

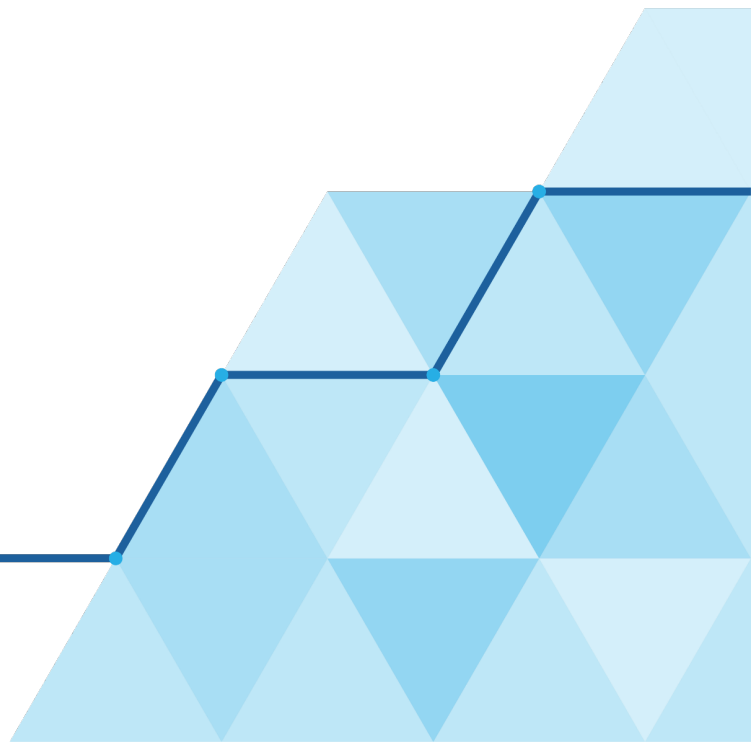


Ministry  
of Justice

# Review of Civil Legal Aid Data Publication Series

## Immigration & Asylum deep dive

24 January 2025



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
Background and purpose of this publication	3
Notes on understanding the data	3
<b>Solicitor firms</b>	<b>5</b>
Additional methodological details for solicitor firm statistics	5
Immigration solicitor firm overview	7
Firm composition	14
Firm joiners and leavers	19
<b>Solicitors</b>	<b>24</b>
Solicitor composition	24
Solicitor joiners and leavers	29
<b>Barristers</b>	<b>39</b>
Additional methodological details for barrister statistics	39
Barristers completing immigration legal aid work in context	41
Immigration barristers	45
<b>Annex – Solicitor Datashare</b>	<b>64</b>
Annex I – Data matching rates	64
Annex II – Income from inter partes costs	66
Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms	68
<b>Annex – Barrister Datashare</b>	<b>71</b>
Match rates	71
<b>Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources</b>	<b>72</b>

# 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: [Review of Civil Legal Aid - GOV.UK](#).
3. This document follows the same structure and definitions as the Overview Report, but mostly focuses on the providers who undertake Immigration & Asylum legal aid work, except where other providers are included in the tables to set these providers in context. For the whole of this publication anywhere that refers to Immigration work includes Asylum work, as there is a single Immigration & Asylum contract.

## Notes on understanding the data

4. The document is intended to provide context for policy-making and does not draw any conclusions from the data shown.
5. 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” 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,<sup>1</sup> which are concerned with the overall system.

---

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

## Solicitor firms

### Additional methodological details for solicitor firm statistics

10. In this chapter the firms considered are “active immigration legal aid firms”. These are firms that both submitted at least one final immigration bill in the year shown and held a immigration 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 immigration legal aid are shown for active immigration 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).
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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,<sup>2</sup> 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 costs<sup>3</sup> which providers report to the LAA, however further information about these costs is shown in Annex II.

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Where “claims” are referred to in this section, this refers to both final bills from civil representation certificates and all controlled work claims.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

## Immigration solicitor firm overview

### Key information

- The number of active immigration legal aid firms, and their claim volume from immigration legal aid work, decreased between FY2014–15 and FY2021–22. Income from immigration legal aid for active immigration firms increased over the period.
- Each year between FY2014–15 and FY2021–22, around half of active immigration legal aid firms were also active in another civil legal aid work area.
- Each year between FY2014–15 and FY2021–22, over half of active immigration legal aid firms received 80% or more of their income from civil legal aid from immigration legal aid work.

### Immigration firms in the context of all legal aid providers

17. This section looks at how immigration 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 immigration firms and their immigration 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”.
18. Tables 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 show that there was a large proportion of immigration firms (15% to 21% 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 (1% to 3%) of the total income from immigration legal aid for all firms.
19. 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: Immigration 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	79%	84%	83%	85%	79%	84%	85%	82%
Out of contract billing firms	21%	16%	17%	15%	21%	16%	15%	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>190</b>

**Table 1.1.2: Income from immigration legal aid (£m) for immigration 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	98%	98%	98%	99%	97%	99%	98%	98%
Out of contract billing firms	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£38.2</b>	<b>£40.5</b>	<b>£42.9</b>	<b>£43.1</b>	<b>£44.9</b>	<b>£48.9</b>	<b>£38.2</b>	<b>£43.0</b>

20. 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 immigration firms, where only the immigration claims, and income from those claims, completed by the firm in the relevant financial year are reported.
21. In this section, percentages are based on unrounded values so may not reflect the rounded values seen in the tables.
22. 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, 13% of active legal aid firms completed immigration legal aid work.
23. The number of active immigration legal aid firms has varied over the period, with an overall decrease of 11%. This is smaller 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
Immigration	180	170	140	140	170	180	170	160
Year on year change		-8%	-13%	-6%	25%	5%	-8%	-3%
All active firms	1,570	1,490	1,390	1,330	1,310	1,340	1,280	1,230

24. 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, 17% of all civil legal aid claims completed by active firms were immigration claims.
25. The immigration claim volume for active immigration firms has varied across the period, with an overall decrease of 7%. This is smaller 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
Immigration	41,770	42,980	43,840	40,210	38,750	45,030	33,870	38,870
Year on year change		3%	2%	-8%	-4%	16%	-25%	15%
All active firms	331,160	279,910	273,540	272,050	264,000	266,710	198,540	224,400

26. 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, 7% of all income from civil legal aid for active firms was from immigration work.
27. There has generally been an increase in the income from immigration legal aid over the period, with an overall increase of 13%. This is larger than 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
Immigration	£37.4	£39.9	£42.0	£42.5	£43.5	£48.3	£37.6	£42.3
Year on year change		7%	5%	1%	2%	11%	-22%	13%
All active firms	£581.7	£503.9	£503.3	£520.2	£529.8	£573.4	£522.6	£602.6

**Composition of work completed by immigration firms**

28. Table 1.1.6 shows the civil legal aid work areas that active immigration legal aid firms were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Each year, around half of immigration firms were also active in another civil legal aid work area, although this proportion decreased from 54% in FY2014–15 to 47% in FY2021–22. In FY2014–15, 33% of active immigration legal aid firms had also completed housing & debt legal aid work, and 29% had also completed family legal aid work. These proportions decreased to 24% for housing & debt and 19% for family in FY2021–22.
29. In all years, the mean number of categories that an active immigration firm was active in was two, including immigration as one of those categories.

**Table 1.1.6: Active contracts for active immigration legal aid firms, by year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Immigration only</b>	46%	48%	49%	49%	54%	54%	52%	53%
<b>Immigration +</b>	54%	52%	51%	51%	46%	46%	48%	47%
Claims against public authorities	4%	5%	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%
Clinical negligence	4%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Community care	12%	13%	13%	13%	8%	8%	8%	9%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	4%	5%
Education	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Family	29%	28%	26%	26%	18%	21%	21%	19%
Housing & debt	33%	31%	30%	32%	29%	27%	27%	24%
Mental health	7%	7%	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	5%
Miscellaneous and other	10%	12%	12%	18%	14%	13%	16%	16%
Public law	13%	14%	17%	18%	18%	16%	18%	20%
Welfare benefits	4%	5%	4%	5%	5%	6%	5%	6%
<b>Mean number of active categories per firm</b>	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Percentages are calculated using the total number of active firms in a year completing immigration 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 immigration as one of the categories.

30. Table 1.1.7 shows the proportion of income from civil legal aid that active immigration legal aid firms received from immigration legal aid work, by year. Each year, over half of active immigration legal aid firms received 80% or more of their income from civil legal aid from immigration legal aid work. This proportion rose from 54% in FY2014–15 to 62% in FY2021–22.

