, improvements to data and reporting are being developed to provide greater insight into application volumes, processing times and performance, enabling stronger oversight and more informed decision-making.
- **Develop new guidance and support materials** for Probate, Conveyancing and Immigration Independent Practice Rights to reflect format developed for stand-alone Civil, Criminal and Family Litigation Practice Rights.
- **Develop guidance and webpages for applicants seeking authorisation** as Chartered Legal Executives with Practice Rights using the Exemptions route.
- **Development and implementation** of all-encompassing Quality Assurance Strategy covering all CRL approved providers.
- **Undertake review of CILEX Advocacy Skills Course 2013 Specification** to bring in line with up-to-date assessment practices and increase access for CILEX Members.

