



Legal Aid
Agency

Merseyside Regional Office

6th Floor
The Capital
New Hall Place
Liverpool, L3 9AF

To all members of the Liverpool/Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton & Wirral Court Duty Schemes

Date: 16th March 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

Response to Consultation with scheme members following HMCTS announcement to list overnight custody cases (excluding CJC cases) from the Sefton Court in Liverpool Magistrates' Court

On 1st March 2018, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Liverpool/Knowsley, St Helens, Sefton & Wirral Court Duty Solicitor scheme(s) affected by the HMCTS decision to list overnight custody cases from Sefton in Liverpool Magistrates' Court.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 15th March 2018 and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that following consideration of any responses, all affected parties would be notified of the outcome of the consultation. Therefore, this letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

Summary of Responses

No responses to the consultation on proposed changes to the above Duty Solicitor Scheme(s) as a result of the changes to listing overnight custody cases from Sefton in Liverpool Magistrates Court were received.

A decision has been made which provides the greatest fairness to all scheme members that are affected by this change.

Decision

The Legal Aid Agency have decided to proceed with the changes proposed in the Consultation Document.

The Liverpool & Knowsley, St Helens and Sefton rotas will be amended so that duty slots for the Merseyside overnight custody court are shared across all providers that qualify for the 3 schemes.

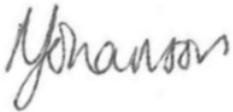
It is proposed that the Liverpool/Knowsley Court Duty Rota will contain a Custody Court Column with Duty Solicitors drawn from Liverpool/Knowsley, St Helens and Sefton Scheme areas.

All work undertaken in the court is claimable under the rates set out in the Criminal Legal Aid (Remuneration) Regulations.

Next steps

- These changes will take effect from 1st April 2018
- New rotas will be issued to cover the period 1st April 2018 to 30th September 2018.

Yours faithfully,



Nicola Johanson
Area Contract Manager