



## Legal aid: funding reforms

### List of questions for response

We would welcome responses to the following questions set out in this consultation paper. Please email your completed form to: [annette.cowell@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:annette.cowell@justice.gsi.gov.uk), or fax to: 020 3334 4295. **Thank you!**

Question 1. **Do you agree that, rationalising police station fees in these areas is the right approach to contain costs and discourage inefficiencies?**

Comments:

Question 2. **Do you agree that reductions should be made only against areas that are both over-subscribed with above median fees?**

Comments:

Question 3. **Do you agree with the proposal to replace the current standard fee with a Committal for trial fixed fee?**

Comments:

Question 4. **Is it reasonable in most cases for prosecuting and defending counsel to expect the same level of reward?**

Comments:

Question 5. **Should harmonisation be achieved in more than one stage?**

Comments:

Question 6. **How quickly should we aim to move towards harmonised fees?**

Comments:

Question 7. **Do you agree with the proposed hourly rates based on current guidelines are a reasonable starting point?**

Comments:

Question 8. **Are there situations when this would not be appropriate? If so, what would they be and why?**

Comments:

Question 9. **Do you agree that it is appropriate to pay the same rates for the same type of expert in both civil and criminal cases? If not, why and what would the difference be?**

Comments: Please see attached document

Question 10. **What are the circumstances when prior authority would need to be sought to go above the proposed rates?**

Comments: please see attached

Question 11. **Are there any circumstances where fixed fees would be appropriate, for example DNA and GP reports? What should the fixed fees be?**

Comments: Please see attached

Question 12. **Are there particular types of experts who may cease to do the work for the proposed rates? Who are they and what can be done to address this?**

Comments: Please see attached

Question 13. **What other factors lead to issues with supply in some areas? What can be done to address these?**

Comments:

Question 14. **Do you agree with the initial Impact Assessment? Do you have any evidence of impacts we have not considered?**

Comments:

Question 15. **Do you have any information or views on the Equality Impact Assessment? Do you consider that any of these proposals will have a disproportionate adverse impact on any group? How could nay impact be mitigated?**

Comments:

Question 16. **Are there alternative proposals you would suggest to reduce criminal legal aid expenditure?**

Comments:

Please complete the section overleaf to tell us more about you.

## About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

<b>Full name</b>	The Experts Committee of the Family Justice Council
<b>Job title</b> or capacity in which you are responding (e.g. member of the public etc.)	Assistant Secretary Family Justice Council
<b>Date</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> November 2009
<b>Company name/organisation</b> (if applicable):	The Experts Committee of the Family Justice Council
<b>Address</b>	Room E201, Royal Courts of Justice
	Strand, London
<b>Postcode</b>	WC2A 2LL
If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	<input type="checkbox"/> (please tick box)
Address to which the acknowledgement should be sent, if different from above	

**If you are a representative of a group**, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.

The Experts Committee of the Family Justice Council

The Family Justice Council was established in 2004. It is an interdisciplinary body which brings together the key groups that work in the family justice system. Its members include judges, lawyers, social workers and health professionals. Its terms of reference are attached.

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The membership of the Experts Committee includes a cross section of experts from different disciplines, and lawyers. It is chaired by the Right Honourable Lord Justice Thorpe, Deputy Chair of the Family Justice Council.