

Chief Minister



19-21 Broad Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 4WE

Chair
Legal Aid Review Panel
Morier House
St Helier
Jersey
JE1 1DD

6 March 2020

Dear Deputy Ahier

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steve".

Legal Aid Guidelines Advisory Committee

Thank you for your letter of 25th February 2020. I am pleased to respond to your request for further information.

As you know, Article 6(2) of the Access to Justice (Jersey) Law 2019 states that the Judicial Greffier will chair the Legal Aid Guidelines Advisory Committee and is a member of the Committee. In addition, Article 6(3) of the 2019 Law sets out the full membership of the Committee. The States may amend the membership of the Committee in Article 6(3) by Regulations. I can confirm that the members who I appointed to the Shadow Committee will be confirmed under Article 6(3)(g) when this part of the Law comes into effect. The remaining membership of the Committee is outside of the remit of the Chief Minister, and I therefore cannot provide confirmation in this respect. I would be happy to update the Panel once appointments have been confirmed after the Committee is formally established.

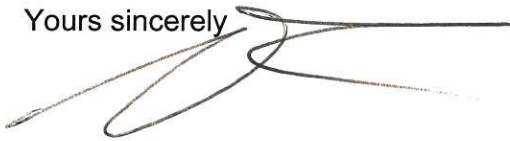
The Committee has not been in receipt of any formal or regular external support when undertaking its work. The Committee has requested, received and utilised information from various bodies to assist its considerations. The Committee has utilised official income statistics to assist it in proposing the financial thresholds for eligibility for Legal Aid and also considered statistics provided by the Legal Aid Office for various purposes relating to the Scheme. In addition, the Committee has sought and received data from law firms engaged in relevant Legal Aid work regarding the average cost of a Legal Aid certificate relating to family law matters, and data from the Judicial Greffe in respect of the costs incurred in criminal acquittals. Further details of the statistics and data used by the Committee can be shared with the Panel if required, perhaps after

we've had the opportunity to read the Committee's report and recommendation which I expect to receive soon, and will share with the Panel immediately.

The Judicial Greffier was not a member of either sub-group and did not attend their meetings. The Judicial Greffier undertakes the same responsibilities as Chair of the shadow Committee as will be required by Articles 6 and 7 of the 2019 Law when the Committee is formally established.

I hope this information is helpful to the Panel.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Le Fondré', written over a horizontal line.

Senator John Le Fondré
Chief Minister

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