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 October 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
October 2025	1,367 (15%)	957 (11%)	5,196 (58%)	1,438 (16%)	29 (16%)	8,987
September 2025	1,396 (15%)	966 (11%)	5,215 (58%)	1,439 (16%)		9,045
August 2025	1,417 (16%)	972 (11%)	5,212 (57%)	1,439 (16%)		9,069
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	1,466	1,020	5,199	1,452 29	9,166
2024	(16%)	(11%)	(57%)	(16%) (0%)	
November	1,472	1,023	5,194	1,454 29	9,172
2024	(16%)	(11%)	(57%)	(16%) (0%)	
October	1,473	1,025	5,170	1,450 29	9,147
2024	(16%)	(11%)	(56%)	(16%) (0%)	
September	1,500	1,044	5,232	1,463 30	9,269
2024	(16%)	(11%)	(56%)	(16%) (0%)	
August	1,519	1,053	5,226	1,461 30	9,289
2024	(16%)	(11%)	(56%)	(16%) (0%)	
July 2024	1,525 (16%)	1,061 (11%)	5,221 (56%)	1,463 31 (16%) (0%)	9,301
June 2024	1,531 (16%)	1,068 (11%)	5,197 (56%)	1,462 31 (16%) (0%)	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%)	
November	1,588	1,108	5,174	1,467 32	9,369
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(55%)	(16%) (0%)	

October	1,590	1,113	5,176	1,466 32	9,377
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(55%)	(16%) (0%)	
September	1,614	1,123	5,183	1,472 33	9,425
2023	(17%)	(12%)	(55%)	(16%) (0%)	
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%)	
December	1,704	1,207	5,180	1,497 34	9,622
2022	(18%)	(13%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
November	1,723	1,215	5,171	1,495 34	9,623
2022	(18%)	(13%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
October	1,716	1,227	5,161	1,498 34	9,636
2022	(18%)	(13%)	(54%)	(16%) (0%)	
September	1,755	1,256	5,170	1,505 35	9,721
2022	(18%)	(13%)	(53%)	(15%) (0%)	
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	1,849 (19%)	1,337 (14%)	5,096 (52%)	1,493 34 (15%) (0%)	9,809
November 2021		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	1,986	1,431	5,052	1,509 33	10,011
2021	(20%)	(14%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
February	2,006	1,444	5,049	1,509 34	10,042
2021	(20%)	(14%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
January	2,021	1,450	5,042	1,514 34	10,061
2021	(20%)	(14%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
December	2,027	1,455	5,021	1,518 35	10,056
2020	(20%)	(14%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
November	2,036	1,460	5,021	1,521 35	10,073
2020	(20%)	(14%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
October	2,060	1,470	5,015	1,526 36	10,107
2020	(20%)	(15%)	(50%)	(15%) (0%)	
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%)	
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%)	
October	2,367	1,673	4,788	1,542 37	10,407
2018	(23%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	

