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|  | **Our Reference:** 88205 |   |  February 2014 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You requested information from the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

I can confirm that the department holds information that you have asked for, and I have provided a response to each of your questions in Annex A below.

***(i)The number of criminal law firms who have an office in any duty area in Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland. Please particularise this information by name of firm and region***

***ii) The number of individual duty solicitors that each firm employs***

***iii) The total amount that each firm was paid in criminal legal aid from both crime lower, crime higher, prison law and appeals and review. This does not have to be split and I just require the total amount paid. The figures required are for years 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013***

***(iv)Please can you rank the answer to (iii) in decreasing value of claims i.e. so that the firm that obtained the greatest legal aid sum is first.***

The region breakdown we have provided is based on CJS area and the CJS areas correspondence with the duty area divide requested above for Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland.

Please note that the list only displays firms with a current Criminal Contract and does not show firms who may have withdrawn from the contract. Please also be aware that some figures may be incomplete as firms may have changed their account numbers due to mergers or restructures within the reporting period.

**ANNEX A**

**ANNEX A –cont/d**

