



Ministry
of Justice

LASPO Post-Implementation Review

Family 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 lasporeviewmoj@justice.gsi.gov.uk for consideration.

Introduction by Chair.

Topic One – the impact of changes to scope on people, legal aid providers and the justice system.

- a. The impact of changes to scope on people, and whether the impact has been uniform.
- b. The impact of changes to scope on the experiences of people accessing the court system, and the court system itself.
- c. The impact of the evidence requirements on victims of domestic violence and providers.
- d. How people who have issues no longer in scope of legal aid are now resolving their problems.
- e. The impact of the changes on legal aid providers.
- f. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Two – The impact of the Exceptional Case Funding (ECF) scheme on people and providers.

- a. The impact of the creation of ECF on the experiences of people, and whether there are any particular groups that have disproportionately affected.
- b. The impact of the operation and implementation of ECF on people and providers.
- c. The extent to which ECF is ensuring legal aid is available for those who need it most.
- d. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Three - the impact of changes to encourage alternative routes of resolution and alternative methods of accessing advice.

- a. The impact of the changes to encourage provision, utilisation and development of mediation and other alternative routes of resolution on the experiences of individuals and providers.
- b. The extent to which these changes have discouraged unnecessary and adversarial litigation at the public expense.
- c. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Four – the impact of changes to eligibility on people.

- a. The impact of changes to merits tests on recipients of legal aid, and those who are longer eligible for legal aid.
- b. The impact of changes capping subject matter of dispute disregards on people and providers.
- c. The impact of the removal of capital passporting on individuals and providers.
- d. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Five – the impact of changes to remuneration on recipients and providers of legal aid.

- a. The impact of changes 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. Evidence gaps in this area.

Topic Six – the impact of changes to remuneration of expert witnesses.

- a. The availability and quality of expert witnesses.
- 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 family consultative group meeting:

- a. Bar Council
- b. Coram Children's Legal Centre
- c. Family Law Bar Association
- d. Family Mediation Council
- e. Law Society
- f. Professor Mavis Maclean
- g. Professor Rosemary Hunter
- h. Resolution
- i. Women's Aid