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Deputy Steve Ahier  
Chair  
Legal Aid Review Panel  
States Greffe: Scrutiny  
Morier House  
St Helier  
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Dear Deputy Ahier

Thank you for your letter of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

In November 2020, the Legal Aid Guidelines Advisory Committee submitted their recommendation to my office for a future Legal Aid Scheme for Jersey. I am due to be briefed on the Committee's proposals at meetings scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March. I also hope to have an informal discussion with the Judicial Greffier during February - I had hoped that this initial meeting would take place towards the end of last year, but it was unfortunately delayed due to the impact of Covid over the winter period.

I should note that the 2019 Law is still to be brought into effect by an Appointed Day Act, and as such the 6-month period you have correctly referenced under Article 6(9) has not yet formally been invoked. I am, nevertheless, grateful to the Committee for completing an important part of its work, especially when considering the challenges we have all faced over the past 12 months. It is my intention to lodge the Appointed Day Act shortly after I have been briefed on the proposed scheme. This will then set in course a timetable leading to proposed Guidelines being laid before the States by the end of September 2021, in accordance with the enclosed document.

As you will see, it is my intention to consult informally with scrutiny and other stakeholders prior to the official consultation that is required under the Law. This will ensure that relevant bodies have the maximum opportunity to consider the proposals and offer feedback, which I believe will in turn ensure we deliver the best achievable scheme for Jersey.

I will ask my office to share with the Panel the draft Appointed Day Act and the draft of the Order required under Article 7(5) to enable the consultation later in the year.

I agree with the sentiments of the Panel that it is important for this matter to be brought to a conclusion in reasonable time, and I believe the enclosed timetable sets out an achievable period to that end.

Your sincerely



**Senator John Le Fondré**  
Chief Minister

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