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29/08/25

LAPG Member Update

Issue 29 of 2025

Welcome to the latest LAPG Member Update. In this edition we're inviting you to join us online for a discussion with other members about the LAA data breach and their plans to bring their systems back online in the coming weeks. We're also inviting you to attend this year's Annual Legal Aid Conference.

The restoration of LAA digital systems

Please join us for a LAPG Member meeting to discuss the LAA's plans

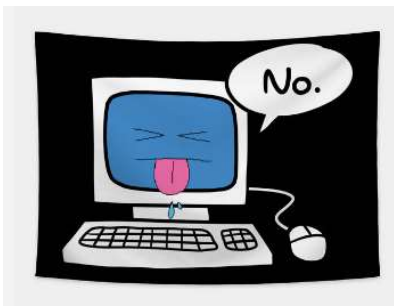
Online, Tuesday 9 September, 1-2pm – sign-up link below

Hopefully you all received the latest official comms from the LAA ('Legal Aid Agency - Business Continuity arrangements', sent via email at approx. 17:34 on Wed, 27 August). The comms confirmed the content released the previous week

about the LAA's proposed timetable for restoring its digital systems, which are:

- **In mid-September, Crime Apply and Submit a Crime Form** will be available for access.
- From **mid to late September, Civil Apply and CCMS** will be available for access.
- Services relating to functionality previously provided by **CWA** are expected to return from **October**.

(LAA emphasis retained in bold)



As we are nearing the restoration of access to digital systems to apply for certificates, amendments, POAs and all the other wonderful interactions you have with the LAA, this raises a number of critical issues. The LAA has started talking to us and other representative and membership bodies about these issues, and we're trying to ensure that the restoration process goes as smoothly as possible for all practitioners. There is no doubt this is going to be a complex and stressful process for all of you given the considerable impact of the LAA's decision to take all its systems offline.

We have particular concerns about the following issues, and would really like to hear your views about:

- The process for adding new cases to CCMS and Crime Apply and updating cases that existed in the systems before they were taken offline
- The LAA's current published plans to cease weekly contingency payments and commence recoupment of those payments
- The capacity of the LAA's systems to manage the volume of applications and other processes that will be submitted once the systems come back online

With these and other issues in mind, we have organised a LAPG Member meeting for **Tuesday, 9 September 2025, on Teams from 1-2pm**. The meeting is a chance for members to raise their questions and concerns with us so that we can ensure those concerns are taken into account by the LAA as they develop their plans.

[If you would like to join the meeting, please register here](#)

The sign-up form allows you to post questions or concerns to be considered at the meeting.

We will host a second Member Meeting 1-2 weeks after the systems are restored to hear about your experiences of using the systems and what improvements or changes need to be made.

LAPG Annual Legal Aid Conference

We were delighted to announce last week that you can now book your place at this year's LAPG Annual Legal Aid Conference, which takes place on **Monday 20 of October 2025 at A&O Shearman's offices in London.**

As we reported last week, there is a heavy emphasis in this year's conference programme about the impact of the LAA data breach, the contingency processes and the LAA's plans to restore its digital systems. We'll adjust the content prior to the conference based on the state of play by 20 October.

Along with cyber breach content, we have our usual mixture of workshops covering issues relevant to legal aid lawyers in their daily practice as well as management sessions for all levels of manager. We're catering for students and junior lawyers and have sessions of general interest to all such as legal aid policy development and cost maximisation. Our conference therefore has more than a little something for everyone, along with a chance to network and benefit from the support and camaraderie that comes from being part of this wonderful sector.



Our keynote will be delivered by Gina Miller, the campaigner who twice took on the government in relation to important constitutional principles. The Article 50 and prorogation cases sought to uphold parliamentary sovereignty and ensure

that the government acts lawfully, issues close to the hearts of legal aid lawyers.

We have extended an invitation to the Minister with responsibility for legal aid and court services, Sarah Sackman MP, and will adjust the programme if she is able to attend.

This year’s plenary sessions will cover two topical, business-critical issues: the risks and rewards of adopting AI systems and civil and criminal legal aid policy development. The second plenary will be adjusted depending on where we are with the restoration of the LAA’s digital systems.

[The current programme is set out on our dedicated Conference webpage here](#)

[You can book here](#)

The Early Bird offer, which runs until the 29th of September, together with support and sponsorship from John M Hayes Ltd, Communicourt and A&O Shearman, means that the prices are very competitive.

Ticket Type	Early Bird (Until 29th Sept)	Standard (From 30th Sept)
LAPG member	£150 (plus VAT)	£200 (plus VAT)
Non-LAPG member	£225 (plus VAT)	£275 (plus VAT)
YLAL, JFFs, SWSQFs	£20 (plus VAT)	£30 (plus VAT)

There is a 10% discount if you purchase multiple tickets. Just add ‘**multiple**’ on the discount box before payment on the Eventbrite page. It will get automatically applied.

We have a limited number of concessions to off-set travel costs for legal aid practitioners based outside of London. If you would like to inquire about receiving one of these tickets, please email Andrea:
andrea.shumaker@lapg.co.uk

Please do join us on 9 September for our Member Meeting about the data breach and restoration of LAA’s digital systems. Your views and concerns are really important to us and will help us to shape the LAA’s plans and how their systems operate.

Take care one and all and, as ever, if you need our help or support, please do get in touch,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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





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