



News

28 July 2010

Summary of calls to the Board for urgent advice and assistance increase requests to provide advice arising from the Lord Advocate's interim Guidelines on Access to a Solicitor

Under the Lord Advocate's interim Guidelines on Access to a Solicitor, if the Police contact a solicitor to advise that a suspect has requested their attendance at a police station to provide advice prior to an interview, the solicitor can be paid under the advice and assistance scheme if the applicant is eligible.

Under the advice and assistance scheme, a solicitor can request an increase in authorised expenditure to attend a police station. Since the implementation of the Lord Advocate's interim guidelines, the Board has received the following number of telephone calls to request urgent increases in authorised expenditure prior to attendance at a police station. For more information about the availability of advice and assistance, please read the Criminal Legal Assistance Updates we issued on 11 and 15 June at www.slab.org.uk

Week	Calls to out-of-hours helpline	Calls during office hours	Total	Calls after midnight
10.6.10 – 16.6.10	30	14	44	6
17.6.10 – 23.6.10	26	24	50	1
24.6.10 – 30.6.10	30	29	59	4
01.7.10 – 07.7.10	27	25	52	7 (after 22.00)
08.7.10 – 14.7.10	31	24	55	11 (after 22.00)
15.7.10 – 21.7.10	24	29	53	5 (after 22.00)

Ends

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