

2016 Contract renewal - Questions and Answers

Below are some questions you may have when considering the new 2016 Provider Contract for Services:

1) What happens if I don't sign the new contract?

If you do not sign the new contract, you will no longer be able to do legal aid work after 30 November 2016.

2) What do I do if I no longer want to be a legal aid provider?

If you no longer want to provide legal aid services, please let us know by emailing legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz.

3) What are the differences between the old contract and the new contract?

The new contract is more streamlined and clarifies existing rights and obligations. It might look different, but the substance has not changed.

However, we have added some minor obligations for providers that reflect good professional practice, and that won't be onerous for providers. These are that the provider must:

1. keep records of proceeds of proceedings
2. advise the Secretary for Justice if they have been made bankrupt or if their firm has been made insolvent. This is for information purposes and is not intended to prevent the provider from providing legal aid services
3. notify the Secretary for Justice of any sanction imposed by a judicial officer
4. notify the Legal Services Commissioner if they become aware the Court has made an order relating to costs.

We have also changed the Firm's Undertaking to reflect the provider's obligation to take all reasonable steps to protect the interests of the Legal Services Commissioner.

You can find more detail on the changes made to the new contract in the [Consultation Response Report](#).

4) Who do I contact if I have any questions about the new contract?

Please send any queries relating to the new contract to legalaidprovider@justice.govt.nz.