



Ministry
of Justice

Mike Freer MP
Minister for Courts and
Legal Services

Kirsty Brimelow KC
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Doughty St. Chambers
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Via email

MoJ ref: Sub 103646

3 March 2023

Dear Kirsty,

IMPLEMENTATION OF A NEW AGFS FIXED FEE TO REMUNERATE PREPARATORY WORK

Following our meeting on Tuesday, I am writing to reiterate my thanks to you and your colleagues for your continued engagement with the Criminal Legal Aid Advisory Board (CLAAB) and in particular the sub-group tasked with assessing how best to implement the then Lord Chancellor's proposals for remunerating preparatory work.

As we discussed, and as the detailed work between us has demonstrated, finding a solution that works within the agreed funding envelope has taken longer than any of us would have liked. Over the last few weeks, Ministry of Justice officials have worked exhaustively with the CLAAB sub-group and Prof. Chalkley, in an environment of limited granular data availability, to reconcile the original provisions with the available funding.

I am clear that we should find a way to get the additional funding for the next two financial years out as soon as possible and in as straightforward a way as possible to minimise the risk of any further delay. To that end I am working hard to finalise the policy and lay an SI within a few weeks. It will then be subject to the usual parliamentary procedures.

I fully recognise the importance of implementing this final part of our proposals and delivering this additional funding as quickly as we are able.

My Director General, Jerome Glass, will be in touch to arrange a meeting with you next week.

Yours sincerely,

MIKE FREER MP