



Legal Aid
Agency

South West Regional Office
4th Floor, Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6DG

Date: 27th September 2017

To: All Firms with Duty
Solicitors on the Wiltshire
Schemes

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to Consultation with Wiltshire scheme members following HMCTS announcement to close Chippenham Magistrates' Court

On the 7th July, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Wiltshire Duty Solicitor scheme(s) affected by the HMCTS decision to close Chippenham Magistrates' Court.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 4th August and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that following consideration of any responses, all affected parties would be notified, this letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

Summary of Responses

A total of 7 responses to the consultation on proposed changes to the Wiltshire Duty Solicitor Scheme as a result of the closure of Chippenham Magistrates Court were received.

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

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.

All responses received were members that are currently on the scheme and all would be impacted by the changes, all responses were in favour of the change.

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**

North Wiltshire Rota – this proposal would have a rota operating at Swindon Magistrates' Court that covers the work that would previously have been dealt with at Chippenham Magistrates' Court.

The amalgamation of North Wiltshire Rota into one scheme that covers Swindon Magistrates court

This was the majority decision from all those that responded to the consultation.

Next steps

- Option 1 proposed in the consultation document will take effect on the 1st January 2018.
- New rotas will be issued to cover the period 1st January 2018 to 31st March 2018.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Mason', with a horizontal line drawn through it.

Nicole Mason
Area Contract Manager