

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

Members Present:	Ruth Costain (Chair)	RC
	David Trace (Vice Chair) (<i>via Teams</i>)	DT
	Colm Andrew	CA
	Howard Connell	HC
	Bob Ayre (<i>via Teams</i>)	BA
	Paul Coppell	PC
Officers Present:	Christine Clucas	CC
	Martina Jay	MJ/LACO
	Alex Powell (Note Taker)	AP
Apologies:	Pam Pringle	PP

33/23	WELCOME AND MINUTES		
	<p>RC opened the meeting, apologies had been received from PP.</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting 09th August, having been previously circulated, were approved.</p>		
34/23	MATTERS ARISING		
	<p>16/23 (a) (i) Tribunals – CC advised that she and MJ had met with Legislative Drafters from HM Attorney General’s Chambers. The Drafters need to know precisely what amendments need to be made to the Regulations CC noted that this is at the Committee’s discretion.</p> <p>Further to the directive issued at their last meeting - <i>“...it was reiterated that it was the policy of this Committee that due to the problems the Tribunal’s decision will cause, systemically, financially and for parties and given the processes which already exist for persons to seek review of a Financial Means determination, the change should be made now and not await other matters...”</i> following input from HC - the Committee reluctantly accepted that to change a single Regulation, including by way of insertion, was impractical from a drafting perspective and should be undertaken as a whole when reviewing Legal Aid legislation. The Committee were also advised that processes were in place administratively to manage these issues in the interim.</p>	CC	

		30/23 – Correspondence from His Worship the High Bailiff – HC commented that the second paragraph of this item should clarify that – whilst the issue of financial eligibility for Criminal Legal Aid can be considered as part of HM Attorney General’s Legal Aid Review – in fact, it is for the LAC to determine policy.	
35/23	MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION AND DECISION		
	(a)	Update from the Legal Aid Certifying Officer (MJ)	
		MJ reported that, as usual for the time of year, the Legal Aid Office was very busy in the run up to half term. Additionally, planning was ongoing re the next meeting of the Joint Consultative Council which was due to be held on-Island. MJ formally thanked AP for her efforts in this respect.	
	(b)	Update on Staffing/Operational Matters (CC)	
	(i)	CC provided an update on the progress of HM Attorney General’s Legal Aid Review.	
36/23	ANY OTHER BUSINESS		
		None.	

The meeting closed at 14:43

Minutes agreed

**By
Chair**



Date

08/11/23