

- 1. Please provide a copy of your force's policy on obtaining informed consent to remote legal advice during the pandemic and assistance in custody, including the date this policy was introduced.**

There is no specific policy for this. However, remote legal advice is mentioned within a Covid policy in relation to Wolverhampton Custody (as this is the designated COVID block) but not the wider custody estate. To assist, we have attached the relevant page for reference ('Covid Policy pg 12').

- 2. Please provide copies of all materials that your force provides to suspects to inform their decision about whether to consent to remote legal advice during the pandemic and assistance in custody, including the date you started providing these materials.**

No recorded information held

- 3. Please provide a copy of all training materials and guidance that is provided to officers on obtaining informed consent to remote legal advice and what to do if consent is refused, including the date this training and guidance was first introduced.**

There are no training materials, however, NPCC guidance was received by the Force in relation to this. Please see link below.

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/legal-guidance/coronavirus-interview-protocol-between-national-police-chiefs-council-crown>

In addition, please see the attached document ('Remote legal representation for interviews') and note that the redactions are shown as white spaces.

For further information on the exemptions that apply to the redacted information please see covering letter.

- 4. How many police interviews did your force conduct in July 2020 with (i) children and (ii) vulnerable adults?  
a. In how many of those interviews was legal advice and assistance provided remotely?  
b. In how many of those interviews did you record whether the individual gave informed consent to receiving that advice and assistance remotely?**

This is exempt by virtue of Section 12 of the FOI Act. Please see covering letter for further details.

- 5. Please supply the wording of any statement or question in your custody IT system associated with the recording of consent for remote legal advice.**

No recorded information held

- 6. What were the total costs incurred by the force (including staff and premises if available) in operating video remand courts from March to December 2020? For how many weeks from March to December 2020 did your force operate video remand courts?**

The total costs charged to the Virtual Remand Hearing Sub-Account Code as at the end of January (i.e. inclusive of December OT claims) was £271,138.10. Wolverhampton custody has continued to operate virtual court hearings throughout. A mixture of the other custody blocks ran virtual courts from June 2020 through to December 2020.

- 7. What estimate has your force made of the total annual costs for the force should you be required to operate video remand courts in the future even if PECS is given permission to and does operate within police custody?**

A calculation was made back in early September that (based on the Staffing Model at that time) the costs of running the courts for 12 months would be in the region of £707,200.