CORPORATE REPORTING

Global performance report Q1 2025

RICS®

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Our key numbers

CANDIDATES AND DESIGNATIONS

113,185
number of professionals (with RICS designations)

30,331
number of candidates working towards a professional designation

1,816
new candidate enrolments

593
new professionals





Financial update

Our Q1 operating results of £896,000 are above budgeted expectations of £596,000. Increasingly strong performances on commercial revenues and margins, particularly in training, conferences and advertising products have been the main contributor.

In addition, we have seen a growth in revenue from the Dispute Resolution Service. Subscriptions are tracking in line with our budget, while election and enrolment revenue is running behind budget. This increase in revenue compared to budget has been offset partially by an increase in people costs, due to the organisational redesign. Investment performance has declined compared to budget. This is due to the impact of tariffs in the global stock markets and is being closely monitored.



Introduction

Enhancing member value and engagement

With the announcement of a new operating model, RICS began to shape an organisation better equipped to provide a world-class experience for members, with more resources locally. This includes increased autonomy for regional groups and a suite of improvements that we are swiftly rolling out, ensuring that members will feel the impact of these changes throughout 2025.

During Q1, we united thousands of delegates and announced that our Shaping the Future roadshow would roll out internationally, meaning our global members will have the opportunity to discuss their experience of RICS directly with the Executive team.

Our Matrics expansion also gathered pace. We saw the roots of our newest global Matrics networks deepen, as events in Dubai attracted dozens of members. Meanwhile, we opened the doors to a new members hub in our UK headquarters, following a significant upgrade. The brand-new, state-of-the-art members lounge has quickly been established as a welcoming and inspiring place for them to work and connect.

Strengthening trust in the profession

The announcement of our new operating model included a commitment to improve the experience for candidates being trained and assessed for their APC and considers the development of new pathways into the profession.

Meanwhile, consultations supported the development of two new professional standards. The first is an update to *Countering financial crime: Bribery, corruption, money laundering, terrorist financing and sanctions violations,* the second is the first edition of R*esponsible use of artificial intelligence in surveying practice*.

Attracting a diverse next generation

We marked National Apprenticeship Week, a key date for an industry that, according to Construction Skills Network, will require 250,000 additional workers by 2028 to meet the growing demand.

The culmination of a great deal of engagement work, the week saw UK politicians reference the value of surveying apprenticeships three times in the Houses of Parliament.

We continued to raise awareness of surveying as a career option. Our student campaign, 'Shape the world, build your future', gathered valuable insight about barriers to surveying.

We also showcased surveying careers to the very young, through a collaboration with one of the best-selling video games in history when we challenged a large group of nine- and ten-year-olds to build sustainable urban environments using Minecraft Education.

The topic of skills was key to our programme of engagements, panels and workshops at MIPIM, where RICS was an official strategic partner.



Leading and influencing on sustainability

At MIPIM, we spotlighted sustainability and our related standards – specifically the current edition of **Whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) for the built environment** and its accompanying guides – to an audience of changemakers from across the world.

RICS and FIABCI committed to a strategic global partnership at the festival, signing a new **Memorandum of Understanding.**



Image credit: la nouvelle economie

Our research continued to support the international effort for decarbonisation as the **RICS sustainability report 2024** and **Global Construction Monitors** were cited in two global publications. Finally, a new collaboration between RICS and **The iMasons Climate Accord** was established, positioning RICS members as sustainability leaders in the digital infrastructure sector.



Member engagement and support

Q1 2025 has set a powerful tone for the year ahead – one defined by connection, collaboration and commitment.

From January through March, we've seen our global member community come alive through meaningful engagement and an increase in opportunities to shape the future of the profession!

Member engagement round-up

Together, we've built momentum and brought people together across borders, time zones and sectors, uniting over **4,400 delegates** through a rich and varied events programme.

Whether it was a global webinar, an intimate roundtable or a high-energy regional conference, every moment was about creating space for real conversation, shared learning and collective growth.



