

**Minutes of a meeting held at 2nd Floor Markwell House
on Wednesday 11th January 2023**

Members Present:	Ruth Costain	RC
	Howard Connell	HC
	Paul Coppell	PC
	David Trace (<i>via Teams</i>)	DT
Officers Present:	Christine Clucas	CC
	Martina Jay	MJ
	Alex Powell (Note Taker)	AP
Apologies:	Margaret Mansfield	MM
	Pam Pringle	PP
	Bob Ayres (<i>Technical Issues</i>)	BA

01/23	WELCOME AND MINUTES		
	RC opened the meeting and apologies from MM, and PP were noted. The Minutes of the meeting 14 th December 2022, having been previously circulated, were approved.		
02/23	MATTERS ARISING		
		<p>57/22 Interim Costs in Personal Injury/Medical Negligence Cases – AP advised that there was still no response from the Law Society on this matter (an email having been sent to them on 10th November 2022). The Committee requested that a further reminder be sent before formally closing the item.</p> <p>58/22 Legal Aid Rates – As directed by the LAC, AP responded to the Law Society on 22nd December 2022.</p>	AP
03/23	MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION AND DECISION		
	(a)	Update from the Legal Aid Certifying Officer (MJ)	
	(i)	MJ reported the Legal Aid Office had complied with the Legal Aid Appeals Tribunal Order requesting a written submission from the Treasury Officer who had undertaken the Financial Determinations in respect of an Appeal. Committee members expressed concern whether the Tribunal had the vires to view an Assisted Person's financial details. The Chairman of the Appeals Tribunal has been advised by the Legal Aid Certifying Officer that the Tribunal does not.	
	(b)	Update on Staffing/Operational Matters (CC)	
	(ii)	CC advised that staff absence is continuing in the Legal Aid Office team.	

			The Committee was provided with an update on the progress of the HM Attorney General's Legal Aid Review – Options & Recommendations Report which is currently with the Treasury.	
04/23	ANY OTHER BUSINESS			
	(i)	<p>RC raised the issue of legal assistance for representation on an equality issue before the Employment and Equality Tribunal.</p> <p>CC said advice & assistance could be provided under Green form to prepare for a Tribunal, Legal Aid is not provided for representation at the Employment and Equality Tribunal.</p>		
	(ii)	<p>HC made the Committee aware that he would be temporarily Acting Clerk to the fixed Thursday Magistrates Courts and therefore involved in the granting of Criminal Legal Aid.</p>		
	(iii)	<p>RC noted that today was due to have been the last in the tenure of Margaret Mansfield and asked that the thanks of the Committee for Margaret's commitment and support be duly recorded in the Minutes.</p>		

The meeting closed at 14:50

**Minutes agreed
By
Chair**



Date 08/03/2023