



Ministry
of Justice

Legal Support Advisory Group meeting

Wednesday 18 May 2022

Summary Note of meeting

Members present:

Daniel Flury (MoJ Access to Justice, Chair); Felix Brown (Lawtech UK – attending for Christina Blacklaws), Richard Miller (The Law Society – attending for Stephanie Boyce); Natalie Byrom (Legal Education Foundation); Clare Carter (The Access to Justice Foundation); Chris Minnoch (Legal Aid Practitioners' Group), Lindsey Poole (Advice Services Alliance); Rose Holmes (Bar Council – attending for Phil Robertson); Fiona Rutherford (JUSTICE).

Apologies:

Hazel Genn (UCL); Christina Blacklaws (Lawtech UK); Phil Robertson (Bar Council); MoJ Analytical Services.

Additional Attendees:

MoJ Legal Support Policy Team; MoJ Legal Aid Policy Team.

Welcome & introductions

1. Daniel welcomed attendees and explained that he had taken over as interim Access to Justice Director. He explained that Lord Wolfson had resigned his post and that Access to Justice was still awaiting news of who would take over responsibility for legal support.

2. This was the second hybrid meeting of the Group and built upon the feedback received from the first meeting. Further feedback on ways for LSAG meetings to work in the future was always welcome.

Update on minutes and actions from last meeting

3. The previous minutes were agreed. MoJ went through the actions from the last meeting, all of which were either completed or covered by this meeting's agenda items.

Update on Spending Review allocations and Legal Support strategy

4. MoJ updated the group on the latest position of the Spending Review allocations and future Legal Support Strategy. MoJ explained that the full details of allocations on legal support would hopefully be published soon along with the MoJ's new Outcome Delivery Plan. The departure of Lord Wolfson had created some challenges but also provided an opportunity to take stock and reset the Legal Support work with a view to having a revised strategy ready for the new minister.
5. MoJ confirmed that as part of the allocations bid, Access to Justice drew on evidence previously covered at LSAG meetings, such as the reports on grants to show the positive outcomes from the previous spending review allocations.
6. There was unanimous thanks from the group for providing information on future strategy as it had been something the group has previously asked for.
7. LSAG members provided useful and helpful advice and feedback. If LSAG members had further points or wanted separate meetings, these were welcomed. There was no discussion on the role of the LSAG going forwards but we would welcome views on this point. MoJ explained that the next step was for the strategy to be further developed then go to a new minister. There may also be the possibility of specific deep-dive sessions on certain topics if that would be helpful.

Action: MoJ to circulate an updated strategy document once updates have been made.

Action: An update on civil legal aid strategy to be presented to a future meeting.

Action: LSAG members to provide MoJ with any additional feedback they have on the strategy paper discussed.

Any other business (AOB)

8. The date of the next meeting was due to be mid-late July 2022.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline
MoJ to circulate an updated strategy document once updates have been made.	MoJ	Next meeting
An update on civil legal aid strategy to be presented to a future meeting.	MoJ	Next meeting
LSAG members to provide MoJ with any additional feedback they have on the strategy paper discussed.	All	Next meeting