

# **News story: Civil news: 2018 tender update on CLA contracts**

A tender for specialist 2018 CLA telephone advice contracts opens on 26 September 2017.

## **When will new contracts begin?**

New CLA contracts will be signed in late May of 2018 with services starting on 1 September 2018.

The contracts will cover work in the categories of:

- family
- housing and debt
- education
- discrimination

## **How long will the contracts last?**

Each 2018 Civil Legal Advice contract will initially run until 31 August 2021, with an option for LAA to extend for up to a further 2 years.

## **Current contract extensions**

Existing telephone advice contracts to deliver these services are being extended to 31 August 2018.

## **Entry requirements and submitting a bid**

The tender process is open to both existing contract holders and new entrants. It is a single stage process that will assess an organisation's suitability to contract with us and their ability to meet our service requirements.

This will be a competitive tender based on quality and price. We intend to award:

- 2 CLA contracts in the family category
- 3 CLA contracts in each of the housing and debt, education and discrimination categories

Our GOV.UK pages contain further information about:

- tender timetable
- entry requirements
- management of the tenders
- submitting a tender bid

## Deadline for tender submissions

All bids must be made through LAA's eTendering system by 5pm on 10 November 2017:

## Provider enquiries

[Legal aid civil tender 2018](#) – information for potential applicants

[e-Tendering system](#) – for submitting bids and using the message boards for questions about the process

Email [help@bravosolution.co.uk](mailto:help@bravosolution.co.uk) or telephone 0800 0698630 for technical questions about using the eTendering system

[Tender process for 2018 contracts opens](#) – GOV.UK news story on 19 September 2017

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## [News story: Veterans encouraged to sign up for career transition events](#)

The London Veterans and Advisory Pensions Committee (VAPC) is encouraging veterans seeking employment to attend a series of career transition events, the first of which will be held on 2 October 2017.

The events are organised by companies who are working with the Veterans Employment Transition Support (VETS) programme. Alex Jablonowski of London VAPC and a member of the VETS steering committee said:

The VETS scheme continues to enrol substantial numbers of veterans seeking career opportunities. We also have a strong flow of mentors coming forward to advise and counsel those veterans. 37 signed up in just one week recently!

Job opportunities are continuing to grow and several new corporate partners have signed up in the past weeks who bring with them new roles and mentors.

In addition to the events mentioned below, new roles are constantly being added to the [VETS Website](#) and it is well worth looking at these and forthcoming events to view opportunities which you may not have considered.

The following events are designed for veterans interested in a career in financial services:

- 2 to 6 October 2017, Bishopsgate: free week's training course on management consultancy in the financial services sector, for more information contact [adam.libbey@bishopsgate-financial.com](mailto:adam.libbey@bishopsgate-financial.com) or telephone 0207 448 3000
- 20 October 2017, Barclays military cyber awareness: Barclays are already a major employer of veterans, and are offering a series of presentations about the different functions within Barclays and the roles available, for more information contact [john.chantry2@barclays.com](mailto:john.chantry2@barclays.com)

VETS is a coalition of partners that have come together to support all veterans as they seek to find the right job. The coalition consists of a broad range of leading companies from across the commercial sector such as Barclays, Carillion, Deloitte, Jaguar Land Rover, the Ministry of Defence, the Career Transition Partnership as well as service charities.

VETS aims to join up the existing transition support initiatives into a single programme that significantly improves employment outcomes for veterans and businesses.

You can contact the VETS team at [vetshub@barclayscorp.com](mailto:vetshub@barclayscorp.com) or via the [VETS website](#).

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## [News story: Alun Cairns joins Aston Martin to promote careers in STEM to St Athan pupils](#)

Secretary of State for Wales, Alun Cairns joined engineering apprentices from Aston Martin to promote the value of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subject careers to pupils from St Athan Primary School on Monday 25 September.

This came as the luxury car manufacturer announced last year that its first Welsh-made cars will roll out of the St Athan factory in 2019, creating around 750 new jobs in the Vale of Glamorgan site, with a likely further 1,000 across the supply chain and local businesses.

Pupils were excited to come face to face with the brand new DB11 model and a Rapide S, as they learnt more about the work of the apprentices and history of the firm. Apprentices Luca Freemantle, Varun Mudan and Neath-born Adam Hill spoke to pupils about the company's four-year scheme, and how they were looking forward to moving into the Welsh site over the next couple of years.

The new St Athan site will manufacture two four door models exclusive to Wales; the Rapide E electric model and the DBX, Aston Martin's first 'crossover' sports utility vehicle.

## **Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns said:**

Aston Martin's move to Wales is hugely significant in making St Athan an important centre of employment, bringing with it valuable skills and a lasting legacy for the entire region.

I hope that pupils like these will take an interest in STEM subjects to become the apprentices, manufacturers and business leaders of the future, contributing to the UK's rich automotive export history, and making Wales a great place to invest and do business.

Aston Martin's decision to invest in Wales shows that we are creating and supporting the right conditions for industry investment. The UK Government's comprehensive industrial strategy will build on that success, ensuring that we have the right infrastructure, skills and support in place for our world-leading industries as well as support for new emerging sectors to flourish.

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## **Press release: PM meeting with Donald Tusk: 26 September 2017**

The Prime Minister began by re-stating her wish for a bold and unique new economic partnership with the EU, based on a joint commitment to free trade and high standards.

Returning to the theme of her speech in Florence last week, the PM said the UK and the EU should be imaginative and creative about the way this new relationship is established. The PM said she was optimistic about a joint future which benefits both the EU and the UK.

President Tusk welcomed the PM's speech, which he described as constructive in progressing talks between the UK and the 27 member states.

The PM and President Tusk welcomed the good progress that had been made on citizens' rights in the talks so far, and restated their commitment to finding a positive solution to the issue of the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

The PM also stressed the importance of agreeing a period of implementation once Britain leaves the EU in March 2019. She said this would build a bridge to that new relationship that ensures the process is smooth and orderly and creates as much certainty as possible for everyone.

At the end of the meeting, the PM said her Florence speech had been intended to create momentum in the ongoing talks. She said it was important for EU negotiators to now respond in the same spirit.

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## [News story: Decommissioning milestone at Oldbury nuclear site in Gloucestershire](#)

Decommissioning of the former used fuel cooling ponds at Oldbury site has reached a major milestone.

A total of 109 low level waste skips, the containers which were used to hold fuel elements once they had been removed from the reactor, have now been safely taken out of the ponds; processed and packaged for storage.

It marks a significant step along the journey to fully decommissioning the cooling ponds.

Work at the site will now focus on removing the pond furniture and remaining skips, which are currently storing other components, before the end of the year.

This will be followed by draining of the pond water and stabilisation of the surfaces, due to take place in 2018.

Rob Taylor, Magnox Ltd Ponds Campaign Manager at Oldbury, said:

The work was completed in challenging conditions but was delivered ahead of schedule.

The achievement is a significant one for the site as we work towards decommissioning the facilities that once allowed it to operate, in a safe and efficient manner.

[Ponds decommissioning milestone delivered at Oldbury site](#)

[Find out more about Oldbury nuclear site in South Gloucestershire](#)

[Find out more about radioactive waste in the UK](#)