

CQC INTELLIGENCE · SECTOR REPORT · OCTOBER 2026

The State of Aesthetic Clinics in *England*

An analysis of the 512 private aesthetic and cosmetic clinics registered with CQC in England: how fast the sector has grown, how many have been inspected, and what the ratings show.

A fast-growing sector, *slowly inspected*

512 private aesthetic and cosmetic clinics are registered with the CQC in England. There is no aesthetics category on the register: clinics register as doctors or dentists, so Bridgehead identified them from each location's name, provider, brand and website, then checked the list by hand. The boundary of the sector is a judgement, and other methods would draw it slightly differently.

The sector has grown quickly and been inspected slowly. 65% of today's clinics registered since January 2022. 287 (56%) have never been inspected or assessed, and only 210 (41%) hold a current rating.

This report draws on Bridgehead's CQC Monitor, which holds the CQC's published register and ratings. Counts are as at 8 October 2026 and cover registered clinics only. Below Good means a rating of Requires improvement or Inadequate.

Why it matters

Aesthetic treatments such as injectables and laser are elective, and people choose a clinic themselves. The CQC register is the public record of whether a clinic has been looked at, and for 56% of clinics it has not.

56%

NEVER INSPECTED OR ASSESSED

287 of 512 clinics.

97

CLINICS REGISTERED IN 2025

Including clinics since closed, against 40 in 2019.

210

CLINICS HOLD A RATING

41% of the register: 197 Good or Outstanding, 13 below Good.

EIGHT FINDINGS FROM THE DATA

● Registrations in 2025 were the highest in the series

97 clinics registered in 2025, more than twice the 40 in 2019 (both counts include clinics since closed). Registrations jumped in 2020 and have stayed above their 2019 level since.

● 56% have never been inspected

287 of 512 clinics. Among clinics registered in 2025 the figure is 97%, and in 2023 it is 78%.

● Fewer than half hold a rating

210 are rated (41.0%): 195 Good, 2 Outstanding and 13 below Good.

● Safe and Well-led are the weakest domains

8.6% of rated clinics are below Good on Safe and 7.6% on Well-led, against 1.0% on Caring.

● London has three in ten clinics

150 clinics (29.3%) are in London, and 62 are in Westminster alone.

● Two chains, then hundreds of independents

Lasercare (47 sites) and sk:n, under Lorena Cosmetics (31), hold 15% of clinics. 92% of the 399 providers run a single site.

● Chain clinics are inspected more often than independents

35% of chain clinics have never been inspected, against 60% of independents.

● The gap is new clinics, not old ratings

Only 11% of clinics were last inspected more than five years ago, against 58% of NHS GP practices.

GROWTH

How fast the sector has *grown*

Registrations jumped in 2020 and reached 97 in 2025, the highest in the series.



Aesthetic clinics by year of registration, by whether the clinic is still registered. Closures include changes of ownership.

332 of today's 512 clinics (65%) registered since January 2022. The register undercounts the rise, because clinics that have since closed or changed owner no longer appear as current registrations.

No category of its own

There is no aesthetics category on the CQC register: clinics register as doctors or dentists. The sector figures here are Bridgehead's reconstruction from names, providers and websites.

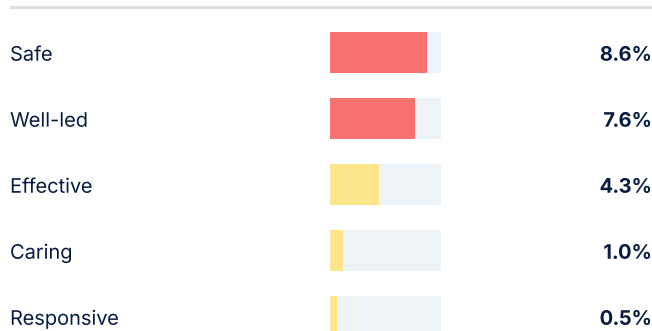
RATINGS

What the ratings show



The 210 rated clinics: 183 rated by inspection and 27 under the assessment model.