82%
global member satisfaction (CSAT) – a reflection of the value our members find in what we deliver.

64
member-led face-to-face events – peer-driven, practical and powerful.

11
webinars and partner roundtables – featuring the voices shaping our industries.

3
regional conferences – energising local communities in meaningful ways.

Board appointments – our member volunteers

As part of our ongoing commitment to inclusive and impactful member representation, Q1 saw focused efforts to recruit new voices to our **World Regional Boards** (WRBs) and **Regional Advisory Boards** (RABs) – the vital structures that ensure our global strategy is informed by local insight and member expertise. This is a clear signal that our members are raising their hands to lead, support and create the future of our global community.

We also made significant strides in shaping the future leadership of our profession.

23
new board members appointed – welcoming fresh ideas and diverse voices into key boards and advisory groups.

69
applications received from members ready to step up and give back – proof that our community is deeply invested in the direction RICS is taking.

8
board member appointments renewed for a second term – honouring continuity, vision and performance.

Hear from RICS' new board members



'I am looking forward to developing initiatives specifically designed to create pathways for women and ethnic minorities to become industry leaders.'

Natalie Stephenson MSc MRICS, appointed to the UAE Regional Advisory Board

Accomplished chartered building surveyor Natalie Stephenson, with over 20 years of experience in the Middle East and UK, has been appointed to the RICS UAE Regional Advisory Board. She will leverage her understanding of the MEA market and relationships to promote RICS standards and emphasise the importance of chartered professionals in the region. Natalie's focus will be on mentoring new surveyors, establishing training programmes and advancing diversity and inclusion within the profession.



'It is with much honour to be appointed as Chair of the RICS Hong Kong Advisory Board. This prestigious appointment means so much to me as it signifies recognition of the expertise and leadership skills I have acquired over the course of my 23 years working in real estate; this appointment presents an unique opportunity for me to take a lead on driving strategic directions and influence initiatives on real estate matters that benefit members and the broader community. Looking forward to meeting and working together with each of you in RICS.'

Ms Fung Wai Sze Ada FRICS, appointed as Chair to the RICS Hong Kong Regional Advisory Board

Member engagement around the world

UK and Ireland

RICS Wales – Gwrych Castle tour and member engagement – 'I'm a Member... Get Me In Here!'

On 27 March, 30 members from North Wales toured Gwrych Castle, followed by a Stay Informed session. Gwrych Castle was brought into the spotlight after being featured in the pandemic series of 'I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!'

Wales Board Chair, Matt Haynes MRICS, shared his priorities, including the new initiative to support candidates from smaller firms. Updates from RICS leaders on public affairs and upcoming events further reinforced RICS' commitment to the region.



Early engagement

- **Queen's University Belfast** – We presented on all things RICS to the current undergraduate and planning students.
- **Ulster University** – We spent the morning with Ulster University Year 2 Building Surveying students at Custom House Belfast, explaining and sharing information on RICS' global standards, the APC, Matrics in the region and also how they go about signing up for free student membership.





Hampshire Matrics Committee: a strong start to 2025

The Hampshire Matrics group has commenced the year with renewed energy and leadership. RICS is pleased to announce the appointment of Sam Eslinger MRICS (Harrison Clarke Chartered Surveyors) as Chair and Natalie Kyle MRICS (Eddisons) as Vice Chair. Their appointment is complemented by the addition of two new committee members.

Q1 saw strong engagement with members through a well-received APC workshop breakfast in March, hosted by John Baker. The session provided valuable guidance for candidates navigating the APC pathway and offered a collaborative platform for discussion.

With a full calendar of events ahead, Hampshire Matrics is well positioned to deliver continued value, support and engagement to its members throughout 2025.

Collaborative Conversations – West Midlands on Track

The annual joint institute event 'Collaborative Conversations' hosted 84 delegates at the RICS offices in Birmingham. This year's session explored the future of rail in the West Midlands – covering plans, challenges and the sector's role in shaping the region.

