Breakdown of solicitor firms

As well as regulating solicitors we also regulate solicitors' firms. These can range from sole practitioners to huge firms with a global presence and thousands of lawyers.

The chart below shows a breakdown of Recognised Sole Practices, Recognised Bodies and Licensed Bodies (also known as an Alternative Business Structure) as at the end of July 2025. The numbers are based on a count of head offices with current Recognised Sole Practice, Recognised Body or Licensed Body status.

Note that due to the time taken to process firm openings and closures, formed and closure dates can be back dated and therefore figures reported are subject to change.

Date(s)	Sole Practitioner	Partnership	Incorporated Company	LLP	Other	Total
July 2025	1,421 (16%)	985 (11%)	5,226 (57%)	1,441 (16%		9,102
June 2025	1,424 (16%)	992 (11%)	5,225 (57%)	1,447 (16%)		9,117
May 2025	1,430 (16%)	996 (11%)	5,211 (57%)	1,451 (16%)		9,127
April 2025	1,436 (16%)	999 (11%)	5,210 (57%)	1,451 (16%)		9,125
March 2025	1,453 (16%)	1,011 (11%)	5,213 (57%)	1,455 (16%)		9,161
February 2025	1,456 (16%)	1,010 (11%)	5,217 (57%)	1,453 (16%)		9,165
January 2025	1,464 (16%)	1,012 (11%)	5,212 (57%)	1,452 (16%)		9,169
December 2024	1,466 (16%)	1,020 (11%)	5,199 (57%)	1,452 (16%)		9,166
November 2024	1,472 (16%)	1,023 (11%)	5,194 (57%)	1,454 (16%)		9,172
October 2024	1,473 (16%)	1,025 (11%)	5,170 (56%)	1,450 (16%)		9,147
September 2024	1,500 (16%)	1,044 (11%)	5,232 (56%)	1,463 (16%)		9,269
August 2024	1,519 (16%)	1,053 (11%)	5,226 (56%)	1,461 (16%)		9,289
July 2024	1,525 (16%)	1,061 (11%)	5,221 (56%)	1,463 (16%)		9,301
June 2024	1,531 (16%)	1,068 (11%)	5,197 (56%)	1,462 (16%)		9,289

May 2024	1,534 (17%)	1,069 (12%)	5,197 (56%)	1,456 31 (16%) (0%)	9,287
April 2024	1,539 (17%)	1,071 (12%)	5,195 (56%)	1,454 32 (16%) (0%)	9,291
March	1,553	1,083	5,198	1,452 32	9,318
2024	(17%)	(12%)	(56%)	(16%) (0%)	
February	1,561	1,091	5,194	1,456 32	9,334
2024	(17%)	(12%)	(56%)	(16%) (0%)	
January	1,572	1,093	5,186	1,456 32	9,339
2024	(17%)	(12%)	(56%)	(16%) (0%)	
December	1,576	1,099	5,174	1,460 32	9,341
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(55%)	(16%) (0%)	
2023	1,588 (17%)	1,108 (12%)	5,174 (55%)	1,467 32 (16%) (0%)	9,369
October	1,590	1,113	5,176	1,466 32	9,377
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(55%)	(16%) (0%)	
September 2023	(17%)	1,123 (12%)	5,183 (55%)	1,472 33 (16%) (0%)	9,425
August	1,635	1,133	5,185	1,478 34	9,465
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(55%)	(16%) (0%)	
July 2023	1,638 (17%)	1,143 (12%)	5,175 (55%)	1,481 34 (16%) (0%)	9,471
June 2023	1,647 (17%)	1,151 (12%)	5,183 (55%)	1,479 34 (16%) (0%)	9,494
May 2023	1,649 (17%)	1,164 (12%)	5,171 (54%)	1,480 34 (16%) (0%)	9,498
April 2023	1,655 (17%)	1,167 (12%)	5,164 (54%)	1,480 34 (16%) (0%)	9,500
March	1,666	1,180	5,168	1,481 33	9,528
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
February	1,671	1,188	5,169	1,489 33	9,550
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
January	1,685	1,194	5,164	1,487 33	9,563
2023	(18%)	(12%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
2022	1,704 (18%)	1,207 (13%)	5,180 (54%)	1,497 34 (16%) (0%)	9,622
2022	1,723 (18%)	1,215 (13%)	5,171 (54%)	1,495 34 (16%) (0%)	9,623
October	1,716	1,227	5,161	1,498 34	9,636
2022	(18%)	(13%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
September 2022	(18%)	1,256 (13%)	5,170 (53%)	1,505 35 (15%) (0%)	9,721
August	1,768	1,260	5,160	1,501 35	9,724
2022	(18%)	(13%)	(53%)	(15%) (0%)	

July 2022	1,777 (18%)	1,265 (13%)	5,157 (53%)	1,497 35 (15%) (0%)	9,731
June 2022	1,788 (18%)	1,278 (13%)	5,147 (53%)	1,497 35 (15%) (0%)	9,745
May 2022	1,801 (18%)	1,288 (13%)	5,137 (53%)	1,497 35 (15%) (0%)	9,758
April 2022	1,806 (19%)	1,297 (13%)	5,137 (53%)	1,495 35 (15%) (0%)	9,770
March 2022	1,816 (19%)	1,306 (13%)	5,157 (53%)	1,499 35 (15%) (0%)	9,813
February 2022	1,825 (19%)	1,315 (13%)	5,118 (52%)	1,489 35 (15%) (0%)	9,782
January 2022	1,834 (19%)	1,322 (14%)	5,108 (52%)	1,494 34 (15%) (0%)	9,792
December 2021	(19%)	1,337 (14%)	5,096 (52%)	1,493 34 (15%) (0%)	9,809
November 2021	(19%)	1,348 (14%)	5,090 (52%)	1,495 34 (15%) (0%)	9,826
October 2021	1,878 (19%)	1,352 (14%)	5,093 (52%)	1,503 34 (15%) (0%)	9,860
September 2021	(19%)	1,366 (14%)	5,115 (51%)	1,508 33 (15%) (0%)	9,943
August 2021	1,933 (19%)	1,378 (14%)	5,100 (51%)	1,506 33 (15%) (0%)	9,950
July 2021	1,940 (20%)	1,384 (14%)	5,085 (51%)	1,501 33 (15%) (0%)	9,943
June 2021	1,952 (20%)	1,388 (14%)	5,080 (51%)	1,505 33 (15%) (0%)	9,958
May 2021	1,966 (20%)	1,401 (14%)	5,067 (51%)	1,506 34 (15%) (0%)	9,974
April 2021	1,973 (20%)	1,411 (14%)	5,042 (51%)	1,504 34 (15%) (0%)	9,964
March 2021	1,986 (20%)	1,431 (14%)	5,052 (50%)	1,509 33 (15%) (0%)	10,011
February 2021	2,006 (20%)	1,444 (14%)	5,049 (50%)	1,509 34 (15%) (0%)	10,042
January 2021	2,021 (20%)	1,450 (14%)	5,042 (50%)	1,514 34 (15%) (0%)	10,061
December 2020	(20%)	1,455 (14%)	5,021 (50%)	1,518 35 (15%) (0%)	10,056
2020	2,036 (20%)	1,460 (14%)	5,021 (50%)	1,521 35 (15%) (0%)	10,073
October 2020	2,060 (20%)	1,470 (15%)	5,015 (50%)	1,526 36 (15%) (0%)	10,107

September	2,073	1,477	5,018	1,530 37	10,135
2020	(20%)	(15%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
August	2,101	1,490	4,972	1,526 37	10,126
2020	(21%)	(15%)	(49%)	(15%) (0%)	10,120
July 2020	2,114 (21%)	1,499 (15%)	4,955 (49%)	1,527 37 (15%) (0%)	10,132
June 2020	2,118 (21%)	1,495 (15%)	4,971 (49%)	1,531 37 (15%) (0%)	10,152
May 2020	2,125 (21%)	1,505 (15%)	4,968 (49%)	1,535 38 (15%) (0%)	10,171
April 2020	2,132 (21%)	1,511 (15%)	4,968 (49%)	1,533 38 (15%) (0%)	10,182
March	2,143	1,528	4,960	1,537 37	10,205
2020	(21%)	(15%)	(49%)	(15%) (0%)	
February	2,159	1,534	4,952	1,534 38	10,218
2020	(21%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
January	2,162	1,546	4,950	1,537 38	10,233
2020	(21%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
December	2,189	1,566	4,949	1,536 38	10,278
2019	(21%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
November	2,198	1,571	4,951	1,543 38	10,301
2019	(21%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
October	2,217	1,584	4,952	1,549 39	10,341
2019	(21%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
September	2,245	1,597	4,945	1,551 38	10,376
2019	(22%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
August	2,266	1,599	4,927	1,551 40	10,383
2019	(22%)	(15%)	(48%)	(15%) (0%)	
July 2019	2,277 (22%)	1,612 (16%)	4,907 (47%)	1,551 38 (15%) (0%)	10,385
May 2019	2,297 (22%)	1,635 (16%)	4,873 (47%)	1,558 37 (15%) (0%)	10,400
April 2019	2,316 (22%)	1,637 (16%)	4,846 (47%)	1,562 38 (15%) (0%)	10,399
March	2,322	1,647	4,826	1,553 38	10,386
2019	(22%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	
February	2,325	1,649	4,828	1,544 38	10,384
2019	(22%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	
January	2,341	1,651	4,812	1,542 37	10,383
2019	(23%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	
November	2,347	1,661	4,797	1,538 38	10,381
2018	(23%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	10,407
October	2,367	1,673	4,788	1,542 37	
2018	(23%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	10,407

September 2018	2,392 (23%)	1,696 (16%)	4,780 (46%)	1,551 37 (15%) (0%)	10,456
August	2,413	1,708	4,745	1,552 39	10,457
2018	(23%)	(16%)	(45%)	(15%) (0%)	10,137
July 2018	2,405 (23%)	1,714 (16%)	4,710 (45%)	1,546 40 (15%) (0%)	10,415
June2018	2,415 (23%)	1,719 (17%)	4,677 (45%)	1,543 40 (15%) (0%)	10,394
May 2018	2,421 (23%)	1,725 (17%)	4,665 (45%)	1,544 38 (15%) (0%)	10,393
April 2018	2,420 (23%)	1,739 (17%)	4,641 (45%)	1,546 39 (15%) (0%)	10,385
March 2018	2,434 (23%)	1,759 (17%)	4,632 (44%)	1,550 39 (15%) (0%)	10,414
February	2,433	1,763	4,626	1,551 38	
2018	(23%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	10,411
January 2018	2,451 (24%)	1,769 (17%)	4,600 (44%)	1,557 38 (15%) (0%)	10,415
December 2017	2,462 (24%)	1,777 (17%)	4,580 (44%)	1,551 38 (15%) (0%)	10,408
November 2017	2,476 (24%)	1,785 (17%)	4,562 (44%)	1,553 38 (15%) (0%)	10,414
October 2017	2,489 (24%)	1,799 (17%)	4,537 (44%)	1,557 38 (15%) (0%)	10,420
September 2017	•	1,827 (17%)	4,545 (43%)	1,561 39 (15%) (0%)	10,506
August 2017	2,545 (24%)	1,831 (17%)	4,523 (43%)	1,560 38 (15%) (0%)	10,497
July 2017	2,549 (24%)	1,841 (18%)	4,482 (43%)	1,559 40 (15%) (0%)	10,471
June2017	2,557 (24%)	1,862 (18%)	4,444 (42%)	1,565 40 (15%) (0%)	10,468
May 2017	2,553 (24%)	1,878 (18%)	4,419 (42%)	1,567 41 (15%) (0%)	10,458
April 2017	2,558 (25%)	1,898 (18%)	4,366 (42%)	1,562 41 (15%) (0%)	10,425
March	2,573	1,915	4,328	1,556 41	10 410
2017	(25%)	(18%)	(42%)	(15%) (0%)	10,413
February 2017	2,582 (25%)	1,921 (18%)	4,290 (41%)	1,552 42 (15%) (0%)	10,387
January 2017	2,591 (25%)	1,930 (19%)	4,260 (41%)	1,549 40 (15%) (0%)	10,370
December 2016		1,947 (19%)	4,215 (41%)	1,551 44 (15%) (0%)	10,354