BELOW GOOD ON EACH KEY QUESTION



13 of 210 rated clinics are below Good (6.2%), and 2 are Inadequate. Both Inadequate ratings were published in 2026.

Safe is the weakest domain at 8.6%, just ahead of Well-led at 7.6%.

With 210 rated clinics, and the CQC choosing which to inspect, these percentages are indicative only.

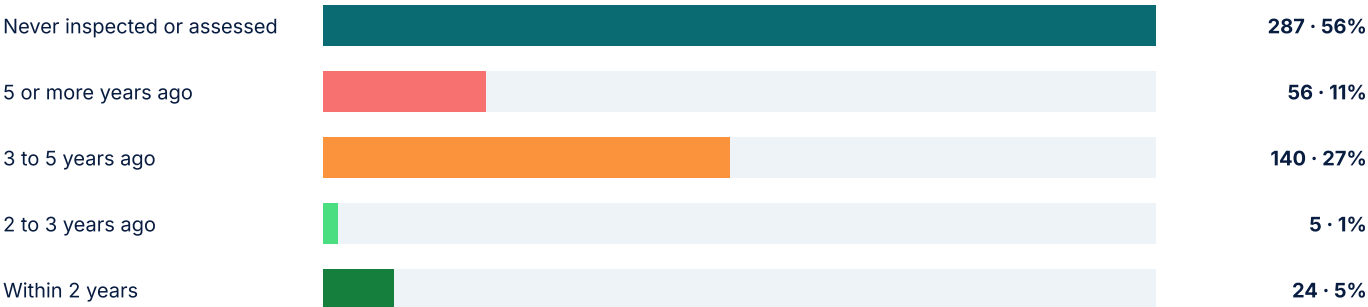
Which clinics have been *seen*?

Most aesthetic clinics have never had a CQC inspection or assessment.

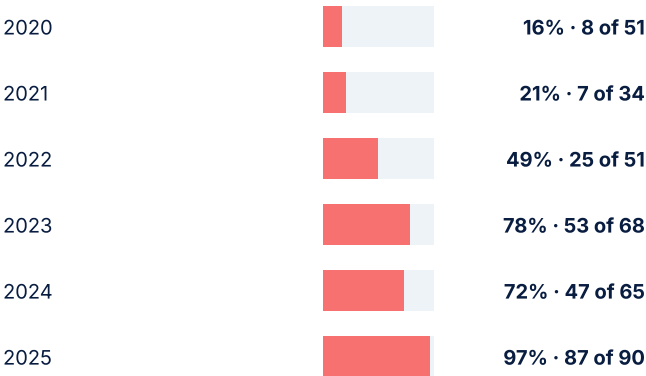
THE HEADLINE

56% of aesthetic clinics have never been inspected or assessed.

Only 24 clinics (5%) have been seen within the last two years.



