

CONFIDENTIAL

CCBG



Prime Minister 4

for X.

DRW  
16/7

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, CH, FRS, DCL  
 Lord Chancellor's Department  
 House of Lords  
 London  
 SW1A 0PW

15 July 1986

Dec Qmt,

## CRIMINAL LEGAL AID REMUNERATION

Thank you for your minute of 11 July about the revised basis on which you propose to determine criminal legal aid fees from 1 October.

I understand that our officials have agreed to the somewhat tighter terms of reference attached for the joint committee to determine the data about current payments for criminal legal aid work required to reform your statutory decision. I also understand that your decision will make it doubly clear that this procedure will not provide for other information, such as "comparability".

X | On working practices, I understand your officials have said that the leaders of the Bar would undertake before your decision is conveyed to them that silks would appear without juniors by the end of this year, and that your letter of decision would make it clear to the Bar and the Law Society that, if further specific improvements in court procedures are not in operation by 1 April next, that failure would be taken into account in your next determination of these fees.

On these understandings, I am content that you should settle this matter on the revised basis you propose.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Michael Havers, John Wakeham, Douglas Hurd, Malcolm Rifkind, David Young and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ev,  
 JH

JOHN MacGREGOR

THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE LCD AND THE BAR ON  
CRIMINAL LEGAL AID DATA

CONSTITUTION

There shall be two members representing the Bar, and the Deputy Secretary Legal Administration Group and PEFO from the Lord Chancellor's Department. Power to co-opt further Bar and LCD representatives is available subject to there being equal numbers from each side.

The terms of reference shall be:

- 1) to determine the data about current payments for criminal legal aid work required to inform the Lord Chancellor's statutory decision on criminal legal aid remuneration;
- 2) to decide how those data are best acquired and to arrange annually for their acquisition, if necessary using an agreed consultant to advise on and undertake each task;
- 3) to present to the Lord Chancellor the data so acquired.

