



21 January 2026

Dear Provider,

Reversion of time and cost limits for emergency representation

Following the Legal Aid Agency's ongoing approach to phase out business continuity measures implemented in response to the 2025 cyber security incident, we are writing to inform providers that the temporary increases to the time and cost limits for emergency representation have been revised.

Effective 26 January 2026, the limits for emergency representation granted under Delegated Functions will reduce to:

- 16 weeks in time
- £4,500 in costs

This change reflects the wider restoration of standard processes and our phased return to pre-contingency operational arrangements.

The reverted limitations will apply to **all new grants** made under Delegated Functions from 26 January 2026.

Any existing grants will be subject to the emergency representation limitations that applied at the point of the determination.

As with previous arrangements, providers do **not** need to submit Delegated Functions applications to the LAA under contingency. Applications can continue to be submitted through CCMS as normal.

Providers are reminded that they may still apply for **higher cost limits** under emergency representation where this can be justified. Cost increases may continue up to a maximum of **£25,000**, at which point case planning requirements apply. Where providers become aware that a case is likely to exceed £25,000, they must contact the High Cost Family team at highcostfamily@justice.gov.uk

If you have any questions regarding how the revised limits apply to individual cases, please contact your contract manager at the earliest opportunity.

The delegated functions that providers have to grant emergency representation are set out in the Table of Delegated Functions. These will be updated and available [here](#), from Monday 26 January.