

## **Headline intentions on extending the 2017 Standard Crime Contract**

The LAA will be extending the 2017 Standard Crime Contract by 12 months to 31 March 2021.

The Ministry of Justice is undertaking reviews into criminal legal aid and the thresholds for legal aid entitlement, both of which are due to report towards the end of summer 2020.

The LAA considers that it would be best placed to tender for a future Crime Contract once the outcome of these reviews is known. When the outcome of these reviews is known, the LAA will start the contract and tender design process.

The 3 years' term of the 2017 Standard Crime Contract expires on 31 March 2020. 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 in the next month. The new schedules will be issued before the end of March 2020.

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

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/criminal-legal-aid-review>

Further information on the Ministry of Justice's review into the thresholds for legal aid entitlement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/legal-support-action-plan>