



Ministry
of Justice



Legal Aid
Agency



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Legal Aid Statistics quarterly, England and Wales

January to March 2019

1. Main points

Police station advice workload increased by 2% while magistrates' court grants and completions all fell compared to the same quarter last year



Overall expenditure in the police station and magistrates' fell by 3%. Within this area police station advice expenditure rose by 2% with the overall reduction driven by magistrates' court expenditure falling by 7%.

Workload in the Crown Court fell by 11%, while expenditure decreased by 4%.



The reduced fall in expenditure was mainly driven by the solicitor fee scheme, partly offset by the Very High-Cost Case scheme.

Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting volumes were 9% higher than in the same quarter of 2018.



Mediation starts were also 10% higher, outcomes were 1% higher than the same period last year.

Applications for civil representation supported by evidence of domestic violence or child abuse increased by 17%.



The volume of these granted increased by 12% compared to the same period of 2018.

837 applications for Exceptional Case Funding were received in the last quarter.



This is a 16% increase from the same quarter last year.

This edition comprises the first release of official statistics for the three-month period from January to March 2019 and the latest statement of all figures for previous periods.

The data in this year-end bulletin also includes figures on central funds, providers of legal aid, inquests and the diversity of clients receiving legal aid. For technical detail, please refer to the [User guide](#) and Data Index for the legal aid statistics.

We have changed how our quarterly bulletins look, and would welcome any feedback using this quick [survey](#).

For other feedback related to the content of this publication, please let us know at statistics@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk

2. Things you need to know

These symbols are used throughout this release to navigate to other documents of interest:



Data visualisation:
Click for tool allowing user-defined charts and tables.



User Guide:
Click for document giving definitions and explanations.



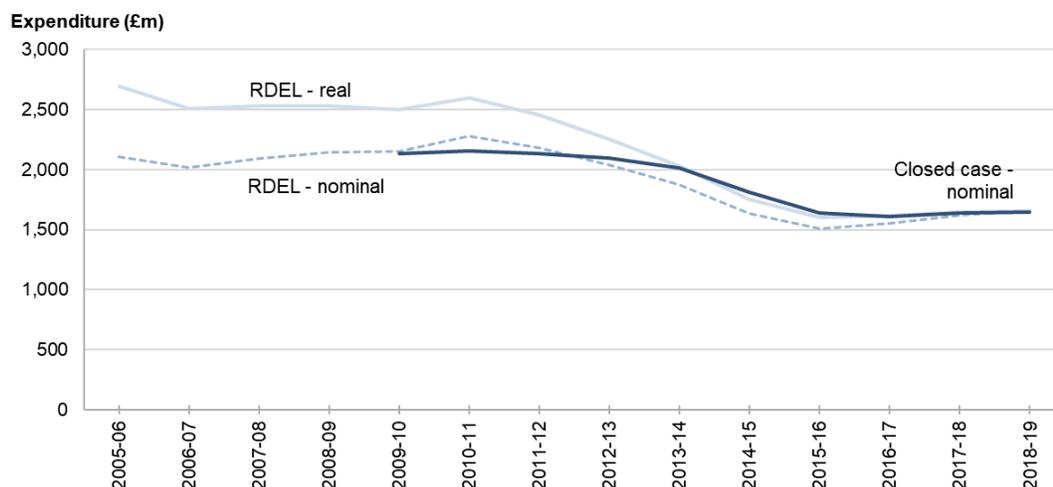
Tables:
Click for access to tables of figures.

To understand trends in legal aid as a whole, it is best to begin by looking at annual expenditure figures and then look at trends in both workload and expenditure for each category of legal aid. Summarising activity across the legal aid system meaningfully within a single number is difficult because of the diversity of services included. Expenditure on legal aid is measured differently for different purposes. The three most often-used measures, shown in Fig. 1, are:

- **Closed-case expenditure is the measure used for expenditure figures throughout these legal aid statistics.** It represents the total value of payments made to legal aid providers in relation to pieces of work that are completed in the period. This basis is comparable to volumes of completed work to which it relates, and to the same fine level of detail. This does not include income received or expenditure in relation to debt write-offs.
- **RDEL (Resource Departmental Expenditure Limits) nominal** is the main budgeting measure used by government to control current spending, both to set budgets for future years and report on how much has been spent. It represents the value of work carried out in the period better than the closed-case measure but cannot be broken down to such a fine level of detail. This measure does incorporate income and expenditure in relation to debt. 'Nominal' here means not adjusted for inflation.
- **RDEL real** is the RDEL measure adjusted for inflation to make the value of spending in previous years directly comparable with the specified year.

These measures show a large reduction in legal aid expenditure from around 2010-11, mostly due to changes to the scope of civil legal aid introduced by the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Act from 2013-14, reductions in criminal legal aid workloads and reductions in the fees payable to legal aid providers.

Figure 1: Overall annual legal aid expenditure, by closed-case and RDEL nominal and real terms measures (£m), 2005-06 to 2018-19



 *Table 1.0*

3. Criminal legal aid



Tables
1.1 and 4.1

Overall Crown Court expenditure decreased this quarter; down by 4% in January to March 2019 compared with the same period of the previous year.

This is driven by falling receipts in both the magistrates' courts and Crown Courts, with a fall of 6% in the lower court and 11% in the Crown Court over the same period.

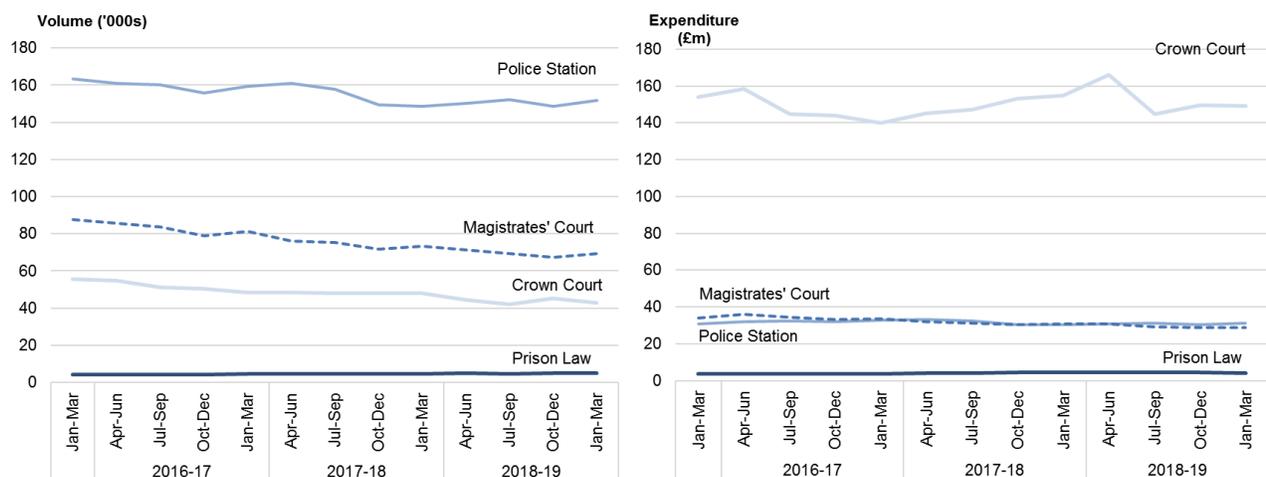
Criminal legal aid can be categorised into Crime Lower and Crime Higher. Crime Lower includes police station advice, magistrates' court and prison law. Crime Higher covers work in the Crown and Higher Courts.

