

Meetings of the Access to Justice Review Expert Group

held on 14th September and 26th September
at Cyril Le Marquand House, St Helier,

Attendees (for one or both meetings)

Mr T. Walker, Department for Community and Constitutional Affairs (Chair)
Mr D. Le Marquand, Department for Community and Constitutional Affairs
Mr R. MacRae QC, Attorney General
Mr M. Temple QC, Solicitor General
Dr D. Dixon, Law Officers' Department
Mr M. Berry, Law Officers' Department
Mr P. Matthews, Judicial Greffe
Mr W. Lakeman, Social Security Department
Mr T. Northern, Social Security Department
Mr M. Ferey, Citizens Advice Jersey
Advocate R. Colley, Jersey Consumer Council
Mrs A. King, Jersey Consumer Council
Mr N. Benbow, Law Society of Jersey

Welcome

1. The Chairman welcomed the members of the Expert Group ('the Group') to the meetings and apologies were duly noted.

Review of the Legal Aid Scheme

2. The meetings of the Group continued to focus upon proposed revisions to the Legal Aid Scheme ('the Scheme'), with detailed considerations being undertaken within the Expert Group and revised proposals then being reviewed periodically by the Advisory Panel.

Advisory Panel

3. The Group received feedback from the meeting of the Advisory Panel held on 15th September and discussed the forthcoming Panel meeting on 29th September.

Further revisions to the Legal Aid Scheme

4. The Group considered further revisions to the proposed Scheme. This included further consideration of a number of aspects of the proposed Scheme, including income eligibility thresholds, personal contributions, income support clients, maintenance claims, assistance for vulnerable adults, public funding mechanisms and the legislative changes required to implement the new scheme. As a result of the discussions, a number of refinements were made to the proposed revised Scheme.

Next Steps

5. The Group to consider a schedule for the second phase of work, covering consideration of the proposals by the Council of Ministers in October, followed by the submission of law drafting instructions and a briefing for Scrutiny on the proposals as considered by the Council. The draft legislation would be considered by Departments and the Law Society in December, with further meetings of the Expert Group and Advisory Panel in January 2018 to consider the

draft law before any recommendation is made to the Chief Minister regarding lodging with the States Assembly for consideration in March.

ENDS