

News story: Crime news: remember return address on paper AGFS form AF1

Prompt payments for AGFS claims more likely if you include the return address on paper AF1 forms.

It is important to include the 'return address' box when completing paper AF1 forms to claim for work under the Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme (AGFS).

The 'return address' box is on the front of the form. Filling this in will avoid delays to:

- payments for your work
- notification of our initial decision

Why is this important?

The 'return address' is needed to process your submission. But there has recently been an increase in the number of forms where this information is missing.

This means we are having to make time to find out the return address. We would prefer instead to concentrate on processing your payment as quickly as possible.

Benefits of online claims

The simplest solution to avoid any delay is to use our online claiming system instead of paper forms.

More than 60% of AGFS claims are made online and the system allows you to keep track of your submission.

Further Information

[Claim for criminal legal work under graduated fee schemes](#)

[Crime processing dates](#)

News story: BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR 2017 – TRAVEL ADVICE

The British & Irish Lions are touring New Zealand from 3 June to 8 July. The

Tour is expected to attract up to 30,000 travelling fans. If you're one of them, please read the following advice and check out our [travel advice for New Zealand](#).

Passports

Your passport should be valid for a minimum period of one month from the date of exit from New Zealand.

If you lose your passport, or it's stolen, you will need to get an Emergency Travel Document from the [nearest British Consulate](#).

Visas

British passport holders can enter New Zealand as a visitor for up to 6 months on arrival without a visa, provided you can satisfy an Immigration Officer that you meet the requirements of the immigration rules. Visitors must have an onward ticket.

If you're transiting another country en route to or from New Zealand, make sure you [check the entry requirements](#) for that country. New Zealand's immigration rules are strict, particularly regarding employment. Anyone wishing to work will need a visa allowing employment.

For more information about visas, visit the [New Zealand Immigration](#) website or contact the nearest [New Zealand High Commission](#).

Travel Insurance

Take out comprehensive travel and medical [insurance](#) before you travel.

At the matches

Match venues will be enforcing their standard conditions of entry. Generally speaking, prohibited items include: alcohol; drugs; glass bottles or breakable containers; metal containers, cans; offensive weapons, including potential missiles; flags over 1m x 1m in size; and professional camera/video/ audio equipment.

All match venues reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone who is intoxicated and/or disorderly. Licensing laws are strictly enforced: even being mildly intoxicated can lead to being refused entry.

Crime

The level of crime is no higher than in the UK. Be careful with personal possessions and travel documents in cities and other popular tourist destinations. Avoid carrying everything in one bag; only carry what you need; and leave spare cash and valuables in hotel safety deposit boxes. Don't leave bags unattended in vehicles, internet cafes, pubs or clubs.

Driving

See the extensive advice available on the following websites, [NZ Police](#), [NZ AA](#), and [Freedom Camping](#).

- do recognise that NZ roads are different; outside of the main cities, there are very few motorways; if you're travelling a long distance your average speed will be 80 kmh, not 100 kmh, (even on State Highway 1 due to hills, weather and all the little towns where there are no by-passes);
- don't travel in convoys of camper vans; if you're travelling slower than the local traffic it is convention in New Zealand to pull over to the left often to allow faster traffic to pass you;
- don't rely exclusively on GPS to select routes, it may direct you to roads that aren't suitable for your vehicle; talk to locals (at service stations perhaps) and take their advice

Emergency services numbers

The number for the emergency services in New Zealand is: 111.

Further information

[British & Irish Lions website](#)

[NZ Police Website](#)

Like [UK in New Zealand](#) on Facebook, and follow [@ukinnz](#) and the [LIONS APP](#) on Twitter

[News story: Love for Lydia report published](#)

MAIB's report into the carbon monoxide poisoning on board the motor cruiser Love for Lydia on Wroxham Broad, England between 7 and 9 June 2016 resulting in two fatalities is now published.

MAIB statement:

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch has investigated four accidents in four years where seven people have tragically died as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning on boats.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer and there are many sources of it

on boats, including engines, cookers, heaters and even barbecues.

Today, we have made safety recommendations to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, British Marine and the Boat Safety Scheme to increase awareness of the dangers and promote the fitting of carbon monoxide alarms.

For boaters, the message is clear: fit an alarm.

The report contains details of what happened, subsequent actions taken, and recommendations made.

Press enquiries

Press enquiries during office hours 01932 440015

Press enquiries out of hours 020 7944 4292

[News story: Secretary of State expresses sympathy to Ruddy family](#)

Earlier this evening, Mr Brokenshire commented:

This will be a desperately sad time for Mr Ruddy's family and loved ones. I would like to express my sympathy as steps are now taken to bring Seamus home.

My thoughts remain with all those families who are still awaiting the recovery of the remains of their loved ones.

Anyone with information that might help locate the other 'Disappeared' should get in contact – in strict confidence – with the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains.

News story: Looking ahead to the London Somalia Conference 2017

On 11 May 2017, the UK will host a major international conference in London, to support the progress that Somalia has made over the last 5 years.

Ahead of the London Somalia Conference, regional experts Ambassador David Concar and Special Representative Nick Kay share their thoughts on progress in Somalia and the country's future:

Ambassador David Concar

- Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa Nick Kay explains why it's important to keep Somalia on the international agenda

Special Representative Nick Cave