



Ministry  
of Justice

# Legal Aid Statistics for England & Wales

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22 November 2017

Protecting and advancing the principles of justice

# Where to find the legal aid statistics

- Found on the .gov.uk site; (also the top hit when you google 'Legal aid statistics')
- Previous releases remain available
- Quarterly releases (Sept, Dec, Mar)
- Each June our Annual covers additional areas such as **Client diversity** and **Providers**

Legal aid statistics - GOV.UK

gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics

GOV.UK

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## Legal aid statistics

From: Ministry of Justice and Legal Aid Agency  
Part of: Justice system transparency  
Published: 9 September 2013  
Last updated: 30 June 2016, [see all updates](#)

These reports present the key statistics on activity in the legal aid system for England and Wales.

Contents

- [Recent releases](#)
- [Older releases](#)

The reports include statistics on:

- Criminal legal aid
- Civil legal aid (including Exception Case Funding)
- Appeals and representations (in January to March 2017)
- Provider information (in January to March 2017)
- Client and provider characteristics (in January to March 2017)
- Criminal barrister payments (only in July to September 2014)

You can provide feedback on our statistical reports by completing this [short survey](#).

### Recent releases

[User guide to legal aid statistics in England and Wales](#)  
29 June 2017 National Statistics

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[Legal aid statistics: April to June 2017](#)  
28 September 2017 National Statistics

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[Legal aid statistics: January to March 2017](#)  
29 June 2017 National Statistics

# What do we publish?

- **Bulletin:** main report giving commentary.
- **Tables:** A set of [tables](#), which give further detail and full time series for each area.
- More **detailed** data: A detailed file to allow detailed analysis provided in both .csv (comma separated values) and .ods (OpenDocument Spreadsheet) formats

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	fin_yr	fin_qtr	scheme	category	sub_cat1	sub_cat2	sub_cat3	sub_cat4	sub_cat5	sub_cat6	volume	value
2	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Sexual offences and associated	cl - Client charged/summons/caution/FPN	cl - Standard fee	cl - Duty solicitor	2	538.83
3	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Other offences	cl - No further action/client not charged (In cl	cl - Escape fee	cl - Own solicitor	9	2751.84
4	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Drug offences	cl - No further action/client not charged (In cl	cl - Standard fee	cl - Duty solicitor	1574	420209
5	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Other offences	cl - No further action/client not charged (In cl	cl - Escape fee	cl - Duty solicitor	9	3465.76
6	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Fraud and forgery and other offe	cl - No further action/client not charged (In cl	cl - Escape fee	cl - Duty solicitor	6	5025.06
7	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Sexual offender orders	cl - Client charged/summons/caution/FPN	cl - Standard fee	cl - Duty solicitor	39	10856.7
8	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Drug offences	cl - No further action/client not charged (In cl	cl - Standard fee	cl - Duty solicitor	3	762.03
9	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Burglary	cl - Client charged/summons/caution/FPN	cl - Escape fee	cl - Own solicitor	16	7297.46
10	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Robbery	cl - Change of Solicitor (Investigations)	cl - Standard fee	cl - Own solicitor	85	21971.1
11	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Criminal damage	cl - No further action/client not charged (In cl	cl - Standard fee	cl - Duty solicitor	3	883.77
12	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Other offences	cl - Change of Solicitor (Investigations)	cl - Standard fee	cl - Own solicitor	141	36537
13	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Sexual offences and associated	cl - Change of Solicitor (Investigations)	cl - Escape fee	cl - Own solicitor	3	2108.93
14	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Other offences	cl - Change of Solicitor (Investigations)	cl - Escape fee	cl - Own solicitor	2	759.76
15	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Other offences	cl - Change of Solicitor (Investigations)	cl - Standard fee	cl - Duty solicitor	147	39275.1
16	2009-10	2	Crime Lower	cl - Pre-charge suspects	cl - Attendance and duty solicitor standby	cl - Attendance	cl - Homicide and related grave offe	cl - Change of Solicitor (Investigations)	cl - Standard fee	cl - Own solicitor	31	7714.85

- **Index** of data in Legal aid statistics: An index to the more detailed data published with lists of **available** data and **guidance** on how to work with the more detailed data using pivot tables.
- **User Guide** to legal aid statistics: This provides comprehensive information about data sources and quality as well as key legislative changes.

