

1. Key statistics 2020-2025

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 useability. Total and percent change figures are rounded from the original unrounded figures. Calculating from the rounded figures may therefore not match the rounded calculation shown.
5. The recovery of incorrectly claimed monies is included within audit restitution.
6. The data collection method for Police station duty was amended for 2022-23 onwards. The figures for 2022-23 and 2023-24 have also been restated this year.

1.1 Initial applications for legal assistance

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	44,700	44,400	43,600	46,200	43,800	-5%	-2%
Civil legal aid	14,600	15,800	15,700	16,300	15,800	-3%	8%
Total civil legal assistance	59,200	60,200	59,300	62,500	59,500	-5%	0%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	8,800	7,200	6,000	5,800	5,600	-2%	-36%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	16,400	14,700	18,600	17,400	16,000	-8%	-3%
Criminal ABWOR	19,000	20,200	21,300	25,300	27,000	7%	42%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	36,900	42,400	41,000	43,400	40,300	-7%	9%
Summary and ABWOR	56,000	62,600	62,200	68,800	67,200	-2%	20%
Solemn	13,300	13,500	13,400	13,200	12,100	-8%	-9%
Appeals	300	300	300	300	300	-5%	5%
Total criminal legal assistance	94,800	98,400	100,600	105,400	101,300	-4%	7%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,500	1%	-16%
Children's ABWOR	3,400	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,800	0%	14%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	6,300	7,000	6,700	6,300	6,300	0%	0%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	1,900	2,000	1,700	1,700	1,700	0%	-11%
Total children's legal assistance	8,200	9,000	8,400	7,900	8,000	0%	-3%
Total initial applications for legal assistance	162,200	167,700	168,200	175,900	168,700	-4%	4%

1.2 Grants of legal assistance

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	44,700	44,400	43,600	46,200	43,800	-5%	-2%
Civil legal aid	12,100	13,500	13,100	13,800	13,600	-1%	12%
Total civil legal assistance	56,800	57,900	56,800	60,000	57,400	-4%	1%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	8,800	7,200	6,000	5,800	5,600	-2%	-36%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	16,400	14,700	18,600	17,400	16,000	-8%	-3%
Criminal ABWOR	19,000	20,200	21,300	25,300	27,000	7%	42%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	33,900	37,000	35,800	39,000	36,200	-7%	7%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	53,000	57,200	57,000	64,300	63,200	-2%	19%
Solemn criminal legal aid	12,500	12,400	12,100	12,100	11,000	-9%	-12%
Court granted legal aid	1,100	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,900	14%	73%
Appeals	300	300	300	300	300	-3%	2%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	5,200	5,500	6,200	6,500	6,700	3%	28%
Total criminal legal assistance	97,300	98,900	101,800	107,900	104,700	-3%	8%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,500	1%	-16%
Children's ABWOR	3,400	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,800	0%	14%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	6,300	7,000	6,700	6,300	6,300	0%	0%
Children's legal aid (including appeals and automatic)	1,800	1,900	1,600	1,600	1,600	3%	-8%
Total children's legal assistance	8,100	8,900	8,200	7,900	7,900	1%	-2%
Total grants of legal assistance	162,200	165,700	166,800	175,800	170,000	-3%	5%

1.3 Total payments for administration (£000)

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Administration spend							
Staff costs	10,900	11,200	12,100	12,800	13,500	5%	24%
Running costs	1,800	2,600	1,500	1,800	1,600	-11%	-12%
Capital	200	100	100	100	100	-9%	-69%
Total administration spend	12,900	13,900	13,800	14,700	15,200	3%	17%

