

Table 23a

Introductory Note

1. The Estimate covers the cost of the Lord Chancellor's Department HQ and five associated offices (the Council on Tribunals, Law Commission, Legal Services Ombudsman, Official Solicitor and Public Trustee, and the Office of the Judge Advocate General), grant-in-aid paid in support of marriage guidance, conciliation and reconciliation, and payments to the General Commissioners of Income Tax in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
2. It covers the cost of the Court Service, including fees and salaries paid to some judicial officers and the court building programme. The agency provides administrative support to the Court of Appeal, the High Court, the Crown Court and the county courts of England and Wales and the tribunals for which the Lord Chancellor is responsible (the Banking and Building Societies Appeals Tribunal, Immigration Appellate Authorities, Lands Tribunal, Pension Appeal Tribunal, the Office of Social Security Commissioners, the Special Commissioners of Income Tax and the Value Added Tax Tribunal). Expenditure on the civil courts is largely offset by fees which are shown as appropriations in aid.
3. It covers the administration of private monies through the Public Guardianship Office. The full cost of the Public Guardianship Office including the cost of services provided by LCD HQ, is largely offset by fees and costs recovered.
4. It covers grants to the Criminal Defence Service and Community Legal Service, including the administrative grant-in-aid paid to the Legal Services Commission. The Commission administers civil legal aid, means assessment, advice and assistance schemes and pays criminal legal aid bills in the magistrates' courts. Expenditure on criminal legal aid in the higher courts is met directly by the Lord Chancellor's Department.
5. It covers the grant-in-aid paid to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children, giving advice to any court about any application made to it, making provision for the children to be represented and providing information, advice and other support for the children and their families.
6. It covers provision for the cost of acquitted defendants, private prosecution costs and witnesses' allowances payable from central funds and specific grants towards the costs of magistrates' courts, which are largely paid in advance of final audited claims.
7. Further details of the expenditure contained in Section A to N can be found in the Departmental Report (Cm 5107).
8. The salaries of the higher judiciary and stipendiary magistrates are met direct from the Consolidated Fund. This expenditure is estimated at £89 million for 2001-02.
9. A full set of symbols used in this Estimate may be found in table 24m in this booklet.