

The LawWorks logo consists of the word "LawWorks" in a blue, sans-serif font, positioned inside a white, rounded rectangular shape that is partially enclosed by a white circle at the top.

LawWorks

The logo for The Law Society, featuring the text "supported by The Law Society" in a blue, sans-serif font, enclosed within a white rounded rectangular box.

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A large, thin white arc that starts from the left edge of the page and curves downwards and to the right, ending near the bottom right corner. It frames the main title text.

LawWorks Student Pro Bono Report 2011

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Foreword

The Law Society is delighted to sponsor the publication of this important research.

The previous report published in 2006 revealed a clear need by law schools for guidance and support in establishing and developing pro bono programmes. Recognising the value and potential of law students and the importance of investing in the future of the profession, the Law Society responded by funding a three year dedicated student support project at LawWorks beginning in 2007.

As this report shows, the project has been a huge success with more than 65% of law schools in England and Wales now engaged in pro bono activity with the additional legacies of the annual Student Pro Bono Awards and consistently oversubscribed LawWorks student conference.

The end of the dedicated three year student project in the autumn of 2010 happily also saw the beginning of a new strategic partnership between LawWorks and the Law Society. We are proud that as part of support for the broadest range of LawWorks' activity, this arrangement will enable continued assistance to students and law schools.

Beyond the Society itself, we are delighted to see the level of support for student pro bono by Solicitors. Solicitors firms make up the largest group of organisations and individuals supporting law school programmes.

We are also pleased that the research was extended across the UK this year, and to see student pro bono activity flowering in the law schools of Scotland and Northern Ireland.

However, there is more to be done and we hope that those institutions without any pro bono activity will recognise the range of benefits and opportunities it can offer to students. We also look forward to the development of existing programmes to ensure that wherever there is enthusiasm to undertake pro bono work, opportunities can be provided and that demand does not, in some cases, continue to so dramatically outstrip supply.

Thanks and congratulations are due to Martin Curtis, Sarah Cox and their colleagues at LawWorks as indeed they are to all students, staff, solicitors, voluntary sector agencies and others involved in law school pro bono programmes and partnerships.

Des Hudson
Chief Executive
The Law Society of England and Wales

Executive summary

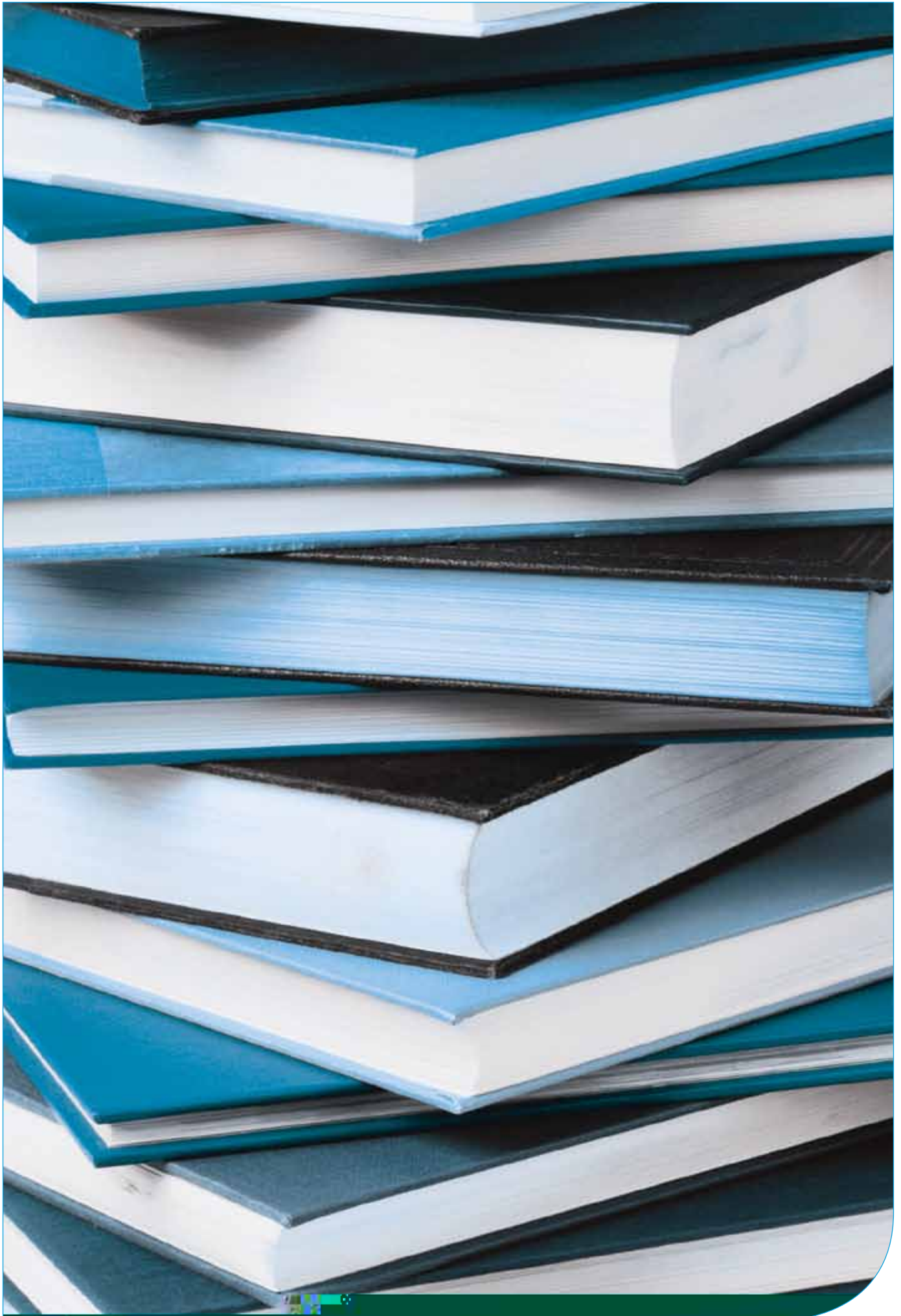
This report contains the findings of a survey carried out on behalf of LawWorks - formerly the Solicitors Pro Bono Group (SPBG) - in the course of 2010. The research surveyed, for the fourth time, all existing law schools in England and Wales (the previous surveys being in 2000, 2003 and 2006) and for the first time in Scotland and Northern Ireland. If one counts the various centres of The College of Law and BPP as one (although all centres were actually surveyed) a total of 111 law schools were surveyed. They were asked a range of questions about the extent to which each is involved in pro bono activity. The research identifies those law schools that are currently active in pro bono work and examines the nature of this work and a range of operational issues. Questions were asked about partnership and training, insurance, whether the pro bono work forms an assessed part of the student's education and the presence and extent of funding, both within the institution and external to it.

The findings are detailed in this report along with a set of conclusions to facilitate discussion on what future

action and support may be needed.

