

FOCUS
SPECIAL
ON CIS

Legal Aid

20th Issue
August 1997

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CIS – Corporate Information System

In our first article about the Board's new Corporate Information System (CIS), published in May, we explained the reasons for the design and implementation of the new system and the progress we were making. To minimise the risks associated with a business project of this size and complexity, constituting a major change in the way we work, we confirmed that we had decided to implement CIS in phases.

Nottingham Area Office has been chosen as the first office to use CIS. Subject to the rigorous testing of the system which is taking place at the moment, we anticipate the introduction to be in Autumn 1997. Introductory leaflets, providing basic information about the reasons for implementing CIS and some of the benefits for you and your clients, are available from all area offices.

Practitioners in the East Midlands, who will be directly affected by the implementation of CIS in Nottingham, have already been sent an *Information Pack* and a *Forms Pack*. Practitioners were invited to attend a number of briefing sessions, arranged by Nottingham Area Office to find out more about the system. This also allowed us to address individual areas of concern. The use of the CIS forms became mandatory in the *Nottingham area office* on 28 July 1997.

For those practitioners who are located outside the Nottingham area, the *Forms Pack*, containing an example of each new form and its accompanying checklist, will be sent to you at least 8 weeks before CIS is implemented in your local area office. At the same time, you will also be provided with the *Information Pack* which contains, in addition to more details of how CIS will impact on you and your clients, examples of

the new legal aid certificate (see over) and the new Area Committee Agenda Note.

Each area office is planning their own briefing sessions; these will take place in the weeks leading up to the date when the use of the new forms will become mandatory. This will be 4 weeks prior to CIS going live in your local area office. Your local area office staff will be more than happy to answer any queries you may have about the new system but are not currently able to confirm the exact date when CIS will be installed in their office. We will be providing further updates about that in due course.

At the end of this article you will see an example of the new legal aid certificate. This will be computer generated and will be a continually updated legal aid history from application to final discharge/revocation. For example, if an amendment is requested, the replacement certificate will show the original scope of the certificate including the limitations and conditions imposed (including the new mandatory costs limitation) with their effective dates, and the details of the new amendment. Some of the benefits and changes the system will provide are described below.

Standard Wordings

In May 1996, the Board introduced standardised wordings for the description and the scope of legal aid certificates. This was necessary to facilitate CIS by reducing the large number of different standard and non-standard reasons which we had previously used. There will be no difference in the post CIS approach to scope limitations but they will be expressed differently. CIS will describe cases by their matter type, proceeding and the stage those proceedings have



reached. This will mean that the proceedings covered under a certificate, and the steps that you can take in them, will be much more clearly set out and easier to understand.

Costs Limitation

Coinciding with the implementation of CIS is the introduction of mandatory costs limitations for all certificates including ABWOR certificates. The costs limitation will replace the existing costs condition for all new certificates generated by CIS. Further details about this important change can be found in the article entitled Costs Limitations on page 6 of this issue of Focus.

By introducing the costs limitation to the initial legal aid grant decision, the Board is not only able to limit the potential exposure to the legal aid Fund, but is able to ensure that up to date information about each individual case is available.

Central Printing

The new Corporate Information System provides an opportunity to ensure that, in future, all correspondence to you and your clients is as clear as possible. The majority of documents and letters will be printed and dispatched centrally although it will also be possible for area offices to print a limited number of letters and documents locally.

Information For Applicants

We have come to appreciate that some of your clients experience difficulties in understanding the legal aid system. Key documents, for example certificates or refusals which give rise to a right of appeal, will be accompanied by explanatory notes to help you and your clients understand both the documents, the process itself, and any action that they should take on receipt of those documents. The notes are primarily intended to help and inform your clients and to remove some of the common misunderstandings surrounding the legal aid process. Some of the notes will also be sent to the acting solicitor.

Area Committee Arrangements

One of the many new benefits CIS will provide for the Board is the computerised administration of the Area Committee process. A new, CIS generated agenda note will accompany all appeals to the Area Committee. Once the new disclosure procedure (which is currently being piloted in our Chester and Reading Area Offices) has been successfully concluded,

applicants will receive advance disclosure of the new style agenda note. This will be sent with the letter they currently receive confirming the date and time of their appeal hearing. In addition, appellants will receive new guidance notes detailing the Area Committee procedure and what appellants can expect if they attend their hearing in person.

Document Recording

Another benefit which the system accommodates is to allow us, when appropriate, to record the documents and enclosures you send us with applications, amendment requests or appeals. This will help us to ensure that not only do we return all documents back to you but also, in the event of an appeal, we have a full record of the information used to make the decision being appealed.

