

1. Key statistics 2019-2024

Appendix notes

1. Figures for accounts paid include VAT and are prepared on a cash basis, unless stated otherwise.
2. Outlays include all non-fee payments to solicitors and advocates - for example the cost of expert witnesses.
3. A zero 0 indicates that no values were recorded. A dash "-" indicates that no value is applicable.
4. Figures have been rounded to improve useability. Rounded totals shown are rounded from the sum of the original unrounded figures. Summing the individually rounded figures in a table may therefore not match the rounded total shown.
5. The recovery of incorrectly claimed monies is included within audit restitution.
6. The data collection method for Police Station figures has been amended. This applies to the years 2022-23 and 2023-24 only.

1.1 Initial applications for legal assistance

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	58,100	44,700	44,400	43,600	46,200	6%	-21%
Civil legal aid	18,100	14,600	15,800	15,700	16,300	4%	-10%
Total civil legal assistance	76,200	59,200	60,200	59,300	62,500	5%	-18%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	9,200	8,800	7,200	6,000	5,800	-4%	-37%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	17,400	16,400	14,700	18,600	18,000	-3%	4%
Criminal ABWOR	26,000	19,000	20,200	21,300	25,300	19%	-3%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	45,100	36,900	42,400	41,000	43,400	6%	-4%
Summary and ABWOR	71,100	56,000	62,600	62,200	68,800	10%	-3%
Solemn	11,800	13,300	13,500	13,400	13,200	-2%	12%
Appeals	500	300	300	300	300	5%	-32%
Total criminal legal assistance	109,900	94,800	98,400	100,600	106,100	5%	-3%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	3,700	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,400	-4%	-34%
Children's ABWOR	4,600	3,400	4,200	4,100	3,900	-7%	-17%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	8,300	6,300	7,000	6,700	6,300	-6%	-24%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,700	1,900	2,000	1,700	1,700	-2%	-39%
Total children's legal assistance	11,000	8,200	9,000	8,400	7,900	-5%	-28%
Total initial applications for legal assistance	197,100	162,200	167,700	168,200	176,500	5%	-10%

1.2 Grants of legal assistance

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Civil							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	58,100	44,700	44,400	43,600	46,200	6%	-21%
Civil legal aid	14,800	12,100	13,500	13,100	13,800	5%	-7%
Total civil legal assistance	72,900	56,800	57,900	56,800	60,000	6%	-18%
Criminal							
Criminal advice and assistance	9,200	8,800	7,200	6,000	5,800	-4%	-37%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	17,400	16,400	14,700	18,600	18,000	-3%	4%
Criminal ABWOR	26,000	19,000	20,200	21,300	25,300	19%	-3%
Summary criminal legal aid (SLAB assessed)	41,100	33,900	37,000	35,800	39,000	9%	-5%
Total summary criminal and ABWOR	67,100	53,000	57,200	57,000	64,300	13%	-4%
Solemn criminal legal aid	11,100	12,500	12,400	12,100	12,100	0%	9%
Court granted legal aid	2,400	1,100	1,600	1,700	1,700	0%	-32%
Appeals	500	300	300	300	300	3%	-35%
Duty solicitor appearances (including PDSO)	11,000	5,200	5,500	6,200	6,500	6%	-41%
Total criminal legal assistance	118,600	97,300	98,900	101,800	108,600	7%	-8%
Children's							
Children's advice and assistance	3,700	2,900	2,800	2,500	2,400	-4%	-34%
Children's ABWOR	4,600	3,400	4,200	4,100	3,900	-7%	-17%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	8,300	6,300	7,000	6,700	6,300	-6%	-24%
Children's legal aid (including appeals)	2,400	1,700	1,800	1,500	1,500	-1%	-38%
Children's automatic legal aid	100	100	100	100	100	7%	-31%
Total children's legal assistance	10,800	8,100	8,900	8,200	7,900	-5%	-27%
Total grants of legal assistance	202,300	162,200	165,700	166,800	176,500	6%	-13%

1.3 Total payments for administration (£000)

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Administration spend							
Staff costs	10,600	10,900	11,200	12,100	12,800	5%	20%
Running costs	1,700	1,800	2,600	1,500	1,800	17%	4%
Capital	100	200	100	100	100	7%	-13%
Total administration spend	12,400	12,900	13,900	13,800	14,700	7%	18%

