

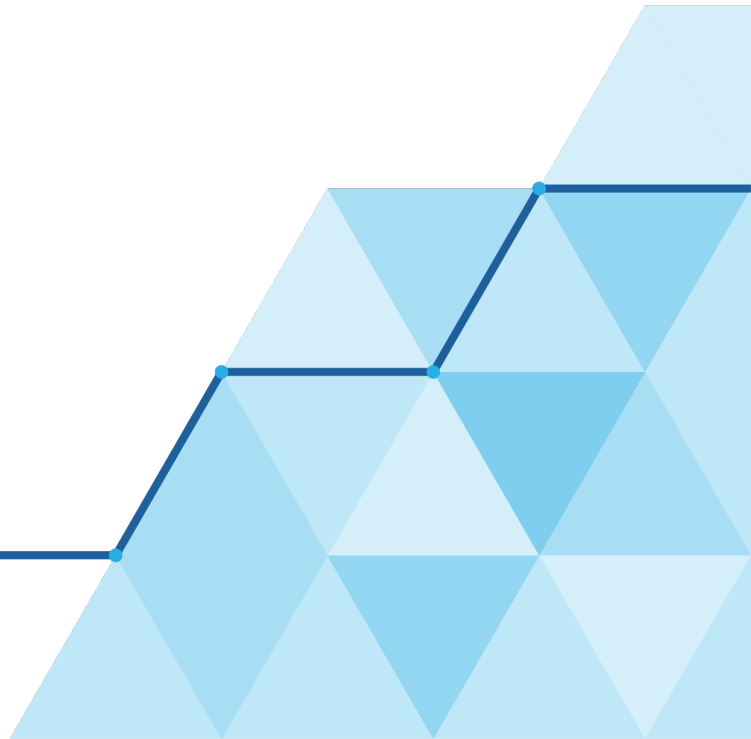


Ministry  
of Justice

# Review of Civil Legal Aid Data Publication Series

## Community care deep dive

03 March 2025



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# Introduction

## Background and purpose of this publication

1. This report is part of the Data Publication Series workstream within the Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA). The Data Publication Series is a result of two data sharing agreements, one between the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the Law Society (LS) and another between the MoJ and the Bar Council (BC). The aim of these publications is to summarise key descriptive information about solicitors and barristers who do civil legal aid to inform the policy-making emerging from RoCLA.
2. More information about the review, including the Data Publications Overview Report which is also part of the Data Publication series, can be found at the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/civil-legal-aid-review>.
3. This document follows the same structure and definitions as the Overview Report, but mostly focuses on the providers who undertake community care legal aid work, except where other providers are included in the tables to set the community care providers in context.

## 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 or other organisation, barrister, or all of these, 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.

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<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 term “firms” can include other organisations as well as solicitor firms. Further details on the different types of organisations, as well as details on which types have been matched to LS data, can be found in Annex I – Data matching rates, in the Solicitor Datashare Annex.
11. In this chapter the firms considered are “active community care legal aid firms”. These are firms that both submitted at least one final community care bill in the year shown and held a community care 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 community care legal aid are shown for active community care firms. Each table also shows only the income relevant to the firms in the cohort relevant to that table, so the income received by firms in years in which they were out of contract is also not included in this publication (with the exception of the initial tables in the overview section where the total income for all firms is shown for context).
12. 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.
13. 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.

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

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<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.

## Community care solicitor firm overview

### Key information

- The number of active community care legal aid firms has remained stable over the period FY2014-15 to FY2021-22. Over the same period, legal aid income for active community care firms increased from £3.6m to £15.8m.
- Each year between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, over 90% of active community care legal aid firms were active in another area of civil legal aid work.
- The majority of active community care firms received less than 20% of their income from civil legal aid from community care legal aid work, although this proportion has decreased from 84% in FY2014-15 to 64% in FY2021-22.

### Community care firms in the context of all legal aid providers

18. This section looks at how community care 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 community care firms and their community care 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”.
19. Tables 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 show that there was a large proportion of community care firms (17% to 36% each year) that did not have a contract at the end of the year in which they billed, however they accounted for a small proportion (2% to 15%) of the total income from community care legal aid for all firms.
20. 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: Community care 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	64%	75%	76%	83%	71%	80%	81%	83%
Out of contract billing firms	36%	25%	24%	17%	29%	20%	19%	18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>80</b>

**Table 1.1.2: Income from community care legal aid (£m) for community care 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	85%	93%	90%	94%	95%	97%	98%	97%
Out of contract billing firms	15%	7%	10%	6%	5%	3%	2%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4.3</b>	<b>£3.8</b>	<b>£4.0</b>	<b>£6.4</b>	<b>£9.6</b>	<b>£12.9</b>	<b>£15.7</b>	<b>£16.2</b>

21. 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 community care firms, where only the community care claims, and income from those claims, completed by the firm in the relevant financial year are reported.
22. In this section, percentages are based on unrounded values so may not reflect the rounded values seen in the tables.
23. 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, 5% of active civil legal aid firms completed community care legal aid work.
24. The number of active community care legal aid firms over the period has remained relatively stable, with an overall decrease of 6% seen between FY2014-15 to FY2021-22. 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
Community care	70	80	70	70	60	70	70	70
Year on year change		9%	-5%	-1%	-13%	13%	-4%	-1%
All active firms	1,570	1,490	1,390	1,330	1,310	1,340	1,280	1,230

25. 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, 1% of all civil legal aid claims completed by active firms were community care claims.

26. The number of community care legal aid claims has varied slightly over the period, with an overall decrease of 12% seen between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. 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
Community care	3,160	2,770	2,630	2,630	2,710	3,050	2,950	2,770
Year on year change		-12%	-5%	0%	3%	13%	-3%	-6%
All active firms	331,160	279,910	273,540	272,050	264,000	266,710	198,540	224,400

27. 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, 3% of all income from civil legal aid for active firms was from community care work.

28. There has generally been an increase in the income from community care legal aid over the period, with a 335% increase. This is higher 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
Community care	£3.6	£3.6	£3.6	£6.0	£9.1	£12.5	£15.4	£15.8
Year on year change		-2%	1%	65%	51%	37%	23%	3%
All active firms	£581.7	£503.9	£503.3	£520.2	£529.8	£573.4	£522.6	£602.6

**Composition of work completed by community care firms**

29. Table 1.1.6 shows the civil legal aid categories that active community care legal aid firms were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Each year, over 90% of community care legal aid firms were also active in another civil legal aid category. Around half of community care legal aid firms also completed family legal aid work. The proportion of community care firms that also completed housing & debt legal aid work has decreased over the period, from 59% in FY2014-15 to 44% in FY2021-22.
30. In all years, the mean number of categories that an active community care firm was active in was four, including community care as one of those categories.

**Table 1.1.6: Active contracts for active community care 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>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Community care only</b>	6%	5%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%	8%
<b>Community care +</b>	94%	95%	92%	94%	92%	94%	93%	92%
Claims against public authorities	27%	28%	33%	35%	39%	34%	36%	35%
Clinical negligence	20%	16%	18%	21%	13%	19%	15%	11%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	6%	12%
Education	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	7%	11%
Family	51%	49%	46%	48%	48%	49%	46%	47%
Housing & debt	59%	58%	56%	55%	50%	46%	43%	44%
Immigration	30%	29%	26%	24%	23%	20%	19%	23%
Mental health	41%	38%	38%	39%	35%	36%	39%	36%
Miscellaneous and other	30%	34%	36%	45%	42%	41%	34%	32%
Public law	43%	50%	56%	52%	45%	43%	40%	39%
Welfare benefits	10%	9%	8%	7%	8%	7%	7%	8%
<b>Mean number of active categories per firm</b>	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

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

31. Table 1.1.7 shows the proportion of income from civil legal aid that active community care legal aid firms received from community care legal aid work, by year. Most firms received less than 20% of their income from civil legal aid from community care legal aid work, although this proportion decreased from 84% in FY2014-15 to 64% in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% community care	84%	84%	86%	89%	66%	69%	55%	64%
20-40% community care	~	~	~	~	19%	~	22%	15%
40-60% community care	~	~	0%	~	~	~	~	~
60-80% community care	0%	0%	~	~	~	~	~	~
80% and over community care	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>

32. Table 1.1.8 shows the split of income from community care legal aid between civil representation and controlled work, for community care legal aid firms, by year. The proportion of firms which received 80% or more of their community care income from controlled work decreased from 47% in FY2014-15 to 21%, while the proportion of firms which received 80% or more of their community care income from civil representation increased from 16% in FY2014-15 to 50% in FY2021-22.

