

#HelpUsSayYes Webinar: Advocate graduated fee scheme & criminal legal aid independent review (CLAIR)

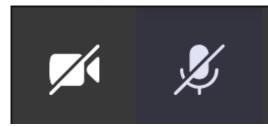
Advocate graduated fee scheme (AGFS) team

May 2024

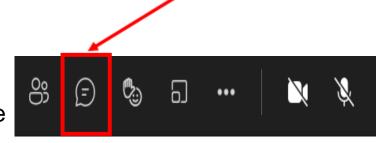
Technical tips for this webinar:

- 1. Please remain on mute during the webinar
- You can ask questions throughout the session through the 'meeting chat'
- 3. Click on the 'meeting chat' to ask a question
- 4. You can keep the meeting chat open throughout to view other people's questions
- 5. Email us if you experience technical issues during the webinar: <u>LAAHelpUsSayYes@justice.gov.uk</u>

Camera and audio off when icons appear like this:



Click here to view the meeting chat



Content

How to complete a Claim for Crown Court Defence (CCCD) application

LAA process

Additional guidance

Advocate Graduated Fee Scheme & Criminal Legal Aid Independent Review (CLAIR)

Purpose of the webinar:

To



By the end of the webinar, you will have an understanding of:

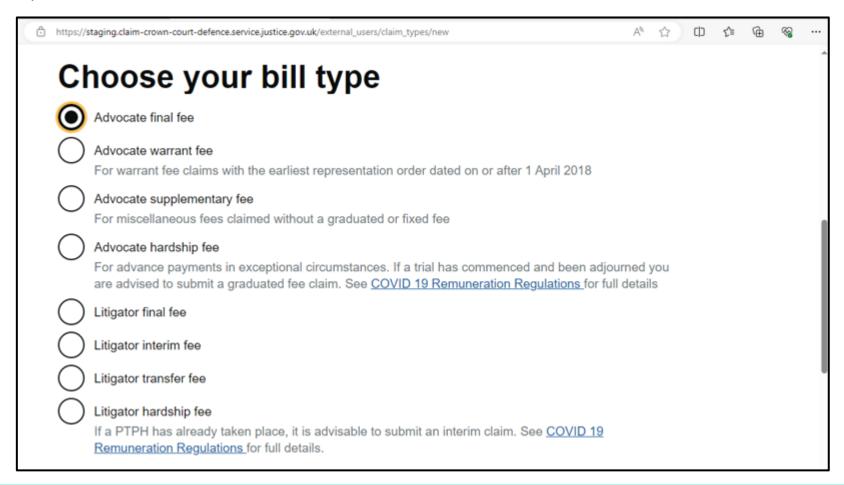
- The information needed to complete the claim for crown court defence (CCCD) application
- The LAA application process
- New fees that have been introduced following the criminal legal aid independent review



How to complete a Claim for Crown Court Defence (CCCD) application

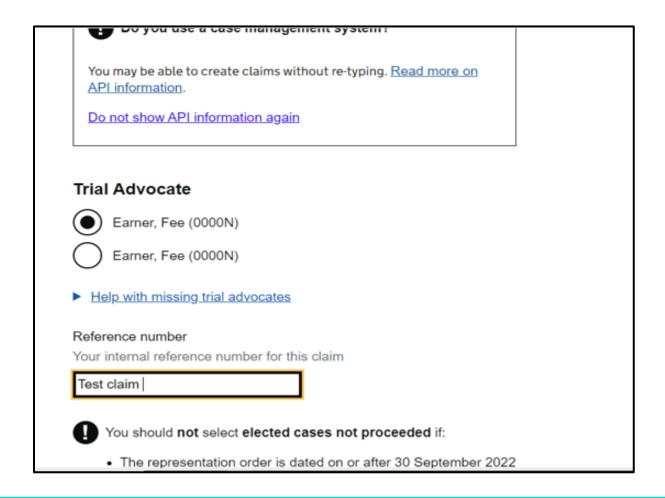
Bill type:

 Select the type of bill that you wish to claim from the list (for this example, we will be showing an AGFS final bill).



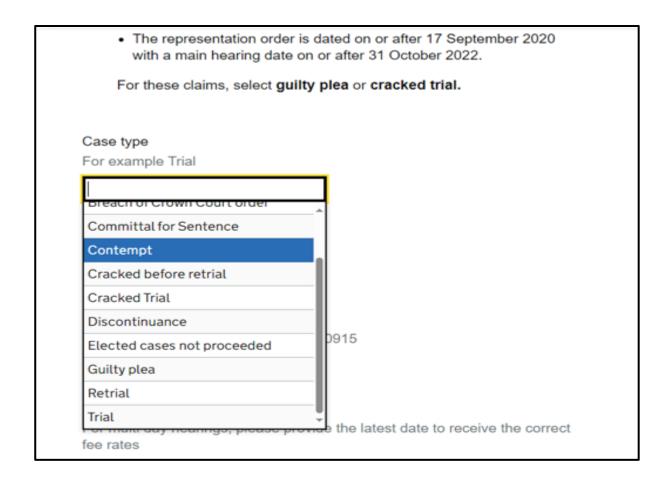
Add advocate:

Select the advocate who is making the claim:



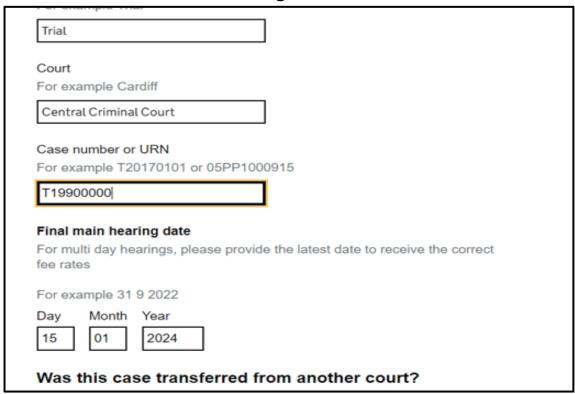
Type of case:

Select the type of case being claimed:



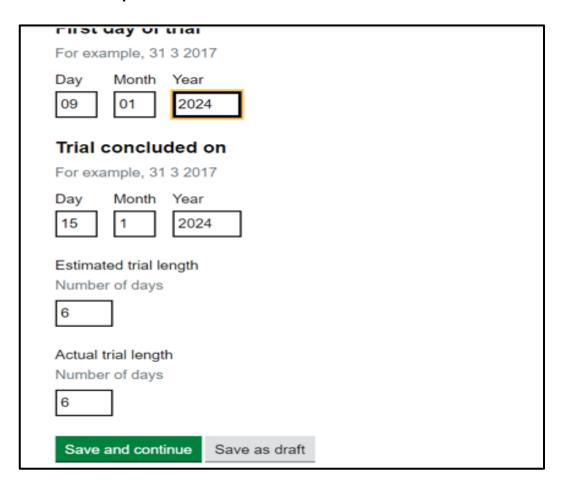
Court and case number:

- Confirm the court where the case was heard.
- Confirm the case number.
 - Please note: For Xhibit cases, provide the A,S or T numbers; For Common Platform cases use
 the URN for the case.
- Confirm the final date of the main hearing



Trial information:

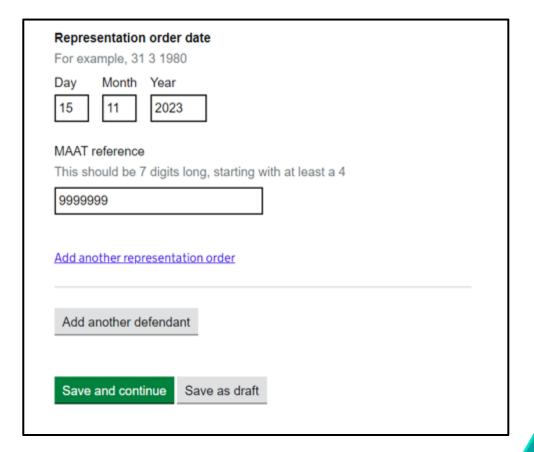
• For a trial complete the requested information:



Defendant details:

Complete the defendants' details including their MAAT number.
 Please note: Our internal system will create a claim based on the MAAT number



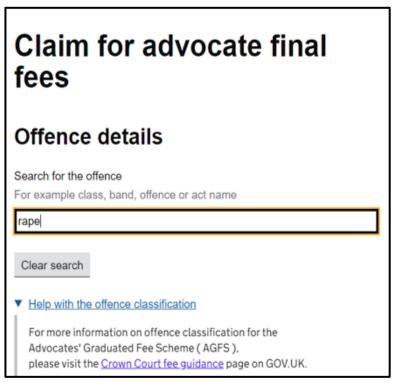


Offence:

Confirm the offence band you wish to claim from the indictment.

Please note: Once you have entered the offence, the system generates numerous options:

Review and choose one which matches the claim.

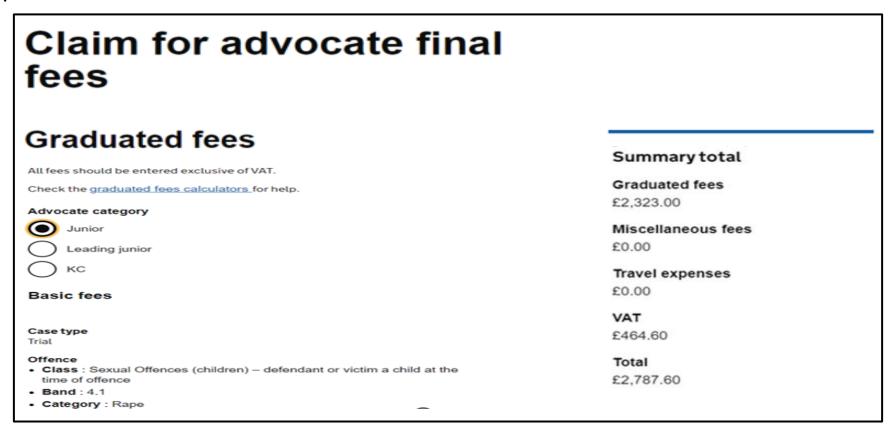






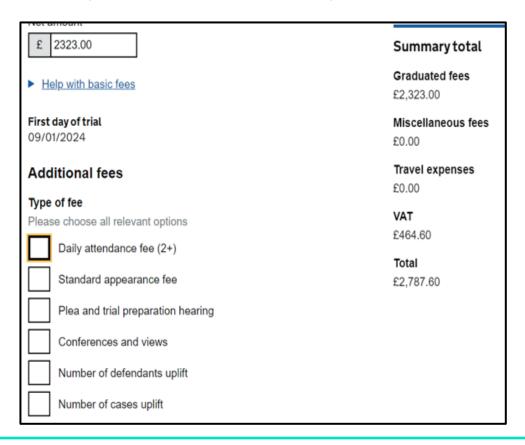
Category of advocate:

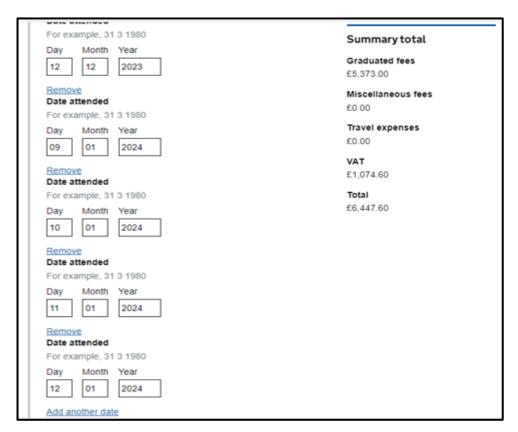
- Confirm the category of the advocate.
- Please note: The majority will have only one Counsel who will be a junior alone.
 - If the case has two Counsel or King's Counsel alone, an extending representation order will be required.



