

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOLTON, BURY, MIDDLETON AND  
ROCHDALE, SALFORD AND WIGAN POLICE STATION SCHEMES**

### **Introduction and Background**

This consultation is in response to the Greater Manchester Police decision in respect of the Bolton Police Station Custody Unit. That decision will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.

Bolton Police Station remains part of GMP's custody estate, but, from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017, it will only be used for custody cases in exceptional circumstances. Bolton based arrests, from that date, will be directed to custody suites in neighbouring Police Stations. The location of the arrest will determine which custody suite deals with the matter.

A table is included in this document which sets out where Bolton arrest cases will be dealt with after 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.

Bolton Police Station is currently served by the Bolton Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme. The Bolton Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme will cease to be viable after 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.

We have tried to keep changes to schemes to a minimum, whilst taking into account the likely impact on levels of service to clients from solicitors whose offices will no longer be as local to the Police Station dealing with their matter.

The Bolton Magistrates' Court Duty scheme will remain as it is and will not be affected by the change in the use of Bolton Police Station.

## **This Consultation**

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

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

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

We are consulting on these proposals for 4 weeks, from 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

Responses should be sent by email to: [dominic.geelan@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:dominic.geelan@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk)

## Section 1

### Bolton Police Station Custody Suite Closure and the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

In the Greater Manchester region, the Bolton Police Station custody facility will cease to be used, save in exceptional circumstances, from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.

In addition the following changes will apply:

From 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017, Bolton based- arrests will be directed to neighbouring custody suites for prisoner processing. The location of the custody suite which will deal with the Bolton arrest is based on the area of Bolton in which the arrest takes place. The matrix which follows summarises how Bolton arrests will be allocated:

• K1 Bolton Town Centre.	SWINTON	
• K2/X Heaton & Lostock.		
• K3/A Farnworth.		
• K3/B Kearsley.		
• K3/C Little Lever.		
• K3/E Harper Green.		
• K3/1 Hulton.		
• K2/K Horwich & Blackrod.		
• K2/J Horwich North East.		
• K3/F Westoughton North.		
• K3/G Westoughton South.		
• K2/Q Smithills.		
• K2/V Astley Bridge.		
• K2/P Bromley Cross.		
• K2/O Bradshaw.		
• K2/W Crompton.		
• K2/M Tonge & The Haulgh.		
• K2/N Breightmet.		
		WIGAN
		BURY

As a result of the closure of Bolton to custody cases and the non-viability of the Bolton Police Station Duty Scheme as a result, we need to revise the following scheme:

### **Bolton**

**All postcode sectors are mapped into at least one Duty Scheme. The changes proposed here will not affect this.**

### **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> will be updated in accordance with this consultation.

## **Section 2 – Proposed revisions to schemes in the Greater Manchester Region**

### **Proposed Changes**

#### **In respect of the closure of the Bolton Police Station Custody Facility, the summary of our proposals is either :**

- (i)** that the Bolton Police Station Duty Scheme is merged with **either** the Salford Police Station Duty Scheme, **or** the Bury, Middleton and Rochdale Police Station Duty Scheme, or the Wigan Police Station Duty Scheme; **or**
- (ii)** that the Bolton Police Station Scheme will be retained as a separate scheme and duty solicitors will be directed by the DSCC to attend whichever Police Station processes Bolton arrests; **or**
- (iii)** the Bolton Police Station scheme will be retained as a separate scheme and firms allocated slots on that rota may, from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 elect to join **either** the Salford Police Station Duty rota, **or** the Bury, Middleton and Rochdale Police Station Duty rota, **or** the Wigan Police Station duty rota.

These proposals are particularised in the **options** which follow below.

There is no intention to increase the numbers of Duty Solicitors on rota to attend any of these Police Stations as a result of the re-direction of a proportion of Bolton- based arrests.

The LAA has arrived at these proposals having considered the need of firms allocated slots on the Bolton rota to retain access to duty work, balanced against the existing access to duty work of those firms with slots on the three rotas covering Police Stations to which Bolton work will be re-directed.

It may be the case that you consider different approaches appropriate. We welcome your views should that be the case.

## **Greater Manchester CJS Area**

**Bolton Police Station** will cease, save in exceptional circumstances, to be used as a custody unit with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.

Our proposals, to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 are as follows:

### **Option 1:**

We merge the Bolton Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme and Salford Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme, and the new Scheme boundary becomes that of both areas. Firms who applied for slots on the July 2017 rota and who have an office and Contract Schedule in the postcode sectors qualifying for the Bolton or Salford Police Station Duty Schemes will be included on the merged Bolton/ Salford scheme and included on the rota.

### **Option 2:**

We merge the Bolton Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme and Bury, Middleton and Rochdale Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme, and the new Scheme boundary becomes that of both areas. Firms who applied for slots on the July 2017 rota and who have an office and Contract Schedule in the postcode sectors qualifying for the Bolton or Bury, Middleton and Rochdale Schemes will be included on the merged Bolton/ Bury, Middleton and Rochdale Scheme and included on the rota.

### **Option 3:**

We merge the Bolton Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme and Wigan Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme, and the new Scheme boundary becomes that of both areas. Firms who applied for slots on the July 2017 rota and who have an office and Contract Schedule in the postcode sectors qualifying for the Bolton or Wigan Schemes will be included on the merged Bolton/ Wigan Scheme and included on the rota.

### **Option 4:**

We retain the Bolton Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme and firms who applied for slots on the July 2017 Bolton rota and who have an office and Contract Schedule in the postcode sectors qualifying for the Bolton scheme will continue to deal with Bolton arrests at whichever Police Station custody suite the arrest matrix dictates. The Police will identify to the DSCC the location of the arrest and the DSCC will contact the relevant Duty Solicitor to attend the relevant Police Station.

### **Option 5**

The Bolton Police Station scheme will be retained as a separate scheme and **firms** allocated slots on that rota as at 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2017, may, from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 elect to join **either** the Salford Police Station Duty rota, **or** the Bury, Middleton and Rochdale Police Station Duty rota, **or** the Wigan Police Station duty rota.

**Option 1** is preferred by the Legal Aid Agency as, having regard to the way Greater Manchester Police will re-direct Bolton arrests, it is likely that the majority will be directed to Swinton Police Station after 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017. Bolton and Swinton Police Stations are also the most proximate geographically.

**Respondents should indicate which of the options 1 to 5 they prefer, or suggest an alternative.**