

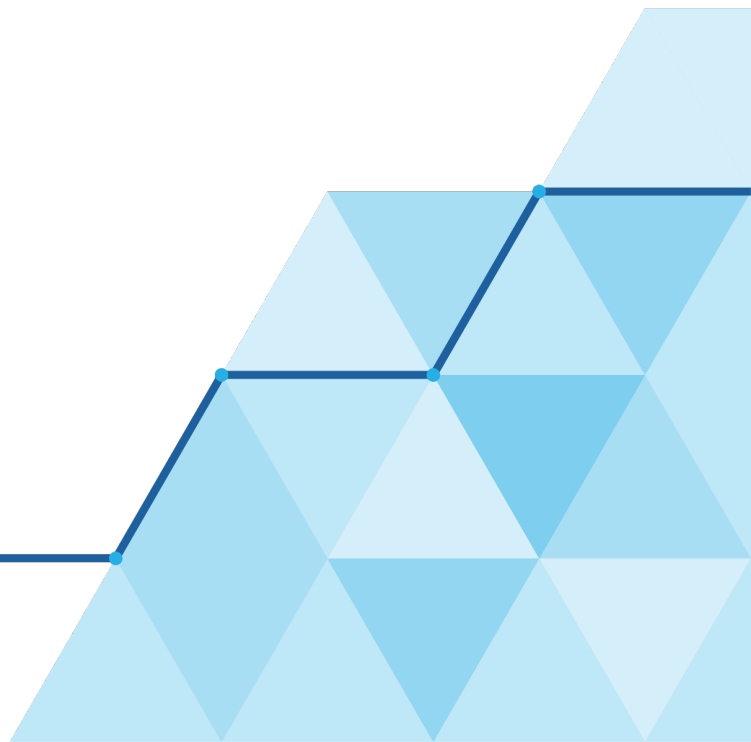


Ministry
of Justice

Review of Civil Legal Aid Data Publication Series

Public law deep dive

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Contents

Introduction	3
Background and purpose of this publication	3
Notes on understanding the data	3
Solicitor firms	5
Additional methodological details for solicitor firm statistics	5
Public law solicitor firm overview	7
Firm composition	13
Firm joiners and leavers	18
Solicitors	21
Solicitor composition	21
Solicitor joiners and leavers	25
Barristers	36
Additional methodological details for barrister statistics	36
Barristers completing public law legal aid work in context	38
Public law barristers	42
Annex – Solicitor Datashare	61
Annex I – Data matching rates	61
Annex II – Income from inter partes costs	63
Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms	65
Annex – Barrister Datashare	67
Match rates	67
Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources	68

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 public law legal aid work, except where other providers are included in the tables to set the public law 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 public law legal aid firms”. These are firms that both submitted at least one final public law bill in the year shown and held a public law 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 public law legal aid are shown for active public law 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.

Public law solicitor firm overview

Key information

- The number of active public law legal aid firms has remained stable over the period FY2014–15 to FY2021–22.
- Public law legal aid claim volume has more than doubled over the period FY2014–15 to FY2021–22. Over the same period, the legal aid income for public law work increased from £6.0m to £15.9m
- In each year between FY2014–15 and FY2021–22, nearly all active public law legal aid firms were active in other areas of civil legal aid.
- In FY2021–22, 76% of firms made less than 20% of their legal aid income through public law work.

Public law firms in the context of all legal aid providers

18. This section looks at how public law 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 public law firms and their public law income are shown, not just the matched firms, to give the most accurate impression of the overall system within which firms operate. The initial two tables also show the firms which have had billing activity in the period and do not meet our definition of “active” – these are referred to as “out of contract billing firms”.
19. Tables 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 show that there was a large proportion of public law firms (24% to 67% each year) that did not have a contract at the end of the year in which they billed, however they accounted for a small proportion (1% to 18%) of the total income from public law 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: Public law 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	33%	43%	48%	54%	57%	65%	74%	76%
Out of contract billing firms	67%	57%	52%	46%	43%	35%	26%	24%
Total	200	170	160	130	130	120	90	100

Table 1.1.2: Income from public law legal aid (£m) for public law legal aid firms, by contract status and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
In contract billing firms	85%	82%	87%	90%	89%	94%	96%	99%
Out of contract billing firms	15%	18%	13%	10%	11%	6%	4%	1%
Total	£7.0	£5.9	£6.2	£6.4	£8.4	£9.1	£10.0	£16.0

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 public law firms, where only the public law claims, and income from those claims, completed by the firm in the relevant financial year are reported.
22. In this section, percentages are based on unrounded values so may not reflect the rounded values seen in the tables.
23. Table 1.1.3 shows the number of active civil legal aid firms, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2021-22, 6% of active civil legal aid firms completed public law legal aid work.
24. The number of active public law legal aid firms over the period has remained relatively stable, with an overall increase of 10% seen between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. This is in contrast to 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
Public law	70	70	80	70	70	80	70	70
Year on year change		6%	6%	-3%	0%	3%	-7%	6%
All active firms	1,570	1,490	1,390	1,330	1,310	1,340	1,280	1,230

25. Table 1.1.4 shows the claim volume of active civil legal aid firms, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2021-22, 1% of all civil legal aid claims completed by active firms were public law claims.

26. The number of public law legal aid claims has increased over the period, with an overall increase of 118% seen between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. This is in contrast to the overall decrease of 32% for all active civil legal aid firms.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Public law	1,500	1,470	1,650	1,870	1,820	2,220	2,620	3,270
Year on year change		-2%	12%	13%	-3%	22%	18%	25%
All active firms	331,160	279,910	273,540	272,050	264,000	266,710	198,540	224,400

27. Table 1.1.5 shows the income from civil legal aid for active civil legal aid firms, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2021-22, 3% of all income from civil legal aid for active firms was from public law work.

28. There has generally been an increase in the income from public law legal aid over the period, with an overall increase of 166%. This is higher than the overall increase of 4% for all income from civil legal aid for active civil legal aid firms.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Public law	£6.0	£4.8	£5.4	£5.8	£7.5	£8.6	£9.6	£15.9
Year on year change		-20%	13%	7%	30%	14%	12%	65%
All active firms	£581.7	£503.9	£503.3	£520.2	£529.8	£573.4	£522.6	£602.6

Composition of work completed by public law firms

29. Table 1.1.6 shows the civil legal aid categories that active public law legal aid firms were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Each year, over 90% of public law legal aid firms were also active in another civil legal aid category, with around 40% of public law legal aid firms completing legal aid work in each of claims against public authorities, family, housing & debt, and immigration.
30. In all years, the mean number of categories that a public law legal aid firm was active in was four, including public law as one of those categories.

Table 1.1.6: Active contracts for active public law legal aid firms, by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total	70	70	80	70	70	80	70	70
Public law only	10%	8%	7%	8%	4%	7%	6%	4%
Public law +	90%	92%	93%	92%	96%	93%	94%	96%
Claims against public authorities	37%	42%	44%	47%	48%	41%	44%	42%
Clinical negligence	19%	18%	21%	23%	16%	17%	13%	9%
Community care	45%	54%	53%	51%	38%	40%	39%	35%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	9%	15%
Education	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%	7%	9%
Family	52%	52%	51%	49%	48%	43%	43%	42%
Housing & debt	48%	46%	51%	51%	47%	47%	44%	41%
Immigration	34%	32%	33%	33%	41%	39%	41%	43%
Mental health	24%	30%	27%	27%	19%	16%	17%	15%
Miscellaneous and other	37%	42%	37%	48%	49%	47%	47%	50%
Welfare benefits	7%	8%	8%	8%	11%	11%	11%	12%
Mean number of active categories per firm	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

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

31. Table 1.1.7 shows the proportion of income from civil legal aid that active public law legal aid firms received from public law legal aid work, by year. Most firms received less than 20% of their income from civil legal aid from public law legal aid work, at 76% of firms in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Less than 20% public law	76%	75%	88%	84%	77%	75%	69%	76%
20-40% public law	~	~	~	~	~	~	16%	~
40-60% public law	~	~	~	0%	~	~	~	~
60-80% public law	~	~	0%	~	~	0%	~	~
80% and over public law	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	70	70	80	70	70	80	70	70

32. Table 1.1.8 shows the split of income from public law legal aid between civil representation and controlled work, for public law legal aid firms, by year. Around half of firms received 80% or more of their income from public law legal aid through civil representation.

