

# UK COLLABORATIVE PLAN FOR PRO BONO



The UK Collaborative Plan for Pro Bono (the “Plan”) is a profession-led initiative made up of law firms with a strong institutional commitment to pro bono and access to justice. The Plan now has over 30 participating firms and covers over 10,000 lawyers.

Participating firms collaborate with each other in order to improve access to justice through pro bono in the UK, working together to develop the systems and infrastructure to effectively address unmet legal need.

The Plan incorporates an aspirational target of 25 pro bono hours on average per lawyer in the UK each year.

25 members of the Plan responded to a survey regarding their current pro bono practices over the course of a twelve month period in 2014/15 and a summary of the results is set out below.

Although hours are one benchmark of pro bono it is important to note that the impact which firms can have through their pro bono practices is also a metric of success.

The figures show the wide range of firms, with varying sizes of pro bono practice, pledging their commitment to the Plan. All UK firms are encouraged to join the Plan in order to share their experiences and develop their pro bono practices.

For more information on the Plan, please see <http://www.trust.org/spotlight/Collaborative-Plan-for-Pro-Bono-uk/>.

# UK COLLABORATIVE PLAN FOR PRO BONO

## 2014/15 STATISTICS ANALYSIS

The total number of pro bono hours provided by the **25** firms who submitted statistics was **217,495.52**.

The **5** firms with the smallest ratio of fee earners to pro bono managers recorded an average of **37.23** pro bono hours per fee earner, compared to the Plan average of **27.93** hours.

The average pro bono hours per fee earner was **27.93** across the **25** firms, with a range of **2.7** to **79**. The **16** firms who did over **15** pro bono hours per lawyer recorded an average of **38.36** pro bono hours per lawyer.

**8** firms offered pro bono secondments and **13** separate organisations were supported in this way.

**15** out of **19** firms reported an increase in their total pro bono hours. Across those firms, the increases ranged from **10%** to **105%** and the average increase was **35.39%**.

**16** firms staffed legal clinics with **11** of these staffing multiple clinics. Over **40** clinics were staffed in total.

For those firms employing people to manage their UK pro bono practice, an average of **1.35** managers were employed, with a range of **0.05** to **5.1** (based on **21** firms). Those employed included pro bono lawyers and non-lawyer professionals.

**22** out of **24** firms stated that they count pro bono hours towards their firm's target hours, utilisation and/or bonuses.

For those firms employing pro bono lawyers or non-lawyer professionals to manage their UK practice, the average fee earners to pro bono managers ratio was **584.59** fee earners for every pro bono manager (based on **21** firms).

On average, firms spent **19.91%** of their time assisting individuals as opposed to charities or social enterprises (based on **21** firms). The amount of time these firms spent assisting individuals ranged from **0%** to **51%** of their total pro bono time.

25 firms responded to the survey.

Where a firm did not answer a question it was assumed that they chose not to answer and thus were not included in that calculation.

Where a firm answered '0', their answer was included in any relevant calculations.

The following survey results relate to firms' pro bono programmes in the UK only.