



Law Society  
of Scotland

# Violence Survey 2018 – data notes

These findings are part of the Law Society of Scotland Journal's employment survey. In addition to the questions on violence in the profession, the annual survey has gathered data on pay, work life balance and views on the future of the profession.

# Violence survey 2018

## Sample size and makeup

### Q1 What is your gender identity?

Answered: 1,162 Skipped: 6

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Male	38.12%	443
Female	59.98%	697
Non-binary	0.34%	4
Intersex	0.00%	0
Prefer not to say	0.95%	11
I prefer to use a different term (please specify)	0.60%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,162</b>

# Violence survey 2018

## Sample size and makeup

### Q2 Where are you based?

Answered: 1,156 Skipped: 12

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Aberdeen	7.35%	85
Dumfries	0.87%	10
Dundee	3.81%	44
Edinburgh	31.83%	368
Glasgow	25.78%	298
Inverness	1.56%	18
Elsewhere in Scotland	23.10%	267
London	2.16%	25
Elsewhere in England & Wales	1.47%	17
Other EU locations	0.52%	6
Rest of the world	1.56%	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,156</b>

# Violence survey 2018

## 'one in eight respondents (12%) have experienced violence'

Q25 Have you personally experienced any violent conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment? (please note that we will ask about 'threatening conduct' and 'threatening communication' in other questions)

Answered: 1,055 Skipped: 113

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	12.04%	127
No	87.96%	928
TOTAL		1,055

# Violence survey 2018

## 'a third (33%) have experienced threatening conduct'

Q25 Have you personally experienced any violent conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment? (please note that we will ask about 'threatening conduct' and 'threatening communication' in other questions)

Answered: 1,055 Skipped: 113

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.79%	342
No	67.21%	701
TOTAL		1,043

# Violence survey 2018

## 'over one in four (27%) experienced threatening communications'

Q39 Have you personally experienced any threatening communication whilst acting within the scope of your employment?

Answered: 1,018 Skipped: 150

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	27.01%	275
No	72.99%	743
TOTAL		1,018

# Violence survey 2018

## 'over one in four (27%) experienced threatening communications'

Q39 Have you personally experienced any threatening communication whilst acting within the scope of your employment?

Answered: 1,018 Skipped: 150

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	27.01%	275
No	72.99%	743
TOTAL		1,018

# Violence survey 2018

‘Only a fifth (20%) of physical attacks on solicitors were reported to the police’

Q31 Was any incident reported to the police?

Answered: 131 Skipped: 1,037

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	20.61%	27
No	76.34%	100
Prefer not to answer	3.05%	4
TOTAL		131



# Violence survey 2018

## 'The vast majority of incidents (90%) took place within solicitors' offices or in a court or tribunal environment'

Q29 Where did the violent incident take place? (Please answer on the 4 most recent incidents, if applicable)

Answered: 122 Skipped: 1,046

	WITHIN YOUR FIRM OR ORGANISATION'S OFFICE	WITHIN ANOTHER SOLICITOR'S OFFICE OR ORGANISATION	WITHIN A COURT OR TRIBUNAL ENVIRONMENT	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Incident 1	55.37% 67	0.83% 1	38.84% 47	4.96% 6	121	2.49
Incident 2	41.30% 38	3.26% 3	48.91% 45	6.52% 6	92	2.62
Incident 3	37.31% 25	4.48% 3	49.25% 33	8.96% 6	67	2.67
Incident 4	53.85% 28	5.77% 3	34.62% 18	5.77% 3	52	2.46

# Violence survey 2018

‘Clients or former clients of solicitors, or the opposing party’s solicitor, accounted for over 60% of violent incidents’

Q28 Who was violent towards you? (Please answer on the 4 most recent incidents, if applicable)

Answered: 129 Skipped: 1,039

	CLIENT OR FORMER CLIENT	ASSOCIATE OF CLIENT OR FORMER CLIENT	OPPOSITION CLIENT OR ASSOCIATE OF THEIRS	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC NOT KNOWN TO YOU BUT YOU WERE ACTING IN THE COURSE OF YOUR EMPLOYMENT	COLLEAGUE OR FORMER COLLEAGUE	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Incident 1	60.47% 78	3.10% 4	13.95% 18	10.08% 13	10.08% 13	2.33% 3	129	2.13
Incident 2	46.94% 46	5.10% 5	20.41% 20	9.18% 9	15.31% 15	3.06% 3	98	2.50
Incident 3	45.33% 34	4.00% 3	10.67% 8	22.67% 17	14.67% 11	2.67% 2	75	2.65
Incident 4	44.07% 26	6.78% 4	10.17% 6	16.95% 10	18.64% 11	3.39% 2	59	2.69

# Violence survey 2018

‘criminal defence solicitors are most at risk, with almost half of those who responded reporting more than four incidents in the last five years’

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0

Crime (defence) 100.00% 120

Q26 On how many occasions have you experienced violent conduct within the last 5 years?

