

Dear ACL Member



Closes on 11 June 2021

If you are or were involved in legal aid, it is time to stand up and be counted; that you do/did the work, why you do/did it, and/or why you do not do it anymore or might be giving it up soon. It only takes a few minutes, and your contribution is vital.

[Click here to complete the Legal Aid Census](#)

Law offices offering legal aid have more than halved in the last 8 years since the introduction of LASPO. Many of us know the main reason, increasingly low rates of pay, but there are other issues involved in the falling numbers and evidence is needed.

The Legal Aid Practitioners Group and All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid has just launched the 2021 Legal Aid Census, to gather extensive data about the backgrounds and lived experiences of those working on the social justice frontline (which includes those working in legal costs). Data collected will be fed into the Treasury's Spending Review and both the Ministry of Justice's review into the sustainability of civil legal aid and Sir Christopher Bellamy's review of criminal legal aid.

The ACL is one of the many representative groups who support this census and has signed and added their logo to the attached open letter to the Legal Aid Community. It is important that as many ACL members (and others in the costs community) as possible participate. As one of the smallest and arguably most obscure sections of the legal profession, it is paramount that costs lawyers and trainees with exposure to legal aid ensure they include themselves on a census that is presenting a cross section of the legal profession to the Government and will be viewed by the wider legal profession (i.e. the majority of our clients).

More information about the Census can be found in the open letter and FAQs attached.

If you want to tweet about the Census, including that you have taken part and urge others to do so, don't forget to use the hashtag #WeAreLegalAid

Kind regards

Bob Baker
Co-Chairman of the ACL Legal Aid Group



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