

Justice Directorate
Civil Law and Legal System Division
E: denise.swanson@gov.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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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]

1 April 2026

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 £58.5m until 31 March 2026. 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 2027). In addition, we are also content to increase the upper limit of expenditure from £58.5m to £61m with effect from 1 April 2026.

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.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Denise Swanson'.

Denise Swanson
Deputy Director
Civil and Legal System Division
Justice Directorate