Answered: 42 Skipped: 78

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One	16.67%	7
Two	23.81%	10
Three	11.90%	5
Four	2.38%	1
More than four	45.24%	19
TOTAL		42

# Violence survey 2018

## '40% of criminal defence solicitors have been victims of violence'

Q25 Have you personally experienced any violent conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment? (please note that we will ask about 'threatening conduct' and 'threatening communication' in other questions)

Answered: 111 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	38.74%	43
No	61.26%	68
TOTAL		111

# Violence survey 2018

## '25% of family lawyers have been victims of violence'

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 152 Skipped: 0

Family 100.00% 152

Q25 Have you personally experienced any violent conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment? (please note that we will ask about 'threatening conduct' and 'threatening communication' in other questions)

Answered: 141 Skipped: 11

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	24.82%	35
No	75.18%	106
TOTAL		141

# Violence survey 2018

## '25% of family lawyers have been victims of violence'

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 152 Skipped: 0

Family 100.00% 152

Q25 Have you personally experienced any violent conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment? (please note that we will ask about 'threatening conduct' and 'threatening communication' in other questions)

Answered: 141 Skipped: 11

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	24.82%	35
No	75.18%	106
TOTAL		141

# Violence survey 2018

## '70% of criminal defence solicitors have been victims of threatening behaviour'

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 120 Skipped: 0

Crime (defence)

100.00%

120

Q32 Have you personally experienced any threatening conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment?

Answered: 111 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.27%	78
No	29.73%	33
TOTAL		111

# Violence survey 2018

## '54% of family lawyers have been victims of threatening behaviour'

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 152 Skipped: 0

Family 100.00% 152

Q32 Have you personally experienced any threatening conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 12

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.29%	76
No	45.71%	64
TOTAL		140



# Violence survey 2018

## '61% of prosecutors have been victims of threatening behaviour'

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 53 Skipped: 0

Crime (prosecution)

100.00%

53

Q32 Have you personally experienced any threatening conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.78%	31
No	39.22%	20
TOTAL		51

# Violence survey 2018

## '19% of prosecutors have been victims of violence'

Q10 Which practice area do you currently work in? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 53 Skipped: 0

Crime (prosecution)

100.00%

53

Q25 Have you personally experienced any violent conduct whilst acting within the scope of your employment? (please note that we will ask about 'threatening conduct' and 'threatening communication' in other questions)

Answered: 52 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	19.23%	10
No	80.77%	42
TOTAL		52

# Violence survey 2018

‘solicitors’ colleagues, or those representing the opposite party, accounted for one in seven incidents’

Q28 Who was violent towards you? (Please answer on the 4 most recent incidents, if applicable)

Answered: 129 Skipped: 1,039

	CLIENT OR FORMER CLIENT	ASSOCIATE OF CLIENT OR FORMER CLIENT	OPPOSITION CLIENT OR ASSOCIATE OF THEIRS	MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC NOT KNOWN TO YOU BUT YOU WERE ACTING IN THE COURSE OF YOUR EMPLOYMENT	COLLEAGUE OR FORMER COLLEAGUE	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Incident 1	60.47% 78	3.10% 4	13.95% 18	10.08% 13	10.08% 13	2.33% 3	129	2.13
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Incident 3	45.33% 34	4.00% 3	10.67% 8	22.67% 17	14.67% 11	2.67% 2	75	2.65
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# Violence survey 2018

‘Reporting of incidents was low, with women appearing to be less likely than men to make a report’ (1)

## Q1 What is your gender identity?

Answered: 697 Skipped: 0

Female 100.00% 697

## Q38 Was any incident reported to the police?

Answered: 201 Skipped: 496

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	11.44%	23
No	87.56%	176
Prefer not to answer	1.00%	2
TOTAL		201

# Violence survey 2018

## 'Reporting of incidents was low, with women appearing to be less likely than men to make a report' (2)

### Q1 What is your gender identity?

Answered: 443 Skipped: 0

Male 100.00% 443

### Q31 Was any incident reported to the police?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 388

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.45%	14
No	69.09%	38
Prefer not to answer	5.45%	3
TOTAL		55

# Violence survey 2018

'12.5% of incidents of threatening behaviour were reported to the police'

Q38 Was any incident reported to the police?

Answered: 331 Skipped: 837

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	12.69%	42
No	85.50%	283
Prefer not to answer	1.81%	6
TOTAL		331

# Violence survey 2018

'14.5% of threatening communications were reported to the police'

Q45 Was any incident reported to the police?

Answered: 255 Skipped: 913

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.51%	37
No	82.75%	211
Prefer not to answer	2.75%	7
TOTAL		255