**Table 1.1.8: Active community care legal aid firms, by percent of income from community care 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	47%	53%	43%	42%	31%	34%	22%	21%
20-40% civil representation, 60-80% controlled work	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
40-60% civil representation, 40-60% controlled work	~	~	17%	~	~	~	~	~
60-80% civil representation, 20-40% controlled work	16%	17%	~	14%	21%	17%	~	15%
80% and over civil representation, less than 20% controlled work	16%	~	18%	24%	29%	37%	48%	50%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>

## Firm composition

### Key information

- There has been a shift to community care firms receiving higher incomes from community care legal aid, with the proportion of firms receiving £100k or less decreasing from 87% in FY2014-15 to 56% in FY2021-22.
- Between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, there has been shift towards community care legal aid firms completing fewer claims with 82% of firms completing 50 or fewer claims in FY2021-22.
- In FY2021-22, 79% of firms received 20% or less of their turnover from community care legal aid income, a decrease from 91% in FY2014-15.

33. This section focuses on how the composition of active community care 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 community care 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 community care legal aid firms and income from community care legal aid, by their income from community care legal aid band, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. There has been a shift to community care firms receiving higher incomes from community care legal aid, with the proportion of firms receiving £100k or less decreasing from 87% in FY2014-15 to 56% in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
£100k or less	87%	42%	56%	6%
£100k to £250k	~	~	23%	15%
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	~	~
£1m and over	0%	0%	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£15.8</b>

35. Table 1.2.2 shows the proportion of active community care legal aid firms and income from community care legal aid, by community care claim volume, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. In FY2021-22, over 80% of firms completed 50 or fewer claims, whilst 55% of the income from community care legal aid was received by firms which completed 201 claims or more.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	31%	5%	30%	2%
11 to 50 claims	41%	28%	52%	23%
51 to 100 claims	19%	24%	~	18%
101 to 200 claims	~	19%	~	2%
201 claims +	~	24%	~	55%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£15.8</b>

36. Table 1.2.3 shows the proportion of active community care legal aid firms and income from community care legal aid, by total turnover bands, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. The proportion of firms with total turnovers of £1m to £5m has increased, while the proportion of firms with total turnovers of £5m or more has decreased. In contrast, the proportion of income from community care legal aid for firms with total turnovers of £5m or more has increased.

**Table 1.2.3: Matched active community care legal aid firms, by total turnover and year**

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Unknown	~	3%	~	3%
£250k or less	~	1%	~	1%
£250k to £500k	~	14%	~	4%
£500k to £1m	~	11%	~	0%
£1m to £5m	23%	18%	30%	17%
£5m and over	36%	54%	32%	75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£3.1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£15.0</b>

37. Table 1.2.4 shows the proportion of active community care legal aid firms and income from community care legal aid, by the proportion of a firm's total turnover which came from income from community care 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 this table should be treated with some caution. However, it does show the overall shape of the changing composition of providers' income and is the best available proxy for firms' reliance on community care legal aid income as part of their business model.
38. For the majority of active community care legal aid firms in both years, income from community care legal aid made up less than 20% of the firm's total turnover, although this proportion changed from 91% in FY2014-15 to 79% in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	91%	87%	79%	87%
20-40%	~	3%	~	3%
40-60%	~	8%	~	4%
60-80%	0%	0%	~	2%
More than 80%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Firm turnover is unknown	~	3%	~	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£3.1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£15.0</b>

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

39. Table 1.2.5 shows the proportion of active community care legal aid firms and income from community care 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 2-4 partners increased from 30% in FY2014-15 to 36% in FY2021-22. The proportion of income from community care legal aid for firms with 26 or more partners increased, from 10% in FY2014-15 to 48% in FY2021-22.



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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Very small (0-1 partner)	~	37%	32%	8%
Small (2-4 partners)	30%	15%	36%	28%
Medium (5-25 partners)	38%	38%	~	15%
Large (26 partners and over)	~	10%	~	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£3.1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£15.0</b>

40. Table 1.2.6 shows the proportion of active community care legal aid firms and income from community care 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, around half of firms were based in London, although the proportion of income from community care legal aid for London firms decreased from 48% to 21%. It is difficult to comment further on trends due to high levels of suppression in this table.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
East Midlands	~	5%	~	10%
East of England	0%	0%	0%	0%
London	53%	48%	51%	21%
North East	~	3%	~	6%
North West	~	6%	~	2%
South East	~	1%	~	2%
South West	~	14%	~	15%
Wales	~	2%	~	1%
West Midlands	~	17%	~	31%
Yorkshire and the Humber	~	4%	~	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£3.1</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>£15.0</b>

## Firm joiners and leavers

### Key information

- Numbers of joiner community care firms between FY2015-16 and FY2021-22 were similar to numbers of leaver community care firms between FY2014-15 and FY2020-21.
- Between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, over 90% of both joiner and leaver community care legal aid firms also completed civil legal aid work in another category.

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

43. 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 community care firm was active between 2014-15 and 2021-22**

	Number of firms
1 year	~
2-4 years	50
5-7 years	~
8 years	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

44. Table 1.3.2 shows a summary of the number of community care joiners and leavers, by year. Numbers of joiner firms over the period were similar to numbers of leaver firms. It is difficult to comment further on trends due to high levels of suppression in this table.

**Table 1.3.2: Joiner and leaver active community care firms by year**

	Number of firms	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Joiners	40		~	~	~	~	10	~	~
Leavers	40	~	~	~	20	~	~	~	

45. The numbers of community care 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 community care legal aid payments and held a community care contract, and for leavers, the characteristics of the firm in the last year it received community care legal aid payments and held a community care contract.
46. Table 1.3.3 shows the civil legal aid categories that joiner community care legal aid firms were active in, in the first year they were active community care legal aid firms. It also shows the civil legal aid categories that leaver community care legal aid firms were active in, in the last year they were active community care legal aid firms. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Over 90% of joiners and leavers also completed legal aid work in another category. 43% of community care joiners and 66% of community care leavers also completed housing & debt legal aid work.

47. The mean number of categories that an active community care firm was active in was three for joiners and four for leavers, including community care as one of those categories.

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

	<b>Joiners</b>	<b>Leavers</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Community care only</b>	8%	5%
<b>Community care +</b>	92%	95%
Claims against public authorities	14%	20%
Clinical negligence	14%	17%
Discrimination	0%	0%
Education	3%	0%
Family	30%	34%
Housing & debt	43%	66%
Immigration	11%	24%
Mental health	35%	41%
Miscellaneous and other	16%	34%
Public law	19%	37%
Welfare benefits	0%	7%
<b>Mean number of active categories per firm</b>	3	4

Percentages are calculated using the total number of joiner and leaver firms in a year completing community care 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.

48. Tables 1.3.4 to 1.3.6 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 proportions of joiner and leaver community care legal aid firms by:
- Total turnover,
  - Number of partners, and
  - Region.

# Solicitors

49. This chapter concentrates on solicitors who worked for active community care legal aid firms in the years the firm received community care 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 community care legal aid firms has remained relatively stable between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, similarly to the number of active firms.
- The proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms aged under 35 has decreased from FY2014-15 to FY2021-22, while the proportion aged 55 and over has increased.

50. This section focuses on how the numbers and characteristics of these solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms have changed over the duration of the datashare period.

51. Table 2.1.1 shows the number of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms, by year. The number of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms has varied over the period, with an overall decrease of 1%, which is smaller than the 6% fall in the number of firms.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of solicitors	2,720	3,330	3,030	3,090	2,570	3,080	3,210	2,680

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

**Table 2.1.2: Solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by gender and year**

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	63%	61%	62%	61%	63%	63%	62%	61%
Male	37%	39%	37%	38%	36%	36%	34%	31%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	4%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

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

**Table 2.1.3: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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	34%	31%	33%	32%	30%	29%	28%	29%
35-44	35%	36%	34%	34%	35%	35%	35%	34%
45-54	20%	21%	21%	20%	20%	21%	21%	21%
55-64	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%	12%
65+	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

54. Table 2.1.4 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms, by ethnic group and year. The majority of solicitors were from the White ethnic group, and this proportion decreased from 72% in FY2014-15 to 61% in FY2021-22. It is worth noting that an increase is seen in the proportions of solicitors whose ethnic group is unknown.

**Table 2.1.4: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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	14%	12%	12%	11%	11%	9%	9%	9%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
White	72%	73%	70%	68%	64%	63%	65%	61%
Other ethnic group	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	7%	9%	12%	15%	19%	23%	20%	24%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

55. Table 2.1.5 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms, by years since admission to the profession and year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors with 12 or fewer years since admission to the profession, and an increase in the proportion of those with 18 years or more since admission to the profession.

**Table 2.1.5: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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%	11%	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%	11%
3-7	27%	26%	26%	24%	23%	22%	21%	23%
8-12	20%	19%	18%	19%	19%	19%	18%	17%
13-17	14%	14%	15%	15%	15%	15%	14%	14%
18-22	10%	11%	11%	11%	10%	11%	12%	12%
23-27	6%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	9%	9%
28 +	8%	10%	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%	12%
Unknown	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

56. Table 2.1.6 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms, by position in the firm and year. Each year, between 20% and 29% of solicitors were partners.

**Table 2.1.6: Solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by position in firm 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>	<b>2021-22</b>
Other	80%	79%	80%	80%	79%	71%	78%	77%
Partners	20%	21%	20%	20%	21%	29%	22%	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

57. Table 2.1.7 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active community care 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.
58. The proportion of solicitors working in firms based in London decreased from 53% in FY2014-15 to 35% in FY2021-22. The proportion of solicitors in the South West increased, from 5% in FY2014-15 to 14% in FY2021-22.



**Table 2.1.7: Solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by region 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>	<b>2021-22</b>
East Midlands	6%	5%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
East of England	0%	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%
London	53%	44%	46%	41%	36%	30%	31%	35%
North East	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
North West	7%	5%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	7%
South East	~	~	~	~	~	4%	6%	6%
South West	5%	5%	5%	10%	7%	13%	21%	14%
Wales	~	1%	~	~	1%	1%	1%	1%
West Midlands	21%	34%	32%	36%	41%	39%	31%	31%
Yorkshire and the Humber	6%	5%	6%	4%	5%	4%	3%	3%
Unknown	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

59. Table 2.1.8 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms, by their firm's number of partners and year. The proportion of solicitors working in firms with 2-4 or 26 partners or more has increased over the period, while the proportion of solicitors working in firms with 0-1 or 5-25 partners has decreased over the period.

**Table 2.1.8: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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)	8%	8%	8%	7%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Small (2-4 partners)	6%	6%	6%	18%	13%	14%	14%	16%
Medium (5-25 partners)	34%	24%	22%	21%	25%	21%	20%	20%
Large (26 partners and over)	52%	62%	62%	54%	57%	61%	63%	62%
Unknown	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,720</b>	<b>3,330</b>	<b>3,030</b>	<b>3,090</b>	<b>2,570</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>2,680</b>

## Solicitor joiners and leavers

### Key information

- Joiner solicitors working in community care legal aid have increasingly joined by becoming employed by existing community care legal aid firms, increasing from 57% in FY2015-16 to 96% in FY2021-22.
- The proportion of community care leaver solicitors aged under 35 has decreased over the period FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. Over the same period, the number of leaver solicitors aged 55-64 has increased.
- Proportions of continuing solicitors (solicitors who worked in active community care legal aid firms in both the year prior and the subsequent year) increased between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 across all age groups and years since admission to the profession groups.

60. This section focuses on how the numbers and characteristics of solicitors who have joined or left the community care legal aid market have changed over the duration of the datashare period.
61. Joiner solicitors are defined as having not worked for an active community care legal aid firm in the previous year. This includes two types of joiner solicitors:
- New joiners, who had not previously worked in an active community care legal aid firm in the datashare period;

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

### Joiners and leavers timeseries

65. This section looks at solicitors joining and leaving the community care legal aid market. Table 2.2.1 shows the total number of community care 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 community care 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.
66. The number of joiner solicitors has varied across this period, broadly decreasing.

**Table 2.2.1: Total number of joiner and returner solicitors working in matched active community care 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>1,120</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>390</b>
of whom were returners	-	20	100	20	130	40	40

67. Table 2.2.2 shows the total number of community care 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 community care 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.

68. The number of leaver solicitors has varied across this period, decreasing over most of the period, aside from a large increase in FY2017-18. This coincides with the LAA procurement round occurring in FY2018-19. There was also another large increase seen in FY2020-21.

**Table 2.2.2: Total number of leaver and temporary leaver solicitors working in matched active community care 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>520</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>920</b>
of whom left temporarily	40	130	40	120	20	~	-

69. Table 2.2.3 shows the proportion of joiners by the reason they were considered as community care 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 community care legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor joined an active community care legal aid firm.
70. This table shows that the majority of solicitors were classified as joiners because the solicitor joined a firm completing community care legal aid claims, although this proportion varied throughout the period. The exception to this was FY2019-20, coinciding with the LAA procurement round the previous year, where 61% of joiner solicitors were joiners because their firm started completing community care legal aid work.

**Table 2.2.3: Joiner solicitors working in matched active community care 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 community care legal aid firm	43%	9%	31%	11%	61%	4%	4%
Solicitor joined active community care legal aid firm	57%	91%	69%	89%	39%	96%	96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>390</b>

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

**Table 2.2.4: Leaver solicitors working in matched active community care 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 community care legal aid firm	2%	13%	8%	64%	8%	14%	46%
Solicitor left active community care legal aid firm	98%	87%	92%	36%	92%	86%	54%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>920</b>

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

**Table 2.2.5: Joiner solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by gender and year**

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	58%	67%	62%	66%	63%	58%	41%
Male	42%	32%	36%	32%	36%	21%	19%
Unknown	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	21%	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>390</b>

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

**Table 2.2.6: Leaver solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by gender 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>
Female	64%	62%	64%	58%	65%	63%	58%
Male	36%	38%	35%	41%	35%	35%	37%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>920</b>

75. Table 2.2.7 shows the proportion of community care joiner solicitors by age, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. In each year, between 39% and 59% of joiners were aged under 35. Proportions have varied across years, with no clear trends over time.

