



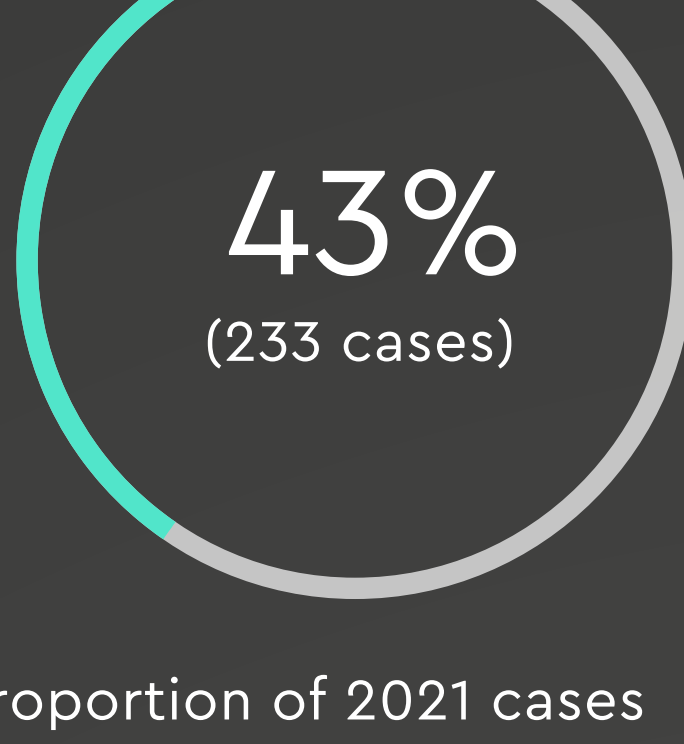
NOMINET

2021 IN .UK DOMAIN DISPUTE RESOLUTION



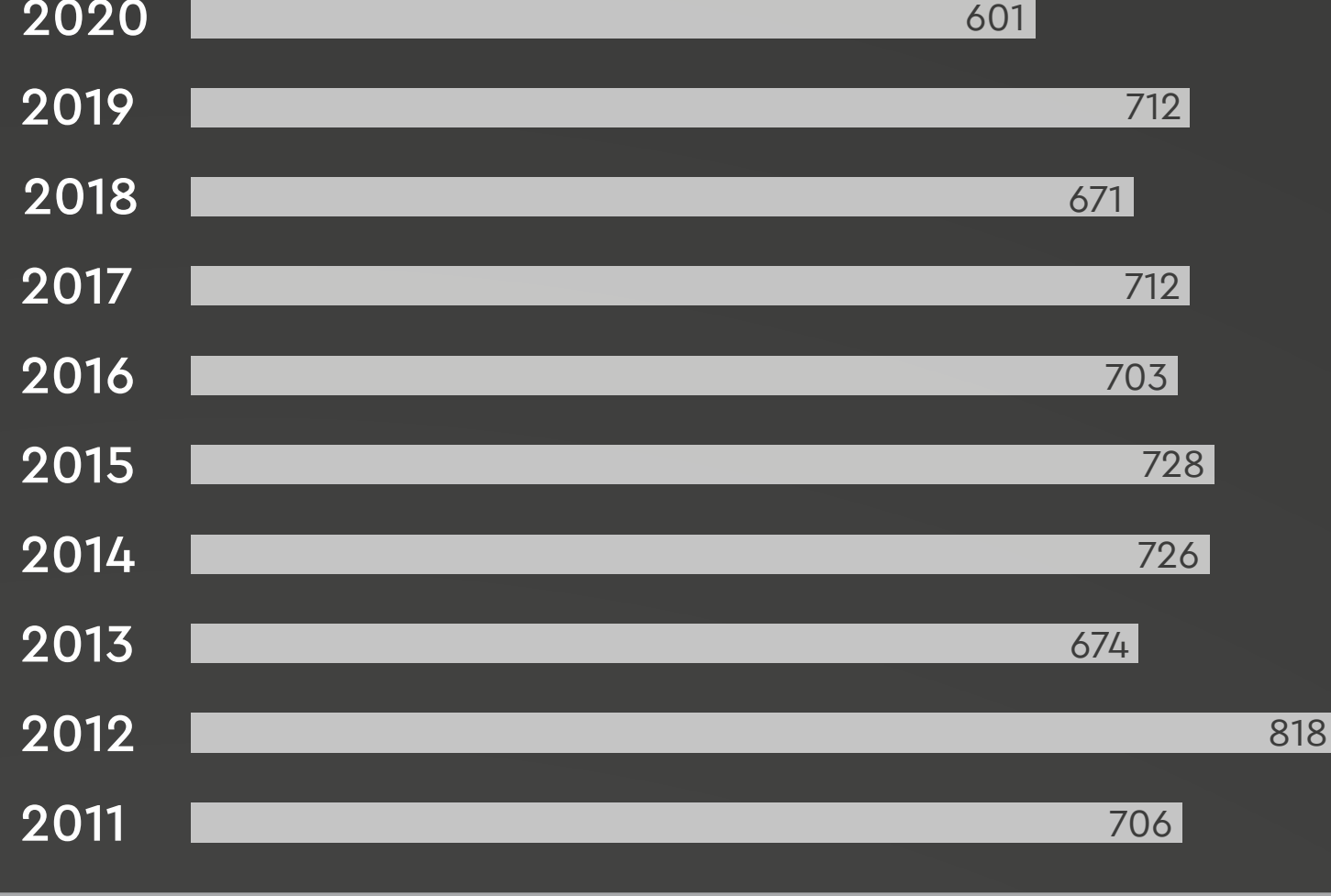
Our Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) offers an efficient and transparent method of resolving disputes relating to .UK domain names.