Direct Debit Arrangements

When CIS is implemented in your local area office, your clients will be able to make contributions by direct debit if they wish to do so. This is in addition to the current payment methods. Clients who wish to pay contributions using a paying-in book will no longer need to ask us for a new paying-in book when the old one runs out as they will be sent out automatically. CIS recognises when a certain number of payments have been made using paying-in slips.

Forms Checklists

Each new legal aid form is accompanied by a checklist to help you to complete the form and to provide the information we require. It will also help to reduce the number of rejected forms. The white checklists are printed with black text on A4 loose-leaf format paper. They can be easily photocopied and filed in binders should you wish to do so. Pages are clearly marked with the name of the form to which the checklist relates, a page number and a current version number.

Once the implementation of CIS in Nottingham has been concluded to our satisfaction, we will install the system in our Leeds and Chester offices. Thereafter, although the timetable will be subject to some alteration, we expect to install the system in our remaining ten offices by mid-1998. We have not made a firm decision as to the order in which it will be introduced into the remaining area offices, but we expect to be able to announce that in Autumn 1997.

We will publish more information about the CIS implementation in the near future, providing you with further updates of our progress and information on how you and your clients will be affected.



LEGAL AID CERTIFICATE

LEGAL AID ACT 1988



Reference Number: XSSSSSXX111AB/3

Solicitor's Details

Firm Name: [Firm name]
Address: [DX or Royal Mail address]

Account No: [Firm's account number]
Phone No: [Firm's telephone number]
Fax No: [Firm's fax number]
Ref No: [Solicitor's client reference number]
Conducting Solicitor: [Conducting solicitor's name]
Old Certificate Number: [Applicant's old legal aid certificate number]

Assisted Person's Details

Assisted person: [Assisted person's name]
Address: [Royal Mail address]
NI Number: [National Insurance number]
Opponents: [Opponent's name(s)]

NOTE 2

This is the unique number assigned to the applicant and it should be quoted in all correspondence. Only the last digit changes to identify each new case in the name of that applicant.

NOTE 1

Your firm's account number. This is assigned by the Board and is used in all payment documents.

NOTE 3

This sets out details of your client's opponent.

This is to certify that the status of the Certificate is as specified in the "Certificate Status" box below. Its scope is specified in the "Certificate Scope" box overleaf. It covers the proceedings listed overleaf and is subject to the limitations and conditions listed overleaf.

Certificate Status

[Details of certificate status e.g. Full certificate granted on xx/xx/xx]

This certificate imposes both scope and financial limitations on the work to be done under it. Payment will not be made for work undertaken outside the scope specified or in excess of the costs limit. Solicitors should check the limitations imposed carefully and apply for an amendment where appropriate.

Area Office

Signed: [Authorised signatory's name] Address: [DX or Royal Mail address]

[Authorised signatory Legal Aid Area No. X]

NOTE 5

Your area office address for correspondence

NOTE 4

This tells you the current status of the certificate. The date of the certificate, and any emergency certificate will be stated here. It is updated if the certificate is discharged or revoked.

Certificate Scope

[Description of proceedings]

Date Instigated: [Date proceedings were started] Date Substituted: [Date the proceedings changed]

Limitations	Effective	Removed	Costs Limitations
[Certificate Limitation]	[Effective date of limitation]	[Date limitation removed]	[Costs limitation]

NOTE 6

This describes the proceedings for which your client has been granted legal aid.

NOTE 7

This details the date the proceedings changed. This field will only be displayed if relevant to the particular certificate.

NOTE 8

This box details the action which can be taken under the certificate.

MULTIPLE PROCEEDINGS

This certificate may in certain cases include more than one set of proceedings within its scope. If so, a separate costs limitation has been specified for each proceeding. The intention is that there is to be a single costs limitation for all the work authorised by the certificate which will be the highest of any individual costs limitation specified. Accordingly, individual proceedings should not be treated as subject to a separate costs limitation. Solicitors do not need to apportion their costs between the separate proceedings and need only apply for an amendment to the costs limitation when the total costs for the work to be done under the whole of the certificate are likely to exceed the highest limitation imposed.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the certificate are now issued in the form of a replacement certificate which will show the amended scope including any new costs limitation. The new costs limitation will set a new maximum figure for all the costs authorised under the certificate. Where a certificate was issued prior to CIS when it is first amended post CIS the replacement certificate will impose a costs limitation. It will only apply to costs incurred from the date of the replacement certificate.