1.4 Number of cases paid to solicitors

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Civil legal assistance							
Civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	49,800	39,000	34,400	32,200	29,000	-10%	-42%
Civil legal aid	12,800	9,200	10,800	11,800	12,400	5%	-3%
Total civil legal assistance	62,500	48,300	45,200	44,000	41,400	-6%	-34%
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	5,200	4,200	3,900	3,000	2,800	-7%	-45%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	13,700	13,700	12,300	11,200	12,000	7%	-12%
Criminal ABWOR	23,900	19,500	18,200	17,600	20,100	14%	-16%
Summary criminal legal aid	38,600	26,100	33,000	37,800	32,600	-14%	-15%
Solemn criminal legal aid	10,400	7,000	9,000	10,200	12,200	20%	18%
Court granted legal aid	1,900	800	1,000	1,200	1,200	-6%	-37%
Appeals	1,000	600	600	600	700	21%	-34%
Duty	8,600	4,000	3,900	2,700	4,600	68%	-47%
ID/Viper Parades	900	700	900	800	700	-16%	-30%
Total criminal legal assistance	104,200	76,600	82,800	85,100	86,900	2%	-17%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	1,900	1,400	1,300	1,200	1,100	-11%	-43%
Children's ABWOR	5,200	3,500	4,300	4,200	4,200	-2%	-20%
Children's legal aid	2,300	1,500	1,600	1,400	1,400	-1%	-39%
Total children's legal assistance	9,400	6,500	7,100	6,900	6,600	-3%	-29%
Total legal assistance	176,100	131,400	135,100	136,000	134,900	-1%	-23%

Notes

1. Duty figures are the solicitors' number of appearances on behalf of accused persons.
2. These figures do not include work done by employed solicitors such as CLAO & PDSO.

1.5(a) Summary of total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Total net civil legal assistance	46,100	40,300	43,600	49,100	53,200	8%	15%
Total net grant funded	2,700	3,200	3,800	3,600	2,300	-36%	-15%
Total net criminal legal assistance	75,900	52,000	66,100	77,000	90,100	17%	19%
Total net children's legal assistance	5,300	3,800	4,400	4,900	5,200	6%	-1%
Miscellaneous	800	200	300	300	300	-1%	-64%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	130,900	99,300	118,200	135,000	151,200	12%	16%

Notes

See table 1.5(b)

1.5(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000)

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Civil legal assistance							
Total civil advice and assistance and ABWOR	21,600	19,900	18,900	20,400	21,700	6%	0%
Civil legal aid gross expenditure	31,300	26,800	32,700	35,200	37,200	6%	19%
Civil legal aid income received	(8,200)	(7,700)	(9,400)	(8,100)	(7,400)	-9%	-10%
Civil legal aid (net cost)	23,200	19,200	23,300	27,100	29,900	10%	29%
CLAO gross expenditure	1,400	1,200	1,500	1,700	1,700	3%	21%
CLAO income received	(<50)	(<50)	(100)	(<50)	(<50)	-37%	14%
CLAO (net cost)	1,400	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,700	4%	21%
Total civil assistance gross expenditure	54,400	47,900	53,100	57,300	60,700	6%	12%
Civil audit restitution	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total net civil legal assistance	46,100	40,300	43,600	49,100	53,200	8%	15%
Grant funding							
Grant funded expenditure	2,700	3,200	3,800	3,600	2,300	-36%	-15%
Money Advice Service funding received	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Total net grant funded	2,700	3,200	3,800	3,600	2,300	-36%	-15%

