

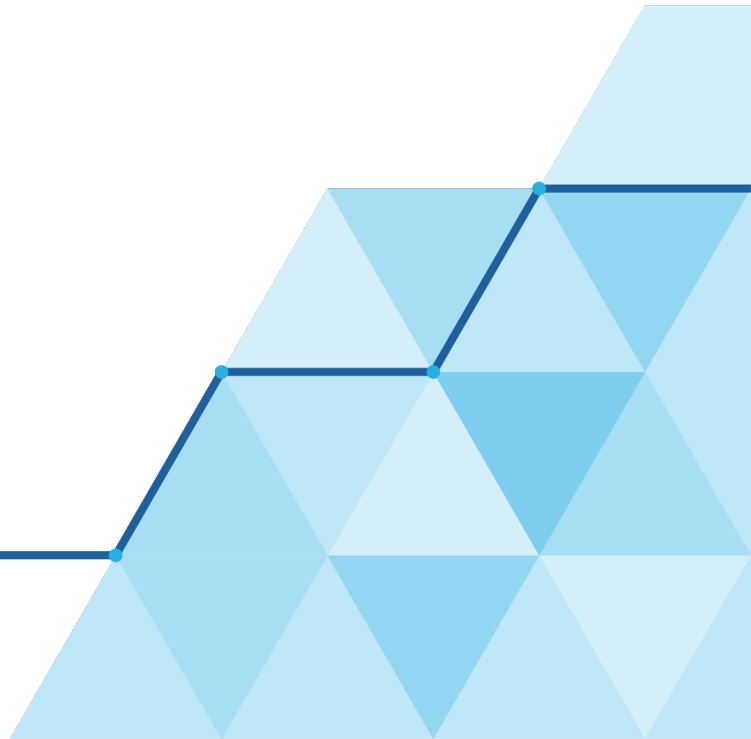


Ministry
of Justice

Review of Civil Legal Aid Data Publication Series

Family deep dive

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Contents

Introduction	2
Background and purpose of this publication	2
Notes on understanding the data	2
Solicitor firms	4
Additional methodological details for solicitor firm statistics	4
Family solicitor firm overview	6
Firm composition	20
Firm joiners and leavers	24
Solicitors	29
Solicitor composition	29
Solicitor joiners and leavers	33
Barristers	43
Additional methodological details for barrister statistics	43
Barristers completing family legal aid work in context	45
Private family barristers	51
Public family barristers	76
Annex – Solicitor Datashare	102
Annex I – Data matching rates	102
Annex II – Income from inter partes costs	104
Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms	106
Annex – Barrister Datashare	108
Match rates	108
Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources	110

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 family legal aid work, except where other providers are included in the tables to set the family 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,¹ which are concerned with the overall system.

¹ 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 family legal aid firms”. These are firms that both submitted at least one final family bill in the year shown and held a family 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 family legal aid are shown for active family 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,² 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 costs³ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

Family solicitor firm overview

Key information

- Both the number of active family legal aid firms and claims have decreased between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Income from private family legal aid decreased between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, whereas income from public family legal aid increased.
- Each year between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, over two thirds of active family legal aid firms were not active in another civil legal aid category, and over 80% of family firms received 80% or more of their income from civil legal aid from family legal aid work.
- In each year between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, 90% or more of active family firms were active in both private and public family legal aid. In FY2021-22, around two thirds of family firms received 80% or more of their income from family legal aid from public family work.

Family firms in the context of all legal aid providers

18. This section looks at how family 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 family firms and their family 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 between 13% and 32% of family firms did not have a contract at the end of the year in which they billed, however they accounted for only 2-5% of the total income from family 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: Family 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	68%	73%	75%	76%	73%	76%	87%	80%
Out of contract billing firms	32%	27%	25%	24%	27%	24%	13%	20%
Total	1,740	1,550	1,400	1,320	1,280	1,260	1,080	1,120

Table 1.1.2: Income from family legal aid (£m) for family 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	95%	96%	97%	97%	96%	97%	98%	98%
Out of contract billing firms	5%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%
Total	£417.3	£337.7	£335.2	£357.2	£360.1	£383.7	£368.7	£416.4

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 family firms, where only the family 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 FY 2021-22, 72% of all active civil legal aid firms completed family work. When looking at types of family legal aid work, 68% of all active civil legal aid firms completed private family work, and 71% of all active civil legal aid firms completed public family work.

24. There has generally been a reduction in the number of active family legal aid firms over the period, with an overall decrease of 25%. The number of active family legal aid firms completing private family work has decreased by 28%, while the number of active family legal aid firms completing public family work has decreased by 23%. These are larger than the overall decrease of 22% for all active civil legal aid firms.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
All family	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890
All family year on year change		-5%	-6%	-5%	-6%	2%	-2%	-5%
Private family	1,160	1,090	1,010	960	890	910	870	840
Private family year on year change		-5%	-7%	-6%	-7%	2%	-4%	-4%
Public family	1,140	1,100	1,040	990	920	930	920	880
Public family year on year change		-4%	-5%	-5%	-7%	1%	-1%	-4%
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 FY 2021-22, 49% of all civil legal aid claims completed by active firms were family claims. When looking at types of family legal aid work, 18% of claims were private family claims, and 31% of claims were public family claims.
26. There has generally been a reduction in the number of family claims completed over the period, with an overall decrease of 25%. The number of private family claims has decreased by 45%, while the number of active public family claims has decreased by 6%. The decrease in private family claims is larger than the overall decrease of 32% for all active civil legal aid firms, whereas the decrease in public family claims is smaller than this.

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
All family	144,890	111,750	110,020	116,670	115,640	114,690	101,150	108,410
All family year on year change		-23%	-2%	6%	-1%	-1%	-12%	7%
Private family	71,020	41,470	33,270	32,380	30,710	33,630	33,650	39,190
Private family year on year change		-42%	-20%	-3%	-5%	10%	0%	16%
Public family	73,870	70,280	76,750	84,290	84,930	81,060	67,490	69,220
Public family year on year change		-5%	9%	10%	1%	-5%	-17%	3%
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 FY 2021-22, 68% of all income from civil legal aid for active firms was for family work. When looking at types of family legal aid work, 14% of income from civil legal aid was for private family work, and 54% of income from civil legal aid was for public family work.
28. Income from family legal aid has varied over the period, with an overall increase of 2%. Income from private family legal aid has decreased by 30%, while income from public family legal aid has increased by 17%. The increase in income from public family legal aid is larger than the overall increase of 4% for all income from civil legal aid for active civil legal aid firms, which is in contrast to the overall decrease in income from private family legal aid, despite the rise in the second half of the period.

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
All family	£396.5	£325.1	£324.6	£346.9	£346.4	£370.4	£362.1	£405.9
All family year on year change		-18%	0%	7%	0%	7%	-2%	12%
Private family	£123.0	£84.4	£63.6	£57.8	£54.9	£60.8	£68.8	£86.3
Private family year on year change		-31%	-25%	-9%	-5%	11%	13%	25%
Public family	£273.5	£240.7	£260.9	£289.1	£291.6	£309.7	£293.3	£319.6
Public family year on year change		-12%	8%	11%	1%	6%	-5%	9%
All active firms	£581.7	£503.9	£503.3	£520.2	£529.8	£573.4	£522.6	£602.6

Composition of work completed by family firms

29. Table 1.1.6 shows the proportion of active family firms that were active in each area of family work. In all years, 90% or more of active family firms were active in both private and public family legal aid. There has been a slight rise in the proportion of active family firms which are only doing public family work.

30. The split between private and public family legal aid work is further explored in the rest of this section, however subsequent sections do not distinguish between private and public family work. This is because most active family firms were active in both private and public family legal aid.

Table 1.1.6: Active family legal aid firms, by type of family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Private and public family	95%	95%	95%	94%	93%	91%	90%	92%
Private family only	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%
Public family only	2%	3%	4%	5%	5%	6%	8%	6%
Total	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890

31. Table 1.1.7 shows the civil legal aid categories that active family legal aid firms were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Each year, over two thirds of family legal aid firms were only active in family legal aid. This proportion has increased over the period, from 68% in 2014-15 to 77% in 2021-22. The

proportion of family firms which were also active in another category is generally low, with the only category with over 10% of family firms also active in each year being housing & debt.

32. In most years, the mean number of categories that an active family firm was active in was one, because most family firms were only active in family.

Table 1.1.7: Active contracts for active family legal aid firms, by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890
Family only	68%	72%	73%	74%	75%	75%	78%	77%
Family +	32%	28%	27%	26%	25%	25%	22%	23%
Claims against public authorities	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Clinical negligence	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Community care	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Education	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Housing & debt	15%	14%	14%	13%	11%	11%	11%	10%
Immigration	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Mental health	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	6%	7%
Miscellaneous and other	10%	9%	9%	11%	10%	9%	6%	8%
Public law	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
Welfare benefits	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Mean number of active categories per firm	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1

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

33. Table 1.1.8 shows the proportion of income from civil legal aid that active family legal aid firms received from family legal aid work, by year. Between 82% and 87% of family firms each year received 80% or more of their income from civil legal aid from family legal aid work.

Table 1.1.8: Active family legal aid firms, by percent of income from civil legal aid through family work, and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% family	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%
20-40% family	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
40-60% family	5%	6%	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	3%
60-80% family	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%
80% and over family	83%	82%	82%	84%	84%	84%	85%	87%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890

34. Table 1.1.9 shows the split of income from family legal aid between private family work and public family work. In FY2021-22, around two thirds of family firms received 80% or more of their income from family legal aid from public family work, and this proportion has increased over the period, from 26% in FY2014-15.

Table 1.1.9: Active family legal aid firms, by percent of income from private family or public family legal aid work, and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% private family, 80% and over public family	26%	43%	61%	68%	73%	71%	68%	65%
20-40% private family, 60-80% public family	37%	30%	21%	17%	16%	17%	19%	21%
40-60% private family, 40-60% public family	20%	13%	9%	7%	5%	4%	6%	7%
60-80% private family, 20-40% public family	8%	7%	6%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%
80% and over private family, less than 20% public family	9%	6%	4%	4%	3%	5%	4%	4%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890

35. Table 1.1.10 shows the split of income from family legal aid between civil representation and controlled work, for family firms, by year. Between 96% and 99% of family firms received 80% or more of their income from family legal aid from civil representation.

Table 1.1.10: Active family legal aid firms, by percent of income from family 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	~	~	~	~	1%	~	~	~
20-40% civil representation, 60-80% controlled work	~	~	0%	~	~	0%	~	~
40-60% civil representation, 40-60% controlled work	~	~	~	~	0%	~	~	~
60-80% civil representation, 20-40% controlled work	3%	2%	1%	~	~	~	~	~
80% and over civil representation, less than 20% controlled work	96%	97%	98%	99%	97%	98%	99%	99%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	~	0%	0%	~	~	~	~
Total	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890

36. Table 1.1.11 shows the proportion of private family legal aid firms that were active in different areas of private family legal aid work, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. The proportion of firms which completed private family legal help work has decreased over the period, from 87% in FY2014-15 to 54% in FY2021-22.
37. The proportion of firms which completed private family civil representation work has remained consistent over the period, at between 98-99% of active private family firms. When looking at subcategories of private family civil representation work, between 91% and 97% of active private family firms completed private law Children Act proceedings civil representation work. This proportion decreased over the period, along with proportions of firms completing domestic violence, financial provision or other family proceedings civil representation legal aid work.

Table 1.1.11: Active private family legal aid firms, by area of private family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Private family civil representation	99%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%	99%
Combined family proceedings	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic violence	82%	77%	76%	78%	76%	77%	75%	73%
Financial provision	72%	63%	50%	43%	43%	40%	29%	37%
Help with Mediation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other family proceedings	35%	20%	15%	10%	9%	8%	6%	8%
Private law Children Act proceedings	97%	95%	94%	93%	94%	91%	92%	93%
Private family legal help	87%	79%	73%	68%	63%	61%	53%	54%
Total	1,160	1,090	1,010	960	890	910	870	840

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

38. Table 1.1.12 shows the proportion of private family legal aid claims in different areas of private family legal aid work, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. The majority of private family legal aid claims were civil representation claims, increasing from 60% in FY2014-15 to 84% in FY2021-22. When looking at subcategories of private family civil representation work, 50% of all private family legal aid claims were domestic violence civil representation claims in FY2021-22. This has increased over the period, from 20% in FY2014-15. In contrast, the proportion of private family legal help claims has decreased over the period, from 40% in FY2014-15 to 16% in FY2021-22.

Table 1.1.12: Private family claim volume for active private family legal aid firms, by area of private family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Private family civil representation	60%	66%	69%	75%	76%	78%	83%	84%
Combined family proceedings	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic violence	20%	30%	37%	41%	40%	40%	48%	50%
Financial provision	6%	5%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%
Help with Mediation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other family proceedings	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Private law Children Act proceedings	33%	30%	28%	30%	34%	36%	34%	32%
Private family legal help	40%	34%	31%	25%	24%	22%	17%	16%
Total	71,020	41,470	33,270	32,380	30,710	33,630	33,650	39,190

39. Table 1.1.13 shows the proportion of income from private family legal aid in different areas of private family legal aid work, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Between 95% and 99% of income from private family legal aid was for civil representation work. When looking at subcategories of private family civil representation work, the majority of income from private family legal aid came from private law Children Act proceedings civil representation work, at 56% in FY2021-22. This has decreased over the period, along with income from financial provision civil representation work, whereas the proportion of income from domestic violence civil representation work increased, accounting for 40% of income from private family legal aid work in FY2021-22.
40. The proportion of income from private family legal help has decreased over the period, from 5% in FY2014-15 to 1% in FY2021-22.

Table 1.1.13: Income from private family legal aid (£m) for active private family legal aid firms, by area of private family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Private family civil representation	95%	97%	97%	98%	98%	98%	99%	99%
Combined family proceedings	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic violence	23%	29%	36%	39%	37%	37%	39%	40%
Financial provision	9%	9%	8%	6%	5%	4%	2%	2%
Help with Mediation	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other family proceedings	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%
Private law Children Act proceedings	61%	57%	52%	52%	54%	56%	57%	56%
Private family legal help	5%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%
Total	£123.0	£84.4	£63.6	£57.8	£54.9	£60.8	£68.8	£86.3

41. Table 1.1.14 shows the proportion of public family legal aid firms that were active in different areas of public family legal aid work, by year. The proportion of firms which completed public family legal help work has decreased over the period, from 85% in FY2014-15 to 76% in FY2021-22.
42. The proportion of firms which completed public family civil representation work has remained consistent over the period, at between 98-100% of active public family firms. When looking at subcategories of public family civil representation work, between 97% and 99% of active public family firms completed special Children Act proceedings civil representation work, and between 74% and 81% of active public family firms completed other public law Children Act proceedings civil representation work.

