

LAA Contingencies

Contingency Payments

- Any queries or issues about the process can be directed to CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk
- The 3 month period used to calculate the weekly figure is based on payments made from 1/2/25 to 30/4/25. This sum includes VAT, expenses etc.
- This weekly figure will remain constant throughout the declaration (save for below)
- If the weekly payment is too high, the LAA will reduce it to a more appropriate level upon request to CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk
- If the weekly payment is too low there is a simple appeal process: email CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk and they will send back a form which requests information on cases awaiting submission for payment and they will use that to calculate an average weekly figure.
- If a barrister or pupil has not received any payments in the period 1/2/25 to 30/4/25 they will not have an average weekly figure. They can apply to be paid for work where they are currently awaiting payment by emailing CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk and will be sent a form to complete regarding the work done. Although the sum paid is calculated based on actual cases, it is still a contingency payment which will be recouped in line with the contingency process, therefore the bills relating to those cases will still need to be submitted once the system is back up and running.
- For anyone not currently on the LAA systems (e.g. a pupil who hasn't yet been provided with an account number) can contact CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk and provide full details of their situation, work completed etc and the LAA will consider the situation.
- The LAA can provide a list of the weekly amounts allocated to barristers by the clerks emailing the request together with a list of the names & LAA account number to CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk
- Multiple barristers can be claimed on one declaration. You will need to provide a breakdown of name and LAA account number of each barrister opting into the scheme. This can be added at the bottom of the form.

- The declaration needs only to be signed by one person, and this can be a barrister or a clerk. If multiple barristers are on one form, this should be the clerk.
- A declaration must be sent to CivilClaimBC@justice.gov.uk by noon each Monday in order to opt in for a weekly payment, the payment will be made on the Wednesday.
- Recoupments won't start until 2 weeks after the portal is restored. The amount recouped will be 25% of the weekly payment each week until the total sum has been recouped *e.g. if the weekly payment is £2,000 the LAA will recoup at £500 per week.*

Funding Contingencies

- Solicitors have powers to grant legal aid under devolved powers but where that isn't possible they can contact the customer service team for urgent applications, where the hearing is within 48 hours.
- Applications for two counsel may not appear to be urgent as the hearing may not be within 48 hours, but there may still be a need for urgent consideration of evidence, witnesses, strategy etc by King's Counsel in the near future. There is a need to ensure this is conveyed to the customer services team by the solicitor with conduct. It is therefore advisable to make sure that the specific situation in that case and thus the need for urgency is clarified to the solicitor before they call the LAA.