

1. Key statistics 2016-2021

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	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	68,079	63,647	61,112	58,105	44,658	-23%	-34%
Civil legal aid	18,877	17,549	18,219	18,083	14,589	-19%	-23%
Total civil legal assistance	86,956	81,196	79,331	76,188	59,247	-22%	-32%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	22,590	18,682	10,123	9,161	8,791	-4%	-61%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	2,316	16,898	17,361	16,391	-6%	-
Criminal ABWOR	28,713	26,660	26,192	25,985	19,045	-27%	-34%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	52,706	49,194	43,670	45,078	36,947	-18%	-30%
Summary and ABWOR	81,419	75,854	69,862	71,063	55,992	-21%	-31%
Solemn	11,133	10,616	11,482	11,828	13,295	12%	19%
Appeals	532	501	489	487	298	-39%	-44%
Total criminal legal assistance	115,674	107,969	108,854	109,900	94,767	-14%	-18%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	4,725	4,279	3,823	3,674	2,944	-20%	-38%
Children's ABWOR	4,371	4,383	4,814	4,622	3,375	-27%	-23%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	9,096	8,662	8,637	8,296	6,319	-24%	-31%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	3,055	2,806	2,712	2,695	1,865	-31%	-39%
Total children's legal assistance	12,151	11,468	11,349	10,991	8,184	-26%	-33%
Total initial applications for legal assistance	214,781	200,633	199,534	197,079	162,198	-18%	-24%

1.2 Grants of legal assistance

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	68,079	63,647	61,112	58,105	44,658	-23%	-34%
Civil legal aid	13,425	13,093	13,561	14,825	12,135	-18%	-10%
Total civil legal assistance	81,504	76,740	74,673	72,930	56,793	-22%	-30%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	22,590	18,682	10,123	9,161	8,791	-4%	-61%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	2,316	16,898	17,361	16,391	-6%	-
Criminal ABWOR	28,713	26,660	26,192	25,985	19,045	-27%	-34%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	47,761	43,819	40,123	41,106	33,942	-17%	-29%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	76,474	70,479	66,315	67,091	52,987	-21%	-31%
Solemn criminal legal aid	10,059	9,772	10,457	11,050	12,492	13%	24%
Court granted legal aid	2,814	2,620	2,554	2,448	1,096	-55%	-61%
Appeals	489	480	458	464	286	-38%	-42%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	12,388	10,845	9,509	11,026	5,240	-52%	-58%
Total criminal legal assistance	124,814	115,194	116,314	118,601	97,283	-18%	-22%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	4,725	4,279	3,823	3,674	2,944	-20%	-38%
Children's ABWOR	4,371	4,383	4,814	4,622	3,375	-27%	-23%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	9,096	8,662	8,637	8,296	6,319	-24%	-31%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,601	2,380	2,319	2,365	1,696	-28%	-35%
Children's automatic legal aid	216	229	136	143	63	-56%	-71%
Total children's legal assistance	11,913	11,271	11,092	10,804	8,078	-25%	-32%
Total grants of legal assistance	218,231	203,205	202,079	202,335	162,154	-20%	-26%

Notes

1. Solemn & duty have been restated for 2019-20. Criminal Justice Act has been restated for 2017-18.

1.3 Total payments for administration (£000)

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Administration spend							
Staff costs	9,685	9,715	9,840	10,632	10,856	2%	12%
Running costs	1,932	2,236	1,715	1,711	1,817	6%	-6%
Capital	130	74	63	96	244	154%	88%
Total administration spend	11,747	12,025	11,618	12,439	12,917	4%	10%

