



Legal Aid
Agency

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By E-mail

www.justice.gov.uk

Date 7th September 2016

Dear Duty Solicitor

Subject: Court Closure- Fareham Court

Firstly I must apologise for the omission in not seeking your views earlier. This letter is to inform you of changes to the Fareham and Portsmouth Court Duty schemes and to seek any comments.

You will be aware that Ministers announced to Parliament on 11 February 2016 that a number of Courts in England and Wales would close following the Public Consultation on Court closures. One of the Courts that will close is Fareham Magistrates' Court. The full closure of the Court is planned for 1 October 2016.

There are very few options for this Court Duty scheme that would preserve access to court duty work for Fareham scheme members, as clearly the Fareham Court rota would no longer be required as of 1 October 2016.

As a result of the closure of Fareham Magistrates' Court the Fareham Court Duty scheme will be merged into the Portsmouth Court Duty scheme with effect from 1st October 2016. We are not making changes to the current police station schemes.

Therefore the following Fareham scheme postcodes will be included in the Portsmouth Court Duty scheme:

First element of Post Code	Number in second element of Post Code
PO12	1, 2, 3 and 4
PO13	0, 8 and 9
PO14	1, 2, 3 and 4
PO15	5, 6 and 7
PO16	0, 7, 8 and 9
PO17	5
SO31	1, 6, 7 and 9

For the absence of doubt the scheme will remain an attendance scheme and travel, including disbursements is not claimable on a business day. Additionally, Portsmouth is a designated area.

If you have any comments regarding alternatives which would retain access for all Portsmouth and Fareham scheme members to Court Duty work please email the following email address by 5pm on 14th September:

SEContractManagers@legalaid.gsi.gov.uk

The Legal Aid Agency does not guarantee work under the contract. Discussions with local Court managers have indicated that the number of Duty Solicitors required for the merged Portsmouth Court Duty scheme will be 11.5 per week (Monday to Friday), as opposed to the existing 14 across the two current schemes. We will therefore prepare the Portsmouth Court Duty rota on the combined membership of Portsmouth and Fareham Court Duty schemes in accordance with the Court's anticipated requirement for duty solicitor cover.

We will aim to issue the new Court Duty rota as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully

South East Contract Management Team
Legal Aid Agency