Report on Statistics and Trends
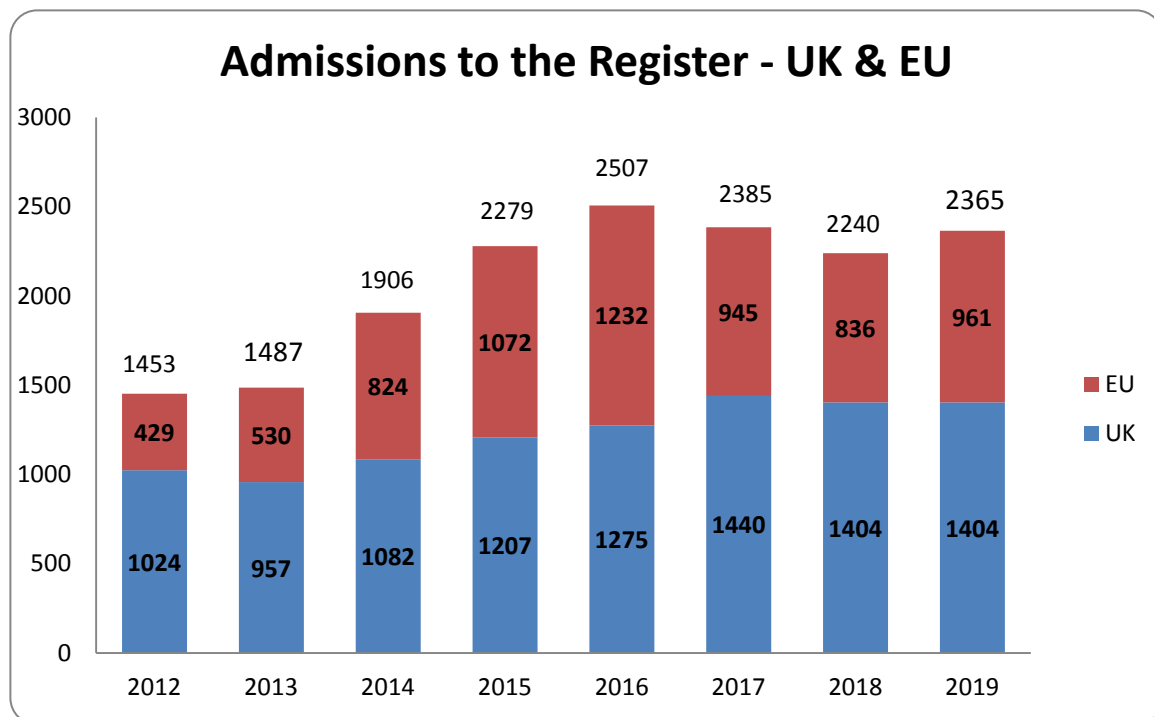
1.   The Register of Architects

1.1   Admissions

The graph below illustrates that during 2019, there were 2365 new admissions to the Register, an increase of 5% from 2018.

There has been the same number of applications applying via the UK route in 2018 and 2019 (1404), although there has been an overall increase in new admissions. This overall increase is due to applications via the EU route rising by 14%.

As a proportion of total new admissions 59% came via the UK routes to registration, including those who qualified over 2 years ago. The remaining 41% of applications were made through all EU routes.[1] By comparison last year, 37% of applicants arrived via EU route applications, with 63% coming via the UK route.

1.2

Admissions to the Register - UK & EU

UK Applications

The number of applications we received in 2019 was the same as the number received in 2018.

---

[1] Including those applying through the equivalence route

1.3   European Applications

ARB processed 861 EU applications through the automatic EU route to registration, an increase of 14% from 2018 when 755 were processed. The remaining 100 were processed via other EU routes, including the General System, which involves a tailored mapping process and those with mixed EU/UK qualifications.

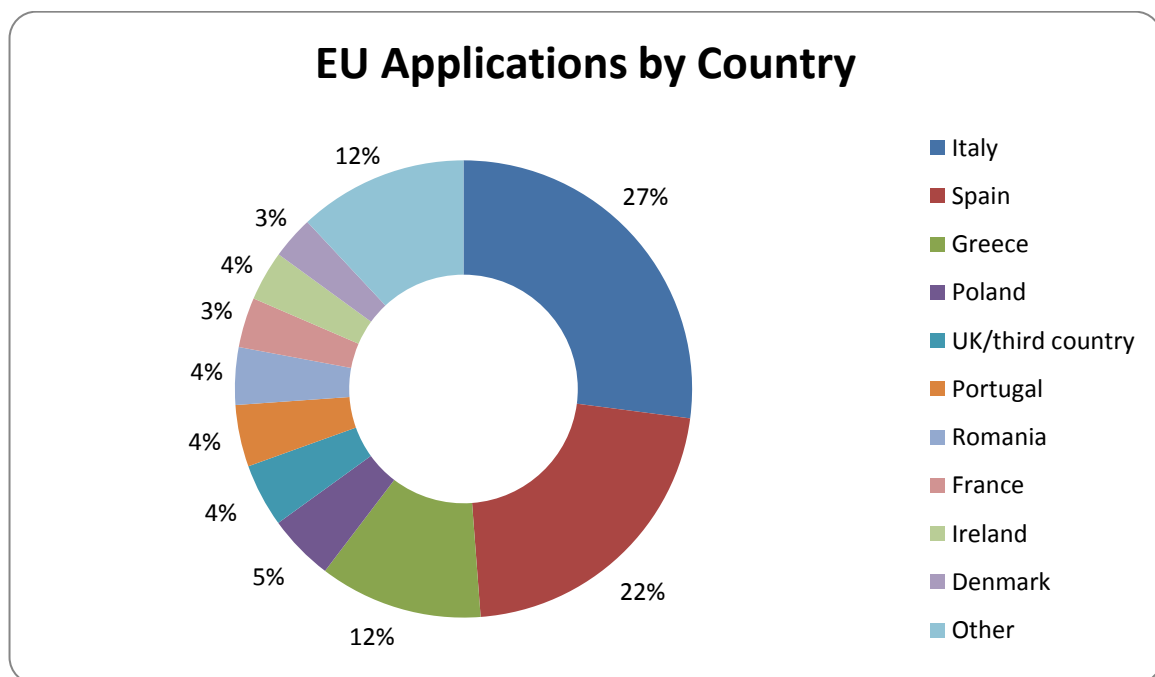The graph below illustrates the number of applications arising from other EU countries during 2019.
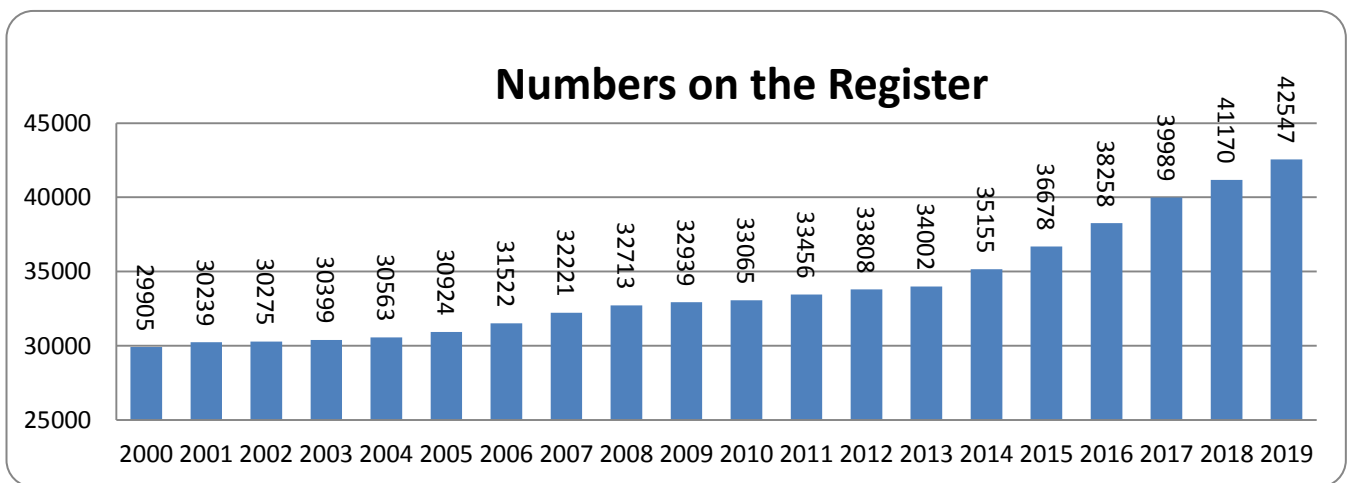

Table for above stats:

