



Guidance to Police Officers Applying for Out of Hours Search Warrants

Contact the Duty Legal Advisor for the Relevant Court Area (As Detailed Below)

Court Area	Boroughs	Contact Number
Central & South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hammersmith & Fulham ▪ Kensington & Chelsea ▪ City of Westminster ▪ City of London ▪ Bexley ▪ Bromley ▪ Greenwich ▪ Lewisham ▪ Lambeth ▪ Southwark ▪ Croydon ▪ Sutton 	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">DPA</div>
North & East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hackney ▪ Tower Hamlets ▪ Newham ▪ Waltham Forest ▪ Redbridge ▪ Havering ▪ Camden & Islington ▪ Enfield ▪ Haringey 	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">DPA</div>
North West & South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barnet ▪ Brent ▪ Ealing ▪ Feltham ▪ Uxbridge ▪ Richmond upon Thames ▪ Merton ▪ Wandsworth 	<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; width: 60px; margin: 0 auto;">DPA</div>

The Out of Hours Scheme Applies

Monday to Friday	5pm to 7am*
Saturday and Bank Holidays	4pm to 7am
Sunday, Christmas Day and Good Friday	Midnight to midnight
<i>Applications outside of these hours should be made to a magistrates' court. On Saturdays or Bank Holidays these applications may be heard at Lavender Hill, Thames, Highbury, Barkingside, Willesden, Westminster, Camberwell Green and Bromley.</i>	

* Between the hours of 5pm and 7pm it may not be possible to guarantee to return a call in the time periods set for the normal scheme.

Guidance Notes

- Where a call cannot be answered immediately, police officers will be invited to leave a message and any call will be returned within 60 minutes
- **The out-of-hours service should be used only where the need to execute a warrant is sufficiently urgent that it cannot wait until the next business day**
- Police officers must **only** use the contact numbers provided above and should never approach a magistrate directly
- Police officers should expect magistrates to allow only **one** officer into their home to make the application
- Police officers will be required to produce their warrant card before being allowed into a magistrates' home
- The magistrate will retain the information and any relevant schedules or copies and return them to the court.