# What has changed about... the bulletin?

- More concise: **50+** pages down to **10**



Published 28 September 2017

- New design front page gets straight into the headline figures

## Legal Aid Statistics quarterly, England and Wales, April to June 2017

### Main points

- Less preamble and repetition, with background info moved into separate User guide.

<b>Crime lower workload down 4% compared to the same quarter last year</b> ↓	This continues the gradual downward trend of recent years. Expenditure on completed work was also down, by 3%.
<b>Crown Court completed workload down 12% compared to the same quarter last year</b> ↓	Expenditure on completed work fell by 11% over this period, and new orders for legal representation in the Crown Court continued to decline.
<b>14% fewer legal help new matter starts than in the same period of 2016</b> ↓	The volume of completed claims also decreased, by 9% and expenditure by 3%.
<b>Family mediation starts were 24% lower than in the same quarter of 2016</b> ↓	Mediation Information and Assessment Meetings (MIAMS) and mediation outcomes also fell over this period.
<b>26% more certificates completed for public family law than in the same quarter last year</b> ↑	Expenditure on completed work in this category, which already accounts for more than half the total cost of civil legal aid, rose by 17% (£18m).
<b>533 applications for Exceptional Case Funding received in the last quarter</b> ↑	This is similar to Jan-Mar 2017 (536) but 26% higher than Apr-Jun 2016. The proportion of applications granted this quarter was 57%.

- **Same data and detail released as before**

# What has changed about... how users access the figures?

- Data visualisation tool
- Based on the **detailed** data released each quarter
- Accessible from the bulletin



**Data visualisation:**  
Click for tool allowing user-defined charts and tables.



**User Guide:**  
Click for document giving definitions and explanations.



**Tables:**  
Click for tables of figures.

## 1. Criminal legal aid



Table 1.1

### Main point

Workloads and expenditure fell in most areas of criminal legal aid between April and June 2017 and the same period of the previous year.

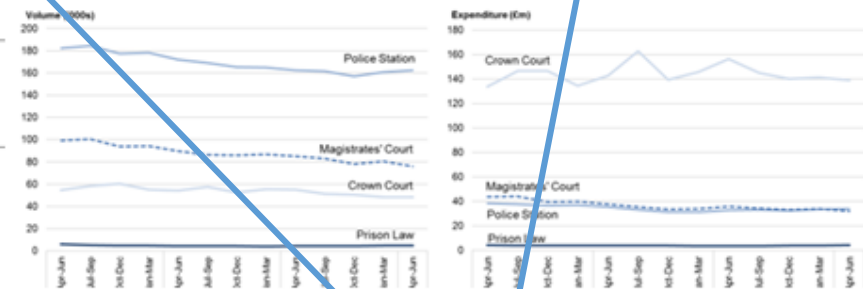
Criminal legal aid is sometimes categorised into Crime Lower and Crime Higher. Crime Lower includes pre-charge, police station, early court (including magistrates' court) and prison law work. Crime Higher covers work in the Crown and Higher Courts.

