

JDD CONSULTANTS

ANALYSIS OF THE PEB 2016 EXAM RESULTS

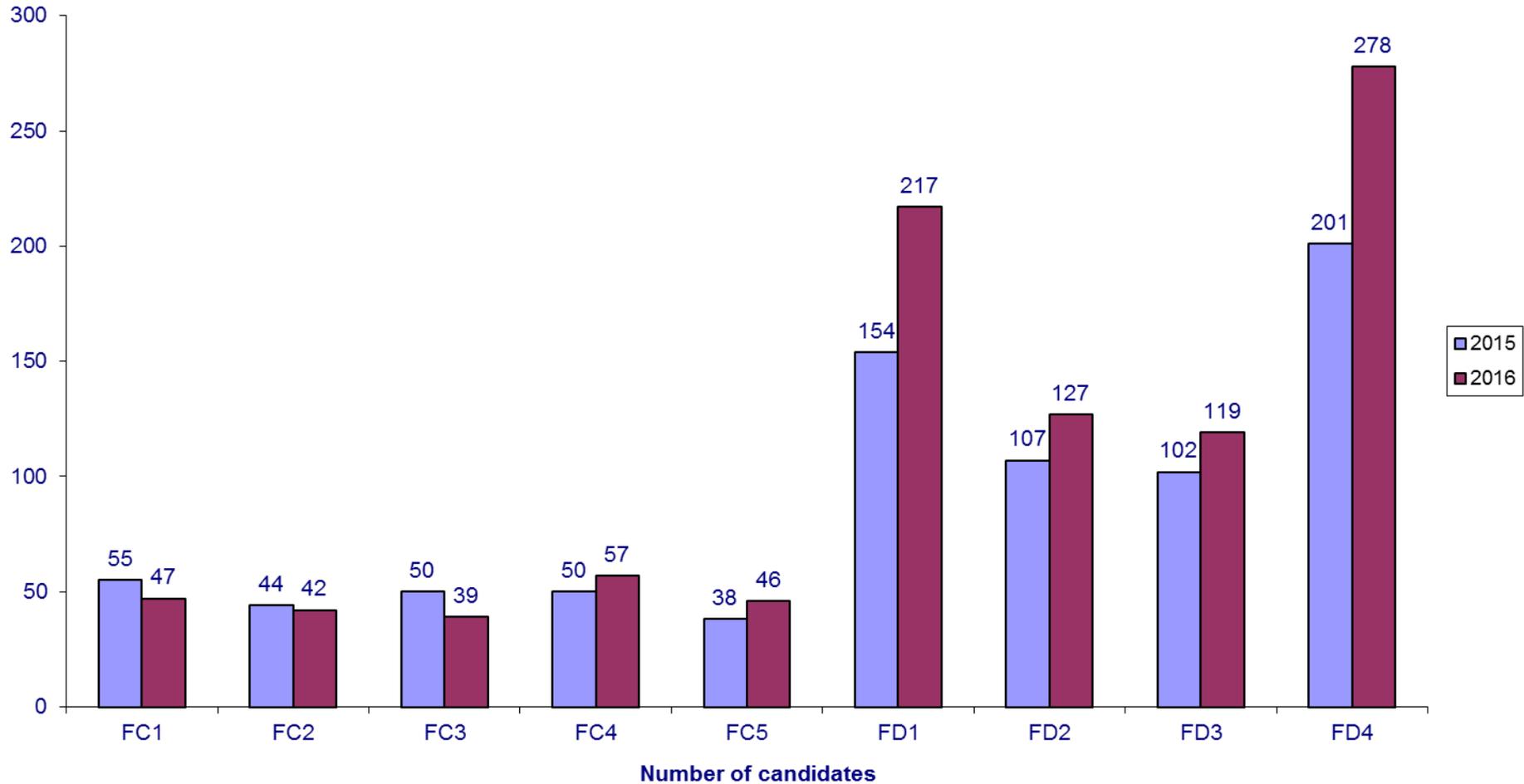
[MARCH 2017]

Candidate numbers

- **Foundation Certificate (FC) papers:**
the number of candidates ranged from 39 on FC3 to 57 on FC4 and, overall, were down 3% on 2015 (**Figure 1**).
- **Final Diploma (FD) papers:**
the number of candidates ranged from 119 on FD3 to 278 on FD4 and, overall, were up by 31% on 2015 (**Figure 1**).

Figure 1

Candidates taking the PEB papers in 2015 and 2016



Pass rates

- **FC papers:**
pass rates rose for the FC1 (P1) paper, but fell for FC2 (English Law), FC3 (P5), FC4 (D&C) and FC5 (P7) papers. The sharpest fall was for FD2 (**Figure 2**).
- **FD papers:**
pass rates fell for the FD1 (P2), FD2 (P3) and FD3 (P4) papers, but rose slightly for FD4 (P6). The sharpest falls were for FD1 and FD2 (**Figure 3**).

