
NFU Legal Assistance Scheme & NFU Legal Panel Service



What is the NFU Legal Assistance Scheme?

The Legal Assistance Scheme (LAS) is a discretionary benefits in-house scheme run by a team of solicitors. It provides Farmer and Grower members with professional guidance and financial support towards legal and other professional costs, should you face a legal dispute relating to your farming or growing business.

How do you apply for LAS funding?

1

Contact NFU CallFirst to speak to a Specialist Adviser for preliminary advice and to make an application for LAS funding

2

If more in-depth advice is needed, your query will be referred to one of our local Legal Panel Firms for a free initial discussion about your case

3

The firm will provide an initial report and further updates to the LAS team to consider funding towards your legal and other professional costs



Are you eligible for the Legal Assistance Scheme?



Are you an NFU Farmer & Grower member?



Do you subscribe to the Legal Assistance Scheme?



Contact NFU CallFirst on **0370 845 8458** to apply

Benefits of joining the LAS

- Contribution towards professional fees
- Dedicated LAS Team offering professional guidance and support through the case
- Contribution towards mediation costs in inter-member disputes (IMDs)
- £500 towards professional fees for BPS Independent Panel Reviews
- Up to £600 towards the cost of budgetary advice for rent reviews under Tenants' First Advice Service
- Up to £280 towards the costs involved in putting up site notices in fly grazing cases
- Contribution towards the professional costs of NVZ appeals

What is the NFU Legal Panel Service?

The Legal Panel Service offers NFU members access to 16 legal firms located throughout England and Wales offering local support. The firms have been specifically selected for their experience and expertise in agricultural and horticultural matters. They also provide assistance in non-farming areas of law and their advice is completely impartial. They offer the following benefits to members:

- 12.5% discount on hourly rates
- Fixed fees for specified services
- Act as a one-stop shop for NFU members
- Free initial report to support your LAS funding application where appropriate
- Peace of mind
- Great accessibility with at least two firms in your region
- Comprehensive advice whatever your problem – business, property or family related

When can I apply to use the scheme?

You have a legal dispute
(arising after you paid your LAS subscription)

The dispute relates to your farming and growing business

You are currently or about to incur professional costs

Why might you need a solicitor?

- You have received a contract to sign
- You have been asked to attend an interview under caution
- You have a legal dispute
- You have received a solicitor's letter
- You are thinking of diversifying
- You have received a letter or notice from a government department or agency
- You need a legal document drafting
- You need advice on succession planning, wills or trusts
- A family member has passed away
- You need advice on restructuring your business

DID YOU KNOW?

Legal Assistance Scheme subscribers saved over £1.5 million in legal fees from LAS awards and nearly £500,000 from panel firm discounts in 2017/18.



How do you use the legal panel service?



Step 1

NFU CallFirst

As an NFU member you will already have access to our Specialist Advisers. Call our CallFirst Team on **0370 845 8458** and they will offer you initial advice and try and resolve your query.



Step 2

Referral

If the Specialist Advisers are unable to resolve your query, they will refer you to one of our 16 expert Legal Panel Firms local to you.



Step 3

Report

Your chosen Legal Panel Firm will work with you to put together a report to assist with your funding application to the NFU Legal Assistance Scheme if required.

“

The stand-out service for me is the Legal Assistance Scheme (LAS). For the past 25 years we've been a member of the scheme and wondered why and never imagined that we would use the service. However, our wind turbine has been the cause of two judicial reviews and the LAS has supported us significantly for almost the past six years and has awarded us more than our entire NFU membership costs since I became a member in 1989. That, to me, is incredible.”

John Charles-Jones, NFU member



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For more information call NFU CallFirst on
0370 845 8458 or visit www.nfuonline.com/LAS
or www.nfu-cymru.org.uk



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