



Statement

19th July 2011

Police station duty scheme update - solicitor contact line

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

In its second full week, from 9.00 am on Monday 11 July to 9.00 am on Monday 18 July, 358 notifications of requests for advice from suspects were received, compared to 458 in the first week. This gave a daily average of 51 suspects requiring legal advice (in the first week the average was 66). Of these 358 requests for legal advice:

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

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

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

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.

Ends

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