

1. Key statistics 2003-2009

1.1 Initial applications for legal assistance

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	% change on	
							2007-2008	2003-2004
Civil								
Civil advice and assistance	134,143	125,029	114,285	105,694	85,802	89,571	4.4%	-33.2%
Civil ABWOR	4,115	3,915	3,316	3,520	4,144	4,141	-200.1%	0.6%
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	138,258	128,944	117,601	109,214	89,946	93,712	4.2%	-32.2%
Civil legal aid	18,175	16,997	16,859	16,291	15,861	17,738	11.8%	-2.4%
Total civil legal assistance	156,433	145,941	134,460	125,505	105,807	111,450	5.3%	-28.8%
Criminal								
Criminal advice and assistance	135,752	131,097	124,738	123,211	104,220	51,385	-50.7%	-62.1%
Criminal ABWOR	22,922	20,648	19,946	19,017	17,308	38,801	124.2%	69.3%
Summary criminal legal aid (Board granted)	82,999	86,269	85,916	89,984	82,657	64,457	-22.0%	-22.3%
Summary and ABWOR	105,921	106,917	105,862	109,001	99,965	103,258	3.3%	-2.5%
Appeals	2,782	2,736	2,620	2,260	2,012	1,920	-4.6%	-31.0%
Total criminal legal assistance	244,455	240,750	233,220	234,472	206,197	156,563	-24.1%	-36.0%
Children's								
Children's advice and assistance	5,728	5,687	5,681	5,868	4,682	4,848	3.5%	-15.4%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	3,654	3,668	3,986	4,461	4,199	4,566	8.7%	25.0%
Total children's legal assistance	9,382	9,355	9,667	10,329	8,881	9,414	6.0%	0.3%
Contempt of court								
Contempt of court advice and assistance	350	424	519	538	591	333	-43.7%	-4.9%
Contempt of court ABWOR	9	5	5	9	20	18	-10.0%	100.0%
Contempt of court legal aid	206	227	300	472	506	597	18.0%	189.8%
Total contempt of court legal assistance	565	656	824	1,019	1,117	948	-15.1%	67.8%

Note

1. Before 2007-2008 contempt of court advice and assistance and ABWOR include criminal intimations only.

1.2 Grants of legal assistance

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	% change on	
							2007-2008	2003-2004
Civil								
Civil advice and assistance	134,143	125,029	114,285	105,694	85,802	89,571	4.4%	-33.2%
Civil ABWOR	4,115	3,915	3,316	3,520	4,144	4,141	-200.1%	0.6%
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	138,258	128,944	117,601	109,214	89,946	93,712	4.2%	-32.2%
Civil legal aid	12,322	10,989	10,982	11,323	10,650	10,981	3.1%	-10.9%
Total civil legal assistance	150,580	139,933	128,583	120,537	100,596	104,693	4.1%	-30.5%
Criminal								
Criminal advice and assistance	135,752	131,097	124,738	123,211	104,220	51,385	-50.7%	-62.1%
Criminal ABWOR	22,922	20,648	19,946	19,017	17,308	38,801	124.2%	69.3%
Summary criminal legal aid (Board granted)	75,414	79,343	78,677	81,146	74,102	59,019	-20.4%	-21.7%
Summary criminal legal aid (court granted)	1,142	1,153	1,374	1,540	1,480	397	-73.2%	-65.2%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	99,478	101,144	99,997	101,703	92,890	98,217	5.7%	-1.3%
Solemn criminal legal aid (court granted)	11,399	10,967	11,811	13,898	12,782	12,410	-2.9%	8.9%
Automatic legal aid	193	539	1,007	1,110	946	1,184	25.2%	513.5%
Appeals	2,629	2,551	2,453	2,134	1,874	1,783	-4.9%	-32.2%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	31,163	32,843	32,210	34,713	36,041	28,785	-20.1%	-7.6%
Total criminal legal assistance	280,614	279,141	272,216	276,769	248,753	193,764	-22.1%	-30.9%
Children's								
Children's advice and assistance	5,728	5,687	5,681	5,868	4,682	4,848	3.5%	-15.4%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	3,654	3,668	3,986	4,461	4,206	4,571	8.7%	25.1%
Total children's legal assistance	9,382	9,355	9,667	10,329	8,888	9,419	6.0%	0.4%
Contempt of court								
Contempt of court advice and assistance	350	424	519	538	591	333	-43.7%	-4.9%
Contempt of court ABWOR	9	5	5	9	20	18	-10.0%	100.0%
Contempt of court legal aid	206	227	300	472	506	597	18.0%	189.8%
Total contempt of court legal assistance	565	656	824	1,019	1,117	948	-15.1%	67.8%
Total grants of legal assistance	441,141	429,085	411,290	408,654	359,354	308,824	-14.1%	-30.0%

