

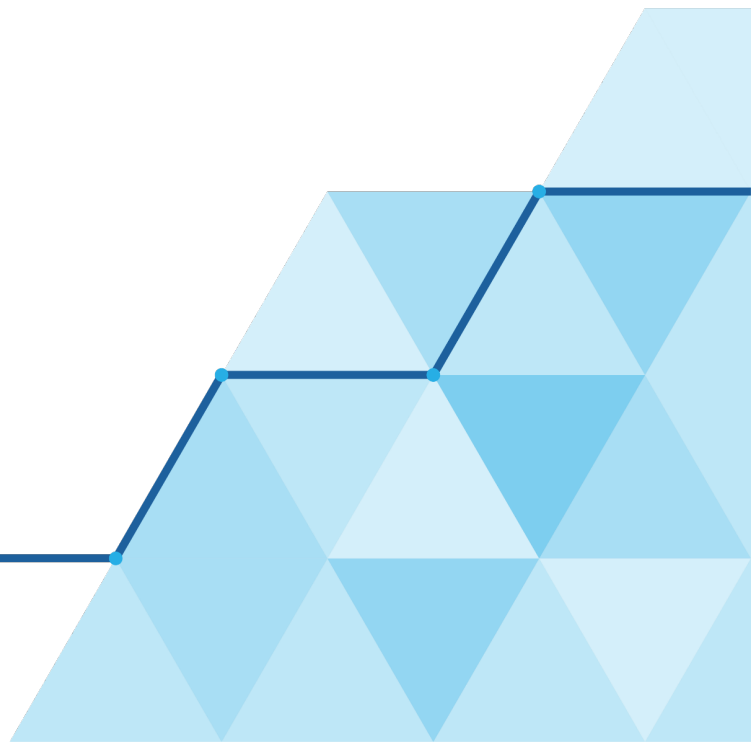


Ministry
of Justice

Review of Civil Legal Aid Data Publication Series

Housing & Debt deep dive

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Introduction

Background and purpose of this publication

1. This report is part of the Data Publication Series workstream within the Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA). The Data Publication Series is a result of two data sharing agreements, one between the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Law Society (LS) and another between the MoJ and the Bar Council (BC). The aim of these publications is to summarise key descriptive information about solicitors and barristers who do civil legal aid to inform the policy-making emerging from RoCLA.
2. More information about the review, including the Data Publications Overview Report, can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/civil-legal-aid-review>.
3. This document follows the same structure and definitions as the Overview Report, but mostly focuses on the providers who undertake housing & debt legal aid work, except where other providers are included in the tables to set the housing & debt providers in context. Housing & debt have been grouped in this publication as this aligns with the standard civil contracts.¹ While barristers are not contracted, these categories are still grouped for consistency. Over the period shown, the work in scope of debt legal aid concerns the possession of a home due to debt and so the work covered (by both solicitors and barristers) in this publication would most likely align with a category just called housing when comparing with other sources.
4. When considering data on legal aid claims, and income from those claims, for housing, it is important to note that during the Covid-19 pandemic the Government introduced a stay on possession proceedings which was a separate measure imposed to mitigate the effects of the pandemic until September 2020. Claim volumes for possessions were therefore significantly lower in the 2020-21 period.

Notes on understanding the data

5. The document is intended to provide context for policy-making and does not draw any conclusions from the data shown.
6. The intention of this publication is to describe the provider experience of doing legal aid work, so we have chosen a provider-centric view. In this publication, “provider”

¹ Standard civil contracts can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/contract-documents-for-legal-aid-providers>

means solicitor, solicitor firm, barrister, or all three, depending on the context. For instance, where multiple providers are involved in a case, then each will show the case in their reported caseload, so aggregating over the cases implied in the following tables may overstate the total number of cases. The same occurs where this publication looks at overlapping groups of providers, where there is no double-counting within groups but adding them together would cause some entities to be counted twice. This is different from other ways of presenting legal aid statistics, such as the Legal Aid Statistics Quarterly,² which are concerned with the overall system.

7. Figures presented throughout this data compendium may not add up precisely to the totals provided and percentages may not precisely reflect the absolute figures due to rounding. All counts have been rounded to the nearest 10. Counts below 10 and percentages based on counts below 10 have been suppressed and are shown as '~'. In addition, to make sure the suppressed figure cannot be derived by subtraction, secondary suppression has been applied whereby the next smallest figure has been suppressed and is also marked as '~'. There are some exceptions to this. Firstly, where the only suppressed value relates to a missing or undisclosed information category. As no sensitive information about individuals can potentially be linked to these individuals, secondary suppression is not applied. Secondly, where applying the secondary suppression would lead to too much data being omitted. In these cases, alternative approaches have been used to avoid disclosure and these are explained in the relevant tables. In some cases, additional values have also been suppressed where otherwise zeros would allow the identification of a maximum or minimum value for a reported value for the total turnover of a solicitor firm or total gross income of a barrister.
8. Where the total for a row is 0, any row-wise percentages for that row are marked as '.' to indicate that percentages cannot be calculated for this row.
9. In order to maintain readability in this report, not all the tables considered are shown here, including cases where the underlying data shows no particular trend or difference to other data already shown. However, all the tables are published in the accompanying data tables spreadsheet which can be found on Gov.UK.
10. Please also note further information about the quality of the data matching in the annexes at the end of the report, this includes further detail about the coverage and limitation of the data sources, as well as quantification of the match rates.

² Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>

Solicitor firms

Additional methodological details for solicitor firm statistics

11. In this chapter the firms considered are “active housing & debt legal aid firms”. These are firms that both submitted at least one final housing or debt bill in the year shown and held a housing or debt legal aid contract at the end of the year. This approach removes firms that were billing for work started while they held a contract but were not able to take on new legal aid work, as well as removing firms that held a contract but were billing no work. In this chapter, unless otherwise specified, only income and claims from housing & debt legal aid are shown for active housing & debt firms. Each table also shows only the income relevant to the firms in the cohort relevant to that table, so the income received by firms in years in which they were out of contract is also not included in this publication (with the exception of the initial tables in the overview section where the total income for all firms is shown for context).
12. Income from the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) is also included for this category, within controlled work. This was replaced by a scheme called the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service (HPLAS) in 2023, after the time period reported in this publication.
13. This definition of “active civil legal aid firms” allows us to create a picture of the current civil legal aid providers that are likely to be affected by future policy changes. This is in line with the intent to make this a “firm-centric” publication, which sits alongside the MoJ’s “system-centric” published statistics. Using the end-of-year timing method to identify firms which have a contract aligns with the approach used in the published statistics. The impact of this choice is demonstrated at the start of the following section.
14. There are alternative possibilities to define an “active” provider, either a firm or an office, which would highlight other features of the legal aid system. For instance, using matter starts, instead of billing, to identify when an office is “active” would highlight a view of the legal aid system which focusses on accessibility. In this case we are using billing data because we are focussed on the characteristics of a firm, such as legal aid income, and using firms (rather than offices) because this is the level at which we can report characteristics such as turnover. In some cases, firms stop taking on new work before leaving their contracts, so in these cases there would be fewer “active” firms under the starts-based definition than are shown here.

15. The income from civil legal aid work shown in the following tables includes all the income arising from the main civil legal aid schemes which is paid to solicitor firms, which is intended to align most closely to the turnover reported by firms (from the LS dataset and includes all legal aid income and private work). For this reason, VAT has been excluded from all the figures shown in this chapter,³ and disbursements (excluding VAT) are included. Total disbursements made up between 12% and 14% of the total civil legal aid fee income in each year shown. This measure of civil legal aid income includes payments from the LAA as well as the value of inter partes costs⁴ which providers report to the LAA, however further information about these costs is shown in Annex II.
16. It is worth reiterating that the coverage of the LAA data does not align perfectly with the LS data. The LAA data is on a financial year basis and as such covers the period April – March, whereas the LS data cover the period August – July with the data extracted as at July. MoJ and LS agreed the best approach to use when combining these datasets. Taking the year 2015-16 as an example, it was decided that the LAA April 2015 - March 2016 yearly file would be best aligned with the LS August 2015 – July 2016 yearly file. A key reason for this is because in the LS datasets, turnover is most likely to be reported in October as part of the annual renewal process. Thus for 2015-16, the turnover in the LS datasets would be as reported in October 2015. It was assumed that the turnover would be that of the financial year in which it was reported, which would be the same as the LAA data – April to March. However, this alignment is not exact as some providers’ financial information in the LS datasets might refer to a slightly different period of time. This might help explain some of the small time-inconsistencies between the LAA and the LS data. As a result, care must be taken when interpreting this analysis.
17. The tables describing firm composition show all active firms where the only data used is from within the LAA, but where data from the LS datashare is used then only matched firms are shown (as there is no data for the non-matched firms). The tables showing only matched firms have “matched” in the table heading.
18. Where “claims” are referred to in this section, this refers to both final bills from civil representation certificates and all controlled work claims.

³ For payments made by the LAA the VAT can be identified and removed, however VAT is not recorded on inter partes costs, so the relevant VAT rate is imputed from LAA payments on the same claim and applied to inter partes costs.

⁴ These are costs awarded by the court to a party (usually after a successful case). These costs are paid by the other party at rates agreed by the court.

Housing & debt solicitor firm overview

Key information

- Both the number of active housing & debt legal aid firms, and income from housing & debt legal aid work, decreased by around a third between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Claim volumes for housing & debt legal aid work decreased by 63% over the same period.
- Each year between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, over three quarters of active housing & debt legal aid firms were also active in another civil legal aid work area.
- In each year between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, around a third of active housing & debt legal aid firms received less than 20% of their income from civil legal aid from housing & debt legal aid work, and around a further third received 80% or more of their income from civil legal aid from housing & debt legal aid work.

Housing & debt firms in the context of all legal aid providers

19. This section looks at how housing & debt firm numbers and firm income have changed over the duration of the datashare period, within the context of legal aid providers as a whole. In this section, all active housing & debt firms and their housing & debt income are shown, not just the matched firms, to give the most accurate impression of the overall system within which firms operate. The initial two tables also show the firms which have had billing activity in the period and do not meet our definition of “active” – these are referred to as “out of contract billing firms”.
20. Tables 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 show that there was a large proportion of housing & debt firms (19% to 39% each year) that did not have a contract at the end of the year in which they billed, however they accounted for a small proportion (2% to 7%) of the total income from housing & debt legal aid for all firms.
21. For transparency, there is more detail on the composition of the “out of contract billing firms” in an annex of the accompanying spreadsheet, but otherwise the remaining tables in this publication exclude these firms. Including these firms in the tables of this publication would give the appearance of there being a larger proportion of firms completing small amounts of civil legal aid work than the “active” definition used – this choice is explained in the methodological section preceding this.

Table 1.1.1: Housing & debt legal aid firms by contract status and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
In contract billing firms	61%	70%	75%	76%	70%	70%	81%	71%
Out of contract billing firms	39%	30%	25%	24%	30%	30%	19%	29%
Total	510	420	350	340	340	350	280	280

Table 1.1.2: Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m) for housing & debt legal aid firms, by contract status and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
In contract billing firms	96%	96%	96%	96%	93%	94%	98%	96%
Out of contract billing firms	4%	4%	4%	4%	7%	6%	2%	4%
Total	£33.5	£30.3	£29.6	£29.2	£30.8	£30.5	£23.0	£22.4

22. In tables 1.1.3 to 1.1.5, “all active firms” refers to firms that both submitted at least one final bill in the year shown and held a civil legal aid contract at the end of the year in the relevant category of law. The number of claims and legal aid income reported for these firms includes all claims, and income from those claims, completed by the firm in the relevant financial year. This differs from the number of claims and legal aid income for active housing & debt firms, where only the housing & debt claims, and income from those claims, completed by the firm in the relevant financial year are reported.
23. In this section, percentages are based on unrounded values so may not reflect the rounded values seen in the tables.
24. Table 1.1.3 shows the number of active civil legal aid firms, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2021-22, 16% of active legal aid firms completed housing & debt legal aid work.
25. There has generally been a reduction in the number of active housing & debt legal aid firms over the period, with an overall decrease of 35%. This is larger than the overall decrease of 22% for all active civil legal aid firms.

