



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

19 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to the Consultation on changes to the membership of the Staffordshire North and Staffordshire South Police Station Duty Schemes resulting from a consultation held in June 2019 as a result of the Staffordshire Police decision to close Burton upon Trent Police Station Custody Suite permanently from Tuesday 15 January 2019.

On Wednesday 20 January 2021, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation under paragraph 6.60 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/custody suite. Burton upon Trent Police Station Custody Suite has been closed permanently.

Following a previous consultation in June 2019 the Burton and Tamworth Police Station Scheme was separated with firms within the Burton upon Trent postcode area joining the Staffordshire North Police Station Scheme and firms in the Tamworth and Lichfield postcode areas joining the Staffordshire South Police Station Scheme. This has resulted in providers based in Burton upon Trent being members of the North Staffordshire Police Station Scheme and the South Staffordshire Court Duty Scheme. This creates an anomaly in the operation of the two duty schemes for providers based in Burton upon Trent and impacts the Postcode Tool when assessing which Scheme a provider is able to join and this position needs to be rectified before the new Standard Crime Contract tender is opened.

The consultation proposed changes to the membership of the North and South Police Station Duty Solicitor schemes and changes to the postcode boundaries for these two schemes.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was Wednesday 10 February 2021 and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that following consideration of responses, all affected parties would be notified of the outcome of the consultation by the 17 February 2021. This letter is therefore intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to respond to the consultation.

12 responses were received, some from individual Duty Solicitors and some a combined response reflecting the views of a firm overall. The majority, (11/12), of respondents opted for the proposed change of moving all firms in the Burton upon Trent postcode area into the South Staffordshire Police Station Duty Scheme to align it with the South Staffordshire Court Duty Scheme.

No decision can meet the expressed desires of all those who provided feedback to the consultation, whilst also meeting the needs of clients and the LAA. A decision has therefore been made which will provide rationalised, efficient and effective Duty provision across the schemes under review, having given due consideration to the feedback received.

It has been decided that the following arrangements will be implemented:

From Thursday 1 April 2021 all firms within the Burton upon Trent and Uttoxeter postcode areas will be moved in the South Staffordshire Police Station Scheme and the Uttoxeter Panel Scheme will be abolished and the postcode tool will be amended accordingly.

There are no amendments to Remuneration Regulations or Contract arrangements and remuneration for Police Station Duty work and Own Client attendances within the CJS area will remain unchanged.

Please ensure that you work from the updated rotas when they arrive.

Next steps

A new combined Staffordshire South, Court Duty and Police Station rota and a new Staffordshire North, Court Duty and Police Station rota will be issued shortly to cover the rota period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Yours faithfully



Claire Jan
Area Contract Manager