**Table 1.1.7: Active immigration legal aid firms, by percent of income from civil legal aid through immigration work, and year**

	2014– 15	2015– 16	2016– 17	2017– 18	2018– 19	2019– 20	2020– 21	2021– 22
Less than 20% immigration	14%	12%	10%	13%	9%	8%	9%	11%
20–40% immigration	14%	12%	12%	7%	9%	9%	10%	~
40–60% immigration	11%	11%	11%	12%	7%	8%	9%	13%
60–80% immigration	6%	9%	10%	12%	11%	8%	7%	~
80% and over immigration	54%	56%	57%	57%	64%	66%	64%	62%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>

31. Table 1.1.8 shows the split of income from immigration legal aid between civil representation and controlled work, for immigration firms, by year. Each year, between 82% and 90% of firms received 80% or more of their income from immigration legal aid from controlled work.

**Table 1.1.8: Active immigration legal aid firms, by percent of income from immigration 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	88%	82%	87%	86%	90%	89%	87%	89%
20–40% civil representation, 60–80% controlled work	8%	12%	10%	11%	~	6%	7%	7%
40–60% civil representation, 40–60% controlled work	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
60–80% civil representation, 20–40% controlled work	~	~	0%	~	~	~	~	~
80% and over civil representation, less than 20% controlled work	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>

32. Table 1.1.9 shows the split of controlled work income from immigration legal aid between controlled legal representation and advice legal help, for active immigration legal aid firms, by year. Proportions have varied over the period, with no clear trends over time.

**Table 1.1.9: Active immigration legal aid firms, by percent of income from immigration controlled work through advice legal help or controlled legal representation work, and year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Less than 20% controlled legal representation, 80% and over advice legal help	20%	18%	~	~	19%	15%	19%	30%
20–40% controlled legal representation, 60–80% advice legal help	39%	36%	20%	21%	25%	34%	36%	39%
40–60% controlled legal representation, 40–60% advice legal help	28%	32%	52%	47%	36%	40%	34%	20%
60–80% controlled legal representation, 20–40% advice legal help	~	10%	16%	25%	~	~	~	8%
80% and over controlled legal representation, less than 20% advice legal help	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Civil representation only	0%	~	~	~	0%	0%	0%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>

## Firm composition

### Key information

- Between FY2014–15 and FY2021–22, there was a shift to active immigration legal aid firms receiving higher incomes from immigration legal aid, while their total turnovers remained broadly consistent.
- There has been a shift to active immigration legal aid firms receiving a larger proportion of their total turnover from immigration legal aid work. In FY2014–15, 49% of firms received less than 20% of their total turnover from immigration legal aid work, and this proportion decreased to 38% in FY2021–22.

33. This section focuses on how the composition of active immigration 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 immigration 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.

34. Table 1.2.1 shows the proportion of active immigration legal aid firms and income from immigration legal aid, by their income from immigration legal aid band, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22. Over the period, there was a shift to firms receiving higher incomes from immigration legal aid. In FY2014–15, 62% of immigration firms had incomes from immigration legal aid of £100k or less, and in FY2021–22, the proportion had decreased to 50%.

**Table 1.2.1: Active immigration legal aid firms, by income from immigration legal aid and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%
£100k or less	62%	11%	50%	8%
£100k to £250k	19%	15%	23%	13%
£250k to £500k	9%	17%	18%	24%
£500k to £1m	~	~	~	~
£1m and over	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>£42.3</b>

35. Table 1.2.2 shows the proportion of active immigration legal aid firms and income from immigration legal aid, by immigration claim volume, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22. There was a slight shift to firms completing a higher number of immigration claims.

**Table 1.2.2: Active immigration legal aid firms, by immigration legal aid claim volume and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	8%	0%	~	0%
11 to 50 claims	27%	3%	21%	3%
51 to 100 claims	19%	6%	~	6%
101 to 200 claims	19%	12%	24%	15%
201 claims plus	27%	79%	29%	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>£42.3</b>

36. Table 1.2.3 shows the proportions of active immigration legal aid firms and income from immigration legal aid, by total turnover bands, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22. This table shows that active immigration legal aid firm turnover remained broadly consistent over the period.

**Table 1.2.3: Matched active immigration legal aid firms by total turnover and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Unknown	2%	0%	~	17%
£250k or less	35%	11%	37%	10%
£250k to £500k	22%	10%	22%	13%
£500k to £1m	18%	23%	19%	16%
£1m to £5m	16%	42%	13%	16%
£5m and over	8%	14%	~	27%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>£25.3</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>£37.0</b>

37. Table 1.2.4 shows the proportions of active immigration legal aid firms and income from immigration legal aid, by the proportion of a firm's total turnover which came from immigration 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 immigration legal aid income as part of their business model.

38. There has been a shift to active immigration legal aid firms receiving a larger proportion of their total turnover from immigration legal aid work. In FY2014–15, 49% of firms received less than 20% of their total turnover from immigration legal aid work, and this proportion decreased to 38% in FY2021–22. In contrast, in FY2014–15, 14% of firms received 80% or more of their total turnover from immigration legal aid work, and this proportion increased to 20% in FY2021–22.

**Table 1.2.4: Matched active immigration legal aid firms, by percentage of turnover as a result of immigration legal aid work and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	49%	24%	38%	25%
20–40%	16%	14%	16%	9%
40–60%	12%	30%	15%	12%
60–80%	8%	12%	9%	17%
More than 80%	14%	19%	20%	19%
Firm turnover is unknown	2%	0%	3%	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>£25.3</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>£37.0</b>

Please note that 10 firms reported a total turnover that was lower than their civil legal aid income in 2014–15 and 20 firms reported a total turnover that was lower than their civil legal aid income in 2021–22

39. Table 1.2.5 shows the proportions of active immigration legal aid firms and income from immigration 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 0–1 partner increased from 29% in FY2014–15 to 42% in FY2021–22.

**Table 1.2.5: Matched active immigration legal aid firms, by number of partners and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Very small (0–1 partner)	29%	16%	42%	35%
Small (2–4 partners)	57%	53%	48%	36%
Medium (5–25 partners)	~	25%	~	17%
Large (26 partners and over)	~	6%	~	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>£25.3</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>£37.0</b>

40. Table 1.2.6 shows proportions of active immigration legal aid firms and income from immigration 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.
41. In both years, the largest proportion of firms were based in London, and this proportion has decreased over the period, from 50% in FY2014–15 to 41% in FY2021–22. The proportion of firms based in the West Midlands slightly decreased, and the proportion of firms based in the North West remained consistent.
42. The proportion of income from immigration legal aid received by firms based in London was larger than the proportion of firms based in London in each year. The proportion of income from immigration legal aid for firms based in the South West has increased from 1% in FY2014–15 to 17% in FY2021–22. It is difficult to comment further on trends due to high levels of suppression in this table.

**Table 1.2.6: Matched active immigration legal aid firms, by region and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
East Midlands	~	4%	~	3%
East Of England	~	0%	~	1%
London	50%	58%	41%	48%
North East	~	6%	~	4%
North West	9%	6%	9%	6%
South East	~	6%	~	6%
South West	~	1%	~	17%
Wales	~	3%	~	2%
West Midlands	15%	10%	13%	8%
Yorkshire and the Humber	~	7%	9%	5%
Unknown	0%	0%	~	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>£25.3</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>£37.0</b>

## Firm joiners and leavers

### Key information

- For immigration 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.

43. This section focuses on how the composition of firms which have joined or left the immigration 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 immigration legal aid payments and held an immigration legal aid contract in the datashare period. Firms are classified as leaver firms in the last year that they received immigration legal aid payments and held an immigration contract in the datashare period.

44. 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 immigration firm was active between 2014–15 and 2021–22**

	Number of firms
1 year	30
2–4 years	120
5–7 years	20
8 years	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>

45. Table 1.3.2 shows a summary of the number of immigration 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. 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 immigration legal aid firm” for the purposes of this document in the following year.

**Table 1.3.2: Joiner and leaver active immigration firms by year**

	Number of firms	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Joiners	<b>80</b>		~	0	0	50	20	~	~
Leavers	<b>100</b>	20	20	~	20	10	20	~	

46. The numbers of immigration 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 immigration legal aid payments and held an immigration contract, and for leavers, the characteristics of the firm in the last year it received immigration legal aid payments and held an immigration contract.
47. Table 1.3.3 shows the civil legal aid work areas that joiner immigration legal aid firms were active in, in the first year they were active immigration legal aid firms. It also shows the civil legal aid work areas that leaver immigration legal aid firms were active in, in the last year they were active immigration 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. 18% of immigration joiners also completed housing & debt legal aid work. Over a quarter of immigration leavers also completed family legal aid work and over a quarter also completed housing & debt legal aid work.

48. The mean number of categories that an active joiner immigration firm was active in was one category, while the mean for active leaver immigration firms was two categories, including immigration as one of those categories.