Figure 2: Crime overview, closed case volumes and expenditure for Jan - Mar 19, and comparison with Jan - Mar 18

		Category	Workload	Expenditure
Crime Workload 269,000 (2%↓) Expenditure £214m (3%↓)	Crime Lower 226,000 (0%↔) £64.5m (3%↓)	Police station advice	152,000 (2%↑)	£31.1m (2%↑)
		Magistrates' courts*	69,000 (6%↓)	£28.7m (7%↓)
		Advice & assistance on appeals	312 (6%↓)	£0.5m (4%↑)
		Prison Law	5,000 (7%↑)	£4.1m (6%↓)
		Civil work associated with crime	32 (18%↓)	£0.02m (9%↓)
	Crown Court 43,000 (11%↓) £149.3m (4%↓)	Solicitor fee scheme	21,000 (12%↓)	£92.2m (5%↓)
		Advocate fee scheme	22,000 (10%↓)	£53.7m (2%↓)
		High Cost crime cases	6 (50%↑)	£3.4m (50%↑)

Although Crown Court work comprises a relatively small portion of criminal legal aid in terms of volume, it accounts for around two-thirds of all criminal legal aid expenditure. Conversely, advice relating to the police station makes up the largest portion of workload, but a much smaller proportion of expenditure.

Figure 3: Workload and expenditure in criminal legal aid, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



Note: Advice and assistance on appeals and civil work associated with crime are excluded from these figures.

Police station advice



Tables
2.1 and 2.2

This category made up two thirds of the Crime Lower workload between January and March 2019 but less than half of the expenditure. The workload in this period has increased by 2% compared to the previous year, with expenditure matching this increase with a 2% rise (£0.7m). This reverses the downward trend seen over the last three years. This trend can also be seen in the overall figures from the arrest statistics for England and Wales¹, which have seen a similar decline historically.

The majority of the police station advice workload (87% in January and March 2019) consists of suspects receiving legal help with a solicitor in attendance at the police station, with the rest mainly consisting of legal advice over the telephone.

Applications and grants for representation in the criminal courts



Tables
3.1 and 3.2

While figures should be interpreted with caution as they may be revised in subsequent quarters as cases move into the Crown court, the number of orders granted for legally-aided representation in the **magistrates' court** decreased by 6% this quarter when compared to the same quarter of the previous year. This continues the downward trend of the last 3 years, which has been largely driven by Summary Only cases. The overall number of receipts in the magistrates' court² including those not involving legal aid) was 2% down over the same period. The proportion of these applications that are granted remains stable at around 95%.

Orders granted for legally-aided representation in the Crown Court also decreased by 8% this quarter compared to last year, comparing to a stable volume in Crown Court receipts. Within the legal aid figure, orders relating to either-way offences decreased by 8%, while those relating to indictable offences decreased by 7%. The proportion of Crown Court applications granted remains at almost 100%.

Magistrates' court completed work



Tables
2.1 and 2.2

Legally-aided representation in the magistrates' court comprised almost one-third of the workload and just under half of expenditure in Crime Lower between January and March 2019. The volume of completed work in the magistrates' court decreased by 6% this quarter when compared to the same period of the previous year. Expenditure also decreased by 7% (£2.1m).

Crown Court completed work



Tables
4.1 – 4.4

Volumes of cases completed in the Crown Court have declined over recent years, though more gradually than new orders due to the stock of cases awaiting trial.

Completed work volumes within the **litigator (solicitor) fee scheme** decreased by 12% in January to March 2019 compared to the same period of the previous year, driven mainly by a 12% decrease in cases in which the defendant pleads guilty at their earliest opportunity in the Crown Court. This may be due to procedural reforms in the court system, with more defendants pleading earlier at the magistrates' court. In the **advocate fee scheme**, completed claims decreased by 10% compared to the same period last year.

In the litigator fee scheme, expenditure decreased by 5% in January to March 2019 compared to the same period of the previous year. In the advocate fee scheme, the value of payments decreased by

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>

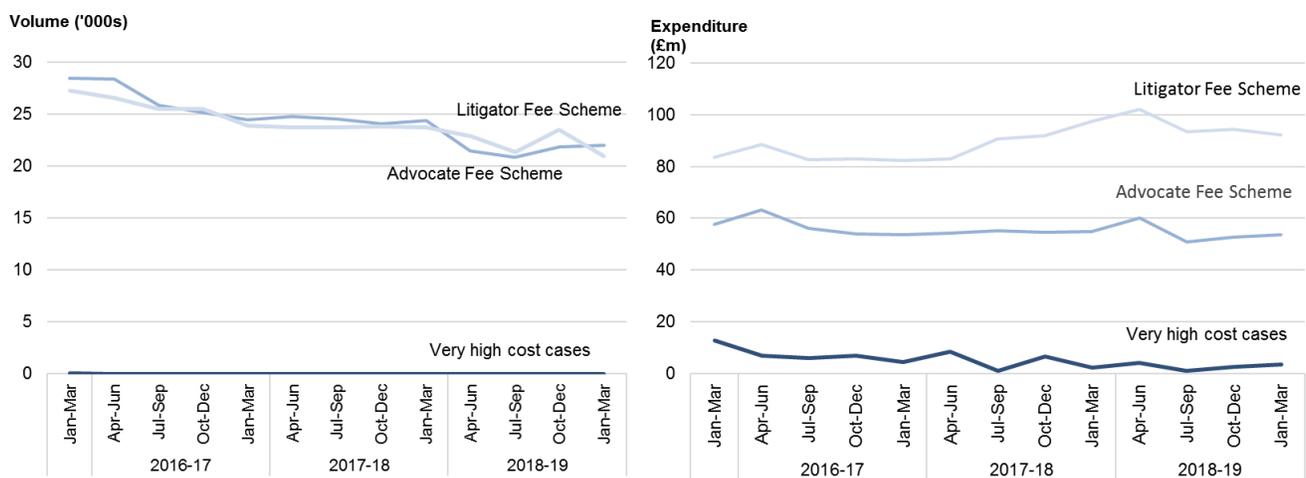
² www.gov.uk/government/collections/criminal-court-statistics

