



Monthly Claim Submissions Fee Uplifts

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Questions	Response
General FAQ	
My case management software won't be ready for 22 December, what can I do?	<p>Your December submission, which must be submitted by 20 January, will be via the contingency process. If your case management system will not be updated in time for that submission to be made, then you will need to manually calculate the applicable fees that contribute to your total requested figure.</p> <p>You should engage with your software vendor to ensure that the updates are made as soon as possible, and that they can be reflected in your submissions once Submit a Bulk Claim is launched.</p>
Where can I find the new rates and fees?	<p>For Housing and Immigration, please refer to The Civil Legal Aid (Procedure and Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2025</p> <p>For Crime, please refer to The Criminal Legal Aid (General and Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2025</p>

<p>Does the uplifting of the fees mean that you have had to introduce more code changes?</p>	<p>We have not had to change the existing Civil codes.</p> <p>In Crime, for representation orders dated on or after 22 December 2025, Prescribed Proceedings Representation in the Crown Court must be submitted under new Fee Codes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PROH1 for prescribed proceedings appeals from the magistrates’ court or • PROH2 for Crown Court prescribed proceedings other than appeals from the magistrates’ court. <p>This is because for representation orders dated on or after 22 December 2025, these two types of case now have different hourly rates and Upper Limits – see the Guide to the Changes in Reporting Crime Lower Work at Submit a Bulk Claim (SaBC) - GOV.UK.</p> <p>SaBC will contain validation between the Fee Code and the case start date, that will ensure when pricing a claim, that the correct fees are applied.</p> <p>Providers’ case management systems will require updates to incorporate the new fees and rates.</p>
<p>If I open a Controlled Work matter prior to 22 December 2025, will I be able to claim the uplifted fee?</p>	<p>No. The uplifted fees can only be claimed for applications made on or after 22 December 2025.</p>
<p>If I opened a matter for a client prior to 22 December 2025, can I close it and re-open it on/after 22 December to take advantage of the fee increase?</p>	<p>No. Providers are only able to end Controlled Work where one of the events set out in para 3.64 of the 2024 SCC General Specification occurs.</p> <p>Providers are also unable to decline to receive an application for Controlled Work due to the likely remuneration for the matter.</p> <p>We would also not expect a provider to delay delivering advice to their client, who is likely vulnerable and whose matter may have timescales to adhere to, due to the level of remuneration available.</p>
<p>Why are you unable to increase the rates for Civil</p>	<p>Controlled legal aid work is administered via a different LAA digital system to licensed work and the</p>

<p>Licensed Work at the same time as for Controlled Work?</p>	<p>timelines for delivering policy change to enable billing at the new rates through each restored or replaced system following the cyber security incident are different.</p> <p>Required changes to licensed work will take longer as significant resource has been focussed on ensuring CCMS and other LAA systems are restored and operational.</p> <p>Licensed work fee uplifts remain a priority, and we are working to implement these as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Are just solicitors' fees being increased?</p>	<p>The rates and fees payable for civil controlled work and criminal legal aid lower solicitor fee schemes have increased.</p> <p>For immigration cases, barristers may benefit where they undertake advocacy services on behalf of providers.</p> <p>Civil licensed work fee uplifts remain a priority, and we are working to implement these as soon as possible.</p>
<p>Immigration & Asylum specific FAQ</p>	
<p>If I opened a legal help immigration matter prior to 22 December 2025, but then grant controlled legal representation (CLR) on/after that date, what fees are claimable?</p>	<p>The legal help matter will be subject to the remuneration rates in place prior to 22 December 2025, and the uplifted rates/fees will not apply.</p> <p>The CLR matter is a separate matter from the preceding legal help one, and therefore if the application was made on/after 22 December 2025, the uplifted rates will apply to that CLR matter.</p>
<p>Previously there were two separate sets of hourly rates for immigration legal help matters – one to use to calculate whether a case was an escape fee case, and the other in relation to other immigration matters payable under hourly rates</p>	<p>No. We have taken the opportunity to harmonise the rates for immigration legal help.</p> <p>Providers can use the same set of rates to calculate their costs for both matters which may become escape fee cases, and those which are ordinarily paid as hourly rates (see para 8.101 of the 2024 SCC Immigration Specification).</p>

(e.g. UASC). Are there still two different sets of rates for legal help?	The legal help rates are contained in table 7(aa) of The Civil Legal Aid (Procedure and Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 .
Why have you not harmonised the CLR rates in the same way as legal help?	<p>The rates have been harmonised where possible – the only remaining difference between the two sets of CLR hourly rates, is in the advocacy rate.</p> <p>The new advocacy rates are not harmonised in order to ensure they meet the criteria of the fee uplifts; that is, either they are moved up to the new minimum rate of £69.30/£65.35, or an uplift of 10% is applied.</p>
Are you intending to increase the cost limits in immigration matters, to reflect the increase in hourly rates?	Yes. We intend to increase relevant cost limits by the same proportions as the rates. These are currently subject to contract consultation with representative bodies.
Crime specific FAQs	
What about LGFS changes?	<p>A second Statutory Instrument will be laid as soon as the required changes to uplift fees can be delivered through Legal Aid Agency (LAA) digital systems.</p> <p>This will cover the crime higher fee increases set out in the consultation response, relating to the LGFS, and the following areas of appeals work: fixed fees for appeals in the LGFS and representation on an appeal by way of case stated in the High Court.</p>
Contact	
Who can I contact if I have a question that has not been answered?	Please speak to your Contract Manager or email SubmitABulkClaimQueries@justice.gov.uk .

Version history

Version	Date	Reason
1	December 2025	FAQs for fee uplifts