**Table 1.3.3: Active contracts for active immigration legal aid firms, for joiners and leavers**

	<b>Joiners</b>	<b>Leavers</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Immigration only</b>	74%	60%
<b>Immigration +</b>	26%	40%
Claims against public authorities	1%	3%
Clinical negligence	0%	5%
Community care	2%	5%
Discrimination	0%	0%
Education	0%	0%
Family	7%	27%
Housing & debt	18%	26%
Mental health	5%	5%
Miscellaneous and other	1%	11%
Public law	5%	6%
Welfare benefits	0%	2%
<b>Mean number of active categories per firm</b>	1	2

Percentages are calculated using the total number of joiner and leaver firms in a year completing immigration 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 immigration as one of the categories.

49. Table 1.3.4 shows the proportion of immigration joiner and leaver firms by total turnover band. 64% of joiner firms had total turnovers of £250k or less, compared to 45% of leaver firms.

**Table 1.3.4: Matched joiner and leaver active immigration firms by total turnover, 2014–15 to 2021–22**

	<b>Joiners</b>	<b>Leavers</b>
Unknown	~	~
£250k or less	64%	45%
£250k to £500k	15%	24%
£500k to £1m	~	13%
£1m to £5m	~	~
£5m and over	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>

50. Table 1.3.5 shows the proportions of immigration joiner and leaver firms by the number of partners. 56% of joiners had 0–1 partner, compared to 41% of leavers.

**Table 1.3.5: Matched joiner and leaver active immigration firms by number of partners, 2014–15 to 2021–22**

	<b>Joiners</b>	<b>Leavers</b>
Very small (0–1 partner)	56%	41%
Small (2–4 partners)	~	48%
Medium (5–25 partners)	~	~
Large (26 partners and over)	0%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>

51. Table 1.3.6 shows the proportions of immigration joiner and leaver firms by region. The largest proportion of both joiner and leaver firms were based in London, however this proportion was smaller for joiner firms than leaver firms.

**Table 1.3.6: Matched joiner and leaver active immigration firms by region, 2014–15 to 2021–22**

	<b>Joiners</b>	<b>Leavers</b>
East Midlands	~	~
East Of England	~	~
London	44%	55%
North East	~	~
North West	~	14%
South East	~	~
South West	~	0%
Wales	~	0%
West Midlands	~	15%
Yorkshire and the Humber	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>

## Solicitors

52. This chapter concentrates on solicitors who worked for active immigration legal aid firms in the years the firm received immigration 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 immigration legal aid firms has fallen faster than the number of active firms, from FY2014–15 to FY2021–22, indicating that active immigration firms are generally smaller at the end of the timeseries than at the start.
- The proportion of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms aged 44 or under has decreased from 65% in FY2014–15 to 56% FY2021–22, while the proportion aged 55 and over has increased.
- The proportion of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms with 0–12 years since admission to the profession has decreased between FY2014–15 and FY2021–22, and the proportion of those with 13 years or more since admission to the profession has increased.

53. This section focuses on how the numbers and characteristics of the solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms have changed over the duration of the datashare period.
54. Table 2.1.1 shows the number of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by year. The number of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms has fallen by 32% over the period, which is greater than the 11% fall in the number of firms.



**Table 2.1.1: Solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Number of solicitors	1,600	1,530	1,290	1,240	1,240	1,240	1,210	1,090

55. Table 2.1.2 shows the proportions of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by gender and year. Over the period, the proportion of female solicitors decreased. 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 immigration legal aid firms by gender and year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Female	57%	59%	59%	58%	56%	57%	54%	53%
Male	43%	41%	40%	42%	43%	42%	40%	39%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

56. Table 2.1.3 shows the proportions of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by age and year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors aged 44 and under, and an increase in those aged 55 and above.

**Table 2.1.3: Solicitors working in matched active immigration 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	29%	28%	24%	24%	23%	23%	25%	23%
35–44	36%	36%	38%	36%	36%	35%	34%	33%
45–54	22%	22%	23%	24%	23%	24%	21%	23%
55–64	11%	11%	11%	12%	13%	14%	14%	14%
65+	2%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	6%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

57. Table 2.1.4 shows the proportions of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by ethnic group and year. Solicitors from the white ethnic group made up 51% of solicitors working in immigration legal aid firms in FY2014–15, and this proportion

decreased to 38% of solicitors in FY2021–22. There has also been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors from the Black, Black British, Caribbean or African ethnic group. 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 immigration 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	28%	28%	30%	28%	31%	29%	29%	27%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	9%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	6%	5%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%
White	51%	51%	47%	46%	39%	38%	37%	38%
Other ethnic group	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Unknown	7%	9%	12%	15%	19%	23%	25%	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

58. Table 2.1.5 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by years since admission to the profession and year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors with 0–12 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 immigration 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	14%	12%	11%	10%	11%	12%	12%	10%
3–7	26%	27%	25%	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%
8–12	22%	21%	21%	19%	20%	19%	18%	17%
13–17	13%	15%	17%	18%	16%	17%	17%	17%
18–22	8%	10%	10%	11%	11%	10%	11%	12%
23–27	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	8%	7%	9%
28 plus	9%	8%	9%	9%	9%	11%	10%	11%
Unknown	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	5%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

59. Table 2.1.6 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by position in the firm and year. In all years, around a quarter of solicitors were partners, aside from FY2019–20 where 39% were partners.

**Table 2.1.6: Solicitors working in matched active immigration 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	72%	75%	74%	75%	74%	61%	74%	72%
Partners	28%	25%	26%	25%	26%	39%	26%	28%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

60. Table 2.1.7 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active immigration 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.

61. In all years, the largest proportion of solicitors worked in firms based in London, at around 60% of solicitors. Proportions of solicitors in the North West and South East increased over the period, whereas proportions of solicitors in the West Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber decreased.

**Table 2.1.7: Solicitors working in matched active immigration 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	2%	9%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	~
East Of England	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
London	58%	56%	59%	59%	59%	59%	63%	61%
North East	1%	1%	1%	2%	~	~	~	2%
North West	6%	6%	6%	8%	9%	10%	9%	11%
South East	3%	3%	4%	4%	7%	7%	6%	6%
South West	~	~	~	1%	~	~	~	~
Wales	~	~	~	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%
West Midlands	8%	7%	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Yorkshire and the Humber	20%	15%	17%	17%	11%	11%	8%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

62. Table 2.1.8 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms, by their firm's number of partners and year. In FY2021–22, 58% of solicitors worked in firms with 5 or more partners. The proportion of solicitors working in firms with 26 partners or more has decreased over the period, while the proportion of solicitors working in firms with 0–1 partners has increased over the period.

**Table 2.1.8: Solicitors working in matched active immigration 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)	7%	7%	8%	8%	12%	14%	14%	13%
Small (2–4 partners)	30%	29%	32%	33%	40%	35%	35%	29%
Medium (5–25 partners)	35%	37%	34%	34%	27%	32%	30%	39%
Large (26 partners and over)	28%	27%	25%	24%	21%	19%	21%	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,090</b>

## Solicitor joiners and leavers

### Key information

- In both FY2015–16 and FY2020–21, proportions of continuing solicitors (solicitors who worked in a firm doing immigration legal aid work in the year prior and the subsequent year) broadly increased as age, and years since admission to the profession, increased.
- Proportions of continuing solicitors (solicitors who worked in active immigration legal aid firms in both the year prior and the subsequent year) increased between FY2015–16 and FY2020–21 across most age groups and years since admission to the profession groups.

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

### Joiners and leavers timeseries

68. This section looks at solicitors joining and leaving the immigration legal aid market. Table 2.2.1 shows the total number of immigration 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 immigration 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.
69. The number of joiner solicitors has decreased over the period, with an increase seen in FY2018–19, coinciding with the LAA procurement round.

**Table 2.2.1: Total number of joiner and returner solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
<b>Total number of joiners</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>
of whom were returners	-	20	10	30	20	20	30

70. Table 2.2.2 shows the total number of immigration 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 immigration 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.
71. The number of leaver solicitors has varied across this period, with an overall decrease.

**Table 2.2.2: Total number of leaver and temporary leaver solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
<b>Total number of leavers</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>
of whom left temporarily	<b>30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-</b>

72. Table 2.2.3 shows the proportion of immigration joiner solicitors by the reason they were considered as 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 immigration legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor joined an active immigration legal aid firm.

73. It is difficult to comment on trends due to high levels of suppression in this table.

**Table 2.2.3: Joiner solicitors working in matched active immigration 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 immigration legal aid firm	36%	~	0%	53%	11%	~	~
Solicitor joined active immigration legal aid firm	64%	~	100%	47%	89%	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>

74. Table 2.2.4 shows the proportion of immigration leaver solicitors 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 immigration legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor left an active immigration legal aid firm.

