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LAPG Member Update

Issue 18 of 2022

Legal Aid News & Events

- Criminal Legal Aid – Latest Update Following Government Laying Fees S.I.
- Housing & Debt and HPCDS Tender – Deadline 5pm on 17 August 2022
- Summary of Current Consultations
- Legal Aid Training – Webinar on Assessing Financial Eligibility, Covering Trapped Capital
- Updated LAA Guidance on Transfer of Provider Billing and Billing with Counsel

Sector News & Events

- PLP events: Legal Research for Social Impact & Judicial Review Trends and Forecasts
- Advice Service Conference – 4 & 5 October 2022 – Manchester
- London Legal Support Trust and Access to Justice Foundation Events including legal walks
- HLPAs Housing Law Conference - 17 November 2022

LAPG Training & Support

- The LAPG Certificate in Practice Management
- Supervision Courses and Introduction to Legal Aid online training module
- 2022 LAPG Membership

Legal Aid News & Events

Criminal Legal Aid – Latest

Update Following Government Laying Fees S.I.



If you are a crime practitioner you will no doubt be concerned at the gap between what the government announces on fees and the reality of what those increases (if any) actually are.

On 20 July a Statutory Instrument was laid:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/significant-fee-rise-for-criminal-barristers-confirmed-in-law>

The government press release summary was:

- *legislation laid to increase barrister fees by 15 percent from the end of September 2022*
- *the typical criminal barrister will receive £7,000 extra a year*
- *fifteen percent increase for solicitors' work in magistrates' courts and police stations*

The Law Society, [in their press release the same day](#), pointed out that for solicitors this is still a 9% increase not the 15% rise that the Criminal Legal Aid Independent Review said was 'the bare minimum required'. The Law Society is calling this a make-or-break time for the criminal defence profession and the criminal justice system.

LAPG was pleased to note that The Law Society's press release emphasised the lack of any proposed increases for prison law work – ignoring the recommendation in CLAIR for a 15% rise.

As in the government response, there is no increase in the LGFS because the government want to overhaul the scheme. It does seem that reform of the LGFS is high on the agenda but the fear is that this could take some time and practitioner groups are meeting to discuss what steps could be taken.

For a summary of the problems see [the LCCSA letter to the Lord Chancellor](#) which predates the S.I.

Also predating the S.I. [is the CLSA call](#) for an across the board increase of 15% but it is still relevant despite being published on 1 July. As the S.I. does not address the urgent need for increases in all fees, criminal defence practitioners that we are in contact with remain livid at being let down and livid at the misrepresentation of the

Housing & Debt and HPCDS Tender – Deadline 5pm on 17 August 2022

News story

Civil news: opportunities for housing and debt and HPCDS work

Tenders welcome to deliver housing and debt contract work and Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme services.

View on GOV.UK
26 June 2022

On 27 July 2022 the LAA announced that they had opened a tender to deliver Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) services in 5 courts and Housing and Debt Contracts in 7 procurement areas, listed below:

Housing and Debt Procurement Areas:

- City of Kingston upon Hull
- Cheshire
- Shropshire
- Staffordshire
- South East Wales
- South Tyneside
- Wigan

HPCDS:

- Crewe
- Hull
- Stafford
- Walsall
- Wigan

The LAA intends to award one contract for each HPCDS. They are offering an unlimited number of contracts for Housing & Debt services in each procurement area.

Further information is available here: [Civil news: opportunities for housing and debt and HPCDS work - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/civil-news-opportunities-for-housing-and-debt-and-hpcds-work)

The Information for Applicants (IFA) can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-tender-activity-2021>

Tenders must be submitted using the LAA's e-Tendering system by the deadline of **5pm on 17 August 2022**:
<https://legallaid.bravosolution.co.uk/web/login.shtml>

Summary of current consultations



Immigration fees:

As mentioned in an earlier update this is a public consultation. Details are here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immigration-legal-aid-a-consultation-on-new-fees-for-new-services>

We are liaising with ILPA and The Law Society on our response and are very grateful to LAPG Advisory Board members Jawaid Luqmani of Luqmani Thompson and Matthew Davies of Wilson Solicitors LLP for their continued input. The deadline for responses is 11.59pm 8 August.

The Civil Justice Council has launched a public consultation on costs:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/related-offices-and-bodies/advisory-bodies/cjc/working-parties/costs/>

The deadline for responses is 12pm on 30 September 2022. Paul Seddon of Seddon Costs law represents LAPG on this working party.

LAPG is also being consulted on the *Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service (HLPAS)* contract and new *Pre-Charge Engagement* provisions in crime. These are not public consultations and we are limited in that we can only share and seek input from LAPG Advisory Committee and Board members.