The DRS seeks to settle disputes through mediation and, where this is not possible, through an independent expert decision.



Proportion of 2021 cases resulting in a domain transfer

COMPLAINTS MADE



Court costs avoided in 2021

£4,290,000



Assuming court and legal fee savings of £15,000 per complaint that progresses into formal dispute resolution.

NOTEWORTHY CASES



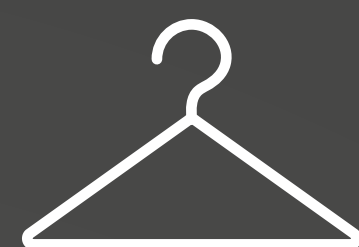
flora.co.uk

The Complainant was Upfield Europe B.V., who own various plant-based foods brands, including the Flora spread. The Complainant claimed that there is no reasonable justification as to why the Respondent would acquire, or use, a domain name solely comprised of the term "Flora".

Whilst the Expert acknowledges that "flora" can be a generic term associated with horticulture, they found that as a result of the advertising and marketing activity for the Flora mark and the success of the Flora product, the term has transcended this generic or descriptive meaning, and that it has come to be associated with the Complainant's products in the minds of a significant proportion of the UK public.

The Respondent failed to submit a response, and the Expert stated: "By reproducing the Complainant's distinctive mark in the Domain Name, the Respondent's website suggests that it is affiliated with or endorsed by the Complainant."

Considering the nature of the content found at the Domain Name, such an association is likely to tarnish the Complainant's trade mark."



chanelescortsagency.co.uk

The Complainant was Chanel Ltd, the luxury brand specialising in producing premium fashion, beauty and fragrance products. The Domain Name resolved to an escort website which the Complainant argued conflicts with its premium brand.

The Respondent failed to submit a response, and the Expert stated: "By reproducing the Complainant's distinctive mark in the Domain Name, the Respondent's website suggests that it is affiliated with or endorsed by the Complainant."

Considering the nature of the content found at the Domain Name, such an association is likely to tarnish the Complainant's trade mark."



COMMON INDUSTRIES



The most common industries for complaints. Note this is only for full decisions.

DISPUTED DOMAIN NAMES BY SUFFIX

	.co.uk	.org.uk	.me.uk	.uk	.sch.uk	.net.uk	.plc.uk	.ltd.uk
2021	529	20	0	74	0	0	0	0
2020	525	30	1	71	2	0	1	1
2019	628	33	2	136	1	1	0	0
2018	687	34	1	41	0	0	0	0
2017	687	46	4	46	0	0	0	0
2016	716	34	3	32	0	0	0	0
2015	686	30	3	26	0	0	0	0
2014	685	37	0	12	0	0	0	0

