|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|   |  | Information GovernanceLegal Aid Agency8th Floor 102 Petty FranceLondon SW1H 9AJ |
|  |   |  |
|  | **Our Reference:** 87255 |   |  January 2014 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

You asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

**"How many applications you have received for exceptional case determination under S.10(2) of LASPO in family matters. Further, please let us know how many of those applications have been successful?"**

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

I can confirm that the MoJ holds information that you have asked for, and I am pleased to provide this to you.

As at 30 November 2013, the Legal Aid Agency had received 572 applications for exceptional funding in the family category of law (of which 545 had been processed) and awarded exceptional funding in 5 of these cases.

In relation to these numbers please note:

* The data was extracted from a live administrative database as at 30 November 2013, and as such the information is subject to revisions. Numbers given here may differ from those already released and future data releases may also reflect subsequent revisions made;
* Figures may vary from previously released figures for a number of reasons, including:
	+ revision to the administrative system, including applications being entered onto the system outside of the month they were logged
	+ review following possible litigation.

You can also find more information by reading the full text of the Act (available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>).

Please additionally note that all applications for exceptional funding are thoroughly investigated by a specialist team. All applications must meet the standard financial means and legal merits tests. The exceptional funding scheme ensures the protection of an individual’s rights to legal aid under the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as those rights to legal aid that are directly enforceable under European Union law.

Some applications were rejected because they were incomplete, or the area of law was in scope and therefore actually eligible for legal aid under normal criteria.