

1. Key statistics 2018-2023

Appendix notes

1. Figures for accounts paid include VAT and are prepared on a cash basis, unless stated otherwise.
2. Outlays include all non-fee payments to solicitors and advocates - for example the cost of expert witnesses.
3. A zero 0 indicates that no values were recorded. A dash "-" indicates that no value is applicable.
4. Figures have been rounded to improve readability. Rounded totals shown are rounded from the sum of the original unrounded figures. Summing the individually rounded figures in a table may therefore not match the rounded total shown.
5. The recovery of incorrectly claimed monies is included within audit restitution.

1.1 Initial applications for legal assistance

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent change on	
						2021-2022	2018-2019
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	61,100	58,100	44,700	44,400	43,600	-2%	-29%
Civil legal aid	18,200	18,100	14,600	15,800	15,700	-1%	-14%
Total civil legal assistance	79,300	76,200	59,200	60,200	59,300	-2%	-25%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	10,100	9,200	8,800	7,200	6,000	-17%	-41%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	16,900	17,400	16,400	14,700	13,800	-6%	-18%
Criminal ABWOR	26,200	26,000	19,000	20,200	21,300	6%	-19%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	43,700	45,100	36,900	42,400	41,000	-3%	-6%
Summary and ABWOR	69,900	71,100	56,000	62,600	62,200	-1%	-11%
Solemn	11,500	11,800	13,300	13,500	13,400	-1%	17%
Appeals	500	500	300	300	300	0%	-36%
Total criminal legal assistance	108,900	109,900	94,800	98,400	95,800	-3%	-12%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	3,800	3,700	2,900	2,800	2,500	-10%	-34%
Children's ABWOR	4,800	4,600	3,400	4,200	4,100	-2%	-14%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	8,600	8,300	6,300	7,000	6,700	-5%	-23%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,700	2,700	1,900	2,000	1,700	-15%	-38%
Total children's legal assistance	11,300	11,000	8,200	9,000	8,400	-7%	-26%
Total initial applications for legal assistance	199,500	197,100	162,200	167,700	163,400	-3%	-18%

1.2 Grants of legal assistance

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent change on	
						2021-2022	2018-2019
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	61,100	58,100	44,700	44,400	43,600	-2%	-29%
Civil legal aid	13,600	14,800	12,100	13,500	13,100	-3%	-3%
Total civil legal assistance	74,700	72,900	56,800	57,900	56,800	-2%	-24%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	10,100	9,200	8,800	7,200	6,000	-17%	-41%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	16,900	17,400	16,400	14,700	13,800	-6%	-18%
Criminal ABWOR	26,200	26,000	19,000	20,200	21,300	6%	-19%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	40,100	41,100	33,900	37,000	35,800	-3%	-11%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	66,300	67,100	53,000	57,200	57,000	0%	-14%
Solemn criminal legal aid	10,500	11,100	12,500	12,400	12,100	-2%	16%
Court granted legal aid	2,600	2,400	1,100	1,600	1,700	4%	-35%
Appeals	500	500	300	300	300	-2%	-36%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	9,500	11,000	5,200	5,500	6,200	12%	-35%
Total criminal legal assistance	116,300	118,600	97,300	98,900	97,100	-2%	-17%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	3,800	3,700	2,900	2,800	2,500	-10%	-34%
Children's ABWOR	4,800	4,600	3,400	4,200	4,100	-2%	-14%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	8,600	8,300	6,300	7,000	6,700	-5%	-23%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,300	2,400	1,700	1,800	1,500	-16%	-36%
Children's automatic legal aid	100	100	100	100	100	28%	-33%
Total children's legal assistance	11,100	10,800	8,100	8,900	8,200	-7%	-26%
Total grants of legal assistance	202,100	202,300	162,200	165,700	162,100	-2%	-20%

1.3 Total payments for administration (£000)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent change on	
						2021-2022	2018-2019
Administration spend							
Staff costs	9,800	10,600	10,900	11,200	12,100	8%	23%
Running costs	1,700	1,700	1,800	2,600	1,500	-41%	-11%
Capital	100	100	200	100	100	-3%	24%
Total administration spend	11,600	12,400	12,900	13,900	13,800	-1%	18%

