



23/06/23

LAPG Member Update

Issue 16 of 2022

Legal Aid News & Events

- Notice of LAPG's AGM – 14 July 2023
- Launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- NAO consultation on legal aid

Legal Aid News & Events



Notice of LAPG's AGM – 14 July 2023

We would like to invite all LAPG members to our Annual General Meeting on 14 July 2023, from 13.00-14:00 on Zoom. The Agenda will cover:

- Minutes of and matters arising from the Annual General Meeting held on 7 June 2022
- Co-Chairs' report
- Treasurer's report and presentation of the 2022 Audited Accounts
- Director's report
- Election of the Board of Directors
- Any other proper business of the Annual General Meeting

If you would like to attend this online meeting, which will review our work over 2022/23 and our plans for the future, please use the joining instructions below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88521426314>

Meeting ID: 885 2142 6314

Members are welcome to contact us if they are interested in supporting LAPG by applying to become a member of either our Board of Directors (which is responsible for governance) or our Advisory Committee (which contributes to a wide range of our policy, training and influencing activities). If you would like to know more about these two groups and how they support our work, [please get in touch](#).



Launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Access to Justice

Tuesday saw the launch of a new All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Access to Justice to act as a voice for the sector in parliament. The brain-child of LAPG Head of Parliamentary Affairs, Ro Jana, the new APPG is an amalgamation of the APPG on Legal Aid and the APPG on Pro Bono and Public Legal Education. LAPG will provide the secretariat for the new APPG, which will put the needs of clients at the heart of any debate about the justice system and advocate strongly for a well-resourced, accessible and sustainable legal aid system.

The APPG on Legal Aid was a platform for the sector in parliament, facilitating discussion and debate on issues such as the Grenfell tragedy, access to legal aid for housing and social welfare cases, the role of technology in advancing access to justice, legal aid deserts, legal aid for survivors of domestic abuse, public legal education, and many other topics. It also provided comprehensive training to caseworkers and MPs through the House of Commons Learning and Development team and Library, and conducted a [six-month Inquiry into the Sustainability and Recovery of the Legal Aid Sector](#). It spent the years since using the findings and recommendations to directly influence policymakers at

every level.

Established in July 2009 by Dr Laura Janes with the brilliant Karen Buck MP as chair, the APPG on Legal Aid's members over the years included Sir Keir Starmer, Dominic Grieve, Lord Charlie Falconer, James Daly, Lord Colin Low and Daisy Cooper. Belief in the aims of the APPG united members more than party lines divided. It also counted the (current) lord chancellor among its most long-standing and supportive members.



Almost 14 years later, on the evening of 20 June 2023, the new APPG was formally launched by Lord Chancellor Alex Chalk KC MP at an event in the House of Lords. The room was filled with well-wishers and representatives from every part of the sector: criminal barristers and Law Centres, students and academics, parliamentarians, and legal aid practitioners and grandees such as Baroness Helena Kennedy and Lord Willy Bach.

For more information on the new APPG, [visit the website here](#) or contact [LAPG's Head of Parliamentary Affairs, Ro Jana](#).



NAO consultation on Legal Aid

Consultation link:

<https://link.webropol.com/s/NAO-consultation-on-legal-aid>

The [National Audit Office](#) (NAO) is carrying out a study on whether the government's provision of criminal and civil legal aid is delivering value for money and providing sufficient access to justice.

To help us with our report we would like to hear from legal professionals, and those who provide advice to individuals with legal issues, about your experience of the legal aid sector and the impact of the implementation of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012. This consultation will be open until **midday, Friday, 21 July 2023**.

This value for money study is separate from the work we do each year to audit and report on the Legal Aid Agency financial accounts. But it builds on our previous value for money report on [civil legal aid](#) in 2014.

We intend to publish our [value for money report](#) in early 2024. This work will assess:

- what progress government has made in understanding the full costs and cost savings from implementing LASPO;
- how government is ensuring that legal aid provides access to justice as intended; and
- how effectively government understands and works with others to manage the financial sustainability of the legal aid sector.

The National Audit Office (NAO) scrutinises public spending for Parliament and is independent of government and the civil service. We help Parliament hold government to account and we use our insights to help people who manage and govern public bodies to improve public services.

Members of LAPG - that is all those employed in member firms, law centres and other NfPs, plus the ACL legal aid group - please do join us for the AGM on 14 July. We have much to report from the last year but, more importantly, this is a chance for discussion on our plans for big ticket issues such as the Review of Civil Legal Aid, the implementation of the Means Test Review and future of civil and criminal legal aid contracting.

Exciting times ahead for our newly formed APPG on Access to Justice, which will expand our reach across parliament and open up new opportunities to discuss access to justice with MPs, Lords and civil servants.

And please do engage with the NAO consultation. We have helped to shape this process through discussions with the NAO and this is an important opportunity to hold the MOJ to account.

Take care one and all,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

Follow LAPG on Twitter [@WeAreLAPG](#)
[#WeAreLegalAid](#)
23/06/23



Subscribe to our courses

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!

LEGAL AID LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Copyright © 2023 Legal Aid Practitioners Group, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).