



Legal Aid  
Agency

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE TORBAY & TEIGNBRIDGE/SOUTH HAMS  
MAGISTRATES' COURT DUTY AND POLICE STATION SCHEMES**

## **Introduction and Background**

### **Duty Solicitor Schemes**

This consultation is a result of the Teignbridge/South Hams scheme now only having 3 members and consideration of the continuing need and sustainability of maintaining both a Teignbridge/South Hams and a Torbay scheme.

Most Police Station duty work is currently undertaken via Torquay Custody Centre and following the closure of Torquay Magistrates Court in 2017, both schemes also service Newton Abbot Magistrates Court. A small proportion of Police Station cases from within the scheme areas, are taken to Plymouth Charles Cross when the individual is from the outlying areas of the South Hams.

## **This Consultation**

This consultation paper comprises one section:

Section 1 outlines the options identified to change the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected within your local region.

We are consulting on these proposals for **3 weeks**, from **8<sup>th</sup> January**.

Responses should be sent by email to: [john.facey@justice.gov.uk](mailto:john.facey@justice.gov.uk)

## **Section 1 - Proposed revisions to schemes in the Torbay, Teignbridge & South Hams areas**

### **Proposed Changes**

Where significant revisions are required, we set out 2 Options reflecting two different general approaches, with explanations where appropriate, of how each of those approaches will affect the different schemes.

At the end we indicate the option we favour.

## **Devon & Cornwall CJS Area – Torbay and Teignbridge/South Hams Duty Schemes**

Our proposals are as follows:

**Option 1:** Make no changes to the current Torbay and Teignbridge/South Hams Duty Schemes

**Option 2:** Combine the two schemes into one scheme, with providers with post codes in either the current Torbay or Teignbridge/South Hams schemes becoming eligible for the resulting combined Torbay, Teignbridge & South Hams scheme.

Option 2 is preferred by the Legal Aid Agency as it represents a more sustainable and effective way to administer and provide access to justice for potential clients within those scheme areas.

Respondents are invited to comment on these proposals and, if not in support of the proposals, to offer an alternative suggestion.