STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2025 No. 1251

LEGAL AID AND ADVICE, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Criminal Legal Aid (General and Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2025

Made - - - -	*27th November 2025*
Laid before Parliament	*1st December 2025*
Coming into force in accordance with regulation 2	

The Lord Chancellor makes these Regulations(**a**) in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2(3), 14(h), and 41(1) to (3) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012(**b**).

Citation and extent

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Criminal Legal Aid (General and Remuneration) (Amendment) Regulations 2025.

(2) These Regulations extend to England and Wales.

Commencement

2.—(1) These Regulations come into force on 22nd December 2025, subject to the following paragraph.

(2) Regulation 3 comes into force on 31st December 2025.

Amendment to the Criminal Legal Aid (General) Regulations 2013

3. In regulation 9 (criminal proceedings) of the Criminal Legal Aid (General) Regulations 2013(**c**)—

(a) at the end of paragraph (ug) omit "and";

(b) after paragraph (ug) insert—

"(uh) proceedings in the High Court concerning a release decision of the Parole Board, which have been referred under section 32ZAA of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 or section 256AZBA of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; and".

(**a**) Section 42(1) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 provides that, in Part 1 of that Act, "regulations" means regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.

(**b**) 2012 c. 10.

(**c**) S.I. 2013/9; amended by S.I. 2013/472, 2013/2790, 2015/326, 2015/838, 2015/1416, 2017/1319, 2020/8, 2021/762, 2022/1370, 2023/150, 2024/58 and 2025/611; there are other amending instruments, but none is relevant.

Amendments to the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013

4.—(1) The Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013(**a**) are amended as follows.

(2) In regulation 17A (interim payment of litigators' fees), omit paragraph (3).

(3) Schedule 3 (proceedings in the Court of Appeal) is amended as set out in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

(4) Schedule 4 (rates payable for the claims specified in regulation 8) is amended as set out in Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

Application and transitional provision

5.—(1) These Regulations apply to services provided following a relevant determination.

(2) In this regulation, "relevant determination" means a determination made on an application for services under section 13 (advice and assistance for individuals in custody), 15 (advice and assistance for criminal proceedings) or 16 (representation for criminal proceedings) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 on or after 22nd December 2025.

Signed by authority of the Lord Chancellor

Sarah Sackman
Minister of State
Ministry of Justice

27th November 2025

(**a**) S.I. 2013/435, amended by S.I. 2015/325, 2015/1369, 2015/1678, 2016/313, 2020/903, 2022/848, 2022/995, 2023/1140 and 2024/1163; there are other amending instruments, but none is relevant.

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 4(3)

Amendments to Schedule 3 to the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013

1. In paragraph 7 (litigators' fees for proceedings in the Court of Appeal), for the table following sub-paragraph (1) substitute—

Class of work	Grade of fee earner	Rate	Variations
Preparation	Senior solicitor	£61.17 per hour	£64.35 per hour for a litigator whose office is situated within the City of London or a London borough
	Solicitor, legal executive or fee earner of equivalent experience	£51.94 per hour	£54.55 per hour for a litigator whose office is situated within the City of London or a London borough
	Trainee or fee earner of equivalent experience	£34.34 per hour	£39.25 per hour for a litigator whose office is situated within the City of London or a London borough
Advocacy	Senior solicitor	£73.88 per hour	
	Solicitor	£64.65 per hour	
Attendance at court where more than one representative assigned	Senior solicitor	£48.76 per hour	
	Solicitor, legal executive or fee earner of equivalent experience	£39.25 per hour	
	Trainee or fee earner of equivalent experience	£23.67 per hour	
Travelling and waiting	Senior solicitor	£28.57 per hour	
	Solicitor, legal executive or fee earner of equivalent experience	£28.57 per hour	
	Trainee or fee earner of equivalent experience	£14.43 per hour	
Routine letters written and routine telephone calls		£3.98 per item	£4.16 per item for a litigator whose office is situated within the City of London or a London borough

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 4(4)

Amendments to Schedule 4 to the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013

1. In paragraph 2 (work conducted at the police station: police station advice and assistance), for sub-paragraphs (4) to (8), including the table after sub-paragraph (8), substitute—

"(4) The Fixed Fee for Police Station attendance is £320 for all Police Station Schemes.

