



Statement

21 March 2011

Continuation of the Board's Grant Funding Programme:

The Board is pleased to announce that the Scottish Government has approved the continuation of our Grant Funding programme for a further year from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012. The programme provides funding for 23 projects delivering court-related advice and representation across Scotland and targets in particular issues such as repossession and debt. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice has agreed that these projects should continue into 2011-12, subject to efficiency savings equivalent to those being expected of the legal aid fund generally, and with a ceiling of expenditure for the financial year 2011-12 of £1.8m. Further information about the Board's targeted programme and background about each of the projects can be found here: http://www.slab.org.uk/advice_sector/Grantfunding.html

The Cabinet Secretary has also agreed that responsibility for administering the grant of £405,000 paid to the Immigration Advisory Service in Glasgow in respect of advice and representation on asylum and immigration law is to be transferred from the Scottish Government to the Board from April 2011. The advice services to be delivered under the grant will include assistance for detainees at Dungavel Detention Centre and regular surgeries in Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The approved ceiling of expenditure on this grant is £405,000 and is to be paid for a year from 1st April 2011.

Ends

Journalists please contact:
Mat Lopez tel 0131 240 1887

Notes for editors

Legal aid is help towards the costs of legal advice and representation, for those who qualify, paid for out of public funds. It is designed to help individuals on low and modest incomes gain access to the legal system. There are two main types of legal assistance: advice and assistance and legal aid. Together these are called legal assistance. Legal aid may be free, or someone may have to pay towards the cost of their case, for example through paying a contribution or from the money or property that they win or keep as a result of their legal action. Legal aid is accessed through a solicitor. Unlike most public expenditure, the legal aid fund is not cash limited. The Scottish Government will provide the Board with the funds required to meet the cost of cases which have been granted.