

# Overrepresentation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in reports to the SRA: Decision making at the assessment stage

30 October 2024

Published as part of [Overrepresentation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in reports to the SRA](https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/overrepresentation-reports-sra/) [<https://www.sra.org.uk/sra/research-publications/overrepresentation-reports-sra/>]

## 1. Introduction

The universities of York, Lancaster, and Cardiff were commissioned by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) to understand the reasons why there is overrepresentation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic solicitors in reports to the SRA. There are two main components to the research. The first looks at the factors, present in the legal sector and wider society, which may explain the overrepresentation in complaints of potential misconduct made to the SRA. The second looks at decision making at the assessment stage, when the SRA decides which complaints to progress for investigation. The reason for this focus is that the overrepresentation is particularly evident at these two early stages of the SRA's processes. It is present in the complaints received and increases further at the assessment stage. The research uses multiple complementary research methods, including both quantitative and qualitative analyses, to shed further light on this subject.

The overall findings from the research, including an overview of the component parts of the project, is published separately. This supporting report covers the second component of the project and sets out the findings from our review of decision making at the assessment stage of the SRA's enforcement process.

[Read the full report \(PDF 14 pages, 207KB\)](https://www.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/sra/research/overrepresentation-sra-decision-assessment.pdf)  
[<https://www.sra.org.uk/globalassets/documents/sra/research/overrepresentation-sra-decision-assessment.pdf>]