(5) The Escape Fee Threshold for Police Station attendance is £650 for all Police Station Schemes.

(6) Where attendance is at a place where an interviewing Constable is present, and that place is not a police station listed as being within a Police Station Scheme, the attendance will be taken as being at—

(a) the Police Station Scheme within which the interviewing Constable is normally based, or

(b) the Police Station Scheme nearest to the place of attendance, where the interviewing Constable is not normally based within a Police Station Scheme.

(7) Where attendance is at a place where a Services Person is assisting with an investigation by Services Police, the relevant Police Station Scheme is the Police Station Scheme within which the police station nearest to the place of attendance is listed for the purposes of sub-paragraph (8).

(8) In this paragraph, "Police Station Scheme" means a Police Station Scheme listed in the table set out in Annex A to version 19 (October 2025) of the Standard Crime Contract Guidance for Reporting Crime Lower Work.".

2. In paragraph 3 (work conducted outside the police station), after the table following sub-paragraph (4) insert—

"(5) The Upper Limits prescribed in this paragraph may be extended upon application in accordance with the 2025 Standard Crime Contract.".

3. In paragraph 3A (advice and assistance for pre-charge engagement), after sub-paragraph (2) insert—

"(3) The Upper Limit prescribed in this paragraph may be extended upon application in accordance with the 2025 Standard Crime Contract.".

4. In paragraph 4 (advice and assistance and advocacy assistance by a court duty solicitor and advocacy assistance at the virtual court)—

(a) for the table following sub-paragraph (1) (advice and assistance and advocacy assistance by a court duty solicitor) substitute—

Advice and Assistance and Advocacy Assistance by a court Duty Solicitor

Work type	London (£)	National (£)
Standard hourly rate (attendance and waiting at a magistrates' court)	63.66	62.16
Enhanced hourly rate (only payable in respect of work done on a day which is not a Business Day)	79.53	77.68
Travelling hourly rate (only payable where the Duty Solicitor is called out (including being called to return) to the court from the Office or attends on a day that is not a Business Day. Reasonable travel expenses may also be claimed (where relevant)).	30.36	30.36

(b) for the table following sub-paragraph (2) (advocacy assistance at the virtual court) substitute—

Advocacy Assistance at the Virtual Court

	London (£)	National (£)
Virtual Court Fixed Fee where the hearing is held during Business Hours	230.87	173.15
Virtual Court Fixed Fee where the hearing is held during Unsocial hours	277.04	207.78

5. In paragraph 5 (representation in a magistrates' court)—

(a) for the table following sub-paragraph (1) substitute—

Representation in a magistrates' court

	All areas (£)
Routine letters written and telephone calls per item	4.50
Preparation hourly rate	57.37
Advocacy hourly rate (including applications for bail and other applications to the court)	71.96
Hourly rate for attendance at court where Counsel is assigned (including conferences with Counsel at court)	39.25
Travelling and waiting hourly rate (only claimable where the undesignated area fees apply)	30.36

(b) for the table following sub-paragraph (2) (higher and lower standard fees table) substitute—

Higher and Lower Standard Fees table

	Lower Standard Fee (£)	Lower Standard Fee Limit (£)	Higher Standard Fee (£)	Higher Standard Fee Limit (£)
Designated Area Standard Fees				
Category 1A	314.62	344.51	596.84	596.89
Category 1B	255.78	344.51	551.09	596.89
Category 2	436.85	591.82	915.04	986.25
Undesignated Area Standard Fees				
Category 1A	246.27	344.51	521.57	596.89
Category 1B	200.21	344.51	481.59	596.89
Category 2	353.51	591.82	810.79	986.25

(c) in sub-paragraph (6), for "£208.61" substitute "£229.47".

