



Legal Aid  
Agency

To: Firms with Duty Solicitors on the Newark Police Station Scheme  
& Members of Nottinghamshire Police Station Schemes

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to Consultation with **Newark Police Station** scheme members and members of Nottinghamshire Police Station Schemes following Nottinghamshire Police's decision to mothball Newark Police Station, with effect from the 6 November 2017, and transfer detainees to Mansfield Custody suite.

The options set out in the consultation issued on the 1 November were:

(i) that the Newark Police Station Duty Scheme is merged with the Mansfield Police Station Duty Scheme, with effect from the 1 January 2018. Members of an extended Mansfield Police Station scheme would then be required to cover both Mansfield and Newark Police stations, if requested to do so.

(ii) that the Newark Police Station Scheme is retained as a separate scheme and duty solicitors will be directed by the DSCC to attend Mansfield Police Station upon identification of a Newark detainee.

(iii) the Newark Police Station scheme will be retained as a separate scheme and firms allocated slots on that rota may, from 1 January 2018, elect to join **either** the Mansfield Police Station Duty rota, **or** a standalone Newark scheme, if retained under Option (ii) above.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was **8 November 2017**.

### **Summary of Responses**

A total of six responses were received in response to the above consultation, which raised concerns regarding the impact on clients and providers and the inadequate notice given by Nottinghamshire Police.

Four out of six responses were in favour of **Option (ii)**:-

*That the Newark Police Station Scheme is retained as a separate scheme and duty solicitors will be directed by the DSCC to attend Mansfield Police Station upon identification of a Newark detainee*

### **Decision**

Thank you to everyone who provided feedback on the proposals.

After careful consideration of the responses received, and the points raised within the same, the Legal Aid Agency have decided to proceed with **Option (ii)** above.

### **Next steps**

- Nottinghamshire Police have been consulted further and have agreed to direct all Newark detainees who request the Duty Solicitor at Mansfield Police Station to members of the Newark Police Station Scheme.
- The DSCC have been instructed to check with custody staff which scheme should be contacted when the Duty Solicitor is requested at Mansfield Police station.
- This arrangement will be reviewed by the LAA and Newark Scheme members at the end of January 2018 to determine whether this arrangement works in practice. Duty Solicitors are invited to monitor the position. If necessary, a further consultation will be considered regarding the operation of the scheme from April 2018.
- HMCTS have confirmed that defendants will be bailed to either Mansfield or Nottingham Magistrates' Court and there is no change to existing arrangements. The Mansfield and Nottingham Court Duty Solicitor schemes therefore remain unaffected.
- A January to March 2018 rota will be published for the Newark Police Station scheme.
- Postcode boundaries for the Newark Police Station scheme remain unaffected.

### **Further Enquiries**

Should you have any queries or wish to discuss this Response please contact your Contract Manager.