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09/05/24

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 15 of 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the LAPG Member Update.

### Criminal Legal Aid News

- LAA publishes 'Headline Intentions' for the 2025 Standard Crime Contract
- CRM12 application deadline set for 10 July 2024
- Crime processing dates
- Updated guidance for judicial apportionment of costs

### Civil Legal Aid News

- Qualified Legal Representative: claiming guidance

### Cross-Cutting News and Events

- DAPO Statutory Instrument and Contract Consultation
- Latest Directory of Providers

### Sector News and Events

- Resolution Awards 2024
- Research Invitation from Leeds Trinity University

### LAPG News and Events

- 2024 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards – tickets now on sale
- LAPG Training Courses

## LAA publishes 'Headline Intentions' for the 2025 Standard Crime Contract

On 7 May 2024 the LAA published a Headline Intentions document setting out current thinking in relation to the 2025 Standard Crime Contract.

### The news story states:

*'The current 2022 Standard Crime Contract will come to an end on 30 September 2025 and the LAA therefore need to take steps to procure a replacement contract.'*

### **Why is it happening now?**

*The LAA has published a Headline Intentions document which highlights the main principles of the tender and the key features of the 2025 Contract.*

*The 2025 Contract is intended to run for a maximum term of 10 years and will allow new providers to join at any point between the contract start and the final year. Similarly, existing providers may expand their office and duty scheme network at any time during the life of the contract.*

*The Headline Intentions document also highlights areas where the LAA will be consulting on future changes.*

### **Contract background**

*The Standard Crime Contract is the contract between the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) and providers for the provision of face-to-face criminal legal aid services in England and Wales.*

### **Next steps**

*The LAA is finalising draft contract documentation ready to engage with consultative representative bodies. We anticipate the tender will open in September 2024 and will be published on GOV.UK.*

### **Where can I find out more?**

*Please sign up to the LAA Bulletin to stay connected with the latest announcements.*

### **Further Information**

[Tenders for legal aid contracts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[The full document can be downloaded here.](#)

The headlines within the headlines are a proposed



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moved away from periodic tender processes to introduce new contracts every 3-5 years and a move to a 10 year contract. The LAA also proposes to allow new providers to apply for a contract at any stage within the first 9 years of the contract term, and for existing providers to be able to open offices in new areas within that period. The LAA is hoping this will help providers with their long-term planning, but also remove barriers from potential new providers joining as they won't have to wait for a tender process to commence. It also allows applicants who make a mistake when tendering, or cannot meet the criteria, to rectify their bid as soon possible rather than waiting for the next tender process.

The LAA will consult on these proposals, and if introduced they will then map the changes over to civil contracts when they are next due for renewal. This is, of course, notwithstanding anything significant that arises out of the Review of Civil Legal Aid.

The announcement has already generated debate in the crime provider world due to the connection between the location of offices and duty solicitor slots and rotas. Watch this space for how this develops over the coming months. If you would like to discuss the LAA's proposals with us, [please get in touch](#) as we know that practitioners will have a variety of legitimate, and potentially opposing, views.

### **[CRM12 application deadline set for 10 July 2024](#)**

The LAA has published updated information about the CRM12 application deadline for adding duty solicitors to the rotas commencing 1 October 2024. **The submission deadline is 23:59 Wednesday 10 July 2024.**

[See the full update here](#)

### **[Crime processing dates](#)**

The [latest updates to this LAA guidance page](#) focus on the LGFS.

### **[Updated guidance for judicial apportionment of costs](#)**

The [Criminal Legal Aid Manual has been updated](#) to explain the process for applications for partially convicted defendants to pay a proportion of their costs.

The [updated manual](#) also reflects updates to State Benefit rates.

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## Civil Legal Aid News

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### Qualified Legal Representative: claiming guidance

On 30 April 2024 the LAA published an updated CAS1 form to fix issues.

The updated form [can be found here](#) along with guidance when claiming for work undertaken under the Prohibition of Cross-Examination In Person Qualified Legal Representative (QLR) Scheme.

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## Cross-Cutting News & Events

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### DAPO Statutory Instrument and Contract Consultation

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (Legal Aid: Domestic Abuse) (Amendment) Order 2024 is currently under parliamentary consideration. The Order will amend LASPO to enable legal aid for advocacy in the Crown Court and magistrate's court in relation to Domestic Abuse Protection Orders.

We have just concluded a LAA contract consultation on amending the 2018 (and, therefore 2024) Standard Civil Contracts and 2022 Standard Crime Contract to facilitate the implementation of Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPNs) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs). Both LAPG and The Law Society have raised a number of very serious concerns about the practicability of the proposed changes and we await the LAA's response. Please note that the introduction of these new orders will be piloted for a two year period in Greater Manchester and the London Boroughs of Croydon, Sutton, and Bromley.



