

THE SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD 44, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7SW

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PRESS RELEASE

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PUBLIC MEETING IN EDINBURGH SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD ASKS FOR YOUR VIEWS

The Scottish Legal Aid Board is holding a public meeting in Edinburgh on Tuesday 10 October to obtain feedback and answer questions on the legal aid system in Scotland.

The Board wants to hear people's experiences of the legal aid system and the views of anyone with an interest in legal aid or the wider justice system. It is looking for feedback on how the legal aid system works now and how it could be improved in the future. Staff from the Board will also be able to answer general legal aid queries about cases that members of the public have been involved in.

The meeting will be held at 5.30pm in the Main Hall at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh on Tuesday 10 October 2000.

The public meeting is part of an ongoing consultation exercise by the Board to help identify areas where it can develop and improve its service to applicants, opponents in civil legal aid cases, the legal profession and the public. Feedback received from consultation with the public and others will inform the Board's strategic plans for the coming years and it will be passed on to Scottish Ministers to help them in developing government policy on legal aid.

Chairman of the Scottish Legal Aid Board, Jean Couper, encouraged the public to attend the meeting. "It is very important that we hear the views of the public on the operation of the Board and the legal aid system. We want to ensure that the service we provide meets the needs of the people directly affected by legal aid - perhaps having received legal aid for a case, being the opponent in a case where the other person has received legal aid, or having been refused legal aid."

Editors' Notes

The Scottish Legal Aid Board is a non-departmental public body which assesses legal aid applications and scrutinises and pays accounts submitted by solicitors and advocates. It also provides advice to Scottish Ministers on legal aid matters.

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