Table 1.1.8: Active public law legal aid firms, by percent of income from public law 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	18%	~	27%	25%	26%	20%	20%	24%
20-40% civil representation, 60-80% controlled work	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
40-60% civil representation, 40-60% controlled work	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
60-80% civil representation, 20-40% controlled work	15%	15%	~	16%	15%	~	14%	~
80% and over civil representation, less than 20% controlled work	52%	68%	51%	44%	51%	51%	49%	51%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	0%	~	0%	0%	~
Total	70	70	80	70	70	80	70	70

Firm composition

Key information

- In FY2021-22, 69% of active public law legal aid firms had an income from public law legal aid of £100k or less, a decrease from 84% in FY2014-15.
- Between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, there has been a shift towards active public law firms completing fewer public law claims, with 47% of firms in FY2021-22 having a claim volume of between one and ten claims.
- In FY2021-22, 88% of firms received 20% or less of their total turnover from public law legal aid income, a decrease from 94% in FY2014-15.

33. This section focuses on how the composition of active public law 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 public law legal aid firms, or total income from that category received by those firms. The columns above this then show what proportion of these totals were received by the firms in each row grouping, within the year of the spanning header.
34. Table 1.2.1 shows the proportion of active public law legal aid firms and income from public law legal aid, by their income from public law legal aid band, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. The proportion of firms receiving public law legal aid incomes of £100k or less decreased from 84% in FY2014-15 to 69% in FY2021-22. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
£100k or less	84%	23%	69%	8%
£100k to £250k	~	~	~	~
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	~	~	~	~
£1m and over	~	~	~	~
Total	70	£6.0	70	£15.9

35. Table 1.2.2 shows the proportion of active public law legal aid firms and income from public law legal aid, by public law claim volume, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. There has been a shift towards a higher proportion of income from public civil legal aid coming from public law firms completing higher claim volumes; in FY2014-15, 36% of income from public law legal aid went to firms who completed 101 or more claims, which increased to 49% in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	~	6%	47%	4%
11 to 50 claims	54%	59%	34%	20%
51 to 100 claims	0%	0%	~	26%
101 to 200 claims	~	36%	~	19%
201 claims +	0%	0%	~	30%
Total	70	£6.0	70	£15.9

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Unknown	0%	0%	~	4%
£250k or less	~	1%	~	0%
£250k to £500k	~	4%	~	0%
£500k to £1m	~	4%	~	3%
£1m to £5m	37%	46%	40%	25%
£5m and over	35%	46%	31%	67%
Total	50	£5.7	50	£14.3

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

38. For the majority of active public law legal aid firms in both years, income from public law legal aid made up less than 20% of the firm's total turnover, although this proportion changed from 94% in FY2014-15 to 88% in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	94%	70%	88%	69%
20-40%	~	7%	~	19%
40-60%	~	23%	~	8%
60-80%	0%	0%	0%	0%
More than 80%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Firm turnover is unknown	0%	0%	~	4%
Total	50	£5.7	50	£14.3

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

39. Table 1.2.5 shows the proportion of active public law legal aid firms and income from public law legal aid, by the number of partners (and partner equivalents in companies), in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. This is an alternative metric for firm size. The proportion of firms with 2-4 partners increased from 29% in FY2014-15 to 44% in FY2021-22, while the proportion of firms with 5-25 partners decreased from 47% in FY2014-15 to 33% in FY2021-22.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Very small (0-1 partner)	~	16%	~	7%
Small (2-4 partners)	29%	10%	44%	30%
Medium (5-25 partners)	47%	51%	33%	26%
Large (26 partners and over)	~	23%	~	37%
Total	50	£5.7	50	£14.3

40. Table 1.2.6 shows proportion of active public law legal aid firms and income from public law legal aid by region, in FY2014-15 and FY2021-22. Please note that the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.
41. The proportion of firms based in London increased from 47% in FY2014-15 to 56% in FY2021-22. It is difficult to comment further on trends due to high levels of suppression in this table.

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
East Midlands	~	5%	~	12%
East of England	~	0%	0%	0%
London	47%	65%	56%	72%
North East	~	1%	0%	0%
North West	~	2%	~	0%
South East	~	0%	~	0%
South West	~	2%	~	12%
Wales	0%	0%	~	1%
West Midlands	~	21%	~	3%
Yorkshire and the Humber	~	4%	~	0%
Total	50	£5.7	50	£14.3

Firm joiners and leavers

Key information

- The number of joiner public law firms over the period FY2014-15 to FY2021-22 was similar to the number of leaver public law firms.
- In the period FY2014-15 to FY2021-22, over 90% of both joiner and leaver public law legal aid firms also completed legal aid work in another category of civil legal aid.

42. This section focuses on how the composition of firms which have joined or left the public law 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 public law legal aid payments and held a public law legal aid contract in the datashare period. Firms are classified as leaver firms in the last year that they received public law legal aid payments and held a public law contract in the datashare period.
43. Table 1.3.1 shows firms by the number of years they were active in, between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22.

Table 1.3.1: Number of years each public law firm was active between 2014-15 and 2021-22

	Number of firms
1 year	20
2-4 years	40
5-7 years	20
8 years	40
Total	120

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

Table 1.3.2: Joiner and leaver active public law firms by year

	Number of firms	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Joiners	50		20	10	~	10	~	~	~
Leavers	50	10	~	~	10	~	~	~	

45. The numbers of public law 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 public law legal aid payments and held a public law contract, and for leavers, the characteristics of the firm in the last year it received public law legal aid payments and held a public law contract.

46. Table 1.3.3 shows the civil legal aid categories that joiner public law legal aid firms were active in, in the first year they were active public law legal aid firms. It also shows the civil legal aid categories that leaver public law legal aid firms were active in, in the last year they were active public law legal aid firms. Suppression has not been applied to this table. Over 90% of joiners and leavers also completed legal aid work in another category. 42% of public law joiners and 43% of public law leavers also completed housing & debt legal aid work, and 46% of public law leavers also completed family legal aid work.

47. The mean number of categories that an active joiner public law firm was active in, including public law as one of the categories, was three. The mean number of categories that an active leaver public law firm was active in was four.

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

	Joiners	Leavers
Total	50	50
Public law only	2%	7%
Public law +	98%	93%
Claims against public authorities	23%	30%
Clinical negligence	9%	20%
Community care	34%	39%
Discrimination	0%	0%
Education	0%	0%
Family	36%	46%
Housing & debt	42%	43%
Immigration	38%	24%
Mental health	17%	20%
Miscellaneous and other	25%	30%
Welfare benefits	6%	2%
Mean number of active categories per firm	3	4

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

48. Tables 1.3.4 to 1.3.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the proportions of joiner and leaver public law legal aid firms by:

- Total turnover,
- Number of partners, and
- Region.

