



10 reasons why GFS Plus **Better than** **Extending** **RAGFS to 60 days**

GFS Plus is a proposal designed by the Bar Council to replace VHCCs. Like RAGFS, GFS Plus provides simple formulas for calculating in advance the fee for a case and thus does away with the need for contract managers and negotiation with the LSC. It has not yet been tested against data or agreed by the government. The scheme is set out in detail in the LSC paper. Set out below are what we think are the advantages.

GFS Plus is better than EGFS because:

- **GFS Plus** is a fixed fee scheme specifically designed to replace the vast majority of cases that fall currently within a VHCC. RAGFS was never designed to cover these cases
- **GFS Plus** provides a simplified categorisation system, based on the defendant's role and seriousness of the case, to determine the advocate's payment rate. RAGFS takes no account of these factors
- **GFS Plus** pays for all pages of prosecution material (PPM) supplied in any format including unused material sent to the advocate by the solicitor. EGFS does not pay for unused material
- **GFS Plus** pays for conferences and consultations at an identifiable rate. EGFS does not pay for these
- **GFS Plus** makes pre-trial payments every 3 months. EGFS only pays when the case is finished
- The **GFS Plus** Daily Payments made during the trial cover all the work done by an advocate during the trial and are at least equal to RAGFS refreshers
- **GFS Plus** guilty pleas will be paid not less than 20% of the case fee
- **GFS Plus** cracked trials will be paid not less than 40% of the case fee
- **GFS Plus** pays not less than 60% of the case fee to the advocate to whom a case is returned
- **GFS Plus** in confiscation cases pays the same daily rate as trial, and 50% of the trial page rate for evidence relied on