Table 1.1.14: Active public family legal aid firms, by area of public family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Public family civil representation	98%	99%	98%	99%	99%	99%	100%	100%
Other public law Children Act proceedings	76%	74%	77%	80%	81%	81%	78%	81%
Special Children Act proceedings	97%	98%	97%	99%	98%	98%	99%	99%
Public family legal help	85%	83%	83%	82%	84%	80%	74%	76%
Total	1,140	1,100	1,040	990	920	930	920	880

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

43. Table 1.1.15 shows the proportion of public family legal aid claims in different areas of public family legal aid work, by year. The majority of public family legal aid claims were civil representation claims, increasing from 72% in FY2014-15 to 79% in FY2021-22. When looking at subcategories of public family civil representation work, 67% of all public family legal aid claims were special Children Act proceedings civil representation claims in FY2021-22. The proportion of public family legal help claims has decreased over the period, from 28% in FY2014-15 to 21% in FY2021-22.

Table 1.1.15: Public family claim volume for active public family legal aid firms, by area of public family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Public family civil representation	72%	70%	74%	78%	79%	80%	79%	79%
Other public law Children Act proceedings	9%	9%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	12%
Special Children Act proceedings	64%	62%	65%	69%	70%	69%	67%	67%
Public family legal help	28%	30%	26%	22%	21%	20%	21%	21%
Total	73,870	70,280	76,750	84,290	84,930	81,060	67,490	69,220

44. Table 1.1.16 shows the proportion of income from public family legal aid in different areas of public family legal aid work, by year. Between 97% and 98% of income from public family legal aid was for civil representation work. When looking at subcategories of public family civil representation work, over 90% of income from public family legal aid came from special Children Act proceedings civil representation work in all years.

Table 1.1.16: Income from public family legal aid (£m) for active public family legal aid firms, by area of public family legal aid work and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Public family civil representation	98%	97%	97%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%
Other public law Children Act proceedings	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%
Special Children Act proceedings	92%	91%	92%	91%	92%	91%	90%	90%
Public family legal help	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Total	£273.5	£240.7	£260.9	£289.1	£291.6	£309.7	£293.3	£319.6

Firm composition

Key information

- Between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, there has been a shift to active family firms receiving larger incomes from family legal aid, and completing fewer family legal aid claims.
- Family legal aid income made up less than 20% of the firm's total turnover for 42% of firms in FY2021-22, although there has been a shift to active family firms receiving a larger percentage of their turnover from family legal aid work since FY2014-15.

45. This section focuses on how the composition of active family 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 family 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.
46. Table 1.2.1 shows the proportion of active family legal aid firms and income from family legal aid, by their income from family legal aid band, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. There has been a shift to firms receiving larger incomes from family legal aid.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%
£100k or less	29%	4%	22%	2%
£100k to £250k	29%	14%	25%	9%
£250k to £500k	21%	23%	24%	19%
£500k to £1m	15%	31%	18%	28%
£1m and over	6%	28%	10%	41%
Total	1,180	£396.5	890	£405.9

47. Table 1.2.2 shows the proportion of active family legal aid firms and income from family legal aid, by family legal aid claim volume, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. There has been a shift to firms completing fewer family claims.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	8%	0%	10%	1%
11 to 50 claims	25%	7%	29%	8%
51 to 100 claims	24%	14%	25%	16%
101 to 200 claims	27%	32%	21%	27%
201 claims +	17%	48%	16%	49%
Total	1,180	£396.5	890	£405.9

48. Table 1.2.3 shows the proportion of active family legal aid firms and income from family legal aid, by total turnover bands, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Proportions of firms in each band have remained fairly consistent over the period.
49. In general, for lower total turnover bands, the proportion of income from family legal aid was lower than the proportion of firms in that band, whereas for the higher total turnover bands, the proportion of income from family legal aid was higher than the proportion of firms in that band.

Table 1.2.3: Matched active family legal aid firms, by total turnover and year

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Unknown	2%	1%	3%	4%
£250k or less	13%	3%	13%	3%
£250k to £500k	15%	8%	14%	6%
£500k to £1m	23%	17%	22%	14%
£1m to £5m	39%	50%	38%	48%
£5m and over	9%	21%	11%	25%
Total	1,090	£363.7	880	£402.6

50. Table 1.2.4 shows the proportion of active family legal aid firms and income from family legal aid, by the proportion of a firm's total turnover which came from income from family 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 family legal aid income as part of their business model.
51. Family legal aid income made up less than 20% of the firm's total turnover for 42% of firms in FY2021-22, although there has been a shift to active family firms receiving a larger percentage of turnover as a result of family legal aid work.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	51%	34%	42%	28%
20-40%	23%	26%	23%	24%
40-60%	10%	13%	13%	14%
60-80%	7%	8%	8%	9%
More than 80%	9%	17%	13%	20%
Firm turnover is unknown	2%	1%	3%	4%
Total	1,090	£363.7	880	£402.6

Please note that 53 firms reported a total turnover that was lower than their civil legal aid income in 2014-15 and 95 firms reported a total turnover that was lower than their civil legal aid income in 2021-22.

52. Tables 1.2.5 shows the proportion of active family legal aid firms and income from family 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. Proportions of firms remained fairly consistent across the period.

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

	2014-15	2021-22		
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Very small (0-1 partner)	21%	14%	23%	17%
Small (2-4 partners)	50%	41%	50%	43%
Medium (5-25 partners)	28%	41%	26%	35%
Large (26 partners and over)	2%	4%	2%	5%
Total	1,090	£363.7	880	£402.6

53. Table 1.2.6 shows proportions of active family legal aid firms and income from family 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.
54. In both years, the largest proportion of firms were based in London, at 20% in FY2014-15 and 23% in FY2021-22. In other regions, proportions of firms remained fairly consistent between the years.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
East Midlands	6%	7%	6%	8%
East of England	8%	7%	7%	5%
London	20%	19%	23%	22%
North East	7%	4%	7%	7%
North West	13%	12%	12%	12%
South East	10%	12%	10%	9%
South West	9%	10%	8%	9%
Wales	9%	7%	9%	6%
West Midlands	9%	10%	10%	9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	9%	11%	9%	12%
Total	1,090	£363.7	880	£402.6

Firm joiners and leavers

Key information

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

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

56. 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 family firm was active between 2014-15 and 2021-22

	Number of firms
1 year	70
2-4 years	330
5-7 years	120
8 years	780
Total	1,300

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

Table 1.3.2: Joiner and leaver active family firms by year

	Number of firms	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Joiners	120		~	~	~	30	60	10	~
Leavers	410	60	70	60	100	40	30	60	

58. The numbers of family 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 family legal aid payments and held a family contract, and for leavers, the characteristics of the firm in the last year it received family legal aid payments and held a family contract.
59. Table 1.3.3 shows the civil legal aid categories that joiner family legal aid firms were active in, in the first year they were active family legal aid firms. It also shows the civil legal aid categories that leaver family legal aid firms were active in, in the last year they were active family legal aid firms. Suppression has not been applied to this table. A higher proportion of joiners than leavers also completed civil legal aid work in another category, with 18% also completing housing & debt legal aid work.

60. For both joiners and leavers, the mean number of categories that an active family firm was active in was one category, because most family firms were only active in family.

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

	Joiners	Leavers
Total	120	410
Family only	70%	82%
Family +	30%	18%
Claims against public authorities	0%	2%
Clinical negligence	2%	3%
Community care	1%	1%
Discrimination	0%	0%
Education	1%	0%
Housing & debt	18%	8%
Immigration	10%	4%
Mental health	3%	3%
Miscellaneous and other	2%	7%
Public law	0%	1%
Welfare benefits	0%	0%
Mean number of active categories per firm	1	1

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

61. Table 1.3.4 shows the proportion of family joiner and leaver firms by total turnover band. The majority of joiner firms had total turnovers of £250k or less, whereas proportions of leaver firms were spread more evenly over the total turnover bands.

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

	Joiners	Leavers
Unknown	~	10%
£250k or less	59%	18%
£250k to £500k	18%	17%
£500k to £1m	~	22%
£1m to £5m	10%	25%
£5m and over	~	8%
Total	110	370

62. Table 1.3.5 shows the proportion of family joiner and leaver firms by the number of partners. 94% of joiners had 4 or fewer partners, compared to 83% of leavers.

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

	Joiners	Leavers
Very small (0-1 partner)	46%	38%
Small (2-4 partners)	48%	45%
Medium (5-25 partners)	~	~
Large (26 partners and over)	~	~
Total	110	370

63. Table 1.3.6 shows the proportion of family joiner and leaver firms by region. The largest proportion of both joiner and leaver firms were based in London, however this proportion was larger for joiner firms than leaver firms.

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

	Joiners	Leavers
East Midlands	~	4%
East of England	~	8%
London	54%	23%
North East	~	7%
North West	~	12%
South East	10%	9%
South West	~	10%
Wales	0%	8%
West Midlands	~	9%
Yorkshire and the Humber	~	9%
Total	110	370

Solicitors

64. This chapter concentrates on solicitors who worked for active family legal aid firms in the years the firm received family 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 family legal aid firms has decreased to a slightly lesser extent than the number of active firms, from FY2014-15 to FY2021-22.
- The proportion of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms aged under 35 has decreased from FY2014-15 to FY2021-22, while the proportion aged 65 and over has increased slightly.
- However, the proportions of solicitors by years since admission to the profession show a slightly different trend, with the proportion of solicitors with under two years in the profession remaining steady between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Firms generally saw a reduction in the proportion of solicitors with between 3 and 12 years in the profession and a counter-balancing increase in higher bands.

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

66. Table 2.1.1 shows the number of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms, by year. The number of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms has decreased by 21% over the period, which is slightly less than the 25% decrease in the number of firms.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of solicitors	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

67. Table 2.1.2 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active family 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 family legal aid firms by gender and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	52%	53%	53%	54%	55%	56%	55%	54%
Male	48%	47%	46%	45%	44%	43%	41%	40%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	6%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

68. Table 2.1.3 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active family 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 65 and above.

Table 2.1.3: Solicitors working in matched active family 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	25%	24%	23%	23%	22%	21%	22%	20%
35-44	28%	28%	28%	29%	29%	29%	29%	29%
45-54	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	23%	22%	23%
55-64	18%	19%	18%	18%	18%	18%	19%	19%
65+	6%	7%	7%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

69. Table 2.1.4 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms, by ethnic group and year. Solicitors from the White ethnic group made up 80% of solicitors working in family legal aid firms in FY2014-15, and this proportion decreased to 68% in FY2021-22. It is worth noting that a corresponding increase is seen in the proportions of solicitors whose ethnic group is unknown, whilst proportions of all other ethnic groups have remained broadly similar.

Table 2.1.4: Solicitors working in matched active family 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	8%	8%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
White	80%	79%	77%	74%	72%	69%	69%	68%
Other ethnic group	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	7%	8%	10%	13%	15%	18%	17%	19%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

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

Table 2.1.5: Solicitors working in matched active family 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	8%	7%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%
3-7	20%	18%	17%	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%
8-12	18%	18%	18%	17%	17%	16%	14%	13%
13-17	13%	13%	14%	14%	14%	15%	15%	16%
18-22	10%	11%	11%	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%
23-27	9%	9%	9%	9%	10%	10%	10%	10%
28 +	21%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	22%	23%
Unknown	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

71. Table 2.1.6 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms, by position in the firm and year. In all years, around a third of solicitors were partners, aside from FY2019-20 where 38% were partners.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Other	67%	68%	68%	69%	70%	62%	71%	70%
Partners	33%	32%	32%	31%	30%	38%	29%	30%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

72. Table 2.1.7 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active family 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.

73. In all years, around a fifth of solicitors worked in firms based in London. The proportion of solicitors based in London remained broadly consistent over the period.

Table 2.1.7: Solicitors working in matched active family legal aid firms by region and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
East Midlands	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
East of England	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%
London	22%	19%	22%	22%	19%	21%	22%	23%
North East	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%
North West	11%	12%	12%	12%	15%	14%	13%	12%
South East	9%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	10%
South West	14%	14%	11%	11%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Wales	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
West Midlands	7%	8%	8%	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%
Yorkshire and the Humber	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	9%	10%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

74. Table 2.1.8 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms, by their firm's number of partners and year. In FY2021-22, around two thirds of solicitors worked in firms with 5 or more partners.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Very small (0-1 partner)	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%
Small (2-4 partners)	27%	30%	29%	32%	34%	31%	31%	30%
Medium (5-25 partners)	50%	49%	49%	50%	48%	50%	50%	51%
Large (26 partners and over)	16%	14%	15%	12%	13%	13%	13%	14%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	14,960	14,350	14,000	13,390	12,950	13,040	13,150	11,880

Solicitor joiners and leavers

Key information

- In all years from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22, most joiner solicitors were classified as joiners because the solicitor joined a firm that was already completing family legal aid claims.

75. This section focuses on how the numbers and characteristics of solicitors who have joined or left the family legal aid market have changed over the duration of the datashare period.

76. Joiner solicitors are defined as having not worked for an active family legal aid firm in the previous year. This includes two types of joiner solicitors:

- New joiners, who had not previously worked in an active family legal aid firm in the datashare period;
- Returning solicitors, who had previously worked in an active family legal aid firm in the datashare period, just not in the previous year.

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

Joiners and leavers timeseries

80. This section looks at solicitors joining and leaving the family legal aid market. Table 2.2.1 shows the total number of family 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 family 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.
81. The number of joiner solicitors has varied across this period, with an increase seen in FY2018-19 and FY2019-20, coinciding with the 2018 procurement round.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total number of joiners	2,090	2,250	1,860	2,010	2,110	1,910	1,400
of whom were returners	-	460	200	310	390	320	270

82. Table 2.2.2 shows the total number of family 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 family 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.

