

# University of Auckland Biological Safety Committee (UABSC)

## Service level report for the period 1 January 2024 – 31 March 2026

A Research Ethics Survey was completed in mid-2024 as part of the [Research Ethics Improvement Plan](#). A key area of feedback in the survey is that researchers would like better information about expected processing timeframes across the University of Auckland Human Participants Ethics Committee (UAHPEC), Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee (AHREC), Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) and Biological Safety Committee (UABSC). This report details the processing timeframes for UABSC and will be updated quarterly.

### Time to first review

The *time to first review* time point looks at the time between a new application submission date and the first review outcome date. The table below details the total number of applications receiving a first review outcome each quarter over the reporting period and the associated processing timeframes (average, median and 80<sup>th</sup> percentile).

The Trend Y column shows whether the 2026 quarterly median is higher or lower than the 2025 annual median. The Trend Q column shows whether the 2026 quarterly median is higher or lower than the same quarter from the previous year.

Quarter	# First Review Outcomes	Average Days	Median days	80th PCNT	Trend (Y)	Trend (Q)
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>		
<b>2025 Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>66</b>		
1 2026	1	21	21	21	↓ (17)	↓ (15)
<b>2026 Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>		

### Time to final approval

The *time to final approval* time point looks at the time between the application submission date and the final approval outcome date. The *time to final approval* time point is longer than the *time to first review* time point due to the high proportion of applications that receive a first review outcome of ‘Conditionally Approved’. These conditions must be satisfied before a final approval can be obtained.

Quarter	# Final Approval Outcomes	Average Days	Median Days	80TH PCNT	Trend (Y)	Trend (Q)
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>73</b>		
<b>2025 Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>86</b>		

1 2026	3	465	94	769	↑ (36)	↑ (42)
<b>2026 Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>769</b>		

The first quarter median is usually higher than the annual median due to the December-January closedown period.

### **Improvements**

The [Research Ethics Improvement Plan](#) details the full list of responses to the 2024 Research Ethics Survey. This includes the establishment of a dedicated Secretariat for the UABSC within Te Puna Tiketike | Research and Innovation Office.