

Minutes of Meeting of Legal Aid Special Interest Group Committee held on
Thursday 26 September 2025 at 8pm

Present: Clint Nicholls
Paul Seddon
Rachel Perkins
Ann Henderson
Tracey Jack
Carol Calver (ACL head of operations)

1. Current CCMS situation

General discussion/update from various members following LAA comms of 24th September delaying the system restoration.

2. 2025 seminar

All agreed that this could not be currently rescheduled in view of the ongoing CCMS outage, although a potential date of 24th November was agreed. CC updated re discussions with CLSB regarding LAG members' CPD concerns and suggested a series of online sessions as a backup, if required.

AH agreed to contact suggested speakers, including M Howgate, C Ferrison/S Baldwin and Costs Master to discuss potential availability/subject matter. **[AP1]**

CC confirmed that PS would be giving a dedicated Legal Aid breakout session at the ACL London conference on Friday 7th November.

3. Prior Authorities

CN raised issue with the LAA refusing prior authority applications and the Local Authority refusing to pay shortfall. Issue is not a particular discipline nor a particular Local Authority. Issue discussed, and suggestions made, including raising issue at next SPG/CCCG **[AP2]**. TJ provided assistance on matters where she had appealed refusals of prior authority and original decision overturned.

CN also raised issue of difficulty obtaining interpreters, and again issue discussed.

4. AOB

Next SPG/CCCG – 13th November/3rd December

LAA billing meeting – 10th October – will this be effective?

RP advised that contact civil email was reporting as full as at 4pm 25.09.25 (post meeting note – S Barker has confirmed that the issue has been flagged and should now be fixed).

CC advised that voting on changing LAG constitution was taking place on Tuesday (30.09.25).

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 22nd October at 1.30 for 30 mins to discuss potential seminar.

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| AP1 | Email to speakers regarding potential seminar date/subject matter | AH |
| AP2 | Raising refusal of Prior Authorities/difficulties with Interpreters at SPG/CCCG | TJ |