NOTE 9

Information to be noted regarding multiple proceedings and amendments.

CRIMINAL STANDARD FEES – COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS

In Focus 19 we set out interim measures for claiming a standard fee payment for a S.6(1) committal conducted under the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996.

Practitioners should note that Forms CRIM 13 and 14 have now been amended to incorporate the following additional category:

S.6(1) committal (s. 47 CPLA 1996) (including discontinuance/withdrawal)

In future this category should be used to claim payment in respect of S.6(1) committals under the new Act. It will then no longer be necessary to make manual amendments to the forms.

Practitioners should note that a non-standard fee claim can now only be made for a S.6(1) committal conducted under the previous arrangements (except where the core costs exceed the higher limit).

The new forms will not come into circulation until existing stocks have been used up.

HOW WILL CIS AFFECT BARRISTERS?

The implementation of CIS and the introduction of new forms affects not only solicitors but also counsel and their clerks.

Forms currently used by counsel for both civil and criminal claims have changed. However, we are aware that counsel are instructed on a wide basis and their legal aid work may relate to a number of legal aid area offices at any one time. The impact of CIS in the Nottingham office will therefore be felt nationally by the Bar.

Because of this national impact, we have told the Bar Council that counsel will not be included in the Nottingham pilot programme and that counsel's use of any new forms will be delayed until a later date in the implementation programme when CIS has been implemented in more area offices. This means that counsel must continue to use the current legal aid forms until further notice.

Other impacts of CIS:

- The legal aid certificate will no longer include the area office prefix by which counsel currently identify the office which granted legal aid. Area office details will be provided at the bottom of the legal aid certificate instead.
- The replacement of the current costs condition with a costs limitation on certificates in future means that where the costs limitation has been exceeded without authority, the costs will be disallowed (see article entitled "Costs Limitation"). Counsel will therefore need to be aware of the costs limitations when providing advice and advocacy.

Transfer of Civil Legal Aid means assessment

In a separate initiative unrelated to CIS on 1 April 1997 responsibility for assessing financial eligibility for legal aid was officially transferred from the Benefits Agency to the Legal Aid Board.

The Board hopes to introduce a number of measures to improve the assessment process. Firstly, we have reviewed the complex rules used within the Benefits Agency. We hope to promote a more consistent approach to assessments particularly in the area of discretion. New guidance on this subject was passed to the Law Society for comment on 30 May 1997. We will introduce a new financial application form and accompanying leaflet to help applicants fill in the form. This should make it easier for applicants and their legal representatives to understand the outcome of the assessment process.

Benefits Agency staff will continue to process financial applications on behalf of the Board until 3 October 1997. From 6 October the Board will start to role out the processing of applications in the Board's area offices. All applications made after 1 February 1998 will be assessed by Board staff and the Benefit Agency's office in Preston will close on 1 April 1998.

The implementation timetable is as follows:

- 6 October 1997**
London, Leeds, Cambridge and Chester
- 1 December 1997**
Reading, Brighton, Bristol and Cardiff
- 5 January 1998**
Newcastle, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool
- 2 February 1998** Nottingham

The relevant area offices will update solicitors and provide copies of relevant forms nearer to the implementation dates. Any queries regarding transitional arrangements should be made to Andy Grant, Patrick Reeve or Neil Tyson on 0171 813 1000 extns. 8641, 8661 or 8904.



Costs Limitations

CIS will be implemented into our area offices during the next twelve months. In order to assist the introduction of CIS the Board introduced, in May 1996, standardised wordings regarding the scope of legal aid certificates. This was necessary to facilitate CIS, reducing the large number of different standard and non-standard reasons previously used. Whilst the approach of limiting scope has not changed, it will be expressed differently when CIS is introduced.

As the development of CIS reaches its final stages, we are publishing information and guidance to help you to understand not only the major implications of CIS on your daily work, but other major policy changes which coincide with its implementation.

The first of those major changes is that when CIS is implemented, cases will be categorised by their matter type, proceeding and stage. This simply means that the system has been programmed to authorise the individual proceedings under a general matter type and the certificate will set out the nature of each individual proceeding. By way of an example, in a Section 8 Contact case the matter type could be matrimonial, the individual proceedings authorised would be under the Children Act 1989, and the possible scope limitation could be all steps up to the final hearing.