Solicitors

49. This chapter concentrates on solicitors who worked for active public law legal aid firms in the years the firm received public law 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 public law legal aid firms has fallen from FY2014-15 to FY2021-22, in contrast to the increase in the number of active firms, indicating that active public law firms are generally smaller at the end of the timeseries than at the start.
- Between FY2014-15 and FY2021-22, there has been a slight decrease in the proportion of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms aged under 35, and an increase in those aged 55 and above.

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

51. Table 2.1.1 shows the number of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms, by year. The number of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms has varied over the period, with an overall decrease of 9%, which is in contrast to the 10% increase in the number of firms.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Number of solicitors	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

52. Table 2.1.2 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active public law 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 public law legal aid firms by gender and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	64%	62%	62%	62%	63%	64%	63%	61%
Male	36%	38%	37%	37%	36%	35%	33%	31%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	4%	9%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

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

Table 2.1.3: Solicitors working in matched active public law 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	32%	30%	31%	30%	28%	29%	29%	28%
35-44	35%	36%	35%	35%	35%	35%	34%	34%
45-54	22%	22%	22%	21%	21%	21%	20%	21%
55-64	8%	9%	10%	10%	12%	12%	13%	13%
65+	2%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

54. Table 2.1.4 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms, by ethnic group and year. The majority of solicitors were from the White ethnic group, and this proportion decreased from 73% in FY2014-15 to 57% in FY2021-22. It is worth noting that an increase is seen in the proportion of solicitors whose ethnic group is unknown.

Table 2.1.4: Solicitors working in matched active public law legal aid firms by ethnic group and year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Asian or Asian British	14%	14%	14%	14%	13%	12%	13%	11%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	3%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
White	73%	70%	67%	65%	62%	58%	58%	57%
Other ethnic group	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Unknown	8%	10%	12%	15%	18%	23%	22%	26%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

55. Table 2.1.5 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms, by years since admission to the profession and year. There has been a decrease in the proportion of solicitors with 3-12 years since admission to the profession, and an increase in the proportion of those with 28 years or more since admission to the profession.

Table 2.1.5: Solicitors working in matched active public law 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	13%	11%	10%	12%	12%	13%	12%	11%
3-7	26%	26%	26%	24%	22%	21%	22%	23%
8-12	20%	19%	18%	19%	18%	18%	18%	17%
13-17	14%	15%	15%	16%	15%	15%	14%	14%
18-22	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	11%	12%
23-27	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%	9%
28 +	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	12%	12%	13%
Unknown	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

56. Table 2.1.6 shows the proportion of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms, by position in the firm and year. Each year, between 17% and 29% of solicitors were partners.

Table 2.1.6: Solicitors working in matched active public law 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	80%	81%	81%	82%	81%	71%	83%	80%
Partners	20%	19%	19%	18%	19%	29%	17%	20%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

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

58. The proportion of solicitors working in firms based in London decreased from 52% in FY2014-15 to 44% in FY2021-22. In the West Midlands the proportion increased from 21% to 34% over the period.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
East Midlands	2%	5%	2%	2%	~	2%	~	2%
East of England	~	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
London	52%	50%	54%	52%	44%	45%	51%	44%
North East	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
North West	12%	8%	8%	9%	11%	9%	6%	10%
South East	~	0%	0%	0%	~	4%	~	~
South West	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%
Wales	0%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	~
West Midlands	21%	23%	23%	24%	29%	29%	30%	34%
Yorkshire and the Humber	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	4%	3%	4%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

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

Table 2.1.8: Solicitors working in matched active public law 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)	5%	7%	7%	7%	4%	4%	4%	3%
Small (2-4 partners)	7%	10%	9%	23%	23%	20%	20%	21%
Medium (5-25 partners)	34%	33%	31%	30%	31%	31%	33%	30%
Large (26 partners and over)	54%	50%	52%	40%	42%	45%	43%	47%
Total	2,870	3,490	3,280	3,160	2,850	2,930	2,930	2,600

Solicitor joiners and leavers

Key information

- Between FY2015-16 and FY2021-22, the majority of joiner solicitors were classified as joiners because the solicitor joined a firm completing public law legal aid claims.
- Proportions of continuing solicitors (solicitors who worked in active public law legal aid firms in both the year prior and the subsequent year) increased between FY2015-16 and FY2020-21 across most age groups and years since admission to the profession groups.

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

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

Joiners and leavers timeseries

65. This section looks at solicitors joining and leaving the public law legal aid market. Table 2.2.1 shows the total number of public law 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 public law legal aid firm in the datashare period, just not in the previous year. Please note that there are no returner solicitors in FY2015-16 as the earliest year covered in the datashare was FY2014-15, therefore it would not be possible to be classified as a returner in FY2015-16.
66. The number of joiner solicitors has varied across this period, with an overall decrease seen.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total number of joiners	1,160	680	520	570	620	530	470
of whom were returners	-	30	30	50	60	40	150

67. Table 2.2.2 shows the total number of public law 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 public law legal aid firm again in the datashare period, just not in the subsequent year. Please note that there are no temporary leaver solicitors in FY2020-21 as the latest year covered in the datashare was FY2021-22, therefore it would not be possible to be classified as a temporary leaver in FY2020-21.

68. The number of leaver solicitors has varied across this period, with a high of 890 seen in FY2015-16.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Total number of leavers	540	890	640	880	540	530	800
of whom left temporarily	60	80	50	60	20	80	-

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

70. Where unsuppressed, this table shows that the majority of solicitors were classified as joiners because the solicitor joined a firm completing public law legal aid claims, although this proportion varied throughout the period.

Table 2.2.3: Joiner solicitors working in matched active public law 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 public law legal aid firm	43%	18%	~	21%	22%	~	30%
Solicitor joined active public law legal aid firm	57%	82%	~	79%	78%	~	70%
Total	1,160	680	520	570	620	530	470

71. Table 2.2.4 shows the proportion of public law 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 public law legal aid firm, or secondly, the solicitor left an active public law legal aid firm.

72. This table shows that in most years, the majority of solicitors were classified as leavers because the solicitor left a firm completing public law legal aid work. The exception to this was FY2017-18, coinciding with the LAA procurement round the next year, where 56% of leaver solicitors were leavers because their firm stopped completing public law legal aid work.

Table 2.2.4: Leaver solicitors working in matched active public law 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 public law legal aid firm	27%	27%	2%	56%	28%	46%	45%
Solicitor left active public law legal aid firm	73%	73%	98%	44%	72%	54%	55%
Total	540	890	640	880	540	530	800

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

Table 2.2.5: Joiner solicitors working in matched active public law legal aid firms by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Female	57%	65%	64%	66%	70%	52%	44%
Male	43%	34%	34%	33%	29%	26%	23%
Unknown	0%	1%	2%	1%	1%	21%	33%
Total	1,160	680	520	570	620	530	470

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

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Female	61%	61%	67%	59%	65%	64%	58%
Male	39%	39%	32%	40%	34%	36%	35%
Unknown	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	7%
Total	540	890	640	880	540	530	800

75. Table 2.2.7 shows the proportion of public law joiner solicitors by age, from FY2015–16 to FY2021–22. In each year, between 36% and 56% of joiners were aged under 35.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Under 35	36%	52%	56%	48%	48%	50%	50%
35-44	31%	24%	25%	26%	27%	25%	28%
45-54	20%	15%	13%	13%	15%	13%	13%
55-64	10%	7%	~	10%	8%	10%	6%
65+	3%	2%	~	3%	2%	2%	3%
Total	1,160	680	520	570	620	530	470

