

16 April 2020

Our ref: KS-CrLC

Amanda Brownhill  
Superintendent  
Prosecution Services  
Queensland Police Service  
GPO Box 1440  
Brisbane Queensland 4001

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Brownhill

**Magistrates Court Practice Direction No. 3/2020 – amended 7 April 2020**

As you would be aware, the Magistrates Court has now published an amended Practice Direction 3 of 2020 which we understand is intended to facilitate an expanded capacity to hear non-urgent represented matters in the Magistrates Court, subject to specific registry capacities.

We note that the Brisbane Police Prosecutions Corps has emphasised its' willingness to progress as many matters as possible while this practice direction is in force.

Queensland Law Society agrees this is crucial, despite the many challenges we are all experiencing during this period. We therefore invite you and your colleagues (whomever you consider appropriate) to meet with us at the earliest opportunity to discuss the operation of this practice direction.

We would appreciate hearing of any issues your officers are experiencing. We would also like to discuss the development of a procedure or understanding as to what process should be followed when defence and QPS are unable to reach agreement about whether a particular matter would not involve actual custody or whether release from custody is likely.

We consider an agreed process would be of great assistance in resolving these kinds of disputes, particularly given the way in which these issues interact with the current practice direction.

Attendees at the meeting from QLS will include myself and Chair of the QLS Criminal Law Committee, Ms Rebecca Fogerty; Deputy Chair of the QLS Criminal Law Committee, Mr Ken MacKenzie; and Legal Policy Solicitor, Ms Kerry Sampson.

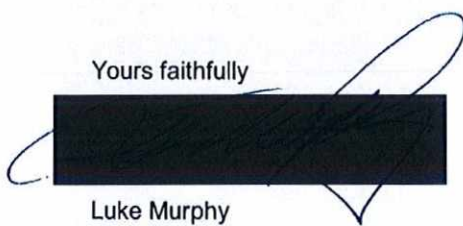
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We can arrange for the meeting to occur via Skype, with teleconference and video link facilities. Please let us know a time and day which would be suitable and to whom the calendar invitation should be provided.

We look forward to engaging with you further on these issues and welcome your feedback on any other matters which you consider ought to be discussed at that time.

If you have any queries regarding the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact our policy solicitor [REDACTED] via [REDACTED] or by phone on (07) 3842 5851.

Yours faithfully



[REDACTED]

Luke Murphy  
President