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Our Ref: RC/MJ

Date: June 2003

Dear Crime Practitioner

Re: Note of Amendment to the General Criminal Contract

Please find enclosed a Notice of Contract Amendment that comes into effect on the following dates:

Changes to the General Criminal Contract Specification – 21 July 2003

Changes to the General Criminal Contract Standard Terms (Section 1) – 4 August 2003

These amendments have been consulted on with the Law Society and other representative bodies. Most of the changes bring the Contract into line with the General Civil Contract which has already been subject to these amendments. The main changes are:

1. To incorporate rules for applying results from contract compliance audit samples to other files. Although these rules will come into effect on 21 July, we are consulting the Law Society and other professional bodies on further guidance relating to their operation.
2. To set out the circumstances in which we may terminate a contract in the small number of cases where there has been a fundamental breach by the supplier.
3. To make various other changes to the General Criminal Contract Specification and the Duty Solicitor Arrangements 2001.

A fully updated version of the Contract will shortly be available on the CDS section of the Commission's website (www.legalservices.gov.uk). This change will be included in the next update to Volume 4 of the Legal Services Commission Manual.

Yours faithfully



Richard Collins
Director, Criminal Defence Service

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