The 2010 survey's principal findings are as follows:

- survey responses were received from 80 separately sited law schools (73 institutions) representing 67% of all law schools (66% of institutions)
 - of those that responded to the survey, 91% do pro bono work. Assuming none of those law schools that did not respond carry out pro bono work, at least 61% of all law schools are now involved in pro bono activity. If, as in 2006, those law schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland were not included, the total number involved would be just over 65%
 - these figures represent a significant and historically increasing amount of pro bono activity (a 33% rise). The 2006 survey showed that 46% of all law schools were doing pro bono work and suggested that at least 60% of law schools would be involved with pro bono work in the foreseeable future. This figure would appear to be borne out, almost exactly, by what has happened
- 6,258 students were reported as being actively involved in pro bono work in the year 2009/10 which, if averaged across each respondent gives a total of 85 students doing pro bono per law school. Of course this is only an average. Some law schools reportedly involve many more than this
 - law schools give teaching staff a time allocation for their involvement in pro bono work in 43% of cases - this is a decrease on the 2006 findings (when 66% gave a time allocation)
 - pro bono work remains largely extra-curricula - only 5% of law schools make participation compulsory and only 10% assess student performance
 - the amount of money allocated both by law schools and by external donors has slightly decreased in relative terms, compared with the 2006 findings even though the number of law schools offering pro bono has increased. Half of all law schools doing pro bono work do not receive any external funding and in nearly one third of cases there is no funding from the law school either.



Background

As stated in the last survey report (2006) LawWorks has long had an interest in pro bono activity in law schools. As suggested then, the rationale behind this involvement is twofold:

- law schools contribute (and have continuing potential to contribute) to the provision of free legal services; and
- encouraging law students to become involved in pro bono work is likely to develop their knowledge, skills and values including their commitment to, and understanding of, professionalism, which may in turn lead to their active involvement in pro bono work later in their professional lives.

Historically the development of pro bono in law schools is interesting. In 2000 SPBG, as it then was, commissioned a report on pro bono activity in law schools (Browne, SPBG, 2000). Of 81 institutions contacted, 73 responded. Of the 73 responding institutions, 41% reported pro bono activity, while a further 19% of institutions, said that such work was planned. This was followed up in 2003 with a further survey (Whitman and Akoto, 2003, SPBG).

76 institutions were contacted: 56 responded. 41% of respondents reported pro bono activity and a further 42% indicated that they were considering running pro bono schemes sometime in the future.

Both surveys looked at pro bono work in a wide context, but did not examine any educational aspect of the activity, for example the extent to which it was integrated within the curriculum. In 2005 the then SPBG decided to commission a further survey, in part to discover the present position in terms of pro bono provision in law schools, and in part to identify those institutions expressing the need for support in establishing a pro bono programme.

The LawWorks Students Project (Grimes and Musgrove, LawWorks, 2006) therefore aimed to be descriptive of what was happening on the ground and supportive of those universities and colleges that requested help.

In that survey 95 institutions were approached with 46% of all law schools (53% of respondents) declaring themselves to be active in

pro bono work. A further 12% of law schools said that they intended to get involved in the following academic year (2006/07) and 8% were considering doing so. This of course represented a significant increase in number and would if true take the percentage of law schools active in pro bono work to over 60%.

According to responses in the 2006 survey an increasing number of law school staff were given formal recognition of their role in pro bono provision through discrete timetable allowances. This too broke new ground and further established the notion that pro bono in law schools was now being seen as educational, and not just extra-curricula, activity.

In the same report the majority of law schools reported that they would value assistance in setting up or developing pro bono initiatives and it will be suggested later in this report that LawWorks with the support of the Law Society, believes it has responded positively to this expressed need.

As a post-script to the 2006 report, the amount of money

allocated both by institutions and by external donors remained, as it had done in previous survey findings, very modest.

Much of the work LawWorks has carried out over the past three years has involved creating a well-informed network of students and law school staff, in terms of pro bono activity, events and opportunities. The charity has created a public database of

student pro bono activities, all capable of being updated by the law schools themselves. This supports the spirit of sharing information and resources; an approach that is often seen in the world of pro bono activity. There are now over 200 different activities available to see online.

LawWorks has also organised an annual awards ceremony, endorsed by the Attorney

General, as well as a biennial Student Conference. And, with limited resources, the staff have worked directly with over 70 law schools in the UK, in terms of assisting them with project ideas and supporting their legal advice clinics. Whilst the increase in activity over this period is by no means solely due to these efforts, it would be surprising if it was not at least partly responsible.



Methodology

A similar methodology to that used in previous surveys was adopted. Response rates had to this point been good. All institutions in the UK with law degree programmes (single or joint honours) as listed by UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) or those institutions offering vocational programmes for would-be legal practice professionals were approached.

A total of 111 institutions in 119 venues were identified. Each was sent an electronic copy of the survey questionnaire with instructions to submit responses online. Of these 119, 106 were in England and Wales and the remainder in Scotland and Northern Ireland. For the purposes of the analysis, unless otherwise stated, the 119 are treated as separate law schools even though some are run by the

same institution (in the case of The College of Law and BPP law schools self-contained programmes are offered in different locations). It should be pointed out that some of the questions in the 2010 survey questionnaire differ from those asked in previous surveys. Where significant this is noted in the narrative that follows.

Responses were received from 80 institutions - 67% of the total number of sites and 66% of the institutions surveyed.

As previously anonymity of response was guaranteed. Subject to this commitment to confidentiality, LawWorks has retained the raw data in case further analysis is needed. As a result of the advent of the database on www.studentprobono.net, however, much of the information about specific law schools' pro bono

activities is available to all online.

It is perhaps worth noting at this point that although the 2010 survey produced a lower level of response than in 2006, (66% of institutions in 2010 as compared with 88% in 2006) the number of institutions offering law programmes has increased markedly (from 95 in 2006 to 111 in 2010) and the number of law schools actually responding remained very similar (84 in 2006 and 80 in 2010).

The questions, as asked in the survey, are repeated in chronological order below along with commentary on the recorded responses. In view of this the questionnaire is not repeated elsewhere in this report.

So what did the 2010 survey discover? The findings are set out in narrative form with illustrative charts and graphs where appropriate. The pie charts show results by reference to the cohort of respondents to the survey, not institutions or all law schools. It was felt that this was a better measure of actual pro bono activity on the ground.

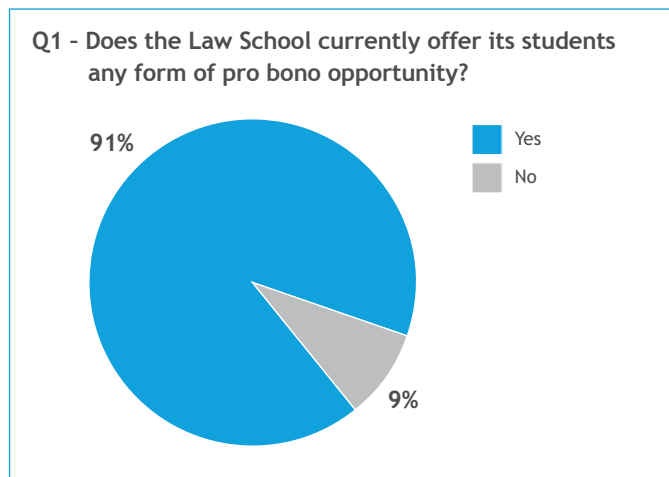
Percentage figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest whole number.



