Westminster Legal Policy Forum conference:
Next steps for legal aid and access to legal services in England and Wales
Timing: Morning, Thursday, 11th March 2027
*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda, subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Bach

9.05 **Legal aid and access to legal services - the Justice Committee's recommendations and priorities for reform**
Catherine Atkinson MP, Chair, Justice Select Committee
Questions and comments from the floor

9.30 **The future of the legal aid system - priorities for eligibility, funding and the sustainability of provision**
reform of criminal and civil legal aid eligibility and means testing | implementation of the Means Test Review and uprating of eligibility thresholds | scope of civil legal aid and Exceptional Case Funding | provider sustainability, financial viability and the impact of recent and proposed civil and criminal legal aid fee reform | independent fee review and approaches to reflecting changes in costs and demand | geographical and specialist gaps in provision and capacity of duty solicitor services | recruitment, retention, succession planning and training pathways | implications of criminal court reform for legal aid eligibility, remuneration and representation | monitoring and assessing the impact of reform
Senior representative, legal aid
Senior representative, solicitors
Senior representative, barristers
Senior representative, legal advice
Senior representative, consumers
Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 **Next steps for administering legal aid in England and Wales - systems modernisation, operational resilience and the needs of providers and service users**
Helen Measures, CEO, Legal Aid Agency
Questions and comments from the floor

10.50 **Chair's closing remarks**
Lord Bach

10.55 Break

11.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian

11.10 **Considerations for legal services regulation - oversight, accountability and consumer protection**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor

11.35 **Access to legal services - unmet need, funding, regulation and service innovation**
implementation of the £16m Legal Support Grant and its relationship with statutory legal aid provision | proposals for a national legal service and coordination of advice and representation | targeting resources and measuring the impact of interventions on unmet legal need | proposed Interest on Lawyers' Client Accounts scheme, and implications for firms and clients, and allocation of revenue | the Government's proposed review of the legal services regulatory framework and considerations for professional independence, competition, affordability and consumer protection | alternative models of advice and representation | applications of technology and AI, adoption costs and professional responsibilities | digital accessibility, quality assurance and access to human assistance
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, technology
Senior representative, consumers
Senior representative, advice sector
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 **Policy priorities for legal aid and wider access to legal services going forward**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster Legal Policy Forum