

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

CSO009

(Question Serial No. 2351)

Head: (94) Legal Aid Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Legal Aid (C. M. CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Director of Administration

Question:

Would the Government provide information on the progress and the amount of payments (including the payment of damages or compensation to aided persons and the payment to lawyers/experts/other parties) regarding legal aid cases handled by the Legal Aid Department over the past 3 years?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hiu-fung, Nick (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

The progress of civil and criminal cases assigned out by the Legal Aid Department (LAD) over the past 3 years is set out as follows:

Year	Assigned-out criminal cases concluded	Assigned-out civil cases concluded
2023	2 378	4 023
2024	2 577	3 893
2025	2 697	3 484

The amount of damages or compensation recovered and paid to aided persons by LAD over the past 3 financial years is set out as follows:

Financial Year	Amount of damages or compensation recovered and paid to aided persons by LAD (\$ million)
2022-23	1,122.9
2023-24	869.9
2024-25	905.9

The fees paid to lawyers/experts/other parties by LAD over the past 3 financial years is set out as follows:

Nature of expenses	2022-23 (\$ million)	2023-24 (\$ million)	2024-25 (\$ million)
Solicitor fees	644.8	586.2	576.5
Counsel fees	379.7	366.5	353.9
Doctor fees	9.2	8.9	8.5
Opposite party costs	59.9	52.5	52.3
Others (Note)	65.0	55.8	51.5
Total	1,158.6	1,069.9	1,042.7

Note: These include expenses for land and company searches, court fees and taxing fees, law costs draftsman fees, expert fees (excluding doctor fees), copying charges, bank charges and miscellaneous expenses.

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