September	2,392	1,696	4,780	1,551 37	10,456
2018	(23%)	(16%)	(46%)	(15%) (0%)	
August	2,413	1,708	4,745	1,552 39	10,457
2018	(23%)	(16%)	(45%)	(15%) (0%)	
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	2,434	1,759	4,632	1,550 39	10,414
2018	(23%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	
February	2,433	1,763	4,626	1,551 38	10,411
2018	(23%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	
January	2,451	1,769	4,600	1,557 38	10,415
2018	(24%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	
December	2,462	1,777	4,580	1,551 38	10,408
2017	(24%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	
November	2,476	1,785	4,562	1,553 38	10,414
2017	(24%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	
October	2,489	1,799	4,537	1,557 38	10,420
2017	(24%)	(17%)	(44%)	(15%) (0%)	
September	2,534	1,827	4,545	1,561 39	10,506
2017	(24%)	(17%)	(43%)	(15%) (0%)	
August	2,545	1,831	4,523	1,560 38	10,497
2017	(24%)	(17%)	(43%)	(15%) (0%)	
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	10,413
2017	(25%)	(18%)	(42%)	(15%) (0%)	
February	2,582	1,921	4,290	1,552 42	10,387
2017	(25%)	(18%)	(41%)	(15%) (0%)	
January	2,591	1,930	4,260	1,549 40	10,370
2017	(25%)	(19%)	(41%)	(15%) (0%)	
December	2,597	1,947	4,215	1,551 44	10,354
2016	(25%)	(19%)	(41%)	(15%) (0%)	
November	2,610	1,959	4,225	1,554 45	10,393
2016	(25%)	(19%)	(41%)	(15%) (0%)	
October	2,627	1,978	4,205	1,559 46	10,415
2016	(25%)	(19%)	(40%)	(15%) (0%)	
September	2,663	2,004	4,203	1,568 45	10,483
2016	(25%)	(19%)	(40%)	(15%) (0%)	
August	2,681	2,032	4,178	1,574 45	10,510
2016	(26%)	(19%)	(40%)	(15%) (0%)	
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	2,710	2,123	3,931	1,550 51	10,365
2016	(26%)	(20%)	(38%)	(15%) (0%)	
February	2,704	2,133	3,900	1,545 48	10,330
2016	(26%)	(21%)	(38%)	(15%) (0%)	
January	2,704	2,144	3,859	1,545 42	10,294
2016	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	
December	2,714	2,163	3,842	1,545 42	10,306
2015	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	
November	2,709	2,180	3,824	1,543 42	10,298
2015	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	
October	2,725	2,203	3,813	1,550 45	10,336
2015	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	
September	2,748	2,217	3,813	1,550 45	10,373
2015	(26%)	(21%)	(37%)	(15%) (0%)	
August	2,793	2,253	3,788	1,564 46	10,444
2015	(27%)	(22%)	(36%)	(15%) (0%)	
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	2,789	2,354	3,567	1,560 46	10,316
2015	(27%)	(23%)	(35%)	(15%) (0%)	
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	2,809	2,386	3,501	1,566 62	10,324
2014	(27%)	(23%)	(34%)	(15%) (1%)	
November	2,811	2,402	3,503	1,571 73	10,360
2014	(27%)	(23%)	(34%)	(15%) (1%)	
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	3,069	2,652	3,203	1,595 131	10,650
2013	(29%)	(25%)	(30%)	(15%) (1%)	

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	3,370	2,965	2,904	1,540 168	10,947
2012	(31%)	(27%)	(27%)	(14%) (2%)	
October	3,377	2,896	2,980	1,541 182	10,976
2012	(31%)	(26%)	(27%)	(14%) (2%)	
September 2012	3,421 (31%)	3,045 (27%)	2,869 (26%)	1,548 234 (14%) (2%)	11,117

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	3,534	3,233	2,636	1,495 155	11,053
2011	(32%)	(29%)	(24%)	(14%) (1%)	
November	3,508	3,226	2,583	1,481 127	10,925
2011	(32%)	(30%)	(24%)	(14%) (1%)	
October	3,545	3,257	2,526	1,474 115	10,917
2011	(32%)	(30%)	(23%)	(14%) (1%)	
September	3,612	3,306	2,497	1,477 117	11,009
2011	(33%)	(30%)	(23%)	(13%) (1%)	
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	3,692	3,446	2,208	1,356 101	10,803
2011	(34%)	(32%)	(20%)	(12%) (1%)	
February	3,711	3,473	2,175	1,343 101	10,803
2011	(34%)	(32%)	(20%)	(12%) (1%)	
January	3,733	3,487	2,107	1,336 98	10,761
2011	(34%)	(32%)	(19%)	(12%) (1%)	
December	3,771	3,511	2,079	1,339 89	10,789
2010	(35%)	(32%)	(19%)	(12%) (1%)	
November	3,783	3,524	2,057	1,327 88	10,779
2010	(35%)	(32%)	(19%)	(12%) (1%)	
October	3,797	3,521	1,989	1,305 84	10,696
2010	(35%)	(33%)	(18%)	(12%) (1%)	
September	3,880	3,561	2,001	1,309 85	10,836
2010	(35%)	(32%)	(18%)	(12%) (1%)	
August	4,042	3,613	1,945	1,296 80	10,976
2010	(36%)	(33%)	(18%)	(12%) (1%)	
July 2010	4,030 (37%)	3,620 (33%)	1,898 (17%)	1,262 75 (11%) (1%)	10,885