

[LAA Address]

[Insert name of organisation/self-employed advocate]

Our Ref: [Insert]

Date: [Insert]

**For the attention of the Contract Liaison Manager**

Dear Sir/Madam,

**2013 VHCC Contract (for Organisations)**  
**2013 VHCC Contract (for Self-Employed Advocates)**  
**2010 VHCC Contract (for Organisations)**  
**2010 VHCC Contract (for Self-Employed Advocates)**

### **Notice of amendments to the Specification in effect from 2 December 2013**

I am writing to provide you with notice of amendments to the Specification, which apply to cases you undertake under the Contract. For the avoidance of doubt, references to the Contract in this letter and attached notice refer to the following, whichever is applicable to you:

2013 VHCC Contract (for Organisations)  
2013 VHCC Contract (for Self-Employed Advocates)  
2010 VHCC Contract (for Organisations)  
2010 VHCC Contract (for Self-Employed Advocates)

The amendments will be incorporated into the Contract and come into effect from 00.01am on 2 December 2013 pursuant to Clause 13.2 of the Contract Standard Terms. This notice will be deemed to have been received in accordance with Clause 20 of the Contract Standard Terms.

For clarity of interpretation, any terms which are capitalised but not defined within this letter bear the meaning given to them in the Contract.

### **Amendments to the Specification**

The amended version of the Specification will be available from **Friday 1 November 2013** on the Ministry of Justice's website: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/legal-aid/areas-of-work/crime/crime/vhcc-accreditation>. The website will contain all explanatory material about the amendments and clean and track change versions of the Specification for your ease of reference.

All the amendments to the Specification have been subject to consultation with the Consultative Bodies and relate to the decision of the Lord Chancellor to reflect all fees for very high cost crime cases in Access to Justice Legislation/Legal Aid Legislation (as applicable) from 2 December 2013. This legislation can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/new> from Friday 1 November 2013.

If you have any questions concerning these amendments, please contact your Contract Manager.

### **Additional Information**

Separately from the amendments to the Contract and for your information only, the Ministry of Justice has now confirmed the transitional provisions in relation to the application of new rates to Very High Cost Cases. Access to Justice Legislation/Legal Aid Legislation (as applicable) will provide that in cases subject to contracts signed before 2 December 2013, the new, reduced fees will apply to work done pursuant to any task list agreed with the LAA on or after 2 December 2013. In

addition the reduced fees will not apply to cases in which the court has set a trial date before 2 December 2013 and that trial date is on or before 31 March 2014.

Yours faithfully,

David Keegan  
**Head of Complex and High Cost Cases**