83. The number of leaver solicitors has decreased over the period, aside from a large increase in FY2020-21.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total number of leavers	2,700	2,610	2,470	2,450	2,020	1,790	2,670
of whom left temporarily	690	350	320	310	170	110	-

84. Table 2.2.3 shows the proportion of joiners by the reason they were considered as family 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 family legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor joined an active family legal aid firm.

85. In all years, most solicitors were classified as joiners because the solicitor joined a firm completing family legal aid claims.

Table 2.2.3: Joiner solicitors working in matched active family 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 family legal aid firm	5%	20%	1%	12%	15%	3%	2%
Solicitor joined active family legal aid firm	95%	80%	99%	88%	85%	97%	98%
Total	2,090	2,250	1,860	2,010	2,110	1,910	1,400

86. Table 2.2.4 shows the proportion of family 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 family legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor left an active family legal aid firm.

87. In all years, the majority of solicitors were classified as leavers because the solicitor left a firm completing family legal aid work.

Table 2.2.4: Leaver solicitors working in matched active family 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 family legal aid firm	36%	27%	18%	34%	15%	10%	30%
Solicitor left active family legal aid firm	64%	73%	82%	66%	85%	90%	70%
Total	2,700	2,610	2,470	2,450	2,020	1,790	2,670

88. Table 2.2.5 shows the proportion of family joiner solicitors by gender, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. The largest proportion of joiner solicitors were female in all years. 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 family legal aid firms by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	62%	61%	64%	63%	63%	54%	43%
Male	38%	38%	35%	36%	35%	28%	23%
Unknown	0%	2%	1%	1%	2%	18%	34%
Total	2,090	2,250	1,860	2,010	2,110	1,910	1,400

89. Table 2.2.6 shows the proportion of family leaver solicitors by gender, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. The largest proportion of leaver solicitors in all years were female.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Female	57%	57%	58%	56%	58%	58%	57%
Male	43%	43%	41%	43%	41%	42%	38%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	6%
Total	2,700	2,610	2,470	2,450	2,020	1,790	2,670

90. Table 2.2.7 shows the proportion of family joiner solicitors by age, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. In each year, between 42% and 48% of joiners were aged under 35.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Under 35	44%	42%	48%	42%	42%	46%	46%
35-44	26%	29%	24%	28%	26%	25%	26%
45-54	17%	18%	16%	17%	17%	15%	16%
55-64	10%	8%	9%	10%	11%	11%	9%
65+	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Total	2,090	2,250	1,860	2,010	2,110	1,910	1,400

91. Table 2.2.8 shows the proportion of family leaver solicitors by age, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. In each year, between 26% and 31% of leavers were aged under 35.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Under 35	31%	30%	29%	26%	28%	28%	29%
35-44	30%	30%	28%	28%	29%	29%	31%
45-54	19%	19%	20%	20%	18%	18%	18%
55-64	13%	14%	14%	17%	15%	14%	15%
65+	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	8%
Total	2,700	2,610	2,470	2,450	2,020	1,790	2,670

92. Table 2.2.9 shows the proportion of family joiner solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. Proportions have varied slightly across years, with no clear trends over time.

Table 2.2.9: Joiner solicitors working in matched active family 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	23%	26%	30%	25%	28%	29%	28%
3-7	18%	17%	14%	16%	15%	15%	16%
8-12	14%	16%	12%	14%	13%	11%	11%
13-17	11%	12%	10%	12%	11%	11%	12%
18-22	8%	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%
23-27	5%	6%	4%	5%	6%	5%	4%
28 +	11%	9%	10%	10%	11%	10%	9%
Unknown	10%	8%	12%	9%	7%	12%	13%
Total	2,090	2,250	1,860	2,010	2,110	1,910	1,400

93. Table 2.2.10 shows the proportion of family leaver solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. The proportion of leavers with 0-2 years since admission to the profession has increased slightly over the period, while the proportion of those with 3-7 years since admission to the profession has decreased. Other proportions have varied slightly across years, with no clear trends over time.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
0-2	11%	10%	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%
3-7	25%	23%	20%	19%	21%	19%	20%
8-12	18%	20%	17%	16%	17%	15%	15%
13-17	12%	12%	14%	13%	12%	14%	13%
18-22	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	10%	9%
23-27	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%
28 +	17%	18%	19%	22%	21%	20%	19%
Unknown	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Total	2,700	2,610	2,470	2,450	2,020	1,790	2,670

94. Table 2.2.11 shows the proportion of family 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.
95. In all years, the largest proportion of joiner solicitors' firms were located in London. The proportions of joiner solicitors are varied across the period with no clear trends.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
East Midlands	7%	5%	6%	5%	5%	8%	6%
East of England	8%	5%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%
London	21%	36%	24%	23%	31%	27%	23%
North East	5%	5%	7%	5%	4%	6%	7%
North West	12%	9%	13%	14%	12%	12%	12%
South East	10%	11%	11%	14%	11%	14%	13%
South West	16%	9%	9%	11%	13%	8%	12%
Wales	5%	6%	7%	6%	4%	6%	6%
West Midlands	8%	5%	8%	6%	8%	6%	7%
Yorkshire and the Humber	9%	7%	9%	9%	7%	7%	7%
Unknown	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,090	2,250	1,860	2,010	2,110	1,910	1,400

96. Table 2.2.12 shows the proportion of family 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.
97. In all years, the largest proportion of leaver solicitors' firms were located in London. This proportion decreased over the period, whereas proportions of leaver solicitors in the North West and South East increased.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
East Midlands	6%	10%	9%	5%	6%	7%	7%
East of England	7%	5%	5%	6%	10%	6%	8%
London	38%	20%	25%	27%	18%	20%	20%
North East	4%	4%	5%	4%	6%	6%	4%
North West	8%	10%	11%	12%	14%	17%	18%
South East	7%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	15%
South West	13%	23%	10%	9%	11%	10%	10%
Wales	5%	5%	11%	6%	9%	5%	4%
West Midlands	5%	5%	6%	10%	6%	7%	8%
Yorkshire and the Humber	7%	8%	9%	10%	8%	11%	6%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,700	2,610	2,470	2,450	2,020	1,790	2,670

Joining and leaving rates

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

100. Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 show the proportion of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, within each age band, in FY2015-16 and FY2020-21.

101. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors aged under 35 were joiners, compared to other age groups. Additionally, in both years, as age increased, the proportion of continuing solicitors increased, with the exception of those aged 65 or over.

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

	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Joiner solicitors	20%	10%	8%	6%	6%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	7%	4%	3%	2%	2%
Leaver solicitors	16%	15%	12%	12%	19%
Continuing solicitors	57%	71%	77%	80%	74%
Total	3,410	4,010	3,330	2,670	930

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

	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown
Joiner solicitors	20%	9%	7%	6%	3%	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	11%	3%	3%	3%	2%	0%
Leaver solicitors	16%	18%	14%	14%	19%	0%
Continuing solicitors	53%	70%	76%	78%	76%	~
Total	2,840	3,870	2,940	2,430	1,080	~

102. Tables 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 show the proportion of solicitors working in active family legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, by years since admission to the profession, in FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors with 0-2 years since admission to the profession were joiners, compared to other years since admission to the profession bands. Additionally, in both years, as years since admission to the profession increased, the proportion of continuing solicitors broadly increased.

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

	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 +	Unknown
Joiner solicitors	34%	10%	8%	9%	7%	6%	6%	70%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	11%	4%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	~
Leaver solicitors	13%	18%	17%	14%	12%	10%	13%	0%
Continuing solicitors	42%	68%	71%	74%	78%	81%	80%	~
Total	1,060	2,620	2,570	1,910	1,550	1,290	3,150	210

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

	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 +	Unknown
Joiner solicitors	31%	9%	8%	8%	7%	6%	5%	61%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	17%	5%	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	33%
Leaver solicitors	15%	21%	18%	15%	13%	12%	16%	~
Continuing solicitors	37%	66%	71%	74%	78%	80%	78%	~
Total	1,150	2,140	1,910	1,980	1,540	1,290	2,910	250

Barristers

Additional methodological details for barrister statistics

103. 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.
104. 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,⁴ and includes disbursements (such as travel expenses). Disbursement data can only be identified on cases recorded on a new case management and payment system, which was made mandatory for cases started after 1st April 2016, and so cannot be removed from all cases across the timeseries shown here. In cases where disbursements can be identified they amount to less than 1% of the total fees, so the decision was taken to maintain consistency, but note these slightly overstate income. These fees also do not include inter partes costs (where the court awards these to be paid by an opposing party) as we cannot identify which barrister received these payments in our data. Generally in areas other than family and tribunal work, inter partes costs can be considerable. Furthermore, the gross civil legal aid fee income is civil representation work only because only work billed by barristers who are directly paid by the LAA is able to be matched. This is because the matching process requires the name of the barrister to be recorded on both LAA and BC systems, and this is not possible with controlled work.
105. Where “family gross civil legal aid fee income” is mentioned, this only refers to income that barristers have received from family legal aid work, and not income from legal aid work in other categories of law.
106. 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

⁴ 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.

107. 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.
108. This publication looks at self-employed barristers, which make up around 80% of all barristers.⁵ 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.⁶
109. In this chapter, the first section shows all barristers, and the subsequent sections show all barristers completing family 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.
110. 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 barristers⁷ 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.
111. 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.

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

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

⁷ 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

112. 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,⁸ 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.⁹

Barristers completing family legal aid work in context

Key information

- The number of barristers who completed family legal aid cases increased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, along with their family legal aid case volumes and family gross civil legal aid fee income. While barrister numbers saw similar percentage increases across private and public family legal aid work, the percentage increase to public family case volumes and gross civil legal aid fee income was larger than the increase for private family work.
- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, around two thirds of family legal aid barristers did both private and public family legal aid work.
- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, the majority of family barristers received over 80% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from family work.

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

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

115. 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, family legal aid barristers made up 79% of all civil legal aid barristers. Of the total number of civil legal aid barristers, 68% completed some private family legal aid work and 63% completed some public family legal aid work.

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

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

116. There has generally been an increase in the number of family legal aid barristers over the period, with an overall increase of 25%. For private family, there has been an increase of 18%, and for public family, there has been an increase of 25%. These increases are 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
Family legal aid	2,880	2,870	3,020	3,130	3,260	3,010	3,370	3,580
Private family	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110
Public family	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860
All civil legal aid	3,930	3,840	3,920	4,080	4,230	3,820	4,290	4,560

117. 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, 92% of all civil legal aid cases completed were family cases. 29% of all civil legal aid cases completed were private family legal aid cases and 63% of all civil legal aid cases completed were public family legal aid cases.

118. There has generally been an increase in the number of family legal aid cases completed by barristers over the period, with an overall increase of 45%. For private family, there has been an increase of 9%, and for public family, there has been an increase of 71%. The overall family increase is 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
Family legal aid	62,060	62,500	71,690	74,730	80,340	69,540	73,860	89,870
Private family	26,030	19,830	19,560	19,040	20,360	17,960	21,600	28,310
Public family	36,030	42,670	52,140	55,690	59,980	51,580	52,260	61,560
All civil legal aid	69,800	69,870	79,210	82,770	88,900	76,990	80,810	97,530

119. Table 3.1.3 shows the gross civil legal aid fee income of barristers completing civil legal aid cases, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, around 92% of all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers was from family legal aid work. 11% of all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers was for private family legal aid and 81% of all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers was for public family legal aid.

120. There has generally been an increase in the gross civil legal aid fee income from family legal aid cases for barristers, with an overall increase of 83%. For private family, there has been an increase of 7%, and for public family, there has been an increase of 103%. The overall family increase, as well as the public family increase, are larger than the overall increase of 75% for all civil legal aid barrister cases, whilst the public family increase is smaller than this.

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
Family legal aid	£93.0	£92.6	£102.2	£103.8	£120.7	£117.9	£130.6	£170.1
Private family	£19.7	£14.6	£13.2	£12.6	£14.1	£12.7	£15.9	£21.1
Public family	£73.3	£78.0	£89.0	£91.2	£106.5	£105.1	£114.7	£149.0
All civil legal aid	£105.2	£104.4	£113.3	£115.4	£133.4	£128.7	£142.5	£183.9

121. Table 3.1.4 shows the family legal aid work areas that family legal aid barristers were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. In each year, over two thirds of family legal aid barristers completed both private and public family legal aid work. Between 15% and 20% of family legal aid barristers completed private family work and did not complete public family work, while between 8% and 16% of family legal aid barristers completed public family work and did not complete private family work.

122. As there were around a third of barristers each year who did not complete both private and public family work, subsequent sections split out private and public family barristers.

Table 3.1.4: Family legal aid barristers by area of family legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Private and public family	71%	71%	70%	69%	70%	69%	67%	67%
Private family only	20%	20%	19%	19%	17%	15%	19%	20%
Public family only	8%	10%	11%	12%	13%	16%	14%	13%
All family legal aid	2,880	2,870	3,020	3,130	3,260	3,010	3,370	3,580

123. Table 3.1.5 shows the civil legal aid categories that family legal aid barristers were active in, by year. In FY2022-23, around 93% of family legal aid barristers did not complete civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category. This proportion has increased from around 88% of family legal aid barristers in FY2015-16.

Table 3.1.5: Areas of legal aid work for barristers completing family legal aid work, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total	2,880	2,870	3,020	3,130	3,260	3,010	3,370	3,580
Private and public family only	65%	64%	63%	63%	64%	64%	63%	63%
Private family only	16%	17%	16%	16%	15%	13%	17%	18%
Public family only	7%	9%	10%	10%	12%	15%	13%	12%
Private and public family +	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	5%	4%	4%
Private family +	4%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Public family +	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Claims against public authorities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Clinical negligence	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Community care	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Education	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Housing & debt	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	3%	2%	3%
Immigration	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Mental health	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Miscellaneous and other	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Public law	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Welfare benefits	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

124. Table 3.1.6 shows the proportion of gross civil legal aid fee income that family legal aid barristers received from family legal aid work, by year. Most family legal aid barristers received the majority of their gross civil legal aid fee income from family legal aid work, at 94% to 97% of barristers each year.

Table 3.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing family legal aid work, by proportion of gross civil legal aid fee income from family legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
20-40%	1%	~	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%
40-60%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
60-80%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
80% and over	94%	95%	96%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%
Gross civil legal aid income is blank or zero	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,880	2,870	3,020	3,130	3,260	3,010	3,370	3,580

125. Table 3.1.7 shows the proportion of family gross civil legal aid fee income that family legal aid barristers received from public or private civil legal aid work, by year. Barristers tended to earn more of their family gross civil legal aid fee income from public family work – in FY2022-23, 50% of family legal aid barristers received 80% or more of their family gross civil legal aid fee income from public family work. This proportion has increased from 37% in FY2015-16.

