

XXXX  
Head of Chambers  
XXXX Chambers

XX December 2013

Dear

**PLANNED ACTION - MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2014**

It has been widely reported that some barristers are contemplating not attending court on the morning of Monday 6 January 2014. In order that barristers can make a properly informed decision, I write to set out the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) position and our expectation of you as one of our key service providers.

The CPS has enjoyed an effective working relationship with the criminal Bar since the Service was established in 1986. Working together we have jointly discharged our responsibilities to deliver a quality prosecution service to the court, the wider community and particularly to victims and witnesses. In our view that should continue on 6 January.

We fully understand the anxieties and concerns of the criminal Bar at this difficult time but that does not provide a sufficiently good reason for the work of the prosecution to be disrupted.

We expect any court business listed for the morning of 6 January to be prosecuted by the instructed advocate(s) in accordance with their professional obligations and that includes part-heard trials and new cases listed, particularly in respect of fixed-date trials. If instructions have to be returned for reasons beyond counsel's control then we expect Chambers to secure alternative counsel of suitable experience and expertise to accept the return, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Given the very good relationship that has been built-up between the CPS and the criminal Bar it would be disappointing if prosecution work suffers, as part of the Bar's wider concerns about defence funding and quality assurance.

I should be grateful if you would provide criminal practitioners in your Chambers with a copy of this letter.

I am copying this letter to CPS managers in my Area who will be arranging for enquiries to be made directly with Chamber's clerks in relation to counsels' attendance on 6 January.

Yours sincerely