

'A 2025 REVIEW OF CRIMINAL LEGAL AID – THURSDAY 30th JANUARY 2025 – 4PM – 5PM

ARE YOU WORKING FROM CURRENT DOCUMENTS?

It is important that Fee Earners, and particularly those responsible for the billing of criminal legal aid, keep up-to-date with all the changes.

We seem to be constantly receiving **Statutory Instruments** and the relevant resource documents are also frequently updated – finding the time to keep on top of all of this is not easy!!

The notes for this presentation will consist of all the relevant Statutory Instruments that brought about changes in the last 24 months and all of the updated documents that have been published.

THE FOLLOWING 21 POINTS WILL BE COVERED – CHECK OUT THE DATES!

21 POINTS

- 1 – The new hourly rates in relation to **Costs From Central funds** – the rates claimable, as you know, when you are Court-Appointed – new rates **with effect from the 1st January 2025**
- 2 – The new rates payable when dealing with **Youth Court Work** as a result of **Statutory Instruments (SI 2024 No. 1163 and SI 2024 No. 1270)** published **with effect from the 6th December 2024**
- 3 – The position regarding **Claims for Travel Time and Disbursements** under the new regime introduced by **Statutory Instrument 2024 No.1163** **with effect from the 6th December 2024**
- 4 – Guidance for reporting Lower Crime Work – **Version 17 – December 2024**
- 5 – **The Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013 – Statutory Instrument 2013 No. 435** – amendments to **Schedule 4** – Police Station rates – **Version 9 – 6th December 2024**
- 6 – The 2022 Standard Crime Contract Specification Document – **Version 6 – 6th December 2024**
- 7 – The Criminal Legal Aid Manual – **Revised and Updated 27th November 2024**
- 8 – The Criminal Bills Assessment Manual (CBAM) – **Revised and Updated December 2024**
- 9 – The Crown Court Fee Guidance Document – **December 2023**

- 10 – **Statutory Instrument 2023 No. 97** – a fee for trial advocates involved in pre-recorded cross-examination or re-examination – **February 2023**
- 11 – **Statutory Instrument 2023 No. 1140** – increase in the fee for trial advocates involved in pre-recorded cross-examination or re-examination – **November 2023**
- 12 – **Statutory Instrument 2022 No.1370** – variation/renewal/discharge and appeals relating to **Serious Violence Reduction Orders** added to the list of ‘criminal offences’– **January 2023**
- 13 – **Statutory Instrument 2023 No. 366** – additional preparation fee for the trial advocate if the matter goes to trial or is a cracked trial – **April 2023**
- 14 – **Statutory Instrument 2023 No. 542** – the additional preparation fee not to apply to trial advocates dealing with pre-recorded cross-examination or re-examination – **May 2023**
- 15 – **Statutory Instrument 2023 No. 150** – Breach of a **Domestic Abuse Protection Notice** and proceedings relating to **Domestic Abuse Protection Orders** are ‘criminal proceedings’ – **March 2023**
- 16 – **Statutory Instrument 2023 No. 745** – no determination of financial resources where the proceedings relate to a child – **July 2023**
- 17 – Legal aid payments available for pre-charge engagement – document published on the **11th November 2024**
- 18 – A further £92 million to be put into the legal aid budget – document published on the **19th December 2024**
- 19 – Government response to Crime Lower Consultation: Criminal Legal Aid – updated **15th November 2024**
- 20 – **Statutory Instrument 2024 No. 1074** – certain government-funded financial support payments to be disregarded when calculating whether or not a contribution is required – **November 2024**
- 21 – Legal aid means testing recalculation of figures delayed until 2026 – **2024 announcement**