The work authorised under the certificate will be controlled by scope limitations tailored to each of the individual proceedings. These will both reflect the stage that the proceedings have reached and the stage to which the scope is extended. It should be noted that once CIS is implemented in your local area office, all certificates, including ABWOR approvals will have a work scope limitation.

Allied to the scope limitation will be a **costs limitation** which will be applied to all certificates and ABWOR approvals/certificates, including in matrimonial and family cases. The limitation limits the costs to be incurred under the certificate. The figure includes disbursements and any counsel's fees, *but excludes VAT*.

This will be a true limitation, rather than merely a condition requiring a report to the area office once a certain level of costs has been reached. In other words solicitors will only have legal aid cover to carry out work up to, and not beyond, the costs limitation imposed. Payment will not be made from the fund for work undertaken outside the scope specified nor in excess of the costs limit. Solicitors will need

to carefully check the limitations imposed, and apply for an amendment where necessary.

By imposing in a costs limitation at the point of the initial grant decision, the Board can both limit the potential exposure of the legal aid fund, and ensure that solicitors regularly report back and seek further authority to continue the case. At that point the Board can consider the continuation of legal aid in the light of up-to-date information. It is anticipated that it will be possible to complete many simple cases within the initial costs limitation imposed. Any limitation imposed on an amendment of the certificate will depend entirely on the nature of the case.

There are a number of points to note:

☒ **Multiple proceedings** – The certificate may, in certain cases, include more than one set of proceedings within its scope. If so, a separate costs figure will be printed against each of the individual proceedings. Nevertheless, the intention is that there is to be a single costs limitation for all the work authorised by the certificate. This will be the *highest of the individual costs figure specified*. Accordingly, individual proceedings should not be treated as subject to a separate costs limitation. Solicitors do not need to apportion their costs between the separate proceedings and need only apply for an amendment to the costs limitation when the total costs for the work to be done under the whole of the certificate are likely to exceed the highest limitation imposed. Solicitors should apply for amendment to the cost limitation on the basis of the total costs under the whole certificate to date and should ask for each figure to be amended to the new limit requested.

☒ **Amendments** – Amendments to the certificate will be issued in the form of a replacement certificate which will show the amended scope including any new costs limitation. The new costs limitation will set a new maximum figure for all the costs authorised under the certificate. When a certificate issued prior to CIS is first amended post CIS the replacement certificate will *impose a costs limitation*. This limitation will only apply to costs incurred from the date of the replacement certificate. Solicitors will for all such certificates need to prepare a separate part of the bill of costs for taxation/assessment to show the work done after the limitation was imposed.

Legal Action Group

autumn 1997 courses

COMMUNITY CARE CRIME HOUSING FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH PERSONAL INJURY WELFARE BENEFITS

autumn 1997 courses

The Housing Act 1996: a comprehensive update

Tuesday 23 September 1997

Evening course

£70 + VAT

Course grade: I, S, U, R

Course accreditation: 2 hours CPD

Lecturers: Nic Madge and Jan Luba

A comprehensive update and review of the latest developments introduced by the Housing Act 1996.

NEW

Defending Suspects at the Police Station

Thursday 25 September 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: I, S, U, R

Course accreditation: 8 hours CPD

Lecturers: Ed Cape and Tim Rose

Approved by the Legal Aid Board under the duty solicitors scheme, this one-day course is suitable for both prospective duty solicitors and those seeking re-selection.

Housing Disrepair

Tuesday 30 September 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: I, U, R

Course accreditation: 6 hours CPD

Lecturers: Jan Luba, Nic Madge and Rosaleen Kilbane

Aimed at practitioners and housing advisers, this one-day course provides a comprehensive introduction to the legal remedies available to tenants facing disrepair problems.

Advice at Police Stations: defence strategies after Condron

Thursday 2 October 1997

Half-day course

£115 + VAT

Course grade: S, U, R

Course accreditation: 3 hours CPD

Lecturer: Ed Cape

A half-day course examining the 'right to silence' cases from *R v Condron* onwards and suggesting strategies that defence lawyers might adopt in response to those cases.

NEW

The Court Duty Solicitor: practice and procedure in the magistrates' court

Wednesday 8 October 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: S, U, R

Course accreditation: 7.5 hours CPD

Lecturers: Ian O'Rourke and Clive Redley

This popular one-day course has been approved by the Legal Aid Board in connection with the selection of court duty solicitors under paragraph 32(3) of the Duty Solicitors Arrangements 1994.