Figure 2

% Pass Rates (for all candidates) in 2015 and 2016 FC Exams

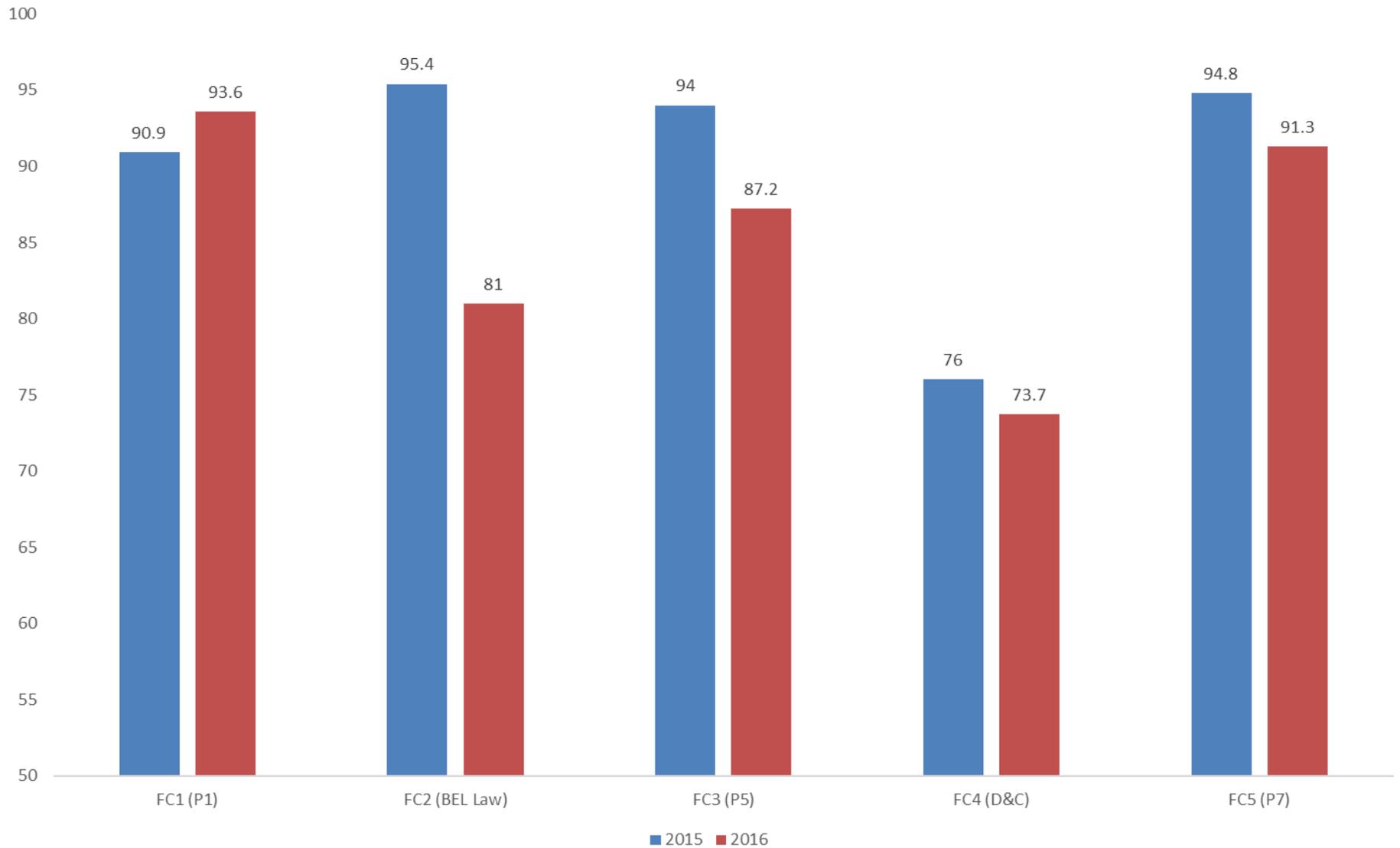
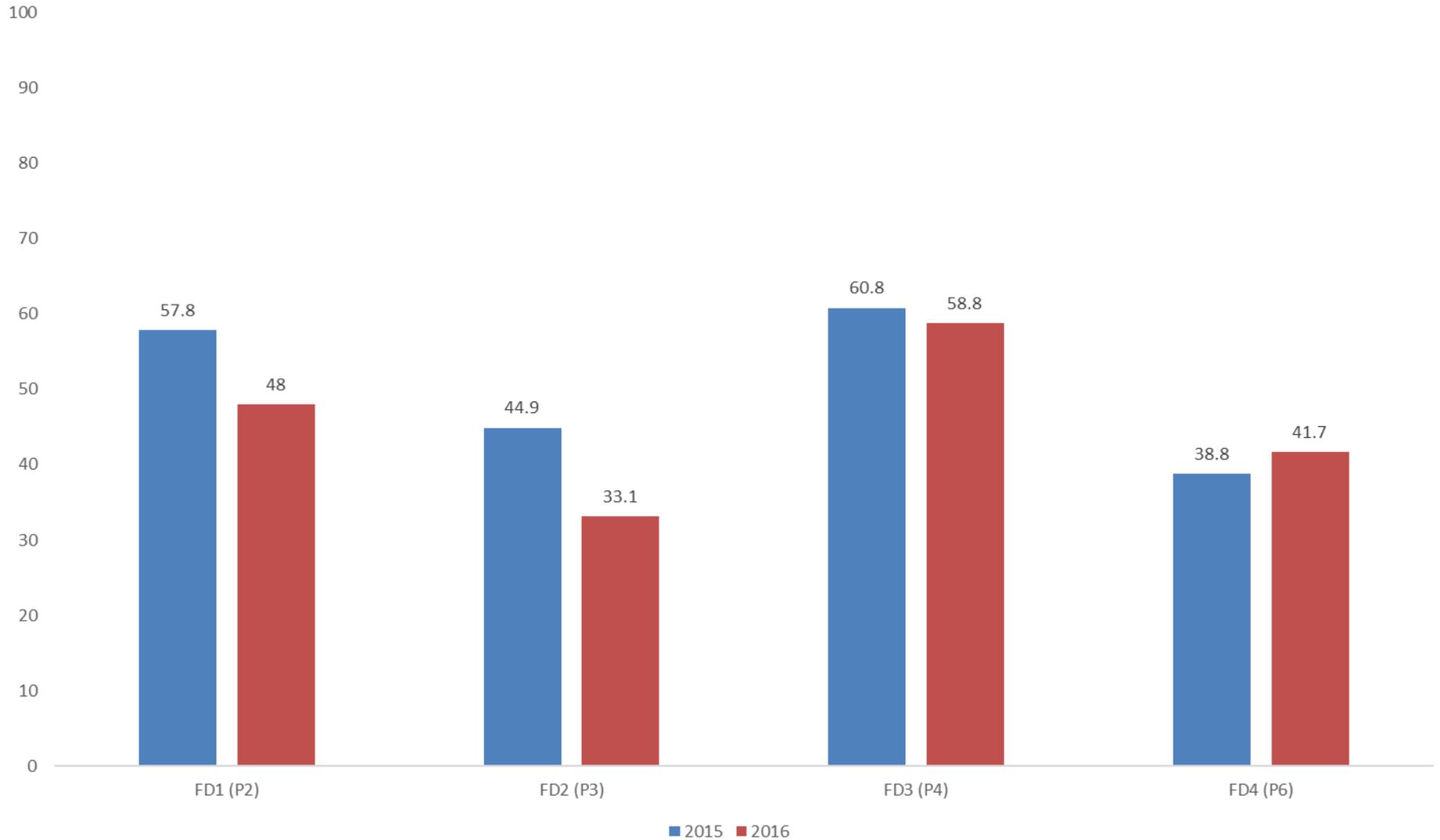