126. Each year, between 18% and 25% of family legal aid barristers received 80% or more of their family gross civil legal aid fee income from private family work.

Table 3.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing family legal aid work, by proportion of family gross civil legal aid fee income from private and public family legal aid work and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20% private family, 80% and over public family	37%	48%	54%	54%	56%	58%	53%	50%
20-40% private family, 60-80% public family	20%	17%	14%	15%	14%	14%	13%	13%
40-60% private family, 40-60% public family	12%	8%	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%
60-80% private family, 20-40% public family	6%	~	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%
80% and over private family, less than 20% public family	25%	22%	22%	22%	20%	18%	22%	24%
Gross civil legal aid fee income is blank or zero	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,880	2,870	3,020	3,130	3,260	3,010	3,370	3,580

Private family barristers

Overview

Key information

- Each year from FY2015-16 to FY2022-23, between 83% and 87% of private family legal aid barristers completed private law Children Act proceedings cases, and these cases accounted for 63% of private family legal aid cases and 72% of private family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers in FY2022-23.
- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, the majority of private family barristers received private family gross civil legal aid fee incomes of under £5,000.
- In any particular year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, between 37% and 44% of barristers completing private family legal aid work completed private family legal aid work in all eight of the years examined, suggesting that there is a cohort of barristers who do private family legal aid as a regular part of their practice.

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

128. Table 4.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by area of private family legal aid work and year. Each year, between 83% and 87% of private family legal aid barristers completed private law Children Act proceedings cases, and between 60% and 68% completed domestic violence cases. The proportion of private family legal aid barristers who completed financial provision cases has decreased over the period, as well as the proportion of barristers who completed other family proceedings cases.

Table 4.1.1: Number of private family barristers completing work, by area of private family legal aid and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Private family barristers	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110
Combined family proceedings	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic violence	67%	67%	68%	65%	66%	60%	61%	64%
Financial provision	45%	37%	31%	27%	26%	16%	21%	24%
Other family proceedings	18%	14%	8%	6%	5%	2%	4%	3%
Private law Children Act proceedings	87%	84%	83%	83%	85%	87%	86%	86%

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

129. Table 4.1.2 shows the proportion of private family cases by area of private family legal aid work and year. Each year, private law Children Act proceedings cases accounted for between 49% and 63% of private family legal aid cases, and domestic violence cases accounted for between 28% and 43% of private family legal aid cases.

Table 4.1.2: Private family legal aid barrister case volume, by area of private family legal aid and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Combined family proceedings	~	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	~	0%
Domestic violence	28%	37%	43%	42%	38%	37%	33%	32%
Financial provision	10%	8%	6%	6%	5%	3%	4%	4%
Other family proceedings	~	2%	1%	1%	~	0%	~	0%
Private law Children Act proceedings	60%	52%	49%	51%	56%	60%	62%	63%
Total	26,030	19,830	19,560	19,040	20,360	17,960	21,600	28,310

130. Table 4.1.3 shows the proportion of private family gross civil legal aid fee income by area of private family legal aid work and year. The majority of private family gross civil legal aid fee barrister income was from private law Children Act proceedings cases, at between 59% and 72% each year. Domestic violence cases accounted for between 22% and 31% of private family gross civil legal aid fee income each year.

Table 4.1.3: Income from private family legal aid (£m), by area of private family legal aid and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Combined family proceedings	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Domestic violence	22%	27%	31%	30%	27%	27%	25%	23%
Financial provision	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	3%	4%	4%
Other family proceedings	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Private law Children Act proceedings	66%	62%	59%	62%	65%	70%	71%	72%
Total	£19.7	£14.6	£13.2	£12.6	£14.1	£12.7	£15.9	£21.1

131. Table 4.1.4 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by private family gross civil legal aid fee income and financial year. In each year, almost all private family legal aid barristers had private family gross civil legal aid incomes of £30,000 or less, with over half having private family gross civil legal aid incomes of £5,000 or less.

Table 4.1.4: Distribution of barristers completing private family legal aid work by private family 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	51%	60%	64%	68%	66%	64%	63%	58%
£5,001 to £30,000	47%	40%	35%	31%	33%	36%	36%	39%
£30,001 to £60,000	2%	1%	1%	~	1%	1%	~	2%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	0%	~	0%	~	~
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	~	~	0%	0%	~
£150,001 and over	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

132. Table 4.1.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by their self-reported total gross income band and by financial year. The proportion of barristers with a self-reported total gross income of £30,001 to £90,000 has decreased over time, whereas the proportion of barristers with a self-reported total gross income of £150,001 and over has increased.

133. Comparing tables 4.1.4 and 4.1.5, there was a lower proportion of barristers with a private family gross civil legal aid fee income of £30,001 and over, compared to the proportion of barristers with a self-reported total gross income of £30,001 and over. This difference would indicate that many private family barristers received income in addition to private family gross civil legal aid fee income.

Table 4.1.5: Distribution of barristers completing private family 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%	11%	11%	8%	7%	9%	12%	12%
£30,001 to £60,000	21%	18%	15%	12%	12%	15%	9%	8%
£60,001 to £90,000	24%	23%	20%	18%	17%	19%	14%	14%
£90,001 to £150,000	32%	33%	34%	36%	36%	34%	32%	32%
£150,001 to £240,000	7%	8%	10%	15%	16%	14%	19%	19%
£240,001 and over	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%	3%	6%	5%
Unknown	4%	6%	8%	8%	8%	6%	10%	10%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

134. Table 4.1.6 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by the self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and by financial year. In FY2022-23, 11% of barristers reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income, whilst 19% of barristers reported that legal aid made up 80% or more of their income.

Table 4.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing private family legal aid work by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and year

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	12%	11%	11%
20-40%	14%	13%	11%
40-60%	21%	17%	16%
60-80%	18%	17%	18%
80% and over	17%	18%	19%
Unknown	17%	24%	24%
Total	2,530	2,900	3,110

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

135. Table 4.1.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by private family legal aid case volume and by financial year. Between 48% and 57% of private family legal aid barristers completed 3 to 15 cases each year, and between 26% and 37% completed 1 to 2 cases each year.

Table 4.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing private family legal aid work by volume of private family cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	26%	31%	31%	35%	33%	36%	37%	32%
3 to 15 cases	51%	57%	57%	54%	55%	51%	49%	48%
16 to 30 cases	19%	11%	10%	9%	9%	10%	11%	13%
31 to 45 cases	3%	1%	~	1%	1%	2%	3%	4%
46 cases +	1%	0%	~	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

136. Table 4.1.8 shows the median private family gross civil legal aid fee income for private family barristers, by private family legal aid case volume and year. Table 4.1.7 shows that in FY2022-23, 32% of private family barristers completed 1 to 2 private family legal aid cases. For these barristers, the median private family gross civil legal aid fee income was £700 in 2022-23.

137. Table 4.1.7 also shows that in FY2022-23, 48% of private family barristers completed 3 to 15 private family legal aid cases. For these barristers, the median private family gross civil legal aid fee income in FY2022-23 ranged from £3,000 for those who completed 3 to 5 cases, to £15,800 for those who completed 11 to 15 cases.

Table 4.1.8: Median private family gross civil legal aid fee income for private family barristers, by volume of private family cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	£700	£700	£600	£700	£700	£800	£700	£700
3 to 5 cases	£2,500	£2,600	£2,700	£2,400	£2,700	£2,900	£2,800	£3,000
6 to 10 cases	£6,800	£7,200	£5,900	£7,100	£6,600	£7,600	£7,500	£7,800
11 to 15 cases	£14,200	£13,100	£12,400	£13,000	£11,200	£12,400	£15,400	£15,800
16 or more cases	£44,100	£45,500	£46,900	£46,000	£50,000	£47,400	£50,300	£56,100

138. Table 4.1.9 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work, by the number of years they completed private family 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.

139. When looking at the entire cohort of barristers over the period as a whole, 17% of barristers submitted cases in one year, with a further 28% submitting cases in 2 to 4 years, suggesting that there was a large cohort of barristers for whom private family legal aid work was not a regular part of their practice. When considering the cohort of barristers working in each individual year, the proportion who only completed work in that year amounted to between 1% and 8% of barristers.

140. There was also a larger cohort who submitted cases more frequently, with 25% of barristers submitting a case in all years of the dataset and a further 29% submitting cases in between 5 and 7 years. In each year, barristers who completed work every year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23 amounted to between 37% and 44% of barristers.

Table 4.1.9: Distribution of barristers completing private family 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 private family legal aid work

	Over all years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 year	17%	7%	4%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	8%
2-4 years	28%	17%	16%	13%	12%	16%	20%	24%	23%
5-7 years	29%	33%	36%	41%	43%	42%	34%	35%	32%
8 years	25%	44%	44%	43%	42%	41%	46%	40%	37%
Total	4,630	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

141. Table 4.1.10 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by region and by financial year. In all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of private family barristers was London, although this proportion decreased from 39% in FY2015-16 to 35% in FY2022-23. Wales accounted for the smallest proportion of barristers, at 3% each year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers in the North, from 21% in FY2015-16 to 26% in FY2022-23. Proportions were broadly consistent across this period for other regions.

Table 4.1.10: Distribution of barristers completing private family legal aid work by region and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	39%	39%	37%	38%	36%	35%	36%	35%
Midlands	15%	15%	15%	16%	16%	15%	15%	16%
North	21%	21%	23%	23%	23%	25%	25%	26%
South	14%	14%	14%	13%	14%	14%	14%	13%
Wales	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Unknown	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

142. Table 4.1.11 shows the proportion of private family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers who completed private family 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 private family gross civil legal aid fee income was London, and this proportion decreased from 39% in FY2015-16 to 34% in FY2022-23. Wales accounted for the smallest proportion of private family gross civil legal aid fee income, between 2% and 4%. The proportion of private family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers based in the North increased over the period.

Table 4.1.11: Distribution of private family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers completing private family work by region, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	39%	43%	39%	39%	38%	37%	33%	34%
Midlands	18%	15%	17%	17%	16%	15%	16%	16%
North	20%	20%	22%	22%	23%	25%	26%	27%
South	14%	13%	12%	12%	14%	13%	15%	12%
Wales	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	4%
Unknown	7%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Total	£19.7m	£14.6m	£13.2m	£12.6m	£14.1m	£12.7m	£15.9m	£21.1m

Protected characteristics

Key information

- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, female barristers made up a majority of those completing private family legal aid work.
- The proportion of barristers completing private family legal aid work aged 55 or over has increased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, while the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 has decreased.
- 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

143. Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by gender and financial year. Female barristers made up the largest gender group in all years between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, at between 58% and 60%.

Table 4.2.1: Distribution of barristers completing private family legal aid work by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Female	58%	59%	59%	59%	60%	60%	60%	60%
Male	41%	40%	39%	39%	38%	38%	38%	38%
Non-binary	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Other gender group	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	~
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

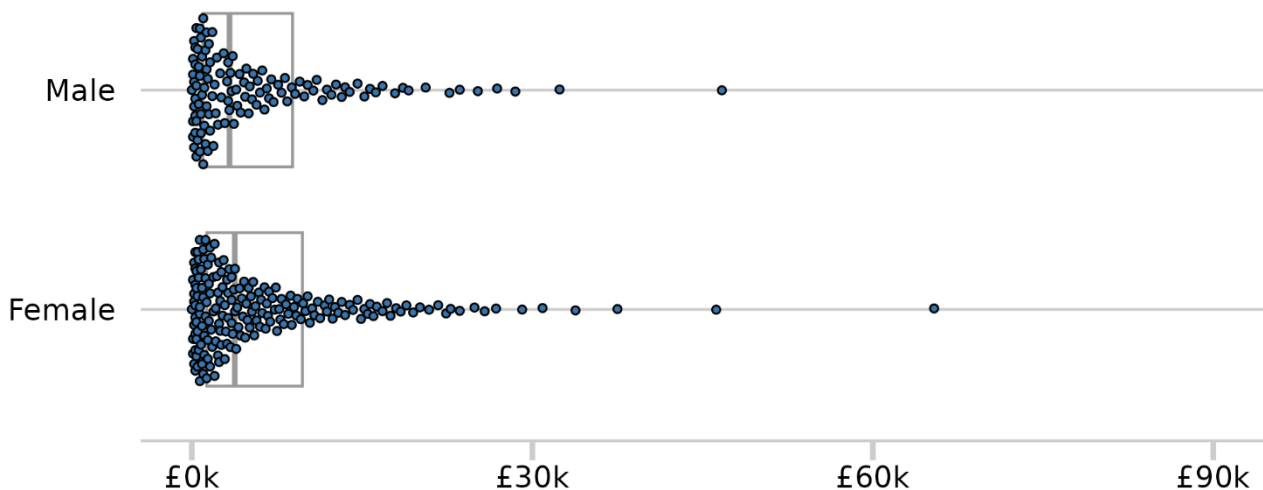
144. Table 4.2.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their private family gross civil legal aid fee income band. The proportion of female barristers increased as private family gross civil legal aid fee income band increased, while the proportion of male barristers decreased.

Table 4.2.2: Number of barristers completing private family legal aid work and their distribution by gender and private family 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	1,820	59%	39%	~	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	1,230	62%	37%	~	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	60	65%	33%	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	~	~	~	.	.	.	100%
All	3,110	60%	38%	~	~	~	100%

145. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The median private family gross civil legal aid fee income was slightly higher for females at £3,800, compared to males at £3,300.

Private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for private family barristers for 2022-23



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

146. Table 4.2.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the private family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the gender of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income for female barristers at £7,000 was slightly higher than the mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income for male barristers, at £6,500.

147. Table 4.2.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported total gross income band. As self-reported total gross income band increased, the proportion of male barristers broadly increased, and the proportion of female barristers broadly decreased.

148. Table 4.2.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Aside from the 20-40% band, the proportion of female barristers increased as self-reported proportion of income from legal aid increased.