Recent Developments in Housing Law

Thursday 16 October 1997

Half-day course

£115 + VAT

Course grade: E

Course accreditation: 3 hours CPD

Lecturer: Duncan Forbes

This up-to-date course provides information on recent legislation and case-law for busy and experienced housing practitioners with substantial existing knowledge of the law.

Domestic Violence and Harassment: legal remedies

Thursday 30 October 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: I, S, U, R

Course accreditation: 6 hours CPD

Lecturers: Victoria Teggins, Liz Davies, Tracey Payne and Amanda Dench

This new practical course is designed for family practitioners representing clients who are threatened by, or victims of, domestic violence and/or harassment, covering both the Family Law Act 1996 and the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.

NEW

Housing Advocacy

Set in West London County Court

Tuesday 4 November 1997

Tuesday 9 December 1997

Half-day course

£180 + VAT

Course grade: S

Course accreditation: 4 hours CPD

Lecturers: Nic Madge and Stephen Knafler

This new course is being run twice this autumn and is designed to provide delegates with the opportunity to learn the secrets of good court advocacy. Set in a court room, the course is practically based and delegate numbers are limited to allow full participation.

NEW

Welfare Benefits: meeting the mandatory franchising requirement

Tuesday 11 November 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: I, S, U, R

Course accreditation: 7.5 hours CPD

Lecturer: Carolyn George

Approved by the Law Society as meeting the Legal Aid Board's mandatory franchising requirement, this course aims to provide solicitors and case workers with sufficient understanding of the benefits system to enable them to identify the most common situations where specialist benefits advice is required.

Community Care and the Law

Thursday 20 November 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: I, U, R

Course accreditation: 6 hours CPD

Lecturers: Luke Clements, Phil Fennell, Stephen Cragg and Pauline Thompson

This introductory one-day course is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the latest developments in community care. It is suitable for private practitioners, advisers, local authority officers and those working in social services and health care.

Introduction to Mental Health Review Tribunals

Tuesday 25 November 1997

One-day course

£199 + VAT

Course grade: I, S, U, R

Course accreditation: 6 hours CPD

Lecturers: Phil Fennell, Lucy Scott-Moncrieff, Dr Nigel Eastman and William Armstrong

Jointly held with MIND, this one-day course has been approved by the Law Society as suitable for those solicitors seeking to attain membership of the Mental Health Review Tribunal Panel.

Maximising Damages for Personal Injury Litigation

Tuesday 2 December 1997

Half-day course

£115 + VAT

Course grade: E

Course accreditation: 3 hours CPD

Lecturers: Frances McCarthy and Ed Myers

This half-day course focuses on the particular problems encountered by solicitors acting for the plaintiff in personal injury cases. It is designed for experienced practitioners who want to enhance their skills in procedure and tactics to maximise damages for their clients.

LAG
training

For a full brochure call the
courses office on
0171 833 7434

► See over to book your place(s)!

course information

FEES

Standard rate

Full day: £199 + VAT

Half day: £115 + VAT

Evening: £70 + VAT

Housing advocacy: £180 + VAT

Legal Action subscribers

10% discount on course fees
Available for individual subscribers paying their own course fee, or a subscriber firm booking places for employees.

Firms which are not subscribers cannot claim the discounted fee, if paid on a firm's cheque, even if individuals booked are subscribers in their own right.

Concessionary rates

A limited number of concessionary rates are available at:

Full day: £125 + VAT

Half day: £75 + VAT

Evening: £55 + VAT

Housing advocacy: £120 + VAT

for the voluntary sector and others with limited resources.

Please call Jacqueline Deakin on 0171 833 7429 for more information.

VAT receipts are provided. The fees for each course are inclusive of full documentation, which will be sent to participants, or issued during registration for late bookings. The fees also include refreshments and lunch for full-day courses. We will do our best to meet special dietary requirements requested on the completed booking form.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing. If your booking is cancelled up to two weeks before the course, the full fee, less £20 administrative charge, will be refunded. We regret that no refund is possible if notice of the cancellation is received less than two weeks before the course date.

Substitutions

Substitutions may be made at any time by contacting the courses department on 0171 833 7434 with details. Our acknowledgement/admission letter is transferable.

Continuing Professional Development

If you wish to claim course attendance as part of your continuing professional development, please indicate this on the booking form, and note the appropriate course in your training record, as well as the reference: ES/LAG

Course grades

Accredited courses are graded as follows:

- I – Introductory level
- S – Standard level, for delegates who have prior knowledge of the subject area
- E – Experienced level, for delegates with substantial prior knowledge of the subject-area
- R – Suitable for those returning to practice
- U – Up-dating course for delegates with or without prior knowledge of the subject area

Venue

All courses will be held in London.

