

FOI RESPONSE ISSUED - 20 November 2023

REQUEST

“How much Legal Aid was paid out in cases involving rape?

Please provide numbers for each year from 2000 to 2023”

OUR RESPONSE TO THE INFORMATION REQUEST UNDER THE 2002 ACT

The Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) has only had a specific code to identify rape cases since 2017. Prior to then we used a general code to identify sexual offence cases.

But I have used the detailed information we have from 2017 onwards to estimate the cost of rape cases before then, by extrapolating from the information we have on sexual offence cases in general which has been published in our annual reports. Our annual reports cover the period of our financial year which runs from 1st April to 31st March. For example in the table below the 2010-11 figure refers to the period 1st April 2010 to 31st March 2011.

From 2017 onwards 53% of the recorded expenditure on sexual offence cases under solemn procedure has been for rape cases. I have used this figure of 53% to estimate the expenditure on rape before 2017. I have been able to do this as far back as 2003.

The figures are shown in the table below. They include VAT and include the cost of solicitors’ fees, counsel’s fees and outlays. I have rounded them to the nearest £1,000 to simplify the presentation.

Financial Year	Rape Expend	Source of figure
2003-04	£2,247,000	Estimated
2004-05	£2,431,000	Estimated
2005-06	£2,238,000	Estimated
2006-07	£2,413,000	Estimated
2007-08	£2,407,000	Estimated
2008-09	£2,479,000	Estimated
2009-10	£2,598,000	Estimated
2010-11	£2,127,000	Estimated
2011-12	£2,263,000	Estimated
2012-13	£2,848,000	Estimated
2013-14	£3,632,000	Estimated
2014-15	£4,217,000	Estimated
2015-16	£3,679,000	Estimated
2016-17	£3,884,000	Estimated
2017-18	£2,925,000	Actual
2018-19	£4,230,000	Actual
2019-20	£4,286,000	Actual
2020-21	£3,267,000	Actual
2021-22	£5,461,000	Actual
2022-23	£6,037,000	Actual