



Direct action: how duty solicitors can help

If you have decided to join the direct action by not acting under legal aid from the 1st July we are asking you, and all duty solicitors, to consider the following measures in solidarity with fellow professionals. Remember they might be advising your clients on the next rota:

1. Explain why their usual solicitor is not available. Provide them with a copy of the leaflet entitled: Cuts to Legal Aid: The Future. This will also help explain why you cannot act for them beyond the duty attendance. Above all else try to educate the client on the importance of our cause; their firm might not be around when their case comes to trial.
2. If they cannot find a legal aid firm or pay privately suggest they contact their usual solicitor after a few weeks to check they are still taking action; this will not last forever.
3. Consider emailing their usual solicitor with details of their new case. They might seek to make contact with them once the action is over.
4. If you are court duty spend a moment to explain to the usher or gaoler what action is being taken. Ask for their patience but above all else resist any attempts to divert duty cases to touting solicitors.
5. Finally when attending court slots please take a copy of the Leaflet to Advocates to pass to other solicitors attending court that day, there are some still to be reached.