

Legal aid statistics January - March 2025

National Statistics has published the latest <u>legal aid statistics</u>. The statistics for April-June have not been published due to the cyber incident. The number of civil certificates completed remained the same as the previous comparable period and the associated expenditure decreased by 2%.

Family category	Workload	Expenditure
Family Public	20,210 (-7% 🔪)	£162.7m (-6% ∖)
Family Private	11,919 (-1% 🔪)	£ 50.1m (6% ♂)
Mediation and MIAMS*	5,531 (5% /)	£ 1.7m (6% ∕)

Although the workload for family and non-family cases is similar, comprising 32,129 and 40,436 cases in January to March 2025 respectively, non-family cases make up only around a fifth of total civil legal aid expenditure (20%). Public family legal aid makes up around two thirds (68%) of family legal aid work and more than three quarters (81%) of expenditure.

In January to March 2025 family legal help starts decreased by 2% compared to the same quarter last year. Completed claims decreased by 7% and expenditure also decreased by 9%.

The volume of MIAMs increased by 7% in the last quarter compared to the previous year and family mediation starts increased by 30% and total outcomes increased by 3%, of which 58% were successful agreements, and remain at around half of pre-LASPO levels.

Certificates granted for family work decreased by 2% in January to March 2025 compared to the previous year. Certificates completed decreased by 4% and associated expenditure has decreased by 3% compared to the same quarter the previous year.

In January to March 2025, certificates completed for domestic violence decreased by 2% compared to the same period of the previous year.

In January to March 2025, applications for civil representation supported by evidence of domestic violence or child abuse increased by 26% compared to the same period of the

previous year. The number of certificates granted via the domestic violence and child abuse gateway increased by 19% over the same period. The proportion of applications granted on this basis is 81%.

There were 971 applications for ECF received from January to March 2025. This is a 7% increase from the same quarter last year. 910 (94%) of these were new applications. Of the 971 ECF applications received between January and March 2025, 93% (904) had been determined by the LAA as of 01 June 2025. 72% (650) of these were granted, 17% (150) were refused and 9% (80) rejected.

Among the ECF applications received between January and March 2025, immigration (62%), inquest (11%), and family (15%) remained the most requested categories of law. The increase in ECF applications over the last four years is driven by an increase in immigration applications.

Legal aid providers

Over the year to June 2025, the number of providers that received payment for civil and criminal work fell slightly. Figures for providers starting civil work during the period increased by 4% (probably due to the new civil contract starting in September 2024) and providers starting criminal work decreased by 10%.

At the start of May 2025, there were 1,978 providers and 3,243 offices contracted to deliver legal aid services.

1,018 of these providers and 1,503 of these offices were contracted to deliver criminal legal aid. Meanwhile, 1,279 providers and 2,208 offices were contracted to deliver civil legal aid.