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June 2008

Dear colleague,

Forthcoming Bid Round Activity

I am writing to announce details of a forthcoming invitation to tender up to £10 million of additional Legal Help services in certain civil categories of law. All firms/agencies that meet our quality standards, whether currently contracted with us or not, can apply.

These invitations to tender will build on the success of the last three years in which the number of people helped through early civil legal advice has risen. It will also support our commitment to increasing access to integrated social welfare law (i.e. contracting with organisations that can deliver services to clients in at least three social welfare law categories).

Working with you, we would like to continue to increase the number of people helped and will shortly publish full details of the areas and categories of law where we want to procure more services for clients.

However, in the meantime, the headline priorities will be:

- Specialist advice in Domestic Violence or Public Law Children;
- General family advice where we wish to increase supply;
- Family Mediation services (where we will invite expressions of interest); and
- Social Welfare Law (Debt, Housing, Welfare Benefits, Community Care, and Employment) in areas where we wish to increase supply.

We will also be inviting tenders to provide immigration advice by telephone to individuals detained at police stations, and face-to-face immigration advice at Immigration Removal Centres. Organisations that submitted bids in November 2007 will need to submit a fresh tender in accordance with the new information for applicants.

Later in the year, we also intend to tender additional housing court duty schemes in areas with busy courts that do not already have a scheme or an arrangement in place.

We hope that you will take the opportunity to consider the Information for Applicants when it is published at the beginning of July and tender for further matter starts and/or expand into other specialist legal services so that more integrated services are available where they are needed.

Next Steps

Our regional offices will finalise their tender documents and we plan to publish invitations to tender at the beginning to July 08.

As a potential bidder, you will have least 28 days to reply to our invitation to tender; and successful bidders will be expected to begin delivering services within 12 weeks of notification of their bid being successful.

We would advise you to check our website regularly around this time, and we may also alert you to any bid-rounds through our LSC Update. (You should receive these electronic updates, but if you find it is not registered for these, please contact your LSC regional office).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Crowley". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Mike Crowley
Director, Contracting