

**ALTERATION OF CORONER AREAS UNDER SCHEDULE 2 OF THE CORONERS
AND JUSTICE ACT 2009**

BUSINESS CASE FOR MERGERS

NAMES OF CORONER AREAS THAT ARE PROPOSING TO MERGE

- Liverpool
- Wirral

PROPOSED NAME OF NEW AREA

- Liverpool and Wirral Area

INFORMATION ON AREAS THAT PROPOSE TO MERGE

- Please provide key details in the table as follows:

Coroner area	Liverpool	Wirral	Liverpool and Wirral
Geographical area covered	Liverpool	Wirral	Liverpool and Wirral
Local authority/ies that fund(s) coroner area and %	Liverpool City Council 100%	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council 100%	Liverpool City Council (62%)* Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council (38%)* (* precise percentage to be determined by an agreed formula and reviewed annually – see paragraph 50 below).
Relevant authority (formerly lead authority)	N/A	N/A	Liverpool City Council
Police Force(s) in area	Merseyside Police	Merseyside Police	Merseyside Police
Transport links	Large geographical area M62 John Lennon Airport Main Line Station (Lime Street) Mersey Tunnels Mersey Ferry Area: 11,184	Large geographical area A41, A51 M53, M56 Mersey Tunnels Birkenhead Train Station Mersey Ferry Area: 15,700	Large geographical area – main arterial roads and motorways: M53, M56, M62 A41, A51 John Lennon Airport Main Line Station (Lime Street) Birkenhead Train Station

Coroner area	Liverpool	Wirral	Liverpool and Wirral
	<p>Hectares</p> <p>Population: 469,700</p>	<p>Hectares</p> <p>Population: 320,200</p>	<p>Mersey Tunnels Mersey Ferry</p> <p>Area: 26,884 Hectares</p> <p>Population: 789,900</p>
Major hospitals in area	<p>Royal Liverpool University Hospital</p> <p>University Hospital Aintree</p> <p>Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital</p> <p>Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital</p> <p>Liverpool Women's Hospital</p> <p>The Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery</p> <p>Marie Cure Hospice</p>	<p>Arrowe Park Hospital</p> <p>Clatterbridge Hospital</p>	<p>Royal Liverpool University Hospital</p> <p>University Hospital Aintree</p> <p>Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital</p> <p>Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital</p> <p>Liverpool Women's Hospital</p> <p>Arrowe Park Hospital</p> <p>Clatterbridge Hospital</p> <p>The Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery</p> <p>Marie Cure Hospice</p>
Prisons in area	<p>HMP Liverpool</p> <p>HMP Altcourse</p>	None	<p>HMP Liverpool</p> <p>HMP Altcourse</p>
Other state detention facilities in area	None	None	None
Courtrooms/inquest venues	<p>Gerard Majella Courthouse (dedicated inquest facility)</p>	<p>Birkenhead Town Hall</p>	<p>Gerard Majella Courthouse (main location and dedicated inquest facility).</p> <p>Birkenhead Town Hall if requested by</p>

Coroner area	Liverpool	Wirral	Liverpool and Wirral
			<p>bereaved families living on the Wirral.</p> <p>It is recognised that Wirral residents will have emotional ties to the Borough and some families may prefer to have an inquest heard on the Wirral rather than at Gerard Majella Courthouse.</p> <p>It is recognised that any new proposal must be capable of meeting the emotional needs of all families in Liverpool and on the Wirral.</p>
Office/staff accommodation – location and capacity	<p>1FTE x Chief Clerk 1FTE x Senior Coroner's Clerk 1FTE x Coroner's Clerk</p> <p>Located at Gerard Majella Courthouse</p>	0 Admin Staff	<p>1FTE x Chief Clerk 1FTE x Senior Coroner's Clerk 2FTE x Coroner's Clerk</p> <p>Location – Gerard Majella Courthouse Liverpool only.</p>
Coroner's officers' employer	<p>6 FTE</p> <p>Merseyside Police</p>	<p>4 FTE</p> <p>Merseyside Police</p>	<p>10 FTE</p> <p>Merseyside Police</p>
Name of senior coroner	André Rebello (Senior Coroner)	André Rebello (Assistant Coroner)	André Rebello (be appointed as Senior Coroner in accordance with Chief Coroner Guidance No.14).
Number of area coroners	None	None	1 x Full-time Area Coroner
Number of assistant coroners	6	6	8