**Table 2.2.7: Joiner solicitors working in matched active community care 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	39%	57%	49%	49%	39%	53%	59%
35-44	31%	24%	27%	25%	30%	23%	24%
45-54	19%	13%	15%	12%	18%	13%	12%
55-64	10%	~	~	10%	11%	~	~
65+	2%	~	~	3%	2%	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>390</b>

76. Table 2.2.8 shows the proportion of community care leaver solicitors by age, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. In each year, between 31% and 43% of leavers were aged under 35. The proportion of leaver solicitors aged under 35 has broadly decreased over the period, and the proportion of leaver solicitors aged 35-44 has broadly increased.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Under 35	43%	34%	37%	32%	33%	36%	31%
35-44	29%	36%	34%	34%	33%	33%	36%
45-54	18%	20%	19%	20%	18%	16%	18%
55-64	~	9%	8%	12%	10%	11%	13%
65+	~	2%	2%	2%	5%	4%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>920</b>

77. Table 2.2.9 shows the proportion of community care joiner solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. The proportion of joiner solicitors with 0-2 years since admission to the profession has broadly increased over the period, while the proportion of joiner solicitors with 3-12 years since admission to the profession has broadly decreased.

**Table 2.2.9: Joiner solicitors working in matched active community care 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	18%	31%	29%	32%	24%	38%	43%
3-7	24%	23%	16%	17%	17%	15%	20%
8-12	16%	11%	15%	12%	15%	10%	10%
13-17	12%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	9%
18-22	9%	5%	7%	6%	9%	5%	6%
23-27	7%	3%	5%	4%	8%	4%	~
28 +	10%	4%	8%	10%	11%	8%	~
Unknown	4%	12%	8%	9%	4%	11%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>390</b>

78. Table 2.2.10 shows the proportion of community care leaver solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. Proportions have varied over the period, with a broad decrease in the proportion of leaver solicitors with 3-7 years since admission and a broad increase in the proportion of leaver solicitors with 13-17 and 28 or more years since admission.

**Table 2.2.10: Leaver solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by years since admission to the profession 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>
0-2	15%	12%	16%	13%	15%	18%	15%
3-7	33%	29%	27%	24%	28%	28%	21%
8-12	20%	20%	17%	19%	20%	16%	18%
13-17	9%	11%	16%	14%	11%	12%	15%
18-22	7%	10%	7%	10%	8%	7%	10%
23-27	5%	7%	6%	8%	4%	5%	7%
28 +	6%	9%	8%	11%	13%	10%	12%
Unknown	4%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>920</b>

79. Table 2.2.11 shows the proportion of community care 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.
80. The largest proportions of joiner solicitors' firms were located in London or the West Midlands, and these proportions varied over the period with no clear trends.



**Table 2.2.11: Joiner solicitors working in matched active community care legal aid firms by region 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>
East Midlands	4%	~	~	~	~	~	3%
East of England	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%
London	33%	46%	31%	38%	16%	34%	34%
North East	~	~	~	4%	3%	~	~
North West	2%	5%	6%	7%	3%	6%	5%
South East	0%	0%	0%	~	14%	16%	5%
South West	5%	5%	19%	11%	29%	17%	18%
Wales	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
West Midlands	53%	26%	41%	33%	32%	23%	31%
Yorkshire and the Humber	2%	6%	2%	2%	2%	~	3%
Unknown	0%	8%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>450</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>390</b>

81. Table 2.2.12 shows the proportion of community care 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.
82. The largest proportions of leaver solicitors' firms were located in London, the West Midlands or the South West. The proportion based in London broadly decreased over the period, while the proportion based in the South West broadly increased.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
East Midlands	3%	16%	~	~	~	~	2%
East of England	0%	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%
London	65%	36%	53%	51%	38%	31%	18%
North East	~	~	~	2%	4%	~	~
North West	7%	3%	4%	4%	7%	7%	4%
South East	0%	~	0%	~	0%	5%	4%
South West	5%	4%	6%	17%	10%	13%	38%
Wales	~	0%	~	~	~	~	~
West Midlands	13%	35%	24%	22%	36%	29%	31%
Yorkshire and the Humber	5%	3%	10%	2%	3%	11%	1%
Unknown	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>920</b>

### Joining and leaving rates

83. This section presents an alternative view of community care joiner and leaver solicitors, by looking at the joining and leaving rates of solicitors who worked for an active community care 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.
84. Each table reports the “continuation status” of solicitors, which is split into four categories:
- Joiner solicitors: solicitors who worked for active community care legal aid firms in the given and subsequent year, but did not work for an active community care legal aid firm in the prior year.
  - Joiner and leaver solicitors: solicitors who worked for active community care 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 community care legal aid firms in the prior and given year, but did not work for an active community care legal aid firm in the subsequent year.
  - Continuing solicitors: solicitors who worked for active community care legal aid firms in the prior, given and subsequent year.

85. Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 show the proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, within each age band, in FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. Proportions of continuing solicitors were higher in FY2020-21 than FY2015-16 for all age groups, while proportions of joiner solicitors were lower.
86. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors aged under 35 were joiners, compared to other unsuppressed age groups. Additionally, in FY2020-21, as age increased, the proportion of continuing solicitors broadly increased.

**Table 2.3.1: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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	30%	21%	20%	25%	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	12%	9%	10%	10%	~
Leaver solicitors	16%	17%	14%	13%	18%
Continuing solicitors	42%	53%	57%	52%	61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,190</b>	<b>710</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>80</b>

**Table 2.3.2: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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>
Joiner solicitors	17%	7%	7%	9%	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	12%	3%	3%	3%	~
Leaver solicitors	19%	26%	22%	25%	20%
Continuing solicitors	52%	64%	69%	63%	73%
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>1,120</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>110</b>

87. Tables 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 show the proportion of solicitors working in active community care legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, by years since admission to the profession, in FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. Proportions of continuing solicitors were higher in FY2020-21 than FY2015-16 for all years since admission to the profession groups, while proportions of joiner solicitors were lower, where unsuppressed.

88. 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 groups. Additionally, in FY2020-21, the proportion of continuing solicitors was higher for the higher years since admission to the profession groups than for the lower years since admission to the profession groups.

**Table 2.3.3: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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 +</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Joiner solicitors	39%	21%	19%	22%	17%	22%	24%	70%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	14%	10%	10%	6%	11%	8%	11%	~
Leaver solicitors	13%	18%	17%	14%	14%	18%	12%	0%
Continuing solicitors	34%	50%	53%	57%	59%	51%	52%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>40</b>

**Table 2.3.4: Solicitors working in matched active community care 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 +</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
Joiner solicitors	29%	7%	5%	8%	~	~	~	55%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	21%	4%	3%	3%	~	~	~	38%
Leaver solicitors	16%	25%	26%	26%	22%	20%	26%	~
Continuing solicitors	34%	65%	66%	63%	72%	73%	64%	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>60</b>

# Barristers

## Additional methodological details for barrister statistics

89. 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.
90. 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.
91. Where “community care gross civil legal aid fee income” is mentioned, this only refers to income that barristers have received from community care legal aid work, and not income from legal aid work in other categories of law.
92. 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

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<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.

93. 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. This information is only available for the last three years in the datashare.
94. 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>
95. In this chapter, the first section shows all barristers, and the subsequent sections show all barristers completing community care 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.
96. 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.
97. 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.

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<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

98. 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 community care legal aid work in context

### Key information

- The number of barristers who completed community care cases increased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, along with their community care case volume and community care gross civil legal aid fee income.
- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, around 90% of community care legal aid barristers also did civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category.
- There has been a shift towards community care barristers receiving a higher proportion of their gross civil legal aid fee income from community care work between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23. The proportion of barristers who received less than 20% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from community care legal aid work has decreased from 61% in FY2015-16 to 37% in FY2022-23.