Table 1.1.3: Number of active civil legal aid firms by area of civil legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Housing & debt	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200
Year on year change		-6%	-9%	-4%	-6%	3%	-7%	-12%
All active firms	1,570	1,490	1,390	1,330	1,310	1,340	1,280	1,230

26. Table 1.1.4 shows the claim volume of active civil legal aid firms, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2021-22, 14% of all civil legal aid claims completed by active firms were housing & debt claims.

27. There has generally been a reduction in the number of housing & debt legal aid claims completed over the period, with an overall decrease of 63%. This is larger than the overall decrease of 32% for all active civil legal aid firms.

Table 1.1.4: Claim volume for active civil legal aid firms by area of civil legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Housing & debt	85,380	75,560	71,720	68,460	63,920	59,670	19,610	31,820
Year on year change		-12%	-5%	-5%	-7%	-7%	-67%	62%
All active firms	331,160	279,910	273,540	272,050	264,000	266,710	198,540	224,400

28. Table 1.1.5 shows the income from civil legal aid for active civil legal aid firms, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2021-22, 4% of all income from civil legal aid for active firms was from housing & debt work.

29. There has generally been a reduction in the income from housing & debt legal aid over the period, with an overall decrease of 33%. This is in contrast to the overall increase of 4% for all income from civil legal aid for active civil legal aid firms.

Table 1.1.5: Income from civil legal aid (£m) for active firms by area of civil legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Housing & debt	£32.1	£29.1	£28.4	£28.0	£28.6	£28.7	£22.4	£21.4
Year on year change		-9%	-3%	-1%	2%	0%	-22%	-4%
All active firms	£581.7	£503.9	£503.3	£520.2	£529.8	£573.4	£522.6	£602.6

Composition of work completed by housing & debt firms

30. Table 1.1.6 shows the civil legal aid work areas that active housing & debt legal aid firms were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Each year, over three quarters of housing & debt firms were also active in another civil legal aid work area. Around half of housing & debt firms also completed family legal aid work, although this proportion decreased throughout the period.
31. In FY2021-22, the mean number of categories that an active housing & debt firm was active in was three, including housing & debt as one of those categories.

Table 1.1.6: Active contracts for active housing & debt legal aid firms, by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200
Housing & debt only	24%	22%	22%	22%	21%	22%	21%	17%
Housing & debt +	76%	78%	78%	78%	79%	78%	79%	83%
Claims against public authorities	8%	9%	9%	9%	10%	9%	9%	9%
Clinical negligence	6%	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Community care	13%	15%	15%	15%	13%	13%	13%	14%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	6%
Education	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Family	57%	55%	54%	52%	43%	44%	46%	44%
Immigration	19%	17%	16%	17%	21%	20%	20%	19%
Mental health	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%	10%
Miscellaneous and other	18%	28%	32%	39%	38%	36%	38%	45%
Public law	10%	11%	14%	15%	14%	14%	14%	15%
Welfare benefits	4%	4%	3%	4%	6%	8%	7%	10%
Mean number of active categories per firm	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Percentages are calculated using the total number of active firms in a year completing housing & debt legal aid work. Percentages will not sum to 100% due to some firms completing legal aid work in two or more categories

The “Miscellaneous and other” area of work includes consumer, employment, personal injury and miscellaneous legal aid work

For the mean number of active categories, categories are defined using the groupings seen in this table, including housing & debt as one of the categories.

32. Table 1.1.7 shows the proportion of income from civil legal aid that active housing & debt legal aid firms received from housing & debt legal aid work, by year. Most firms received either a very small or very large proportion of their income from civil legal aid from housing & debt legal aid work; around a third of housing & debt firms received less than 20% of their income from civil legal aid from housing & debt legal aid work, and around a further third received 80% or more of their income from civil legal aid from housing & debt legal aid work.

Table 1.1.7: Active housing & debt legal aid firms, by percent of income from civil legal aid through housing & debt, by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% housing & debt	41%	35%	36%	37%	34%	32%	35%	38%
20-40% housing & debt	15%	18%	15%	18%	16%	18%	18%	13%
40-60% housing & debt	9%	11%	12%	8%	11%	8%	7%	8%
60-80% housing & debt	8%	4%	5%	5%	5%	8%	8%	7%
80% and over housing & debt	27%	30%	31%	33%	34%	34%	33%	32%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200

33. Table 1.1.8 shows the split of income from housing & debt legal aid between civil representation and controlled work, for housing & debt firms, by year. A higher proportion of firms received more housing & debt income from civil representation than controlled work.

Table 1.1.8: Active housing & debt legal aid firms, by percent of income from housing & debt legal aid through civil representation or controlled work, and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% civil representation, 80% and over controlled work	17%	17%	17%	17%	25%	20%	16%	15%
20-40% civil representation, 60-80% controlled work	13%	8%	15%	11%	11%	9%	5%	13%
40-60% civil representation, 40-60% controlled work	14%	16%	12%	13%	11%	12%	9%	15%
60-80% civil representation, 20-40% controlled work	21%	23%	24%	22%	21%	18%	27%	19%
80% and over civil representation, less than 20% controlled work	34%	35%	32%	37%	33%	40%	42%	37%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200

34. Table 1.1.9 shows the split of controlled work income from housing & debt legal aid between legal help and HPCDS, for active housing & debt firms, by year. In all years, the majority of housing & debt firms received 80% or more of their controlled work income from legal help. The proportion of firms doing civil representation only increased over the period, from 6% in FY2014-15 to 18% in FY2021-22.

Table 1.1.9: Active housing & debt legal aid firms, by percent of income from housing & debt controlled work through legal help or HPCDS work, and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% legal help, 80% and over HPCDS	3%	4%	5%	6%	6%	5%	~	5%
20-40% legal help, 60-80% HPCDS	6%	6%	6%	5%	~	6%	~	~
40-60% legal help, 40-60% HPCDS	5%	4%	4%	4%	6%	~	~	~
60-80% legal help, 20-40% HPCDS	5%	5%	6%	5%	~	~	~	11%
80% and over legal help, less than 20% HPCDS	74%	69%	69%	66%	70%	68%	74%	58%
Civil representation only	6%	11%	11%	13%	8%	13%	15%	18%
Total	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200

Firm composition

Key information

- Around three quarters of active housing & debt legal aid firms had housing & debt legal aid incomes of £100k or less, in both FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.
- For around 80% of active housing & debt legal aid firms in both FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, income from housing & debt legal aid made up less than 20% of the firm's total turnover.
- There was a shift to active housing & debt legal aid firms completing fewer housing & debt claims in FY2021-22 than FY2014-15.

35. This section focuses on how the composition of active housing & debt legal aid firms has changed, by looking at the first and last year in the timeseries; FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. In these tables, the bottom row shows the total number of housing & debt legal aid firms, or total income from that category received by those firms. The columns above this then show what proportion of these totals were received by the firms in each row grouping, within the year of the spanning header.

36. Table 1.2.1 shows the proportion of active housing & debt legal aid firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by their income from housing & debt legal aid band, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. In both of these years, around three quarters of housing & debt firms had incomes from housing & debt legal aid of £100k or less. Where values are not suppressed, proportions of firms in each band were similar across the years.

Table 1.2.1: Active housing & debt legal aid firms, by income from housing & debt legal aid and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
£100k or less	76%	25%	74%	21%
£100k to £250k	17%	26%	15%	22%
£250k to £500k	~	~	5%	16%
£500k to £1m	3%	22%	~	~
£1m and over	~	~	~	~
Total	310	£32.1	200	£21.4

37. Table 1.2.2 shows the proportion of active housing & debt legal aid firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by housing & debt claim volume, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. There was a shift to firms completing fewer housing & debt claims, with a corresponding decrease in the proportion of income from housing & debt legal aid for firms doing higher numbers of claims.

Table 1.2.2: Active housing & debt legal aid firms, by housing & debt legal aid claim volume and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	14%	1%	22%	3%
11 to 50 claims	26%	7%	31%	10%
51 to 100 claims	16%	9%	13%	16%
101 to 200 claims	17%	19%	13%	13%
201 claims plus	27%	64%	20%	57%
Total	310	£32.1	200	£21.4

38. Table 1.2.3 shows the proportions of active housing & debt legal aid firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by total turnover bands, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. This table shows that there has been a shift to a larger proportion of firms having lower total turnovers.

39. In general, for lower total turnover bands, the proportion of income from housing & debt legal aid was lower than the proportion of firms in that band, whereas the opposite was true for the higher total turnover bands.

Table 1.2.3: Matched active housing & debt legal aid firms, by total turnover and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Unknown	2%	1%	2%	9%
£250k or less	24%	6%	31%	7%
£250k to £500k	12%	7%	23%	9%
£500k to £1m	20%	16%	14%	9%
£1m to £5m	30%	36%	20%	33%
£5m and over	11%	33%	9%	32%
Total	210	£20.5	130	£14.0

40. Table 1.2.4 shows the proportions of active housing & debt legal aid firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by the proportion of a firm's total turnover which came from housing & debt legal aid, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. There are

timing differences in the datasets used to calculate this proportion, which are described in the “Additional methodological details for solicitor firm statistics” section, which mean these tables should be treated with some caution, however they do show the overall shape of the changing composition of provider’s income and is the best available proxy for firms’ reliance on housing & debt legal aid income as part of their business model.

41. For around 80% of active housing & debt legal aid firms in both years, income from housing & debt legal aid made up less than 20% of the firm’s total turnover.

Table 1.2.4: Matched active housing & debt legal aid firms, by percentage of turnover as a result of housing & debt legal aid work and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	82%	66%	81%	62%
20-40%	10%	16%	~	7%
40-60%	~	5%	~	11%
60-80%	~	2%	~	10%
More than 80%	~	10%	~	2%
Firm turnover is unknown	~	1%	~	9%
Total	210	£20.5	130	£14.0

Please note that fewer than 10 firms reported a total turnover that was lower than their civil legal aid income in 2014-15 and fewer than 10 firms reported a total turnover that was lower than their civil legal aid income in 2021-22

42. Table 1.2.5 shows the proportions of active housing & debt legal aid firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by the number of partners (and partner equivalents in companies), in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. This is an alternative metric for firm size. The proportion of firms with 4 or fewer partners increased from 74% in FY2014-15 to 84% in FY2021-22. The proportion of income from housing & debt legal aid for firms with 4 or fewer partners was lower than the proportion of firms, at 54% in FY2014-15 and 63% in FY2021-22.

Table 1.2.5: Matched active housing & debt legal aid firms, by number of partners and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Very small (0-1 partner)	26%	15%	34%	23%
Small (2-4 partners)	48%	39%	50%	40%
Medium (5-25 partners)	~	40%	~	30%
Large (26 partners and over)	~	6%	~	7%
Total	210	£20.5	130	£14.0

43. Table 1.2.6 shows proportions of active housing & debt legal aid firms and income from housing & debt legal aid by region, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Please note that the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.
44. In both years, over half of firms were based in London, and this proportion has increased over the period. It is difficult to comment further on trends due to high levels of suppression in this table.

Table 1.2.6: Matched active housing & debt legal aid firms, by region and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
East Midlands	~	3%	~	2%
East of England	~	1%	~	3%
London	56%	56%	67%	63%
North East	6%	3%	~	1%
North West	8%	12%	~	4%
South East	6%	3%	~	5%
South West	~	3%	~	10%
Wales	~	1%	~	0%
West Midlands	5%	12%	~	9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	7%	5%	~	3%
Total	210	£20.5	130	£14.0

Firm joiners and leavers

Key information

- For housing & debt legal aid, there were more leaver firms than joiner firms between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.
- Between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, joiner firms tended to be smaller than leaver firms, both in terms of total turnover and number of partners.