Coroner area	Liverpool	Wirral	Liverpool and Wirral
	(appointed by Liverpool City Council)	(same persons as appointed for the Liverpool Coroner Area and appointed for the Wirral Coroner Area pursuant to the interim arrangements).	(includes current assistant coroners for the Liverpool Coroner Area). All assistant coroner vacancies shall be subject to an open recruitment exercise.
Number of deaths reported in the previous calendar year	2,838 (2012) 2,986 (2013)	1,578 (2012) 1,622 (2013)	It is assumed that the caseload will be similar to the total number of cases of the two existing areas combined (approx 4,600 a year).
Inquests held in the previous calendar year	622 (2012) 550 (2013)	282 (2012) 203 (2013)	It is assumed that the caseload will be similar to the number of cases of the two existing areas combined (approx 850 a year).
Post mortem rate as % of reported deaths in 2012	30% (2012) 28% (2013)	36% (2012) 33% (2013)	It is assumed that the caseload will be similar to the number of cases of the two existing areas combined.

1. It would be helpful if you would also attach maps of the area showing the current position and the position in the event of a merger. Both maps should show details of for instance inquest venues, hospitals, prisons and transport links.

- A map of the current Liverpool Coroner Area is attached.



Liverpool Coroner
Map_A4 V2.pdf

- A map of the current Wirral Coroner Area is attached.



Wirral Coroner
Map_A4.pdf

- A map of the proposed merged Liverpool and Wirral Coroner Area is attached.



Liverpool and
Wirral_A4.pdf

SENIOR CORONER APPOINTMENT

Why are you seeking a merger now (i.e. which area's senior coroner is stepping down, when and why)?

2. The Wirral Senior Coroner retired on 31 December 2013.
3. Interim arrangements were introduced from 1 January 2014 whereby the Liverpool Senior Coroner was also appointed the Assistant Coroner for the Wirral Area until such time that the possibility of a merger of the Wirral Area with another is determined.
4. The key features of the interim arrangements are as follows:
 - i. Mr Andre Rebello undertakes full operational control of both the Liverpool and Wirral Coroner Areas.
 - ii. The existing Liverpool Council Coroner Offices situated at Gerard Majella Courthouse, Liverpool (previously St Georges Buildings, Liverpool), be the designated address for both the Coroner Services for both Liverpool and Wirral.
 - iii. All 10 Coroner's Officers employed by Merseyside Police operate from the Liverpool Council Coroner's Offices (resulting in Wirral Coroner's Officers relocating from Bromborough Police Station).
 - iv. The IRIS Case Management Systems operated by both Councils be aligned and reconfigured.
 - v. The Liverpool Council Coroner Administrative Support Team undertakes and delivers all administrative functions and tasks.
 - vi. If requested by families living on the Wirral, inquests relating to Wirral residents be undertaken at Birkenhead Town Hall.
 - vii. The cost of the Coroner's Service be apportioned on a pro rata basis between Liverpool and Wirral Councils based on the number of deaths that have occurred within each geographical area during the operation of the interim arrangements.
5. There are currently six assistant coroners appointed:

Nicholas Rheinberg

(who is also Senior Coroner for Cheshire and an Assistant Coroner for several other coroner areas).

Alan Wilson

(who was also appointed the full-time Senior Coroner for Blackpool and Fylde in April 2014).

Martin Fleming

(who was also appointed the full-time Senior Coroner for West Yorkshire West in October 2014).

Anita Bhardwaj

(who is also a solicitor in HM Courts and Tribunal Service, currently administering family justice in the North West).

David Lewis

(who is also an Assistant Coroner in North Wales (East and Central) and Head of Regulatory Law at Weightmans Solicitors).

Simon Holder

(who is also a practising barrister at St Johns Building Barristers Chambers, Liverpool).

