
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

Under Schedule 3 to the Access to Justice Act 1999 the authority responsible for granting rights to publicly funded representation for criminal cases may make an information request to the Secretary of State for information about an individual who has applied for representation, to facilitate the making of decisions about financial eligibility. The information may include information about the individual's benefit status. These Regulations prescribe the relevant benefits and permit the authority to seek information about the amount of any prescribed benefits being received.

The impact assessment which was prepared for section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 is applicable to this instrument. It is available at www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-bill.htm and from Criminal Legal Aid Strategy Division, Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, London SW1H 9AJ.