Country	Number of registrations
Austria	7
Belgium	3
Bulgaria	12
Croatia	3
Cyprus	5
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	29
France	34
Germany	16
Greece	111
Hungary	7
Ireland	34

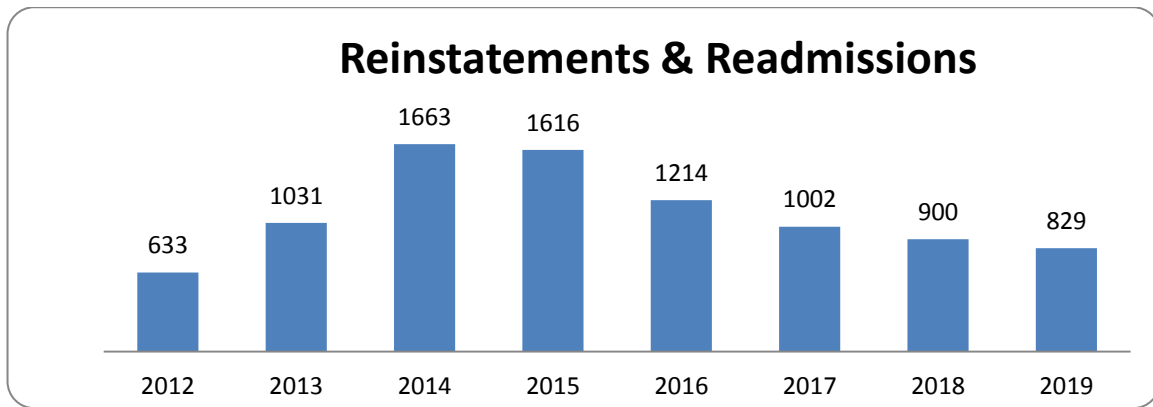|	
Italy	260
Lithuania	1
Malta	2
Netherlands	17
Norway	3
Poland	45
Portugal	42
Romania	39
Slovakia	3
Slovenia	5
Spain	209
Sweden	10
Switzerland	16
UK/third country	43

1.4   The Register

At the end of 2019 there were 42,547 architects on the Register, compared with 41,170 at the end of 2018, an increase of 3%. This figure is taken before architects are removed from the Register for non-payment.

Numbers on the Register

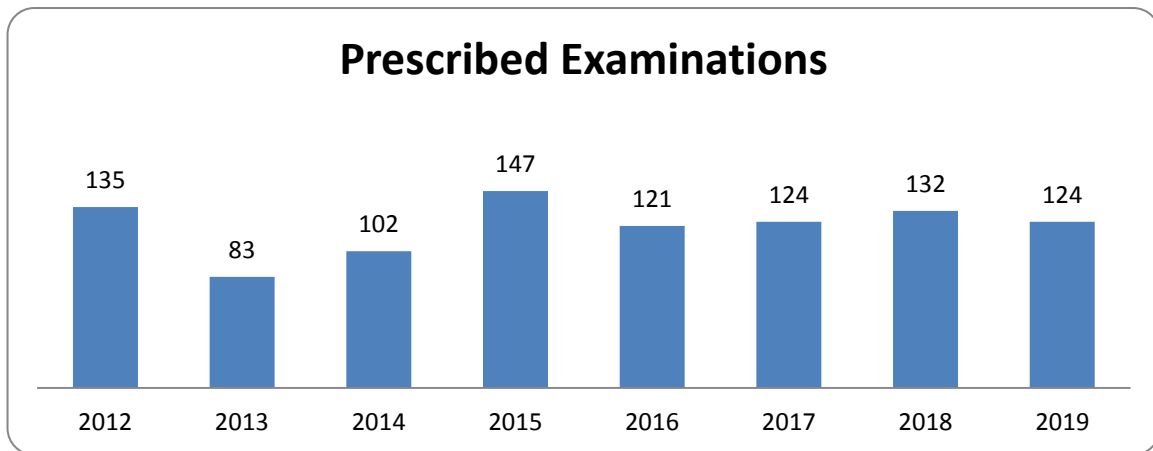| Year	Number
2000	29905
2001	30239
2002	30275
2003	30399
2004	30563
2005	30924
2006	31522
2007	32221
2008	32713
2009	32939
2010	33065
2011	33456
2012	33808
2013	34002
2014	35155
2015	36678
2016	38258
2017	39989
2018	41170
2019	42547

1.5   Re-joining the Register

There were 829 reinstatements and readmissions to the Register in 2019 (including 46 competency standards applications, which is the process for individuals returning to the Register after more than two years). This compares with 900 reinstatements and readmissions to the Register in 2018 (45 competency standard applications). The lower number is likely due to a lower number of removals for non-payment of the fee (1202 in 2018 and 1096 in 2019).

Reinstatements & Readmissions

Year	Value
2012	633
2013	1031
2014	1663
2015	1616
2016	1214
2017	1002
2018	900
2019	829

1.6   Prescribed Examinations

124 examinations were conducted in 2019, compared with 132 in 2018. 90 examinations were undertaken at Part 1, and 34 examinations at Part 2. The overall pass rate for 2019 was 58%, compared to 59% in 2018, and 58% in 2017.

Prescribed Examinations

Year	Value
2012	135
2013	83
2014	102
2015	147
2016	121
2017	124
2018	132
2019	124

We received three appeals in 2019. All were rejected by the Chair of the Prescription Committee on the basis that there were no grounds for appeal as there were no flaws identified in the process. There were no applications for third party review.

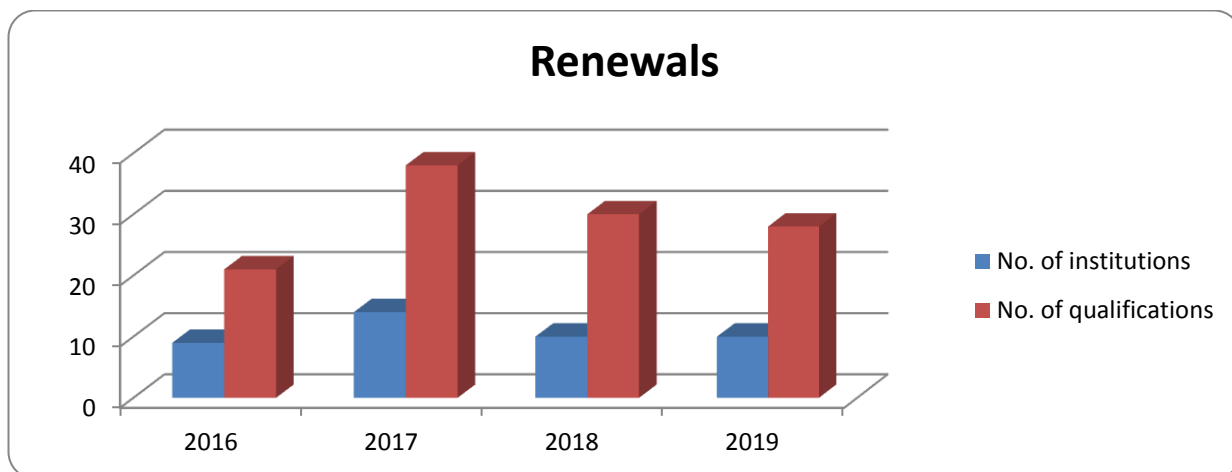# 2.   Qualifications

Prescription of Qualifications

In 2019, a newly constituted Board was appointed with effect from 1 March. The Board undertook an internal governance review during the Summer of 2019, which resulted in changes to the terms of reference and membership of the Prescription Committee as well as a revised version of the Procedures for the Prescription of Qualifications being consulted on and approved. The outgoing Prescription Committee met for the last time on 15 August 2019 and completed its term of office on 30 September 2019. We then entered a period of transition, developing the underpinning processes in order to operate under the revised Procedures. The following statistics and narrative relating to the prescription process therefore cover the period 1 January 2019 to 30 September 2019 (although the statistics for 2016 - 2018 cover a full calendar year in each case). We are in the process of developing new reporting processes under the revised Procedures. Statistics relating to the notification of UK qualifications to the European Commission, our consideration of EU notified qualifications and our University Liaison programme cover the period 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.

