Legal assistance fees paid to solicitor-advocates - top 20 comparison

Note
This table shows the 20 highest-earning solicitor advocates between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. The fees paid for the same 20 in the previous two financial years are also shown. The list of high-earning solicitor advocates will change every year. Therefore, there is also a like for like comparison made with the earnings of the top 20 solicitor advocates each year. Payments comprise electronic payments transferred to the firms' bank accounts between those dates. In some cases, money may have been paid, but returned to us, and any such amounts processed by our accounts system between those dates have been deducted. If a solicitor advocate has been paid with more than one firm each firm is shown separated by a semi-colon. Amounts are rounded to the nearest £1000.

Monies paid back to SLAB in respect of audit restitution have not been deducted in calculating the legal assistance fees.

Position in 2023-2024	Position in 2024-2025	Position in 2025-2026	Forenames	Surname	Firm Name(s)	Total fees (inc VAT) in 2023-2024 £000	Total fees (inc VAT) in 2024-2025 £000	Total fees (inc VAT) in 2025-2026 £000	Change on 2024-25 £000	Change on 2024-25 %
1	1	1	IAIN M	PATERSON	PATERSON BELL SOLICITORS	431	393	381	-12	-3
2	2	2	IAIN	MCSPORRAN KC	IAIN MCSPORRAN KC, SOLICITOR-ADVOCATE	336	364	284	-81	-22
4	3	3	GRAEME R	BROWN	BRIDGE LEGAL LIMITED (FORMERLY BRIDGE BENTLEY LAVELLE LTD)	225	345	278	-67	-19
3	5	4	GORDON	MARTIN	MARTIN, JOHNSTON & SOCHA LTD SOLICITORS	233	230	278	48	21
5	4	5	KRISTOFER	GILMARTIN	KRIS GILMARTIN SOLICITOR ADVOCATE LTD	198	248	271	22	9
6	8	6	JAMES D	KEEGAN KC	KEEGAN SMITH SSC SOLICITORS	192	150	224	74	49
10	9	7	MARCO	GUARINO	GUARINO & THOMSON	145	146	209	63	43
7	7	8	EWEN	ROY	ADAMS WHYTE SOLICITORS	170	162	187	24	15
11	6	9	BRIAN G	GILFEDDER	GILFEDDER & MCINNES SOLICITORS	136	164	182	18	11
9	13	10	RHONDA M	ANDERSON	BRUCE JACKSON LTD T/A BRUCE JACKSON THE LAWYERS; BRUCE MCCORMACK	164	104	177	72	69
13	10	11	PAUL	MULLEN	THE GLASGOW LAW PRACTICE LTD	92	118	156	38	33
16	17	12	SHAHID	LATIF	CRAIG WOOD SOLICITORS	72	72	102	30	42
12	11	13	WILLIAM M	LAVELLE	PAULA LAVELLE SOLICITOR	119	118	88	-30	-25
42	44	14	CHRISTOPHER	MACFARLANE	COLLINS AND CO DEFENCE LAWYERS LTD	17	15	73	57	368
27	22	15	STEPHANIE L	CLINKSCALE	STEPHANIE CLINKSCALE SOLICITOR ADVOCATE	30	56	69	13	24
60	36	16	MELISSA	VIRTUE	GEORGE MORE & CO LLP SOLICITORS	4	25	68	44	178
14	24	17	JAMES P	STEPHENSON	PATERSON BELL SOLICITORS	75	49	68	19	38
25	19	18	RICHARD	SOUTER	GEORGE MORE & CO LLP SOLICITORS	35	60	68	8	13
51	39	19	BRIAN	COONEY	FLEMING & REID SOLICITORS & NOTARIES	9	22	60	38	170
33	70	20	J D M	MACARA KC	BELTRAMI & CO LTD	23	2	54	52	>1000
			Top 20 Total			**2,708**	**2,844**	**3,275**	**431**	**15**
			Previous Years' Top 20 Solicitor Advocates' Earnings			**3,070**	**3,186**	**-**	**89**	**3**