



Scottish Legal Aid Board

Thistle  
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91 Haymarket  
Terrace  
Edinburgh EH12

[www.slab.org.uk](http://www.slab.org.uk)

**REDACTED**

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Reference number: FOI2024/00022

7 October 2024

Dear **REDACTED**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND)  
ACT 2002**

Thank you for your email received on 10 September.

You requested the following:

Please can you tell me how much legal aid was provided to fund civil cases in EACH of the last three financial years and so far this financial year. Please break the figures down to give an indication of the types of civil matters that received SLAB funding and how much was awarded in each year for those specific types of civil cases (i.e. property dispute, claim for compensation etc.)

**Cost of civil legal assistance 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24**

The attached document has the total net cost of civil legal assistance for each of these three years with a breakdown by civil case type.

**Cost of civil legal assistance 2024-25**

**INFORMATION NOT HELD - SECTION 17 (1) NOTICE**

I regret that SLAB does not hold the information that you have requested.

We have treated this as a request for information made under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. We now view the request as closed because we do not hold the relevant information.

To provide an accurate cost of civil legal assistance we must include money received in relation to cases funded with legal aid to arrive at a net cost. This includes contributions from those receiving legal aid for their case, clawback, damages, audit restitution etc.

We are only able to calculate the net cost at the end of the financial year. As a result, we do not hold the 2024-25 net cost figures.

Please note, that in the attached document with the costs for the other three years requested I have included an estimated cost for April to September 2024-25.

These figures are the estimated net cost based on the gross cost adjusted by the average rate of net cost for the past three years.

Details about your rights to request a review of this decision are noted below.

### **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  
Website: [www.foi.scot](http://www.foi.scot)  
E-mail: [enquiries@foi.scot](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot)

For details on how to appeal please go to their website [www.foi.scot/contactus](http://www.foi.scot/contactus)

Kind regards,

**REDACTED**

**Media & Communications**

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If you need us to change how we communicate with you, please let us know by sending details to [communicationsupport@slab.org.uk](mailto:communicationsupport@slab.org.uk). Where possible, we will consider all reasonable adjustments and requests

## Cost of civil legal assistance

The table below shows:

- the total net cost of civil legal assistance for each of the three years from 2021-24 with a breakdown by civil case type
- an estimated net cost of civil legal assistance for Apr-Sept 2024-25 based on the gross cost adjusted by the average rate of net cost for the past three years.

<b>Civil legal assistance Net Cost £000s</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25 Apr-Sep estimate</b>
<b>Adults with incapacity</b>	3,844	4,732	5,771	3,126
<b>Appeals</b>	597	362	316	167
<b>Breach of contract</b>	-53	27	38	1
<b>Contact/parentage</b>	10,654	12,007	12,591	5,849
<b>Contempt of court</b>	18	14	18	10
<b>Debt</b>	105	129	139	51
<b>Discrimination</b>	22	35	26	7
<b>Divorce/separation</b>	2,123	2,115	2,331	1,044
<b>Family/matrimonial - other</b>	2,536	3,308	3,655	1,846
<b>Fatal accident inquiries</b>	120	92	141	161
<b>Housing/recovery of heritable property</b>	378	398	484	300
<b>Immigration and asylum</b>	9,191	10,479	12,030	6,736
<b>Judicial review</b>	449	308	467	207
<b>Medical negligence</b>	687	266	851	247
<b>Mental health</b>	3,308	3,889	3,775	2,179
<b>Property/monetary</b>	551	555	517	288
<b>Protective order</b>	641	707	610	260
<b>Reparation</b>	345	503	21	97
<b>Residence</b>	5,305	6,231	6,693	3,623
<b>Other</b>	1,347	1,338	1,082	507
<b>Total civil legal assistance</b>	<b>42,166</b>	<b>47,497</b>	<b>51,558</b>	<b>26,707</b>