Draft Regulations laid before Parliament under section 41(6) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

DRAFT STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2013 No. 00

LEGAL AID AND ADVICE, ENGLAND AND WALES

The Civil Legal Aid (Merits Criteria) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

Made - - - -	*xx*
Coming into force - -	*1st April 2013*

The Lord Chancellor makes the following Regulations(**1**) in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 11(1)(b), 41(1)(a) and (3)(a) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012(**2**)("the Act").

In making these Regulations, in accordance with section 11(2), (3) and (5) of the Act, the Lord Chancellor—

(a) has considered the circumstances in which it is appropriate to make civil legal services available under Part 1 of the Act and, in particular, the extent to which the criteria ought to reflect the factors in section 11(3); and

(b) is satisfied that the criteria reflect the principle that, in many disputes, mediation and other forms of dispute resolution are more appropriate than legal proceedings.

In accordance with section 41(6) of the Act, a draft of this instrument was laid before Parliament and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Civil Legal Aid (Merits Criteria) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 and come into force on 1st April 2013.

Amendment of the Civil Legal Aid (Merits Criteria) Regulations 2013

2.—(1) The Civil Legal Aid (Merits Criteria) Regulations 2013(**3**) are amended as follows.

(**1**) Section 42(1) of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (c.10) provides that in Part 1 of that Act "regulations" means Regulations made by the Lord Chancellor.
(**2**) 2012 c.10.
(**3**) S.I. 2013/104.