

**Issue: 15**

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**CJS Efficiency**

### **Duty Rotas**

You might have thought that 4 rotas into the current contract the LSC might have managed to get it right first time for all rotas. Sadly that isn't the case and we still hear from many of you up and down the country that rota production isn't working.

It is becoming quite boring to have to raise this repeatedly at the CCCG as we did again last week. My staff hate this time of year because they cannot populate the diary for the next six months with the rota as they don't know if it's the first or last version.

Some courts have a Court Duty Solicitor allocated for Good Friday. I may be wrong but I was always taught that Good Friday was a day when Magistrates Courts did not sit. For the purpose of the CPR a 'business day' means any day except Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday or a bank holiday.

The LSC say they asked courts up and down the country and some say they are sitting on Good Friday. Can you put me out of my misery and ask your local court manager what his / her plans are for 6<sup>th</sup> April this year and let me know ([mjonesgwb@gmail.com](mailto:mjonesgwb@gmail.com))

We all know of the "Transfer Window" which twice yearly rotas and the CDS 12 procedure creates but it's really frustrating when your rota has to go back to the LSC two or three times for the removal of Duty Solicitors who have retired, moved away, stopped practicing Criminal Law or haven't fulfilled their minimum casework requirements. It is more frustrating when it goes back because a DS has moved to another part of the country and appears on that rota but hasn't moved off your rota.

My suggestion as the solution to this last issue is a CDS 12A (or similar) by which we formally notify the LSC when people leave. I know it's another form to complete but at least we then know that we might avoid at least some of the reasons for multiple rotas. What do you think? What are your rota problems?

We are trying to work with the LSC by pointing out the issues in the hope that we don't get this problem for the July rota (CDS 12s by 13<sup>th</sup> May)

Mike Jones, Chair CLSA.

There is a great deal of concern amongst us all about the ambition of CJS agencies towards increased digital working and whether this will be at the expense of the defence.

The President of The Law Society hosted a recent meeting with CPS Chief Executive Peter Lewis and others with a view to improving the flow of information and getting a better grasp of the defence perspective.

We are now to have fortnightly meetings with Peter Lewis attended by Richard Atkinson, Chair of the Law Society's Criminal Law Committee, CLSA Director, Rodney Warren and President of the LCCSA, Jim Meyer.

We will report back regularly and the next edition of *Criminal Lawyer* magazine will try to give a comprehensive picture.

Meanwhile you can remind yourself of the CLSA's view and the CPS response (both pre-Christmas) here: <http://www.clsa.co.uk/index.php?q=237>

### **Note for your diary**

CLSA Conference 9th November

### **And finally.....**

#### **Prison Going Loco down in Acapulco:**

A surprise inspection of a jail in the Mexican resort of Acapulco uncovered 19 prostitutes, two sacks of cannabis, 100 fighting cockerels and two peacocks. Police also found more than 100 plasma TVs, alcohol, knives and six women inmates who had swapped to the male section of the prison. Many Mexican jails are allegedly run by gangster inmates

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