

Dear ACL LAG Member

I hope your summer is going well and not too quickly. Whilst I was away on a short break from my desk last week we have had a message from the LAA as follows which I draw to your attention:-

As you will all be aware, the UK and Welsh Governments have continued to move forward with the removal of restrictions and changes to guidance for managing COVID safely.

Since the announcements earlier in July, the LAA has given careful consideration to the remaining COVID contingencies that we have in place and taken the opportunity to review all of the information provided on GOV.UK. We are shortly going to publish revised pages online that will reduce the number of pages of information to focus on the measures that are specifically relevant to COVID and that remain in place. As ever, the schedule page will provide a record of the measures we have had and continue to have in place, summarising the period these are in effect for.

The key points to note from this next update are:

- Offices and Supervisory arrangements – the temporary standards will remain in place until at least 30th September. Contract managers will contact providers again during August and September to confirm any change needed to current arrangements, and providers must please keep their contract manager informed of any change to circumstances related to their use of these standards.
- Quality Mark Accreditation – we will continue to take a flexible approach to SQM audits, offering either on-site, remote or through a combination of both, until 30th September.
- POA in civil cases – the measure to increase POA claims to 80% has been made permanent.
- POA for the Family Advocacy Scheme – the measure to allow up to 100% of costs to be claimed as POA will be extended to 30 September. This is in line with the recent consultation.
- Inquests – our one-off billing arrangements for work in progress have been extended until the 31st March 2022.
- Travel and mileage – our current approach will remain until 30th September, after which we expect to return to pre-COVID claim requirements.

As always, any changes to our measures will only come into effect three weeks from the point they are communicated and we will continue to work with you to inform the approach we take to our response to the pandemic.

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

This e-mail and its attachments are intended for the above named only and may be confidential. If received by you in error you must take no action based on them, nor must you copy or show them to anyone. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender as soon as possible.

The Association of Law Costs Draftsmen Limited trading as ACL. Registered in England and Wales.
Registered Office: 16 Broad Street, Eye, Suffolk IP23 7AF. Company Number 01330762