



The Law Society



Legal Aid
Agency

Crime Contract Consultative Group (CCCG) meeting Wednesday 27 April

Minutes

V3.0

When	Wednesday 27 April 2022
Where	Via Teams
Chair	David Thomas
Minutes	Eloise Worrall
Present	<p>Adrian Vincent – BC Alice Mutasa – TLS Andrew Cosma – MMS Arron Dolan – CBA Avrom Sherr – IALS Chandni Brown - CiEx Daniel Bonich – CLSA David Thomas - LAA Elliot Miller – LAA Gerwyn Wise - GCLAW Glyn Hardy – LAA Helen Johnson - LAPG Hesham Puri - LCCSA Henry Hills – SAHCA Ian Kelcey – CLC James MacMillan –Moj Jelena Lentzos – LAA Jill Waring – LAA Jon Heavens – Moj Kate Pasfield - LAPG</p>

	Kathryn Grainger – LAA Kathy Hartup – LAA Martin Secrett - BC Matt Doddridge – LAA Melissa Thompson – LAA Neil Lewis - LAA Nick Ford – LAA Nick Poulter – LAA Paul Moore - LAA Rakesh Bhasin-LCCSA Richard Miller Richard Owen - TLS A2J Cttee Stuart Nolan - TLS Will Hayden - LAA
Apologies	Elaine Annable - LAA Mark Troman - LSCCA

D Thomas welcomed attendees to the meeting and confirmed that papers and minutes had been circulated in advance.

1. Minutes from February meeting were reviewed and approved.

Actions were discussed as follows.

Actions from the last meeting and decisions from this meeting APFEB01 N Lewis to look into the specific aspects about travel and waiting rates issue, and feed back to the group. N Lewis Completed at meeting
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2. **Simon Heard - Criminal Legal Aid Application Questionnaire**

S Heard gave an overview of two projects that are currently happening within the digital space and went through his presentation This included a new simplified and refreshed criminal legal aid application form that is being considered. The CRM14/15 form is being refreshed and redesigned where some additional functionality will be introduced.

3. **Nick Poulter – Operational update**

N Poulter provided an operational update on processing within the LAA and went through his report.

He advised that targets are being maintained, but there are some areas where volume increases have seen increased pressure on the team. More resources are being recruited to counter these increases, but it will take some time for this to have an impact.

There have been some structural changes to the crime teams with effect from the 1 April with the creation of the National Criminal applications team (NCAt) following the merger of CAT and NCT. There will be no changes in respect of contact routes into the team.

4.

Will Hayden – DSCC Update

W Hayden explained that DSCC performance has been strong and all KPIs have been met this year and took the members through the performance slide.

D Bonich stated that the updated web portal is much better. One issue that has been noticed previously, is when a call has come through at night and it either hasn't been accepted or rejected by another solicitor that we are not entitled to know who else the DSCC has referred the call to.

W Hayden explained that voluntary attendances at the moment can come through any time during the day and may be logged with DSCC during the night-time. If they are logged at night then the current operational process is to make that outbound call to the solicitor for that case immediately, even if the mandatory attendance isn't until the next day.

Feedback has been received from solicitors that they do not want to be disturbed during these unsocial hours and they would rather have the mandatory attendance deployed the next day.

A proposed approach is that once the attendance is logged by the police between 11:00 PM at night and 9:00 AM the next morning, they are held and deployed at 9:00 AM with the caveat that all cases were deployed at least two hours before the mandatory attendance.

APAPR01 – Group asked to feedback to W Hayden by 20 May on the out of hours proposal

5. AOB

D Thomas recommended that members should ideally send queries beforehand so any responses can be prepared.

D Bonich raised the question on CBAM in relation to payment for remote attendances beyond what's currently envisaged with the COVID protocol.

G Hardy informed that a new version of CBAM was issued several weeks ago which clarifies the position.

D Thomas ended the meeting.

Actions from this meeting
APAPR01 To feedback to W Hayden on the proposal on the out of hours.
All

The next meeting is on Tuesday 14 June via Teams