**Figure 2: Crime overview, closed case volumes and expenditure for Apr-Jun 2017, and comparison with Apr-Jun 2016**

	Claim category	Workload (% change compared to the same quarter last year)	Expenditure (% change compared to the previous quarter last year)
<b>Crime</b> Workload 291,000 (5%↓)	Pre-charge suspects (police)	161,000 (0%↔)	£33m (4%↑)
	Charged defendants (police)	1,000 (6%↓)	£1m (12%↑)
	Virtual courts	1,000 (20%↓)	£0.1m (19%↓)
	Magistrates' courts*	75,000 (11%↓)	£32m (11%↓)
	Prison Law	5,000 (9%↑)	£4m (11%↑)
<b>Expenditure</b> £209m (9%↓)	Solicitor fee scheme	24,000 (11%↓)	£77m (12%↓)
	Advocate fee scheme	25,000 (13%↓)	£53m (17%↓)
	Crime Higher	48,000 (12%↓)	£139m (11%↓)
	High Cost crime cases	2 (100%↑)	£10m (55%↑)

\*Includes court duty solicitor sessions

**Figure 3: Workload and expenditure in criminal legal aid, Apr-Jun 14 to Apr-Jun 17**



### Magistrates' court completed work

Legally-aided **representation in the magistrates' court** comprised around one-third of the workload and just under half of expenditure in Crime Lower between April and June 2017. The volume of completed work in the magistrates' court fell by 11% in this quarter when compared to the same period of the previous year. Expenditure also fell by 11% (£4m).

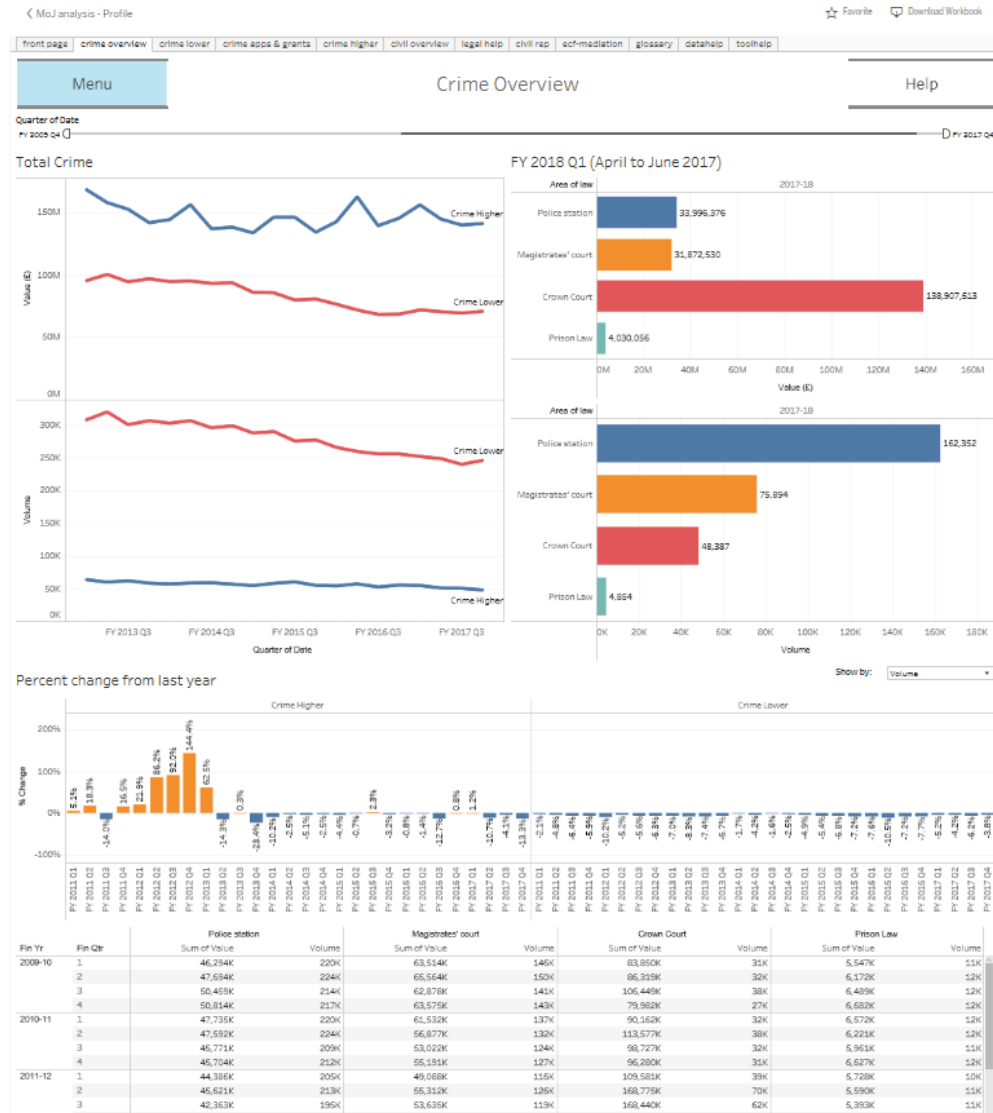
The other area of court work within Crime Lower is in the **virtual courts**. This accounts for a small proportion of workload, and less than half a percent of all crime lower expenditure, but has grown over the last few years. Workload this quarter was, however, 20% down on last year and expenditure fell by 19%.

