



Legal Aid  
Agency

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE NORTHAMPTON (INC CORBY /  
KETTERING / WELLINGBOROUGH) DUTY SCHEMES**

## **Introduction and Background**

This consultation is in response to a request from HMCTS for the provision of separate Duty Solicitors for GAP and NGAP courts sitting at Northampton Magistrates' Court.

In addition, following a request from a provider, this consultation also seeks views on a proposal to amend the Corby Police Station scheme slots from a 24-hour period to a 12-hour duty period.

Both requests are the result of pressures on Duty Solicitor capacity.

## **This Consultation**

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the proposal for separate duty solicitors for the GAP and NGAP courts.

Section 2 outlines the option to amend the duration of Corby Police Station slots from 24 hours to 12 hours.

We are consulting on these proposals for 3 weeks, from Friday 1 May 2026.

Responses should be sent by email to Rebecca Hallatt via [nottinghamcm@justice.gov.uk](mailto:nottinghamcm@justice.gov.uk)

## **Section 1 – Consultation for separate duty solicitors for GAP and NGAP courts.**

Northampton Court Duty Solicitor Scheme, currently operates as follows:

- One Duty Solicitor allocated to the remand Court sitting from 9.00 a.m.

- One Duty Solicitor allocated to the NGAP/GAP/Domestic Abuse Court sitting daily from 9:30 – until released.

Section 1 of this consultation is only in relation to the GAP & NGAP court at Northampton. Weekend, occasional courts and Wellingborough Court duty slots are unaffected. HMCTS have advised that, in their view, the level of demand would be better managed through the allocation of separate duty solicitors for the GAP and NGAP, which would result in 3 Duty Solicitors being allocated to Northampton Magistrates' Court on an almost daily basis.

If in favour of this change, respondents are also invited to consider whether the Domestic Abuse court should be covered by the NGAP or GAP Court Duty Solicitor.

Any changes to the scheme would require the allocation of an extra Court Duty Solicitor slot. Existing slots would be unaffected however it is noted that this would increase the number of Court Duty Solicitor slots requiring cover by providers eligible for the Northampton scheme. This change could be implemented with 4 weeks' notice, to give providers adequate time to diarise and resource the additional slots.

## **Section 2 – Option to amend the duration of a Corby Police Station slot from 24 hours to 12 hours.**

Corby Police scheme slots currently operate on a 24-hour basis, namely from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. the following day, with 1 duty solicitor allocated at any one time.

Section 2 of this consultation is proposing the duration of the Corby Police Station slot changes from a 24-hour slot to 12-hours, replicating the arrangements at Brackmills custody suite, or alternatively at a start time proposed by members.

Any changes to the Corby Police Station scheme slots would require a revised rota and would not take effect until the 1 October 2026, to prevent any disruption to existing Corby Police Station slots.

Respondents are invited to comment on these proposals and/or provide views on how any changes may be implemented, including the start times of any Corby Police station slots, if in favour of the proposed change.

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If you have any queries or wish to discuss the above consultations, please contact your Contract Manager.

Written responses are required and should be sent by email to: Rebecca Hallatt via [nottinghamcm@justice.gov.uk](mailto:nottinghamcm@justice.gov.uk) by **5.00 p.m. on Friday 22 May 2026**.

**Rebecca Hallatt**  
**Contract Manager**  
**Legal Aid Agency**