



Official Statistics

# Malpractice in GCSE, AS and A level: summer 2025 exam series

Published 11 December 2025

## Applies to England

### Contents

[Key headlines](#)

[Provide your feedback](#)

[Student malpractice](#)

[Staff malpractice](#)

[School or college malpractice](#)

[Contextual information](#)

This release presents figures on reported cases of malpractice associated with GCSE, AS and A level qualifications in England for the summer 2025 exam series. The report only includes cases of malpractice where a penalty was issued. Historical data going back to summer 2022 is also presented.

Figures for the number of cases which resulted in at least one penalty (which are presented throughout this release) are not the same as the number of penalties issued. This is because it is not always possible to determine in our source data the number of penalties issued for each case. For further information, see the 'Methods' section of the [background information document](#).

These figures are correct at the time of publication, however not all investigations into cases of malpractice may be concluded by the time the data is collected. In 2025, there were 95 malpractice cases which were ongoing at the time of the data cutoff date (12 November 2025).

A single malpractice case may involve an individual student, member of school or college staff, or whole school or college, but may also involve multiple individuals from either within or across these groups. When determining whether multiple individuals were involved in a single malpractice case, exam boards may need to exercise their judgement based on the evidence provided. A single case may also

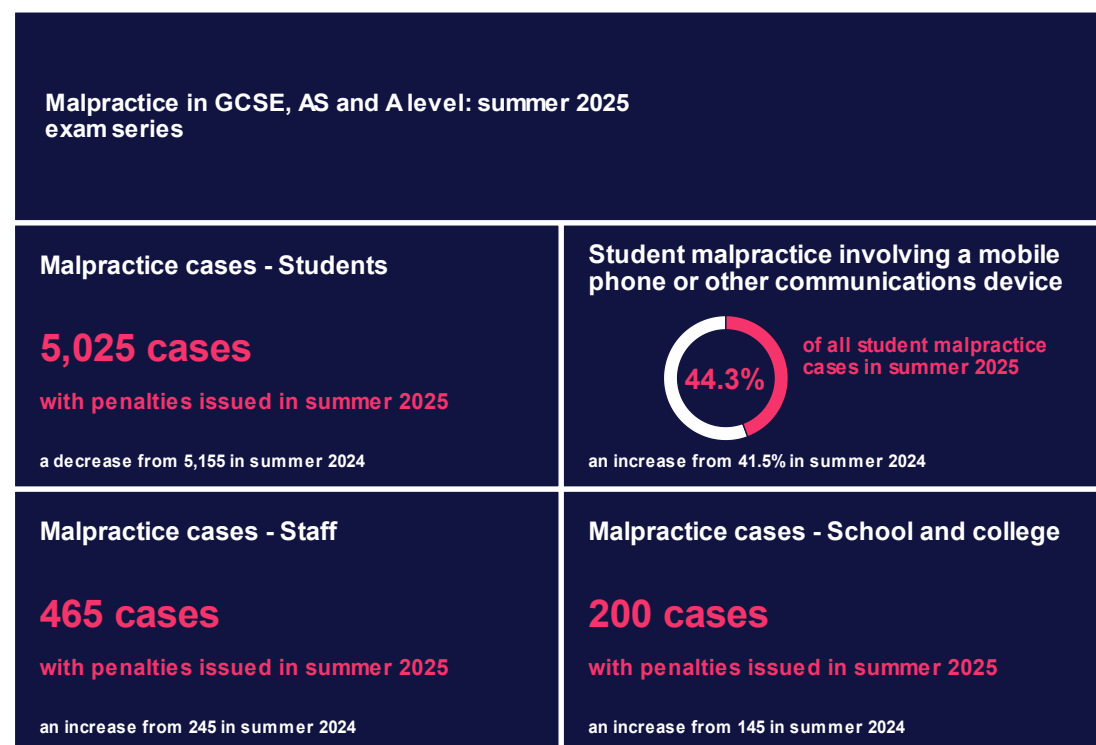
span one or more qualifications and can involve multiple types of malpractice. It is possible for cases of staff or school or college malpractice to include both GCSE and AS and A level qualifications.

Changes in cohort size may affect the overall number of malpractice cases in each academic year. In the summer 2025 exam series there was a 0.5% decrease in the total number of [GCSE, AS and A level component entries](#) compared with the previous year from 17.6 million in the summer 2024 to 17.5 million in the summer 2025.

Further information, including definitions and examples of the different categories of malpractice presented within this publication, is available in the [Suspected Malpractice Policies and Procedures](#) document published by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). Specific [guidance for the 2024 to 2025 academic year](#) is found on the JCQ website.

To ensure confidentiality, the data in this report has been rounded in line with our [rounding policy for statistical publications](#). Further information on this release is available in the [background information and data tables accompanying this report](#).

## Key headlines



The key headlines for proven cases of malpractice for which a penalty was issued in GCSE, AS and A level qualifications for the summer 2025 exam series were:

1. The number of proven cases of malpractice involving students decreased compared with the previous year. There were 5,025 cases of malpractice

involving students in summer 2025, down 2.5% from 5,155 cases in summer 2024. For context there were 17.5 and 17.6 million GCSE, AS and A level entries (at component level) in summer 2025 and summer 2024 respectively.

2. In summer 2025, 4,735 individual students had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice. This represents 0.3% of the overall 1,376,480 GCSE, AS and A level students with results issued (or pending at the time of data collection) in summer 2025. This is similar to summer 2024 where 0.4% of the overall 1,349,260 GCSE, AS and A level students had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice (4,975 individual students).
3. For student malpractice, 44.3% of all cases involved mobile phone and other communication device offences. This continued to be the most common offence type for student malpractice, with 2,225 cases resulting in penalties for this type of offence in summer 2025, compared with 2,140 (41.5% of all student malpractice cases) in summer 2024.
4. The number of cases of malpractice (including maladministration) involving school or college staff increased compared with the previous year, driven mostly by a rise in maladministration cases (a less serious form of malpractice). 465 cases of malpractice included members of staff in summer 2025, up from 245 in summer 2024. For context, according to statistics published on the [school workforce in England from November 2024](#), there were over 373,000 full time equivalent teachers and support staff in state funded secondary schools.
5. There were 200 cases of school or college level malpractice (including maladministration) in summer 2025, up from 145 in summer 2024, driven mostly by a rise in maladministration cases (a less serious form of malpractice). In summer 2025, 175 individual schools or colleges had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice, which represents 2.9% of the overall 6,010 schools and colleges with results issued (or pending at the time of data collection) for GCSEs, AS and A levels in that year. This is similar to summer 2024 when 2.4% of the overall 5,950 schools and colleges had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice (140 schools and colleges).

## Provide your feedback

We welcome your feedback on our publications. If you have any comments on this statistical release, or how to improve it to meet your needs, please complete our [short survey](#) or [data.analytics@ofqual.gov.uk](mailto:data.analytics@ofqual.gov.uk).

## Student malpractice

Exam boards may impose sanctions and penalties on students found to have

committed malpractice. The penalties for student malpractice vary depending on the type of offence. An individual student can potentially be involved in multiple cases of malpractice and be penalised by more than one exam board if they commit malpractice offences when sitting more than one assessment. A student may also receive one penalty for multiple offences, or multiple penalties for a single offence. Similarly, a single malpractice case may involve more than one student.

In summer 2025, 5,025 cases of malpractice included students, down from 5,155 in summer 2024. For context, there were 17.5 and 17.6 million GCSE, AS and A level total entries (at component level) in summer 2025 and summer 2024 respectively ([see our entries statistics for more information](#)). Note that while this is provided for context, direct comparisons of the number of entries with the number of malpractice cases should not be made, particularly including the calculation of proportions or percentages. This is because entries are made per student and component, whereas a single malpractice case may involve multiple students, or cover more than one component or qualification, meaning that any direct comparisons are not valid.

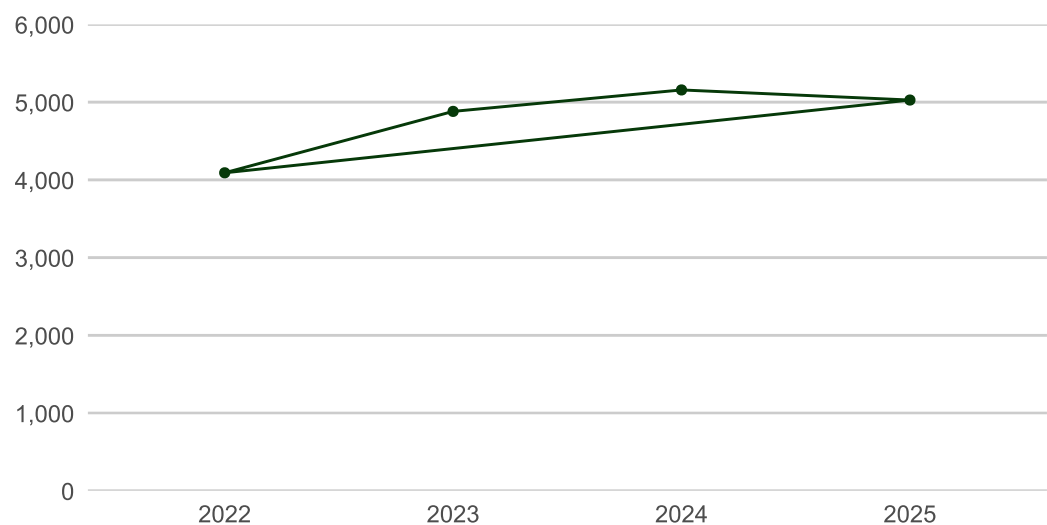
In summer 2025, 4,735 individual students had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice. This represents 0.3% of the overall 1,376,480 GCSE, AS and A level students with results issued (or pending at the time of data collection) in summer 2025. This is similar to summer 2024 where 0.4% of the overall 1,349,260 GCSE, AS and A level students had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice (4,975 individual students).