These cross-institute events highlight the power of collaboration, bringing together more than 360,000 professionals to drive standards and innovation in the built environment. The events were supported by the:

- Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
- Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) East and West Midlands
- Landscape Institute West Midlands branch (LIWM),
- Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and
- Royal Town Planning Institute.

RICS in Benelux – Real Estate Symposium in London HQ

RICS members from the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg visited RICS London HQ. Later in the day, a meeting and dinner was held with the Belgian Ambassador. The next day, members received market updates from Savills and a tour of London.

Europe

FIABCI (the International Real Estate Federation) and RICS forge strategic global partnership at MIPIM

At MIPIM in Cannes, France, FIABCI and RICS marked a milestone in global real estate collaboration with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding. Initiated by RICS' European team, this alliance aims to promote urban sustainability, ethical practices and professional standards worldwide – strengthening efforts to address key challenges in the built environment.

ESG in Commercial Real Estate 2.0 launch

The launch of the thought-leadership paper *ESG for Commercial Real Estate 2.0: Selected Issues and Practices* took place, hosted by PwC Poland in March,

Developed in collaboration with RICS, the Polish Chamber of Commercial Real Estate and the Polish Council of Shopping Centres, the publication offers expert insights into the sustainable transformation of the real estate sector – from both regulatory and practical perspectives. Read more **here**.

The Built Environment European Summit attracts strategic partnerships

Our flagship event, the Built Environment European Summit, is set to take place in Budapest, Hungary later this year – marking a key milestone in our regional engagement strategy. Earlier this year, we were honoured to welcome the Hungarian National Bank as a strategic partner, joining forces with the Developers' Roundtable and other leading stakeholders. Read more **here**.

Supporting future talent through the Internationa Real Estate Challenge (IREC)

RICS continues to champion future professionals by supporting IREC – a prestigious student competition involving leading European universities.

Led by Politecnico di Milano (an RICS-accredited institution) and course leader Marzia Morena FRICS – former Chair of RICS Italy and a dedicated RICS advocate – the initiative embraces innovation and cross-border collaboration among emerging talent.

The 2024 challenge concluded with an awards ceremony in Milan on 17 January, reinforcing our commitment to shaping the next generation of real estate leaders.

APAC

We successfully organised ten member engagement events in Hong Kong, mainland China, Macau and Taiwan in Q1 this year.



Networking in Macau

This member-led, face-to-face event saw 38 delegates from various disciplines connect with fellow professionals and senior RICS representatives.

New member reception in Hong Kong

We reintroduced our new member reception this year. The event was tailored towards welcoming members who were qualified in Hong Kong in 2024, offering insights into our activities and introducing key representatives from the organisation.





Seminar on the 'New Era of Hydrographic Survey' in Hong Kong

Co-organised by the RICS Land Surveying Division, HKIS and The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, this seminar highlighted the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)'s new survey vessel Port Works 5 (PW5), launched in October 2024. Attendees gained insights into its construction challenges and the evolving role of land surveyors in advancing hydrographic survey work in Hong Kong.

RICS Sri Lanka Built Environment Summit: 'Exploring Opportunities & Potential Unlocked'

The day in Sri Lanka was marked by impactful engagement across different groups, with 135 delegates in attendance.

The strong representation of women underscored a commitment to diversity and inclusion. The success of the day was attributed to the unwavering support and efforts of the Member Engagement Group in Sri Lanka. Read more **here**.

MEA

Two successful Matrics UAE events in Dubai provided excellent networking opportunities

- **Fitness beach bootcamp (sponsored by AtkinsRéalis)** – RICS-regulated firm AtkinsRéalis sponsored a Matrics UAE fitness beach bootcamp at Palm Jumeirah. For the 30 attendees it provided an intense workout followed by some fun beach games and breakfast, all in a wonderful setting. Read more **here**.
- **Ramadan Iftar (sponsored by Land Sterling)** – Matrics UAE organised a large Iftar in Dubai during Ramadan, attended by more than 90 members, including many of the new UAE Board members. Iftar is the evening meal that marks the end of daily fasting in Ramadan. The Iftar was generously sponsored by RICS-regulated firm Land Sterling and was the biggest Matrics UAE event to date. Read more **here**.

