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Colin Lancaster
Chief Executive
The Scottish Legal Aid Board
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1 April 2026

Dear Colin

Direction under section 4A of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986

The Scottish Ministers give the following direction under section 4A (11) of the Legal Aid (Scotland) Act 1986. The Scottish Legal Aid Board must prepare and publish a plan for the provision of legal advice and representation targeted at women affected by gender based violence. The key aspects for which grant funding can be provided and which should feature in a plan are as follows:

- The plan should be for legal advice and representation targeted at women affected by gender based violence.
- Advice should be delivered through the Scottish Women's Rights Centre, run in partnership by Rape Crisis Scotland, the University of Strathclyde Law Clinic and JustRight Scotland.
- The project should provide a holistic service which includes advocacy support for women.
- The project should aim to improve understanding of the scale and type of demand for legal advice from this group, highlight problems in access, and identify examples of good practice and methods of delivery.
- There should be an Advisory Group comprising a wider group of stakeholders for the project to help identify unmet need and share learning.
- The project should improve knowledge and expertise on gender based violence within the legal profession through the development of online legal guides and the development of accredited training for solicitors in key areas of legal need.
- The plan should run no later than 31 March 2027 and total expenditure should not exceed £239,200.



The maximum amount that may be paid out of the Fund for the grant is £239,200. The period in relation to which this limit applies is 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.

I look forward to receiving the Board's plan in accordance with the terms of this direction.

Yours sincerely



DENISE SWANSON
Deputy Director
Civil Law and Legal System Division