6. The assistant coroners are a key support to the Senior Coroner and are used to help manage the workload when additional capacity is required to support the Senior Coroner. However, this support is subject to the availability of the assistant coroners; and their availability invariably fluctuates depending upon the demands of their respective substantive employment roles.
7. Whilst the interim arrangements have proved to be very successful, this has however only been possible through additional time and effort being expended by Andre Rebello and all members of the current Coroner's Administrative Support Team.
8. Andre Rebello is highly regarded by the Chief Coroner and Lord Chancellor; and is recognised nationally as a leading figure in the provision of coronial services.
9. During the interim arrangements Andre Rebello has introduced effective working practices to the manner in which Wirral coronial services are delivered. Inquests have been dealt with more expeditiously, there is a lower post mortem rate (which is a key cost driver), there has been a significant shift in emphasis onto ensuring the needs of bereaved families are prioritised and met, and a more robust approach taken to ensure public funds are utilised effectively. Andre Rebello has had an excellent open and transparent working relationship with Liverpool City Council for many years; and that relationship has and will be equally extended to Wirral Council.
10. Wirral has also, during the interim arrangements, benefited from further savings in not having to incur the same level of expenditure on the provision of a coroner service as it did prior to 31 December 2013. The savings to Wirral Council (using latest full year figures for the previous Wirral Coroner Service and actual costs of the interim arrangements) are anticipated to be in the region of £70,000.
11. However, the continuation of the additional time and effort being expended by Andre Rebello and the support team under the current resource model is not sustainable or viable under a merged service. Additional resources are required on a permanent basis, namely a full-time area coroner, an additional full-time coroner's clerk and two more assistant coroners, to support Andrea Rebello and the Coroner's support team to ensure the current level of service is maintained and sufficiently resilient following any merger.
12. An area coroner is a full-time judicial office holder who will share in the discharging of coronial duties, including being on-call for matters that often require immediate action, the direction of investigations and the conduct of inquest hearings.
13. Should the proposed merger not proceed, both Councils would need to invest in a new area coroner for their respective areas in any event as there has been a noticeable trend for such appointments to be made in order to support the increasing demands on senior coroners in busy inner city areas.

14. Two of the current assistant coroners have recently secured full-time jurisdictions elsewhere and therefore will have very limited capacity to provide assistance. Given the substantive roles/employment of assistant coroners, it is considered appropriate that an additional two assistant coroners also be appointed to help deliver the merged coroner service.
15. The identified additional resources will help enable the Senior Coroner to manage and balance both workloads and capacity as well as ensure there is sufficient resilience within the service.
16. If the proposed merger was not proceeded with, the consideration of this initiative has revealed the need for both Councils, but particularly Wirral Council, to invest more resources into their respective Coroner Services to ensure that the operating model was more resilient and effective. Wirral's previous coroner worked part-time and the operating model adopted by the previous coroner was neither sustainable nor considered capable of meeting the challenges and demands of a modern coroner service in the future. The costs would therefore rise if the status quo was maintained; whereas the merger proposed will deliver savings to both Liverpool and Wirral Councils.
 - How do you propose to appoint the senior coroner for the new merged area – (i.e does the relevant authority propose to appoint one of the senior coroners from the affected areas or to hold an open competition)?
17. As stated in the guidance of 1 May 2014 provided by the Chief Coroner, we would propose that the Senior Coroner for Liverpool, Andre Rebello, be appointed as the Senior Coroner for the merged area.
18. This option would meet the Chief Coroner's aim to not displace existing Coroners and negate the potential risk of any claim for compensation for loss of office by Andre Rebello should he not be successfully appointed.
19. Andre Rebello has extensive local knowledge having worked in Liverpool for many years. The working relationship between him and both local authorities is excellent with great cooperation and shared desire to provide a robust and customer focused coroner service.
 - Are all affected senior coroners aware of and content with this approach?
20. Whilst there are no other senior coroners directly affected other than Andre Rebello, the proposed merger is based upon careful consideration and detailed discussions between both local authorities.
21. The proposals are appropriate, deliverable and meet the needs of the Coroner Service now and in the future for both Liverpool and Wirral Areas.

IMPACT OF PROPOSED MERGER ON SERVICE DELIVERY

- What will be the impact of the proposed merger on service delivery?
22. The interim arrangements, as detailed above, have proved to be successful in that the services provided has been very positive, efficient and cost effective. (To maintain this standard and service delivery, will require additional resources as

the current level of resources and additional time and effort expended by the Andre Rebello and the Coroner's Administrative Support Team is not sustainable going forward).

23. The centralisation of the service provides a robust and effective environment for the Coroner's office staff. Moreover, it has provided proven economies of scale of operations, efficiencies and has allowed for the introduction of standard working practices and levels of service throughout both Coroner Areas. These achievements/outputs will continue to be delivered on a more sustainable and resilient basis with the additional resources proposed.
24. The interim arrangements and merger allows for a full time Senior Coroner, adequately supported, to be available at all times; whereas the Wirral Area was previously serviced by a part-time Senior Coroner.
25. The proposed appointment of a full-time Area Coroner and the use/appointment of eight assistant coroners under the merged service provide greater resilience and support to the Senior Coroner.
26. The turn round time for inquests completed within 3 months has improved and numerous cases over twelve months old have been completed in relation to Wirral. This has however only been achieved through the dedication, efforts and commitment of Andre Rebello and the Coroner's Administrative Support Team. The merger seeks to maintain and build upon the improvements that have been made whilst recognising that that will only be possible with the additional resources required as outlined within this business case.
27. The interim arrangement has resulted in a reduction in the post mortem rate in Wirral in the first 6 months of 2014.
28. The proposed merger will be based on the interim arrangements and is subject to the additional resources required being provided. The impact on current service delivery will be positive given the proven effectiveness of the interim arrangements and the first hand knowledge and understanding that has been gained from such arrangements.
29. The merger proposes that inquests be heard in the Gerard Majella Courthouse, Liverpool, which is a dedicated inquest facility that is considered better able to meet the needs of bereaved families than Birkenhead Town Hall. Gerard Majella Courthouse is a purpose built court and has excellent facilities to cater for all the needs of the service and the families.
30. However, it is recognised that families on Wirral should have the opportunity to have an inquest held on the Wirral. The merger seeks to ensure that the needs of all families are met. Accordingly, where a Wirral family specifically requests that an inquest be heard on the Wirral, the inquest shall be heard at Birkenhead Town Hall.
31. The impact on other key stakeholders (such as police, undertakers, hospital trusts, etc.) would now be negligible (if not nil) as all necessary changes, such as contact information, new processes/arrangements, have been made as part of the interim arrangements.
 - What will be the impact of the merger on associated services – such as post-mortem examinations, and mortuary provision?