Note that in this release 'results issued' refers to passing grades, Unclassified (U) as well as outcomes representing the absence of a result (Q, X) as these may still have had a penalty issued from a malpractice case.

The number of students only include those who had a known identifier, which is necessary to identify unique students. Instances where the student identifier was not known (fewer than 5 in summer 2025 and fewer than 5 in summer 2024) are removed from the analysis.

**The number of student malpractice cases in summer 2025 decreased slightly compared with summer 2024**

Number of proven student malpractice cases, 2022 to 2025



**Table 1: Number of proven student malpractice cases, 2022 to 2025**

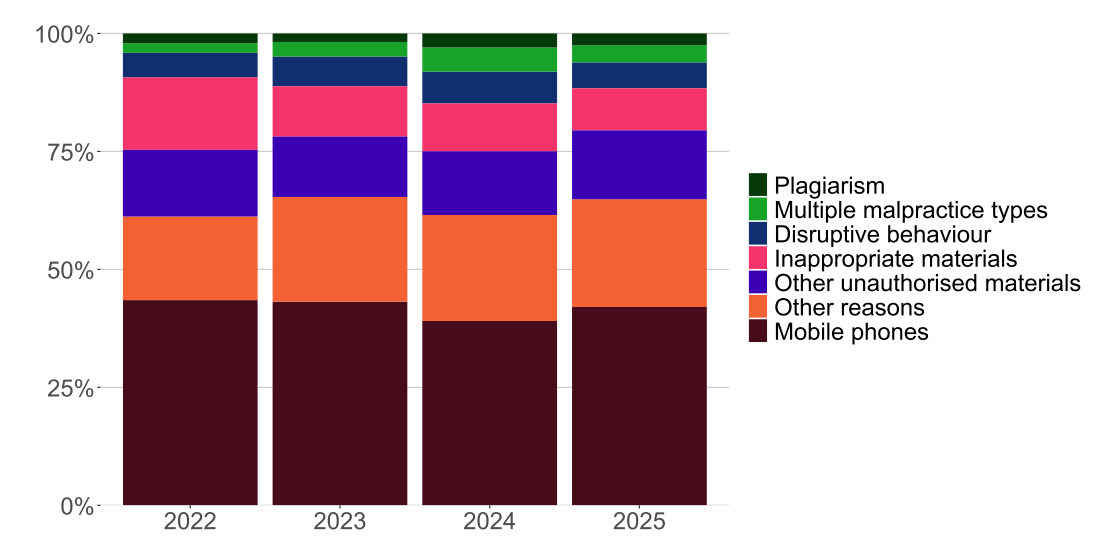
Type of malpractice	Number of cases in 2022	Number of cases in 2023	Number of cases in 2024	Number of cases in 2025
Student malpractice	4,090	4,880	5,155	5,025

**Types of student malpractice (proportion of cases per offence type)**

The most common type of malpractice reported in summer 2025 was the introduction of a mobile phone or other communications device into the examination room, the same as in summer 2024. This category appeared in 44.3% of all cases of student malpractice in summer 2025 (2,225 cases), compared with 41.5% of all cases in summer 2024 (2,140 cases). Note that these figures include cases where multiple offence types took place. They therefore differ from the values reported in the chart and table 2 below, where cases involving multiple malpractice types are categorised separately.

**Introduction of mobile phone and other communication devices remained the most common type of offence for student malpractice in 2025**

Percentage of proven student malpractice cases by type of offence, 2022 to 2025



**Table 2: Percentage of proven student malpractice cases by type of offence, 2022 to 2025.**

Type of student malpractice offence	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Plagiarism	2.1%	1.8%	3.0%	2.5%
Multiple malpractice types	2.0%	3.1%	5.1%	3.6%
Disruptive behaviour	5.2%	6.3%	6.7%	5.5%
Inappropriate materials	15.3%	10.7%	10.1%	8.9%
Other unauthorised materials	14.1%	12.8%	13.5%	14.6%
Other reasons	17.7%	22.2%	22.5%	22.8%
Mobile phones	43.5%	43.2%	39.1%	42.0%

Note: Throughout this report, the ‘mobile phones’ category also includes other communication devices such as smartwatches. The ‘inappropriate materials’ category refers to the inclusion of inappropriate, offensive or obscene materials in

scripts, coursework or portfolios. The ‘other unauthorised materials’ category includes non-smart watches, which were prohibited from being brought into the examination room from September 2021. The ‘other reasons’ category include being in possession of confidential material in advance of the examination, copying from another candidate, misuse of or attempted misuse of examination material and resources, as well as other offences. The ‘plagiarism’ category includes plagiarism including and excluding the misuse of artificial intelligence (AI).

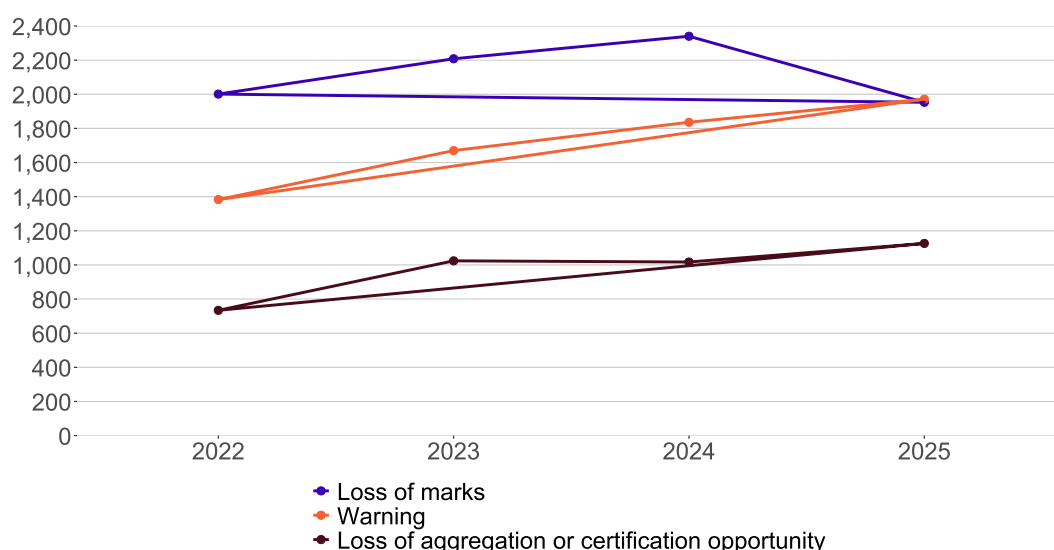
In summer 2025, plagiarism involving the misuse of AI accounted for 75.0% of all student plagiarism cases (100 cases) and 2.0% of all student malpractice cases. This is an increase compared with summer 2024 where AI-related plagiarism accounted for 55.4% of all student plagiarism cases (85 cases) and 1.7% of all student malpractice cases.

## Types of penalty issued to students (number of cases per penalty type)

The most common type of penalty issued to students in summer 2025 was a warning, with the number of cases resulting in this type of penalty being issued increasing to 1,970 from 1,835 in summer 2024.

### Warning was the most common penalty issued to students in summer 2025 with cases resulting in a loss of marks decreasing in 2025 compared with previous years

Number of proven student malpractice cases leading to each type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



**Table 3: Number of proven student malpractice cases leading to each type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Number of cases in 2022	Number of cases in 2023	Number of cases in 2024	Number of cases in 2025
--------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

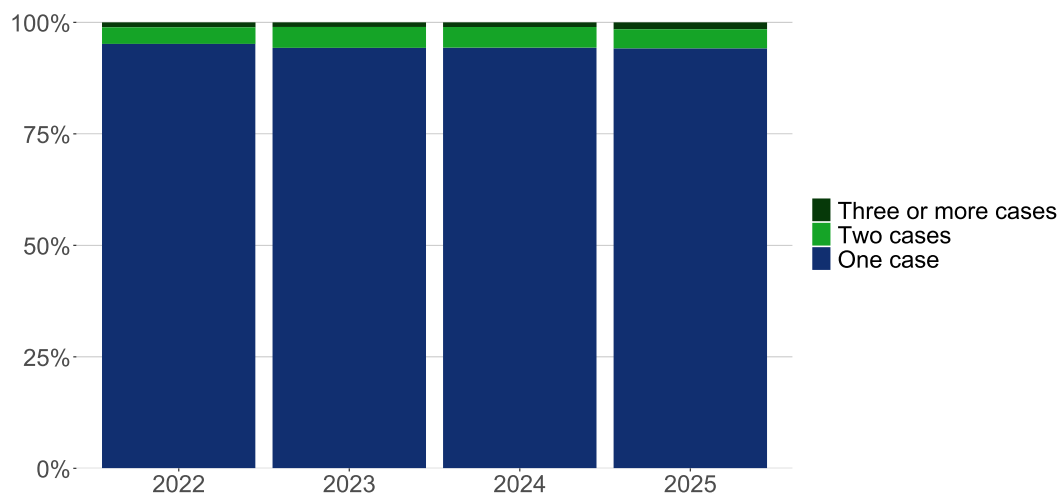
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	735	1,025	1,015	1,125
Loss of marks	2,000	2,210	2,340	1,955
Warning	1,385	1,670	1,835	1,970

## Number of malpractice cases per student

Individual students can be involved in multiple malpractice cases. In summer 2025, nearly all students who were involved in malpractice (94.1%) were involved in only one case, similar to summer 2024 (94.3%). There was a small number of students who were involved in more than one case of malpractice.

