



Legal Aid Online update

To:
All Legal Aid Practitioners

24 November 2009

Civil legal aid and summary criminal legal aid are now online

Legal Aid Online is the FREE, quick, easy and secure way to process legal aid applications and accounts over the internet. The switch to online is gathering pace with over 70% of advice and assistance applications and increases now being made online instead of paper.

Legal Aid Online offers:

- faster processing of applications
- quicker decisions
- faster payments
- facility to add electronic attachment

We recently enhanced the online services by introducing legal online for full **civil legal aid** and also **summary criminal legal aid**. You can now use online to create, submit, receive decisions on and track progress on:

Civil legal aid

- Applications - family and non-family
- Special urgency
- Sanctions
- Reviews
- Amends
- Stage reports

Summary criminal legal aid

- Applications
- Sanctions

We have also introduced the facility to send electronic attachments to us or the option to print a bar code sheet to attach to any paper attachments you wish to send as back up to any online applications.

Online accounts provide payment on offer

You can currently process all advice and assistance accounts online, including the advice and assistance criminal fixed payment account. A recent improvement now means that all online advice and assistance accounts will be paid on offer. Coupled with the 15 day payment target for online accounts, this offers a major improvement for your cash flow when using Legal Aid Online to submit accounts.

We will shortly be improving the system still further to allow you to ask for civil stage payments and summary criminal fixed payments online and introducing automatic payments for the majority of advice and assistance and summary criminal fixed payments.

Register if you haven't already done so

Hundreds of solicitors firms are benefiting from using Legal Aid Online. Make sure your firm benefits too.

If you are already online you automatically have access to the new services; if you are not yet online register your interest online at www.slab.org.uk/online. You will then be able to use our easy-to-follow online learning pack, which shows you step by step how to use our system.

If you have any questions about Legal Aid Online, please contact Diane Ireland on 0131 240 2013.