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Date: 6 September 2017

To: All Firms with Duty Solicitors on the Slough (East Berkshire) and Reading Schemes

Dear Duty Solicitor

Response to Consultation with Slough (East Berkshire) and Reading scheme members

On 1 August 2017, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Slough (East Berkshire) Duty Solicitor scheme.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 31 August 2017. This letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

Summary of Responses

A total of eight responses to the consultation on proposed changes to the Slough (East Berkshire) Duty Solicitor Scheme were received.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback to the proposals.

There is no decision that can meet the needs of all those that have fed back on the scheme changes and a decision has been made which provides the greatest fairness to all scheme members that are affected by this change.

Summary of Feedback

- Six responses fed back that they would want Option 1. Two responses fed back that they would prefer Option 2.

Decision

After careful consideration of the responses received, and the points raised within the same, the Legal Aid Agency have decided to proceed with **Option 1 – Amend the Slough (East Berkshire) Rota – add a second court duty solicitor on Wednesdays who will attend Reading Magistrates’ Court to deal with Slough (East Berkshire) custody cases.**

This option has been selected as the majority of responses to the consultation favoured this option.

Next steps

- Option 1 proposed in the consultation document will take effect from 1 October 2017.
- New rotas will be issued to cover the period 1/10/2017 to 31/12/2017.

Yours faithfully



Nicole Mason
Area Contract Manager