



Ministry  
of Justice

# Housing Legal Aid: The way forward

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## The work so far

We have begun work to consider the issues relating to longer-term sustainability of the civil and family legal aid system.

We're looking at a number of areas:

-  The level of fees and structure of the fee schemes;
-  The scope of civil legal aid, particularly for early help;
-  The pipeline into the profession, particularly training opportunities for young prospective lawyers;
-  The delivery model for civil legal aid, learning lessons from Covid-19;
-  The administrative burdens placed on providers and the role of the LAA;

We are continuing to work with our in-house Analytical Services, the LAA and legal aid providers to consider the evidence base for investment in the civil legal aid market.

# What we've learned

In 2020, we held a series of workshops on civil sustainability more generally with the representative bodies and providers the representative bodies and the LAA have put forward, which identified the following key concerns for the sector:

Fees are too low to make the work economically / commercially viable and attractive



Scope changes mean the fees aren't reflecting the work done

There needs to be more of a pipeline into the profession



Stakeholder Concerns



There is strong desire to reduce the admin burden placed on providers



Providers are not experiencing decline in legal need and in fact expect it to rise post-Covid-19

## Next Steps

- Continuing to develop and consider our evidence base
- Developing short term and long term policy solutions
- Engaging with colleagues across Government
- Spending Review – engaging with HM Treasury on this issue
- Further external engagement on proposals

# Today

We'd like to use this session to hear from you. Please see handout.

- Concerns for the future of Housing Legal Aid
- Innovative solutions for the way forward
- How do you think we ensure the sustainability of the Housing Legal Aid market?



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