

HISTORY OF THE SOLICITORS' ASSISTANCE SCHEME

GAZETTE ARTICLE

20th December 1972

The Special Committee on the Problems of Professional Practice, set up by The Council under the Chairmanship of Sir Robert Payne, with the help of Sir Desmond Heap, the President, have organised a Solicitors' Assistance Scheme for the express purpose of helping solicitors who may find themselves in difficulties of any kind and who would like to have guidance and advice from an experienced, independent and sympathetic solicitor on a confidential basis.

A panel of such solicitors from all parts of the country, who are not directly associated with the Council and who have volunteered to help, is to be published in the Gazette and reprinted from time to time with any necessary amendments. The members of this panel have given permission for publication of their office addresses and telephone numbers and their private telephone numbers, where shown.

While it is hoped that full use will be made of this information by any solicitor who needs to talk things over, it will be realised that where there is no immediate urgency, a telephone call to the office for an appointment or a letter addressed to the member of the panel concerned and marked "private and confidential" is the appropriate means of communication.

The Special Committee very much hope that these arrangements will encourage anybody who is worrying about a problem, either professional or personal, to have a chat about it and perhaps find that things are not so bad as they seem. Experience in the Offices of the Law Society has shown time and time again that the sooner difficulties are appreciated and tackled, the less serious they are, and while the Law Society is always at the service of members to try and help them, a personal contact may be less daunting when trouble is encountered.

Nobody consulting a member of the panel need have any doubt about complete confidentiality, even where it looks as if professional misconduct has occurred. The member of the panel will give such advice as he thinks is required by his experience and judgment and will be in a position to consult with officials of the Law Society on behalf of an unnamed client, if necessary. The solicitor-client relationship will exist as regards confidentiality from the outset.

The Special Committee are most anxious that Local Law Societies understand that this scheme is meant to supplement any local arrangements that are already operating and doing good work under their aegis and this point was stressed by Mr. Leach, the Secretary, Future of the Profession, in reporting the scheme to the Secretaries of Local Law societies at their Conference in London on 8th November 1972.

Finally, in publishing the first panel of solicitors with this article, the President, the Council and the Special Committee wish to express their appreciation and thanks to them for their co-operation and help.

(Only the names and areas of the panel in 1972 are printed below)

PR	Allen, OBE,	Nottingham
LH	Allwood,	Cambridgeshire

GT	Bernhard,	Croydon
RC	Buchanan,	Ripon
JB	Buckwell,	Brighton
EJH	Burnett,	Carlisle
AH	Charlesworth,	Newcastle upon Tyne,
HFB	Clark,	Southampton
MJ	Davis,	London
TM	Dawson,	Newport
DEL	Dickson,	Stoke on Trent
J.	Eaton-Evans,	Haverfordwest,
TE	Eeley,	Oxford
C	Elston,	Liverpool
FW	Elworthy,	Cambridge,
A.	Hackett-Jones,	London
WJ	Hallett,	Exeter,
CH	Harmer,	Birmingham
FC	Harrison,	Northampton
ED	Hitchins,	Bournemouth
GW	Huzzey,	Worcester
CWL	Jervis,	Penzance,
T.	Llewellyn Jones,	Glamorgan,
AF	Judd,	London
RH	Kennedy,	Somerset
T.	Spencer, Lea,	Chester,
GL	Lush,	Salisbury,
AW	Lyall,	Dorset
RRV	Nicholson,	Newcastle upon Tyne,
FWB	Pacey,	Stockton-on-Tees,
JLE	Phillips,	Lincoln,
HC	Rigby,	Cheshire
RM	Ritchie,	London,
PM	Robinson,	Derbyshire
JA	Rutledge,	Birmingham
HW	Shibko,	Cardiff,
D.	Simon,	Teeside,
V.	Steinart,	Manchester,
JW	Stone,	Manchester
H.	Sykes-Balls,	Torquay
E.	Talog Davies,	Denbighshire,
DL	Taylor,	London
JCB	Thompson,	Grantham
H.	Travers,	Llandudno
SA	Trayhurn,	Bristol
W.	Tweedle,	Leeds
PHC	Walker,	Otley,
BT	Wellington,	Gloucester
JI	Williams,	Oswestry
RDG	Williams,	Leicester
FTM	Wilson	Kettering,
CM	Winter-Taylor,	High Wycombe.