2% compared to the same period of the previous year. Figures for expenditure on work completed in the Crown Court should be interpreted with caution as they may be revised in subsequent quarters as claims are assessed further on appeal and further payments added to the value of some completed claims.

The **Very High-Cost Case (VHCC)** scheme covers those Crown Court cases which, if the case were to proceed to trial, would likely last more than 60 days. These cases can span several years and, while they may involve small numbers of defendants, the associated expenditure is high in comparison.

There were 6 defendants represented in the VHCC contracts that concluded in the January to March 2019 quarter. Expenditure on this work over the duration of the contracts (i.e. on the closed-case basis) was £3.4m. While workload comprises a tiny proportion of legal aid in the Crown Court overall, the VHCC scheme represents around 2% of the cost, although down from over 15% ten years ago.

Figure 4: Workload and expenditure in the Crown Court, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



Discretionary and legacy claims

This is legal aid in the Crown Court covering discretionary and legacy claims related to graduated fee schemes. These claims include:

- discretionary claims for costs under a Representation Order, for example litigators' claims for confiscation proceedings under the Proceeds of Crime Act, advocates' claims for committals for sentence and appeals to the Crown Court, and breaches of Crown Court orders;
- proceedings predating the various fixed fee schemes (legacy cases) or falling outside the scope of the formal schemes.

The figures in table 4.1 show a reduction in expenditure over the last few years as cases have moved out of discretionary claims into the main graduated fee schemes. Much of the remaining £9.5m of expenditure in 2018/19 relates to confiscation proceedings.

The Higher Courts: Court of Appeal and Supreme Court

Legal aid for the higher courts is expenditure paid for claims heard in the Court of Appeal, Senior Courts Costs Office and Supreme Court, and is administered by those courts and paid by the legal aid fund. The grant of legal aid is determined by the courts by an Interest of Justice test only as there are no means tests for these areas.

Figures for these areas of legal aid are shown in table 4.1. The volume figures are based only on numbers of payment transactions. In the year from April 2018 to March 2019 there were 2,625 claims from the Court of Appeal, with a value of just over £2m. For the Senior Courts Costs Office, there were 1,243 claims, with associated expenditure of just under £6m. Expenditure in the Supreme Court for this period was again just under £0.3m. Expenditure in the Supreme Court relates to a very small number of cases.

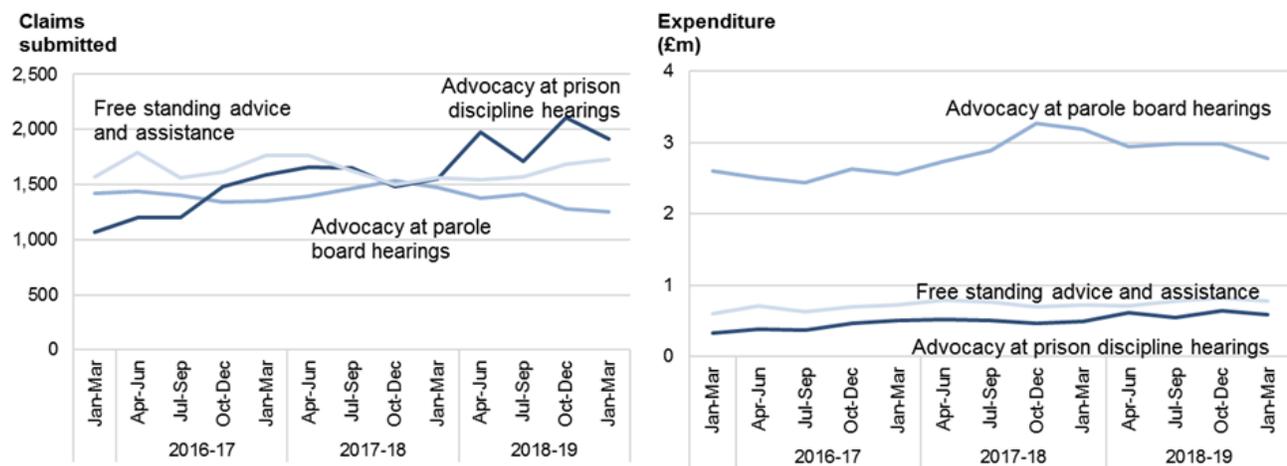
Prison Law   *Tables 2.1 and 2.2*

Workload this quarter increased by 7% compared with the same period in the previous year, driven by advocacy at prison disciplinary hearings which increased by 24% compared to last year although it has decreased by 9% since last quarter. This category makes up over one-third of prison law workload, but a much smaller proportion of costs (14%).

Advocacy at parole board hearings currently make up just over one-quarter of prison law workload, but a much larger proportion of costs (67%), so with a falling workload the expenditure on prison law overall fell by 6% over this period.

Prison law work still comprises a small portion of the volume (2%) and expenditure (2%) of total criminal legal aid work in January to March 2019; unchanged from previous years.

