

Headline intentions on extending the 2017 Standard Crime Contract and procurement of new criminal legal aid contracts

The LAA will be extending the 2017 Standard Crime Contract by 12 months to 31 March 2022.

The 12 months' extension is made under paragraph 2.3 of the Contract for Signature document.

The LAA will begin to issue notices of the extension to the 2017 Crime Contract to individual providers later this year. The new schedules will be issued before the end of March 2021.

Procurement of new criminal legal aid contracts

As the existing contract approaches the end of its term in 2022, the LAA also intends to undertake a procurement process next year for new crime contracts.

The Ministry of Justice has announced the next steps for the Criminal Legal Aid Review, including priority work focusing on a review of crime lower fee schemes. We intend that the development of the new contract will take place alongside this policy work to explore incremental changes that can be introduced to support efficient and effective case progression, better outcomes for defendants and a more modern criminal justice system, in line with the aims of the wider Criminal Legal Aid Review.

Further details on the procurement process will be published later this year.

Further information on the Ministry of Justice's criminal legal aid review consultation and consultation response can be found here:

https://consult.justice.gov.uk/criminal-legal-aid/criminal-legal-aid-review/consult_view/