76. Table 2.2.8 shows the proportion of public law leaver solicitors by age, from FY2014–15 to FY2020-21. In each year, between 30% and 38% of leavers were aged under 35.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Under 35	37%	33%	38%	32%	30%	32%	34%
35-44	27%	34%	34%	36%	33%	35%	34%
45-54	22%	20%	18%	19%	21%	19%	16%
55-64	12%	10%	8%	10%	12%	10%	11%
65+	2%	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%	4%
Total	540	890	640	880	540	530	800

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

Table 2.2.9: Joiner solicitors working in matched active public law 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	17%	29%	36%	30%	33%	33%	34%
3-7	24%	22%	16%	18%	17%	15%	19%
8-12	16%	12%	13%	13%	12%	11%	10%
13-17	13%	9%	11%	11%	12%	10%	12%
18-22	10%	7%	4%	6%	6%	7%	9%
23-27	7%	4%	3%	4%	6%	5%	5%
28 +	11%	6%	5%	10%	7%	7%	6%
Unknown	3%	10%	11%	8%	6%	11%	5%
Total	1,160	680	520	570	620	530	470

78. Table 2.2.10 shows the proportion of public law leaver solicitors by years since admission to the profession, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. Proportions have varied over the period, with a broad increase in the proportion of leaver solicitors with 13-17 years since admission.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
0-2	15%	11%	15%	13%	11%	15%	15%
3-7	27%	29%	27%	25%	28%	21%	25%
8-12	19%	19%	18%	18%	17%	19%	18%
13-17	9%	12%	16%	14%	15%	15%	13%
18-22	9%	11%	7%	9%	9%	9%	8%
23-27	7%	8%	6%	7%	5%	7%	7%
28 +	10%	9%	8%	10%	14%	11%	11%
Unknown	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	4%
Total	540	890	640	880	540	530	800

79. Table 2.2.11 shows the proportion of public law joiner solicitors by region of their firm, from FY2015-16 to FY2021-22. As previously mentioned, please note that the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.
80. The largest proportions of joiner solicitors' firms were located in London, and proportions varied over the period with no clear trends.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
East Midlands	12%	~	2%	~	~	~	~
East of England	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
London	46%	60%	51%	44%	46%	64%	34%
North East	~	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%
North West	3%	6%	10%	12%	5%	4%	26%
South East	0%	0%	0%	~	20%	~	0%
South West	5%	4%	4%	10%	6%	4%	7%
Wales	~	5%	~	3%	~	2%	~
West Midlands	25%	17%	26%	25%	19%	21%	29%
Yorkshire and the Humber	4%	6%	5%	5%	2%	3%	~
Total	1,160	680	520	570	620	530	470

81. Table 2.2.12 shows the proportion of public law leaver solicitors by region of their firm, from FY2014-15 to FY2020-21. As previously mentioned, please note that the region is derived from the region of the firm's head office – these firms may have done civil legal aid work in more regions than shown in the tables.
82. The largest proportions of leaver solicitors' firms were located in London, and proportions varied over the period with no clear trends.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
East Midlands	~	16%	~	~	~	~	2%
East of England	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
London	52%	48%	60%	73%	38%	30%	63%
North East	4%	~	~	3%	0%	0%	0%
North West	16%	5%	7%	6%	13%	21%	5%
South East	~	0%	0%	0%	~	24%	0%
South West	7%	4%	5%	2%	7%	5%	6%
Wales	0%	~	~	~	~	~	5%
West Midlands	14%	21%	18%	10%	20%	12%	18%
Yorkshire and the Humber	6%	5%	6%	5%	19%	4%	2%
Total	540	890	640	880	540	530	800

Joining and leaving rates

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

FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. Proportions of continuing solicitors were higher in FY2020-21 than FY2015-16 for all age groups, while proportions of joiner solicitors were lower.

86. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors aged under 35 were joiners, compared to other unsuppressed age groups.

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

	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Joiner solicitors	26%	17%	18%	22%	23%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	14%	12%	12%	14%	15%
Leaver solicitors	14%	13%	11%	13%	11%
Continuing solicitors	46%	59%	59%	51%	51%
Total	1,040	1,250	770	320	100

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

	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Joiner solicitors	16%	6%	5%	5%	~
Joiner and leaver solicitors	16%	7%	6%	9%	~
Leaver solicitors	17%	20%	16%	15%	25%
Continuing solicitors	52%	66%	73%	72%	65%
Total	840	1,010	590	380	110

87. Tables 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 show the proportion of solicitors working in active public law legal aid firms in each of these continuation groups, by years since admission to the profession, in FY2015-16 and FY2020-21. Proportions of continuing solicitors were higher in FY2020-21 than FY2015-16 for all years since admission to the profession groups, while proportions of joiner solicitors were lower.
88. In both years, a larger proportion of solicitors with 0-2 years since admission to the profession were joiners, compared to other unsuppressed years since admission to the profession groups. Additionally, in FY2020-21, the proportion of continuing solicitors was higher for the higher years since admission to the profession groups than lower years since admission to the profession groups.

Table 2.3.3: Solicitors working in matched active public law 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	39%	17%	16%	19%	14%	19%	23%	73%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	15%	13%	11%	10%	15%	9%	14%	~
Leaver solicitors	11%	15%	14%	11%	11%	16%	10%	0%
Continuing solicitors	34%	55%	59%	60%	60%	55%	52%	~
Total	370	920	660	520	380	270	330	40

Table 2.3.4: Solicitors working in matched active public law 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	28%	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	5%	52%
Joiner and leaver solicitors	22%	7%	6%	7%	7%	7%	6%	43%
Leaver solicitors	13%	23%	20%	19%	13%	14%	18%	~
Continuing solicitors	37%	65%	69%	68%	77%	75%	71%	~
Total	350	650	520	410	330	250	350	60

Barristers

Additional methodological details for barrister statistics

89. The barrister data presented here should be read with the data limitations noted in the introduction in mind, as well as the issues specific to this chapter noted here.
90. There are two metrics for barrister income shown in this chapter: “gross civil legal aid fee income” and “self-reported total gross income”. The former of these is the payments, exclusive of VAT, from the LAA to matched barristers on a closed case basis,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.
91. Where “public law gross civil legal aid fee income” is mentioned, this only refers to income that barristers have received from public law legal aid work, and not income from legal aid work in other categories of law.
92. The second metric, “self-reported total gross income”, is what barristers report to the BC at the end of each financial year and includes their income from both legal aid and private practice for the prior calendar year. This also excludes VAT, however, it is on an accruals basis so will include interim payments of legal aid fees rather than the closed case basis. The two metrics are therefore not directly comparable due to timing differences. In many instances the closed case basis will average out to the

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.

93. Barristers also self-report the proportion of their income which comes from legal aid. This metric is reported here, instead of computing the ratio of gross civil legal aid fee income and self-reported total gross income because of the timing issues described above. This metric includes all legal aid income, including criminal as well as civil, which cannot be distinguished so should be treated with caution. This information is only available for the last three years in the datashare.
94. This publication looks at self-employed barristers, which make up around 80% of all barristers.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
95. In this chapter, the first section shows all barristers, and the subsequent sections show all barristers completing public law legal aid cases. This approach first provides context on the work being undertaken by these barristers and then provides the reader a sense of what it is like to undertake work of this nature.
96. Each barrister characteristic includes a chart which displays a comparison of civil legal aid fee distributions for each of the groups in that characteristic. Here a dot represents 10 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.
97. For further information on the suppression strategy and symbols used in this chapter, please refer to the notes on understanding the data at the beginning of this publication.

