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|  | **Our Reference:** 83950 |   |  July 2013 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You asked for the following information from the Legal Aid Agency (LAA), an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

1. ***The total cost in 2011-12 of legal advice and assistance given to persons in the police station;***
2. ***The total number of duty solicitors and of accredited representatives.***

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

I can confirm that the department holds some of the information that you have asked for.

In relation to your first question, this information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA because it is already reasonably accessible to you. I am, however, pleased to inform you that you can access it in tables CDS1 and CDS2 of the Legal Services Commission’s (now Legal Aid Agency) Statistical Information Pack. You can view this report on the Commission’s archived web pages via the following link:

[http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121002232050/http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/strategic\_publications.asp#stats](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121002232050/http%3A//www.legalservices.gov.uk/aboutus/how/strategic_publications.asp#stats).

The pack is shown under the Documents section.

You may wish to note that further, more recent, reports can be accessed via the MoJ website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/corporate-reports/legal-services-commission>.

In relation to your second question please note that as you specified 2011-12 in your first question, we have interpreted that this is the same year for which you wish to obtain duty solicitor and accredited representative figures. If this is an incorrect interpretation please submit a further request and provide us with more information, noting the following.

The LAA holds information relating to *current* duty solicitor and accredited representative numbers, according to those registered on our databases. However, because these numbers can change on a daily basis (such as, for example, due to people leaving or joining the scheme) we do not have figures to represent a whole financial year, i.e. we could not say “in 2011-12 there were XX duty solicitors and XX accredited representatives”.

Due to there having been ‘snapshots’ taken of the databases holding information on duty solicitors and accredited representatives, we are able to provide you with figures according to our systems as of a certain date. As we believe it will be the most useful, we are providing figures as close to year-end as possible.

As there are two separate databases involved and archived versions were not stored simultaneously, I have indicated the dates of each snapshot.

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| Duty solicitors (as of 01/02/2012) | 6,384 |
| Accredited representatives (as of 26/03/12) | 3,533 |