

8. PDSO and Part V

About the Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)

When the PDSO opened on 1 October 1998 in Edinburgh, it was the first public defender service in the UK. Its aims are to provide legal advice, assistance and representation in court for those who cannot afford to pay for it themselves, and at that time it handled criminal cases in all the courts in Edinburgh.

The PDSO now operates offices in Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Glasgow, Inverness and Kirkwall.

Within our statistical tables and accounts we report on the volumes of work undertaken by PDSO, and its costs. This appendix brings together key information on PDSO's work.

8.1 PDSO expenditure

	2008-2009	2007-2008
	£000	£000
Criminal defence costs – outlays	144	125
Salaries and wages	816	731
Social security costs	67	60
Pensions	115	77
Accommodation	86	106
Audit fees	2	2
Rentals under operating leases	91	80
Depreciation	13	15
Revaluation/permanent diminution in value of fixed assets	-	-
Other operating costs	250	243
Total	1,584	1,439

Note

1. This table shows the expenditure of PDSO on an accounting basis. However, funding provided from the Legal Aid Fund in 2007-2008 was £1,321,000 (£864,000 in 2006-07). The difference is due to adjustments for accruals and prepayments. The funding figure is included in table 1.5.

8.2 PDSO costs and volumes

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-2008	2008-2009
PDSO costs (£000)	376	827	793	864	1321	1,456
Total number of cases	1,196	1,565	1,743	1,491	1,907	1,701
Number of solemn cases	28	54	89	77	75	79
Number of appearances by PDSO as duty solicitor	930	1,142	1,060	597	1,548	1,051

Note

1. PDSO expenditure is shown as actual funding, not on an accounting basis as at table 8.1.

Part V**8.3 Part V costs and volumes**

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-2008	2008-2009
Part V costs (£000)	-	-	-	-	265	299
Intimations of civil advice and assistance	-	-	-	-	98	224
Civil ABWOR	-	-	-	-	0	2
Intimations of children's advice and assistance	-	-	-	-	12	44
Civil legal aid cases	-	-	-	-	34	108
Total number of Part V cases	-	-	-	-	144	378

Throughout this statistics section

- figures for grants and refusals of applications do not necessarily equal numbers of applications, since decisions on applications received towards the end of one year may not be reached until the following year.

- unless otherwise stated, figures for accounts paid include VAT and are prepared on a cash basis and include all accounts passed for payment during the year.

- in tables showing accounts paid, unless otherwise stated, outlays include all payments other than fees paid to solicitors and advocates - for example, expert witnesses.