1. Key statistics 2021-2026

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

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	44,400	43,600	46,200	43,800	44,400	2%	0%
Civil legal aid	15,800	15,700	16,300	15,800	16,000	2%	1%
Total civil legal assistance	**60,200**	**59,300**	**62,500**	**59,500**	**60,500**	**2%**	**0%**
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	7,200	6,000	5,800	5,600	6,100	9%	-15%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	14,700	18,600	17,400	16,000	14,400	-10%	-2%
Criminal ABWOR	20,200	21,300	25,300	27,000	32,900	22%	63%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	42,400	41,000	43,400	40,300	29,200	-28%	-31%
Summary and ABWOR	62,600	62,200	68,800	67,200	62,100	-8%	-1%
Solemn	13,500	13,400	13,200	12,100	12,800	5%	-6%
Appeals	300	300	300	300	300	7%	8%
Total criminal legal assistance	**98,400**	**100,600**	**105,400**	**101,300**	**95,700**	**-6%**	**-3%**
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,500	1%	-12%
Children's ABWOR	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,800	3,800	0%	-8%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	7,000	6,700	6,300	6,300	6,300	0%	-10%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,000	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,700	3%	-14%
Total children's legal assistance	**9,000**	**8,400**	**7,900**	**8,000**	**8,000**	**1%**	**-11%**
Total initial applications for legal assistance	**167,700**	**168,200**	**175,900**	**168,700**	**164,200**	**-3%**	**-2%**

1.2 Grants of legal assistance

						Percent change on	
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**	**2021-2022**
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	44,400	43,600	46,200	43,800	44,400	2%	0%
Civil legal aid	13,500	13,100	13,800	13,600	13,800	1%	2%
Total civil legal assistance	**57,900**	**56,800**	**60,000**	**57,400**	**58,200**	**1%**	**1%**
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	7,200	6,000	5,800	5,600	6,100	9%	-15%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	14,700	18,600	17,400	16,000	14,400	-10%	-2%
Criminal ABWOR	20,200	21,300	25,300	27,000	32,900	22%	63%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	37,000	35,800	39,000	36,200	26,700	-26%	-28%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	57,200	57,000	64,300	63,200	59,600	-6%	4%
Solemn criminal legal aid	12,400	12,100	12,100	11,000	11,500	4%	-7%
Court granted legal aid	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,900	1,700	-13%	3%
Appeals	300	300	300	300	300	8%	7%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	5,500	6,200	6,500	6,700	5,700	-15%	4%
Total criminal legal assistance	**98,900**	**101,800**	**107,900**	**104,700**	**99,300**	**-5%**	**0%**
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	2,800	2,500	2,400	2,500	2,500	1%	-12%
Children's ABWOR	4,200	4,100	3,900	3,800	3,800	0%	-8%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	7,000	6,700	6,300	6,300	6,300	0%	-10%
Children's legal aid (including appeals and automatic)	1,900	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1%	-11%
Total children's legal assistance	**8,900**	**8,200**	**7,900**	**7,900**	**8,000**	**1%**	**-10%**
Total grants of legal assistance	**165,700**	**166,800**	**175,800**	**170,000**	**165,500**	**-3%**	**0%**

1.3 Total payments for administration (£000)

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Administration spend							
Staff costs	11,200	12,100	12,800	13,500	14,100	5%	26%
Running costs	2,600	1,500	1,800	1,600	1,700	5%	-35%
Capital	100	100	100	100	100	32%	25%
Total administration spend	**13,900**	**13,800**	**14,700**	**15,200**	**15,900**	**5%**	**15%**

1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	34,400	32,200	29,000	32,500	29,900	-8%	-13%
Civil legal aid	10,800	11,800	12,400	12,300	12,400	1%	15%
Total civil legal assistance	**45,200**	**44,000**	**41,400**	**44,900**	**42,300**	**-6%**	**-6%**
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	3,900	3,000	2,800	2,800	2,500	-11%	-35%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	12,300	11,200	12,000	10,800	9,500	-11%	-23%
Criminal ABWOR	18,200	17,600	20,100	23,200	24,200	4%	33%
Summary criminal legal aid	33,000	37,800	32,600	36,600	30,600	-16%	-7%
Solemn criminal legal aid	9,000	10,200	12,200	12,700	10,300	-19%	14%
Court granted legal aid	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,100	-12%	5%
Appeals	600	600	700	700	600	-14%	0%
Duty	3,900	2,700	4,600	5,000	4,400	-13%	12%
ID/Viper Parades	900	800	700	600	500	-7%	-36%
Total criminal legal assistance	**82,800**	**85,100**	**86,900**	**93,700**	**83,700**	**-11%**	**1%**
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	1,300	1,200	1,100	1,100	1,100	0%	-9%
Children's ABWOR	4,300	4,200	4,200	4,200	4,200	0%	-2%
Children's legal aid	1,600	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	0%	-8%
Total children's legal assistance	**7,100**	**6,900**	**6,600**	**6,700**	**6,700**	**0%**	**-5%**
Total legal assistance	**135,100**	**136,000**	**134,900**	**145,300**	**132,700**	**-9%**	**-2%**