Figure 3

% Pass Rates (for all candidates) in 2015 and 2016 FD exams

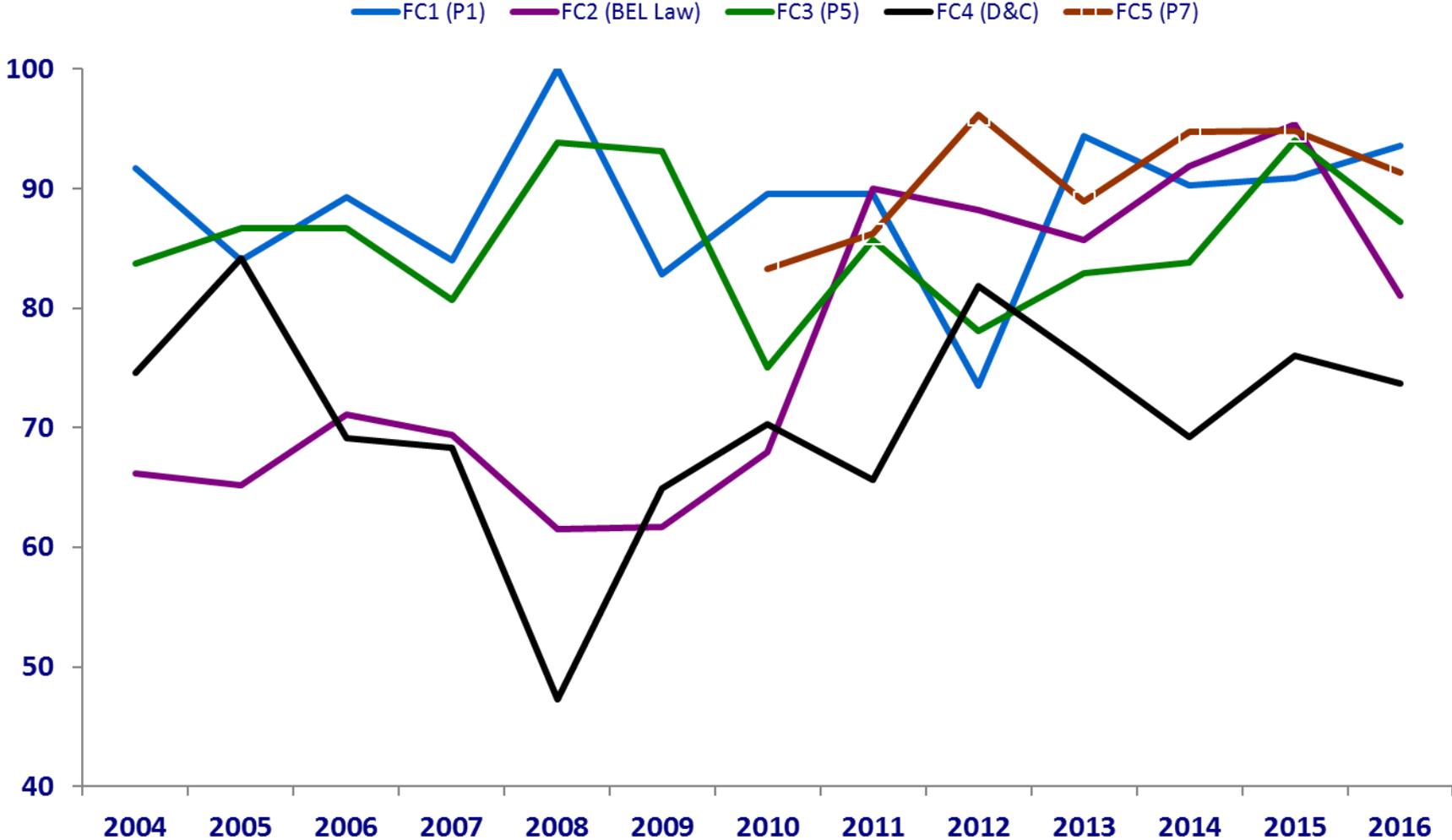


Trends in FC pass rates

- Pass rates have always been very high for FC1, FC3 and FC5, but have improved over recent years for FC2 (English Law) and FC4 (D&C) – although 2016 saw a step backwards in FC2 pass rates (**Figure 4**).

Figure 4

Trends in % Pass Rates for All Candidates in Foundation Certificate Exams



Trends in FD pass rates

- Year-to-year fluctuations in pass rates have been greater for FD papers (than for FC) (**Figure 5**).
- For FD1, FD2 and FD3, the long-term trend since 2000 has been an improving pass rate:
 - for FD1 the average has risen from 48% between 2000-03 to 58% between 2014-16;
 - for FD2 from 34% to 43%; and
 - for FD3 from 46% to 60% (**Figures 6-8**).
- For FD4, there has been no real upward trend: 39% passing, on average, between 2000-03 and 41% between 2014-16 (**Figure 9**).

