

## FOI RESPONSE ISSUED - 21 June 2023

### REQUEST

1. At the most recent count, the number of Solicitors on the Criminal Legal Aid Register.
2. The number of those Solicitors that were paid less than £6000 in criminal legal aid in the last year of legal aid figures available.
3. The number of those Solicitors who received no payment at all in criminal legal aid in the last year of legal aid figures available.
4. The number of solicitors on the criminal register who were not able to be reviewed in the most recent cycle of criminal peer reviews as they did not have sufficient files to review.

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE 2002 ACT

1. As of 1st June 2023 there were 975 solicitors on the Criminal Legal Aid Register;
2. Of those 975 solicitors, 171 of them received a criminal legal aid fee payment in the financial year 2022-23 - but that payment of criminal fees amounted to less than £6000 inc VAT.

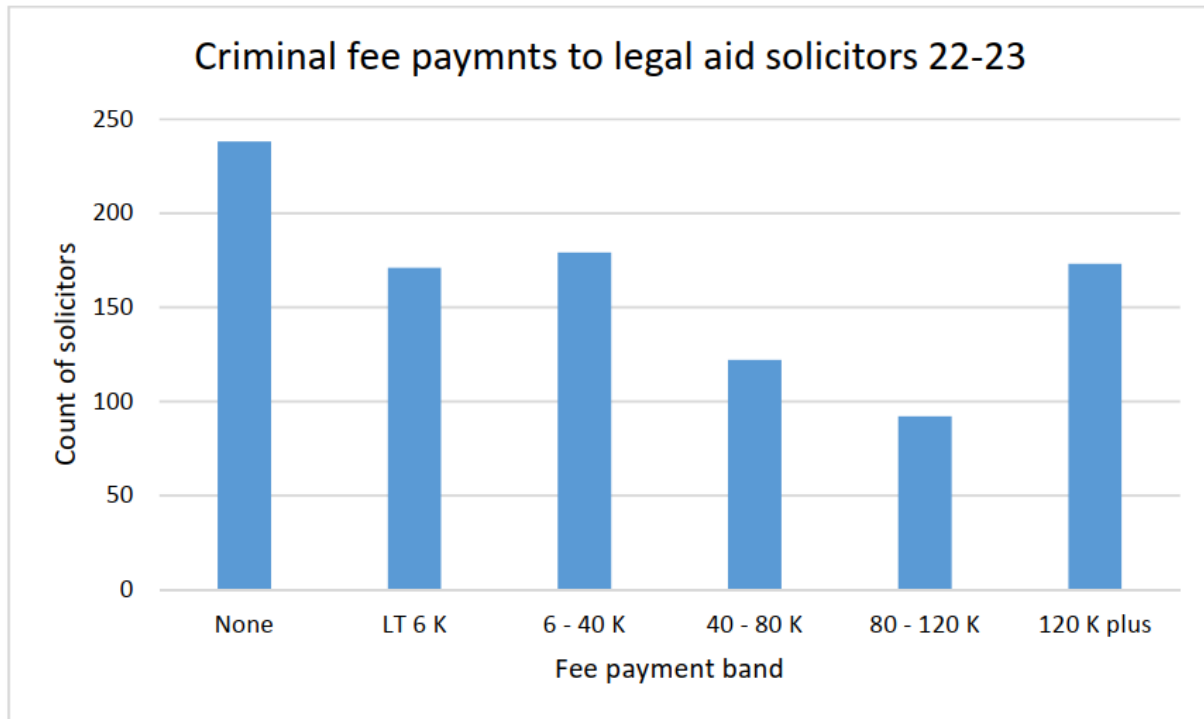
Please note no account has been taken of non-criminal fees or if they have been paid as agents. I also note that 32 of the 171 have been registered since 1st June 2022.

3. Of the 975 solicitors, 238 received no criminal legal aid payment in the financial year 2022-23.

Again please note no account has been taken of non-criminal fees or if they have been paid as agents. 57 of the 238 have been registered since 1st June 2022.

I also note that there will be a number of solicitors in that 238 who work for the Solicitor Contact Line or the PDSO which is why they have no fee payments.

This graph illustrates the overall distribution of criminal fee payments to legal aid solicitors.



4. Cycle 1 of the Criminal Quality Assurance Peer Reviews ran from 2012 to 2019. During this period, we identified 153 solicitors who wished to remain on the Criminal Legal Assistance Register, but could not be reviewed in the normal way as they had no criminal files for the peer reviews. However, we now have a process for reviewing them in a different way to determine their suitability to remain on CLAR, which we are working through now.