

Test of Competence Annual Report

2022



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Report on the 2022 Test of Competence year

2022: an overview

COVID-19 related travel restrictions were largely removed during 2022, allowing movement of labour between nation states. While candidate numbers did not drop significantly during the pandemic, in 2022 they increased well above pre-pandemic levels to their highest since the new version of Test of Competence (ToC) was introduced in 2015.

Remote Interviews

The move to remotely interviewing candidates was made permanent, based on feedback from candidates and assessors. There are some risks associated with remote interviewing, as there are with in-person interviews. However, these risks are outweighed by the benefits to candidates and by reducing upward pressure on the ToC fee.

Test of Competence Review Meeting

The Annual Review Meeting was held on 6 October. It was attended by assessors, External Examiner, GCC Staff and chaired by the Chair of the Education Committee. 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 a number of topics, including the use of non-chiropractic notes as part of the ToC process; and the impact of the new Education Standards on the ToC process.

A number of actions came out of the Test of Competence Review Meeting, including minor amendments to the Evidence of Practice Questionnaire.

Additionally, the meeting said goodbye to five panel members, who came to the end of their term in October 2022.

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.

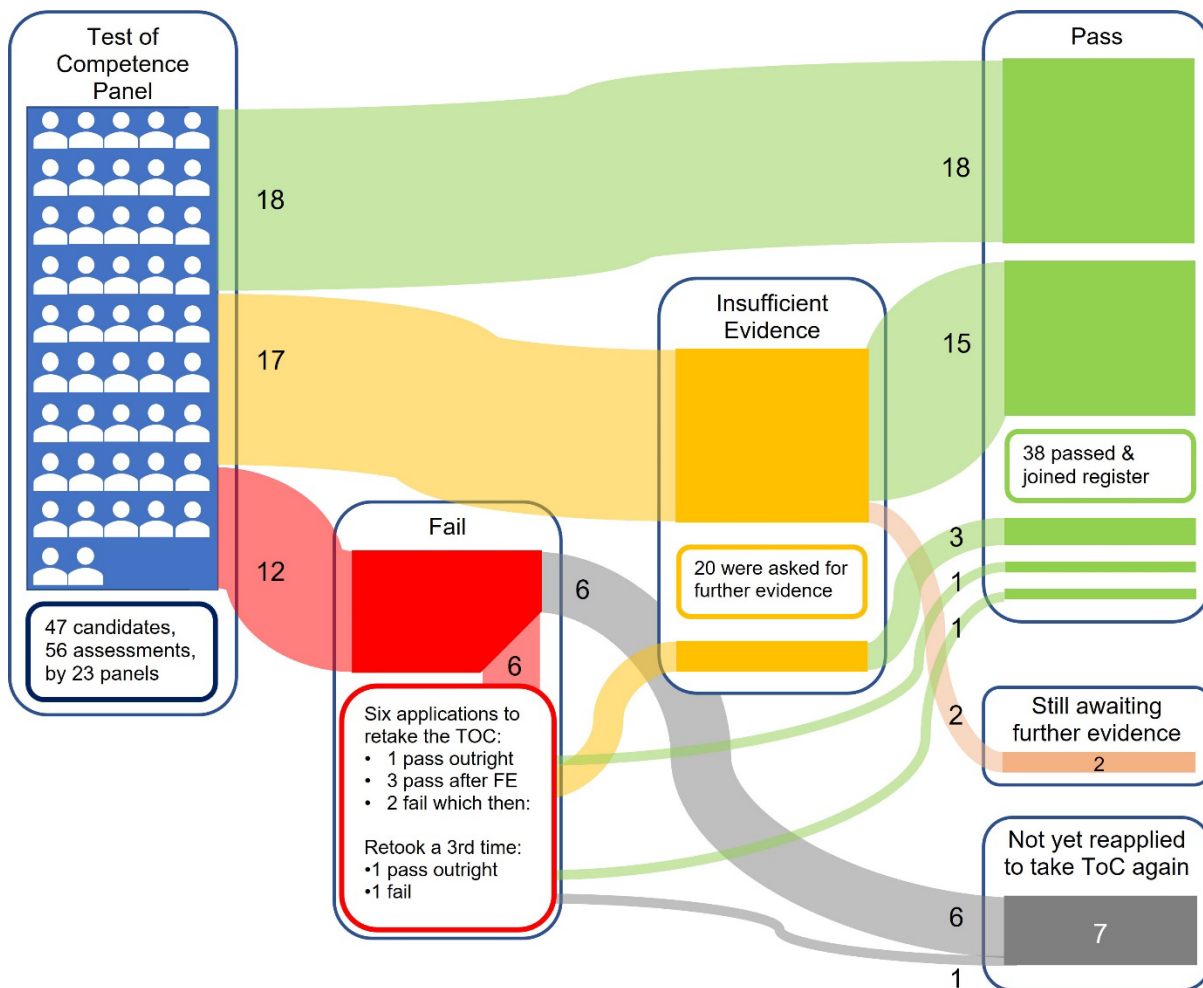
The External Examiner has produced an annual report covering 2022 that sits alongside this report and includes both recommendations and suggestions for improvement of the ToC. The GCC's response is published at the end of that report.

