**SQA's response**

**Demographic Distribution**:

**What is the age distribution of candidates who have enrolled for DGSA examinations?**

The age range of candidates sitting DGSA examinations between 2019 and 2023 is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Age | No of Candidates |
| 18-24 | 18 |
| 25-34 | 402 |
| 35-44 | 644 |
| 45-54 | 740 |
| 55-64 | 555 |
| 65+ | 156 |

**Can you provide a breakdown of candidates by region and city**?

The geographical breakdown of candidates sitting DGSA examinations between 2019 and 2023 if as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Region | No. of Candidates |
| East Midlands | 205 |
| East of England | 233 |
| London | 85 |
| North West England | 120 |
| North East England | 415 |
| Northern Ireland | 47 |
| Scotland | 188 |
| South East England | 300 |
| South West England | 161 |
| Wales | 97 |
| West Midlands | 269 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber | 275 |
| Overseas | 119 |

We do not retain a record of candidates by “city”, as the range of villages/towns/cities provided by candidates is too vast.

**Training Course Attendance**:

**What percentage of candidates have attended a DGSA training course prior to their examinations?**

We are only able to provide the most recent information as we are not obliged to retain the information. From reviewing candidate applications from the past year (the retention period for candidate application forms), 87% of candidates attended training prior to their examinations.

**What is the first time pass rate for a new DGSA, never qualified or even attempted the examination previously (i.e no candidate number)?**

Between 2019 and 2023, 52.64% of new candidates gained a DGSA certificate at their first attempt.

**How many candidates pass all three exams at the first attempt?**

Between 2019 and 2023, 62.75% of all candidates gained a DGSA certificate on their first attempt.

**Support Requirements**

**What proportion of candidates have requested additional support for their examinations?**

SQA is not required to retain this information. From reviewing candidate applications from the past year (the retention period for candidate application forms), SQA has accommodated 16 candidates with their request for additional support.

**Exam Venue Preferences**:

**What are the trends in venue choices among candidates?**

Between 2019 and 2023, the following table ranks venue choices from the least popular to the most popular:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Popularity | Location |
| 1 | Manchester |
| 2 | Surrey |
| 3 | Northampton |
| 4 | Bolton |
| 5 | West Midlands |
| 6 | Milton Keynes |
| 7 | Birmingham |
| 8 | Beverley |
| 9 | Hull |
| 10 | Bristol |
| 11 | Middlesborough |
| 12 | Darlington |
| 13 | York |
| 14 | Bishop Burton |
| 15 | Stirling |
| 16 | Falkirk |
| 17 | Aberdeen |
| 18 | Nottingham |
| 19 | Belfast |

**What are the stated capacity at each of the listed exam venues used by SQA for DGSA exams?**

SQA has no requirement to retain the capacities for each venue. To gain an understanding, the stated capacities for our current exam diet are as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Centre Venue | Venue Capacity |
| Aberdeen | 12 |
| Belfast | 14 |
| Birmingham | 38 |
| Bristol | 38 |
| Darlington | 28 |
| Hull | 38 |
| Manchester | 38 |
| Northampton | 38 |
| Stirling | 38 |
| Surrey | 38 |

SQA broadly maintains similar venue capacities at each diet.

**Accessibility Needs**:

**Can you provide aggregated data on the types of additional support requested by candidates?**

As stated above, there were 16 candidates who requested additional support. The types requested were for:

additional time,

glucose monitor provided to invigilator,

a scribe for writing examinations,

sitting at front of hall due to hearing difficulties,

additional rest breaks provided, and

sitting near an exit in the exam hall.

**Market Segmentation Insights:**

**Is it possible to get a breakdown of candidates by specific segments such as age group, region, or prior training history?**

The information is contained within responses above.

**Competitive Landscape:**

**How does the demographic and geographic spread of DGSA candidates compare over the past few years, for example 2019-2024 vs previous 5 years? Historic number of DGSA for all records held.**

Section 17 of the Act states that an authority must inform the requester if they do not hold the information requested.

We do not hold the information for the full time period requested and as such, we are unable to provide the information to make a comparison as we only retain the candidate information for five years.