

**Best Value Tendering  
Questions and Answers  
21st October 2009**

**Q. When will we get more information about BVT?**

We intend to publish further information about BVT in November to enable potential bidders prepare for tendering.

**Q. Why are you going ahead when it has been announced that Sir Ian Magee will be reviewing legal aid?**

Sir Ian Magee has been asked by the Legal Aid minister to report on the delivery and governance arrangements of legal aid. This is not a policy review of the current reform programme and as such the proposals for BVT remain unaffected. Full details of his review remit are available at [www.justice.gov.uk](http://www.justice.gov.uk).

**Q. When will the new CDS contracts start?**

New contracts will start on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

**Q. Why did the tender not open in October as previously announced?**

The LSC has delayed the tender due to the MoJ consultation Legal Aid: Funding Reforms. As MoJ has stated it will respond to its consultation by December 2009 we have announced a new timetable that shows that the tender for BVT is now expected to commence in January 2010.

**Q. What can the LSC do for Providers to prepare them for BVT in the meantime?**

We have completed a series of training events in both pilot areas (Avon & Somerset and Greater Manchester) that allowed attendees to use the BVT auction software. We are planning a second round of these sessions in advance of the auctions being run.

In addition to this training we have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to create and deliver a series of free half day classroom training modules and e-learning modules that cover issues such as expanding your business, effective use of IT in legal practice, understanding your costs and profitability. For more information visit <http://www.legalservicesprovidertraining.co.uk/>.

For those not able to attend the seminars the training will be made available in a computer based training format and delivered through a freely accessible online system.