### In 2025 nearly all students who were involved in malpractice were involved in only one case

Percentage of students involved in one, two or three or more student malpractice cases, 2022 to 2025



**Table 4: Percentage of students involved in one, two or three or more student malpractice cases, 2022 to 2025.**

Number of cases	Percentage of students in 2022	Percentage of students in 2023	Percentage of students in 2024	Percentage of students in 2025
One case	95.2%	94.3%	94.3%	94.1%
Two cases	3.7%	4.7%	4.6%	4.3%



Three or more cases	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	1.5%
---------------------	------	------	------	------

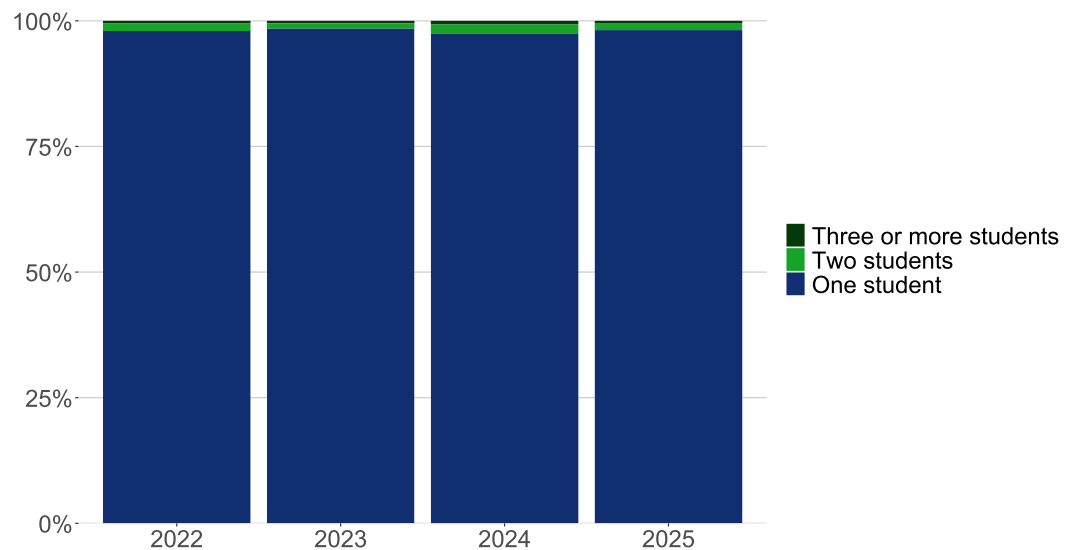
Note: Figures in this section only include students who had a known identifier, which is necessary to identify unique students within and across cases. Instances where the student identifier was not known (fewer than 5 in summer 2025 and fewer than 5 in summer 2024) are removed from the analysis.

## Number of students per malpractice case

Similarly, a single malpractice case can involve multiple students. In summer 2025, nearly all cases of student malpractice (98.1%) involved only one student, similar to summer 2024 (97.5%). A small number of cases involved more than one student.

### In 2025, nearly all student malpractice cases involved only one student

Percentage of proven student malpractice cases by number of students involved, 2022 to 2025



**Table 5: Percentage of proven student malpractice cases by number of students involved, 2022 to 2025.**

Number of students	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
One student	98.0%	98.4%	97.5%	98.1%
Two	1.5%	1.1%	1.8%	1.3%

students

Three or more students	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%
------------------------	------	------	------	------

Note: Figures in this section only include students who had a known identifier, which is necessary to identify unique students within and across cases. Instances where the student identifier was not known (fewer than 5 in summer 2025 and fewer than 5 in summer 2024) are removed from the analysis.

## Types of penalty issued to students, by type of malpractice offence

Penalties for cases of student malpractice vary depending on the type of offence. The categories presented here are broad and could cover a range of specific sanctions and transgressions. The precise penalty applied depends on the circumstances of the specific case.

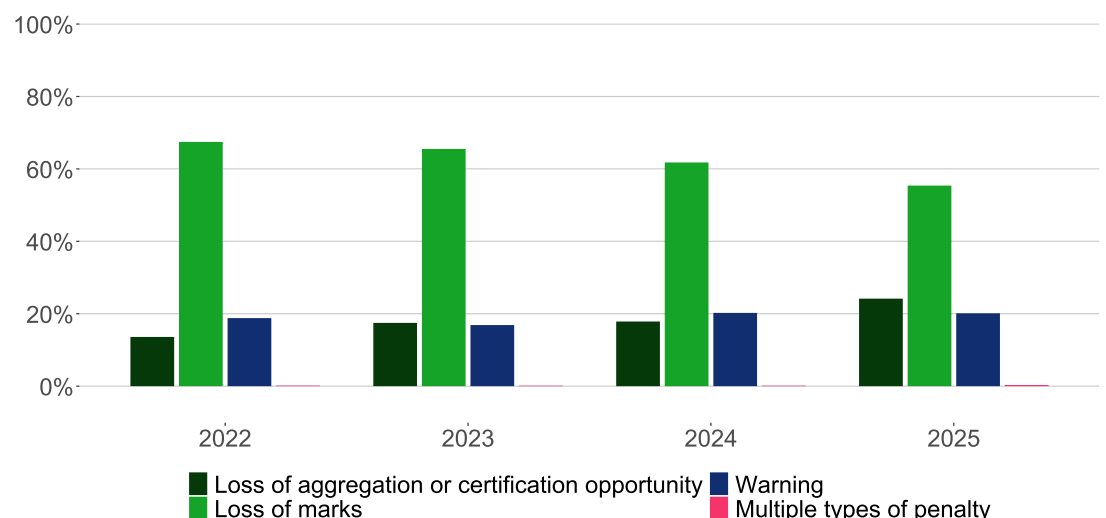
The 'multiple types of penalty' category represents cases which resulted in more than one penalty type being applied. A full breakdown of penalty types, including those aggregated into the 'multiple penalty' category, for each student offence type is available in the [data tables accompanying this release](#).

Charts and tables are only included in this section for offence types that had 20 or more student malpractice cases in 2025.

### Mobile phones

#### Loss of marks continued to be the most common penalty issued to students for mobile phone offences

Percentage of proven student malpractice cases for mobile phone offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



**Table 6.1: Percentage of proven student malpractice cases for mobile phone offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

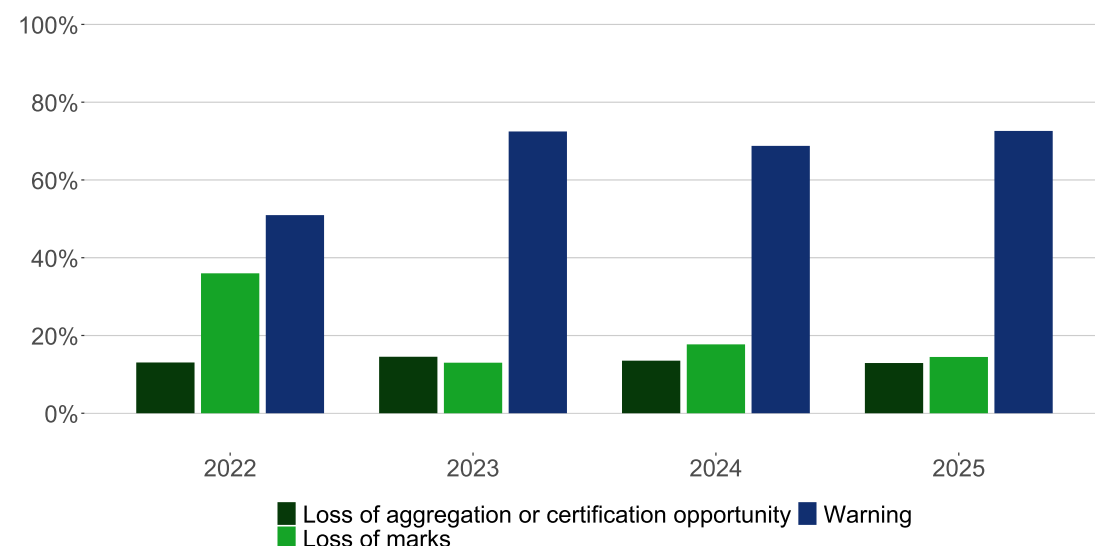
Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	13.6%	17.5%	17.9%	24.2%
Loss of marks	67.5%	65.5%	61.8%	55.4%
Multiple types of penalty	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%
Warning	18.8%	16.9%	20.2%	20.1%

### Inappropriate materials

There were no cases of inappropriate material offences which led to multiple types of penalties being issued. The 'multiple types of penalty' category is therefore not shown in the chart and table 6.2 below.

