



Legal Aid Agency

Birmingham Regional Office

Cannon House, 18, The Priory Queensway

Birmingham, B4 6BS

To: All Scheme Members of the Staffordshire CJS Scheme Areas

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Consultation on changes to the Police Station Duty Rotas following the Staffordshire Police decision to close the Burton upon Trent Custody Suite permanently from Tuesday 15th January 2019.

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 Burton upon Trent Custody Suite.

A Consultation took place in February 2019 the outcome of which was to combine the Police Station Duty rota for the whole of the County of Staffordshire. Following publication of the Consultation Response the Legal Aid Agency received a number of complaints about the combination of the scheme and it was agreed that a Post Consultation Review Meeting would be arranged to listen to the concerns of all affected parties.

This meeting was duly held at Staffordshire Police Head Quarters on the 30th April 2019 and at this meeting Staffordshire Police provided an update on their deployment policy for the County which was that in general, detainees from the Burton area would now be taken to the Northern Area Custody Facility and detainees from the Tamworth and Lichfield areas would be taken to Watling Street Custody

Suite. However, this would be assessed on a case by case basis by the Police taking account of the needs of the client and a risk assessment conducted by the Police.

It was agreed at this meeting that the LAA would contact all members of the Combined Staffordshire Scheme and allow them 28 days to submit alternative/additional options to those included in the original Consultation paper. The deadline to submit alternative/additional options has now expired and only 1 response has been received which is incorporated in Option D detailed below.

It is now the LAA's intention to open a second Consultation and Scheme members from the Burton and Tamworth, Staffordshire North, (Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme), and Staffordshire South, (Stafford and Cannock), police station schemes are invited to respond.

Existing scheme arrangements will continue for the duration of the current duty rota up to and including Monday 30th September 2019. Thereafter, following the outcome of this consultation, any new arrangements will be binding and will be applied from Tuesday 1st October 2019. Revised rotas for this period will be issued in advance.

You are invited to submit any comments regarding the proposals in writing, marked "**Burton Custody Suite Consultation**" in the subject box by email to:

jack.hunter@justice.gov.uk by **5pm on Friday 26th July 2019.**

The timetable for this consultation exercise is as follows:

Stage	Duration	Start/end date
Consultation Period	4 weeks	14th June 2019 to 26th July 2019
Consideration of responses	1 week	29th July 2019 to 2nd August 2019.
Notification of any changes	1 week	5th August to 9th August 2019.
Issue of new rotas	Latest 2nd September 2019	
Date changes would take effect	1st October 2019	

Proposed Options

Please find below the proposed changes to the current Staffordshire Combined Police Station scheme.

Option A

OPERATE TWO SEPARATE AND DISTINCT POLICE STATION ROTAS FOR SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE BASED AT WATLING STREET CUSTODY SUITE. ONE ROTA FOR STAFFORD AND CANNONCK AND A SEPARATE ROTA FOR BURTON, TAMWORTH AND LICHFIELD.

The proposal is that from the 1st October 2019 separate rotas would be created for the Burton, Tamworth and Lichfield postcode areas and Cannock and Stafford postcode areas both operating from Watling Street Custody Suite and deployment would be dependent on the police notifying the Duty Solicitor Call Centre from which scheme a Duty Solicitor should be deployed depending on the location of the arrest.

NB. The decision on which scheme to deploy a Duty Solicitor call from would be based on the place of arrest, with detainees who would have previously been taken to Burton being deployed to the Burton, Tamworth and Lichfield rota based at Watling Street. Detainees from the Cannock and Stafford areas who would previously have been taken to the Watling Street Custody Suite, prior to the 16th January 2019, would have a Duty Solicitor deployed from the Cannock and Stafford Rota.

The Duty Solicitor arrangements would be amended so that 1 Duty Solicitor from the Burton and Tamworth scheme and 1 from the Cannock and Stafford scheme would be on call for the period 0600 to 1800 with a second Duty Solicitor on call from 1800 to 0600, 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday.

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

Option B

COMBINE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BURTON, TAMWORTH AND LICHFIELD AND STAFFORD AND CANNOCK POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEMES.

The proposal is that all the existing Burton, Tamworth and Lichfield and Stafford and Cannock Police Station scheme members would join a single combined Police Station Duty Rota for the South of the County.

The Duty Solicitor arrangements would be amended so that 1 Duty Solicitor would be on 24hr call from the combined scheme from 1700 to 1700, 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday.

Or alternatively, the scheme arrangements could be amended to have 1 Duty Solicitor on call for the period 0600 to 1800 with a second Duty Solicitor on call from 1800 to 0600, 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday. If you specify Option C can you please also confirm which arrangements you are opting for.

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

Option C

MAINTAIN THE CURRENT COMBINED POLICE STATION ROTA FOR THE COUNTY WITH ALL FIRM'S REQUIRED TO SERVICE CLIENTS AT THE NORTHERN AREA CUSTODY FACILITY AND WATLING STREET CUSTODY SUITE.

The Duty Solicitor arrangements would stay the same with 1 Duty Solicitor for NACF and 1 for Watling Street on call for the period 0600 to 1800 with a second Duty Solicitor on call from 1800 to 0600, 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday.

THE EXISTING COURT DUTY ROTAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED WITH A COUNTY WIDE REMAND SCHEME AND SEPARATE COURT DUTY SCHEMES FOR NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE.

Option D

TO CREATE TWO SEPARATE NORTH AND SOUTH SCHEMES FOR THE COUNTY, WITH FIRMS FROM THE BURTON AND UTTOXETER POSTCODE AREAS JOINING THE NORTHERN SCHEME AND FIRMS FROM THE TAMWORTH AND LICHFIELD POSTCODE AREAS JOINING THE SOUTHERN SCHEME.

The proposal is that the current combined rota would be demerged to create a separate North and South Scheme for the County.

North Scheme

The Northern Scheme would be required to service the Northern Area Custody Facility and all other police stations in the Newcastle, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire Moorlands, Burton and Uttoxeter postcode areas. All firms in the Burton and Uttoxeter postcode areas would join the Northern Scheme.

The Duty Solicitor arrangements would be amended to rota 1 Duty Solicitor being on call for the period 0600 to 1800 with a second Duty Solicitor on call from 1800 to 0600, 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday.

South Scheme

The Southern Scheme would be required to service the Watling Street Custody Suite and all other police stations in the Stafford, Cannock and Rugeley, Tamworth and Lichfield. All firms in the Tamworth and Lichfield postcode areas would join the Southern Scheme.

The Duty Solicitor arrangements would be amended to rota 1 Duty Solicitor being on call for the period 0600 to 1800 with a second Duty Solicitor on call from 1800 to 0600, 7 days a week, Monday to Sunday

THE EXISTING COURT DUTY ROTAS WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED WITH A COUNTY WIDE REMAND SCHEME AND SEPARATE COURT DUTY SCHEMES FOR NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE AND SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

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.