

[Crime news: online guidance for sending hearing fees rollout](#)

News story

Guidance on how to claim a new fee payment for work on sending a case to the Crown Court for trial is now available online.



A new payment fee to cover work completed for sending hearings is being introduced on 19 October 2020.

Online guidance is now available on how to claim this fee.

The changes will come into effect for magistrates' court representation orders on or after 19 October 2020.

Why is this happening now?

The new fee payment applies to cases sent to the Crown Court for trial. It is part of the package of accelerated measures under the criminal legal aid review (CLAR).

Where can I find out more?

Further information

[Standard Crime Contract 2017](#) – see the previously published new section in chapter 10 for draft amendments covering the fee

[Criminal Legal Aid \(Remuneration\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2020](#) – to view regulatory changes introducing new fee

[Criminal Legal Aid Review](#) – MOJ consultation hub

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Written Ministerial Statement: 19 October meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee

The next meeting of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee will take place in London on 19 October 2020, with delegations attending in person and by video conference.

The meeting will be co-chaired by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and Vice President of the European Commission, Mr Maroš Šefčovič.

The agenda will include four items:

- 1) Introduction and opening remarks from co-chairs
 - 1.1) Stocktake of recent Specialised Committee meetings
 - 1.2) Future Specialised Committee meetings
- 2) Updates on Implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement
 - 2.1) Citizens' rights
 - 2.1.1) Joint Implementation Report
 - 2.1.2) Progress on Joint Committee Decision on triangulation
 - 2.2) Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland
 - 2.2.1) Progress on Joint Committee Decisions foreseen by the Protocol
 - 2.2.2) Progress on Joint Committee Decision on correction of errors and omissions
 - 2.3) Dispute settlement – Discussion on progress on Joint Committee Decision on the establishment of a list of arbitrators
- 3) AOB
- 4) Concluding remarks

The UK delegation will include:

- Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
- The Paymaster General, Rt Hon Penny Mordaunt MP

Representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive have been invited to form

part of the UK delegation.

Statement on the post election situation in the Kyrgyz Republic

World news story

The UK Government issued the following statement on the situation in the Kyrgyz Republic following the elections on 4 October 2020.



UK Government

The United Kingdom's support for democratic processes and rule of law in the Kyrgyz Republic is central to our bilateral collaboration. The Kyrgyz Republic has long stood out in the region for its democratic elections, active civil society organisations and freedom of the media. However, the Parliamentary elections on 4 October were marred by allegations of widespread electoral malpractice. Since the annulment of the results of those elections, events have shown the importance of adhering to the law and to the constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The UK supports the efforts of President Zheenbekov, legitimate authorities,

civil society leaders, and legal experts to find an inclusive, legal and democratic resolution. That is the firmest foundation for a way forward. Decisions on leadership and electoral process must be consistent with the constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The United Kingdom supports the statement of the UN Secretary General, and encourages relevant authorities to cooperate with the UN and OSCE experts in finding a peaceful and inclusive resolution.

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[Environmental Land Management tests and trials: 23 Burns Farmer Group](#)

To support the development of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, Defra is carrying out tests and trials with land users across England.

Defra interviewed Harry Baker Cresswell, one of the members of the 23 Burns Farmer Group, about his experience of the test and trials.

Harry farms a 242ha mixed farm on the Preston Mains farm in Northumberland. He became involved with ELM tests and trials in July 2018, after attending a Defra roadshow on the future of agriculture.

Land management plans

The 23 Burns Farmer Group looked at the development of land management plans (LMPs). The plans are one of 6 priorities for ELM tests and trials. An LMP is an assessment of assets, such as:

- buildings
- livestock
- wildlife
- people

LMPs let farmers and land managers record the public goods they will provide under ELM in a way that suits them. An LMP plots the costs and benefits of a business's land management activities, so the farmer or land manager can make informed business decisions about future activities. LMPs make it easier for a business to benchmark against peers and other economic sectors and regions so they can make improvements.

The ELM scheme will put farmers, foresters and other land managers more in control of how they use their assets to provide environmental public goods. Individual LMPs move us away from the prescriptive 'one size fits all'

approaches taken by previous agri-environment schemes.

A pollen strip – a conservation measure – containing Timothy (a grass) plus red clover and sainfoin with birdsfoot trefoil, yarrow, knapweed, black medic and ribwort plantain at the base of the strip.

Financial assistance to sustainable businesses

Harry is also an environmental farm adviser, supporting farmers and other land managers with their current agri-environment agreements. He helps them to make the most of their land and to benefit the environment.

Harry told Defra he is looking forward to the introduction of ELM, because he believes sustainable land use and farming are essential – it's what he helps businesses to do every day. Harry said it was crucial that farmers and land managers play their part in achieving the objectives in the 25 Year Environment Plan.

Influencing policy

The 23 Burns Farmer Group is on the north-east coast. It's made up of 63 separate holdings, covering 13,672ha in total. This farmer-led group has worked collaboratively to develop an LMP for each business, so each farm can record the public goods they will provide under ELM.

The group formed because they wanted to be involved with shaping a new environment scheme. Harry believes that involvement in an environmental scheme can only be positive and that it's important for farmers to try to influence the scheme design.

'We learned to work together successfully'

During phase 1 of the trial, Harry worked with other farmers and land managers to produce LMPs detailing ideas, quantities and values to provide public goods in return for an ELM payment.

This trial demonstrates the ambition of land managers working together to provide landscape-scale benefits. Although working in this collaborative manner is nothing new for farmer groups – for example, when helping with local wildlife projects – joining forces to promote farmland conservation at this broader scale is something novel.

Reflecting on the trial, Harry said the greatest challenge was to work together at such a scale, but the land managers soon established processes to help make everything run smoothly. The success of the first phase has demonstrated that farmers with very different resources and needs can work together to provide what suits each particular farm. Each plan is tailored to the natural resources and assets each farm has.

Harry and the rest of the group hope the success of their work will inspire

others. They said:

“In the coming months, members of the 23 Burns Farmer Group will be looking at land management options that will tie together local Natural Capital Assets and thus deliver much more value to the environment from stewardship. These will include better management of arable and pasture land for invertebrates and farmland birds, plus watercourse protection and the development of wider-than-standard wildlife corridors.”

[Joint Statement at the 5th Round of Pakistan-UK Bilateral Consultation on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#)

World news story

The fifth round of Pakistan-United Kingdom Bilateral Consultations on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament was held virtually on 13 October 2020.



5th Round of Pakistan-UK Bilateral Consultation on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

Mr. Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Director General (Arms Control & Disarmament) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad and Ms. Samantha Job (Director Defence and International Security) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom, led their respective sides.

Both sides discussed issues on Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament in a cordial and constructive environment. Issues related to global and regional security and stability also came under discussion. The

two sides expressed commitment to further enhance coordination on multilateral fora.

Both sides appreciated the continuation of the Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consultations between Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

The two sides agreed to hold the sixth round of Consultations next year on a mutually agreed date.

For further information

For updates on the British High Commission, please follow our social media channels:

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