Figure 5: Prison Law completed workload and expenditure, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



4. Central Funds



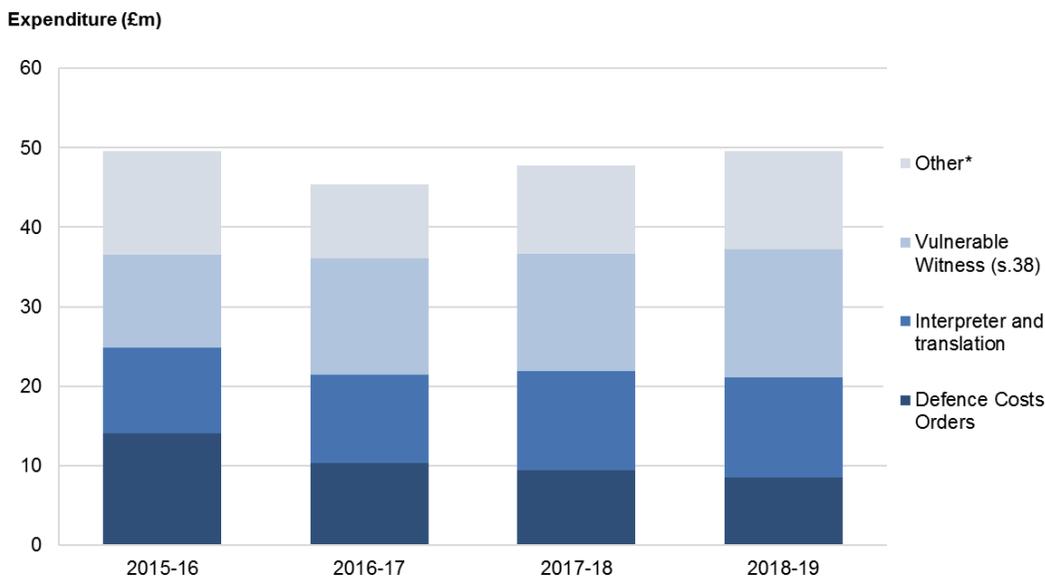
Table 10.1

In 2018-19 the total expenditure for Central Funds was just under £50m. This is 4% higher than the previous year.

This area encompasses arrangements to meet costs in a variety of scenarios that are not covered by the main criminal legal aid schemes. Some aspects of these are administered by the LAA and others by Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunals Service.

In 2018-19 the total expenditure for Central Funds was just under £50m. This is 4% higher than the previous year.

Figure 6: Central Funds expenditure, 2015-16 to 2018-19



*Other includes intermediaries, private prosecutions and costs of attending magistrates' court for witnesses, experts and defendants

A large category of expenditure (£8.4m in 2018-19) relates to the reimbursement of defendants who have been acquitted after privately funding their defence lawyers. The process for assessing and authorising reimbursement of costs from central funds in this scenario is normally triggered when a judge grants a **Defence Cost Order (DCO)** for legal aid at Magistrates, Crown or higher courts.

Another sizeable area of Central funds expenditure (£16.1m in 2018-19) covers the costs of lawyers required where a defendant is unrepresented but where the court decides that the defendant must not themselves be allowed to cross-examine a **vulnerable witness**, with cases involving domestic violence being typical. This situation is covered by the terms of section 38 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999.

The costs of **interpreters and translators** in court comprise another area of Central Funds expenditure (£12.6m in 2018-19). The remainder of Central Funds expenditure goes to meet the costs of court **intermediaries** (£7m in 2018-19) and successful **private prosecutions** (£4m in 2018-19) and towards meeting some of the reasonable **costs of attending magistrates' court** for witnesses, experts and defendants (£1.3m in 2018-19).

5. Civil legal aid



Table 1.2
and 8.1

837 applications for Exception Case Funding were received in January to March 2019.

This is 16% up on the same period of 2018; 69% of these applications were granted.

Figure 7: Civil overview, closed case volumes and expenditure for Jan - Mar 19, and comparison with Jan - Mar 18

		Category	Workload	Expenditure
Civil Workload 69,000 (2% ↑) Expenditure £185m (8% ↑)	Family 31,000 (4% ↑) £147m (11% ↑)	Family Public	22,000 (7% ↑)	£124m (13% ↑)
		Family Private	9,000 (5% ↓)	£23m (5% ↑)
		Mediation and MIAMS*	5,000 (6% ↑)	£1m (4% ↑)
	Non-Family 33,000 (↔) £36m (3% ↓)	Immigration	11,000 (3% ↑)	£11m (5% ↓)
		Mental Health	9,000 (↔)	£10m (12 ↓)
		Housing	9,000 (9% ↓)	£7m (4% ↓)
		Other Non-Family	4,000 (21% ↑)	£9m (16% ↑)

Inquests

Inquest data is available quarterly in our detailed civil data file. Legal help is available for advice and assistance in the run-up to an inquest involving a member of the individual's family – this can cover preparatory work associated with the inquest, such as submissions to the coroner setting out questions the family wishes the coroner to raise. Legal aid for representation at an inquest is only available through Exceptional Case Funding (ECF). Figure 8 below shows that inquests have been increasing in both legal help and civil representation since 2013. In the last year there has been a 22% increase in legally aided inquests compared to the same period the previous year.

Figure 8: Inquests, closed-case volumes and costs met by the LAA for 2013-14 to 2018-19

	Legal help		Civil representation	
	Volume	Value (£'000)	Volume	Value (£'000)
2013-14	88	301	3	43
2014-15	90	453	27	206
2015-16	99	386	58	516
2016-17	111	736	82	814
2017-18	139	764	80	755
2018-19	148	777	119	1,111

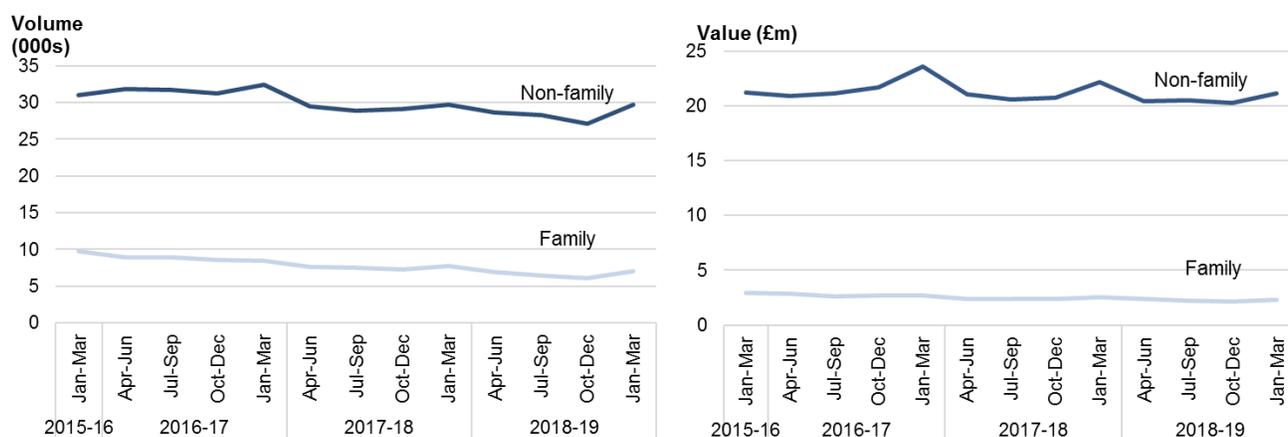
Legal help and controlled legal representation



Tables
5.1 – 5.3, 7.1-7.2

In the last quarter, there was a 9% increase in legal help new matter starts than in the same period of 2018. The volume of completed claims decreased by 2% and expenditure decreased by 5% in January to March 2019 compared to the same period in 2018 (figure 9). The implementation of the LASPO Act in April 2013 resulted in large reductions in legal help workload, with the overall trend falling to less than one-third of pre-LASPO levels.

