



**REDACTED**

VIA EMAIL

Reference Number: FOI 24/033

10 December 2024

Dear **REDACTED**

**Spend on legal aid for challenge/appeal deportation orders**

I am writing in response to your email received 12 November 2024 where you asked this question:

- 1) Information showing how much has been paid out in legal aid to support individuals looking to challenge/appeal deportation orders in EACH of the last five full financial years and so far this financial year. Please provide a breakdown as to how many claims/cases the payments related to in each year and the total amounts paid out in each year. If there are payments that are made for both civil cases and criminal cases then please break the information down to show the amounts for civil cases each year and criminal cases each year separately. If it is not possible to provide information specifically related to deportation orders then please provide any figures you can for EACH year relating to asylum and immigration cases that have received funding from SLAB and any breakdown as to more specific groupings for cases that fall within asylum and immigration cases.

Asylum and immigration cases are dealt with through the civil justice system (tribunals and courts). Accordingly legal aid is provided, where appropriate, through our civil advice and assistance (A&A) and civil legal aid procedures. For more background information please see our website: [New to legal aid - Scottish Legal Aid Board](#)

We do not have a specific code in our systems for cases relating to deportation orders. But it is possible to text search the subject matter of cases as described by solicitors.

Within civil A&A and civil legal aid asylum & immigration cases I have searched for cases that contained these text strings:

1. APPEAL or CHALLENGE, and
2. DEPORT or REMOVAL

And I have then seen what we have paid on such cases for the time period you specified. Please see Table 1 below. The Total Paid figure includes VAT. It covers all solicitors' fees, counsel fees and outlays such as travel, interpreters' costs and expert witnesses.

\*2024/25 is a partial year covering the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

Financial Year	Total Paid (£)	No of Cases
2019/20	392,027	183
2020/21	195,147	103
2021/22	224,597	82
2022/23	163,835	45
2023/24	162,787	27
2024/25*	81,332	36

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.

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)