

Tender for new inquest contracts

The LAA is inviting tenders for contracts to deliver work in the inquests category of law under the 2024 Standard Civil Contract. This supports the Public Office (Accountability) Bill and the LAA expects it to be one of the biggest expansions of legal aid provision in over a decade.

The LAA is launching this procurement before Royal Assent to make sure enough providers are ready to deliver services as soon as possible once the legislation is in force.

If you submit your tender by 17:00 on 4 September 2026, the LAA will assess it for contracts starting at service launch, if it passes verification. The application period will stay open until on or around 31 March 2027. You can tender at any point during this period. The contract will end on 30 June 2028, in line with the wider 2024 Standard Civil Contract (subject to rights of early termination and the Legal Aid Agency's (LAA) right to extend the contract by up to 2 months).

The Application Guide has full details of the procurement process on the [Introduction of Inquest Category of Law](#) page.

One of the requirements for the Inquest Category of Law will be to employ a part-time equivalent supervisor in that Category. The supervisor will be required to meet a legal competence standard. The LAA's current intention is to permit two different routes to meet the legal competence standard:

- Experience in carrying out a certain number of inquest cases
- Attendance at an inquest training course that has been approved by the LAA.

The LAA is seeking views on the criteria they should use for deciding whether a training course should be approved for these purposes. There is a draft list of criteria and a short survey asking for your views on the draft criteria, including the deliverability of the requirements which can be [found here](#).