### Warning continued to be the most common penalty issued to students for inappropriate materials offences

Percentage of proven student malpractice cases for inappropriate materials offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



**Table 6.2: Percentage of proven student malpractice cases for inappropriate materials offences by type of penalty, 2022, to, 2025.**

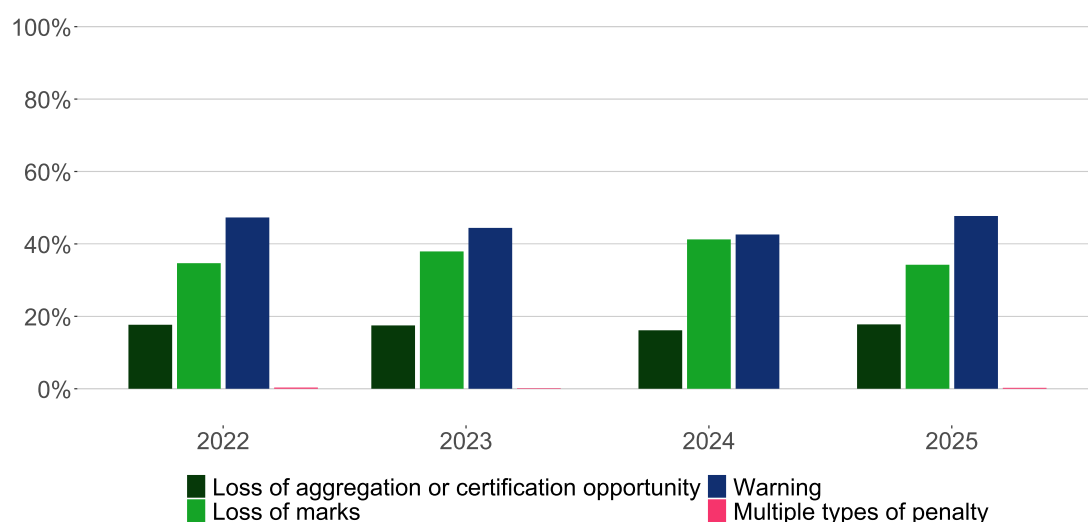
Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
--------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	13.1%	14.5%	13.5%	12.9%
Loss of marks	36.0%	13.0%	17.7%	14.5%
Warning	51.0%	72.5%	68.8%	72.6%

### Other unauthorised materials

#### Warning continued to be the most common penalty issued to students for other unauthorised materials offences

Percentage of proven student malpractice cases for other unauthorised materials offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



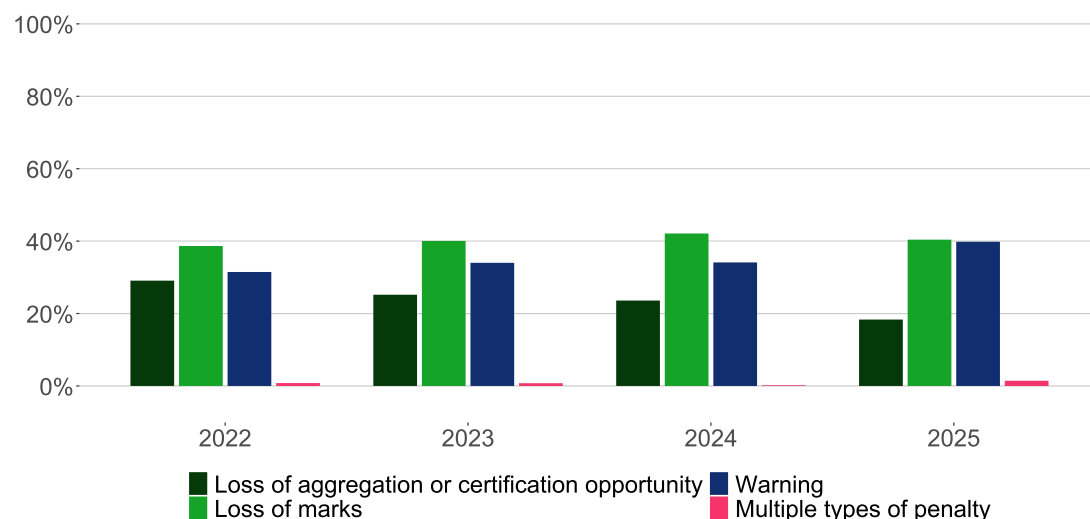
**Table 6.3: Percentage of proven student malpractice cases for other unauthorised materials offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	17.7%	17.5%	16.1%	17.8%
Loss of marks	34.7%	37.9%	41.2%	34.2%
Multiple types of penalty	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%	0.3%
Warning	47.3%	44.4%	42.6%	47.7%

## Disruptive behaviour

### Loss of marks continued to be the most common penalty issued to students for disruptive behaviour offences

Percentage of proven malpractice cases involving disruptive behaviour by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



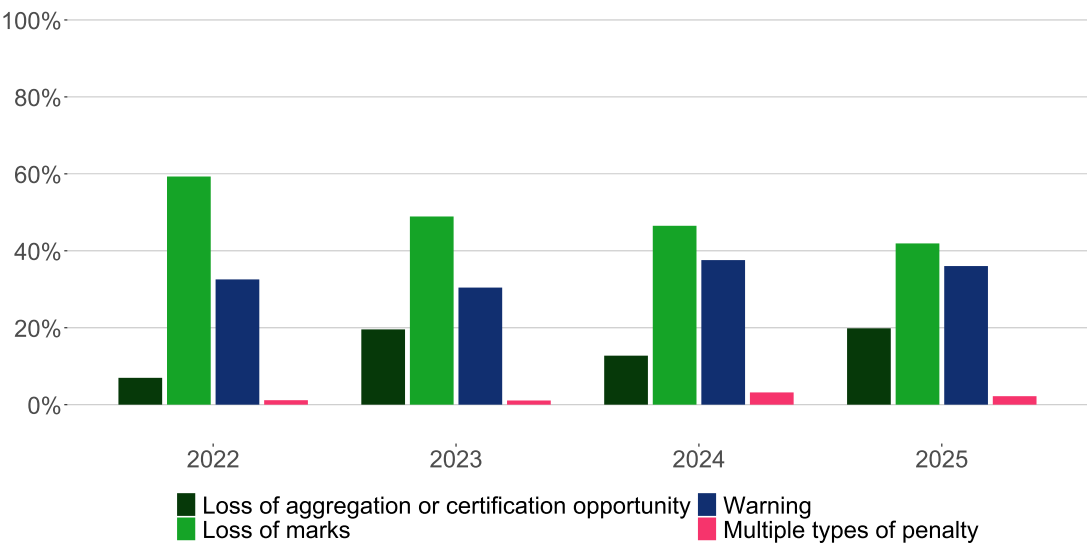
**Table 6.4: Percentage of proven malpractice cases involving disruptive behaviour by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	29.1%	25.2%	23.6%	18.3%
Loss of marks	38.6%	40.1%	42.1%	40.4%
Multiple types of penalty	0.8%	0.8%	0.2%	1.4%
Warning	31.5%	34.0%	34.1%	39.8%

## Plagiarism

**Loss of marks continued to be the most common penalty issued to students for plagiarism offences**

Percentage of proven malpractice cases involving plagiarism by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



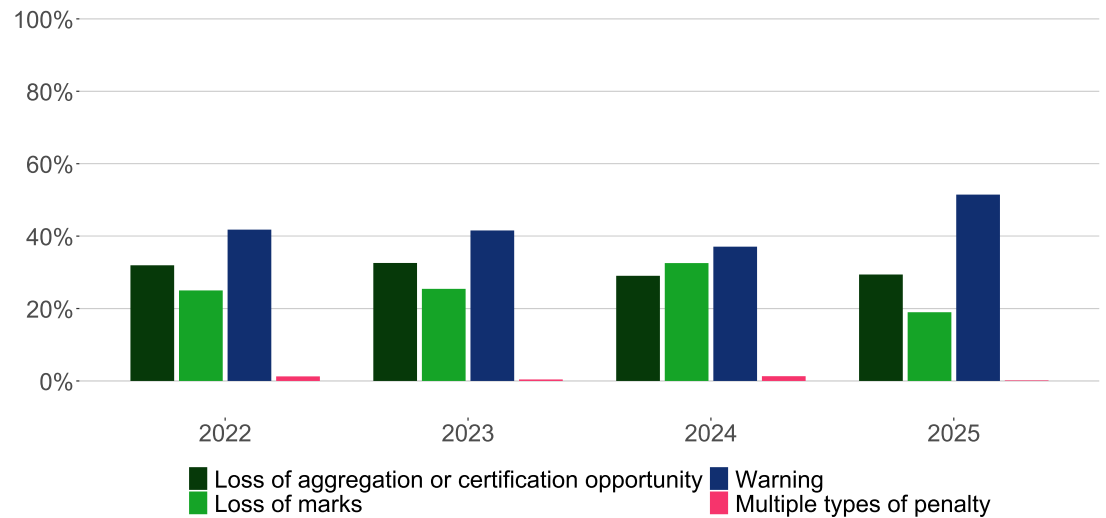
**Table 6.5: Percentage of proven malpractice cases involving plagiarism by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	7.0%	19.6%	12.7%	19.9%
Loss of marks	59.3%	48.9%	46.5%	41.9%
Multiple types of penalty	1.2%	1.1%	3.2%	2.2%
Warning	32.6%	30.4%	37.6%	36.0%

**Other reasons**

## Warning continued to be the most common penalty issued to students for other reasons offences

Percentage of proven malpractice cases involving other reasons by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



**Table 6.6: Percentage of proven malpractice cases involving other reasons by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Loss of aggregation or certification opportunity	31.9%	32.6%	29.0%	29.4%
Loss of marks	25.0%	25.4%	32.6%	19.0%
Multiple types of penalty	1.3%	0.4%	1.3%	0.2%
Warning	41.8%	41.6%	37.1%	51.5%

