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26/09/23

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 25 of 2023

It's LAPG conference time!



The LAPG Annual Conference will be held in person on 9<sup>th</sup> November at University College London – details on [LAPG's website](#).

[Get your tickets here.](#)

### Civil Legal Aid News

- Standard Civil Contract including HLPAS Tender closes 17.00 on 17 October 2023. Questions can be asked until today (26th September) at 23.59
- Free webinar on the legal aid tender by the Law Society
- LAA audits in the tender window
- CCMS changes – large hourly rates bills

- Civil legal aid applications and appeals
- Civil processing dates
- Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA)

## Criminal Legal Aid News

- MOJ survey on LGFS
- Pre Charge Engagement
- Crime legal aid applications, appeals and duty solicitor rotas
- Crime Processing dates
- Ministry of Justice Consultations
- Book launch Nottingham

## Legal Aid Scheme Wide News

- Legal aid forms (includes Welsh forms/ffurflenni Cymraeg)
- Information and guidance to help legal aid professionals submit payment claims for their work.
- Application forms and guidance, eligibility, scope and means testing. Civil and Crime

## LAPG News and Events

- LAPG Annual Conference 9 November 2023 at University College London.

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## Civil Legal Aid News

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**Standard Civil Contract including HLPAS Tender closes 17.00 17 October 2023. Questions can be asked until today (26th September) at 23.59**

We covered the announcement in Update 24.

For details and links see the announcement on GOV.UK [here](#).

To go straight to the contract, general specification and category specific documents click [here](#).

For information on the eTendering process see [here](#).

For information on the contract procurement process click [here](#).

For a list of open and closed tenders see [here](#).

***If your organisation wants to carry out civil legal aid work when the current contract ends you need to submit a tender.***



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If anything is unclear the final date for asking questions is **today 26 September at 23.59**. All questions need to be submitted using the eTendering system message boards. They will then be published as part of the FAQ. The deadlines for questions is 26<sup>th</sup> September and answers will be published week commencing the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Section 2 of the Selection Questionnaire ITT document provides information regarding applicants' questions. Paragraph 2.2 confirms that if an Applicant has any questions about the procurement process, they may submit them up until 23:59 on 26 September 2023. This is referred to in the eTendering system as the 'End date for supplier clarification messages'.

In accordance with paragraph 2.3, all such questions **must** be submitted using the eTendering system message boards.

Remember that as is set out in the tender documentation, the contract will initially be for a one year period with the option of further one year extensions.

One tip we had: applicants need to express interest in a category ITT and then the SQ becomes available.

And another: each provider can bid for one LOT per Procurement Area. Where an Applicant has multiple delivery locations within a Procurement Area, they only need to provide the address and postcode of the primary location for the purposes of the Tender. The LAA will collect the rest as part of the verification process. If an Applicant has offices in two different PAs then they can bid for both of those through the eTendering system, for example if they have offices in London and Cardiff then they can submit bids for both because they are in different PAs.

### **[Free webinar on the legal aid tender by the Law Society](#)**

The Law Society is running a free webinar on the civil legal aid tender on **Wed 4 October 12.30-2pm** presented by Richard Miller and David Gilmore. The link to sign up is here: [Civil legal aid contract 2024 | The Law Society](#)

### **[LAA audits in the tender window](#)**

If you have any LAA audits booked in during the tender period and it is unmanageable do ask your Contract Manager for it to be rescheduled. If you have any

problems please let us know.

### **CCMS changes – large hourly rates bills**

The LAA say that they want to make it easier for providers to submit large hourly rates bills through CCMS. “Simplifying questions and reducing the available responses means less data will need to be entered into the hourly rates screens. This should reduce timeout errors for large hourly rates bills.” Details are [here](#).

### **Civil legal aid applications and appeals**

Information and resources for provider civil legal aid work, including applications and assessment appeals. More information is set out [here](#).

