



Legal Aid Agency

Birmingham Regional Office
Cannon House, 18, The Priory Queensway
Birmingham, B4 6BS

To: Scheme Members of
the Burton on Trent,
Cannock and Rugeley,
Tamworth and Stafford
Scheme Areas

Dear Sir / Madam,

Consultation with Burton on Trent, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Stafford Scheme members **following HMCTS closure of Burton Magistrates Court**

In the Staffordshire Criminal Justice Area, HMCTS announced that Burton Magistrates Court would close in September 2016. This decision was set out in the response to the consultation published by the Ministry of Justice in December 2015 (see link below).

www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499525/nw-consultation-response.pdf

Please find enclosed proposed changes to the Burton on Trent, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Stafford Court Duty schemes following the decision by HMCTS to close Burton Magistrates' Court within the Burton scheme area.

Scheme members from the Burton on Trent, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Stafford schemes and bidders from these areas in the 2017 Crime tender consultation are invited to respond.

Existing scheme arrangements will continue for the duration of the scheme rotas up to 5th December 2016. Thereafter, following the outcome of this consultation, any new arrangements will be applied. Revised rotas for this period will be issued in advance.

The enclosed document gives details of the proposed changes.

Date: 21st September 2016

This letter constitutes formal notice, as required by paragraph 6.5 of the Duty Solicitor Scheme Rules in PART A, Standard Crime Contract 2010, which states we may consult on a proposal to change the postcode boundaries in respect of a scheme following the closure of a magistrate's court.

You are invited to submit any comments regarding the proposal in writing, marked "HMCTS Burton Magistrates Court Closure" in the subject box by email to CMCrimeQuery@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk by **5pm on Friday 21st October 2016**.

The timetable for this consultation exercise is as follows: Stage	Duration	Start/end date
Consultation Period	4 weeks	23rd September – 21st October 2016
Consideration of responses	1 week	24th to 28th October 2016
Notification of any changes	1 week	31st October to 4th November 2016
Issue of new rotas		7th November 2016
Date changes would take effect		5th December 2016

CLOSURE OF BURTON ON TRENT MAGISTRATES COURT (HMCTS)

CONSULTATION

Following the decision by HMCTS to close Burton Magistrates Court, all work has been transferred by HMCTS to Cannock, North Staffordshire Justice Centre or Derby Magistrates Court.

Option A

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BURTON ON TRENT, CANNOCK AND RUGELEY, TAMWORTH AND STAFFORD SCHEMES TO PRODUCE A SINGLE STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH COURT DUTY ROTA.

The proposal is that all of the existing Burton On Trent, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Stafford scheme members join a single combined rota covering the south of the county of Staffordshire (Staffordshire South).

The transitional arrangements would cease.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service the Cannock Magistrates Court only.

2 Duty Solicitors would be required on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Generally one custody cases and one for bail/other cases.

1 Duty Solicitor would be required for Tuesday and Thursday.

1 Duty Solicitor would be required for Saturday and Bank Holiday courts.

THE POLICE STATION ROTAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED

Option B

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BURTON ON TRENT, CANNOCK AND RUGELEY, TAMWORTH AND STAFFORD SCHEMES TO PRODUCE A SINGLE STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH COURT DUTY ROTA.

The proposal is that all of the existing Burton On Trent, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Stafford scheme members join a single combined rota covering the south of the county of Staffordshire (Staffordshire South).

The transitional arrangements would cease.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service the Cannock Magistrates Court only.

2 Duty Solicitors would be required on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Generally one custody cases and one for bail/other cases.

1 Duty Solicitor would be required for Tuesday and Thursday.

1 Duty Solicitor would be required for Saturday and Bank Holiday courts.

IN ADDITION

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BURTON ON TRENT, CANNOCK AND RUGELEY, TAMWORTH AND STAFFORD POLICE STATION ROTAS TO PRODUCE A SINGLE STAFFORDSHIRE SOUTH POLICE STATION DUTY ROTA.

It is proposed that to reflect the proposed changes to the Court Duty Schemes, all of the existing Burton on Trent, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Stafford members join a single Staffordshire South Police Station Duty Rota.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service the police stations in Cannock (Watling Street) and Burton on Trent.

2 Duty Solicitors would be required each day. One for Cannock (Watling Street) and one for Burton on Trent Police Station. 17.00 to 17.00.