



Legal Aid Agency

**TO: ALL MEMBERS OF THE HINCKLEY AND LEICESTER DUTY
SOLICITOR SCHEME(S)**

Response to a Consultation to consider changes to eligibility for the Hinckley Police Station Scheme and a proposal to amend the Leicester Police Station scheme to a full-time rota with either 24-hour or 12-hour slots.

On 12 June 2026, the Legal Aid Agency issued a consultation to consider whether the Hinckley Police Station scheme should be merged with the Leicester scheme, following a reduction in membership and to amend the Leicester Police Station scheme to a full-time rota, removing the daytime panel.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was Monday 6 July 2026, extended to Friday 10 July 2026, at a meeting between the LAA, providers and Leicestershire Police on 3 July. This meeting was called to discuss the consultation paper and a Police operational update.

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

Summary of Responses

A total of 10 Providers responded to the consultation on the proposed changes.

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

Consultation in respect of the Hinckley Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme

All respondents are members of Leicestershire Duty Solicitor Schemes (namely Hinckley, Leicester or Loughborough).

Decision

Responses to the consultation were varied with some advocating no change, others for either a merger with Leicester or an alternative proposal for the creation of a county scheme by merging Hinckley with Loughborough.

After careful consideration of the responses, the lack of consensus amongst respondents and the current effective performance of the Hinckley Scheme, the Legal Aid Agency have decided no changes will be made to the Hinckley Police

Station Duty Solicitor Scheme at this time. The current arrangements will remain in place, and the operation and viability of the scheme will continue to be monitored.

Consultation in respect of the Leicester Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme

All respondents are members of Leicestershire Duty Solicitor Schemes (namely Hinckley, Leicester or Loughborough).

There is no decision that can meet the needs of all those that responded in relation to the proposals however a decision has been made which is responsive to the increasing demand for representation by detainees in Leicester's custody suites and reflects the views of most respondents.

Decision

The majority of respondents expressed support for a full-time rota comprising two 12-hour slots and the Legal Aid Agency has decided to implement this option.

This means that the Leicester Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme will operate with rota slots as follows:

- **Weekdays:** 09:00 - 17:00 and 17:00 - 09:00
- **Weekends and Bank Holidays:** 09:00 - 18:00 and 18:00 - 09:00

This approach provides greater certainty for resource planning and addresses the welfare considerations raised by respondents during the consultation.

The changes will take effect from **1 October 2026**.

Next steps

- The amendment to the Leicester Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme will come into effect from the **1 October 2026**.

Yours faithfully,

Elaine Annable
Area Contract Manager
Legal Aid Agency