# **Consultation Questions**

Q1 Do you agree that there is a legitimate public interest in the provision of high-level information which indicates the areas in which legal aid is expended? If not, please explain your objections.

Q2 Do you agree that the proposed approach to publication in Table 9 would be an appropriate starting point pending the development of Official Statistics? If not, please explain your objections.

Q3 Do you agree that the proposed approach to publication in Table 10 would be an appropriate starting point pending the development of Official Statistics? If not, please explain your objections.

Q4 Do you agree with the principle that accountability for legal aid expenditure extends to indicating which suppliers received public funds for the provision of publicly funded legal services? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q5 Leaving aside how the supplier is identified, do you agree that, when possible, Table 11 presents an appropriate mechanism to provide a transparent mechanism to show how public funds are expended across the supplier base? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q6 Do you agree that the considerations set out at paragraph 5.25 represent relevant and appropriate factors which establish the necessity to process information in respect of solicitors’ firms and barristers? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q7 Do you agree that the factors set out at paragraph 5.25 require the identity of the supplier to be made public? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q8 Do you have a strong preference for option 1, option 2, option 3, or option 4? If so, please indicate the option and explain your reasons for preferring it.

Q9 If you have a preference for a financial threshold being the trigger within option 3, please indicate the financial threshold you would favour and the reason for your choice.

Q10 If you have a preference for a percentage of expenditure being the trigger within option 4, please indicate the percentage you would favour and the reason for your choice.

Q11 Do you agree that LSA should explore the possibility of publishing the details of solicitor advocates separately from their parent firm’s details? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q12 Do you agree with the approach to applying the balance test in respect of general publication? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q13 Do you agree with the approach to applying the balance test when considering individual objections? If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q14 Do you agree that the steps set out at paragraph 8.6 are appropriate? If you do not agree, please explain why, including any other steps which you consider appropriate.

Q15 Do you agree that publication should be accompanied by detailed ‘Notes for Editors’? If so, please indicate what further additional information should be included. If you do not agree, please explain your objections.

Q16 Do you have any comment on the impact screening conducted by the Department?