

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER

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Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice
Room 242
Parliament Buildings
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30 October 2025

Dear Kathy,

Justice Bill – Clause 28 – Restriction on ordering taxation of legal aid costs

Thank you for your letter of 15 October 2025 seeking updated taxation figures for the last three years to assist with consideration of Clause 28 in the Justice Bill.

The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunals Service (NICTS) have provided the information set out below.

Calendar Year	No. of Legal Aid only Bills assessed	Total Claimed	No. of Bills with Amounts Taxed Off	No. of Bills Unchanged	Total Taxed Off
2022	984	£26,308,303.07	952	32	£4,474,200.20
2023	1117	£32,469,945.84	1054	63	£6,543,417.10
2024	977	£26,804,593.96	909	68	£5,611,194.29

It should be noted that the information included in the table above is not directly comparable to the information provided previously in 2016 for several reasons:

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Department of
Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

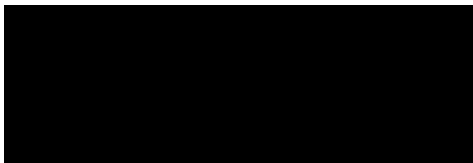
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The data provided above is by **calendar year** instead of financial – this is to reflect the procedural registration of bills. In 2016 the data provided to the committee included party to party bills (cases where costs are ultimately payable by some other party, not the public purse via legal aid) as the case management system at that time could not separate out cases that related solely to Legal Aid. However, the current case management system can now separate out this information.

I trust that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,



**DAVID GRAHAM
DALO**



**Northern Ireland Assembly
Committee for Justice**

David Graham
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Department of Justice
Castle Buildings
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15 October 2025

Justice Bill – Clause 28 – Restriction on ordering taxation of legal aid costs

Dear David

At its meeting on 9 October 2025, the Committee for Justice considered a note of the informal strategic planning meeting held on 25 September 2025, which included a number of actions for the remainder of the Committee Stage of the Justice Bill.

Members noted that the Department had provided statistical data on taxation to the Public Accounts Committee for its Inquiry into Managing Legal Aid. This included the number of bills received and total claimed along with the number of bills reduced after taxation and the amount reduced. A copy of the correspondence is attached for ease of reference.

To assist with its consideration of Clause 28 in the Justice Bill, the Committee agreed to ask the Department to provide updated taxation figures for the last three years.

I should appreciate a response by 4 November 2025.

Yours sincerely

Kathy O'Hanlon

Kathy O'Hanlon
Clerk to the Committee for Justice

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