



Ministry  
of Justice

## **Statistical notice**

Ad hoc statistical publication  
covering Exceptional Case  
Funding in Legal Aid Statistics

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# **Planned changes - temporary publication covering Exceptional Case Funding in Legal Aid Statistics**

## **Introduction**

1. This note is to advise users of planned changes to next year's edition of the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin 'Legal Aid Statistics', which is due to be published in June 2014 and will report on information about legal advice starts, legal representation and eventual outcomes in England and Wales
2. Users should also note an ad hoc publication will be released covering the use of the newly introduced Exceptional Case Funding. These figures have not previously been published and are provided to meet growing public interest in this area from Parliamentary questions and Freedom of Information requests. The early introduction prior to the next scheduled publication is to meet this rising demand.

## **Summary**

3. The annual bulletin presents statistics on the information collected on each legal aid scheme administered by the Legal Aid Agency. It covers the two areas of work, crime and civil, alongside timeliness, the appealing of decisions, information on providers of legal aid and lastly a view of the clients who have used legal aid in 2012/13.
4. The planned changes are to expand the data presented in this report to include the newly introduced Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) applications and determinations made.
5. An ad hoc publication detailing volumes and outcomes from ECF applications and determinations made will be released quarterly until their inclusion in the regular publication schedule.
6. A first quarterly publication providing figures for April 2013 to December 2013 will be published on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and from this

point forwards the publication will be subsumed by the annual publication.

### **Further Details**

7. The ECF Team was set up within the LAA to control ECF Applications made under Clause 10 of the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Act) from the 1 April 2013. The volume and grant rates are not currently available from other sources and are of interest to legal aid providers and representative groups.
8. An ECF determination is a determination for civil legal services for a case that falls outside the scope of legal aid where it is necessary to provide funding because failure to do so would be a breach or having regard to any risk that failure to do so would be such a breach of their Convention rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998), or any rights of the individual to the provision of legal services that are enforceable EU rights.
9. All the other statistics which appear in the annual bulletin will continue to be published in the 2013/14 edition.

## Contact details and further information

For queries, comments or further information on the issues set out in this note, please contact:

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