

Email Bulletin (Contracting No.20): eligibility update

Information on 2004 eligibility rates up-rating

- 1.1 We have received a number of enquiries on the CLS Support consultancy line about when the eligibility rates for legal aid will increase this year. After contacting the Legal Services Commission (LSC) we have been explaining to callers that as yet there has been no decision on the annual up rating by Ministers, although this is expected in the near future.
- 1.2 In the interim, the Legal Services Commission has now published FOCUS 44 which is a reprinted and extended version of the 'FOCUS Extra' web only version which had been available on the LSC website for some time.
- 1.3 FOCUS 44 contains information on the annual eligibility up rating for legal aid, when this might occur and, new dependants allowances that are applicable from Monday 12th April this year. FOCUS 44 also contains updated Key-cards that provide a step-by-step guide to the assessment of eligibility.
- 1.4 The LSC have also updated their online eligibility calculator, which is available from their website www.legalservices.gov.uk to reflect any changes.
- 1.5 The following link will direct you to this particular edition of FOCUS:
http://www.legalservices.gov.uk/misl/news/focus/focus_44.pdf
- 1.6 Please contact us on our consultancy line: 0870 770 0447, or by email at: cls.support@asauk.org.uk if you have any queries on this or any other contracting or Quality Mark issues.