Figure 5

Trends in % Pass Rates for All Candidates in Final Diploma Exams

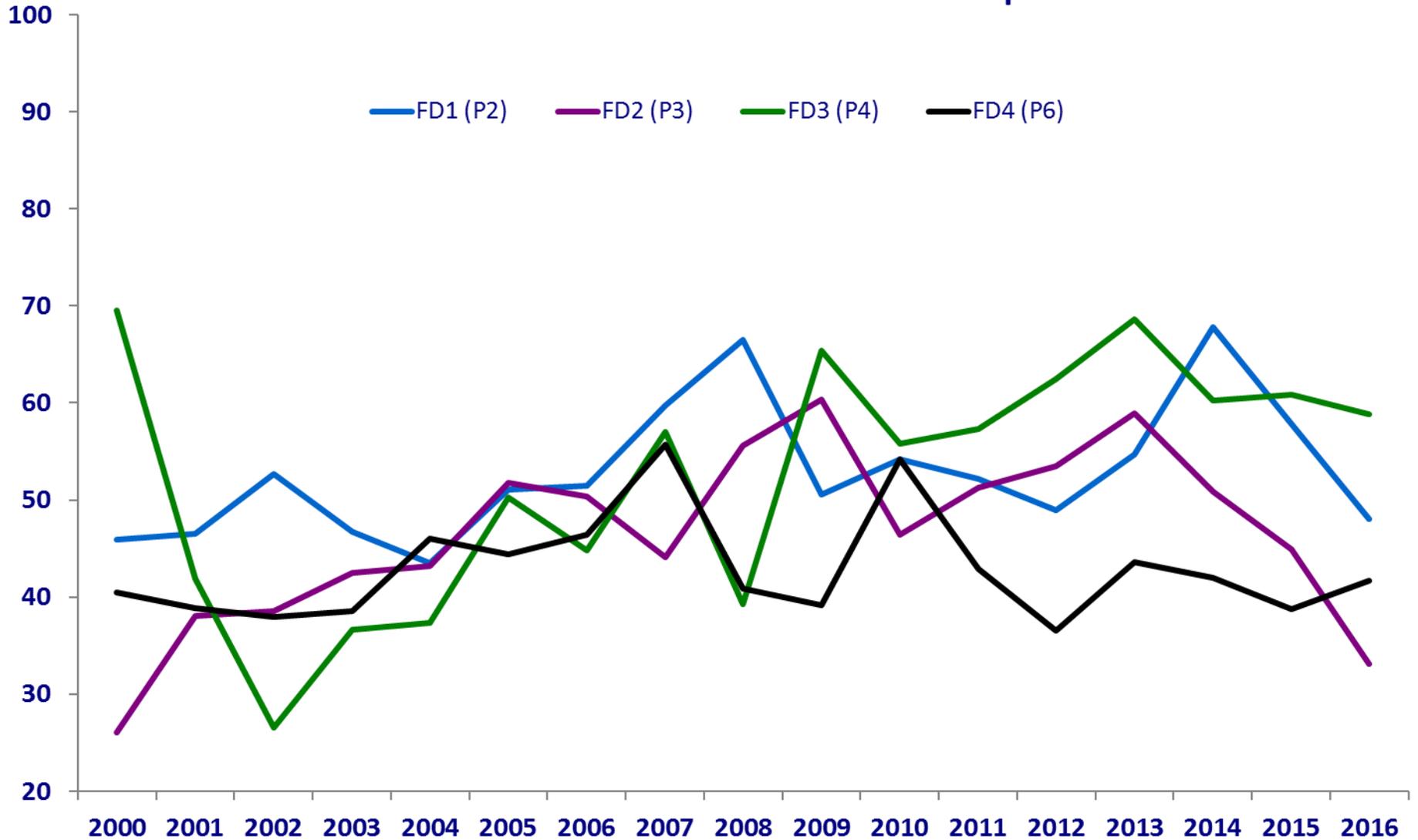
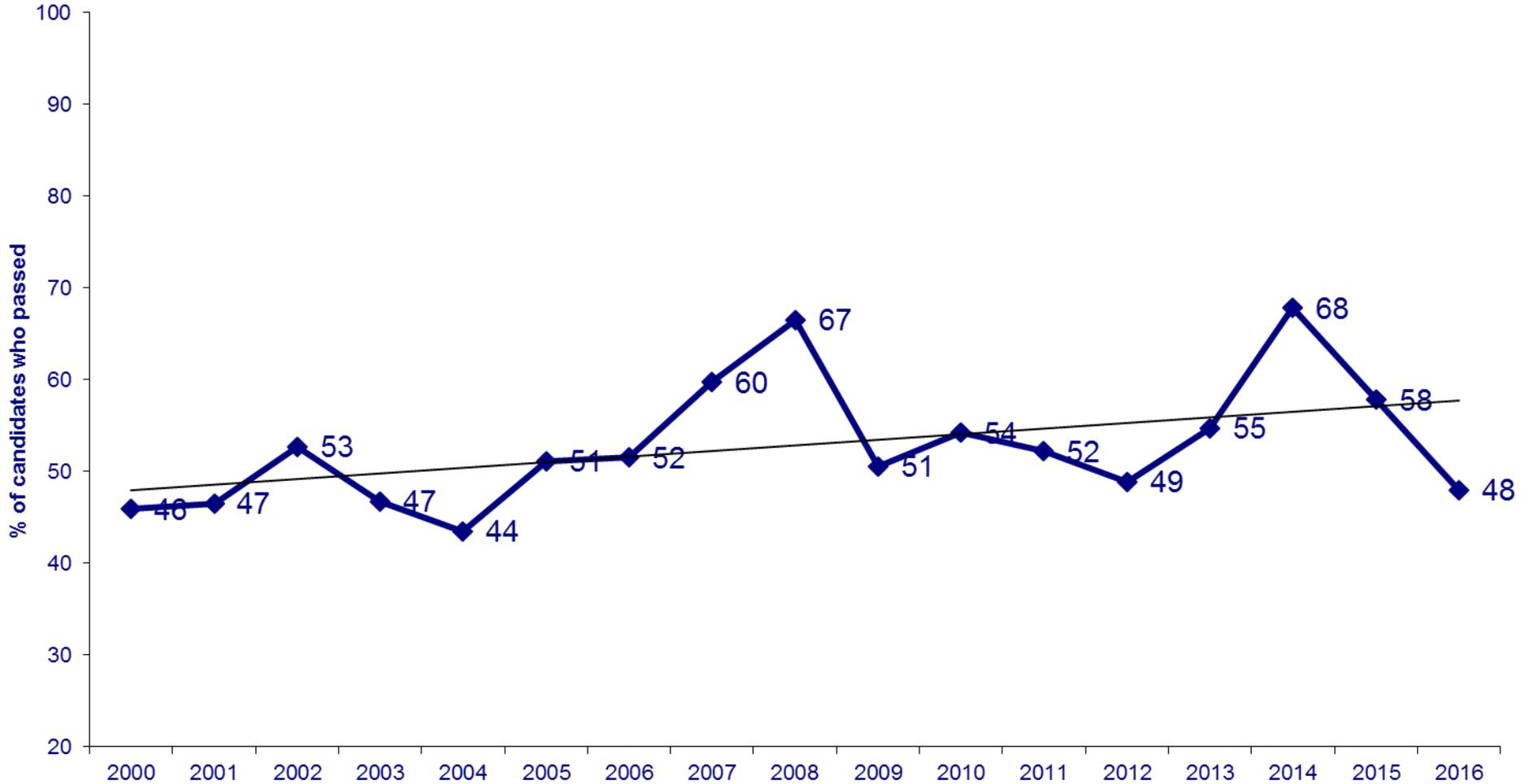


