

VIA EMAIL



Reference Number: FOI2025/00172

13 October 2025

Scottish Legal Aid Board
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HE
Switchboard: 0131 226 7061
www.slab.org.uk

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002**

Dear

Thank-you for your email received on 18 September.

You requested the following information:

1. The total number of grants of criminal legal aid made to asylum seekers, refugees, and persons of no status in Glasgow for the financial year 2024-25.
2. A breakdown of the most prevalent categories of offences for which such criminal legal aid was granted in Glasgow (e.g. Drugs, Assault, Other, etc.), expressed both as case numbers and percentages if available.
3. The total cost of criminal legal aid granted in Glasgow to asylum seekers, refugees, and persons of no status in 2024-25.
4. The annual cost trend for such grants in Glasgow for the last five years (2020/21 to 2024/25).

The answers to your questions are as follows.

1. there were 346 grants of criminal legal aid made to asylum seekers, refugees, and persons of no status in Glasgow¹ for the financial year 2024-25;
2. the most prevalent criminal legal aid categories granted in Glasgow, in 2024-25, were:

Assault - 63 cases (18%);
Drugs - 57 cases (16%);
Other - 36 cases (10%).

The category Other includes a wide variety of matters such as Attempting to pervert the course of justice, Abduction, Human trafficking and Parole Board cases.

3. The total cost of criminal legal aid paid, in 2024-25, on cases granted for persons designated as asylum seekers/refugees/persons of no status for Glasgow cases was £346,766 inc VAT.
4. The annual cost trend, for criminal legal aid for asylum seekers/refugees/persons of no status, for Glasgow cases, for the past 5 years is as follows:

Financial year	Total cost inc VAT
2020/21	£105,450
2021/22	£154,158
2022/23	£190,757
2023/24	£289,917
2024/25	£346,766

Your right to request a review of decision

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for information, you may ask us to review our decision. A request that we review our decision should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this letter or, if we have not responded to your request, within 40 days of the date by which we should have responded (that would normally be 20 days after receiving your request).

We will review our decision and tell you the outcome within 20 working days of receiving your request.

If, having done so, you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision.

You must submit your request in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of first receiving notice about the matter you are complaining about.

¹ Based on the location of the legal aid firm, i.e. firms and solicitors who were located in the Glasgow local authority area. This method was used for all the questions asked.

The Commissioner will not deal with an application unless SLAB's review process has been used and exhausted – in other words, until you have asked us to review our decision and you are not satisfied with our response or have not received a response within 20 working days of your request.

The Commissioner's contact details are:

The Scottish Information Commissioner
Kinburn Castle
Doubledykes Road
St Andrews
Fife
KY16 9DS

Telephone: 01334 464610

Website: www.foi.scot

E-mail: enquiries@foi.scot

For details on how to appeal please go to their website www.foi.scot/contactus