

## 1. Key statistics 2015-2020

### 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. Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2017-18 figures are part-year from 25 January 2018.

1.1 Initial applications for legal assistance	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Civil</b>							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	68,210	68,079	63,647	61,112	58,105	-5%	-15%
Civil legal aid	18,827	18,877	17,549	18,219	18,083	-1%	-4%
<b>Total civil legal assistance</b>	<b>87,037</b>	<b>86,956</b>	<b>81,196</b>	<b>79,331</b>	<b>76,188</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Criminal</b>							
Criminal advice and assistance	24,511	22,590	18,682	10,123	9,161	-10%	-63%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	-	2,316	16,898	17,361	3%	-
Criminal ABWOR	28,266	28,713	26,660	26,192	25,985	-1%	-8%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	57,339	52,706	49,194	43,670	45,078	3%	-21%
Summary and ABWOR	85,605	81,419	75,854	69,862	71,063	2%	-17%
Solemn	12,412	11,133	10,616	11,482	11,828	3%	-5%
Appeals	638	532	501	489	487	0%	-24%
<b>Total criminal legal assistance</b>	<b>123,166</b>	<b>115,674</b>	<b>107,969</b>	<b>108,854</b>	<b>109,900</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Children's</b>							
Children's advice and assistance	4,951	4,725	4,279	3,823	3,674	-4%	-26%
Children's ABWOR	4,127	4,371	4,383	4,814	4,622	-4%	12%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	9,078	9,096	8,662	8,637	8,296	-4%	-9%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	3,295	3,055	2,806	2,712	2,695	-1%	-18%
<b>Total children's legal assistance</b>	<b>12,373</b>	<b>12,151</b>	<b>11,468</b>	<b>11,349</b>	<b>10,991</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Total initial applications for legal assistance</b>	<b>222,576</b>	<b>214,781</b>	<b>200,633</b>	<b>199,534</b>	<b>197,079</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-11%</b>

1.2 Grants of legal assistance	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Civil</b>							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	68,210	68,079	63,647	61,112	58,105	-5%	-15%
Civil legal aid	12,817	13,425	13,093	13,561	14,825	9%	16%
<b>Total civil legal assistance</b>	<b>81,027</b>	<b>81,504</b>	<b>76,740</b>	<b>74,673</b>	<b>72,930</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Criminal</b>							
Criminal advice and assistance	24,511	22,590	18,682	10,123	9,161	-10%	-63%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	-	2,306	16,898	17,361	3%	-
Criminal ABWOR	28,266	28,713	26,660	26,192	25,985	-1%	-8%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	47,908	47,761	43,819	40,123	41,106	2%	-14%
Summary criminal legal aid (court granted)	16	18	9	18	11	-39%	-31%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	76,190	76,492	70,488	66,333	67,102	1%	-12%
Solemn criminal legal aid	11,116	10,059	9,772	10,457	10,839	4%	-2%
Court granted legal aid	3,088	2,796	2,611	2,536	2,437	-4%	-21%
Appeals	402	489	480	458	464	1%	15%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	13,423	12,388	10,845	9,509	8,628	-9%	-36%
<b>Total criminal legal assistance</b>	<b>128,730</b>	<b>124,814</b>	<b>115,184</b>	<b>116,314</b>	<b>115,992</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Children's</b>							
Children's advice and assistance	4,951	4,725	4,279	3,823	3,674	-4%	-26%
Children's ABWOR	4,127	4,371	4,383	4,814	4,622	-4%	12%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	9,078	9,096	8,662	8,637	8,296	-4%	-9%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,679	2,601	2,380	2,319	2,365	2%	-12%
Children's automatic legal aid	231	216	229	136	143	5%	-38%
<b>Total children's legal assistance</b>	<b>11,988</b>	<b>11,913</b>	<b>11,271</b>	<b>11,092</b>	<b>10,804</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Total grants of legal assistance</b>	<b>221,745</b>	<b>218,231</b>	<b>203,195</b>	<b>202,079</b>	<b>199,726</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-10%</b>

### 1.3 Total payments for administration (£000)

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Administration spend</b>							
Staff costs	9,777	9,685	9,715	9,840	10,632	8%	9%
Running costs	1,928	1,932	2,236	1,715	1,711	0%	-11%
Capital	513	130	74	63	96	52%	-81%
<b>Total administration spend</b>	<b>12,218</b>	<b>11,747</b>	<b>12,025</b>	<b>11,618</b>	<b>12,439</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>2%</b>