Figure 6

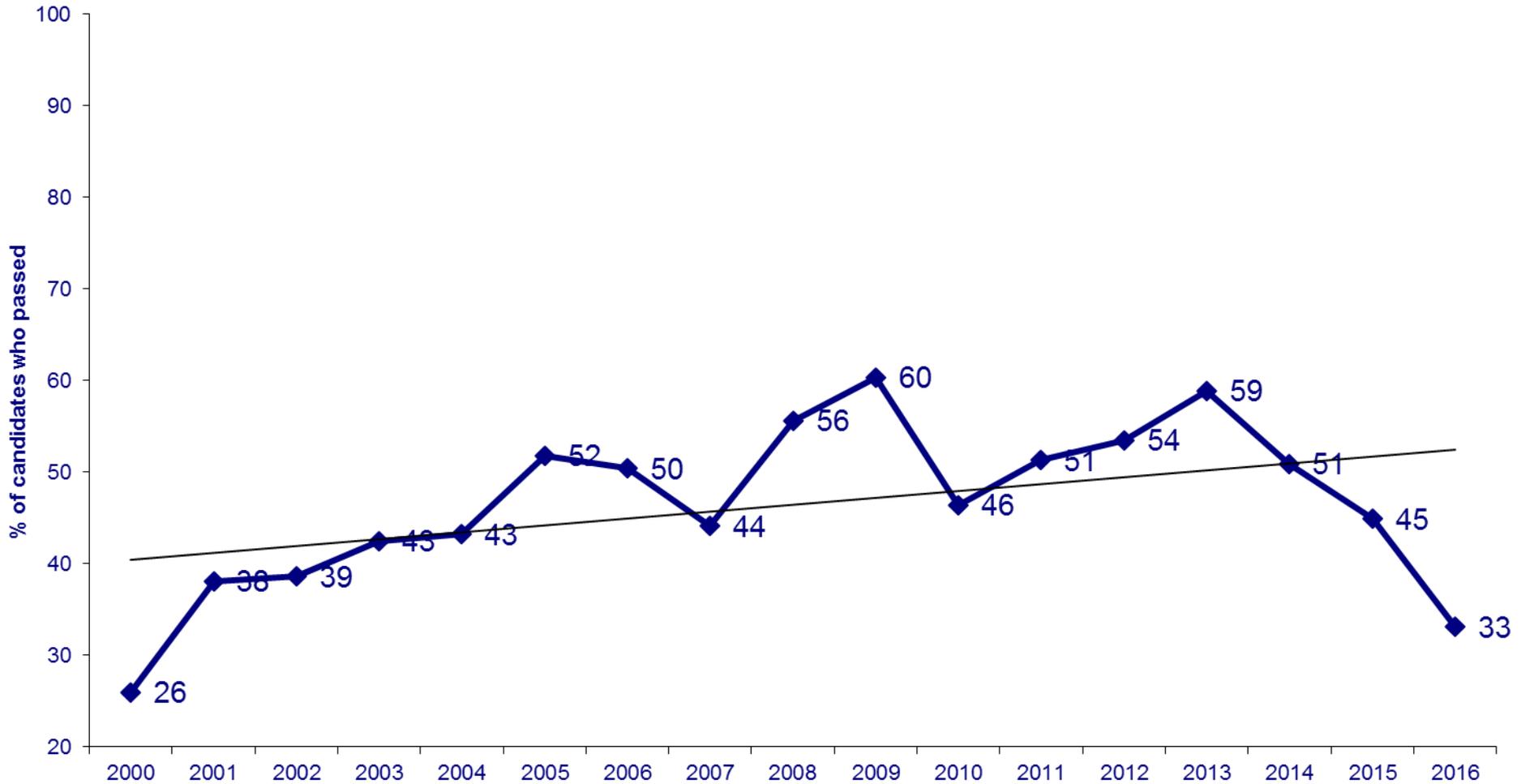
Trends in FD1 (P2) Pass Rate for all Candidates: 2000-16



The pass rate for FD1 shows a steady trend upwards, from an average of 48% in 2000-03 to 58% in 2014-16.

Figure 7

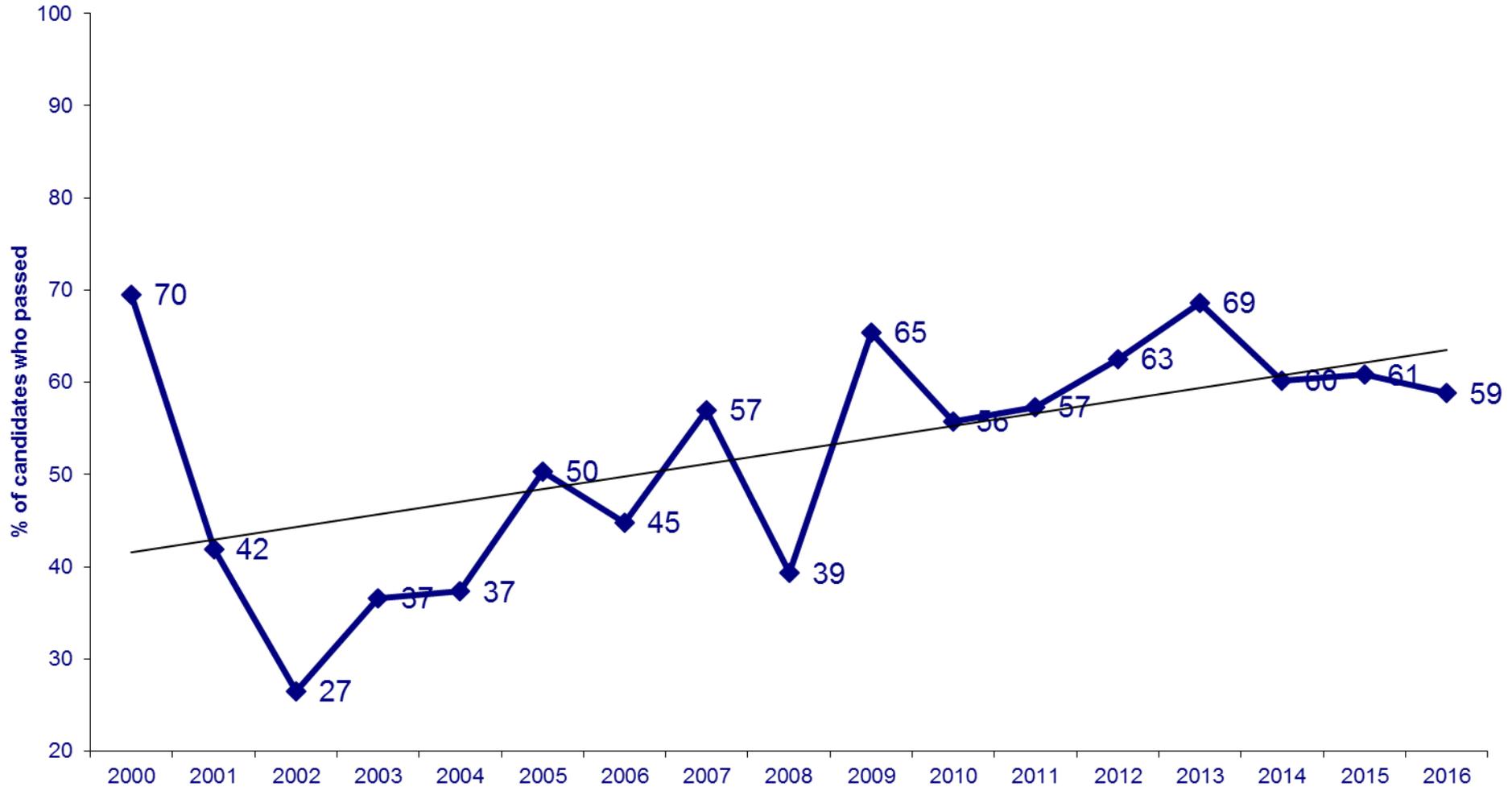
Trends in FD2 (P3) Pass Rate for all Candidates: 2000-16



The pass rate for FD2 shows a trend upwards, from an average of 34% in 2000-03 to 43% in 2014-16.

