

Reform of summary criminal legal assistance: Consultation paper

Making your response

Please use this form to send your response to the consultation. A series of consultation questions is included which are intended to help structure your response, focus it on the key issues we want your views on and help us analyse responses. Should you wish to make points not covered by these questions, please do so, but distinguish these from any responses to the specific questions.

Your response will be shared by the Scottish Government and the Scottish Legal Aid Board, with the Board dealing with the administration of the consultation. The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process. A summary of key themes from the consultation responses is expected to be published by the end of January 2008.

You should complete this response form, to give information and to advise if that response is confidential. This will help ensure your response is handled appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published, it will be regarded as confidential. You should be aware that the Board and Scottish Government are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would have to consider any request made under that Act for information relating to this consultation exercise.

Written comments should be sent to the following address by **Monday 24 December 2007**:

Consultation on the reform of summary criminal legal assistance
Communications Department
The Scottish Legal Aid Board
44 Drumsheugh Gardens
EDINBURGH EH3 7SW

Alternatively you can send your response by:

- Hays DX to: DX ED555250 Edinburgh 30
- Legal Post to: LP2 Edinburgh 7

By fax: 0131 220 4878

By email: general@slab.org.uk

Copies of the consultation and response form are available on the Board's website at <http://www.slab.org.uk/profession/summarycriminal>, or you can request a copy from the Board's Communications Department, direct tel 0131 240 1985 or email general@slab.org.uk

If you have any queries on the paper, contact: Kingsley Thomas, Manager of Criminal Applications, direct telephone 0131 240 2085 or email thomaski@slab.org.uk

Please complete this form and return it with your response

Part A - Your details

All respondents should complete this part. Please complete the details below and attach it with your response. This will help ensure we handle your response appropriately:

Name:

Organisation (if applicable):

Postal Address:

1) Are you responding as: (please tick one box)

- an individual - go to question 2
- on behalf of a group or organisation - go to question 3

Individuals

2) a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public?

- Yes
- No - we will treat your response as confidential. Go to question 4

2) b) **Where confidentiality is not requested**, we will make your response available to the public on the following basis (please tick one of the following boxes, and then go to question 4)

- Yes, make my response, name, and address all available
- Yes, make my response available, but not my name or address
- Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

On behalf of groups or organisations

3) Your name and address as respondees will be made available to the public. Are you content for your response to be made available also?

- Yes
- No - we will treat your response as confidential.

3) b) If you are replying on behalf of a representative group please summarise the people or organisations your group represents:

4) We will share your response internally with staff who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for the Scottish Legal Aid Board to contact you again in future for consultation or research purposes?

- Yes
- No

Part B - Your comments

Use of this part of the form is optional - further or more detailed responses can be submitted to us in the manner you find most convenient.

If you do not use this part of the form, please refer to specific recommendations or paragraph numbers from the report where appropriate, to help us to analyse your response. As indicated at section 1.10, the proposed changes to summary criminal legal assistance mirror the principal changes to the summary justice model. We are looking for your views on the proposed changes to summary criminal legal assistance under each section.

Greater use of direct measures (non-court options as they were previously known) (paragraphs 2.6 - 2.13)

What are your views on the proposals for summary criminal legal assistance?

Cases will come to court more quickly (paragraphs 3.1 - 3.8)

What are your views on the proposals for summary criminal legal assistance?

Cases will be dealt with at the earliest stage in proceedings and at more effective court hearings (paragraphs 4.1 - 4.10)

What are your views on the proposals for summary criminal legal assistance?

Early effective preparation for trial (paragraphs 5.1 - 5.7)

What are your views on the proposals for summary criminal legal assistance?

Remuneration (paragraph 6.1 - 6.23)

What are your views on the proposals for summary criminal legal assistance?

Impact assessment (paragraph 7.1)

We are interested in your views on whether the proposals for the reform of summary criminal legal assistance as set out in the consultation paper might impact differently on particular minority groups compared with the population as a whole.

What are your comments?

Other Issues

Are there any other issues you would like to raise or comments you would like to make on the proposals for summary criminal legal assistance?

Thank you for completing this form.