



Legal Aid  
Agency

## **Civil Tender Update**

28 February 2018

This message is to update all organisations participating in the procurement process for 2018 face to face, Civil Legal Advice (CLA) and Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) contracts.

### **Face to face contracts**

We received tenders from more than 1700 organisations wishing to deliver face to face civil legal aid work. These organisations submitted over 4,300 individual bids to deliver category-specific work from their office(s).

In March we will write to all organisations to confirm the outcome of tenders. Although organisations that tendered to deliver Housing, Debt and Welfare Benefits contract work were notified of the outcome of their tenders in January, we will repeat the notice in March to ensure that organisations are clear about what they need to provide to verify their contracts.

Following notification we will work with organisations to complete the verification process. However, organisations are reminded that the award of the contract is conditional on them satisfactorily verifying their bids and it is each applicant's sole responsibility to ensure they provide us with all the necessary information to evidence they meet the relevant verification requirements no later than 23:59 on 20 July 2018.

Face to face contracts will commence on 1 September 2018.

### ***Additional face to face tender activity***

In the vast majority of categories and geographic areas, there has been a good level of demand for the available work. However, there are a small number of areas in the Housing & Debt, Family and Immigration & Asylum categories of law where we wish to attract additional services. The LAA will therefore seek to tender additional services in these areas and publish further information shortly.

### **Civil Legal Advice contract**

We announced on 5 February that the LAA had cancelled the procurement for CLA contracts in the Education and Discrimination categories. This decision was taken following receipt of insufficient compliant tenders. We plan to make an announcement shortly about how the services will be delivered from 1 September 2018.

We notified applicants of the outcome of tenders in the Family category on 20 February 2018, ahead of the advertised timescale.

We intend to notify applicants of the outcome of tenders in the Housing and Debt categories in May, however, should we be in a position to conclude the assessment earlier the LAA will look to notify applicants as early as possible.

Services under new 2018 CLA contracts will commence on 1 September 2018.

#### Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme contract

We received compliant tenders across 43 of the 44 HPCDS scheme areas. Organisations have recently been notified of whether they have been shortlisted to the award criteria stage and award criteria assessment is ongoing. In the one area where there were insufficient compliant tenders, we will shortly announce our intentions as to how the service is to be provided.

The HPCDS Information For Applicants states that the LAA will notify applicants of the outcome of tenders in July 2018, however, should we be in a position to conclude the assessment earlier the LAA will look to notify applicants as early as possible.

HPCDS contracts will commence on 1 October 2018.