Figure 9: Completed workload and expenditure in legal help and controlled legal representation, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



Family legal help

In January to March 2019 family legal help starts increased by 10% compared to the same quarter last year. Completed claims decreased by 10% and expenditure decreased by 7%. There was a steep decline immediately following the implementation of LASPO Act in April 2013, with a more gradual decline over the last 2 to 3 years.

In family mediation, Mediation Information and Assessment Meetings (MIAMs) increased by 9% in the last quarter compared to the previous year and currently stand at just over a third of pre-LASPO levels. Starts increased by 10% although outcomes increased by 1%, and are now sitting at around half of pre-LASPO levels.

Non-family legal help and controlled legal representation

Legal help and controlled legal representation make up over 95% of both immigration and mental health cases. Controlled legal representation relates to representation at tribunal and is often longer and more costly than legal help but, as with legal help, the decision on whether to grant legal aid is delegated to providers.

The LASPO Act 2013 made changes to the scope of legal aid for immigration law, but some areas remained in scope. Workload that remains in the immigration category consists largely of asylum-related work. Having fallen by 40% over the 5 years to 2013-14, new matter starts in immigration increased by 32% in January to March 2019 compared to the same quarter of the previous year. This increase is similar to home office asylum applications, which also increased by 32% compared to the

same period the previous year³. Completed claims in immigration increased by 3% in the last quarter compared to the previous year and expenditure decreased by 2%.

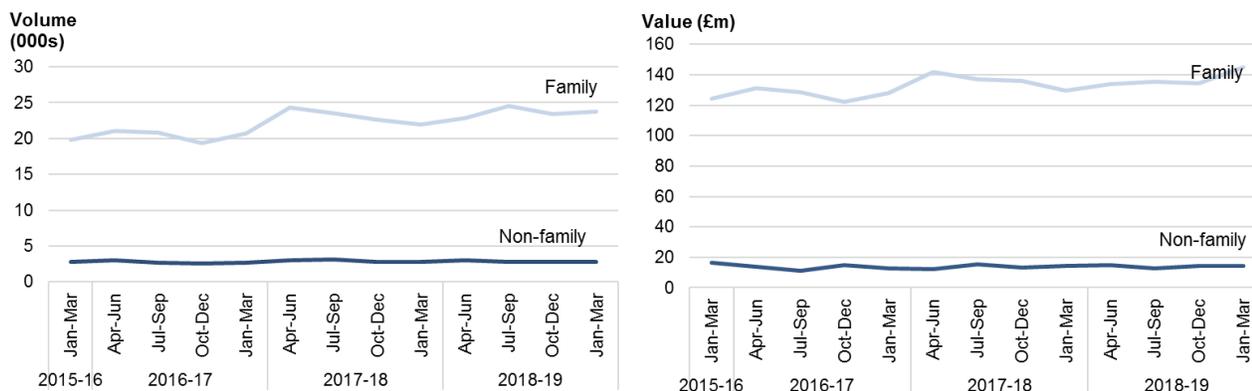
Within mental health, most funding is spent on providing assistance to sectioned clients appealing the terms of their detention before a mental health tribunal. Mental health new matter starts increased by 1% when comparing the latest quarter to the previous year. Completed claims decreased by 1% and expenditure decreased by 2% over the same period.

Over 80% of housing work volume is made up of legal help. The volume of legally-aided housing work halved between July to September 2012 and July to September 2013. The trend then fluctuated for around 18 months but since 2014 it has been falling. In January to March 2019 there was a 1% increase in housing work starts compared to the same quarter the previous year. There were decreases in completed claims (10%) and expenditure (2%).

Civil representation Tables 6.1 – 6.10

The number of civil representation certificates granted in the last quarter decreased by 6% compared to the same period of the previous year. The number of certificates completed increased by 7%, and the associated expenditure increased by 11% over the same period. Civil representation workloads fell following the implementation of the LASPO Act in April 2013 but by a smaller proportion than legal help and controlled legal representation.

Figure 10: Completed workload and expenditure in civil representation, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



Family civil representation

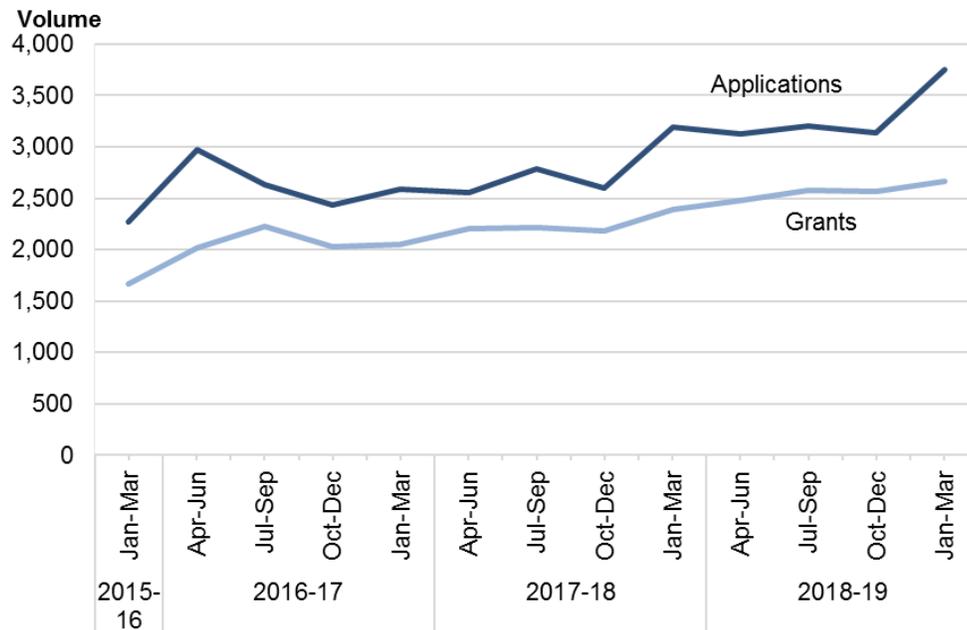
Certificates granted for family work decreased by 7% in January to March 2019 compared to the previous year. Certificates completed increased by 8% compared to the same quarter the previous year. The associated expenditure has increased by 12% compared to the same quarter the previous year.