32. There will be no change to the location of the post mortem examinations, arrangements for Police identification and family viewings, and where the deceased are taken / stored will be no different to the arrangements prior to the introduction of the interim arrangements on 1 January 2014. These arrangements would be unaffected by any formal merger.

- How will the relevant local authority administer the new coroner area?

33. The services and staff management arrangements will be managed by Liverpool City Council, as the nominated Relevant Authority.

34. The Coroner Service will formally sit with Liverpool City Council and operate under current arrangements with additional support as outlined in this business case.

35. The Senior Coroner and Coroner's staff shall be employed by Liverpool City Council. However, both Councils shall agree service outputs, service level and delivery, particularly where there are (or potential) costs implications arising or material changes being proposed.

36. Both Liverpool City and Wirral Councils will enter into a legally binding governing agreement that clearly sets out the provision of the service, accountability, responsibilities, monitoring arrangements and financial arrangements.

- How will administrative governance be achieved between the relevant local authority and other funding local authorities?

37. Both Liverpool City and Wirral Councils will enter into a legally binding governing agreement that clearly sets out the provision of the service, accountability, responsibilities, monitoring arrangements and financial arrangements.

- How will the affected local authorities manage budgets?

38. Any merger would not affect the budget management arrangements of the service. Each Council shall manage its respective budgets and the financial costs of a merged service shall be apportioned in accordance with the agreed arrangements stated within the governing legal agreement.

IMPACT OF MERGER ON THOSE WORKING IN / WITH THE SERVICE

- What will be the impact of the merger on:

- Coroners

39. The Senior Coroner for the new area will have a considerably larger geographic area and increased caseload as he will be required to absorb any cases that would have been referred to a Wirral Coroner. However, the interim arrangements have shown that that workload is manageable and a merged service viable and sustainable providing additional resources (as outlined in this business case) are provided.

40. The employment of a full-time Area Coroner and use of eight Assistant Coroners are essential to ensure the service remains viable and resilient. The merged area

will continue to be supported by the six existing Assistant Coroners with two further assistants and a new full-time Area Coroner recruited to (through open competition). There will be an enhanced support team at the central administrative hub (as outlined in this business case).

- Coroners' officers

41. All 10 coroner's officers are employed by Merseyside Police. Wirral based Coroner's officers prior to the introduction of the interim arrangements operated out of Bromborough Police Station; however, they transferred to the Liverpool Coroner's Office on 1 January 2014 (and are now operating from Gerard Majella Courthouse). This has enabled them to have direct access to the Senior Coroner and the administrative support staff which was not the case previously.

42. Under the interim arrangements, the coroner's officers access to the IRIS System for Wirral matters through the Liverpool Council IT network. This is the main tool for case management and has greatly improved the efficiency of how deaths are reported, recorded and managed.

43. Most contact on a day-to-day basis is by telephone, and electronic communication, though some face to face contact is required in large and/or more complex cases. The Coroner's officers are settled in the interim arrangements and the merger will have no further impact upon them.

- Other staff in the coroner's offices

44. The current administrative support staff working within the Coroner's office have been operating under the interim service since 1 January 2014.

45. Adjustments have been made to address the additional work and further additional administrative support will ensure that there are sufficient resources available to meet the needs of a merged service.

- Pathologists

46. There is no anticipated impact on pathologists as post mortem examinations will take place in the existing locations; although it is noted that there are increased pressures due to the limited availability of Pathologists (a national issue facing all Coroners).

- Others?

