

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



Department of
Justice

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Our ref: SUB1475-1022-2016

Lucia Wilson
Assembly Clerk
Public Accounts Committee
Parliament Buildings
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BELFAST
BT4 3XX

17 October 2016

Dear Lucia,

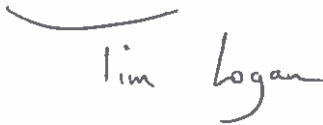
PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE EVIDENCE SESSION ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT OFFICE'S REPORT ON MANAGING LEGAL AID

I refer to my letter of 5 October advising that Ronnie Armour, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service had agreed to provide statistical data in response to paragraph 5 of Mr Swann's correspondence to Master McGivern dated 17 September 2016.

The table below provides information in relation to the bills taxed by the Taxing Master over the last three financial years, including the current year to date. Legal Aid bills include those cases that have an element of 'Party to Party' as well as those where the claim solely relates to legal aid. The number of bills unchanged are primarily those that the Master has taxed and made no deductions although it also contains a small number that have yet to be assessed, predominantly during 2016/17.

Year Bill Received	No of Legal Aid Bills Received	Total Claimed	No Bills with Amount reduced after taxation	No of Bills Unchanged	Amount reduced after taxation
2013/2014	1,675	£20,704,566.12	1,487	188	£2,353,017.63
2014/2015	1,487	£21,528,289.07	1,305	182	£2,832,939.16
2015/2016	1,222	£18,025,699.48	1,099	123	£2,437,098.72
2016/2017 ⁱⁱ	584	£8,625,913.37	504	80	£1,404,273.29

I trust that you find this information useful.



**TIM LOGAN
DALO**

ⁱ Costs paid privately

ⁱⁱ These figures are to 30 September 2016