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

	Number of barristers	Female	Male	Non-binary	Other gender group	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	340	51%	47%	~	~	~	100%
20-40%	360	66%	32%	~	~	~	100%
40-60%	510	61%	36%	~	~	~	100%
60-80%	560	62%	36%	~	~	~	100%
80% and over	590	64%	34%	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	760	56%	42%	~	~	~	100%
All	3,110	60%	38%	~	~	~	100%

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

149. Table 4.2.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work, by gender and by the number of years they completed private family cases in the datashare period. The proportion of female barristers increased as number of years increased, while the proportion of male barristers broadly decreased.

Age

150. Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by age and by financial year. The proportion of barristers aged 55 or over has increased over the period, while the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 has decreased.

151. The mean age of a barrister completing private family legal aid work has risen by 2 years, from 43 in FY2015-16 to 45 in FY2022-23 (see table 6.1.1 in attached spreadsheet).

Table 4.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing private family 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	23%	21%	22%	22%	23%	24%	22%	22%
35-44	26%	28%	28%	28%	28%	27%	28%	28%
45-54	23%	23%	21%	21%	20%	19%	19%	18%
55-64	11%	12%	12%	13%	13%	14%	15%	16%
65+	3%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Unknown	13%	13%	11%	11%	11%	10%	10%	10%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

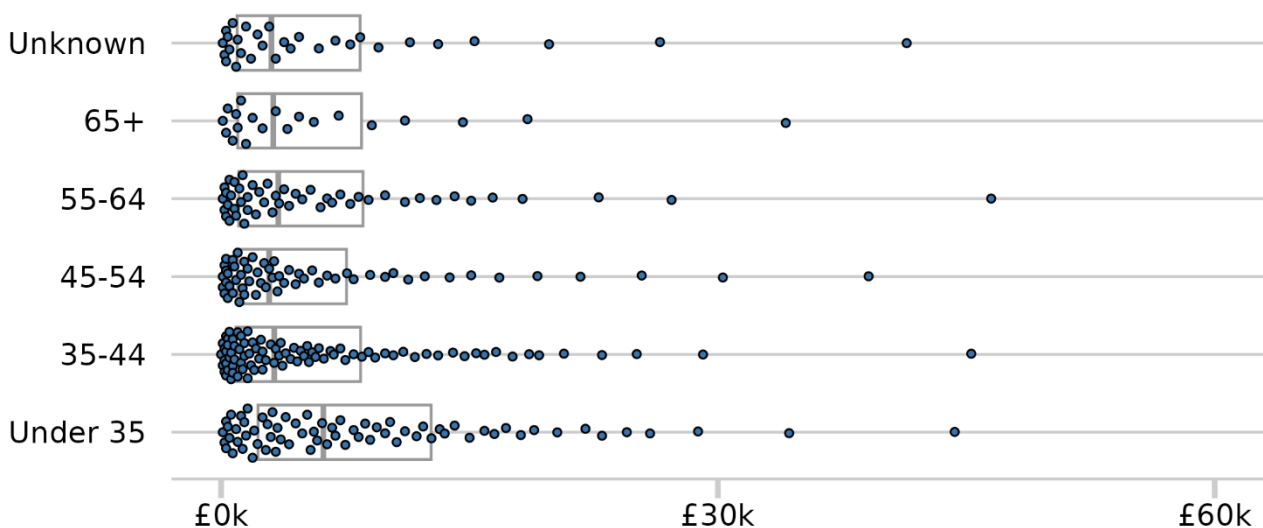
152. Table 4.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their private family gross civil legal aid fee income band. The proportion of barristers aged under 35 increased as private family gross civil legal aid income increased in bands of £60,000 and below. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

Table 4.3.2: Number of barristers completing private family legal aid work and their distribution by age and private family 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	1,820	16%	29%	21%	16%	7%	10%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	1,230	30%	27%	15%	15%	5%	8%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	60	32%	16%	~	16%	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	~	0%	~	~	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
All	3,110	22%	28%	18%	16%	6%	10%	100%

153. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age band for barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Barristers aged under 35 had the highest median private family legal aid fee income at £6,200.

Private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age for private family barristers for 2022-23



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

154. Table 4.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the private family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the age band of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers aged under 35, at £8,700, compared to means of between £5,800 and £6,700 for all other age groups.

155. Table 4.3.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their self-reported total gross income band. As self-reported total gross income increased, the proportions of barristers aged under 35 decreased (where unsuppressed), whereas the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 increased.

156. Table 4.3.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. The proportion of barristers aged 45-64 broadly increased as self-reported proportion of income from legal aid increased.

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

	Number of barristers	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	340	29%	32%	18%	9%	3%	9%	100%
20-40%	360	30%	29%	16%	14%	4%	7%	100%
40-60%	510	30%	31%	17%	13%	3%	7%	100%
60-80%	560	28%	27%	19%	15%	4%	7%	100%
80% and over	590	14%	21%	20%	24%	9%	13%	100%
Unknown	760	12%	30%	19%	16%	11%	13%	100%
All	3,110	22%	28%	18%	16%	6%	10%	100%

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

157. Table 4.3.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work, by age and by the number of years they completed private family cases in the datashare period. As the number of years increased, the proportion of barristers aged under 35 decreased, whereas the proportion of barristers aged over 35 increased.

Ethnicity

158. Table 4.4.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by ethnicity and by financial year. Barristers from the White ethnic group were the largest ethnic group, at around 80% of barristers each year.

Table 4.4.1: Distribution of barristers completing private family legal aid work by ethnicity and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Asian or Asian British	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	7%	8%	8%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
White	81%	80%	80%	80%	80%	79%	79%	78%
Other ethnic group	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

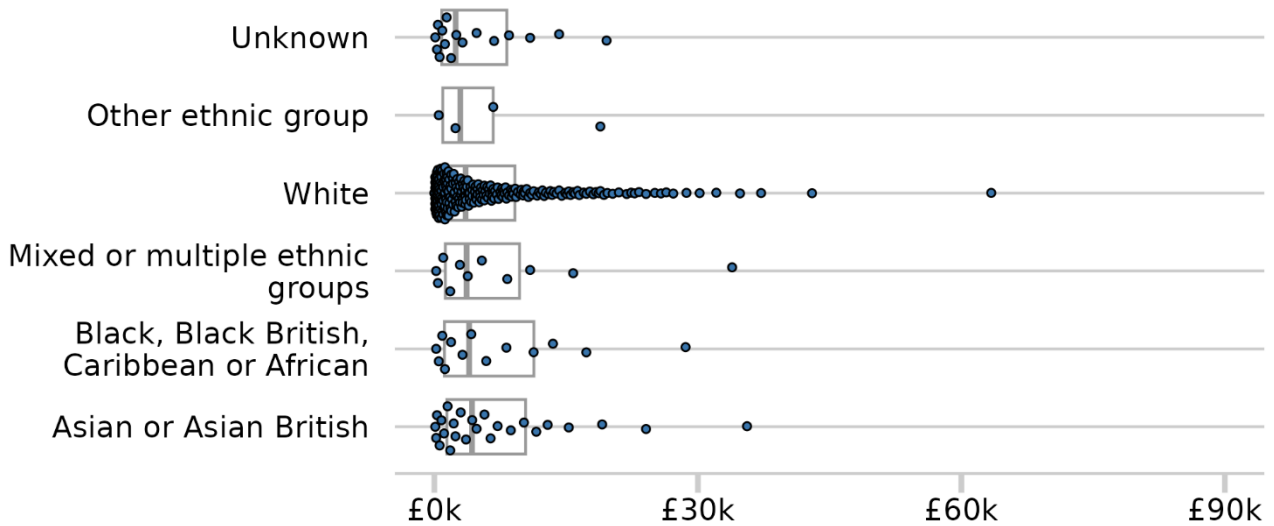
159. Table 4.4.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their private family gross civil legal aid fee income band. Where unsuppressed, proportions are consistent across private family gross civil legal aid fee income bands.

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

	Number of barristers	Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	1,820	8%	4%	3%	78%	1%	6%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	1,230	8%	5%	3%	78%	1%	5%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	60	~	~	~	79%	0%	0%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	0%	~	~	0%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
All	3,110	8%	4%	4%	78%	1%	5%	100%

160. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by ethnicity for barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Barristers from the Asian/Asian British ethnic group had the highest median private family gross civil legal aid fee income at £4,300, and barristers whose ethnicity was unknown had the lowest median, at £2,400.

Private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by ethnicity for private family barristers for 2022-23



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

161. Table 4.4.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the private family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the ethnicity of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Barristers from the Mixed or multiple ethnic group cohort had the highest mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income at £7,500, and barristers whose ethnic group was unknown had the lowest mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income at £5,200.
162. Table 4.4.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their self-reported total gross income band. The proportion of barristers from the White ethnic group was higher in the higher bands, whereas the proportion of barristers from the Asian or Asian British ethnic group was higher in the lower bands.
163. Table 4.4.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Where unsuppressed, proportions varied by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, with no clear trends.

Table 4.4.5: Number of barristers completing private family legal aid work and their distribution by ethnicity and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	340	11%	4%	~	74%	~	5%	100%
20-40%	360	8%	~	4%	80%	~	3%	100%
40-60%	510	8%	4%	5%	78%	~	~	100%
60-80%	560	7%	4%	~	80%	~	4%	100%
80% and over	590	9%	6%	~	74%	~	7%	100%
Unknown	760	6%	3%	~	80%	~	7%	100%
All	3,110	8%	4%	4%	78%	1%	5%	100%

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

164. Table 4.4.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work, by ethnicity and by the number of years they completed private family cases in the datashare period. As number of years increased, the proportion of barristers from the White ethnic group increased and the proportion of barristers from the Asian or Asian British ethnic group decreased.

Religion

165. Tables 4.5.1 to 4.5.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 41% and 51% of 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 private family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Private family 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 private family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Disability

166. Tables 4.6.1 to 4.6.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 35% and 45% of 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 private family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Private family 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 private family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Sexual Orientation

167. Tables 4.7.1 to 4.7.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 39% and 48% of 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 private family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Private family 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 private family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Other characteristics

Key information

- Between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, for barristers who completed private family legal aid cases, there was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 0-2 and 28 + years of practice, while decreases were seen in the proportion of barristers with 8-12 and 23-27 years of practice.
- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, 99% of the barristers completing private family legal aid work were Juniors.
- 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

168. Table 5.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by years of practice and by financial year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 0-2 and 28 + years of practice, while decreases were seen in the proportion of barristers with 8-12 and 23-27 years of practice.

Table 5.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing private family 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%	10%	12%	14%	17%	17%	14%	13%
3-7	22%	20%	19%	17%	20%	20%	20%	22%
8-12	21%	19%	18%	17%	13%	14%	15%	14%
13-17	13%	14%	14%	16%	16%	14%	13%	14%
18-22	13%	13%	12%	10%	10%	9%	11%	11%
23-27	17%	12%	12%	12%	11%	10%	10%	9%
28 +	5%	12%	13%	14%	14%	15%	17%	18%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

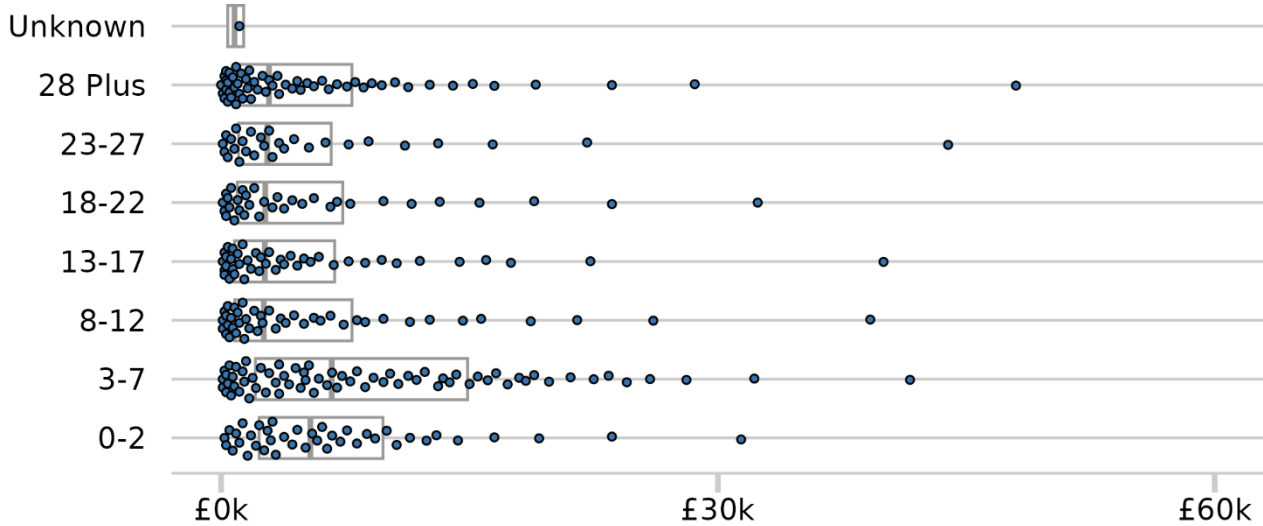
169. Table 5.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their private family gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

Table 5.1.2: Number of barristers completing private family legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and private family 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 +	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	1,820	11%	16%	15%	16%	12%	11%	20%	1%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	1,230	16%	31%	12%	10%	9%	7%	15%	0%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	60	~	37%	~	~	~	~	19%	0%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	0%	0%	~	~	0%	0%	~	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
All	3,110	13%	22%	14%	14%	11%	9%	18%	0%	100%

170. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice band for barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median private family gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers with 7 or fewer years of practice, at between £5,400 and £6,700, while the median for barristers with over 7 years of practice ranged from £2,600 to £2,900.

Private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice for private family barristers for 2022-23



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

171. Table 5.1.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the private family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the years of practice band of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Barristers with 3-7 years of practice had the highest mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income, at £9,600.

172. Table 5.1.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their self-reported total gross income band. As the self-reported total gross income band increased, the proportion of barristers with 8 or fewer years of practice broadly decreased, while the proportion of barristers with 18-22 years of practice increased.

173. Table 5.1.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. The proportions of barristers with 12 or fewer years of practice were lower in the 80% and over band compared to the other self-reported proportion of income from legal aid bands, whereas the proportions of barristers with 23 or more years of practice were higher.

