



Ministry
of Justice

LASPO Post-Implementation Review

Criminal Law Consultative Group - Meeting 1

The consultations that preceded LASPO were published over seven years ago and since this time there have been significant developments in our justice system. As such, the Government plans to use the evidence gathered at this meeting to inform both the review and its wider consideration on the future of legal support in the justice system.

The agenda below outlines the suggested topics for discussion and is not exhaustive. The consultative groups are just one facet of the evidence gathering process to inform the post-implementation review and the review team will also facilitate meetings with interested parties on a small group or individual basis. Submissions of analytical evidence can also be made to laspreviewmoj@justice.gsi.gov.uk for consideration.

Introduction by Chair.

Topic One – The impact of eligibility changes on people.

- a. The impact of changes to eligibility criteria on people.
- b. The impact of changes on the incidence and experience of unrepresented defendants and their passage through the court system.
- c. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Two – The impact of remuneration changes on recipients and providers of legal aid.

- a. The impact on the provision of legal aid services that may have affected the experiences of individual recipients.
- b. The impact of changes on the demographics of the legal aid professions.
- c. The impact of changes to remuneration aimed at reducing the incidence of adjournments and cracked trials on recipients of legal aid.
- d. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Three – The impact of scope changes on people.

- a. The impact on changes to scope on the experiences of prisoners and the provision of services.
- b. The impact of the introduction of Exceptional Case Funding on the experiences of prisoners.
- c. Evidence gaps in this area.



Topic Four – The impact of changes to remuneration of expert witnesses.

- a. The availability and quality of expert witnesses.
- b. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Five – The impact of changes to provision for Very High Cost Cases (VHCCs).

- a. The impact of the changes made to VHCCs since LASPO on the experiences of individuals and providers.
- b. Evidence gaps in this area.

Conclusions – What to expect for the next group meeting and how external evidence can be submitted.

The following groups/individuals have been invited to attend the crime consultative group meeting:

- a. Academy of Expert Witnesses
- b. Bar Council
- c. Criminal Bar Association
- d. Criminal Law Solicitors Association
- e. Dr Vicky Kemp
- f. Howard League for Penal Reform
- g. Law Society
- h. Legal Aid Practitioners Group
- i. Prisoner’s Advice Service
- j. Professor Ed Lloyd-Cape