6. In paragraph 5B (representation in the youth court)—

(a) for the table following sub-paragraph (4) substitute—

Representation in the youth court

	All areas (£)
Routine letters written and telephone calls per item	4.50
Preparation hourly rate	57.37

	All areas (£)
Advocacy hourly rate (including applications for bail and other applications to the court)	71.96
Hourly rate for attendance at court where Counsel is assigned (including conferences with Counsel at court)	39.25
Travelling and waiting hourly rate (only claimable where the undesignated area fees apply)	30.36
Additional fee for cases which fall outside the Standard Fee payment schemes (only claimable in cases falling under Category 1A or 2A in the table following sub-paragraph (5))	658.45

(b) for the table following sub-paragraph (5) (higher and lower standard fees table) substitute—

Higher and Lower Standard Fees table

	Lower Standard Fee (£)	Lower Standard Fee Limit (£)	Higher Standard Fee (£)	Higher Standard Fee Limit (£)
Designated Area Standard Fees				
Category 1A	973.07	344.51	1,255.29	596.89
Category 1B	255.78	344.51	551.09	596.89
Category 2A	1,095.30	591.82	1,573.48	986.25
Category 2B	436.85	591.82	915.04	986.25
Undesignated Area Standard Fees				
Category 1A	904.72	344.51	1,180.01	596.89
Category 1B	200.21	344.51	481.59	596.89
Category 2A	1,011.96	591.82	1,469.24	986.25
Category 2B	353.51	591.82	810.79	986.25

(c) in sub-paragraph (8), for "£208.61" substitute "£229.47".

7. In paragraph 6 (own client work)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (2)(a), for "£55.14" substitute "£60.65";

(b) in sub-paragraph (2)(b), for "£52.15" substitute "£57.37";

(c) in sub-paragraph (3), for "£78.71" substitute "£86.58";

(d) in sub-paragraph (4), for "£26.23" substitute "£28.85";

(e) for the table after sub-paragraph (4) substitute—

Work undertaken prior to a determination that an individual is not eligible for criminal legal aid

	London (£)	National (£)
Routine letters written and telephone calls per item	4.69	4.50
Preparation hourly rate	60.65	57.37
Advocacy (including applications for bail and other applications to the court) hourly rate	71.96	71.96

	London (£)	National (£)
Travelling and waiting hourly rate (only applicable where the undesignated area fees apply)	N/A	30.36

8. In paragraph 7 (representation in proceedings prescribed as criminal proceedings under section 14(h) of the Act), after sub-paragraph (3) insert—

"(4) The Upper Limits prescribed in this paragraph may be extended upon application in accordance with the 2025 Standard Crime Contract.".

9. In paragraph 8 (advice and assistance on an appeal against conviction or sentence or an application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission)—

(a) after "Upper Limit" insert ", which may be extended upon application in accordance with the 2025 Standard Crime Contract,";

(b) in sub-paragraph (a), for "£314.81" substitute "£346.29";

(c) in sub-paragraph (b), for "£524.69" substitute "£577.16";

(d) for the table substitute—

Advice and Assistance on an appeal against conviction or sentence or application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission

	London (£)	National (£)
Routine letters written and routine telephone calls per item	4.44	4.28
Preparation hourly rate	57.37	54.14
Travel and waiting hourly rate	30.36	30.36

10. In paragraph 10 (representation in the Crown Court on an appeal from a magistrates' court in proceedings prescribed as criminal proceedings under section 14(h) of the Act),

(a) after "Upper Limit" insert ", which may be extended upon application in accordance with the 2025 Standard Crime Contract,";

(b) for "£1,574.06" substitute "£1,731.47";

(c) for the table substitute—

	London (£)	National (£)
Routine letters written and telephone calls per item	4.69	4.50
Preparation hourly rate	60.65	57.37
Advocacy hourly rate	71.96	71.96
Travelling and waiting hourly rate	30.36	30.36

11. In paragraph 11 (advice and assistance provided pursuant to a determination made under section 15 of the Act in prison law cases)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1)—

(i) for "£200.75" substitute "£248.93";

(ii) for "£602.25" substitute "£746.79";

