



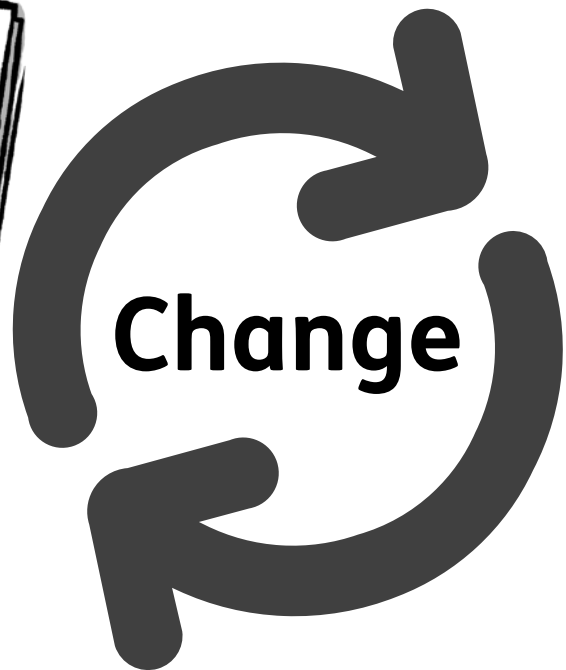
Ministry
of Justice



Easy
Read

Changes to legal aid

How we will check that our plans
are fair



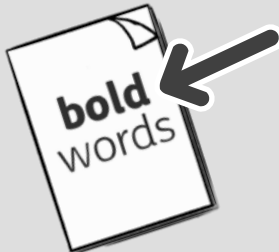
Easy Read



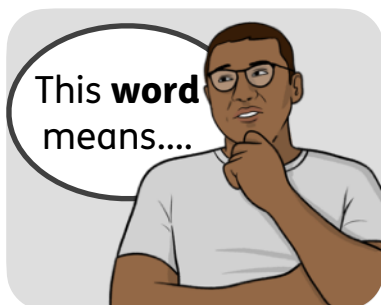
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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About this booklet



Legal aid is a service in England and Wales that helps people who need legal advice and support.



This is for people who cannot pay for a lawyer themselves.



We are planning to make changes to legal aid.



Before we make any changes, we need to check that the changes would not be unfair to any group of people.



In this booklet, we will tell you how the changes might affect different groups of people.

About the changes



We are planning to make changes to legal aid for legal work to do with **housing** and **immigration**.

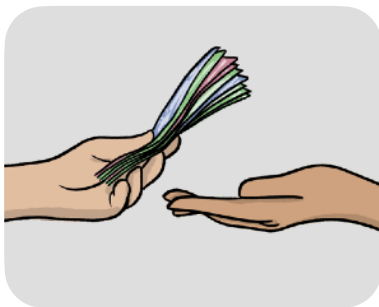
Immigration is where people move from one country to live in another country.



Some people who need legal aid for housing and immigration problems are finding it hard to get.



This could be because there are not enough organisations that provide this legal aid.



We want to pay more for housing and immigration legal aid work.



This should help make sure enough organisations are doing this work, and that people can get legal aid in these areas.

Checking the plans are fair



Most people who will be affected by these changes will be legal aid providers, like **solicitors** and **barristers**.



A **solicitor** is a lawyer. They help you with the law.



Barristers are lawyers who work in court.



The changes will also affect people looking for legal services.

How solicitors might be affected



To find out how solicitors might be affected, we have used information from 2 reports from the Ministry of Justice.



To check if our plans are fair, we looked at who will benefit from our plans and who will not.



The first information we looked at is about who the housing solicitors are.



More women solicitors help with legal aid than men.



This means women are more likely to gain from this plan than men.



Most of the solicitors who do housing legal aid are older.



This means younger solicitors are less likely to gain from this plan.



Asian people are more likely to do housing legal aid work than we would expect, based on how many Asian people there are in the population.



This means Asian or Asian British solicitors are more likely to gain from this plan.



White people are less likely to do housing legal aid work than we would expect based on how many White people there are in the population.



This means White solicitors are less likely to gain from this plan.



The next information we looked at is about who the immigration solicitors are.



To check if our plans are fair, we looked at who will benefit from our plans and who will not.



Slightly more women solicitors help with immigration legal aid than men.



This means women are slightly more likely to gain from this plan than men.



Most of the solicitors who do immigration legal aid are older.



This means older solicitors are more likely to gain from this plan.



Asian people are more likely to do immigration legal aid work than we would expect, based on how many Asian people there are in the population.



This means Asian or Asian British solicitors are much more likely to gain from this plan.



White people are less likely to do immigration legal aid work than we would expect based on how many White people there are in the population.



This means White solicitors are less likely to gain from this plan.

How barristers might be affected



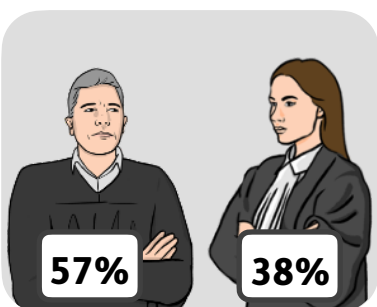
We also looked at how these ideas could affect barristers.



Legal aid providers often use barristers in court.



We used information from a report from the Ministry of Justice about barristers who work in housing law in 2022/23, which showed:



- 38% of barristers were female, and 57% were male.



This means that women are less likely to benefit from these ideas, and men are more likely to.