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

	Number of barristers	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 +	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	340	14%	32%	15%	14%	7%	8%	10%	0%	100%
20-40%	360	20%	29%	13%	12%	6%	5%	15%	0%	100%
40-60%	510	19%	26%	15%	10%	11%	9%	10%	0%	100%
60-80%	560	20%	23%	11%	13%	11%	9%	13%	0%	100%
80% and over	590	9%	15%	10%	13%	13%	14%	27%	0%	100%
Unknown	760	3%	16%	17%	18%	12%	8%	25%	2%	100%
All	3,110	13%	22%	14%	14%	11%	9%	18%	0%	100%

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

174. Table 5.1.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work, by years of practice and by the number of years they completed private family cases in the datashare period. As the number of years that a barrister completed private family legal aid work increased, the proportion of barristers in the higher years of practice bands increased, and the proportion of barristers in the lower years of practice bands decreased.

Socio-economic background

175. Tables 5.2.1 to 5.2.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 52% and 59% of 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 private family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Private family 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 private legal aid family cases in the datashare period.

Advocate type

176. Table 5.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work by advocate type and by financial year. In all years, 99% of private family legal aid barristers were Juniors.

Table 5.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing private family 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	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Junior	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
Total	2,640	2,600	2,680	2,770	2,840	2,530	2,900	3,110

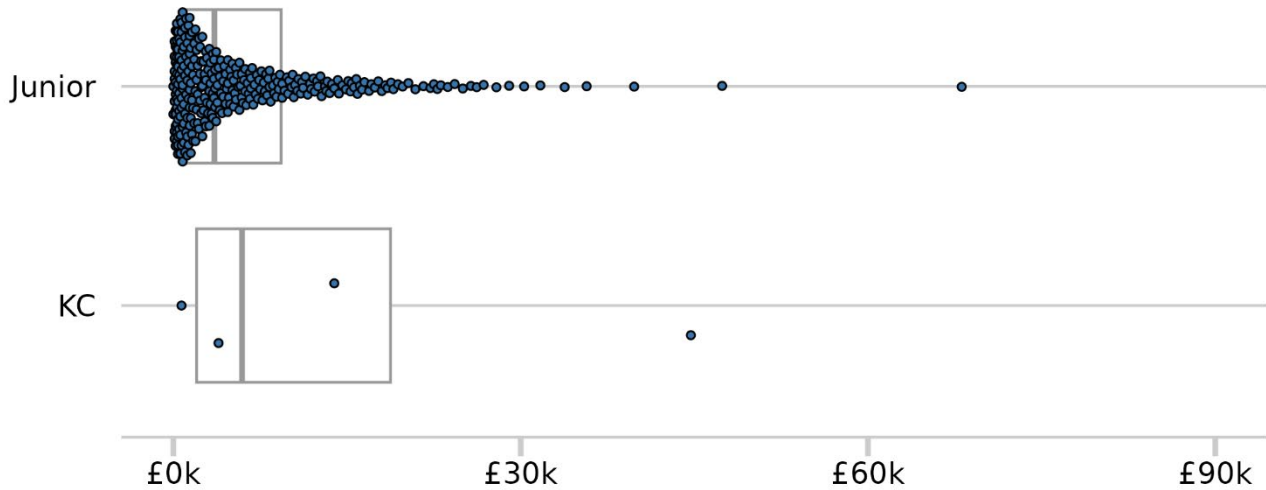
177. Table 5.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their private family gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

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

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
£5,000 and less	1,820	1%	99%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	1,230	1%	99%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	60	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	100%
All	3,110	1%	99%	100%

178. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The median private family gross civil legal aid fee income was higher for KCs, at £5,900, than for Junior barristers, at £3,500.

Private family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for private family barristers for 2022-23



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

179. Table 5.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the private family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the advocate type of barristers who completed private family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean private family gross civil legal aid fee income of KC barristers was £14,300, which was higher than the mean of Juniors at £6,700.

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

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

Public family barristers

Overview

Key information

- Each year from FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, between 97% and 98% of public family legal aid barristers completed special Children Act proceedings cases, and these cases accounted for 92% of public family legal aid cases and 89% of public family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers in FY2022-23.
- There has been a shift to public family barristers receiving higher public family gross civil legal aid fee incomes between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, along with their public family legal aid case volumes.
- In any particular year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, between 53% and 66% of barristers completing public family legal aid work completed public family legal aid work in all eight of the years examined, suggesting that there is a cohort of barristers who do public family legal aid as a regular part of their practice.

181. This section relates to barristers who have completed public family legal aid work. The gross civil legal aid fee income discussed in this section only includes fees from public family legal aid work and not fees from other legal aid work.
182. Table 7.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by area of public family legal aid work and year. Each year, between 97% and 98% of public family legal aid barristers completed special Children Act proceedings cases, and between 56% and 64% completed other public law Children Act proceedings cases.

Table 7.1.1: Number of public family barristers completing work, by area of public family legal aid and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Public family barristers	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860
Other public law Children Act proceedings	56%	60%	60%	61%	63%	64%	62%	63%
Special Children Act proceedings	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	97%	97%

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

183. Table 7.1.2 shows the proportion of public family cases by area of public family legal aid work and year. Each year, special Children Act proceedings cases accounted for between 91% and 92% of public family legal aid cases, and other public law Children Act proceedings cases accounted for between 8% and 9% of public family legal aid cases.

Table 7.1.2: Public family legal aid barrister case volume, by area of public family legal aid and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Other public law Children Act proceedings	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	8%
Special Children Act proceedings	92%	92%	92%	92%	92%	91%	91%	92%
Total	36,030	42,670	52,140	55,690	59,980	51,580	52,260	61,560

184. Table 7.1.3 shows the proportion of public family gross civil legal aid fee income by area of public family legal aid work and year. Each year, special Children Act proceedings cases accounted for between 89% and 92% of public family gross civil legal aid fee income, and other public law Children Act proceedings cases accounted for between 8% and 11% of public family gross civil legal aid fee income.

Table 7.1.3: Income from public family legal aid (£m), by area of public family legal aid and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Other public law Children Act proceedings	8%	8%	8%	8%	9%	9%	10%	11%
Special Children Act proceedings	92%	92%	92%	92%	91%	91%	90%	89%
Total	£73.3	£78.0	£89.0	£91.2	£106.5	£105.1	£114.7	£149.0

185. Table 7.1.4 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by public family gross civil legal aid fee income and financial year. Around 20% of barristers had public family gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,000 or less. There has been a shift to public family barristers receiving higher public family gross civil legal aid fee incomes over the period.

Table 7.1.4: Distribution of barristers completing public family legal aid work by public family 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	23%	22%	23%	22%	23%	20%	22%	21%
£5,001 to £30,000	38%	35%	31%	32%	30%	33%	31%	29%
£30,001 to £60,000	23%	24%	25%	25%	23%	23%	22%	20%
£60,001 to £90,000	10%	13%	13%	13%	14%	13%	12%	12%
£90,001 to £150,000	5%	5%	8%	7%	8%	9%	9%	11%
£150,001 and over	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	3%	4%	8%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

186. Table 7.1.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by their self-reported total gross income band and by financial year. There has been a shift to public family barristers having higher self-reported total gross income bands over the period.

Table 7.1.5: Distribution of barristers completing public family 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	8%	9%	9%	7%	6%	8%	10%	10%
£30,001 to £60,000	19%	15%	13%	10%	10%	12%	7%	6%
£60,001 to £90,000	25%	24%	20%	18%	17%	18%	13%	13%
£90,001 to £150,000	34%	36%	36%	38%	38%	35%	33%	33%
£150,001 to £240,000	7%	8%	11%	15%	16%	16%	20%	20%
£240,001 and over	2%	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	7%	7%
Unknown	4%	6%	8%	8%	8%	7%	10%	11%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

187. Table 7.1.6 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by the self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and by financial year. In FY2022-23, 10% of barristers reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income, whilst 21% of barristers reported that legal aid made up 80% or more of their income.

Table 7.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing public family legal aid work by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and year

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	10%	10%	10%
20-40%	15%	14%	13%
40-60%	21%	19%	17%
60-80%	19%	19%	20%
80% and over	19%	21%	21%
Unknown	15%	18%	19%
Total	2,560	2,730	2,860

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

188. Table 7.1.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by public family legal aid case volume and by financial year. The proportion of barristers who completed 46 or more cases has broadly increased, from 3% in FY2015-16 to 13% in FY2022-23.

Table 7.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing public family legal aid work by volume of public family cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	18%	17%	17%	17%	17%	15%	20%	18%
3 to 15 cases	39%	35%	30%	29%	30%	32%	31%	31%
16 to 30 cases	29%	26%	24%	23%	22%	28%	26%	22%
31 to 45 cases	12%	16%	17%	18%	16%	16%	15%	16%
46 cases +	3%	7%	12%	13%	14%	9%	9%	13%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

189. Table 7.1.8 shows the median public family gross civil legal aid fee income for public family barristers, by public family legal aid case volume and year. Table 7.1.7 shows that in FY2022-23, 51% of public family barristers completed 16 or more public family legal aid cases. For these barristers, the median public family gross civil legal aid fee income was £63,600 in FY2022-23.

Table 7.1.8: Median public family gross civil legal aid fee income for public family barristers, by volume of public family cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	£900	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£1,200	£1,200	£1,100
3 to 5 cases	£4,800	£4,800	£4,000	£4,500	£4,100	£4,900	£5,100	£5,500
6 to 10 cases	£12,200	£10,500	£9,700	£9,800	£9,500	£10,800	£12,700	£11,100
11 to 15 cases	£21,300	£18,700	£17,600	£17,700	£17,000	£18,700	£20,100	£22,000
16 or more cases	£46,000	£48,100	£48,600	£48,300	£51,700	£50,500	£55,500	£63,600

190. Table 7.1.9 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work, by the number of years they completed public family 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.

191. When looking at the entire cohort of barristers over the period as a whole, 15% of barristers submitted cases in one year, with a further 25% submitting cases in 2 to 4 years, suggesting that there is a large cohort of barristers for whom public family legal aid work was not a regular part of their practice. When considering the cohort of barristers working in each individual year, the proportion of barristers who only completed work in that year amounted to between 1% and 7% of barristers.

192. There was also a larger cohort who submitted cases more frequently, with 39% of barristers submitting a case in all years of the dataset and a further 21% 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 53% and 66% of barristers.

Table 7.1.9: Distribution of barristers completing public family 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 public family legal aid work

	Over all years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 year	15%	5%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	7%
2-4 years	25%	12%	11%	10%	9%	14%	16%	20%	19%
5-7 years	21%	17%	21%	26%	30%	28%	24%	22%	21%
8 years	39%	66%	66%	62%	60%	56%	59%	56%	53%
Total	3,900	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

193. Table 7.1.10 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by region and by financial year. In all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of public family barristers was London, at between 35% and 39% each year. Wales accounted for the smallest proportion of barristers, at 3% to 4% each year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers in the North, from 22% in FY2015-16 to 26% in FY2022-23.

Table 7.1.10: Distribution of barristers completing public family legal aid work by region and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	38%	39%	39%	38%	37%	35%	35%	36%
Midlands	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%	15%
North	22%	22%	23%	24%	25%	25%	26%	26%
South	14%	14%	14%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%
Wales	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Unknown	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

194. Table 7.1.11 shows the proportion of public family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers who completed public family 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 public family gross civil legal aid fee income was London, and this proportion decreased from 39% in FY2015-16 to 33% in FY2022-23. Wales accounted for the smallest proportion of public family gross civil legal aid fee income, between 3% and 4%. The proportion of public family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers based in the North increased over the period.

Table 7.1.11: Distribution of public family gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers completing public family work by region, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	39%	37%	39%	38%	36%	35%	34%	33%
Midlands	15%	15%	15%	16%	15%	16%	15%	16%
North	24%	25%	24%	24%	27%	28%	28%	30%
South	13%	14%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%
Wales	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%
Unknown	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Total	£73.3m	£78.0m	£89.0m	£91.2m	£106.5m	£105.1m	£114.7m	£149.0m

Protected characteristics

Key information

- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, female barristers make up a majority of those completing public family legal aid work.
- The proportion of barristers completing public family legal aid work aged 55 or over has increased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, while the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 has decreased.
- 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

195. Table 7.2.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by gender and financial year. Female barristers made up the largest gender group in all years between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, at 61% each year.

Table 7.2.1: Distribution of barristers completing public family legal aid work by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Female	61%	61%	61%	61%	61%	61%	61%	61%
Male	38%	38%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%
Non-binary	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Other gender group	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	~
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

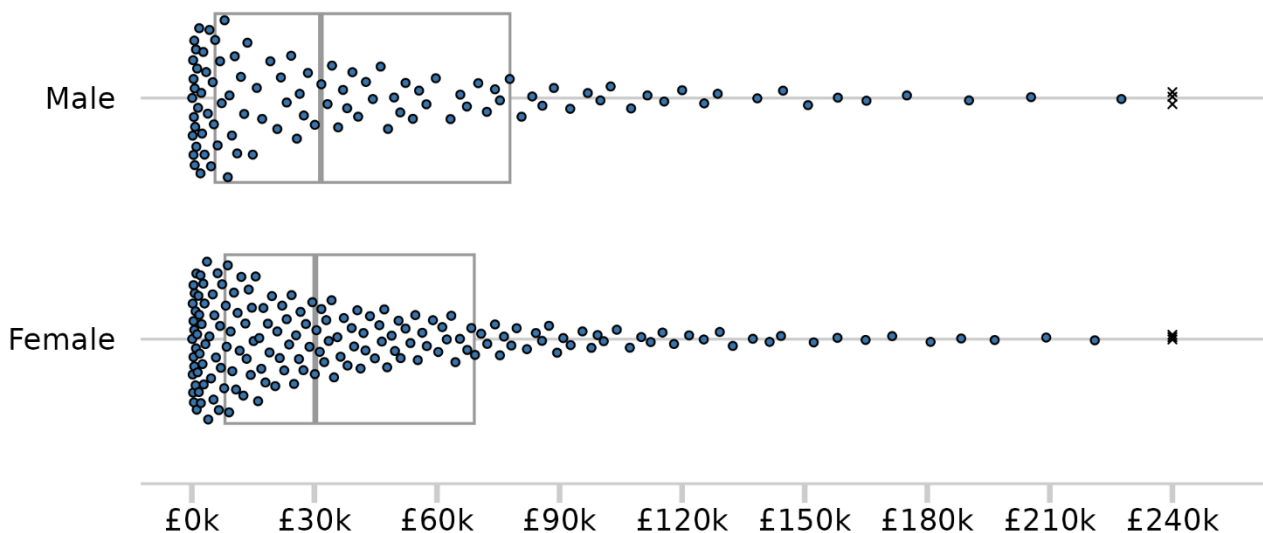
196. Table 7.2.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their public family gross civil legal aid fee income band. With the exception of public family legal aid barristers receiving public family gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,000 or less, the proportion of female barristers increased as public family gross civil legal aid fee income band decreased, while the proportion of male barristers decreased.

