

LPM → AI Readiness Diagnostic

The five process foundations every legal team needs in place before AI investment delivers real value.

⚡ **AI amplifies what already exists.** In a well-structured legal function it accelerates delivery and generates insight. In a fragmented one, it accelerates chaos. Use this diagnostic to assess readiness honestly and identify where to focus first, before committing budget to technology that will not yet perform.

How to Use This Diagnostic

1

Score each signal

Fifteen signals across five foundations. For each one pick the column that matches reality: Not Ready 0, Developing 1, Ready 2.

2

Total each foundation

Three signals per foundation, so each foundation scores out of 6. Write it in the box on the card.

3

Add up your total

Five foundation scores give you an overall figure out of 30. That is your AI Readiness Score.

4

Find your lowest

Your total sets your band. Your lowest-scoring foundation sets your priority. Both matter.

WORKED EXAMPLE · FOUNDATION 01

How work enters legal

Volume & type visibility

Prioritisation mechanism

Developing · 1

Not Ready · 0

Ready · 2

Foundation 01 scores 3 out of 6. Repeat for all five, then add the five subtotals together.

“ THE AMRU CONSULTING VIEW

Most legal teams are being sold AI solutions to problems they haven't yet structured. The diagnostic conversation, not the technology selection, is where the real value is. ”

Legal AI is not a shortcut around process debt. The teams that will extract genuine return are those that built their LPM foundations first.

The Five Foundations

Mark where your team sits on each signal. Then decide the overall position for each foundation.



FOUNDATION 01

Intake & Demand Visibility

OF 6

Do you know what work is coming in, from whom, and why?

How work enters legal

NOT READY 0

Ad hoc, email & corridor

DEVELOPING 1

Some formal channels

READY 2

Defined intake with categorisation

Volume & type visibility

NOT READY 0

No data or tracking

DEVELOPING 1

Retrospective only

READY 2

Real-time dashboard

Prioritisation mechanism

NOT READY 0

Whoever shouts loudest

DEVELOPING 1

Informal tiering

READY 2

Explicit priority framework



FOUNDATION 02

Ownership & Accountability

OF 6

Does every piece of work have a clear owner and defined outcome?

Matter ownership

NOT READY 0

Shared and unclear

DEVELOPING 1

Assigned but not tracked

READY 2

Named owner at every stage

Scope definition

NOT READY 0

Work creep is common

DEVELOPING 1

Discussed, not documented

READY 2

Defined, agreed & baselined

Decision authority

NOT READY 0

Unclear who approves

DEVELOPING 1

Partially documented

READY 2

RACI in place and followed



FOUNDATION 03

Timeline & Milestone Discipline

OF 6

Can you reliably predict when work will be done?

Deadlines

NOT READY 0

Set reactively or not at all

DEVELOPING 1

Set but frequently missed

READY 2

Proactive with checkpoints

Progress tracking

NOT READY 0

No formal mechanism

DEVELOPING 1

Occasional check-ins

READY 2

Regular documented cadence

Escalation pathways

NOT READY 0

Informal or absent

DEVELOPING 1

Inconsistently used

READY 2

Clear and consistently applied



FOUNDATION 04

Matter Data & Reporting

OF 6

Can you tell the business what legal is doing and what it costs?

Matter data capture

NOT READY 0

Siloed in emails

DEVELOPING 1

Partially in spreadsheets

READY 2

Structured in a system

Spend visibility

NOT READY 0

No real-time view

DEVELOPING 1

Monthly or quarterly only

READY 2

Live tracking by matter

Value reporting

NOT READY 0

No metrics shared

DEVELOPING 1

Basic volume metrics

READY 2

KPIs linked to outcomes



FOUNDATION 05

Process Standardisation

OF 6

Are your most common work types handled consistently, or does it depend on who picks them up?

Playbooks and templates

NOT READY 0

None or outdated

DEVELOPING 1

Exist, inconsistently used

READY 2

Current and embedded

Repeatable matter types

NOT READY 0

Bespoke each time

DEVELOPING 1

Partially templated

READY 2

Standardised end-to-end

Lessons learned

NOT READY 0

Not captured

DEVELOPING 1

Captured informally

READY 2

Fed back into process

Reading Your Score

Add up your foundation scores, find your band, and identify what to fix first.

Add Up Your Score

F01 INTAKE / 6	F02 OWNERSHIP / 6	F03 TIMELINE / 6	F04 DATA / 6	F05 PROCESS / 6	YOUR TOTAL / 30
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Reading Your Total Score

0-10**NOT AI READY****Foundations missing**

AI will amplify problems, not solve them. Establish LPM foundations before any AI investment is made.

11-20**PARTIALLY READY****Pockets of readiness**

AI pilots may work in pockets but will not scale. Targeted LPM remediation alongside scoped pilots.

21-30**AI READY****Strong foundation**

AI can deliver real return. Proceed with adoption and focus effort on governance design.

Which Foundation To Fix First

0 – 2 out of 6**Critical gap · fix first**

This foundation is holding back everything downstream of it. Start here regardless of your overall total.

3 – 4 out of 6**Partial · shore up**

Workable but inconsistent. Tighten once your critical gaps are closed, not before.

5 – 6 out of 6**Solid · protect it**

Strong enough to build on. Maintain the discipline rather than investing further effort here.

What To Do Next

Three principles that hold true wherever you scored.

Three Principles That Hold True Everywhere



Run the diagnostic with your team

The most useful version of this exercise is done collaboratively. Where people disagree on a foundation, that disagreement is itself diagnostic. It tells you the standard is not shared.



Prioritise the weakest foundation

Do not spread effort across all five at once. The foundation with the lowest score is usually blocking progress everywhere else. Fix the base before building on top of it.



Fix process before technology

Technology amplifies what is already there. Buying a matter management platform or AI tool before your intake and reporting process is structured will not solve the problem. It will make it more expensive.

Book your diagnostic conversation

The most expensive sentence in legal delivery is "we'll figure it out as we go".
If you could not confidently score above 20, that is the conversation to have.

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