Special requirements

Please contact Jacqueline Deakin on 0171 833 7429 for information on wheelchair accessibility and other special requirements.

General information

For further details about booking, please contact the LAG courses department on 0171 833 7434.

booking form

(Please copy for each delegate)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please send me a free copy of the LAG autumn course programme	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing Act 1996	
	23 September 1997	£70
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defending Suspects at the Police Station	
	25 September 1997	£199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Housing Disrepair	
	30 September 1997	£199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice at Police Stations	
	2 October 1997	£115
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Court Duty Solicitor	
	8 October 1997	£199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recent Developments in Housing Law	
	16 October 1997	£115
<input type="checkbox"/>	Domestic Violence and Harassment	
	30 September 1997	£199
	Housing Advocacy	
<input type="checkbox"/>	4 November 1997	
<input type="checkbox"/>	9 December 1997	£180
<input type="checkbox"/>	Welfare Benefits	
	11 November 1997	£199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Care and the Law	
	20 November 1997	£199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduction to Mental Health Review Tribunals	
	25 November 1997	£199
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maximising Damages for Personal Injury Litigation	
	2 December 1997	£115
Sub total		£
minus 10% discount to Legal Action subscribers		£
plus VAT at 17.5%		£
TOTAL		£

PAYMENT

- ☐ I enclose a cheque payable to Legal Action Group for £ _____
- ☐ Please debit my credit card account
Visa/Mastercard (delete as applicable)
with £ _____
- Card No. _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
- Expiry Date _____
- Signature _____
- (If the address is different from the registered address of your credit card, please give this address separately)
- ☐ Please invoice me _____
(available to organisations at LAG's discretion)

DELEGATE DETAILS

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name
Occupation/position
Firm/organisation
Full address
Postcode
Tel
Fax
DX No
Exchange
Do you wish to claim accreditation for attendance? Yes/No
Dietary or other special requirements

Media Code 067 A B

Please send me more information about

☐ Legal Action Journal ☐ LAG books ☐ LAG

Occasionally we may exchange names and addresses with like-minded organisations. If you would prefer not be mailed please tick this box ☐

Please return booking form with payment to:

Legal Action Group, 242 Pentonville Road,
London N1 9UN

DX: 130400 London (Pentonville Road)

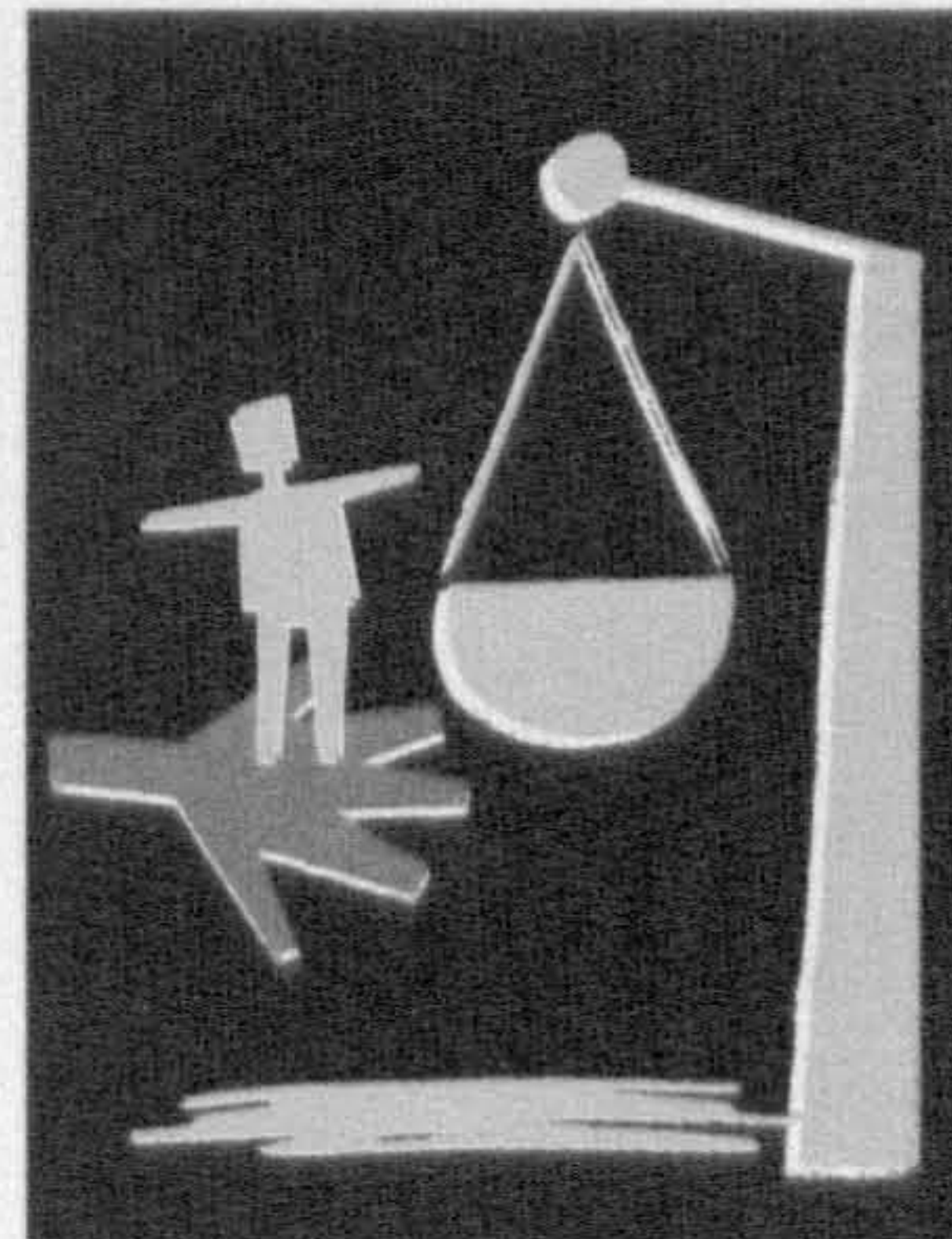
Tel: 0171 833 2931 or fax direct on 0171 837 6094

