

LSA Circular 12/26

7 July 2026

Dear Practitioner,

Practitioner File Review – 2025 end of year update

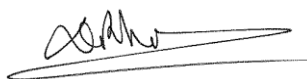
This Circular will be of interest to all practitioners as it provides important information on the Practitioner File Review initiative, for the period January 2025 to December 2025. **It specifically provides advice on steps practitioners should take to address potential recoupments as a result of the absence of sufficient evidence on files submitted.**

1. The Practitioner File Review scheme has just completed its third year of testing and is part of the Agency's approach to identifying, measuring, and reducing practitioner error and fraud, as part of its overall programme of work to address the audit qualification on the Agency's statutory Annual Report and Accounts. Full details of the scheme are outlined within LSANI Guidance on our website [LSANI Guidance on practitioner file reviews](#).
2. As part of the review, sample cases are randomly selected by NISRA staff each month for testing. The scheme is progressing well with 98% of requested files being received in the 2025 sample year allowing the Agency to release payments accordingly on those selected cases.
3. At the end of 2025 sample year, the practitioner fraud and error rate was 7.7% (2.4% of this relating to outstanding files). This is 2.6% higher than the level estimated in 2024 of 5.1%. We have compiled data analysis for the cases sampled in 2025; further details can be found on the [Practitioner Dashboard 2025](#), which includes recommendations for future submission of files.

Fees Adjustment and Recoupment Policy Update

4. As previously notified in [LSA Circular 03/24](#) and [LSA Circular 07/24](#) all payment claims submitted from 1 July 2024 onwards may be subject to fees adjustments by the Agency where an error has been identified as part of the Practitioner File Review. Failure to provide sufficient evidence may result in the Agency seeking to recoup payment. Further details are provided in the 2025 year end dashboard.
5. Circular [LSA 10-25](#), issued on 22 December 2025, further confirmed that the Agency will recoup payment where evidence is not available to substantiate travel and mileage claims for bills submitted on or after 1 January 2026.
6. The majority of errors found relate to practitioner overpayments. Common issues identified which could trigger a recoupment relate to the absence of evidence found on the file to substantiate payment for work claimed and absence of a record of time spent on work undertaken in the files in respect of **travel, watching/ listening to CCTV/ tapes and attendance at consultations**. Practitioners should maintain an activity log or diary entries to ensure that evidence is available to support their claims. Typically, the work which was not billed but was evidenced in the files related to receiving and **sending emails and letters**. Again, the activity logs suggested by the Agency would help address such omissions. Practitioners should familiarise themselves with [LSANI Guidance - Practitioner File Review - Evidence for Claims](#).

Yours faithfully,



Paul Andrews
Chief Executive