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

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

101. 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, community care legal aid barristers made up 6% of all civil legal aid barristers.

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<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>

102. There has generally been an increase in the number of community care legal aid barristers over the period, with an overall increase of 149%. This is in contrast to the overall decrease of 11% for other civil legal aid barristers, and larger than 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
Community care legal aid	110	120	170	210	260	260	250	270
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

103. 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, 2% of all civil legal aid cases completed were community care cases.

104. There has generally been an increase in the number of community care legal aid cases completed by barristers over the period, with an overall increase of 380%. This is in contrast to the overall decrease of 1% for other civil legal aid barrister cases, and larger than 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
Community care legal aid	320	310	590	880	1,250	1,490	1,360	1,520
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

105. Table 3.1.3 shows the gross civil legal aid fee income of barristers completing community care legal aid cases, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, 2% of all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers was from community care legal aid work.

106. There has generally been an increase in the gross civil legal aid fee income from community care legal aid cases for barristers, with an overall increase of 538%. This is larger than the overall increase of 13% for gross civil legal aid fee income from other civil legal aid cases for barristers, and the overall increase of 75% for all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers.



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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Community care legal aid	£0.4	£0.4	£0.9	£1.4	£2.2	£2.7	£2.7	£2.8
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

107. Table 3.1.4 shows the civil legal aid categories that community care legal aid barristers were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. In each year, between 86% and 93% of community care legal aid barristers also completed civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category.

108. In FY2022-23, 59% of community care barristers also completed mental health legal aid work, which is an increase from 36% in FY2015-16. The proportion of community care barristers who also completed housing & debt legal aid work has decreased over the period, from 44% in FY2015-16 to 16% in FY2022-23, and the proportion doing public law legal aid work has decreased from 52% in FY2015-16 to 28% in FY2022-23.

**Table 3.1.4: Areas of legal aid work for barristers completing community care 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>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>Community care only</b>	11%	10%	7%	7%	9%	11%	14%	10%
<b>Community care +</b>	89%	90%	93%	93%	91%	89%	86%	90%
Claims against public authorities	12%	16%	15%	11%	13%	14%	11%	13%
Clinical negligence	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Discrimination	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Education	6%	11%	4%	5%	1%	3%	6%	3%
Family	15%	16%	35%	33%	33%	29%	24%	26%
Housing & debt	44%	38%	29%	24%	24%	18%	17%	16%
Immigration	14%	18%	15%	10%	9%	8%	11%	8%
Mental health	36%	40%	54%	54%	54%	56%	58%	59%
Miscellaneous and other	17%	21%	18%	12%	11%	10%	9%	10%
Public law	52%	57%	32%	30%	25%	23%	30%	28%
Welfare benefits	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%

Percentages are calculated using the total number of barristers in a year completing community care 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.

109. Table 3.1.5 shows the proportion of gross civil legal aid fee income that community care legal aid barristers received from community care legal aid work, by year. There has been a shift towards community care barristers receiving a higher proportion of their gross civil legal aid fee income from community care work. The proportion of barristers who received less than 20% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from community care legal aid work has decreased from 61% in FY2015-16 to 37% in FY2022-23.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	61%	59%	59%	54%	47%	36%	36%	37%
20-40%	13%	14%	21%	15%	17%	16%	19%	20%
40-60%	~	~	10%	15%	13%	18%	14%	17%
60-80%	~	~	~	6%	7%	8%	14%	10%
80% and over	11%	11%	~	10%	15%	21%	17%	16%
Gross civil legal aid income is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

## Community care barristers

### Overview

#### Key information

- Over the period FY2015-16 to FY2022-23, there has been a shift towards barristers receiving higher community care gross civil legal aid fee incomes and completing more community care cases.
- Each year since FY2020-21, 12% of barristers completing community care legal aid work received at least 80% of their income from legal aid, and around a quarter reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income.

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

111. Table 4.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by community care gross civil legal aid fee income and financial year. There has been a shift towards community care legal aid barristers receiving higher community care gross civil legal aid fee incomes. The proportion of barristers with community care gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,000 or less has decreased from 81% in FY2015-16 to 58% in FY2022-23.

**Table 4.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing community care legal aid work by community care 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	81%	82%	73%	71%	61%	53%	57%	58%
£5,001 to £30,000	~	~	~	24%	32%	38%	36%	34%
£30,001 to £60,000	~	~	~	~	5%	7%	4%	5%
£60,001 to £90,000	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~	~	~
£90,001 to £150,000	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	~	~	0%
£150,001 and over	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

112. Table 4.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by their self-reported total gross income band and by financial year. The proportion of community care barristers with self-reported total gross incomes of £240,001 and over has decreased over the period, whilst the proportion of barristers with self-reported total gross incomes of £90,001 to £150,000 has increased.

**Table 4.1.2: Distribution of barristers completing community care legal aid work by self-reported total 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	~	~	9%	5%	~	~	9%	8%
£30,001 to £60,000	11%	~	7%	7%	7%	6%	8%	6%
£60,001 to £90,000	15%	19%	13%	11%	13%	14%	9%	14%
£90,001 to £150,000	15%	21%	35%	33%	37%	30%	27%	31%
£150,001 to £240,000	28%	23%	23%	26%	21%	27%	22%	20%
£240,001 and over	24%	22%	11%	13%	16%	15%	20%	16%
Unknown	~	~	2%	5%	~	~	6%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

113. Table 4.1.3 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and by financial year. In each year, 12% of community care barristers self-report that legal aid makes up 80% or more of their income, and around a quarter report that legal aid makes up less than 20% of their income.

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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	25%	27%	25%
20-40%	16%	17%	20%
40-60%	14%	15%	16%
60-80%	16%	13%	16%
80% and over	12%	12%	12%
Unknown	17%	16%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

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

114. Table 4.1.4 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by community care legal aid case volume and by financial year. There has been a shift to community care barristers completing a larger number of community care legal aid cases. The proportion of barristers who completed 1 to 2 community care cases decreased from 72% in FY2015-16 to 49% in FY2022-23. The proportion of barristers completing 3 to 15 community care cases increased from 26% in FY2015-16 to 42% in FY2022-23.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	72%	71%	63%	62%	58%	52%	54%	49%
3 to 15 cases	26%	~	~	35%	37%	37%	37%	42%
16 to 30 cases	~	~	~	~	4%	9%	7%	8%
31 to 45 cases	~	0%	0%	~	~	~	~	~
46 cases +	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

115. Table 4.1.5 shows the median community care gross civil legal aid fee income for community care barristers, by community care legal aid case volume and year. Table 4.1.4 shows that in FY2022-23, 49% of community care barristers completed 1 to 2 community care legal aid cases. For these barristers, the median community care gross civil legal aid fee income was £1,100 in FY2022-23.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	£700	£900	£900	£1,000	£900	£1,100	£1,000	£1,100
3 to 5 cases	£2,400	£2,800	£3,400	£3,600	£5,300	£5,700	£5,200	£4,000
6 to 10 cases	~	~	£7,800	£9,300	£9,200	£12,200	£14,000	£12,100
11 to 15 cases	~	~	~	£25,500	£21,300	£17,600	£19,300	£19,700
16 or more cases	~	~	~	~	£37,100	£31,800	£29,700	£31,000

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

117. When looking at the entire cohort of barristers over the period as a whole, 41% submitted cases in one year, with a further 35% submitting cases in 2 to 4 years, suggesting that there was a large cohort of barristers for whom community care legal aid work was not a regular part of their practice. Each year, the proportion of barristers who only completed work in that year amounted to between 10% and 22% of barristers.

118. There was also a smaller cohort who submitted cases more frequently, with 4% of barristers submitting a case in all years of the dataset and a further 20% submitting cases in between 5 and 7 years. Each year, barristers who completed work every year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23 amounted to between 8% and 20% of barristers.