2022 Test of Competence Results

The Test of Competence has been running in its current format since 2015.

In 2022, 47 individual candidates took the ToC and 55 attempts were made. Within 2022 six candidates took the test twice, and two of those candidates took the test three times. Of the 47 candidates, 38 have since registered.

Candidates may either pass or fail the ToC. Those 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.

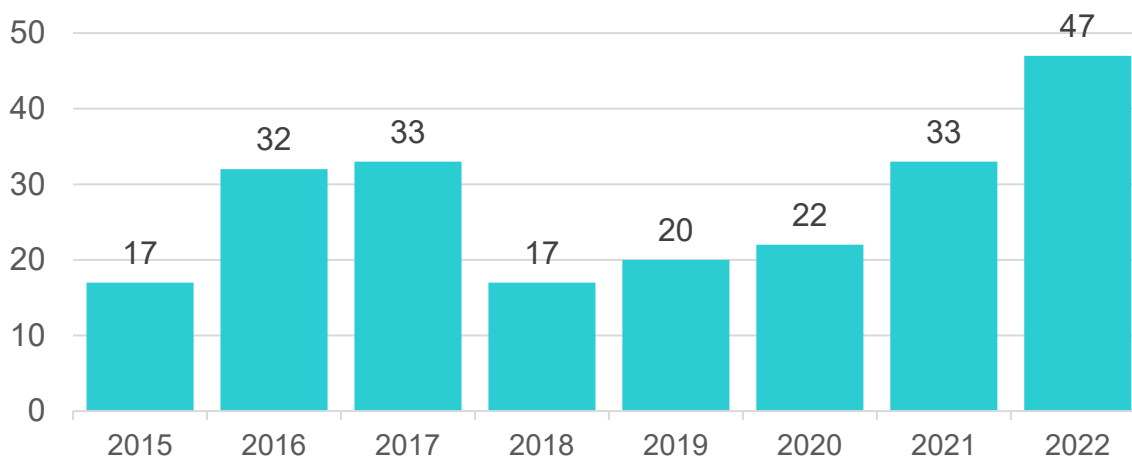


This report looks across the single year of 2022. Three candidates had previously failed the test in 2021 before taking again in 2022. These three candidates are included within the chart as new candidates.

When viewing graphs and figures, it is important to consider if the figures presented relate to individual candidates, or the total tests taken.

