

## FOI RESPONSE ISSUED - 8 JANUARY 2024

### REQUEST

“I seek to establish the average weekly or daily income derived from Legal Aid by firms acting as Sheriff Court Duty solicitors across Scotland. With that aim in mind, please advise for the most recent year for which you hold completed records (I presume that would be 2022/23), the average daily or weekly figure paid to solicitors acting as Duty Solicitor.

I appreciate that providing this breakdown in either daily or weekly format could be problematic. If so, I would be grateful to hear from you ... to allow me to clarify matters.”

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

I spoke to you on 20 December to clarify your request. From that conversation I took that you were interested only in income associated with the initial plea at a duty appearance. That is, you did not want income included from follow-up work or from VIPER parade attendance.

In answer to your request described above we have the following information recorded.

For the financial year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023:

- The total number of initial appearances was 2,367.

These appearances occurred on 1537 different court dates.

- And the total solicitors' fees paid were £181,000 inc VAT.

The average daily income for firms acting as duty solicitors was therefore:

$181,000 / 1537 = £118 \text{ inc VAT}$