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

98. This chapter covers information from the datashare, including information on the characteristics and practising details for barristers who completed civil legal aid work. Further information on the barrister population as a whole is produced by the BC,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 public law legal aid work in context

Key information

- The number of barristers who completed public law legal aid cases varied between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, with overall increases over the period. Public law gross civil legal aid fee income and the number of public law cases also varied over the period, with overall increases.
- The proportion of public law legal aid barristers who also did civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category increased over the period, from 72% in FY2015-16 to 80% in FY2022-23.
- In FY2022-23, 31% of public law barristers received less than 20% of their gross civil legal aid income from public law work, and a further 31% received 80% or more of their gross civil legal aid income from public law work.

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

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

101. Table 3.1.1 shows the number of civil legal aid barristers, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, public law legal aid barristers made up 5% of all civil legal aid barristers.

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>

102. The number of public law legal aid barristers varied over the period, with an overall increase of 4%. This is in contrast to the overall decrease of 11% for other civil legal aid barristers, and smaller 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
Public law legal aid	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250
Other civil legal aid	1,390	1,270	1,220	1,260	1,270	1,040	1,160	1,240
All civil legal aid	3,930	3,840	3,920	4,080	4,230	3,820	4,290	4,560

103. Table 3.1.2 shows the case volume of civil legal aid barristers, by area of civil legal aid work and by year. In FY2022-23, 1% of all civil legal aid cases completed were public law cases.

104. The number of public law legal aid cases completed by barristers varied over the period, with an overall increase of 22%. This is in contrast to the overall decrease of 1% for other civil legal aid barrister cases, and smaller 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
Public law legal aid	530	520	410	530	430	450	610	650
Other civil legal aid	7,740	7,370	7,520	8,040	8,560	7,450	6,950	7,660
All civil legal aid	69,800	69,870	79,210	82,770	88,900	76,990	80,810	97,530

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

106. Gross civil legal aid fee income from public law legal aid cases for barristers varied over the period, with an overall increase of 49%. This is larger than the overall increase of 13% for gross civil legal aid fee income from other civil legal aid cases for barristers, and smaller than the overall increase of 75% for all gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Public law legal aid	£1.4	£1.2	£1.3	£1.3	£1.2	£0.9	£1.3	£2.0
Other civil legal aid	£12.2	£11.8	£11.1	£11.6	£12.7	£10.8	£11.9	£13.8
All civil legal aid	£105.2	£104.4	£113.3	£115.4	£133.4	£128.7	£142.5	£183.9

107. Table 3.1.4 shows the civil legal aid categories that public law legal aid barristers were active in, by year. Suppression has not been applied to this table. The proportion of public law legal aid barristers who also did civil legal aid work in another civil legal aid category increased over the period, from 72% in FY2015-16 to 80% in FY2022-23.

108. In FY2022-23, 33% of public law barristers also completed immigration legal aid work, and 31% also completed community care legal aid work.

Table 3.1.4: Areas of legal aid work for barristers completing public law legal aid work, by year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250
Public law only	28%	26%	27%	25%	22%	25%	24%	20%
Public law +	72%	74%	73%	75%	78%	75%	76%	80%
Claims against public authorities	15%	22%	19%	19%	22%	22%	19%	21%
Clinical negligence	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Community care	24%	27%	25%	28%	31%	29%	31%	31%
Discrimination	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%
Education	5%	5%	4%	4%	2%	3%	7%	4%
Family	11%	10%	13%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%
Housing & debt	24%	20%	23%	19%	20%	15%	16%	21%
Immigration	21%	26%	30%	32%	29%	32%	32%	33%
Mental health	16%	17%	12%	11%	15%	12%	17%	12%
Miscellaneous and other	15%	17%	19%	15%	15%	15%	15%	13%
Welfare benefits	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%

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

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

109. Table 3.1.5 shows the proportion of gross civil legal aid fee income that public law legal aid barristers received from public law legal aid work, by year. Most barristers received either a small or large proportion of their gross civil legal aid fee income from public law legal aid work; in FY2022-23, 31% of public law barristers received less than 20% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from public law work, and a further 31% received over 80% of their gross civil legal aid fee income from public law work.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	38%	39%	38%	38%	40%	34%	33%	31%
20-40%	13%	15%	16%	13%	14%	16%	16%	15%
40-60%	8%	9%	11%	10%	~	9%	12%	14%
60-80%	5%	7%	~	8%	~	9%	10%	9%
80% and over	36%	30%	30%	31%	30%	32%	29%	31%
Gross civil legal aid income is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

Public law barristers

Overview

Key information

- In each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, the majority of public law barristers did small amounts of public law legal aid work, receiving under £5,000 or completing 2 or fewer cases annually.
- Each year since FY2020-21, between 23% and 30% of public law barristers self-reported that they received less than 20% of their income from legal aid, and between 17% and 19% reported that legal aid made up at least 80% of their income.

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

111. Table 4.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by public law gross civil legal aid fee income and financial year. In each year, between 64% and 76% of barristers had public law gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,000 or less. Between 21% and 31% of barristers had public law gross civil legal aid fee incomes of £5,001 to £30,000.

Table 4.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing public law legal aid work by public law 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	67%	75%	76%	70%	76%	72%	69%	64%
£5,001 to £30,000	31%	24%	21%	26%	21%	~	28%	27%
£30,001 to £60,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	7%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	~	~	0%	~	~
£90,001 to £150,000	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	~
£150,001 and over	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

112. Table 4.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by their self-reported total gross income band and by financial year. Proportions varied over the period, with a broad decrease seen in the proportion of barristers with self-reported total gross incomes of £90,001 to £150,000.

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

Table 4.1.2: Distribution of barristers completing public law 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	5%	~	5%	~	~	~	9%	9%
£30,001 to £60,000	8%	10%	8%	~	~	9%	10%	7%
£60,001 to £90,000	15%	17%	16%	11%	14%	15%	11%	12%
£90,001 to £150,000	26%	24%	29%	24%	29%	21%	22%	21%
£150,001 to £240,000	18%	18%	21%	24%	22%	25%	20%	21%
£240,001 and over	25%	25%	20%	17%	23%	22%	22%	25%
Unknown	2%	~	2%	10%	5%	~	7%	6%
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

114. Table 4.1.3 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid and by financial year. In FY2022-23, 27% of public law barristers reported that legal aid made up less than 20% of their income, while 19% of public law barristers reported that legal aid made up at least 80% of their income.

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

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Less than 20%	23%	30%	27%
20-40%	15%	14%	15%
40-60%	13%	16%	13%
60-80%	14%	12%	13%
80% and over	19%	17%	19%
Unknown	16%	11%	13%
Total	200	240	250

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

115. Table 4.1.4 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by public law legal aid case volume and by financial year. In all years, the majority of barristers completed 1 to 2 public law cases, ranging from 66% to 84% of public law barristers.

Table 4.1.4: Distribution of barristers completing public law legal aid work by volume of public law cases and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 to 2 cases	76%	80%	84%	75%	80%	76%	71%	66%
3 to 15 cases	~	20%	16%	~	~	24%	~	34%
16 to 30 cases	~	0%	0%	~	~	0%	~	0%
31 to 45 cases	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
46 cases +	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

116. Table 4.1.5 shows the median public law gross civil legal aid fee income for public law barristers, by public law legal aid case volume and year. Table 4.1.4 shows that in FY2022-23, 66% of public law barristers completed 1 to 2 public law legal aid

cases. For these barristers, the median public law gross civil legal aid fee income was £1,400 in FY2022-23.

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

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

117. Table 4.1.6 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work, by the number of years they completed public law 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.
118. When looking at the entire cohort of barristers over the period as a whole, 51% of barristers submitted cases in one year, with a further 32% submitting cases in 2 to 4 years, suggesting that for most barristers who did some public law legal aid work this 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 13% and 32% of barristers.
119. There was also a smaller cohort who submitted cases more frequently, with 4% of barristers submitting a case in all years of the dataset and a further 13% submitting cases in between 5 and 7 years. When considering the cohort of barristers working in each individual year, barristers who completed work every year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23 amounted to between 12% and 14% of barristers.

