



## **The Legal Aid Census – Student Survey**

**14 June to 12 July 2021**

### **1. What is the purpose of this research project?**

The aim of this research project is to gather information about the workforce of legal aid providers in England and Wales, on behalf of Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG). The project takes the form of an online survey, which will ask you some baseline information about your organisation, including the types of advice delivery you currently offer; your perceptions about the routes into the legal aid profession, job satisfaction, challenges facing different areas of law; and organisational views about how legal aid practice might have changed in response to recent legal aid cuts.

### **2. Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part as a current or recent law student. We want the views of students to inform our understanding about careers in legal aid.

### **3. What will taking part involve?**

The survey will involve asking a series of questions about your legal education and work experience to date. It should take you approximately 30 minutes to complete the questions.

### **4. Do I have to take part?**

No, your participation in this research project is entirely voluntary and it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you can read more about the project by opening the survey. If you decide not to take part, you do not have to explain your reasons or take any action and it will not affect your legal rights.

You may skip any questions that you are unable or unwilling to answer. You can withdraw from the research at any time, even if you have already filled out the survey. You can also save the survey and finish it at a later date by clicking 'finish later'. Please note that once you begin the survey, your answers until that point will be stored. Your data cannot be deleted. However, you may contact the researcher to request that your responses be destroyed by emailing [research@lapg.co.uk](mailto:research@lapg.co.uk). Please note that this will not be possible after 25th June 2021 (2 weeks after the survey closes).

### **5. What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Legal Aid Census data will be analysed over the summer and the findings published in the autumn. The data will provide an evidence base to underpin policy work relating to legal aid provision for many years to come. LAPG works with partners across the sector to shape government policy development and in the short term Census data will be an important tool to potentially influence the Treasury Spending Review and the Independent Review of Criminal Legal Aid alongside the Westminster Commission Inquiry into the Sustainability of Legal Aid, co-ordinated by the APPG on Legal Aid.

## **6. Will my taking part in this research project be kept confidential?**

All information collected from you during the research project will be kept confidential. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with data protection legislation (GDPR). Please see 'What will happen to my Personal Data?' (below) for further information.

The only situation in which your information would not be kept confidential is if there are duplicate responses submitted on behalf of the same organisation. In this situation, and where you choose to give contact details at the end of the survey, we may follow up in order to ascertain which data is correct.

## **7. What will happen to my Personal Data?**

Identifying information, including the name and contact details of your organisation, will be collected at the beginning of the survey, as well as your responses to the questions. Once you have finished the survey and saved your answers, this data will be stored securely within the survey repository. The contact details will only be used if needed to address a duplicate response to the survey as described above.

Once the survey has closed (12th July 2021), the researchers will download the results via a secure network, using the Cardiff University server. This data will be stored in accordance with GDPR requirements. As soon as the results are downloaded, the researchers will anonymise each survey response (using pseudonyms if necessary) and delete any contact details. The researchers will remove any other obviously identifying information from the stored data. However, there is always a chance that someone who knows you well might be able to work out who you are even if the names and places have been changed.

Cardiff University is the Data Controller and is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data in accordance with your expectations and Data Protection legislation. Further information about Data Protection, may be found at <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/public-information/policies-and-procedures/data-protection>.

## **8. What happens to the data at the end of the research project?**

This project is being undertaken in collaboration with the Legal Aid Practitioners Group. Representatives from this organisation will take ownership of the data after the research is complete. However, the researchers will anonymise the data before the data is transferred. At no time will LAPG hold any personal data from you. They will not know who has taken part in the survey.

## **9. What will happen to the results of the research project?**

The final research report will be published in late 2021, and will be widely circulated by LAPG. A copy can also be obtained by emailing the researchers at [research@lapg.co.uk](mailto:research@lapg.co.uk).

## **10. What if there is a problem?**

If you wish to complain or have grounds for concerns about any aspect of the manner in which you have been approached or treated during the course of this research, please contact

research@lapg.co.uk. If your complaint is not managed to your satisfaction, please contact [LawPLEthics@Cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:LawPLEthics@Cardiff.ac.uk).

**11. Who is organising this research project?**

The research is organised by Dr Jacqueline Kinghan (Newcastle Law School), Dr Jess Mant, Dr Daniel Newman (Cardiff Law School) and Dr Catrina Denvir (Monash Law School).

**12. Who has reviewed this research project?**

This research project has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the School Research Ethics Committee, Cardiff University.

**13. Further information and contact details**

Should you have any questions relating to this research project, you may contact the researcher during normal working hours:

[research@lapg.co.uk](mailto:research@lapg.co.uk)