

# Hon Kiri Allan

MP for East Coast  
Minister of Justice  
Minister for Regional Development  
Associate Minister of Transport



10 MAY 2023

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Tēnā koe Frazer

## Duty lawyer hourly rates

Thank you for your letter of 6 April 2023, supporting the Criminal Bar Association's recent request to increase the hourly rate for duty lawyers.

As you raise in your letter, the Government's recent investment in the legal aid scheme in Budget 2022 marks our commitment to the important service provided by lawyers on the front line. This funding marks the first significant change to legal aid funding in some time, providing funding to increase eligibility thresholds for legal aid and address remuneration issues for legal aid lawyers over the next three years.

I acknowledge that this funding did not contribute to an increase in remuneration for duty lawyers. As you will understand, significant additional funding would be required to increase remuneration for duty lawyers, and would therefore need to be subject to future budget processes.

As you note in your letter, the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) is undertaking work towards addressing challenges with the duty lawyer service, including a review of the Duty Lawyer Service that will be started in the coming months, which will include existing coverage and rostering issues. I understand the Ministry will be engaging with you and your members throughout this review.

Thank you for providing your input into this important issue.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Allan', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Kiri Allan  
**Minister of Justice**