Table 4.1.6: Distribution of barristers completing public law 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 law legal aid work

	Over all years	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
1 year	51%	32%	25%	21%	20%	13%	16%	13%	22%
2-4 years	32%	31%	35%	35%	33%	41%	36%	42%	38%
5-7 years	13%	26%	28%	30%	34%	32%	34%	33%	29%
8 years	4%	12%	12%	14%	13%	14%	14%	12%	12%
Total	740	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

120. Table 4.1.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by region and by financial year. In all years, the region accounting for the largest proportion of public law barristers was London. This proportion varied over time, at between 79% and 89%. The proportion of barristers in the North decreased over the period, from 11% in FY2015-16 to 4% in FY2022-23. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

Table 4.1.7: Distribution of barristers completing public law legal aid work by region and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	79%	86%	81%	83%	85%	88%	86%	89%
Midlands	~	4%	~	~	~	~	6%	~
North	11%	6%	9%	9%	6%	5%	4%	4%
South	~	~	~	~	0%	~	~	~
Wales	~	0%	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

121. Table 4.1.8 shows the proportion of public law gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers who completed public law 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 law gross civil legal aid fee income was London, at between 85% and 91%. The proportion of public law gross civil legal aid fee income for barristers in the North decreased over the period, from 7% in FY2015-16 to 3% in FY2022-23.

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

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
London	88%	90%	88%	91%	85%	88%	87%	90%
Midlands	3%	1%	1%	1%	5%	1%	5%	4%
North	7%	5%	4%	6%	6%	4%	2%	3%
South	1%	3%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%
Wales	1%	0%	6%	0%	2%	4%	3%	1%
Unknown	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Total	£1.4m	£1.2m	£1.3m	£1.3m	£1.2m	£0.9m	£1.3m	£2.0m

Protected characteristics

Key information

- Male barristers make up a majority of those completing public law legal aid work, although this proportion has decreased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23.
- The proportion of public law barristers aged 45-54 has broadly decreased between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23, and the proportion of public law barristers aged 55-64 has increased.
- 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

122. Table 4.2.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by gender and financial year. Male barristers made up the largest gender group in all years between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23. Over the period, the proportion of male barristers decreased from 64% in FY2015-16 to 55% in FY2022-23.

Table 4.2.1: Distribution of barristers completing public law legal aid work by gender and year

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Female	33%	37%	33%	36%	38%	42%	43%	42%
Male	64%	60%	64%	61%	57%	55%	54%	55%
Non-binary	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	~
Other gender group	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	~	~	~
Unknown	3%	3%	3%	3%	~	~	~	~
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

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

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

	Number of barristers	Female	Male	Non-binary	Other gender group	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	160	45%	52%	~	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	70	35%	63%	~	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	20	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	.	.	.	100%
All	250	42%	55%	~	~	~	100%

124. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public law gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by gender for barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. The median for male barristers at £2,900 was higher than the median for female barristers at £1,800.

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



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

125. Table 4.2.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public law gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the gender of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. The mean public law gross civil legal aid fee income for male barristers at £8,600 was higher than the mean public law gross civil legal aid fee income for female barristers, at £7,200.
126. Table 4.2.4 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported total gross income band. The proportion of female barristers in each band decreased as the self-reported total gross income band increased.
127. Table 4.2.5 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and by their self-reported proportion of income from legal aid. Male barristers made up the majority of barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was less than 60%, whereas female barristers made up the majority of barristers whose self-reported proportion of income from legal aid was 60% or more.

Table 4.2.5: Number of barristers completing public law 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%	70	32%	66%	~	~	~	100%
20-40%	40	35%	57%	~	~	~	100%
40-60%	30	~	73%	~	~	~	100%
60-80%	30	59%	41%	~	~	~	100%
80% and over	50	57%	36%	~	~	~	100%
Unknown	30	45%	52%	~	~	~	100%
All	250	42%	55%	~	~	~	100%

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

128. Table 4.2.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work, by gender and by the number of years they completed public law cases in the datashare period. As the number of years increased, the proportion of males increased.

Age

129. Table 4.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by age and by financial year. The proportion of barristers aged 45-54 has broadly decreased over the period, and the proportion of barristers aged 55-64 has increased. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment further on trends.

130. The mean age of a barrister completing public law legal aid work has risen by 2 years from 44 in FY2015-16 to 46 in FY2022-23 (see table 6.1.1 in attached spreadsheet).

Table 4.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing public law 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	14%	14%	12%	12%	15%	12%	12%	14%
35-44	36%	38%	39%	40%	38%	38%	35%	33%
45-54	31%	28%	26%	27%	26%	25%	29%	25%
55-64	10%	~	~	10%	13%	14%	16%	19%
65+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	~	12%	11%	~	~	~	~	~
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

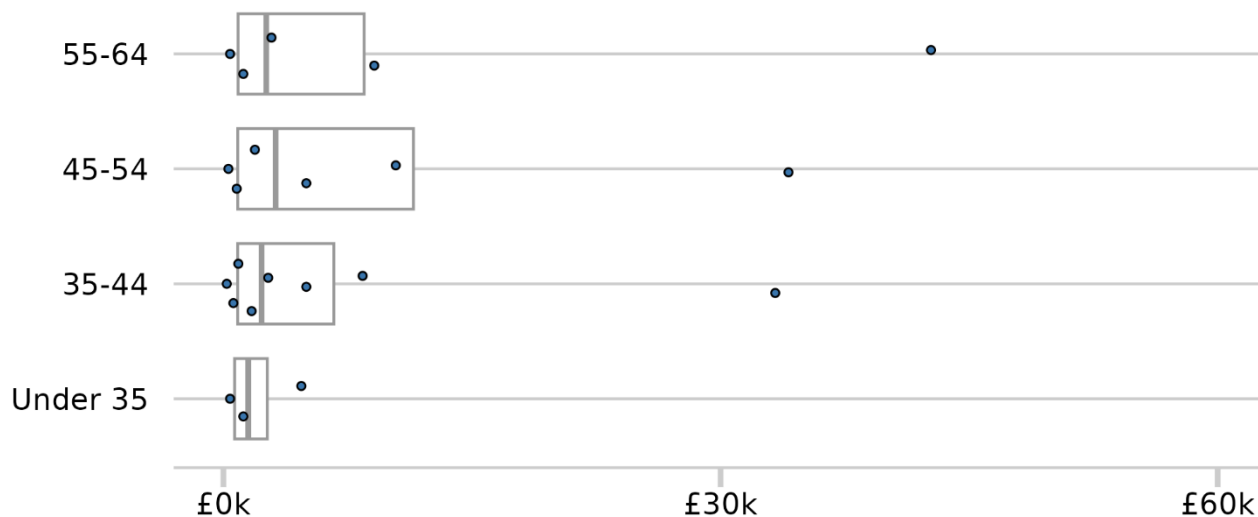
131. Table 4.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by age and by their public law gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

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

	Number of barristers	Under 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Unknown	Total
£5,000 and less	160	18%	35%	21%	19%	~	~	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	70	~	31%	32%	15%	~	~	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	20	0%	~	~	~	0%	0%	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	250	14%	33%	25%	19%	~	~	100%

132. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public law gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by age band for barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. Median public law gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers aged 45-54, at £3,100.

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



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

133. Table 4.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public law gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the age band of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. Mean public law gross civil legal aid fee income was highest for barristers aged 45-54, at £10,000.

