

14 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – **200814010**

Thank you for your request dated 14 August 2020 in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

***Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with how much legal aid Duncan Lewis Solicitors received in the years: 2019/2018/2017
And how many legal aid contracts was awarded for each year.***

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 links:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/legal-aid-statistics-january-to-march-2020> – where information is published according to how much legal aid providers have been paid for cases which have completed.
- <https://www.gov.uk/topic/legal-aid-for-providers/tenders> - which details the outcomes of tenders which have been ran in these years

The above notwithstanding, outside the scope of the Act and at our discretion, we have prepared tables from this data showing legal aid payments to Duncan Lewis for the years in question, and these are included below, broken down by either civil or criminal work.

Civil Legal Aid

Note that the figures below only includes payments to the firm include of VAT, but excludes disbursements (payments made to firm on behalf of mainly experts).

Financial Year	Total closed case costs paid
2017-18	£17,675,009
2018-19	£15,895,686
2019-20	£11,381,140

Criminal Legal Aid

Please note that due to the way this information is recorded, these costs include both VAT and disbursements, where applicable.

Financial Year	Total Closed case costs paid
2017-18	£3,962,381.46
2018-19	£3,327,367.79
2019-20	£3,397,433.15

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**