

# Probate and Oaths Monitoring Results 2025



ICAEW is an independent regulator with oversight responsibility in the role of an approved regulator under The Legal Services Act 2007. Our role as an improvement regulator is to strengthen consumer confidence and trust in those we regulate. We do this by enabling, evaluating and enforcing the standards expected by the profession, oversight regulators (such as the Legal Services Board) and government.

## 321

firms are accredited and monitored by ICAEW for probate services. (as at 31/12/2025)

Since 1 October 2025, these firms have also been authorised to administer oaths.

## 600+

the number of monitoring reviews we have carried out at firms since we became a probate regulator in 2014.

**PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS  
DEPARTMENT**

## IN 2025 ... 61 REVIEWS WERE UNDERTAKEN

### ACCREDITED FIRMS

Active - 321 (2024: 348)  
Accreditations in the year - 21 (2024: 27)  
Cessations in the year - 48 (2024: 36)

### CESSATIONS

Restructured - 23 (2024: 12)  
Accreditation not needed - 14 (2024: 17)  
Firm ceased/retired - 8 (2024: 5)  
Cost - 3 (2024: 1)  
Moved regulator - 0 (2024: 1)

### VISIT APPROACH

We aim to visit firms within the first 24 months of accreditation. All 19 (2024: 19) firms visited for a first probate visit in 2025 met this target.

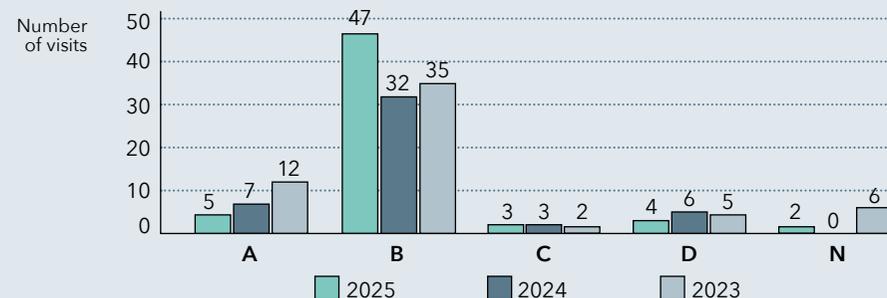
### VISITS COMPLETED

2025: 61 (3.0% of Practice Assurance visits undertaken)  
2024: 48 (4.1%)  
2023: 60 (4.6%)

### VISIT GRADES

- A** no instances of non-compliance
- B** some non-compliance but the firm's responses address the matters raised
- C** some follow-up action needed
- D** detailed report to Legal Services Committee
- N** firm doesn't have any probate work

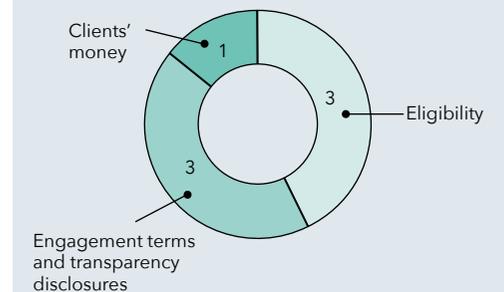
### VISIT OUTCOMES



### % OF VISITS REQUIRING FOLLOW-UP



### MATTERS REQUIRING FOLLOW-UP



### RESOURCES

All ICAEW-accredited firms receive the legal services edition of [Regulatory and Conduct News](#) and periodic issues of [Probate News](#).

These regulatory updates should be read and shared with your staff to ensure you are up to date on the latest regulations, guidance and resources.

[ICAEW Regulation and Conduct LinkedIn](#)  
Follow us for the very latest regulatory updates and guidance.