

Justice Directorate  
Civil Law and Legal System Division  
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Scottish Government  
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Colin Lancaster  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Legal Aid Board  
Thistle House  
91 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh, EH12 5HE

Sent by email to: [lancasterco@slab.org.uk](mailto:lancasterco@slab.org.uk)

27 March 2025

Dear Colin

### **SCOTTISH LEGAL AID BOARD (“SLAB”) GRANT-FUNDING PROGRAMME**

I am writing to formally inform you of the outcome of proposals to (i) extend the period in which SLAB can manage funds for the purposes of grant-funding advice services, and (ii) increase the upper limit of expenditure that can be paid from the Legal Aid Fund for this specific purpose.

As you are aware, SLAB currently has approval under section 4A of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986 for expenditure of up to £57m until 31 March 2025. Following consideration of the above proposals, we are content to allow SLAB to continue the joined-up approach to funding that is already in place and enable SLAB to support programmes across the full financial year (to 31 March 2026). In addition, we are also content to increase the upper limit of expenditure from £57m to £58.5m with effect from 1 April 2025.

In the event you have any queries, please feel to contact me (see above for contact details) or Catherine Devlin at [catherine.devlin@gov.scot](mailto:catherine.devlin@gov.scot).

Yours Sincerely,



**Denise Swanson**  
Deputy Director  
Civil and Legal System Division  
Justice Directorate