Trial: Additional information

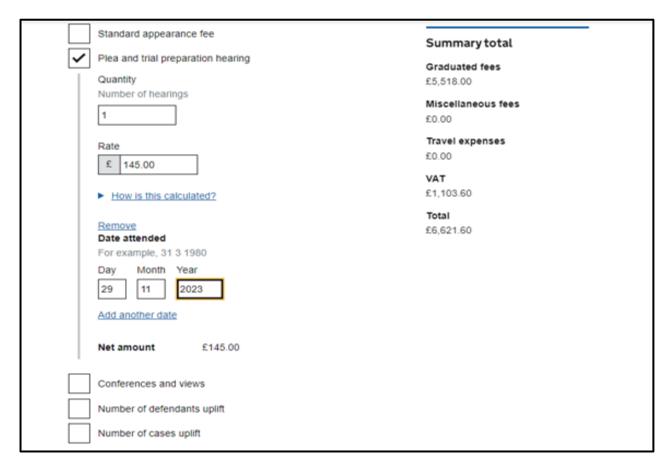
- As this matter is a trial, the first day of trial is part of the basic fee. All other trial days need to be claimed as daily attendance fees.
- In this scenario a section 28 hearing has occurred prior to the formal trial. This is payable as a trial
 day, but allowed as a daily attendance fee rather than the first day of trial.





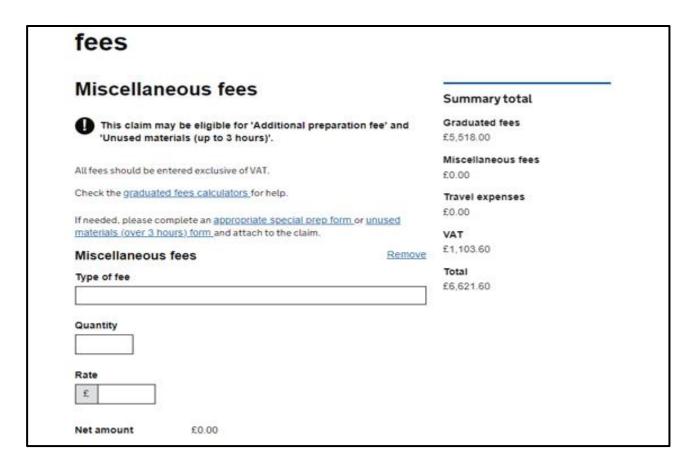
Trial: Additional information continued

 Some ancillary hearings can be added at this point, for example, plea and trial preparation hearing (PTPH) and standard appearance fees.



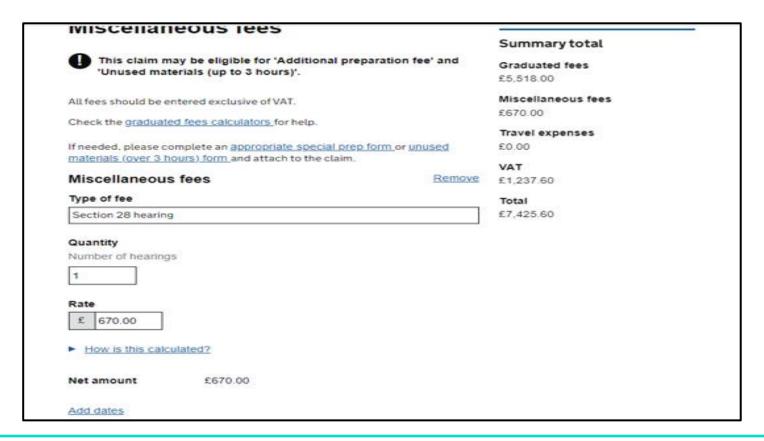
Miscellaneous fees:

 Miscellaneous fees, which cannot be selected on the previous page, can be included and selected as shown on the following screens:



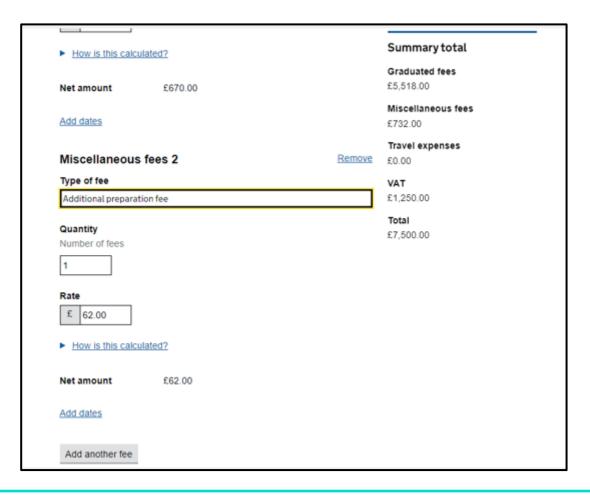
Miscellaneous fees: Type of fee

- For any case where a Section 28 hearing takes place, which has a representation order between 1 February and 15 November 2023, one section 28 fee of £670 is payable.
- For representation orders dated 16 November 2023 onwards this fee increases to £1000. This fee is additional to the daily attendance fee.