RICS evening event in Saudi Arabia's British embassy: Shaping Saudi Arabia's Future: UK Chartered Institutes Uniting for Innovation and Growth

RICS, in collaboration with RIBA, CIOB and ICE, held a significant, invite-only event at the British embassy in Saudi Arabia. There were 171 delegates in attendance, including notable figures such as RICS President Elect Nicholas Maclean OBE RD FRICS and MEA WRB Chair Haroon Niazi, along with members, industry experts and key stakeholders to discuss their collective contribution to **Saudi Vision 2030**.

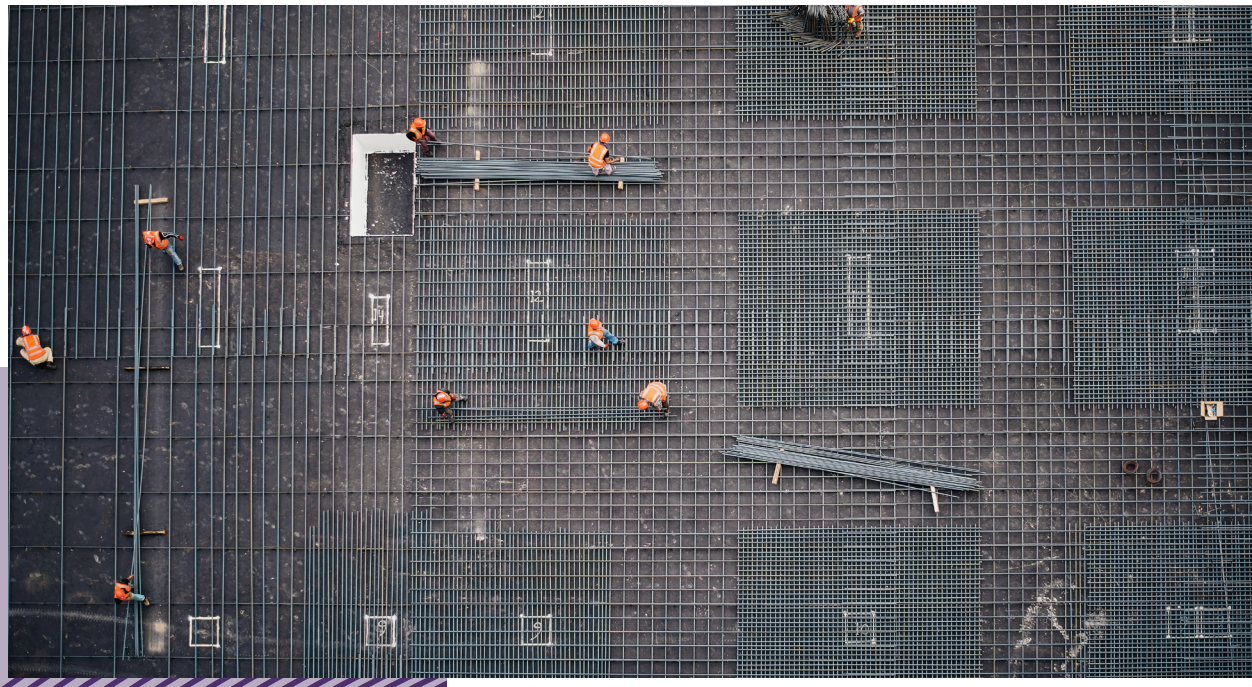
This collaboration highlights the shared commitment of these leading UK built environment institutions to support the Kingdom's ambitions in sustainability, infrastructure and professional development. The event created valuable networking opportunities to forge new cross-industry partnerships within Saudi Arabia and beyond.

Moving forward in 2025

RICS' focus remains on actively engaging members and providing impactful platforms that benefit both RICS and our community. By actively facilitating diverse networking opportunities, we empower members to build their professional brand through collaboration and connection within the built and natural environment sectors.