45. This section focuses on how the composition of firms which have joined or left the housing & debt legal aid system has changed over the duration of the datashare period. Firms are classified as joiner firms in the first year that they received housing or debt legal aid payments and held a housing or debt legal aid contract in the datashare period. Firms are classified as leaver firms in the last year that they received housing & debt legal aid payments and held a housing or debt contract in the datashare period.

46. Table 1.3.1 shows firms by the number of years they were active in, between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table 1.3.1: Number of years each housing & debt firm was active between 2014-15 and 2021-22

	Number of firms
1 year	30
2-4 years	150
5-7 years	60
8 years	150
Total	380

47. Table 1.3.2 shows a summary of the number of housing & debt joiners and leavers, by year. Overall, in every year apart from FY2018-19 and FY2019-20, there were more leaver firms than joiner firms. This would be expected since the only large-scale procurement round was in FY2018-19, which explains the higher numbers of joiners in that year and the high number of leavers in the year prior. The high number of joiners in the subsequent year is due to firms who joined in the 2018 procurement but did not bill for work in the first five months of their contract so only became an “active housing & debt legal aid firm” for the purposes of this document in the following year.

Table 1.3.2: Joiner and leaver active housing & debt firms by year

	Number of firms	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Joiners	70		~	~	0	30	30	~	~
Leavers	180	20	20	20	50	20	20	30	

48. The numbers of housing & debt firms joining and leaving in each year are generally too small to break down into smaller groups, so the following tables show the firms which joined or left at any point through the period. For joiners, the characteristics shown in the below tables are the characteristics of the firm in the first year it received housing or debt legal aid payments and held a housing or debt contract, and for leavers, the characteristics of the firm in the last year it received housing or debt legal aid payments and held a housing or debt contract.
49. Table 1.3.3 shows the civil legal aid work areas that joiner housing & debt legal aid firms were active in, in the first year they were active housing & debt legal aid firms. It also shows the civil legal aid work areas that leaver housing & debt legal aid firms were active in, in the last year they were active housing & debt legal aid firms. Suppression has not been applied to this table. A higher proportion of leavers than

joiners also completed work in another work area. 30% of housing & debt joiners also completed family legal aid work, and 25% completed immigration legal aid work. Over half of housing & debt leavers also completed family legal aid work.

50. For both joiners and leavers, the mean number of categories that an active housing & debt firm was active in was two categories, including housing & debt as one of those categories.

Table 1.3.3: Active contracts for active housing & debt legal aid firms, for joiners and leavers

	Joiners	Leavers
Total	70	180
Housing & debt only	37%	28%
Housing & debt +	63%	72%
Claims against public authorities	1%	7%
Clinical negligence	1%	5%
Community care	5%	6%
Discrimination	0%	0%
Education	0%	0%
Family	30%	54%
Immigration	25%	14%
Mental health	8%	8%
Miscellaneous and other	4%	25%
Public law	3%	6%
Welfare benefits	3%	1%
Mean number of active categories per firm	2	2

Percentages are calculated using the total number of joiner and leaver firms in a year completing housing & debt legal aid work. Percentages will not sum to 100% due to some firms completing legal aid work in two or more categories

The “Miscellaneous and other” area of work includes consumer, employment, personal injury and miscellaneous legal aid work

For the mean number of active categories, categories are defined using the groupings seen in this table, including housing & debt as one of the categories.

51. Table 1.3.4 shows the proportion of housing & debt joiner and leaver firms by total turnover band. The majority of joiner firms had total turnovers of £250k or less,

whereas proportions of leaver firms were spread more evenly over the total turnover bands.

Table 1.3.4: Matched joiner and leaver active housing & debt firms by total turnover, 2014-15 to 2021-22

	Joiners	Leavers
Unknown	~	8%
£250k or less	65%	23%
£250k to £500k	18%	19%
£500k to £1m	~	14%
£1m to £5m	~	29%
£5m and over	~	7%
Total	60	150

52. Table 1.3.5 shows the proportions of housing & debt joiner and leaver firms by the number of partners. 96% of joiners had 4 or fewer partners, compared to 81% of leavers.

Table 1.3.5: Matched joiner and leaver active housing & debt firms by number of partners, 2014-15 to 2021-22

	Joiners	Leavers
Very small (0-1 partner)	58%	35%
Small (2-4 partners)	38%	46%
Medium (5-25 partners)	~	~
Large (26 partners and over)	~	~
Total	60	150

53. Table 1.3.6 shows the proportions of housing & debt joiner and leaver firms by region. The largest proportions of both joiner and leaver firms were based in London, however this proportion was larger for joiner firms than leaver firms.

Table 1.3.6: Matched joiner and leaver active housing & debt firms by region, 2014-15 to 2021-22

	Joiners	Leavers
East Midlands	0%	~
East of England	~	~
London	78%	54%
North East	0%	~
North West	~	8%
South East	~	~
South West	~	~
Wales	~	~
West Midlands	0%	~
Yorkshire and the Humber	~	8%
Total	60	150

Solicitors

54. This chapter concentrates on solicitors who worked for active housing & debt legal aid firms in the years the firm received housing & debt legal aid payments. This includes all matched solicitors in England and Wales who reported working for these firms, **regardless of whether they worked on the cases that received civil legal aid funding**, as the data does not allow for this distinction.

Solicitor composition

Key information

- The number of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms has fallen faster than the number of active firms from FY2014-15 to FY2021-22, indicating that active housing & debt firms are generally smaller at the end of the timeseries than at the start.
- The proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms aged under 35 has decreased from 28% in FY2014-15 to 23% in FY2021-22, while the proportion aged 55 and over has increased.
- However, the proportions of solicitors by years since admission to the profession show a slightly different trend, with the proportion of solicitors with under two years in the profession remaining steady between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Firms generally saw a reduction in the proportion of solicitors with between 3 and 12 years in the profession and a counter-balancing increase in higher bands.
- The majority of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms worked in firms based in London in every year over the period, rising from 50% in FY2014-15 to 75% in FY2021-22.

55. This section focuses on how the numbers and characteristics of these solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms have changed over the duration of the datashare period.
56. Table 2.1.1 shows the number of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by year. The number of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms has fallen by 45% over the period, which is greater than the 35% fall in the number of firms.

Table 2.1.1: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of solicitors	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

57. Table 2.1.2 shows the proportions of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by gender and year. Over the period, the proportion of female solicitors remained broadly consistent, and there was a decrease in the proportion of male solicitors. However, it is worth noting that there was also an increase in the proportion of solicitors whose gender is unknown.

Table 2.1.2: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by gender and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	56%	57%	56%	57%	59%	58%	57%	55%
Male	44%	43%	43%	42%	40%	41%	38%	37%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%	8%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

58. Table 2.1.3 shows the proportions of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by age and year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors aged under 35, and an increase in those aged 55 and above.

Table 2.1.3: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by age and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Under 35	28%	25%	24%	24%	23%	23%	23%	23%
35-44	30%	31%	32%	31%	32%	31%	30%	28%
45-54	22%	23%	23%	23%	22%	22%	22%	23%
55-64	15%	16%	16%	16%	17%	18%	18%	18%
65+	5%	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

59. Table 2.1.4 shows the proportions of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by ethnic group and year. Solicitors from the White ethnic group made up

two thirds of solicitors working in housing & debt legal aid firms in FY2014-15, and this proportion decreased to around half of solicitors in FY2021-22. It is worth noting that a corresponding increase is seen in the proportions of solicitors whose ethnic group is unknown, whilst proportions of all other ethnic groups have remained broadly similar.

Table 2.1.4: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by ethnic group and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Asian or Asian British	15%	15%	14%	14%	16%	16%	16%	15%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%	9%	9%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
White	66%	65%	63%	62%	55%	49%	50%	49%
Other ethnic group	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Unknown	8%	9%	12%	14%	17%	22%	21%	24%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

60. Table 2.1.5 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by years since admission to the profession and year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors with 3-7 and 8-12 years since admission to the profession, and an increase in the proportion of those with 13 years or more since admission to the profession.

Table 2.1.5: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
0-2	10%	9%	8%	9%	11%	11%	11%	10%
3-7	26%	24%	22%	20%	19%	20%	19%	19%
8-12	19%	19%	20%	19%	19%	18%	17%	15%
13-17	12%	13%	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
18-22	10%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%
23-27	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%
28 plus	15%	15%	16%	16%	15%	15%	15%	17%
Unknown	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

61. Table 2.1.6 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by position in the firm and year. In all years, just over a quarter of solicitors were partners, aside from FY2019-20 where 38% were partners.

Table 2.1.6: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by position in firm and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Other	74%	74%	72%	73%	73%	62%	74%	72%
Partners	26%	26%	28%	27%	27%	38%	26%	28%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

62. Table 2.1.7 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by region of their firm and by year. As previously mentioned, please note that the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.

63. In all years, the largest proportion of solicitors worked in firms based in London, and this increased from 50% in FY2014-15 to 75% in FY2021-22. The proportion of solicitors in other regions decreased, aside from East of England, which remained consistent at 1% across the non-suppressed years. It is worth noting that there was a decrease in the absolute numbers of solicitors working in firms based in all regions, from FY2014-15 to FY2021-22.

Table 2.1.7: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by region and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
East Midlands	5%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%
East of England	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	~
London	50%	50%	55%	54%	65%	70%	72%	75%
North East	6%	6%	6%	7%	5%	5%	5%	4%
North West	11%	12%	11%	11%	9%	9%	9%	7%
South East	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%
South West	8%	6%	6%	6%	1%	1%	1%	~
Wales	4%	5%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%
West Midlands	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Yorkshire and the Humber	8%	8%	7%	8%	9%	5%	4%	5%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

64. Table 2.1.8 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms, by their firm's number of partners and year. In FY2021-22, around two thirds of solicitors worked in firms with 5 or more partners. The proportion of solicitors working in firms with 2-4 or 26 partners or more has increased over the period, while the proportion of solicitors working in firms with 0-1 or 5-25 partners has decreased over the period.

Table 2.1.8: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by number of partners and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Very small (0-1 partner)	10%	9%	9%	5%	5%	8%	6%	5%
Small (2-4 partners)	24%	30%	26%	30%	38%	34%	36%	31%
Medium (5-25 partners)	49%	44%	42%	43%	35%	35%	34%	37%
Large (26 partners and over)	17%	17%	23%	22%	23%	23%	24%	27%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	3,210	2,920	2,840	2,850	2,170	2,090	2,060	1,760

Solicitor joiners and leavers

Key information

- The proportions of solicitors leaving housing & debt legal aid increased between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 within all age groups and years since admission to the profession groups.
- The proportion of solicitors aged under 35 who were both joiners and leavers in the same year increased between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21, while the proportion who were continuing solicitors (worked in housing & debt legal aid firms in the year prior and the subsequent year) decreased.
- In both FY2015-16 and FY2020-21, proportions of continuing solicitors (solicitors who worked in a firm doing housing & debt legal aid work in the year prior and the subsequent year) broadly increased as age, and years since admission to the profession, increased.

65. This section focuses on how the numbers and characteristics of solicitors who have joined or left the housing & debt legal aid market have changed over the duration of the datashare period.
66. Joiner solicitors are defined as having not worked for an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the previous year. This includes two types of joiner solicitors:
- New joiners, who had not previously worked in an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the datashare period;
 - Returning solicitors, who had previously worked in an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the datashare period, just not in the previous year.
67. Leaver solicitors are defined as having not worked for an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the subsequent year. This includes two types of leaver solicitors:
- Full leavers, who did not work in an active housing & debt legal aid firm again within the datashare period;
 - Temporary leavers, who went on to work in an active housing & debt legal aid firm again in the datashare period, just not in the subsequent year.
68. When a solicitor has joined or left the housing & debt legal aid market, this can be because of two reasons:
- Firstly, the firm a solicitor worked for started or stopped receiving housing or debt legal aid payments and/or started or stopped holding a housing or debt contract;
 - Secondly, the solicitor joined or left a firm which was receiving housing or debt legal aid payments.