1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	39,000	34,400	32,200	29,000	32,500	12%	-17%
Civil legal aid	9,200	10,800	11,800	12,400	12,300	0%	34%
Total civil legal assistance	48,300	45,200	44,000	41,400	44,900	8%	-7%
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	4,200	3,900	3,000	2,800	2,800	0%	-33%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	13,700	12,300	11,200	12,000	10,800	-10%	-21%
Criminal ABWOR	19,500	18,200	17,600	20,100	23,200	15%	19%
Summary criminal legal aid	26,100	33,000	37,800	32,600	36,600	12%	40%
Solemn criminal legal aid	7,000	9,000	10,200	12,200	12,700	4%	82%
Court granted legal aid	800	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	5%	49%
Appeals	600	600	600	700	700	2%	11%
Duty	4,000	3,900	2,700	4,600	5,000	9%	26%
ID/Viper Parades	700	900	800	700	600	-11%	-20%
Total criminal legal assistance	76,600	82,800	85,100	86,900	93,700	8%	22%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	8%	-19%
Children's ABWOR	3,500	4,300	4,200	4,200	4,200	0%	18%
Children's legal aid	1,500	1,600	1,400	1,400	1,400	1%	-6%
Total children's legal assistance	6,500	7,100	6,900	6,600	6,700	2%	4%
Total legal assistance	131,400	135,100	136,000	134,900	145,300	8%	11%

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 Number of interim fee accounts

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	400	300	2,300	9,100	13,400	47%	3552%
Civil legal aid	3,600	3,100	4,000	4,100	3,900	-5%	9%
Total civil legal assistance	4,000	3,400	6,300	13,300	17,400	31%	339%
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	0	0	0	0	0	-33%	-
Criminal ABWOR	0	0	700	1,700	2,100	19%	-
Summary criminal legal aid	0	0	3,000	6,000	6,500	9%	-
Solemn criminal legal aid	1,300	900	1,000	1,800	2,300	30%	77%
Court granted legal aid	0	0	0	0	0	75%	200%
Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	100%	100%
Total criminal legal assistance	1,300	900	4,700	9,500	10,900	15%	744%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	0	0	0	0	0	200%	-
Children's ABWOR	0	0	0	0	0	62%	-
Children's legal aid	100	100	0	100	100	12%	44%
Total children's legal assistance	100	100	0	100	200	26%	114%
Total legal assistance	5,400	4,400	11,100	22,900	28,500	24%	434%

Notes

1. The interim fee table has been produced to be considered in conjunction with the number of cases paid table above. As more cases are partially or fully paid using interim fees the less predictive of overall expenditure the main case payment becomes. The main case payment is used to derive the number of cases paid.

1.6(a) Summary of total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Total net civil legal assistance	40,300	43,600	49,100	53,200	58,800	10%	46%
Total net grant funded	3,200	3,800	3,600	2,300	2,200	-3%	-29%
Total net criminal legal assistance	52,000	66,100	77,000	90,100	102,100	13%	96%
Total net children's legal assistance	3,800	4,400	4,900	5,200	5,500	5%	47%
Miscellaneous	200	300	300	300	300	5%	105%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	99,300	118,200	135,000	151,200	169,000	12%	70%

Notes

See table 1.6(b)

1.6(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil legal assistance							
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	19,900	18,900	20,400	21,700	24,800	14%	25%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	26,800	32,700	35,200	37,200	39,000	5%	45%
Civil legal aid income received	(7,700)	(9,400)	(8,100)	(7,400)	(6,900)	-7%	-10%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	19,200	23,300	27,100	29,900	32,100	8%	67%
CLAO gross expenditure	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,700	2,000	15%	63%
CLAO income received	(<50)	(100)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	68%	121%
CLAO (net cost)	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,900	14%	62%
Total civil assistance gross expenditure	47,900	53,100	57,300	60,700	65,800	8%	37%
Civil audit restitution	0	0	0	0	(100)	-	-
Total net civil legal assistance	40,300	43,600	49,100	53,200	58,800	10%	46%
Grant funding							
Grant funded expenditure	3,200	3,800	3,600	2,300	2,200	-3%	-29%
Money Advice Service funding received	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total net grant funded	3,200	3,800	3,600	2,300	2,200	-3%	-29%

Table 1.6 continued overleaf

1.6(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000) (continued)

