

2018 Standard Civil Contract Update – 31 August 2018

We have been made aware that there are a number of providers who have been told that they have passed verification but have not yet been able to accept their contract ahead of the contract coming into force tomorrow. We continue to encourage providers to accept their contracts as soon as possible. However, in order to protect service provision for next week the LAA proposes the following approach until Friday 7th September:

- Providers who have contracts which end on 31 August 2018 may continue to provide services to existing clients only under the remainder work provisions of the contracts under which the work was started.
- Providers which have received and executed the contract documentation for the 2018 Standard Civil Contract will be able to conduct work under that contract from 1 September 2018.
- Providers (which includes new providers who did not have a previous contract and providers who have contracts which end on 31 August 2018) which have received confirmation from the LAA that they have successfully verified their tender but have not been able to execute their contract, will be permitted to conduct legal aid work for new clients during the period between 1 September 2018 and 7 September 2018 on the following basis. Any work done between 1 September 2018 and 7 September 2018 will be done under a temporary stand-alone fixed term contract, which will be consistent with and treated as a 2018 Standard Civil Contract for the purposes of the legal aid legislation. The terms of that contract are set out in the contract documents forming the 2018 Standard Civil Contract (accessible here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-civil-contract-2018>). The offer of this temporary stand-alone contract by the LAA will be accepted by the conduct and performance of contract work by the provider during the period between 1 September 2018 and 7 September 2018.

For the avoidance of doubt, the temporary contract will expire at midnight on 7 September 2018. Providers which have not by then executed the 2018 Standard Civil Contract in accordance with clause 6 of the Contract for Signature will not at that point be able to rely on the temporary stand-alone contract to do work.