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09/08/24

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 24 of 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the LAPG member update.

A reminder to **SAVE THE DATES** for our annual dinner and conference which will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024. We are hoping to publish the conference schedule and booking information for the dinner and conference early next week so keep a look out for our next update.

### Civil Legal Aid News

- 2024 Standard Civil Contract documents
- Immigration providers south west support directory

### Criminal Legal Aid News

- Criminal Legal Aid Manual
- Use Digital Apply service for all criminal legal aid applications
- Apply for legal aid for anti-social behaviour injunction breaches
- Apply for legal aid for civil contempt cases
- Overnight accommodation and subsistence: Annual Review
- Advocates Justice Video Service (JVS) conference booths
- Access to historic data

### Cross-Cutting Legal Aid News

- Law Commission launches consultation on Contempt of Court
- UKSC Rules consultation - Summary of responses and UKSC response

### LAPG News and Events

- Training Courses

## Sector News and Events

- Access to Justice Foundation Report - The economic benefits of investing in justice for all
- SAVE THE DATE | CJC NATIONAL FORUM | 29 NOVEMBER 2024

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## Civil Legal Aid News

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### 2024 Standard Civil Contract documents

The LAA published the final contract documents for the 2024 Standard Civil Contract on GOV.UK on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. The 2024 Standard Civil Contract will commence on Sunday 1 September 2024. [Providers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the contract documents, which are available here.](#)

### Immigration providers south west support directory.

[Updated List of providers able to carry out legal aid immigration work in the South West of England.](#)



Legal Aid  
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## Criminal Legal Aid News

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### Use Digital Apply service for all criminal legal aid applications

From Tuesday 6 August 2024 providers must use the Apply for Criminal Legal Aid service for all crime applications and are encouraged to start using it now if they are not already doing so. [You can read the LAA news story here.](#)

### Criminal Legal Aid Manual

The Criminal Legal Aid Manual has been updated to reflect the transition from the CRM14 eForm to the Apply for Criminal Legal Aid service. [You can read the LAA news story here.](#)

### Apply for legal aid for anti-social behaviour



Legal Aid  
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## [injunction breaches](#)

The LAA have sent out updated guidance on the funding of breaches of civil anti-social behaviour injunctions, how to apply and how to get paid. As with the Manual, the guidance has been updated to reflect the transition from the CRM14 eForm to the Apply for Criminal Legal Aid service. [You can read the guidance here.](#)

## [Apply for legal aid for civil contempt cases](#)

Also an update to the guidance on the funding of civil contempt, how to apply and how to get paid to reflect the transition from CRM14 eForm to the Apply for Criminal Legal Aid service. [You can read the guidance here.](#)

## [Overnight accommodation and subsistence: Annual Review](#)

The LAA have published an updated Terms of Reference document for their annual review of overnight accommodation and subsistence on the travel related guidance page on gov.uk: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gr-adequate-fee-travel-expenses.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gr-adequate-fee-travel-expenses)

In line with the provider input section, they are formally inviting any feedback and representations you may have, supported where possible by relevant information and data, by **Monday 9 September 2024**. Please send any representations to Nicholas Ford and Lib Archbold at [Nicholas.Ford@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Nicholas.Ford@justice.gov.uk) and [Elizabeth.Archbold1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Archbold1@justice.gov.uk) at the LAA. They will then consider all providers' feedback along with internal data and any further information from operational staff and wider stakeholders, with any recommendations for change being submitted to the LAA's Executive Leadership Team.

LAPG will also be collating views and responding so if you would rather respond through us, please do send your thoughts on this to our Director of Legal Aid Policy, [Kate Pasfield.](#)

## [Advocates Justice Video Service \(JVS\) conference booths](#)

From Monday 19th August 2024, the number of Advocate Justice Video Service (JVS) conference booths in criminal courts will be reduced. This is in

response to current working practices that have changed since the booths were first put in place.

Advocates should continue to use Cloud Video Platform (CVP) on their own devices for conferences. At least one booth will remain in each criminal court as back up or for high security cases.

If you need more information about CVP you can read the [guide for professional participants in criminal hearings](#) or read the guidance on [joining a hearing and sharing documents](#).

### **Access to historic data**

Providers will not be able to access their eForm portal account from Friday 25 October 2024. Providers should download any needed eForms before this date.