Number of annual ToC candidates since 2015

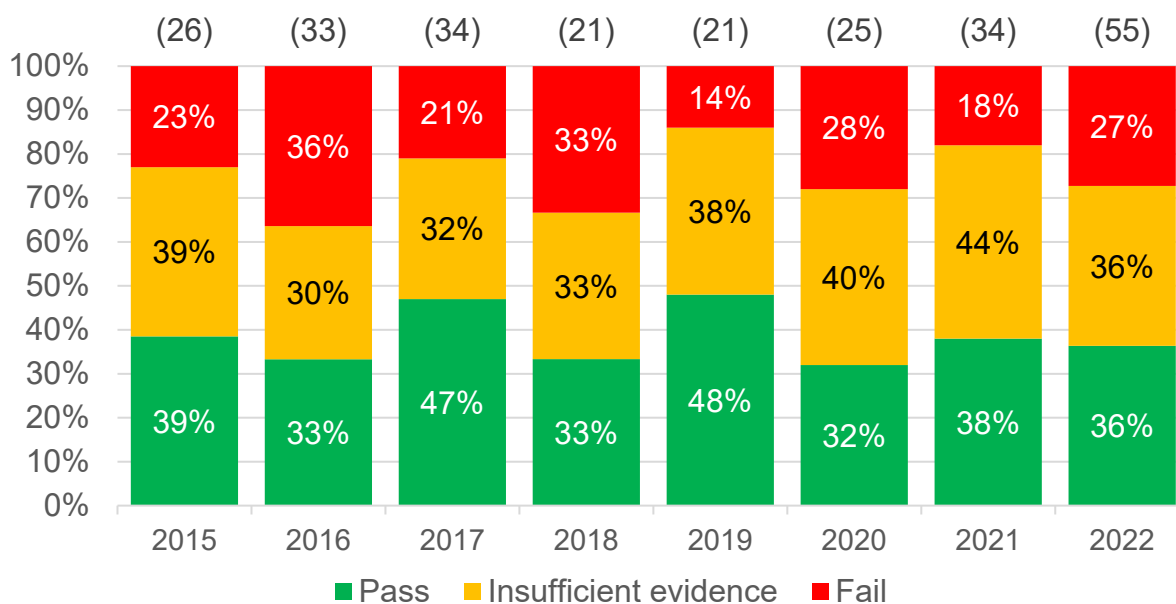
Number of candidates taking at least one test each year



There was a substantial increase in the number of candidates taking the ToC in 2022, however there is no current evidence that this will become a long-term trend.

Outcomes of all tests taken since 2015

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



The percentage of tests failed increased to 27%, while those passing a test outright dropped by 2% (this is across all tests so a candidate may have failed outright previously).

It's noticeable that there had been a steady increase in those needing to supply further evidence since 2016, which has now dropped back. While there was an increase in the number of candidates in 2022, the number of candidates taking the ToC is still relatively small and therefore any single year's statistics are not necessarily significant.

Further Evidence

Among the candidates required to submit further evidence, there were some repeated themes, the main ones being: -

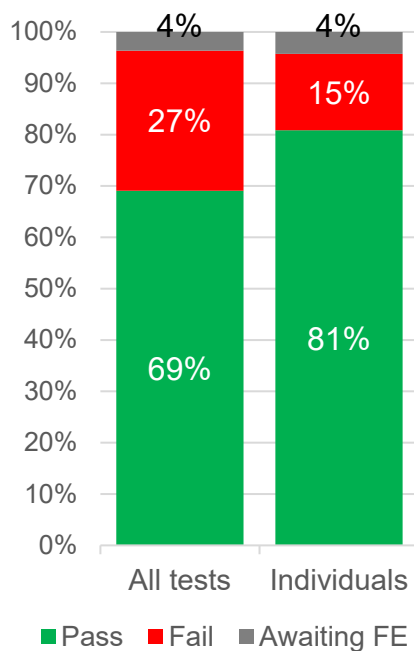
- Patient clinical records
- Patient safety and understanding of risk factors
- Appropriate use of ionising radiation
- Patient reported outcome measures
- Biopsychosocial model
- Evidence based practice
- Red and yellow flags

Final results once further evidence is taken into account

The final ToC results show a pass rate of 69%, which is 13% lower than 2021 figures, although the total number passing was higher.

The pass rate has the potential to increase to 73% when the final two candidates provide further evidence.