## Staff malpractice

Exam boards may impose penalties for malpractice committed by an individual member of staff at a school or college, for example a teacher or an invigilator. The term ‘malpractice’ here includes both ‘maladministration’, which generally constitutes mistakes or poor process where there has been no intention to do any harm, and ‘malpractice’ in its narrower sense, which generally involves some form of intent. An individual member of staff can potentially be involved in multiple

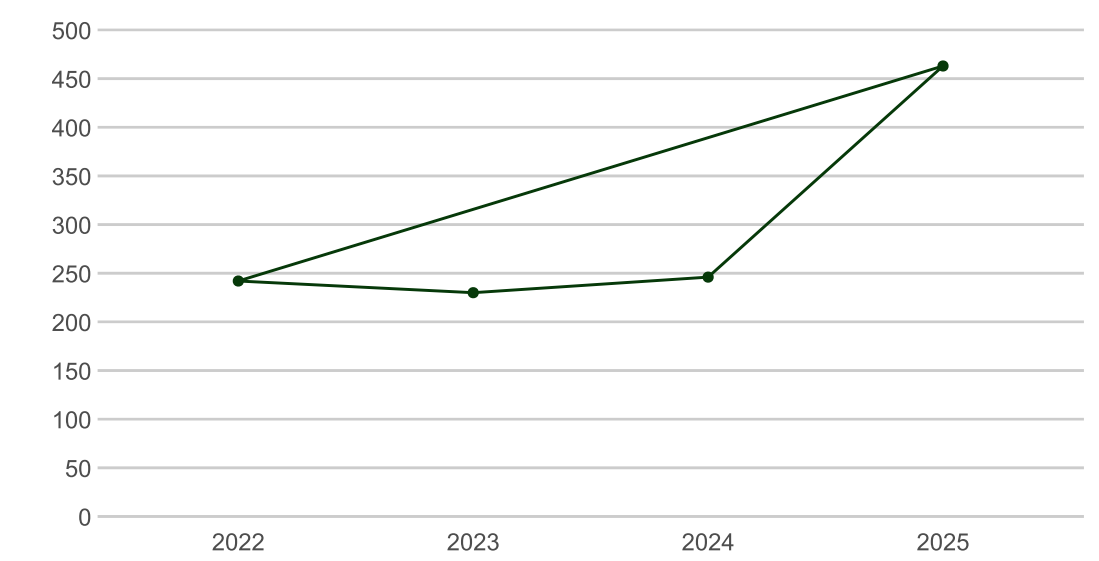
cases of malpractice, and a single malpractice case may involve more than one staff member. A staff member may also receive one penalty for multiple offences, or multiple penalties for a single offence.

In summer 2025, 465 cases of malpractice involved members of staff, up from 245 in summer 2024, driven mostly by a rise in maladministration cases (a less serious form of malpractice).

For context, according to statistics published on the [school workforce in England from November 2024](#), there were over 373,000 full time equivalent teachers and support staff in state funded secondary schools.

**Cases of staff malpractice increased in summer 2025 compared with 2024**

The number of proven malpractice cases for staff members, 2022 to 2025



**Table 7: The number of proven malpractice cases for staff members, 2022 to 2025.**

Type of malpractice	Number of cases in 2022	Number of cases in 2023	Number of cases in 2024	Number of cases in 2025
Staff malpractice	240	230	245	465

**Types of staff malpractice (proportion of cases per offence type)**

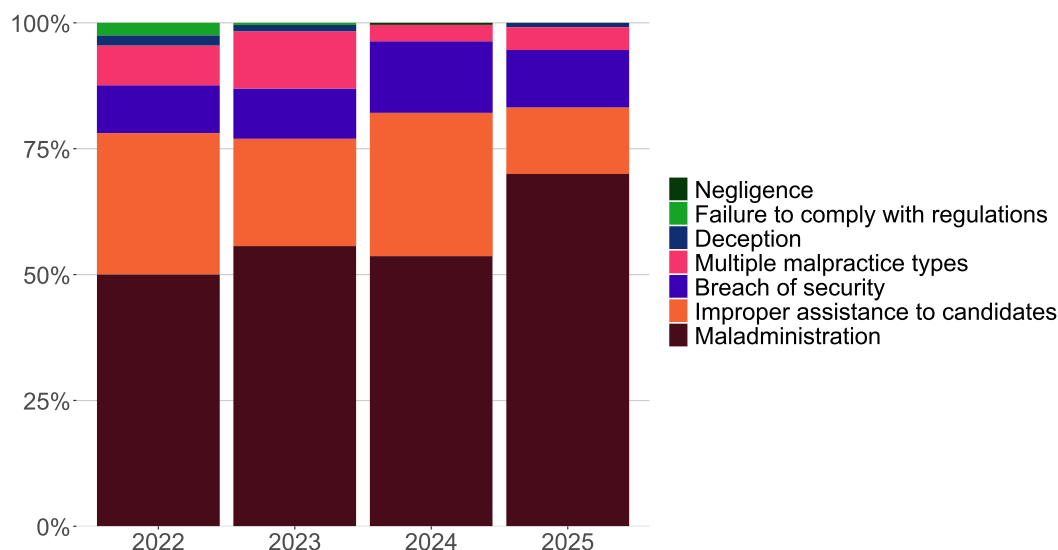
The most common type of staff malpractice for which a penalty was applied in summer 2025 was maladministration (the failure to comply with the regulations of



examinations and non-examination assessments), the same as in summer 2024. This category appeared in 73.7% (340 cases) of all cases of staff malpractice in summer 2025, compared with 56.9% (140 cases) in summer 2024. Note that these figures include cases where multiple offence types took place. They therefore differ from the values reported in the chart and table 8 below, where cases involving multiple malpractice types are categorised separately.

### Maladministration remained the most common type of staff malpractice in 2025

Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases by type of offence, 2022 to 2025



**Table 8: Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases by type of offence, 2022 to 2025.**

Type of staff malpractice	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Breach of security	9.5%	10.0%	14.2%	11.4%
Deception	2.1%	1.3%	0.0%	0.9%
Failure to comply with regulations	2.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Improper assistance to candidates	28.1%	21.3%	28.5%	13.2%
Maladministration	50.0%	55.7%	53.7%	70.0%
Multiple malpractice types	7.9%	11.3%	3.3%	4.5%

Negligence	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%
------------	------	------	------	------

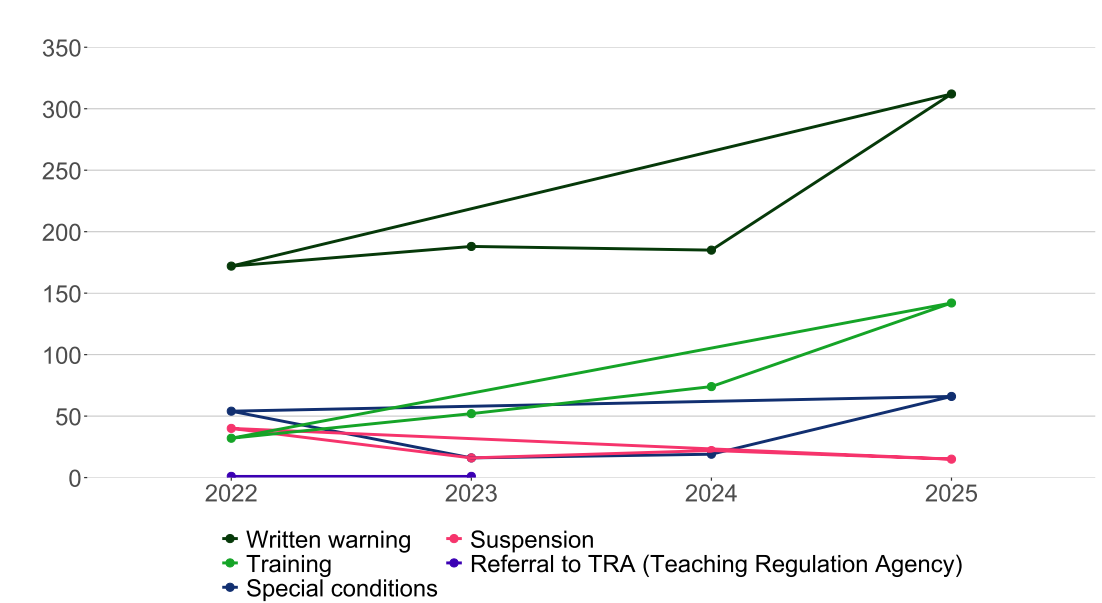
Note: Throughout the report, ‘failure to comply with regulations’ refers only to failure to comply with regulations for access arrangements, reasonable adjustments, and/or special consideration.

## Types of penalty issued to staff members (number of cases per penalty type)

The most common type of penalty issued to staff members in summer 2025 was a written warning, with the number of cases resulting in this type of penalty being issued increasing to 310, from 185 in summer 2024.