69. This includes all matched solicitors in England and Wales who reported working for these firms, *regardless of whether they worked on the cases that received housing & debt legal aid funding*, as the data does not allow for this distinction.

Joiners and leavers timeseries

70. This section looks at solicitors joining and leaving the housing & debt legal aid market. Table 2.2.1 shows the total number of housing & debt joiner solicitors between FY2015-16 and FY2021-22, and of these, how many were returners. Returner solicitors are defined as having previously worked in an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the datashare period, just not in the previous year. Please note that there are no returner solicitors in FY2015-16 as the earliest year covered in the datashare was FY2014-15, therefore it would not be possible to be classified as a returner in FY2015-16.
71. The number of joiner solicitors has varied across this period, initially increasing in FY2016-17 then broadly decreasing over the rest of the period.

Table 2.2.1: Total number of joiner and returner solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total number of joiners	440	570	510	340	360	330	230
of whom were returners	-	50	60	30	40	40	40

72. Table 2.2.2 shows the total number of housing & debt leaver solicitors between FY2014-15 and FY2020-21, and of these, how many left temporarily. Temporary leaver solicitors are defined as having gone on to work in an active housing & debt legal aid firm again in the datashare period, just not in the subsequent year. Please note that there are no temporary leaver solicitors in FY2020-21 as the latest year covered in the datashare was FY2021-22, therefore it would not be possible to be classified as a temporary leaver in FY2020-21.
73. The number of leaver solicitors has varied across this period, decreasing over most of the period, aside from a large increase in FY2017-18. This coincides with the LAA procurement round occurring in FY2018-19. There was also a smaller increase in FY2020-21.

Table 2.2.2: Total number of leaver and temporary leaver solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total number of leavers	730	650	500	1,020	440	360	530
of whom left temporarily	80	70	30	40	20	30	-

74. Table 2.2.3 shows the proportion of joiners by the reason they were considered as housing & debt joiners, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. As mentioned at the start of this section, a solicitor could be considered a joiner for one of two reasons; firstly, the firm a solicitor worked for became an active housing & debt legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor joined an active housing & debt legal aid firm.
75. This table shows that the large majority of solicitors were classified as joiners because the solicitor joined a firm completing housing & debt legal aid claims, although this proportion varied throughout the period.

Table 2.2.3: Joiner solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by the reason they were considered as joiners, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Firm started being an active housing & debt legal aid firm	4%	31%	10%	19%	23%	7%	8%
Solicitor joined active housing & debt legal aid firm	96%	69%	90%	81%	77%	93%	92%
Total	440	570	510	340	360	330	230

76. Table 2.2.4 shows the proportion of housing & debt leavers by the reason they were considered as leavers, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. As mentioned at the start of this section, a solicitor could be considered a leaver for one of two reasons; firstly, the firm a solicitor worked for stopped being an active housing & debt legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor left an active housing & debt legal aid firm.
77. This table shows that in most years, the majority of solicitors were classified as leavers because the solicitor left a firm completing housing & debt legal aid work. The exception to this was FY2017-18, coinciding with the LAA procurement round the next year, where 64% of leaver solicitors were leavers because their firm stopped completing housing & debt legal aid work.

Table 2.2.4: Leaver solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by the reason they were considered as leavers, by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Firm stopped being an active housing & debt legal aid firm	29%	37%	19%	64%	38%	26%	37%
Solicitor left active housing & debt legal aid firm	71%	63%	81%	36%	62%	74%	63%
Total	730	650	500	1,020	440	360	530

78. Table 2.2.5 shows the proportions of housing & debt joiner solicitors by gender, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. The largest proportion of joiner solicitors were female in all years aside from FY2021-22. It is worth noting that the proportion of solicitors whose gender is unknown was higher in FY2020-21 and FY2021-22 than in FY2015-16, making it hard to comment further on trends.

Table 2.2.5: Joiner solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	65%	58%	64%	62%	63%	52%	34%
Male	35%	41%	35%	37%	35%	25%	26%
Unknown	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	24%	40%
Total	440	570	510	340	360	330	230

79. Table 2.2.6 shows the proportions of housing & debt leaver solicitors by gender, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. The largest proportion of leaver solicitors in all years were female. This proportion varied over the period, with no clear trends.

Table 2.2.6: Leaver solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by gender and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Female	59%	59%	61%	55%	67%	57%	55%
Male	41%	41%	39%	44%	33%	43%	37%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	7%
Total	730	650	500	1,020	440	360	530

80. Table 2.2.7 shows the proportion of housing & debt joiner solicitors by age, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. In each year, between 39% and 56% of joiners were aged under 35. Proportions have varied across years, with no clear trends over time.

Table 2.2.7: Joiner solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by age and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Under 35	45%	39%	46%	45%	42%	46%	56%
35-44	26%	31%	25%	31%	27%	26%	20%
45-54	20%	17%	16%	12%	18%	19%	13%
55-64	~	9%	9%	~	~	~	~
65+	~	3%	3%	~	~	~	~
Total	440	570	510	340	360	330	230

81. Table 2.2.8 shows the proportions of housing & debt leaver solicitors by age, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. In each year, between 26% and 36% of leavers were aged under 35. The proportion of leaver solicitors aged under 35 has broadly decreased over the period, and the proportion of leaver solicitors aged 45 and over has broadly increased.

Table 2.2.8: Leaver solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by age and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Under 35	36%	33%	28%	26%	26%	27%	30%
35-44	30%	33%	34%	31%	34%	31%	30%
45-54	17%	16%	18%	21%	22%	21%	20%
55-64	12%	14%	13%	15%	13%	14%	14%
65+	5%	4%	7%	7%	4%	7%	6%
Total	730	650	500	1,020	440	360	530

82. Table 2.2.9 shows the proportions of housing & debt joiner solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. The proportion of joiner solicitors with 0-2 years since admission to the profession has broadly increased over the period.

Table 2.2.9: Joiner solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
0-2	30%	23%	30%	34%	33%	32%	38%
3-7	20%	20%	17%	17%	16%	14%	19%
8-12	15%	20%	13%	13%	16%	13%	8%
13-17	10%	10%	11%	9%	12%	8%	11%
18-22	6%	7%	6%	7%	8%	7%	6%
23-27	5%	4%	6%	5%	3%	5%	~
28 plus	6%	9%	8%	5%	4%	4%	~
Unknown	7%	7%	9%	10%	9%	17%	10%
Total	440	570	510	340	360	330	230

83. Table 2.2.10 shows the proportions of housing & debt leaver solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. Proportions have varied over the period, with a broad decrease in the proportion of leaver solicitors with 3-7 years since admission and a broad increase in the proportion of leaver solicitors with 13-17 years since admission.

Table 2.2.10: Leaver solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
0-2	13%	11%	15%	9%	11%	17%	15%
3-7	31%	32%	23%	22%	22%	24%	21%
8-12	18%	20%	21%	18%	21%	16%	18%
13-17	10%	12%	13%	14%	15%	16%	14%
18-22	7%	7%	7%	10%	10%	9%	8%
23-27	5%	5%	4%	8%	7%	5%	7%
28 plus	12%	12%	14%	17%	12%	11%	10%
Unknown	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	6%
Total	730	650	500	1,020	440	360	530

84. Table 2.2.11 shows the proportion of housing & debt joiner solicitors by region of their firm, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. As previously mentioned, please note that

the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.

85. In all years, the largest proportion of joiner solicitors' firms were located in London, and this proportion broadly increased over the period. The proportion of joiner solicitors with firms based in the North West broadly decreased. The proportions of joiner solicitors in other regions varied across the period with no clear trends, and high levels of suppression in this table make it difficult to further comment on trends for many regions.

Table 2.2.11: Joiner solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by region and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
East Midlands	4%	4%	4%	~	3%	3%	~
East of England	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
London	58%	66%	49%	69%	77%	71%	77%
North East	5%	5%	14%	5%	3%	5%	~
North West	11%	7%	11%	9%	6%	8%	8%
South East	5%	3%	2%	4%	~	~	~
South West	~	4%	5%	~	~	~	0%
Wales	4%	~	2%	~	~	~	~
West Midlands	4%	~	~	~	~	4%	~
Yorkshire and the Humber	4%	8%	10%	7%	5%	3%	5%
Unknown	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	440	570	510	340	360	330	230

86. Table 2.2.12 shows the proportion of housing & debt leaver solicitors by region of their firm, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. As previously mentioned, please note that the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.

87. In all years, the largest proportion of leaver solicitors' firms were located in London. The proportions of leaver solicitors in each region varied across the period, with no consistent trends over time.

Table 2.2.12: Leaver solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by region and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
East Midlands	6%	~	5%	5%	6%	4%	2%
East of England	~	~	3%	~	~	~	~
London	51%	47%	52%	35%	51%	63%	63%
North East	4%	4%	9%	12%	3%	3%	8%
North West	7%	11%	9%	15%	8%	8%	15%
South East	3%	4%	10%	4%	2%	6%	2%
South West	13%	3%	5%	16%	2%	~	~
Wales	~	12%	~	5%	~	~	2%
West Midlands	5%	7%	~	~	0%	~	4%
Yorkshire and the Humber	8%	8%	4%	7%	24%	10%	2%
Total	730	650	500	1,020	440	360	530

Joining and leaving rates

88. This section presents an alternative view of housing & debt joiner and leaver solicitors, by looking at the joining and leaving rates of solicitors who worked for an active housing & debt legal aid firm, as a proportion of those sharing a characteristic. This section reports this by age and years since admission into the profession, as these metrics are particularly important for understanding dynamics in the workforce.
89. Each table reports the “continuation status” of solicitors, which is split into four categories:
- Joiner solicitors: solicitors who worked for active housing & debt legal aid firms in the given and subsequent year, but did not work for an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the prior year.
 - Joiner and leaver solicitors: solicitors who worked for active housing & debt legal aid firms in the given year, but did not work for such a firm in the prior and subsequent year.
 - Leaver solicitors: solicitors who worked for active housing & debt legal aid firms in the prior and given year, but did not work for an active housing & debt legal aid firm in the subsequent year.
 - Continuing solicitors: solicitors who worked for active housing & debt legal aid firms in the prior, given and subsequent year.
90. Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 show the proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, within each age band, in

FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. Proportions of continuing solicitors decreased between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 for all age groups aside from 55-64. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors aged under 35 were joiners, compared to other unsuppressed age groups. Additionally, in both years, as age increased, the proportion of continuing solicitors broadly increased.

91. Proportions of leaver solicitors (including those who were both joiners and leavers) increased slightly between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 for all age groups.

Table 2.3.1: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by age and continuation status, 2015-16

	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Joiner solicitors	17%	9%	10%	5%	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	9%	4%	3%	2%	~
Leaver solicitors	20%	19%	12%	17%	17%
Continuing solicitors	54%	68%	75%	75%	77%
Total	740	900	670	470	140

Table 2.3.2: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by age and continuation status, 2020-21

	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown
Joiner solicitors	17%	10%	9%	~	~	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	14%	4%	5%	~	~	0%
Leaver solicitors	20%	22%	18%	18%	23%	0%
Continuing solicitors	49%	65%	68%	75%	73%	~
Total	470	620	460	360	140	~

92. Tables 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 show the proportion of solicitors working in active housing & debt legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, by years since admission to the profession, in FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors with 0-2 years since admission to the profession were joiners, compared to other years since admission to the profession bands. Additionally, in both years, as years since admission to the profession increased, the proportion of continuing solicitors broadly increased.
93. Proportions of continuing solicitors decreased between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 for all years since admission to the profession bands aside from 3-7 and 28 plus years since admission to the profession. Proportions of leaver solicitors increased

slightly between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 in all years since admission to the profession bands aside from those with 3-7 years since admission to the profession.