Legal Aid Training – Webinar on Assessing Financial Eligibility, Covering Trapped Capital



Legal Aid
Agency

The LAA held a webinar on 12 July 2022 on civil means: Assessing financial eligibility. This webinar included a section on trapped (inaccessible) capital. The recording is now uploaded onto the LAA training website. Please see the links below:

Link to recording:

<https://legallaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/totara/das>

[hboard/index.php?id=59](https://legalaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php?id=59)

Link to the 'tile' on the civil recorded webinars page:

<https://legalaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php?id=56>

Link to 'What's New?' Story on website:

<https://legalaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php?id=51>

Updated LAA Guidance on Transfer of Provider Billing and Billing With Counsel



Updated guidance for the process of billing with counsel and provider transfer billing has been published on the LAA training and support website. Please use the following link: CCMS quick guides:

<https://legalaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/course/view.php?id=190>

(Billing with counsel is under 'Advocacy' and provider transfer billing is under 'General billing issues')

There is also a link on the 'What's new?' page on the website:

<https://legalaidlearning.justice.gov.uk/totara/dashboard/index.php?id=51>

Sector News and Events

PLP events: Legal Research for Social Impact & Judicial Review Trends and Forecasts



Public
Law
Project

Legal Research for Social Impact – 15 September 2022 - York

Civil society, Universities and Government all want research that has impact. This event is for anyone wanting to commission, develop or

collaborate on legal research where the ultimate outcome is positive change to people's lives and living conditions.

Who this event is for:

- Legal researchers or those commissioning research working towards social change at NGOs and Universities.
- Policy professionals, campaigners and lawyers using research to inform action.

As delegates you will learn:

- What the impact agenda is and why it matters to researchers, lawyers, civil society, and Government
- To define and measure impact in the context of legal research
- How to collaborate to build relationships, projects and co-produce impactful research
- What support is available for impactful research, from universities and funders, and how organisations might access this
- Discuss perceptions of failure in impact

LAPG's very own Head of Parliamentary Affairs, Rohini Teather, will be speaking in one of the afternoon breakout sessions on how research and case studies can be used to communicate with Members of Parliament and impact on their work and policy more broadly.

[Further information and booking process here](#)

Judicial Review Trends and Forecasts - 13 October 2022 - London

PLP's annual conference is back and in-person, for a day of cutting-edge analysis, insight and opinion from the UK's leading lawyers and legal thinkers, presented in partnership with Blackstone Chambers and Herbert Smith Freehills. This year's theme is Democracy and the Law. You can view Martin Rowson's masterpiece for this year's event, in full, [here](#).

This event is for all practitioners involved in all aspects of public law and judicial review, including those in private practice, Government, NGOs (including policy and advocacy work), researchers and academics.

[Further information and booking process here](#)

Advice Service Conference - 4 & 5 October 2022 - Manchester



The Advice Services Alliance will be holding a two-day conference for the UK advice sector in Manchester on 4-5 October 2022.

The conference will be an engaging and stimulating face-to-face event for anyone with an interest to provide the best possible advice in the challenging post-Covid world. Whether you work for an advice service, a voluntary organisation, a funder or other close stakeholder organisation, the conference will both challenge accepted thinking and share key ideas on the future of social welfare advice. The conference will reflect on our history and think forward to the new challenges and experiences facing the sector. We will explore ways we can work together to tackle the social injustices faced by our communities, by clients and by others facing exclusion and discrimination.

Key themes:

- Building our future: working together in partnership to strengthen our common goals
- Strengthening communities: the role of advice in social justice
- Doing different: innovative practice to get advice to where it is needed
- What we know: using data, evidence and research for better advice

[Full details, early bird tickets and registration here](#)

London Legal Support Trust and Access to Justice Foundation Events including legal walks



LLST is a charity that organises the legal walks that are very well publicised. The money raised goes to support free legal advice centres across London and the south east. If you fancy doing a walk or something a bit more adventurous see <https://londonlegalsupporttrust.org.uk/our->

[events/](#)

Walks still to come: Chichester 12/9; Hastings 14/9; Reading 19/9; Eastbourne 21/9 and Southampton 21/9.

The Access to Justice Foundation raises money for agencies across the UK. Outside LLST's patch there are walks in Liverpool 27/9; Manchester 28/9; Teesside 5/10. Yet to be announced: Cardiff and Swansea. See full details here: <https://atjf.org.uk/legal-walks>

On its events page <https://atjf.org.uk/events> are details of its Great Legal Bake and other fundraising initiatives.

You may also have come across its pro bono costs orders scheme – for recent information on how this will apply in tribunals see their website: <https://atjf.org.uk/pro-bono-costs-orders>

HLPA Housing Law Conference - 17 November 2022



SAVE THE DATE

The theme of this year's HLPAs Housing Law Conference is Leading the Way: The Modern Housing Lawyer. The conference will be held on a hybrid basis on 17 November 2022, with the live element taking place at 10 Union Street Conference Centre, London Bridge, London SE1 1SZ.

Further details will be available shortly, but please save the date in the meantime.

For more information, contact Professional Briefings at london@profbriefings.co.uk or 01920 282262.

LAPG Training & Support

The LAPG Certificate in Practice Management

There is still time to register for individual sessions that meet your specific training needs!

