

YOUTH JUSTICE COURT AND COURT OF SUMMARY JURISDICTION
AMENDED PRACTICE DIRECTION

PRISONERS AT RISK

1. Where there is information available to a prosecutor or counsel for a defendant that that person may be "at risk" if remanded into custody or committed to a prison, that information should be disclosed to the court as soon as possible.
2. Where the court is made aware that such information exists it may order that:-
 - (a) all persons responsible for the custody of the defendant be advised that the person may be "at risk";
 - (b) note the court file to the effect the defendant may be "at risk" and/or
 - (c) that the information available to the court also be made available to those responsible for the custody of the defendant.
3. Where the court takes any action under Clause 2 above
 - (a) the registrar or his deputy and subordinates shall cause notice of that fact and any relevant information to be communicated by phone and/or fax to the persons responsible for the defendant's custody
 - (b) endorse the warrant and other documentation going to the gaoler with the words "at risk" plus any other comments requested by the presiding Magistrate
 - (c) all personnel shall ensure that the defendant is not left unsupervised whilst in the custody of the court.
4. In this Practice Direction "at risk" includes a risk of suicide or self harm.

JENNY BLOKLAND
CHIEF MAGISTRATE

9 February 2007