Figure 8

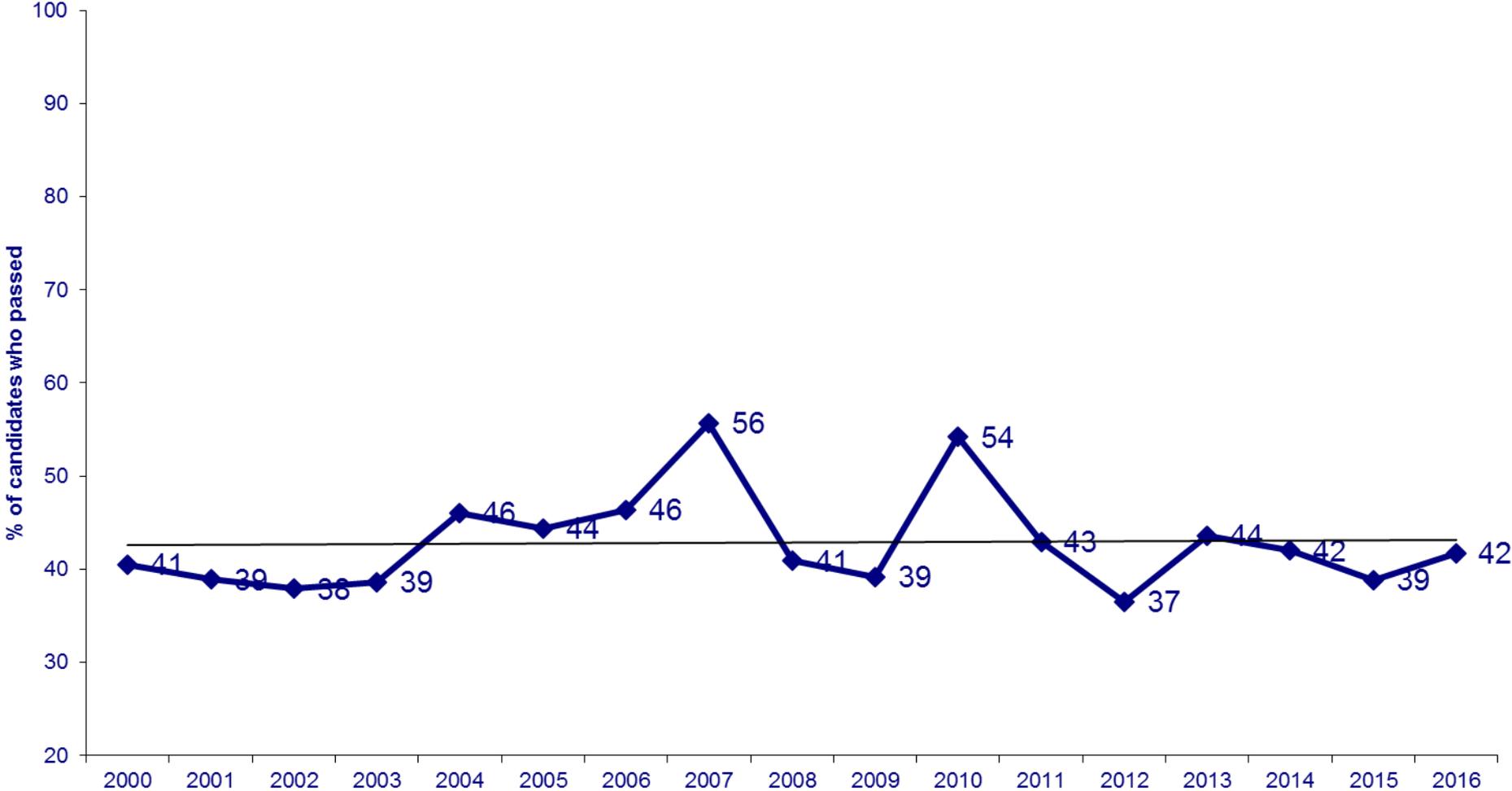
Trends in FD3 Pass Rate for all Candidates: 2000-16



The pass rate for FD3 shows a trend upwards, from an average of 46% in 2000-03 to 60% in 2014-16.

Figure 9

Trends in FD4 Pass Rate for all Candidates: 2000-16



The pass rate for FD4 shows little real trend, averaging 39% in 2000-03 and 41% in 2014-16.

Pass rates for those attending JDD courses

When calculating pass rates for those attending JDD revision courses three caveats apply:

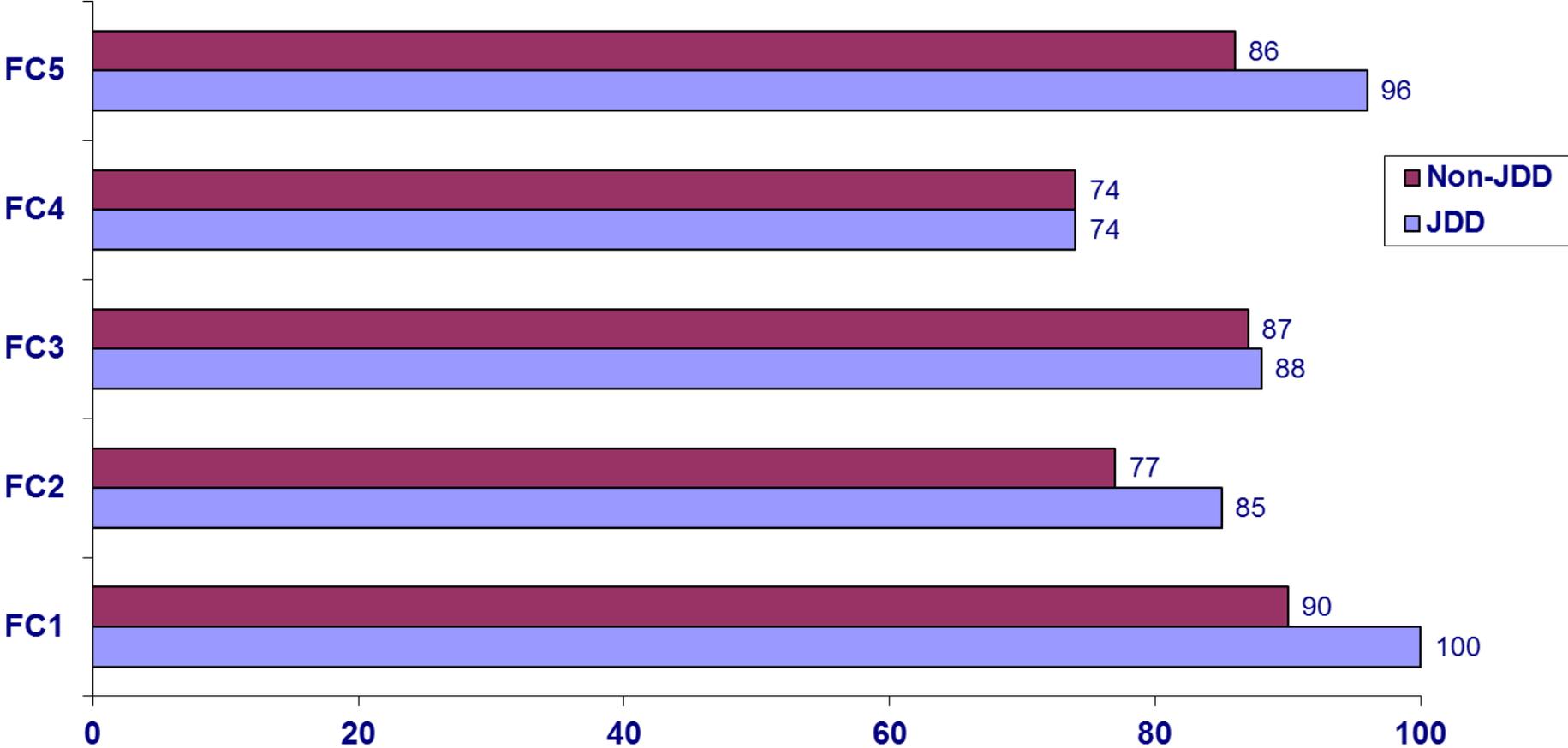
1. Some JDD course attendees do not sit the examination until the year following the course. In some cases, they advise us of this, but this is not always the case.
2. Each year some of our FD2 and FD3 course attendees withdraw from the exam because, in the period between booking and the October exam, they receive notice that they have passed Papers A and/or B of the March EQE.
3. Each year, a significant number of those who pass PEB papers have attended a JDD course one or two years before and have built on the guidance and knowledge from the course to have success at a second or further attempt. These candidates are shown in Figures 10 and 11 which follow as 'non-JDD', but in fact will have benefitted from attending a JDD course on the paper in an earlier year.