Prescription Cycle
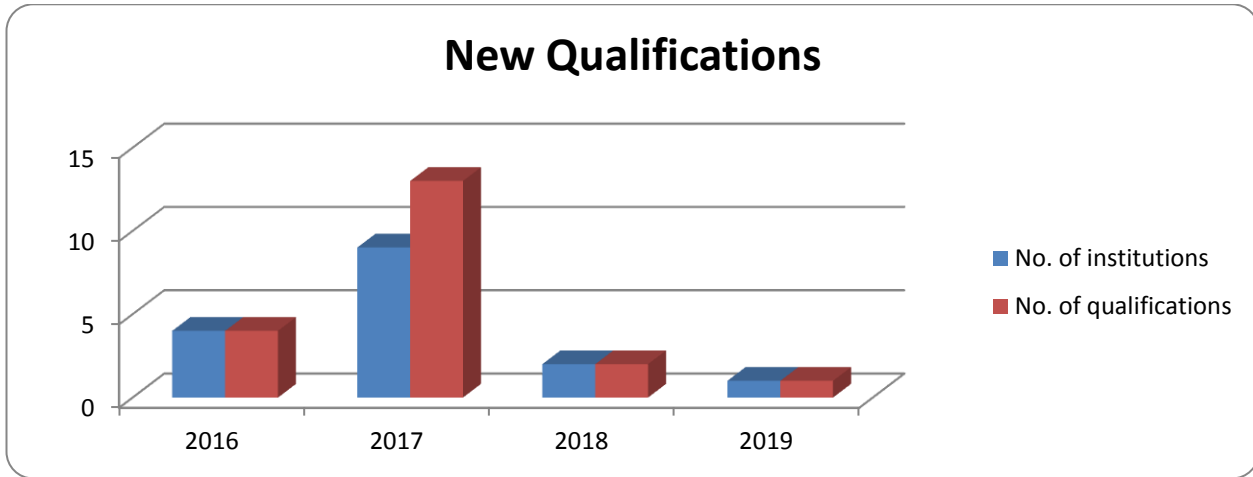
Prescription Applications

Renewals

2.1   During the period 1 January to 30 September 2019, the Board considered applications from institutions seeking to renew prescription for 28 qualifications from 10 institutions. This compares with 30 qualifications from 10 institutions in 2018; 38 qualifications from 14 institutions in 2017; and 21 qualifications from 9 institutions in 2016.
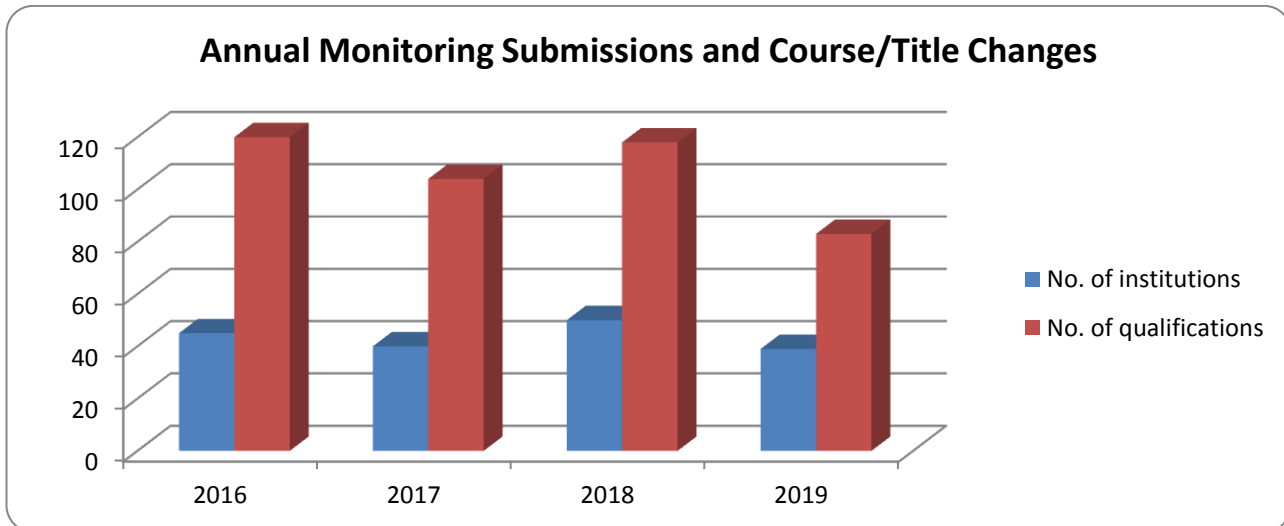

New Qualifications

2.2   One new qualification, from an existing institution, was also considered by the Board during the reporting period. This compares with 2 qualifications from 2 institutions in 2018; 13 qualifications from 9 institutions in 2017 and 4 qualifications from 4 institutions in 2016.

Annual Monitoring Submissions and Course/Title Changes

2.6   During the reporting period of 1 January to 30 September 2019, the Prescription Committee reviewed 39 annual monitoring submissions covering a total of 83 qualifications. This compares with 50 submissions covering 118 qualifications during the whole of 2018; 40 submissions covering 104 qualifications during the whole of 2017 and 45 submissions covering 120 qualifications in during the whole of 2016. An institution is expected to have a single annual monitoring date for all of its prescribed qualifications. Annual monitoring submissions are not normally expected from institutions renewing prescription in any given year.
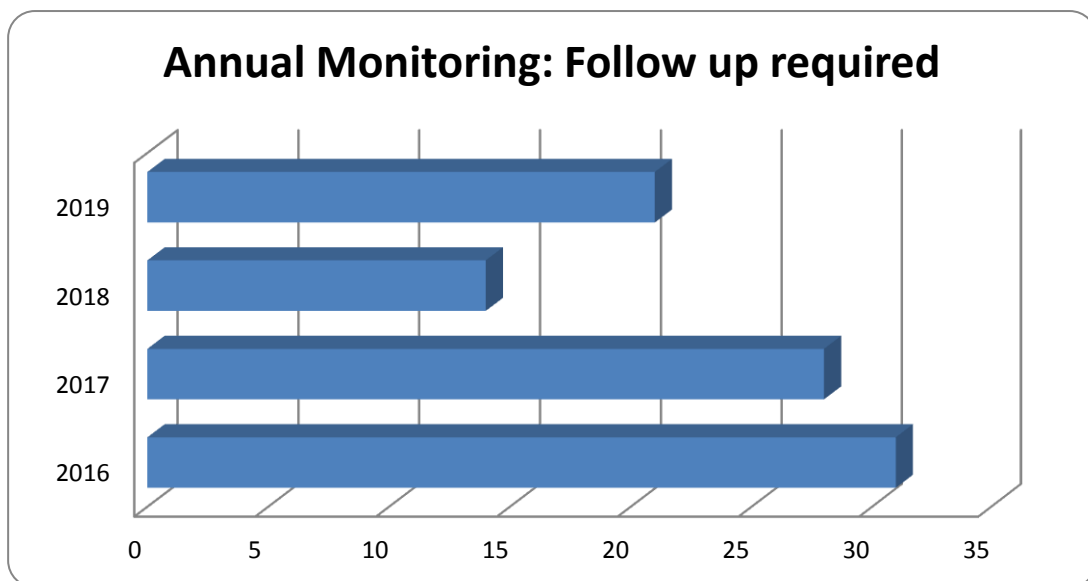

2.7   Variances occur year-on-year because the number of institutions required to make an annual monitoring submission differs in any given year, depending on the number of institutions seeking renewal of prescribed qualifications. Additionally, the number of prescribed qualifications offered by institutions can vary with some offering five or more while others may offer only one.

Follow-up to Annual Monitoring Submissions

2.8   During the reporting period, additional information was sought from 21 institutions (out of 39 institutions) in relation to their annual monitoring submissions. Information was sought for a variety of reasons including:

- Clarification regarding title or awarding body changes and evolutionary changes to modules/units;
- Concerns over the appropriateness of both staff and physical resourcing provision;
- Documents which should have been provided as part of the submission but were not; and
- Comments from External Examiners in relation to threshold standards.

Annual Monitoring: Follow up required

Year	Value
2019	~22
2018	~15
2017	~29
2016	~32

(Horizontal axis: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35)

Course and Title Changes

2.10   Over the reporting period, the Department received two requests from institutions to make changes to the titles of prescribed qualifications. There were a further six requests relating to course changes. This is in line with previous years' course/title change requests. Some institutions also submit changes through their annual monitoring submissions rather than through a specific request.

