

Solicitor Survey

The Scottish Legal Aid Board seeks your assistance with a research project due to be carried out in February and March 2010.

The Board has commissioned a nationwide survey of solicitors who provide work under legal assistance. The survey will be carried out within the next 6 weeks by way of a telephone administered questionnaire. The external research agency MVA Consultancy has been recruited to carry out the fieldwork and will be contacting a number of randomly selected practitioners throughout Scotland.

Stakeholder engagement is a key component of the Board's research programme and this research will help us to better understand your opinion on legal aid, the work of the Board, the work you do for your clients and also on the wider justice system.

The research has 3 key objectives. They are to provide the Board with:

- An in depth understanding of solicitor's views on the operation of legal aid
- Solicitor's opinions on key aspects of criminal legal assistance
- Solicitor's opinions on key aspects of civil legal assistance

The survey will cover topics such as application forms and processes, supply, information gathering and communication, the Simplification programme and the Summary Justice Reforms.

The success of the project relies heavily on your willingness to take part and we ask that you give us 25 minutes of your time to complete the survey. Your views will help us to identify what areas are working well and what areas have room for improvement.

We assure you that anything you tell us will be held in the strictest of confidence and your answers will be reported anonymously. There will be no way for SLAB to link responses to individuals.

If you have questions or queries about the research please contact Carol Goater, Research Officer at goaterca@slab.org.uk or telephone on 0131 226 7061 ext 741 or direct line 0131 240 1893.