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15/09/25

LAPG Member Update

Issue 31 of 2025

Welcome to our latest Member Update covering the current situation with the LAA's cyber-security breach including their plans to restore systems, a summary of points arising from our member meeting on the 9 September when we discussed the restoration, other legal aid news plus news and events from across the sector.

Cross-Cutting Legal Aid News

- Update on the LAA's plan for restoration of their digital services
- Overview of the LAPG member meeting to discuss the LAA's plans
- New LAA guidance page for Sign in for Legal Aid Services (SILAS)

LAPG News and Events

- NEW DATE: APPG meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls - 22 September 11-12
- LAPG Annual Legal Aid Conference – 20 October – book your discounted places
- APPG on Access to Justice at the Party Conferences

Sector News & Events

- CLSA Conference – Manchester – 3 October 2025 – discount for LAPG members
- Advising Londoners Awards
- PLP events

LAPG Training & Resources

- A quick summary of our current training courses and resources

Cross-Cutting Legal Aid News

Update on the LAA's plan for restoration of their digital services

The latest official LAA comms to legal aid providers landed on 10th September and focuses on the upcoming restoration of criminal legal aid services. It also covers updates to FAQs on SILAS regarding third party ID verification and use of authenticator apps for civil and crime providers.

The expected timeline for the phased return of civil and crime services is below (although subject to various caveats from the LAA around the testing and stability of systems):

- *In mid-September, Crime Apply and Submit a Crime Form will be available for access. Subject to testing and security reviews, we hope to restore access in week commencing 15 September 2025.*
- *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. [Note that the LAA has indicated that CWA will actually be restored in November]*

Following pressure from LAPG on behalf of our members, the LAA has relented on the requirement for providers to have to verify third-party personnel and retain copies of ID documents for audit purposes. The LAA have said that third-party personnel, such as costs specialists, can now verify themselves which will no doubt be a huge relief to many.

[The LAA cyber security incident FAQ page is here](#) and was last updated on 10 September.

We are expecting the next set of official LAA comms early this week, with further clarification over the timetable and process for restoring civil legal aid services like CCMS.

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

Overview of the LAPG member meeting to discuss the LAA's plans

A big thank you to everyone who attended our Member Meeting on 9 September on the LAA data breach and their plans to restore digital systems over the coming weeks. We had over 100 people at the meeting from across our membership, which demonstrates how concerned people are about the situation.

For those that attended, we hope you found the meeting useful and went away with a better understanding of the LAA's plans and the steps you need to take over the next week or two before CCMS comes back online.

We are expecting further comms from the LAA on the planned restoration of CCMS and CWA early this week, so please do look out for that (from the legallaidbulletin@labulletin.org.uk email address) for the latest official position.

Following the meeting we fed back to the LAA the continuing anxiety around the end of weekly contingency payments, the commencement of the recoupment process and the potential restriction of access to CCMS amongst other issues. We're hoping those concerns will be reflected in the LAA's next set of comms and in their planning for the transition period once their systems are restored.

For those who were unable to attend the meeting, we discussed the following issues and provided information about what we know about the LAA's current concerns and plans:

- The phased re-instatement of CCMS
- Loading on CCMS and stability of the system – LAA's plans to monitor demand and potentially restrict access if CCMS becomes unstable
- Contingency planning for any future disruption to digital systems
- LAA capacity to input and process applications, amendments, bills etc.

- Entering information onto the system: What will the LAA do? What will providers need to do?
- Indicative timescales for receiving payments
- Preparation for system restoration – getting organised and ready, including liaison with counsel
- When will average weekly contingency payments end and when will recoupments commence?
- What happens in 'hardship' situations?
- How will the LAA assess provider decisions taken under delegated functions?
- Compensation for providers for losses incurred during the outage
- CWA restoration

We're planning another Member Meeting approximately 1-2 weeks after CCMS comes back online. Please do look out for notification of the meeting in a Member Update and on our LinkedIn profile: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/legal-aid-practitioners-group>

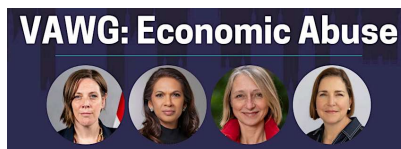
New LAA guidance page for Sign in for Legal Aid Services (SILAS)

On 15 September the LAA launched a new page providing guidance documents for the SILAS portal:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/laa-silas-help-and-information>

LAPG News and Events

NEW DATE: APPG meeting on Violence Against Women and Girls – 22 September 11:00 - 12:00



Due to the tube strike, we had to cancel the meeting on 9 September, and it has been re-scheduled to take place on 22 Sept from 11.00 - 12.00. By way of a reminder, 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.

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 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).

[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.

[APPG on Access to Justice at the Party Conferences](#)



Justice is a vital public service that quietly underpins the UK's safety, stability and prosperity. It serves to empower families, businesses, and communities to thrive. From resolving disputes and protecting children to rehabilitating offenders and supporting victims, the justice system is not a standalone institution: it depends on joined-up working across government, local services, and communities. When it functions well, it promotes personal responsibility, restores trust, and reduces long-term demand on public services.

