

Westminster Legal Policy Forum keynote seminar

Next steps for Legal Aid in England and Wales - funding, quality, access to justice, and alternative sources of advice

Timing: Morning, Tuesday 16th March 2021

Taking Place Online



Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Karen Buck MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- 9.05 **The current state of play with legal aid in England and Wales**
Catherine Baksi, Freelance Legal Affairs Journalist, The Times; The Brief; The Guardian; The Telegraph; and The Law Society Gazette
- 9.15 **Improving the legal aid sector - meeting demand, providing value for money, and developing financially sustainable business models in the wake of the pandemic**
Richard Miller, Head of Justice, Law Society
Stephen Davies, Solicitor, Tuckers Solicitors
Malvika Jaganmohan, Barrister, St Ives Chambers
Professor Donald Hirsch, Director, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University
- 9.35 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.00 Break
- 10.05 **The impact of COVID-19 on access to Exceptional Case Funding and priorities for recovery**
Emma Marshall, Research Fellow, Public Law Project
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**
Karen Buck MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- 10.30 Break
- 10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
James Daly MP, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
- 10.45 **Ensuring flexibility in the provision of legal aid during the pandemic and outlook moving forward**
Malcolm Bryant, Head of Exceptional and Complex Cases, Legal Aid Agency
- 11.00 **Next steps for the use of lawtech and remote legal aid work**
John Espley, Chief Executive Officer, LEAP UK
- 11.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.35 Break
- 11.40 **The future for alternative sources of legal advice - community legal support, developing legal knowledge amongst the public, and improving awareness of and access to services**
Annie Campbell Viswanathan, Director, Bail for Immigration Detainees and former Director, North Kensington Law Centre
Dr Ola Olusanya, Director of Learning and Teaching, Department of Law and Criminology, Aberystwyth University
Clare Carter, Interim Chief Executive, Access to Justice Foundation
Beverley Sayers, Director, Family Mediation Council and Mediator, Mediation North West
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 **Policy priorities for the legal aid sector moving forward**
Jelena Lentzos, Deputy Director for Legal Aid Policy, Ministry of Justice
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Legal Policy Forum closing remarks**
James Daly MP, Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Legal Policy Forum