

LSA Circular 13/26

11 September 2026

Dear Practitioner,

Refresher Fee Pilot

Further to the [DoJ Direction No.2 of 2026](#) and the [DoJ Protocol: Refresher Fee Pilot](#), this circular sets out the arrangements for the implementation of the Refresher Fee Pilot. It also sets out how the Agency will pay any additional remuneration due as a result of the increased rates in cases that have already been paid by the Agency.

1. The new daily refresher fee rates will be available on LAMS from 14 September 2026.
2. For **Crown Court cases**, practitioners will only be able to select the new refresher fees for Crown Court trials where the first day of the trial is on or after 2 March 2026.
3. For **Youth Indictable Magistrates' Court cases**, practitioners will only be able to select the new refresher fees if legal aid was granted on or after 1 December 2024 **and** they enter an expense line with a date greater than or equal to 2 March 2026.

Refresher fees already paid in respect of work on or after 2 March 2026

4. **Practitioners do not need to take any action.** The Agency will calculate the 'further refresher fee' payable under the new rates and this will be paid once processed. Practitioners should not submit an additional fee request for the amount due.

5. The Agency will commence authorising the 'further refresher fees' week commencing 14 September 2026 and will complete all assessments by the end of October 2026 at the latest. Practitioners will be advised of the payment in the normal way, and funds will be in accounts within 3 to 5 working days.
6. Practitioners should note that the payment of the 'further refresher fees' will be part of the normal daily payment process. The standard remittance advice will not highlight that individual payments are 'further refresher fees' payable at the new rates. However, practitioners can access the LAMS Financial Reporting Tool, which will highlight 'further fee' payments - the assessor notes will state: "Further Fees – Refresher Pilot".

Refresher fee claims in respect of work on or after 2 March 2026 - submitted but not yet paid

7. **Practitioners do not need to take any action.** The Agency will assess and pay the bill, inclusive of the pilot refresher fees.

Review of 'further refresher fee' paid

8. Practitioners who have received 'further refresher fees' and disagree with the fee paid should submit a LAMS review request using the secondary type of **Further Fee Review** to request a review of the payment made.

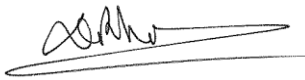
Future changes to LAMS

9. Practitioners will be aware that LAMS currently contains functionality which identifies overlapping claims for the same period of time submitted by practitioners. The Agency will be bringing in further changes to LAMS to facilitate the identification of overlapping claims across **all** areas of work. This

will require practitioners to submit start and finish times of work on LAMS.

10. In respect of refresher fees, the new functionality will enable the Agency to automate the identification and reduction of the refresher fee payable in instances where remuneration has already been claimed and paid for other legal aid work undertaken during the time periods covered by the refresher fee.
11. The Agency will issue further guidance on the changes to LAMS in due course.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Andrews
Chief Executive