Sessions can either be attended as discrete courses or your involvement could span more than one course if you wish to work towards the full Certificate over a number of years. We are able to heavily discount this course thanks to the generous support of The Legal Education Foundation and the Community Justice Fund. Our main tutors, Matt Howgate and Vicky Ling, bring invaluable knowledge gained through many years of work in the sector and consultancy. Matt and Vicky will:

- Show you how to set meaningful organisational and operational objectives by using a SWOT analysis
- Help you carry out effective financial planning and analysis by focusing on understanding resource, income, budgeting, forecasting, resource and variance analysis
- Give you the tools to manage all aspects of people management from recruitment to appraisal
- Discuss SQM and Lexcel as well as policies to ensure compliance with SRA, OISC, Legal Aid and regulatory requirements including how to avoid audit issues and contract notices
- Create communication strategies

This course also offers instruction from two guest tutors, Phaniel Mutumburi and Jo Edwards during sessions 4 and 5 respectively. Jo Edwards will discuss different approaches to communication with a focus on social media and Phaniel Mutumburi will focus on the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

We have now moved the CPM to our new learning platform Thinkific! It is a wonderful way to engage in our courses, save time and have everything you need all in one place rather than sifting through your emails trying to find materials and zoom links. This platform is easy to use and gives us the opportunity to update our courses to be more effective for our participants.

Focused primarily on the needs of managers and supervisors in private practice, the LAPG CPM covers key strategic and management issues over 5 full-day online workshops:

Please note that the course dates have changed from previous LAPG updates

- 8 September 2022 - Session 3: People Management [BOOK HERE](#)
- 6 October 2022 - Session 4: Policies and Compliance (including Diversity and Inclusion) [BOOK HERE](#)
- 3 November 2022 - Session 5: Communications (a.m.) & Legal Aid Contracting (p.m.) [BOOK HERE](#)

More information about this course is [available on our website here](#).

A recent graduate of the 2021 CPM course said:

"I would highly recommend the LAPG Certificate in Practice Management course for all partners and managers in legal aid firms. It is the only law management course I know of aimed exclusively at helping legal aid firms to manage their businesses – good management is so essential for delivering access to justice to all. The course is full of practical tips and over 5 sessions gives you get a very good overview of all the key aspects of running a legal aid practice."

Managing Partner of a large legal aid firm

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

Supervision Courses and Introduction to Legal Aid online training module



Supervision Courses

Our August Session has now sold out; we currently have two other sessions available on 12th September and 1st November.

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.

[SEPTEMBER 2022 COURSE - BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE](#)

[NOVEMBER 2022 COURSE - BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE](#)

We have reformatted the course so that we are covering all of the same content across one day rather than two days. These courses have been scheduled in August and September to ensure there is capacity to meet any additional training needs for crime practitioners who need to confirm their supervisor status ahead of the commencement of the next Crime Contract. However, the content 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.

To subscribe for just £99 please email [Andrea Shumaker](#).

Online Introduction to Management Course

We are currently working on a new and exciting training course, an online module similar to our Introduction to Civil Legal Aid Course, all about management. This course will offer an introductory look into management and will be

entirely self-paced! While this course is still in the works, we hope to share more information with you soon, so keep an eye out for updates.



2022 LAPG Membership

A huge thank you to all of the organisations that have renewed membership for 2022. Your support ensures that we can maintain a strong and independent voice to advocate for legal aid practitioners and access to justice at the highest levels of political influencing and push for operational improvements to the legal aid scheme with the LAA.

LAPG Membership runs from January to December so there is still time to refresh your LAPG Member status.

Number of fee earners	Standard Fee
1 – 5 fee earners	£175.00
6 – 10 fee earners	£265.00
11 – 20 fee earners	£380.00
21 – 30 fee earners	£520.00
31 – 50 fee earners	£605.00
51+ fee earners	£700.00
Non-contract holding rate	£315.00

To download the membership renewal form or for more information on the renewal process please [visit the Membership page of our website](#).

If you have any queries about LAPG membership or the renewal process, please contact our ever-helpful Operations Officer, [Anna Neira Quesada](#).

So still everything to play for in terms of the Criminal Legal Aid Review and resulting policy proposals from the MOJ. And what, if anything, will change with a potential Ministerial reshuffle come September? (Aside: While I can't bring myself to follow the leadership election too closely, I have noticed a near complete absence of discourse or traditional Conservative rhetoric about justice or the rule of law). We know that civil practitioners are also watching the CLAR process closely, and not just because around 400 provider organisations still cover both civil and criminal legal aid. Also watch this space for a MOJ announcement in the autumn about a formal review of civil legal aid sustainability. If the criminal review is anything to go by, civil practitioners will not be feeling particularly optimistic about the outcome of a civil review, but we and other representative bodies will continue to press hard for significant fee increases and bureaucratic reform. We are also working hard behind the

scenes to build understanding across the political sphere of the importance of legal aid and the need for investment. And meanwhile, there is an ongoing and crucial role for us to play, with your support as our members, to improve the existing scheme, resolve your queries and respond to government consultations. I thought August was supposed to be a relatively quiet month...?

Take care one and all,

Chris Minnoch, CEO [@ChrisLAPG](#)

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[#WeAreLegalAid](#)

04/08/22



[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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