



Legal Aid
Agency

Tables of Amendments to the 2025 Standard Crime Contract

This document lists the amendments made to the Standard Terms and Specification during the 2025 Standard Crime Contract which runs from 1 October 2025 to 30 September 2035. Amendments were consulted on with the Consultative Bodies, in accordance with Clause 13 of the Standard Terms. There is a table for each set of amendments:

- [Specification - version 2 \(effective from 31 December 2025\)](#) – the Specification was amended effective from 31 December 2025 for Parole Board referrals to the High Court.

Specification - version 2 (effective from 31 December 2025)

The Specification was amended effective from 31 December 2025 for Parole Board referrals to the High Court.

Paragraph	Amendment		
1.3	<p><i>Amended Table in the Prison Law Class of Work</i></p> <p>This Specification applies to the following Classes of Work and Units of Work:</p> <table><tr><td>CLASS OF WORK</td><td>UNIT OF WORK</td></tr></table>	CLASS OF WORK	UNIT OF WORK
CLASS OF WORK	UNIT OF WORK		

Paragraph	Amendment	
	Prison Law	Sentence Cases – Advice and Assistance or Advocacy Assistance provided under section 15(2)(c) of the Act
		Disciplinary Cases – Advice and Assistance or Advocacy Assistance provided under section 15(2)(c) of the Act
		Parole Board Cases – Advice and Assistance or Advocacy Assistance provided under section 15(2)(c) of the Act
		Parole Board Cases – Representation provided under section 14(h) of the Act
4.1	<p><i>Amended Paragraph</i></p> <p>For Advice and Assistance, Advocacy Assistance, Representation in relation to Parole Board decisions referred to the High Court and Legal Help under Associated Civil Work, the decisions to provide legal services are taken by you on behalf of the Director in accordance with an Authorisation.</p>	
4.4	<p><i>Amended Paragraph</i></p> <p>Subject to Paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3 above, you may carry out the following actions on behalf of the Director in accordance with an Authorisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) accept an application directly from a Child under Paragraphs 4.23 and 4.24; (b) accept an application on behalf of a Child or Protected Party under Paragraphs 4.20 to 4.22; (c) accept an application by post where permitted in this Specification for particular Units of Work; (d) accept an application for Advice and Assistance from a Client who has received Advice and Assistance from you or another Provider within six months where permitted in this Specification for particular Units of Work; (e) grant (or refuse to grant) Advocacy Assistance; 	

Paragraph	Amendment
	<p>(f) authorise the instruction of Counsel or in-house advocate when Advocacy Assistance is given as permitted under this Specification;</p> <p>(g) grant, refuse, amend or refuse to amend a determination that a Client qualifies for authorised Representation provided on an emergency basis in Associated Civil Work. This power does not extend to judicial review proceedings unless we so authorise, and is subject to any relevant Lord Chancellor's Guidance and does not allow you to grant an application on the ground that the case has a significant wider public interest. Decisions on significant public interest are taken by us; and</p> <p>(h) amend or refuse to amend certain limitations to which a determination in respect of Legal Representation made in Associated Civil Work is subject. This power is subject to any relevant Lord Chancellor's Guidance; and</p> <p>(i) grant Representation in relation to Parole Board decisions referred to the High Court for review under section 32ZAA of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 or section 256AZBA of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.</p>
5.17	<p><i>Amended Paragraph</i></p> <p>Subject to Paragraphs 5.20 and 5.21 we will make Monthly Payments in respect of the following Contract Work in accordance with the Variable Monthly Payments Guidance or SMP Reconciliation Protocol as applicable for:</p> <p>(a) in the Criminal Investigations Class of Work, all Units of Work;</p> <p>(b) in the Criminal Proceedings Class of Work, all Units of Work including Crown Court Representation in Prescribed Proceedings or as specified in Paragraph 10.126 or 11.56, but excluding Crown Court Representation where the payment is governed by the Criminal Remuneration Regulations;</p> <p>(c) in the Appeals and Reviews Class, all Units of Work except for Representation under a Representation Order;</p> <p>(d) in the Prison Law Class of Work, all Units of Work (except for those made under a Representation Order in High Court proceedings); and</p> <p>(e) in Associated Civil Work, all Units of Work except for Legal Representation under a Certificate.</p>

Paragraph	Amendment
After 12.103	<p><i>New Heading</i></p> <p><u>Parole Board Referrals to the High Court under section 32ZAA of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 or section 256AZBA of the Criminal Justice Act 2003</u></p>
12.104	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>Scope</p> <p>This Unit of Work covers Representation at the High Court pursuant to section 32ZAA of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 or section 256AZBA of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.</p>
12.105	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>Qualifying Criteria</p> <p>There is no Financial Eligibility Test for this Unit of Work.</p>
12.106	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>Under this Unit of Work, the Interests of Justice Test will be deemed to be satisfied once you are notified that your Client's Parole Board decision has been referred to the High Court for review under section 32ZAA of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 or section 256AZBA of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.</p>
12.107	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>You must retain a copy of a Representation Order on file in relation to a Case under this Unit of Work. A copy of this must be sent to the Client.</p>

Paragraph	Amendment
12.108	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>Limits on Claims</p> <p>Subject to any extensions to the Upper Limit granted following an application made under Paragraphs 5.5 to 5.16, the Upper Limit specified in the Criminal Remuneration Regulations applies.</p>
12.109	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>Rules on Claiming</p> <p>A single Claim must be submitted to the Senior Court Costs Office for all work undertaken for a Client under this Unit of Work.</p>
12.110	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>A Claim under this Unit of Work may only be submitted when:</p> <p>(a) the Case has concluded; or</p> <p>(b) it is known that no further work will be undertaken for the Client in the same Case; or</p> <p>(c) it is unclear whether further work will be required or not and a minimum of one month has elapsed since the last work in the Case was undertaken.</p>
12.111	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p>

Paragraph	Amendment
	<p>You must claim for work undertaken in the High Court under this Unit of Work at the rates specified in the Criminal Remuneration Regulations.</p>
12.112	<p><i>New Paragraph</i></p> <p>Payment for Counsel under the Representation Order</p> <p>Work undertaken by Counsel under this Unit of Work must be claimed at the rates specified in the Criminal Remuneration Regulations.</p>