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|  MoJ_BLK_SML |  |  |
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|  | **Our Reference:** 106662 |   | August 2016 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**“What were the fees (amount) claimed by the law firm Hodge Jones & Allen for Legal aid work (both criminal and civil) in 2015, 2014 and 2013 (if any figures are available for 2016, please include these also) from the Ministry of Justice (via the Legal Aid Agency).”**

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for. The information is exempt under section 21 of the FOI act because it is reasonably accessing to you, and I am pleased to inform you that you can access via the following link:

 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/legal-aid-statistics-quaterly-january-to-march-2016>

The raw data is located sixth file down in this list and is entitled “Legal aid statistics England and Wales provider and area data”

You can find more information by reading the full text of the Act, available at

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/21> and further guidance

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/information-access-rights/foi-guidence-for-practioners/excemptions-guidence>

On this occasion, as we have been able to locate the information you have requested easily and we acknowledge that the manipulation of online data may be time consuming, we are providing you with the information require on a discretionary basis. This I shown below

Closed case costs (£) for work completed in the financial year shown, by Hodge Jones & Allen LLP, as of June 2016

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Year** | **Quarter** | **Civil** | **Crime** |
| 2012-13 |  | 6,335,716 | 2,673,564 |
| 2013-14 |  | 5,366,939 | 2,838,153 |
| 2014-15 |  | 7,672,544 | 2,854,214 |
| 2015-16 |  | 5,066,264 | 2,667,230 |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2012-13 | Apr-Jun | 2,246,913 | 670,768 |
|  | Jul-Sep | 1,141,274 | 738,517 |
|  | Oct-Dec | 1,145,227 | 691,086 |
|  | Jan-Mar | 1,802,302 | 573,193 |
| 2013-14 | Apr-Jun | 1,739,328 | 692,115 |
|  | Jul-Sep | 870,306 | 685,934 |
|  | Oct-Dec | 1,769,036 | 703,309 |
|  | Jan-Mar | 988,269 | 756,795 |
| 2014-15 | Apr-Jun | 896,260 | 685,892 |
|  | Jul-Sep | 3,523,378 | 696,963 |
|  | Oct-Dec | 1,828,484 | 835,816 |
|  | Jan-Mar | 1,424,422 | 635,543 |
| 2015-16 | Apr-Jun | 1,140,287 | 684,597 |
|  | Jul-Sep | 1,936,936 | 779,440 |
|  | Oct-Dec | 1,191,639 | 750,665 |
|   | Jan-Mar | 797,402 | 452,528 |

Data from a variety of sources held by the LAA was combined to produce these statistics. For more information on data sources, quality and usage can be found in the [User Guide to Legal Aid Statistics](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-guide-to-legal-aid-statistics-in-england-and-wales).

The timing with which a completed piece of work and the total payment, or expenditure, associated with it are reported are based on the point at which the final payment for that piece of work was authorised by the LAA.

This means that the figures for a given period may include the value of work conducted in earlier periods, and similarly the value of any work that providers may have undertaken during the period on cases which have no yet completed will not be included. It is important to consider this when using these statistics because many more complex pieces of work, for example in Civil Representation or the Crown Court, can last for several years.

The expenditure presented in these statics represents total legal aid fee payments. It is not equivalent to providers’ profits, earnings or take-home pay. Most providers must pay taxes such as VAT and meet professional costs and other overheads, similar to businesses and self-employed individuals in many other industries. This provider has been included in our data because they completed and were paid for at least some legal aid funded work in the period covered. Any provider may work full-time on legal aid funded work, may combine it with other work not covered by these statistics, such as private work, or otherwise work part-time.

The figures excluded payments to named firm in some instances where the claim included work undertaken by others on their behalf.

Payments are made only after the claims are scrutinised and possibly adjusted leading to payments in a different financial year subsequently and payments to a provider office may include recoupments against previous payments leading to an overall negative payment.