### Written warning remained the most common penalty issued to staff members in 2025

Number of proven staff mapractice cases by type of penalty issued, 2022 to 2025



**Table 9: Number of proven staff malpractice cases by type of penalty issued, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Number of cases in 2022	Number of cases in 2023	Number of cases in 2024	Number of cases in 2025
Referral to TRA (Teaching Regulation Agency)	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5	0	0
Special conditions	55	15	20	65
Suspension	40	15	20	15

Training	30	50	75	140
Written warning	170	190	185	310

## Number of malpractice cases per member of staff

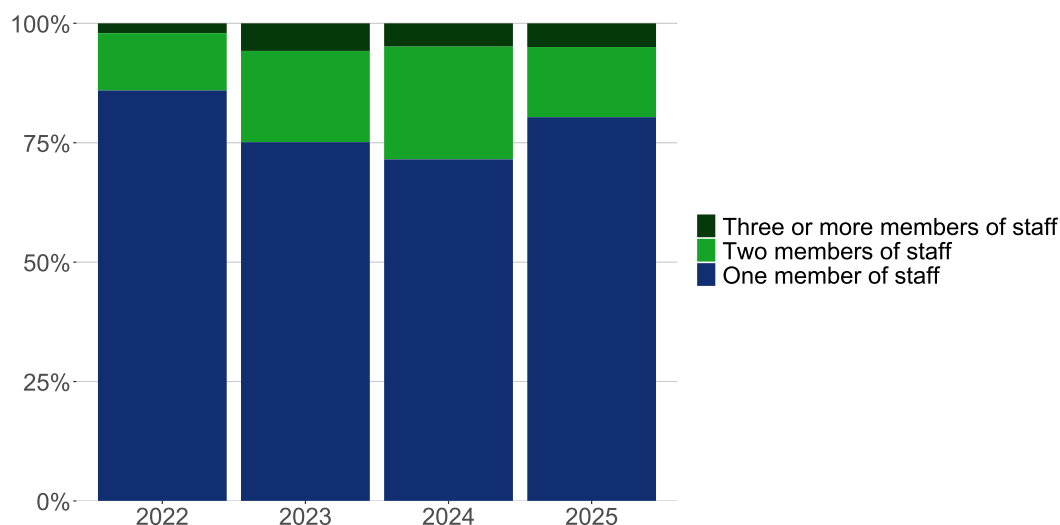
Individual members of school and college staff can be involved in multiple malpractice cases. As unique identifiers for staff members are not shared across exam boards, a breakdown of the number of malpractice cases per staff member cannot be provided.

## Number of staff members per malpractice case

A single malpractice case can involve multiple staff members. In summer 2025, the majority of cases of staff malpractice (80.3%) involved only one staff member, up from 71.5% in summer 2024.

### In 2025 the majority of cases of staff malpractice involved only one staff member

Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases by number of staff members involved, 2022 to 2025



**Table 10: Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases by number of staff members involved, 2022 to 2025.**

Number of staff members	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
-------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

One member of staff	86.0%	75.1%	71.5%	80.3%
Two members of staff	12.0%	19.1%	23.6%	14.7%
Three or more members of staff	2.1%	5.8%	4.9%	5.0%

## Types of penalty issued to members of school or college staff, by type of malpractice offence

Penalties for cases of staff malpractice vary depending on the type of offence. The precise penalty applied depends on the circumstances of the specific case.

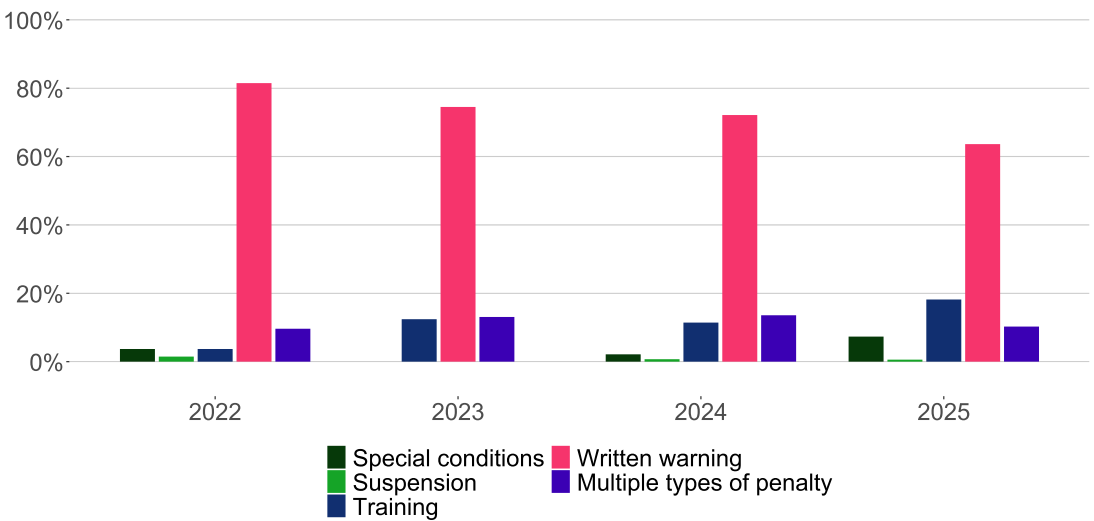
The 'multiple types of penalty' category represents cases which resulted in more than one penalty type being applied. Should a type of penalty only occur in cases that resulted in multiple different types of penalties being applied, that type will be counted in the 'multiple types of penalty' category rather than individually listed in the tables and charts presented in the report. A full breakdown of penalty types, including those aggregated into the 'multiple penalty' category, for all staff offence types combined is available in the table 9 and the [data tables accompanying this release](#).

Charts and tables are only included in this section for offence types that had 20 or more staff malpractice cases in 2025.

### Maladministration

**Written warning continued to be the most common penalty issued to staff members for maladministration offences**

Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases for maladministration offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



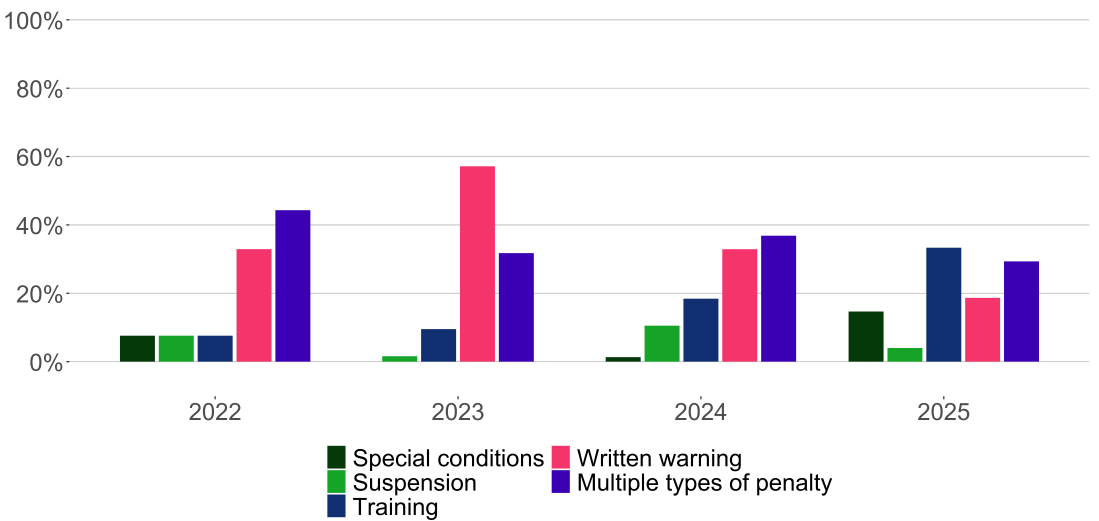
**Table 11.1: Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases for maladministration offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Multiple types of penalty	9.6%	13.1%	13.6%	10.3%
Special conditions	3.7%	0.0%	2.1%	7.3%
Suspension	1.5%	0.0%	0.7%	0.6%
Training	3.7%	12.4%	11.4%	18.2%
Written warning	81.5%	74.5%	72.1%	63.6%

**Improper assistance to candidates**

**Training was the most common penalty issued to staff members for improper assistance to candidates in 2025**

Percentage of proven improper assistance cases resulting in each penalty type for centre staff, 2022 to 2025



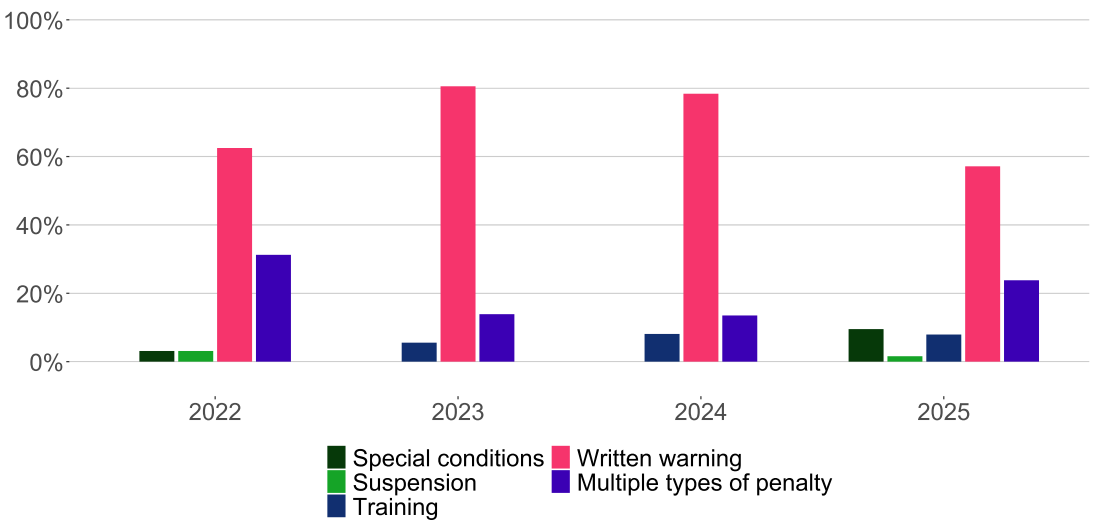
**Table 11.2: Percentage of proven improper assistance cases resulting in each penalty type for school or college staff, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Multiple types of penalty	44.3%	31.7%	36.8%	29.3%
Special conditions	7.6%	0.0%	1.3%	14.7%
Suspension	7.6%	1.6%	10.5%	4.0%
Training	7.6%	9.5%	18.4%	33.3%
Written warning	32.9%	57.1%	32.9%	18.7%

