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28/09/23

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 26 of 2023

### Civil Legal Aid News

- Civil legal aid contract tender (including HLPAS) - **DEADLINE IS 17.00 on 17 OCTOBER 2023**
- The Law Society tender webinar online. Wed 4 October 12.30-2pm
- Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA) – provider survey

### LAPG News and Events

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



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.](#)

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## Civil Legal Aid News

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### Civil legal aid contract 2024 tender (including HLPAS) - DEADLINE IS 17.00 on 17 OCTOBER 2023

A reminder that the deadline for bidding for civil legal aid contracts is fast approaching.

The LAA launched the tender on 13 September to deliver civil legal aid services from 1 September 2024 under the 2024 Standard Civil Contract in the following areas of law:

- Family;
- Housing and Debt;
- Welfare Benefits;
- Immigration and Asylum (including work at Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs));
- Mental Health;
- Community Care;
- Claims Against Public Authorities;
- Clinical Negligence;
- Public Law;
- Family Mediation;
- Education; and
- Discrimination.

Alongside tenders for the above categories of Law, applicants may also tender for HLPAS, commencing on 1 September 2024. HLPAS will be delivered in 106 HLPAS areas across England and Wales.

Tenders must be submitted using the LAA's eTendering system and must be submitted by **17:00 on 17 October 2023**. The LAA's FAQ document summarising key questions raised will be published during the week commencing 2 October 2023. We will include those details in our next member update.

**Please note** that the deadline for submitting verification information for all individual bids is **23:59 on 15 March 2024**. However there is a different verification deadline for HLPAS services and bids that include IRC work of **23:59 on 3 June 2024**. Please contact the LAA as soon as possible if you plan to bid but anticipate problems with



Legal Aid  
Agency

obtaining all the information you will need for verification purposes.

All of the relevant information including guidance documents about tendering, contract documentation and the link to the LAA's eTendering system can be found in **the LAA's news story [here](#)**. You can also find this information in the latest Legal Aid Agency Bulletin dated 22/9/23.

These contracts are for one year initially but may be extended for further one year periods. Future contracts will be informed by the findings of the Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA).

We summarised the key differences between the 2028 and 2024 Standard Civil Contract in member update no 24, however, below is brief reminder. We have not included the numerous changes to the Category Specific Rules but would advise careful scrutiny of each relevant category of legal aid.

## **Key differences between the 2018 and 2024 SCCs**

### **Supervision and remote working arrangements for supervisors**

- Supervisors will be able to supervise fee earners in more than one category of law. There is no limit set within the General Specification on the number of categories a person can supervise or restrictions on whether they can cross-supervise civil, family and crime. Limits are however set by the category specific requirements. Crime has different criteria around the use of supervisors and the LAA are working this through and this is likely to be addressed in the FAQ.
- The FTE (Full Time Equivalent) remains in some categories but more flexibility on working hours is being introduced.
- The requirement for supervisors to attend each office that they supervise at least one day per calendar month has been removed.
- Providers can now make their own decision on whether face-to-face supervision (in the same location) is required and how often supervision is required.
- The requirement that a supervisor must not supervise more than four caseworkers across a maximum of two offices or across two providers with one office each has been

removed – but remains subject to the 1FTE to 4FTE requirement.

- The requirement for a supervisor to only be employed by one provider has been removed.

### **Office requirements**

- Residential property has been added as an exclusion as a type of office.
- For the purposes of the permanent presence requirements, you may now operate an office in a shared building such as another legal services provider's premises or in a serviced office arrangement, but must have a right of access to the office at all times during Business Hours for the purpose of providing face-to-face legal services at that office.

***Please note, if your organisation wants to carry out civil legal aid work when the current contract ends on 31 August 2024, you must submit a tender.***

### **The Law Society tender webinar online. Wed 4 October 12.30-2pm**

The Law Society are running a free webinar for providers 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](#).

We think this will be really helpful for anyone dealing with the complexities of civil legal aid tendering and will also attend ourselves and include any helpful tips in our next update.

### **Review of Civil Legal Aid (RoCLA) – provider survey**

PA Consulting (an independent third-party contracted by the MoJ) are undertaking research to provide a robust evidence base for the [MoJ's Review of Civil Legal Aid](#). All legal aid providers are invited to take part in an online survey, which explores civil legal aid providers' experiences of the sector. The responses will help shape civil legal aid policy development.

All survey responses will be anonymous and confidential. On average, the survey takes 20-30 minutes to complete but may take longer depending on the level of detail you provide.

Please click [here](#) to access the survey and more information:

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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. We shall be constantly updating the details over the next few weeks. The conference will be a great opportunity to catch up with what is going on in the legal aid world. Hear about the Review of Civil Legal Aid, pick up tips in workshops (family, immigration, housing, crime, billing, costs, civil contracts, the means test and more) and meet other practitioners.

The venue is not far from King's Cross/St Pancras and Euston and within a few stops of Paddington so we hope that it is manageable for members to attend for the day.

To find out more and to get your tickets click [here](#).

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Please get in touch if you have any queries on the tender, survey or conference.

Take care one and all,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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

# LEGAL AID LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



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