LAPG's influencing team will be making these points, and many others, over the next month at the various party conferences. We would love to see you at our events so that you can help us to influence parliamentarians and shape party policies.

Please find below some dates for your diaries and contact rohini.jana@lapg.co.uk or APPGA2J@lapg.co.uk for more details.

Liberal Democrats: "Access to Justice: Rebuilding Trust in a Key Public Service"
Sunday 21 September (13.00 – 14.30) Branksome Suite BIC, Bournemouth

Hosted by The Law Society and Bar Council. Outside the secure zone.

Join us to explore how the Liberal Democrats can champion justice as a vital public service — no different to education and healthcare — and lead the charge in restoring access to justice for all. Speakers include LAPG's Rohini Jana and the vice-president of the Law Society.

Labour: "Access to Justice: the Path to a Better Society"
Monday 29 September (16:00 – 17:30) Albert 4, The Hilton, Liverpool

We have invited the Solicitor General along to chair the event which will focus on Crime, Prisons, Violence against Women, Immigration and Housing policy. Outside the secure zone.

The Speakers are:

- Jayne Kirkham MP (Legal Aid Deserts)
- Christian Weaver (Housing)

- Dr Jo Wilding (Immigration)
- Martha de la Roche (Tech)
- Amean Elgadhry (VAWG)

Conservative: “Justice as a Public Service”

Monday 6 October (16:00 – 17:30) Midland Hotel, Manchester

The APPG is hosting a joint fringe event with JUSTICE & the Society of Conservative Lawyers. Inside the secure zone.

The Speakers are:

- Dr Neil Shastri-Hurst MP (Chair)
- Rohini Jana (Civil and Early Legal Advice)
- Tyrone Steele (Criminal)
- Ellen Lefley (AI and Tech)

Sector News and Events

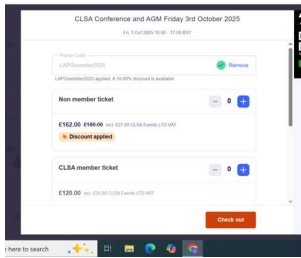
CLSA Conference – Manchester – 3 October 2025 – discount for LAPG members

CLSA's conference and AGM takes place this year Kimpton Clocktower Hotel in Manchester. As our friends at CLSA [note on their website](#):

In a city where music shaped a generation and courtrooms have shaped the law, we gather to explore what lies ahead for criminal justice.

This year's CLSA Conference carries the unmistakable rhythm of Manchester, a city built on reinvention, resistance and resonance.

Titled in homage to Oasis “Don't Look Back in Anger” invites us to reflect with clarity but face forward with purpose. From AI to teenage crime, advances in evidence to social media's influence on justice – the future is now, and it's happening faster than a cannonball..



An impressive list of speakers, including Sir Brian Levenson, will discuss a wide range of subjects topical for criminal defence practitioners and those working within the CJS.

[Tickets can be purchased here](#), and many thanks to CLSA for offering LAPG members a 10% discount. To claim your discount, use the code LAPGmember2025 on the ticket purchase screen.

Advising Londoners Awards

A colab between Advice Services Alliance and University House, these new awards aim to celebrate the work of not-for-profit agencies providing free legal advice to people living in the capital's 32 boroughs.



Any advice service can be nominated for any of the 8 award categories, whether it is provided by one organisation or by a partnership of different providers. This includes:

- those giving generalist advice or specialist legal services
- organisations running a dedicated advice service or providing advice alongside other services
- local community-based organisations and pan-London services
- long-established services or a short-term funded project.

A 9th category, the Bennett Award, named in honour of former barrister Charles Bennett who has been volunteering at University House for more than four decades, will be made by the judging panel.

The deadline for entries is **11.59pm on Wednesday 8th October 2025**. Winners will be announced at ceremony hosted by Clifford Chance on 18 November 2025.

Further details, including the award categories and nomination process, [can be found on ASA's website here](#).

PLP events

Public Law Project have two events planned over the next month:

Costs and funding in judicial review

Six practical, bite-size seminars delivered online via Zoom over three days covering costs and funding in judicial review.

[Find out more and book your tickets here](#)

Public Law Project Annual Conference 2025 - Strengthening the constitution

PLP's conference returns for a day of expert analysis, insight, and forward-looking discussion on strengthening the constitution.

[Find out more and book your tickets here](#)

LAPG Training and Resources

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 – 7th October 2025

Session 2: Managing Your Team – 14th 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:

[18TH SEPTEMBER 2025](#)

[25TH NOVEMBER 2025](#)

So it's access to criminal legal aid systems this week, and potentially civil legal aid systems (or at least CCMS) from as early as next week. If you have any questions or concerns about the LAA's plans, or just want to talk through how to prepare for system restoration, please do get in touch.

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 please do book your tickets for this year's **LAPG Conference**. The early bird discounts expire in a fortnight, so get in quick!

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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Subscribe to our courses

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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