### 1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Civil legal assistance</b>							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	56,967	53,577	54,628	52,019	49,755	-4%	-13%
Civil legal aid	13,695	13,048	13,578	13,243	12,789	-3%	-7%
<b>Total civil legal assistance</b>	<b>70,662</b>	<b>66,625</b>	<b>68,206</b>	<b>65,262</b>	<b>62,544</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Criminal legal assistance</b>							
Criminal advice and assistance	11,810	11,686	10,065	6,269	5,186	-17%	-56%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	-	1,299	12,176	13,682	12%	-
Criminal ABWOR	26,949	27,284	24,077	24,116	23,875	-1%	-11%
Summary criminal legal aid	51,072	49,807	45,307	40,964	38,577	-6%	-24%
Solemn criminal legal aid	11,572	11,559	9,787	9,378	10,366	11%	-10%
Court granted legal aid	2,440	2,278	2,009	1,815	1,866	3%	-24%
Appeals	1,088	1,176	1,089	1,016	1,036	2%	-5%
Duty	10,876	10,311	8,919	7,448	8,628	16%	-21%
Viper Parades	-	434	1,032	1,026	942	-8%	-
<b>Total criminal legal assistance</b>	<b>115,807</b>	<b>114,535</b>	<b>103,584</b>	<b>104,208</b>	<b>104,158</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Children's legal assistance</b>							
Children's advice and assistance	3,571	2,933	2,353	2,121	1,862	-12%	-48%
Children's ABWOR	3,754	4,465	5,172	4,986	5,164	4%	38%
Children's legal aid	2,810	2,698	2,452	2,394	2,332	-3%	-17%
<b>Total children's legal assistance</b>	<b>10,135</b>	<b>10,096</b>	<b>9,977</b>	<b>9,501</b>	<b>9,358</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Total legal assistance</b>	<b>196,604</b>	<b>191,256</b>	<b>181,767</b>	<b>178,971</b>	<b>176,060</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-10%</b>

#### Notes

1. Duty figures are the solicitors' number of appearances on behalf of accused persons.
2. The ability to report Viper attendances was introduced during 2016-2017. Figures are part-year from 21 October 2016.
3. These figures do not include work done by employed solicitors such as CLAO & PDSO.

1.5 Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Civil legal assistance</b>							
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	18,590	18,443	19,606	19,492	21,596	11%	16%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	34,142	30,719	30,406	31,371	31,342	0%	-8%
Civil legal aid income received	(11,740)	(9,727)	(9,160)	(10,291)	(8,190)	-20%	-30%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	22,402	20,992	21,246	21,079	23,152	10%	3%
CLAO gross expenditure	1,400	1,442	1,478	1,403	1,414	1%	1%
CLAO income received	(13)	(13)	(19)	(16)	(19)	22%	52%
CLAO (net cost)	1,387	1,429	1,459	1,387	1,395	1%	1%
Total civil assistance gross expenditure	54,132	50,604	51,491	52,266	54,353	4%	0%
Civil audit restitution	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	-
<b>Total net civil legal assistance</b>	<b>42,379</b>	<b>40,864</b>	<b>42,311</b>	<b>41,959</b>	<b>46,143</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Grant funding</b>							
Grant funded expenditure	7,780	6,255	4,886	4,674	2,723	-42%	-65%
Money Advice Service funding received	(2,350)	(2,350)	(2,595)	(1,895)	(0)	-100%	-100%
<b>Total net grant funded</b>	<b>5,430</b>	<b>3,905</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>2,779</b>	<b>2,723</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-50%</b>
<b>Criminal legal assistance</b>							
Criminal advice and assistance	891	1,003	929	424	340	-20%	-62%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	-	172	1,521	1,577	4%	-
Criminal ABWOR	12,271	12,128	11,024	10,785	11,262	4%	-8%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	13,163	13,131	12,125	12,730	13,179	4%	0%
Summary criminal legal aid	29,735	29,272	26,947	24,830	23,802	-4%	-20%
Solemn criminal legal aid	36,337	37,473	29,818	30,297	33,102	9%	-9%
Court granted legal aid	517	544	524	530	528	0%	2%
Appeals	1,348	1,290	1,217	1,187	1,319	11%	-2%
Criminal legal assistance income received	(9)	(10)	(21)	(14)	(11)	-25%	24%
Criminal legal aid (net cost)	67,929	68,568	58,485	56,829	58,741	3%	-14%
Duty	938	863	644	528	603	14%	-36%
Viper Parades	-	78	182	184	192	4%	-
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	2,126	2,254	2,254	2,240	2,283	2%	7%
Police Station Duty Scheme Contact Line	640	650	658	1,017	944	-7%	48%
Glasgow Court Advisers	46	50	56	61	60	-2%	30%
Criminal audit restitution	(213)	(224)	(125)	(150)	(150)	0%	-30%
<b>Total net criminal legal assistance</b>	<b>84,628</b>	<b>85,371</b>	<b>74,280</b>	<b>73,440</b>	<b>75,852</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-10%</b>

