

[Crime news: changes to crime contract because of new parole rules](#)

Amendments to the 2017 crime contract are now live on GOV.UK to take account of the new right to challenge parole decisions outside the courts.

This new right is exercised through a 'reconsideration mechanism' which came into force on 22 July 2019.

In addition to amended contract documentation we have published guidance which details the new arrangements which have now taken effect.

What are the contract changes?

The amendments we have made confirm that work carried out:

- on behalf of a prisoner during the 'reconsideration' process will be covered by criminal legal aid
- connected to applications for 'reconsideration' will be a continuation of the existing Parole Board matter

Advocacy assistance fee

A separate advocacy assistance fee will be claimable if the Parole Board directs the matter for a reconsideration hearing.

There may be circumstances where clients have not received advice and assistance or advocacy assistance connected to their Parole Board case.

Advice and assistance can be provided when making applications for reconsideration for such individuals.

Further information

[Standard Crime Contract 2017](#) – amendments to chapter 12 of the Contract Specification now available covering the new rules from 22 July 2019

[Parole Board Rules 2019](#) – to view details of the new rules effective from 22 July 2019

[Criminal Bills Assessment Manual](#) – amendments to reflect the changes in the contract.

[Guidance for Reporting Crime Lower Work](#) – amendments to introduce a new reporting code for Parole Board Reconsideration Hearings.