Table 2.3.3: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and continuation status, 2015-16

	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 plus	Unknown
Joiner solicitors	31%	8%	8%	7%	~	~	~	54%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	16%	5%	4%	4%	~	~	~	32%
Leaver solicitors	10%	25%	20%	16%	12%	13%	16%	~
Continuing solicitors	43%	62%	68%	73%	79%	77%	78%	~
Total	280	690	560	380	310	220	440	40

Table 2.3.4: Solicitors working in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and continuation status, 2020-21

	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 plus	Unknown
Joiner solicitors	28%	7%	8%	~	~	~	~	42%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	20%	4%	4%	~	~	~	~	44%
Leaver solicitors	16%	25%	24%	23%	15%	17%	17%	~
Continuing solicitors	36%	63%	63%	69%	74%	75%	79%	~
Total	220	380	350	310	230	190	310	60

Barristers

Additional methodological details for barrister statistics

94. The barrister data presented here should be read with the data limitations noted in the introduction in mind, as well as the issues specific to this chapter noted here.
95. There are two metrics for barrister income shown in this chapter: “gross civil legal aid fee income” and “self-reported total gross income”. The former of these is the payments, exclusive of VAT, from the LAA to matched barristers on a closed case basis,⁵ and includes disbursements (such as travel expenses). Disbursement data can only be identified on cases recorded on a new case management and payment system, which was made mandatory for cases started after 1st April 2016, and so cannot be removed from all cases across the timeseries shown here. In cases where disbursements can be identified they amount to less than 1% of the total fees, so the decision was taken to maintain consistency, but note these slightly overstate income. These fees also do not include inter partes costs (where the court awards these to be paid by an opposing party) as we cannot identify which barrister received these payments in our data. Generally, in areas other than family and tribunal work, inter partes costs can be considerable. Furthermore, the gross civil legal aid fee income is civil representation work only because only work billed by barristers who are directly paid by the LAA is able to be matched. This is because the matching process requires the name of the barrister to be recorded on both LAA and BC systems, and this is not possible with controlled work.
96. Where “housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income” is mentioned, this only refers to income that barristers have received from housing & debt legal aid work, and not income from legal aid work in other categories of law.
97. The second metric, “self-reported total gross income”, is what barristers report to the BC at the end of each financial year and includes their income from both legal aid and private practice for the prior calendar year. This also excludes VAT, however, it is on an accruals basis so will include interim payments of legal aid fees rather than the closed case basis. The two metrics are therefore not directly comparable due to timing differences. In many instances the closed case basis will average out to the

⁵ The whole value of payments made during a case are allocated to the year in which the case finishes. This is consistent with how legal aid expenditure is reported in the Quarterly Legal Aid Statistics, which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>

same as the self-reported value but for other barristers, such as where a barrister does a small number of high-value cases, then larger differences may arise.

98. Barristers also self-report the proportion of their income which comes from legal aid. This metric is reported here, instead of computing the ratio of gross civil legal aid fee income and self-reported total gross income because of the timing issues described above. This metric includes all legal aid income, including criminal as well as civil, which cannot be distinguished so should be treated with caution.
99. This publication looks at self-employed barristers, which make up around 80% of all barristers.⁶ As these barristers are self-employed, the income reported here should not be considered directly comparable to a salary. On top of the additional costs that arise in all self-employment (such as professional insurance, pension savings and provision for periods of leave), barristers additionally pay the costs of their chambers, which the Criminal Legal Aid Review estimated as an average of 29% of gross income for criminal barristers.⁷
100. In this chapter, the first section shows all barristers, and the subsequent sections show all barristers completing housing & debt legal aid cases. This approach first provides context on the work being undertaken by these barristers and then provides the reader a sense of what it is like to undertake work of this nature.
101. Each barrister characteristic includes a chart which displays a comparison of civil legal aid fee distributions for each of the groups in that characteristic. Here a dot represents 10 barristers⁸ and is placed at the average fee value of those barristers. While the dots give a direct illustration of the number of barristers in each characteristic and their distribution, a box is also shown as a guide for the eye. The box contains the middle half of barristers, with the left end being the lower quartile, the line contained by the box being the median civil legal aid fee income, and the higher end of the box being the upper quartile.
102. For further information on the suppression strategy and symbols used in this chapter, please refer to the notes on understanding the data at the beginning of this publication.

⁶ Derived from <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/statistics-about-the-bar/practising-barristers.html>. Accessed 9th May 2024.

⁷ Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-criminal-legal-aid>. Accessed 9th May 2024.

⁸ Except one dot per group in the lower quartile which represents up to 19 if the number of barristers is not equally divisibly by 10.

Additional sources of information

103. This chapter covers information from the datashare, including information on the characteristics and practising details for barristers who completed civil legal aid work. Further information on the barrister population as a whole is produced by the BC,⁹ and information about wider trends in civil legal aid outside of barristers can be found in the solicitor section of this publication, and in the Quarterly Legal Aid Statistics.¹⁰

Barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work in context

Key information

- The number of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid cases decreased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, along with their housing & debt legal aid case volumes and housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.
- In each year, around half of housing & debt legal aid barristers also did civil legal aid work in another area of civil legal aid. This proportion has increased from 48% in FY2015-16 to 55% in FY2022-23.
- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, the majority of housing & debt barristers received over 80% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from housing & debt work.

104. Tables 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 show the number of barristers, case volume and gross civil legal aid fee income for housing & debt legal aid, as well as for other civil legal aid and all civil legal aid. In these tables, “Other civil legal aid” refers to non-family legal aid categories (including housing & debt), and “All civil legal aid” refers to all civil legal aid categories.

105. In this section, percentages are based on unrounded values so may not reflect the rounded values seen in the tables.

106. Table 3.1.1 shows the number of civil legal aid barristers, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, housing & debt legal aid barristers made up 10% of all civil legal aid barristers.

107. There has generally been a reduction in the number of housing & debt legal aid barristers over the period, with an overall decrease of 32%. This is larger than the

⁹ Statistics on the barrister population as a whole can be found at <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/policy-representation/dashboards/demographics-dashboard.html>

¹⁰ The Quarterly Legal Aid Statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>

overall decrease of 11% for other civil legal aid barristers, and in contrast to the overall increase of 16% for all civil legal aid barristers.

Table 3.1.1: Number of barristers by area of civil legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Housing & debt legal aid	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440
Other civil legal aid	1,390	1,270	1,220	1,260	1,270	1,040	1,160	1,240
All civil legal aid	3,930	3,840	3,920	4,080	4,230	3,820	4,290	4,560

108. Table 3.1.2 shows the case volume of civil legal aid barristers, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, 3% of civil legal aid cases completed were housing & debt cases.

109. There has generally been a reduction in the number of housing & debt legal aid cases completed by barristers over the period, with an overall decrease of 45%. This is larger than the overall decrease of 1% for other civil legal aid barrister cases, and in contrast to the overall increase of 40% for all civil legal aid barrister cases.

Table 3.1.2: Barrister case volume by area of civil legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Housing & debt legal aid	4,770	4,310	4,060	4,160	4,380	3,150	2,360	2,620
Other civil legal aid	7,740	7,370	7,520	8,040	8,560	7,450	6,950	7,660
All civil legal aid	69,800	69,870	79,210	82,770	88,900	76,990	80,810	97,530

110. Table 3.1.3 shows the gross civil legal aid fee income of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid cases, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, around 1% of all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers was from housing & debt legal aid work.

111. There has generally been a reduction in the gross civil legal aid fee income from housing & debt legal aid cases for barristers, with an overall decrease of 43%. This is in contrast to the overall increase of 13% for gross civil legal aid fee income for other civil legal aid cases for barristers, and the overall increase of 75% for all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers.

Table 3.1.3: Gross civil legal aid fee income (£m) by area of civil legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Housing & debt legal aid	£4.3	£3.7	£3.4	£3.6	£3.5	£2.7	£2.3	£2.4
Other civil legal aid	£12.2	£11.8	£11.1	£11.6	£12.7	£10.8	£11.9	£13.8
All civil legal aid	£105.2	£104.4	£113.3	£115.4	£133.4	£128.7	£142.5	£183.9

112. Table 3.1.4 shows the civil legal aid work areas that housing & debt legal aid barristers were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. In each year, around half of housing & debt legal aid barristers also did civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category. This proportion has increased from 48% in FY2015-16 to 55% in FY2022-23.

113. In FY2022-23, 22% of housing & debt barristers also completed family legal aid work, which is a decrease from 32% in FY2015-16.

Table 3.1.4: Areas of legal aid work for barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440
Housing & debt only	52%	49%	48%	48%	47%	47%	47%	45%
Housing & debt +	48%	51%	52%	52%	53%	53%	53%	55%
Claims against public authorities	2%	3%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	5%
Clinical negligence	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Community care	7%	8%	9%	9%	11%	11%	10%	10%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Education	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Family	32%	31%	28%	26%	26%	22%	18%	22%
Immigration	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Mental health	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	5%	7%	6%
Miscellaneous and other	11%	14%	20%	22%	20%	24%	26%	24%
Public law	9%	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	9%	12%
Welfare benefits	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Percentages are calculated using the total number of barristers in a year completing housing & debt legal aid work. Percentages will not sum to 100% due to some barristers completing legal aid work in two or more categories

The “Miscellaneous and other” area of legal aid work includes consumer, employment, personal injury and miscellaneous legal aid work

114. Table 3.1.5 shows the proportion of gross civil legal aid fee income that housing & debt legal aid barristers received from housing & debt legal aid work, by year. Most barristers received either a very small or very large proportion of their gross civil legal aid fee income from housing & debt legal aid work; just under two thirds of barristers received over 80% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from housing & debt work, and around a further fifth received less than 20% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from housing & debt work.

Table 3.1.5: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work, by proportion of gross civil legal aid income from housing & debt legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	21%	19%	21%	18%	20%	16%	15%	19%
20-40%	5%	6%	5%	6%	6%	5%	5%	8%
40-60%	5%	6%	5%	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%
60-80%	7%	7%	6%	8%	7%	8%	9%	8%
80% and over	62%	61%	63%	63%	63%	66%	64%	61%
Gross civil legal aid income is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

Housing & debt barristers

Overview

Key information

- Between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, the majority of housing & debt barristers did small amounts of housing & debt legal aid work, receiving under £5,000 or completing 2 or fewer cases annually.
- In any particular year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, between 18% and 29% of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work in that year completed housing & debt legal aid work in all eight of the years examined. This suggests that although there is a cohort of barristers who do housing & debt legal aid as a regular part of their practice, most barristers are not in this cohort.
- Each year since FY2020-21, between 10% and 12% of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work received at least 80% of their income from legal aid, while around a third reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income.

115. This section relates to barristers who have completed housing & debt legal aid work. The gross civil legal aid fee income discussed in this section only includes fees from housing & debt legal aid work and not fees from other legal aid work.

116. Table 4.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income and financial year. In each year, just over 70% of barristers had housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,000 or less. Around a further quarter of barristers had housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,001 to £30,000.

Table 4.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income bands and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
£5,000 and less	72%	73%	74%	71%	72%	72%	70%	72%
£5,001 to £30,000	22%	21%	20%	24%	22%	24%	27%	25%
£30,001 to £60,000	4%	~	5%	5%	4%	4%	~	3%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
£90,001 to £150,000	~	0%	~	~	0%	~	~	0%
£150,001 and over	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	~
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

117. Table 4.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by their self-reported total gross income band and by financial year. The proportion of barristers with a self-reported total gross income of £30,001 to £90,000 has decreased over time, whereas the proportion of barristers with a self-reported total gross income of £150,001 and over has increased.

118. Comparing tables 4.1.1 and 4.1.2, for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work, a higher proportion had self-reported total gross incomes of £30,001 and over, compared to the proportion who had housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £30,001 and over. This difference would indicate that many housing & debt barristers received income in addition to housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.