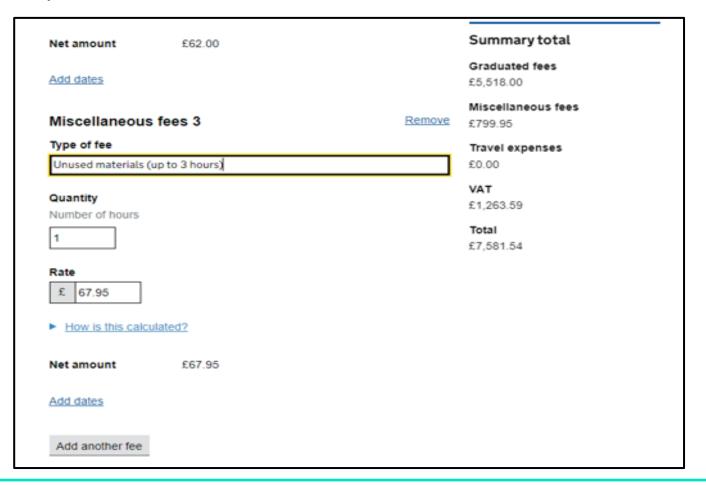
Miscellaneous fees: Additional preparation

 Additional preparation is payable on all cracked trial, or trial cases, with a representation order on or after 17 April 2023



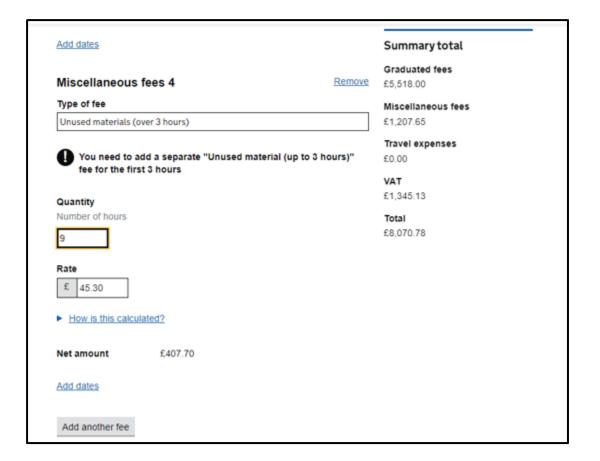
Miscellaneous fees: Unused material

 Unused material for the first 3 hours is payable on any cracked trial / trial case with a representation order on or after 17 September 2020.



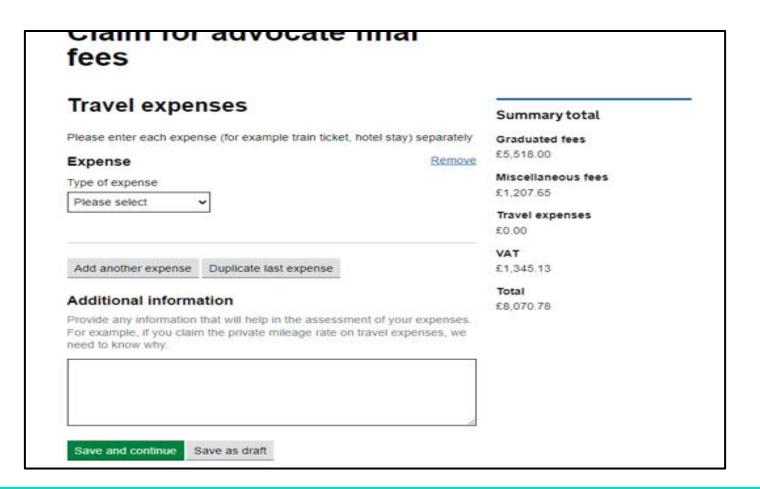
Miscellaneous fees: Unused material continued

- As per slide 19, the first 3 hours spent considering unused material is payable as a fixed fee.
- Any time above this is then claimed separately. For example:
 - If the total time spent considering unused material is 12 hours, any time in excess of the first 3 hours, a completed AU1 would be required.
 - For claims over 10 hours, we would require a worklog.



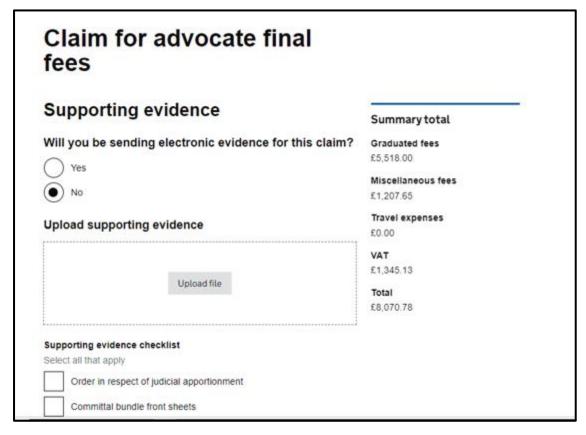
Travel expenses:

 Travel expenses would be added here as well as any additional information to allow us to consider the travel expenses.



Supporting evidence:

 If your claim has electronic evidence, for example, raw phone data claimed as PPE for a band 6 or band 9 offence, select the sending electronic evidence box and upload this to the secure file exchange.