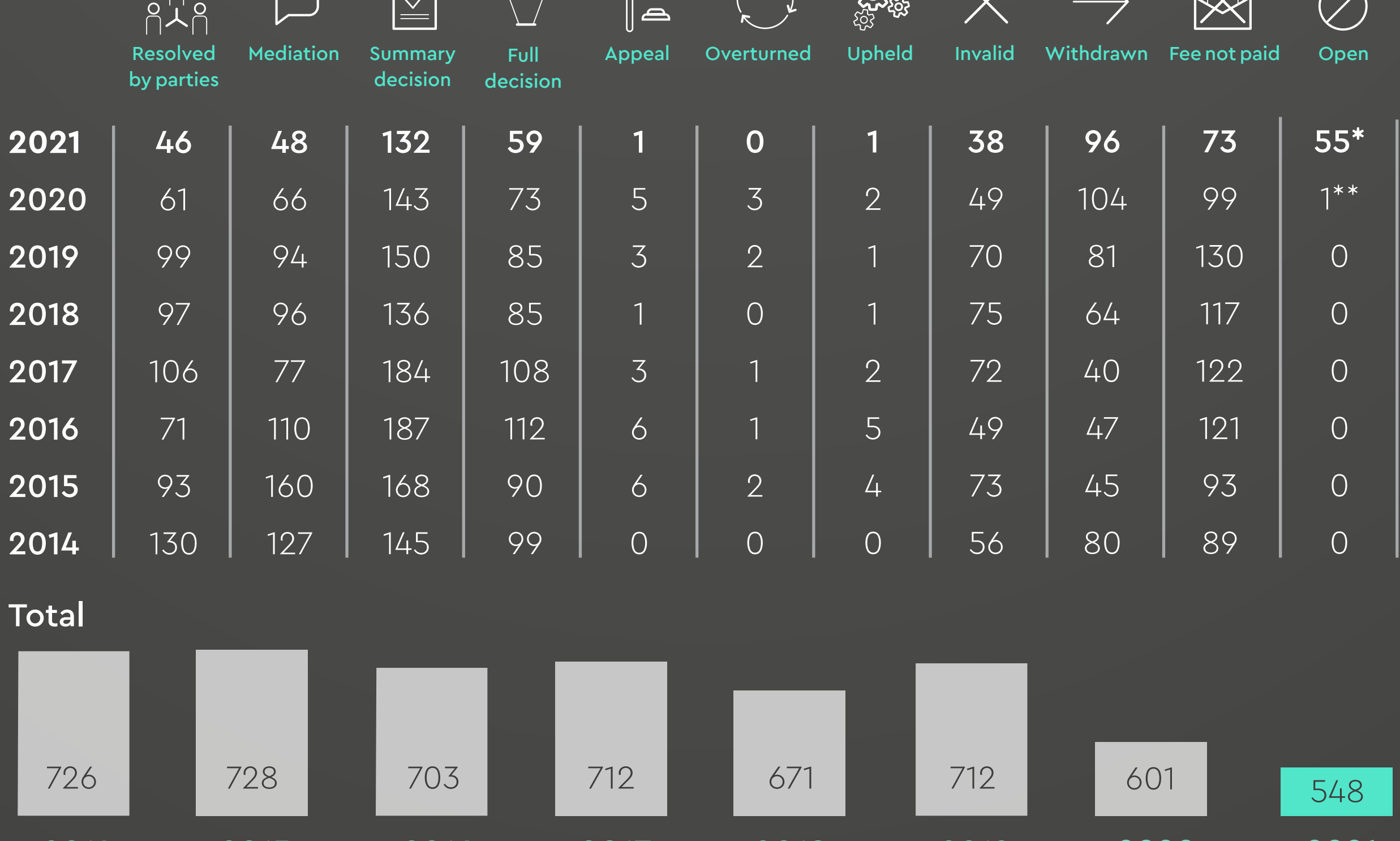
Please note, a DRS complaint may involve more than one domain name.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLAINANTS AND RESPONDENTS

In 2021 the DRS saw cases brought by complainants from 23 countries, with respondents from 40 countries. Here are the top ranking countries for complainants and respondents:



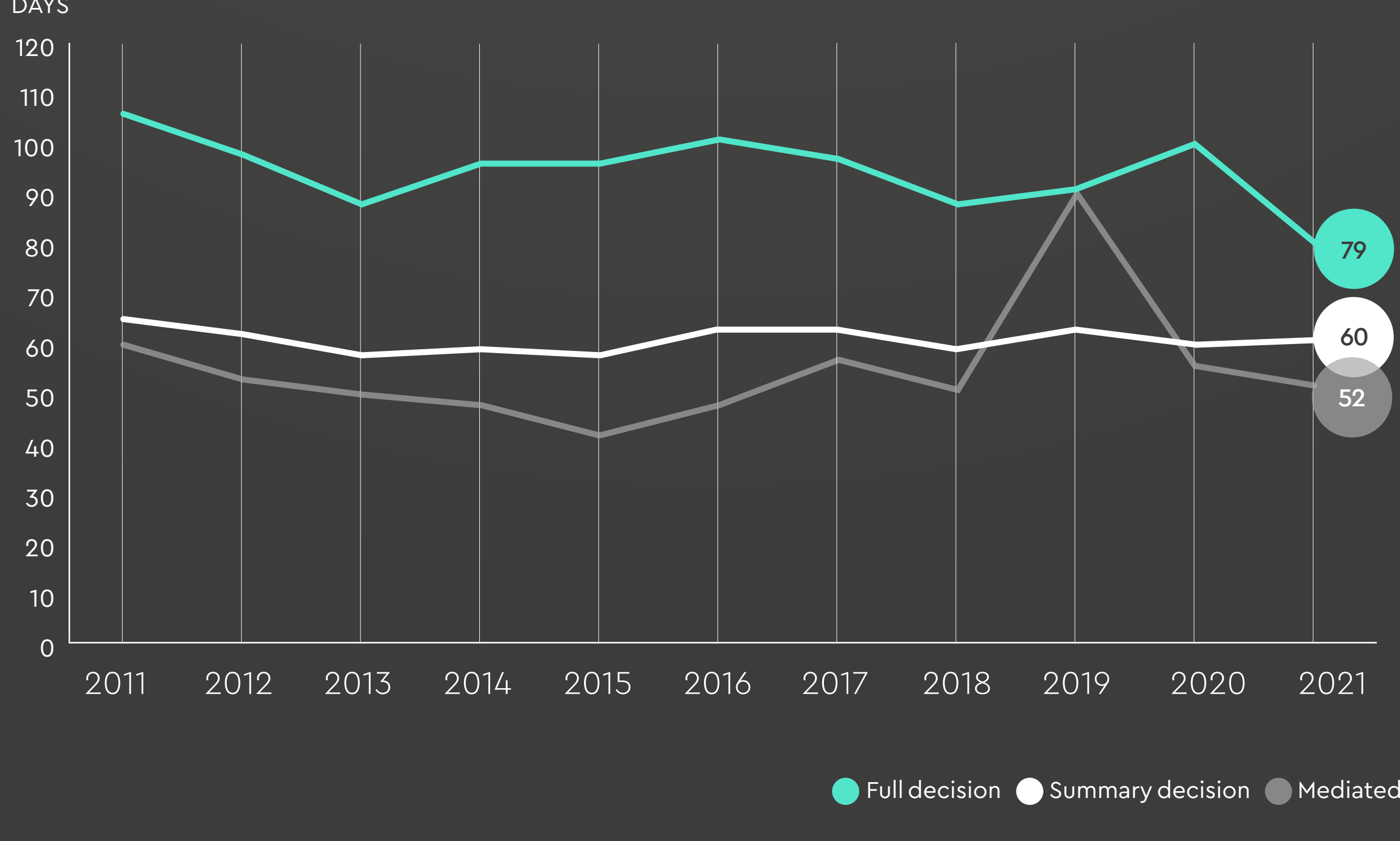
CASE OUTCOMES



*The DRS Report is now being published earlier than in previous years to provide a timelier update for the period, resulting in more open cases at the time of reporting for 2021.

**The open case from 2020 is an on going court case.

AVERAGE CASE DURATION



Legend: ● Full decision ● Summary decision ● Mediated

ABOUT NOMINET

Nominet is driven by a commitment to use technology to improve connectivity, security and inclusivity online. For 25 years, Nominet has run the .UK sophisticated infrastructure, developing an expertise in the Domain Name System (DNS) that now underpins sophisticated network detection and response solutions that are used by governments to mitigate cyber threats.

ABOUT THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE

Nominet's Dispute Resolution Service has addressed over 13,000 .UK domain disputes since being established in 2001. To make a complaint through the DRS, you need to have rights (such as a trade mark) in a name which is the same or similar to the domain name you are concerned about.

FIND OUT MORE

More information about the DRS is available at nominet.uk/disputes.