NEVER INSPECTED OR ASSESSED, BY YEAR REGISTERED

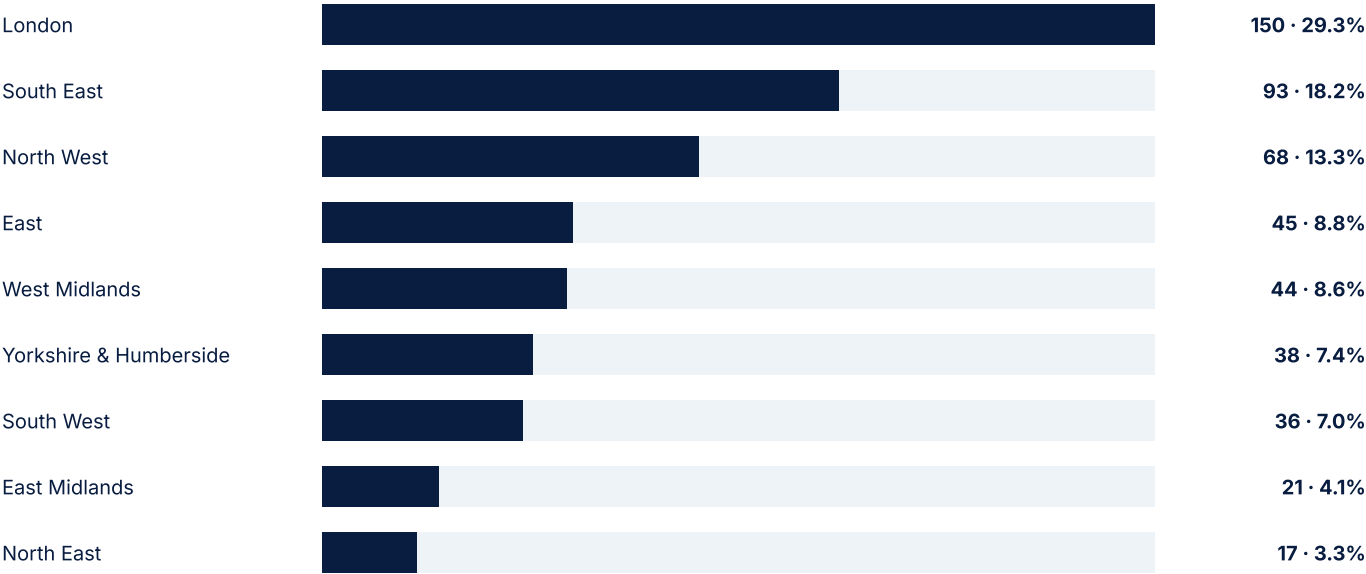


Newer clinics wait longest, as expected, but even 21% of clinics registered in 2021 have never been seen.

Only 11% of clinics were last inspected more than five years ago. Unlike NHS general practice, the problem here is not stale inspections. It is first inspections that have not yet happened.

Where clinics are, and *who runs them*

29% of clinics are in London. Two chains hold 15% of the register.



Registered aesthetic clinics by region. Wales and unassigned locations excluded.

COUNCILS WITH THE MOST CLINICS

Council	Clinics	Share
Westminster	62	12.1%
Essex	22	4.3%
Birmingham	17	3.3%
Camden	12	2.3%
Hampshire	12	2.3%
Kent	12	2.3%
Surrey	12	2.3%
Leeds	12	2.3%

CHAINS AND INDEPENDENTS

Group	Clinics	Never inspected
Lasercare and sk:n	78	34.6%
Independents	434	59.9%

399 providers run 512 clinics; 369 (92%) have a single site.

Westminster

62 clinics, 12% of the register, are in one London borough.

What the data concludes

- 1

The sector has grown faster than oversight

97 clinics registered in 2025 against 40 in 2019, and 56% of today's clinics have never been inspected.
- 2

A rating is the exception

41% of clinics hold a current rating. Consumers cannot rely on the register to compare clinics.
- 3

Independents are inspected least

35% of chain clinics have never been seen, against 60% of independents.
- 4

Safe and Well-led are the domains to watch

8.6% of rated clinics are below Good on Safe and 7.6% on Well-led.
- 5

The register needs an aesthetics category

Clinics register as doctors or dentists. A dedicated category would let the CQC and the public see the sector as one.

APPENDIX: AESTHETIC CLINICS BY REGION

Region	Clinics	Share of register
London	150	29.3%
South East	93	18.2%
North West	68	13.3%
East	45	8.8%
West Midlands	44	8.6%
Yorkshire & Humberside	38	7.4%
South West	36	7.0%
East Midlands	21	4.1%
North East	17	3.3%
TOTAL	512	100.0%

Data: CQC Syndication API, register and ratings as at 8 October 2026 · Platform: Bridgehead CQC Monitor · Aesthetic clinics are identified by a keyword classifier on name, provider, brand and website, then reviewed by hand. NHS-coded GP and dental practices, weight-loss, vein, laser eye, IV drip, physiotherapy, community dermatology and skin-surgery services are excluded. Bridgehead Communications Ltd · Company No. 12736276 · bridgeheadcommunications.com