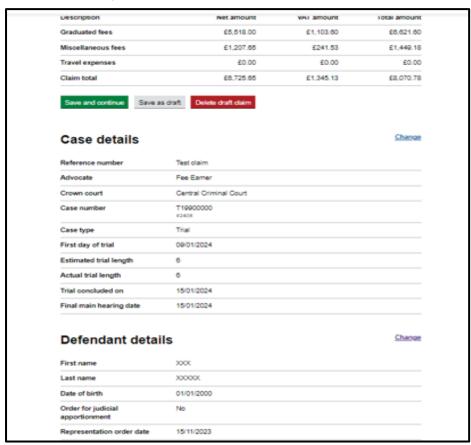
Supporting evidence checklist:

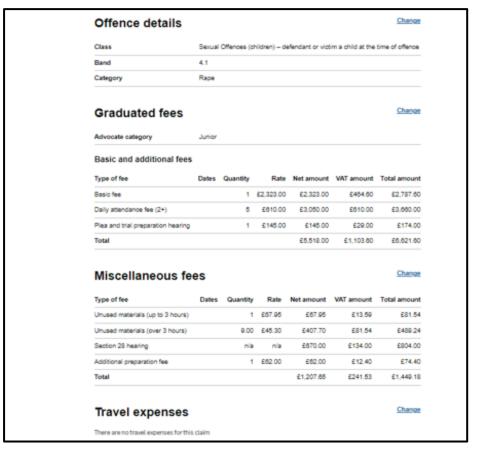
- Upload any relevant material for us to consider your claim.
 - If the matter is a case on indictment, rather than a fixed fee, it is mandatory to provide the supporting evidence.
 - You can provide additional information for any aspect of the case here

	Summary total
Supporting evidence checklist Select all that apply	Graduated fees £5,518.00
Order in respect of judicial apportionment Committal bundle front sheets	Miscellaneous fees £1,207.65
Copy of the indictment	Travel expenses £0.00
Representation order Hardship supporting evidence	VAT £1,345.13
Details of previous fee advancements	Total £8,070.78
Justification for out of time claim	
Special preparation form	
Prior authority CRM4 Additional information	
Provide any information that will help in the assessment of your claim	

Overview:

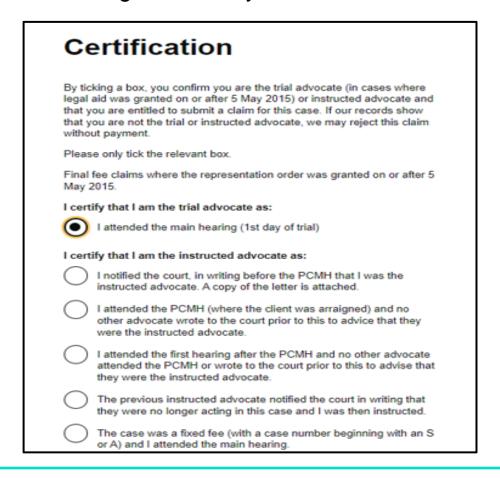
- You will be brought into an overview screen of what has been claimed
- You can make any amendments before submitting
- When you are satisfied with the information, select save and continue

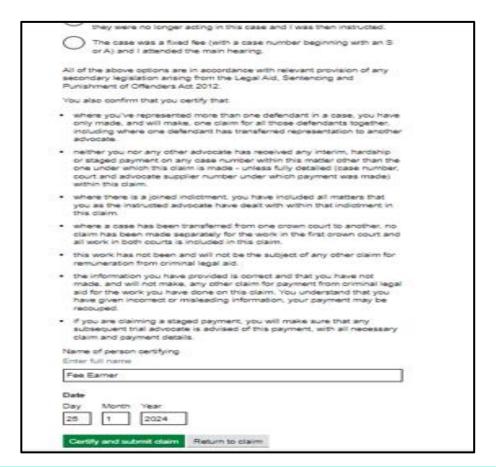




Certification:

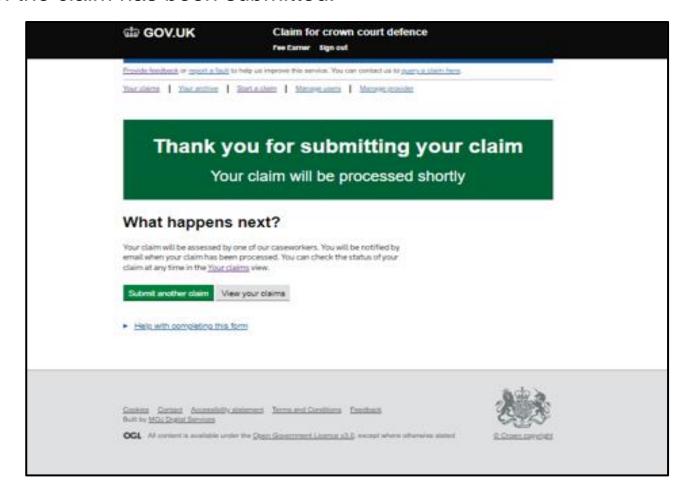
The certification page: For a claim with a representation order on or after 05/05/2015, the only
Counsel who can submit is the trial advocate. They would be the counsel who attended the main
hearing, or first day of trial.





