

**Legal Services Department**  
44 Drumsheugh Gardens  
Edinburgh EH3 7SW

Hays DX ED555250 EDINBURGH 30  
Legal Post LP2 EDINBURGH 7

Telephone (0131) 226 7061  
Fax (0131) 225 5195



TO: All legal aid practitioners

Please ask for extension number: 375

Your ref:

Please quote the department above and  
our reference: CAW/EJF

30 October 2003

## **CIVIL LEGAL AID MERITS GUIDELINES**

The Board's Legal Services Committee has recently approved guidelines to be used with civil legal aid applications. It is intended that the guidelines will be used by both staff and the profession in preparing and considering legal aid applications.

A copy of the guidelines is enclosed and I hope that you will find this guidance of assistance. These guidelines incorporate and therefore supersedes the following previously issued guidance:

- Civil legal aid: cases involving a wider public interest - issued 15 August 2003
- Guidelines on reasonableness in civil legal aid cases 20 December 2002

If you have any comments to make about these merits guidelines then please do not hesitate to contact Catriona Whyte, Head of Legal Services (Applications) at [whyteca@slab.org.uk](mailto:whyteca@slab.org.uk).

If you would like further copies of the guidelines, please contact our Communications department by telephoning 0131 226 7061 and asking for extension 342 or by e-mail to [general@slab.org.uk](mailto:general@slab.org.uk). You can also obtain an electronic copy of the Guidelines on our website for the profession, at [www.slabpro.org.uk](http://www.slabpro.org.uk) (the current username is procurator and the password is LAACT1986).

I hope you will find the guidelines useful, and look forward to receiving any feedback from you.

Yours faithfully

Catriona A Whyte  
Head of Legal Services (Applications)

*Enclosure: Merits Guidelines*