Qualifications which sit within the Apprenticeship Framework

2.11   During the reporting period, the Board approved six qualifications which will be provided within the apprenticeship framework, with five being at Part 2 level and one being at Part 3 level. This compares with the Board approving two qualifications, one being at Part 1 and one being at Part 2 level in the last six months of 2018, after the apprenticeship standards and end point assessment documents had been approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. A number of requests from institutions seeking prescription of their qualifications which will be offered within the apprenticeship are currently under consideration; the number of institutions

offering qualifications of this nature is expected to grow considerably during 2020. We provide clear guidance to institutions regarding the Board's requirements in this area and will continue to ensure that this remains up to date.
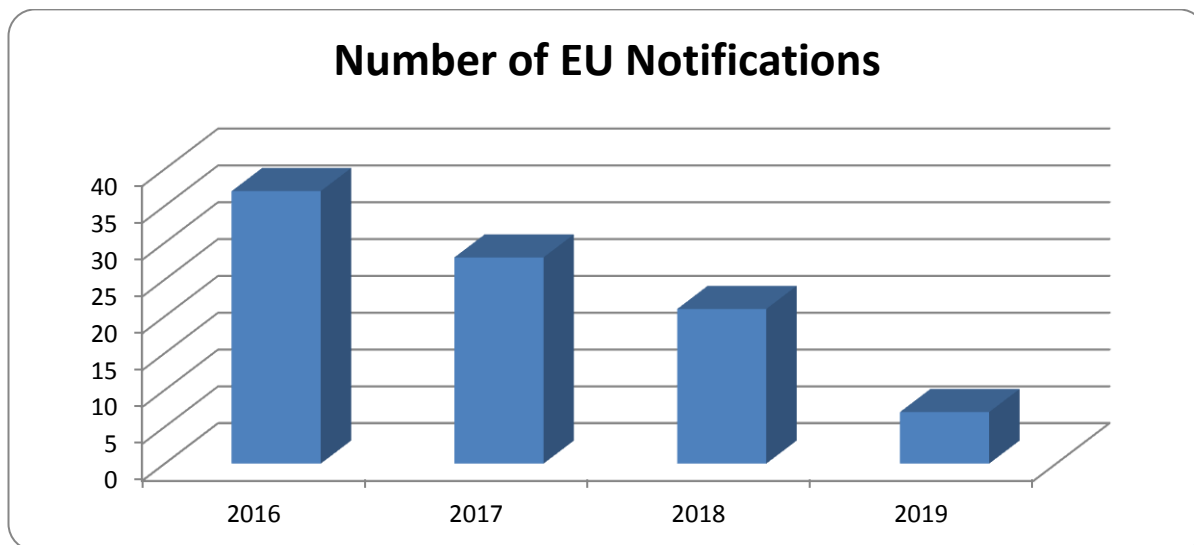
European Qualifications

Notification of UK Qualifications for Listing under the Directive

2.12   Two new UK qualifications were notified to the European Commission in 2019. One of the qualifications notified in late 2019 is expected to be listed in early 2020. Two qualifications were successfully listed under Annex V in 2019, one of which had been notified in 2018. These statistics align with those for previous years.

2.13   One European Notification Planning meeting was held. Only institutions making significant changes to their Part 2 level qualifications or gaining prescription of their Part 2 level qualifications for the first time require planning meetings.

Number of European Qualifications Reviewed

2.14   Seven EU qualifications were notified by four different Member States during 2019. This compares with 21 qualifications in 2018, 28 qualifications in 2017, and 37 in 2016.

Number of EU Notifications

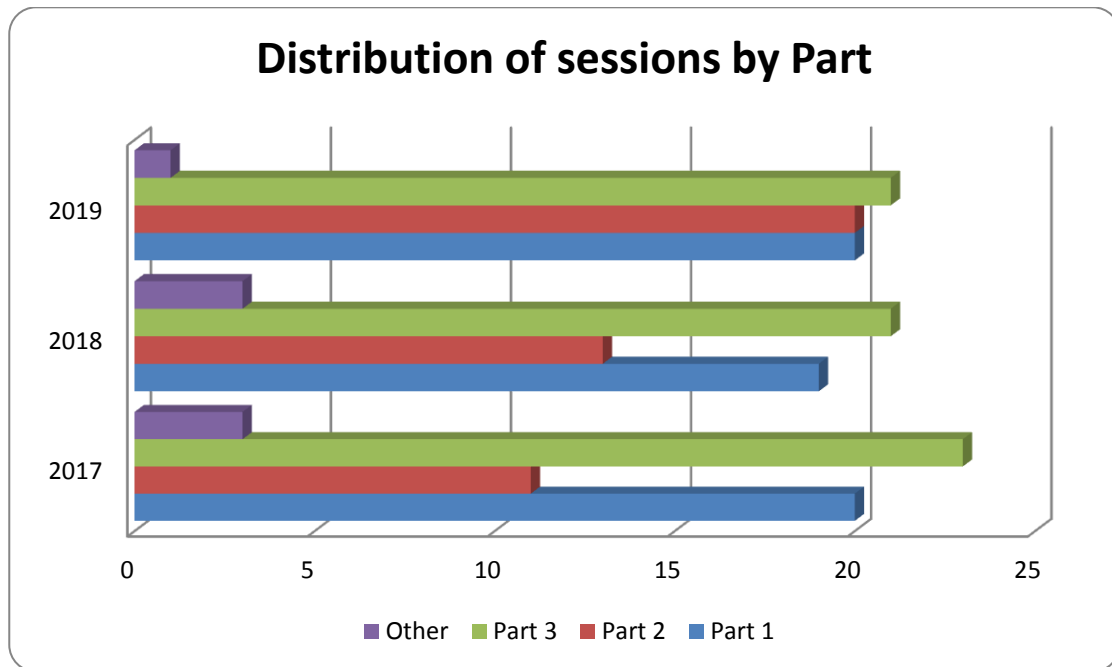| Year	
2016	~37
2017	~28
2018	~21
2019	~7

University Liaison Programme

2.15   During the reporting period and despite needing to prioritise our prescription work over the university liaison during the last six months of 2019, 62 presentations (an increase of 10.7% on 2018) were delivered at 40 institutions. This included sessions at four institutions not previously visited and speaking to six additional Part groups at institutions already engaged with the programme. The visits were evenly spread across Part 1 (20, 32.3%), Part 2 (20, 32.3%) and Part 3 (21, 33.9%). The number of Parts 1 and 3 visits were consistent with the previous year; while seven more Part 2 groups were reached compared to 2018 (an increase

of 53.8%). Approximately 2,900 students/candidates attended the sessions across the year. Sessions took place throughout the academic year, with peaks occurring during the spring and autumn terms.
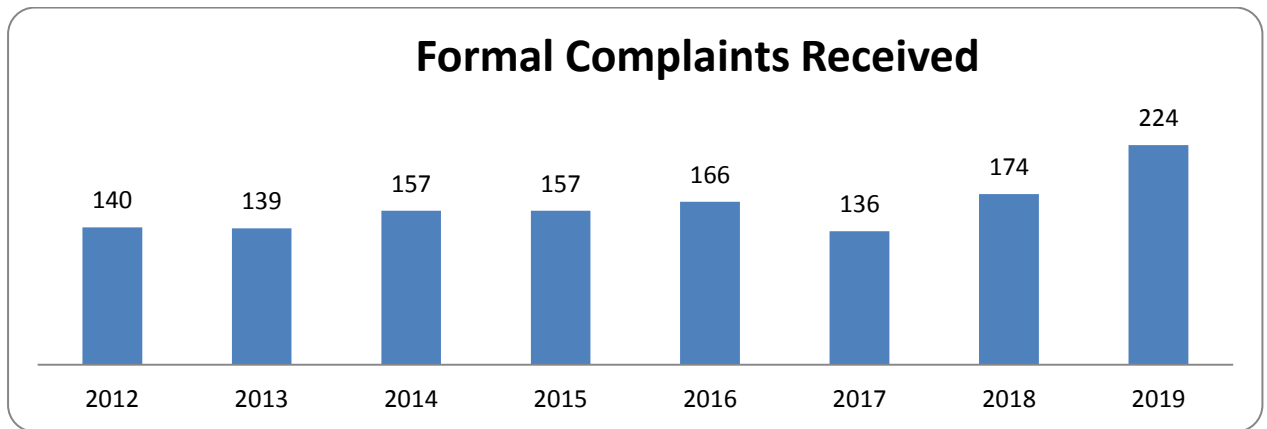

2.16   During 2019, members of the Professional Standards team co-presented with Qualifications Executives at 16 visits (predominantly at Parts 2 and 3) to assist in raising awareness amongst students in relation the issues that architects can face in practice once they join the Register. We are taking this approach in order to help architects ensure that they meet the standards set out in the Architects Code.

