



Statement

26th July 2011

Police station duty scheme update - solicitor contact line

The Scottish Legal Aid Board's Solicitor Contact Line continues to operate 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. In the third week of its operation, demand for the services provided by the Contact Line remains at levels higher than our expectations.

In its third full week, from 9.00 am on Monday 18 July to 9.00 am on Monday 25 July, 454 notifications of requests for advice from suspects were received, compared to 458 in the first week, and 358 in the second week. This gave a daily average of 65 suspects requiring legal advice (in the first week the average was 66, and in the second the daily average was 51). Of these 454 requests for legal advice:

- 188 were provided telephone advice by the Contact Line (first week - 213, second week - 163).
- 266 were provided telephone advice by a named solicitor (first week - 245, second week - 195).

From these cases, 25 suspects required a personal attendance (first week - 32, second week - 26):

- 8 from Board employed solicitors (first week 6, second week 12),
- 7 from PDSO solicitors (first week 11, second week 7),
- 8 from duty solicitors (first week 9, second week - 7), and
- 2 from named solicitors, that we are aware of (first week 6, second week - 0)

More attendances may also have been provided by named solicitors once the details of the calls were passed on to them, but we will have this information in due course from ACPOS.

Ends

Journalists please contact:
Mat Lopez tel. (direct) 0131 240 1887.