



## Analysis & Management Information

Thistle House  
91 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5HE

REDACTED

VIA EMAIL

3 September 2024

Dear REDACTED

### Freedom of Information request - Legal aid costs

I am writing in response to your email received 21 August 2024 where you asked:

- 1. How much does it cost or the fees that solicitors/ Lawyers charge to take on legal aid criminal cases.*
- 2. How much it costs the tax payer annually.*
- 3. How many criminal cases 2023 the Scottish legal aid accepted*

The answers to your questions are as follows:

1. the fees that solicitors charge for their legal aid work are specified in regulations. These are described on our website here: [Legal aid fees - Scottish Legal Aid Board \(slab.org.uk\)](https://www.slab.org.uk/legal-aid-fees)

As you can see the fees chargeable depend on the type of work. For each type of work there can be different tables depending on when the work was done. This is because there have been a number of fee increases in recent years. These fee increases were agreed between the Scottish Government and the legal profession.

2. the cost to the tax payer is described in the Annual Report and Accounts. This can also be found on our website here: [Annual Report and Accounts - Scottish Legal Aid Board \(slab.org.uk\)](https://www.slab.org.uk/annual-report-and-accounts)

The total cost in 2022-23 was £135 million. The figures for 2023-24 will be published in the next 4 to 6 weeks. They will also be found at this web address.

3. As part of the Annual Report, we also publish detailed statistical tables describing the operation of legal aid. These key statistics can be found here: [Annual Report 2022-23 Appendix 1 - Key Statistics](#)

Within these Key Statistics Table 1.2 shows the total number of grants for legal aid across the different types. The total number of grants for criminal cases in 2022-23 was 97,100.

I hope this information is of use to you.

I have appended below details about your rights to request a review of this response.

Yours sincerely,

**REDACTED**

**Manager of Analytics**

If you would like me to send this letter or email to you in a different format or language, you can make a request by responding to the email. Where possible we will try and do this within five working days of receiving your request.
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**Your right to request a review of decision**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we have handled your request for information, you may ask us to review our decision. A request that we review our decision should be made in writing within 40 working days of the date of this letter or, if we have not responded to your request, within 40 days of the date by which we should have responded (that would normally be 20 days after receiving your request).

We will review our decision and tell you the outcome within 20 working days of receiving your request.

If, having done so, you remain dissatisfied, you may ask the Scottish Information Commissioner to review our decision. You must submit your request in writing to the Commissioner within 6 months of first receiving notice about the matter you are complaining about.

The Commissioner will not deal with an application unless SLAB's review process has been used and exhausted - in other words, until you have asked us to review our decision and you are not satisfied with our response or have not received a response within 20 working days of your request.

The Commissioner's contact details are:

The Scottish Information Commissioner  
Kinburn Castle  
Doubledykes Road  
St Andrews  
Fife  
KY16 9DS  
Telephone: 01334 464610  
Fax: 01334 464611  
Website [www.itspublicknowledge.info](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info)  
E-mail: [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info)

Your appeal can also be dealt with online. The Commissioner has an online appeal service which is available 24/7 and offers requesters real time help and advice about their appeal. This can be accessed at: [www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal)