



Statement

6th July 2011

Police station duty scheme - update

The Police Station Duty Scheme started at 9am on Monday, 4 July. It operates 24 hours a day.

As at 6 July 2011, there are 160 solicitors and 90 firms (including PDSO) on the duty plans.

Of the 49 duty plan areas:

- 11 are covered solely by private practice solicitors
- 22 are served by a mix of private practice solicitors, Board employed solicitors and PDSO;
- 16 are served by Board employed solicitors and PDSO only.

The Solicitor Contact Line arrangements are operating effectively to ensure that suspects who request advice under section 15A of the Criminal Procedure (Legal Assistance, Detention and Appeals) (Scotland) Act 2010 receive it timeously.

The Solicitor Contact Line was never intended to be used to notify solicitors about clients who have been arrested. The Police will continue to make those calls direct to solicitors in the normal way. Solicitors will therefore continue to receive calls directly from the Police notifying them of arrests.

On the first day of operation the Solicitor Contact Line received 50 notifications of requests for advice from suspects.

- 26 were provided telephone advice by the Solicitor Contact Line.
- 24 were provided telephone advice by a named solicitor.

On the second day of operation, the Solicitor Contact Line received 60 notifications of requests for advice from suspects.

- 25 were provided telephone advice by the Solicitor Contact Line.
- 35 were provided telephone advice by a named solicitor.