



# Legal Aid Agency

**Birmingham Regional Office**

**Cannon House, 18, The Priory Queensway**

**Birmingham, B4 6BS**

**To:** All Scheme Members of the Solihull, Birmingham and Coventry Police  
Station CJS Scheme Areas

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Consultation on changes to the Police Station Duty Rotas following the West Midlands Police decision to close Solihull Custody Suite for a period of 6 months from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.**

West Midlands Police have notified the Legal Aid Agency that Solihull Custody Suite is to close “temporarily” for a period of 6 months from the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and depending on the outcome of their assessments, may not open again.

This letter constitutes formal notice, under paragraph 6.6 of the 2017 Standard Crime Contract Specification - Duty Solicitor Provisions, which states we may consult on a proposal to change the postcode boundaries in respect of a scheme following the closure of a police station.

Please note: there are no further amendments to Contract arrangements – remuneration for Police Station work will remain unchanged.

This letter will deal specifically with proposed changes to the schemes affected by the closure of Solihull Custody Suite. West Midlands Police have confirmed that most of the prisoners previously taken to Solihull will generally be taken either to Coventry or Perry Barr, depending on the location of the arrest, but cannot be more specific.

Scheme members from the Solihull, Birmingham and Coventry police station schemes are invited to respond.

Existing scheme arrangements will continue for the duration of the current duty rotas up to and including Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Thereafter, following the outcome of this

consultation, any new arrangements will be applied from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Revised rotas for this period will be issued in advance.

You are invited to submit any comments regarding the proposals in writing, marked “**Solihull Consultation**” in the subject box by email to:

jack.hunter@justice.gov.uk by **5pm on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.**

The timetable for this consultation exercise is as follows:

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Start/end date</b>
Consultation Period	2 weeks	<b>18<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018</b>
Consideration of responses	1 week	<b>4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018.</b>
Notification of any changes	1 week	<b>11<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018.</b>
Issue of new rotas	<b>Latest 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018</b>	
Date changes would take effect	<b>16<sup>th</sup> July 2018</b>	

**Please note that given the short timescale to rota publication the Consultation Period is reduced to 2 weeks.**

### **Proposed Options**

Please find below proposed changes to the Solihull, Birmingham and Coventry police station schemes.

We have tried to keep changes to schemes to a minimum, whilst taking into account the likely impact on levels of service to clients from solicitors whose offices will no longer be local to the police station dealing with their matter.

Below are the options being proposed:

#### **Option A**

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOLIHULL AND COVENTRY POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEMES.

The proposal is that all of the existing Solihull and Coventry Police Station scheme members would join a single combined Police Station Duty Rota covering the current CJS areas of Solihull and Coventry.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service all of the police stations in the current Coventry CJS area.

THE EXISTING COURT DUTY ROTAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AND WOULD NOT COMBINE.

**Option B**

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOLIHULL AND BIRMINGHAM POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEMES.

The proposal is that all of the existing Solihull and Birmingham Police Station scheme members would join a single combined Police Station Duty Rota covering the current CJS areas of Solihull and Birmingham.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service all of the police stations in the current Birmingham CJS area.

THE EXISTING COURT DUTY ROTAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AS THEY ARE ALREADY COMBINED.

**Option C**

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOLIHULL AND COVENTRY COURT DUTY AND POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEMES.

The proposal is that all of the existing Solihull and Coventry Court Duty and Police Station scheme members would join a single combined scheme covering the current CJS areas of Solihull and Coventry from the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

Scheme Members would have access to, and would be required to service all of the police stations in the current Coventry CJS area.

If this option is elected then the Coventry and Solihull Police Station Scheme would be combined from the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018, but the Court Duty Scheme would not be combined until the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

It may be the case that you consider different approaches appropriate for this scheme and if this is the case please make it clear in your response. Please explain in your response which Option(s) and scheme(s) you are referring to, or indicate your reasons for preferring any other alternative suggestion.