



## **TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE WAKEFIELD DUTY SCHEME**

### **Response to the Consultation with Wakefield Duty Scheme regarding the sustainability of maintaining a 24-hour police station rota.**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation regarding possible changes to the Wakefield Duty Scheme following concerns of maintaining a 24-Hour Wakefield Police Station rota.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 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 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Therefore, this letter is intended as formal notification of the outcome of the consultation.

### **Summary of Responses**

A total of 8 responses to the consultation were received from 8 different Providers on proposed changes to the Wakefield Police Station Duty Scheme.

All respondents are current members of the Wakefield Police Station Scheme. Therefore, all respondents would potentially be impacted directly by any changes arising from this consultation.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback on the 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 could be affected by this change.

8 out of 10 Providers on the Wakefield Police Station Duty Scheme provided a response to the Consultation.

2 Providers opted for **Option 1** (the rota to remain the same) and 6 Providers opted for **Option 2** (the rota to be changed as outlined below).

No alternative options were put forward by any of the respondents.

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

**This decision was reached based on 6 out of the 8 responses opting for this option.**

## Next steps

- Option 2 proposed in the consultation document will take effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024.
- New rotas will be issued to cover the period 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Yours faithfully,



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**Legal Aid Agency**