

IMB ROLE REGARDING VIDEO LINK BOOTHS

Queries have been raised as to whether it is appropriate for IMB members to accompany a prisoner when he/she is in the video link booth during a court session.

Advice is that the presence of an IMB member in the court video link room during a session is unwarranted and inappropriate. The video link facility forms part of a court and as such members have no authority to 'stand in the dock' with those accused.

This protocol would also apply to video link conferencing between a prisoner and his/her solicitor which is confidential.

IMB members do have a responsibility to monitor the implementation of PSO 1030 (Video Links between Magistrates' Courts and Local Prisons), and by confirming that, for example, video suites are available in local prisons (2.2), that staff are trained in court procedures (2.4) and that defendants are escorted to the video court in good time for their hearing (3.2), they would be fulfilling that monitoring role.

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Date

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