

Introduction and Background

Duty Solicitor Schemes

This consultation is in response to the Metropolitan Police Service's decision to close the Edmonton Police Station Custody Unit on 5th December 2016. This Police Station is currently served by an Enfield Duty Solicitor Scheme.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the Police Station Custody closure and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

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

We are consulting on these proposals for 3 weeks, from 9th January 2017 to 30th January 2017.

Responses should be sent by email to the Legal Aid Agency at the following address and should specify 'Edmonton Custody Unit Closure' in the subject field

CMCrimeQuery@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk

Section 1 – Police Station Custody and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

In the London and South East Region, the following Custody Unit was closed on 5th December 2016:

- Edmonton

In addition the following changes will apply:

- The Metropolitan Police Service have confirmed that the Police station custody unit based in Edmonton has closed. All those arrested will be taken to the Wood Green Police Station Custody Unit at Wood Green, Haringey.

As a result of this closure and other changes, we need to revise the following schemes, in the same order as shown above:

- Enfield
- Haringey

The closure of the Edmonton Custody means there is a need to consider revising both the Enfield and Haringey schemes as all Edmonton duties will be dealt with at Wood Green, in Haringey.

Section 2 – Proposed revisions to schemes in London and the South East

Proposed Changes

Where significant revisions are required, we set out 2 Options reflecting two different general approaches, with explanations where appropriate, of how each of those approaches will affect the different schemes.

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.

Enfield CJS Area

The LAA understands that Edmonton Police Station Custody Unit in this CJS area has closed on 5th December 2016.

Option 1

It is proposed that the LAA take steps to merge the Enfield Scheme with the Haringey Scheme, and the new Scheme Boundary becomes that of both areas.

Members of both current Schemes will become a member of the newly created Scheme and will be included on the appropriate Police Station and Court rotas within this Scheme which will be a single Police Station rota based at Wood Green Police Station and Court Duty rotas based at Tottenham Magistrates Court.

Merging of the Enfield Scheme with the Haringey Scheme would require amendments to Regulations and a consultation on the fees.

Option 2

The second option is that the current arrangements continue. Those providers based in the Enfield and Haringey areas will continue to be members of the Court Scheme based at Tottenham Magistrates Court and the Police schemes based at Wood Green and Enfield Police Stations. As the Police at Wood Green Police Station have agreed to ask for the relevant duty solicitor on the point of talking to the DSCC, members of the Enfield duty Scheme would still be awarded their Enfield duties although as the 4 boroughs eligible for Enfield are also eligible for Haringey, members of both schemes will still be called through their membership of the Haringey scheme. The 2 fees would remain the same and a rota would remain for Enfield.

Respondents are invited to comment on this proposal and, if not in support of the proposal, to offer an alternative suggestion.

Please note, subject to the outcome of this consultation, it is our intention to produce rotas to include Duty Solicitor applicants engaged by providers, in accordance with the 2017 Standard Crime Contract tender, and who have been invited to submit CRM12s for membership of the affected Schemes from April 2017. Please see paragraph 3.6 of the IFA for more detail.

Please ensure that your responses are emailed to CMCrimeQuery@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk by 5pm 30th January 2017