Notes

1. 2006-2007 figures for civil & criminal A&A and ABWOR figures have been restated.
2. Before 2007-2008 contempt of court advice and assistance and ABWOR include criminal intimations only.

1.3 Total payments for administration and legal aid fund

	2003-2004 £000	2004-2005 £000	2005-2006 £000	2006-2007 £000	2007-2008 £000	2008-2009 £000	% change on	
							2007-2008	2003-2004
Grant-in-Aid								
Staff costs	-	7,542	8,001	8,499	9,000	9,248	2.8%	-
Running costs	-	3,333	3,720	3,717	3,899	4,008	2.8%	-
Capital	-	383	537	610	294	285	-3.1%	-
Total Grant-in-Aid	10,910	11,258	12,258	12,826	13,193	13,541	2.6%	24.1%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	157,280	164,621	158,655	161,837	167,826	160,714	-4.2%	2.2%
Less civil legal assistance income received	11,350	12,203	10,804	11,668	12,762	10,548	-17.3%	-7.1%
Total net legal aid expenditure	145,931	152,418	147,851	150,169	155,065	150,166	-3.2%	2.9%
Total administration and legal aid	156,841	163,676	160,109	162,995	168,258	163,707	-2.7%	4.4%

Note

1. A breakdown of the Grant-in-Aid figure for 2003-2004 is not available.

1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	% change on	
							2007-2008	2003-2004
Civil legal assistance								
Civil advice and assistance	120,179	112,413	104,164	93,047	82,645	76,149	-7.9%	-36.6%
Civil ABWOR	3,855	3,729	3,626	2,756	2,998	4,282	42.8%	11.1%
Civil legal aid	12,721	12,253	11,570	11,891	12,685	12,866	1.4%	1.1%
Total civil legal assistance	136,755	128,395	119,360	107,694	98,328	93,297	-5.1%	-31.8%
Criminal legal assistance								
Criminal advice and assistance	130,314	130,175	118,394	117,857	103,387	59,335	-42.6%	-54.5%
Criminal ABWOR	19,099	19,261	17,688	16,519	15,100	28,375	87.9%	48.6%
Total summary criminal legal aid	75,227	78,945	77,963	80,790	81,477	65,014	-20.2%	-13.6%
Total solemn criminal legal aid	10,178	11,087	11,395	11,528	13,618	12,775	-6.2%	25.5%
Total appeals	2,496	3,011	2,910	2,173	2,064	2,123	2.9%	-14.9%
Duty solicitor (see note 1)	30,233	31,701	31,150	34,116	34,493	27,734	-19.6%	-8.3%
Total criminal legal assistance	267,547	274,180	259,500	262,983	250,139	195,356	-21.9%	-27.0%
Children's legal assistance								
Children's advice and assistance	4,952	5,014	5,076	5,147	4,473	3,945	-11.8%	-20.3%
Children's legal aid	2,557	2,897	3,357	3,535	3,764	3,706	-1.5%	44.9%
Total children's legal assistance	7,509	7,911	8,433	8,682	8,237	7,651	-7.1%	1.9%
Contempt of court legal assistance								
Contempt of court advice and assistance	-	-	-	-	587	320	-45.5%	-
Contempt of court ABWOR	-	-	-	-	3	9	200.0%	-
Contempt of court legal aid	184	182	227	345	430	461	7.2%	150.5%
Total contempt of court legal assistance	184	182	227	345	1,020	790	-22.5%	329.3%
Total legal assistance	411,995	410,668	387,520	379,704	357,724	297,094	-16.9%	-27.9%

Notes

1. Duty solicitors' number of appearances on behalf of accused persons.
2. Before 2007-2008 advice and assistance for contempt of court is included within criminal and civil advice and assistance.