Table 7.2.2: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by gender and public family 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	590	57%	41%	~	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	830	64%	33%	~	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	560	64%	34%	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	330	62%	37%	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	330	59%	39%	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	220	56%	43%	~	~	~	100%
All	2,860	61%	37%	~	~	~	100%

197. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The median public family gross civil legal aid fee income was slightly higher for males at £31,600, than for females at £30,200.

Public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for public family barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income. Points capped above £240,000 indicated as a cross.

198. Table 7.2.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the gender of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income for male barristers at £55,600 was higher than the mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income for female barristers, at £50,300.
199. Table 7.2.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported total gross income band. As self-reported total gross income band increased, the proportion of male barristers increased, and the proportion of female barristers decreased.
200. Table 7.2.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Aside from the 20-40% band, the proportion of female barristers increased as self-reported proportion of income from legal aid increased.

Table 7.2.5: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by gender and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Female	Male	Non-binary	Other gender group	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	270	57%	40%	~	~	~	100%
20-40%	360	66%	33%	~	~	~	100%
40-60%	500	60%	37%	~	~	~	100%
60-80%	570	61%	37%	~	~	~	100%
80% and over	610	65%	33%	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	540	58%	41%	~	~	~	100%
All	2,860	61%	37%	~	~	~	100%

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

201. Table 7.2.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work, by gender and by the number of years they completed public family cases in the datashare period. There was a lower proportion of female barristers who completed work in 1 year when compared to those who completed work in more than one year, and vice versa for male barristers.

Age

202. Table 7.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by age and by financial year. The proportion of barristers aged 55 or over has increased over the period, while the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 has decreased.

203. The mean age of a barrister completing public family legal aid work has risen by 2 years, from 44 in FY2015-16 to 46 in FY2022-23 (see table 9.1.1 in attached spreadsheet).

Table 7.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing public family 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	20%	19%	19%	19%	19%	20%	19%	19%
35-44	25%	25%	27%	26%	27%	25%	25%	26%
45-54	26%	26%	24%	23%	22%	21%	21%	19%
55-64	12%	13%	14%	15%	16%	17%	18%	19%
65+	4%	4%	5%	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Unknown	13%	13%	12%	12%	11%	11%	11%	10%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

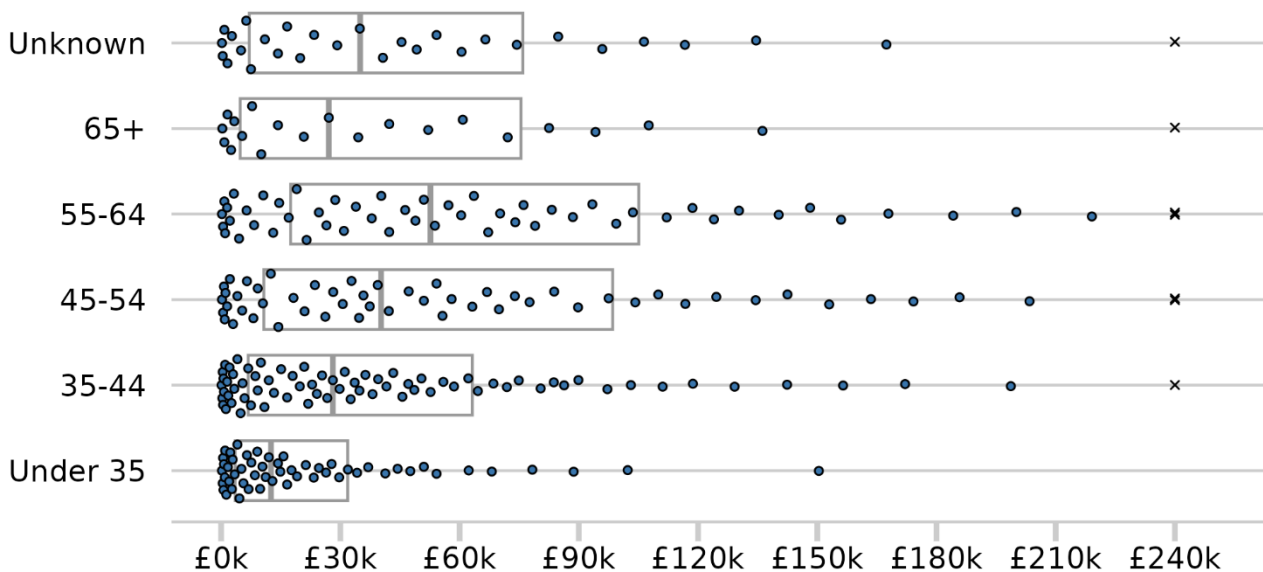
204. Table 7.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their public family gross civil legal aid fee income band. The proportion of barristers aged under 35 decreased as public family gross civil legal aid income increased, and the proportion of barristers aged 45-64 broadly increased as public family gross civil legal aid income increased.

Table 7.3.2: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by age and public family 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	590	27%	26%	15%	13%	9%	9%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	830	28%	27%	15%	14%	7%	10%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	560	15%	29%	21%	18%	6%	10%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	330	10%	26%	20%	25%	8%	11%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	330	7%	20%	24%	27%	9%	14%	100%
£150,001 and over	220	~	18%	31%	35%	~	8%	100%
All	2,860	19%	26%	19%	19%	7%	10%	100%

205. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age band for barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. As age band increased, median public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased, with the exception of barristers aged 65 and over.

Public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age for public family barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income. Points capped above £240,000 indicated as a cross.

206. Table 7.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the age band of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased as age band increased, with the exception of barristers aged 65 or over.
207. Table 7.3.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their self-reported total gross income band. As self-reported total gross income increased, the proportions of barristers aged under 35 broadly decreased, whereas the proportion of barristers aged 45-54 increased.
208. Table 7.3.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Proportions of barristers aged under 45 were lower in the 80% and over band compared to the other bands, whereas proportions of barristers aged 45 and over were higher in the 80% and over band compared to other bands.

Table 7.3.5: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by age and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	270	25%	32%	17%	12%	~	~	100%
20-40%	360	26%	29%	18%	17%	4%	6%	100%
40-60%	500	26%	29%	18%	16%	3%	7%	100%
60-80%	570	24%	26%	20%	17%	5%	8%	100%
80% and over	610	10%	19%	20%	27%	10%	14%	100%
Unknown	540	8%	24%	20%	19%	15%	13%	100%
All	2,860	19%	26%	19%	19%	7%	10%	100%

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

209. Table 7.3.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work, by age and by the number of years they completed public family cases in the datashare period. As the number of years increased, the proportion of barristers aged under 35 decreased, whereas the proportion of barristers aged 45 and over broadly increased.

Ethnicity

210. Table 7.4.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by ethnicity and by financial year. Barristers from the White ethnic group were the largest ethnic group, at around 80% of barristers each year.

Table 7.4.1: Distribution of barristers completing public family legal aid work by ethnicity and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Asian or Asian British	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%
White	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	81%	80%	80%
Other ethnic group	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unknown	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

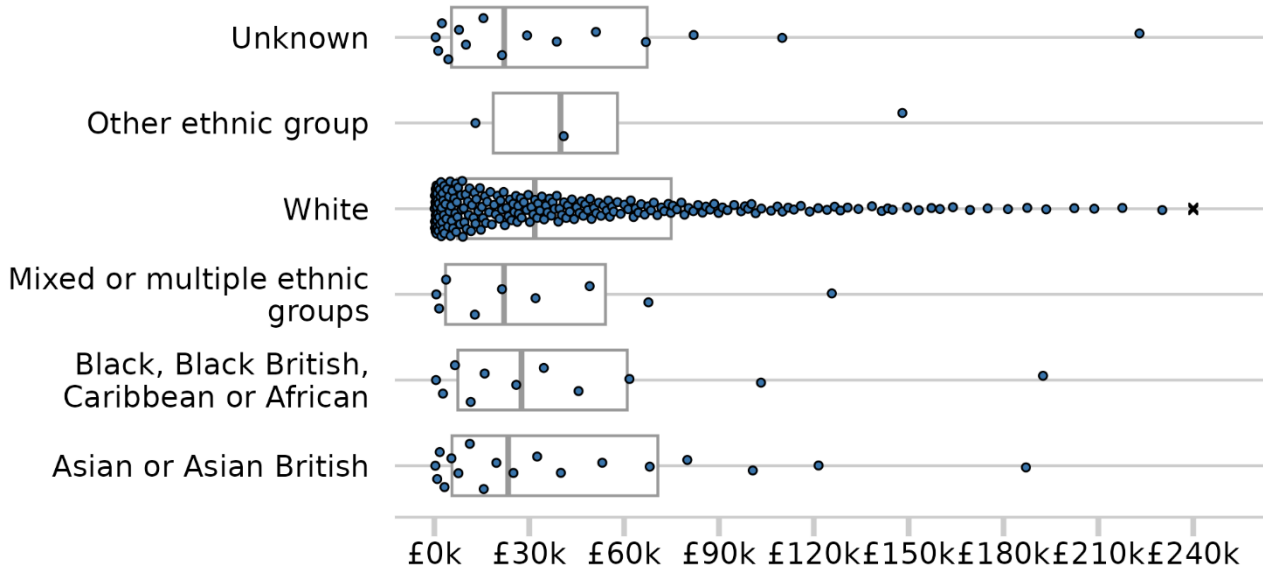
211. Table 7.4.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their public family gross civil legal aid fee income band. As public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased, the proportion of barristers from the White ethnic group increased.

Table 7.4.2: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by ethnicity and public family gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	590	7%	~	5%	78%	~	6%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	830	7%	5%	~	78%	~	6%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	560	6%	4%	~	81%	~	5%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	330	7%	~	3%	82%	~	5%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	330	6%	3%	~	84%	~	4%	100%
£150,001 and over	220	5%	5%	~	83%	~	5%	100%
All	2,860	6%	4%	3%	80%	1%	5%	100%

212. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by ethnicity for barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median public family gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers in the Other ethnic group cohort, at £39,900, and lowest for barristers from the Mixed or multiple ethnic groups cohort, at £22,000.

Public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by ethnicity for public family barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income. Points capped above £240,000 indicated as a cross.

213. Table 7.4.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the ethnicity of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Barristers from the Other ethnic group cohort had the highest mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income at £58,400, and barristers from the Mixed or multiple ethnic group cohort had the lowest mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income at £37,000.

214. Table 7.4.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their self-reported total gross income band. The proportion of barristers from the White ethnic group was higher in the higher bands, whereas the proportion of barristers from the Asian or Asian British ethnic group was higher in the lower bands.

215. Table 7.4.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by ethnicity and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Where unsuppressed, proportions varied by self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, with no clear trends.

Table 7.4.5: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by ethnicity and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	270	8%	~	~	79%	~	5%	100%
20-40%	360	6%	3%	~	83%	~	4%	100%
40-60%	500	7%	~	5%	80%	~	4%	100%
60-80%	570	6%	4%	~	81%	~	4%	100%
80% and over	610	8%	7%	~	75%	~	7%	100%
Unknown	540	4%	3%	~	83%	~	7%	100%
All	2,860	6%	4%	3%	80%	1%	5%	100%

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

216. Table 7.4.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work, by ethnicity and by the number of years they completed public family cases in the datashare period. There was a lower proportion of barristers from the White ethnic group who completed work in fewer than five years compared to proportions of those who had completed work in five or more years. In contrast, there was a higher proportion of barristers from the Asian or Asian British ethnic group who completed work in fewer than five years compared to proportions of those who had completed work in five or more years.

Religion

217. Tables 7.5.1 to 7.5.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 43% and 51% of 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 public family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Public family 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 public family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Disability

218. Tables 7.6.1 to 7.6.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 37% and 45% of 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 public family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Public family 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 public family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Sexual Orientation

219. Tables 7.7.1 to 7.7.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 40% and 48% of 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 public family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Public family 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 public family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Other characteristics

Key information

- Between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, for barristers who completed public family legal aid cases, there was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 0-2 and 28 + years of practice, while decreases were seen in the proportion of barristers with 8-12 and 23-27 years of practice.
- In each year from FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, between 96% and 97% of the barristers completing public family legal aid work were Juniors.
- 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

220. Table 8.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by years of practice and by financial year. There was an increase in the proportion of barristers with 0-2 and 28 + years of practice, while decreases were seen in the proportion of barristers with 8-12 and 23-27 years of practice.

Table 8.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing public family 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	7%	9%	11%	14%	15%	14%	13%	12%
3-7	20%	18%	16%	14%	17%	16%	17%	19%
8-12	20%	18%	17%	15%	12%	13%	13%	12%
13-17	13%	14%	14%	16%	15%	15%	13%	13%
18-22	14%	14%	13%	11%	10%	11%	11%	11%
23-27	20%	14%	14%	14%	13%	12%	11%	11%
28 +	6%	13%	15%	16%	18%	19%	21%	22%
Unknown	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

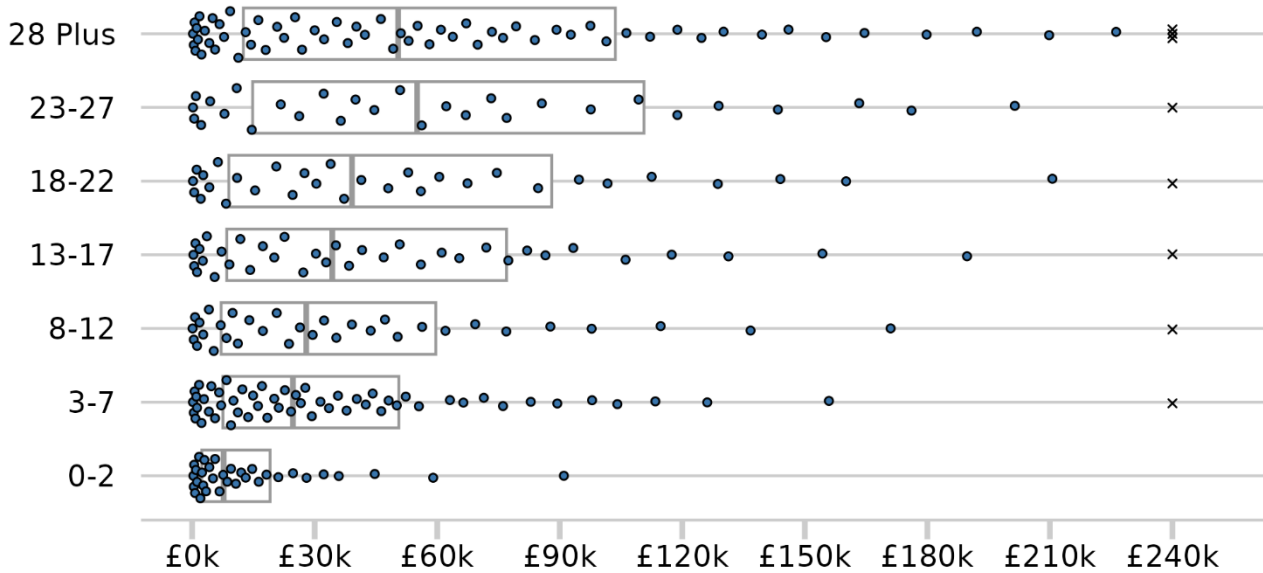
221. Table 8.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their public family gross civil legal aid fee income band. As public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased, the proportion of barristers with 7 or fewer years of practice decreased, whereas the proportion of barristers with more than 18 years of practice increased.

