



Legal Aid Agency

3 December 2025

Dear Provider,

Please see below details on the increase of some Civil and Crime legal aid fees, an update on the Core Testing Assurance Programme resuming, and information for Civil legal aid contract holders on assigning roles on CCMS and Civil Apply.

For the attention of Civil legal aid contract holders

Assigning CCMS and Civil Apply roles

Before users can begin working in CCMS, each firm's SiLAS Administrator (Firm Admin) will need to assign the correct CCMS roles to all users within their organisation. This is a one-off step to establish access permissions under the new sign-in system. Detailed instructions for Firm Administrators are included in the joining-instructions email and user guidance is also available on the LAA training website: [SiLAS: Manage your users – frequently asked questions – Legal Aid Learning](#).

For the attention of Civil and Crime legal aid contract holders

Government confirms increases to some Civil and Crime legal aid fees taking effect on 22 December

Civil:

On 1 December, a statutory instrument increasing fees for controlled immigration and asylum (“immigration”) and housing and debt (“housing”) work was laid. Licensed work fee uplifts remain a priority, and we are working to implement these as soon as possible. We will keep you updated on progress towards implementation.

The uplifts will apply to applications made on or after the implementation date of 22 December 2025.

Providers should apply the fee uplifts via the contingency process until Submit a Bulk Claim becomes available. **The deadline for December claims made in January will be the usual deadline of 20 January.** An updated monthly claim spreadsheet will be uploaded on the [Submit a Bulk Claim \(SaBC\) - GOV.UK](#) page before the 1 January.

Detail on the updated fees, linked to the single fee codes, were shared with software vendors and can also be found on the [Submit a Bulk Claim \(SaBC\) - GOV.UK](#) page along with a guide. Revised provider guidance for the Housing Loss Prevention Advice Scheme has also been published - [Housing Loss Prevention Advice Service \(HLPAS\) - GOV.UK](#).

Please can providers engage with their software vendors (where you use one) to ensure that case management systems are prepared to support the uplifts for applications made on or after 22 December 2025.

Where applicable and only for uplifted fees, we are also uplifting the immigration profit cost and total cost limits that are set out in the 2024 Standard Civil Contract Immigration Specification (subject to a contract consultation).

We do not anticipate that any changes to validation (outside of aligning the fees to the case start date) will be needed to implement these controlled housing and immigration uplifts.

Crime:

Regulations were also laid on 1 December which will introduce the following fee increases for Criminal legal aid solicitors.

- Police station fixed fees harmonised to £320 (excl. VAT) with the police station escape fee threshold harmonised to £650 (excl. VAT) (revised down from the level consulted on, which was £960 excl. VAT).
- 10% uplift to all fees for the magistrates' court (including the Youth Court).
- 24% uplift to prison law fees.
- 10% uplift to solicitor fees for some appeals work.

The uplifts will apply to applications made on or after the implementation date of 22 December 2025.

Providers should apply the fee uplifts via the contingency process until Submit a Bulk Claim becomes available. **The deadline for December claims made in January will be the usual deadline of 20 January.** An updated monthly claim spreadsheet will be uploaded on the [Submit a Bulk Claim \(SaBC\) - GOV.UK](#) page before the 1 January.

The updated fees, linked to the single fee codes, can be found on [Submit a Bulk Claim \(SaBC\) - GOV.UK](#).

If you use case management software to prepare monthly claims and have concerns over the timescale to implement these changes to your system, please contact us. Or if you need further support in preparing your case management system for the fees increase please email SubmitABulkClaimQueries@justice.gov.uk

Update on Core Testing Assurance Programme

Following the recent cyber-security incident, the Core Testing Assurance programme was suspended to allow focus on business continuity arrangements and system restoration.

As systems are progressively brought back online, Core Assurance activities will now resume. These reviews form an essential part of our processes. They assess the level of financial risk to the Legal Aid Fund and are subject to review by the National Audit Office as part of their annual audit.

The sample of work for these reviews is randomly selected from claims submitted across our provider base. We have recently started requesting additional information on cases reviewed prior to the cyber incident and anticipate that testing of civil bills submitted through CCMS will resume in January.

If you experience any difficulty providing files or additional information within the requested timescale, please email us at ctt@justice.gov.uk as soon as possible to agree an appropriate extension.