Legal Action Group

working with lawyers and advisers
to promote equal access to justice

JUSTICE

REDRESSING THE BALANCE



A Legal Action Group Conference

Thursday 6 November 1997, 9am–5.15pm
Church House, Westminster, London SW1

The new Labour Government is undertaking a fundamental review of both legal aid and civil justice. Major decisions may well be made by the end of the year. This one-day conference organised by Legal Action Group will brief legal aid practitioners on Sir Peter Middleton's interim report (due to be published in the autumn); enable them to hear from a minister on the Government's latest thinking; and give them an opportunity both to discuss and to influence the debate.

Covered in the conference

- the *Middleton Review* – the future of legal aid and civil justice
- Labour's response and plans for legal aid and civil justice
- pilot public defender system – lessons from Scotland's experience
- the latest developments in the USA – from leading expert on public defender and contractual services provision, Bob Burke
- LAG's vision for the future

Fee:

Standard: £160 + VAT

Voluntary sector: £85 + VAT

(fee includes lunch and refreshments)

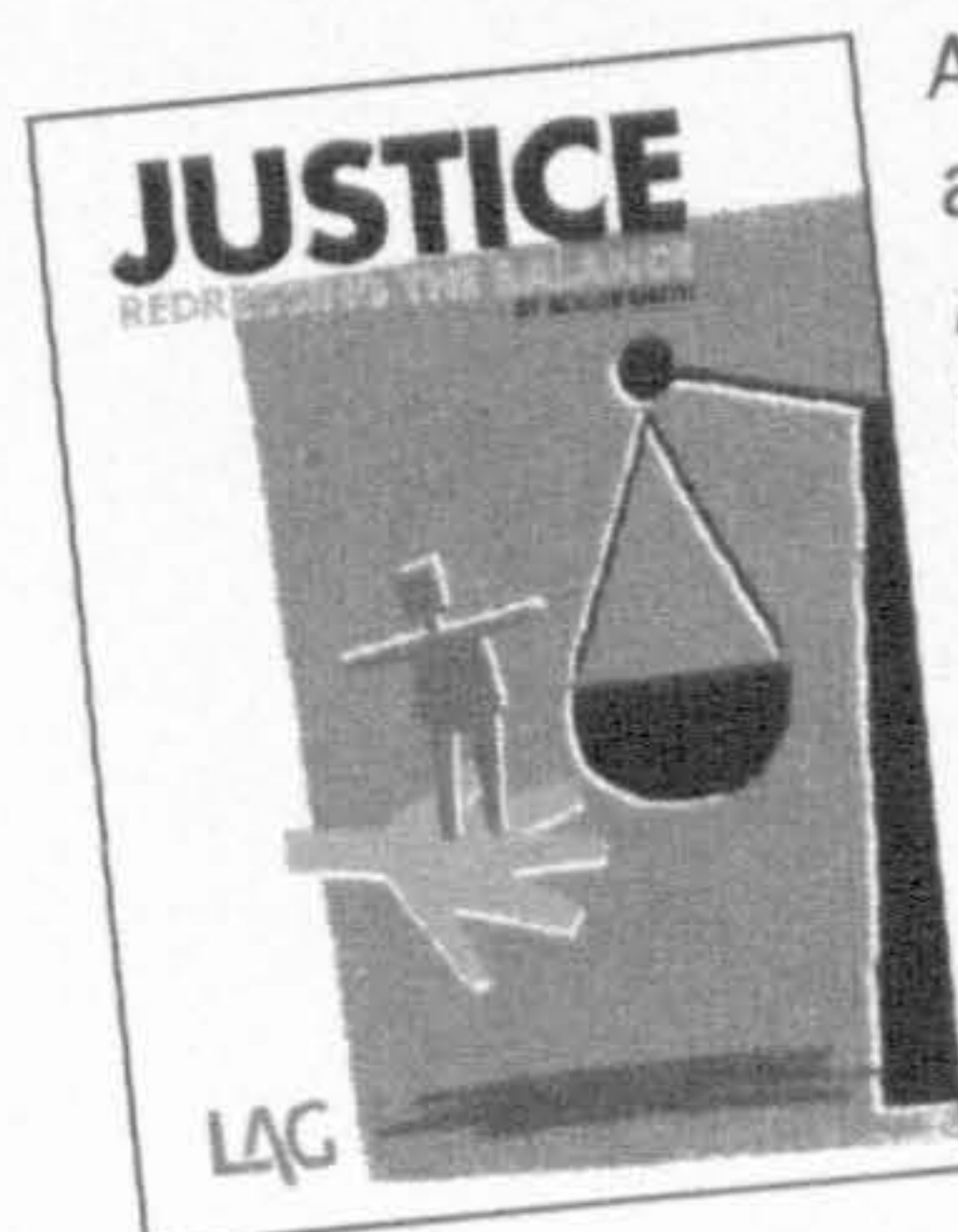
This conference is
Law Society
accredited for
5 CPD hours

Attendance will be essential for:

- legal aid practitioners
 - criminal
 - civil
- advice workers
- practice managers
- academics
- all those interested in the future of civil justice and legal aid



Legal Action Group
242 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UN
tel 0171 833 2931 fax 0171 837 6094
e-mail: lag@lag.co.uk