	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	Percent change on	
						2023-2024	2020-2021
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	300	300	300	300	300	16%	-2%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,400	1,300	-13%	-14%
Criminal ABWOR	9,700	9,100	9,400	12,500	15,000	21%	56%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	11,500	10,800	10,900	14,200	16,600	17%	45%
Summary criminal legal aid	15,900	20,800	26,600	25,500	28,600	12%	79%
Solemn criminal legal aid	19,600	29,200	33,800	44,000	49,400	12%	152%
Court granted legal aid	200	400	600	600	700	19%	202%
Appeals	1,000	900	800	900	1,000	14%	0%
Criminal legal assistance income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	123%	194%
Criminal legal aid (net cost)	36,700	51,200	61,700	70,900	79,600	12%	117%
Duty	300	300	200	400	400	10%	50%
ID/Viper Parades	200	200	200	200	100	-11%	-14%
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	2,400	2,600	3,100	3,500	4,200	22%	76%
Police Station Duty Scheme Contact Line	900	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,200	7%	23%
Glasgow Court Advisers	<50	<50	100	100	100	9%	58%
Criminal audit restitution	(<50)	(100)	(200)	(200)	(100)	-32%	1992%
Total net criminal legal assistance	52,000	66,100	77,000	90,100	102,100	13%	96%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	200	100	100	100	100	4%	-21%
Children's ABWOR	1,700	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,600	5%	48%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	1,900	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,700	5%	42%
Children's legal aid	1,900	2,200	2,500	2,700	2,800	6%	52%
Children's legal aid income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	206%	98%
Children's legal aid (net cost)	1,800	2,200	2,500	2,700	2,800	5%	52%
Total net children's legal assistance	3,800	4,400	4,900	5,200	5,500	5%	47%
Miscellaneous							
Extraordinary interest payment to Advocates	0	100	0	0	0	-	-
Miscellaneous payments	200	200	300	300	300	5%	105%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	107,000	127,700	143,400	158,800	176,100	11%	65%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	99,300	118,200	135,000	151,200	169,000	12%	70%

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 2020-21.

1.7 Average case cost (£)						Percent change on	
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil legal assistance							
Advice and assistance and ABWOR	510	550	630	750	760	2%	50%
Civil legal aid	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,200	5%	9%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	79	76	94	100	115	15%	47%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	110	110	110	120	120	-3%	9%
ABWOR	500	500	530	620	650	5%	30%
Summary criminal legal aid	610	630	710	780	780	0%	28%
Solemn criminal legal aid	2,800	3,200	3,300	3,600	3,900	8%	39%
Court granted legal aid	270	370	410	480	550	14%	102%
Appeals	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,400	12%	-10%
Children's legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	114	100	110	120	110	-4%	-2%
ABWOR	500	490	540	590	620	5%	25%
Children's legal aid	1,200	1,400	1,800	1,900	2,000	4%	62%

1.8 Payments made (£000)						Percent change on	
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2023-2024	2020-2021
Civil legal assistance							
Advocates	3,100	3,700	3,000	3,200	3,500	11%	15%
Solicitor advocates	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	46%	174%
Solicitors	31,200	32,700	35,800	38,500	40,400	5%	29%
Outlays	12,400	15,200	16,800	17,200	19,800	15%	60%
Total	46,700	51,500	55,600	58,900	63,800	8%	37%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advocates	4,600	8,500	9,800	11,200	11,900	6%	159%
Solicitor advocates	1,800	3,000	3,600	3,800	4,200	9%	128%
Solicitors	39,600	47,900	56,100	66,700	76,700	15%	93%
Outlays	2,600	3,100	3,500	4,000	4,100	4%	58%
Total	48,700	62,600	73,000	85,700	96,800	13%	99%
Children's legal assistance							
Advocates	200	500	600	400	500	34%	132%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	0	<50	-	-
Solicitors	3,300	3,700	4,100	4,500	4,600	3%	40%
Outlays	200	200	300	400	400	6%	64%
Total	3,800	4,400	4,900	5,200	5,500	5%	47%
Total legal assistance							
Advocates	7,900	12,600	13,400	14,800	15,900	8%	102%
Solicitor advocates	1,800	3,000	3,600	3,800	4,200	9%	128%
Solicitors	74,100	84,300	96,000	109,700	121,700	11%	64%
Outlays	15,300	18,500	20,600	21,500	24,300	13%	59%
Total	99,100	118,500	133,600	149,900	166,100	11%	68%

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