Solicitors Regulation Authority

The Performance of Candidates with a Reasonable Adjustment Plan for a Neurodivergent Condition in the SQE

28 January 2026

Performance of candidates with a reasonable adjustment in place for a neurodivergent condition in FLK1, FLK2 and SQE2 assessments 2024-25[1]

Introduction

This report considers the performance of candidates who received a reasonable adjustment for a disclosed neurodivergent condition. For the purposes of this report we consider neurodiversity to be the spectrum of human neurotypes within a population and those with neurodivergent conditions to be individuals who show developmental profiles or characteristics that diverge from the dominant neurotype.

Those considered to be neurodivergent in this analysis include people with Autism, ADHD, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Dyslexia (including those with multiple conditions). For the purpose of this analysis, the performance of this group (Neurodivergent), is compared against all other candidates (Non-neurodivergent). The "Non-neurodivergent" group comprises candidates who either had a reasonable adjustment for a non-neurodivergent condition or no adjustment at all. Of all the candidate assessments with a reasonable adjustment plan in place for the assessments, 57% were for candidates with a neurodivergent condition.

Data used for analysis

The analysis is based on data collected from FLK1, FLK2 (the two papers that form SQE1), and SQE2 assessments administered between September 2024 and July 2025. This includes two sittings each of FLK1 and FLK2, and four sittings of SQE2. To ensure comparability between groups and to ensure candidate data is treated consistently, the data excludes any candidates taking the assessments as a second or third attempt: in other words it is limited to first attempt takers.

Overall, 5.6% of the candidate assessments considered in this report were for candidates with a reasonable adjustment plan for a neurodivergent condition. The table below provides the numbers and proportions of candidates by group.

Assessment	Non-neurodivergent Candidates		Neurodivergent Candidates		Total
	Number of Candidates	Proportion	Number of Candidates	Proportion	
FLK1	10,258	94.7%	578	5.3%	10,836
FLK2	10,184	94.8%	558	5.2%	10,742
SQE2	4,792	92.8%	374	7.2%	5,166
All	**25,234**	**94.4%**	**1,510**	**5.6%**	**26,744**

[1] Analysis by Jo Cockerill, Psychometrician, Kaplan Assessments. Narrative by Jo Cockerill and Richard Hankins (Quality and Standards Director, Kaplan Assessments).

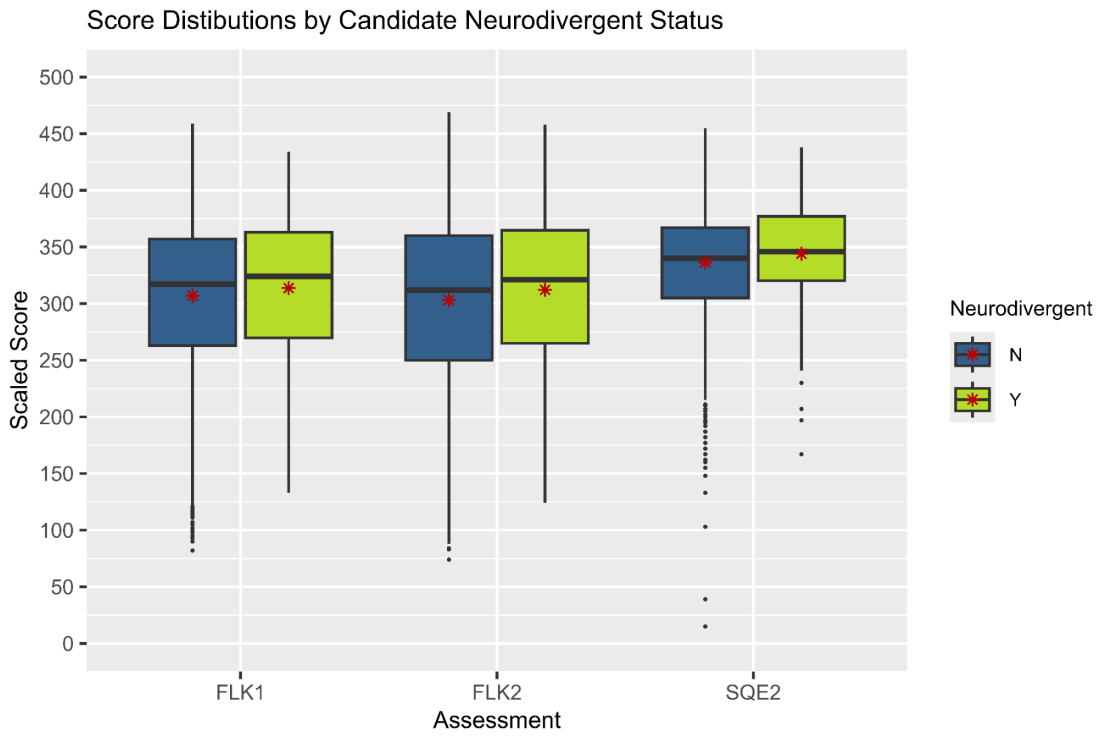
Findings from the analysis of performance

The table and boxplot below provide the number of candidates, mean score and pass rate for the aggregated data by assessment (FLK1, FLK2 and SQE2) - this is shown for the full first attempt cohort and the sub-groups of those with and without a neurodivergent condition.

Overall, candidates with a neurodivergent condition have achieved slightly higher scores and pass rates than those without in FLK1, FLK2 and SQE2 (mean score differences: 314 vs. 307 for FLK1; 312 vs. 303 for FLK2; 344 vs. 336 for SQE2).

Candidates with neurodivergent conditions account for 5.3% of FLK1 candidates, 5.2% of FLK2 candidates, and 7.2% of SQE2 candidates. Given that the cohorts with neurodivergent conditions are a relatively small proportion of the wider candidate groups and are not fully representative in terms of other characteristics that may influence performance (such as age, ethnicity, sex and socio-economic background), it should not be assumed that the two groups will perform the same. However, these findings offer reassurance that candidates with neurodivergent conditions are not disadvantaged in the SQE assessments, as their performance is not below that of candidates without these conditions.

	Full Cohort			Non-neurodivergent Candidates			Neurodivergent Candidates		
Assessment	No of candidates	Mean Score	Pass Rate (%)	No of candidates	Mean Score	Pass Rate (%)	No of candidates	Mean Score	Pass Rate (%)
FLK1	10,836	307	60.8	10,258	307	60.5	578	314	64.7
FLK2	10,742	304	57.8	10,184	303	57.6	558	312	62.4
SQE2	5,166	337	81.6	4,792	336	81.2	374	344	86.1



The charts below show the score distributions by group at a more granular level, with the distributions divided into quintiles - i.e. 20% of candidates are in each quintile for each group, with quintile 1 being the best performing candidates. Whilst the scores for the candidates in the neurodivergent groups are slightly higher than for those not in this group (i.e. the boundaries appear more to the right than for the non-neurodivergent groups), the boundaries are very similar and all quintiles overlap across the two groups.