1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent change on	
						2021-2022	2018-2019
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	52,000	49,800	39,000	34,400	32,200	-6%	-38%
Civil legal aid	13,200	12,800	9,200	10,800	11,800	9%	-11%
Total civil legal assistance	65,300	62,500	48,300	45,200	44,000	-3%	-33%
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	6,300	5,200	4,200	3,900	3,000	-23%	-52%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	12,200	13,700	13,700	12,300	11,200	-9%	-8%
Criminal ABWOR	24,100	23,900	19,500	18,200	17,600	-3%	-27%
Summary criminal legal aid	41,000	38,600	26,100	33,000	37,800	15%	-8%
Solemn criminal legal aid	9,400	10,400	7,000	9,000	10,200	13%	9%
Court granted legal aid	1,800	1,900	800	1,000	1,200	21%	-31%
Appeals	1,000	1,000	600	600	600	-6%	-45%
Duty	7,400	8,600	4,000	3,900	2,700	-30%	-64%
ID/Viper Parades	1,000	900	700	900	800	-8%	-23%
Total criminal legal assistance	104,200	104,200	76,600	82,800	85,100	3%	-18%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	2,100	1,900	1,400	1,300	1,200	-6%	-44%
Children's ABWOR	5,000	5,200	3,500	4,300	4,200	-1%	-15%
Children's legal aid	2,400	2,300	1,500	1,600	1,400	-8%	-40%
Total children's legal assistance	9,500	9,400	6,500	7,100	6,900	-3%	-28%
Total legal assistance	179,000	176,100	131,400	135,100	136,000	1%	-24%

Notes

1. Duty figures are the solicitors' number of appearances on behalf of accused persons.
2. These figures do not include work done by employed solicitors such as CLAO & PDSO.

1.5(a) Summary of total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)						Percent change on	
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2021-2022	2018-2019
Total net civil legal assistance	42,000	46,100	40,300	43,600	49,100	13%	17%
Total net grant funded	2,800	2,700	3,200	3,800	3,600	-5%	30%
Total net criminal legal assistance	73,400	75,900	52,000	66,100	77,000	16%	5%
Total net children's legal assistance	5,200	5,300	3,800	4,400	4,900	12%	-6%
Miscellaneous	400	800	200	300	300	8%	-23%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	123,800	130,900	99,300	118,200	135,000	14%	9%

Notes

See table 1.5(b)

1.5(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)						Percent change on	
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2021-2022	2018-2019
Civil legal assistance							
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	19,500	21,600	19,900	18,900	20,400	8%	5%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	31,400	31,300	26,800	32,700	35,200	8%	12%
Civil legal aid income received	(10,300)	(8,200)	(7,700)	(9,400)	(8,100)	-13%	-21%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	21,100	23,200	19,200	23,300	27,100	16%	28%
CLAO gross expenditure	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,500	1,700	9%	18%
CLAO income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(100)	(<50)	-75%	120%
CLAO (net cost)	1,400	1,400	1,200	1,400	1,600	17%	17%
Total civil assistance gross expenditure	52,300	54,400	47,900	53,100	57,300	8%	10%
Civil audit restitution	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total net civil legal assistance	42,000	46,100	40,300	43,600	49,100	13%	17%
Grant funding							
Grant funded expenditure	4,700	2,700	3,200	3,800	3,600	-5%	-23%
Money Advice Service funding received	(1,900)	0	0	0	0	-	-100%
Total net grant funded	2,800	2,700	3,200	3,800	3,600	-5%	30%

