



Asiantaeth Cymorth  
Cyfreithiol

Legal Aid  
Agency

### **Introduction and Background**

To all members of the Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon Valley and Mid Glamorgan & Miskin Police Station Duty Solicitor Schemes

### **Duty Solicitor Schemes**

This is a consultation in relation to Duty Solicitor coverage within the Merthyr Tydfil police station Duty Solicitor Scheme which started when the Merthyr Tydfil police station custody hub was created in July 2014 and the Pontypridd police station custody unit was closed.

This consultation can also be found on the LAA website here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/duty-solicitor-scheme-boundary-consultations>

Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon Valley and Mid Glamorgan & Miskin Police Station Schemes  
Consultation

**This Consultation**

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the basis of the consultation 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 4 weeks, from 04/05/2018 to 01/06/2018.

Responses should be sent by email to [sarah.mallorie@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.mallorie@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk), entitled 'Merthyr Tydfil Rotas Consultation'.

**Section 1 – Basis of Consultation and Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.**

We previously consulted on changes to the Rotas in Merthyr Tydfil in July 2016 following the closure of Pontypridd Magistrates Court. As a result changes were made to the Court Duty Rotas which merged into one. No changes were proposed to the Police Station Rotas at that time. We have now received a request to consider the amalgamation of the police station Rota schemes.

The following Police Station Duty Schemes will potentially be affected:

- Merthyr Tydfil Duty Scheme
- Cynon Valley Duty Scheme
- Mid Glamorgan & Miskin Duty Scheme

Currently the same Duty Solicitors are on the Merthyr Tydfil/Cynon Valley Rotas, the Mid Glamorgan & Miskin Rota is separate. There are currently three Duty Solicitors on the overall Merthyr Tydfil police station Rota on a daily basis.

## Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon Valley and Mid Glamorgan & Miskin Police Station Schemes Consultation

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 the Merthyr Tydfil area**

### **Proposed Changes**

The proposed changes in this document relate only to the police station Duty Rotas. The LAA has received feedback from some Providers that, as the vast majority of custody matters are now processed in Merthyr, having one police station Rota would enhance the service and the availability of Duty Solicitors and would now be preferable.

#### **Option 1**

As a result of the above it is proposed that the Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon Valley and Mid Glamorgan Police Station rotas merge from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. This would result in one Merthyr Tydfil Duty Solicitor Rota of all providers that currently qualify for these three police station schemes. It is proposed that there be three Duty Solicitors on the Rota on a daily basis.

#### **Option 2**

As a result of the above it is proposed that the Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon Valley and Mid Glamorgan Police Station rotas merge from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. This would result in one Merthyr Tydfil duty Solicitor Rota of all providers that currently qualify for these three police station schemes. It is proposed that there be two Duty Solicitors on the Rota on a daily basis.

#### **Option 3**

The alternative option is that the police station Rotas for Merthyr Tydfil will continue to remain separate, meaning police station duty coverage would remain as currently set.

#### **Preferred option**

Option 2 is preferred; to merge the police station schemes in line with the current Court Duty scheme. This option seemingly provides the solution that best fits the current custody working practices and call volumes.

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