

FACULTY OF FORENSIC & LEGAL MEDICINE

of the Royal College of Physicians of London



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Chief Constable Martin Hewitt
Chair National Police Chiefs' Council

Dear Chief Constable Hewitt

The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London has produced a position statement with guidance on the clinical management of detainees in police custody, as well as resources designed to assist complainants requiring assessments following sexual assault: <https://fflm.ac.uk/resources/covid-19/>. The FFLM have been liaising with Public Health England, and DCC Sarah Crew, the NPCC Lead for Sexual Offences, in relation to RASSO cases. We are concerned that there appears to be no information, to our knowledge, from the police as to the proposed overall management of the clinical forensic medical services in the coming days and weeks.

The healthcare professionals who provide these services may well have to self-isolate and may become unwell. Therefore practice urgently needs to change to allow telephone triage and authorisation of medication, keeping the face to face contact to a minimum in cases, for example, where it is necessary to obtain forensic evidence (RTA cases). There also needs to be assurance from police that appropriate PPE will be available to all staff in custody.

Please could you advise what steps police are taking to ensure the service continues without putting the healthcare professionals under unnecessary risk?

Yours Sincerely

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President, FFLM

Dr Alex Gorton
Assistant Registrar, FFLM

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Sexual Offence Lead, FFLM