(b) for the table following sub-paragraph (2) (hourly rates for determining whether Escape Fee Threshold reached) substitute—

Hourly rates for determining whether Escape Fee Threshold reached

	All areas (£)
Routine letters written and routine telephone calls per item	4.19
Preparation hourly rate	53.07
Travel and waiting hourly rate	29.76

(c) for the two tables following sub-paragraph (3) (hourly rates in Disciplinary Cases and Sentence Cases for determining application of Standard Fees, and Higher and Lower Standard Fees table for Disciplinary Cases and Sentence Cases) substitute—

Hourly rates in Disciplinary Cases and Sentence Cases for determining application of Standard Fees

	All areas (£)
Routine letters written and routine telephone calls per item	4.59
Preparation hourly rate	63.54
Advocacy hourly rate	77.23
Travel and waiting hourly rate	29.76

Higher and Lower Standard Fees table for Disciplinary Cases and Sentence Cases

Lower Standard Fee (£)	**Lower Standard Fee Limit (£)**	**Higher Standard Fee (£)**	**Higher Standard Fee Limit (£)**
252.87	442.75	699.56	2,097.70

(d) for the two tables following sub-paragraph (4) (hourly rates in Parole Board cases for determining application of standard fees and higher and lower standard fees table for Parole Board cases) substitute—

Hourly rates in Parole Board cases for determining application of Standard Fees

	All areas (£)
Routine letters written and routine telephone calls per item	4.59
Preparation hourly rate	63.54
Advocacy hourly rate	77.23
Travel and waiting hourly rate	29.76

Higher and Lower Standard Fees table for Parole Board cases

Lower Standard Fee (£)	**Lower Standard Fee Limit (£)**	**Higher Standard Fee (£)**	**Higher Standard Fee Limit (£)**
542.14	1,158.07	1,803.51	5,409.55

12. In paragraph 12 (payment for assigned counsel)—

(a) in sub-paragraph (1)—

(i) for "this paragraph" substitute "Sub-paragraph (2)";

(ii) omit sub-paragraph (1)(a);

(b) after the table following sub-paragraph (2), insert—

"(3) The fees payable to Assigned Counsel for representation in a magistrates' court or youth court are subject to the limits specified in the table following this paragraph.

Payment for Assigned Counsel for representation in a magistrates' court or youth court

	Junior Counsel (£)	**King's Counsel (£)**
Basic fee for preparation, including for a pretrial review and, where appropriate, the first day's hearing including, where they took place on that day, short conferences, consultations, applications and appearances (including bail applications, views and any other preparation)	Maximum amount 540.16	Maximum amount 5,130.84
Refresher daily fee (for any day or part of a day during which a hearing continued, including, where they took place on that day, short conferences, consultations, applications and appearances (including bail applications, views and any other preparation))	Maximum amount 185.96	Maximum amount 342.83
Subsidiary fees		
Attendance at consultations, conferences and views not covered by the basic fee or the refresher fee	33.76 per hour - minimum amount 16.76	62.91 per hour - minimum amount 32.32
Written work (on evidence, plea, appeal, cases stated or other written work).	Maximum amount 59.17	Maximum amount 121.20
Attendance at pre-trial reviews, applications and other appearances (including bail applications and adjournments for sentence) not covered by the basic fee or the refresher fee	Maximum amount 108.52	Maximum amount 236.63

13. After paragraph 12 insert—

"Allowing fees at less than the prescribed rates

13.—(1) This paragraph applies to representation by a litigator—

(a) in a magistrates' court;

(b) in proceedings relating to an injunction under Part 1 of the 2014 Act or related parenting order in any court;

(c) in the youth court;

(d) in proceedings prescribed as criminal proceedings under section 14(h) of the Act in the High Court, the family court or a county court.

(2) In respect of any item of work, the appropriate officer may allow fees at less than the relevant prescribed rate where it appears to the appropriate officer reasonable to do so having regard to the competence and despatch with which the work was done.

(3) In this paragraph, "prescribed rate" has the meaning given in paragraph 14(8) of this Schedule.