### Crown Court completed work

Volumes of cases completed in the Crown Court have declined over recent years but more gradually than new orders, due to longer-running cases still awaiting trial

# Data visualisation tool

- Visualisation using Tableau
  - Custom charts
  - Download data
- Available in any system via web browser
- <https://public.tableau.com/profile/moj.analysis#!/vizhome/legalaidstatistics/toolbar/cstool/frontpage>





# We want to hear from our users



User feedback helps us to develop the statistics to keep them relevant for users and public debate.

You can contact us in any of the following ways:

Richard Field, Head of legal aid statistics,

Ministry of Justice, 7th Floor, 102 Petty France, London,  
SW1H 9AJ

Tel: 07469 579 287

Email: [statistics@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk)

Web survey - <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/6U58M/>



# The data visualisation tool



The following slides are just a backup using screenshots of the interactive data visualisation tool, in case there is no internet access for demonstrating it live.



# Data visualisation tool: Homepage

[front page](#) [crime overview](#) [crime lower](#) [crime apps & grants](#) [crime higher](#) [civil overview](#) [legal help](#) [civil rep](#) [ecf-mediation](#) [glossary](#) [datahelp](#) [toolhelp](#)



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## Legal Aid Statistics Quarterly: data visualisation tool

Menu

Help

### Introduction

Legal Aid Statistics in England and Wales is published every quarter, presenting statistics on activity in the legal aid system. This statistical release consists of the following documents, all published at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/legal-aid-statistics>

- **Bulletin:** The bulletin provides key figures and commentary;
- **Tables:** A set of tables which give further detail and full time series for each area;
- **Data visualisation tool:** This interactive tool, which enables the user to analyse each area of the statistics in more detail using graphs and data filters;
- **More detailed data:** A more detailed set of data, provided in csv (comma separated variables) and ods (open data spreadsheet) files, to enable detailed analysis using a variety of software packages; and
- **Index of data:** An index to the more detailed data published in the csv and ods files, lists of available data from legal aid systems and guidance on how to work with the more detailed data using pivot tables.

As part of our wider work on improving data visualisation and accessibility, we have developed this data visualisation tool which sits on top of the more detailed data released alongside the publication and its associated csv and ods files - the tool provides users with the capability to:

- interrogate the published information at a lower level of detail, e.g. by offence and area of work
- access and produce a range of charts specific to their user requirements.

### How to send us your feedback

We welcome any comments you have about the data visualisation tool, including your views on how it can be improved.