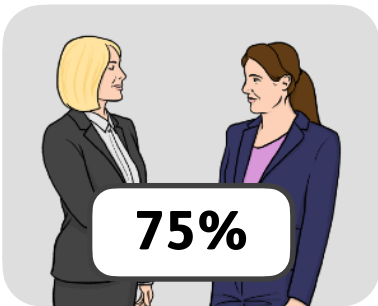
The information also showed:



- 32% of the barristers who said how old they were were aged 35-44.



This means people in this age group are more likely to benefit from these ideas.

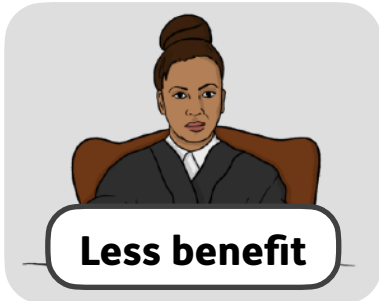


- 7% of the barristers were Asian or Asian British, and 75% were White.



This means that barristers who are Asian or Asian British are less likely to benefit from these ideas.

For barristers who worked in immigration law in 2022/23, the report showed:



- 46% of the barristers were female, and 50% were male.

This means that women are less likely to benefit from these ideas.



- 62% of the barristers who said how old they were were aged 35-54.

This means people in this age group are more likely to benefit from these ideas.



- Asian people are more likely to be immigration legal aid barristers than we would expect based on how many Asian people there are in the population.

This means that Asian people are more likely to benefit from these ideas.

For barristers who worked in immigration law in 2022/23, the report also showed:



- White people are less likely to be immigration legal aid barristers than we would expect based on how many White people there are in the population.

This means that White people are less likely to benefit from these ideas.

How people using legal aid might be affected



The Legal Aid Agency has shared information about the people who get legal aid.



The information is from March 2024 and is about people who already get legal aid for housing and immigration.

This is what the information shows:



- People who already get legal aid for housing and immigration are more likely to be from an **ethnic minority**.

An **ethnic minority** is a small group of people of the same race, in a place where most other people are a different race.



This means people from an ethnic minority are more likely to benefit from the proposal.



- Most people who already get legal aid for housing and immigration are men.



This means men are more likely to benefit from the proposal.

The information also shows:



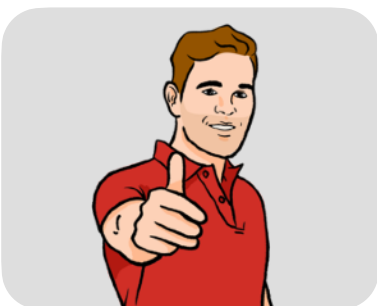
- The number of people with a disability who already get legal aid for housing and immigration is similar to the number of people with a disability out of everyone in the country.



This means people with a disability are likely to benefit from the proposal.



- Most people who already get legal aid for housing and immigration are aged 25-34.



This means people in this age group are more likely to benefit from the proposal.

What we think about how fair the plans are



We think that paying legal aid providers more money for housing and immigration work is not unfair.



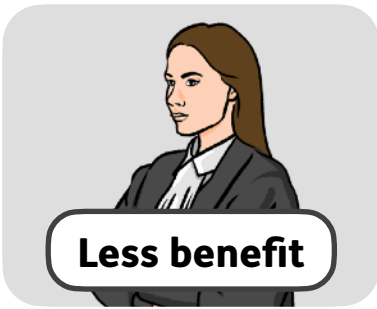
This is because the plans are not treating anyone differently because of who they are.



The plans are meant to solve problems and make sure legal aid can work better.



The information shows that people aged 35 to 44 and Asian people are more likely to do legal aid work, compared to other people.



White people and people under 35 are less likely to benefit.



More men, people aged 25 to 34 and people from an ethnic minority get legal aid. Women get it less often.



Even though some groups are more or less likely to be affected by the plans, we do not think it is unfair.



This is because the plans help more people to get **justice** and don't make people less likely to get justice.

Justice is fairness. It means making a decision that is fair to everyone.



The plans aim to help make sure there are more people who want to do legal aid work.



We also ask questions about how we could make legal aid better in other ways, but we have not made any plans yet.



When we have plans, we will check if our plans are fair.

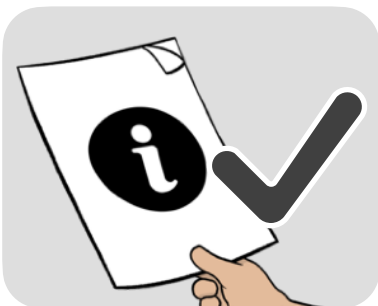
Checking if we have got it right



We will carry on checking to see if this plan is fair while we ask people what they think of the plan.



If we find out anything new, we will change this information about how fair the plans are.



Any final decision we make about the plans will include this information about fairness.



We are asking people what they think about changes to legal aid.



We would like to hear from anyone about whether they think the plans might be unfair to anyone.

Find out more



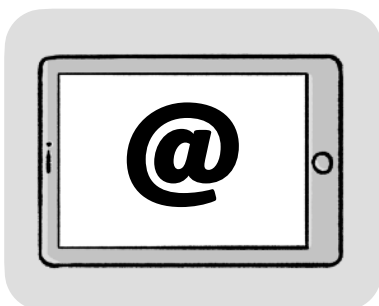
You can tell us what you think about the plans to change legal aid on our website here:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/civil-legal-aid-towards-a-sustainable-future

You can also contact us by:



- Post:
Civil Legal Aid Reform Policy Team
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ



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civillegalaidreform@justice.gov.uk

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