

**Minutes of Meeting of Legal Aid Special Interest Group Committee held on
Monday 22nd June 2020 – 8pm to 9.50pm**

Present: Bob Baker
Paul Seddon
Rachel Perkins
Charlotte Flanders
Steve Jepson
Fran Rigo

1. CCCG

BB confirmed he had attended a CCCG meeting on 19.06.2020 and reported that Malcolm Bryant would be responding to the consultation responses.

BB further reported:

- There had been 200 voluntary bills so far – not the flood expected. Allegedly they were being authorised within 3-4 days. There had been 2 rejects so far, but no reasons had been given;
- Kate from LAPG had raised the speed of the CCCG meeting after the responses;
- 27th July had been given as mandation date, although this may not be engraved in stone;
- Covid-19 had been given as the platform for change, but the intention had always been there;
- The hope is to speed up the process;
- Discussion re section 14/15 CAG – time frame 36/60 minutes for bills over £2500;
- Bill prep times may be prescribed when more information available;
- Vicky Ling raised time allowances;
- Next steps – all documents amended to CAG and go live within 28 days;
- Courts will be told to return bills from now.
- 28 caseworkers – in our opinion that does not sound very many. 28 case workers each doing about 20 bills a week would mean they need to assess 3 or 4 a day.
- Chris Minnoch stated that the LAPG had been undertaking a survey.

POAS – there had been no comments on this. POAs would increase from 2x pa to 4x pa and the communication would be published asap with implementation 29.06.2020.

2. Meeting with LAA

BB confirmed that he had heard nothing further from the LAA about a follow up meeting, although this had been mentioned by Malcolm Bryant and Steve Starkey (LAA) at the CCCG. BB confirmed that he was attending the SPG meeting on Wednesday (24th) and the 1/4ly digital meeting on Thursday (25th).

3. Format of bill

BB/PS/CF confirmed that the LAA wished this to be chronological in a series of line entries. This allowed the LAA to check:

- Date
- Scope
- Calculation

CCMS can flag up things like scope changes.

Discussion whether Counsel's fees needed to be included and whether it would be possible to adapt the current Court bill.

Agreed that the LAA need to provide a “wish list”.

SJ spoke about the number of different criminal forms the LAA now required for different types of work, and we agreed we did not wish to be in the same position with regards to civil matters. SJ agreed to circulate these, and BB also agreed to circulate a draft document he had prepared which may be suitable.

Next committee meeting – Tuesday 8th July at 8pm.