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Date: 14th September 2021

To: all members of the
Lavender Hill Court scheme

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to Consultation with all members of the Lavender Hill and Wimbledon Court scheme members regarding proposed changes to the Lavender Hill court scheme and the allocation of rota slots.

On 20th August 2021, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Lavender Hill Magistrates' court schemes and the allocation of rota slots.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 10th September 2021 and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that, following consideration of any responses, all affected parties would be notified of the outcome of the consultation no later than 14th September 2021. Therefore, this letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

A. Summary of Responses

2 responses were received to the consultation on proposed changes to the Duty Solicitor court scheme(s). Thank you to the respondents for taking the time to provide feedback on the proposals.

The options consulted on were:

Option 1: We merge the Lavender Hill and Wimbledon Magistrates' Court Schemes.

Option 2: We close the Lavender Hill Scheme.

B. Summary of Feedback

All respondents are current members of the Wimbledon Magistrates court scheme. All are therefore directly impacted by any changes arising from this consultation.

Both respondents supported Option 1.

This was also the LAA's favoured option.

No alternative options were put forward by any respondents.

C. Decision

The Legal Aid Agency have decided to proceed with **Option 1, namely merging the Lavender Hill with the Wimbledon court schemes.**

We selected Option 1 because 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.

D. Next steps

- The relevant changes will be applied to the upcoming October 2021 duty rotas.
- The relevant changes to the postcode tool will be made to reflect the above change(s).

Yours faithfully,



Hannah Stevens - Area Contract Manager