

Ella Bridges
request-684845-52979974@whatdotheyknow.com

data.access@justice.gov.uk

14 September 2020

Dear Ms Bridges,

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request – 200816002

Thank you for your request dated 16 August in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

'Please supply the following information in relation to the 2019/20 financial year.

1. The total number amount of money paid to criminal legal aid providers - please include a breakdown of crime lower bills (police station/magistrates court) and LGFS/AGFS claims.

2. A list of the top 10 solicitors firms with the highest total financial claims.

3. A list of the top ten barristers with the highest total financial claims.'

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested. However, the information is exempt from disclosure under section 21 of the FOIA, because it is reasonably accessible to you. The information can be accessed via the legal aid statistics that are published on gov.uk here:

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

The information for legal aid provider statistics for criminal providers is published on gov.uk here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895225/legal-aid-statistics-crime-completions-provider-area-data-to-mar-2020.zip

There is a user guide and an index of data that explains the information held in each file and this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/a-guide-to-legal-aid-statistics-in-england-and-wales>

The direct link to the user guide is here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/895089/index-data-legal-aid-statistics-jan-mar-2020.ods

The LAA Statistics Team are happy to provide support if you have any questions in relation to the published legal aid statistics, you can contact the team directly at: statistics@justice.gov.uk

Appeal Rights

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to request an internal review by responding in writing to one of the addresses below within two months of the date of this response.

data.access@justice.gov.uk

Disclosure Team, Ministry of Justice

You do have the right to ask the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) to investigate any aspect of your complaint. However, please note that the ICO is likely to expect internal complaints procedures to have been exhausted before beginning their investigation.

Yours sincerely

**Information Governance
Legal Aid Agency**