

## Key facts about the solicitors' profession in the Yorkshire and Humberside region

The Law Society conducts research on the solicitors' profession in England and Wales. This fact sheet presents key figures on the profession for the Yorkshire and Humberside region as at November 2010.

Key statistics as at November 2010	No	%
<b>Solicitors with practising certificates</b>	<b>7,862</b>	
Male solicitors with practising certificates	4,190	53.3
Female solicitors with practising certificates	3,672	46.7
Solicitors in private practice	6,369	84.3
Solicitors in commerce and industry	387	5.1
Solicitors in central and local government	714	9.5
Solicitors in other sectors	83	1.1
Solicitors in sole practices	454	6.0
Solicitors in practices with 2-4 partners	2,756	36.5
Solicitors in practices with 5-10 partners	1,041	13.8
Solicitors in practices with 11-25 partners	1,167	15.5
Solicitors in practices with more than 26 partners	2,135	28.3
<b>Trainees</b>		
Number of trainees	<b>410</b>	
Number of male trainees	137	33.4
Number of female trainees	273	66.6
Starting salary (median)	£17,200	
<b>Organisations</b>		
Organisations employing solicitors (head office)	<b>1,258</b>	
Private practices (head office)	705	56.0
Other organisations employing solicitors) <sup>1</sup>	553	44.0

<sup>1</sup> Non private practice comprises of organisations employing solicitors by the following type of business: Commerce & Industry; Government (Government Department, Local Government, Court Government funded services, and Crown Prosecution Service); Other (Advice service, Educational establishment, Churches etc.).

## Practising certificate holders

Table 1 shows the ethnicity of all practising certificate holders in the region compared with all the regions in England and Wales, and Chart A illustrates their age distribution. Over one-third (34.9%) of solicitors are aged between 26-35 years old and this is typical of the profession as a whole where 35.3% fall into this age range. The ethnicity profile shows that there are proportionately more White solicitors in the region than in England and Wales as a whole.

Table 2 provides details of the number of years of post qualification experience of practising certificate holders within the Yorkshire and Humberside region compared to the profession as a whole. It shows that the patterns for this region and England and Wales are very similar.

The top three main areas of work for practising certificate holders in this region are business affairs (18.2%), wills and probate (6.9%) and personal injury (6.7%). In comparison with the profession as a whole, personal injury is cited by 4.9% and wills and probate by 7.2% of the profession with business affairs dominating at 21.0%.

## Trainees

In 2010 40.4% of trainees are aged 25 and under, with only 2.2% of trainees aged over 41 years, compared with 45.8% and 3.2% respectively for the profession as a whole.

Table 3 shows trainee registrations by ethnicity for the Yorkshire and Humberside region and for the entire profession. It demonstrates that there are proportionately more Asian trainees in the region in comparison with the profession as a whole.

The overwhelming majority (93.4%) of trainees work in law practices, with only 2.0% in commerce and industry and 3.7% in local and central government.

More than one-third (34.4%) of trainees are based in large firms of more than 26 partners and 28.5% are located within small firms of 2 to 4 partners. Almost the same proportion of trainees is employed by sole practices in this region compared with the profession as a whole (6.3% and 6.0% respectively).

## Private practice firms

There are 705 private practice head offices in the region. The distribution of size of firms across the region is shown in table 4. It illustrates that there are proportionately fewer sole practises in the region than in England and Wales and more firms with 2 to 4 partners compared with the profession as a whole.

## Further reading

*Trends in the solicitors' profession, Annual statistical report 2009.* Bill Cole, Nina Fletcher, Tara Chittenden and Joanne Cox. Strategic Research Unit. The Law Society. 2009.

**Table 1 Ethnicity of practising certificate holders**

	Yorkshire and Humberside		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
African Caribbean	30	0.4	798	0.7
Asian	496	6.3	7,438	6.6
Chinese	16	0.2	924	0.8
African	24	0.3	1,417	1.3
Other Ethnicity	78	0.9	2,117	1.9
White	6,753	85.9	90,337	79.7
Unknown	465	5.9	10,341	9.1
Total	7,862	100	113,372	100

**Chart A Age distribution of practising certificate holders**



**Table 2 Experience of practising certificate holders by years qualified**

	Yorkshire and Humberside		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
0-9	3,415	43.4	49,666	43.8
10-19	2,130	27.1	29,646	26.1
20-29	1,188	15.1	16,146	14.0
30-39	701	8.9	10,136	8.9
40-49	104	1.3	1,734	1.5
50+	14	0.2	291	0.3
Unknown	310	3.9	5,753	5.1
Total	7,862	100	113,372	100

**Table 3 Ethnicity of trainees**

	Yorkshire and Humberside		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
African Caribbean	0	0.0	45	0.7
Asian	63	15.4	787	11.5
Chinese	5	1.2	152	2.2
African	2	0.5	145	2.1
Other Ethnicity	9	2.2	274	4.0
White	307	75.1	4,972	72.4
Unknown	23	5.6	493	7.2
Total	409	100	6,868	100

**Table 4 Size of firms (head office)**

	Yorkshire and Humberside		All regions	
	No	%	No	%
Sole practice	287	40.7	4,583	45.1
2-4	312	44.3	4,185	41.1
5-10	68	9.6	898	8.8
11-25	30	4.3	310	3.1
26+	8	1.1	196	1.9
Total	705	100	10,172	100

Source: Law Society REGIS database