2.17   In addition to the typical liaison sessions in institutions offering prescribed qualifications; one presentation was delivered to the Practice in the UK course for EU candidates offered jointly by the RIBA and London Metropolitan University.
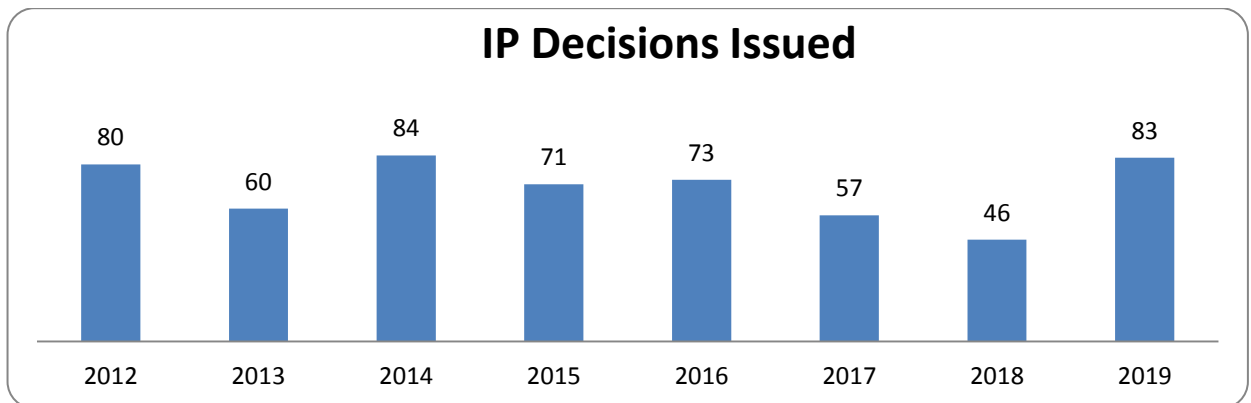
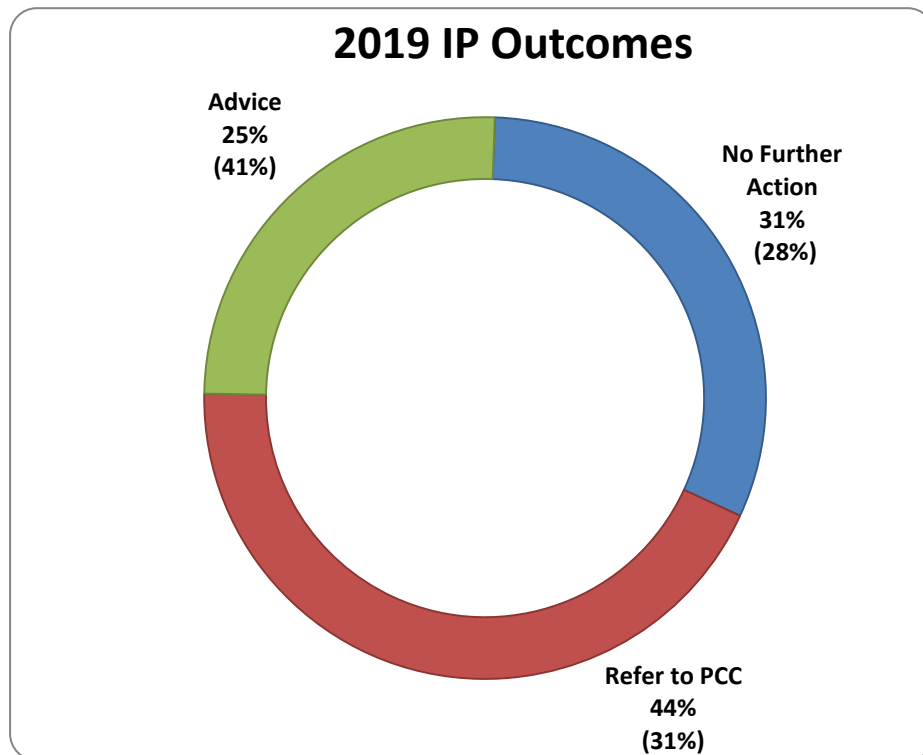# 3. Maintaining the Standards of Conduct and Practice of Architects

3.1 Complaints

Formal Complaints Received

Year	Complaints
2012	140
2013	139
2014	157
2015	157
2016	166
2017	136
2018	174
2019	224

Of the 224 formalised complaints received, 123 were concluded without the need for a referral to an Investigations Panel. This might have been because of a lack of evidence, or that the issues complained of were out of ARB's remit or insufficiently serious.

3.2 Investigations Panel (IP) Decisions

IP Decisions Issued

Year	Decisions
2012	80
2013	60
2014	84
2015	71
2016	73
2017	57
2018	46
2019	83

2019 IP Outcomes

Advice
25%
(41%)

No Further Action
31%
(28%)

Refer to PCC
44%
(31%)

There were no judicial reviews of the Investigations Panels' decisions and ten applications for a Third Party Review (further information can be found at para 3.4).

3.3   Inquirers

Inquirers were appointed on 11 occasions in 2019 (four in 2018) to produce reports; once by the Investigations Panel, twice by Investigations Officers to assist reviewing drawings and framing technical allegations, and eight times by ARB to provide expert evidence to the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC).
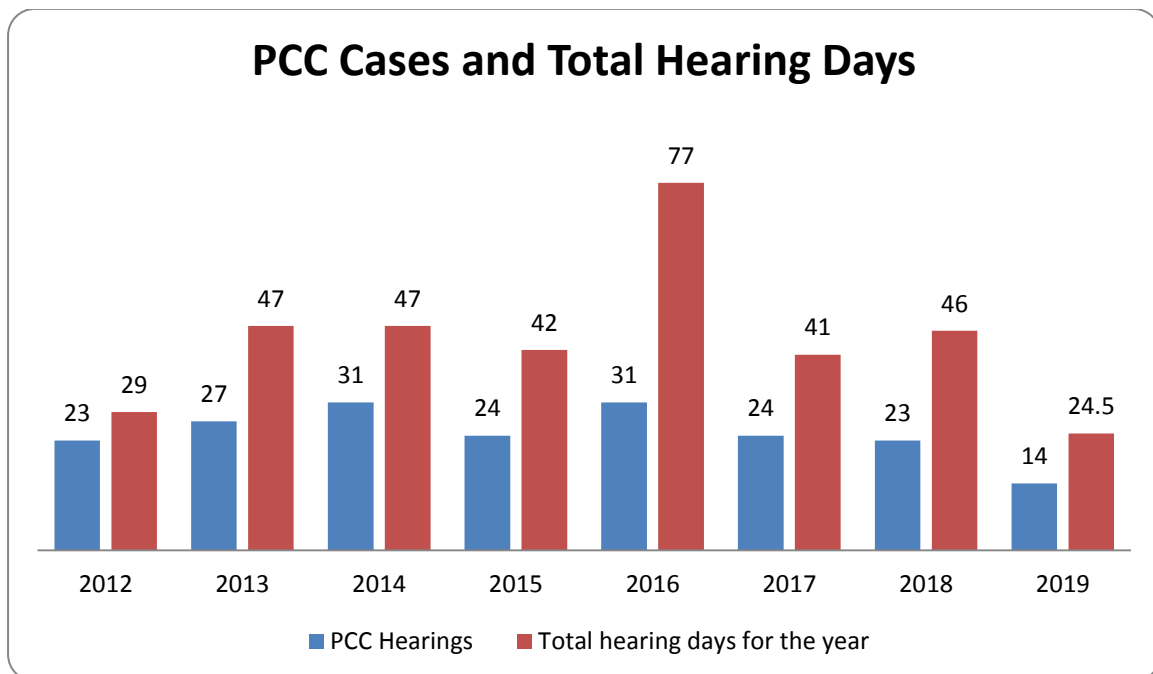
3.4   Third Party Review

