



Children's Rights Alliance for England



Law Centres Network



Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens



helping women through the law



Public Law Project



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Championing advice and counselling

Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London, SW1H 9AJ

14 December 2017

Re: LASPO Review

Dear Lord Chancellor,

We write as non-profit organisations with experience and expertise in legal aid, which we know is of vital importance to enabling vulnerable and marginalised people to secure justice.

Further to your written statement to Parliament on 30 October 2017, we welcome the Government's commitment to publish a post-implementation review of the legal aid changes under the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (LASPO) 2012. The Government's commitment to engage with stakeholders as part of the review is a particularly important aspect that will enable the review to properly assess LASPO's impact and address challenges it created.

We are keen to engage with the process to provide the insights of our experience of delivering access to justice for our clients through legal aid, and thus help the Government review to understand any unintended consequences of LASPO and identify possible improvements to legal aid in value for money terms.

Accordingly, we should greatly appreciate further information on the post-implementation review process, including:

1. How the post-implementation review process will be undertaken, including its scope to assess knock-on costs to other Government departments, and how it would assess the Act's impact on the people for whom legal aid is intended;
2. What steps the post-implementation review process will involve and what form of published document from the outcome of the review might be expected;
3. The timeline for the post-implementation review process;
4. When there will be opportunities for our organisations and clients to contribute to the post-implementation review process; and
5. Whether consultative panels will be involved, and if so, who will be invited to participate in those panels.

We would be very happy to meet with you to discuss these matters, and we look forward to constructive engagement with the Ministry of Justice on the review. For more information, please contact Rachel Logan (Rachel.Logan@amnesty.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Amnesty International UK

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Immigration Law Practitioners' Association

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