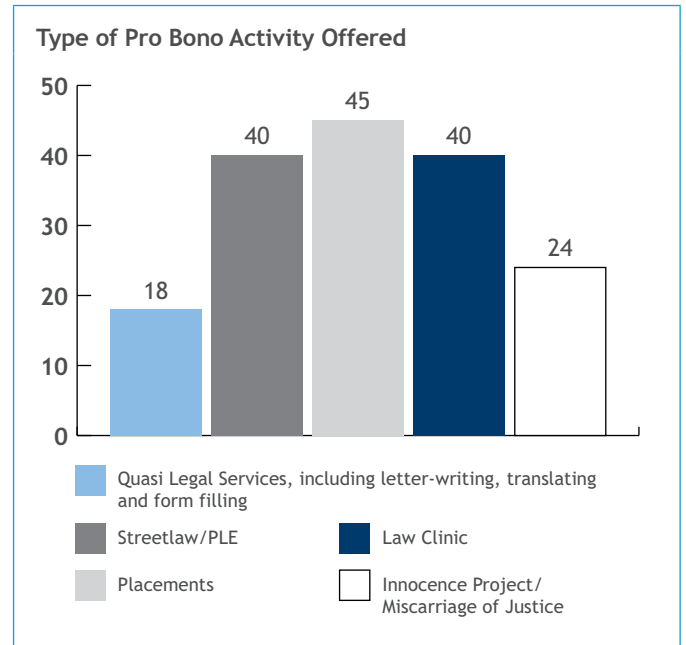
Results

Q1. Does the law school currently offer its students any form of pro bono opportunity?

Of the 80 respondents 91% (73) stated that they were engaged in pro bono work whilst 9% (7) were not. By contrast in 2006 46% of all law schools were engaged in pro bono work whereas in 2010 this figure has increased to 61%. If, those law schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland are not included, (they were not in the 2006 survey) the total number of law schools now engaged in pro bono activities is just over 65%.



Unlike previous surveys however, respondents in 2010 were not asked to specify the type of pro bono activity (PBA). Instead they were asked to upload information on their projects to the public online database. The information has been extracted from the database for the survey respondents and summarised as follows:



The above table clearly shows the variety of pro bono work being undertaken by law schools. It does not however show how many activities each law school is involved with. The 2006 survey found:

The 44 institutions [involved in pro bono] offer a wide variety of PBA schemes. The vast majority of institutions offer more than one type of activity. We have placed each PBA into one of seven categories... Between them, the 44 institutions reported a total of 82 distinct activities or groups of activities falling within the given categories. Of the 44 institutions offering PBA, 22, (50%), said that they offer in-house advice and/or representation... 11 institutions offer law clinics giving both advice and representation. Twelve institutions offer advice-only clinics. One institution, a major provider, offers both. The largest single category of PBA is, however, placements, mentioned by 26 of the institutions. Such activity involves students being sent to

organisations external to the educational provider. The attractions for the institutions of this type of PBA include the fact that the cost of supervision and of any case management falls to the host organisation. Sixteen of the institutions provide Streetlaw (legal literacy clinics where students teach the public about legal rights and responsibilities). This type of PBA thus comprises approximately 20% of pro bono activity-types reported. Other types of pro bono work include quasi-legal services (such as form-filling and translation work), provided by 18% of the 44 institutions, and outreach services - run by three of the law schools, but based in their respective communities.

(Grimes and Musgrove, 2006, page 8)

Both the 2010 and 2006 findings show that placements - students working on pro bono projects with non-law school host organisations are the most common pro bono activities. This is perhaps unsurprising given the supervisory and cost implications. Placements are generally a logistically easier and cheaper option for the law school as compared say with running an in-house advice centre. That said the increase in number of legal literacy programmes (Streetlaw) and law school clinics have increased notably since 2006 - a 150% and 80% rise respectively.

The 2010 survey did not ask how long the various pro bono programmes had been operating. The picture in 2006 showed that:

‘of the 44 PBA-providing institutions, 40 were able to give information on the length of time for which provision has been made. The bar chart below shows the range of years involved - less than one, up to 20 or more. In the chart we have retained a degree of detail. The most common category of answer, from eight institutions, is two to three years. Close behind, with six responses, is less than one year. At the other extreme are three institutions that have made PBA provision for 20 or more years. Aggregation of the data gives the broad-brush picture. Over half (23) of the 40 institutions have made PBA provision for a relatively short time, that is, under four years. Seven have made provision for four to seven years inclusive. Another six have made provision for eight to 15 years inclusive, while, finally, four are in the 16 years and over category.’

(op cit, page 6)

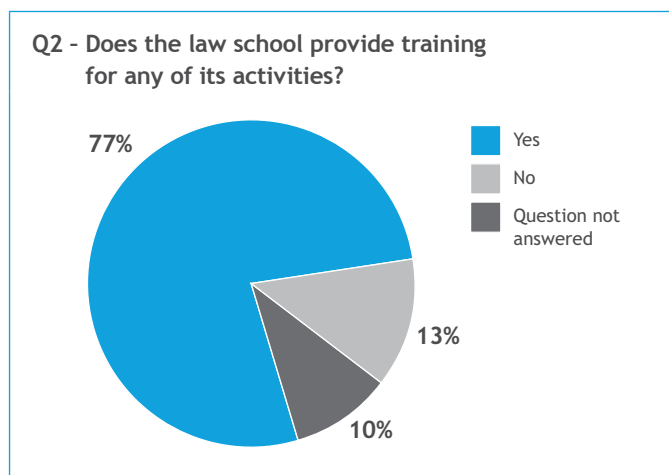
The raw data for 2010 shows that the same institutions that were offering pro bono work in 2006 are still doing so today. In the absence of hard data one can only surmise that the continued presence of the clinical ‘old guard’ and the proliferation of new pro bono initiatives has at least maintained this variety of work if not increased it. LawWorks may consider it worth revisiting the survey to ask the respondents for this missing data.

As a result of personal contact with law schools, the LawWorks Students Project team has kept data on who is offering pro bono activity. Although not part of the 2010 survey, it is worth mentioning that their records show that at least five more law schools are offering projects than responded to the survey.



Q2. Does the law school provide training for any of its pro bono activities?

The 2010 survey shows that 77% of respondents provide training to participants who do pro bono work. Thirteen percent say that they do not and 10% provided no answer.



The 2006 position showed that fewer law schools (59%) offered specific training. The increase suggests that training is now seen as more important and may reflect a greater degree of gravitas shown to pro bono work in a professional and educational context.

Q3a. Does anyone else provide training?