These interactions foster new business, knowledge exchange and career growth, clearly demonstrating the value of RICS membership within a connected ecosystem. Our engagement activities directly fulfil our commitment to providing networking opportunities and brand-building through collaboration.





Professional practice

The Knowledge and Practice Committee (KPC) is responsible for overseeing the advancement of knowledge and professional practice. Reporting to the RICS Board, the Committee supports the implementation and development of technical standards (providing input to the Standards and Regulation Board) and assists in amplifying the voice of the profession.

Responding to consultations

MHCLG consultation on 'hope value'



RICS responded to the recent consultation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on compulsory purchase, which posed a number of questions on the potential to disregard hope value in certain circumstances when acquiring land compulsorily. RICS outlined that it strongly disagrees with the principle of a direction to remove compensation payable for prospective planning permission ('hope value') following compulsory purchase.

RICS has also responded to the recent consultation from the Law Commission on compulsory purchase. This was a weighty consultation with 106 questions.

The law of compulsory purchase in England and Wales is fragmented, hard to access and in need of modernisation. In the early 2000s, this led to a three-year project and report published by the Law Commission, *Towards a Compulsory Purchase Code*, which resulted in the further publication of two reports dealing with compensation and procedure respectively. This consultation paper built on these reports, while taking account of the piecemeal reforms that have since been made to the law. It sought views on ways in which to simplify, consolidate and modernise the law. It also looked at technical changes that may be needed to make the law work better.

Thanks to RICS from the Law Commission

'Many thanks for submitting the RICS response to our consultation on compulsory purchase. We are very grateful to all those who contributed to the response. We benefitted tremendously from our meetings with Virginia, Fiona and the compulsory purchase expert working group, both in the earlier phases of the project and during the consultation period itself.'

Key activities

Planning Reform Working Paper: Planning Committees

The Planning and Development expert working group, working with Tony Mulhall MRICS and RICS Senior Public Affairs Officer Robert Toomey, submitted a response to the government's consultation on the reform planning committees. This is part of a series of inquiries the government is running, with this one looking into how the government could reform planning committees to support a plan-led system and ensure appropriate democratic oversight. Further information can be found **here**.

Brownfield Passports Working Paper: Consultation

The UK government is also seeking responses through publishing a number of working papers to inform its policy-making. The Planning and Development expert working group responded with detailed case studies on the application of Brownfield Passports.

On the back of our excellent working relationship with MHCLG, His Majesty's government has invited the RICS Planning and Development expert working group to give evidence to two House of Commons select committees. These were the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee (HCLG) inquiry into land value capture (following our submission on LVC) and the Public Bill Committee on the Planning and Infrastructure Bill.

Two expert RICS members are currently being briefed. These direct invitations reflect the growing professional esteem in which RICS is held within government policy circles and is a testament to the technical strength of our previous policy consultation responses and dialogue with officials.

Martin Wolf, Financial Times, lecture at RICS

This RICS/University of Oxford/King's Foundation joint annual public lecture is part of an outreach programme to bring the views of thought-provoking speakers in our sector to a wider audience.

At the beginning of February 2025, RICS hosted Martin Wolf, Chief Economics Commentator at the Financial Times. Wolf presented a lecture entitled *The Crisis of Democratic Capitalism*, after his most recent book. A former chief economist at the World Bank, he has published numerous books on economic impacts on society and provides trenchant commentary on day-to-day economic affairs in the FT.

Wolf's concern is that, as our economies have evolved, the benefits of contemporary societies are increasingly concentrated in a few hands. Lack of access to affordable housing is one of the areas giving rise to potentially destabilising inequalities.

Land use consultation

The government consulted on its vision for land use in England and how to deliver it. This consultation will inform the development of a Land Use Framework. RICS has responded to this consultation.

Other key activities

Consumer guides and government engagement

RICS' free domestic air source heat pumps Consumer Guide was published on 28 March.

