



ALPHABIOLABS
SETTING THE STANDARD

LSC may appeal against legal aid ruling

Following the High Court's decision to quash the outcome of the Legal Services Commission's tender round for new family legal aid contracts, the chair of the LSC, Sir Bill Callaghan, has said they are considering appealing the decision.

The High Court declared that the LSC's family legal aid tender round was unlawful and severely hindered access to justice for vulnerable children and their parents. However, the LSC has been given permission to appeal.

Sir Bill said: "Our commitment has always been to ensure that vulnerable people across England and Wales have access to justice. Whatever we do will continue to be motivated by this imperative.

"We are currently considering the detail of the judgment and its implications, including whether to appeal. We are conscious of the uncertainty facing providers and will publish further information in due course."

Prize Winner



**Vincents
Solicitors**
Longridge

Congratulations to **Sarah Tripper** of Vincent Lavery Solicitors who is this month's Customer Feedback Questionnaire winner.

Ms Tripper is the winner of a fantastic Toshiba Camileo S20 HD Camcorder

Congratulations once again from all at Alpha Biolabs, and don't forget to complete your feedback

In his judgment Mr Justice Moses declared the LSC breached procurement law by failing to give advance notice of the requirement for panel membership. The judge quashed the contracts in four categories of practice: family; housing and family; children only; and child abduction.

However, the LSC may decide that instead of appealing it is cheaper and quicker to launch a new tender specifically addressing the procurement procedural issues identified by the High Court.

The Law Society brought the judicial review after the recent LSC tender round of family legal aid contracts cut the number of firms by 46% that would have been able to do family law work from 14 October.

Child benefit to be withdrawn from the middle classes

The Chancellor said Britain can no longer afford universal benefits for the best-paid as it battles its budget deficit.

So from 2013, households where anyone earns more than £44,000 a year will have to pay back through the tax system any money they claim in child benefit.

"For higher rate taxpayers, we're going to withdraw this," he told ITV's Daybreak. "It's a tough but fair decision."

He added: "It's just not fair to ask someone who's on £15,000 or £20,000 a year to be paying for the child benefit of someone who's on

questionnaires for a chance to win one of our fanstatic prizes!



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£50,000 or even more."

"At any other time, I wouldn't do this. But Labour left us with a heck of a mess."

At present, child benefit is paid universally and is worth £20.30 a week for the first child and £13.40 a week for any other children - meaning a mother of three would receive almost £2,500 per year.



away from collecting payment from the other party.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Law Autumn NEC 2010

Law Autumn NEC will be held in the NEC Gallery, Birmingham on 13th and 14th October 2010.

Law Autumn NEC 2010 will host a number of high profile conferences integrated with an essential exhibition.

Over 2,000 visitors from across the profession including partners, lawyers, management and professional support staff are anticipated to attend.

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