The questions in the 2010 and 2006 survey were slightly different (the 2006 survey asked if the law school **did not** provide training ‘does anyone else...?’, whereas the 2010 survey simply asked ‘does anyone else provide training?’). This difference in emphasis was to make sure that the survey captured other training partners even where the law school did provide some training itself.

The 2010 responses show that 53% of respondents arrange for someone else to

do the training, 33% do not and 14% did not provide an answer. Whilst the question could perhaps have been put in a slightly less ambiguous way the responses show that a significant number of institutions do rely on external input for training.

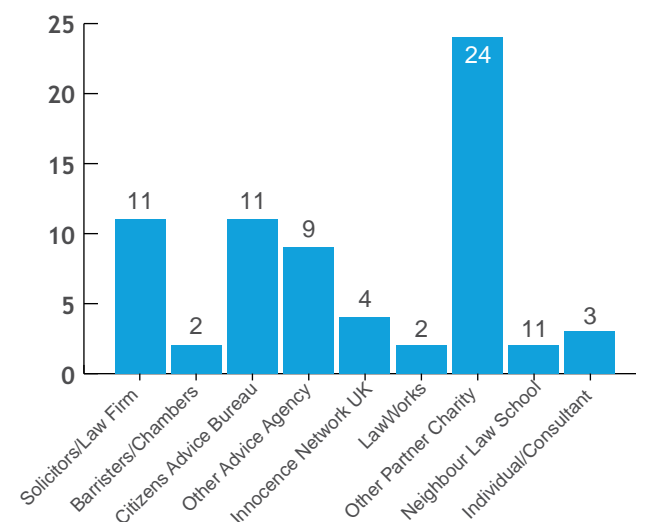
In 2006 of the 18 institutions not themselves’ providing training, 16 reported that training was provided via staff of external organisations.

Q3b. If so, who?

The bar chart below details the types of external organisation that provide training or via which training is channelled. It can be seen that ‘partner charities’ by which one presumes is meant ‘not for profit organisations’ provide the bulk of the training (60%). It can probably be safely assumed that this equates to training being provided by host organisations that take law students on placement. Again this data could be checked further.

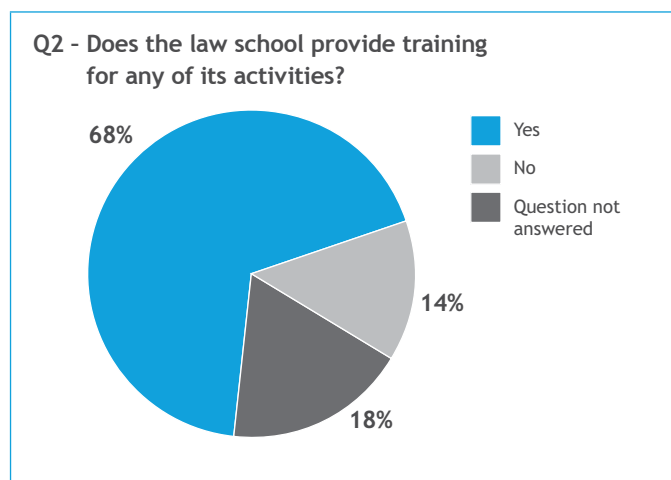
The private practice arm of the legal profession itself is reported as providing training in 18% of cases.

Q3b - Who provides training (in addition to the law school itself)?



Q4a. Is the law school working in partnership with others in any of its activities?

On a related theme, in the 2010 survey 68% of respondents report working in partnership with others whilst 14% don't and 19% did not answer.

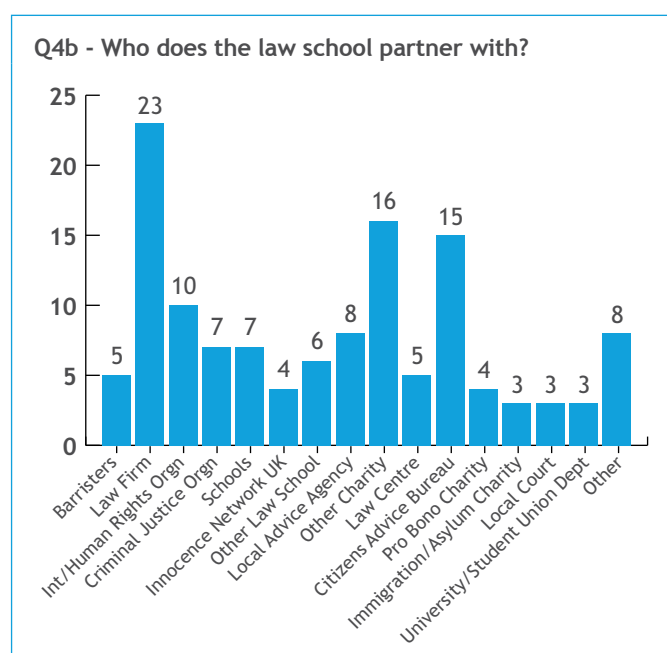


The figures for 2006 showed very similar returns.

Q4b. If so, who?

As can be seen from the chart opposite the spread of partnerships is wide with private practice and the not for profit sector both featuring heavily. As the number of returns exceeds the number of respondents one can assume that some law schools are involved with more than one partner. The detail of this was not provided in respondents' answers.

The largest single category of partner in the 2006 survey was the Citizens' Advice network. In 2010, although still significant, partnerships with CABx, were part of a much wider collaboration. This perhaps indicates that the pro bono net is cast much wider and a greater range of organisations are now working with law schools.



Q5. Does the law school belong to the local Community Legal Service partnership?

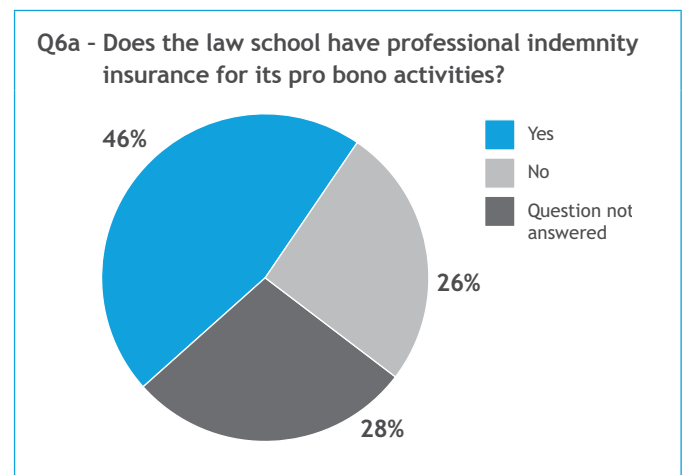
In the previous surveys membership of Community Legal Service (CLS) Partnerships was seen as significant in terms of developing partnerships and ensuring complementary legal service delivery. However, with the difficulties surrounding public legal funding it appears that CLS partnerships may not be

as effective as they once were. Indeed in many areas they have reportedly ceased to meet altogether. It is perhaps therefore not surprising that few respondents answered this question. Only 7% of institutions in 2010 indicated that they belonged to CLS partnerships, compared with 27% in 2006.