47. Funeral directors: in some cases, funeral directors collect paperwork from the Coroner's offices. Those based on the Wirral will be affected by the Coroner's office being based in Liverpool. However, the use of electronic notifications and communications such as email is the normal mode of communication as it is secure, fast and reliable. This practice will continue, thereby mitigating the impact.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS OF MERGER

- What will be the impact of the merger on resources in terms of:
 - Costs of delivering the service
 - Accommodation for staff
 - Inquest accommodation

- IT - IRIS
- Any other costs / savings?

48. Please find attached the financial schedule that details current and proposed cost implications.

49. Liverpool City Council as the Relevant Authority shall operate the merged coroner service and Wirral Council shall reimburse Liverpool City Council a proportion of the costs upon an agreed basis.

50. The current ratio of deaths between Wirral and Liverpool is 38:62 respectively. The total operating cost of the merged coroner service will be reviewed and agreed by both Councils initially and reviewed annually thereafter. The cost of the service will be apportioned using the above ratio which shall also be reviewed annually to ensure both Councils contribute fairly and appropriately to maintain an effective service. Any financial adjustments required will be made by both Councils as necessary to ensure this is achieved.

51. Details of the funding arrangements and how liabilities are determined and paid will be set out in the governing agreement to be entered into between both Councils.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- Are you aware of any legal issues that need to be resolved before a merger can go ahead (in addition to the Lord Chancellor making an order under Schedule 2 of the 2009 Act)? If so please give details.

52. Both Councils will need to confirm their agreement to the business case and a formal governing legal agreement entered into should the merger be approved.

VIEWS OF THOSE AFFECTED BY MERGER

- Do all affected local authorities support the merger? Please provide details.

53. There are no other local authorities affected.

- Have the local authority councillors / cabinets approved the merger? Please provide details.

54. Formal reports are to be considered by the Cabinets of both Councils in November/December 2014.

- What is the view of affected coroners and their staff?

55. The Coroner and all staff affected are supportive of the merger.

56. The interim arrangements have demonstrated that a merged service is not only viable and sustainable but also more efficient and cost effective (subject to the additional resources outlined in this business case are provided).

- How will bereaved people be affected by the merger – eg travelling to inquests, being able to contact coroners' offices?
57. It is considered that the impact on the public will be limited given that the interim arrangements have been in place since 1 January 2014. The overwhelming comments of the public using the current service are very positive. This has only been achieved as a result of the additional time, effort and commitment of Andre Rebello and the Administrative Support Team; and the careful consideration and attention given to meeting the specific needs of residents in both boroughs.
58. The vast majority of contact between the coroner's office and the next of kin/families is via telephone, post or email, and face-to face contact generally only occurs when the formal inquest takes place. Therefore, the location of any central support or administrative function in Liverpool is not critical. One key issue is the need for there to be the option to hold an inquest within the borough of Wirral should a family request it – which the merger can meet.
59. The new central administration function will operate from Gerard Majella Courthouse, Liverpool, which is a dedicated facility. This building has recently been refurbished and has enough additional space to accommodate any additional resources that will be needed to manage the combined caseload of the existing areas.
60. This centralisation of the support function will continue to provide robust, uniform and appropriate support for the work of the Senior Coroner, and offer economies of scale of operations and seek to introduce standard working practices and levels of service.
- Have you sought the views of other affected stakeholders - such as police authority and constabulary, hospitals, prisons, GPs, faith groups and funeral directors? Please provide details.
61. No formal consultation is required on either Councils part as formal consultation will be undertaken by the Ministry of Justice on behalf of the Lord Chancellor.
62. The statutory functions and the way in which the Senior Coroner and Assistant Coroners discharge their responsibilities will not change as a result of any merger, and the impact on the service users and stakeholders will be minimal given that the interim arrangements have been in place since 1 January 2014. Save that, the support of a new Area Coroner and additional Assistant Coroners will ensure that the Senior Coroner is properly supported and the service more resilient.
- What are the views of other stakeholders?
63. To be ascertained as part of the consultation. However, there has been no opposition to the introduction or operation of the interim arrangements.
- What impact will the merger have in terms of disability, gender and racial equality?
64. Coroners conduct all investigations of deaths referred to them taking into account disability, gender and racial equality as part of their statutory role.

65. Travelling to (and the associated cost/time) the Coroner's offices in Liverpool is a factor that must be considered. The interim arrangements have not however revealed any specific concerns and nor have any issues been raised.

RISKS AND MITIGATING ACTIONS

- Please provide details of any risks identified and mitigating action (to be) taken.

