



Legal Aid
Agency

TO: ALL MEMBERS OF NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE STATION SCHEMES – NEWARK CUSTODY SUITE

Introduction and Background

This consultation is in response to Nottinghamshire Police's decision to 'mothball' Newark Police Station Custody Unit with effect from 6 November 2017 (notification received 25 October 2017).

Newark Police Station will remain available for Police business continuity purposes and in cases of high demand, such as New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Current Police planning is that Newark custody suite will be open for 48 hours from the 31 December 2017 to 2 January 2018.

Newark based arrests, from the 6 November, will be taken to Mansfield Custody suite and bailed to Mansfield Magistrates' Court. Any voluntary attendees, if reported for summons, will be reported to the Court covering the relevant voluntary attendance location.

Newark Police Station is currently served by the Newark Police Station Duty Solicitor Scheme. This scheme will cease to be viable from Monday 6 November 2017.

The Mansfield Magistrates' Court Duty scheme will remain as it is and will not be affected by the change to Newark Police Station. Similarly, Nottingham Court Duty Solicitor scheme remains unaffected, unless we receive views to the contrary.

This Consultation

This consultation paper comprises two sections:

Section 1 outlines the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

Section 2 outlines the options identified to change the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected within your local region.

Due to the imminent mothballing of Newark Custody Suite and the need to provide certainty to affected Duty Solicitors, responses to this consultation should be sent by email to elaine.annable@justice.gov.uk by 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday **8th November**.

Section 1 - Changes to Newark Police Station Custody Suite and the Duty Solicitor Schemes affected.

As a result of the decision to mothball Newark Police Station to custody cases and the non-viability of the Newark Police Station Duty Scheme, we must amend the **Newark 24 Hour Scheme**.

All postcode sectors are mapped into at least one Duty Scheme. The changes proposed here affect the following postcodes:

Newark (scheme ID 8013), Postcodes – NG14 7, NG22 0, NG22 8, NG23 5, NG23 6, NG23 7, NG24 1, NG24 2, NG24 3, NG24 4, NG25 0.

Mansfield (scheme ID 8012), NG15 0, NG15 7, NG15 8, NG15 9, NG16 6, NG17 1, NG17 2, NG17 3, NG17 4, NG17 5, NG17 6, NG17 7, NG17 8, NG17 9, NG18 1, NG18 2, NG18 3, NG18 4, NG18 5, NG19 0, NG19 6, NG19 7, NG19 8, NG19 9, NG20 0, NG20 8, NG21 0, NG21 9.

Determining Eligibility for revised Schemes

To assist providers, the postcode sectors providing access to work within each scheme, which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/duty-solicitors-rotas-information-andguidance> and will be updated in accordance with this consultation.

Section 2 – Proposed revisions to schemes

Proposed Changes

In respect of Newark Police Station Custody Facility, our proposals are:

(i) that the Newark Police Station Duty Scheme is merged with the Mansfield Police Station Duty Scheme, with effect from the 1 January 2018. Members of an extended Mansfield Police Station scheme would then be required to cover both Mansfield and Newark Police stations, if requested to do so.

Should Option (i) be accepted, in order to preserve some access to Police Station duty work for members of the defunct Newark Police Station scheme, all back up requests for the Mansfield 24 Hour scheme will be referred to Newark until the 31st December 2017 and members of the Mansfield scheme may swap duties with members of the current Newark scheme.

Or

(ii) that the Newark Police Station Scheme is retained as a separate scheme and duty solicitors will be directed by the DSCC to attend Mansfield Police Station upon identification of a Newark detainee, if possible;

Or

(iii) the Newark Police Station scheme will be retained as a separate scheme and firms allocated slots on that rota may, from 1 January 2018, elect to join **either** the Mansfield Police Station Duty rota, **or** a standalone Newark scheme, if retained under Option (ii) above.

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Please note, Option **(i)** is the LAA's preferred option as Option (ii) and (iii) are reliant upon the Police identifying to the DSCC, if an arrested person committed the alleged offence in the previous Newark area. This is difficult in practice and the feasibility has not been discussed with the Police due to limited time available to consult.

The LAA has arrived at these proposals having considered the need of firms allocated slots on the Newark scheme to retain access to duty work.

If you have any other suggested options, that you feel we should consider, please let us know.

Please send your views, via e mail to elaine.annable@justice.gov.uk no later than **5.00 p.m.** on **Wednesday 8th November**. Rota production is currently underway for the January to March 2018 rotas, hence the limited time for response.

Regrettably, we are unable to effect a change to any rotas, including Mansfield, by the 6 November as providers will have already diarised their commitments until the 31st December. To re-issue rotas at this late stage would jeopardise Police Station cover and disrupt provider commitments. The suggestion above to re-direct back up calls, is an interim measure to assist the current Newark Duty Solicitors and comments are welcome on this proposal.

Respondents are invited to indicate which of the options 1 to 3 they prefer, or suggest an alternative.

If you have any additional queries or wish to discuss these proposals, please contact your Contract Manager.

Thank you.