Q6a. Does the law school have professional indemnity insurance in place for its activities?

One of the fundamental questions asked by the various surveys concerns professional indemnity insurance (PII) cover. Although PII is not legally or professionally required for all pro bono activity (it depends on whether the project 'holds itself out' as a legal practice) many would regard it as essential to have cover in any event, to protect clients, advisers and institutions alike.

It is perhaps surprising therefore to find that only 46% of respondents in 2010 report having PII. Twenty six percent say they have no cover and a further 28% provided no answer. This may be explained by the fact that many pro bono programmes are placements and the insurance is provided by the host organisation and not the law school. Without evidence of the nature of the individual pro bono projects, conclusions are hard to draw.



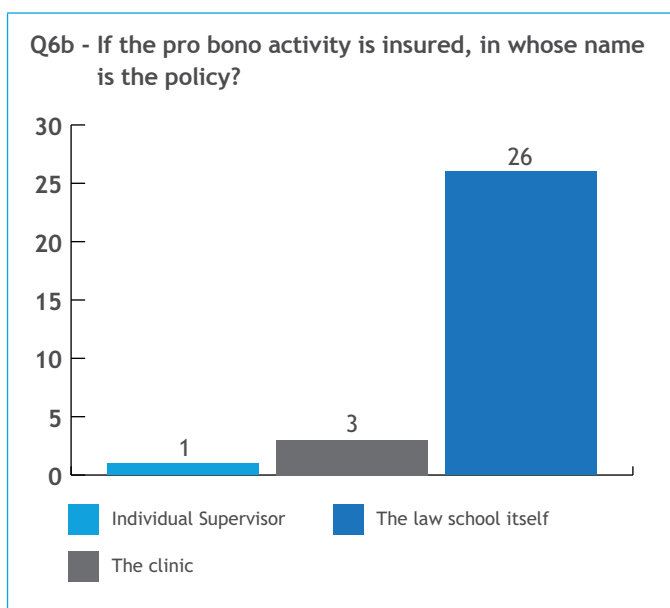
In 2006, a similar proportion (41%), reported that their pro bono work was covered by professional indemnity insurance.

LawWorks acknowledges that the question may have been ambiguous in that some respondents interpreted the question as asking whether the law school provides indemnity cover, rather than any organisation including the law school and any placement host. A proportion of the respondents stating that their institutions do not have PII, made it clear in comments that they would expect any host organisation to have cover adequate to indemnify against relevant risk.

Q6b. If yes, in whose name is the insurance (i.e. the clinic, the law school, the university itself)?

Again there may have been some ambiguity in this question. Where PII is held, most institutions report that the law school's name is on the policy. In the experience of the report-writer it is the university or college that holds the policy - in most cases building on pre-existing PII as part of a wider policy of cover.

In 2006 in all institutions with PII cover, save two, the cover was in the name of the institution. Of the two exceptions, one reported that the cover was expressly in the name of the university's law clinic, which was independently insured. For the other, cover was in the name of an independent voluntary organisation offering the service and technically distinct from the university.

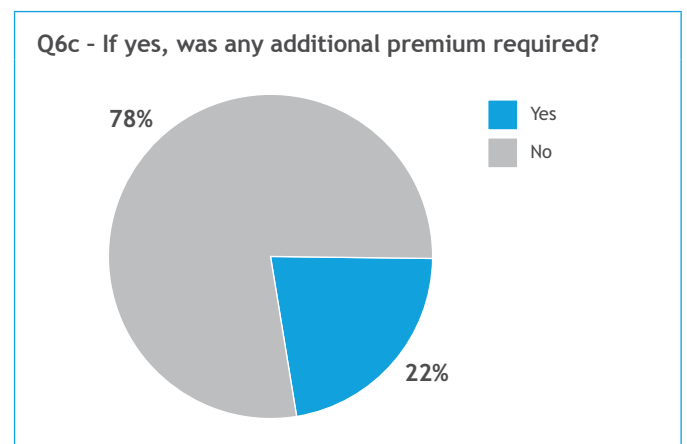




Q6c. If yes, was any additional premium required?

Of those that responded to this question, 22% stated that an additional premium was paid, compared with 78% of cases where no additional premium was levied.

In 2006, of the institutions having PII cover for their pro bono work, the majority, (61%) reported that no additional premium was payable, while 22% said that such a premium was payable. In two cases the information was reported as not known, or was not given. In the final case, practice varies across the institution's sites.

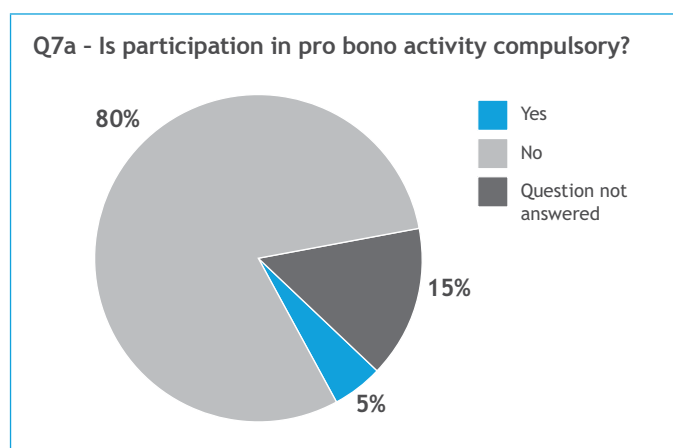


Again personal experience suggests that providing no client money is handled and if a solicitor with a practising certificate oversees the activity in the case of an in-house clinic (that is run by and situated in the law school), no additional insurance premium will be due. In these cases, usually the insurers simply need to be notified and the activity noted on the schedule to the policy.

Q7a. Is participation in any of the pro bono activities compulsory for students?

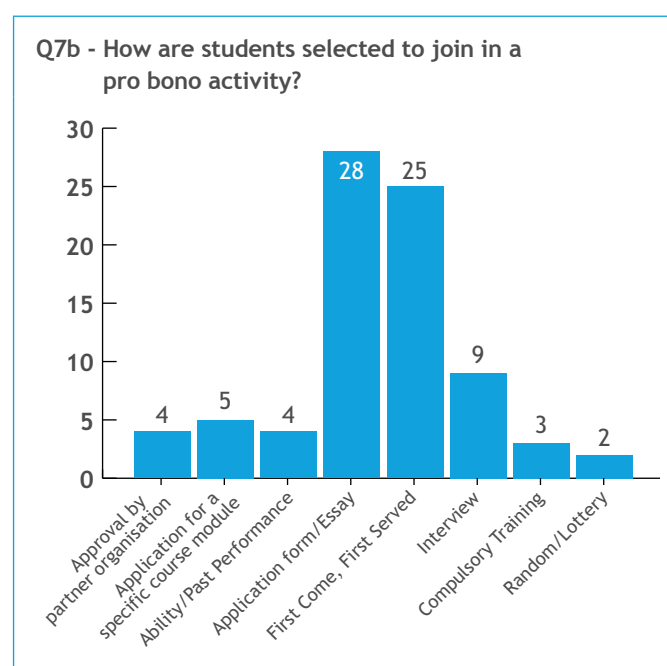
In the responses to the 2010 survey very few law schools appear to make pro bono activity compulsory - 5% say they do with 15% offering no answer. 80% say it is not.