RICS is continuing its engagement and technical support to MHCLG and the Welsh and Scottish governments around fire safety and building safety, particularly in relation to the announcement on 26 February regarding the GTI recommendations.



RICS commences collaboration with the iMasons Climate Accord to drive sustainability in digital infrastructure

RICS is collaborating with the iMasons Climate Accord (ICA), a leading coalition committed to reducing carbon in digital infrastructure, on a three-year engagement to continue driving decarbonisation in the built and natural environments. The iMasons coalition represents $150bn in infrastructure projects across more than 130 countries.

It includes several of the largest organisations working in digital infrastructure (particularly data centres), including Google, Meta, AWS and Microsoft. This collaboration positions RICS members at the forefront of the sustainability and WLCA conversation within the digital infrastructure sector through ICA events and initiatives.

As RICS is now listed as an ICA Champion Mover, members will benefit from access to webinars and other resources developed in collaboration with iMasons. This provides increased visibility for our organisation and members in the digital infrastructure space, including opportunities to share thought leadership with ICA, the first being a jointly held webinar discussion on Decarbonising data centres in the age of AI.

WLCA adoptions

The current edition of RICS' *Whole life carbon assessment (WLCA) for the built environment* has been adopted by Turner & Townsend and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Citations

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) publication **Demand and Supply Measures for the Steel and Cement Transition: The case for international co-operation, cites the RICS sustainability report 2024**.
- The **Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction** (Buildings-GSR), a report published by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), cites the **Global Construction Monitors**, Q3 2024.



Webinars delivered in Q1 2025

Enhancing building resilience: strategies for design, construction, and financing against climate disasters

- This was held in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC, a member of the World Bank Group).
- Attracting 633 registrations from 64 countries, 258 attended, 95% rating it good to excellent.

The UK's whole life carbon ecosystem: a framework for decarbonising the built environment

- Attracting 635 registrations from 46 countries, 272 attended.

WBEF sustainability articles

Wicked problems in construction

- Three-part series: 1,252 total views in eight weeks.
- Engagement: 42% read the entire article.



Time value of carbon emissions

- 140 total views in two weeks.
- Engagement: 33% read the entire article.





Standards and Regulation

The Standards and Regulation directorates support the profession through maintaining public trust and confidence for the benefit of society. Strengthening trust underpins client and wider public confidence, through upholding professional standards by regulatory activities and assurance programmes.

Regulation and Assurance Operations

The Regulation and Assurance Operations directorate supports the profession to underpin client and public confidence and uphold professional standards through regulatory activities and assurance programmes. See **Regulation** for more detail.

538
Designated Professional Body scheme firms (UK only)

1,722
Client Money Protection scheme firms

10,038
RICS-regulated firms

15,808
Valuer Registration scheme members

143,332
individual members

In this quarter we:

- received 1,615 concerns about RICS members, of which 594 related to individual members (264) or regulated firms (330)
- opened 154 new investigations and
- closed 159 investigations.



Support teams

The profession support and assurance teams, supporting the Valuer Registration, Firm Registration, Client Money Protection and Designated Professional Body schemes, have:

- conducted 94 member support or regulatory review visits
- held 27 regulatory compliance workshops and webinars
- reached 4,074 regulated members and firms and
- undertaken reviews against £199.8m of client money.



Regulatory Tribunal

The independently led Regulatory Tribunal, chaired by Alexandra Marks CBE, dealt with:

- 23 cases, including 4 disciplinary panel hearings
- 1 registration panel hearing
- 1 interim measures hearing
- 16 single member decisions
- 1 appeal panel hearing and
- 18 sanctions issued (more than one sanction may be issued in a case).

Professional Indemnity Insurance (PII) minimum policy wording

In Q1 2025, RICS completed a public consultation on the minimum policy wording for PII for firms in the UK and Ireland.

The new Valuation Assurance Committee started meeting during this quarter and has started engagement with valuation firms. The Standards and Regulation Board also considered recommendations from the Professional Standards Steering Group for permanent governance arrangements for the assurance of standards.

