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SENIOR PRESIDING JUDGE
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

**MANAGEMENT OF CASES FROM THE ORGANISED CRIME
DIVISION OF THE CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE**

Guidance Issued by the Senior Presiding Judge

Introduction

1. This guidance replaces the protocol of December 2008 which was agreed between the Organised Crime Division of the Crown Prosecution Service (OCD) and Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS).
2. The OCD is responsible for prosecuting cases from the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Typically, these cases involve more than one defendant, are voluminous and raise complex and specialised issues of law. It is recognised that if not closely managed, such cases have the potential to cost vast amounts of public money and take longer than necessary.

Commencement and amendment

3. This guidance will take effect from 5 October 2012 and may be amended as appropriate by the Senior Presiding Judge having consulted with the Director of the Organised Crime Division.

Scope

4. This guidance applies to all cases handled by the OCD.

Designated Court Centres

5. Subject always to the overriding discretion of the Presiding Judges, OCD cases should normally be heard at Designated Court Centres. The process of designating court centres for this purpose has taken into account geographical factors and the size, security and facilities of those court centres:

Northern Circuit

Manchester, Liverpool and Preston

North Eastern Circuit
Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield

Western Circuit
Bristol, Winchester

South Eastern Circuit (not including London)
Reading, Luton, Chelmsford, Ipswich, Maidstone, Lewes and Hove

South Eastern Circuit (London)
Southwark, Blackfriars, Kingston, Woolwich, Croydon and Central Criminal Court

Midland Circuit
Birmingham, Leicester and Nottingham

Wales Circuit
Cardiff, Swansea and Mold

Selection of the specific Designated Court Centre

6. If arrests in a case are made in different parts of the country and the OCD seeks to have all the defendants tried by one Crown Court, the OCD will at the earliest opportunity write to the Cluster Manager with a recommendation as to the appropriate DCC, requesting that a decision be made by the relevant Presiding Judges. In the event that the DCCs within one region are unable to accommodate a case, for example, as a result of a custody time limit expiry date, consideration may be given to transferring the case to a DCC in another region with the consent of the relevant Presiding Judges.
7. There will be a single contact person at the OCD for each HMCTS region, to assist listing co-ordinators. Those contact persons at the OCD will be:
 - a. OCD London – Nigel Mullett - nigel.mullett@cps.gsi.gov.uk
 - b. OCD North – Michelle Ferris - michelle.ferris@cps.gsi.gov.uk
 - c. OCD Birmingham – Mark Holmes - mark.holmes@cps.gsi.gov.uk
8. The single contact person for each HMCTS region will be the Cluster Manager, with the exception of the South Eastern Circuit where the appropriate contact point will be the Regional Listing Coordinator. The appropriate contacts for HMCTS regions are shown in the attached annex.

Designation of trial judge

9. The trial judge will be assigned by the Presiding Judges at the earliest opportunity. Where the assigned judge is unable to continue with the case, all

further pre-trial hearings should be heard by a single judge until a replacement has been assigned.

Procedure after charge

10. Within 24 hours of the laying of a charge, a representative of the OCD will notify the Cluster Manager of the following information to enable an agreement to be reached between the Cluster Manager and the reviewing CPS lawyer before the first appearance as to the DCC to which the case should be sent or committed:

- a. The full name of each defendant and the name of his legal representatives, if known;
- b. The charges laid; and
- c. The name and contact details of the Crown Prosecutor with responsibility for the case.

Exceptions

11. Where it is not possible to have a case dealt with at a DCC, the OCD should liaise closely with the relevant Cluster Manager and the presiding judges to ensure that the cases are sent to the most appropriate court centre. This will, among other things, take into account the location of the likely source of the case, convenience of witnesses, travelling distance for OCD staff and facilities at court centres.

12. In the event that it is decided to allocate the case to a non DCC, OCD should be permitted to make representations in writing to the Presiding Judges within 14 days as to why the venue is not suitable. The Presiding Judges will consider the reasons and if necessary hold a hearing. The CPS may renew their request at any stage where further reasons come to light that may affect the original decision on venue.

13. Nothing in this protocol should be taken to remove the right of the defence to make representations as to venue.



Lord Justice Gross, January 2014

Annex A

HMCTS CLUSTER MANAGERS

Region	Post	Name	Contact details
London	Cluster Manager London North and West Crime (Mags)	Jan Hartnett	Jan.hartnett@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			020 7805 1405
	Cluster Manager London Central and South - Crime(Mags & Enforcement)	Jan Hartnett	jan.hartnett@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			020 7805 1405
	Cluster Manager London Crown Court Crime (Crown)	Yvonne McKenna-Young	yvonne.mckenna-young@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			07825364714
London South East	Regional Listing Coordinator	Joanne Clow	Joanne.clow5@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk 020 3334 3382
Midlands	Cluster Manager Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	Michelle Monk	michelle.monk@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0115 955 8300
	Cluster Manager Lincs, Leics and Northants	Sandra Wood	sandra.wood@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			07808 368320
	Cluster Manager Staffs & West Mercia	Lesley Wilby	lesley.wilby2@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			01782 200121
	Cluster Manager West Mids and Warwicks (Crime)	Adrian Draper	adrian.draper@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0121 681 3301
	Cluster Manager Birmingham ASC	Jenny Paul	jenny.paul@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0121 450 6476
North East	Cluster Manager North and West Yorkshire (Crime)	Helen Ogilvy	Helen.Ogilvy@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

			0113 2511 265
	Cluster Manager - Humber and South Yorkshire	Julie Collins	julie.collins1@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0113 251 1235
	Cluster Manager Northumbria	Allison Cook (Acting Crime Manager)	Allicson.cook1@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			07825 781 082
	Cluster Manager Cleveland and Durham	Royston Dent	royston.dent@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0191 375 1802

North West	Cluster Manager Greater Manchester (Crime)	Clare Beech	clare.beech@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0161 240 5839
	Cluster Manager Cheshire and Merseyside (Crime)	Sarah Gebbie	sarah.gebbie@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			0151 471 1076
	Cluster Manager Lancashire	Lesley Handford	lesley.handford@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			01772 844 888
	Cluster Manager Cumbria	Lorraine Edgar	lorraine.edgar@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			01539 790 502

South East	Cluster Manager Beds and Herts	Mark Stewart	mark.stewart@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			020 7921 2070
	Cluster Manager Cambs and Essex	Yvonne McKenna Young	yvonne.mckenna-young@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			01245 287974
	Cluster Manager Kent	Jim Doherty	jim.doherty@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			07786021129
	Cluster Manager Norfolk & Suffolk	Ian Miller	ian.miller3@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			01234 334817
	Cluster Manager Surrey & Sussex	Dave Manning	dave.manning@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

	Cluster Manager Thames Valley	Philip Densham	philip.densham@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

South West	Cluster Manager Avon, Gloucs, N Wilts	Phillip Golding	phillip.golding@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			020 333 4 6332
	Cluster Manager Devon, Cornwall, Somerset	Anna Munday	anna.munday5@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk
			01752 292 582
	Cluster Manager Hants, Dorset, S Wilts, IOW	Paula Bray	paula.bray@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk

Wales	Cluster Manager Wales (Crime)	Lynne Mills	lynne.mills@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk