

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 January 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
February 2025	1,459 (16%)	1,012 (11%)	5,219 (57%)	1,459 (16%)	29 (0%)	9,178
January 2025	1,462 (16%)	1,014 (11%)	5,212 (57%)	1,459 (16%)	29 (0%)	9,176
December 2024	1,468 (16%)	1,024 (11%)	5,201 (57%)	1,457 (16%)	29 (0%)	9,179
November 2024	1,473 (16%)	1,025 (11%)	5,197 (57%)	1,458 (16%)	29 (0%)	9,182
October 2024	1,484 (16%)	1,032 (11%)	5,194 (56%)	1,458 (16%)	29 (0%)	9,197
September 2024	1,500 (16%)	1,044 (11%)	5,232 (56%)	1,463 (16%)	30 (0%)	9,269
August 2024	1,519 (16%)	1,053 (11%)	5,226 (56%)	1,461 (16%)	30 (0%)	9,289
July 2024	1,525 (16%)	1,061 (11%)	5,221 (56%)	1,463 (16%)	31 (0%)	9,301
June 2024	1,531 (16%)	1,068 (11%)	5,197 (56%)	1,462 (16%)	31 (0%)	9,289
May 2024	1,534 (17%)	1,069 (12%)	5,197 (56%)	1,456 (16%)	31 (0%)	9,287
April 2024	1,539 (17%)	1,071 (12%)	5,195 (56%)	1,454 (16%)	32 (0%)	9,291
March 2024	1,553 (17%)	1,083 (12%)	5,198 (56%)	1,452 (16%)	32 (0%)	9,318
February 2024	1,561 (17%)	1,091 (12%)	5,194 (56%)	1,456 (16%)	32 (0%)	9,334
January 2024	1,572 (17%)	1,093 (12%)	5,186 (56%)	1,456 (16%)	32 (0%)	9,339
December 2023	1,576 (17%)	1,099 (12%)	5,174 (55%)	1,460 (16%)	32 (0%)	9,341
November 2023	1,588 (17%)	1,108 (12%)	5,174 (55%)	1,467 (16%)	32 (0%)	9,369

October 2023	1,590 (17%)	1,113 (12%)	5,176 (55%)	1,466 32 (16%) (0%)	9,377
September 2023	1,614 (17%)	1,123 (12%)	5,183 (55%)	1,472 33 (16%) (0%)	9,425
August 2023	1,635 (17%)	1,133 (12%)	5,185 (55%)	1,478 34 (16%) (0%)	9,465
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 2023	1,666 (17%)	1,180 (12%)	5,168 (54%)	1,481 33 (16%) (0%)	9,528
February 2023	1,671 (17%)	1,188 (12%)	5,169 (54%)	1,489 33 (16%) (0%)	9,550
January 2023	1,685 (18%)	1,194 (12%)	5,164 (54%)	1,487 33 (16%) (0%)	9,563
December 2022	1,704 (18%)	1,207 (13%)	5,180 (54%)	1,497 34 (16%) (0%)	9,622
November 2022	1,723 (18%)	1,215 (13%)	5,171 (54%)	1,495 34 (16%) (0%)	9,623
October 2022	1,716 (18%)	1,227 (13%)	5,161 (54%)	1,498 34 (16%) (0%)	9,636
September 2022	1,755 (18%)	1,256 (13%)	5,170 (53%)	1,505 35 (15%) (0%)	9,721
August 2022	1,768 (18%)	1,260 (13%)	5,160 (53%)	1,501 35 (15%) (0%)	9,724
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	1,849 (19%)	1,337 (14%)	5,096 (52%)	1,493 34 (15%) (0%)	9,809
November 2021	1,859 (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	1,921 (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	2,027 (20%)	1,455 (14%)	5,021 (50%)	1,518 35 (15%) (0%)	10,056
November 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 2020	2,073 (20%)	1,477 (15%)	5,018 (50%)	1,530 37 (15%) (0%)	10,135
August 2020	2,101 (21%)	1,490 (15%)	4,972 (49%)	1,526 37 (15%) (0%)	10,126
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 2020	2,143 (21%)	1,528 (15%)	4,960 (49%)	1,537 37 (15%) (0%)	10,205
February 2020	2,159 (21%)	1,534 (15%)	4,952 (48%)	1,534 38 (15%) (0%)	10,218
January 2020	2,162 (21%)	1,546 (15%)	4,950 (48%)	1,537 38 (15%) (0%)	10,233
December 2019	2,189 (21%)	1,566 (15%)	4,949 (48%)	1,536 38 (15%) (0%)	10,278
November 2019	2,198 (21%)	1,571 (15%)	4,951 (48%)	1,543 38 (15%) (0%)	10,301