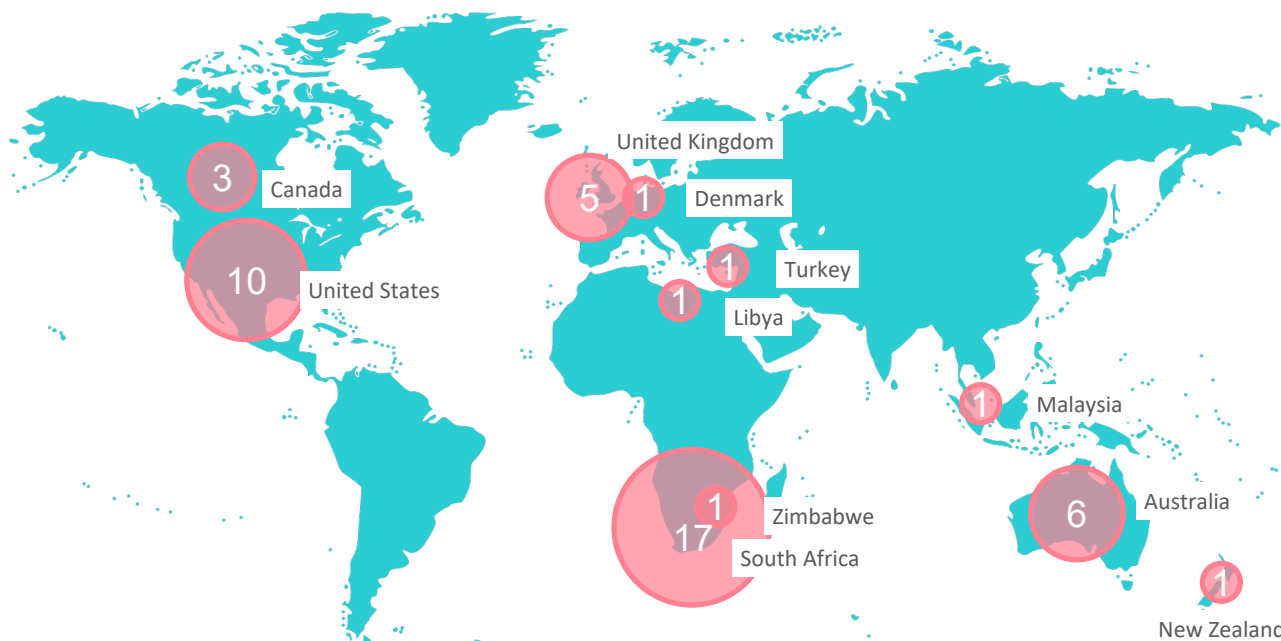
On average, two thirds of candidates pass the ToC annually, with the figures for 2022 not diverging significantly from previous years.



Who takes the Test of Competence?

We ask all candidates applying to sit the Test of Competence to provide details of protected characteristics as well as their nationality. Further details under [Equality and Diversity](#).

