

## **Headline intentions for remaining categories operating under the 2010 Standard Civil Contract**

In November 2013 the LAA published a [document](#) setting out our intention to tender for the categories of law still operating under the 2010 Standard Civil Contract.

A tender for new contracts in the Mental Health and Community Care categories of law was opened in February 2014 and these contracts came into force on 1 August 2014. We also published a headline intentions document for the provision of future Family Mediation Services highlighting that a tender for additional services will open in October 2014. All other categories covered by the 2010 Standard Civil Contracts have been extended to 31 October 2015. This document sets out our intentions for those categories.

### **Actions Against the Police etc, Clinical Negligence and Public Law**

We intend to award contracts in these categories with services to start from 1 November 2015. A tender for these contracts will open in **December 2014**

#### Tender Process

The tender process will be a single stage and will test an organisation's suitability to contract with us (similar to previous Pre Qualification Questionnaires) and that organisations meet our minimum service requirements. **All organisations that are assessed as meeting the tender requirements will be awarded a contract.**

It will be a requirement that all providers hold either the SQM (as audited by the SQM Delivery Partnership) or Lexcel by the contract start date. Organisations wishing to tender for legal aid contracts should therefore consider applying for these standards now if they do not currently hold them to ensure they meet our requirements by November 2015.

In line with the changes brought in with the 2013 Standard Civil Contract, we will introduce a revised supervisor to caseworker ratio of 1:4 in all categories.

We will be reducing the number of procurement areas in these categories from 12 to 7. This is in line with the changes made to the Education and Discrimination categories of law in 2013 and will allow providers greater flexibility to undertake work from across a larger area. Organisations will only be able to make a single bid per procurement area and Local Arrangements will no longer be available in Actions Against the Police etc. or Public Law. All organisations will be required to have at least a part time presence in the procurement area in which they are bidding.

#### *Clinical Negligence*

As is currently the case, there will be no restriction on the number of matter starts for Clinical Negligence.

We intend to amend the supervisor standard in this category to ensure that providers have relevant skills and experience to carry out the work remaining in scope following the implementation of LASPO. Individuals will now be required to have undertaken at least 5 cases falling within paragraph 23 of [Part 1 of Schedule 1 of LASPO](#) in the last 24 months. We will also accept individuals that hold the APIL Clinical Negligence specialist accreditation as an alternative to the existing accreditation schemes previously allowed.

### *Actions Against the Police etc*

As in the 2013 and 2014 tender rounds, we intend to allocate Matter Starts based on lots. Those successful organisations that bid in the smaller lot will be guaranteed the amount they bid for and will be able to self grant up to an additional 50% of their allocated Matter Starts.

Those bidding in the highest lot will need to meet additional requirements around either being able to evidence that they have carried out the same volume of matter starts in the procurement area previously or providing assurance through submission of a suitable delivery plan, that they will be able to deliver this volume of work. Those organisations successful in the highest lot will be allocated at least the minimum volume of Matter Starts in that lot. We may specify an upper limit on the higher lot.

### *Public Law*

We intend to offer two lots with the lower lot being for a relatively small volume of Matter Starts to reflect that, while Legal Help does play a part, the main focus of this work is conducted under Civil Representation. All successful organisations bidding in the lower lot will be guaranteed the amount they bid for and will be able to self grant up to an additional 50% of their allocated Matter Starts.

Applicants wishing to undertake a higher volume of Matter Starts will be able to bid in a higher lot but will need to meet additional requirements. As with Actions Action the Police etc, this will be around either being able to evidence that they have carried out the same volume of matter starts in the procurement area previously or providing assurance through submission of a suitable delivery plan, that they will be able to deliver this volume of work. Those organisations successful in the highest lot will be allocated at least the minimum volume of Matter Starts in that lot. We may specify an upper limit on the higher lot.

It will be a requirement that organisations must employ at least one 0.5 FTE authorised litigator.

### Proposed timetable

Tender opportunity opens	Early December 2014
Tender opportunity closes	January 2015
Notification of outcome	June 2015
Verification process	June to September 2015
Issue Contracts	October 2015
Contract Start Date	1 November 2015

### **Immigration Removal Centres (IRCs)**

We intend to tender for new IRC contracts in 2015.

To allow time to develop the tender process we will extend the existing contracts by 6 months.

### **Housing Possession Court Duty Schemes (HPCDS)**

We are currently considering how we might tender these services in future to ensure sustainability of contracts, for example, we are considering options that would look to award bigger contracts across larger procurement areas.

Therefore our intention is to extend the existing HPCDS contracts for a further 12 months while we consider the procurement options.