The returns in 2006 are virtually identical. Then, in only three institutions was pro bono work compulsory for some or all students on particular courses.



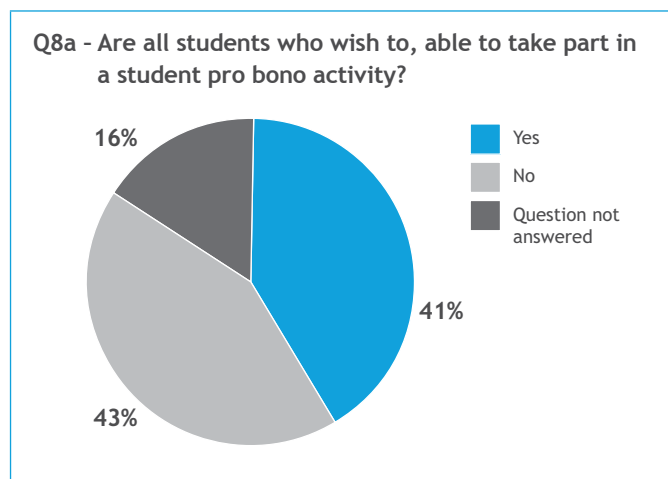
Q7b. If not, how are students selected?

According to the 2010 returns student selection covers a variety of means. The most common in roughly equal number, are either by application and selection based on that application (often with a supporting essay) or on a first-come, first-served basis. Other selection methods used include a ballot, by interview, on past performance or after approval by partner organisations.



Q8a. Are all students who wish to, able to take part in a student pro bono activity?

According to the 2010 survey results 41% of law schools responding said they accommodated all-comers. A similar number were oversubscribed (43%) with no answer from 16%.



In 2006 there was a similar pattern to responses to the same question with 50% of the total of all institutions, reporting that all students wishing to participate in pro bono activity could do so and a like number saying that they could not accommodate all students who wished to participate.

It is clear that currently, in almost half of all law schools doing pro bono work student demand to work on pro bono cases exceeds places available.

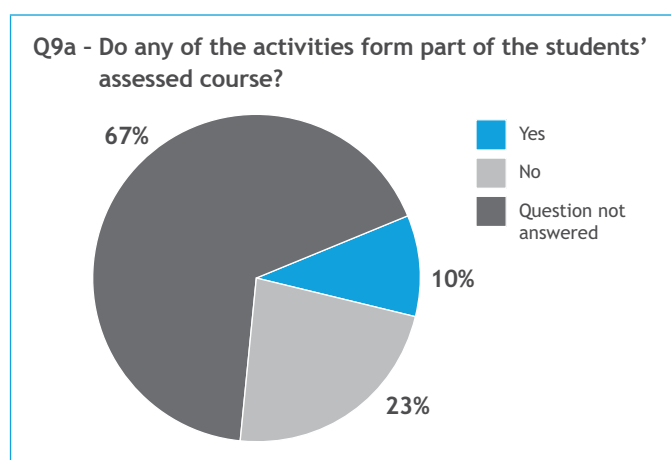
Q8b. If not, what percentage are able to take part?

When asked what proportion of students wanting to do pro bono work, law schools could accommodate, respondents indicated that five law schools could only take up to 25% of students, three could take up to 50%, four up to 75% and three over 75%. These returns may be inconsistent with the returns in Q 8(a) above as this only accounts for 15 law schools whereas the number saying that they were unable to accommodate all students was 32. It is conceivable that the rest accommodate between 75% and 99% of students wanting pro bono places. In any event, a significant number of students are seemingly unable to take up a pro bono position within a law school project.

Q9a. Do any of the pro bono activities form part of the students' assessed course?

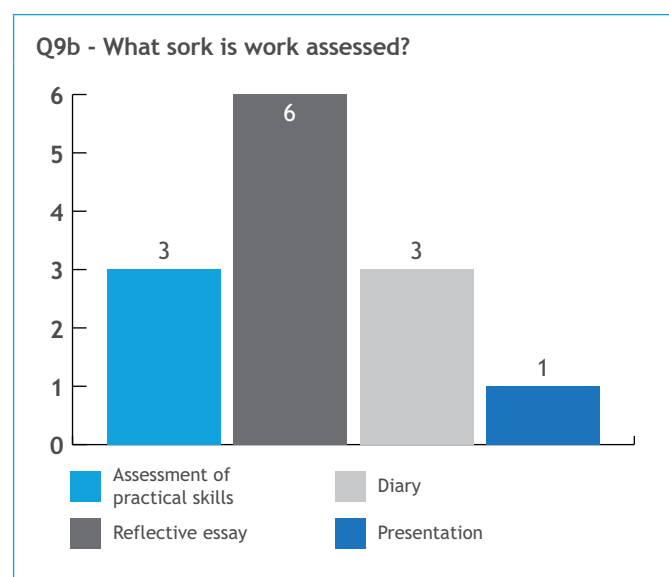
When asked if student performance is assessed, respondents in the 2010 survey indicate that this is so in just 10% of cases. That said just 22% responded 'no' and this leaves a large number of law schools who did not respond. The findings are therefore less than convincing.

By contrast, in 2006 just over half of respondents said students were not assessed but 41% did indicate assessment of at least some of the students' work. The response from the 2000 survey was almost identical to that found in 2006. The question was not asked in the 2003 survey. Again further research is needed on this point.



Q9b. If so, how is the work assessed?

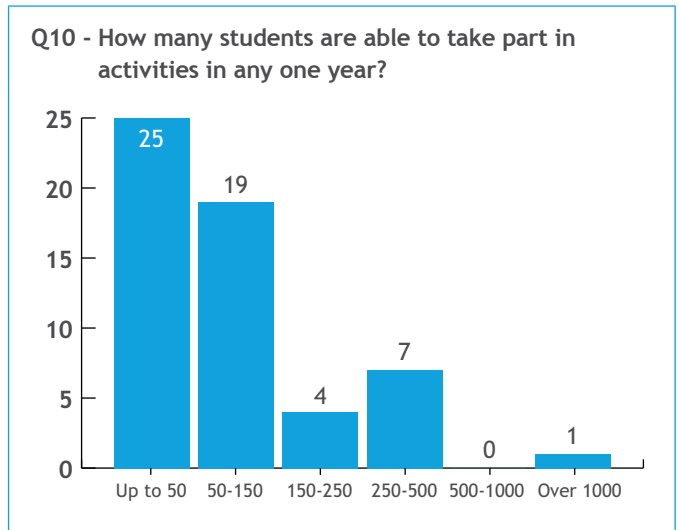
For those that did answer the question above it would seem that the means by which students are assessed varies widely, from use of reflective journals compiled during the pro bono experience through to end-of activity tasks such as the writing of an essay or presentation of a portfolio of work. Assessment is also by performance of tasks such as real or mock interviews, research exercises or the drafting of letters and other documents. The most common forms of assessment are reflective journals.



