

Rebecca Lawrence
Chief Executive



Caroline Goodwin QC
Chair of the Criminal Bar Association

By email

30 March 2020

Dear Caroline

COVID-19: Changes to Advocate Fee Payments

I am pleased to let you know that our fee schemes will be temporarily adjusted to ensure payment for work performed, even where a normal invoice trigger point has not been reached. Prosecuting advocates play an essential role in our criminal justice system, and I hope that these measures will help to support you during the COVID-19 outbreak.

These interim measures will:

- Provide payment for work done prior to the conclusion of a case where delays to proceedings are encountered;
- Maintain timely payments for any work done throughout the affected period;
- Take account of ongoing operational challenges for CPS and the Bar/chambers caused by remote working and possible reductions in workforce; and
- Be phased to provide a steady cash-flow while avoiding an immediate spike in invoices/payments which could delay processing.

The detailed measures are set out in the annex to this letter. As you will see, the first of the new arrangements come into effect immediately and our fees teams are already working on this. We will continue to work with the Bar on the detail required to implement these changes.

Thank you for your continued contribution in these difficult times, and to everyone who has assisted us with this work.

Yours sincerely,

REBECCA LAWRENCE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