RISK	MITIGATING ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of operations, or systems and processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim arrangements have been successful and any operational issues have been addressed. Review and ensure robust practices, procedures and processes are in place to effectively manage the expected workload of any newly created area. Appropriate planning and resources are required.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient capacity to deliver the merged service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide additional support through a F/T Area Coroner, two further Assistant Coroners and enhance the Administrative Support Team to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet the demands upon the service and provide sufficient resilience.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disagreement between Liverpool and Wirral Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the governing legal agreement is clear and detailed so as to ensure all parties understand and accept their respective responsibilities, duties and obligations.

ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S)

- Please describe other options considered, in addition to the proposed merger, and the advantages and disadvantages for each option.

66. 1. Merge with Cheshire Area:

Advantages - Some economies of scale
Reduced cost
Adjoining boundaries

Disadvantages - Transport links not as effective
Access to Coroner's office in Chester is less convenient – no central operating hub.

Different Police Authority
Fewer assistant coroners

67. 2. Retain the existing two area structure in Liverpool and Wirral and appoint to the vacant Senior Coroner post in Wirral.
68. Whilst a simpler option, it would run counter to the views of the Chief Coroner and long standing central Government policy as it does not fit with the national drive to reduce the number of coroner areas in England and Wales.
69. Therefore it is seen as an option that would not be supported centrally. Retaining the existing structure also gives no opportunity to review and modernise service delivery, create uniformity or seek any efficiencies.

CONTACT WITH THE CHIEF CORONER'S OFFICE / MINISTRY OF JUSTICE / CONSULTEES

- Have you had previous discussions with the Chief Coroner on the proposed merger? (This is a requirement before MoJ can formally consult on the merger.) Please provide details of the discussion.
70. The interim arrangements have been discussed and agreed on the basis that it provides the opportunity for a merger to be considered. There have been communications with the Ministry of Justice and Chief Coroner's Office in relation to the exploration and formal consideration of a merger between the Wirral and Liverpool Coroner Areas.
- Have you had previous contact with MoJ on the proposed merger? Please provide details.
71. The interim arrangements as outlined herein have been approved and form the basis of the proposed merger.
- Are you happy for this business case in its entirety to be sent to all consultees? If not please provide details.

72. Yes

- Please list consultees for the consultation on the proposed merger – the organisation's name and the most appropriate email address - at **Annex A**. MoJ will remove email addresses from **Annex A** before sending the business case to consultees.

73. See completed list

- Further information on the merger process is available in the form of Chief Coroner guidance at: <http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/guidance-14-mergers-of-coroner-areas.pdf>.

List of consultees

Consultees

Chief Coroner:

His Honour Judge Peter Thornton QC

Elected Mayor and Local Councillors

All Wirral Councillors (see Councillor Schedule attached)

All Liverpool Elected Mayor and Councillors (see Elected Mayor and Councillor Schedule attached)

MPs

Wirral: Angela Eagle MP
The Rt Hon Frank Field MP
Alison McGovern MP
Esther McVey MP

Liverpool: Luciana Berger MP
Maria Eagle MP
Louise Ellman MP
Steve Rotheram MP
Stephen Twigg MP

Coroners/Assistant Coroners:

Nicholas Rheinberg
Alan Wilson
Martin Fleming
Anita Bhardwaj
David Lewis
Simon Holder

Other Local Authority Representatives from neighbouring coroner areas:

Eleni Woolford - North Wales (East and Central)
Timothy Date – Cheshire
Gary Broome – Manchester West
Rajan Paul – Sefton, Knowsley and St Helens

All Hospitals/Trusts:

Royal Liverpool University Hospital
University Hospital Aintree
Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital
Liverpool Women's Hospital
Arrowe Park Hospital
Clatterbridge Hospital
The Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery
Marie Cure Hospice

Liverpool Pathologists:

Forensic Pathology Unit	Dr C.P.Johnson
Royal Liverpool University Hospital	Dr T.R.Helliwell
University Hospital Aintree	Dr J.D.H.Sheard
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital	Dr G.K.Kokai

Liverpool Superintendent Registrar:

Patricia Evans patricia.evans@liverpool.gov.uk

Funeral Directors:

National Association of Funeral Directors

David Barrington david@barringtonsfunerals.co.uk

Wirral Pathologists:

Arrowe Park Hospital Dr D.A.Agbanu
Countess of Chester Hospital Dr J.Elder

Wirral Superintendent Registrar:

Sue Johnstone suzannejohnston@wirral.gov.uk

Prisons:

HMP Liverpool
HMP Altcourse

Police

Merseyside Police contact – Superintendent Billings
National police representative from MoJ's Coroner Services Committee – Acting
Chief Constable Karen Manners

