



27 March 2023

Kia ora koutou,

I am pleased to announce the introduction of the duty lawyer minimum payment policy which will now allow duty lawyers to be paid for a minimum of two hours on weekdays and a minimum of four hours on weekends and public holidays.

This policy will take effect on 3 April 2023 as the standard approach for duty lawyer payments and will override any previous agreements. The intention for this is to provide a consistent approach to support duty lawyers nationally that are rostered on for short attendances or on-call attendances.

Feedback was received from duty lawyers from different parts of New Zealand, Court Service Managers and Public Defence Service Supervisors.

As advised in my letter dated of 26 May 2022, a Duty Lawyer Service review is planned to take place this year. This review will further explore coverage and rostering and we will be engaging with you throughout this review. I anticipate that we will be able to address more of the challenges through the review and believe this is another step towards positive change in this space.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the legal aid service, I look forward to continuing to work together as we continue to make further improvements in the future.

Nāku iti noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Baguley".

Tracey Baguley

Legal Services Commissioner