**Table 4.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing community care 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 community care legal aid work**

	<b>Over all years</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>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
1 year	<b>41%</b>	22%	18%	13%	11%	15%	11%	10%	21%
2-4 years	<b>35%</b>	30%	30%	29%	30%	35%	40%	42%	36%
5-7 years	<b>20%</b>	28%	33%	46%	49%	42%	40%	39%	35%
8 years	<b>4%</b>	20%	19%	13%	10%	9%	8%	9%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

119. Table 4.1.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by region and by financial year. In all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of community care barristers was London, although this proportion has decreased from 83% in FY2015-16 to 58% in FY2022-23. The proportion of community care barristers in the North has increased from 10% in FY2015-16 to 21% in FY2022-23.

**Table 4.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing community care legal aid work by region 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>
London	83%	79%	73%	69%	65%	63%	62%	58%
Midlands	~	~	~	~	6%	~	4%	~
North	10%	11%	14%	14%	14%	19%	19%	21%
South	~	~	~	~	~	5%	~	6%
Wales	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	~	~	7%	8%	9%	8%	11%	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

120. Table 4.1.8 shows the proportion of community care gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers who completed community care 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 community care gross civil legal aid fee income was London. This proportion has decreased from 80% in FY2015-16 to 51% in FY2022-23. The proportion of community care gross civil legal aid fee income from barristers in the North has increased over the period, from 15% in FY2015-16 to

34% in FY2022-23. Wales and the South accounted for the smallest proportion of community care gross civil legal aid fee income, between 0% and 2%.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	80%	85%	67%	56%	52%	53%	47%	51%
Midlands	0%	2%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%	2%
North	15%	10%	22%	29%	28%	30%	41%	34%
South	1%	0%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Wales	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	4%	3%	7%	12%	13%	12%	8%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0.4m</b>	<b>£0.4m</b>	<b>£0.9m</b>	<b>£1.4m</b>	<b>£2.2m</b>	<b>£2.7m</b>	<b>£2.7m</b>	<b>£2.8m</b>

## Protected characteristics

### Key information

- The proportion of male barristers decreased from 61% in FY2015-16 to 43% in FY2022-23, and the proportion of female barristers increased from 38% in FY2015-16 to 54% in 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

121. Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by gender and financial year. The proportion of male barristers decreased from 61% in FY2015-16 to 43% in FY2022-23, and the proportion of female barristers increased from 38% in FY2015-16 to 54% in FY2022-23.



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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Female	38%	38%	50%	52%	47%	52%	49%	54%
Male	61%	61%	45%	45%	49%	44%	48%	43%
Non-binary	0%	0%	~	0%	~	0%	0%	~
Other gender group	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~
Unknown	1%	1%	~	2%	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

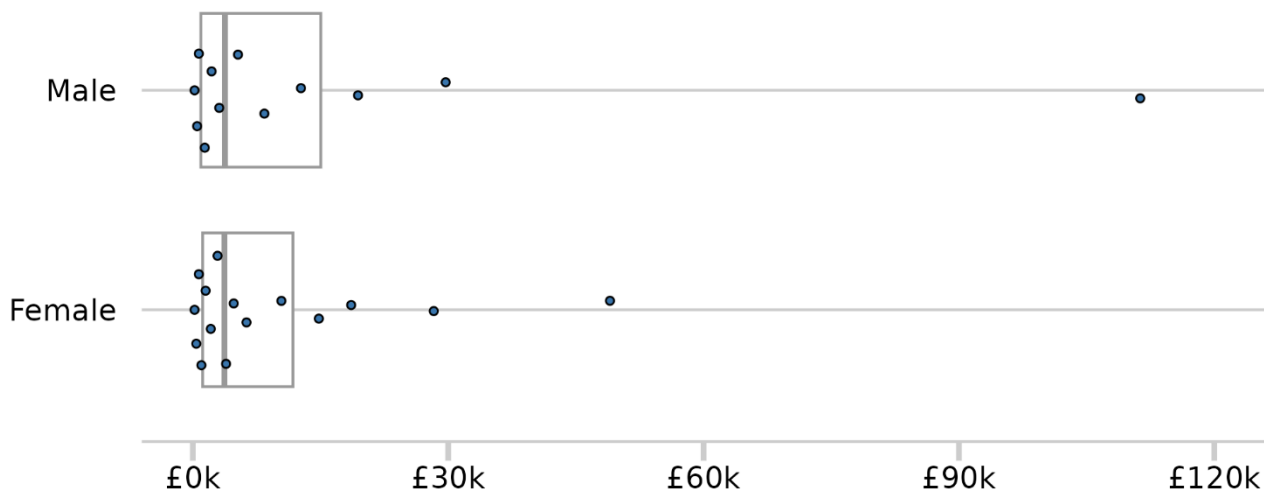
122. Table 4.2.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their community care gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

**Table 4.2.2: Number of barristers completing community care legal aid work and their distribution by gender and community care 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	160	55%	41%	~	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	90	52%	46%	~	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	10	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	0	~	~	~	~	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>43%</b>	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>

123. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. The median community care gross civil legal aid fee income for males, at £3,800, was similar to the median for females, at £3,700.

**Community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for community care barristers for 2022-23**



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

124. Table 4.2.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the community care gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the gender of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean community care gross civil legal aid fee income for males, at £13,000, was higher than the mean for females, at £8,600.
125. Table 4.2.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported total gross income band. The proportions of female community care barristers in self-reported gross income bands of £150,001 and above were lower than the proportions of female community care barristers in self-reported gross income bands below this.
126. Table 4.2.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Gender proportions varied by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, with no clear trends.

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

	<b>Number of barristers</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Non-binary</b>	<b>Other gender group</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>Total</b>
Less than 20%	<b>70</b>	46%	53%	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>
20-40%	<b>50</b>	61%	33%	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>
40-60%	<b>40</b>	66%	30%	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>
60-80%	<b>40</b>	45%	52%	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>
80% and over	<b>30</b>	61%	36%	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>
Unknown	<b>30</b>	46%	50%	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>
<b>All</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>43%</b>	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>

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

127. Table 4.2.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work, by gender and by the number of years they completed community care cases in the datashare period. Proportions of male barristers who completed work in 4 or fewer years were lower than proportions of male barristers who completed work in 5 or more years.

#### Age

128. Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by age and by financial year. Proportions have varied over the period, with no clear trends over time.

129. The mean age of a barrister completing community care legal aid work has fallen by 1 year, from 44 in FY2015-16 to 43 in FY2022-23 (see table 6.1.1 in attached spreadsheet).