Coroner's Officers

Lesley Anne Rogers
Oliver Knaggs
Alby Howard Murphy
Clair Crilly
Pamela Robbins
Carole Metcalfe
Donald Johnson
Arthur Flower
Simon Knuckey
Jane Wear

Coroner's Admin staff

Jim Lewis
Vivian Hartnett
Linda Quilliam
Denise Sherman

Resource implications of the merger

Table A: Details of current Senior Coroners and Area Coroner/s (if applicable) in each existing coroner are

Position (e.g. Senior Coroner, Area Coroner)	First name	Surname	Current salary (including National Insurance and pension contributions)	Long Inquest Payments (if applicable) or other additional payments	Proposed salary in amalgamated area (if applicable) (including National Insurance and Pension)
Senior Coroner	André	Rebello	2014/15: £157,057* (Projected)	2014/15: N/A	£157,057*
			2013/14: £132,476.00	2013/14: N/A	
			2012/13: £130,199	2012/13: N/A	
Senior Coroner	Christopher	Johnson	2014/15: £44,653 (9 mth Jan-Sep)	2014/15: N/A	
			2014/15: N/A	2014/15: N/A	
			2013/14: £86,056 (9 Months from April to Dec)	2013/14: N/A	
			2012/13: £129,129	2012/13: £15,692	
Payment to Liverpool for Wirral contribution to Coroners					

Table B: Office costs

Category	Liverpool	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2012/13 (Full year Costs)	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2013/14 (9 Months from Apr-13 to Dec-13)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 (9 Months from Jan-14 to Sep)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 Projection for 12 Months	Liverpool & Wirral
Fees for Area Coroner	£0 (However, any future Coroner Service would need to include an Area Coroner, therefore true cost needs to include £111,300)	£0 (However, any future Coroner Service would need to include an Area Coroner, therefore true cost needs to include £111,300)	£0	£0	£0	£111,300 (estimated pa)
Fees for Assistant Coroner(s)	£25,600.00 In 2013/14 Apr-Sep 2014 £10,300	£6,700	£4,997 (2013/14 Deputy Coroner Allowances Costs Apr-Dec)	£4,400	£6,700	£32,300 (estimated pa - (Liverpool 2013/14 Costs plus Wirral 2014/15 12 Month Projection)
Salary costs of Coroner's officer(s) <i>(including National Insurance and pension contributions)</i>	All costs are met by Merseyside Police and they will not be affected by the proposed merger. The ten Officers from the two existing Coroner areas are already based in Liverpool	All costs are met by Merseyside Police and they will not be affected by the proposed merger. The ten Officers from the two existing Coroner areas are already based in Liverpool	All costs are met by Merseyside Police and they will not be affected by the proposed merger. The ten Officers from the two existing Coroner areas are already based in Liverpool	All costs are met by Merseyside Police and they will not be affected by the proposed merger. The ten Officers from the two existing Coroner areas are already based in Liverpool	All costs are met by Merseyside Police and they will not be affected by the proposed merger. The ten Officers from the two existing Coroner areas are already based in Liverpool	All costs are met by Merseyside Police and they will not be affected by the proposed merger. The ten Officers from the two existing Coroner areas are already based in Liverpool

Category	Liverpool	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2012/13 (Full year Costs)	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2013/14 (9 Months from Apr-13 to Dec-13)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 (9 Months from Jan-14 to Sep)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 Projection for 12 Months	Liverpool & Wirral
Salary costs of administrative staff <i>(including National Insurance and pension contributions)</i>	£84,125.00 In 2013/14 £91,812.00 Projected for 2014/15	£30,084	£20,771 (Coroners Clerk 2013/14 Costs Apr- Dec 2013)	£21,819	£30,936	£121,029 (based on proposed Administrative Support Team)
Staff accommodation	Projected costs for the Courthouse 2014/15 (Part Year) £107,113 Full Year estimate £117,750	£13,200 (Admin Buildings Charge for 2012/13)	£13,200 (Admin Buildings Charge for 2013/14)	£13,200 (Admin Buildings Charge)	£0	Full Year estimate £117,750
Inquest accommodation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	£8,000 (Estimated pa for Birkenhead Town Hall)	£8,000 (Birkenhead Town Hall)