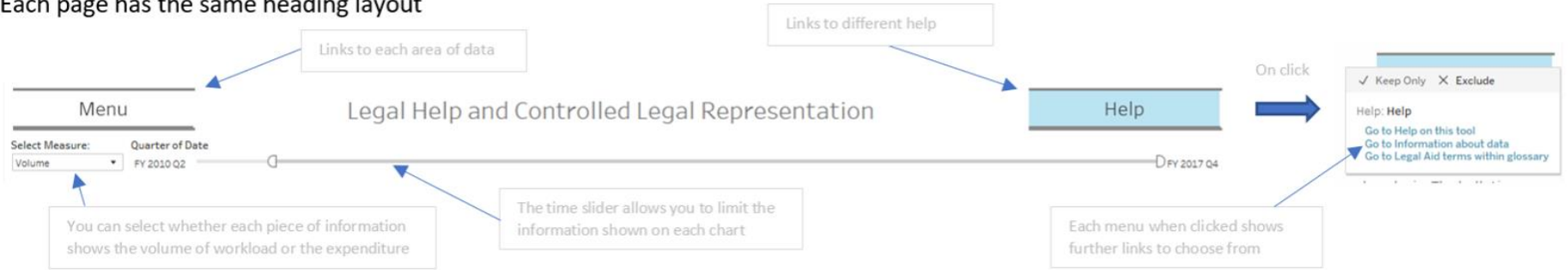
Enquiries and feedback should be directed to the Legal Aid Statistics team at [statistics@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk)



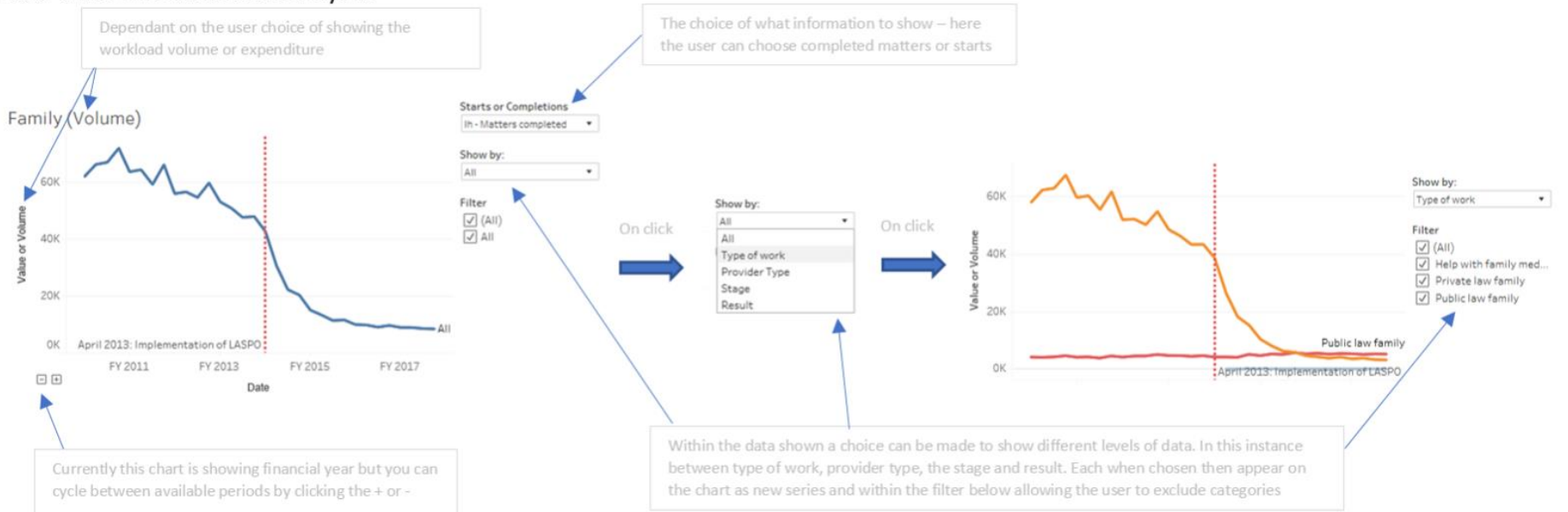
# Data visualisation tool: Look and Feel