75. Proportions varied greatly over the period, with between 45% and 93% of solicitors being classified as leavers because the solicitor left a firm completing immigration legal aid work.

**Table 2.2.4: Leaver solicitors working in matched active immigration 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 immigration legal aid firm	33%	55%	21%	42%	7%	35%	11%
Solicitor left active immigration legal aid firm	67%	45%	79%	58%	93%	65%	89%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>

76. Table 2.2.5 shows the proportions of immigration joiner solicitors by gender, from FY2015–16 to FY2021–22. The proportion of joiner solicitors who were female decreased from 62% in FY2015–16 to 36% in FY2021–22, and the proportion of joiner solicitors who were male decreased from 38% in FY2015–16 to 27% in 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 immigration legal aid firms by gender and year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
Female	62%	63%	58%	59%	65%	41%	36%
Male	38%	36%	40%	39%	33%	28%	27%
Unknown	0%	1%	2%	3%	3%	31%	37%
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>

77. Table 2.2.6 shows the proportions of immigration leaver solicitors by gender, from FY2014–15 to FY2020–21. The largest proportion of leaver solicitors in all years were female.

**Table 2.2.6: Leaver solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by gender and year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Female	55%	60%	66%	64%	60%	59%	50%
Male	45%	40%	34%	35%	38%	40%	36%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>

78. Table 2.2.7 shows the proportion of immigration joiner solicitors by age, from FY2015–16 to FY2021–22. In each year, between 36% and 54% of joiners were aged under 35, and between 24% and 35% were aged 35–44.



**Table 2.2.7: Joiner solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by age and year**

	<b>2015–16</b>	<b>2016–17</b>	<b>2017–18</b>	<b>2018–19</b>	<b>2019–20</b>	<b>2020–21</b>	<b>2021–22</b>
Under 35	41%	40%	49%	36%	46%	54%	47%
35–44	32%	35%	24%	35%	28%	26%	27%
45–54	18%	16%	15%	18%	13%	10%	18%
55–64	6%	~	~	~	~	~	~
65+	3%	~	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>

79. Table 2.2.8 shows the proportions of immigration leaver solicitors by age, from FY2014–15 to FY2020–21. In each year, between 24% and 38% of leavers were aged under 35, and between 32% and 40% were aged 35–44.

**Table 2.2.8: Leaver solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by age and year**

	<b>2014–15</b>	<b>2015–16</b>	<b>2016–17</b>	<b>2017–18</b>	<b>2018–19</b>	<b>2019–20</b>	<b>2020–21</b>
Under 35	36%	36%	28%	24%	29%	25%	38%
35–44	32%	34%	40%	40%	40%	32%	32%
45–54	18%	17%	17%	22%	18%	28%	17%
55–64	11%	10%	~	~	~	~	~
65+	2%	3%	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>

80. Table 2.2.9 shows the proportions of immigration joiner solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2015–16 to FY2021–22. Proportions have varied over the period, with no clear trends over time.

**Table 2.2.9: Joiner solicitors working in matched active immigration 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	21%	34%	32%	24%	37%	33%	35%
3–7	26%	18%	13%	18%	18%	14%	18%
8–12	16%	16%	14%	20%	13%	9%	9%
13–17	10%	8%	10%	11%	10%	9%	13%
18–22	9%	7%	~	6%	~	~	~
23–27	4%	~	~	4%	~	~	~
28 plus	6%	~	7%	4%	7%	~	~
Unknown	8%	8%	15%	11%	8%	25%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>

81. Table 2.2.10 shows the proportions of immigration leaver solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2014–15 to FY2020–21. Proportions have varied over the period, with no clear trends over time.

**Table 2.2.10: Leaver solicitors working in matched active immigration 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	15%	13%	12%	11%	17%	15%	20%
3–7	29%	33%	31%	26%	30%	21%	24%
8–12	21%	19%	20%	17%	22%	17%	17%
13–17	11%	11%	15%	20%	12%	15%	15%
18–22	6%	9%	6%	7%	7%	11%	~
23–27	5%	3%	~	8%	~	9%	~
28 plus	9%	9%	11%	8%	6%	8%	6%
Unknown	5%	3%	~	4%	~	4%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>

82. Table 2.2.11 shows the proportion of immigration 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.

83. In all years, the largest proportion of immigration joiner solicitors' firms were located in London, at between 46% and 69% of joiner solicitors. The proportion of joiner solicitors with firms based in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber 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 immigration legal aid firms by region and year**

	2015– 16	2016– 17	2017– 18	2018– 19	2019– 20	2020– 21	2021– 22
East Midlands	34%	~	~	~	~	~	~
East Of England	~	~	~	4%	~	~	~
London	46%	65%	61%	48%	68%	69%	62%
North East	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
North West	6%	6%	17%	11%	9%	7%	16%
South East	~	~	~	15%	~	6%	8%
South West	0%	~	~	0%	~	~	0%
Wales	~	~	~	~	~	~	0%
West Midlands	~	7%	~	6%	~	~	~
Yorkshire and the Humber	9%	14%	12%	12%	10%	9%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>140</b>

84. Table 2.2.12 shows the proportion of immigration 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.
85. In all years, the largest proportion of leaver solicitors' firms were located in London. The proportions of leaver solicitors in the North West and Yorkshire and the Humber varied across the period, with no consistent trends over time, and high levels of suppression in this table make it difficult to further comment on trends for many regions.

**Table 2.2.12: Leaver solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by region and year**

	2014– 15	2015– 16	2016– 17	2017– 18	2018– 19	2019– 20	2020– 21
East Midlands	2%	28%	0%	~	~	~	~
East Of England	0%	~	~	~	~	~	~
London	55%	53%	58%	47%	65%	50%	66%
North East	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
North West	9%	4%	6%	6%	7%	9%	10%
South East	~	~	4%	~	6%	10%	5%
South West	0%	~	~	~	~	~	~
Wales	0%	~	0%	~	~	0%	~
West Midlands	6%	4%	13%	5%	~	4%	5%
Yorkshire and the Humber	26%	10%	14%	37%	12%	22%	7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>260</b>

### Joining and leaving rates

86. This section presents an alternative view of immigration joiner and leaver solicitors, by looking at the joining and leaving rates of solicitors who worked for an active immigration 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.
87. Each table reports the “continuation status” of solicitors, which is split into four categories:
- Joiner solicitors: solicitors who worked for active immigration legal aid firms in the given and subsequent year, but did not work for an active immigration legal aid firm in the prior year.
  - Joiner and leaver solicitors: solicitors who worked for active immigration 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 immigration legal aid firms in the prior and given year, but did not work for an active immigration legal aid firm in the subsequent year.
  - Continuing solicitors: solicitors who worked for active immigration legal aid firms in the prior, given and subsequent year.
88. Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 show the proportion of solicitors working in active immigration legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, within each age band, in

FY2015–16 and FY2020–21. 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.

89. Proportions of continuing solicitors were higher in FY2020–21 than FY2015–16 for all age groups.

**Table 2.3.1: Solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by age and continuation status, 2015–16**

	<b>Under 35</b>	<b>35–44</b>	<b>45–54</b>	<b>55–64</b>	<b>65+</b>
Joiner solicitors	18%	8%	9%	6%	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	18%	13%	11%	8%	~
Leaver solicitors	21%	15%	12%	19%	~
Continuing solicitors	43%	64%	68%	67%	67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>40</b>

**Table 2.3.2: Solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by age and continuation status, 2020–21**

	<b>Under 35</b>	<b>35–44</b>	<b>45–54</b>	<b>55–64</b>	<b>65+</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Joiner solicitors	21%	10%	~	~	~	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	15%	3%	~	~	~	0%
Leaver solicitors	17%	17%	13%	13%	~	0%
Continuing solicitors	47%	69%	79%	79%	82%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>~</b>

90. Tables 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 show the proportion of solicitors working in active immigration 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 unsuppressed years since admission to the profession bands.
91. Proportions of continuing solicitors were higher in FY2020–21 than FY2015–16 for all years since admission to the profession bands aside from 0–2 years since admission to the profession.

