

## **First Briefing Note: Family Graduated Fees (FGF) Review: July 2004**

As you will be aware from previous briefing notes, the Secretary of State has been conducting a review of FGF. Following representations from the Bar an increase to FGF rates by an overall average of 8% has been agreed.

Negotiations on how the increase will be distributed are nearing completion. Substantial structural revisions to the scheme have also been agreed during the review process, particularly in relation to Special Issue Payments.

The revised scheme with the new rates will be implemented in early February 2005 for work under new certificates issued or new proceedings added to existing certificates.

The Commission and the Bar are working together on the drafts of the Commission's forms and guidance.

A formal but shortened consultation on the amendments to the Funding Order and the guidance will take place in September. A full briefing pack will be distributed directly to counsel by the end of December 2004. That briefing pack will include the amended funding order, the commission's guidance, the judge's verification form and the revised CLS Claim 5

If you would like to take part in the consultation and would be able to respond within 2 weeks please contact Ruth Symons on 0207 759 0375 or by email [ruth.symons@legalservices.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.symons@legalservices.gov.uk).

All recipients of this notice will automatically get the fuller briefing pack. If you would like to be added to the list and are not on it already please notify Ruth Symons on the contact details above.