Each page has the same heading layout



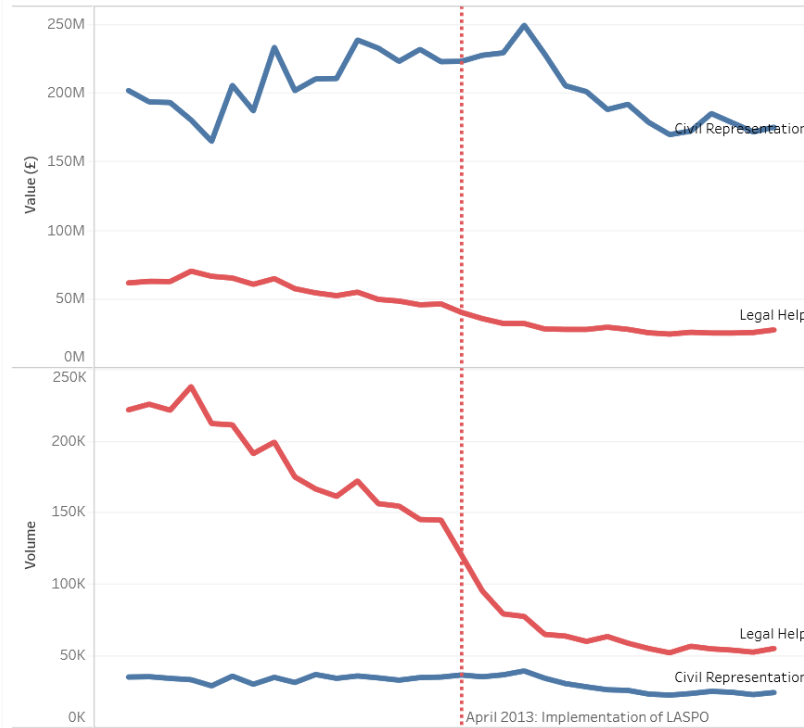
Each chart follows the same layout



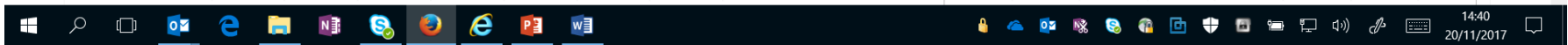
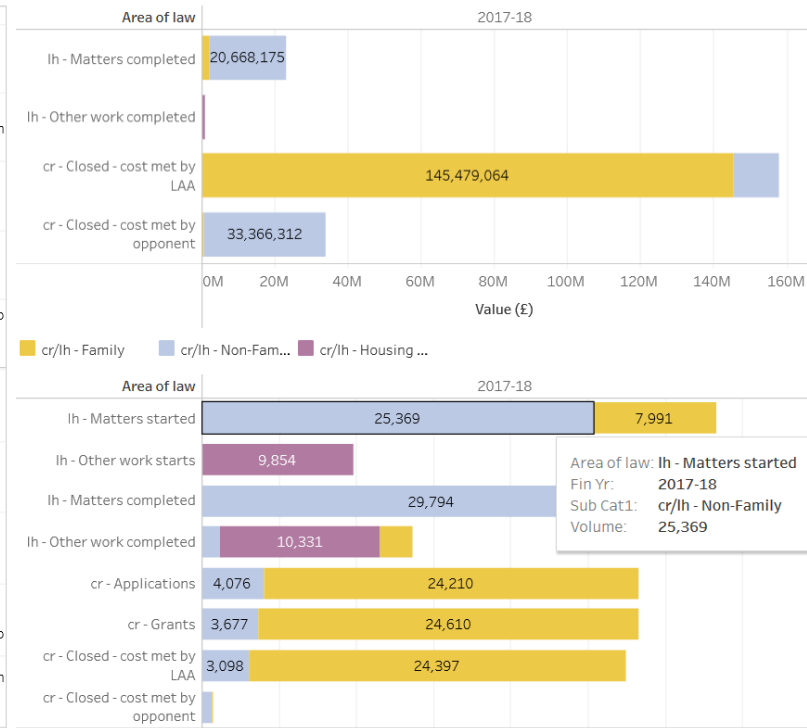
# Screenshot from the tool:

