



The Law Society



Legal Aid Agency

Crime Contract Consultative Group (CCCG) meeting Tuesday 10 October 2023

Minutes

When	Tuesday 10 October 2023
Where	Via Teams
Chair	Mark Newby
Minutes	Eloise Worrall
Present	<p>Alice Mutasa - TLS Chris Minnoch - LAPG Daniel Bonich – CLSA David Thomas – LAA Elaine Annable – LAA Emma Green – NAO Fadi Daoud - LCCSA Fleur McQuade – Digital Glyn Hardy – LAA Helen Johnson – LAPG Hesham Puri - Kath Burdett – LAA Kathryn Grainger – LAA Kaye Stapleton - LAA Kemi Duroshola - NAO Matt Doddridge – LAA Maxine Wellsbury - LAA Melissa Thompson – LAA Nick Ford - LAA Russ Crooks - HMPPS Sandra Torres Cancino - HMPPS</p>
Apologies	<p>Nick Poulter – LAA James McMillian Avrom Sherr – IALS</p>

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

1. Minutes from October meeting were reviewed and approved.

M Newbury noted there was no actions from the last meeting.

2. Melissa Thompson - Operational update

Performance is going really well on applications where are continuing to process 100% of applications within the two working days, on the billing they are doing 100% of bills within the KPI.

Rejects on applications are running at around 10%, the top 5 reject reasons are detailed in the pack, Crime Billing for CRM4 and 5s within 2 days, CRM7 are being processed within 7 days, CRM18 which have been red in the past are now green and being processed within 3 days

LF1 are around 4 days with discs being processed at the 8 day mark and AF1 across the board are at 8 days.

M Thompson asked group for any questions.

A Cosma asked if this information includes partial rejects or complete rejects, as in reductions in the claims due to PPE? M Thompson stated that as they are assessment they wouldn't factor into the reject rate. A Cosma noted that these are the ones that are causing the most issues

M Thompson responded that there is some information in the stats pack about appeals, but they can have a look at that and see if they can expand the pack to include any other information that others feel is needed.

APOCT01 – M Thompson to investigate and see if there's anything further we can provide in the status pack in addition.

3. Andrew Cosma / Nick Ford List of offences - LGFS scheme

M Thompson stated that if an offence being claimed is not on the offences list but the provider does not think it should be paid as offence class H (or 17.1 for AGFS), they can ask for a re-classification. Where a number of requests for re-classification of a certain offence are received, caseworkers are instructed that they can re-classify that offence without additional justification. Providers should enter under what class of offence they want to claim in the notes section on CCCD. Caseworkers will only be able to pay under the new offence class or band if that is what is being asked for, in line with the regulations.

N Ford acknowledged that it has been a while since the offence lists have been updated. This would require an amendment to the regulations. MoJ Policy are content in principle to consider the updating of the offence lists as part of wider AGFS and LGFS reform. In the interim, we will review and publish amended LAA guidance to further clarify the current approach and provide a

list of those currently unlisted offences that are regularly reclassified, so that providers are aware what these are.

A Cosma and others queried why updating the lists in the regulations would need to wait for wider reform? It would be appreciated if policy could provide an update on next steps and possible timescales at the next CCCG meeting in December.

It was also queried when the updated guidance might be shared with CCCG members?

APOCT02 – N Ford to share the proposed guidance update, with a list of currently unlisted offences regularly re-classified, by mid- November.

APOCT03 – N Ford to raise the updating of the offence lists in regulations with MoJ policy.

4. Rep body ongoing topics & queries

F Daoud noted that it had been raised to him of the perception of an increase in core testing activity specifically in relation to means testing, F Daoud asked if there was any specific focus on means assessments at the moment. G Hardy suggested that he can discuss with the Core Testing team to see if there was any further information they could provide on our core testing approach.

APOCT04 – G Hardy to pick up with Core Testing team to explore the option of providing more information on the core testing approach

F Daoud also raised that there is a requirement for providers to seek alternative quotes from translation experts, even where the single quote obtained is within the legal aid rates set out in the regulations.

APOCT05 – M Thompson to pick this up with the Magistrates team and respond to F Daoud.

5. AOB

No other business

The next meeting is Tuesday 12 December via Teams