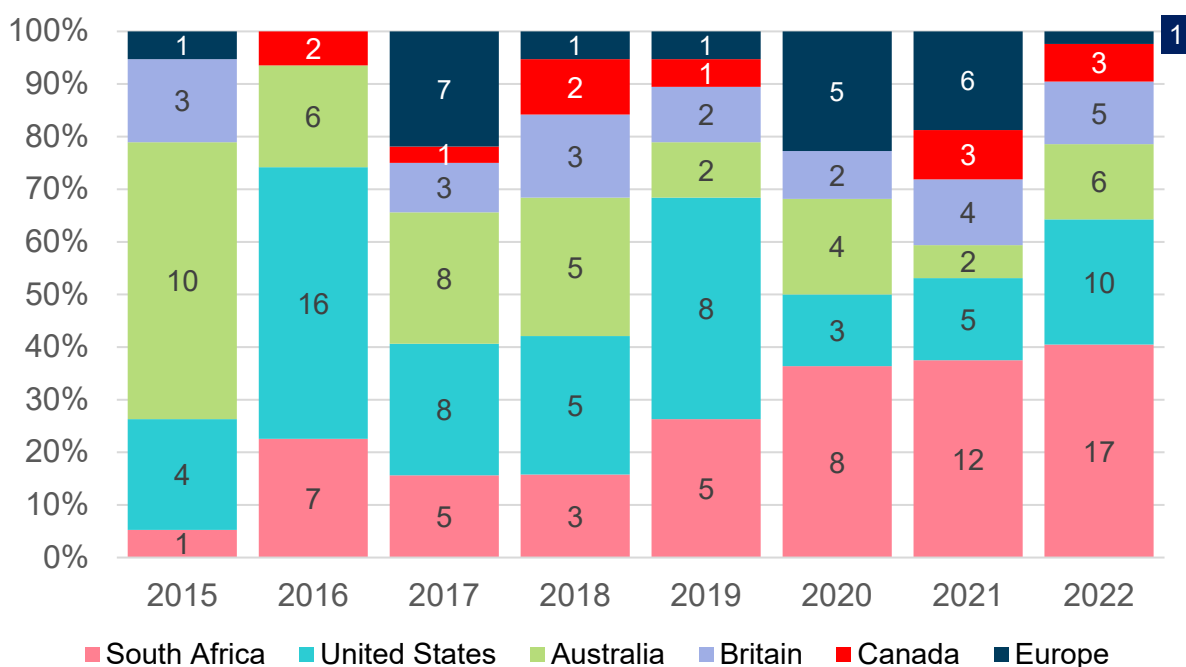
Nationality of ToC Candidates in 2022



Five UK nationals returned to the UK after training in Australia (graduating in 2015, 2019); in South Africa (2021,2022); and the USA (1995).

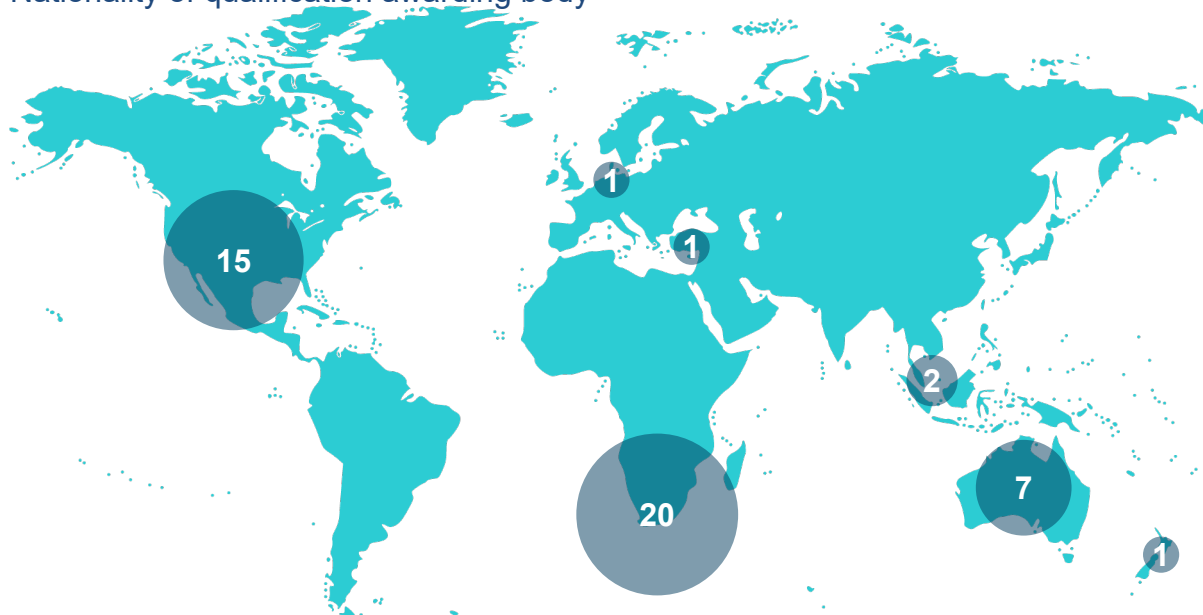
Change over Time

While we receive applications from across the globe, there are some countries more regularly represented. The graph below compares the areas with the largest cohort of candidates since 2015 (the figures are numbers, while the blocks represent proportions).



Qualification of Applicants

Nationality of qualification awarding body



The number of chiropractors who applied from individual education providers is small. The largest contingents were from the University of Johannesburg and Durban Institute of Technology, both in South Africa. Applications are regularly received from a number of colleges, notably over 40% of candidates graduated from South Africa.