October 2019	2,217 (21%)	1,584 (15%)	4,952 (48%)	1,549 39 (15%) (0%)	10,341
September 2019	2,245 (22%)	1,597 (15%)	4,945 (48%)	1,551 38 (15%) (0%)	10,376
August 2019	2,266 (22%)	1,599 (15%)	4,927 (48%)	1,551 40 (15%) (0%)	10,383
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 2019	2,322 (22%)	1,647 (16%)	4,826 (46%)	1,553 38 (15%) (0%)	10,386
February 2019	2,325 (22%)	1,649 (16%)	4,828 (46%)	1,544 38 (15%) (0%)	10,384
January 2019	2,341 (23%)	1,651 (16%)	4,812 (46%)	1,542 37 (15%) (0%)	10,383
November 2018	2,347 (23%)	1,661 (16%)	4,797 (46%)	1,538 38 (15%) (0%)	10,381
October 2018	2,367 (23%)	1,673 (16%)	4,788 (46%)	1,542 37 (15%) (0%)	10,407
September 2018	2,392 (23%)	1,696 (16%)	4,780 (46%)	1,551 37 (15%) (0%)	10,456
August 2018	2,413 (23%)	1,708 (16%)	4,745 (45%)	1,552 39 (15%) (0%)	10,457
July 2018	2,405 (23%)	1,714 (16%)	4,710 (45%)	1,546 40 (15%) (0%)	10,415
June 2018	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 2018	2,433 (23%)	1,763 (17%)	4,626 (44%)	1,551 38 (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	2,534 (24%)	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
June 2017	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 2017	2,573 (25%)	1,915 (18%)	4,328 (42%)	1,556 41 (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	2,597 (25%)	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 2016	2,627 (25%)	1,978 (19%)	4,205 (40%)	1,559 46 (15%) (0%)	10,415
September 2016	2,663 (25%)	2,004 (19%)	4,203 (40%)	1,568 45 (15%) (0%)	10,483
August 2016	2,681 (26%)	2,032 (19%)	4,178 (40%)	1,574 45 (15%) (0%)	10,510
July 2016	2,687 (26%)	2,046 (20%)	4,133 (39%)	1,570 46 (15%) (0%)	10,482
June 2016	2,693 (26%)	2,047 (20%)	4,133 (40%)	1,570 46 (15%) (0%)	10,489
May 2016	2,705 (26%)	2,076 (20%)	4,039 (39%)	1,562 47 (15%) (0%)	10,429
April 2016	2,703 (26%)	2,107 (20%)	3,986 (38%)	1,558 53 (15%) (1%)	10,407
March 2016	2,710 (26%)	2,123 (20%)	3,931 (38%)	1,550 51 (15%) (0%)	10,365
February 2016	2,704 (26%)	2,133 (21%)	3,900 (38%)	1,545 48 (15%) (0%)	10,330
January 2016	2,704 (26%)	2,144 (21%)	3,859 (37%)	1,545 42 (15%) (0%)	10,294
December 2015	2,714 (26%)	2,163 (21%)	3,842 (37%)	1,545 42 (15%) (0%)	10,306
November 2015	2,709 (26%)	2,180 (21%)	3,824 (37%)	1,543 42 (15%) (0%)	10,298
October 2015	2,725 (26%)	2,203 (21%)	3,813 (37%)	1,550 45 (15%) (0%)	10,336
September 2015	2,748 (26%)	2,217 (21%)	3,813 (37%)	1,550 45 (15%) (0%)	10,373