In January to March 2019, applications for civil representation supported by evidence of domestic violence or child abuse increased by 17% compared to the same period of the previous year. The

³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803150/asylum1-mar-2019-tables.ods

number of these granted increased by 13% over the same period. The proportion of applications granted remained steady at around 70% from the inception of this type of application until the end of 2015, before increasing to around 80%. The provisional figure for the latest quarter is 77%.

Figure 11: Applications received and certificates granted via the domestic violence and child abuse gateway, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



Judicial reviews

Of all civil representation applications granted, around 3,000 a year relate to judicial review; 701 in the last quarter. The number granted in January to March 2019 decreased by 3% compared with the same quarter in 2018. Over third of judicial reviews were for public law and a third were for immigration cases.

Exceptional Case Funding (ECF)

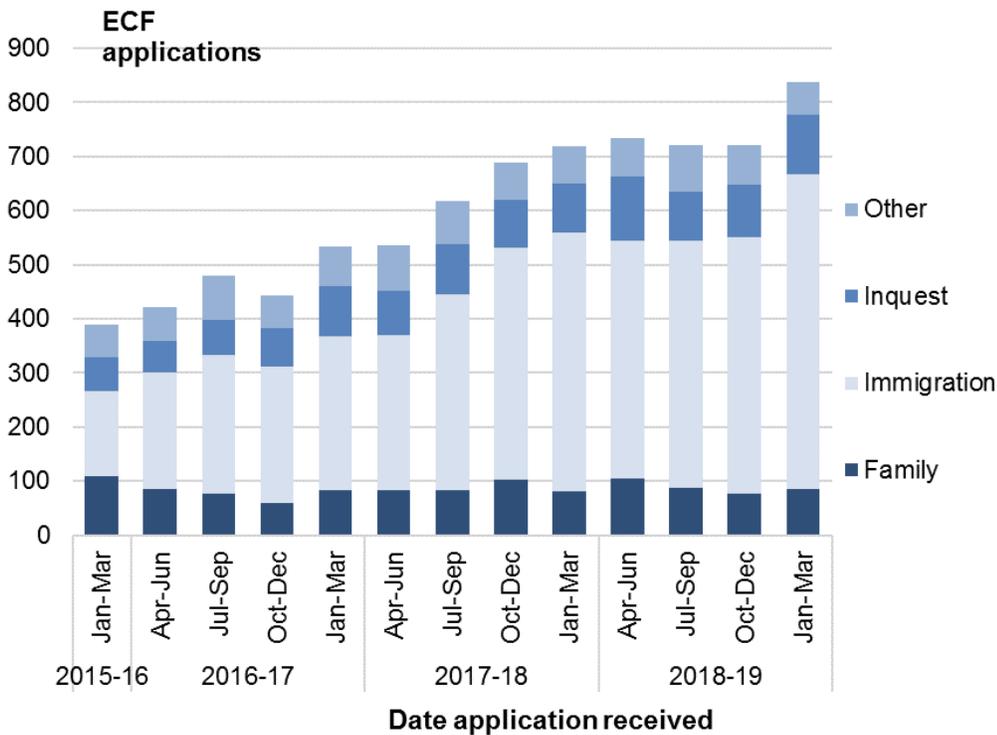


Tables
8.1 and 8.2

There were 837 applications for ECF received from January to March 2019. This is a 16% increase from the same quarter last year. 768 (92%) of these were new applications.

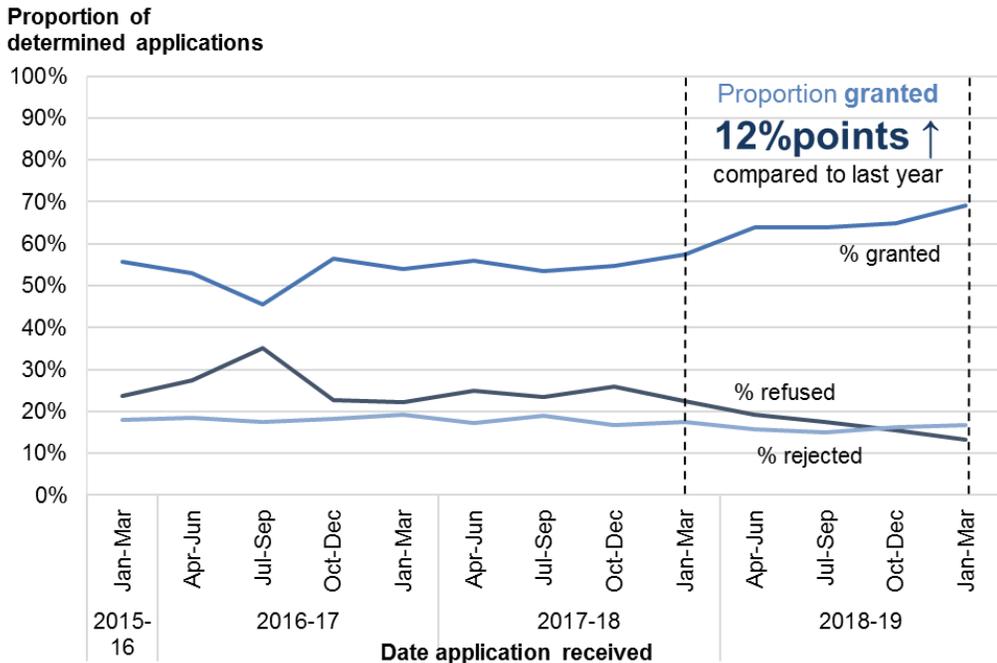
Of the 837 ECF applications received between January and March 2019, 92% (773) had been determined by the LAA as of 20 June 2019. 69% (534) of these were granted, 17% (129) were rejected and 13% (103) were refused (see figure 12).