Table 4.1.2: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by self-reported gross income bands and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
£30,000 and less	10%	11%	12%	8%	10%	10%	14%	11%
£30,001 to £60,000	24%	20%	18%	16%	17%	23%	18%	14%
£60,001 to £90,000	23%	23%	24%	20%	22%	21%	13%	17%
£90,001 to £150,000	25%	24%	28%	31%	27%	23%	24%	24%
£150,001 to £240,000	13%	13%	10%	12%	13%	13%	15%	17%
£240,001 and over	3%	5%	4%	5%	6%	4%	8%	10%
Unknown	2%	4%	5%	8%	5%	6%	8%	8%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

119. Table 4.1.3 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by the self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and by financial year. Around a third of housing & debt barristers reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income, while around a tenth of housing & debt barristers reported that legal aid made up at least 80% of their income. Note that it was not possible to identify the proportion of income from legal aid for a large proportion of barristers.

Table 4.1.3: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and year

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	35%	33%	32%
20-40%	10%	9%	6%
40-60%	8%	8%	8%
60-80%	9%	7%	9%
80% and over	10%	12%	11%
Unknown	28%	31%	34%
Total	410	400	440

The unknown category includes barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was 0 or missing

120. Table 4.1.4 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by housing & debt legal aid case volume and by financial year. In all years, over half of barristers completed 1 to 2 housing & debt cases. Around a further third of barristers completed 3 to 15 housing & debt cases.

Table 4.1.4: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by volume of housing & debt cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	57%	57%	58%	57%	57%	51%	55%	60%
3 to 15 cases	30%	30%	30%	30%	29%	35%	34%	30%
16 to 30 cases	6%	7%	5%	6%	6%	9%	7%	7%
31 to 45 cases	2%	3%	3%	5%	4%	~	~	~
46 cases plus	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	~	~	~
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

121. Table 4.1.5 shows the median gross civil legal aid fee income from housing and debt work for housing and debt barristers, by housing & debt legal aid case volume and year. Table 4.1.4 shows that in FY2022-23, 60% of housing and debt barristers completed 1 to 2 housing and debt cases. For these barristers, the median housing and debt gross civil legal aid fee income was broadly flat over the period and was £700 in FY2022-23.

Table 4.1.5: Median housing and debt gross civil legal aid fee income for housing and debt barristers, by volume of housing and debt cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	£600	£700	£500	£600	£500	£500	£600	£700
3 to 5 cases	£2,300	£2,200	£1,900	£1,800	£2,300	£2,200	£2,400	£3,100
6 to 10 cases	£4,600	£5,200	£5,500	£5,400	£4,500	£4,600	£6,400	£6,100
11 to 15 cases	£12,400	£9,300	£8,900	£8,300	£7,900	£8,600	£8,900	£9,200
16 or more cases	£23,900	£27,200	£27,700	£28,000	£23,500	£21,200	£21,900	£19,600

122. Table 4.1.6 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work, by the number of years they completed housing & debt cases in the datashare period. Proportions in the column titled “Over all years” refer to the entire cohort of barristers who worked at any point between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, whilst proportions in the individual year columns only relate to the barristers working in that particular year.

123. When looking at the entire cohort of barristers over the period as a whole, 45% submitted cases in one year, with a further 34% submitting cases in 2 to 4 years,

suggesting that there was a large cohort of barristers for whom housing & debt legal aid work was not a regular part of their practice. There was also a smaller cohort who submitted cases more frequently, with 8% of barristers submitting a case in all years of the dataset and a further 13% submitting cases in between 5 and 7 years.

124. When considering the cohort of barristers working in each individual year, the proportion of barristers who only completed work in that year amounted to between 8% and 25% of barristers. Each year, barristers who completed work every year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23 amounted to between 18% and 29% of barristers.

Table 4.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work over the period and in each year, by the number of years between 2015-16 and 2022-23 that the barrister has completed housing & debt legal aid work

	Over all years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 year	45%	25%	15%	16%	17%	14%	8%	10%	18%
2-4 years	34%	36%	39%	33%	30%	33%	33%	30%	31%
5-7 years	13%	21%	25%	30%	31%	31%	30%	31%	24%
8 years	8%	18%	20%	22%	21%	22%	29%	29%	27%
Total	1,480	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

125. Table 4.1.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by region and by financial year. In all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of housing & debt barristers was London. Wales accounted for the smallest proportion of barristers, at between 2% and 4%. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers in London, from 56% in FY2015-16 to 66% in FY2022-23, and slight decreases in the Midlands and the South. Proportions were broadly consistent across this period for other regions.

Table 4.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by region and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	56%	60%	61%	60%	62%	63%	65%	66%
Midlands	10%	10%	9%	9%	10%	5%	6%	6%
North	16%	14%	14%	16%	14%	16%	15%	15%
South	9%	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%	5%	6%
Wales	4%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%
Unknown	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	5%	5%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

126. Table 4.1.8 shows the proportion of housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work, by region and by financial year. Following a similar trend to the number of barristers, in all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income was London, and this proportion increased from 67% in FY2015-16 to 74% in FY2022-23. Wales accounted for the smallest proportion of housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income, between 1% and 2%. The proportion of housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers based in the North and the South decreased over the period.

127. Barristers in London received a larger proportion of housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income, with 74% of the total value being received by 66% of the barristers in FY2022-23.

Table 4.1.8: Distribution of housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers completing housing & debt work by region, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	67%	67%	76%	72%	74%	73%	78%	74%
Midlands	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%
North	17%	17%	13%	16%	14%	14%	12%	14%
South	6%	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%	3%
Wales	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	5%	6%	5%	4%	3%	7%	4%	5%
Total	£4.3m	£3.7m	£3.4m	£3.6m	£3.5m	£2.7m	£2.3m	£2.4m

Protected characteristics

Key information

- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, male barristers make up a majority of those completing housing & debt legal aid work.
- The proportion of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work aged under 35 has decreased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23.
- The other characteristics in the datashare have very high levels of unknown responses in the data, making it difficult to draw inferences. The tables relating to these characteristics are shown in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Gender

128. Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by gender and financial year. Male barristers made up the largest gender group in all years between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23. Over the period, the proportion of female barristers has increased from 33% in FY2015-16 to 38% in FY2022-23.

Table 4.2.1: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Female	33%	34%	35%	34%	36%	37%	34%	38%
Male	63%	61%	60%	62%	61%	59%	62%	57%
Non-binary	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~
Other gender group	~	~	~	0%	~	~	~	~
Unknown	~	~	5%	4%	~	~	~	~
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

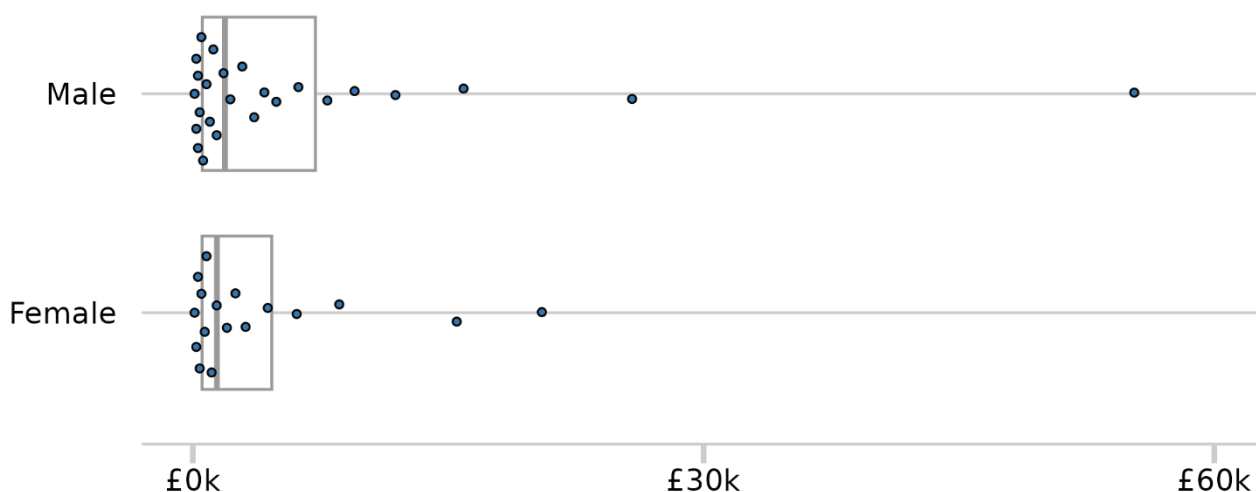
129. Table 4.2.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 4.2.2: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by gender and housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Female	Male	Non-binary	Other gender group	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	320	40%	55%	~	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	110	36%	58%	~	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
All	440	38%	57%	~	~	~	100%

130. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. The median for male barristers at £1,900 was slightly higher than the median for female barristers at £1,400.

Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for housing & debt barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.

131. Table 4.2.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the gender of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income for male barristers at £6,800 was higher than the mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income for female barristers, at £3,900. The difference between the median and mean for each group reflects the large number of barristers with low housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee incomes.
132. Table 4.2.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported total gross income band. As the self-reported total gross income band increased, the proportion of male barristers broadly increased, and the proportion of female barristers broadly decreased.
133. Table 4.2.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. The proportion of male barristers was lower in the 60-80% and 80% and over bands, compared to lower bands.

Table 4.2.5: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by gender and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Female	Male	Non-binary	Other gender group	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	140	34%	62%	~	~	~	100%
20-40%	30	46%	50%	~	~	~	100%
40-60%	40	30%	68%	~	~	~	100%
60-80%	40	46%	49%	~	~	~	100%
80% and over	50	54%	44%	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	150	35%	58%	~	~	~	100%
All	440	38%	57%	~	~	~	100%

The unknown category includes barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was 0 or missing

134. Table 4.2.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work, by gender and by the number of years they completed housing & debt cases in the datashare period. The proportion of female barristers broadly decreased as the number of years increased, suggesting that female barristers completed housing & debt legal aid work less frequently.

Age

135. Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by age and by financial year. The proportion of barristers aged under 35 has decreased, from 27% in FY2015-16 to 20% in FY2022-23, although proportions varied over the period. The proportion of barristers aged 35-54 has remained broadly consistent over the period. Due to high levels of suppression in this table and subsequent tables, it is difficult to comment on trends for barristers aged 55 and above.

136. The mean age of a barrister completing housing & debt legal aid work has risen by 3 years, from 41 in FY2015-16 to 44 in FY2022-23 (see table 6.1.1 in attached spreadsheet).