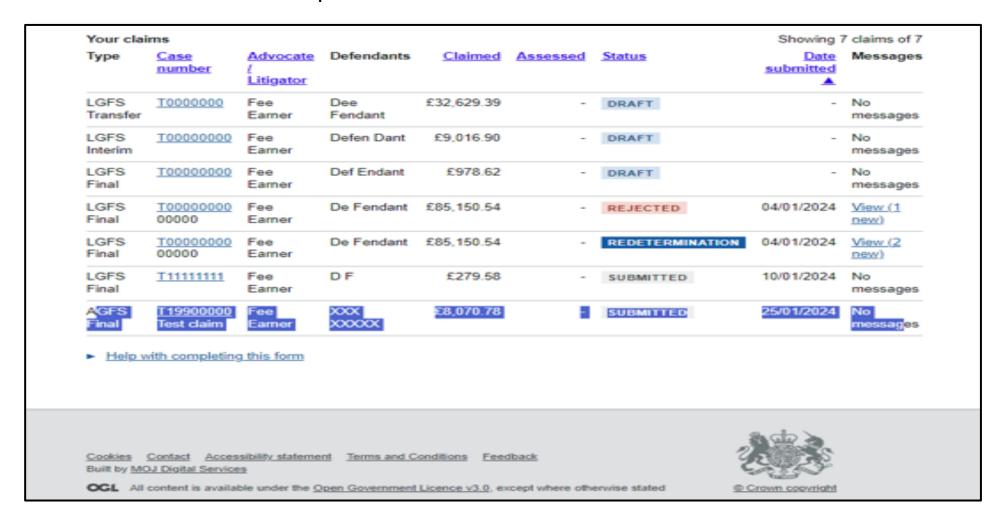
Submission confirmation:

Confirmation the claim has been submitted.



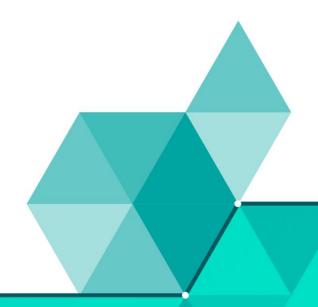
Provider list of claims:

The case will show within the provider list of claims.





LAA process

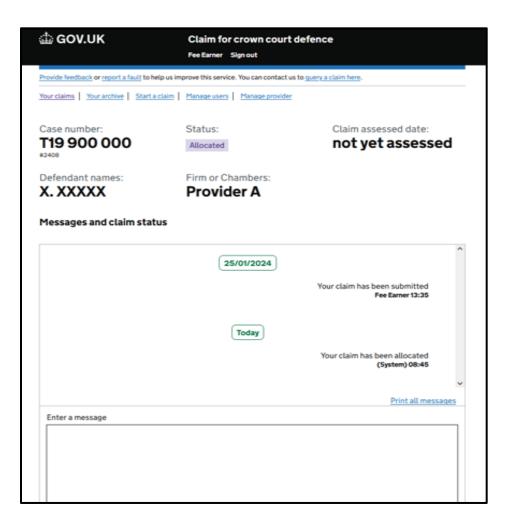


Information for providers:

 When the case has been allocated to a caseworker, the status will show as 'allocated'.

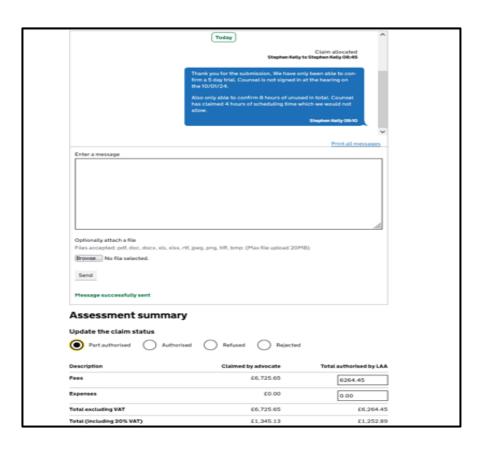
Please note: Occasionally we use holding queues for work allocations. This will appear the same to the provider as when it is allocated to a caseworker.

If you see a claim reallocated or allocated ahead of the time given on our website, this is likely what has occurred.

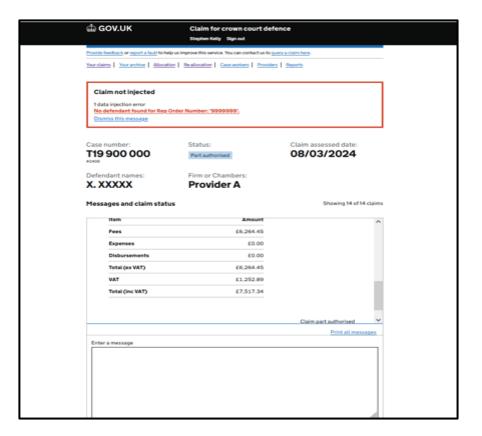


Assessment:

 When the assessment has been made, the caseworker will send a note explaining the assessment unless paid in full.

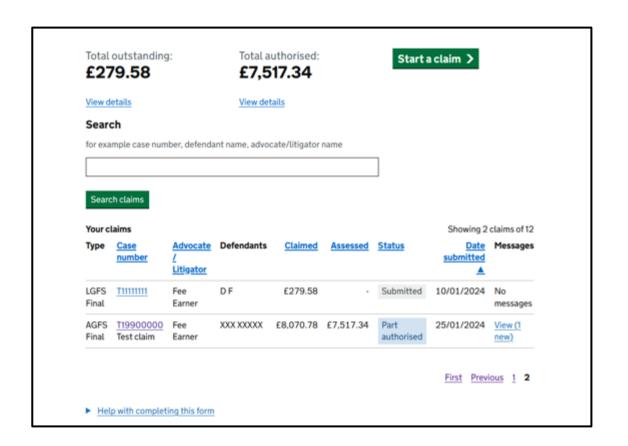


 The caseworker completes the assessment summary which details the figures paid.