Third Party Review considers certain Board/ Committee/Panel procedures that do not have a statutory appeal to the courts. Third Party Review does not revisit the original decision, but looks at whether the process was properly and correctly followed. There are two independent Third Party Reviewers.
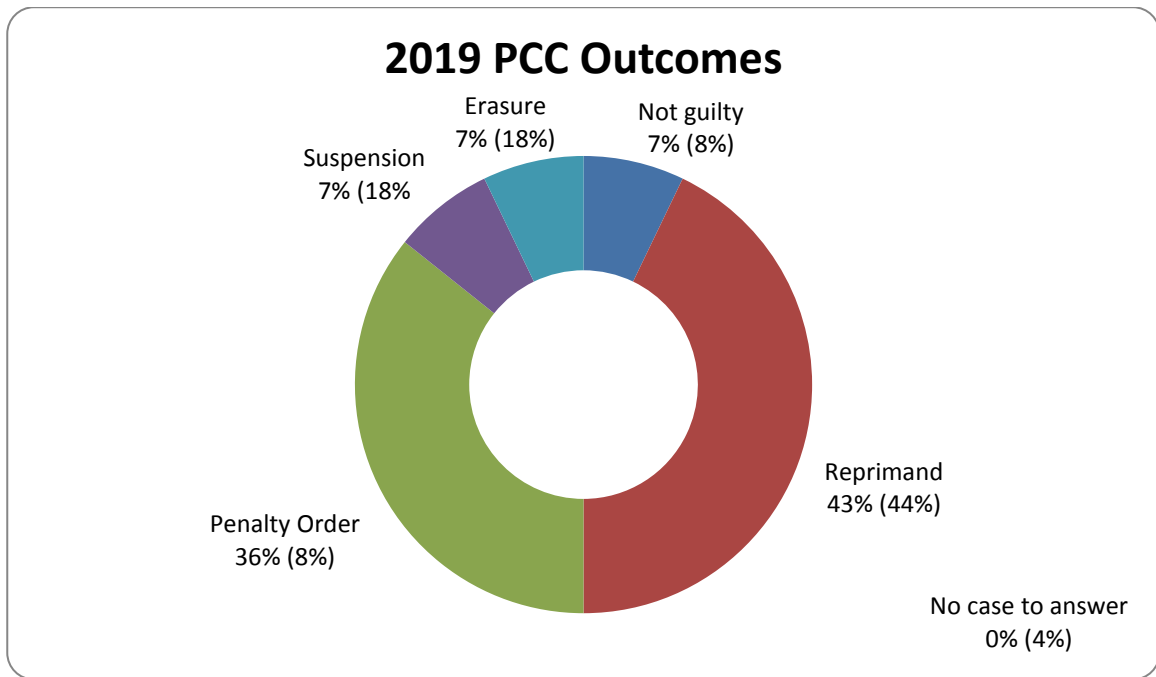
There were five Third Party Reviews undertaken in 2019. There were five further applications for a Review which were refused on the grounds that they failed to identify any flaws in the procedure by which the decision was reached, which is a requirement of acceptance.

The Reviews undertaken did not find any defects or irregularities in the investigation process but two cases were referred back to the Investigations Panel with advice to reconsider its decision from a different angle.

3.6   Professional Conduct Committee (PCC)

In 2019 the PCC considered 14 cases, a 39 drop from 2018. Five of those cases were dealt with by way of a consent order (so without the need for a physical hearing), the same as in 2018. The drop in the number of cases being heard can be attributed to the change in the Architects Act at the start of the year, meaning that the PCC members had to be reappointed when the new Board came into force. This meant that the Committee could not recommence hearings until the middle of the year.
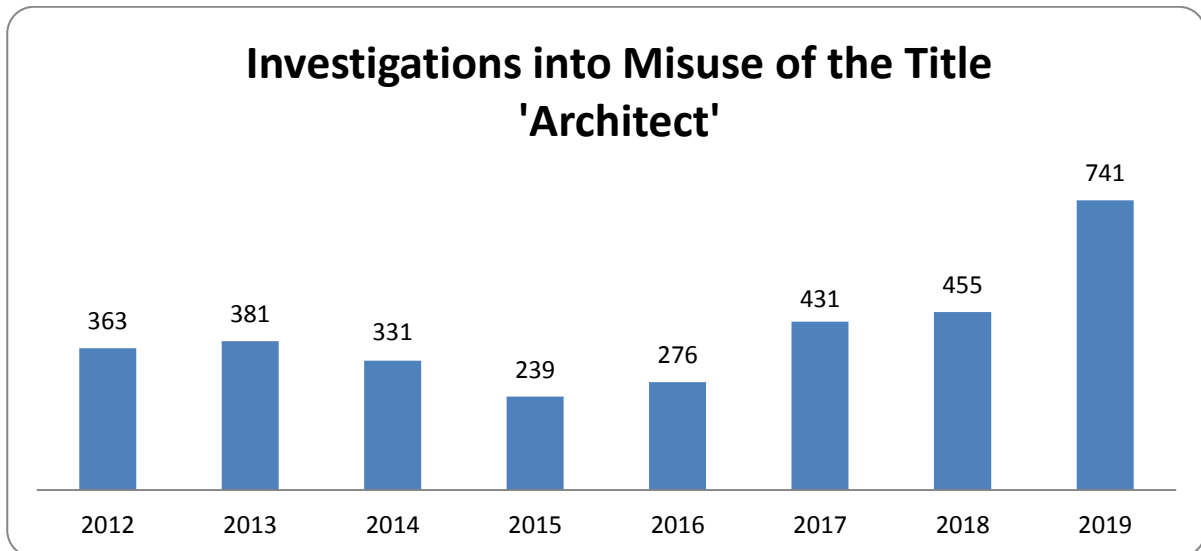
2019 PCC Outcomes

- Erasure 7% (18%)
- Not guilty 7% (8%)
- Suspension 7% (18%
- Reprimand 43% (44%)
- No case to answer 0% (4%)
- Penalty Order 36% (8%)

The Chair of the PCC submits an independent report on behalf of the Committee to the Board each year.

3.7   Assisting the Public to make Informed Choices

Regulation of title and performance indicators

Investigations into Misuse of the Title 'Architect'

Year	Value
2012	363
2013	381
2014	331
2015	239
2016	276
2017	431
2018	455
2019	741

Additional staff resource in this area meant that there was a significant increase in the number of investigations carried out, including more criminal prosecutions (eight) than there were in 2018 (four). All defendants were successfully convicted of breaching Section 20 of the Architects Act

Annex A

1997. The average fine imposed by the Magistrates' Courts for prosecutions was £6,995, with an average of a further £2,184 being awarded to ARB in costs.

Of the misuse of title investigations concluded in 2019, 29% originated from architects, 35% from members of the public, and 36% from other sources or as a result of ARB's own enquiries.

4 Communications

4.1 ARB website and the online Architects Register

Our main website, **arb.org.uk**, and the online Architects Register, **architects-register.org.uk**, are our both integral to the delivery of our statutory duties.

Changes to cookie consent policy as a result of the GDPR meant that our ability to track users on the arb.org.uk website from 1 May 2018 - 23 January 2019 was significantly reduced. Analysis of website interactions and comparisons with previous years should be considered with this context in mind. The online Architects Register was unaffected by this issue.

Engagement with our content

	2017	2018	2019
arb.org.uk sessions	274,981	179,182	262,990
architects-register sessions	308,436	350,788	329,204

Where does the web traffic come from?
In 2019 63% of traffic to the main website and 57% of the traffic to the Register was from search engine results that were earned (not paid for).

4.2 ARB logo

We continue to work to encourage architects to link to their page on the online Register and use the logo to highlight their registered status. There were 2,794 downloads of logo in 2019, a 48% increase from 1,461 downloads the previous year.

4.3 Social Media

We continue to use social media to reach out directly to stakeholders.
The below table shows social media audience numbers as at the end of 2019 and the percentage increase this represents on the 2018 numbers.

	As at end 2018	As at end 2019	Difference
Facebook fans	2,285	2,577	+13%
LinkedIn followers	5,425	22,083	+307%
Twitter followers	1,102	1,409	+28%
YouTube subscribers	97	339	+249%

4.3 Exhibitions

During 2019 we exhibited at two major exhibitions aimed at consumers planning domestic construction projects. We took stands at the National Homebuilding and Renovating Shows in Birmingham and Harrogate .

4.4 Publications

eBulletins

Our eBulletins are hosted online and provide updates on decisions made by our Board as well as other information of interest and relevance to architects. Issues are published after Board meetings, around five times a year. Those who have signed up with us, will receive a notification when a new issue has published.

Engagement within the first week

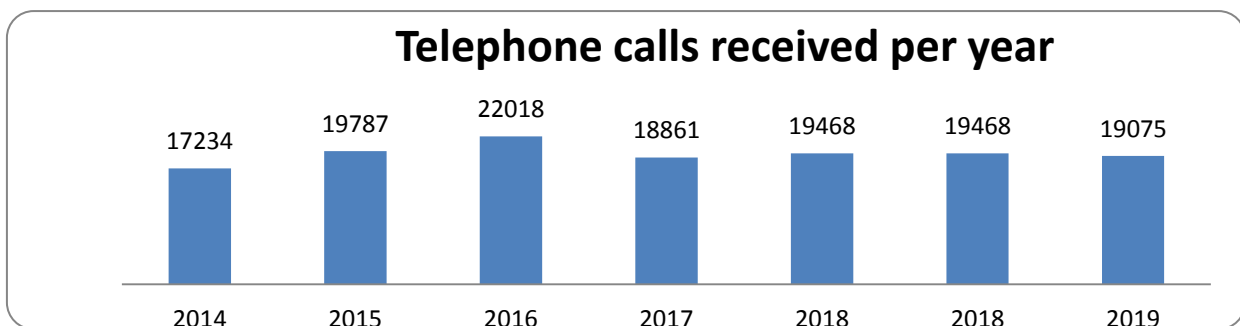|	2017	2018	2019
Email unique opens (average)	12,211	13,247 (+8%)	14,774 (+11%)
Microsite page views (average)	2,596	2,576 (-1%)	5,365 (+108%)

Annual Report

Our Annual Report and Financial Statements were published on 28 June 2019 after being laid in Parliament on 27 June 2019.