1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	53,577	54,628	52,019	49,755	39,043	-22%	-27%
Civil legal aid	13,048	13,578	13,243	12,789	9,209	-28%	-29%
Total civil legal assistance	66,625	68,206	65,262	62,544	48,252	-23%	-28%
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	11,686	10,065	6,269	5,186	4,244	-18%	-64%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	1,299	12,176	13,682	13,670	0%	-
Criminal ABWOR	27,284	24,077	24,116	23,875	19,474	-18%	-29%
Summary criminal legal aid	49,807	45,307	40,964	38,577	26,098	-32%	-48%
Solemn criminal legal aid	11,559	9,787	9,378	10,366	7,007	-32%	-39%
Court granted legal aid	2,278	2,009	1,815	1,866	825	-56%	-64%
Appeals	1,176	1,089	1,016	1,036	625	-40%	-47%
Duty	10,311	8,919	7,448	8,628	3,959	-54%	-62%
ID/Viper Parades	434	1,032	1,026	942	739	-22%	70%
Total criminal legal assistance	114,535	103,584	104,208	104,158	76,641	-26%	-33%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	2,933	2,353	2,121	1,862	1,418	-24%	-52%
Children's ABWOR	4,465	5,172	4,986	5,164	3,517	-32%	-21%
Children's legal aid	2,698	2,452	2,394	2,332	1,524	-35%	-44%
Total children's legal assistance	10,096	9,977	9,501	9,358	6,459	-31%	-36%
Total legal assistance	191,256	181,767	178,971	176,060	131,352	-25%	-31%

Notes

1. Duty figures are the solicitors' number of appearances on behalf of accused persons.
2. The ability to report ID/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(a) Summary of total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Total net civil legal assistance	40,864	42,311	41,959	46,143	40,255	-13%	-1%
Total net grant funded	3,905	2,291	2,779	2,723	3,159	16%	-19%
Total net criminal legal assistance	85,371	74,280	73,440	75,852	52,015	-31%	-39%
Total net children's legal assistance	5,356	5,358	5,239	5,312	3,751	-29%	-30%
Miscellaneous	234	301	375	822	(90)	-111%	-138%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	135,730	124,541	123,792	130,853	99,090	-24%	-27%

Notes

See table 1.5(b)

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

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Civil legal assistance							
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	18,443	19,606	19,492	21,596	19,879	-8%	8%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	30,719	30,406	31,371	31,342	26,846	-14%	-13%
Civil legal aid income received	(9,727)	(9,160)	(10,291)	(8,190)	(7,664)	-6%	-21%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	20,992	21,246	21,079	23,152	19,182	-17%	-9%
CLAO gross expenditure	1,442	1,478	1,403	1,414	1,211	-14%	-16%
CLAO income received	(13)	(19)	(16)	(19)	(17)	-14%	30%
CLAO (net cost)	1,429	1,459	1,387	1,395	1,194	-14%	-16%
Total civil assistance gross expenditure	50,604	51,491	52,266	54,353	47,935	-12%	-5%
Civil audit restitution	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)	-	-
Total net civil legal assistance	40,864	42,311	41,959	46,143	40,255	-13%	-1%
Grant funding							
Grant funded expenditure	6,255	4,886	4,674	2,723	3,159	16%	-49%
Money Advice Service funding received	(2,350)	(2,595)	(1,895)	(0)	(0)	-	-100%
Total net grant funded	3,905	2,291	2,779	2,723	3,159	16%	-19%