### **Civil Processing Dates**

These have been published again and are [here](#).

### **Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA)**

We remain very concerned that the work being carried out by the Ministry of Justice and the consultants P A Consulting is very limited in its scope and that there is very little information available about the review. Representative bodies who have attended stakeholder meetings are not authorised to share information from those meetings more widely.

Suffice to say that there is an economic review, user research, an international analysis and there will be a series of data publications, as originally announced [here](#).

There are no plans for any interim increase in fees while the Review is being carried out.

The MoJ has appointed P A Consulting to work on the economic analysis of the structure of the civil legal aid market. They will shortly be asking providers to answer a questionnaire about their practices and say it should only take 15 minutes. Representative bodies feel that the questions could be improved and that it will take longer. LAPG continues to make representations on various issues of concern.

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## **Criminal Legal Aid News**

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The Law Society has sent out a message to representative bodies "This is just a reminder to those of you who do LGFS work to please complete the MoJ survey **before the deadline of 30 September, and please share with your members.** This is really important for work to reform the litigation fee scheme.

The survey is here: [SurveyMonkey Powered Online Survey](#)."



Legal Aid  
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### Pre contract engagement from TLS

The Law Society is collecting feedback on pre-contract engagement

- Are LAPG members regularly carrying out PCE?
- Is the fee adequate for the work that they need to do?
- What would need to change to encourage them to use it more?

There was supposed to have been a review of PCE after 6 months, but it never happened. They are chasing the LAA to fix a date for a review meeting. Please email [policy@lapg.co.uk](mailto:policy@lapg.co.uk) if you have any feedback and we will pass it on.

### Crime legal aid applications, appeals and duty solicitor rotas

Information and resources including crime applications, assessment appeals and duty solicitor work. Details are [here](#).

### Crime Processing Dates

The latest information is [here](#).

### Ministry of Justice Consultations

There are many consultations of relevance to members e.g. the following

- **Law Commission issues paper on criminal appeals:** recommended that consultees read the issues paper before responding to the consultation - closes 31 October 2023.
- **Consultation on youth remand funding arrangements:** this consultation asks for views about how funding can be used to meet the youth justice system's aim of preventing offending and reoffending by children and young people - closes 8 November 2023.
- **Miscellaneous Amendments to Sentencing Guidelines:** this is an annual consultation in which the Council seeks the views of guideline users to proposals to make

amendments to existing guidelines - closes  
30 November 2023.

We do not put them in Updates as, while they are relevant to members, they are not primarily about legal aid issues. Nevertheless if you want to find all current and closed consultations see <https://consult.justice.gov.uk>

### **Book Launch Nottingham**

There is a launch event at Bromley House Library for “*Criminal Justice in Austerity: Legal Aid, Prosecution and the Future of Criminal Legal Practice*” Nottingham, 6.00pm – 7.00pm on 7 November.

Details and booking form are [here](#).

Refreshments will be provided and there will be talks from Dr Thornton, Amanda Parker (Lecturer in Law, Nottingham Trent Uni and former defence solicitor partner) and Dr Vicky Kemp (Principal Research Fellow in Law, Nottingham Uni).

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## **Legal Aid Scheme Wide News**

**Legal aid forms (includes Welsh forms/ffurflenni Cymraeg).**

Civil and crime forms are set out [here](#).

**Information and guidance to help legal aid professionals submit payment claims for their work**

Is this helpful? It would be interesting to have feedback. See [here](#).

**Application forms and guidance, eligibility, scope and means testing, Civil and Crime**

And more forms [here](#).



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## **LAPG News & Events**

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## LAPG Annual Conference 9 November 2023 at University College London.



The LAPG Conference details are now [online](#) and early bird booking is available.

Get your tickets at <https://lapg.co.uk/2023-conference>

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We are really looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our November's national legal aid conference, so go get your tickets!

Take care one and all,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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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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LAWYER  
OF THE YEAR AWARDS**



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