November 2016	2,610 (25%)	1,959 (19%)	4,225 (41%)	1,554 45 (15%) (0%)	10,393
October	2,627	1,978	4,205	1,559 46	10 415
2016	(25%)	(19%)	(40%)	(15%) (0%)	10,415
September 2016	2,663 (25%)	2,004 (19%)	4,203 (40%)	1,568 45 (15%) (0%)	10,483
August	2,681	2,032	4,178	1,574 45	
2016	(26%)	(19%)	(40%)	(15%) (0%)	10,510
July 2016	2,687	2,046	4,133	1,570 46	10,482
	(26%) 2,693	(20%) 2,047	(39%) 4,133	(15%) (0%) 1,570 46	
June 2016	(26%)	(20%)	(40%)	(15%) (0%)	10,489
May 2016	2,705	2,076	4,039	1,562 47	10,429
May 2010	(26%)	(20%)	(39%)	(15%) (0%)	10,423
April 2016	2,703 (26%)	2,107 (20%)	3,986 (38%)	1,558 53 (15%) (1%)	10,407
March	2,710	2,123	3,931	1,550 51	10 265
2016	(26%)	(20%)	(38%)	(15%) (0%)	10,365
February 2016	2,704	2,133	3,900	1,545 48	10,330
January	(26%) 2,704	(21%) 2,144	(38%) 3,859	(15%) (0%) 1,545 42	
2016	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	10,294
December	•	2,163	3,842	1,545 42	10,306
2015	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	10,500
November 2015	(26%)	2,180 (21%)	3,824 (37%)	1,543 42 (15%) (0%)	10,298
October	2,725	2,203	3,813	1,550 45	10 226
2015	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	10,336
September 2015	2,748 (26%)	2,217 (21%)	3,813 (37%)	1,550 45 (15%) (0%)	10,373
August	2,793	2,253	3,788	1,564 46	
2015	(27%)	(22%)	(36%)	(15%) (0%)	10,444
July 2015	2,796	2,278	3,729	1,563 46	10,412
	(27%) 2,803	(22%) 2,307	(36%) 3,677	(15%) (0%) 1,561 46	-,
June 2015	(27%)	(22%)	(35%)	(15%) (0%)	10,394
May 2015	2,798	2,328	3,634	1,557 47	10,364
May 2013	(27%)	(22%)	(35%)	(15%) (0%)	10,504
April 2015	2,798 (27%)	2,345 (23%)	3,601 (35%)	1,557 47 (15%) (0%)	10,348
March	2,789	2,354	3,567	1,560 46	10 21 6
2015	(27%)	(23%)	(35%)	(15%) (0%)	10,316
February	2,793	2,367	3,547	1,564 48	10,319
2015	(27%)	(23%)	(34%)	(15%) (0%)	-,

January	2,801	2,373	3,527	1,561 50	10,312
2015	(27%)	(23%)	(34%)	(15%) (0%)	
December 2014		2,386 (23%)	3,501 (34%)	1,566 62 (15%) (1%)	10,324
November 2014		2,402 (23%)	3,503 (34%)	1,571 73 (15%) (1%)	10,360
October	2,856	2,419	3,509	1,577 83	10,444
2014	(27%)	(23%)	(34%)	(15%) (1%)	
September	2,911	2,453	3,498	1,589 81	10,532
2014	(28%)	(23%)	(33%)	(15%) (1%)	
August	2,935	2,477	3,492	1,593 96	10,593
2014	(28%)	(23%)	(33%)	(15%) (1%)	
July 2014	2,937 (28%)	2,502 (24%)	3,462 (33%)	1,591 100 (15%) (1%)	10,592
June 2014	2,941 (28%)	2,508 (24%)	3,424 (32%)	1,589 109 (15%) (1%)	10,571
May 2014	2,938 (28%)	2,508 (24%)	3,391 (32%)	1,585 97 (15%) (1%)	10,519
April 2014	2,947 (28%)	2,540 (24%)	3,363 (32%)	1,590 106 (15%) (1%)	10,546
March	2,961	2,570	3,327	1,606 126	10,590
2014	(28%)	(24%)	(31%)	(15%) (1%)	
February	2,967	2,576	3,301	1,593 117	10,554
2014	(28%)	(24%)	(31%)	(15%) (1%)	
January	2,978	2,606	3,284	1,591 130	10,589
2014	(28%)	(25%)	(31%)	(15%) (1%)	
December	3,056	2,633	3,219	1,594 141	10,643
2013	(29%)	(25%)	(30%)	(15%) (1%)	
November 2013	(29%)	2,652 (25%)	3,203 (30%)	1,595 131 (15%) (1%)	10,650
October	3,101	2,681	3,203	1,603 136	10,724
2013	(29%)	(25%)	(30%)	(15%) (1%)	
September	3,108	2,681	3,198	1,600 139	10,726
2013	(29%)	(25%)	(30%)	(15%) (1%)	
August	3,233	2,767	3,172	1,587 192	10,951
2013	(30%)	(25%)	(29%)	(14%) (2%)	
July 2013	3,225 (30%)	2,783 (26%)	3,103 (29%)	1,559 196 (14%) (2%)	10,866
June 2013	3,248 (30%)	2,808 (26%)	3,064 (28%)	1,552 203 (14%) (2%)	10,875
May 2013	3,252 (30%)	2,836 (26%)	3,046 (28%)	1,545 188 (14%) (2%)	10,867
April 2013	3,255 (30%)	2,859 (26%)	3,014 (28%)	1,539 203 (14%) (2%)	10,870

