

FMC Portfolio Outcomes 2023

The FMC received 63 portfolios for assessment in 2023, the highest number since 2016 and 33% more than has been received on average over the past five years.

The vast majority of mediators submitting portfolios continue to receive full or provisional accreditation in 2023 (98% in 2023, 95% six-year average).

A higher proportion of mediators demonstrated they met competences in 2017 & 2018 than from 2019 onwards. It is believed that this is the case as many mediators submitting in 2017 or 2018 had trained under the old system when there had been no requirement to accredit, and thus some people submitting portfolios in these years were very experienced mediators.

Covid – and the shift to online learning and mediating – has also had a significant impact on portfolio submissions. During and after 2020 assessors have reported that mediators have often struggled to demonstrate means of handling conflict sufficiently, particularly where they have only had online cases.

The first time full FMCA rate remains lower than the FMC would like, with about a third of first-time submissions being awarded full FMCA in 2023, but this rises significantly to two thirds on resubmission, showing the value of assessor feedback.

In 2023 the FMC started to record in more detail the reasons that portfolio submissions are not awarded full FMCA.

- Four first time submissions and three resubmissions were not anonymised. As confidentiality is a key tenet of mediation, mediators must ensure submissions are fully anonymised.
- 10 first time submissions and five resubmissions were missing documentation e.g record of them observing an FMCA mediator.
- 11 first time submissions and four resubmissions were made without evidencing enough competences.
- Nine first time submission and two resubmissions contained weak evidence of competences relating to domestic abuse and safeguarding. The portfolio guidance makes clear that, without exception, competences relating to safe practice must be evidenced in order for full FMCA to be awarded. It is therefore imperative that mediators include sufficient evidence of this within their portfolio.

Unsurprisingly, there was a cross over between submissions that were not anonymised or were missing documents, and not being able to fully evidence competences.

To give themselves the best chance of being awarded full accreditation at the first opportunity, mediators are advised to:

- Use software such as Adobe Acrobat to assist with the redaction of documents, and to allow time for proof reading before submission.
- Use the checklist in the [template](#) to ensure all documentation is present.
- Read the [portfolio guidance carefully](#) to ensure submissions evidence required competences. [Consult this table](#) to identify the best opportunities to evidence each competence.
- Try and submit a wide range of cases – including those mediated in person, and some cases/sessions where participants were in the same room together. This gives you the best possible chance of success.



- Remember you can reference cases that you don't use for your case commentary in your reflective account, and you may wish to do this particularly where there were cases in which you demonstrated a good range of skills despite them not being suitable for case commentaries.

Mediators and PPCs are also strongly encouraged to attend the monthly Q&A run by the FMC's Chief Assessor about the portfolio. We have had excellent feedback from those who have attended this session. For details of the next sessions please see <https://www.familymediationcouncil.org.uk/training-courses-events/> (NB you will need to scroll down past CPD courses)

FMC Accreditation Statistics 2017-2023

Year	Total Portfolios	Full Accreditation	Provisional Accreditation	Not Yet Proven	Suspended
2017	39	30	9		
2018	49	32	15	2	
2019	42	21	18	3	
2020	33	17	13	3	
2021	60	33	25	2	
2022	51	22	27	2	
2023	63	29	31	0	3

Year	1 st Time Submission			Resubmission (inc 2 nd or subsequent resub)		
	Full	Provisional	Not Yet Proven	Full	Provisional	Not Yet Proven
2017	15	7		15	2	
2018	26	9	2	6	1	
2019	13*	15	3*	8(2)	3(1)	
2020	8	11	3	9 (1)	2	
2021	11	19*	2	12	6(3)	
2022	8	21	2	14(2)	6(2)	
2023	10	24	0	19	10	0

*Inc one on appeal

Reasons for portfolios not being assessed as FMCA (2023 assessments)

	A	B	C	D
	Anonymisation not fully completed	Documentation missing / incorrect	Competencies not evidenced	Weak DA & Safeguarding expertise
1 st Time	4	10	11	9
Resub 1	2	5	3	2
Resub 2	1		1	
Total	7	15	15	11