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To all Duty Solicitors on  
the Merthyr Tydfil/Cynon Valley/Mid Glamorgan  
& Miskin police station DS schemes.

Date/Dyddiad: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

Dear Duty Solicitor

**Response to Consultation with Merthyr Tydfil/Cynon Valley/Mid Glamorgan & Miskin police station Duty Solicitor scheme members following on from the creation of the Merthyr Tydfil police station hub.**

On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Merthyr Tydfil/Cynon Valley/Mid Glamorgan & Miskin Duty Solicitor schemes affected by the creation of the Merthyr Tydfil police station hub.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 and two responses were received one of which proposed a different option to those consulted on so on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 the Legal Aid Agency issued a further consultation with a deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

This letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the further consultation.

**Summary of Responses**

A total of four responses to the consultation were received plus one further response which was received out of time.

The four responses received indicated a preference for the preferred Option 2. The response that was received out of time indicated a preference for Option 1 with the rota period being split between two duty solicitors (ie 09.00-17.00 and 17.00-09.00).

No response was deemed as acceptance of the preferred Option 2 as specified in the further consultation document.

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

There is no decision that can meet the needs of all those that have fed back on the scheme changes and a decision has been made which provides the greatest fairness to all scheme members that are affected by this change.

## **Decision**

After careful consideration of the responses received, and the points raised within the same, the Legal Aid Agency have decided to proceed with Option 2;

### **Option 2**

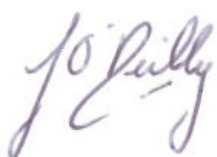
As a result of the above it is proposed that the Merthyr Tydfil, Cynon Valley and Mid Glamorgan Police Station rotas merge from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. This would result in one Merthyr Tydfil duty Solicitor Rota of all providers that currently qualify for these three police station schemes. It is proposed that there be one Duty Solicitor on the Rota on a daily basis.

This option seemingly provides the solution that best fits the current custody working practices and call volumes.

## **Next steps**

Option 2 proposed in the further consultation document will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 when the new Duty Solicitor Rotas are issued.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'J O'Reilly'.

James O'Reilly  
Area Contract Manager