



5 March 2025

Andy Reynolds  
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Ref: OIA 119221

Tēnā koe Andy

### **Official Information Act request: Legal Aid expenditure**

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2025 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry), requesting information regarding legal aid expenditure. Specifically, you requested:

*To be clear, I am requesting total defense counsel spend (both the PDS AND LegalAid) versus the crown prosecution services costs - which would compare these two services. This should be shown in the same manner as already provided, a table of months, with a tally of the year total.*

Your request has been referred to me for response, as it falls within my responsibilities as Legal Services Commissioner and is being managed in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As you are aware, on 16 January 2025, the Ministry partially transferred your previous 13 January 2025 request for information about the Crown Prosecution Services to Crown Law, under section 14 of the Act, as the information is held by Crown Law. You can expect a response from Crown Law in due course.

On 12 February 2025, the Ministry contacted you to clarify whether you were seeking figures on criminal legal aid grant expenditure. However, as we did not hear back from you, we have interpreted your request for the cost of all criminal legal aid grant expenditure, excluding the cost of the Duty Lawyer Service and Police Detention Legal Assistance Service as these services are not comparable.

Please see attached Table 1 for the monthly criminal legal aid invoices approved for payment, from 2022 to 2024.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz)

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Baguley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tracey Baguley  
**Legal Services Commissioner**

## Appendix 1

**Table 1: Monthly criminal legal aid invoices approved for payment, from 2022 to 2024.**

Month	2022	2023	2024
January	\$ 6,669,075	\$ 7,630,494	\$ 12,123,048
February	\$ 8,860,738	\$ 11,985,256	\$ 12,516,320
March	\$ 13,204,639	\$ 17,596,442	\$ 18,077,874
April	\$ 10,387,361	\$ 15,694,426	\$ 15,317,505
May	\$ 12,767,669	\$ 16,274,236	\$ 17,242,217
June	\$ 13,284,513	\$ 16,328,558	\$ 15,836,098
July	\$ 14,705,881	\$ 13,018,857	\$ 15,729,995
August	\$ 12,498,660	\$ 20,315,159	\$ 20,421,749
September	\$ 13,407,621	\$ 17,104,930	\$ 16,426,638
October	\$ 12,533,056	\$ 16,024,726	\$ 17,912,604
November	\$ 17,765,605	\$ 17,162,726	\$ 19,171,544
December	\$ 16,508,317	\$ 15,902,812	\$ 21,234,207
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 152,595,157</b>	<b>\$ 185,040,645</b>	<b>\$ 202,011,822</b>

### **Notes for Table 1:**

- Please note this table contains data drawn from a database that is subject to change as new data is continually recorded and/or recoded. This data was extracted as at 21 February 2025.
- The data only includes criminal invoices that were assessed and approved for payment.
- The data excludes the costs for other legal services that can be used for criminal matters, such as the Duty Lawyer service and Police Detention Legal Assistance service. Additionally, it excludes costs for Civil, Family, and Waitangi matters.
- The data also excludes Public Defence Services.
- This data is for each calendar year - 1 January to 31 December.
- Not all legal aid providers are GST registered, GST is included for those providers that are.