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

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	300	2,300	9,100	13,400	14,100	5%	4988%
Civil legal aid	3,100	4,000	4,100	3,900	4,000	3%	29%
Total civil legal assistance	**3,400**	**6,300**	**13,300**	**17,400**	**18,200**	**5%**	**435%**
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	0	0	0	0	0	-50%	-
Criminal ABWOR	0	700	1,700	2,100	3,000	44%	-
Summary criminal legal aid	0	3,000	6,000	6,500	5,800	-11%	-
Solemn criminal legal aid	900	1,000	1,800	2,300	2,700	17%	187%
Court granted legal aid	0	0	0	0	0	29%	575%
Appeals	0	0	0	0	0	133%	-
Total criminal legal assistance	**900**	**4,700**	**9,500**	**10,900**	**11,500**	**5%**	**1136%**
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	0	0	0	0	0	-100%	-
Children's ABWOR	0	0	0	0	100	34%	-
Children's legal aid	100	0	100	100	100	40%	175%
Total children's legal assistance	**100**	**0**	**100**	**200**	**200**	**36%**	**296%**
Total legal assistance	**4,400**	**11,100**	**22,900**	**28,500**	**29,900**	**5%**	**581%**

Note

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)						Percent change on	
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**	**2021-2022**
Total net civil legal assistance	43,600	49,100	53,200	58,800	63,400	8%	46%
Total net grant funded	3,800	3,600	2,300	2,200	2,100	-6%	-45%
Total net criminal legal assistance	66,100	77,000	90,100	102,100	95,600	-6%	44%
Total net children's legal assistance	4,400	4,900	5,200	5,500	6,000	9%	36%
Miscellaneous	300	300	300	300	300	-18%	-2%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	**118,200**	**135,000**	**151,200**	**169,000**	**167,300**	**-1%**	**42%**

Notes
See table 1.6(b)

1.6(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)						Percent change on	
	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**2024-2025**	**2021-2022**
Civil legal assistance							
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	18,900	20,400	21,700	24,800	25,900	4%	38%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	32,700	35,200	37,200	39,000	41,100	5%	26%
Civil legal aid income received	(9,400)	(8,100)	(7,400)	(6,900)	(6,000)	-13%	-36%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	23,300	27,100	29,900	32,100	35,100	9%	51%
CLAO gross expenditure	1,500	1,700	1,700	2,000	2,400	22%	57%
CLAO income received	(100)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	-44%	-85%
CLAO (net cost)	1,400	1,600	1,700	1,900	2,400	23%	72%
Total civil assistance gross expenditure	53,100	57,300	60,700	65,800	69,400	6%	31%
Civil audit restitution	0	0	0	(100)	0	-100%	-
Total net civil legal assistance	**43,600**	**49,100**	**53,200**	**58,800**	**63,400**	**8%**	**46%**
Grant funding							
Grant funded expenditure	**3,800**	**3,600**	**2,300**	**2,200**	**2,100**	**-6%**	**-45%**