August 2015	2,793 (27%)	2,253 (22%)	3,788 (36%)	1,564 46 (15%) (0%)	10,444
July 2015	2,796 (27%)	2,278 (22%)	3,729 (36%)	1,563 46 (15%) (0%)	10,412
June 2015	2,803 (27%)	2,307 (22%)	3,677 (35%)	1,561 46 (15%) (0%)	10,394
May 2015	2,798 (27%)	2,328 (22%)	3,634 (35%)	1,557 47 (15%) (0%)	10,364
April 2015	2,798 (27%)	2,345 (23%)	3,601 (35%)	1,557 47 (15%) (0%)	10,348
March 2015	2,789 (27%)	2,354 (23%)	3,567 (35%)	1,560 46 (15%) (0%)	10,316
February 2015	2,793 (27%)	2,367 (23%)	3,547 (34%)	1,564 48 (15%) (0%)	10,319
January 2015	2,801 (27%)	2,373 (23%)	3,527 (34%)	1,561 50 (15%) (0%)	10,312
December 2014	2,809 (27%)	2,386 (23%)	3,501 (34%)	1,566 62 (15%) (1%)	10,324
November 2014	2,811 (27%)	2,402 (23%)	3,503 (34%)	1,571 73 (15%) (1%)	10,360
October 2014	2,856 (27%)	2,419 (23%)	3,509 (34%)	1,577 83 (15%) (1%)	10,444
September 2014	2,911 (28%)	2,453 (23%)	3,498 (33%)	1,589 81 (15%) (1%)	10,532
August 2014	2,935 (28%)	2,477 (23%)	3,492 (33%)	1,593 96 (15%) (1%)	10,593
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 2014	2,961 (28%)	2,570 (24%)	3,327 (31%)	1,606 126 (15%) (1%)	10,590
February 2014	2,967 (28%)	2,576 (24%)	3,301 (31%)	1,593 117 (15%) (1%)	10,554
January 2014	2,978 (28%)	2,606 (25%)	3,284 (31%)	1,591 130 (15%) (1%)	10,589
December 2013	3,056 (29%)	2,633 (25%)	3,219 (30%)	1,594 141 (15%) (1%)	10,643
November 2013	3,069 (29%)	2,652 (25%)	3,203 (30%)	1,595 131 (15%) (1%)	10,650
October 2013	3,101 (29%)	2,681 (25%)	3,203 (30%)	1,603 136 (15%) (1%)	10,724
September 2013	3,108 (29%)	2,681 (25%)	3,198 (30%)	1,600 139 (15%) (1%)	10,726

August 2013	3,233 (30%)	2,767 (25%)	3,172 (29%)	1,587 192 (14%) (2%)	10,951
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 2013	3,273 (30%)	2,895 (27%)	2,974 (27%)	1,529 184 (14%) (2%)	10,855
February 2013	3,293 (30%)	2,899 (27%)	2,954 (27%)	1,529 152 (14%) (1%)	10,827
January 2013	3,309 (31%)	2,911 (27%)	2,915 (27%)	1,532 152 (14%) (1%)	10,819
December 2012	3,351 (31%)	2,943 (27%)	2,901 (27%)	1,539 158 (14%) (1%)	10,892
November 2012	3,370 (31%)	2,965 (27%)	2,904 (27%)	1,540 168 (14%) (2%)	10,947
October 2012	3,377 (31%)	2,896 (26%)	2,980 (27%)	1,541 182 (14%) (2%)	10,976
September 2012	3,421 (31%)	3,045 (27%)	2,869 (26%)	1,548 234 (14%) (2%)	11,117
August 2012	3,430 (31%)	3,054 (27%)	2,862 (26%)	1,546 223 (14%) (2%)	11,115
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 2012	3,574 (32%)	3,255 (29%)	2,745 (24%)	1,549 108 (14%) (1%)	11,231
February 2012	3,568 (32%)	3,258 (29%)	2,730 (24%)	1,541 85 (14%) (1%)	11,182
January 2012	3,543 (32%)	3,233 (29%)	2,671 (24%)	1,511 170 (14%) (2%)	11,128
December 2011	3,534 (32%)	3,233 (29%)	2,636 (24%)	1,495 155 (14%) (1%)	11,053
November 2011	3,508 (32%)	3,226 (30%)	2,583 (24%)	1,481 127 (14%) (1%)	10,925
October 2011	3,545 (32%)	3,257 (30%)	2,526 (23%)	1,474 115 (14%) (1%)	10,917
September 2011	3,612 (33%)	3,306 (30%)	2,497 (23%)	1,477 117 (13%) (1%)	11,009

August 2011	3,628 (33%)	3,335 (30%)	2,457 (22%)	1,471 126 (13%) (1%)	11,017
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