

## [News story: Public Health England statement regarding events in Salisbury](#)

Paul Cosford, Medical Director and Director of Health Protection at Public Health England (PHE) said:

All known first responders have been contacted through their organisations and encouraged to seek further advice should they experience any symptoms. The sites recently visited by the 2 people affected have all been secured and PHE is reminding local clinicians of the symptoms to look out for.

Based on current evidence, the risk to the wider public is low and it is likely that, had any member of the public been exposed to the substance, they would have presented with symptoms by now. However, anyone who was in the area and is concerned because they feel unwell, should dial 111 or 999 depending on the severity of their symptoms.

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## [News story: Home Office announces new round of funding to tackle knife crime](#)

As part of a new step-change to tackle the threat of violent behaviour, the Community Fund – which supports community projects to work with young people about the dangers of carrying knives – will have its funding increased to up to £1 million.

Over 40 charities, including the Ben Kinsella Trust, have already benefited by receiving grants of up to £20,000 through the first round of the Community Fund which was launched in October 2017.

In addition, further funding has been secured for Young People's Advocates until at least the end of March 2019, to provide support for vulnerable women and girls at risk of exploitation by gangs.

Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability Victoria Atkins said:

Knife crime has devastating consequences for families and local communities and I am determined to provide necessary support for

those most at risk.

Tackling this crime needs a change in young people's attitudes so they are not tempted to carry a knife and understand that they risk inflicting serious injury or even a tragic loss of life if they do.

This new funding will allow communities to work with young people so they do not want to carry knives. This will be a commitment in the forthcoming Serious Violence Strategy which will be published later this spring, in which there will be a strong emphasis on early intervention.

The Home Office has already provided around £2.5 million of funding for 13 Young People's Advocates over 6 years (April 2012 to March 2018) in London, Manchester and Birmingham. In recognition of the important services these professionals deliver to vulnerable women and girls affected by gangs, funding will continue in order to ensure effective delivery of these services.

Early intervention and prevention will be one of the main messages in the new Serious Violence Strategy to be published later this spring. It will place a new emphasis on steering young people away from crime, while continuing to promote the strongest possible law enforcement approach.

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## **News story: Civil news: upgraded 'civil claim fix service' launched**

We have recently improved our 'civil claim fix service'.

In addition to dealing with 'reject' challenges the team will now also consider 'document request' challenges where you believe we have asked for information:

- you have already provided
- which is not required to evidence the claim

Challenges to these secondary requests should be submitted using the civil claim fix email address.

### **CCMS advanced billing guides available**

The 'Advanced Guide for avoiding secondary requests' is available with the

Advanced Billing Guides in the Provider Quick Guides section of the CCMS Training website.

Recent statistics show that up to 26% of the CCMS bills we receive need to be returned using a document request for further information.

We have identified five common issues that prevent us paying a bill first time and these are detailed in the guide.

### **Further information**

[Advanced Billing Guides](#) – scroll down to the bottom of the page

[LAACivilClaimFix@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:LAACivilClaimFix@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk) – to contact our ‘civil claim fix’ team

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## **[Press release: Survivors of domestic abuse now able to vote anonymously](#)**

The changes will make it easier for an estimated 12,000 survivors of domestic abuse living in refuges to register to vote anonymously as well as those living elsewhere.

The changes will come into force in England, Wales and Northern Ireland tomorrow (8 March) and in Scotland on 1 April.

Survivors of domestic abuse will be able to register to vote without their name and address appearing on the electoral roll and without the fear of their former partners finding their address.

The changes to make it easier for survivors of domestic violence to register to vote anonymously include:

- broadening the professionals able to provide an attestation to include police inspectors, medical practitioners, nurses, midwives and refuge managers.
- expanding the list of court orders to include Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Female Genital Mutilation Orders.

This forms part of the government’s commitment to tackle violence against women and girls.

Minister for the Constitution Chloe Smith said:

It’s simply unacceptable that fear of revealing their address to an ex-partner has stopped victims of domestic abuse from voting.

Which is why this government took decisive action and is making it easier for those at risk to register and vote anonymously.

I'm proud of how seriously this government is tackling domestic abuse – we have pledged £100 million in dedicated funding until 2020 to tackle violence against women and girls.

Claire Bassett, Chief Executive of Electoral Commission, said:

Everyone should be able to vote safely, no matter what their circumstances, and these important changes are a vital step towards achieving this.

Nurses, midwives and refuge managers will now be able to attest to someone's request to register anonymously; we are working with organisations that support these professions to publish guidance, to ensure they understand these changes to the law and can support their service users.

Katie Ghose, Chief Executive of Women's Aid, said:

For too long survivors of domestic abuse have been silenced because it was too dangerous for them to sign up to an electoral register, which would reveal their location, and too difficult for them to register anonymously. For them anonymity is a matter of life or death; with the very real threat of being hunted down by the perpetrator.

Following our Right to Vote campaign in partnership with survivor Mehala Osborne, we have worked with the government to bring about decisive action on this issue. We're delighted that on the 100th anniversary of the first British women securing the right to vote, the government will be making it easier for survivors to vote in safety.

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## [News story: 1 April 2018: Update to the Patent Cooperation Treaty \(PCT\) fees](#)

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) fee structure changes on 1 April 2018 and will be as follows:

## **Transmittal fee:**

- £75

## **Search fee:**

- £1,552

## **International fee:**

- £1,029 for the first 30 sheets
- £12 for each sheet over 30

## **Restoration for restoration of priority**

- £150

## **Reductions for e-filing**

- £155: electronic filing (not being in character coded format)
- £232: electronic filing (being in character coded format)

## **Fees for preparation of priority document**

- £20

## **PCT forms**

- [PCT Request Form \(R0/101\)](#)
- [PCT Request Form \(R0/101\) – completed example](#)
- [PCT Demand Form \(IPEA/401\)](#)
- [PCT Power of Attorney \(POA\)](#)

## **Further information**

- [protecting your patent abroad](#)
- [protecting your inventions abroad: PCT frequently asked questions](#)