**Table 2.3.3: Solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and continuation status, 2015–16**

	<b>0–2</b>	<b>3–7</b>	<b>8–12</b>	<b>13–17</b>	<b>18–22</b>	<b>23–27</b>	<b>28 plus</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Joiner solicitors	26%	9%	7%	8%	~	~	~	43%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	15%	14%	12%	9%	17%	~	~	50%
Leaver solicitors	16%	23%	16%	13%	~	~	20%	~
Continuing solicitors	42%	54%	65%	70%	67%	75%	63%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>30</b>

**Table 2.3.4: Solicitors working in matched active immigration legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession and continuation status, 2020–21**

	<b>0–2</b>	<b>3–7</b>	<b>8–12</b>	<b>13–17</b>	<b>18–22</b>	<b>23–27</b>	<b>28 plus</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Joiner solicitors	29%	6%	~	~	~	~	~	46%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	17%	5%	~	~	~	~	~	42%
Leaver solicitors	18%	20%	19%	17%	10%	~	12%	~
Continuing solicitors	36%	69%	72%	74%	83%	88%	83%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>60</b>

# Barristers

## Additional methodological details for barrister statistics

92. 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.
93. 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,<sup>4</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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. The immigration category has a large proportion of tribunal work which is paid as controlled work and not covered in this publication.
94. Where “immigration gross civil legal aid fee income” is mentioned, this only refers to income that barristers have received from immigration legal aid work, and not income from legal aid work in other categories of law.
95. 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

---

<sup>4</sup> 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.

96. 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.
97. This publication looks at self-employed barristers, which make up around 80% of all barristers.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>
98. In this chapter, the first section shows all barristers, and the subsequent sections show all barristers completing immigration 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.
99. 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 barristers<sup>7</sup> 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.
100. 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.

---

<sup>5</sup> Derived from <https://www.barstandardsboard.org.uk/news-publications/research-and-statistics/statistics-about-the-bar/practising-barristers.html>. Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-review-of-criminal-legal-aid>. Accessed 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

<sup>7</sup> 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

101. 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,<sup>8</sup> 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.<sup>9</sup>

## Barristers completing immigration legal aid work in context

### Key information

- The number of barristers who completed immigration cases remained broadly stable between FY2015–16 and FY2021–22, with an increase seen in FY2022–23.
- Immigration gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers decreased between FY2015–16 and FY2021–22, with an increase seen in FY2022–23. Barrister immigration case volume decreased over the period.
- In each year, over half of immigration legal aid barristers also did civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid work area. This proportion has increased from 50% in FY2015–16 to 58% in FY2022–23.
- In each year between FY2015–16 and FY2022–23, the majority of immigration barristers received over 80% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from immigration work.

102. Tables 3.1.1 to 3.1.3 show the number of barristers, case volume and gross civil legal aid fee income for immigration 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 immigration), and “All civil legal aid” refers to all civil legal aid categories.

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

104. 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, immigration legal aid barristers made up 4% of all civil legal aid barristers.

---

<sup>8</sup> Statistics on the barrister population as a whole can be found at <https://www.barcouncil.org.uk/policy-representation/dashboards/demographics-dashboard.html>

<sup>9</sup> The Quarterly Legal Aid Statistics can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>

105. The number of immigration legal aid barristers has remained fairly stable over the period, with an increase seen in FY2022–23 leading to an overall increase of 14%. This is in contrast to the overall decrease of 11% for other civil legal aid barristers, and similar 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
Immigration legal aid	170	170	170	170	160	160	170	190
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

106. 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, less than 1% of civil legal aid cases completed were immigration cases.

107. There has generally been a reduction in the number of immigration legal aid cases completed by barristers over the period, with an overall decrease of 32%. 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
Immigration legal aid	710	660	680	640	410	410	490	480
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

108. Table 3.1.3 shows the gross civil legal aid fee income of barristers completing immigration 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 immigration legal aid work.

109. The gross civil legal aid fee income from immigration legal aid cases for barristers mainly decreased over the period, with a large increase in FY2022–23 leading to an overall increase of 17%. This was larger than the overall increase of 13% for gross civil legal aid fee income for other civil legal aid cases for barristers, and smaller than 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
Immigration legal aid	£1.7	£1.4	£1.5	£1.4	£1.3	£1.2	£1.2	£2.0
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

110. Table 3.1.4 shows the civil legal aid work areas that immigration legal aid barristers were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. In each year, over half of immigration legal aid barristers also did civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category. This proportion has increased from 50% in FY2015–16 to 58% in FY2022–23.

111. In FY2022–23, 43% of immigration barristers also completed public law legal aid work, which is an increase from 29% in FY2015–16.

**Table 3.1.4: Areas of legal aid work for barristers completing immigration legal aid work, by year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Immigration only</b>	50%	44%	42%	42%	47%	47%	44%	42%
<b>Immigration +</b>	50%	56%	58%	58%	53%	53%	56%	58%
Claims against public authorities	6%	16%	13%	9%	9%	12%	6%	13%
Clinical negligence	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Community care	9%	12%	15%	13%	15%	13%	16%	12%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Education	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Family	13%	11%	13%	13%	9%	7%	9%	11%
Housing & debt	8%	14%	14%	9%	9%	9%	7%	8%
Mental health	4%	3%	7%	4%	6%	5%	9%	4%
Miscellaneous and other	7%	7%	10%	5%	4%	7%	2%	4%
Public law	29%	36%	37%	43%	38%	40%	44%	43%
Welfare benefits	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%

Percentages are calculated using the total number of barristers in a year completing immigration 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

112. Table 3.1.5 shows the proportion of gross civil legal aid fee income that immigration legal aid barristers received from immigration legal aid work, by year. Each year, over half of barristers received 80% or more of their gross civil legal aid income from immigration legal aid work. This proportion has decreased from 68% in FY2015–16 to 52% in FY2022–23.

**Table 3.1.5: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work, by proportion of gross civil legal aid income from immigration legal aid work and year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Less than 20%	11%	14%	17%	15%	17%	17%	17%	18%
20–40%	7%	8%	8%	8%	6%	10%	~	7%
40–60%	7%	9%	8%	10%	7%	7%	9%	13%
60–80%	8%	7%	9%	9%	7%	8%	8%	11%
80% and over	68%	61%	58%	58%	62%	58%	58%	52%
Gross civil legal aid income is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

## Immigration barristers

### Overview

#### Key information

- Between FY2015–16 and FY2022–23, the majority of immigration barristers did small amounts of immigration legal aid work, receiving under £5,000 or completing 2 or fewer cases annually.
- In any particular year from FY2015–16 to FY2022–23, between 26% and 30% of barristers completing immigration legal aid work in that year completed immigration legal aid work in all eight of the years examined. This suggests that although there is a cohort of barristers who do immigration legal aid as a regular part of their practice, most barristers are not in this cohort.
- Each year since FY2020–21, between 15% and 16% of barristers completing immigration legal aid work receive at least 80% of their income from legal aid.

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

114. Table 4.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by immigration gross civil legal aid fee income and financial year. In each year,

between 57% and 68% of barristers had immigration gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,000 or less. Between 25% and 33% of barristers had immigration gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,001 to £30,000.

**Table 4.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work by immigration 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	57%	67%	59%	62%	65%	68%	63%	67%
£5,001 to £30,000	33%	25%	32%	32%	28%	28%	33%	27%
£30,001 to £60,000	8%	~	7%	~	~	~	~	~
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	0%	~	~	~	~
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	0%	~
£150,001 and over	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

115. Table 4.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by their self-reported total gross income band and by financial year. Proportions varied over the period, with broad decreases seen in the proportions of barristers with self-reported total gross incomes of £60,001 to £150,000.

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

**Table 4.1.2: Distribution of barristers completing immigration 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%	~	~	~	~	6%	8%	~
£30,001 to £60,000	19%	16%	16%	13%	9%	23%	17%	17%
£60,001 to £90,000	24%	17%	17%	19%	21%	19%	18%	16%
£90,001 to £150,000	28%	32%	28%	30%	29%	18%	23%	22%
£150,001 to £240,000	10%	14%	16%	17%	17%	13%	12%	11%
£240,001 and over	~	13%	10%	~	16%	14%	12%	19%
Unknown	~	~	~	11%	~	7%	10%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

117. Table 4.1.3 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by the self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and by financial year.

118. In FY 2022–23, 23% of immigration barristers reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income, while 16% of immigration barristers reported that legal aid made up at least 80% of their income.

**Table 4.1.3: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and year**

	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Less than 20%	19%	19%	23%
20–40%	9%	22%	14%
40–60%	18%	16%	21%
60–80%	21%	15%	9%
80% and over	15%	16%	16%
Unknown	17%	13%	17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

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

119. Table 4.1.4 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by immigration legal aid case volume and by financial year. 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.

120. In all years, the majority of barristers completed 1 to 2 immigration cases, and this proportion increased from 56% in FY2015–16 to 70% in FY2022–23. The proportion of barristers completing 3 to 15 immigration cases decreased from 40% in FY2015–16 to 30% in FY2022–23.

