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|  | **Our Reference:** 82033 |  | May 2013 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

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

***“Please can I have information relating to discrimination, employment and housing legal advice funded under the previous LSC schemes in Wales for the years 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13:***

***\* Casework numbers***

***\* New matter starts***

***\* Costs for both of the above and broken down for discrimination, employment and housing legal advice”***

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

I can confirm that the department holds some of the information that you have asked for. However, figures for 2012/13 have not yet been compiled, and so the requested information is held only for the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Please be advised that the FOIA does not oblige a public authority to create information to answer a request if the requested information is not held. It does not place a duty upon public authorities to answer a question unless recorded information exists. The FOIA duty is to only provide the recorded information held.

Please further note the following about the information provided below:

* In answering this request casework numbers are interpreted as the number of certificates issued for civil representation.
* Matters have been defined as being in Wales on the basis of the office of the provider who conducted the matter falling under the administration of the LAA’s Cardiff office.
* For New Matter Starts, it is possible to provide figures for Employment and Housing matters only, as no sub-classification of matters is made at the point of a matter start, which would be necessary to identify discrimination matters.
* Discrimination has not previously been a category in its own right, and those matters defined as Discrimination below may also be reported under other categories. For the legal help claims reported below 96% of the Discrimination matters were reported under the Employment category and 1 of the Discrimination certificates billed were reported under the Housing category.

Table 1 below shows the volume of certificates issued in Wales in each of the three financial years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 –

Table 1 - Civil Rep Case Starts in Wales

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Volume of Certificates Issued For Suppliers in Wales | | |
| Category | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| EMP | - | - | - |
| HOU | 228 | 206 | 187 |
| DISC | 1 | - | - |

The equivalent volumes of New Matter Starts for Employment and Housing are shown in table 2 –

Table 2 - Legal Help Matter Starts in Wales

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | NMS Total For Suppliers in Wales | | |
| Category | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| EMP | 512 | 408 | 479 |
| HOU | 7,366 | 6,159 | 6,088 |

For each of the three categories in question, table 3 below shows the volume and value of claims for civil representation in Wales for each of the three years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12 –

Table 3 - Civil Rep Claim Volumes and Values in Wales

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Volume of Certificates Billed For Suppliers in Wales | | | Value of Certificates Billed For Suppliers in Wales | | |
| Category | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| EMP | 1 | - | 1 | £1,612 | £0 | £55,844 |
| HOU | 190 | 155 | 163 | £549,754 | £340,292 | £334,433 |
| DISC | 1 | - | 1 | £661 | £0 | £20,280 |

The equivalent volumes and values for Legal Help claims are shown in table 4 below –

Table 4 - Legal Help Claim Volumes and Values in Wales

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Legal Help Claim Volume For Suppliers in Wales | | | Legal Help Claim Value For Suppliers in Wales | | |
| Category | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 |
| EMP | 498 | 414 | 409 | £120,876 | £99,598 | £108,307 |
| HOU | 6,735 | 5,514 | 5,669 | £1,359,415 | £1,146,712 | £1,211,046 |
| DISC | 173 | 109 | 101 | £42,949 | £24,807 | £26,978 |

Please also note that Payments shown include VAT and disbursements such as expenses incurred on cases which although paid by the Legal Aid Agency (LAA formerly the LSC) directly to the firm and/or contracted advocate are then paid to other parties (Experts, Non Panel Advocates etc) involved in the case.

It is not possible to ascribe value figures to New Matter Starts or Issued Certificates, as these matters may be ongoing. It is only once a matter has concluded that its value can be determined. The value figures provided in response to the third point do not therefore relate to the volumes provided under points one and two. Therefore, the volumes of closed matters that correspond to the value figures have also been provided.