Table 4.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by age and year

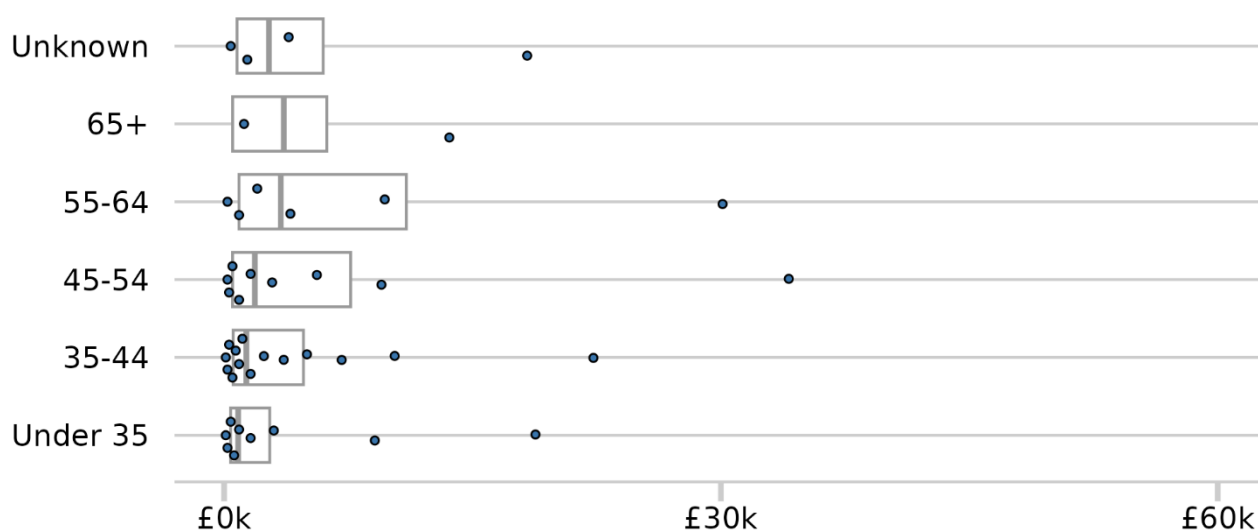
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Under 35	27%	22%	28%	23%	27%	25%	19%	20%
35-44	30%	33%	31%	33%	29%	29%	30%	32%
45-54	23%	23%	21%	21%	19%	19%	22%	21%
55-64	~	~	9%	~	11%	14%	16%	14%
65+	~	~	2%	~	2%	~	3%	4%
Unknown	12%	13%	10%	11%	11%	~	11%	10%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

137. Table 4.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

Table 4.3.2: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by age and housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	320	22%	33%	20%	12%	3%	9%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	110	15%	29%	23%	17%	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	0%	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	100%
All	440	20%	32%	21%	14%	4%	10%	100%

138. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age band for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income increased with age.

Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age for housing & debt barristers for 2022-23

Each point represents 10 barristers' mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.

139. Table 4.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the age band of barristers who completed housing & debt legal

aid work in FY2022-23. Mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income increased with age, with the exception of the 65+ group.

140. Table 4.3.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their self-reported total gross income band. As self-reported total gross income increased, the proportions of barristers aged under 35 decreased (where unsuppressed), whereas the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 broadly increased. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends for barristers aged 55+.

141. Table 4.3.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 4.3.5: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by age and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	140	28%	31%	19%	11%	~	~	100%
20-40%	30	~	~	~	~	0%	~	100%
40-60%	40	~	41%	~	~	~	~	100%
60-80%	40	~	44%	~	~	0%	~	100%
80% and over	50	23%	~	27%	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	150	11%	33%	26%	15%	7%	9%	100%
All	440	20%	32%	21%	14%	4%	10%	100%

The unknown category includes barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was 0 or missing

142. Table 4.3.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work, by age and by the number of years they completed housing & debt cases in the datashare period. As the number of years increased, the proportion of barristers aged under 35 decreased, although due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

Ethnicity

143. Table 4.4.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by ethnicity and by financial year. Barristers from the White ethnic group

were the largest ethnic group, at around three quarters of barristers each year. For all ethnic groups, proportions of barristers remained broadly consistent.

Table 4.4.1: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by ethnicity and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Asian or Asian British	6%	5%	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	6%	6%	6%	5%	7%	7%	7%	6%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	3%	3%	~	~	~	~	~	~
White	76%	76%	79%	79%	76%	76%	74%	75%
Other ethnic group	2%	2%	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	8%	7%	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

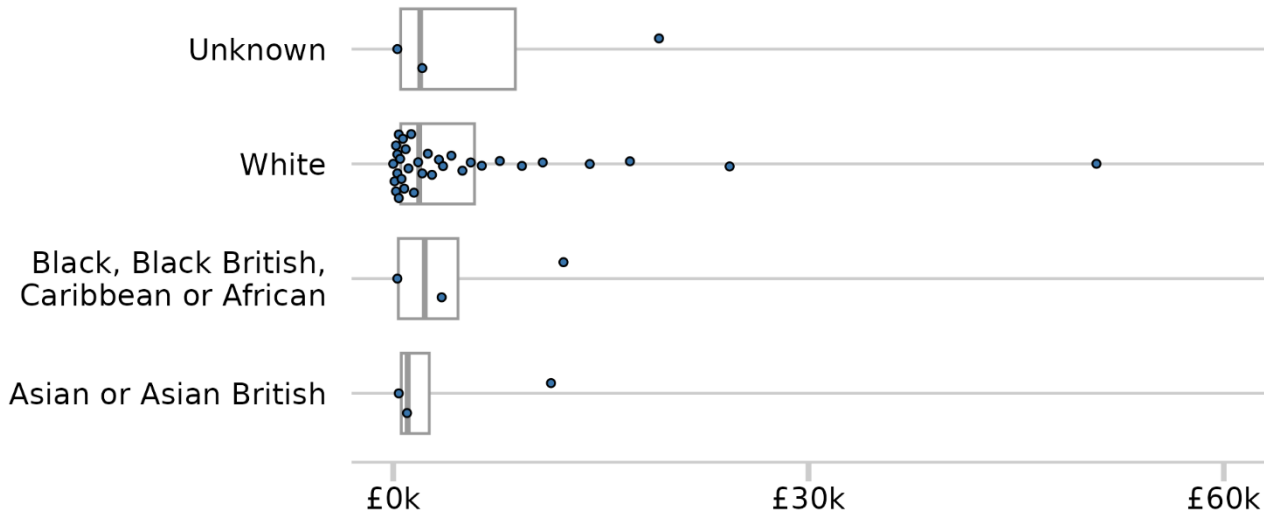
144. Table 4.4.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 4.4.2: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by ethnicity and housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	320	8%	6%	~	74%	~	6%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	110	~	~	~	77%	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	~	0%	0%	85%	0%	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
All	440	7%	6%	~	75%	~	7%	100%

145. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by ethnicity for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. Of the unsuppressed values, barristers from the Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnic group had the highest median at £2,300, and barristers in the Asian or Asian British ethnic group had the lowest medians at £1,000.

Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by ethnicity for housing & debt barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.

146. Table 4.4.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the ethnicity of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. Barristers whose ethnic group was unknown had the highest mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income at £6,900, and barristers from the Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnic group had the lowest housing & debt mean gross civil legal aid fee income at £4,000.

147. Tables 4.4.4 to 4.4.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the ethnicity of barristers who work in housing & debt legal aid by:

- Self-reported total gross income,
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and,
- The number of years barristers completed housing & debt legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Religion

148. Tables 4.5.1 to 4.5.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 36% and 45% of housing & debt barristers each year where the response is unknown; owing to this high level of unknown data we will not be providing any commentary in this document. These tables show the religion of barristers who work in housing & debt legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income,

- Mean and quartiles breakdown,
- Self-reported total gross income,
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and,
- The number of years barristers completed housing & debt legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Disability

149. Tables 4.6.1 to 4.6.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 30% and 39% of housing & debt barristers each year where the response is unknown; owing to this high level of unknown data we will not be providing any commentary in this document. These tables show the disability of barristers who work in housing & debt legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income,
- Mean and quartiles breakdown,
- Self-reported total gross income,
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and,
- The number of years barristers completed housing & debt legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Sexual Orientation

150. Tables 4.7.1 to 4.7.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 34% and 42% of housing & debt barristers each year where the response is unknown; owing to this high level of unknown data we will not be providing any commentary in this document. These tables show the sexual orientation of barristers who work in housing & debt legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income,
- Mean and quartiles breakdown,
- Self-reported total gross income,
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and,
- The number of years barristers completed housing & debt legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Other characteristics

Key information

- For barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid cases, there was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 28 or more years of practice between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23.

- Almost all barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work were Juniors, at 97% to 98% of barristers each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23.
- The other characteristics in the datashare have very high levels of unknown responses in the data making it difficult to draw inferences. The tables relating to these characteristics are shown in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Years of practice

151. Table 5.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by years of practice and by financial year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 28 plus years of practice, from 5% in FY2015-16, to 15% in FY2022-23. Proportions varied in all other age bands over the period, with slight overall decreases seen in the 0-2, 3-7 and 8-12 bands.

Table 5.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by years of practice and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
0-2	14%	12%	14%	12%	17%	17%	10%	11%
3-7	25%	22%	27%	23%	31%	26%	23%	23%
8-12	21%	21%	17%	17%	11%	15%	16%	17%
13-17	14%	14%	14%	18%	14%	13%	14%	13%
18-22	11%	14%	11%	11%	9%	10%	11%	10%
23-27	10%	8%	~	9%	~	8%	11%	10%
28 plus	5%	8%	9%	10%	10%	10%	14%	15%
Unknown	0%	0%	~	0%	~	0%	0%	0%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

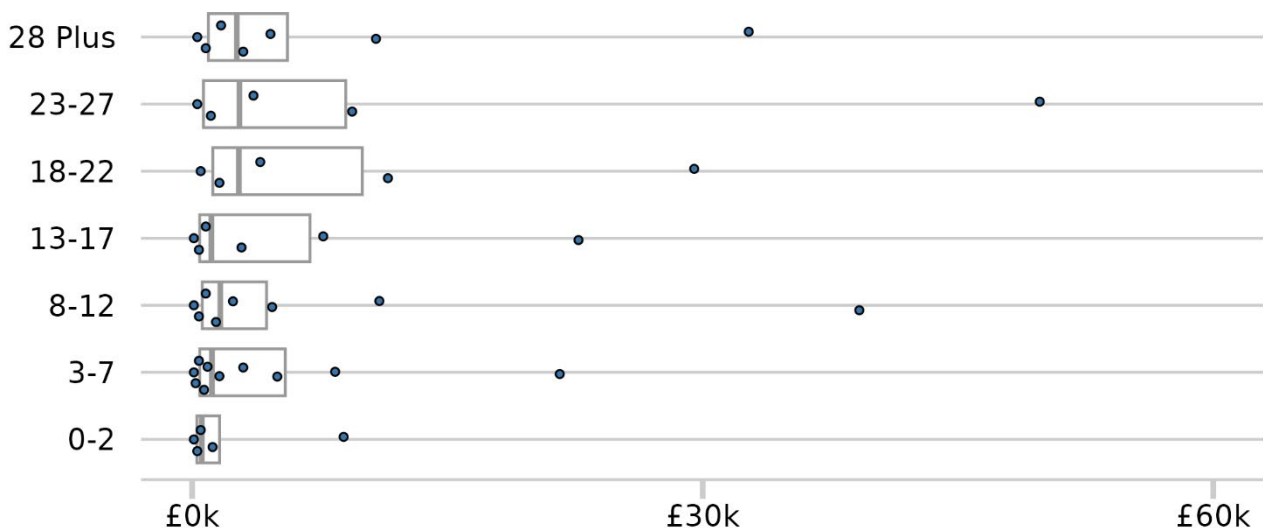
152. Table 5.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 5.1.2: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 plus	Total
£5,000 and less	320	14%	24%	18%	13%	9%	9%	15%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	110	~	22%	15%	15%	~	15%	14%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	0%	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	100%
All	440	11%	23%	17%	13%	10%	10%	15%	100%

153. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice band for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. As years of practice increased, median housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income broadly increased, with the exception of the 13-17 and 28 plus years of practice bands.

Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice for housing & debt barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.

154. Table 5.1.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the years of practice band of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income increased as the years of practice increased, with the exception of those with 28 or more years of practice.
155. Table 5.1.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their self-reported total gross income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends, but of the unsuppressed values, there was a larger proportion of barristers with lower years of practice in the lower self-reported total gross income bands.
156. Table 5.1.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 5.1.5: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 plus	Total
Less than 20%	140	14%	26%	20%	~	10%	~	14%	100%
20-40%	30	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
40-60%	40	~	32%	~	~	0%	~	~	100%
60-80%	40	~	26%	~	~	~	~	~	100%
80% and over	50	~	~	21%	~	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	150	~	16%	16%	22%	13%	~	18%	100%
All	440	11%	23%	17%	13%	10%	10%	15%	100%

The unknown category includes barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was 0 or missing

157. Table 5.1.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work, by years of practice and by the number of years they completed housing & debt cases in the datashare period. As number of years increased, the proportion of barristers in the higher years of practice bands increased.