**Table 4.1.4: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work by volume of immigration cases and year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
1 to 2 cases	56%	59%	58%	59%	65%	69%	66%	70%
3 to 15 cases	40%	37%	39%	38%	~	~	34%	30%
16 to 30 cases	~	~	~	~	~	~	0%	0%
31 to 45 cases	~	~	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%
46 cases plus	~	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

121. Table 4.1.5 shows the median gross civil legal aid fee income from immigration work for immigration barristers, by immigration legal aid case volume and year. Table 4.1.4 shows that in FY2022–23, 70% of immigration barristers completed 1 to 2 immigration cases. For these barristers, the median immigration civil legal aid fee income was £1,100.

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

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
1 to 2 cases	£1,800	£1,300	£1,200	£1,000	£1,600	£1,200	£1,400	£1,100
3 to 5 cases	£4,100	£4,100	£5,200	£6,300	£4,700	£7,400	£5,200	£5,500
6 to 10 cases	£12,000	£11,900	£14,700	£10,500	£22,100	£6,100	£10,900	£38,500
11 to 15 cases	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
16 or more cases	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~



122. Table 4.1.6 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work, by the number of years they completed immigration cases in the datashare period. When looking at the entire cohort of barristers over the period as a whole, 39% submitted cases in one year, with a further 32% submitting cases in 2 to 4 years, suggesting that there was a cohort of barristers for whom immigration legal aid work was not a regular part of their practice. There was also a smaller cohort who submitted cases more frequently, with 11% of barristers submitting a case in all years of the dataset and a further 17% submitting cases in between 5 and 7 years.
123. 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 18% of barristers. Each year, barristers who completed work every year between FY2015–16 and FY2022–23 amounted to between 26% and 30% of barristers.

**Table 4.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing immigration 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 immigration legal aid work**

	Over all years	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
1 year	<b>39%</b>	12%	13%	13%	10%	11%	8%	12%	18%
2–4 years	<b>32%</b>	25%	25%	23%	23%	24%	32%	30%	31%
5–7 years	<b>17%</b>	34%	34%	36%	38%	35%	30%	30%	26%
8 years	<b>11%</b>	29%	28%	28%	28%	30%	30%	28%	26%
<b>Total</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

124. Table 4.1.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by region and by financial year. In all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of immigration barristers was London, at between 80% and 84%. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

**Table 4.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work by region and year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
London	84%	83%	84%	80%	80%	83%	82%	82%
Midlands	7%	6%	~	9%	7%	~	~	6%
North	8%	8%	9%	9%	11%	12%	9%	9%
South	~	0%	~	~	~	~	0%	0%
Wales	~	~	0%	~	~	0%	~	~
Unknown	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

125. Table 4.1.8 shows the proportion of immigration gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers who completed immigration 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 immigration gross civil legal aid fee income was London, at between 82% and 96%. Wales and the South accounted for the smallest proportion of immigration gross civil legal aid fee income, between 0% and 1%.

126. Barristers in London received a larger proportion of immigration gross civil legal aid fee income, with 96% of the total value being received by 82% of barristers in FY2022–23.

**Table 4.1.8: Distribution of immigration gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers completing immigration work by region, by year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
London	93%	82%	87%	89%	89%	94%	90%	96%
Midlands	3%	11%	9%	7%	6%	1%	5%	2%
North	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	2%
South	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Wales	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.7m</b>	<b>£1.4m</b>	<b>£1.5m</b>	<b>£1.4m</b>	<b>£1.3m</b>	<b>£1.2m</b>	<b>£1.2m</b>	<b>£2.0m</b>

## Protected characteristics

### Key information

- Male barristers make up a majority of those completing immigration legal aid work, although this proportion 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

127. Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration 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 male barristers decreased from 58% in FY2015–16 to 50% in FY2022–23.

**Table 4.2.1: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work by gender and year**

	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Female	37%	40%	41%	43%	40%	46%	42%	46%
Male	58%	56%	55%	51%	55%	50%	53%	50%
Non-binary	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~
Other gender group	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	~
Unknown	5%	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

128. Table 4.2.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by gender and by their immigration gross civil legal aid fee income band. Female barristers made up the majority of barristers with gross civil legal fee incomes of £5,000 and less, whereas male barristers made up the majority of barristers with gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,001 to £30,000. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on further trends.

**Table 4.2.2: Number of barristers completing immigration legal aid work and their distribution by gender and immigration 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	130	57%	41%	~	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	50	25%	65%	~	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50%</b>	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>

129. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. The median for male barristers at £3,600 was higher than the median for female barristers at £1,500.

**Immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for immigration barristers for 2022–23**



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income.

130. Table 4.2.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the gender of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in

FY2022–23. The mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income for male barristers at £15,200 was higher than the mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income for female barristers, at £5,800.

131. Table 4.2.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by gender and by their self-reported total gross income band. Female barristers made up the majority of barristers with self-reported gross incomes of £60,000 and less, whereas male barristers made up the majority of barristers with gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £60,001 to £150,000.
132. Table 4.2.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by gender and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Male barristers made up the majority of barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was less than 40%, whereas female barristers made up the majority of barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was 60% or more.

**Table 4.2.5: Number of barristers completing immigration 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%	40	36%	61%	~	~	~	100%
20–40%	30	~	73%	~	~	~	100%
40–60%	40	45%	48%	~	~	~	100%
60–80%	20	76%	~	~	~	~	100%
80% and over	30	55%	39%	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	30	53%	44%	~	~	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50%</b>	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>

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

133. Table 4.2.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work, by gender and by the number of years they completed immigration cases in the datashare period. Female barristers made up the majority of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in 4 or fewer years, whereas male barristers made up the majority of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in 5 or more years.

### Age

134. Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by age and by financial year. The proportion of barristers aged 45–54 has decreased over the period, and the proportion of barristers aged 55–64 has increased between FY2019–20 and FY2022–23. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.
135. The mean age of a barrister completing immigration legal aid work has risen by 3 years, from 44 in FY2015–16 to 47 in FY2022–23 (see table 6.1.1 in attached spreadsheet).

**Table 4.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing immigration legal aid work by age and year**

	<b>2015– 16</b>	<b>2016– 17</b>	<b>2017– 18</b>	<b>2018– 19</b>	<b>2019– 20</b>	<b>2020– 21</b>	<b>2021– 22</b>	<b>2022– 23</b>
Under 35	11%	10%	10%	10%	12%	~	7%	~
35–44	33%	34%	33%	32%	29%	39%	34%	32%
45–54	41%	37%	38%	36%	38%	33%	32%	30%
55–64	~	~	~	~	12%	17%	19%	21%
65+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	9%	10%	9%	9%	~	~	~	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

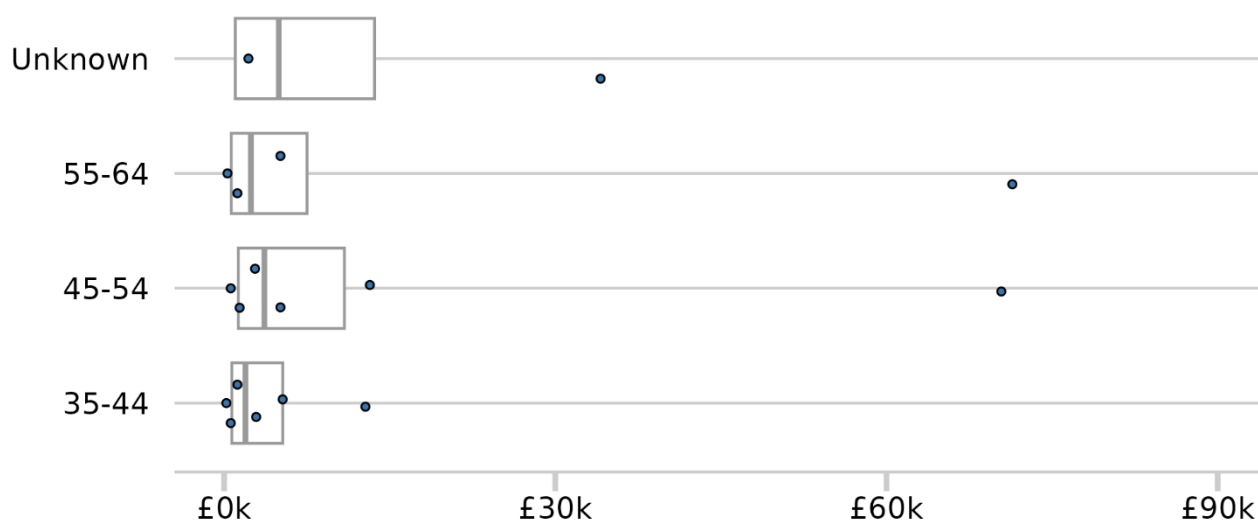
136. Table 4.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by age and by their immigration gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

**Table 4.3.2: Number of barristers completing immigration legal aid work and their distribution by age and immigration 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	130	10%	35%	28%	19%	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	50	~	31%	37%	19%	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	~	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	0%	~	~	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	0%	0%	~	~	0%	~	100%
£150,001 and over	~	0%	0%	~	~	0%	0%	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	~	<b>32%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>21%</b>	~	<b>9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

137. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age band for barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. Median immigration gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers whose age was unknown, at £5,000.

**Immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age for immigration barristers for 2022–23**



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income.

138. Table 4.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the age band of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. Where unsuppressed, mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income increased with age.

139. Tables 4.3.4 to 4.3.6 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 age group of barristers who work in immigration legal aid by:

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

### *Ethnicity*

140. Table 4.4.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by ethnicity and by financial year. Barristers from the White ethnic group were the largest ethnic group, at between 66% and 71% of barristers each year during the datashare period. For all unsuppressed ethnic groups, proportions of barristers remained broadly consistent. Due to high levels of suppression in this table and subsequent tables, it is difficult to comment on trends for some ethnic groups.

**Table 4.4.1: Distribution of barristers completing immigration 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	16%	18%	17%	16%	16%	14%	14%	16%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%
White	69%	66%	66%	70%	68%	71%	70%	67%
Other ethnic group	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

141. Tables 4.4.2 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 immigration legal aid by:



- Immigration 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 immigration legal aid cases in the datashare period.

### *Religion*

142. Tables 4.5.1 to 4.5.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 34% and 43% of immigration 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 immigration legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Immigration 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 immigration legal aid cases in the datashare period.

### *Disability*

143. Tables 4.6.1 to 4.6.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 28% and 41% of immigration 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 immigration legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Immigration 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 immigration legal aid cases in the datashare period.

### *Sexual Orientation*

144. Tables 4.7.1 to 4.7.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 33% and 44% of immigration 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 immigration legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Immigration 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 immigration legal aid cases in the datashare period.

## Other characteristics

### Key information

- Between FY2015–16 and FY2022–23, there was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 23–27 years of practice, and proportions of barristers with 3–7 and 13–22 years of practice decreased over the period.
- Most barristers completing immigration legal aid work were Juniors, at 84% to 93% 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*

145. Table 5.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by years of practice and by financial year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 23–27 years of practice, and proportions of barristers with 3–7 and 13–22 years of practice decreased over the period. Proportions varied in the 8–12 years of practice band, with an overall increase.

**Table 5.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing immigration 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	~	~	0%	~	~	~	~	~
3–7	24%	22%	25%	20%	21%	20%	17%	18%
8–12	15%	18%	20%	21%	16%	23%	21%	19%
13–17	22%	21%	20%	19%	16%	17%	16%	15%
18–22	25%	21%	21%	19%	22%	15%	19%	16%
23–27	10%	9%	8%	12%	14%	17%	16%	16%
28 plus	~	~	6%	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

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

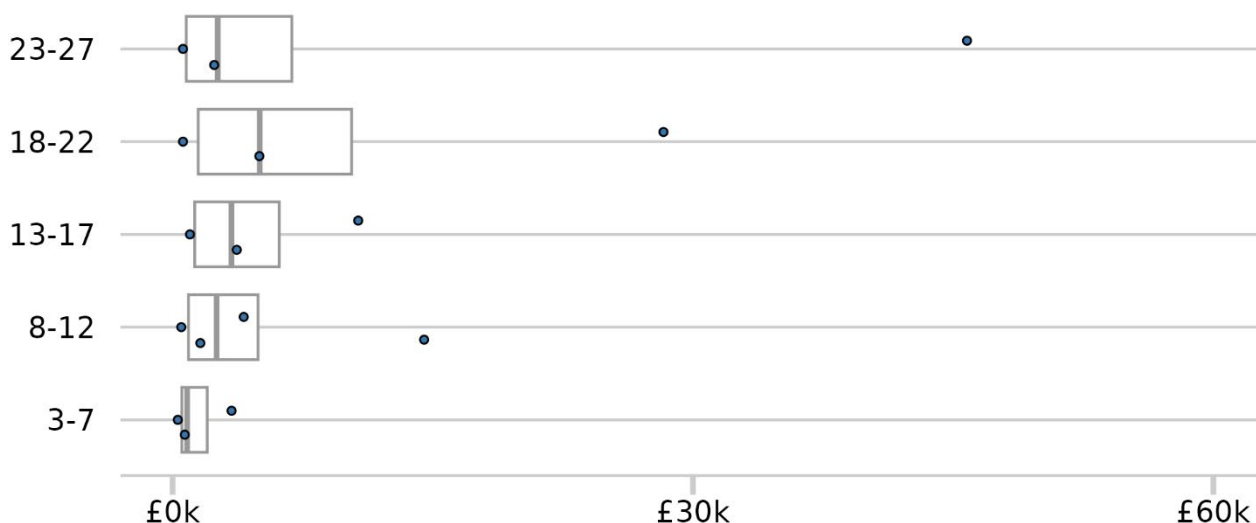
**Table 5.1.2: Number of barristers completing immigration legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and immigration gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022–23**

	Number of barristers	0–2	3–7	8–12	13–17	18–22	23–27	28 plus	Total
£5,000 and less	<b>130</b>	~	24%	22%	14%	12%	17%	~	<b>100%</b>
£5,001 to £30,000	<b>50</b>	0%	~	~	19%	27%	~	19%	<b>100%</b>
£30,001 to £60,000	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	<b>100%</b>
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	~	<b>100%</b>
£90,001 to £150,000	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	~	<b>100%</b>
£150,001 and over	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	~	<b>100%</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	~	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>16%</b>	~	<b>100%</b>

147. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice band for barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. Where unsuppressed, as years of practice

increased, median immigration gross civil legal aid fee income increased, with the exception of the 23–27 years of practice band.

### Immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice for immigration barristers for 2022–23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income.

148. Table 5.1.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the years of practice band of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. The mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income increased as the years of practice increased.

149. Tables 5.1.4 to 5.1.6 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 years of practice band of barristers who work in immigration legal aid by:

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

### *Socio-economic background*

150. Tables 5.2.1 to 5.2.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 35% and 46% of immigration 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 immigration legal aid by:

- Financial year,

- Immigration 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 immigration legal aid cases in the datashare period.

#### *Advocate type*

151. Table 5.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work by advocate type and by financial year. Most barristers completing immigration legal aid work were Juniors, at 84% to 93% of barristers.

**Table 5.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing immigration 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	10%	7%	8%	10%	12%	13%	13%	16%
Junior	90%	93%	92%	90%	88%	87%	87%	84%
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>190</b>

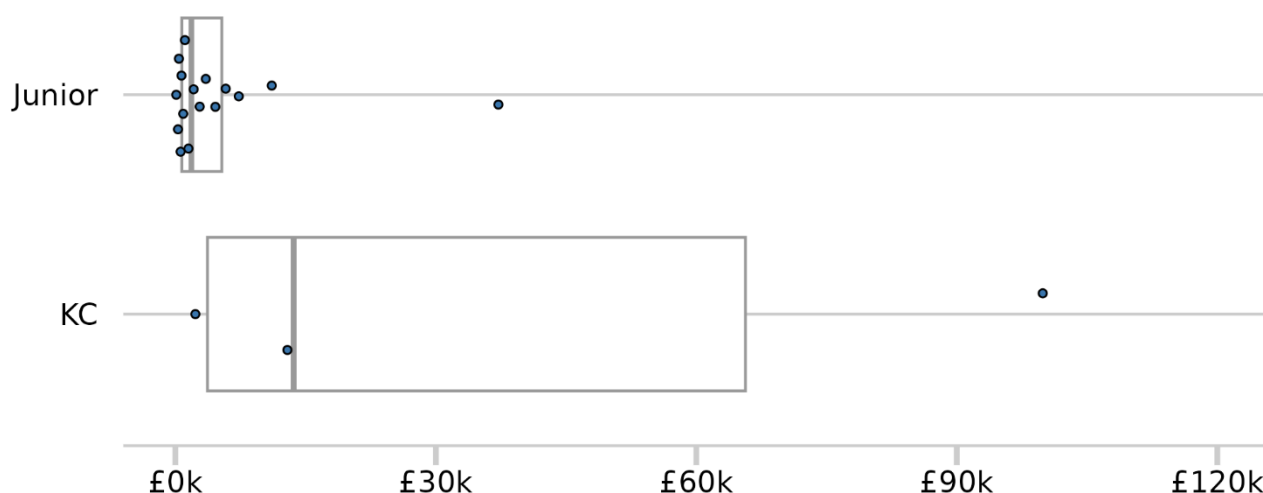
152. Table 5.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by advocate type and by their immigration gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

**Table 5.3.2: Number of barristers completing immigration legal aid work and their distribution by advocate type and immigration gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022–23**

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
£5,000 and less	130	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	50	25%	75%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>100%</b>

153. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. Junior barristers had a smaller median immigration gross civil legal aid fee income at £1,800, than KC barristers at £13,600.

