

11th November 2016

To all Duty Solicitors on Rotherham and Sheffield Police Station Duty Schemes

Dear Duty Solicitor

Police Station Duty Solicitor Schemes

This consultation is in response to South Yorkshire Police's decision to move Rotherham police station work to Shepcote Lane police station, Sheffield in April 2016. At present the Legal Aid Agency operates separate Duty Solicitor Schemes for Rotherham and Shepcote Lane.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the change and police station Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

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

We are consulting on these proposals for 4 weeks, from 11th November 2016 to 9th December 2016. Your responses should be submitted by email to: CMCrimeQuery@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm on 9th December 2016.

Section 1 – Police Station Closure and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected

From April 2016 work previously dealt with at Rotherham police station has been directed to Shepcote Lane police station, Sheffield.

As a result no police station duty solicitor work is available in the Rotherham duty area. All Sheffield and Rotherham duty solicitor work is being carried out within the Sheffield duty area.

Determining Eligibility for revised Schemes

To assist providers in determining which Scheme(s) they are eligible to join, the postcode sectors providing access to work within each scheme, which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/duty-solicitors-rotas-information-and-guidance>, and will be updated in accordance with this consultation.

Section 2 - Proposed Changes

1 Rotherham Police Station

In respect of the closure of Rotherham Police Station our proposal is as follows:

Option 1 – Amend the scheme boundaries for the Sheffield Police Station Duty scheme from 1st January 2017 allowing Duty Solicitors who are currently members of the Rotherham Police Station Duty scheme to become members of the Sheffield Police Station Duty scheme. This will allow access to all work. The Sheffield Court and Police Station Duty

Rota would then be renamed the Sheffield & Rotherham Court & Police Station Duty Rota and the separate Rotherham Rota will cease to exist from 1st January 2017.

Option 2 – Make no change to the scheme boundaries in place at present, ie Police Station Duty at Rotherham will cease to exist from 1st January 2017 and providers currently eligible for membership of the Sheffield Police Station Duty Scheme will continue to access duty slots on the Sheffield Police Station rota.

Our preferred option is Option 1 to allow providers continued access to duty work.

In addition, if you have any other suggested options that you feel we should consider, we should be grateful for your views.

Please note, subject to the outcome of this consultation, it is our intention to amend the affected rotas with effect from 1st January 2017 and to include Duty Solicitor applicants who have already submitted CRM12s for membership of the affected Schemes. Please see paragraphs 6.47 – 6.49 of the 2010 Standard Crime Contract Specification.

Please ensure your response is emailed to CMCrimeQuery@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm on 9th December 2016.

Many thanks.