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Colin Lancaster
Chief Executive
Scottish Legal Aid Board
Thistle House
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Edinburgh, EH12 5HE
[Sent by email to: LancasterCo@slab.org.uk]

30 March 2023

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 £52m until 31 March 2023. 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 2024). In addition, we are also content to increase the upper limit of expenditure from £52m to £55m with effect from 1 April 2023.

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

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