#### Immigration gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for immigration barristers for 2022–23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income.

154. Table 5.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the immigration gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the advocate type of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23. The mean immigration gross civil legal aid fee income of Junior barristers was £4,900, which was lower than the mean of KCs at £40,400.

155. Tables 5.3.4 to 5.3.7 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 immigration legal aid by:

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

156. Table 5.3.8 shows the age band proportion of barristers who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by advocate type. The proportion of KCs aged 45–64 was higher than the proportion of juniors aged 45–64. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

**Table 5.3.8: Number of barristers completing immigration legal aid work and their distribution by age and advocate type, in 2022–23**

	<b>Number of barristers</b>	<b>Under 35</b>	<b>35–44</b>	<b>45–54</b>	<b>55–64</b>	<b>65+</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
KC	<b>30</b>	~	~	35%	32%	~	~	<b>100%</b>
Junior	<b>160</b>	8%	37%	29%	19%	~	~	<b>100%</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	~	<b>32%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>21%</b>	~	<b>9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

157. Table 5.3.9 shows the proportion of barristers by ethnicity who completed immigration legal aid work in FY2022–23, by advocate type. The proportion of KCs who were from the White ethnic group was higher than the proportion of juniors who were from the White ethnic group. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

**Table 5.3.9: Number of barristers completing immigration legal aid work and their distribution by ethnicity and advocate type, in 2022–23**

	<b>Number of barristers</b>	<b>Asian or Asian British</b>	<b>Black, Black British, Caribbean or African</b>	<b>Mixed or multiple ethnic groups</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Other ethnic group</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
KC	<b>30</b>	~	~	~	71%	~	~	<b>100%</b>
Junior	<b>160</b>	18%	~	~	66%	~	~	<b>100%</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>16%</b>	~	<b>6%</b>	<b>67%</b>	~	~	<b>100%</b>

## Annex – Solicitor Datashare

### Annex I – Data matching rates

158. 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 immigration firms receiving immigration 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 immigration firms receiving immigration legal aid payments that were successfully matched to the LS data for that year;

159. Non-SRA: organisations receiving immigration legal aid payments that appear to be not for profit or have been identified as other Alternative Business Structures (ABSs), and not matched with Solicitor Regulation Authority (SRA) data. Note that this designation has been made using 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.

160. Table A1.1 shows the match rate for active immigration legal aid firms, by year.

**Table A1.1: Active immigration legal aid firm match rate by year**

	2014– 15	2015– 16	2016– 17	2017– 18	2018– 19	2019– 20	2020– 21	2021– 22
<b>Firms in group</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>
Matched – any year	74%	74%	73%	72%	75%	77%	75%	73%
Matched – specific year	69%	68%	69%	68%	72%	77%	75%	73%
Non-SRA	20%	20%	22%	23%	19%	17%	18%	21%

161. Table A1.2 shows the match rate of income from immigration legal aid for active immigration legal aid firms, by year.



**Table A1.2: Income from immigration legal aid in matched active immigration legal aid firms by year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
<b>Income from immigration legal aid (£m)</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>£39.9</b>	<b>£42.0</b>	<b>£42.5</b>	<b>£43.5</b>	<b>£48.3</b>	<b>£37.6</b>	<b>£42.3</b>
Matched – any year	84%	83%	84%	85%	87%	87%	90%	87%
Matched – specific year	68%	68%	69%	70%	72%	87%	90%	87%
Non-SRA	10%	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	8%	11%

162. Table A1.3 shows the match rate for the solicitor data for active immigration firms, by year.

**Table A1.3: Immigration solicitor match rate by year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
<b>Firms in group</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>160</b>
Has solicitor data – any year	72%	72%	72%	71%	74%	74%	73%	71%
Has solicitor data – specific year	67%	67%	68%	68%	72%	73%	73%	70%
Non-SRA	20%	20%	22%	23%	19%	17%	18%	21%

163. Table A1.4 shows the match rate for income from immigration legal aid in active immigration legal aid firms with matched solicitor data, by year.

**Table A1.4: Income from immigration legal aid in active immigration firms with matched solicitor data, by year**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22
<b>Income from immigration legal aid (£m)</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>£39.9</b>	<b>£42.0</b>	<b>£42.5</b>	<b>£43.5</b>	<b>£48.3</b>	<b>£37.6</b>	<b>£42.3</b>
Has solicitor data – any year	68%	69%	70%	71%	73%	75%	76%	73%
Has solicitor data – specific year	65%	67%	69%	70%	72%	75%	76%	72%
Non-SRA	10%	11%	11%	11%	12%	11%	8%	11%

## Annex II – Income from inter partes costs

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

165. Table A2.1 shows the proportion of active immigration firms and income from immigration legal aid, by income from immigration legal aid excluding inter partes costs band, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22.

**Table A2.1: Active immigration legal aid firms by income from immigration legal aid excluding inter partes costs, and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%
£100k or less	63%	12%	51%	8%
£100k to £250k	18%	14%	26%	17%
£250k to £500k	9%	17%	14%	21%
£500k to £1m	~	~	~	~
£1m and over	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>£42.3</b>

166. Table A2.2 shows the proportion of active immigration firms and income from immigration legal aid, by income from inter partes costs only, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22.

**Table A2.2: Active immigration legal aid firms by income from immigration inter partes costs, and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	72%	29%	74%	33%
£100k or less	25%	37%	22%	28%
£100k to £250k	~	~	~	~
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>£42.3</b>

167. Table A2.3 shows the proportion of active immigration firms and income from immigration legal aid, by the proportion of income from immigration legal aid from inter partes costs, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22.

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

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	96%	96%	91%	58%
20–40%	~	3%	7%	39%
40–60%	~	1%	~	2%
60–80%	0%	0%	~	0%
More than 80%	0%	0%	~	0%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>£37.4</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>£42.3</b>

## Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms

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

169. Table A3.1 shows the proportion of immigration firms and income from immigration legal aid, by income from immigration legal aid, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22.

**Table A3.1: Out of contract billing immigration legal aid firms by income from immigration legal aid and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	~	~	~	~
£100k or less	83%	81%	79%	59%
£100k to £250k	~	~	0%	0%
£250k to £500k	0%	0%	~	~
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£0.8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>£0.7</b>

170. Table A3.2 shows the proportion of immigration firms and income from immigration legal aid, by civil legal aid claim volume, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22.

**Table A3.2: Out of contract billing immigration legal aid firms by immigration claim volume and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	60%	18%	74%	22%
11 to 50 claims	23%	27%	~	16%
51 to 100 claims	~	22%	~	10%
101 to 200 claims	~	14%	~	12%
201 claims plus	~	19%	~	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£0.8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>£0.7</b>

Between 2014–15 and 2021–22, 73% of the out of contract billing immigration firms with over 100 immigration claims were in contract at the beginning of the financial year

171. Table A3.3 shows the proportion of matched immigration firms and income from immigration legal aid, by total turnover, in FY2014–15 and FY2021–22.

**Table A3.3: Matched out of contract billing immigration legal aid firms by total turnover and year**

	2014–15		2021–22	
	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from immigration legal aid (£m)
Unknown	~	13%	~	2%
£250k or less	42%	27%	~	18%
£250k to £500k	~	30%	~	28%
£500k to £1m	~	10%	~	43%
£1m to £5m	~	10%	~	4%
£5m and over	~	11%	~	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>£0.5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>£0.6</b>

## Annex – Barrister Datashare

### Match rates

172. 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

173. Two match rates are shown: one against all civil representation advocacy done in immigration, 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 immigration 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)	£1.8	£1.5	£1.5	£1.5	£1.4	£1.3	£1.2	£2.1
Advocacy work paid directly (£m)	£1.8	£1.5	£1.5	£1.4	£1.3	£1.3	£1.2	£2.1
Matched advocacy work (£m)	£1.7	£1.4	£1.5	£1.4	£1.3	£1.2	£1.2	£2.0
<b>Matched against all advocacy work</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>Matched against advocacy work paid directly</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>96%</b>

## Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources

174. 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.
175. The LAA data includes billing information from the main civil legal aid schemes – Legal Help, Controlled Legal Representation, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme<sup>10</sup> and Civil Representation. The data covers the relevant periods described in the following paragraphs, relevant to each of the two data sharing agreements.
176. 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.
177. 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.
178. 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.

---

<sup>10</sup> 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.



179. 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 immigration work specifically is shown in the Barrister Datashare annex at the end of this document.
180. 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.

# OGL

© Crown copyright 2025

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3)

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

