# Edinburgh’s Valla raises £2 million to expand AI-powered legal services for workers



Edinburgh-based legal tech startup Valla has successfully secured £2 million in seed funding, a pivotal boost that underscores its mission to revolutionise access to legal services. The funding round saw participation from several investors, including Ada Ventures, Active Partners, and Portfolio Ventures, alongside the company’s original backers, Techstart Ventures and the Resolution Foundation. Founded by Danae Shell, Valla is strategically positioned to streamline the legal process for everyday users, empowering them to collect evidence, generate necessary documentation, and receive fixed-price legal support.

"The legal world is experiencing its own watershed moment," stated Shell, emphasising the transformative potential of AI in making legal services more accessible. She noted that while advanced technologies are reshaping the landscape, many ordinary people still find themselves disadvantaged. "We’re flipping this on its head by putting powerful, tailor-made legal tools directly into workers' hands, not just those with deep pockets." Since its inception, Valla claims to have assisted approximately 12,000 workers in raising complaints, negotiating settlements, and navigating the complex Tribunal process. Demand for the platform's services has reportedly more than doubled year on year, with costs ranging from £10 for templates to £250 for three hours of employment lawyer support.

In recognition of its innovative approach, Valla has been selected for the LawTech Sandbox, a government-backed initiative aimed at transforming the legal sector through technological advancements. The Sandbox will serve as an accelerator for Valla’s DIY law platform, which is designed to make legal support accessible and affordable. This recognition aligns with broader trends highlighting the urgent need for affordable legal solutions, particularly as legal fees often pose a barrier to individuals seeking justice.

Commenting on the funding, Check Warner, a founding partner at Ada Ventures, described Valla as exemplifying the type of vision their firm seeks to support. He remarked, "They've spotted a vast, overlooked market and used emerging technology to create an innovative new solution that was impossible even a few years ago." The company plans to deploy the fresh capital towards marketing initiatives, developing additional AI-powered tools, and forming strategic alliances with unions and insurers.

Valla's approach not only aims to democratise access to legal services but also points to a growing recognition within the legal industry of the potential for tech-driven change. The startup's trajectory reflects a broader trend in the legal sector as it adapts to the digital era, where transparency and accessibility are increasingly prioritised. "Valla is a great example of how technology and delivery model innovation can open huge new markets in traditional industries like legal," Shell concluded. This innovative path positions Valla as a frontrunner in a changing landscape, where the convergence of technology and law may ultimately enhance fairness in legal processes.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/edinburgh-legal-tech-start-up-35322226), [[2]](https://scottishbusinessnews.net/valla-becomes-first-scottish-company-chosen-to-help-transform-uk-legal-sector-through-tech/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/edinburgh-legal-tech-start-up-35322226), [[6]](https://www.inkl.com/news/10-scottish-tech-startups-to-watch-at-the-eie20-showcase)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://scottishbusinessnews.net/valla-becomes-first-scottish-company-chosen-to-help-transform-uk-legal-sector-through-tech/), [[5]](https://pitchbook.com/profiles/company/454954-78)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/edinburgh-legal-tech-start-up-35322226), [[4]](https://ukt.news/startup-showcase-valla-industries-data-driven-tools-for-the-legal-industry/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[3]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/tech-nation-reveals-scotlands-five-23103734), [[7]](https://www.vestbee.com/blog/articles/vc-and-startup-weekly-news-from-europe-june-15-21-2024/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.insider.co.uk/news/edinburgh-legal-tech-start-up-35322226> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://scottishbusinessnews.net/valla-becomes-first-scottish-company-chosen-to-help-transform-uk-legal-sector-through-tech/> - Valla, a female-led Edinburgh startup, has been selected for the government-backed LawTech Sandbox, an initiative designed to transform the UK legal sector through technology. The platform aims to make legal support accessible and affordable by enabling users to collect evidence, generate legal letters, and navigate legal processes. Valla's inclusion in the LawTech Sandbox will fast-track the development of its innovative DIY law platform, empowering individuals to resolve employment issues without incurring significant legal fees.
3. <https://www.insider.co.uk/news/tech-nation-reveals-scotlands-five-23103734> - Valla, an Edinburgh-based lawtech firm founded by Kate Ho and Danae Shell, has been recognised as one of Scotland's top tech startups by Tech Nation. The company offers a data platform that analyses millions of legal documents, providing insights to help lawyers and consumers make informed legal decisions. Valla's inclusion in this list highlights its innovative approach to bringing transparency and insight to the legal sector.
4. <https://ukt.news/startup-showcase-valla-industries-data-driven-tools-for-the-legal-industry/> - Valla Industries, founded in 2019 by legal technology entrepreneur Ali Baghaei, is a cutting-edge legal tech startup aiming to transform the legal industry through high-end data-driven tools. The company's proprietary algorithm processes extensive legal case data, producing over a million data points daily. This advanced analysis extracts essential information from millions of pages of case law, presenting it in a simplified format with intuitive visualisations, enabling lawyers to better understand how previous cases have affected their current suits.
5. <https://pitchbook.com/profiles/company/454954-78> - Valla is a private legal platform developer founded in 2020, headquartered in Glasgow, Scotland. The company has raised a total of $1.81 million in funding over time. Valla's platform helps individuals raise complaints, settle with employers, or go to a tribunal, enabling users to send professional legal documents without the high costs associated with law firms. The platform simplifies legal paperwork, allowing users to collect evidence, generate forms, and send letters independently.
6. <https://www.inkl.com/news/10-scottish-tech-startups-to-watch-at-the-eie20-showcase> - Valla, co-founded by Danae Shell and Dr Kate Ho, is an Edinburgh-based legal tech startup that participated in the EIE20 showcase. The company is trialing its data platform with employment lawyers and is seeking to raise around £1 million to add machine learning insights and take the product to market. Valla's platform aims to make legal decisions fairer and faster for everyone, reflecting the founders' leadership and scale-up experience from previous ventures.
7. <https://www.vestbee.com/blog/articles/vc-and-startup-weekly-news-from-europe-june-15-21-2024/> - In the week of June 15-21, 2024, Edinburgh-based legal AI workplace startup Wordsmith raised a $5 million seed round to build an in-house legal experience designed for employees. This development highlights the growing interest and investment in legal tech startups in Edinburgh, following the success of companies like Valla, which have been instrumental in bringing innovative solutions to the legal sector.