March	3,273	2,895	2,974	1,529 184	10,855
2013	(30%)	(27%)	(27%)	(14%) (2%)	
February	3,293	2,899	2,954	1,529 152	10,827
2013	(30%)	(27%)	(27%)	(14%) (1%)	
January	3,309	2,911	2,915	1,532 152	10,819
2013	(31%)	(27%)	(27%)	(14%) (1%)	
December	3,351	2,943	2,901	1,539 158	10,892
2012	(31%)	(27%)	(27%)	(14%) (1%)	
November 2012	3,370 (31%)	2,965 (27%)	2,904 (27%)	1,540 168 (14%) (2%)	10,947
October	3,377	2,896	2,980	1,541 182	10,976
2012	(31%)	(26%)	(27%)	(14%) (2%)	
September	3,421	3,045	2,869	1,548 234	11,117
2012	(31%)	(27%)	(26%)	(14%) (2%)	
August	3,430	3,054	2,862	1,546 223	11,115
2012	(31%)	(27%)	(26%)	(14%) (2%)	
July 2012	3,487 (31%)	3,115 (28%)	2,843 (25%)	1,550 177 (14%) (2%)	11,172
June 2012	3,530 (31%)	3,185 (28%)	2,846 (25%)	1,556 187 (14%) (2%)	11,304
May 2012	3,556 (31%)	3,219 (28%)	2,811 (25%)	1,555 228 (14%) (2%)	11,369
April 2012	3,557 (32%)	3,227 (29%)	2,739 (24%)	1,537 206 (14%) (2%)	11,266
March	3,574	3,255	2,745	1,549 108	11,231
2012	(32%)	(29%)	(24%)	(14%) (1%)	
February	3,568	3,258	2,730	1,541 85	11,182
2012	(32%)	(29%)	(24%)	(14%) (1%)	
January	3,543	3,233	2,671	1,511 170	11,128
2012	(32%)	(29%)	(24%)	(14%) (2%)	
December 2011	(32%)	3,233 (29%)	2,636 (24%)	1,495 155 (14%) (1%)	11,053
November 2011	(32%)	3,226 (30%)	2,583 (24%)	1,481 127 (14%) (1%)	10,925
October	3,545	3,257	2,526	1,474 115	10,917
2011	(32%)	(30%)	(23%)	(14%) (1%)	
September 2011	(33%)	3,306 (30%)	2,497 (23%)	1,477 117 (13%) (1%)	11,009
August	3,628	3,335	2,457	1,471 126	11,017
2011	(33%)	(30%)	(22%)	(13%) (1%)	
July 2011	3,640 (33%)	3,309 (30%)	2,400 (22%)	1,398 120 (13%) (1%)	10,867
June 2011	3,656 (33%)	3,338 (30%)	2,339 (21%)	1,392 115 (13%) (1%)	10,840

May 2011	3,667 (34%)	3,374 (31%)	2,299 (21%)	1,376 104 (13%) (1%)	10,820
April 2011	3,675 (34%)	3,414 (31%)	2,220 (20%)	1,349 100 (12%) (1%)	10,758
March 2011	3,692 (34%)	3,446 (32%)	2,208 (20%)	1,356 101 (12%) (1%)	10,803
February 2011	3,711 (34%)	3,473 (32%)	2,175 (20%)	1,343 101 (12%) (1%)	10,803
January 2011	3,733 (34%)	3,487 (32%)	2,107 (19%)	1,336 98 (12%) (1%)	10,761
December 2010	3,771 (35%)	3,511 (32%)	2,079 (19%)	1,339 89 (12%) (1%)	10,789
November 2010	3,783 (35%)	3,524 (32%)	2,057 (19%)	1,327 88 (12%) (1%)	10,779
October 2010	3,797 (35%)	3,521 (33%)	1,989 (18%)	1,305 84 (12%) (1%)	10,696
September 2010	3,880 (35%)	3,561 (32%)	2,001 (18%)	1,309 85 (12%) (1%)	10,836
August 2010	4,042 (36%)	3,613 (33%)	1,945 (18%)	1,296 80 (12%) (1%)	10,976
July 2010	4,030 (37%)	3,620 (33%)	1,898 (17%)	1,262 75 (11%) (1%)	10,885