Two applications were received from candidates with Malaysian qualifications for the first time. We understand that this programme is relatively new and may expect to see this more in the future.

Only one candidate graduated from an EU chiropractic education provider (Syddansk Universitet in Denmark).

Graduation year of candidates

Year of graduation	Number of candidates
1990-1999	3
2000-2005	2
2006-2010	3
2011-2015	7
2016-2020	14
2021+	18

More than two thirds of candidates have graduated since 2016. This is unremarkable as new graduates are often more mobile than those who have been practising for several years.

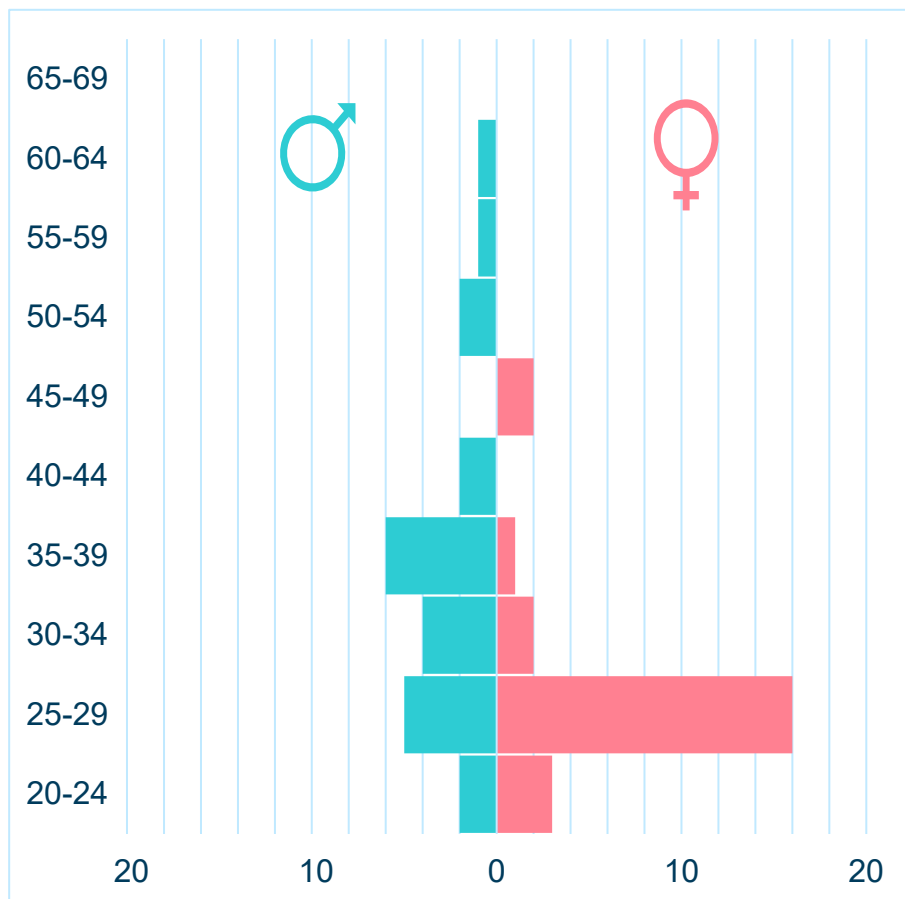
Equality and Diversity Data

As part of the application process, candidates are asked to complete an Equality and Diversity Monitoring form. Collated data from candidates who took the ToC during 2022 is given below. The data is percentages of candidates, not tests taken.

Age and Sex Data

There is no significant difference between last year and this year's age and sex data – with the male/female split remaining at 50%.

