



Survey of Assessors in the 2021 QC Competition

1. This paper analyses the survey of assessors in the 2021 QC Competition.

The Survey

2. We surveyed all the assessors for whom we had an email address. We therefore sent forms to around 1740 assessors. We received 627 responses (36%); 188 from judicial assessors, 374 from practitioner assessors, 41 from assessors who provided both a judicial and a practitioner assessment, and 24 from client assessors. The response rate is high for a survey of this sort.
3. The results of the survey are set out in the Annexes.

Commentary

4. It is pleasing that 98% of assessors found it clear what information the Selection Panel was seeking; it was also pleasing that 98% of assessors found the new options for their overall rating clear.
5. As before, the largest group of assessors (44%) report taking one to two hours to complete each assessment, but 33% took two to four hours, and 8% say they took longer than that. In those circumstances, it is perhaps surprising (and a great relief) that 88% of those responding regard the burden as tolerable, rather than excessive.
6. The answers to the questions about outcome are difficult to interpret, because 43% of respondents opted for the “don’t know” option or did not answer. It is perhaps reasonable to assume that those who opted for “don’t know” have no reason to be critical of the outcomes. The figure of 19% of assessors who thought appointments were **not** broadly right is the same as in 2019 but higher than in previous years, and the figure for those thinking appointments **were** broadly right rose slightly to 37%. Excluding those responding “don’t know”, the proportion thinking appointments are broadly right has risen from 64% to 66%.
7. Of those dissatisfied with outcomes, 43% identify the appointment of unsuitable applicants as the main problem, whereas 18% think too many excellent applicants are not appointed – 39% of those who are critical think the Selection Panel errs in both directions.

Q1

Survey of Assessors 2021

Please confirm the category (or categories) in which you provided assessment(s) in the 2021 competition?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Judicial alone	29.98%	188
Practitioner alone	59.65%	374
Both judicial and practitioner	6.54%	41
Client	3.83%	24
	Answered	627
	Skipped	0

Q2

Survey of Assessors 2021

Was it clear what information the Selection Panel was seeking from the assessment?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	98.08%	613
No	1.92%	12
Don't know/prefer not to say	0.00%	0
	Answered	625
	Skipped	2

Q3

Survey of Assessors 2021

Did you find the options for your overall rating (Clearly ready for appointment, Ready, Possibly ready, Not yet ready, Not satisfactory, Insufficient information) clear?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	97.91%	608
No	2.09%	13
Don't know/prefer not to say	0.00%	0
	Answered	621
	Skipped	6

Q4

Survey of Assessors 2021

How long would you estimate it took on average to complete each assessment you provided?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than an hour	14.90%	93
1 - 2 hours	44.07%	275
2 - 4 hours	32.53%	203
More than 4 hours	8.49%	53
	Answered	624
	Skipped	3

Q5

Survey of Assessors 2021

Do you regard the burden placed on assessors like yourself by the current arrangements for appointing QCs to be tolerable, or do you think it is excessive?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Tolerable	87.98%	549
Excessive	12.02%	75
Don't know/prefer not to say	0.00%	0
	Answered	624
	Skipped	3

Q6

Survey of Assessors 2021

In your opinion, over recent years have the appointments through the QCA competition been broadly right?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	37.23%	226
No	19.28%	117
Don't know/prefer not to say	43.49%	264
	Answered	607
	Skipped	20

Q7

Survey of Assessors 2021

If not, please indicate which is the problem:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Too many excellent applicants are not appointed	18.31%	26
Too many unsatisfactory applicants are appointed	42.96%	61
Don't know/prefer not to say	0.00%	0
Both of the above	38.73%	55
	Answered	142
	Skipped	485

Q8

Survey of Assessors 2021

Did you receive any communications from applicants seeking to influence the substance of your assessment (as opposed to simply sending you copies of documents)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	1.82%	11
No	98.18%	593
	Answered	604
	Skipped	23