



## Categories of work undertaken by solicitors (January 2015)

The Law Society conducts research on the solicitors' profession in England and Wales. The categories of work data reflects the number of practice certificate (PC) holders working in private practice, government or the employed sector, undertaking specific categories or 'areas of law' and not the amount of time spent on different types of casework.

- The most frequently undertaken area of law undertaken in January 2015 was Business Affairs, 25,965 solicitors reported practising in this area.
- On average PC holders worked in three work categories.
- Women represented over half of solicitors working in 10 out of the 59 categories: Children Law (72%), Mediation Family (69%), Education (65%), Mental Health (61%), Family (61%), Welfare Benefits (60%), Pension Law (54%) Administrative and Public Law (56%), Medical Negligence (53%), Civil Liberties and Human Rights (52%).

No. of solicitors (practising in the area as of October 2014)	Work categories
15,001+ (5 areas)	Business Affairs; Commercial Property; Litigation - Commercial; Litigation-General; Residential Conveyancing
10,001-15,000 (9 areas)	Advocacy; Corporate Finance; Crime - General, Motor, Juvenile; Employment; Family: Landlord and Tenant - Residential; Mergers and Acquisitions; Personal Injury; Wills and Probate
5,001-10,000 (8 areas)	Administrative and Public Law; Banking Law; Children Law; Computer and IT Law; Financial and Investment Services; Insurance; Intellectual Property; Trusts
1,001-5,000 (32 areas)	Agricultural Law; Chancery; Charity Law; Civil Liberties / Human Rights; Common Law; Construction / Civil; Consumer Problems; Debt and Money Advice; Engineering; Education; Energy and Natural Resources; Environment Law; European Community Law; Fraud; Immigration – Asylum; Immigration and Nationality; Immigration - Other; Insolvency and Bankruptcy; International Law (Non-EC); Liquor Licensing / Gambling; Maritime / Shipping / Admiralty; Media / Entertainment Law; Mediation - Civil / Commercial; Mediation - Family; Medical Negligence; Mental Health; Neighbour Disputes; Planning Law; Professional Negligence; Transport - Road and Rail; Welfare Benefits; Taxation;
Fewer than 1,000 (5 areas)	Aviation; Libel and Defamation; Military Law; Pension Law; Travel and Tourism

**About this data:** This factsheet is based on a quarterly extract from the SRA database. SRA data is collected from solicitors as part of the practising certificate renewal exercise. If solicitors do not notify the SRA during the year, when their work categories change, this will not be reflected in the data. Work categories with less than 100 practising solicitors are not reported. Of the 129,922 PC holders registered in January 2015, 92.4% provided information on categories of work. This factsheet reflects post-PC renewal (2014-15) data.