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Under 35	16%	24%	21%	18%	18%	18%	19%	26%
35-44	32%	34%	40%	33%	34%	36%	34%	32%
45-54	31%	25%	20%	29%	30%	24%	23%	20%
55-64	~	10%	~	11%	9%	14%	15%	16%
65+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	11%	~	9%	~	~	~	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

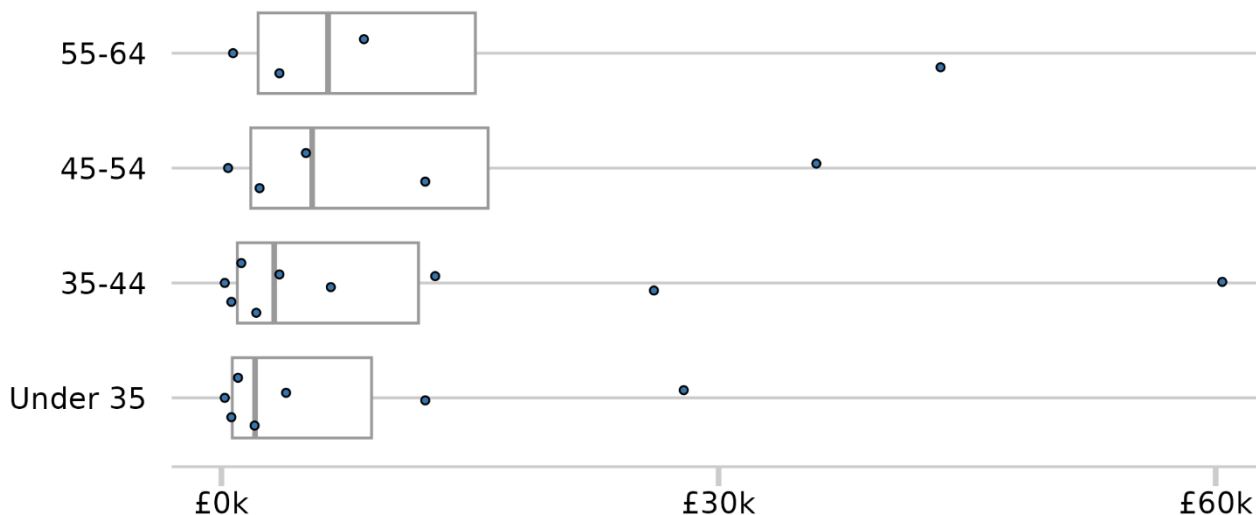
130. Table 4.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their community care gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

**Table 4.3.2: Number of barristers completing community care legal aid work and their distribution by age and community care 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	160	31%	32%	17%	12%	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	90	19%	27%	24%	24%	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	~	~	~	~	0%	0%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	~	~	0%	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>~</b>	<b>100%</b>

131. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age band for barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. Where unsuppressed, median community care gross civil legal aid fee income increased with age.

### Community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age for community care barristers for 2022-23



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

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

133. 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 community care legal aid by:

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

#### *Ethnicity*

134. Table 4.4.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by ethnicity and by financial year. Barristers from the White ethnic group were the largest ethnic group, at between 77% and 84% of barristers each year. 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 community care 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	~	~	7%	6%	8%	6%	8%	6%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	~	~	~	~	4%	~	4%	5%
White	81%	80%	79%	84%	77%	81%	77%	81%
Other ethnic group	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	~	~	~	~	6%	5%	5%	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

135. 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 community care legal aid by:

- Community care 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 community care legal aid cases in the datashare period.

### *Religion*

136. Tables 4.5.1 to 4.5.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 32% and 42% of community care 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 community care legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Community care 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 community care legal aid cases in the datashare period.

### *Disability*

137. Tables 4.6.1 to 4.6.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 25% and 37% of community care 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 community care legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Community care 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 community care legal aid cases in the datashare period.

### *Sexual Orientation*

138. Tables 4.7.1 to 4.7.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 31% and 39% of community care 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 community care legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Community care 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 community care legal aid cases in the datashare period.

## **Other characteristics**

### **Key information**

- Most barristers completing community care legal aid work were Juniors, at 88% to 92% of barristers each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23.
- There was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 3-7 years of practice between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, and proportions of barristers with 8-12 and 18-22 years of practice decreased over the period.
- 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*

139. Table 5.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by years of practice and by financial year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 3-7 years of practice over the period, and proportions of barristers with 8-12 and 18-22 years of practice decreased over the period.

**Table 5.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing community care 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	~	~	8%	7%	7%	8%	6%	9%
3-7	16%	32%	24%	21%	24%	22%	24%	27%
8-12	23%	23%	27%	18%	16%	21%	19%	19%
13-17	17%	16%	11%	19%	16%	15%	13%	15%
18-22	17%	10%	14%	13%	15%	12%	13%	10%
23-27	15%	~	9%	11%	12%	10%	10%	9%
28 +	~	~	7%	11%	10%	13%	15%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

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

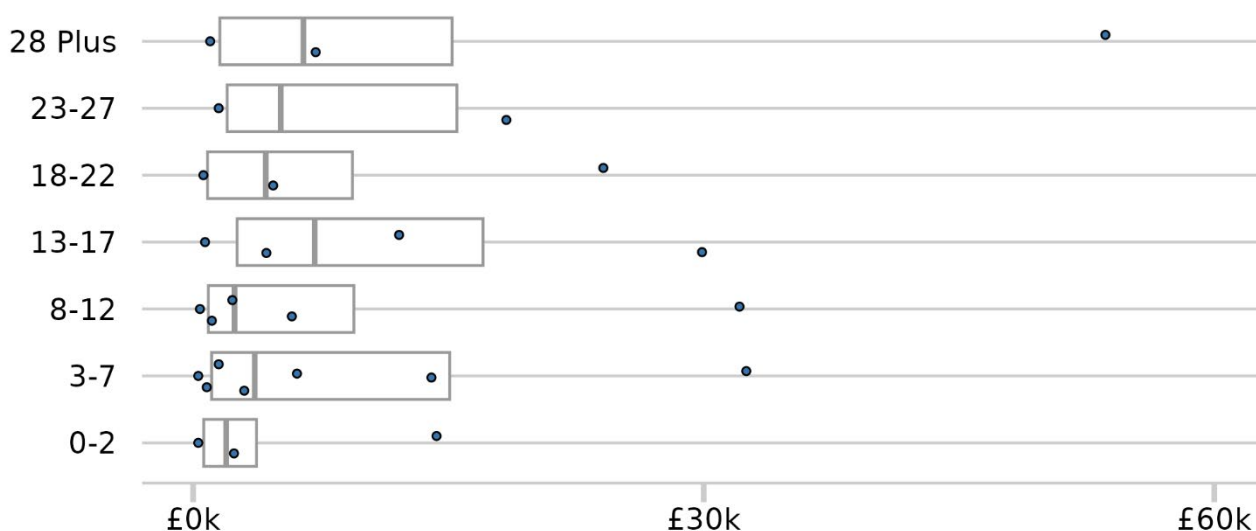
**Table 5.1.2: Number of barristers completing community care legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and community care gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23**

	Number of barristers	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 +	Total
£5,000 and less	160	13%	27%	22%	11%	10%	8%	8%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	90	~	26%	12%	22%	11%	~	17%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	~	~	~	~	0%	~	0%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	~	~	~	~	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>100%</b>



141. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice band for barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median community care legal aid fee income was highest for barristers with 13-17 years of practice, at £7,100.

Community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice for community care barristers for 2022-23



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

142. Table 5.1.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the community care gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the years of practice band of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. Mean community care gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers with 28 or more years of practice, at £19,500.

143. 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 community care legal aid by:

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

*Socio-economic background*

144. Tables 5.2.1 to 5.2.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 42% and 51% of community care 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 community care legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Community care 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 community care legal aid cases in the datashare period.

*Advocate type*

145. Table 5.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work by advocate type and by financial year. Most barristers completing community care legal aid work were Juniors, at 88% to 92% of barristers.

