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19/12/23

LAPG Member Update

Issue 34 of 2023

Civil Legal Aid News

- Civil 2024 contract procurement process - Immigration Specification amendment
- Hints and tips from the LAA – reduce errors for means and merits assessments
- Civil Legal Aid Fixer email services
- LAA payments to providers
- High-Cost Family virtual clinic
- Civil Legal Aid Services in England and Wales from 1 September 2023: Notice of outcome
- EC-CLAIM 1: escape fee case claim form – civil – Updated checklist published

Criminal Legal Aid News

- Crown Court claims guidance for unlisted offences
- Updated Crown Court travel and mileage claim guidance

Sector News and Events

- Help shape legal aid reform – The Law Society research

LAPG News and Events

- 2024 LAPG Membership Renewals
- LAPG training courses

Civil 2024 contract procurement process - Immigration Specification amendment

The LAA has published an [Amendment Notice](#) with effect from 1 December 2023.

In accordance with paragraph 6.19 of the SQ ITT, Applicants are notified that the LAA has amended the 2024 Standard Civil Contract Immigration Specification.

This is to reflect changes to the contract documentation for the delivery of advice surgeries for immigration detainees under the Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS).

Hints and tips from the LAA - reduce errors for means and merits assessments

The LAA has provided us with some hints and tips for providers on getting merits and means applications right first time as part of their quarterly Case Management Operational Performance data pack. The latest pack, dated December 2023, [can be accessed here](#). Go to page 10 for merits hints and tips, and page 23 for means hints and tips.

Civil Legal Aid Fixer email services

We wanted to remind members about the existence of the Civil Application Fixer, Civil Claim Fixer and High Cost Family Fixer services on offer from the LAA. These email services allow providers to obtain a quick decision on LAA decisions that they disagree with. Here is a reminder of the various email addresses and you can also [find the guidance here](#) that covers the types of LAA decisions that can be challenged. We do recommend that you use these services to avoid delays.

applicationfixer@justice.gov.uk

LAACivilClaimFix@justice.gov.uk

highcostfamilyfixer@justice.gov.uk

LAA payments to providers

[Check dates here](#) for processing (crime and civil)



Legal Aid
Agency

and planned BACS payments, get financial statements, switch to variable monthly payments.

High-Cost Family virtual clinic

Book an online face-to-face, 20-minute appointment with experienced caseworkers at the LAA High-Cost Family (HCF) virtual clinic on 24 January 2024 as part of the #HelpUsSayYes campaign. Providers can discuss ongoing case specific issues with the LAA. Registrations are limited and the deadline for signing up is Wednesday 17 January 2024.

[Book an appointment > >](#)

Civil Legal Aid Services in England and Wales from 1 September 2023: Notice of outcome

The LAA has today (19 December) **[published the outcome](#)** for the recent procurement process for Civil Legal Aid Services in England and Wales from 1 September 2023. This was the tender process in early 2023 for new and existing providers to obtain 2018 Standard Civil Contracts for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 (the extended, 6th year of the 2018 SCC).

EC-CLAIM 1: escape fee case claim form – civil – Updated checklist published

On 15 December 2024 the LAA published an **[Updated the Escape claim checklist – Civil.](#)**

Criminal Legal Aid News

On 7 December the LAA published two news stories for criminal legal aid practitioners:

[Crown Court claims guidance for unlisted offences](#)

LAA guidance has been updated to include information on claiming for offences not listed in the AGFS banding document or LGFS table of offences.

[Updated Crown Court travel and mileage claim guidance](#)



**Legal Aid
Agency**

The LAA has updated our guidance to provide more detail on how to make accommodation and mileage claims for Crown Court work.

Sector News & Events

[Help shape legal aid reform – The Law Society research](#)



The Law Society is looking for legal aid providers to take part in economic research to help them capture the full scale of the sustainability threat facing access to justice. They will initially be undertaking research with housing providers (with a sign-up deadline of today, 19 December) but will then be widening the research out to other areas of law in the New Year.

Your economic evidence will be key to convincing the government why it needs to put sustainable funding into fee schemes as part of its review on civil legal aid. Neither the Law Society nor the government will see any individual provider's data.

[You can read more about the research here.](#)

LAPG News & Events

[2024 LAPG Membership Renewals](#)



It's that time of year again, when we ask you to dig deep to renew your LAPG membership for another year to support our work.

As ever, we had tried really hard to keep our membership fees as low as possible, with the 2024 fees set at the same level as they were in 2016. We know just how difficult legal aid life has been for so many years and keep this front and centre in our thinking when we set our fees.

We've posted a summary of our work on your behalf in 2023 and 2022 on [the membership page of our website](#). 2024 is going to be another crucial

year for practitioners and the clients you strive to serve, and we'll be working as hard as we can to support you and to advocate for you and the importance of your work.

To renew your membership for next year [please do visit our website](#) where you can complete the online renewal form, upload the details of who needs to be added to the mailing list, and make payment.

LAPG training courses

Supervision Courses



We have confirmed the dates for our 2024 Supervision Courses. You can book your place on any of 2024 training dates below:

18TH JANUARY 2024

7TH MARCH 2024

23RD APRIL 2024

2ND MAY 2024

8TH AUGUST 2024

12 NOVEMBER 2024

Designed for new LAA Supervisors or those wishing to refresh their supervisory skills, our course helps you meet a key component in securing and then effectively operating your legal aid contract and meeting the LAA's supervisor standards. We again welcome Matt Howgate and Vicky Ling as our tutors for this course. You will receive practical help filling out supervisor forms, learn how to conduct file reviews and how to keep up to date with LAA changes.

LAPG members receive a £40 discount on the course fee, bringing it down from £250 to £210 for the day. Book multiple delegates from your organisation and receive an additional 10% discount.

We have reformatted the course so that we are covering all of the same content across one day rather than two days. The content in this course is relevant for both crime and civil practitioners.

If you would like to know more about this course, or to reserve your place, contact [Andrea Shumaker](#).

Online Introduction to Civil Legal Aid Course

The Civil Legal Aid scheme is incredibly complex and the consequences of getting something wrong can be damaging to a client's case or financially damaging to the organisation doing the work – sometimes both. We have therefore developed the first module in a series which provides a general introduction to the civil legal aid scheme aimed at trainees, paralegals, junior lawyers and those that wish to refresh their knowledge having worked in the sector for some time.

We have moved this online module onto a new training platform, Thinkific! This new platform allows for growth and development of the course and a better overall experience for the user. The same information is covered and it is still entirely self-paced, you will still receive access to the course for 12 months.

We now offer this course in written and video versions! Once you are enrolled on the course you will have the option to read through the material yourself or watch a video! You can mix and match how you learn to complete the course in a way that best suits your learning style and time constraints. All the video and written content are available on the Thinkific platform and you will have full access to both versions.

If you would like to subscribe for just £99 please click [here](#). If you have any issues or require an invoice please email [Andrea Shumaker](#). We offer three discount codes, JFF, for Justice First Fellows, JFFO, for Just First Fellowship Host Organisation employees, and multiple-tickets, to be used when subscribing more than one participant on the course.

Have a wonderful break over the next week (or two or hopefully even three weeks). See you back here for 2024 legal aiders - another year of being the beating heart of the legal sector. Team LAPG is privileged to work with and for you all.

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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[#WeAreLegalAid](#)
19/12/23

#WEARELEGALAID



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!

LEGAL AID LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



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