Allowing fees at more than the prescribed rates

14.—(1) This paragraph applies to representation by a litigator—

(a) in a magistrates' court;

(b) in proceedings relating to an injunction under Part 1 of the 2014 Act or related parenting order in any court;

(c) in the youth court;

(d) in proceedings prescribed as criminal proceedings under section 14(h) of the Act in the High Court, the family court or a county court.

(2) Where this paragraph applies, the appropriate officer may allow fees at more than the prescribed rate, where it appears to the appropriate officer, taking into account all the relevant circumstances of the case, that—

(a) the work was done with exceptional competence, skill or expertise;

(b) the work was done with exceptional despatch; or

(c) the case involved exceptional complexity or other exceptional circumstances.

(3) Where the appropriate officer considers that any item or class of work should be allowed at more than the prescribed rate, the appropriate officer must apply to that item or class of work a percentage enhancement in accordance with the following provisions of this paragraph.

(4) In determining the percentage by which fees should be enhanced above the prescribed rate, the appropriate officer must have regard to—

(a) the degree of responsibility accepted by the fee earner;

(b) the care, speed and economy with which the case was prepared; and

(c) the novelty, weight and complexity of the case.

(5) The percentage above the relevant prescribed rate by which fees for work may be enhanced must not exceed 100%.

(6) The appropriate officer may have regard to the generality of proceedings to which these Regulations apply in determining what is exceptional within the meaning of this paragraph.

(7) Fees paid at more than the prescribed rate under this paragraph are subject to any Upper Limits which apply to the relevant Unit of Work.

(8) In this paragraph, "prescribed rate" means a prescribed hourly rate or unit fee for routine letters written and telephone calls per item.".

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Regulation 3 amends regulation 9 of the Criminal Legal Aid (General) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/9) to specify proceedings in the High Court concerning a release decision of the Parole Board referred under section 32ZAA of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997 or section 256AZBA of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 as criminal proceedings for the purposes of section 14(h) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c. 10) ("the Act"). Regulation 3 comes into force on 31st December 2025.

These Regulations also amend the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/435) ("the Remuneration Regulations"), which make provision for the remuneration of advice, assistance and representation made available under sections 13, 15 and 16 of the Act.

Regulation 4(2) removes regulation 17A(3) of the Remuneration Regulations, which has prohibited litigators from making a claim for an interim payment in relation to a case committed or sent for trial to the Crown Court on the election of a defendant where a magistrates' court has determined the case to be suitable for summary trial.

Regulation 4(3) and Schedule 1 make amendments to Schedule 3 to the Remuneration Regulations by increasing certain appeals fees.

Regulation 4(4) and Schedule 2 make amendments to Schedule 4 to the Remuneration Regulations by introducing a harmonised police station fixed fee and escape fee threshold for all Police Station Schemes; increasing magistrates' court fees; increasing certain appeals fees; and increasing prison law fees.

Paragraph 13 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations adds two provisions into Schedule 4 to the Remuneration Regulations. They make provision for the payment of fees to a litigator at less than or more than the prescribed rate for representation in a magistrates' court; in the youth court; in proceedings relating to an injunction under Part 1 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; and in proceedings prescribed as criminal proceedings under section 14(h) of the Act in the High Court, the family court or county court.

Amendments have also been made to provide that certain Upper Limits may be extended upon application in accordance with the 2025 Standard Crime Contract. A hard copy of the 2025 Standard Crime Contract can be obtained free of charge from the Legal Aid Agency, 13th Floor, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ. The 2025 Standard Crime Contract is also available online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-crime-contract-2025.

A full impact assessment of the effect that the fee increases will have on the costs of business, the voluntary sector and the public sector is produced with the Government's response to the consultation 'Criminal Legal Aid: proposals for solicitor fee scheme reform', available online at https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/criminal-legal-aid-proposals-for-solicitor-fee-scheme-reform. A hard copy of the Government's response to the consultation can be obtained free of charge from the Legal Aid Policy Team, Access to Justice Directorate, Justice and Courts Policy Group, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ. A full impact assessment on the remaining amendments in this instrument has not been produced, as no significant impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

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