Category	Liverpool	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2012/13 (Full year Costs)	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2013/14 (9 Months from Apr-13 to Dec-13)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 (9 Months from Jan-14 to Sep)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 Projection for 12 Months	Liverpool & Wirral
IT costs	Annual Recharge 2013/14 £19,312 Proposed 2014/15 £19,202	£2,454	£3,908 (2013/14 costs Apr-Dec)	£2,957	£3,321	£22,633 (Liverpool 2013/14 Costs plus Wirral 2014/15 12 Month Projection)
Post mortem/Pathologist costs etc	2013/14 £270,504 Apr-Sept 2014 £101,469	2012/13 £171,728	2013/14 £129,221 (Apr-Dec)	2014/15 £72,439 (Jan-Sep)	£77,893	£348,397 pa (Liverpool 2013/14 Costs plus Wirral 2014/15 12 Month Projection)
Other costs?	2013/14 Mortuary Fees £177,271 Toxicology £157,855.00 Removal Contract	2012/13 Mortuary & Toxicology Fees £103,200	2013/14 (Apr-Dec) Mortuary Fees £61,673	2014/15 (Jan-Jun) Mortuary £68,742 Toxicology £71,394 Removal Contract	 Mortuary £103,200 Toxicology £76,770 Removal Contract	 Mortuary £280,471 Toxicology £234,625 Removal Contract

Category	Liverpool	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2012/13 (Full year Costs)	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2013/14 (9 Months from Apr-13 to Dec-13)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 (9 Months from Jan-14 to Sep)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 Projection for 12 Months	Liverpool & Wirral
	£45,605	Jurors & Witness £4,337 Transport £2,005 Internal Recharges £13,968	Jurors & Witness £11,118 Transport £1,101 Internal Recharges £2,437	£18,913 Jurors & Witness £2,192 Transport £21 Internal Recharges £2,437	£20,337 Jurors & Witness £3,000 Transport £1,600 Internal Recharges £2,437	£65,942 Jurors & Witness £3,000 Transport £1,600 Internal Recharges £2,500 (Liverpool 2013/14 Costs plus Wirral 2014/15 12 Month Projection)
TOTAL	2013/14 £898,022 2014/15 (Apr to Sep) £509,918	£347,676	£248,426	£278,514	£334,194	£1,349,547

Category	Liverpool	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2012/13 (Full year Costs)	Wirral – Previous Arrangement 2013/14 (9 Months from Apr-13 to Dec-13)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 (9 Months from Jan-14 to Sep)	Wirral – New Arrangement 2014/15 Projection for 12 Months	Liverpool & Wirral
Total Table A and Table B	2013/14 £1,030,498 2014/15 (Apr-Sep) £653,414	£492,497 (£129,129 of basic costs plus £15,692 additional)	£334,482	£323,167	£397,838	£1,506,604

NOTE:

Mortuary, Pathology and Toxicology Fees are estimated as they are paid in arrears and dependent upon receipt of invoices. Accommodation costs for the Courthouse are yet to be determined.

Wirral – Previous Arrangement	Liverpool – Previous Arrangement	Wirral & Liverpool Combined – Previous Arrangement	Liverpool & Wirral - New Arrangement	Saving (anticipated)
£603,797 (includes costs of an area coroner)	£1,141,798 (includes costs of an area coroner)	£1,745,595 (includes costs of an area coroner)	£1,506,604	£238,991*

* Minus any accommodation costs.

COST COMPARISON

Expenditure	Liverpool 2013/14	Wirral 2012/13	Projected Full Year Cost of Merged Service
Coroner	£132,472	£144,821	£157,057
Office Costs			
Area Coroner	£111,300	£111,300	£111,300
Fees for Assistant Coroners	£25,600	£6,700	£32,300
Admin Staff Salary Costs	£84,125	£30,084	£121,029
	£117,750	£13,200	£117,750
Inquest Accommodation	£0	£0	£8,000
IT	£19,312	£2,454	£22,633
Post Mortems	£270,054	£171,728	£348,397
Mortuary	£177,271	£103,200	£280,471
Toxicology	£157,855	£0	£234,625
Removals	£45,605	£0	£65,942
Jurors	£0	£4,337	£3,000
Transport	£0	£2,005	£1,600
Internal Recharge	£0	£13,968	£2,500
Total	£1,141,798	£603,797	£1,506,604

Breakdown of Proposed New Employee Costs				
Proposed Coroners Costs	Gross	NI	Super	Total
Senior Coroner	127,038.00	14,101	15,918	157,057
Area Coroner	90,000.00	9,100	12,200	111,300
Coroner Support Team	97,897.00	10,867.00	12,266.00	81,029.00
TOTAL	314,935.00	34,068	40,384	389,354
Area/Assistant Coroners - Proposed Costs	Assume the same level of expenditure as 2012-13			
Transport	Assume the same level of expenditure as 2012-13			
Supplies and Services	Assume the same level of expenditure as 2012-13			

ELECTED MAYOR and COUNCILLOR SCHEDULE

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