Q10. How many students are able to take part in activities in any one year?



As with other responses the answers vary considerably from one institution to another. One, a vocational provider, has in excess of 1,000 students involved in pro bono. Others are considerably smaller in scale. A total of 6,258 students were actively involved in pro bono work in law schools during 2009/10, which if averaged amongst the respondents gives a total of 85 students doing pro bono work at each law school.

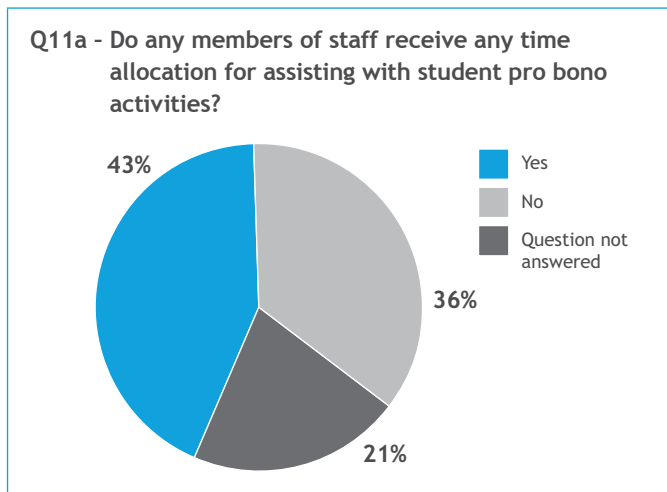


Comparisons with the findings of earlier surveys are difficult as the previous reports do not give the total number of students involved, by year, but in 2006, 88% of law schools offering pro bono did so with between 21 and 80 students. The profile is similar in 2010 although twice as many law schools now have more than 300 students involved in pro bono than was reported in the 2006 survey findings.

Q11a. Do any members of staff receive any time allocation for assisting with student pro bono activities?

In the 2010 survey findings, 43% of respondents indicate that time to oversee pro bono work is allocated to law school staff. In 36% of cases there is no allocation with staff presumably either not involved at all (the activity may be directed by the students in the name of the law school), or possibly more likely, by staff on a pro bono basis themselves. Twenty one percent failed to answer this question.

This contrasts sharply with the previous findings. In the 2003, 26% of law schools with pro bono programmes allocated time for staff to be involved. This figure increased to 66% in the 2006 survey. It would seem that in percentage terms fewer law schools now give a time allocation but of course more law schools are offering pro bono activities.



Q11b. If yes, how much?

There were a variety of answers to this question ranging from full-time positions dedicated to pro bono activity to a small number of hours being allowed per week or per year. At 12 law schools responding at least one full time equivalent (FTE) person is employed to deliver pro bono services. At the remaining law schools a time allocation

of between one hour and 10 hours teaching was made. This averages out at just under five hours per week across all law schools where FTE posts were not available.

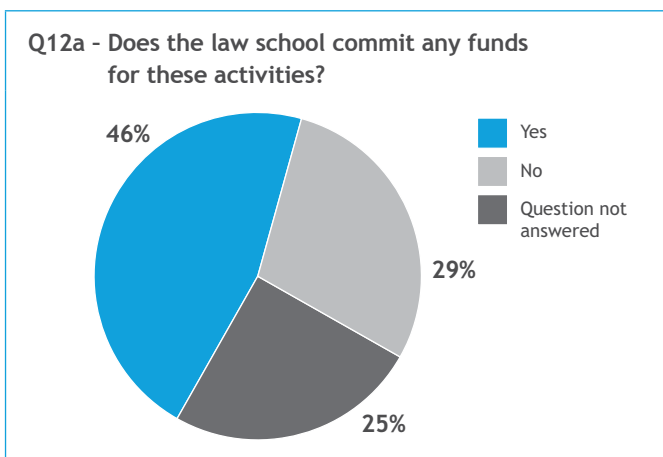
Previous surveys did not provide any breakdown of numbers of hours allocated.



Q12a. Does the law school commit any funds for these activities?

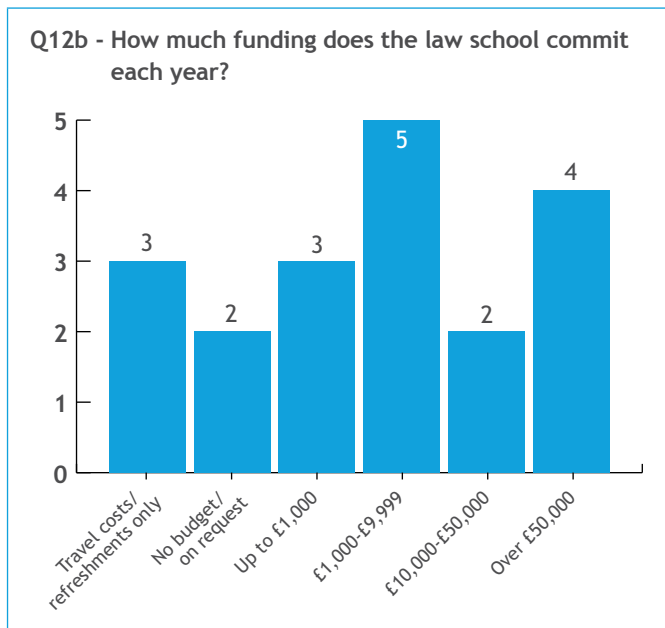
A crucial question was then asked in terms of an indication of commitment and possibly sustainability of pro bono programmes. It would appear that by 2010, 46% of responding law schools now commit funds to pro bono work. No funding is reportedly given in 29% of cases. A further 25% did not respond.

A look back historically is interesting on this point. In the 2000 study just under 30% of law schools directly funded their own pro bono work. By 2006 at least 64% of law schools made some funding provision. As in the analysis of previous responses, this seeming drop in levels of support may be explained simply by the increase in numbers of those engaged in pro bono work. The raw data suggests a hard core of funders that has remained consistent over the years.



Q12b. If yes, how much?

When asked the possibly more sensitive question of how much this backing was worth in financial terms, there is again a wide divergence of levels. Four law schools fund in excess of £50,000 a year each. Personal knowledge of some of these suggests that the money actually spent is well in excess of this. At the other extreme three law schools cover travel and subsistence costs only. The bar chart indicates the range of funding levels.



In 2006 there was a similar contrast in funding support. Then 14 responses yielded an average amount of just over £22,000. But if the one very substantial amount among the 14 was excluded, the average falls to £2,700 per institution. In only five institutions was mention made of covering any staff salary costs. The 2010 survey did not explore the split between funding for human and other resources.

