

[News story: Crime news: updated position on Litigators' Graduated Fee Scheme](#)

Following a judgment handed down in the Divisional Court on 3 August 2018, the Legal Aid Agency (LAA) advises providers to note the below steps when claiming under the LGFS for cases with more than 6,000 pages of prosecution evidence (PPE).

As a result of the judgment, the LGFS has now reverted to previous regulations in force before 1 December 2017. However, providers should be aware that the question whether to appeal the order of the Divisional Court is still under consideration by the Lord Chancellor.

Providers with affected claims should note and take the following steps:

New claims made

Providers should submit all new claims in the usual way but, following the judgment, are now able to submit claims up to the 10,000 PPE threshold via Claim for Crown Court Defence (CCD).

Applying for a redetermination

If a provider has submitted a claim which has been processed with a representation order dated on or after 1 December 2017, which is affected by this judgment, they should apply for a redetermination in the usual way via CCD and will be able to claim up to the 10,000 PPE threshold. If a provider has also had a claim for Special Preparation processed in the same case, they should notify the LAA as part of their claim for redetermination.

Affected claims awaiting determination

If a provider has a claim affected by the judgment which is awaiting determination, they should seek to amend their claim in CCD or [contact](#) our Case Management team.

Further information

The Crown Court Fee Guidance and relevant claiming forms will be updated in due course.

News story: African swine fever risk reminder

Updated: Link to EFSA's practical video guide to African swine fever added.

African swine fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease of pigs which is currently spreading in eastern and central Europe and has recently been found in China. The virus does not affect people but severe strains of the virus are often fatal to pigs of any age.

If the disease were to reach the UK it would have a devastating effect on our export market and would also mean the humane culling of pigs on infected premises to prevent further spread.

What you should do

If you keep pigs, you must not feed catering waste of any description, or domestic food waste, to your pigs. It is illegal to do so. This is because of the risk of spreading disease.

This includes food from vegetarian kitchens, as there is still a risk of cross contamination from products of animal origin such as milk.

This ban on feeding food waste also helps to protect the UK from diseases such as foot and mouth disease.

Don't feed:

- Food scraps and catering waste from any restaurant or commercial kitchen (including vegan kitchens) as this is illegal.
- Domestic kitchen waste or scraps.
- Raw, partially cooked or fully cooked meat and fish (including shellfish).
- Dog and cat food.

Instead feed:

- Specially formulated commercial pig feed as a safe and easy way to give your pigs a balanced diet.
- Fruit and vegetable material that has never entered a kitchen and which has not come into contact with material of animal origin.

If you are ever worried about the health of your pigs consult your veterinary surgeon immediately.

How the disease spreads

The biggest risk of the disease entering the UK's pig population is by pigs eating infected pork or pork products derived from infected pigs or wild boar. The ASF virus can survive for months in smoked, dried and cured meats, and in frozen meat. The greatest risk is from meat products brought into the UK from affected countries as personal imports since commercial trade of such products is not permitted from ASF restricted areas.

It also survives in pig faeces and in the blood of infected pigs or wild boar. The virus can therefore be spread on vehicles, equipment, clothing and boots contaminated by infected pigs or wild boar. As a result, farm staff whose homes are in ASF-affected areas in Europe, and people returning to the UK from holidays or hunting expeditions could unknowingly bring back infection. If these people also happen to keep pigs, or work on pig farms, they could pass that contamination on to their pigs and introduce disease, but there are some straightforward actions they can take to prevent introduction.

Practise good biosecurity

- Use dedicated clothing and boots for you and anyone coming onto your premises.
- Prevent vehicles or equipment from coming on to your premises unless cleaned and disinfected first.
- Ensure that people who look after or visit your pigs understand the disease risk of bringing back meat products and in particular wild boar meat or pork/pork products from affected countries. Trade of pork from affected areas in these countries is illegal.
- Don't bring meat products onto the farm to avoid accidental access to pigs.

Latest situation in Europe

African swine fever was first detected in EU Member States in 2014. Since then, the disease has been spreading in parts of eastern and central Europe. It has been reported in the Baltic States, Poland, Romania, Moldova, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine and Russia. The presence of the disease in both commercial and backyard pigs in continental Europe means that there is an increased risk of introduction of African swine fever to pigs in the UK. It has also recently been detected in China. You can find out more in our [assessments of the risk](#).

Further information

[See more information about African swine fever and how to spot it](#) and advice and posters to download from [AHDB Pork](#).

If you suspect African swine fever you should notify [the Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) immediately.

[EU-wide animal by-product legislation](#) states that feeding farmed animals with

catering waste or feed material containing, or derived from, catering waste is illegal. Doing so can result in prosecution.

For information about biosecurity see [controlling disease in farm animals](#).

For a practical guide on ASF, please see the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA's) video.

[EFSA's practical video guide](#)

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[Corporate report: Customer Notice 2018-012: Waste Forecasting Submissions](#)

LLW Repository Ltd publishes Customer Notices which provide key information and updates to Customers

[Press release: Native crayfish make a comeback in Lincolnshire](#)

A threatened species of crayfish is making a comeback in Lincolnshire thanks to efforts by the Environment Agency and local conservation groups.

Last July, 600 white-clawed crayfish were moved from locations in the River Witham – where they're at risk of being wiped out by invasive signal crayfish – to new remote locations including a chalk stream in the Lincolnshire Wolds.

Now, surveys show the transfer – the first in the county – has been successful, and the crayfish have started to breed.

Native white-clawed crayfish have been in decline since non-native American signal crayfish escaped into UK waters in the 1970s. These larger, invasive crayfish outcompete native species for food and habitat and carry a disease

fatal to the UK species.

But working with partners such as the Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project (LCSP) and the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the Environment Agency is seeking to secure their future by relocating them to areas free of the invaders in a scheme known as the 'ark project.'

Richard Chadd, senior environmental monitoring officer with the Environment Agency said:

These crayfish are a vital part of our ecology, so preserving them is yet another example of how we're protecting our environment for the future.

Having personally worked on this project – physically picking up these crayfish, measuring them, checking their health and relocating them to their new homes – I'm thrilled that our efforts at protecting them have been so successful.

Previously the crayfish were only present in two locations in the county, so we've potentially doubled their habitat in the space of a year – and Lincolnshire's rare, protected chalk streams are the perfect home. They're remote, clean, and the water is high in calcium, which helps crayfish form strong exoskeletons and makes them more robust.

Ruth Craig, Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project Officer, said:

The Lincolnshire Chalk Streams Project jumped at the chance to support this EA-led initiative to establish native white-clawed crayfish sites in the chalk streams of the Lincolnshire Wolds.

We offered up some potential sites and once they were all assessed, we were excited to hear one of the chalk streams had scored as highly suitable.

We worked closely with local landowners to secure access and their long-term support in protecting the area from disturbance, and we will return to monitor the populations as needed. But the hard work doesn't end here – we plan to continue identifying further possible locations, supporting the work of the EA.

White-clawed crayfish, named for the pale colour of the underside of their claws, are the country's largest native freshwater crustaceans. Generally growing to 30 – 40mm in length, some can live up to 12 years and reach 120mm long from tip to tail.

Collectively, non-native invasive species cost the UK economy an estimated £1.7b every year.

Everyone can do their part to prevent the spread of invasive species and protect native ones by taking care to follow the biosecurity steps of thoroughly checking, cleaning and drying your clothes and equipment any time you've been in the water. You can get more information from the [Non-native Species Secretariat](#).