



Asiantaeth Cymorth
Cyfreithiol

Legal Aid
Agency

Introduction and Background

Duty Solicitor Schemes

This consultation is in response to HMCTS's announcement of magistrates' court closures currently served by a Duty Solicitor Scheme.

Details of the consultation can be found here -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposal-on-the-provision-of-court-and-tribunal-estate-in-england-and-wales>

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 local to the court dealing with their matter.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the court closures 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 2 weeks, from 07/7/17 to 21/7/17.

Responses should be sent by email to Rhian.davies@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk, titled 'North Anglesey' Consultation'.

Section 1 – Court Closures and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

In the North Anglesey scheme, the following Magistrates' Court is scheduled to close:

- Holyhead Magistrates Court

In addition the following changes will apply:

- Holyhead Magistrates court work will move to Caernarfon Justice Centre.

As a result of these closures and other changes, we need to revise the following schemes:

- North Anglesey Duty Scheme
- Bangor & Caernarfon Duty Scheme

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 the outcome of this consultation.

Section 2 – Proposed revisions to schemes in North Anglesey

Proposed Changes 9th June 2017 Consultation

As a result of the Holyhead Court closure, HMCTS are listing Anglesey Court matters in Caernarfon Justice Centre.

Option 1

To support this listing pattern, we proposed that the North Anglesey and Bangor & Caernarfon duty schemes were merged both for court duty work and police station matters.

Option 2

To support this listing pattern, we proposed that the Holyhead and Caernarfon court duty rotas were merged so that duty slots for the court are shared across all providers that qualified for the two schemes.

As part of this option, the police station rotas of North Anglesey and Bangor would continue to remain separate, meaning police station duty qualification remain as currently set.

Preferred option

Option 1 was preferred; to merge North Anglesey and Bangor & Caernarfon court schemes and also to merge the police station schemes. This option provided the solution that best fits the working practice of the courts and police without prejudicing the client.

Respondents were invited to comment on these proposals and, if not in support of the proposal, to offer an alternative suggestion. A non-response was deemed an acceptance of the preferred option.

Updated Consultation 7th July 2017

Two responses were received to the initial consultation, one in favour of option 1, one advocating no change to the current schemes. As part of these responses, representations were received from North Wales police requesting that the existing arrangements for the police station remain unchanged in order to assist with the efficient running of Caernarfon custody.

In light of these representations, we now seek further comments regarding merging the police station schemes and at this stage do not offer a preferred option.

Responses are invited in relation to the above by the 21st July 2017.