

Via Email

28th April 2021

Dear Chief Constable,

I write to you as National Police Chiefs' Council lead for custody and the movement of prisoners, and as a co-signatory to the Joint Interim Interview Protocol (JIIP). The JIIP was brought in at the start of the Covid Pandemic to help facilitate the safe operation of police custody, by reducing travelling and 'foot traffic' within custody centres. The JIIP, which we agreed with CPS and representatives of the legal profession, allows for the provision of remote legal advice to be provided in some cases.

I am writing to update you on our plans to start a phased withdrawal from the JIIP, as the national lockdown restrictions ease across England and Wales and recognising that effective infection control measures in place. The first phase of this withdrawal will start when we enter 'step three' of the government's roadmap to ease restrictions in England (currently planned to be the 17th May 2021).

The first phase of withdrawal, aligned to step three of the government's roadmap means that, **the protocol will no longer apply to children and young persons (persons under 18), nor any vulnerable adult** (as defined in PACE Code C paragraphs 1.13(d) and 1.4.). For these groups of vulnerable detainees, legal advice will return to pre-pandemic provision. In these cases detainees requesting legal advice will see a legal advisor in person for interview and will not have the option of remote advice as afforded under the protocol. The protocol remains in place for other detainees as we consult with co-signatories and consider the next steps required to exit from it, if national easing of restrictions and conditions allow.

Nothing in the JIIP affects the approach taken where a detainee presents as Covid positive or suspected Covid positive. In such cases consideration will need to be given to the need for an interview at that time, the use of PPE and disposal options.

Please find attached further guidance on the JIIP in the document annexes and a new 'process map' detailing different scenarios that may take place. Please ensure that any previous copies of the JIIP are removed from circulation.

Thank you for your successful efforts in keeping custody centres operating safely during the pandemic, which is a real success given that detainee numbers have not reduced during this period.

Yours faithfully,



Nev Kemp QPM

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