

Downing Centre Court Complex 143-147 Liverpool Street P O Box A4 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 Tel 02 9287 7300 | Fax 02 9287 7778 www.sheriff.nsw.gov.au

Mr Philip Selth
Executive Director
Bar Association of New South
Wales
Selbourne Chambers
B/147 Phillip Street
Chambers Manager
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Selth

## NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO CONDITIONS OF ENTRY TO COURTHOUSES

I write to advise of changes to the conditions of entry to courthouses.

These changes reflect the current security environment and will facilitate Sheriff Officer's ability to ensure we maintain a safe court environment.

From the commencement of the new Law Term on 1 February 2016 the conditions of entry to courthouses will require:

All persons entering the court premises are to separate laptop computers from their other items and place them in the larger trays provided.

This process will be familiar to most court users as it is similar to the requirements currently in place at Domestic and International Airports within Australia. Also the additional security requirements may lead to delays at the initial stages and we ask that practitioners allow extra time and to be patient while the new process is implemented.

Additionally, over the festive break we have taken the opportunity to install a luggage conveyor belt at the Downing Centre to assist practitioners with heavy bags and items to go through the x-ray equipment. We will trial the functionality and effectiveness of this system to determine if it is suitable for application at other busy locations such as Sydney West Trial Courts, Parramatta.

To assist the traffic flow we request that practitioners with heavy luggage use the dedicated x-ray equipment on the right hand side of the security check point at the Downing Centre.

I ask that you advise your members of the changes as these measures have been put in place to ensure the safety of all court users and to assist practitioners.

If you have any concerns in relation to conditions of entry or security procedures please do not hesitate to contact me.

I trust that the concern for a secure court environment is a shared concern and I thank you in anticipation for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Tracey Half

Sheriff of NSW 25 January 2016