



The Law
Society

Dear Member,

The London & South East Relationship Management team are keen to ensure that key updates and information of relevance are communicated to you, and your local law society, periodically.

Please feel free to share the information below more widely with your committees and your membership.

Criminal Legal Aid Review package - summary of Law Society response

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Justice launched a consultation on an accelerated package of measures amending the criminal legal aid fee schemes, as part of the Criminal Legal Aid Review.

We believe that the proposals are insufficient to match the scale of the problem facing the criminal legal aid profession.

[Read more about our response](#)

We are encouraging all members affected by the package to take part in the consultation exercise and let the Ministry of Justice know how these proposals will affect, you and whether the new fees will appropriately cover the work that you undertake.

[Take part in the consultation](#)

Event: Ministry of Justice discuss Criminal Legal Aid Review (2nd London roundtable)

On the 28 February 2020, The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) announced [a consultation](#) into four “accelerated areas” of the [Criminal Legal Aid Review](#), which were fast tracked in response to concerns raised by the profession.

The MoJ would be holding a second roundtable discussion in London with local solicitors and solicitor advocates on 25 March at 17:00-18:30pm at 102 Petty France, Westminster, London, SW1H 9AJ.

The proposed policies are for:

- Payment for work on unused material;
- Payment for paper heavy cases;
- Payment for cracked trials, and;

- Payment for sending cases to the Crown Court

We are keen to hear your expert and honest opinions about what the SRA have proposed. Please come along to share your views on our proposals for change. To register, email:

CriminalLegalAidReview@justice.gov.uk

These accelerated areas represent a first step towards the fuller review, which will focus on the sustainability of the whole criminal legal aid system. More information will be shared about the wider review as it progresses.

Presidents and Secretaries Conference

We are delighted to announce that the annual Presidents' and Secretaries' Conference will take place on the evening of Thursday 11 and all day Friday 12 June 2020 at the Law Society, London.

This flagship event will incorporate a varied mix of plenary and breakout sessions ensuring delegates are offered the opportunity to discuss common challenges, share experiences and hear practical tips from both their peers and expert speakers.

[To view the draft programme and register please click here](#)

Menopause in law firms

In the [Gazette](#), Kathy Abernethy writes on the topic of how the menopause is approached in law firms. She writes: "It is no secret that the profession would benefit from taking women's health more seriously – the menopause should be no exception."

Social Mobility Ambassadors

Are you passionate about social mobility? Our Social Mobility Ambassador scheme is now open for applications. Share your story to becoming a solicitor, inspire others and be a role model for the legal profession. Apply by Friday 3 April <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers/equality-and-diversity/social-mobility-ambassadors>

JLD essay competition: 'Is there a role for the legal profession in economic, social and governance (ESG) considerations?'

If you are solicitor apprentice, LPC student, LPC graduate or trainee solicitor, consider entering the Junior Lawyers Division (JLD) annual essay competition 2020. The question this year is: 'Is there a role for the legal profession in economic, social and governance (ESG) considerations? The deadline is 17 April and the winner will receive £500.

[Find out more](#)

Consultation Summary

Criminal Legal Aid Review: An accelerated package of measures amending the criminal legal aid fee schemes- closing date for responses **27th March 2020**- [Link to consultation](#)

These proposals are part of the wider 'Criminal Legal Aid Review' (CLAR) which the Ministry of Justice ('MoJ') has brought forward for early implementation. They include:

- Payments for consideration of unused material;
- Payments for cracked trials, and;
- 'Sendings'

The Law Society has been publicly critical of the proposals as not going far enough even to provide interim relief to our members doing criminal legal aid. We've published a briefing for members [here](#).

Consultation on amending composition statements- closing date for responses- **31st March 2020-** [Link to consultation](#)

The Senior President of Tribunals has issued a consultation to obtain views on amending the composition statements for the General Regulatory Chamber, Social Entitlement Chamber, Property Chamber and Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal.

NICE Quality Standard on Decision Making and Mental Capacity- closing date for responses **31st March 2020-** [Link to response](#)
Policy Advisor Leanne.Maskell@lawsociety.org.uk

This quality standard covers decision making for people aged 16 and over, using health and social care services who may lack capacity to make their own decisions (now or in the future).

First Homes- closing date for responses **3rd April 2020-** [Link to consultation](#)

This consultation seeks views on First Homes for local people, considering both the design of this policy and options for its implementation. It covers the following areas:

- what First Homes are and who should be eligible for them
- how the scheme should work in practice
- how to deliver more of these homes through developer contributions
- the requirement for delivering these homes through planning or legislation

Consultation on Mental Health Tribunal reforms- closing date for responses **7th April 2020-** [Link to consultation](#)

The Tribunal Procedure Committee (TPC) is inviting views on a proposal to change the way that the First-tier Tribunal lists hearings in relation to applications by patients detained under section 2 of the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA), dealt with in the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber (HESC).

If you have any questions in relation to any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at London&SouthEastTeam@lawsociety.org.uk

Best wishes,

Beth, Bhavni and Stuart.

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