Our informal Annual Report was published on 24 September 2019. The below table shows the comparative performance of our informal Annual Reports at seven weeks from publication.

	Date published	Page views	Sessions	Users
2016 report	31 July 2017	1,149	384	328
2017 report	29 June 2018	909 (-21%)	350 (-9%)	295 (-10%)
2018 report	24 Sept 2019	8,572 (+843%)	3,191 (+812%)	2,839 (+862%)

4.5 Telephone Calls

19,075 telephone calls were received in 2019, compared with 19,468 in 2018. People wishing to use ARB's services are encouraged to 'self-serve' by using the online resources provided on the website.

Telephone calls received per year

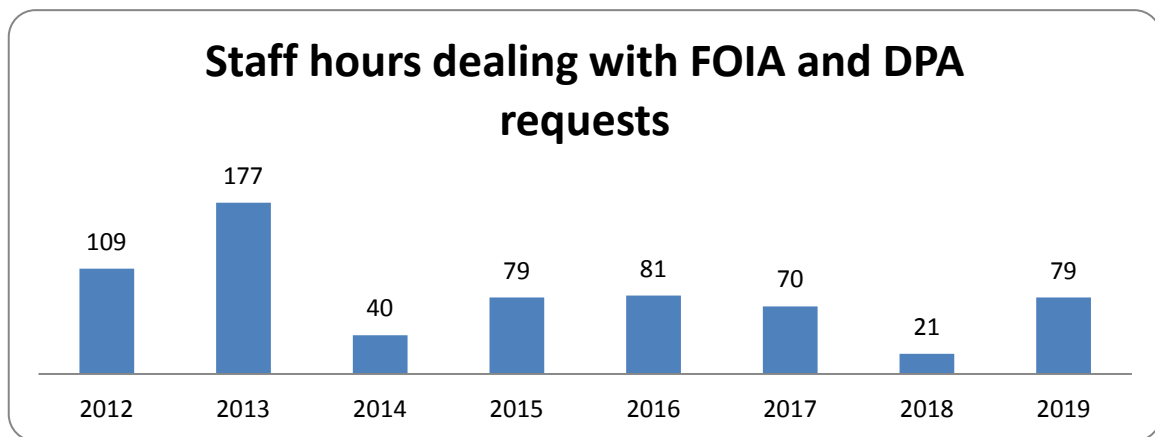| 2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2018	2019
17234	19787	22018	18861	19468	19468	19075

4.6   Online Chat Facility

We also provide an online chat facility as an alterntive option for those wishing to contact ARB. In 2019 we dealt with 1,721 queries, 6% fewer than in 2018 (1,830), but 28% higher than in 2017 (1,341).

4.7   Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) / Data Protection Act (DPA)

ARB received 32 requests for information under FOIA and DPA, compared to 11 in 2018.

ARB is legally required to respond to all FOIA requests within 20 working days (or 40 working days in relation to subject access requests under DPA). 31 of the 32 requests were responded to within the statutory timescale.

79 staff hours were spent on dealing requests for information in 2019. ARB continues to publish information about its work so that those seeking data about the organisation can find it without having to make specific requests.

Staff hours dealing with FOIA and DPA requests

2012	109
2013	177
2014	40
2015	79
2016	81
2017	70
2018	21
2019	79

5.   Human Resources

5.1   Working time lost through absence during 2019

The number of days lost through sickness absence based on an average of 29 Full Time Employees was 73 days (58 days in 2018 for 26 employees). This is equivalent of 2.5 days per employee (2.2 days per employee in 2018)

The national average for days lost through sickness is 4.4 days per employee.

Minor illnesses, such as cold, flu, headache/migraine and viruses remain the most common cause of short-term absence.

Maternity / Paternity and Special Leave

During 2019, one member of the team took 2 weeks Paternity and a further 10 employees had a total of 13.5 compassionate/special leave days between them and 8 study days in total were given to 2 employees.

5.2 Retention and turnover

During 2019 we have seen five members of the team in total leave ARB, representing a staff turnover of 18%, compared to 25% in 2018.

The table below provides information on the length of service range and retention rates.

Length of Service	No. of Employees 31/12/2019	Left during 2019	Retention Rate
up to 3 years*	19	5	26%
3+ years	3	0	0%
6+ years	2	0	0%
10+ years	2	0	0%
15+ years	4	0	0%
Total based on Head Count	**30**	**5**	**18%**

6. Equality & Diversity Statistics

6.1 Information held

ARB started collecting Equality & Diversity (E&D) information about those on the Register in 2012, with those entering (or re-entering) the Register are asked to provide details. Registrants can also update their E&D information online.

ARB now holds E&D information on 62% of registrants[2]. The information is published with regular updates at http://www.arb.org.uk/about-arb/equality-diversity/data/
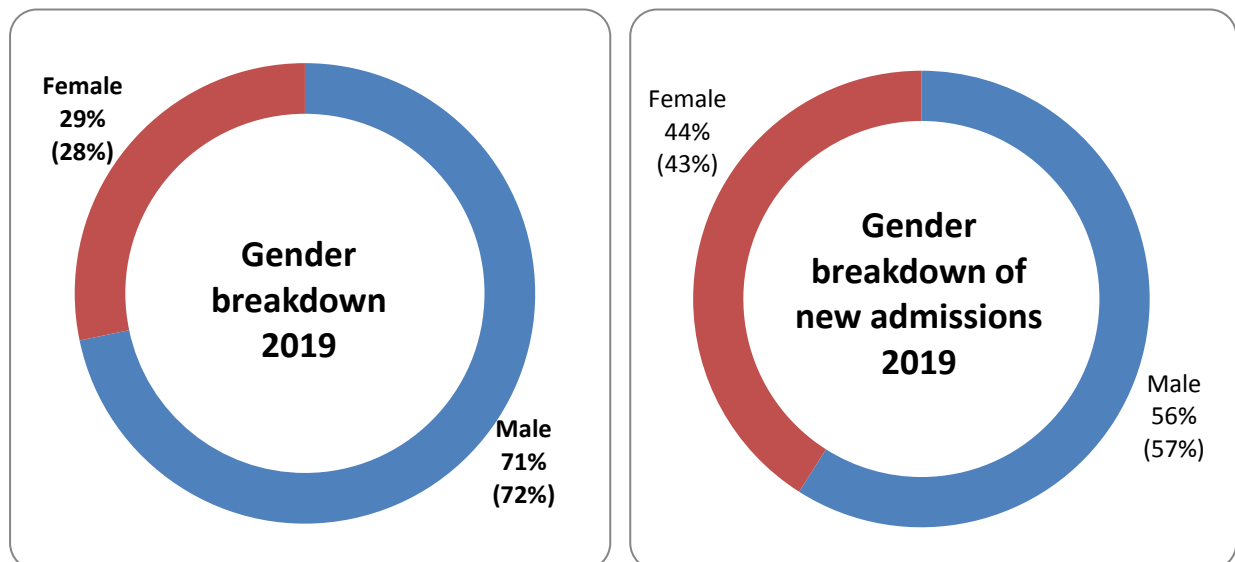
In 2019 ARB started collecting information architects' socio-economic status. This will begin to allow a picture to be formed about any changes to the make-up of the profession over time; however it is likely to be some years before sufficient data is collected to justify reporting.

In the first half of 2020 we will be carrying out a project to seek E&D information from those architects we do not hold it for, so that we can have a more complete picture about the breakdown of the Register.

