

Dear ACL LAG Member

It is a busy time just now with the end in sight for the current lockdown regulations and general easing back into the new normal for us all. The LAA have also been busy as you will know by now.

Sadly CCMS is down currently due to a major problem and there is no indication yet as to when it might be restored for us to use. When we hear anything of note we will send a further email.

We have received the following latest LAA coronavirus guidance update which is reproduced here for ease of reference –

“This is just to let you know about a couple of updates to our contingency page.

We have published extended timeframes for arrangements being in place on [our contingency response page](#). The majority now will be in operation until 31 July, and we’ve further extended the period for probationary police station representatives to become accredited until 30 September. We will continue to keep these arrangements under review.

We’ve also published [a schedule listing the processes we’re planning to re-start over the coming months](#), and we’ll add to this and work with you on these plans going forward.

The first of these planned changes to note is we are restarting the business as usual process for CRM7 non-standard fee magistrates’ court claims after 6 July 2020:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crime-news-contingency-waiver-for-crm7-claims-ends-6-july-2020>

I’d be grateful if you could share this information with your members, and we will include them in the Legal Aid Bulletin and on our social media accounts.”

As to LAA assessment of what used to be Court assessed bills please see the new Guidance which is to be posted by the LAA on their website. I attach this to this email and please feel free to report back with any particular difficulties that you encounter. Reports so far indicate that bills are being assessed as claimed and we have been made aware of only 2 rejects so far. This is very much work in progress for the LAA and ourselves so please keep us posted of how you are getting on – reports of good or bad experiences welcomed.

Please note that the process is compulsory from **27 July 2020**.

Do not be surprised if Courts return or refuse to accept bills submitted between now and then and indeed older bills already on the Judge’s table might also be returned by the Courts before 27 July 2020 if the reality is that they just won’t be dealt with by that date. It is probably worth having a review of your cases already lodged with the Courts and asking the Court in question what they are going to do with your bill and making a submission direct to the LAA now to speed the process a little.

Keep in touch if there is anything that you think we need to know about.

Kind regards

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