## Work categories undertaken by PC holders registering practice areas (n=129,094 individual PC holders)

Work category	All count	% of PC holders (n=129,094)	Male solicitor count	% of males PC holders (n=64,672)	Female solicitor count	% of female PC holders (n=58,595)	% change over 2014 figures (Oct)
Administrative and Public Law	6,121	5.1	2,672	4.2	3,449	6.1	-0.1
Advocacy	10,329	8.6	5,493	8.7	4,836	8.5	0.0
Agricultural Law	1,207	1.0	787	1.2	420	0.7	0.0
Aviation	922	0.8	581	0.9	341	0.6	0.0
Banking Law	9,312	7.8	5,588	8.9	3,724	6.5	0.0
Business Affairs	25,965	21.6	16,868	26.7	9,097	16.0	-0.1
Chancery	1,111	0.9	786	1.2	325	0.6	0.0
Charity Law	2,160	1.8	1,259	2.0	901	1.6	0.0
Children Law	7,319	6.1	2,016	3.2	5,303	9.3	0.0
Civil Liberties / Human Rights	2,416	2.0	1,157	1.8	1,259	2.2	0.0
Commercial Property	20,855	17.4	12,772	20.2	8,083	14.2	0.0
Common Law	3,163	2.6	1,812	2.9	1,351	2.4	0.0
Computer and IT Law	5,527	4.6	3,234	5.1	2,293	4.0	0.0
Construction / Civil Engineering	3,938	3.3	2,505	4.0	1,433	2.5	0.0
Consumer Problems	2,469	2.1	1,430	2.3	1,039	1.8	0.0
Conveyancing Residential	16,314	13.6	9,544	15.1	6,770	11.9	-0.1
Corporate Finance	12,689	10.6	8,121	12.9	4,568	8.0	0.1
Crime - General, Motor, Juvenile	11,500	9.6	6,902	10.9	4,598	8.1	0.0
Debt and Money Advice	2,867	2.4	1,719	2.7	1,148	2.0	0.0
Education	1,376	1.1	478	0.8	898	1.6	0.0
Employment	13,571	11.3	7,063	11.2	6,508	11.4	-0.1
Energy and Natural Resources	3,731	3.1	2,312	3.7	1,419	2.5	0.0
Environment Law	2,443	2.0	1,418	2.2	1,025	1.8	0.0
European Community Law	3,416	2.8	1,853	2.9	1,563	2.7	0.0
Family	13,176	11.0	5,186	8.2	7,990	14.0	-0.1
Financial and Investment Services	7,206	6.0	4,191	6.6	3,015	5.3	0.0
Fraud	4,305	3.6	2,685	4.3	1,620	2.8	0.0
Immigration - Asylum	1,080	0.9	593	0.9	487	0.9	0.0
Immigration - Other	1,291	1.1	670	1.1	621	1.1	0.0
Immigration and Nationality	4,115	3.4	2,350	3.7	1,765	3.1	0.0
Insolvency and Bankruptcy	4,616	3.8	3,003	4.8	1,613	2.8	0.0
Insurance	5,572	4.6	3,185	5.0	2,387	4.2	0.0
Intellectual Property	8,873	7.4	4,995	7.9	3,878	6.8	0.0
International Law (Non-EC)	2,649	2.2	1,633	2.6	1,016	1.8	0.0
Landlord and Tenant - Residential	11,242	9.4	6,795	10.8	4,447	7.8	0.0
Libel and Defamation	959	0.8	602	1.0	357	0.6	0.0
Liquor Licensing / Gambling	2,468	2.1	1,662	2.6	806	1.4	0.0
Litigation - Commercial	19,601	16.3	12,102	19.2	7,499	13.2	0.1
Litigation - General	24,488	20.4	13,895	22.0	10,593	18.6	-0.1
Maritime / Shipping / Admiralty	2,010	1.7	1,283	2.0	727	1.3	0.0
Media / Entertainment Law	3,540	2.9	2,019	3.2	1,521	2.7	0.0
Mediation - Civil / Commercial	2,766	2.3	1,777	2.8	989	1.7	0.0
Mediation - Family	1,029	0.9	321	0.5	708	1.2	0.0



	All count	% of PC holders (n=129,094)	Male solicitor count	% of males PC holders (n=64,672)	Female solicitor count	% of female PC holders (n=58,595)	
Medical Negligence	3,547	3.0	1,659	2.6	1,888	3.3	0.0
Mental Health	1,775	1.5	696	1.1	1,079	1.9	0.0
Mergers and Acquisitions	11,239	9.4	7,323	11.6	3,916	6.9	0.1
Military Law	361	0.3	237	0.4	124	0.2	0.0
Neighbour Disputes	1,892	1.6	1,075	1.7	817	1.4	0.0
Pension Law	910	0.8	414	0.7	496	0.9	0.0
Personal Injury	12,756	10.6	6,967	11.0	5,789	10.2	-0.1
Planning Law	2,768	2.3	1,498	2.4	1,270	2.2	0.0
Professional Negligence	4,806	4.0	2,944	4.7	1,862	3.3	0.0
Taxation	4,822	4.0	2,530	4.0	2,292	4.0	0.0
Transport - Road and Rail	1,480	1.2	910	1.4	570	1.0	0.0
Travel and Tourism	456	0.4	268	0.4	188	0.3	0.0
Trusts	7,092	5.9	3,602	5.7	3,490	6.1	0.0
Welfare Benefits	1,139	0.9	469	0.7	670	1.2	0.0
Wills and Probate	13,581	11.3	7,351	11.6	6,230	10.9	0.0
Average work types undertaken	3.0		3.2		2.7		

- Compared to data from October 2014 (pre PC renewal data), there has been a marginal decrease in the proportion of PC holders undertaking the following areas
  - Administrative and public law
  - Business Affairs
  - Conveyancing – residential
  - Employment
  - Family
  - Litigation general
  - Personal injury
- The proportion of PC holders providing services on mergers and acquisitions increased marginally over the same period.

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