134. Tables 4.3.4 to 4.3.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the age group of barristers who work in public law legal aid by:

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

Ethnicity

135. Table 4.4.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by ethnicity and by financial year. Barristers from the White ethnic group were the largest ethnic group, at between 74% and 80% of barristers each year.

Table 4.4.1: Distribution of barristers completing public law 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	10%	8%	9%	11%	8%	8%	7%	10%
Black, Black British, Caribbean or African	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	4%	~	~	~	5%	~	6%	6%
White	74%	77%	78%	79%	78%	80%	79%	76%
Other ethnic group	~	4%	~	~	~	~	~	~
Unknown	6%	5%	5%	~	~	~	4%	~
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

136. Tables 4.4.2 to 4.4.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the ethnicity of barristers who work in public law legal aid by:

- Public law 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 law legal aid cases in the datashare period.

Religion

137. Tables 4.5.1 to 4.5.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 37% and 47% of public law 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 law legal aid by:

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

Disability

138. Tables 4.6.1 to 4.6.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 33% and 41% of public law 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 law legal aid by:

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

Sexual Orientation

139. Tables 4.7.1 to 4.7.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. This characteristic has between 35% and 44% of public law 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 law legal aid by:

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

Other characteristics

Key information

- Most barristers completing public law legal aid work were Juniors, at 77% to 84% of barristers each year between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23.
- An increasing proportion of barristers completing public law legal aid work were King's Counsel, increasing from 17% in FY2015-16 to 23% in FY2022-23.
- The other characteristics in the datashare have very high levels of unknown responses in the data, making it difficult to draw inferences. The tables relating to these characteristics are shown in the accompanying spreadsheet.

Years of practice

140. Table 5.1.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by years of practice and by financial year. Proportions varied over the period, with a broad decrease seen in the proportion of barristers with 3-7 years of practice.

Table 5.1.1: Distribution of barristers completing public law 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	~	~	~	~	5%	5%	5%	6%
3-7	23%	24%	25%	22%	25%	20%	18%	19%
8-12	23%	23%	24%	19%	17%	21%	22%	18%
13-17	16%	14%	14%	22%	16%	17%	15%	15%
18-22	17%	18%	12%	14%	10%	13%	16%	14%
23-27	13%	~	12%	11%	14%	12%	12%	12%
28 +	~	10%	~	~	12%	11%	13%	17%
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

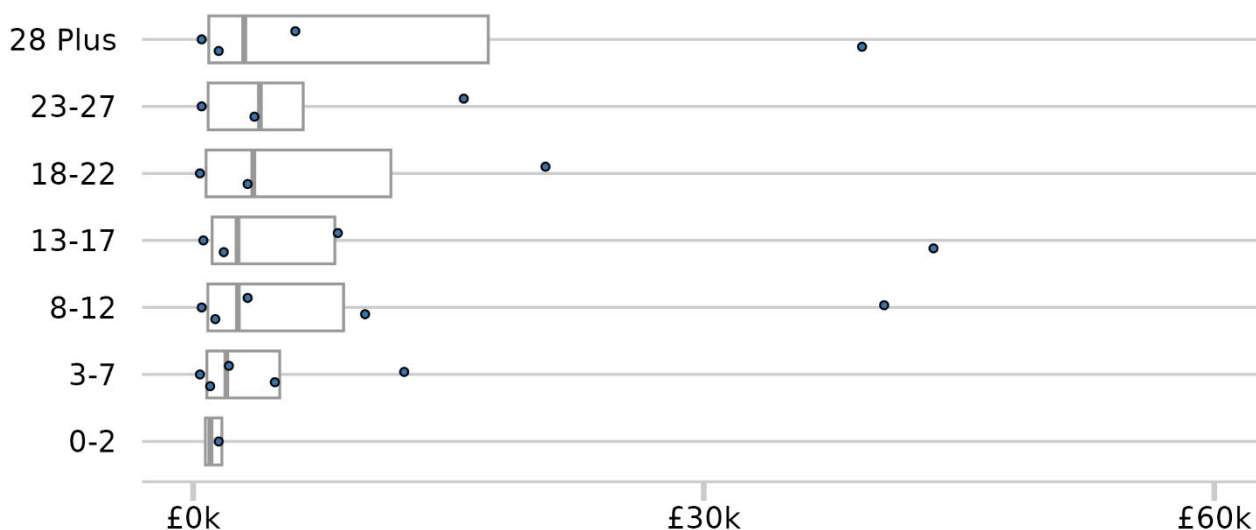
141. Table 5.1.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by years of practice and by their public law gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

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

	Number of barristers	0-2	3-7	8-12	13-17	18-22	23-27	28 +	Total
£5,000 and less	160	8%	22%	18%	14%	12%	10%	16%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	70	~	18%	16%	~	21%	18%	15%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	20	0%	0%	~	~	0%	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	0%	0%	0%	~	0%	0%	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100%
All	250	6%	19%	18%	15%	14%	12%	17%	100%

142. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public law gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by years of practice band for barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. As years of practice increased, median public law gross civil legal aid fee income increased, with the exception of the 28 + years of practice band.

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



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

143. Table 5.1.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public law 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 law legal aid work in FY2022-23. As years of practice increased, mean public law gross civil legal aid fee income increased, with the exception of the 23-27 years of practice band.

144. Tables 5.1.4 to 5.1.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. Due to high levels of suppression in these tables, it is difficult to comment on trends. These tables show the years of practice band of barristers who work in public law legal aid by:

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

Socio-economic background

145. Tables 5.2.1 to 5.2.6 can be found in the accompanying spreadsheet. 8 characteristic has between 41% and 50% of public law 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 law legal aid by:

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

Advocate type

146. Table 5.3.1 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work by advocate type and by financial year. Most barristers completing public law legal aid work were Juniors, at 77% to 84% of barristers.

Table 5.3.1: Distribution of barristers completing public law 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	17%	16%	16%	17%	18%	19%	20%	23%
Junior	83%	84%	84%	83%	82%	81%	80%	77%
Total	240	240	210	230	210	200	240	250

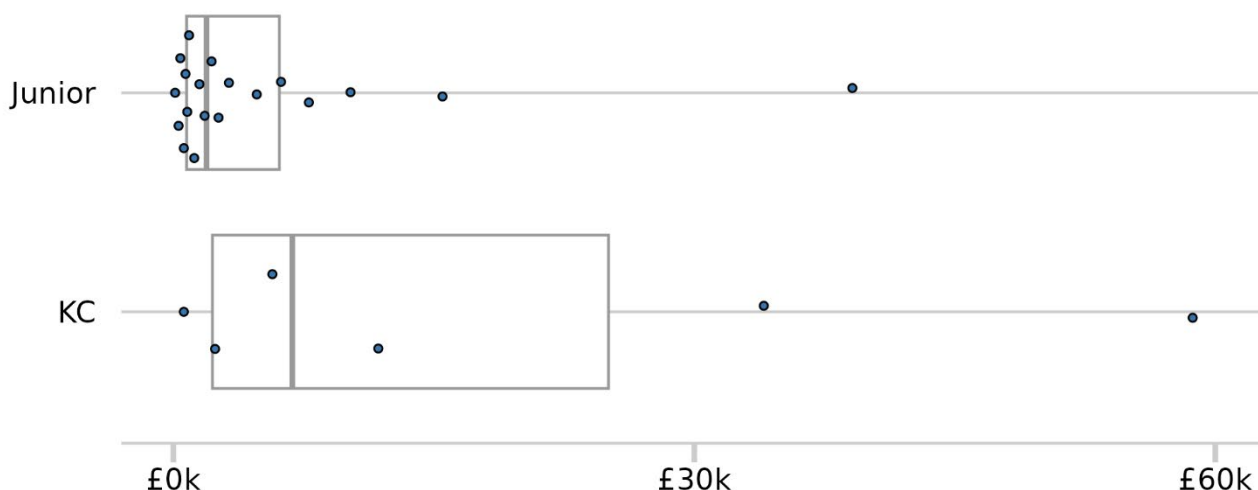
147. Table 5.3.2 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by their public law gross civil legal aid fee income band. Due to high levels of suppression in this table, it is difficult to comment on trends.

