

PROCUREMENT OF CRIMINAL LEGAL AID

PUBLIC DEFENDERS

The LAA directly employs a number of criminal defence lawyers - known as public defenders - through the Public Defender Service. It only has four offices: Cheltenham, Darlington, Pontypridd and Swansea.

LAWYERS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

1. Contracts Only be able to carry out legally aided criminal defence work if they have a contract with the LAA. Contracted lawyers are paid on a graduated basis i.e. on fixed fees based, for example, on the nature of the alleged offence; the type of case (for example, if there is a guilty plea or if the case goes to full trial); and length of the trial. In 2022 there were 1,062 firms holding a criminal legal aid contract, 799 fewer than in 2011.

2. Competitive tendering There is a competitive tendering process for those seeking to provide services to clients that do not have their own lawyer.