



Defence Solicitors  
Sent via LCCSA on behalf of CPS

27 March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Disclosure Management in Criminal Cases**

We are writing to advise you of a change in procedure in relation to the management of disclosure in criminal cases in London.

Growth in digital material in recent years has meant the disclosure challenge created as a result of this type of material features in a growing number of rape and serious sexual offence (RASSO) cases. The challenges that were formerly confined to our most serious and complex cases are now common in cases in which communications material is relevant to the police investigation. The CPS has therefore decided to introduce a shortened version of the Disclosure Management Document (DMD) for use in every RASSO case dealt with in the Crown Court and in all cases dealt with in our Homicide and Complex Casework Units from 26 March 2018. The DMD should be used from the outset of the case to detail the approach to disclosure. It will identify what has been considered to be reasonable lines of enquiry in the investigation and will include an explanation of the approach taken to the examination of all seized electronic material.

The extended use of the DMD is evidence that we take our disclosure duties seriously but we do not want to create an unnecessary bureaucracy. There will be some straightforward cases in which the DMD will be necessarily brief and in others in which the document will be longer reflecting the complexity of the issues.

The DMD will be made available to the defence and judiciary prior to the PTPH, even though initial disclosure may not have been fully completed at that stage. It will provide defence representatives with an opportunity to engage with the process by challenging the approach taken by the prosecution and suggesting alternative or additional

**Crown Prosecution Service**



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Crown Prosecution Service, Rose Court, 2 Southwark Bridge, Southwark, London SE1 9HS

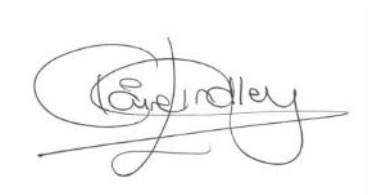
[www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

enquiries. By being transparent from the outset any issues raised about the prosecution approach to disclosure can be discussed and crystallised with the defence and judiciary at an early stage, generally at the PTPH.

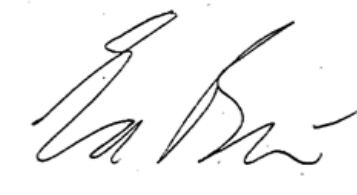
We hope you will support the approach outlined above which is consistent with the Joint National Disclosure Improvement Plan.

If you have any queries in relation to the procedure please let us know and we would happily speak further about it.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Lindley', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Claire Lindley  
Chief Crown Prosecutor  
London South

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Beltrami', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Ed Beltrami  
Chief Crown Prosecutor  
London North