Figure 12: Volume of ECF applications received, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



Among the ECF applications received between January and March 2019, immigration (69%), inquest (13%), and family (10%) remained the most requested categories of law. The increase in ECF applications over the last two years is driven by an increase in immigration applications.

Figure 13: Volume of ECF determinations by outcome, Jan - Mar 16 to Jan - Mar 19



6. Client diversity



Tables
11.1 – 11.5

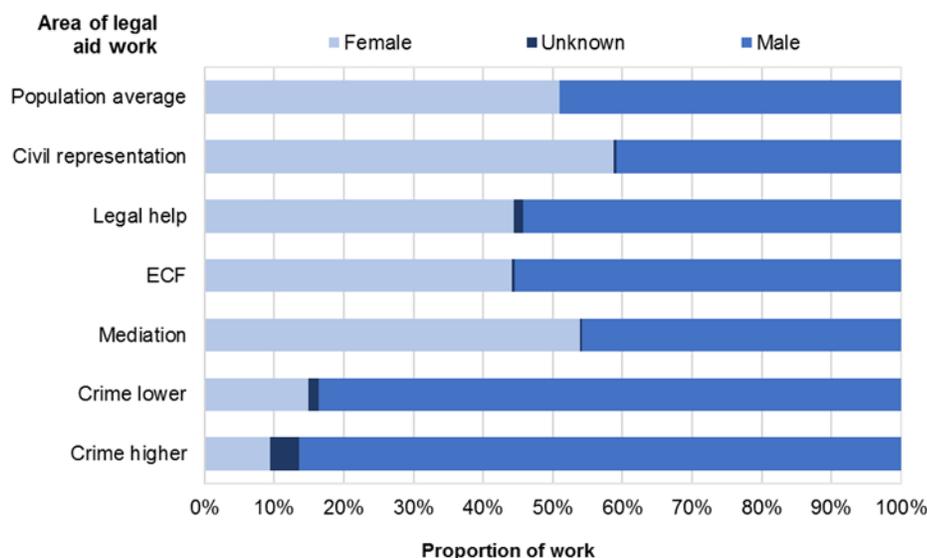
In general, the proportions of legal aid work by sex, disability status, ethnicity and age band of the client in 2018-19 are consistent with 2017-18, though existing trends in some areas have continued.

Published alongside this year-end bulletin is a diversity data file which breaks down legal aid work by the sex, disability status, ethnicity and age band of the client and, for criminal legal aid, the applicant. In this chapter this data is compared with the national breakdown from the 2011 census data from the Office for National Statistics⁴. More detail on disclosure control, methodology and data quality can be found in the User Guide to legal aid statistics. Generally speaking, the diversity of legal aid clients compared to 2017-18 is unchanged. This stability in proportions over time can be seen in table 11.1.

Sex

The profile of criminal legal aid clients in 2018-19 differs from the population average with a much greater proportion of males (Figure 14). This reflects the picture across the criminal justice system as a whole⁵ and is consistent over time. However, the proportion of females varies with the type of work being claimed for. In 2018-19, 16% of magistrates' court representation work and 15% of police station advice involved females, whereas only 3% of prison law work was for females.

Figure 14: Proportion of legal aid clients in 2018-19 by sex



The profile of civil legal aid clients in 2018-19 broadly matches the general population, though civil representation has a slightly greater proportion of female clients (59%) and Legal help slightly smaller (44%). The proportion of female legal help clients has been decreasing; down 10 percentage points since 2012-13, driven mainly by immigration where the proportion of females has decreased from one third to one quarter. Conversely, in civil representation claims, the proportion of males in the domestic violence work category has decreased from 18% in 2010-11 to 6% this year.

⁴ Unrounded estimates of the usually resident population by age and sex, along with household estimates on census day, 27 March 2011 www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/2011censuspopulationestimatesbysingleyearofageandsexforlocalauthoritiesintheunitedkingdom

⁵ MOJ, Criminal Justice statistics quarterly: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice/series/criminal-justice-statistics

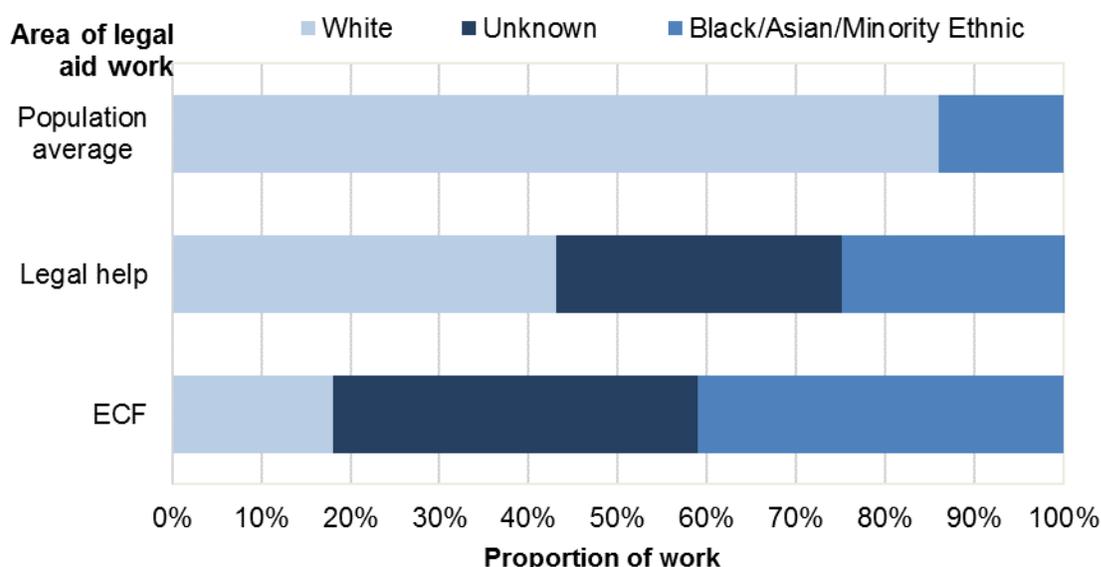
Disability

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions for most categories of legal aid on this characteristic because of the relatively high proportion of unknowns. Crime Higher has the lowest proportion of unknowns, although no detail about the type of disability is recorded, (as with crime lower). A higher proportion of legally aided Crown Court defendants have a disability (28%) than the population average (18%).

