



Legal Aid
Agency

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE LAVENDER HILL COURT SCHEME

Introduction and Background

This consultation is in response to HMCTS's decision to merge Lavender Hill and Wimbledon Magistrates' Courts work.

HMCTS deem Lavender Hill and Wimbledon as just one Local Justice Area. Whilst this change happened several years ago, Lavender Hill was retained as a separate court scheme with 1 slot a week on a Tuesday (shown as a bail court).

The Legal Aid Agency has now been informed by HMCTS colleagues that these separate slots are no longer required as no work is now allocated exclusively to either court; it is divided only on the basis of the type of work. This means that there is no work for the Lavender Hill scheme members individually.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the Duty Solicitor Scheme(s) affected.

Section 2 outlines the options identified to change the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected within your local region.

We are consulting on these proposals for **3 weeks**, from **20th August 2021**.

Responses should be sent by email to Laura.Fernley@justice.gov.uk by **5pm on 10th September 2021**.

Our intention is to respond to the consultation by **14th September 2021**.

Section 1 – Magistrates Court Closures and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

As a result of this closure, the following Court Duty Rota Schemes may be affected:

- Lavender Hill
- Wimbledon

All postcode sectors are mapped into at least one Duty Scheme. The changes proposed here will not affect this.

Determining Eligibility for revised Schemes

To assist providers in determining how the options outlined in section 2 may affect future London court scheme choices, the below table sets out the current London court schemes for boroughs that include the Lavender Hill and Wimbledon court schemes.

Borough	Court Schemes
Croydon	Bromley magistrates' court scheme
	Croydon magistrates' court & Southwark Youth Court schemes
	Wimbledon magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
Kingston-Upon-Thames	Lavender Hill magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
	Wimbledon magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
Lambeth	Croydon magistrates' court & Southwark Youth Court schemes
	City of London magistrates' court scheme
	Wimbledon magistrates' court scheme & Wimbledon Youth Court Scheme
	Westminster magistrates (including options for the Extradition Rota & Inner London Youth Court)
	Lavender Hill magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
Merton	Croydon magistrates' court & Southwark Youth Court schemes
	Lavender Hill magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
	Wimbledon magistrates' court scheme & Wimbledon Youth Court Scheme
Richmond-upon-Thames	Lavender Hill magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
	Westminster magistrates (including options for the Extradition Rota & Inner London Youth Court)
Sutton	Croydon magistrates' court & Southwark Youth Court schemes
	Wimbledon magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
Wandsworth	Croydon magistrates' court & Southwark Youth Court schemes

	Lavender Hill magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
	Wimbledon magistrates' court & Wimbledon Youth Court schemes
	Westminster magistrates (including options for the Extradition Rota & Inner London Youth Court)

Section 2 – Proposed revisions to court schemes.

Proposed Changes

We set out explanations, where appropriate, of how each of the approaches will affect the different scheme(s).

At the end we indicate the option we favour.

Where schemes only require minor adjustments, we set these out and invite any comments or feedback you may have on these changes.

It may be the case that you consider different approaches appropriate for different schemes. Please make it clear in your response which Option(s) and scheme(s) you are referring to and indicate your reasons for preferring these alternatives.

The Lavender Hill court scheme

There is no longer any separate work for Lavender Hill scheme members as it is now part of one Local Justice Area with Wimbledon Magistrates Court.

As a result, we would like to consult with the relevant scheme members on proposed revisions to rota arrangements for matters dealt with at Lavender Hill Magistrates' Court. We have set out below the options we are consulting on.

Consultation Options

Our proposals are as follows:

Option 1:

We merge the Lavender Hill and Wimbledon Magistrates' Court Schemes.

Option 2:

We close the Lavender Hill Scheme.

Our Preference:

Option 1 is preferred by the Legal Aid Agency. The reasons for this are: -

A merged scheme reflects the local justice area and duty work for the area will be heard at both Wimbledon magistrates' court and Lavender Hill magistrates' court.

Respondents are invited to comment on these proposals and, if not in support of the proposals, to offer alternative suggestions.



Hannah Stevens
Area Contract Manager