

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE WAKEFIELD AND PONTEFRACT POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEME

Introduction and Background

Duty Schemes

This consultation is a result of concerns raised by the Wakefield and Pontefract Police Station scheme members, regarding the sustainability of maintaining a 24-hour police station rota.

Currently, the Police Station rota consists of one daily rota, operating between 0900-0900, with one duty solicitor allocated to the rota. The number of scheme members is twenty-two from ten providers.

Scheme members have suggested that following the amalgamation of Wakefield and Pontefract the scheme is busier and with other demands on their capacity, including the Magistrates Court Duty rota, concerns in relation to health and safety (driving after long periods in the police station) it would be preferable to consider having two 12-hour rota periods reducing the time constraints on the duty solicitors. It is acknowledged that this will increase the number and frequency of slots that require provider cover and views are also sought on this.

This consultation seeks to determine the favoured approach among scheme members, with a view to reissuing the rota with effect from 3rd April 2024.

The Magistrate Court Duty arrangements for this scheme, are not subject to consultation and are intended to remain unchanged.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the **Duty Scheme membership concerns** and the Duty Scheme affected.

Section 2 outlines the options identified to change the Duty Schemes affected within your local region.

We are consulting on these proposals for 2 weeks, from Tuesday 6th February 2024 to Tuesday 20th February 2024.

Please ensure your final response is sent to: gemma.clark@justice.gov.uk with the heading marked "Wakefield and Pontefract Police Station Consultation Response" to be received no later than 5.00pm on 20th February 2024. We will aim to confirm the outcome of the consultation week commencing 26th February 2024

Section 1 - Proposed revisions to schemes in the Wakefield and Pontefract Police Station scheme.

Wakefield and Pontefract Police Station rota to be amended to create 12-hour slots from 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. and from 9.00 p.m. to 9.00 a.m. the following day, as opposed to 24-hour slots from 9.00 to 9.00.

Section 2 Proposed Changes Wakefield and Pontefract Police Station

Option 1 – Make no changes and continue with the rota in its current format.

Option 2 – The current Wakefield and Pontefract 24- hour rota would be changed and two rota periods 09:00- 21:00 and 21:00 – 09:00 would be created. This scheme will then require 1 duty solicitor to be allocated slots, across each 12-hour period.

The current rota indicates a scheme membership of 22 members.

Our preferred option is Option 2 which would address Providers concerns in relation to health and safety.

If you have any other suggested options that you feel we should consider, we would be grateful for your views. Please note, subject to the outcome of this consultation, it is our intention to re-issue the affected rota with effect from 3rd April 2024