



24/05/22

LAPG Member Update

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Open consultation

Legal Aid Means Test Review

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Applies to England and Wales

Summary

A review of the means test for civil and criminal legal aid.

This consultation is being held on another website.

This consultation closes at
18:00 on 7 June 2022

We are seeking your views on our current draft response to the Means Test Review (MTR) Consultation

As a membership body, your views are vitally important to us as we seek to shape this critical aspect of legal aid policy. While many of the proposals in the MTR are sensible, and should increase the pool of people who are financially eligible for legal aid, we are concerned that some of the potentially adverse consequences of the proposals have not been considered by the MOJ and LAA. We are also concerned that some of the proposals that we and others have submitted to the MOJ have not been incorporated in the consultation. Additionally, it is important that wider issues of client access and provider capacity and sustainability are considered carefully, along with how the proposals are to be implemented.

That is where you come in – with members covering every area of legal aid, and specialists on cross-cutting issues such as billing and practice management – your coalface expertise and experience will be invaluable in shaping our response.

Thank you to the practitioners who have already fed into this draft, and to the many members of our Advisory Committee who have devoted a significant amount of time considering the proposals, attending meetings and drafting responses.

The consultation response is due by 23:59 on 7th June.

Could members please send any comments to policy@lapg.co.uk before **close of play on 30th May**? It would also be interesting to see members' responses so if you are happy to share your response with us, please send it that email.

The consultation documents are located here:

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/legal-aid/legal-aid-means-test-review/>

At the beginning of our draft response we have highlighted many of the major issues that arise from this consultation (and the wider legal aid ecosystem) but please draw our attention to any others that you consider to be major.

Throughout the consultation we have used yellow highlighting to indicate specific issues or questions that would benefit from your input. Any other comments or concerns from member would also be particularly welcome. Where there is blue writing those are points we know we need to check so are reminders to ourselves.

[Download a Word version of our draft response here](#)

Whether you want to review the whole draft, or comment on one or more of the 109 questions that are relevant to your practice, any and all input from members would be gratefully received. And a reminder that any comments on our draft, or a copy of your response, should be sent to: policy@lapg.co.uk

A quick note also that we are beavering away on our response to the CLAR consultation and hope to share a draft with members as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to support our policy work on this vital process which fundamentally underpins access to justice for the vast majority of those in legal need.

With all best wishes,

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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