6.2 Gender
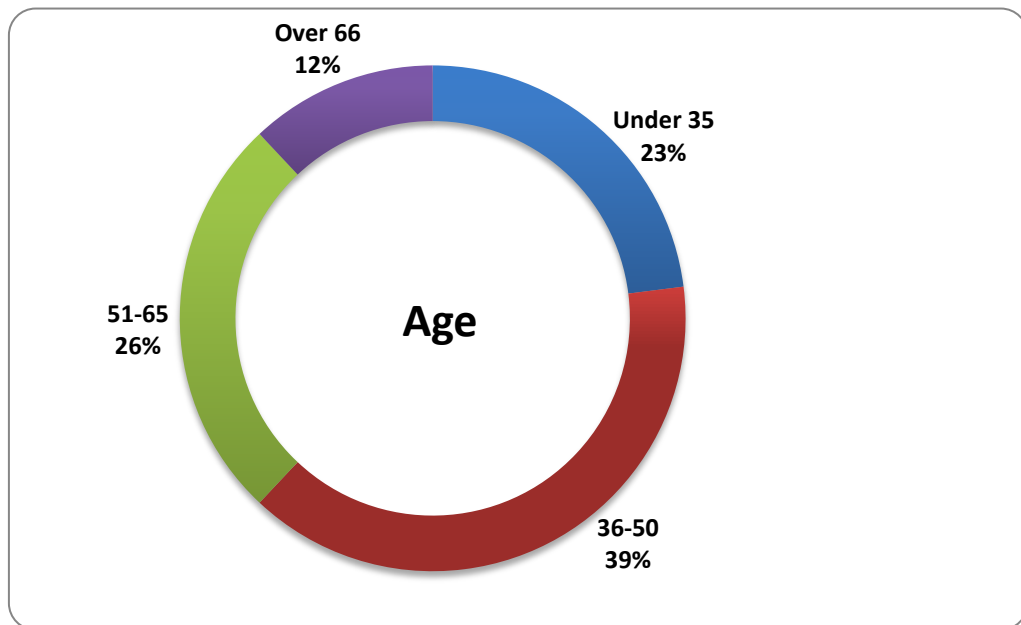
ARB holds gender information about the entire Register.

71% of architects are male and 29% female. The proportion of female architects on the Register continues to grow by about 1% every year, and has done for the last decade.

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[2] All data in this section was accurate as of 6 January 2020. It includes completed responses that selected 'Prefer not to say'. Due to the fractions involved, the displayed percentages may not add up to 100%
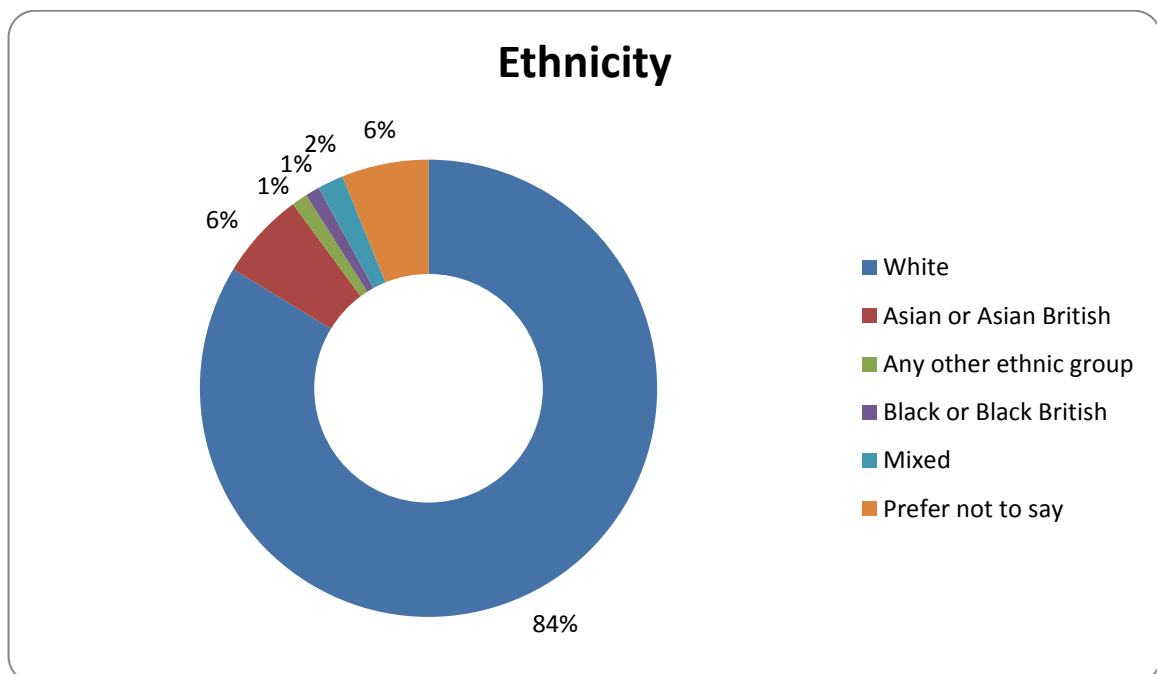
6.3 Age

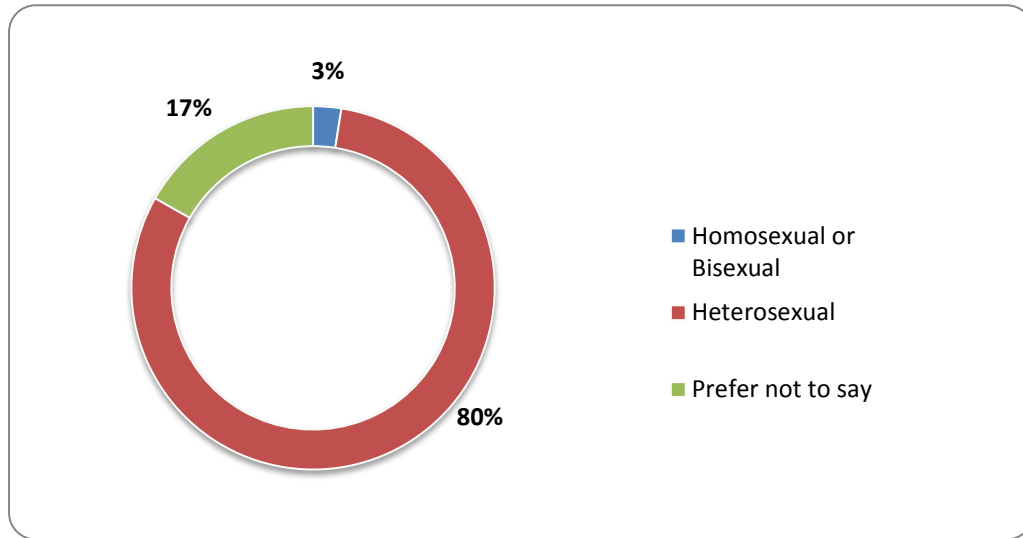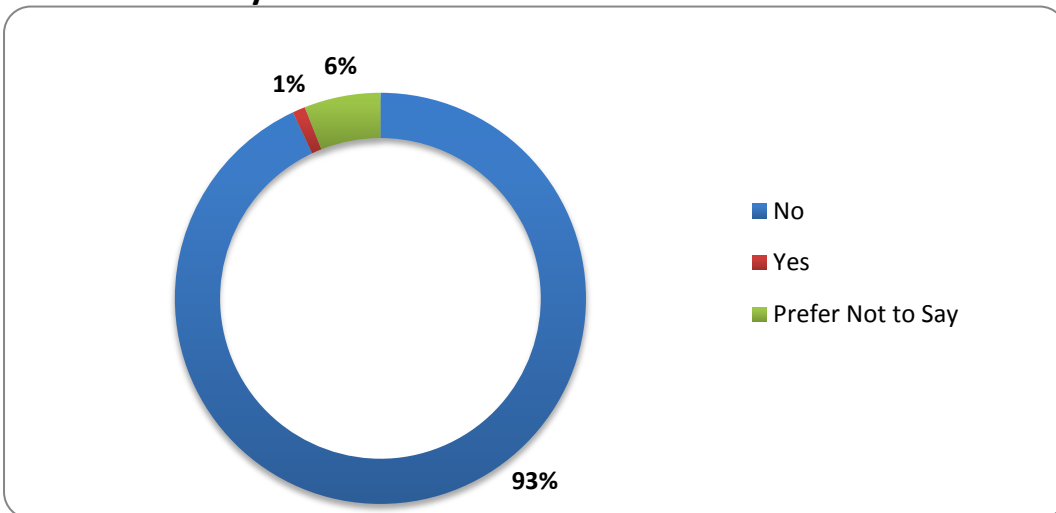ARB holds age information for all architects on the Register.

Age

- Over 66 — 12%
- Under 35 — 23%
- 36-50 — 39%
- 51-65 — 26%

6.4 Ethnic Background

The ethnicity of architects on the Register is as shown below.

Ethnicity

- White — 84%
- Asian or Asian British — 6%
- Any other ethnic group — 1%
- Black or Black British — 1%
- Mixed — 2%
- Prefer not to say — 6%

6.5 Sexual Orientation

- Homosexual or Bisexual
- Heterosexual
- Prefer not to say

6.6 Disability

- No
- Yes
- Prefer Not to Say

6.7 Religion

- Christian
- Non religious
- Prefer Not to Say
- Other