**Breach of security**

**Written warning continued to be the most common penalty issued to staff members for breach of security offences**

Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases for breach of security offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



**Table 11.3: Percentage of proven staff malpractice cases for breach of security offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Multiple types of penalty	31.2%	13.9%	13.5%	23.8%
Special conditions	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	9.5%
Suspension	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%
Training	0.0%	5.6%	8.1%	7.9%
Written warning	62.5%	80.6%	78.4%	57.1%

**School or college malpractice**

Where there is evidence that malpractice is the result of a serious management failure, an exam board may apply sanctions against a whole department or a school or college. The term ‘malpractice’ here includes both ‘maladministration’, which generally constitutes mistakes or poor process where there has been no

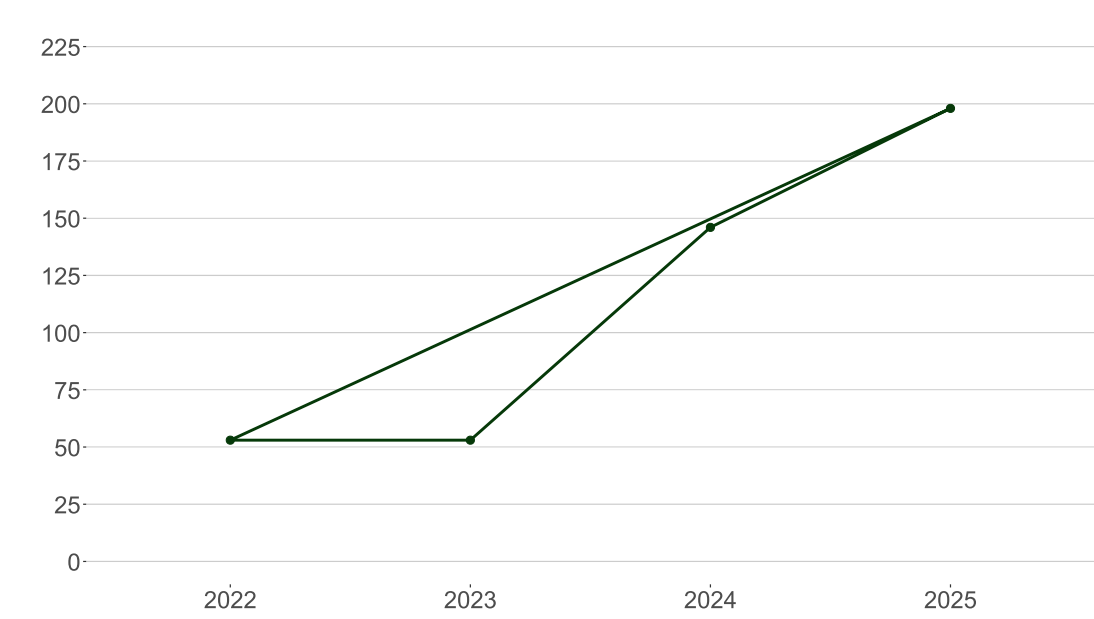
intention to do any harm, and ‘malpractice’ in its narrower sense, which generally involves some form of intent. A single school or college can potentially be involved in multiple cases of malpractice. A school or college may also receive one penalty for multiple offences, or multiple penalties for a single offence.

There were 200 cases of school or college malpractice in summer 2025, up from 145 in summer 2024, driven mostly by a rise in maladministration cases (a less serious form of malpractice).

In summer 2025, 175 individual schools or colleges had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice, which represents 2.9% of the overall 6,010 schools and colleges with results issued (or pending at the time of data collection) for GCSEs, AS and A levels in that year. This is similar to summer 2024 when 2.4% of the overall 5,950 schools and colleges had at least one penalty issued as a result of malpractice (140 schools and colleges).

**School or college malpractice cases increased in 2025 compared with 2024**

Number of proven school or college malpractice cases 2022 to 2025



**Table 12: Number of proven school or college malpractice cases 2022 to 2025.**

Type of malpractice	Number of cases in 2022	Number of cases in 2023	Number of cases in 2024	Number of cases in 2025
School or college malpractice	55	55	145	200

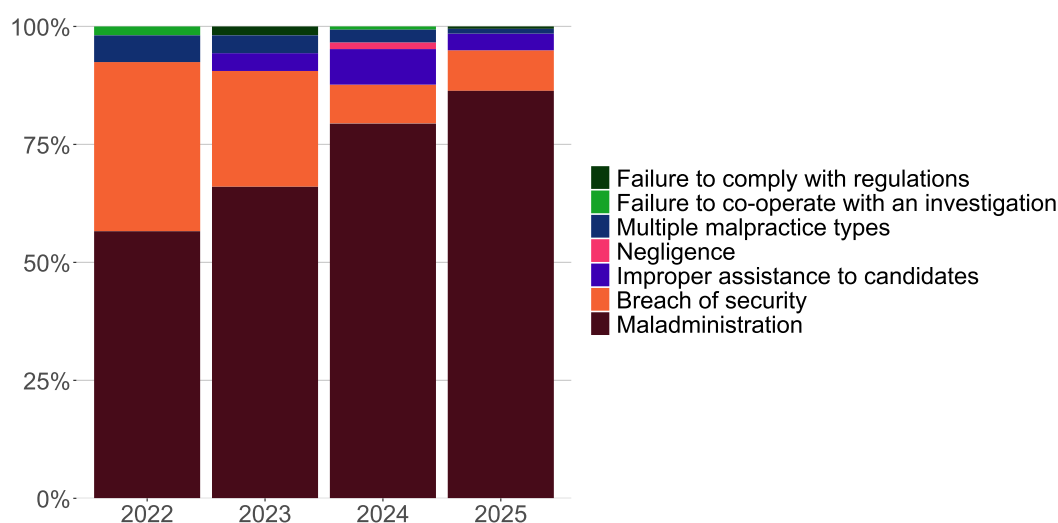


## Types of school or college malpractice (proportion of cases per offence type)

The most common type of school or college malpractice in summer 2025 was maladministration (the failure to comply with the regulations of examinations and non-examination assessments), the same as summer 2024. This category appeared in 175 (87.4%) of all cases of school or college level malpractice in summer 2025, compared with 120 (82.2%) of all cases of school or college level malpractice in summer 2024. Note that these figures include cases where multiple offence types took place. They therefore differ from the values reported in the chart and table 13 below, where cases involving multiple malpractice types are categorised separately.

### Maladministration remained the most common type of school or college malpractice in 2025

Proportion of proven school or college malpractice cases by offences type, 2022 to 2025



**Table 13: Proportion of proven school or college malpractice cases by offence type, 2022 to 2025.**

Type of school or college malpractice offence	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Breach of security	35.8%	24.5%	8.2%	8.6%
Failure to co-operate with an investigation	Less than 3%	0.0%	Less than 3%	0.0%
Failure to comply with regulations	0.0%	Less than 3%	0.0%	Less than 3%

Improper assistance to candidates	0.0%	3.8%	7.5%	3.5%
Maladministration	56.6%	66.0%	79.5%	86.4%
Multiple malpractice types	5.7%	3.8%	Less than 3%	Less than 3%
Negligence	0.0%	0.0%	Less than 3%	0.0%

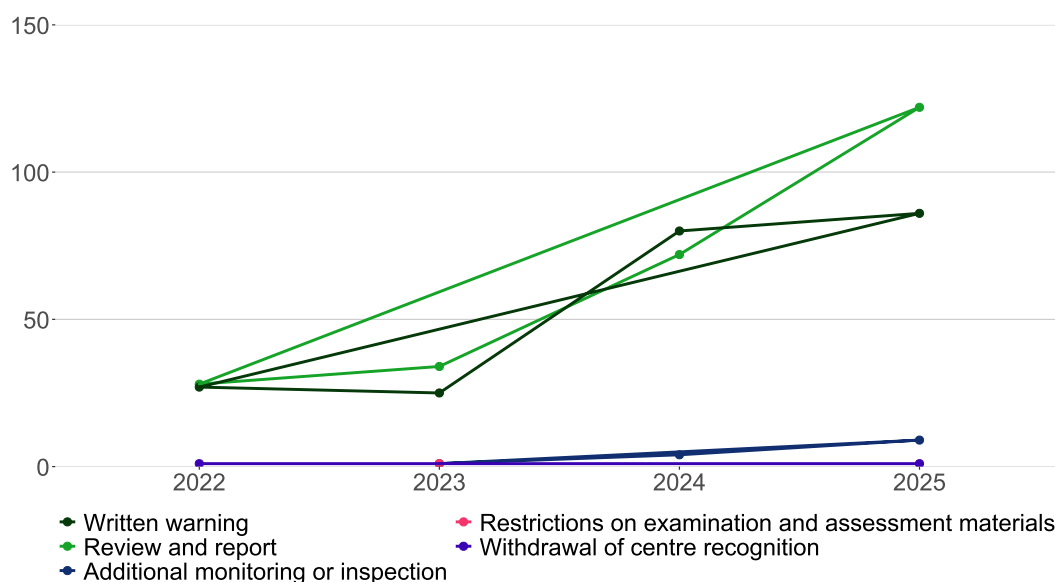
Note: Due to small numbers involved, percentages less than 3% have been suppressed.

