

Dear LAG member

As part of the work that the committee does on behalf of the ACL members generally and for the LAG in particular, we regularly attend at meetings with the LAA and other specialist practitioner groups. From time to time, arising from these meetings we, receive material which we need to pass on to you and now is one of those times.

There are 2 items to bring to your attention currently and we would like to seek feedback on the first item.

1. Interpreters attending Court

The first relates to your help in relation to interpreter's fee for attendances at Court to provide interpretation services outside of the actual Court room where usually a Court appointed interpreter will be based.

The LAA are in the process of updating their guidance on interpreter's fees for Court attendances and in broad terms it amounts to a fee of £100 plus travel costs if the interpreter is present at the Court for a full day and at least 4 hours of interpreting work can be shown as having taken place. Waiting time does not count for this purpose.

This formula does not work in the majority of cases because often there is not 4 hours of actual interpreting undertaken in a full day or they are only at Court for a shorter period than a full day. In that event it is proposed that the LAA will pay for the actual interpretation time and all waiting time at a travel and waiting rate of 2/3 the codified hourly rate.

The problem with this is that it is said that it is unlikely that interpreters will split their invoices in this manner and will not find attending Court for anything less than the full codified rate. It is fair to say that their hourly rate is not particularly high to start with and the travel and waiting rate is very small so their anticipated position is understandable.

Has anyone encountered problems recovering interpreter's costs from the LAA and if so can you please provide some hard data to produce to the LAA in the form of certificate numbers (with your clients' or employers' consent) and if possible redacted (ie. client and case details) copies of the interpreter's invoices where the LAA have refused to pay or where problems have arisen? Details of any solution found or more likely an immovable response by the LAA will be helpful.

This problem has been raised by Resolution and the Association of Lawyers for Children who are very concerned about the problems faced by their members and it would be very helpful if we can provide hard data to assist in reaching a resolution to the problem.

If you can help please will you send me any data which I can pass on to Resolution, who are focusing on this issue and seeking information from its members also.

2. PET (Practice and Efficiency Team)

The second item relates to the PET Committee, whose activities are briefed to the CCCG. It has been agreed that the ACL LAG be consulted by PET regarding any relevant costs issues when they arise. PET stands for Practice and Efficiency Team, who are certain representative bodies (e.g. the Law Society) and the LAA who look at the day to day aspects of CCMS and also more widely at any LAA process to see if it is working properly and efficiently.

At the recent CCCG meeting with the LAA the attached report was made available and it may be of interest to you to be able to see it and read it so that you have some idea of what your representatives are doing on behalf of the members and the results that are achieved as a result.

If anyone has any issue or problem that needs some direct assistance from the LAA please let me know. Our next meeting with the LAA and other representatives (via the CCCG) is in early January 2019.

Kind regards
Bob Baker
Co-Chair ACL LAG



Association of Costs Lawyers, Herringbone House, Lion Road, Palgrave, Diss, Norfolk IP22 1AL
Tel: 0203 174 0967 E: enquiries@costslawyer.co.uk www.associationofcostslawyers.co.uk

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