

1 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200803002

Thank you for your request dated 3 August 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

I would like to submit an FOI request for the amount of civil legal aid paid to solicitors' firms for financial year 2011/12, 2012/13, 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 for the following private law family court work:

NMO / Occupancy Orders under Family Law Act 1996 Child Arrangement / Prohibited Steps / Specific Issue Orders under Children Act 1989 Financial Remedy of Divorce

The solicitors firms are: Abbey Solicitors AH Page & Co Solicitors Ahmad & Williams Solicitors ASR Advantage Solicitors Atkinson & Firth Solicitors Atkinson Reid Solicitors Battens Solicitors BDH Solicitors Beecham Peacock Solicitors Bhatia Best Solicitors Birmingham Legal Ltd Blavo & Co Solicitors Boys & Maughan Solicitors Brethertons Solicitors Butcher & Barlow Solicitors Carpenter Singh Solicitors Clark Brookes Turner Cary Solicitors Coodes Solicitors LLP Co-op Legal Services Coulson Read Lewis Solicitors Crockett & Co Solicitors Crystal Law Solicitors D & N Solicitors David Gray Solicitors LLP DS Legal Solicitors Elaine Parkes Solicitors Emery Johnson Astills Solicitors Family & Child Law Solicitors Fountains Solicitors Gans & Co Solicitors LLP Gardner Champion Solicitors Garrods Law Ltd Gough & Co Solicitors Ltd Greens Solicitors Hadaway & Hadaway Solicitors Hattens Solicitors Heaven & Company Solicitors Henry Hyams Solicitors HM & Co Solicitors Limited Holden & Co Solicitors LLP Howells Solicitors Hudgell & Partners Solicitors Iris Law Firm Jackamans Solicitors Jackson Quinn Solicitors Jacobs & Reeves Solicitors Johar & Company Solicitors John Fowlers Solicitors Jones & Duffin Solicitors LLP Kathy Webb & Co Solicitors Kennards Wells Solicitors Kyles Legal Practice Levins Solicitors Levy & Co Solicitors Lichfield Reynolds Solicitors Maria Fogg Family Law Solicitors Marsdens Rawthorns Solicitors Ltd Milton Keynes Family Law Group MKB Solicitors LLP MRP Capron Solicitors MSB Solicitors MTG Solicitors NJP Solicitors Northwood Law Practice Ltd Orion Solicitors Painters Solicitors Paton & Carpenter Solicitors Paul Dodds Solicitors Pepperells Solicitors Petherbridge Bassra Solicitors Picasso Legal PGS Law Ltd Porto Bella Solicitors Ltd Prime Solicitors Ringrose Law Group Rudlings & Wakelam Solicitors Simpson Millar Solicitors LLP Smith Dawson Solicitors Smith Partnership Solicitors Steed & Steed Solicitors LLP Stephen Mullarkey Solicitors Stephen Rimmer Solicitors LLP Sternberg Reed Solicitors Swain

& Co Solicitors LLP Switalskis Solicitors Talbots Solicitors Thackray Williams Solicitors TV Edwards Solicitors LLP Victory At Law Solicitors Wainwright & Cummins Solicitors Wards Solicitors Watkins Solicitors Watson Ramsbottom Solicitors Woodcocks Haworth & Nuttall Solicitors Woodford Wise Solicitors

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds some of the information that you have requested and I have provided it as attached. Please note that some of the firms in your list were not found in our data – this is confirmed in more detail in the attached spreadsheet. You can find a list of firms with a legal aid contract at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/directory-of-legal-aid-providers>. Firms may not be found because they do not have a legal aid contract, they are not contracted in the category of law enquired about, or because they are known by a different name from the ones you have listed.

We have interpreted your request as relating to legal aid at the ‘Civil Representation’ tier, as per your request for ‘court work’.

Please note these figures show the amount paid to law firms by way of solicitors profit costs. Disbursements (covering third party expenses) and payments for counsel fees are not included, however figures are inclusive of VAT where applicable.

Reading left to right, the table shows the first three categories enquired about, followed by the sums paid for all three combined in the last column, broken down by those firms of solicitors in England and Wales named in your request.

Outside the scope of the Act, we have noted that this is your third such request for information. In the event you intended to continue to seek this information for other/the remaining firms in the UK, it would be more straightforward to ask for this information all at once by way of a single further response, rather than in piecemeal format. If you have any questions on this point, please email InformationGovernanceLAA@justice.gov.uk, and we shall assist you as best we can.

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk
Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely
**Information Governance
Legal Aid Agency**