



Legal Aid Agency

Birmingham Regional Office

Cannon House, 18, The Priory Queensway

Birmingham, B4 6BS

31st October 2016

To: Scheme Members of the Shrewsbury
and Telford Scheme Areas

Dear Sir/Madam,

Response to Consultation with the Shrewsbury and Telford Scheme Areas members following HMCTS announcement to close Shrewsbury Magistrates' Court

On 23rd September 2016, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation under paragraph 6.5 of the 2010 Standard Crime Contract Specification. The consultation was regarding possible changes to the eligibility rules for membership of duty solicitor schemes affected by the HMCTS decision to close Shrewsbury Magistrates' Court.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 21st October 2016 and the timetable for the consultation exercise indicated that following consideration of any responses, all affected parties would be notified of the outcome of the consultation no later than 4th November 2016. Therefore, this letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

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

6 responses were received, the majority of which favoured Option A. Concerns over increased travel costs were raised with regard to Option B. No alternative suggestions were proposed. It has therefore been decided that the arrangements below will be implemented.

Arrangements for 5th December 2016 Shropshire Court Duty Rota:

Duty Solicitors who are currently members of the Shrewsbury Court Duty Solicitor Scheme and Duty Solicitors who are members of the Telford Court Duty Scheme will all become members of the Shropshire Court Duty Scheme for Telford Magistrates Court.

All sessions are attendance.

2 Duty Solicitors will be on rota to attend each day Monday to Friday, one for bail cases and one for custody cases. 1 Duty Solicitor will be on rota to attend for Saturday and Bank Holiday Courts.

Please note that all Courts and Police stations are in undesignated areas.

There is no change to the current arrangements with regard to the claiming of travel and disbursements.

All scheme members should be aware that the duty solicitor rota team will be re-issuing new rotas for the Shropshire Scheme beginning from the 5th December 2016.

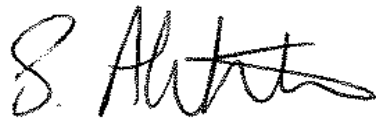
Please ensure that you work from the updated rotas when they arrive.

There will be no changes to the police station schemes in these areas, meaning police station duty eligibility will remain as currently defined.

Next steps

- ☐ The changes detailed above will take effect on 5th December 2016.
- ☐ New rotas will be issued to cover the period 5th December 2016 to 31st March 2017.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Akhtar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shameem Akhtar
Area Contract Manager