

FOI RESPONSE ISSUED - 7 MARCH 2022

REQUEST

“1. How many applications have been made for a Solicitor to aid detained patients appeal to the Mental Health Tribunal in the last 3 years? How much has been spent on this helping these patients?.”

SLAB sought clarification over the definition of “detained patients” according to the sections of the Mental Health Act.

The correspondent responded to confirm: “Sections 50 and 60 I am looking for information”.

OUR RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE 2002 ACT

We don't have any records of cases against Section 60 of the act but we do against *Section 63 – Opposing an application for a compulsory treatment order*. I have therefore provided figures for Section 63 as well as for *Section 50 - Appeal against short term detention*.

I have used the last 3 calendar years as the basis for answering your questions.

The number of applications we have received from solicitors, under these sections of the act, for the past 3 calendar years is:

Calendar year	Section 50	Section 63
2019	1037	971
2020	1134	1052
2021	1120	1080

And the amount we have spent on cases under these sections of the act is:

Calendar year	Section 50	Section 63
2019	£690,000	£864,000
2020	£839,000	£974,000
2021	£886,000	£1,014,000

These figures are including VAT and have been rounded to the nearest £1000 to aid comparison. They are the total spent on cases so they include for example solicitors' fees and outlays and the cost of expert witnesses.