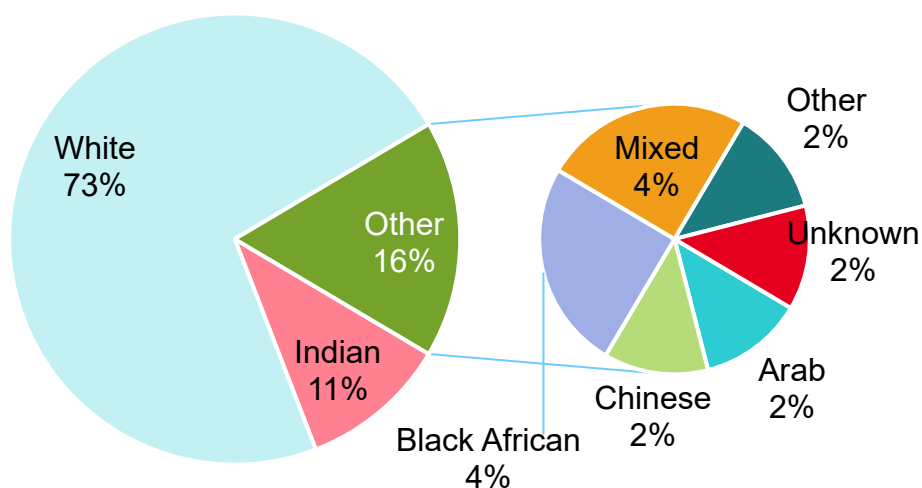
The peak in female applicants in their late 20's is notable, and could be investigated further.



Ethnicity

There is no significant difference between the ethnicity data for ToC candidates between 2021 and 2022.

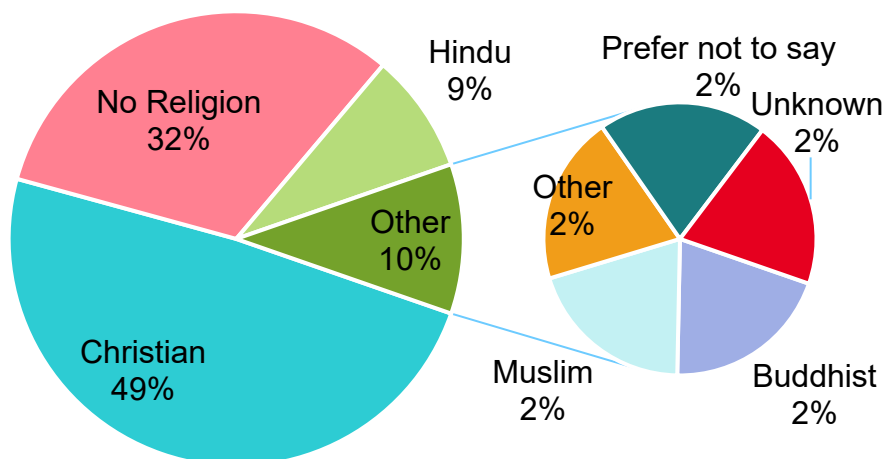
The data collected is not directly comparable with the GCC register (EDI data collection is being standardised across GCC) but the proportion of White applicants is lower than in the register (79.4%).



Religion/Belief

There is no significant difference between the belief data for ToC candidates between 2021 and 2022.

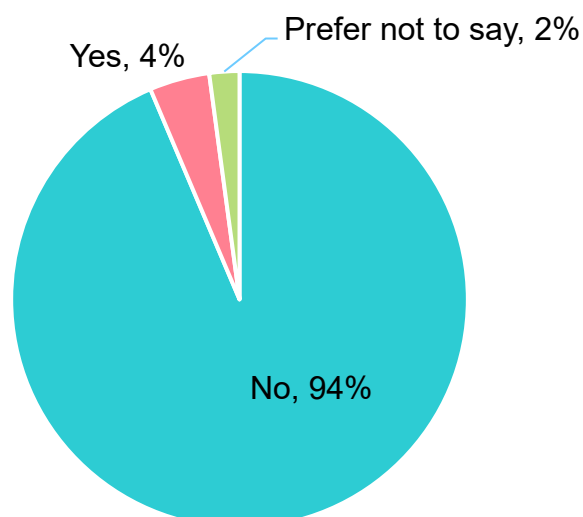
Applicants are more likely to have a religious belief than the GCC register (37.1% No Religion)



Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

There is no significant difference between the disability data for ToC candidates between 2021 and 2022.

There is also no significant difference to the GCC register.



Sexuality

There is no significant difference between the sexuality data for ToC candidates between 2021 and 2022.

There is also no significant difference to the GCC register.

