



23 Stephenson Street
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**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE KIDDERMINSTER AND REDDITCH &
BROMSGROVE POLICE STATION DUTY SCHEMES.**

**Additional West Mercia Members and Black Country Scheme Members for
Information only.**

RE: Kidderminster and Redditch & Bromsgrove Duty Schemes

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Response to the consultation on changes to the membership of the
Kidderminster and Redditch & Bromsgrove Police Station Duty Schemes
resulting from a consultation held in July/ August 2024**

And also

**Response to the consultation on changes to the postcode boundaries for the
existing Kidderminster Scheme so as to remove the DY8 1XX postcode.**

On 21 July 2024 the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation under paragraph 6.60 of the 2022 Standard Crime Contract Specification - Duty Solicitor Provisions, which states that we may consult on a proposal to change the postcode boundaries in respect of a Scheme following the closure of a Police Station/Magistrates Court.

Please note: the changes proposed will not impact arrangements under the existing 2022 Standard Crime Contract. It is proposed that they come into force in the future 2025 Standard Crime Contract.

The consultation proposed changes to the membership of the Kidderminster and Redditch & Bromsgrove Police Station Duty Schemes and also changes to the Kidderminster Scheme to remove the DY8 1XX postcode.

Proposal 1 - Duty Scheme Proposed Changes

OPTION 1

Amalgamate the Redditch & Bromsgrove Scheme with the Kidderminster Scheme to create one Rota from which slots will be allocated according to a single published Rota rather than by the arrest location.

OPTION 2

Make no change and continue with two Schemes running together at the single custody suite.

Proposal 2 - Postcode Tool Proposed Changes

OPTION 1

The Postcode Tool would be amended to show that providers based in the postcode DY8 1XX would be eligible for the Black Country Scheme only.

OPTION 2

Make no change to the Postcode Tool therefore continuing to allow providers located within that postcode access both the Kidderminster Scheme and the Black Country Scheme.

The deadline for submission of responses was 5pm on Monday 12 August 2024 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 27 August 2024

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

Five responses were received. Two of those responses were received from providers who had been copied into the consultation for information purposes only. For the avoidance of doubt this consultation was decided on the three responses from the Redditch & Bromsgrove and Kidderminster Schemes.

In respect of proposal one concerning the proposed merger of the Redditch & Bromsgrove and Kidderminster Schemes all those who responded were in favour of Option 1, namely the merger of the schemes.

In the respect of proposal two concerning the proposal to change the postcode boundaries the majority (2/3) of respondents were in favour of Option 1 to amend the postcode boundaries.

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 therefore been decided that the following arrangements will be implemented to take effect from the start of the 2025 Standard Crime Contract

- The existing Redditch, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster Duty Schemes will be combined into one 24-hour scheme. The revised scheme will be known as the North Worcestershire scheme.
- The Postcode Tool will be amended to show that providers located within the postcode DY8 1XX will be eligible for the Black Country Scheme only.

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 remain unchanged.

Please ensure that you work from the updated rotas when published.

Karen Firth

Area Contract Manager