Foundation Certificate courses

- FC pass rates, for all candidates, are typically high, but also:
 - a high proportion of candidates attend JDD FC revision courses;
 - as in previous years, pass rates for those who attended our FC course(s) in 2016 were higher than for those who did not attend our course(s) (**Figure 10**).

Figure 10

% Pass rates for JDD and non-JDD FC course attendees in 2016

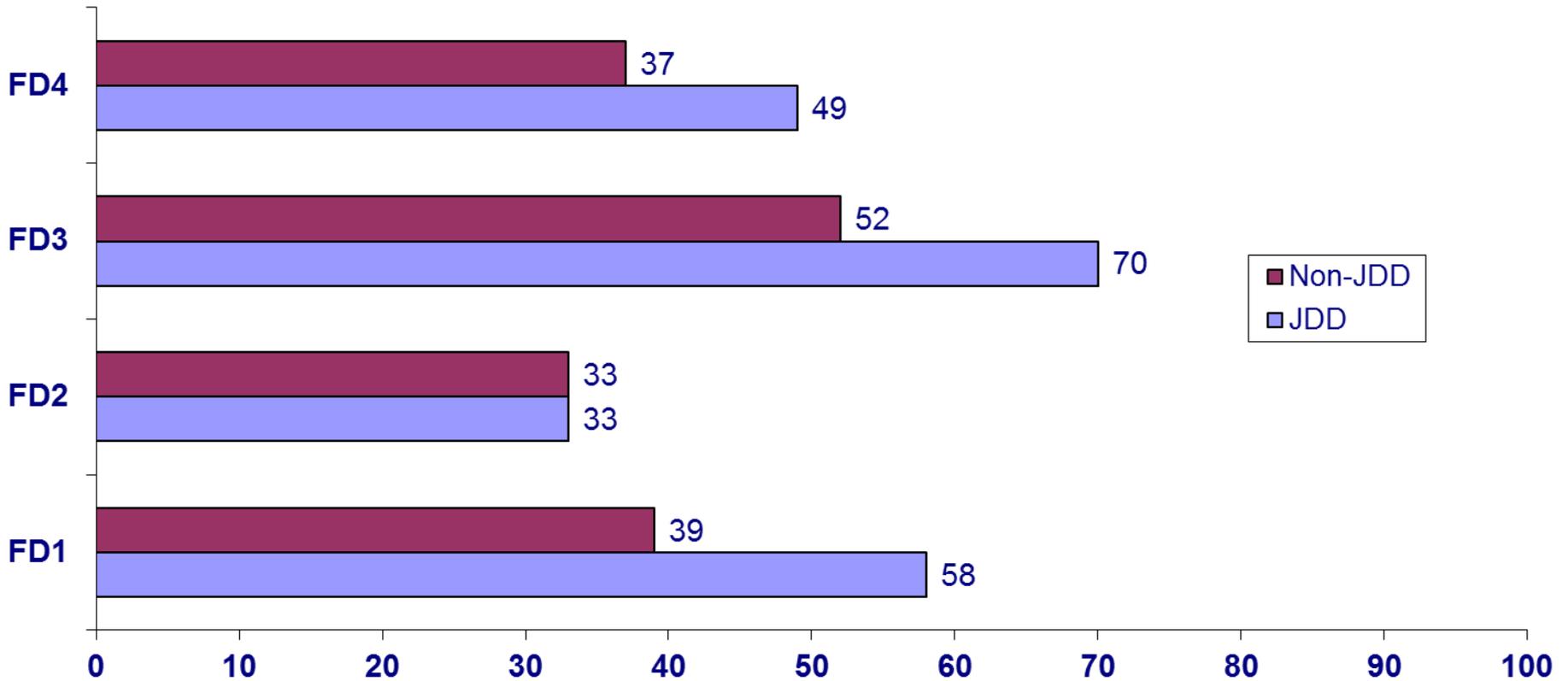


Final Diploma courses

- In the cases of FD1, FD3 and FD4, the pass rates for those who attended a JDD revision on the paper in 2016, were significantly higher than for those who did not (**Figure 11**).
- For FD2, the pass rate of JDD course attendees and non attendees appeared to be the same. However, the pass rate for JDD attendees may be significantly understated for FD2 since not all JDD FD2 attendees will have actually sat the exam, given the factor of EQE Papers A and B exemptions.
- A substantial proportion of those who are shown in Figure 11 as 'non-JDD' (i.e who passed the 2016 exam without taking a JDD revision course in 2016) had attended a JDD course on the paper in 2015 or 2014: nearly a fifth in the case of FD4, a sixth for FD2 and FD3 and a tenth for FD1. In these cases, the candidates will have been able to build on guidance provided in the courses.

