



Further transitional support for litigators

As a result of continued constructive engagement by the Law Society, the Ministry of Justice has agreed that, prior to putting before Parliament the second fee reduction, it will consider and take into account the following factors:

- Sir Brian Leveson's review to identify ways to streamline and reduce the length of criminal proceedings;
- criminal justice reforms, such as digitisation, which will increase efficiency and affect how advocates work; and
- any impacts from earlier remuneration changes.

Providers should plan and bid for duty and own client contracts on the basis of the second 8.75% reduction, as they will be expected to demonstrate that they are capable of delivering at that level. The fee cut will be no greater than this. The number of Duty Provider Work contracts will not change.

In addition to the transitional support measures announced in the consultation response on 27 February, Ministry of Justice has worked with the Law Society to agree additional support for litigation providers. Ministry of Justice will now implement interim payments at Plea and Case Management Hearing (PCMH) stage in summer 2014.

The Government response set out that interim payments at trial commencement would be introduced later this year, and that the PCMH trigger point would be introduced in summer 2015. We have agreed to implement both trigger points during summer 2014. This will provide millions of pounds of cashflow support for solicitors during the crucial transition period. The amount payable will vary by offence class and will also be dependant on the number of Pages of Prosecution Evidence. Further detail is included in Annex F of the Government response.