

From: Payne, Hannah <Hannah.Payne@justice.gov.uk>

Sent: 24 July 2020 18:12

To:

Subject: Message for Civil and Crime CCGs: LAA COVID19 contingencies

Dear all,

As you know, we put in place a range of measures in March and April in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We would like to share with you our current plans in relation to these measures and ensure we give providers sufficient notice of any changes.

The key points of our approach going forward are as follows:

* The following contingency measures will change during August and September (each with a minimum of 3 weeks' notice from notifying firms):

- CRM18 (Police Station escape case claims) and CRM18a (Prison Law escape case claims) will revert to paper submissions. We will give providers three-weeks' notice of the date. Longer-term, we will explore electronic submission, supported by the right level of assurance.

- Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) accreditation requires on-site audits not possible during the lock-down. Remote audits have taken place and where this has not been possible, providers have not been penalised. We will stop the facility to delay an audit from 1 September and providers will be expected to use a remote, blended or full on-site audit from this point. This flexibility in delivering the audits will be available from 1 August 2020 to 31 March 2021 and we will issue further supportive information in due course.

* All other contingencies – listed on GOV.UK – will be maintained until at least 30 September 2020, subject to ongoing review and alignment with the Government's response to COVID-19 in England and Wales. As above, any changes will only be made after 3 weeks' notice

has been given.

* We will retain our approach to Duty Solicitor contract compliance action, where providers have not been able to reasonably meet the requirements under contract due to COVID-19, until at least 31 October. We will engage with you and providers in September to inform our approach from 31 October.

The table (below) shows our planned approach to contingencies. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch. If felt useful, I'm happy to set up a discussion next week.

We plan to publish fully updated contingency arrangements on our GOV.UK contingency page next week (subject to any feedback received from you before then). I will notify you when the information goes live and would appreciate your support in promoting the update to your members at this point.

Kind regards,

Hannah

Contingency Area

Update (all dates subject to 3 weeks' notice being given)

Suspend unrecouped payments on account scheme (UPOA)

Maintained until 30 September

100% payment of CIS paper bills on POA basis

Maintained until 30 September

Civil cost appeals made electronically for paper claims

Maintained until 30 September

Escape case claims submitted electronically

Maintained until 30 September

ECCT/ECF teams allow email submissions during COVID-19

Maintained until 30 September

Tailored approach to means assessments (civil and crime) in line with the Government-backed furlough and self-employment support schemes

Maintained until 30 September

Applications: suspension of time limits for delegated function, substantive amendments and appeals; and increase of time limit on certificates to 12 weeks

Maintained until 30 September

Civil Legal Advice operating reduced hours service

Maintained until 30 September

Retention of contingency approach to Duty Solicitor contract compliance action, where they have not been able to reasonably meet the requirements under the contract due to COVID-19

Maintained until 31 October

Position on compliance with the requirements on Designated Accredited Representatives in Mental Health

Maintained until 30 September

No action taken, under the contract, where supervision and/or office requirements cannot be met due to COVID-19

Maintained until 30 September

Requirement for assessments, extended until end of September, for probationary police station accredited representatives

Maintained until 30 September,

as stated previously

Claim costs for setting up video links with clients in prison

Maintained until 30 September

Claim the Police Station fixed fee when providers have attended remotely

Maintained until 30 September

Pay for remote video remand hearings at the same rate as face-to-face hearings

Maintained until 30 September

Pay level 3 fees for Mental Health Tribunals

Maintained until 30 September

(and while HMCTS continue to hear tribunals remotely)

Pay provider claims for private transport costs

Maintained until 30 September

Accept applications with digital signatures

Maintained until 30 September

Application evidence requirements: allow photographed or scanned evidence as well as no evidence

Maintained until 30 September

CRM 18 escape fee case claim and CRM 18a escape case claim prison law will revert to paper submissions

Revert back between August and September (at least three weeks' notice provided)

Stop the facility to delay a Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) accreditation audit from 1 September

Implement new flexible approach from 1 September (refer to body of email for detail)

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I do not work on Thursday or Friday afternoons

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