Anyone requiring access to historic eForms after Friday 25 October 2024, need to email all requests to [online-support@justice.gov.uk](mailto:online-support@justice.gov.uk) and include:

- defendant's name
- firm account number
- approximate date the form was submitted
- form type required i.e. CRM14, CRM4 etc.

If providers wish to speak to an LAA call handler they can contact 0300 200 2020 and choose option 3.

[You can read the LAA news story here.](#)

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## **Cross-Cutting News & Events**

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### **Law Commission launches consultation on Contempt of Court**

The Law Commission are conducting a review of the law on contempt of court and considering the need for reform to improve its effectiveness, consistency, and coherence. Their stated objective is to produce a law of contempt that is easier to understand, fairer, and that better protects the administration of justice.

As part of that consultation, there are a number of questions and proposals on legal aid funding for contempt of court proceedings in Chapter 9. LAPG will be responding, based on the views of



**Law  
Commission**  
Reforming the law

our Advisory Committee and wider membership. If you would like to feed into our response, please get in touch with our Director of Legal Aid Policy, Kate Pasfield at [kate.pasfield@lapg.co.uk](mailto:kate.pasfield@lapg.co.uk).

[You can read about the consultation and find the documents here.](#)

### **UKSC Rules consultation - Summary of responses and UKSC response**

The UK Supreme Court have now published a response to their Rules consultation which includes a proposal to remove the automatic extension of time to appeal for legal aid cases under Rule 6. [You can read their response here.](#)

LAPG responded to the consultation pointing out that the speed at which an Appellant is able to apply for legal aid is often not within their control. Delays can come about due to someone being unable to find a provider, and also at the LAA end where bureaucratic delays are common. You will see that some concessions were made in the UKSC's response which we have set out below for those who don't have time to read the full response:

#### ***Rule 6: Removal of automatic extension for Legal Aid cases***

*9 consultees expressed concern at the proposed change to remove the automatic extension of time for a party who is seeking public funding. These consultees stressed that, in their experience, delays are often not the fault of the litigant but arise from the response time of the Legal Aid Agency.*

*The Court has considered these objections carefully and fully recognises the need to ensure equal access to justice for all prospective parties. However, the Court has decided to retain the proposed rule. Where a party can show that they have applied promptly for legal aid and pursued the application, the Registrar will extend time to ensure a legally aided litigant is not disadvantaged by the need to obtain public funding. It is likely to be only in exceptional cases that time will not be extended to accommodate the party. Where the Registrar decides not to extend time, the litigant may apply to have that decision reviewed by a single Justice under rule 11.*

*Rule 6(3) has been amended to make clear that it applies to all time limits under the Rules, so that a publicly funded respondent is in the same position as a publicly funded appellant.*

Rule 6(4) has been amended to clarify when the time limit for doing any act specified by the Rules expires, namely on the next working day if the Registry is closed on the last day and at midnight local time for the person doing the act.

This is a somewhat disappointing outcome, but practitioners should remember to cite this response if they have any issues with late appeals when litigating.

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## LAPG News & Events

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### 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:

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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## **Sector News & Events**

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### **[Access to Justice Foundation Report - The economic benefits of investing in justice for all](#)**

The Access to Justice Foundation have released their [Value of Justice for All report](#) that they commissioned from **Pragmatix Advisory**, with the



THE  
ACCESS  
TO JUSTICE  
FOUNDATION

support of **The Bar Council**. The study demonstrates the substantial economic benefits of investing in free legal advice services and the significant savings it could generate for the public purse.

The report suggests that the Treasury could save up to £12 billion over the next ten years by investing in the provision of specialist free legal advice. This includes over £4 billion in the first year alone and more than £9 billion within four years.

[You can find further information and read the full report here.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE | CJC NATIONAL FORUM | 29 NOVEMBER 2024**

**Civil Justice Council National Forum - Access to Justice: Working Together - Friday 29 November 2024 - Friends House, Euston, NW1 2BJ and online.**

Full details and registration link to follow.

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On a closing note, please do get in touch with us if you have experienced any problems over the recent days of rioting and you would like our support. And a reminder that the LAA are also offering support to legal aid providers and have said the following:

*'We are working closely with partners across the justice system and where we are aware of any potential impacts on legal aid providers we will continue to reach out directly to offer our support.*

*If you have any concerns or questions, please reach out to our contract managers who will be on hand'.*

Take care one and all,

**Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)**

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09/08/24





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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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