



Ministry
of Justice

Legal Support Advisory Group meeting

Wednesday 19 October 2022

Note of meeting

Members present:

Daniel Flury (MoJ Access to Justice, Chair) (DF); Alex Lennox (Lawtech UK) (AL); Chris Minnoch (Legal Aid Practitioners' Group) (CM); Phil Robertson (Bar Council) (PR); Richard Miller (Law Society – Attending on behalf of Lubna Shuja) (RM); Clare Carter (The Access to Justice Foundation) (CC); Lindsey Poole (Advice Services Alliance) (LP); Fiona Rutherford (JUSTICE) (FR)

Apologies:

Lubna Shuja (Law Society); Rob Bancroft (EHRC); Natalie Byrom (Legal Education Foundation); Hazel Genn (UCL)

Additional Attendees:

Lord Bellamy KC (LB)

MoJ Legal Support Policy Team (LS)

MoJ Legal Aid Policy Team (CLA)

MoJ Analytical Services (AS)

Welcome & introductions

1. DF welcomed attendees and noted the apologies. DF introduced Lord Bellamy KC to the group as the Minister for Legal Support policy.

Update on minutes and actions from last meeting

2. The previous minutes were agreed. DF went through the actions from the last meeting, all of which were either completed, carried to the next meeting, or covered by this meeting's agenda items.

Ministerial Introduction – Lord Bellamy KC

3. LB introduced himself to the group, thanking everyone for their previous engagement and contribution to the LSAG. LB highlighted the importance of the work being done in both Legal Support and Civil Legal Aid.
4. LB then asked for members views on the key issues facing the advice sector and their priorities for the future.
5. LSAG members provided their views on the main issues facing the sector and what was needed to address them.
6. LB thanked the LSAG for their contributions and for sharing their views. LB then left the meeting.

Discussion of potential future grant funding: priorities and objectives

7. LS introduced the paper on potential future grant funding and welcomed the views of the members on the aims and objectives of any future legal support for litigant in person grant funding.
8. LSAG members provided feedback and discussed the paper. LSAG members provided their views concerning the future of grant funding in the legal support space.
9. LS confirmed that they would come back to the group in the new year with any additional updates, taking into consideration the points that the members had raised.
10. LA also confirmed that they will look into whether the MoJ plans to publish any modelling on the impact of interest rate changes on mortgages/possession/money claim workload.

Discussion of Online Signposting Tool Evaluation

11. LS presented the findings of the evaluation of the Housing Disrepair Online Signposting Tool (OST) and talked through the evaluation approach and challenges of the evaluation.
12. LS invited questions and observations from the group, especially suggestions on what could be done to improve evaluation as we consider future OSTs.

- 13. LSAG members provided feedback and discussed the OST and the findings of the evaluation, including the challenges around evaluating digital products.
- 14. LS agreed to circulate an updated version of the presentation to members.

Update on Civil Legal Aid Review

- 15. CLA provided an update on the Civil Legal Aid review, detailing how the review would be run and what it would entail. CLA then invited members to give their views on the CLA review.
- 16. LSAG members provided feedback and discussed the Civil Legal Aid review.
- 17. LS thanked everyone for the discussion. If LSAG members had further points or wanted separate meetings, these were welcomed.

Any other business (AOB)

- 18. The date of the next meeting will likely be in January/February.

Action	Owner(s)	Deadline
LS will look into whether the MoJ will publish any modelling on the impact of interest rate changes on mortgages/possession/money claim workload.	LS	January 2023
LS agreed to circulate an update version of the OST evaluation slide pack to members.	LS	November 2022