Table 1.5 continued overleaf

1.5(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000) (continued)	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	1,003	929	424	340	333	-2%	-67%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	172	1,521	1,577	1,471	-7%	-
Criminal ABWOR	12,128	11,024	10,785	11,262	9,658	-14%	-20%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	13,131	12,125	12,730	13,179	11,463	-13%	-13%
Summary criminal legal aid	29,272	26,947	24,830	23,802	15,949	-33%	-46%
Solemn criminal legal aid	37,473	29,818	30,297	33,102	19,590	-41%	-48%
Court granted legal aid	544	524	530	528	222	-58%	-59%
Appeals	1,290	1,217	1,187	1,319	990	-25%	-23%
Criminal legal assistance income received	(10)	(21)	(14)	(11)	(4)	-64%	-61%
Criminal legal aid (net cost)	68,568	58,485	56,829	58,741	36,748	-37%	-46%
Duty	863	644	528	603	276	-54%	-68%
ID/Viper Parades	78	182	184	192	159	-17%	-
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	2,254	2,254	2,240	2,283	2,392	5%	6%
Police Station Duty Scheme Contact Line	650	658	1,017	944	943	0%	45%
Glasgow Court Advisers	50	56	61	60	41	-32%	-18%
Criminal audit restitution	(224)	(125)	(150)	(150)	(7)	-95%	-97%
Total net criminal legal assistance	85,371	74,280	73,440	75,852	52,015	-31%	-39%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	324	222	209	180	162	-10%	-50%
Children's ABWOR	2,006	2,341	2,381	2,423	1,744	-28%	-13%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	2,330	2,564	2,590	2,602	1,905	-27%	-18%
Children's legal aid	3,042	2,817	2,662	2,723	1,851	-32%	-39%
Children's legal aid income received	(16)	(22)	(13)	(13)	(5)	-58%	-67%
Children's legal aid (net cost)	3,026	2,794	2,649	2,710	1,846	-32%	-39%
Total net children's legal assistance	5,356	5,358	5,239	5,312	3,751	-29%	-30%
Miscellaneous							
Extraordinary interest payment to Advocates	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Miscellaneous payments	234	301	375	822	(90)	-111%	-138%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	148,070	136,483	136,171	139,236	106,787	-23%	-28%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	135,730	124,541	123,792	130,853	99,090	-24%	-27%

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 ID/Viper attendances was introduced during 2016-2017. Figures are part-year from 21 October 2016.

1.6 Average case cost (£)	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Civil legal assistance							
Advice and assistance and ABWOR	344	359	375	434	509	17%	48%
Civil legal aid	2,354	2,239	2,369	2,451	2,915	19%	24%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	86	92	68	66	79	20%	-9%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	132	125	115	108	-7%	-
ABWOR	445	458	447	472	496	5%	12%
Summary criminal legal aid	588	595	606	617	611	-1%	4%
Solemn criminal legal aid	3,242	3,047	3,231	3,193	2,796	-12%	-14%
Court granted legal aid	239	261	292	283	269	-5%	13%
Appeals	1,097	1,117	1,169	1,273	1,584	24%	44%
Children's legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	110	95	99	97	114	18%	3%
ABWOR	449	453	477	469	496	6%	10%
Children's legal aid	1,128	1,149	1,112	1,168	1,215	4%	8%

1.7 Payments made (£000)

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	Percent change on	
						2019-2020	2016-2017
Civil legal assistance							
Advocates	4,277	3,390	3,514	3,728	3,062	-18%	-28%
Solicitor advocates	1	4	13	17	12	-26%	834%
Solicitors	33,169	33,607	33,748	34,365	31,223	-9%	-6%
Outlays	11,715	13,011	13,588	14,829	12,428	-16%	6%
Total	49,162	50,013	50,863	52,939	46,724	-12%	-5%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advocates	10,461	8,025	8,639	9,029	4,595	-49%	-56%
Solicitor advocates	2,981	1,973	2,305	2,537	1,819	-28%	-39%
Solicitors	64,627	57,008	55,098	56,719	39,639	-30%	-39%
Outlays	4,582	4,451	4,244	4,441	2,598	-42%	-43%
Total	82,651	71,457	70,286	72,726	48,650	-33%	-41%
Children's legal assistance							
Advocates	287	456	392	366	236	-35%	-18%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Solicitors	4,614	4,543	4,480	4,513	3,282	-27%	-29%
Outlays	472	381	380	447	238	-47%	-50%
Total	5,372	5,381	5,252	5,325	3,757	-29%	-30%
Total legal assistance							
Advocates	15,025	11,871	12,545	13,123	7,893	-40%	-47%
Solicitor advocates	2,983	1,977	2,318	2,554	1,831	-28%	-39%
Solicitors	102,410	95,158	93,326	95,597	74,144	-22%	-28%
Outlays	16,768	17,844	18,212	19,717	15,264	-23%	-9%
Total	137,185	126,850	126,401	130,990	99,131	-24%	-28%

Note

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