Table 1.5 continued overleaf

1.5(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000) (continued)						Percent change on	
	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2021-2022	2018-2019
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	400	300	300	300	300	-5%	-33%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300	-10%	-18%
Criminal ABWOR	10,800	11,300	9,700	9,100	9,400	3%	-13%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	12,700	13,200	11,500	10,800	10,900	1%	-14%
Summary criminal legal aid	24,800	23,800	15,900	20,800	26,600	28%	7%
Solemn criminal legal aid	30,300	33,100	19,600	29,200	33,800	16%	11%
Court granted legal aid	500	500	200	400	600	44%	4%
Appeals	1,200	1,300	1,000	900	800	-15%	-35%
Criminal legal assistance income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	-33%	-82%
Criminal legal aid (net cost)	56,800	58,700	36,700	51,200	61,700	21%	9%
Duty	500	600	300	300	200	-34%	-59%
ID/Viper Parades	200	200	200	200	200	-10%	-8%
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,600	3,100	22%	40%
Police Station Duty Scheme Contact Line	1,000	900	900	1,000	1,100	4%	4%
Glasgow Court Advisers	100	100	<50	<50	100	17%	-10%
Criminal audit restitution	(100)	(200)	(<50)	(100)	(200)	290%	55%
Total net criminal legal assistance	73,400	75,900	52,000	66,100	77,000	16%	5%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	200	200	200	100	100	0%	-38%
Children's ABWOR	2,400	2,400	1,700	2,100	2,300	9%	-5%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	2,600	2,600	1,900	2,200	2,400	8%	-7%
Children's legal aid	2,700	2,700	1,900	2,200	2,500	15%	-5%
Children's legal aid income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	9%	-55%
Children's legal aid (net cost)	2,600	2,700	1,800	2,200	2,500	15%	-5%
Total net children's legal assistance	5,200	5,300	3,800	4,400	4,900	12%	-6%
Miscellaneous							
Extraordinary interest payment to Advocates	0	0	0	100	0	-100%	-
Miscellaneous payments	400	800	200	200	300	74%	-23%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	136,200	139,200	107,000	127,700	143,400	12%	5%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	123,800	130,900	99,300	118,200	135,000	14%	9%

Notes

1. Income received from the Money Advice Service is their contribution to the Making Advice Work programme.
2. Income from criminal legal assistance relates to advice and assistance contributions and money repaid by solicitors and assisted persons.
3. The content and structure of the Miscellaneous figures has been reviewed and we have restated 20-21.

1.6 Average case cost (£)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent change on	
						2021-2022	2018-2019
Civil legal assistance							
Advice and assistance and ABWOR	370	430	510	550	630	16%	69%
Civil legal aid	2,400	2,500	2,900	3,000	3,000	-1%	26%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	68	66	79	76	94	23%	38%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	120	120	110	110	110	-1%	-10%
ABWOR	450	470	500	500	530	6%	19%
Summary criminal legal aid	610	620	610	630	710	12%	16%
Solemn criminal legal aid	3,200	3,200	2,800	3,200	3,300	2%	2%
Court granted legal aid	290	280	270	370	440	19%	52%
Appeals	1,200	1,300	1,600	1,500	1,400	-10%	17%
Children's legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	99	97	110	100	110	6%	11%
ABWOR	480	470	500	490	540	10%	12%
Children's legal aid	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,400	1,800	25%	59%

1.7 Payments made (£000)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Percent change on	
						2021-2022	2018-2019
Civil legal assistance							
Advocates	3,500	3,700	3,100	3,700	3,000	-17%	-14%
Solicitor advocates	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	830%	50%
Solicitors	33,700	34,400	31,200	32,700	35,800	10%	6%
Outlays	13,600	14,800	12,400	15,200	16,800	11%	24%
Total	50,900	52,900	46,700	51,500	55,600	8%	9%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advocates	8,600	9,000	4,600	8,500	9,800	15%	13%
Solicitor advocates	2,300	2,500	1,800	3,000	3,600	18%	55%
Solicitors	55,100	56,700	39,600	47,900	56,100	17%	2%
Outlays	4,200	4,400	2,600	3,100	3,500	13%	-17%
Total	70,300	72,700	48,700	62,600	73,000	17%	4%
Children's legal assistance							
Advocates	400	400	200	500	600	27%	55%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Solicitors	4,500	4,500	3,300	3,700	4,100	10%	-9%
Outlays	400	400	200	200	300	12%	-33%
Total	5,300	5,300	3,800	4,400	4,900	12%	-6%
Total legal assistance							
Advocates	12,500	13,100	7,900	12,600	13,400	6%	7%
Solicitor advocates	2,300	2,600	1,800	3,000	3,600	19%	55%
Solicitors	93,300	95,600	74,100	84,300	96,000	14%	3%
Outlays	18,200	19,700	15,300	18,500	20,600	11%	13%
Total	126,400	131,000	99,100	118,500	133,600	13%	6%

Note

1. Fees paid to solicitors, advocates and solicitor advocates include VAT.