During this quarter, Chris Alder, Senior Executive Officer, represented RICS at the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, facilitating a panel with the World Economic Forum. This looked closely at how professionals can enhance compliance, governance and ethical business practices across the built environment sector to address corruption risks.

Education and qualification standards

In the first quarter of 2025 there were:

- **1,827 new trainees and candidates** enrolled to AssocRICS and MRICS assessments. This was behind regional market plans. Lower than expected numbers in the UK, Europe and APAC were offset by higher than expected numbers in MEA.
- **546 new elections**. Despite a number of assessments carried over from 2024 into the first months of this year and higher than planned assessments in MEA, election numbers were lower than expected due to assessment numbers in APAC.
- **497 AssocRICS and MRICS assessments** delivered.



Dispute Resolution Services (DRS)

DRS appointment services – overview of applications

DRS received 761 applications in Q1.

- **Construction applications** fell by 18.6% (from 397 to 323).
- **Commercial applications** rose by 31.5% (from 308 to 405).

Compared to Q4 2024, Q1 2025 saw a 9.9% increase in total applications (from 692 to 761), with a modest rise across both sectors.

Commercial disputes remain steady, driven by ongoing economic pressures such as interest rates, inflation and market uncertainty, particularly around leases, rents and business operations. The decline in construction disputes may reflect a combination of slower project starts, rising costs and more proactive conflict management resolution.

Looking ahead

Q1 2025 shows contrasting trends: commercial activity is rising, while construction has softened slightly. We expect demand for dispute resolution to remain steady as sectors continue to adapt to economic challenges.

DRS training

Following a review of the quality of our user experience, from January to March 2025, DRS Education has seen an increase in the number of new delegates on DRS programmes compared with the same period in 2024. Revenue from DRS Education is tracking ahead due to a strong Q1 and delegates engaging with more high-value programmes.

Following our issue of a Practice Alert, take up for our expert witness programme is currently trending as the most popular, followed by the Diploma in Arbitration, which has had its highest number of enrolments since it began.

Our commitment to exploring avenues for increasing diversity is showcased through RICS' DRS Women in Construction Scholarship. Given its success, we relaunched this scholarship for the RICS Diploma in Adjudication for 2025. The deadline for applications was early January 2025. Shortlisting and interviews took place in Q1.

During Q1, we have started work on the delivery of the adjudication competency programme, which has been revamped and is due for delivery in Q2.

Globally, during Q1, RICS has been working on the delivery of a localised Expert Witness programme for Australia, due to commence in June 2025, as well as another face-to-face mediation programme in India in May and Dubai in June 2025.

DRS consultancy

The Arbitration Act 2025

Strengthening the UK's Leadership in global dispute resolution – the Arbitration Act 2025 received Royal Assent on 24 February 2025.

At DRS, we are proud to support the UK's position as a world leader in dispute resolution. This landmark legislation will enhance the efficiency, fairness and global competitiveness of arbitration in the UK – benefitting international businesses and the wider economy. It reflects the sector's commitment to maintaining world-class standards and delivering practical solutions for real-world challenges.

Dr John Fletcher, Executive Director of RICS Dispute Resolution Service, was recognised for his significant contribution to the development of the *Arbitration Act* 2025. Minister Sarah Sackman KC MP, Minister for Courts and Legal Services, highlighted how John's expert evidence to the Special Public Bill Committee was instrumental in shaping the final legislation.

Conflict avoidance in construction

In March, the NEC4 contract was updated to include clauses that provide for the use of a conflict avoidance process (CAP), which is predicated on the RICS CAP. This signals a big step forward for DRS' campaign to encourage parties to adopt CAP as a measure to deal with disputes early and cost-effectively.

The Environment Agency signed up to the Conflict Avoidance Pledge and is keen to work with DRS on a campaign to encourage its supply chain to do the same, and to adopt conflict avoidance procedures in framework agreements.