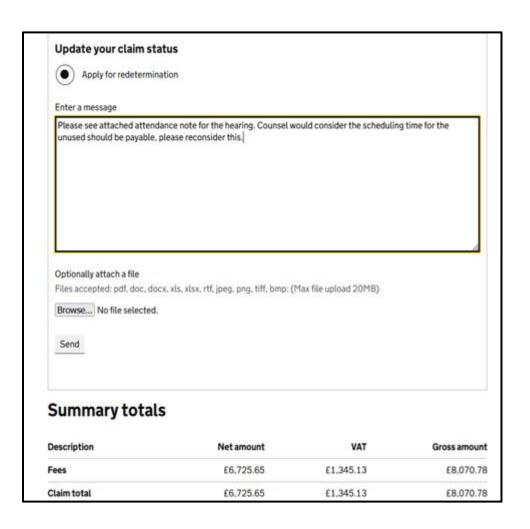
Provider list of claims once assessed:

- Once we have assessed the claim on CCCD, providers will see:
 - The amount assessed
 - The authorisation status (in this example it is part authorised).
 - A message, if applicable, which will explain the assessment.



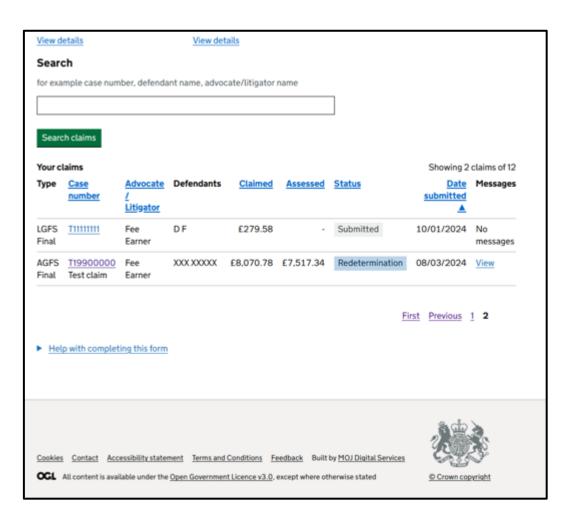
Appealing an assessment:

- If you wish to appeal the assessment made:
- Select 'Apply for redetermination'
- Complete the message field:
 - Explain the area of the assessment you disagree with
 - Attach any relevant evidence to support your appeal.



Redetermination:

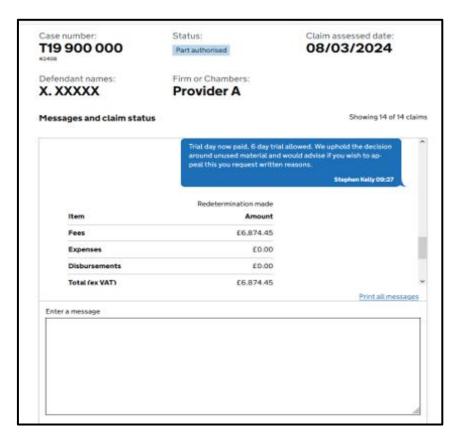
- Once the redetermination has been requested, it will show in the provider list of claims: Status will show as a redetermination.
- Then automatically sent to the AGFS appeals work queue, pending assessment.



Redetermination continued:

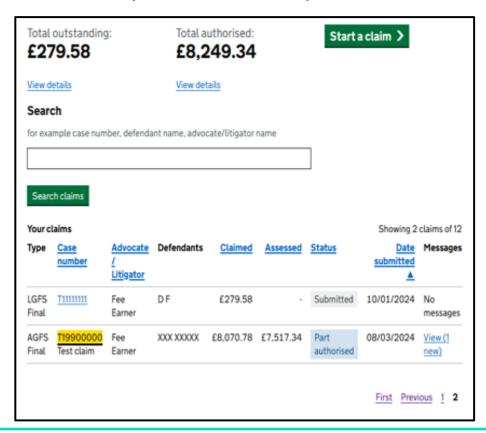
- The AGFS team will allocate the case to a caseworker who will consider the basis of the redetermination.
- Similarly to the original assessment, we will send a message and explain our decision on the redetermination.



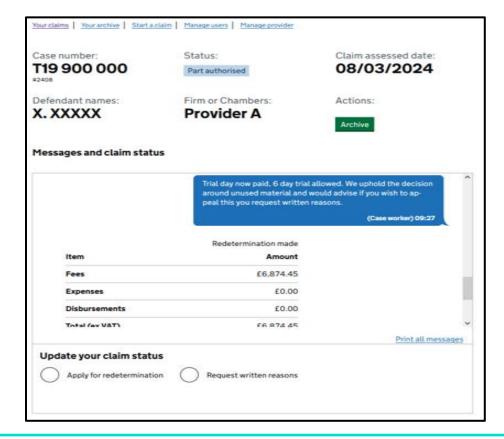


Post assessment:

- After assessment by the AGFS team the claim will show in the provider's queue with a new message
- The example below is still part authorised.



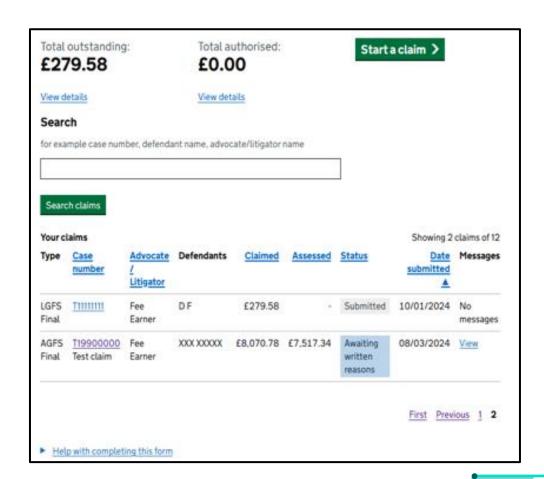
 On entering the main page for this case, Counsel will see the caseworker note and the amount paid.



