



Legal Aid Agency

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

To: Scheme Members of
the Shrewsbury and Telford
Scheme Areas

Dear Sir / Madam,

Consultation with Shrewsbury and Telford scheme members following HMCTS closure of Shrewsbury Magistrates Court

In the West Mercia Criminal Justice Area, HMCTS announced that Shrewsbury Magistrates Court would close in May 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 Shrewsbury and Telford Court Duty schemes following the decision by HMCTS to close Shrewsbury Magistrates' Court within the Shrewsbury scheme area.

Scheme members from both the Shrewsbury and Telford 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 document below gives details of the proposed changes.

Date: 23rd 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 Shrewsbury 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 SHREWSBURY MAGISTRATES COURT (HMCTS)

CONSULTATION

Following the decision by HMCTS to close Shrewsbury Magistrates Court, all work has been transferred by HMCTS to Telford Magistrates Court within the Telford scheme area.

Option A

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TELFORD AND SHREWSBURY SCHEMES TO PRODUCE A COUNTY WIDE SHROPSHIRE COURT DUTY ROTA

The proposal is that all of the existing Shrewsbury scheme members and Telford Scheme members join a single combined county-wide rota.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service the Telford Court. Listing at the court is now county wide.

2 Duty Solicitors would be required each day Monday to Friday. One for bail cases and one for custody cases.

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 TELFORD AND SHREWSBURY SCHEMES TO PRODUCE A SINGLE SHROPSHIRE COUNTY COURT ROTA

The proposal is that all of the existing Shrewsbury scheme members and Telford Scheme members join a single combined county-wide rota.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service the Telford Court. Listing at the court is now county wide.

2 Duty Solicitors would be required each day Monday to Friday. One for bail cases and one for custody cases.

1 Duty Solicitors would be required for Saturday and Bank Holiday courts

IN ADDITION

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TELFORD AND SHREWSBURY POLICE STATION SCHEMES TO PRODUCE A SINGLE COUNTY-WIDE SHROPSHIRE POLICE STATION ROTA

It is proposed that to reflect the county-wide nature of the Magistrates Court listings, all of the existing Shrewsbury scheme members and Telford Scheme members join a single combined police station rota.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service the police stations in Shrewsbury and Telford.

2 Duty Solicitors would be required each day. One for Shrewsbury Police Station and one for Telford Police Station.