

01<sup>st</sup> February 2019

<b>To all Duty Solicitors on the Scunthorpe Duty Scheme</b>
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Dear Duty Solicitor

Further to my letter dated 06<sup>th</sup> December 2018 this is the Legal Aid Agency's response to the consultation regarding the closure of Scunthorpe police station.

The options set out in the consultation were:

Option 1 – Amend the scheme boundaries for the Grimsby Police Station Duty scheme allowing Duty Solicitors who are currently members of the Scunthorpe Police Station Duty scheme to become members of the Grimsby Police Station Duty scheme from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

Option 2 – Make no change to the scheme boundaries in place at present, i.e. Police Station Duty at Scunthorpe will cease to exist after 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019. Providers currently eligible for membership of the Grimsby Police Station Duty Scheme only will continue to access duty slots on the Grimsby Police Station Duty rota as a result of the change from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

### **Summary of responses received**

4 responses were received, all of which confirmed a preference for Option 1.

Alternative suggestions were put forward regarding creating two rotas with the Duty Solicitor being allocated to the client based on the arrest location. These suggestions have been carefully considered, however the practicalities of doing this would make it unfeasible.

A query was also raised around the fee structure being reconsidered, as Scunthorpe Police Station attracts a higher fee than Grimsby Police Station. This has been fed back to be considered, however at the present time there will be no changes to the fee structure.

### **Consultation Outcome**

As detailed above, the consultation responses received expressed a preference for Option 1. We will therefore take the necessary steps to implement this option.

The indicative date which we were initially given by Humberside Police around the Scunthorpe Police Station closure was 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and the Duty Solicitor rota was to be amended from 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019, however the date of closure for Scunthorpe Police Station has now been confirmed as 04<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the impact of which, will mean that the Duty Solicitor rota will be amended from 05<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **Impact on affected Duty Solicitor Schemes**

The scheme boundaries for the Grimsby Police Station Duty scheme will be amended, allowing Duty Solicitors who are currently members of the Scunthorpe Police Station Duty

scheme to become members of the Grimsby Police Station Duty scheme from 05<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### **Rota Publication**

The Scunthorpe/Grimsby rotas operational from 1st January 2019 will be re-issued to reflect the closure of Scunthorpe police station.

### **Further Enquiries**

Should you have any queries or need to discuss this consultation response further you should contact your local Contract Manager at the Leeds Regional Office.

Kind regards

**Helen Lindley**  
**Contract Manager**