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|  | **Our Reference:** 109304 |   | February 2017 |

**Freedom of Information Request**

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

**The details of the information that I am seeking are set out below. In summary, I am seeking to discover how many of the grants of Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) which have been made in each category of law each year have been, or are being, used, i.e. a controlled work matter has been opened, or a certificate of public funding issued for the matter for which ECF was granted. I request your assistance under s. 16 of FOIA, if you are unable to answer my specific requests below, in formulating alternative requests or identifying or locating information which would meet, or assist in meeting, my overall aim.**

**In respect of each of the following categories of law and time periods, please state in how many cases the grant of ECF is being, or has been, used, i.e. a controlled work matter has been opened, or a certificate of public funding issued for the matter for which ECF was granted:**

**1. Family Law**

**a. The 9 grants of ECF made for family law matters in 2013-141;**

**b. The 48 grants of ECF made for family law matters in 2014-15;**

**c. The 156 grants of ECF made for family law matters in 2015-16.**

**d. The 56 grants of ECF made for family law matters in the first two quarters of 2016-17.**

**2. Housing/Land law**

**a. The one grant of ECF made for a housing/land law matter in 2013-14.**

**b. The three grants of ECF made for housing/land law matters in 2014-15.**

**c. The two grants of ECF made for housing/land law matters in 2015-16.**

**d. The two grants of ECF made for housing/land law matters in the first two quarters of 2016-17.**

**3. Immigration Law**

**a. The four grants of ECF made for immigration law matters in 2013-14.**

**b. The 57 grants of ECF made for immigration law matters in 2014-15.**

**c. The 326 grants of ECF made for immigration law matters in 2015-16.**

**d. The 301 grants of ECF made for immigration law matters in the first two quarters of 2016-17.**

**4. Welfare Benefits Law**

**a. The three grants of ECF made for welfare benefits matters in 2013-14.**

**b. The two grants of ECF made for welfare benefits matters in 2015-16..**

**c. The four grants of ECF made for welfare benefits matters in the first two quarters of 2016-17.**

**5. ‘Other’ category**

**a. The one grant of ECF made in the ‘other’ category in 2013-14.**

**b. The seven grants of ECF made in the ‘other’ category in 2014-15.**

**c. The 16 grants of ECF made in the ‘other’ category in 2015-16.**

**d. The two grants of ECF made in the ‘other’ category in the first two quarters of 2016-17.**

**6. Inquiry/Tribunal Law**

**a. The one grant of ECF made for an inquiry/tribunal matter in 2013/14.**

**b. The one grant of ECF made for an inquiry/tribunal matter in 2014/15.**

**7. PI/Clinical Negligence Law**

**a. The one grant of ECF made for a PI/clinical negligence matter in 2015/16.**

**b. The one grant of ECF made for a PI/clinical negligence matter in the first two quarters of 2016-17.**

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it below.

The definition of a grant “in use” that has been used in this response is that a controlled work matter has been opened or a certificate of public funding has been issued.

For all provider applications, this is at the point of grant. For direct client applications, this is once a provider has contacted the LAA to inform them that they are acting on behalf of the individual with funding approved (either when we indicated a positive preliminary view (PPV) prior to 2015-16, or a grant (without provider) since then) for that matter.

1. Family Law
	1. Of the 11**[[1]](#footnote-1)** applications for ECF received in 2013-14 which were granted or awarded a PPV, 10 are in use.
	2. Relating to 2014-15, 48 of 48 are in use.
	3. Relating to 2015-16, 155 of 156 are in use.
	4. Relating to the first two quarters of 2016-17, 56 of 56 are in use.
2. Housing/Land Law
	1. Of the 1 application for ECF received in 2013-14 which was granted, 1 is in use.
	2. Relating to 2014-15, 3 of 3 are in use.
	3. Relating to 2015-16, 2 of 2 are in use.
	4. Relating to the first two quarters of 2016-17, 2 of 2 are in use.
3. Immigration Law
	1. Of the 4 applications for ECF received in 2013-14 which were granted, 4 are in use.
	2. 59 of 59**1** applications received in 2014-15 which were granted or awarded a PPV are in use.
	3. Relating to 2015-16, 313 of 326 are in use.
	4. Relating to the first two quarters of 2016-17, 278 of 301 are in use.
4. Welfare Benefits Law
	1. There were no recorded grants of welfare benefits cases in 2013-14. Relating to 2014-15, 3 of 3 are in use.
	2. Relating to 2015-16, 2 of 2 are in use.
	3. Relating to the first two quarters of 2016-17, 4 of 4 are in use.
5. Other category
	1. Of the 1 application for ECF received in 2013-14 which was granted, 1 is in use.
	2. Relating to 2014-15, 7 of 7 are in use.
	3. Relating to 2015-16, 16 of 16 are in use.
	4. Relating to the first two quarters of 2016-17, 2 of 2 are in use.
6. Inquiry/Tribunal Law
	1. Of the 1 application for ECF received in 2013-14 which was granted, 1 is in use.
	2. Relating to 2014-15, 1 of 1 is in use.
7. PI/Clinical Negligence Law
	1. Of the 1 application for ECF received in 2015-16 which was granted, 1 is in use.
	2. Relating to the first two quarters of 2016-17, 1 of 1 is in use.
1. All four direct client applications that received Positive Preliminary Views (PPV) prior to 2015-16 are included in these figures in addition to the grants quoted in your request. This is because some of them have since found a provider to act on behalf of them in relation to those PPVs, hence they should be included in these figures. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)