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| Ministry of Justice |  |
| Domestic Abuse Policy  Ministry of Justice  102 Petty France  London  SW1H 9AJ |
| By email to:  Law Society  Resolution  Family Law Bar Association  Legal Aid Practitioners Group  Bar Council  Law Centres Network  Criminal Bar Association  Criminal Law Solicitors' Association  Cilex  London Criminal Courts Solicitors' Association  Association of Lawyers for Children |  |

31 October 2024

**DOMESTIC ABUSE PROTECTION ORDER PILOT – GUIDANCE AND TRAINING PRODUCTS**

We wrote to you last month to advise that the Government intends to launch the Domestic Abuse Protection Notice (DAPN) and Domestic Abuse Protection Order (DAPO) pilot in November this year in Greater Manchester, three Boroughs in South London (Croydon, Sutton and Bromley) and with the British Transport Police. We are currently planning for pilot launch during the last week of Novemeber and will update you on an exact date as soon as possible. We have also advised that we would be sharing our updated guidance products with you shortly.

**Guidance for legal professionals**

While we are working to confirm the exact date for pilot commencement in November, please find enclosed the updated DAPO pilot guidance document, a copy of which we last shared with you back in March. This guidance is aimed at any legal professionals (whether or not they hold a legal aid contract), to help them prepare for undertaking client work when the pilot is launched. The guidance explains different features of the DAPO, the various application routes, and how the DAPO fits in with the existing order landscape. We would be grateful if you could arrange for the guidance to be disseminated with your members.

**Training event**

Finding Legal Options for Women Survivors (FLOWS), a specialist legal service provided by the Royal Courts of Justice Citizens Advice (RCJ Advice) is hosting a live training event on DAPO specifically for legal professionals who work with women survivors of domestic abuse experiencing criminal and family law issues. The event will take place on **11 November from 12:30 to 14:00** and will be open to the FLOWS forum members only. If your members are interested in joining, they will need to first register to become the forum member via ‘register now’ function at the bottom of <https://flowsforum.org/> (please allow a few days for the registration request to be processed), after which they can join the event via <https://flowsforum.org/forum/viewthread/594/> link on the day. The event will also be recorded and made available to forum members after the session. We would be grateful if you could highlight this training opportunity with your members.

**Legal Aid Agency contracts and information**

Those of your members who hold legal aid contracts will be aware that the Legal Aid Agency has recently published their contract notice – please refer to their [press release of 15 October 2024](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/dapn-and-dapo-contract-changes). In particular, civil legal aid is covered in the document [2024 Standard Civil Contract – DAPO Pilot Scheme Specification](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/670e92c830536cb9274831d5/Draft_DAPO_Pilot_Scheme_Specification__Section_19_.pdf) and criminal legal aid as part of the guidance for the [Standard Crime Contract 2022](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-crime-contract-2022). The Legal Aid Agency has also released training materials via their provider training website and further materials and support will be available on pilot launch.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you do have any questions or queries, on the policy context for DAPOs and how they are intended to work in practice. The Legal Aid Agency, together with the legal aid policy team, will remain your first point of contact for legal aid matters – please contact them via their dedicated inbox at: LAA\_DAPO@justice.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

**Maja Vojnovic**

On behalf of the DAPO Implementation Team

The Ministry of Justice Domestic Abuse Policy Team