

[LAA Address]

[Panel Member] or [Panel Advocate]

Our Ref: [Insert]

Date: [Insert]

Dear Sir/Madam,

2008 Very High Cost Case (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Members
2008 Very High Cost Case (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Advocates

Contract Amendment Notice 4: Notice of amendments in effect from 2 December 2013

I am writing to provide you with the attached notice of amendments, 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 Very High Cost Case (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Members or Very High Cost Case (Crime) Panel Contract for Panel Advocates, whichever is applicable to you.

The amendments will be incorporated into the Contract and come into effect from 00.01am on 2 December 2013 pursuant to Clause 30.2 or Clause 25.2 of the Contract (as applicable).

This notice will be deemed to have been received in accordance with Clause 35 or Clause 30 of the Contract (as applicable).

For clarity of interpretation, any terms which are capitalised but not defined within this letter or the attached notice bear the meaning given to them in the Contract (as applicable).

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

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. Legal aid legislation 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

CONTRACT AMENDMENT NOTICE

Contract Amendment Notice number:	4 (Four)
Date of Contract Amendment Notice:	1 November 2013
Effective date (date amendment comes into effect):	2 December 2013

Details of amendments to the Contract

*The amended version of the Contract 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 Contract for your ease of reference.*

All the amendments to the Contract 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 legal aid legislation that applies to the Contract from 2 December 2013. This legislation can be found at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/new> from Friday 1 November 2013.

Signed:



David Keegan
Head of Complex and High Cost Cases
For Legal Aid Agency