1.5 Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance

	2003-2004 £000	2004-2005 £000	2005-2006 £000	2006-2007 £000	2007-2008 £000	2008-2009 £000	% change on	
							2007-2008	2003-2004
Civil legal assistance								
Civil advice and assistance	18,925	18,664	18,174	17,304	16,545	15,985	-3.4%	-15.5%
Civil ABWOR	2,546	2,636	2,532	1,912	2,624	4,886	86.2%	91.9%
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	21,472	21,299	20,706	19,216	19,169	20,870	8.9%	-2.8%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	29,994	30,821	29,627	31,428	33,133	32,002	-3.4%	6.7%
Less civil legal assistance income received	11,350	12,203	10,804	11,668	12,762	10,548	-17.3%	-7.1%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	18,644	18,618	18,823	19,760	20,372	21,454	5.3%	15.1%
Part V	-	-	-	-	265	299	12.8%	-
Total civil assistance gross expenditure (including Part V)	51,465	52,120	50,334	50,644	52,568	53,171	1.1%	3.3%
Total net civil legal assistance	40,116	39,917	39,530	38,976	39,806	42,623	7.1%	6.3%
Criminal legal assistance								
Criminal advice and assistance	9,012	8,989	8,088	8,132	7,451	4,267	-42.7%	-52.7%
Criminal ABWOR	3,444	3,940	3,730	3,724	3,534	11,104	214.2%	222.4%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	12,456	12,929	11,818	11,856	10,984	15,371	39.9%	23.4%
Summary criminal legal aid (including automatic legal aid)	48,859	50,990	50,320	52,134	52,604	42,855	-18.53%	-12.3%
Solemn criminal legal aid (court granted)	37,457	39,174	36,147	37,254	40,954	38,454	-6.1%	2.7%
Appeals	2,413	4,141	3,888	3,310	3,334	3,366	1.0%	39.5%
Total criminal legal aid	88,729	94,306	90,355	92,698	96,892	84,676	-12.6%	-4.6%
Duty solicitor appearances	945	969	1,031	1,203	1,308	1,657	26.7%	75.4%
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	376	827	793	864	1,321	1,456	10.2%	287.2%
Total criminal legal assistance	102,506	109,031	103,997	106,622	110,506	103,160	-6.6%	0.6%
Children's legal assistance								
Children's advice and assistance	426	455	457	458	419	388	-7.3%	-8.9%
Children's legal aid	2,733	2,906	3,759	3,980	4,110	3,784	-7.9%	38.5%
Total children's legal assistance	3,159	3,361	4,216	4,439	4,529	4,172	-7.9%	32.1%
Contempt of court legal assistance								
Contempt of court advice and assistance and ABWOR	-	-	-	-	31	27	-15.0%	-
Contempt of court legal aid	87	67	77	102	149	145	-2.9%	65.7%
Total contempt of court legal assistance	87	67	77	102	180	171	-5.0%	96.4%
Miscellaneous payments	63	42	31	31	43	40	-7.0%	-36.5%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	157,280	164,621	158,655	161,837	167,826	160,714	-4.2%	2.2%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	145,931	152,418	147,851	150,169	155,065	150,166	-3.2%	2.9%

Note

1. Before 2007-2008 advice and assistance for contempt of court is included within criminal and civil advice and assistance.

1.6 Average case cost

	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	% change on	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	2007-2008	2003-2004
Civil legal assistance								
Advice and assistance	157	166	174	186	200	210	4.8%	33.7%
ABWOR	660	707	698	694	875	1,141	30.4%	72.9%
Civil legal aid	2,358	2,515	2,561	2,643	2,612	2,487	-4.8%	5.5%
Criminal legal assistance								
Advice and assistance	69	69	68	69	69	72	4.2%	4.2%
ABWOR	180	205	211	225	234	391	67.2%	117.4%
Summary criminal legal aid	649	646	645	645	646	659	2.1%	1.6%
Solemn criminal legal aid (excluding appeals)	3,680	3,533	3,172	3,232	3,007	3,010	0.1%	-18.2%
Appeals	967	1,375	1,336	1,523	1,615	1,585	-1.9%	63.9%
Children's legal assistance								
Advice and assistance	86	91	90	89	94	98	5.1%	14.5%
Children's legal aid	1,069	1,003	1,120	1,126	1,092	1,021	-6.5%	-4.5%
Contempt of court legal assistance								
Advice and assistance	-	-	-	-	83	82	-1.1%	-
ABWOR	-	-	-	-	33	54	64.7%	-
Contempt of court legal aid	474	370	340	295	346	314	-9.4%	-33.8%

Note

1. Before 2007-2008 advice and assistance for contempt of court is included within criminal and civil advice and assistance.