Table 8.1.2: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and public family 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 +	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	590	22%	18%	12%	12%	10%	8%	17%	0%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	830	18%	25%	13%	11%	9%	7%	17%	0%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	560	7%	21%	14%	14%	13%	11%	21%	0%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	330	4%	17%	11%	18%	11%	14%	26%	0%	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	330	1%	15%	9%	13%	15%	16%	32%	0%	100%
£150,001 and over	220	0%	6%	8%	10%	14%	19%	43%	0%	100%
All	2,860	12%	19%	12%	13%	11%	11%	22%	0%	100%

222. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice band for barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased with years of practice.

Public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice for public family barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income. Points capped above £240,000 indicated as a cross.

223. Table 8.1.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the years of practice band of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. As years of practice increased, the mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased.

224. Table 8.1.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their self-reported total gross income band. As the self-reported total gross income band increased, the proportion of barristers with 2 or fewer years of practice broadly decreased, while the proportion of barristers with 18 or more years of practice increased.

225. Table 8.1.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. The proportions of barristers with 12 or fewer years of practice were lower in the 80% and over band compared to the other self-reported proportion of income from legal aid bands, whereas the proportions of barristers with 23 or more years of practice were higher.

Table 8.1.5: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by years of practice and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 +	Unknown	Total
Less than 20%	270	12%	26%	13%	15%	10%	10%	15%	0%	100%
20-40%	360	15%	28%	12%	13%	8%	7%	18%	0%	100%
40-60%	500	17%	24%	14%	10%	12%	10%	14%	0%	100%
60-80%	570	17%	22%	11%	12%	11%	10%	17%	0%	100%
80% and over	610	8%	14%	8%	12%	12%	14%	31%	0%	100%
Unknown	540	3%	11%	14%	15%	12%	11%	34%	1%	100%
All	2,860	12%	19%	12%	13%	11%	11%	22%	0%	100%

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

226. Table 8.1.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work, by years of practice and by the number of years they completed public family cases in the datashare period. As the number of years that a barrister completed public family cases in increased, the proportion of barristers in the higher years of practice bands increased, and the proportion of barristers in the lower years of practice bands decreased.

Socio-economic background

227. Tables 8.2.1 to 8.2.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 53% and 59% of 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 public family legal aid by:

- Financial year,
- Public family 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 public family legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Advocate type

228. Table 8.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work by advocate type and by financial year. Each year, between 97% and 96% of public family legal aid barristers were Juniors.

Table 8.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing public family 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	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Junior	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	96%	96%	96%
Total	2,290	2,310	2,450	2,540	2,710	2,560	2,730	2,860

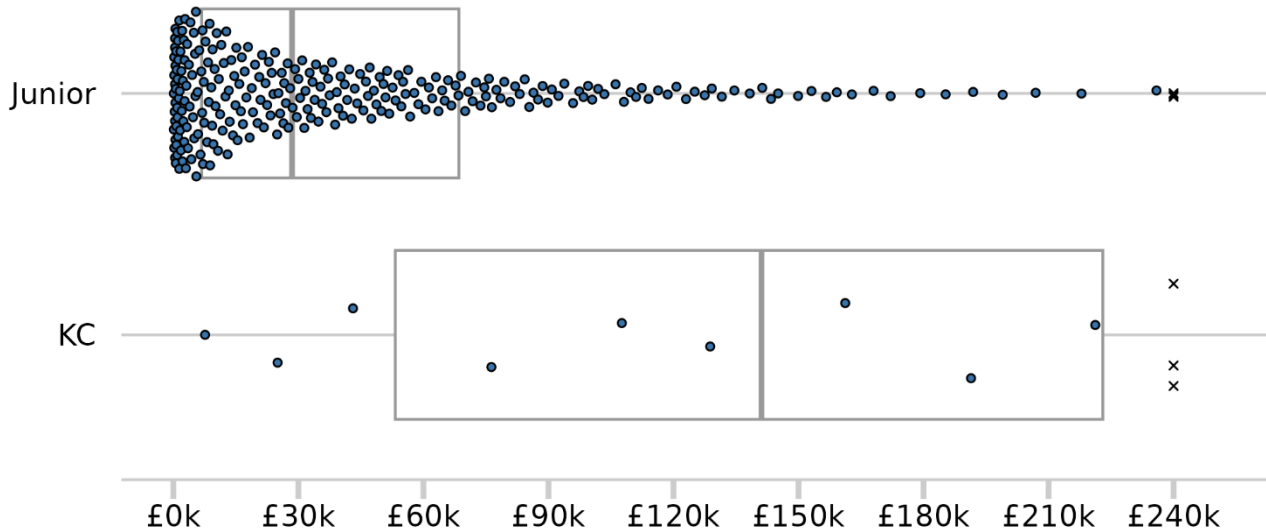
229. Table 8.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their public family gross civil legal aid fee income band. Of the unsuppressed bands, as public family gross civil legal aid fee income increased, the proportion of KCs increased and the proportion of Juniors decreased.

Table 8.3.2: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by advocate type and public family gross civil legal aid fee income bands, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
£5,000 and less	590	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	830	1%	99%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	560	3%	97%	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	330	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	330	8%	92%	100%
£150,001 and over	220	24%	76%	100%
All	2,860	4%	96%	100%

230. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median public family gross civil legal aid fee income was higher for KCs at £141,100 than for Junior barristers, at £28,500.

Public family gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for public family barristers for 2022-23



Each point represents 10 barristers' mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income. Points capped above £240,000 indicated as a cross.

231. Table 8.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public family gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the advocate type of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean public family gross civil legal aid fee income of KC barristers was £158,200, which was higher than the mean of Juniors at £47,700.

232. Table 8.3.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their self-reported total gross income band. The proportion of KC barristers with self-reported gross total incomes of £240,001 or more was larger than the other unsuppressed bands, whilst for the proportion of Junior barristers with self-reported gross total incomes of £240,001 or more was smaller than the other unsuppressed bands.

233. Table 8.3.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. A higher proportion of KCs self-reported that less than 20% of their income came from legal aid, when compared to proportions of KCs in the higher percentage bands. In contrast, a lower proportion of Juniors self-reported that less than 20% of their income came from legal aid, when compared to proportions of Juniors in the higher percentage bands.

Table 8.3.5: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by advocate type and self-reported proportion of income from legal aid, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
Less than 20%	270	6%	94%	100%
20-40%	360	3%	97%	100%
40-60%	500	5%	95%	100%
60-80%	570	5%	95%	100%
80% and over	610	4%	96%	100%
Unknown	540	2%	98%	100%
All	2,860	4%	96%	100%

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

234. Table 8.3.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work, by advocate type and by the number of years they completed public family cases in the datashare period. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

235. Table 8.3.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and advocate type. The proportion of female KCs was lower than the proportion of female Juniors, whilst the proportion of male KCs was higher than the proportion of male Juniors.

Table 8.3.7: Number of barristers completing public family 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	120	51%	48%	~	~	~	100%
Junior	2,740	62%	36%	~	~	~	100%
All	2,860	61%	37%	~	~	~	100%

236. Table 8.3.8 shows the age band proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type. The proportion of KCs aged 45-64 was higher than the proportion of Juniors in the same age groups, although due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

Table 8.3.8: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by age and advocate type, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total
KC	120	~	~	27%	43%	~	18%	100%
Junior	2,740	20%	26%	19%	18%	7%	10%	100%
All	2,860	19%	26%	19%	19%	7%	10%	100%

237. Table 8.3.9 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public family legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and ethnicity. The proportion of KCs from the white ethnic group was higher than the proportion of Juniors from the White ethnic group, although due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

Table 8.3.9: Number of barristers completing public family legal aid work and their distribution by ethnicity and advocate type, in 2022-23

	Number of barristers	Asian or Asian British	Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	White	Other ethnic group	Unknown	Total
KC	120	~	~	~	85%	~	~	100%
Junior	2,740	7%	4%	3%	80%	1%	5%	100%
All	2,860	6%	4%	3%	80%	1%	5%	100%

Annex – Solicitor Datashare

Annex I – Data matching rates

238. 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 family firms receiving family 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 family firms receiving family legal aid payments that were successfully matched to the LS data for that year;
- Non-SRA: organisations receiving family 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.

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

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Firms in group	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890
Matched – any year	98%	98%	98%	99%	99%	98%	98%	99%
Matched – specific year	92%	93%	93%	94%	94%	98%	98%	99%
Non-SRA	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%

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

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Income from family legal aid (£m)	£396.5	£325.1	£324.6	£346.9	£346.4	£370.4	£362.1	£405.9
Matched – any year	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%
Matched – specific year	92%	93%	93%	94%	93%	98%	99%	99%
Non-SRA	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

Table A1.3: Family solicitor match rate by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Firms in group	1,180	1,130	1,060	1,000	940	960	940	890
Has solicitor data – any year	95%	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%	98%
Has solicitor data – specific year	90%	91%	92%	93%	93%	94%	95%	96%
Non-SRA	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%

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

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Income from family legal aid (£m)	£396.5	£325.1	£324.6	£346.9	£346.4	£370.4	£362.1	£405.9
Has solicitor data – any year	96%	96%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%
Has solicitor data – specific year	91%	92%	92%	93%	92%	93%	94%	95%
Non-SRA	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Annex II – Income from inter partes costs

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

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%
£100k or less	29%	4%	22%	2%
£100k to £250k	29%	15%	25%	9%
£250k to £500k	21%	23%	24%	19%
£500k to £1m	15%	31%	18%	28%
£1m and over	6%	28%	10%	41%
Total	1,180	£396.5	890	£405.9

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	91%	85%	98%	94%
£100k or less	9%	15%	2%	6%
£100k to £250k	0%	0%	0%	0%
£250k to £500k	0%	0%	0%	0%
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	1,180	£396.5	890	£405.9

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	~	~	100%	100%
20-40%	~	~	0%	0%
40-60%	0%	0%	~	~
60-80%	0%	0%	0%	0%
More than 80%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
Total	1,180	£396.5	890	£405.9

Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms

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

248. Table A3.1 shows the proportion of family firms and income from family legal aid, by income from family legal aid, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	3%	0%	14%	0%
£100k or less	87%	54%	76%	37%
£100k to £250k	8%	33%	6%	23%
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	~	~	~	~
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	560	£20.8	230	£10.4

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	73%	36%	76%	25%
11 to 50 claims	23%	45%	18%	35%
51 to 100 claims	~	14%	~	28%
101 to 200 claims	~	6%	~	12%
201 claims +	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	560	£20.8	230	£10.4

Between 2014-15 and 2021-22, 67% of the out of contract billing family firms with over 100 family claims were in contract at the beginning of the financial year.

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from family legal aid (£m)
Unknown	7%	14%	35%	45%
£250k or less	17%	16%	9%	4%
£250k to £500k	21%	18%	14%	11%
£500k to £1m	20%	16%	9%	6%
£1m to £5m	27%	29%	22%	19%
£5m and over	7%	7%	11%	13%
Total	360	£14.6	190	£8.5

Annex – Barrister Datashare

Match rates

251. Tables A4.1 and A4.2 show 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

252. Two match rates are shown: one against all civil representation advocacy done in public or private family, 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 lower match rate against all family advocacy work shows that there is a high degree of work being done where the advocacy fee is paid to the solicitor, and it is possible that much of this is paid to solicitors undertaking the advocacy work themselves.

Table A4.1: Match rate by value of private family 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)	£22.3	£19.1	£20.7	£21.1	£24.3	£23.4	£27.8	£33.8
Advocacy work paid directly (£m)	£21.0	£15.3	£13.7	£13.2	£14.6	£13.0	£16.3	£21.7
Matched advocacy work (£m)	£19.7	£14.6	£13.2	£12.6	£14.1	£12.7	£15.9	£21.1
Matched against all advocacy work	88%	76%	64%	60%	58%	55%	57%	62%
Matched against advocacy work paid directly	94%	95%	96%	96%	97%	98%	97%	97%

Table A4.2: Match rate by value of public family 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)	£99.5	£137.5	£172.9	£178.0	£195.0	£184.5	£197.9	£231.5
Advocacy work paid directly (£m)	£77.3	£81.3	£92.3	£94.0	£110.2	£108.0	£118.4	£153.0
Matched advocacy work (£m)	£73.3	£78.0	£89.0	£91.2	£106.5	£105.1	£114.7	£149.0
Matched against all advocacy work	74%	57%	51%	51%	55%	57%	58%	64%
Matched against advocacy work paid directly	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%	97%	97%	97%

Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources

253. 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.
254. The LAA data includes billing information from the main civil legal aid schemes – Legal Help, Controlled Legal Representation, the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme¹⁰ and Civil Representation. The data covers the relevant periods described in the following paragraphs, relevant to each of the two data sharing agreements.
255. 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.
256. 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.
257. 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.

¹⁰ 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.

258. 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 family work specifically is shown in the Barrister Datashare match rate annex.
259. 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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