

Dear ACL LAG Member

I am very pleased to be able to advise that the Judicial Review brought by The Law Society against the Legal Aid Agency has now been settled on agreed terms. For those of you who have not already seen it I attach The Law Society press release which confirms the terms of the agreement and our Press Release to be published in the weekly ACL e-bulletin today.

In brief this agreement provides that for a period of time Court Assessments are available once again or providers can opt for LAA assessment as now. It is also possible to have Court assessed any bill that has been assessed down by the LAA since August and where the provider considers that a better result could be achieved at Court.

However although this is a good situation shortly the LAA will be announcing a new consultation on the subject and we will all have to engage with this process once again in order to make the valid points along with any new observations on the reality of the removal of the Court Assessments. I am sure that many of you will have encountered the down side of the LAA in-house assessments with the disallowance of particularly enhancements in cases where the Courts would have allowed them.

In readiness for the next round of submissions it would perhaps be helpful if you can assemble any live data about things that worked well since August and things that have not gone so well. The LAA like to have hard evidence presented to them so if you have any examples they can be disclosed by reference only to the certificate number which will maintain protection of identities.

We will try and put on another online seminar before too long and will publicise this when we have it planned and in place.

Kind regards

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Co-Chair, ACL Legal Aid Group



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