A menu of civil legal aid policy options for a new government

Abandon 'matter starts' as a constraint or measure on capacity (1.1 ii).

Reduce the administrative burden on legal aid providers (3.1).

First 100 days



At this point, produce a fully-costed plan for increased remuneration and ongoing review of fee rates (3.2).

Address 'pipeline' issues by funding legal aid traineeships and retention support (3.3).

Implement a 'polluter pays' costs regime in a wider range of jurisdictions (2.1).

year







3 years

Extend legal aid for civil damages cases, eg housing disrepair (2.2).

Implement free early legal advice for private family law cases (and other matters) (2.3).

Alternative point to move away from contracts: see FN1

Cost-saving

6 months

Implement data collection to

inform MoJ about adequacy of

Develop a strategy for

addressing advice deserts and

droughts identified in 1.3 (3.4).

provision by area (1.3).



Cost neutral



Spend-to-save

Develop a public service-based mixed model for provision with different funding schemes for not for profits (1.1 iii).

Defragment the structure and routes of advice (1.2), considering co-location (3.5) and holistic provision (3.6).

Demarketise – move away from contracts **(1.1 i)**¹.

5 years **Next election**



1 The timing of this depends on the election date. New contracts are due to begin in September 2024 and the tendering process has concluded. It might also depend on legal advice as to when contracts can be terminated and replaced, meaning this may have to wait until the 3-year point.