



Legal Aid
Agency

London Regional Office
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London
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Date: 25th September 2019

To: All members of the
Hammersmith adult court
duty scheme and
Westminster Court duty
scheme operating out of the
City of Westminster
Magistrates Court.

Dear Sir / Madam

Response to Consultation with Hammersmith adult court duty scheme and Westminster Court duty scheme, operating out of City of Westminster magistrates court, following HMCTS request to reduce the number of duty slots.

On Wednesday 4th September, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Hammersmith adult court duty scheme and Westminster Court duty scheme affected by the HMCTS decision to reduce the number of duty slots in City of Westminster Magistrates Court. The Extradition rota that also sits at City of Westminster Magistrates Court are completely unaffected by this consultation.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was the 24th September and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that, following consideration of any responses, it was our intention to notify all affected parties of the outcome of the consultation by Wednesday 25th September. Therefore, this letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

Summary of Responses

A total of 5 responses to the consultation on proposed changes to the Hammersmith adult court duty scheme and Westminster Court duty scheme, affected by the HMCTS decision to reduce the number of duty slots, were received.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on the proposal.

The 5 responses received came from 5 firms.

All 5 respondents had members on the current schemes, therefore, all respondents are directly impacted by any changes arising from this consultation.

4 respondents were in favour of option 1 and 1 respondent in favour of option 2.

Of these 5 respondents, 5 made no notable additional comments.

Decision

After careful consideration of the responses received, of which 4 respondents agreed with the preferred approach of merging Hammersmith Adult Court and City of Westminster Court schemes. This would mean that one scheme would then operate from this location and slots are proportionally allocated based on the current number of solicitors on each of the current schemes.

Next steps

- Option 1 proposed in the consultation document will take effect on 1st October 2019
- New rotas will be issued to cover the period 1st October 2019- 31st March 2020.

Yours faithfully,



Abbie Lane
Area Contract Manager