## Types of penalty issued to schools or colleges (number of cases per penalty type)

The most common type of penalty issued to schools and colleges in summer 2025 was 'review and report'. This is where a review takes place of the school or college's procedures for the conduct or administration of a particular assessment, or all assessments in general, followed by reporting back to the exam board on improvements implemented by a set date. The number of cases resulting in this type of penalty being issued increased to 120 in summer 2025 from 70 in summer 2024.

### Review and report was the most common penalty issued to schools and colleges in 2025, followed by a written warning

Types of penalties issued to schools or colleges for malpractice, 2022 to 2025



**Table 14: Types of penalties issued to schools or colleges for malpractice,**

2022 to 2025.

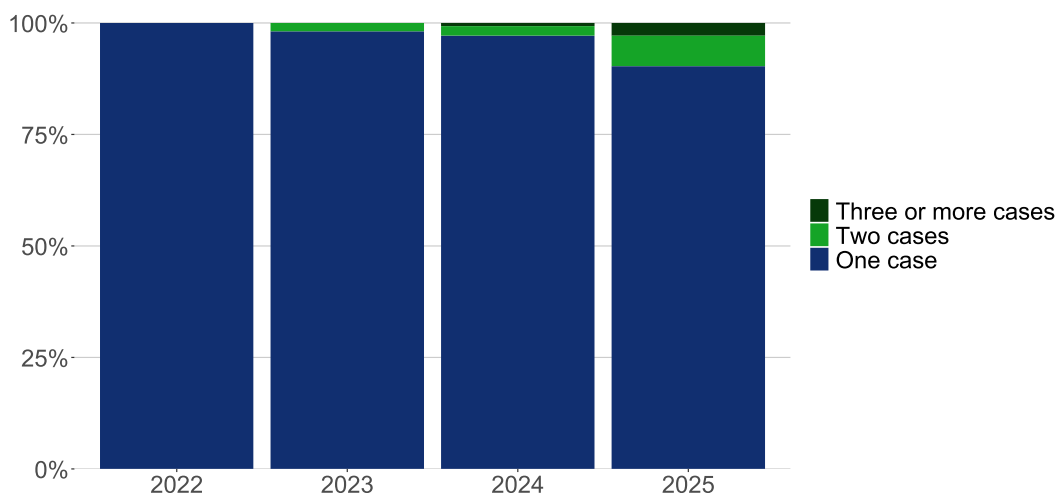
Penalty type	Number of cases in 2022	Number of cases in 2023	Number of cases in 2024	Number of cases in 2025
Additional monitoring or inspection	0	Fewer than 5	Fewer than 5	10
Restrictions on examination and assessment materials	0	Fewer than 5	0	0
Review and report	30	35	70	120
Withdrawal of centre recognition	Fewer than 5	0	0	Fewer than 5
Written warning	25	25	80	85

## Number of malpractice cases per school or college

Individual schools or colleges can be involved in multiple malpractice cases. In summer 2025, the majority of schools or colleges involved in school or college malpractice (90.3%) were involved in only one malpractice case, down from summer 2024 (97.1%).

### In 2025 the majority of schools or colleges involved in school or college malpractice were involved in only one malpractice case

Percentage of schools and colleges involved in one, two or three or more school or college malpractice cases, 2022 to 2025



**Table 15: Percentage of schools and colleges involved in one, two or**

**three or more school or college malpractice cases, 2022 to 2025.**

<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Percentage of schools or colleges in 2022</b>	<b>Percentage of schools or colleges in 2023</b>	<b>Percentage of schools or colleges in 2024</b>	<b>Percentage of schools or colleges in 2025</b>
One case	100.0%	98.1%	97.1%	90.3%
Two cases	0.0%	1.9%	2.1%	6.9%
Three or more cases	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	2.9%

## **Types of penalty issued to schools and colleges, by type of malpractice**

Penalties for cases of school or college malpractice vary depending on the type of offence. The precise penalty applied depends on the circumstances of the specific case.

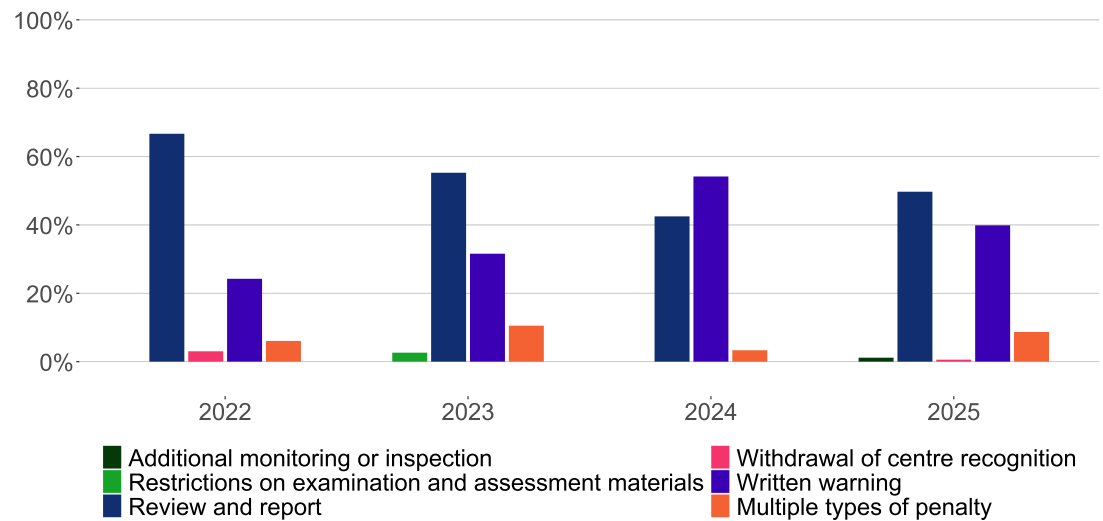
The 'multiple types of penalty' category represents cases that resulted in more than one penalty type being applied. Should a type of penalty only occur in cases that resulted in multiple different types of penalties being applied, that type will be counted in the 'multiple types of penalty' category rather than individually listed in the tables and charts presented in the report. A full breakdown of penalty types, including those aggregated into the 'multiple penalty' category, for all school and college offence types combined is available in table 14 and in the [data tables accompanying this release](#).

Charts and tables are only included in this section for offence types that had 20 or more cases in 2025.

### **Maladministration**

## Review and report was the most common type of penalty issued to schools or colleges for maladministration offences in 2025

Percentage of proven school and college malpractice cases for maladministration offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025



**Table 16.1: Percentage of proven school and college malpractice cases for maladministration offences by type of penalty, 2022 to 2025.**

Penalty type	Percentage of cases in 2022	Percentage of cases in 2023	Percentage of cases in 2024	Percentage of cases in 2025
Additional monitoring or inspection	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Multiple types of penalty	6.1%	10.5%	3.3%	8.7%
Restrictions on examination and assessment materials	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Review and report	66.7%	55.3%	42.5%	49.7%
Withdrawal of centre recognition	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Written warning	24.2%	31.6%	54.2%	39.9%

## Contextual information

In this statistical release, Ofqual presents data on malpractice in GCSE, AS, and A level assessments during the summer 2025 exam series in England. The data may not reflect the full extent of malpractice investigated because these cases relate only to instances of reported malpractice where a penalty has been applied.

Any breach of the exam boards' regulations that might undermine the integrity of an assessment may constitute malpractice. This includes bringing into the exam room unauthorised material or mobile phones, and failures by school or college staff to comply with exam board instructions.

Ofqual requires exam boards to have procedures in place to prevent, investigate and act in relation to malpractice by students, school or college staff or others involved in the assessment of qualifications. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publishes [policies and guidance on malpractice](#) that set out procedures for dealing with suspected malpractice as well as definitions for the categories of malpractice listed within this release.

Head of profession: Ben Cuff

[↑ Back to top](#)

---

## Help us improve GOV.UK

To help us improve GOV.UK, we'd like to know more about your visit today. [Please fill in this survey \(opens in a new tab\)](#).



### Services and information

---

[Benefits](#)

[Births, death, marriages and care](#)

[Business and self-employed](#)

[Childcare and parenting](#)

[Citizenship and living in the UK](#)

### Government activity

---

[Departments](#)

[News](#)

[Guidance and regulation](#)

[Research and statistics](#)

[Policy papers and consultations](#)

[Crime, justice and the law](#)

[Transparency](#)

[Disabled people](#)

[How government works](#)

[Driving and transport](#)

[Get involved](#)

[Education and learning](#)

[Employing people](#)

[Environment and countryside](#)

[Housing and local services](#)

[Money and tax](#)

[Passports, travel and living abroad](#)

[Visas and immigration](#)

[Working, jobs and pensions](#)

---

[Help](#) [Privacy](#) [Cookies](#) [Accessibility statement](#) [Contact](#) [Terms and conditions](#)

[Rhestr o Wasanaethau Cymraeg](#) [Government Digital Service](#)

**OGL** All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated



© Crown copyright