

2 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200804001

Thank you for your request dated 4 August in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

'I would like the following information please.

Figures on successful legal aid applications for the following areas in the years 2009/2010 and 2018/19:

1) asylum and immigration, overall figure and broken down into the following grounds a) international protection claims, b) cases involving trafficking, c) cases involving domestic violence, d) Special Immigration Appeals Commission proceedings, e) challenging immigration detention, and f) judicial review.

2) debt, overall figure and broken down into a) orders for sale of home, b) mortgage repossession, and c) involuntary bankruptcy.

3) housing, overall figure and broken down into a) homelessness, b) allocations, c) community care, d) county court duty schemes, e) accommodation for asylum seekers, repossession of rented home; f) eviction; injunctions involving harassment in the home; antisocial behaviour cases; disrepair, and g) judicial review.

4) welfare benefits, overall figure and broken down into a) appeal to upper tribunal, b) exceptional situations for claimants case to be presented effectively, c) judicial review, and d) Equality Act.

I made a recent application asking for some of these figures (200706003) and was directed to https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895049/legal-aid-statistics-civil-starts-provider-area-data-to-mar-2020.csv/preview. I am very grateful for the information but it was not broken down in the areas of law as I had hoped for - which is entirely my fault for not being clearer.

I am not just interested in the overall figures for these four areas but the different issues they are claimed for and the link above gave overall areas e.g. housing for all but family law cases. I have tried to break this down into the issue that I think qualify for legal aid so I am hoping you keep the data in this or a similar format.

If you have data broken down under areas 1 to 4 but under different headings that would also be useful to me. I have tried to be as prescriptive as possible to make it clearer what I am interested in but apologies if this is too confusing and I would be happy to clarify anything.'

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you. The information can be accessed via the following link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895033/legal-aid-statistics-detailed-civil-data-jan-mar-2020.csv This dataset provides a detailed breakdown of civil work by issues that qualify for legal aid.

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