Despite the unknowns, the figures show that a higher proportion of legal help clients have disabilities than the general population. This may be partly because mental health controlled legal representation work is included within legal help. In 2018-19, two thirds of the legal help closed case mental health work claims had the client recorded as having a mental health condition.

Ethnicity

Figure 15: Proportion of legal help and ECF clients by broad ethnic category, 2018-19



It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from some of the ethnicity data because of the high proportion for which ethnicity is unknown in most areas. Nevertheless, the proportion of legal help and ECF clients reporting as Black/Asian/Minority Ethnic (BAME) is much larger than in the general population. This may reflect the fact that controlled legal representation (CLR) for immigration is included within legal help and the majority of ECF grants are for immigration work. In 2018-19 only 5% of immigration legal help/CLR work and 7% of immigration ECF grants had a White ethnicity recorded.

Age

Generally, the age profile of legal aid clients is much less evenly spread than the population average, with a higher proportion of working age clients and a smaller proportion over 55s. A much greater proportion of clients of criminal legal aid are from young adult age groups (aged 18-24 and 25-34) than in the general population. Civil representation has the greatest relative proportion of clients under the age of 18; over one third of all certificates completed this year. Within this, other public law children act proceedings and special children act proceedings both had high proportions of clients under 18; 62% and 50% respectively in 2018-19 (both increased from 2017-18). It also has the smallest proportion of clients aged 45 and above; 13% compared to 24% for legal help. The overall age profile of clients in 2018-19 is similar to previous years, although there has been a steady increase in the proportion of those under 18 in civil representation, up from 16% in 2008-09 to 38% this year.

7. Legal aid providers



Tables
9.1 – 9.4

Over the last 5 years there has been a fall in the number of provider offices completing legal aid work.

Over the past year, this fall has reversed for civil work (up 4%) driven by Legal Help providers, while for criminal work numbers have fallen (down 4%).

Legal aid services in England and Wales are delivered through solicitor firms, Not-for-profit organisations, telephone operators and barristers, most of whom are contracted by the LAA to do legal aid work. This chapter presents the number of providers who have completed work and received associated payments from the LAA in any given quarter or financial year.

A provider may consist of a large firm with several offices around the country or a single office location at which one or more individuals are based. For more information on data sources, quality and usage please see the [User guide](#) to legal aid statistics.

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 main final payment for that piece of work was authorised by the LAA, not the timing of cash transactions. Figures for a given period may include the value of work conducted in earlier periods and the expenditure represents the total legal aid fee payments for each item of completed work.

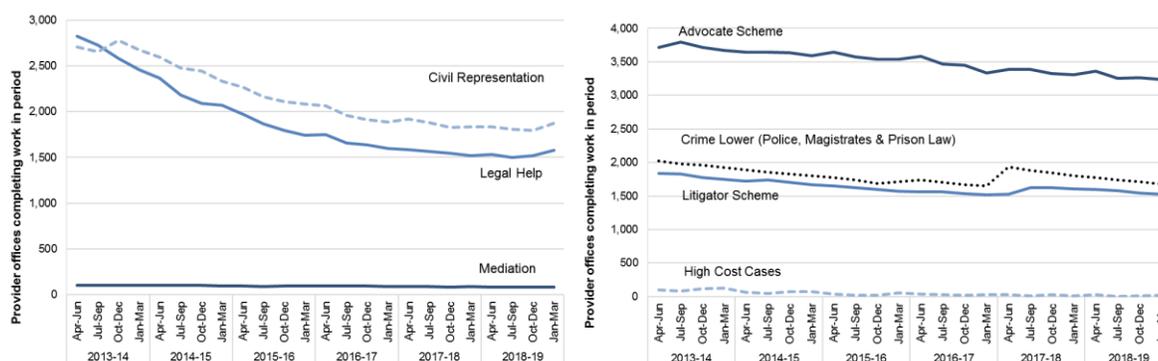
These figures are not equivalent to providers' profits, earnings or take-home pay. Figures are based on the provider office location and not the location of the client. A provider may serve clients from other geographic areas as well as that in which the office is located. As this data reflects only the location of the provider office it cannot be used as a reliable indicator of the distribution of the clients or benefits of legal aid, or to infer a precise picture of coverage of legal aid services.

Volume of providers

Across civil legal aid as a whole, the number of provider offices completing work has fallen by almost a third over the last 5 years but this fall has reversed over the latest year (up 4%). This increase is driven by legal help providers with a slight fall seen in civil representation.

For criminal work there has been a more gradual downward trend, with a 12% fall over the last 5 years. Last year's increase in criminal solicitor offices has not been continued with a fall back to previous levels.

Figure 16: Number of provider offices completing legal aid work, 2013-14 to 2018-19



8. Further information

Accompanying files

As well as this bulletin, the following products are published as part of this release:

-  • **Tables:** A set of tables, which give further detail and full time-series for each legal aid scheme.
-  • **Main Legal Aid data** and the **Detailed Civil data:** Files to enable independent analysis and further tabulation, provided in .ods (OpenDocument Spreadsheet) format.
- **'Data visualisation tool'** A web-based tool allowing the user to view and customize charts and tables based on the published statistics and utilizing the main legal aid data file.
- **Legal Aid Provider Data** and the **Diversity Data:** Annually released files to enable independent analysis and further tabulation, provided in .ods format.

Help and Documentation

-  • **'User Guide to legal aid statistics':** This provides comprehensive information about data sources and quality as well as key legislative changes.
- **Index of data in Legal aid statistics:** A guide to the data published in the .ods files, lists of available data from Legal Aid systems and guidance on how to work with the data.

National Statistics status

National Statistics status means that official statistics meet the highest standards of trustworthiness, quality and public value. All official statistics should comply with all aspects of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.



They are awarded National Statistics status following an assessment by the Authority's regulatory arm. The Authority considers whether the statistics meet the highest standards of Code compliance, including the value they add to public decisions and debate.

It is the Ministry of Justice's responsibility to maintain compliance with the standards expected for National Statistics. If we become concerned about whether these statistics are still meeting the appropriate standards, we will discuss any concerns with the Authority promptly. National Statistics status can be removed at any point when the highest standards are not maintained, and reinstated when standards are restored.

Contact

Press enquiries should be directed to the Ministry of Justice press office: Tel: 020 3334 3536 Email: newsdesk@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Other enquiries about these statistics should be directed to the Justice Statistics Analytical Services division of the Ministry of Justice:

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Alternative formats are available on request from statistics.enquiries@justice.gsi.gov.uk