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If you would like to see our response or discuss the new orders and the proposed operation of legal aid [please contact us](#).

### Latest Directory of Providers

The latest version of the Provider Directory was published on 26 April 2024 [and can be downloaded here](#). Always worth checking the Directory to make sure your organisation's details are correct, particularly as this database sits behind the Find a Legal Aid Advisor website used by the public.

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## Sector News & Events

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### Resolution Awards 2024

Enter the Resolution Awards and celebrate champions of family justice at the Gala Awards Night, Thursday 19 September, Church House London. Full details here:

<https://resolution.org.uk/membership/the-resolution-awards-2024/>



### Research invitation from Leeds Trinity University

We've had a request from James Shipton, Doctoral Researcher & Visiting Lecturer, Leeds Trinity University, for members to participate in research about legal aid. The project seeks to better understand the experiences of legal aid lawyers. This is intended to improve understanding of what it takes to be a legal aid lawyer, experiences of legal education/training and what social justice means to practitioners.

James has noted:

*It involves a quick chat via Microsoft Teams about what it takes to be a legal aid lawyer, and what social justice means to the profession. If interested, [complete and return the Consent Form](#) to [j.shipton@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:j.shipton@leedstrinity.ac.uk) with a date and time that works for you. I hope to speak to some of you soon!*

James has provided this [interview information sheet](#) for those interesting in finding out more.

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## LAPG News & Events

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### 2024 Legal Aid Lawyer of the Year awards – tickets now on sale

Nominations closed for LALY24 in April and the judges meet on 13 May to deliberate. Watch out for an announcement about the finalists later that week. As always, we received some incredible nominations which demonstrate the breadth and extraordinarily positive impact that legal aid practitioners have on their clients and communities.



General admission tickets are on sale for this year's ceremony in central London on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> of July. As always, we've kept the prices low (tickets include a meal and a drinks reception, along with the inspirational ceremony) to make the LALYs as accessible as possible. Discounted tickets are available for members of Young Legal Aid Lawyers and the Justice First Fellowship.

### LAPG training courses

#### *Supervision Courses*

We have confirmed the dates for the remainder of our 2024 Supervision Courses. You can book your place on any of the training dates below:

8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2024

3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2024\*

12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

#### **\*New Date**

Designed for new LAA Supervisors or those wishing to refresh their supervisory skills, our course helps you meet a key component in securing and then effectively operating your legal aid contract and meeting the LAA's supervisor standards. We again welcome Matt Howgate and Vicky Ling as our tutors for this course. You will receive practical help filling out supervisor forms, learn how to conduct file reviews and how to keep up to date with LAA changes.

LAPG members receive a £40 discount on the

course fee, bringing it down from £250 to £210 for the day. Book multiple delegates from your organisation and receive an additional 10% discount.

We have reformatted the course so that we are covering all of the same content across one day rather than two days. The content in this course is relevant for both crime and civil practitioners.

If you would like to know more about this course, or to reserve your place, contact [Andrea Shumaker](#).

### ***Online Introduction to Civil Legal Aid Course***

The Civil Legal Aid scheme is incredibly complex and the consequences of getting something wrong can be damaging to a client's case or financially damaging to the organisation doing the work – sometimes both. We have therefore developed the first module in a series which provides a general introduction to the civil legal aid scheme aimed at trainees, paralegals, junior lawyers and those that wish to refresh their knowledge having worked in the sector for some time.

We have moved this online module onto a new training platform, Thinkific! This new platform allows for growth and development of the course and a better overall experience for the user. The same information is covered and it is still entirely self-paced, you will still receive access to the course for 12 months.

We now offer this course in written and video versions! Once you are enrolled on the course you will have the option to read through the material yourself or watch a video! You can mix and match how you learn to complete the course in a way that best suits your learning style and time constraints. All the video and written content are available on the Thinkific platform and you will have full access to both versions.

If you would like to subscribe for just £99 please click [here](#). If you have any issues or require an invoice please email [Andrea Shumaker](#). We offer three discount codes, JFF, for Justice First Fellows, JFFO, for Just First Fellowship Host Organisation employees, and multiple-tickets, to be used when subscribing more than one participant on the course.

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I hope you all had a lovely long week. Please do get in touch about any of the issues above.

Take care one and all,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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09/05/24



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Would you like to contribute to our Member Updates and share news and information with other members? If so, just email us and we can discuss how you can best contribute.

Thank you for being brave enough to be part of the LAPG community!







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