All delegates will receive a FREE copy of *Justice: redressing the balance* by Roger Smith (Sept 1997: £9.95), LAG's blueprint for the future of civil justice, and a detailed summary of recommendations from the *Middleton Review*.

The speakers

- **Geoff Hoon MP**
Parliamentary secretary,
Lord Chancellor's Department
- **Christine Davis**
chair, Scottish Legal Aid Board
- **Bob Burke**
National Legal Aid and
Defenders Association,
Washington DC
- **Wendy Backhouse**
solicitor and partner,
Hodge Jones and Allen
- **Marlene Winfield**
senior policy and development
officer,
National Consumer Council
- **Professor Michael Zander**
professor of law, London
School of Economics
- **Roger Smith**
director, Legal Action Group
- **Richard Norton**
chair, NACAB Public Affairs
Committee
- **Jane Hickman**
solicitor and partner,
Hickman & Rose

Chair

- **Janet Allbeson**
chair, Legal Action Group

See over to book your place(s)!

JUSTICE

REDRESSING THE BALANCE

Booking Form

Thursday 6 November 1997, 9am–5.15pm
Church House, Westminster, London SW1

☐ Please bookplace(s) on *Justice: redressing the balance* @ ☐ Standard fee £160 (+VAT @ 17.5%)
☐ Voluntary sector fee £85 (+VAT @ 17.5%)

BLOCK CAPITALS	Name	CPD accreditation (yes/no)	Vegetarian lunch requirements ✓	Dietary or other special requirements
Delegate 1				
Delegate 2				
Delegate 3				

Delegates with special requirements please contact the conference office on 0171 833 7434

Organisation/Firm

Address

Postcode

DX No.

Exchange

Tel

Fax

Payment details

I enclose a cheque payable to Legal Action Group for £

Please debit my credit account Visa/Access/Mastercard (delete as applicable) with £

Card Number — — — — / — — — — / — — — — / — — — —

Name of cardholder Expiry date Signature

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