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## **APPG on Legal Aid Bulletin**

### **LASPO Review Special and LASPO Meeting 27 February 2019**

Welcome to a special edition bulletin from the APPG on Legal Aid all about the LASPO Post-Implementation Review ("LASPO PIR").

Most, if not all, of you will have read the LASPO PIR that was published last week and the accompanying Action Plan with its 23 recommendations.

For ease of reference, [the Review can be found here](#).

[The Action Plan can be found here](#).

The APPG on Legal Aid thanks the Ministry of Justice for the work that it has undertaken as part of the LASPO Post-Implementation Review. Legal aid is essential for the public to be able to enforce their rights and obtain the help they need at the time they need it. The devastation of the legal aid system is only too clear from the cuts which have led to increased expenditure in the courts and other areas such as the NHS. The cuts to services within the legal aid sector have drastically reduced advice for those in need and we have had report after report from the Bach and Low Commissions to Amnesty International and the Legal Aid Practitioners Group criticising the reduction in legal aid budget.

As an APPG we welcome the report's recommendations, from the review of the means test to the abolition of the mandatory nature of the telephone gateway. The emphasis on early legal advice that can be seen throughout the report is a positive step forward but clarity is required about what is meant by "legal support". We are concerned by the potential for further delays in implementing the proposals given that it is now almost six years since the introduction of LASPO.

We are however, committed to working with the Government and the Ministry of Justice team to bring about these and other changes in the coming months.

[LAPG's initial public responses can be found here.](#)

YLAL's initial public response can be found here.

The Justice Committee's statement can be found [here](#).

The Law Society's statement can be found [here](#).

The Bar Council's statement can be found [here](#).

The APPG on Legal Aid will be hosting a panel discussion on the LASPO PIR from 10.00-11.30 on Wednesday, 27 February in Committee Room 6. We are delighted to be joined by: Lucy Frazer QC MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Justice; Richard Burgon, Shadow Secretary of State for Justice and Shadow Lord Chancellor; Bob Neill MP, Chair of the Justice Committee; Richard Atkins QC, Chair of The Bar Council; and Simon Davis, Vice-President of The Law Society.

This will be a unique opportunity to debate the newly-published review with a range of key stakeholders.

To book your tickets please click [here](#).

The password is APPGonLegalAid

**Rohini Teather**  
**Head of Parliamentary Affairs**  
**13 February 2019**

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#### **About the APPG on Legal Aid**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Aid aims to promote parliamentary and public understanding of the importance of the role of publicly funded legal services. It is chaired by Karen Buck MP. Secretariat support is provided jointly by the Legal Aid Practitioners Group (LAPG) together with Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) with funding from The Legal Education Foundation.

For more information contact:

[rohini.teather@lapg.co.uk](mailto:rohini.teather@lapg.co.uk)

#### **About the APPG Plus Project**

LAPG and the APPG on Legal Aid have been funded by The Legal Education Foundation to engage with MPs and councillors and their caseworkers to ensure that there is a good understanding of what is left in legal aid in the wake of LASPO, and to offer constructive advice, resources and training on how busy MPs and their caseworkers can engage better with lawyers and advice charities in the legal aid sector. In doing so, we aim to assess current access to justice issues facing the public and to help inform future decision making at a policy level.

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**Our mailing address is:**

Legal Aid Practitioners Group

12 Baylis Road

London, England SE1 7AA

United Kingdom

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