



Legal Costs Review

Public Advertisement for Submissions

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform has established a Working Group to identify ways of reducing legal costs. The highest priority is to reduce the cost of civil litigation. The Group will consider how costs are taxed and explore whether changes to the present system are required.

The Legal Costs Working Group's role is outlined below:

- to examine the present level of legal fees and costs arising in civil litigation; how such fees and costs arise and are calculated; the basis for such fees and costs, and the system and arrangements in place in the State relating to the taxation of costs,
- to undertake a historical analysis of fees and costs to determine whether the relative level of such fees and costs have increased over time and, if so, the reasons for such increase,
- to the extent that the Group ~~thinks~~ appropriate, to undertake a comprehensive study of the systems and methods employed in other jurisdictions for setting and determining fees and costs in civil litigation,
- to consider whether a scale of solicitor's costs and counsel's fees should be made by way of regulation as provided for by section 46 of the Court and Court Officers Act 1995, and
- on the basis of the aforementioned examination and study, to make recommendations for initiatives or changes in this area which, in the Group's considered view, would lead to, or assist in, a reduction of costs associated with civil litigation, would improve accessibility to justice and provide for greater transparency.

The Legal Costs Working Group now invites written submissions from interested parties in relation to the matters set out above. Submissions should be confined to the aforementioned matters and should arrive not later than 5 p.m. on Friday, 19 November 2004.

Submissions in writing should be sent to:

Liam Smyth
Courts Policy Division
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform
Old Faculty Building
Shelbourne Road
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

Submissions can also be made by e-mail to:
lasmyth@justice.ie

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003 will apply to submissions received.

— Lay rights
 — Taxation issues
 — Costs Transparency
 — concepts are here
 section 46
 no competition
 direct access
 to barristers
 support
 lay litigants
 in
 family
 law.

Value for Money
Quality of Service