Post assessment: Provider options

Provider will have 3 options:

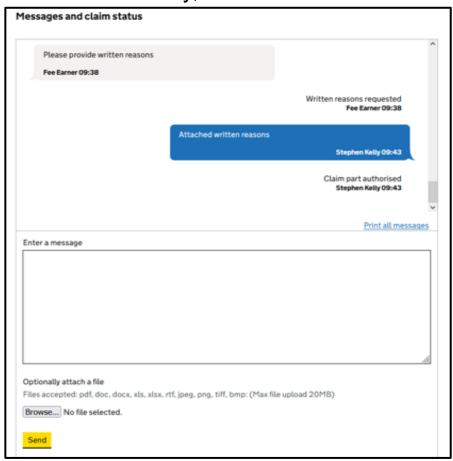
- 1. If you accept the assessment, you can archive the case.
- 2. Request further redetermination:
 - We advise only doing this after the first assessment if you can provide further information
- 3. Request written reasons:
 - If counsel does not agree with the decision made, we advise to request written reasons.
 These will be provided by an experienced caseworker if we agree with the decision previously made. This will allow counsel to go before a Costs Judge.
 - In this example we have chosen the request written reasons tab

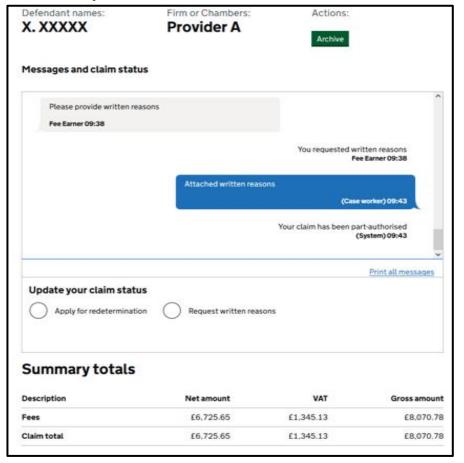


Next steps:

 Once the caseworker has provided written reasons, if Counsel decide to take this matter to the Senior Courts Cost Office, they have 21 days on receipt of the letter to do so.

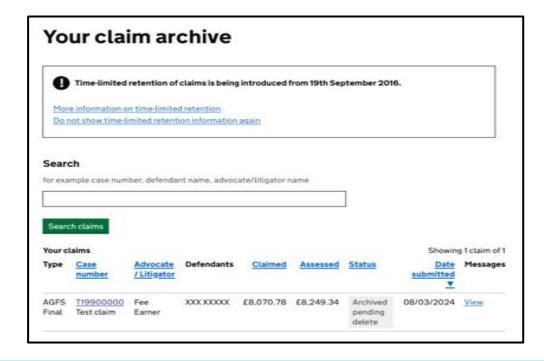
Alternatively, if counsel decides not to proceed, they can now choose to archive the case.

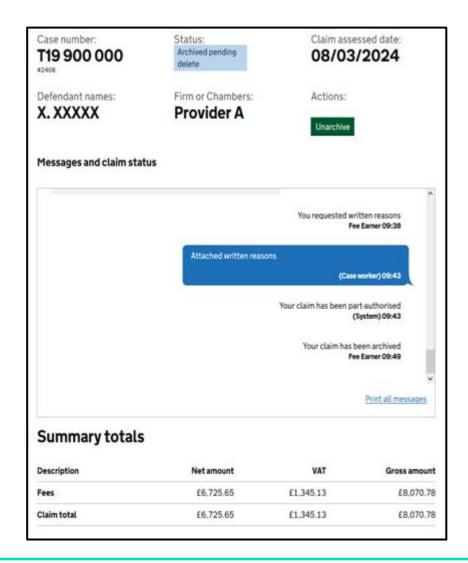




Archiving a claim:

- In this example counsel has decided to archive the claim:
 - The claim will still be available for 16 weeks after archiving.
 - The claim can be unarchived during those 16 weeks if required..







Additional guidance / contact us



Useful links / contact us:

Links:

Secure file exchange:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/secure-file-

exchange

Processing dates: <u>Crime processing dates</u> -

GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Offence list: <u>Banding of offences in the</u>

Advocates' Graduated Fee Scheme - GOV.UK

(www.gov.uk)

Contact us:

 For any electronic evidence claim that needs to be sent directly to our office, please send to the following:

FAO: AGFS team, Floor 3

1, Unity Square,

Queensbridge Rd,

Nottingham

NG2 1AW

DX 10035

Our training website:

Crime guidance

Ministry of Justice: Crime landing page



Online Support Webchat

Use Webchat for help with IT system issues

Webinar Recordings

- Our 'Help Us Say Yes' webinars focus on areas where there have been issues or high enquiry levels
- Popular sessions are posted on the training website: Ministry of Justice

Our communication channels:

Legal Aid Bulletin

- A fortnightly e-alert with links to relevant pages
- Join our thousands of subscribers: <u>Sign-up to LAA</u> <u>Bulletin >></u>



Social Media

- Follow us on X (formerly Twitter)
- Get help from our customer service twitter account
- Read our blog





Legal Aid Agency

13th Floor (13.51) 102 Petty France London SW1H 9AJ

gov.uk/government/organisations/legal-aid-agency

