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04/09/25

## LAPG Member Update

Issue 30 of 2025

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Welcome to our latest Member Update covering the current situation with the LAA's cyber-security breach including their plans to restore systems, a reminder to register for our on-line Member Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September, plus news and events from across the sector.

### Cross-Cutting Legal Aid News

- The LAA's plan for restoration of their digital services
- LAPG member meeting to discuss the restoration of LAA digital systems
- Registration for 'Sign-In to Legal Aid Services'

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- Duty solicitor rotas, lists, standard crime contract 2025 and contact details
- 2026 Criminal Defence Direct (CDD)

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- APPG meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls - 9 September - 2-3pm
- LAPG Annual Legal Aid Conference – 20 October – book your discounted place

## Sector News and Events

- INQUEST Northern Conference and Quiz – 18<sup>th</sup> September

## LAPG Training & Resources

- New Training: People Management – Building & Managing Your Team
- Online Modular Courses: Immigration & Asylum Legal Aid; Mental Health; Mental Capacity & Community Care; Managing Family and Civil Legal Aid Contracts Toolkit; Online Introduction to Civil Legal Aid Course
- Legal Aid Supervision Courses

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# Cross-Cutting Legal Aid News

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## The LAA's plan for restoration of their digital services

The latest official LAA comms to legal aid providers landed today (4 September 2025, at approx. 9.13am) covering the following areas:

- Expected restoration timelines
- Extension to time and cost limits for emergency representation under Civil Application
- CWA billing replacement service: code changes
- Civil billing - Weekly Payments
- Civil billing - Average Payments Scheme
- FAQ

We and other representative bodies are engaged in regular meetings with the LAA to discuss their system restoration plans. We're trying to ensure the processes are clear and simple and that the LAA's plans create the minimum disruption possible for providers. The LAA have been sharing their detailed plans

for restoration of digital services with us, and we are feeding in views from our members and our Advisory Committee to help shape those plans.

The LAA's current timeline remains as follows:

- 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



"No, it isn't how long I've worked here. It's how long I've been waiting for my computer to come back from the repair shop!"

Please ensure that you regularly review the [LAA's cyber security incident page](#) and [FAQs](#) for detailed information on the current contingency arrangements and plans for restoration of services.

As ever, we are happy to respond to member queries and provide support during this difficult time. Please contact [kate.pasfield@lapg.co.uk](mailto:kate.pasfield@lapg.co.uk) with any questions.

### **LAPG member meeting to discuss the restoration of LAA digital systems – on-line 9<sup>th</sup> September – 1-2 pm**

We continue to receive member queries from concerned providers about the impact of the current outage. Given the complexities that are likely to be involved in getting back to 'business as usual' with the LAA's digital systems, particularly for those who will be using CCMS, we thought it would be helpful to arrange a meeting with our members to discuss the LAA's plans.

**The meeting will take place online, on Tuesday 9 September, 1-2pm – sign-up link below**

As we said in our last update, 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

The meeting will be a chance for members to raise questions and concerns with us so that we can ensure those concerns are considered 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 experience of using the systems and what improvements or changes need to be made.

### **Registration for 'Sign-In to Legal Aid Services'**

A number of member organisations have been in touch about the registration process for SILAS, the replacement portal to access the LAA's digital system once they come back online. Of particular concern is the requirement to verify the identity of 'third-party personnel' and the need to retain copies of identity documents for audit by the LAA in the future. Third-party personnel, such as external costs specialists, have also raised concerns about the need to have a unique email address for each client they support and some of the practical and GDPR issues involved. We have raised these concerns formally with the LAA on a number of occasions and asked them to take a more pragmatic approach. So far the LAA has declined to make any changes to the process or consider alternative verification arrangements, citing the need to maintain certainty and control.

The LAA has noted that around 87% of providers are now registered to use SILAS. This means that once the restoration process set out above for CCMS and other systems commences, those users will be invited to access SILAS and start using the LAA's systems. However we are concerned that delays to registering third-party personnel such as costs specialists will impact on the ability of some providers to submit claims and bills.

If this is an ongoing concern of yours [please reach out to us to discuss](#).

## Civil Legal Aid News

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### Delay to the production of civil contract schedules

The LAA has announced that there will be a delay in the issuing of civil contract schedules because of the ongoing cyber security incident. The LAA has stated that there will be no impact on the work that providers are able to conduct as the schedules are for information purposes only.