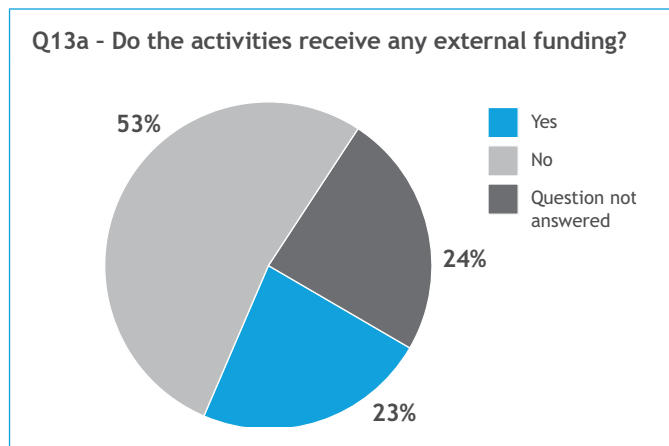
Q12c. If yes, for what?

In so far as items of expenditure are concerned the law school support in 2009/10 paid predominantly for supervisory staffing costs, administrative staff, running expenses, practising certificates and training costs.

Q13a. Do the activities receive any external funding?

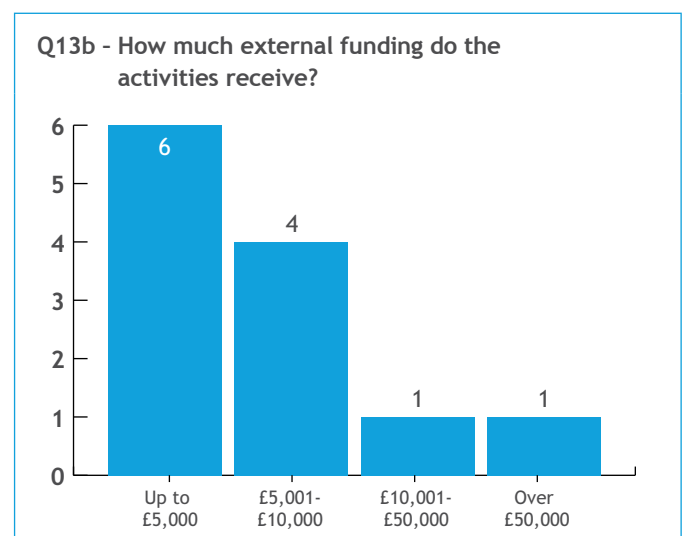
Questions were also asked about external funding. Of those responding 23% say that they do get money from non-law school sources. The majority however (53%) do not. Twenty four percent did not respond.

In 2006 similar returns were made with 27% responding 'yes' and 64% 'no'. Although external funding would still seem important the trend is going down and not up. In 2000 44% of law schools received some form of external funding.



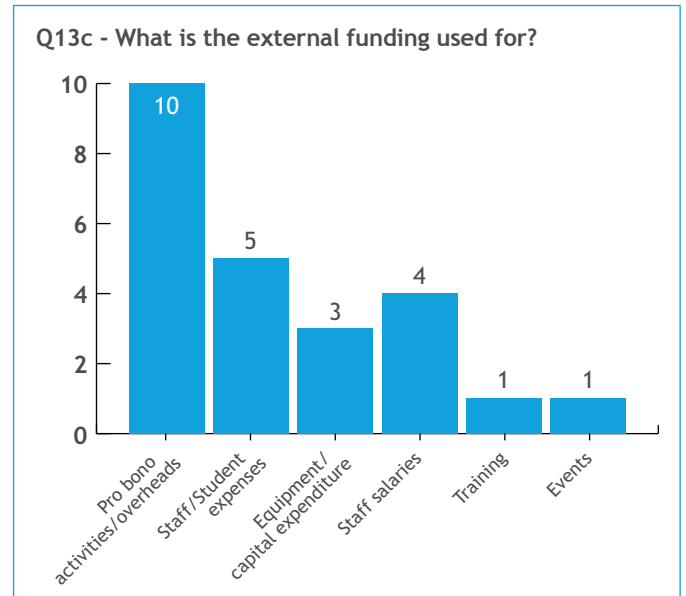
Q13b. If yes, how much?

From the raw data it appears that not only is external funding decreasing (albeit it marginally) the amounts too remain modest with the bulk receiving no more than £10,000.



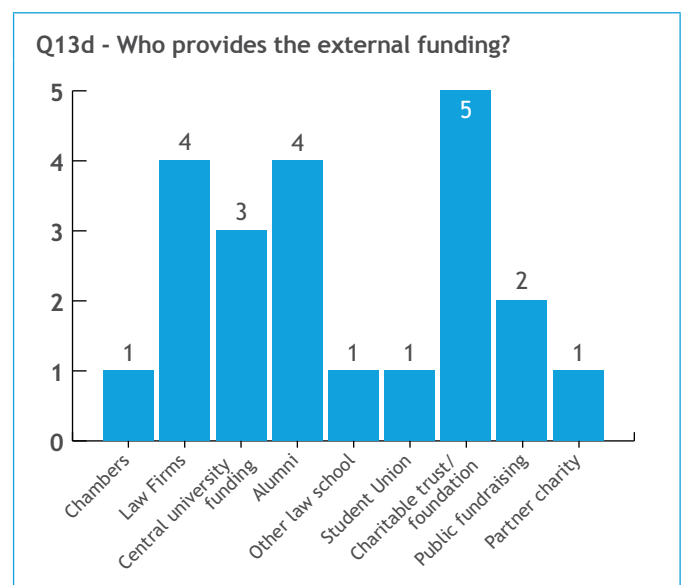
Q13c. If yes, for what?

The funds, such as they are, seem to pay for overheads and expenses with very few payments covering staffing costs.



Q13d. If yes, who provides that funding?

The sources of external funding makes interesting reading with university and college alumni, featuring for the first time in a survey report. Foundations and charities continue to be a relatively major provider as are law firms and (to a lesser extent) barristers' chambers. University central funds are also given (regarded as external for this purpose in that the money does not come from law school budgets) and reasons given include enhancing learning and teaching and promoting employability.



Conclusions

Pro bono work in law schools has continued to increase since surveys were first carried out in 2000. The activity now takes place in the majority of law schools and in both the ‘old’ and ‘new’ sectors.

Ten years ago pro bono clinics were predominantly found in the ‘new’ universities and at colleges offering overtly vocational courses.

Partnerships with other legal service providers are now commonplace.

Staffs within the surveyed institutions are, to varying degrees, given timetabled responsibility for overseeing pro bono work.

Law schools now support the pro bono activity through a variety of internal and external sources. That said, the amount of funding given for pro bono work remains very modest. In addition, new sources of funding are being found, for example, through law school alumni.

As indicated above, conclusions are in some instances somewhat hard to draw owing to inconsistencies between the questions asked in the various surveys themselves and a degree of ambiguity in the 2010 questioning. This is compounded by a significant number of ‘no responses’ received to key questions.

That said, more law schools than ever are engaged in pro bono work and more students than ever are helping to deliver legal services. This begs a number of questions that have educational, professional and political implications. The need to continue the debate (and further surveys) goes on.

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