Consultation
Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
   1. Yes. We have assisted the Scottish Government in assessing the financial impacts on legal aid, which are detailed in the Financial Memorandum to the Bill.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
   2. Yes.

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
   3. Yes.

Costs
If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
   4. Yes, but as the FM notes, the average cost to the Legal Aid Fund of an FAI can vary significantly due to a number of factors. The FM also notes that it is impossible to predict whether those involved in any additional cases as a result of this Bill will require or be eligible for legal aid.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
   5. See answer 4.

If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
   6. We do not expect there to be a significant additional burden on SLAB as a result of the Bill. It is difficult to predict the number and cost of FAIs and the consequent cost to the Fund, which under the terms of the Act will fall to be met by the Scottish Government.

Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?
   7. On legal aid, yes.

Wider Issues
Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
   8. SLAB has no comment.

Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs? SLAB has no comment.