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

	Number of barristers	KC	Junior	Total
£5,000 and less	160	14%	86%	100%
£5,001 to £30,000	70	32%	68%	100%
£30,001 to £60,000	20	~	~	100%
£60,001 to £90,000	~	~	~	100%
£90,001 to £150,000	~	~	~	100%
£150,001 and over	0	.	.	100%
All	250	23%	77%	100%

148. In the following chart, the box represents the interquartile range and the median with each dot representing 10 barristers. This chart shows the public law gross civil legal aid fee income distribution by advocate type for barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. Junior barristers had a smaller median public law gross civil legal aid fee income at £1,900, than KC barristers at £6,800.

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



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

149. Table 5.3.3 (see attached spreadsheet) shows a statistical breakdown providing the public law gross civil legal aid fee income value, mean, lower quartile, median, and upper quartile of the advocate type of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23. Junior barristers had a smaller mean public law gross civil legal aid fee income at £5,500, than KC barristers at £16,800.

150. Tables 5.3.4 and 5.3.5 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 public law legal aid by:

- Self-reported total gross income, and
- Self-reported proportion of income from legal aid.

151. Table 5.3.6 (see attached spreadsheet) shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work, by advocate type and by the number of years they completed public law cases in the datashare period. KCs made up a large proportion of those who completed public law legal aid cases in all 8 years, with 45% of those who did work in all 8 years between FY2015-16 and FY2022-23 being KCs. In comparison, under a quarter of those who completed public law legal aid cases in two to seven years were KCs.

152. Table 5.3.7 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by gender and advocate type. The proportion of male KCs was higher than the proportion of male Junior barristers completing public law legal aid work.

Table 5.3.7: Number of barristers completing public law 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	60	~	61%	~	~	~	100%
Junior	190	~	53%	~	~	~	100%
All	250	~	55%	~	~	~	100%

153. Table 5.3.8 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and by age. The proportion of KCs aged 45-64 was higher than the proportion of Junior barristers aged 45-64.

Table 5.3.8: Number of barristers completing public law 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	60	~	~	42%	35%	~	~	100%
Junior	190	18%	41%	20%	14%	~	~	100%
All	250	14%	33%	25%	19%	~	~	100%

154. Table 5.3.9 shows the proportion of barristers who completed public law legal aid work in FY2022-23, by advocate type and ethnicity. The proportion of White KCs was higher than the proportion of White Junior barristers completing public law legal aid work.

Table 5.3.9: Number of barristers completing public law 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	60	~	~	~	84%	~	~	100%
Junior	190	11%	~	7%	73%	~	~	100%
All	250	10%	~	6%	76%	~	~	100%

Annex – Solicitor Datashare

Annex I – Data matching rates

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

156. Table A1.1 shows the match rate for active public law legal aid firms, by year.

Table A1.1: Active public law 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	70	70	80	70	70	80	70	70
Matched – any year	79%	82%	77%	79%	77%	71%	70%	70%
Matched – specific year	73%	80%	75%	78%	74%	69%	70%	70%
Non-SRA	18%	17%	21%	19%	22%	27%	27%	27%

157. Table A1.2 shows the match rate of income from public law legal aid for active public law legal aid firms, by year.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Income from public law legal aid (£m)	£6.0	£4.8	£5.4	£5.8	£7.5	£8.6	£9.6	£15.9
Matched – any year	96%	92%	93%	93%	93%	88%	91%	90%
Matched – specific year	95%	90%	91%	89%	92%	85%	91%	90%
Non-SRA	2%	6%	6%	6%	7%	12%	8%	8%

158. Table A1.3 shows the match rate for the solicitor data for active public law firms, by year.

Table A1.3: Public law solicitor match rate by year

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Firms in group	70	70	80	70	70	80	70	70
Has solicitor data – any year	73%	80%	75%	78%	75%	69%	69%	69%
Has solicitor data – specific year	70%	79%	75%	78%	73%	68%	67%	69%
Non-SRA	18%	17%	21%	19%	22%	27%	27%	27%

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

Table A1.4: Income from public law legal aid in active public law 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 public law legal aid (£m)	£6.0	£4.8	£5.4	£5.8	£7.5	£8.6	£9.6	£15.9
Has solicitor data – any year	92%	90%	91%	89%	92%	87%	90%	86%
Has solicitor data – specific year	86%	88%	91%	89%	92%	84%	87%	86%
Non-SRA	2%	6%	6%	6%	7%	12%	8%	8%

Annex II – Income from inter partes costs

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

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
£100k or less	93%	51%	84%	29%
£100k to £250k	~	~	~	~
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	~	~
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	70	£6.0	70	£15.9

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	48%	7%	42%	2%
£100k or less	39%	20%	34%	9%
£100k to £250k	~	~	~	~
£250k to £500k	~	~	~	~
£500k to £1m	~	~	~	~
£1m and over	0%	0%	~	~
Total	70	£6.0	70	£15.9

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Less than 20%	57%	10%	41%	2%
20-40%	15%	9%	~	~
40-60%	~	~	14%	13%
60-80%	16%	49%	16%	29%
More than 80%	~	~	20%	51%
Income from civil legal aid is blank or zero	0%	0%	~	~
Total	70	£6.0	70	£15.9

Annex III – Out of Contract Billing Firms

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

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Blank or zero	~	~	~	~
£100k or less	96%	86%	~	~
£100k to £250k	~	~	0%	0%
£250k to £500k	0%	0%	0%	0%
£500k to £1m	0%	0%	0%	0%
£1m and over	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	140	£1.1	20	£0.1

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
1 to 10 claims	96%	82%	100%	100%
11 to 50 claims	~	4%	0%	0%
51 to 100 claims	~	14%	0%	0%
101 to 200 claims	0%	0%	0%	0%
201 claims +	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total	140	£1.1	20	£0.1

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

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

	2014-15		2021-22	
	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)	Number of firms	Income from public law legal aid (£m)
Unknown	~	1%	~	29%
£250k or less	~	2%	~	20%
£250k to £500k	17%	15%	~	40%
£500k to £1m	22%	31%	~	4%
£1m to £5m	39%	33%	~	7%
£5m and over	14%	18%	~	0%
Total	110	£0.8	20	£0.1

Annex – Barrister Datashare

Match rates

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

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

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

Table A4.1: Match rate by value of public law civil representation legal aid work (exclusive of VAT)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Civil representation advocacy work (£m)	£1.4	£1.2	£1.3	£1.4	£1.3	£1.0	£1.3	£2.1
Advocacy work paid directly (£m)	£1.4	£1.2	£1.3	£1.3	£1.2	£0.9	£1.3	£2.1
Matched advocacy work (£m)	£1.4	£1.2	£1.3	£1.3	£1.2	£0.9	£1.3	£2.0
Matched against all advocacy work	94%	96%	98%	98%	99%	98%	99%	96%
Matched against advocacy work paid directly	94%	96%	99%	99%	99%	98%	99%	97%

Annex – Coverage and limitation of data sources

170. 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.
171. 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.
172. 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.
173. 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.
174. 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.

175. 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 public law work specifically is shown in the Barrister Datashare match rate annex.
176. 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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