1.7 Payments made

	2003-2004 £000	2004-2005 £000	2005-2006 £000	2006-2007 £000	2007-2008 £000	2008-2009 £000	% change on	
							2007-2008	2003-2004
Civil legal assistance								
Advocates	4,157	4,384	4,605	4,929	5,666	5,067	-10.6%	21.9%
Solicitor advocates	2	3	0	7	0	32	-	1529.5%
Counsel	4,159	4,388	4,605	4,936	5,666	5,099	-10.0%	22.6%
Solicitors	36,852	36,183	35,068	33,668	34,864	35,012	0.4%	-5.0%
Outlays	10,236	11,294	10,661	12,039	11,772	12,761	8.4%	24.7%
Total	51,246	51,864	50,334	50,643	52,303	52,872	1.1%	3.2%
Criminal legal assistance								
Advocates	10,714	11,501	10,390	12,100	12,106	9,996	-17.4%	-6.7%
Solicitor advocates	2,400	2,448	2,201	2,761	2,698	2,543	-5.8%	5.9%
Counsel	13,114	13,948	12,591	14,861	14,804	12,539	-15.3%	-4.4%
Solicitors	82,491	87,235	83,803	83,984	87,129	82,225	-5.6%	-200.3%
Outlays	5,580	6,051	5,779	5,709	5,944	5,282	-11.1%	-5.3%
Total	101,185	107,235	102,173	104,554	107,877	100,046	-7.3%	-1.1%
Children's legal assistance								
Advocates	548	422	1,128	932	1,120	909	-18.8%	65.8%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Counsel	548	422	1,128	932	1,120	909	-18.8%	65.8%
Solicitors	2,625	2,920	2,780	3,126	3,051	3,026	-200.8%	15.3%
Outlays	204	275	308	380	358	237	-33.9%	16.1%
Total	3,377	3,617	4,216	4,438	4,529	4,172	-7.9%	23.5%
Contempt of court legal assistance								
Advocates	26	9	12	8	20	17	-15.9%	-35.2%
Solicitor advocates	5	5	8	11	25	18	-25.5%	262.7%
Counsel	31	14	20	19	45	35	-21.2%	13.4%
Solicitors	53	49	0	0	131	132	0.6%	149.1%
Outlays	3	5	0	0	5	4	-6.8%	34.5%
Total	87	67	77	103	180	171	-5.0%	96.4%
Duty solicitor appearances								
Advocates	1	1	1	2	1	1	-3.4%	-16.3%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	1	1	1	35.6%	199.8%
Counsel	1	1	1	3	2	2	16.2%	45.1%
Solicitors	920	942	996	1,166	1,267	1,605	26.7%	74.5%
Outlays	24	26	34	35	40	50	26.0%	113.5%
Total	945	969	1,031	1,204	1,308	1,657	26.7%	75.4%
Total legal assistance								
Advocates	15,446	16,317	16,135	17,972	18,913	15,989	-15.5%	3.5%
Solicitor advocates	2,408	2,456	2,209	2,779	2,724	2,595	-4.8%	7.8%
Counsel	17,854	18,773	18,344	20,751	21,638	18,584	-14.1%	4.1%
Solicitors	122,940	127,329	122,702	122,026	126,442	122,001	-3.5%	-1.0%
Outlays	16,047	17,650	16,785	18,165	18,118	18,334	1.2%	14.3%
Total	156,841	163,752	157,831	160,942	166,197	158,919	-4.4%	1.3%

Notes

1. Fees paid to solicitors, advocates and solicitor advocates include VAT.
2. In this table payments made to counsel are the sum of amounts paid to advocates and solicitor advocates.
3. Before 2007-2008 advice and assistance for contempt of court is included within criminal and civil advice and assistance.

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.