Figure 11

% Pass rates for JDD and non inJDD FD course attendees in 2016



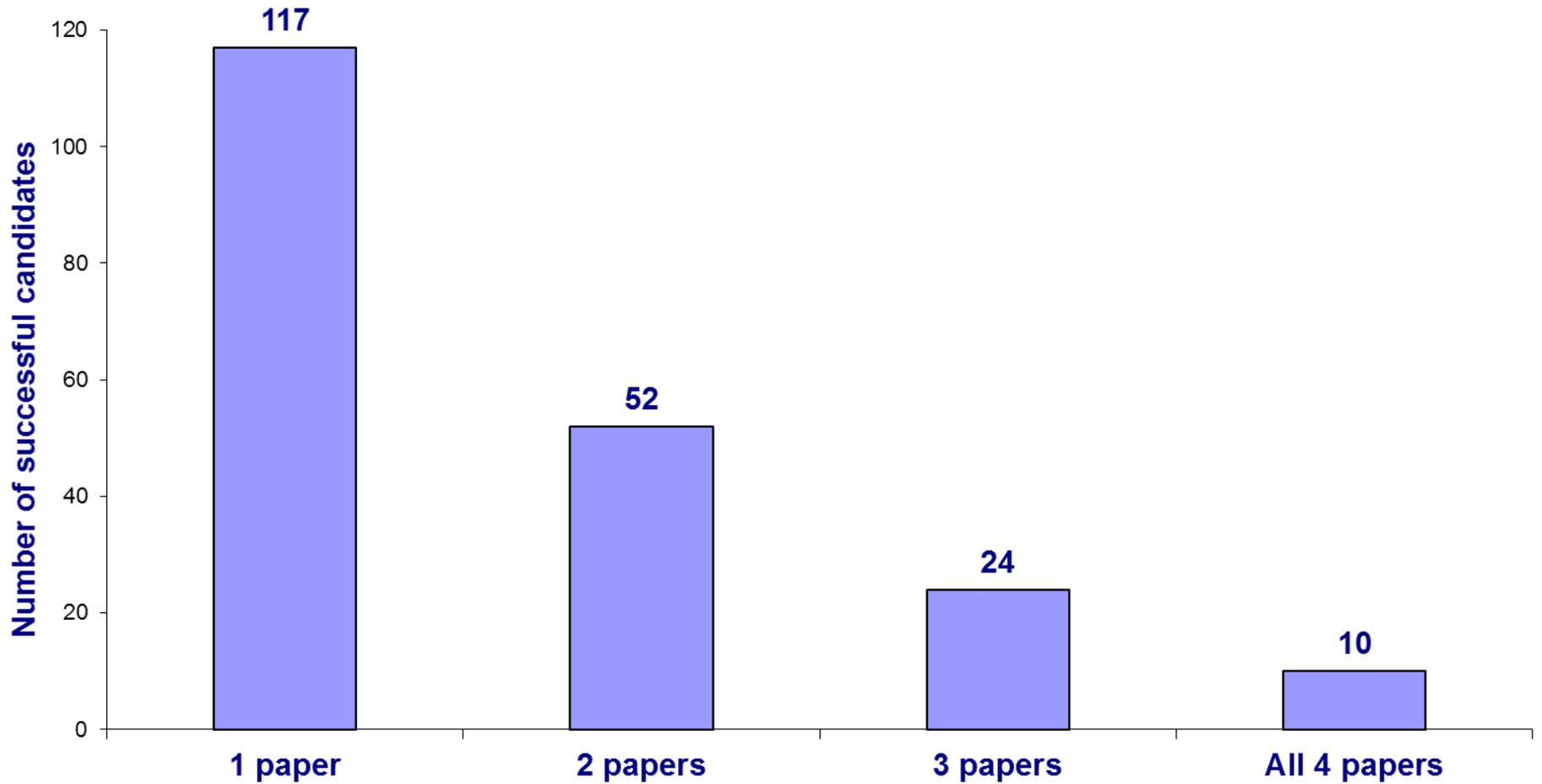
Among those who passed in 2015 but did not attend a JDD course in 2016, there were, for FD1, four (of 44), for FD2, four (of 26), for FD3, six (of 39) and, for FD4, 11 (of 61) who had attended a JDD course on the paper in the previous year (2015) or 2014.

Successful FD candidates and how many papers they passed

- In 2016, the overall pass rate for FD papers was 45% (i.e. there were, in total, 741 entries for the four papers and there were 333 passes – 49% of whom were attendees on JDD FD courses in 2016).
- Around a half of candidates attempted just one paper (typically FD1 or FD4) in 2016, some two (the most common combinations being FD1 with FD4 or FD2 with FD3), some three and some all four. We estimate that the average number of FD papers taken was 1.8 and that there were around 415 unique candidates.
- 203 candidates passed one or more FD paper in 2016: i.e. nearly half of unique candidates had some success.
- 109 of these 203 successful candidates attended one or more JDD FD courses in 2016. While, overall, two-thirds of the trainees who attended a JDD FD course in 2016 passed one or more of the FD papers.
- A further 25 successful candidates in 2016 had attended a JDD course on that paper in the previous years.
- **Figure 12** shows that 117 of the 203 successful candidates passed one paper, 52 passed two papers, 24 three papers and ten all four papers.

Figure 12

Successful candidates in FD exams in 2016: Numbers passing



The fall in FD1 and FD2 pass rates in 2016 (1)

- For **FD1** the overall pass rate (at 48%) was down substantially on that for PEB 2015 and was well below the high average pass rate of 60% registered between 2013-15.
- The Examiner's Report noted (as it did in 2015) that a factor behind some candidates failing was that they were taking the examination too soon in their professional careers. *“Those candidates who were scoring with marks in the low 40% region perhaps simply need another year of experience to get them to a position whereby they are ready to sit the examinations and the confidence to know when information is relevant to a question and what is simply not required”.*

The fall in FD1 and FD2 pass rates in 2016 (2)

- For **FD2** the fall in the pass rate was substantial, and followed a significant fall also in 2015. At 33%, the pass rate was the lowest since 2000.
- The Examiner's Report does not comment on this decline, except noting that: *“This year's paper really separated out the candidates who understand how to craft a set of claims of suitable scope and those who do not. The Examiners felt that some candidates were either a long way from being equipped with the necessary skills to pass or simply did not take enough time to consider how to get the best scope of protection for the client”*.

The student year profile of those passing FD4

- A feature of the exam results for FD4 2015 was that a higher than normal proportion of those passing had been in the profession for a substantial number of years. It was an exam which favoured candidates with considerable experience and who had sat FD4/P6 several times before.
- For FD4 2016, this was less clearly marked. We calculate that around two-thirds of those who passed FD4 2016 had been in the profession for broadly three years or less (i.e. they came from student years 2013, 2014 or 2015), whereas for FD4 2015 the proportion (from student years 2012, 2013 or 2014) had been just over 50%.
- Nevertheless, it was still the case that for FD4 2016 that a substantial proportion of those who passed had considerable years in the profession: a quarter came from student years 2011 and 2012 (i.e. 4-5 years in the profession), while a tenth from student years before 2010.

JDD Consultants

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