Table 1.5 continued overleaf

1.5 Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000) (continued)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Children's legal assistance</b>							
Children's advice and assistance	457	324	222	209	180	-14%	-61%
Children's ABWOR	1,526	2,006	2,341	2,381	2,423	2%	59%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	1,984	2,330	2,564	2,590	2,602	0%	31%
Children's legal aid	3,123	3,042	2,817	2,662	2,723	2%	-13%
Children's legal aid income received	(13)	(16)	(22)	(13)	(13)	-2%	-5%
Children's legal aid (net cost)	3,109	3,026	2,794	2,649	2,710	2%	-13%
<b>Total net children's legal assistance</b>	<b>5,093</b>	<b>5,356</b>	<b>5,358</b>	<b>5,239</b>	<b>5,312</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>							
Extraordinary interest payment to Advocates	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Miscellaneous payments	282	234	301	375	822	119%	191%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	152,150	148,070	136,483	136,171	139,236	2%	-8%
<b>Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer</b>	<b>137,812</b>	<b>135,730</b>	<b>124,541</b>	<b>123,792</b>	<b>130,853</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-5%</b>

**Notes**

1. The recovery of incorrectly claimed monies is included within the audit restitution lines.
2. Income received from the Money Advice Service is their contribution to the Making Advice Work programme.
3. Income from criminal legal assistance relates to advice and assistance contributions and money repaid by solicitors and assisted persons.
4. The ability to report Viper attendances was introduced during 2016-2017. Figures are part-year from 21 October 2016.

1.6 Average case cost (£)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Civil legal assistance</b>							
Advice and assistance and ABWOR	326	344	359	375	434	16%	33%
Civil legal aid	2,493	2,354	2,239	2,369	2,451	3%	-2%
<b>Criminal legal assistance</b>							
Advice and assistance	75	86	92	68	66	-3%	-13%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	-	-	125	115	-8%	-
ABWOR	455	445	458	447	472	5%	4%
Summary criminal legal aid	582	588	595	606	617	2%	6%
Solemn criminal legal aid	3,140	3,242	3,047	3,231	3,193	-1%	2%
Court granted legal aid	212	239	261	292	283	-3%	34%
Appeals	1,239	1,097	1,117	1,169	1,273	9%	3%
<b>Children's legal assistance</b>							
Advice and assistance	128	110	95	99	97	-2%	-25%
ABWOR	407	449	453	477	469	-2%	15%
Children's legal aid	1,111	1,128	1,149	1,112	1,168	5%	5%

1.7 Payments made (£000)	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	Percent change on	
						2018-2019	2015-2016
<b>Civil legal assistance</b>							
Advocates	5,101	4,277	3,390	3,514	3,728	6%	-27%
Solicitor advocates	1	1	4	13	17	28%	2093%
Solicitors	34,778	33,169	33,607	33,748	34,365	2%	-1%
Outlays	12,852	11,715	13,011	13,588	14,829	9%	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,732</b>	<b>49,162</b>	<b>50,013</b>	<b>50,863</b>	<b>52,939</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Criminal legal assistance</b>							
Advocates	9,071	10,461	8,025	8,639	9,029	5%	0%
Solicitor advocates	2,753	2,981	1,973	2,305	2,537	10%	-8%
Solicitors	65,640	64,627	57,008	55,098	56,719	3%	-14%
Outlays	4,574	4,582	4,451	4,244	4,441	5%	-3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>82,038</b>	<b>82,651</b>	<b>71,457</b>	<b>70,286</b>	<b>72,726</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Children's legal assistance</b>							
Advocates	297	287	456	392	366	-7%	23%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Solicitors	4,403	4,614	4,543	4,480	4,513	1%	2%
Outlays	406	472	381	380	447	18%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,106</b>	<b>5,372</b>	<b>5,381</b>	<b>5,252</b>	<b>5,325</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Total legal assistance</b>							
Advocates	14,469	15,025	11,871	12,545	13,123	5%	-9%
Solicitor advocates	2,754	2,983	1,977	2,318	2,554	10%	-7%
Solicitors	104,821	102,410	95,158	93,326	95,597	2%	-9%
Outlays	17,832	16,768	17,844	18,212	19,717	8%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,876</b>	<b>137,185</b>	<b>126,850</b>	<b>126,401</b>	<b>130,990</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>-6%</b>

**Note**

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