Table 1.6 continued overleaf

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

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	300	300	300	300	300	-14%	-5%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	1,400	1,300	1,400	1,300	1,200	-8%	-17%
Criminal ABWOR	9,100	9,400	12,500	15,000	15,800	5%	73%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	10,800	10,900	14,200	16,600	17,300	4%	60%
Summary criminal legal aid	20,800	26,600	25,500	28,600	23,300	-18%	12%
Solemn criminal legal aid	29,200	33,800	44,000	49,400	47,000	-5%	61%
Court granted legal aid	400	600	600	700	900	34%	134%
Appeals	900	800	900	1,000	700	-27%	-21%
Criminal legal assistance income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	19%	260%
Criminal legal aid (net cost)	51,200	61,700	70,900	79,600	71,900	-10%	40%
Duty	300	200	400	400	400	-13%	10%
ID/Viper Parades	200	200	200	100	100	-12%	-36%
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	2,600	3,100	3,500	4,200	4,800	15%	88%
Police Station Duty Scheme Contact Line	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,100	-4%	10%
Glasgow Court Advisers	<50	100	100	100	100	10%	52%
Criminal audit restitution	(100)	(200)	(200)	(100)	(200)	3%	153%
Total net criminal legal assistance	**66,100**	**77,000**	**90,100**	**102,100**	**95,600**	**-6%**	**44%**
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	100	100	100	100	100	11%	8%
Children's ABWOR	2,100	2,300	2,500	2,600	2,700	6%	32%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	2,200	2,400	2,600	2,700	2,900	7%	30%
Children's legal aid	2,200	2,500	2,700	2,800	3,100	11%	42%
Children's legal aid income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	-23%	54%
Children's legal aid (net cost)	2,200	2,500	2,700	2,800	3,100	11%	42%
Total net children's legal assistance	**4,400**	**4,900**	**5,200**	**5,500**	**6,000**	**9%**	**36%**
Miscellaneous							
Extraordinary interest payment to Advocates	100	0	0	0	0	-	-100%
Miscellaneous payments	200	300	300	300	300	-18%	57%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	127,700	143,400	158,800	176,100	173,500	-1%	36%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	**118,200**	**135,000**	**151,200**	**169,000**	**167,300**	**-1%**	**42%**

Note

1. Income from criminal legal assistance relates to advice and assistance contributions and money repaid by solicitors and assisted persons.

1.7 Average case cost (£)

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Civil legal assistance							
Advice and assistance and ABWOR	550	630	750	760	870	14%	58%
Civil legal aid	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,200	3,300	5%	10%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	76	94	100	115	112	-3%	47%
Police station duty - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	110	110	120	120	120	4%	8%
ABWOR	500	530	620	650	650	1%	30%
Summary criminal legal aid	630	710	780	780	760	-2%	21%
Solemn criminal legal aid	3,200	3,300	3,600	3,900	4,600	18%	41%
Court granted legal aid	370	410	480	550	830	53%	123%
Appeals	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,400	1,200	-15%	-21%
Children's legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	100	110	120	110	120	11%	19%
ABWOR	490	540	590	620	660	6%	35%
Children's legal aid	1,400	1,800	1,900	2,000	2,200	11%	54%

1.8 Payments made (£000)

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	**2025-2026**	**Percent change on 2024-2025**	**Percent change on 2021-2022**
Civil legal assistance							
Advocates	3,700	3,000	3,200	4,000	3,800	-4%	5%
Solicitor advocates	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	45%	2226%
Solicitors	32,700	35,800	38,500	40,400	41,200	2%	26%
Outlays	15,200	16,800	17,200	19,400	22,000	13%	44%
Total	**51,500**	**55,600**	**58,900**	**63,800**	**67,000**	**5%**	**30%**
Criminal legal assistance							
Advocates	8,500	9,800	11,200	11,900	12,400	3%	46%
Solicitor advocates	3,000	3,600	3,800	4,200	4,400	5%	43%
Solicitors	47,900	56,100	66,700	76,700	69,000	-10%	44%
Outlays	3,100	3,500	4,000	4,000	3,900	-3%	26%
Total	**62,600**	**73,000**	**85,700**	**96,800**	**89,700**	**-7%**	**43%**
Children's legal assistance							
Advocates	500	600	400	600	600	13%	31%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	<50	0	-100%	-
Solicitors	3,700	4,100	4,500	4,600	5,000	8%	34%
Outlays	200	300	400	400	400	9%	84%
Total	**4,400**	**4,900**	**5,200**	**5,500**	**6,000**	**9%**	**36%**
Total legal assistance							
Advocates	12,600	13,400	14,800	16,500	16,800	2%	33%
Solicitor advocates	3,000	3,600	3,800	4,200	4,400	5%	45%
Solicitors	84,300	96,000	109,700	121,700	115,200	-5%	37%
Outlays	18,500	20,600	21,500	23,800	26,300	11%	42%
Total	**118,500**	**133,600**	**149,900**	**166,100**	**162,700**	**-2%**	**37%**

Notes

1. Fees paid to solicitors, advocates and solicitor advocates include VAT.
2. Counsel paid to the solicitor under Advice and Assistance, previously included in outlays, will be included in Advocates from 2024-25 onwards.