The schedules for 2025/26 will have the same allocation of matter starts as the 2024/25 schedules and no action is required from providers. Work should continue to be reported in line with the current contingency arrangements.

New schedules will be sent to all contract holders as soon as they have been produced.

Providers are advised to direct any queries to their Contract Manager.

[For further information, you can the news story here.](#)

### Delivery of HLPAS provision in Lancaster

The LAA is keen to engage with organisations who may want to consider delivering HLPAS services in Lancaster.

They have arranged an online market engagement event on 16 September for any interested parties.

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

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## Criminal Legal Aid News

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### **CRM18A: escape fee case claim form for prison law work**

You can find the LAA forms and guidance for claiming [legal aid fees for prison law escape cases here](#).

### **Duty solicitors rotas, lists, standard crime contract 2025 and contact details**

You can find the LAA's duty solicitor rotas, lists, standard crime contract 2025 and contact details [here](#).

### **2026 Criminal Defence Direct (CDD)**

You can find information for organisation interested in delivering [CDD services from 4 May 2026 here](#).

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## **LAPG News and Events**

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### **APPG meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2-3pm**



On Tuesday 9th September from 14:00-15:00, the APPG on Access to Justice will be hosting a meeting with Minister Jess Phillips to discuss Violence Against Women Girls (VAWG) and Economic Abuse in anticipation of the Government's upcoming VAWG strategy. Gina Miller, founder of MoneyShe and Sam Smethers, CEO of Surviving Economic Abuse will be joining the Minister to share their insight.

To register your interest in attending this in-person event, scheduled to take place in the House of Lords, please contact [APPGA2J@lapg.co.uk](mailto:APPGA2J@lapg.co.uk).

### **LAPG Annual Legal Aid Conference – 20 October – reserve your discounted place**

Join us for this year's LAPG Annual Legal Aid Conference on **Monday 20 of October 2025 at A&O Shearman's offices in London.**

Given the ongoing and evolving situation facing all providers, 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 dedicate Conference webpage here](#)

[You can book here](#)

The Early Bird offer, which runs until the 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:andrea.shumaker@lapg.co.uk)).

[Get your tickets here](#)

### Terms and Conditions

A full refund will be given if a place is cancelled up to 7 days before the conference and no refunds in the last 7 days before the conference. A substitute delegate from your or another organisation will be accepted at any time before the event.

Please note, we reserve the right to change the running order and we may need to make changes to the final programme.

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## Sector News and Events

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### INQUEST Northern Conference and Quiz – 18<sup>th</sup> September



INQUEST.

Garden Court North, Ison Harrison Limited and Leigh Day are hosting INQUEST's annual Northern Conference, followed by a fundraising quiz for



A range of speakers will be looking at topics including:

- Case Law update
- Inquest practicalities and the new coroners bench book
- Working with bereaved people and a session on trauma-informed practice led by Claiming Space

[For more information and to book a place please see here.](#)

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## LAPG Training and Resources

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### [A quick summary of our current training courses and resources](#)

Details on all of our courses and resources can be [found here on our Training & Support pages](#).

### **New Training: People Management – Building & Managing Your Team**

*Session 1: Building Your Team – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

*Session 2: Managing Your Team – 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025*

### **Online Modular Legal Aid Courses**

- *Introduction to Immigration & Asylum Legal Aid*
- *Introduction to Mental Health, Mental Capacity & Community Care Legal Aid*
- *Introduction to Managing Family and Civil Legal Aid Contracts Toolkit*
- *Online Introduction to Civil Legal Aid Course*

### **LAA-compliant Supervision Courses**

We have two remaining 2025 Supervision Courses. You can book your place on either of these here:

[\*\*18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025\*\*](#)

**25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

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It's all happening peoples! Systems coming back online in the coming weeks and we are crossing fingers, toes and whatever else is crossable that they are stable and can take the strain of 4+ month backlog of submissions. Please **do join us next week** if you want to discuss the impact of the data breach and the LAA's plans to restore their systems.

The **APPG on Access to Justice event** in the House of Lords next week will be of particular interest to anyone working in or around the issue of economic abuse, so do sign up to that.

And of course we'd love to see you at this year's **LAPG Conference**, only the best legal aid conference out there, obvs.

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

**Chris Minnoch, CEO @ChrisLAPG**

Follow LAPG on X @WeAreLAPG and Bluesky @wearelapg.bsky.social

#WeAreLegalAid

04/09/25

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**Subscribe to our courses**

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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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