Socio-economic background

158. Tables 5.2.1 to 5.2.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 46% and 53% of housing & debt barristers each year where the response is unknown; owing to this high level of unknown data we will not be providing any commentary in this document. These tables show the socio-economic background of barristers who work in housing & debt legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income,
- Mean and quartiles breakdown,
- Self-reported total gross income,
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and,
- The number of years barristers completed housing & debt legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Advocate type

159. Table 5.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work by advocate type and by financial year. Where values are not suppressed, most barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work were Juniors, at 97% to 98% of barristers.

Table 5.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work by advocate type and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
KC	2%	~	2%	2%	~	~	2%	3%
Junior	98%	~	98%	98%	~	~	98%	97%
Total	650	580	550	550	540	410	400	440

160. Table 5.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 5.3.2: Number of barristers completing housing & debt legal aid work and their distribution by advocate type and housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
£5,000 and less	320	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	110	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	0%	100%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	~	100%
All	440	3%	97%	100%

161. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for barristers who completed housing & debt legal aid work in FY2022-23. Junior barristers had a smaller median housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income at £1,600, than KC barristers at £3,000.

Housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for housing & debt barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income.

162. Table 5.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the advocate type of barristers who completed housing & debt

legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean housing & debt gross civil legal aid fee income of Junior barristers was £5,600, which was higher than the mean of KCs at £3,900.

163. Tables 5.3.4 to 5.3.9 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the advocate type of barristers who work in housing & debt legal aid by:

- Self-reported total gross income,
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid,
- The number of years barristers completed housing & debt legal aid cases in the datashare period,
- Gender,
- Age,
- Ethnicity.

Annex – Solicitor Datashare

Annex I – Data matching rates

164. The below tables show the match rates between LAA data and the LS data. There are three metrics presented in this table:

- Matched – any year: active housing & debt firms receiving housing & debt legal aid payments that were successfully matched across any of the LS data years. For instance, a firm that could only be matched to a specific year would still be counted across all the other years it received civil legal aid payments;
- Matched – specific year: active housing & debt firms receiving housing & debt legal aid payments that were successfully matched to the LS data for that year;

165. Non-SRA: organisations receiving housing & debt legal aid payments that appear to be not for profit or have been identified as other Alternative Business Structures (ABSs), and not matched with SRA data. Note that this designation has been made where firms are recorded as not for profit in LAA contract data and some additional manual checking on firm websites. It is not possible to be completely confident that these firms are all ABSs and that there are no ABSs in the unmatched group, however this is shown as it explains most of the variation in match rate between different groups.

166. Table A1.1 shows the match rate for active housing & debt legal aid firms, by year.

Table A1.1: Active housing & debt legal aid firm match rate by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Firms in group	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200
Matched - any year	73%	73%	73%	72%	68%	70%	68%	64%
Matched - specific year	68%	68%	68%	69%	65%	70%	68%	64%
Non-SRA	25%	25%	25%	26%	29%	28%	30%	33%

167. Table A1.2 shows the match rate of income from housing & debt legal aid for active housing & debt legal aid firms, by year.

Table A1.2: Income from housing & debt legal aid in matched active housing & debt legal aid firms by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	£32.1	£29.1	£28.4	£28.0	£28.6	£28.7	£22.4	£21.4
Matched - any year	72%	68%	68%	68%	66%	65%	68%	65%
Matched - specific year	64%	61%	61%	62%	62%	65%	68%	65%
Non-SRA	27%	31%	31%	31%	33%	34%	30%	32%

168. Table A1.3 shows the match rate for the solicitor data for active housing & debt firms, by year.

Table A1.3: Housing & debt solicitor match rate by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Firms in group	310	290	270	250	240	240	230	200
Has solicitor data - any year	70%	70%	71%	70%	66%	68%	67%	64%
Has solicitor data - specific year	66%	67%	69%	69%	64%	67%	65%	62%
Non-SRA	25%	25%	25%	26%	29%	28%	30%	33%

169. Table A1.4 shows the match rate for income from housing & debt legal aid in active housing & debt legal aid firms with matched solicitor data, by year.

Table A1.4: Income from housing & debt legal aid in active housing & debt firms with matched solicitor data, by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	£32.1	£29.1	£28.4	£28.0	£28.6	£28.7	£22.4	£21.4
Has solicitor data - any year	65%	61%	61%	62%	62%	61%	62%	59%
Has solicitor data - specific year	63%	60%	61%	62%	61%	61%	60%	59%
Non-SRA	27%	31%	31%	31%	33%	34%	30%	32%

Annex II – Income from inter partes costs

170. The tables in this annex show some further information on inter partes costs as a part of income from housing & debt legal aid for firms. The columns titled “Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)” show income from housing & debt legal aid including inter partes costs, as shown in the main solicitor section.

171. Table A2.1 shows the proportion of active housing & debt firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by income from housing & debt legal aid excluding inter partes costs band, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table A2.1: Active housing & debt legal aid firms by income from housing & debt legal aid excluding inter partes costs, and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
£100k or less	80%	31%	82%	32%
£100k to £250k	15%	29%	11%	25%
£250k to £500k	3%	17%	~	~
£500k to £1m	~	~	~	~
£1m and over	~	~	~	~
Total	310	£32.1	200	£21.4

172. Table A2.2 shows the proportion of active housing & debt firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by income from inter partes costs only, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table A2.2: Active housing & debt legal aid firms by income from housing & debt inter partes costs, and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	51%	16%	56%	15%
£100k or less	43%	43%	31%	26%
£100k to £250k	4%	16%	~	~
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	~	~	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	310	£32.1	200	£21.4

173. Table A2.3 shows the proportion of active housing & debt firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by the proportion of income from housing & debt legal aid from inter partes costs, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table A2.3: Active housing & debt legal aid firms by proportion of inter partes costs within housing & debt legal aid income, and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	76%	57%	68%	33%
20-40%	14%	25%	12%	40%
40-60%	6%	13%	10%	16%
60-80%	~	1%	6%	9%
More than 80%	~	4%	~	3%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	0%
Total	310	£32.1	200	£21.4

Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms

174. The tables in this annex show some further information on the firms that are billing out of contract.

175. Table A3.1 shows the proportion of housing & debt firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by income from housing & debt legal aid, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table A3.1: Out of contract billing housing & debt legal aid firms by income from housing & debt legal aid and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	~	~	17%	0%
£100k or less	93%	91%	83%	100%
£100k to £250k	~	~	0%	0%
£250k to £500k	0%	0%	0%	0%
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	200	£1.4	80	£1.0

176. Table A3.2 shows the proportion of housing & debt firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by civil legal aid claim volume, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table A3.2: Out of contract billing housing & debt legal aid firms by housing & debt claim volume and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	92%	73%	81%	46%
11 to 50 claims	~	24%	14%	34%
51 to 100 claims	~	3%	~	5%
101 to 200 claims	0%	0%	~	16%
201 claims plus	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	200	£1.4	80	£1.0

Between 2014-15 and 2021-22, 100% of the out of contract billing housing & debt firms with over 100 housing & debt claims were in contract at the beginning of the financial year

177. Table A3.3 shows the proportion of matched housing & debt firms and income from housing & debt legal aid, by total turnover, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table A3.3: Matched out of contract billing housing & debt legal aid firms by total turnover and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from housing & debt legal aid (£m)
Unknown	~	1%	20%	18%
£250k or less	15%	24%	18%	22%
£250k to £500k	18%	5%	17%	10%
£500k to £1m	15%	12%	~	10%
£1m to £5m	36%	37%	24%	36%
£5m and over	~	21%	~	5%
Total	120	£1.0	70	£0.8

Annex – Barrister Datashare

Match rates

178. Table A4.1 shows the value of work matched for this publication. Only civil representation work undertaken by barristers who are directly paid by the LAA is able to be matched because the matching process requires the name of the barrister to be recorded on both LAA and BC systems. There are three categories of work where we cannot identify the advocate:

- Controlled work (where relevant, i.e. immigration and mental health tribunal work)
- Cases where the solicitor firm claims the advocacy fee and pays it on to an advocate (whether barrister or another profession)
- Where licenced work is paid directly to an advocate who is not a barrister

179. Two match rates are shown: one against all civil representation advocacy done in housing & debt, and another against only the work identified as being paid directly to an advocate. The latter of these match rates is high and shows that most advocacy work in this category is paid directly to a barrister and the matching process is able to identify almost all of these. The former is also high and shows that most advocacy work in this category is undertaken by barristers (and not other professions).

Table A4.1: Match rate by value of housing & debt civil representation legal aid work (exclusive of VAT)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Civil representation advocacy work (£m)	£4.6	£4.0	£3.7	£3.8	£3.8	£2.8	£2.4	£2.6
Advocacy work paid directly (£m)	£4.6	£3.8	£3.5	£3.7	£3.7	£2.7	£2.4	£2.5
Matched advocacy work (£m)	£4.3	£3.7	£3.4	£3.6	£3.5	£2.7	£2.3	£2.4
Matched against all advocacy work	93%	93%	91%	94%	92%	95%	96%	95%
Matched against advocacy work paid directly	94%	96%	96%	97%	96%	98%	98%	98%

Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources

180. The coverage and limitations of the data sources in this report are the same as those in the Overview Report, and so the following paragraphs in this annex are repeated from the Overview Report and should be considered alongside the report-specific match rates in the following annexes.
181. The LAA data includes billing information from the main civil legal aid schemes – Legal Help, Controlled Legal Representation, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme¹¹ and Civil Representation. The data covers the relevant periods described in the following paragraphs, relevant to each of the two data sharing agreements.
182. The LS data contains separate sets of information on legal firms and individual solicitors. This is gathered by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) and covers the period August 2015–July 2016 to August 2021–July 2022. The data provided by the LS is a snapshot of the SRA data as per July of the relevant year. The firm datasets provide information on, among other things, the number of partners and solicitors, and turnover. The individual solicitor datasets contain information on age, gender, and year of admission to the roll. More detail on the match rate is shown in the annex at the end of this document.
183. The LS data contains only data on Law Society member firms and does not include Alternative Business Structures such as Not for Profit provision or charities. These providers are generally not included in the LS data share data, and so are not included here – this affects some categories of law more than others, so caution should be used when making comparisons between different categories of law.
184. BC data on barristers is gathered by the BC and the Bar Standards Board and covers the period April 2015–March 2016 to April 2022–March 2023. It includes information on barristers’ characteristics and practising details. The characteristics include the barristers’ age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, socio-economic background, and whether they are a KC or junior. The barristers’ practising details include length of practice, declared total income band, declared proportion of total income which came from criminal work, and whether they belong to a Chambers or another organisation type.

¹¹ This scheme has now been replaced by the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service, however this happened after the time period referenced in the data publications here.

185. The Ministry of Justice sent data on all payments to advocates for civil legal aid (family and other civil) from financial year (FY) 2013–14 to FY 2022–23 to the BC. The records held by the BC were sufficient to match to the eight financial years from 2015–16 to 2022–23, the results of which are shown here. The fees data file from MoJ contained payments for 8,663 advocates and the BC matched 8,397 of them (97%) with their barrister records. Of those, 708 (8%) do not appear in the overall dataset, the majority of these because they received fee payments in 2015–16 or later for work carried out before 2015–16. More detail on the match rate for barristers doing housing & debt work specifically is shown in the Barrister Datashare annex at the end of this document.

186. When matching the data some pragmatic decisions were made. For instance, the data matching showed that a small number of solicitors' firms had changed their constitution type (and, therefore, their SRA registration number) but their characteristics had remained largely unchanged. In these cases, for analytical purposes, these providers were treated as being the same throughout the period. It was also assumed that all providers' self-reported financial information in the LS datasets refer to the same time period, however, it is possible that some providers' financial information might refer to a slightly different period of time. This might help explain some of the small time-inconsistencies between the LAA and the LS data. As a result, care must be taken when interpreting the analysis in this data publication.



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