

**LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY NORTHERN IRELAND
GRANT 1 : VARIATION 1**

**GRANT TO HOUSING RIGHTS SERVICE
Mortgage Repossession and Ejectment Proceedings**

1. This is a variation to a Grant issued on 8 October 2015 by the Legal Services Agency Northern Ireland (“the Agency”) under Article 12(2)(c) of the Access to Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 to the Housing Rights Service, (HRS) a company limited by guarantee (NI021018) having its registered office at Middleton Buildings, 10-12 High Street, Belfast BT1 2BA.
2. The original Grant provided Housing Rights Service with funding of £66,000 per annum, for three years with effect from 1 April 2015, for the provision of advice and assistance at one court appearance per client in relation to:
 - (a) Order 88 possession proceedings in the High Court based on mortgage arrears in respect of residential property, where the debt is admitted and there is no defence to the proceedings; or
 - (b) ejectment proceedings in the County Court and the Recorders Courts based on rent arrears in respect of residential property, where the debt is admitted and there is no defence to the proceedings.
3. The original Grant was to run for a period of three years from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018, subject to quarterly compliance visits and annual renewal. A full evaluation of the service will be conducted in 2018. The Agency retains the right to vary the value of the payments, following a quarterly review or as part of the annual renewal should the compliance visits be unsatisfactory or if there is a significant and unexplained downturn in the volume of services provided under the grant.
4. As a result of a review of the Grant undertaken following the second quarter 2016, this variation to the original grant reflects the downturn in the volume of services provided. This variation to the grant makes no change to the terms of

paragraphs 4 to 7 and 10 of the original Grant which are deemed to have continuous effect as part of this variation.

5. Paragraph 8 of the original Grant is varied to amend the sum payable under the Grant for 2016/17 from £66,000 per annum to £29,700 per annum. The sum will continue to be paid in quarterly instalments in arrears, as set out in the revised Annex to this variation. Housing Rights Service cannot claim any expenses or fees in excess of the maximum sum covered by this Grant.
6. Paragraph 9 of the original Grant is varied to substitute the volume of the acts of assistance to be provided under this Grant from 600 to 270 in the 12 month period, commencing 1 April 2016. Housing Rights Service continues to be responsible for advising the Agency at the earliest opportunity if it considers that the acts of assistance which will be delivered under the Grant in 2016/17 will not reach the 270 threshold.

Signed on behalf of the
Legal Services Agency Northern Ireland



Paul Andrews
Chief Executive and Director of Legal Aid Casework

Date: 10th November 2016

PAYMENT SCHEDULE 2016/17

The first quarterly instalment for the period April to June 2016 shall be paid in arrears within 10 days of receipt of the invoice for the services provided during that quarter. The first quarterly payment will be in the sum of £16,500 as provided for under the original grant.

Subsequently and until the end of 2016/17 the Grant, the invoice for the services provided will be considered for authorisation upon completion of the Quarterly Compliance Visit. The Housing Rights Service will submit the monthly reports as soon as possible after the month end. The Agency will conduct the Quarterly Compliance Visit hereafter as soon as practicable and in any event within 10 business days of the end of each quarter. Following the Compliance visit the Agency will provide the report within 5 days and then if the report is satisfactory the invoice will be authorised for payment. Subject to a satisfactory compliance visit payment each quarter will be authorised by the Agency within 20 business days of the end of the quarter. Each subsequent quarterly payment will be for the sum of £4,400.

The Agency may, with the agreement of the Department apply a reduction to the value of the payments, following a quarterly review or as part of the annual renewal should the compliance visits be unsatisfactory or if there is a significant and unexplained downturn in the volume of services provided under the grant. The terms of the grant will not be changed without consultation with the Housing Rights Service.