**Table 5.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing community care 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	12%	9%	9%	10%	8%	11%	11%	10%
Junior	88%	91%	91%	90%	92%	89%	89%	90%
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>270</b>

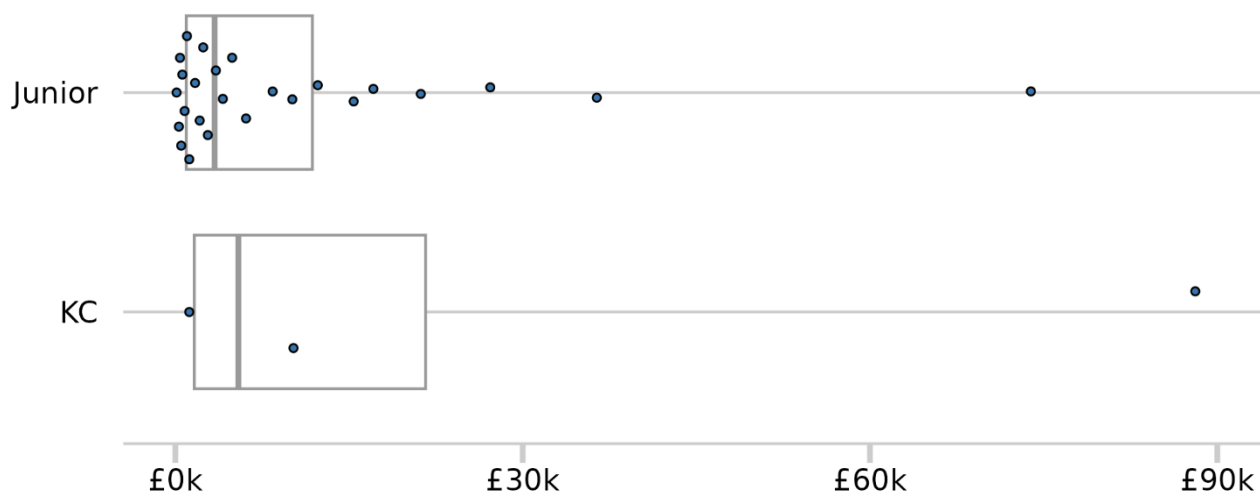
146. Table 5.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their community care gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

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

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
£5,000 and less	160	7%	93%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	90	11%	89%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	10	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	0	.	.	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>90%</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 community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. Junior barristers had a smaller median community care gross civil legal aid fee income at £3,400, than KC barristers at £5,400.

Community care gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for community care barristers for 2022-23



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

148. Table 5.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the community care gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the advocate type of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean community care gross civil legal aid fee income of Junior barristers was £8,900, which was lower than the mean of KCs at £24,800.
149. Tables 5.3.4 to 5.3.6 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 advocate type of barristers who work in community care legal aid by:
- Self-reported total gross income,
  - Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, and
  - The number of years barristers completed community care legal aid cases in the datashare period.
150. Table 5.3.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed community care legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and advocate type. The proportion of female KCs was lower than the proportion of female Junior barristers, whilst the proportion of male KCs was higher than the proportion of male Junior barristers.

**Table 5.3.7: Number of barristers completing community care legal aid work and their distribution by gender and advocate type, in 2022-23**

	Number of barristers	Female	Male	Non-binary	Other gender group	Unknown	Total
KC	30	50%	46%	~	~	~	100%
Junior	250	54%	42%	~	~	~	100%
<b>All</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>43%</b>	~	~	~	<b>100%</b>

151. Tables 5.3.8 to 5.3.9 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the advocate type of barristers who work in community care legal aid by:
- Age, and
  - Ethnicity.

## Annex – Solicitor Datashare

### Annex I – Data matching rates

152. 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 community care firms receiving community care 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 community care firms receiving community care legal aid payments that were successfully matched to the LS data for that year;
- Non-SRA: organisations receiving community care legal aid payments that appear to be not for profit or have been identified as other Alternative Business Structures (ABSs), and not matched with SRA data. Note that this designation has been made 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.

153. Table A1.1 shows the match rate for active community care legal aid firms, by year.

**Table A1.1: Active community care 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>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
Matched – any year	73%	72%	71%	75%	81%	81%	81%	80%
Matched – specific year	67%	67%	64%	68%	71%	80%	81%	80%
Non-SRA	26%	26%	28%	24%	18%	16%	16%	17%

154. Table A1.2 shows the match rate of income from community care legal aid for active community care legal aid firms, by year.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
<b>Income from community care legal aid (£m)</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>£6.0</b>	<b>£9.1</b>	<b>£12.5</b>	<b>£15.4</b>	<b>£15.8</b>
Matched – any year	92%	85%	85%	91%	98%	95%	96%	95%
Matched – specific year	86%	73%	78%	82%	91%	93%	96%	95%
Non-SRA	6%	9%	10%	6%	2%	4%	3%	3%

155. Table A1.3 shows the match rate for the solicitor data for active community care firms, by year.

**Table A1.3: Community care 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>70</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>70</b>
Has solicitor data – any year	64%	67%	65%	69%	74%	74%	73%	74%
Has solicitor data – specific year	64%	64%	64%	68%	69%	71%	70%	73%
Non-SRA	26%	26%	28%	24%	18%	16%	16%	17%

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

**Table A1.4: Income from community care legal aid in active community care 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 community care legal aid (£m)</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>£6.0</b>	<b>£9.1</b>	<b>£12.5</b>	<b>£15.4</b>	<b>£15.8</b>
Has solicitor data – any year	83%	73%	79%	84%	94%	93%	94%	94%
Has solicitor data – specific year	83%	72%	78%	82%	89%	88%	90%	92%
Non-SRA	6%	9%	10%	6%	2%	4%	3%	3%

## Annex II – Income from inter partes costs

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

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
£100k or less	93%	61%	64%	11%
£100k to £250k	~	~	15%	11%
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	~	~
£1m and over	0%	0%	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£15.8</b>

159. Table A2.2 shows the proportion of active community care firms and income from community care legal aid, by income from inter partes costs only, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	69%	22%	71%	41%
£100k or less	~	~	~	~
£100k to £250k	~	~	~	~
£250k to £500k	0%	0%	0%	0%
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£15.8</b>

160. Table A2.3 shows the proportion of active community care firms and income from community care legal aid, by the proportion of income from community care legal aid from inter partes costs, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.



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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	74%	33%	79%	89%
20-40%	16%	33%	~	~
40-60%	~	~	~	~
60-80%	~	~	~	~
More than 80%	~	~	~	~
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£3.6</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>£15.8</b>

## Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms

161. The tables in this annex show some further information on the firms that are billing out of contract.
162. Table A3.1 shows the proportion of community care firms and income from community care legal aid, by income from community care legal aid, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	~	~	0%	0%
£100k or less	88%	46%	~	~
£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>40</b>	<b>£0.7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>£0.4</b>

163. Table A3.2 shows the proportion of community care firms and income from community care legal aid, by community care legal aid claim volume, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	70%	22%	~	34%
11 to 50 claims	~	24%	~	66%
51 to 100 claims	~	54%	0%	0%
101 to 200 claims	0%	0%	0%	0%
201 claims +	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>£0.7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>£0.4</b>

164. Table A3.3 shows the proportion of matched community care firms and income from community care legal aid, by total turnover, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from community care legal aid (£m)
Unknown	0%	0%	~	0%
£250k or less	~	0%	0%	0%
£250k to £500k	~	4%	0%	0%
£500k to £1m	~	0%	0%	0%
£1m to £5m	48%	56%	~	24%
£5m and over	~	40%	~	76%
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>£0.5</b>	~	<b>£0.4</b>

## Annex – Barrister Datashare

### Match rates

165. 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

166. Two match rates are shown: one against all civil representation advocacy done in community care, 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 community care 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)	£0.5	£0.4	£1.0	£1.4	£2.4	£2.8	£2.9	£3.1
Advocacy work paid directly (£m)	£0.5	£0.4	£0.9	£1.4	£2.3	£2.8	£2.8	£3.0
Matched advocacy work (£m)	£0.4	£0.4	£0.9	£1.4	£2.2	£2.7	£2.7	£2.8
<b>Matched against all advocacy work</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Matched against advocacy work paid directly</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>93%</b>

## Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources

167. 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 earlier annexes.
168. 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.
169. 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 Annex I – Data matching rates, within the Solicitor Datashare annex.
170. 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.
171. 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.

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<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.

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



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