Arbitration

DRS is working closely with RICS Regulation on content for a further Practice Alert, aimed specifically at experts working in housing disrepair matters, and is taking the lead on RICS' response to government consultation on proposals for the mandatory regulation of expert witnesses.

The aim of the consultation is to seek feedback on a proposal that expert witnesses in the Family Court, many of whom provide valuation testimony on former matrimonial homes, must be members of a professional body and be subject to regulation in their roles as experts.

Scottish outreach session

In early March, we brought together over 25 active users of our DRS Commercial Rent Review services (a strong turnout for a relatively small market) to explore how we can enhance CPD, promote best practice and strengthen working relationships.

A key outcome from the session was the formation of a new working group focused on developing our independent expert and arbitration panel in Scotland. The group will also be exploring broader industry challenges, particularly how we can attract more young professionals into lease advisory roles across the region.

Conflict Avoidance Week panel

This session was another great success. We were joined by Fionnuala McCredie KC of Keating Chambers and Kim Franklin KC of Crown Office Chambers, alongside Matt Molloy and Jonathan Cope from MCMS Ltd and Jonathan Pawlowski from Howard Kennedy.

The event brought together over 40 professionals, including DRS users and tier one and two contractors from the adjudication and construction sector, to discuss the merits of various dispute resolution routes, including international arbitration, domestic arbitration, the RICS CAP, adjudication and mediation. The feedback from both sessions was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees particularly appreciated the opportunity for open dialogue and networking.

UAE

In January, we held a series of stakeholder meetings and events in the UAE. We were delighted to host a well-attended awareness session, offering a comprehensive overview of the updated Abu Dhabi General Conditions of Contract (ADGCC) at the Abu Dhabi Global Market Dispute Resolution Hearing Centre. There were also multiple stakeholder meetings with RICS members and other relevant stakeholders.

Saudi Arabia

In February, RICS DRS held an event in collaboration with HKA during Riyadh International Disputes Week (RIDW25), covering the impact that AI is having on dispute resolution. There were also multiple stakeholder meetings with RICS members, KSA Working Group Board members and other relevant stakeholders.

Canada

In January, Dr John Fletcher was invited by the Ontario Road Builder's Association (ORBA) to address 750 of its members at their Toronto Conference. Dr Fletcher also spoke at the Greater Toronto Sewer and Watermain Contractors Association Conference, addressing 500 of their members and clients.

In Alberta, Dr Fletcher met with:

- the Construction Sector Advisory Council, comprised of several of the large trade organisations in Alberta, and
- key government stakeholders at Service Alberta and Alberta Infrastructure.

DRS held a closed-door roundtable with key industry stakeholders and is currently working closely with a large government entity in Ontario to identify a possible pilot for the RICS conflict avoidance panels.

Hong Kong

DRS continues to work closely with the Hong Kong Development Bureau and has finalised draft guidance on conflicts of interest, tailored specifically for adjudication under the new legislation.

India

As part of the ongoing effort to promote the RICS India Construction Arbitration Service, DRS held a roundtable with members of the arbitration panel to gain insight into the local market. DRS also held a session with the recently trained mediators.

Northern Ireland

In March, as part of DRS' campaign to reduce costly disputes in the construction industry, Martin Burns gave a presentation in Belfast at an event hosted by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Ciarb). Martin spoke about the RICS CAP procedure, which can be applied early to prevent emerging disputes from unnecessarily escalating to court or arbitration.

He shared the speaker's platform with Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Siobhan Keegan. Lady Chief Justice Keegan encouraged greater use of ADR procedures and said courts should be the forum of last resort. Delegates included surveyors, lawyers and other professionals drawn from both sides of the Irish border.

Delivering confidence

We are RICS. As a member-led chartered professional body working in the public interest, we uphold the highest technical and ethical standards.

We inspire professionalism, advance knowledge and support our members across global markets to make an effective contribution for the benefit of society. We independently regulate our members in the management of land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Our work with others supports their professional practice and pioneers a natural and built environment that is sustainable, resilient and inclusive for all.

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