Table 1.5 continued overleaf

1.5(b) Total cost to the taxpayer of legal assistance (£000) (continued)						Percent change on	
	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2022-2023	2019-2020
Criminal legal assistance							
Criminal advice and assistance	300	300	300	300	300	0%	-17%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300	1,400	15%	-8%
Criminal ABWOR	11,300	9,700	9,100	9,400	12,500	33%	11%
Total criminal advice and assistance and ABWOR	13,200	11,500	10,800	10,900	14,200	30%	8%
Summary criminal legal aid	23,800	15,900	20,800	26,600	25,500	-4%	7%
Solemn criminal legal aid	33,100	19,600	29,200	33,800	44,000	30%	33%
Court granted legal aid	500	200	400	600	600	2%	6%
Appeals	1,300	1,000	900	800	900	13%	-34%
Criminal legal assistance income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	102%	-52%
Criminal legal aid (net cost)	58,700	36,700	51,200	61,700	70,900	15%	21%
Duty	600	300	300	200	400	75%	-37%
ID/Viper Parades	200	200	200	200	200	-9%	-20%
Public Defence Solicitors' Office (PDSO)	2,300	2,400	2,600	3,100	3,500	11%	52%
Police Station Duty Scheme Contact Line	900	900	1,000	1,100	1,100	3%	15%
Glasgow Court Advisers	100	<50	<50	100	100	8%	-1%
Criminal audit restitution	(200)	(<50)	(100)	(200)	(200)	-7%	44%
Total net criminal legal assistance	75,900	52,000	66,100	77,000	90,100	17%	19%
Children's legal assistance							
Children's advice and assistance	200	200	100	100	100	-5%	-32%
Children's ABWOR	2,400	1,700	2,100	2,300	2,500	8%	2%
Children's advice and assistance and ABWOR	2,600	1,900	2,200	2,400	2,600	8%	-1%
Children's legal aid	2,700	1,900	2,200	2,500	2,700	5%	-2%
Children's legal aid income received	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	(<50)	-40%	-73%
Children's legal aid (net cost)	2,700	1,800	2,200	2,500	2,700	5%	-2%
Total net children's legal assistance	5,300	3,800	4,400	4,900	5,200	6%	-1%
Miscellaneous							
Extraordinary interest payment to Advocates	0	0	100	0	0	-	-
Miscellaneous payments	800	200	200	300	300	-1%	-64%
Legal Aid Fund (gross expenditure)	139,200	107,000	127,700	143,400	158,800	11%	14%
Total cost of legal assistance to the taxpayer	130,900	99,300	118,200	135,000	151,200	12%	16%

Notes

1. Income received from the Money Advice Service is their contribution to the Making Advice Work programme.
2. Income from criminal legal assistance relates to advice and assistance contributions and money repaid by solicitors and assisted persons.
3. The content and structure of the Miscellaneous figures has been reviewed and we have restated 20-21.

1.6 Average case cost (£)

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Civil legal assistance							
Advice and assistance and ABWOR	430	510	550	630	750	18%	72%
Civil legal aid	2,500	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,000	1%	23%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	66	79	76	94	100	7%	52%
Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act - Advice and assistance and ABWOR	120	110	110	110	120	7%	4%
ABWOR	470	500	500	530	620	16%	31%
Summary criminal legal aid	620	610	630	710	780	11%	27%
Solemn criminal legal aid	3,200	2,800	3,200	3,300	3,600	8%	13%
Court granted legal aid	280	270	370	410	480	16%	69%
Appeals	1,300	1,600	1,500	1,400	1,300	-7%	0%
Children's legal assistance							
Advice and assistance	97	114	100	110	120	6%	20%
ABWOR	470	500	490	540	590	11%	26%
Children's legal aid	1,200	1,200	1,400	1,800	1,900	7%	61%

1.7 Payments made (£000)

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Percent change on	
						2022-2023	2019-2020
Civil legal assistance							
Advocates	3,700	3,100	3,700	3,000	3,200	5%	-15%
Solicitor advocates	<50	<50	<50	<50	<50	19%	39%
Solicitors	34,400	31,200	32,700	35,800	38,500	8%	12%
Outlays	14,800	12,400	15,200	16,800	17,200	2%	16%
Total	52,900	46,700	51,500	55,600	58,900	6%	11%
Criminal legal assistance							
Advocates	9,000	4,600	8,500	9,800	11,200	15%	24%
Solicitor advocates	2,500	1,800	3,000	3,600	3,800	7%	50%
Solicitors	56,700	39,600	47,900	56,100	66,700	19%	18%
Outlays	4,400	2,600	3,100	3,500	4,000	12%	-11%
Total	72,700	48,700	62,600	73,000	85,700	17%	18%
Children's legal assistance							
Advocates	400	200	500	600	400	-33%	11%
Solicitor advocates	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
Solicitors	4,500	3,300	3,700	4,100	4,500	10%	-1%
Outlays	400	200	200	300	400	45%	-17%
Total	5,300	3,800	4,400	4,900	5,200	6%	-2%
Total legal assistance							
Advocates	13,100	7,900	12,600	13,400	14,800	10%	13%
Solicitor advocates	2,600	1,800	3,000	3,600	3,800	7%	50%
Solicitors	95,600	74,100	84,300	96,000	109,700	14%	15%
Outlays	19,700	15,300	18,500	20,600	21,500	5%	9%
Total	131,000	99,100	118,500	133,600	149,900	12%	14%

Note

1. Fees paid to solicitors, advocates and solicitor advocates include VAT.