

Criminal Defence Service

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For the attention of the Head of the Criminal Department

8 September 2005

Dear Practitioner,

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO THE GENERAL CRIMINAL CONTRACT

Please find enclosed a notice of amendment to the General Criminal Contract that will take effect from 31 October 2005.

Consultation began in December 2004 on contract amendments that were originally intended to be implemented from April 2005. These amendments were deferred until October 2005 and a further consultation began in June 2005 on additional amendments to also be implemented from October 2005.

An explanation of all changes can be found at the beginning of the notice.

The amendments will appear in the next updates to the on-line and paper versions of the LSC Manual.

Amendments will also be made to the Criminal Bills Assessment Manual, Police Station and Court Duty Solicitor Cost Assessment Manual and Duty Solicitor Manual from 31 October 2005. For completeness details for these changes are also contained in the enclosed notice and revision marked versions of these manuals will shortly be available on the Commission's website.

If you have any questions concerning these changes please contact the Regional Office responsible for managing your contract in the first instance.

Yours faithfully



Derek Hill
CDS Director

Encl.