## Civil overview

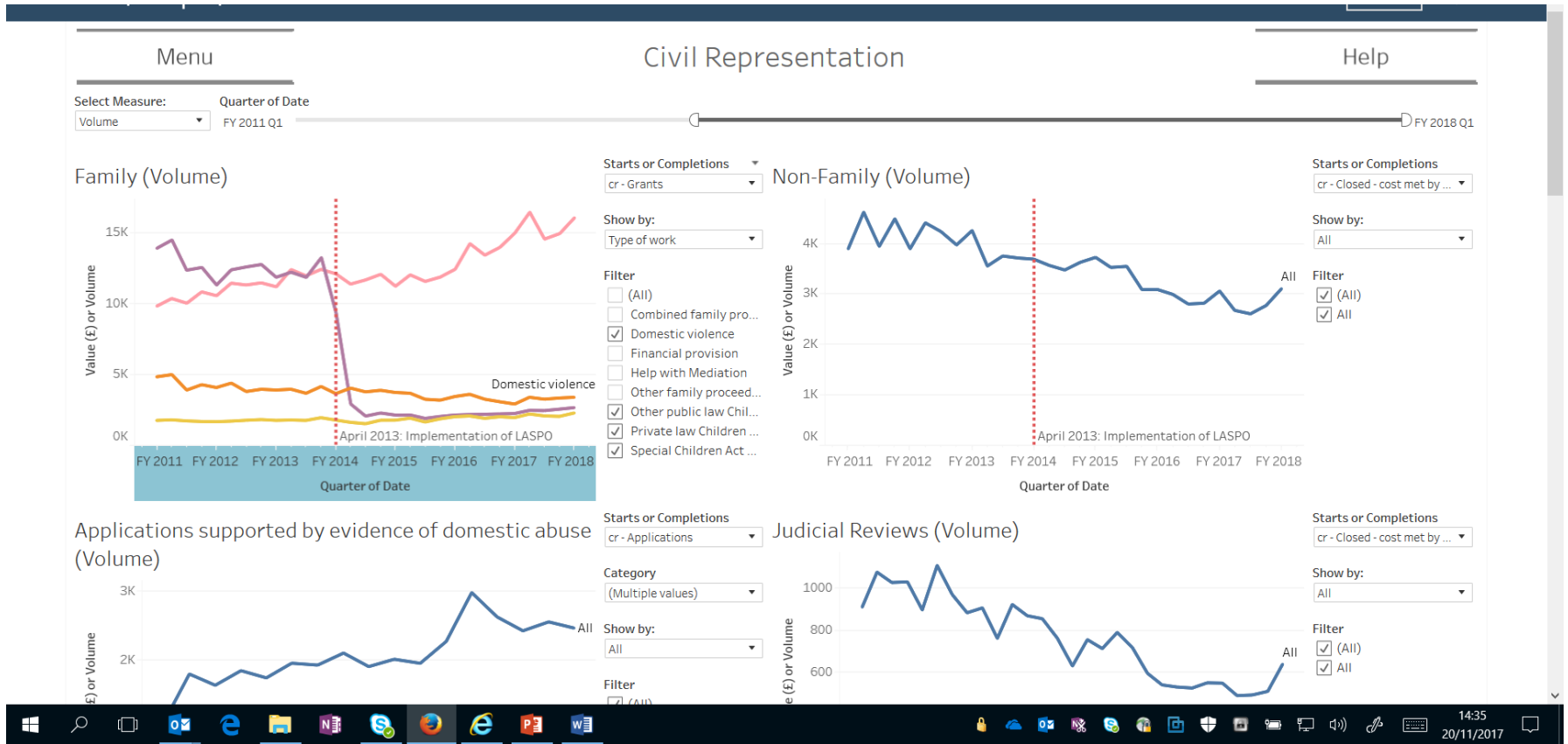
Total Civil Completions



FY 2018 Q1 (April - June 2017)



# Screenshot from the tool: Civil representation



# Screenshot from the tool: Exceptional Case Funding, Mediation

